



CITY OF BEXLEY  
SUMMER  
2023  
NEWSLETTER



PARDON ME, WHAT IS THE  
*Year of the Parks?*

PLUS... 4TH OF JULY, MAIN EVENTS, JAZZ IN THE PARK, SUMMER  
STREET PROJECTS, FARMERS' MARKET & MORE!

# FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK



Assistant Recreation Director Natalie Mullins, Mayor Ben, Year of the Parks Coordinator Elena Andrews, and Bexley Chamber of Commerce Director Bryan Drewry at the Schneider Park "Walk and Talk" as a part of the Earth and Arbor Day celebration.

A moment of truth - our summer newsletter started out as our spring annual report, and morphed and evolved as the days marched on, imbued with their characteristic hectic energy and community-building [controlled] chaos. You see, this year has been busier than most, and for good reason. We're knee-deep in an ambitious, generously funded "Year of the Parks" (YOTP) initiative (pages 6-7), and the many projects that comprise this sweeping re-imagination of Bexley's park spaces are consuming a good dose of the creative and boots-on-the-ground energy of several of our departments. It's all to great effect - the Year of the Parks is a transformative project, made possible thanks to the generous contributions of the Bexley Community Foundation and the State of Ohio capital fund.

In addition to the YOTP projects, Drexel is being re-crafted into a boulevard street with a slew of pedestrian-friendly and traffic calming improvements, and we have a full bevy of street, water, and sewer project underway this summer (page 24).

Perhaps most significantly, we have been working closely with the school district and the library to launch a joint community initiative that we're calling the "One Bexley Project" (see page 15). Recent community events have reminded us that we have a long way to go to create a community culture that is fully welcoming and that creates a sense of belonging for all community members. A key piece of that journey is recognizing and disrupting the ways in which we have, as a community and as its institutions, created social and systemic barriers to belonging, both unintentionally and intentionally. One Bexley is a hopefully forward-looking program that will provide opportunities for every corner of our community to grow together on this unified journey, and I hope you'll join in as the program unfolds.

Overarching all that we've been working on is a series of plans and strategies that informs our growth and evolution. This June, after several years of development, I circulated a draft to City Council of our updated Strategic Plan (see page 17). After Council has a chance to review and comment, we'll be holding a series of public workshops and feedback sessions later this summer and into the fall. I trust you'll find this document inspiring, and I expect you'll find something missing that you wish had been incorporated. Not to worry - our official/unofficial slogan is "Founded in 1908, Update Daily". It's never too late to embrace a good idea, and we're eager to listen. Don't hesitate to reach out to me or any of your elected council members to share your own personal vision for the Bexley you aspire to see.

Until then, I hope to see you soon around Bexley...

  
Mayor Ben Kessler



# Hello, summer!



Bexley Celebrations & Events

## 2023 MAIN EVENT JAZZ IN THE PARK SEASON PREVIEW

**JUNE 25**



**JAZZ IN THE PARK:**  
Robert Mason Trio  
at Havenwood Park  
5:30 - 7:00 pm

**MAIN EVENT:**  
Mighty Ducks (PG)  
Main Street Lawn  
Activities Start at 6 pm  
Movie at Sunset

**JULY 21**



**JULY 30**



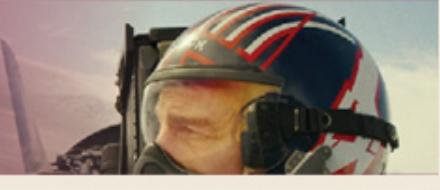
**JAZZ IN THE PARK:**  
Sydney McSweeney  
at Havenwood Park  
5:30 - 7:00 pm

**SMOKE AND FIRE FESTIVAL:**  
Lungo Vybz Reggae & Bob Ras  
at Schneider Park  
Activities start at 5pm

**AUG 26**



**SEPT 29**



**MAIN EVENT:**  
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13)  
Main Street Lawn  
Activities Start at 6 pm  
Movie at Sunset

**TITLE SPONSORS**

**BEXLEY**  
community foundation  
in partnership with  
**RAYMOND JAMES**

**SEASON SPONSORS**

Ohio State Bank  
Golden Orthodontics  
Bexley Automotive  
SAM SHAMANSKY  
Hamilton Parker  
Stone Pillar Construction  
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**Summer in Bexley means a calendar full of fun, and the 2023 season will not disappoint!** Thanks to the continued, generous support of Bexley Community Foundation and other wonderful sponsors, our most popular summer series are back.



The Main Event is an outdoor summer movie series located on the Capital University Lawn in the heart of Bexley. Each Main Event offers family-friendly activities, musical performances, and food trucks to enjoy before the movie starts. **See the poster on Page 4 for program details!**



Jazz in the Park is an outdoor concert series that showcases a variety of great live music. These outdoor concerts offer people of all ages the chance to enjoy great food, music, and mingling in the beautiful and newly improved Havenwood Park. Grab a blanket or chair and bring a friend! **See the poster on Page 4 for program details!**



Get ready for the second year of Smoke and Fire! Join us at Schneider Park for delicious barbecue and world-class reggae music. Local teams will compete again for the Bexley BBQ Championship belt! **See the poster on page 4 for program details!**



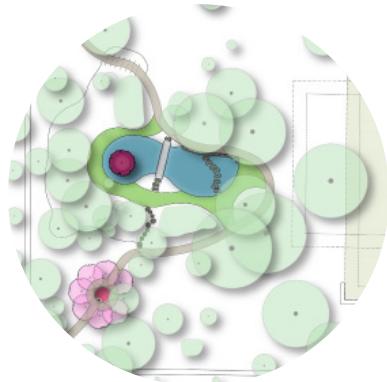
# PARDON ME, WHAT IS THE *Year of the Parks?*

The Year of the Parks is a series of parks projects throughout Bexley that will radically transform our parks experiences and offerings, providing a canvas to nurture and grow community and strengthen the connections within and around our neighborhoods. On these pages, we've highlighted a few of the park projects already underway or recently completed. But there is so much more planned for this special initiative. Be sure to stay up to date on all the park happenings at [bexley.org/yotp](http://bexley.org/yotp)



## OUTDOOR READING ROOM

The Outdoor Reading Room, which will be located on Main Street between Bexley Public Library and Torat Emet, will bring new life to an underutilized paved driveway. This unused area will be reimaged, with a beautiful and inviting space, complete with outdoor seating, peaceful landscaping, and a small performance area. These features will be designed to welcome visitors to enjoy a cup of coffee, a conversation with friends, or a peaceful afternoon of reading.



## COMMONWEALTH POND

Commonwealth Park has already seen substantial athletic field improvements, and in the coming months, many additional enhancements are coming to the park. These exciting new features include a pond and arboretum walk, a plaza providing seating, permanent restrooms, and a safer and more cohesive connection between the east and west sides of the park. The groundbreaking for the next phase of this project, Commonwealth Pond, took place this May and work is underway in creating this new Bexley landmark.



## NATURAL DOG PARK

Perhaps the most anticipated addition to the Bexley Park System is the Bexley Natural Dog Park. This park, situated off the trail north of Schneider Park and south of the Main Street Trailhead, offers two spacious areas for dogs to run and play off leash. Separate areas are available for both small and large dogs, as well as natural features to facilitate safe, fun play for Bexley's furry friends.



## SCHNEIDER PARK TRAILHEAD



Pedestrians now have a scenic route to Schneider Park from Bexley's Main Street. The new trailhead features a beautiful stone path leading to the trail along Alum Creek. Following this path will lead to the brand new Natural Dog Park, and, further south, to athletic fields, playgrounds, splash pad, and South Community Gardens. This beautiful and important access point is a true game changer for park accessibility, so check it out!

## SPLASH PAD



One of the major priorities of the Year of the Parks program is to bring youth-focused and active space amenities to parks in all areas of the City. Having a great space to cool off in the summer should be accessible to kids throughout Bexley, so the splash pad at Schneider Park brings a really great and much needed feature to one of our top park spaces. Nestled between the playground, picnic shelter, and south community gardens, the Schneider splash pad is currently under construction and due to open soon.

## HAVENWOOD PARK



Havenwood Park plays an important role in Bexley's Park System providing a small but lovely space for picnics, conversations, and a quick stroll. This park is also the location of our enormously popular Jazz in the Park series. Significant improvements have been made to the retaining walls, curb inlets, and landscaping in this park, making Havenwood more beautiful than ever. If you haven't had the chance to check it out, plan your visit soon!

# WE ❤️ THE BEXLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION!

The Bexley Community Foundation's mission is to sustain and enhance Bexley as a special place to live, learn, work, play, and care. We see this mission come to life every day in our community. In fact, if there is something new and wonderful happening in the Bexley, there's a good chance the Bexley Community Foundation is involved. Here are just a few of the many incredible projects BCF has supported.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BEXLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION:**



## BELEXY'S RE:CYCLE BIKES

Bexley's Re:Cycle Bikes program, a DARN initiative in partnership with the City of Bexley, repairs donated bikes and connects them with kids and families in need. Since Fall of 2021, the program has held regular open workshops where residents can help repair bikes for donation, or bring their own bike and learn the basics of bike repair. Dozens of kids have already been connected with a bike of their own through this transformative program!

## THE DGB KINDNESS PARK

The DGB Kindness Park, located adjacent to Drexel Theatre on Main Street, was the first park opening of the Year of the Parks project! Inspired by and in memory of Denise Blank, who chaired Bexley's first ever Day of Kindness and lived a life full of compassion, kindness, and love of community, this pocket park features a kindness rock water bubbler and chalkboard for inspiring messages, and serves as a daily reminder that thoughtful acts of kindness can strengthen a community and change lives for the better.



## BELEXY SENIOR CENTER PILOT

A grant from the BCF helped to support the improvement and furnishment of the Bexley Senior Center on North Cassady. This space is available to all adults over 55 as a gathering space and programming location. From euchre games to book clubs to football watch parties, the Senior Center has been warmly embraced by seniors, and recently has hosted a successful teen night and a fifth grade rising up celebration. This is a wonderful opportunity for our older adults to help us shape our desires and needs for a a larger, more permanent location in the future.





## BEXLEY FARMERS' MARKET

**Thursdays through October 19 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm**

Embarking on its 13th season, the Farmers' Market has grown into a Thursday tradition in Bexley. Held every Thursday from 4:00 - 7:00 pm through the end of October, the Bexley Farmers' Market is located on the corner of Main Street and Dawson Avenue. You'll find live music, activities, and plenty of farm-fresh fruits, vegetables, and so much more. Visit [www.bexleyfarmersmarket.org](http://www.bexleyfarmersmarket.org) or find them on Facebook for more details!



## SPLISH SPLASH & DASH

**Saturday, August 19 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm**

Bexley Recreation and Parks Department will host the annual Splish, Splash, & Dash Youth Triathlon, sponsored by the Bexley Community Foundation's Anne and Sam Powers' Youth and Recreation Fund, on Saturday, August 19. The triathlon will require participants to complete a swimming, biking, and running course. With age divisions ranging from 4 to 14, varying distances will be selected for each leg that are age appropriate. Stay tuned for more details and opportunities to volunteer! To learn more about the Splish Splash and Dash, visit:

<https://bexley.org/ssd/>



## LABOR DAY BLOCK PARTY & BREWFEST

**Sunday, September 3 on Main Street**

The Labor Day Block Party and Brewfest returns to Main Street this September with great food, great music, and a whole lot of fun. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details!

HAVE YOU DOWNLOADED  
**BEXLEY BASE**



### **BEXLEY BASE**

The Bexley Base service is a web and mobile device application available in iPhone, Android, or desktop versions. This app allows residents to report and follow issues throughout the City. The Bexley Base app also provides a variety of information and resources relating to City events, news, recreation registration, water bill payment, and more!

Download Bexley Base at:  
<https://bexley.org/base/>



### **BEXLEY BLAST**

The Blast is a weekly email distributed to residents looking for timely information regarding city news and events, as well as any upcoming roadworks or general city concerns. The Blast is also our primary source of important time-sensitive updates. We promise to never spam your inbox, and you can always unsubscribe!

Subscribe to the Blast at:  
<https://bexley.org/blast/>



## LOVE YOUR ALLEY

Envision our alleys and yards as lush gardens filled with native plants, pollinators, and beautiful artwork. During the month of May, Love Your Alley helped create that vision by providing classes, instruction, plants, artists, and plant installation assistance, with the goal of making our alleys greener and more beautiful.

Love Your Alley is about transforming our alleys into extended living space for everyone to enjoy. By planting native plants, which pack a powerful sustainability punch: supporting our pollinators, assisting in flood prevention, fighting climate change, and protecting the aesthetic that defines the Midwest.

So if you notice a pollinator garden or a colorful mural in an alley near you, it's a good chance you're seeing Love Your Alley at work!

## ALLEY OF THE FUTURE

In the Fall of 2022, we launched a community-wide competition asking community members to help us envision dynamic and community-building ways to better use the alleys that service approximately half of Bexley's homes. The winning alley is located between Stanwood and Remington and runs north of Broad and South of Denver. The submission included a concept with stormwater treatment; grassroots community art including mosaics and murals; smart lighting; native plantings, and more!



We've had a community workshop with residents of the alley to obtain initial thoughts and feedback. The City has also been completing soil testing in the area to assess options for stormwater management. Design work is underway to refresh the alley in ways that address water and safety issues while also creating beautiful and inviting spaces to gather and play. We can't wait to bring this exciting vision to life. For details and updates on Alley of the Future visit [bexley.org/future](http://bexley.org/future).

# COUNCIL CORNER

Do you ever wonder what your city council members are doing each week? Before I was elected to Bexley City Council, I assumed that most council work was done during the meetings every other Tuesday evening in city hall. I had no idea that there were so many commissions and boards meeting throughout each week and that writing and evaluating legislation and policies was an evolving process that occurred in small chunks each day.

I was reminded of this on a recent Wednesday, when I was in city hall for a meeting and looked over to see two other council members in a meeting in the conference room with an activity planning group and two other council members in the council chambers meeting with residents. Five of the seven council members were busy at city hall. On a Wednesday morning!

It really benefits the city to have seven council members with various backgrounds and interests. Although city finances and infrastructure are always in need of attention, there's also residential and commercial development happening, and changes to zoning laws. Council members regularly work with our Police Department and our Recreation and Parks staff as well. Plus there's always legislation brewing to take care of issues that residents bring to our attention.

For instance, we are currently debating an ordinance that would clarify that dogs are not allowed onto our recreation and athletic fields. It's important to keep those areas clean for our kids while they are playing. We also just passed an ordinance that would ensure that residents may freely take and re-use items that have been set out with the trash as long as those items have been clearly labeled that it's ok. A lot of our current legislation has to do with ensuring that new development is considerate of the needs of our residents. New construction should always take into consideration such things as additional parking needs and street access. Our council has also recently updated our CRA (Community Reinvestment Area) ordinance to ensure that new residential developments strongly consider remaining affordable to everyone as well.

One thing we've been excited to spend extra time on is our city's Year of the Parks projects. It's always fun to open a new park, and we've been busy doing ground-breaking on several exciting new facilities lately. Our council members toured the new dog park and used a backhoe to start construction on the new splash pad that our kids will be using at Schneider Park this summer. That backhoe got more use a week later in Commonwealth as we did a groundbreaking to build the new reflecting pool feature that highlights so many of the new exciting upgrades happening there this summer. When the city is done, Commonwealth will not only have new playing fields, but also be a fantastic place to take a walk and enjoy the new arboretum.

Did you know that city council recently initiated new "office hours" in city hall? Each week, one or two elected officials will be available to meet with any resident who wants to stop by and talk. You can find the hours and details at [bexley.org/events](http://bexley.org/events). You can also write to our city council members with your questions and concerns at [electedorfficials@bexley.org](mailto:electedorfficials@bexley.org) any time from the comfort of your home and we will respond to you. Hearing from people in the community is a helpful and welcome part of this job. So let us know what is on your mind!



Troy Markham  
President of City Council



# CODE ENFORCEMENT CORNER

Warm weather is here, and Bexley is in bloom! Please remove weeds, leaves, brush, and trash as they accumulate. Also, please keep plantings on your property trimmed out of all right-of-way areas. Landscaping at the corner of street or alley intersections should be no more than 2' tall within 50' of intersections in order to keep a safe sight triangle for drivers and pedestrians.

Code enforcement continues to focus on alleys, specifically monitoring garage maintenance, proper trimming or removal of weeds, branches, and other vegetation that extend over the alley pavement, and overall cleanliness. Remember, litter and overgrowth often impair visibility and create safety issues for pedestrians and motorists in our alleys. Keeping alleys tidy is important!

For questions, comments or complaints, please contact Code Enforcement Officer Dave Hrdlicka at [dhrdlicka@bexley.org](mailto:dhrdlicka@bexley.org) or 614-559-4247.

## DREXEL AVENUE PROJECT

If you've driven down Drexel Avenue lately, you may have noticed the construction of medians and bump-outs. The purpose of these bump-outs and medians is to slow down traffic to make it easier for pedestrians to cross, as well as beautify street, lining the streets with greenery. In the narrowest sections of the road between the bump-outs and medians, the travel lanes will be 11-ft wide. The construction on the medians and bump-outs is set to conclude in the Fall. Stay up-to-date on potential road closures and detours by signing up for the Bexley Blast.





## ONE BEXLEY

What would it look like for us to redouble our efforts to ensure that each member of our community shares a deep sense of belonging? How can we be better neighbors to new residents and to those who have historically been denied access to Bexley and communities like ours? What if the best we had to offer – welcoming neighborhoods, a grounded sense of belonging, and dynamic opportunities for community members – was experienced equally by all members of our community?

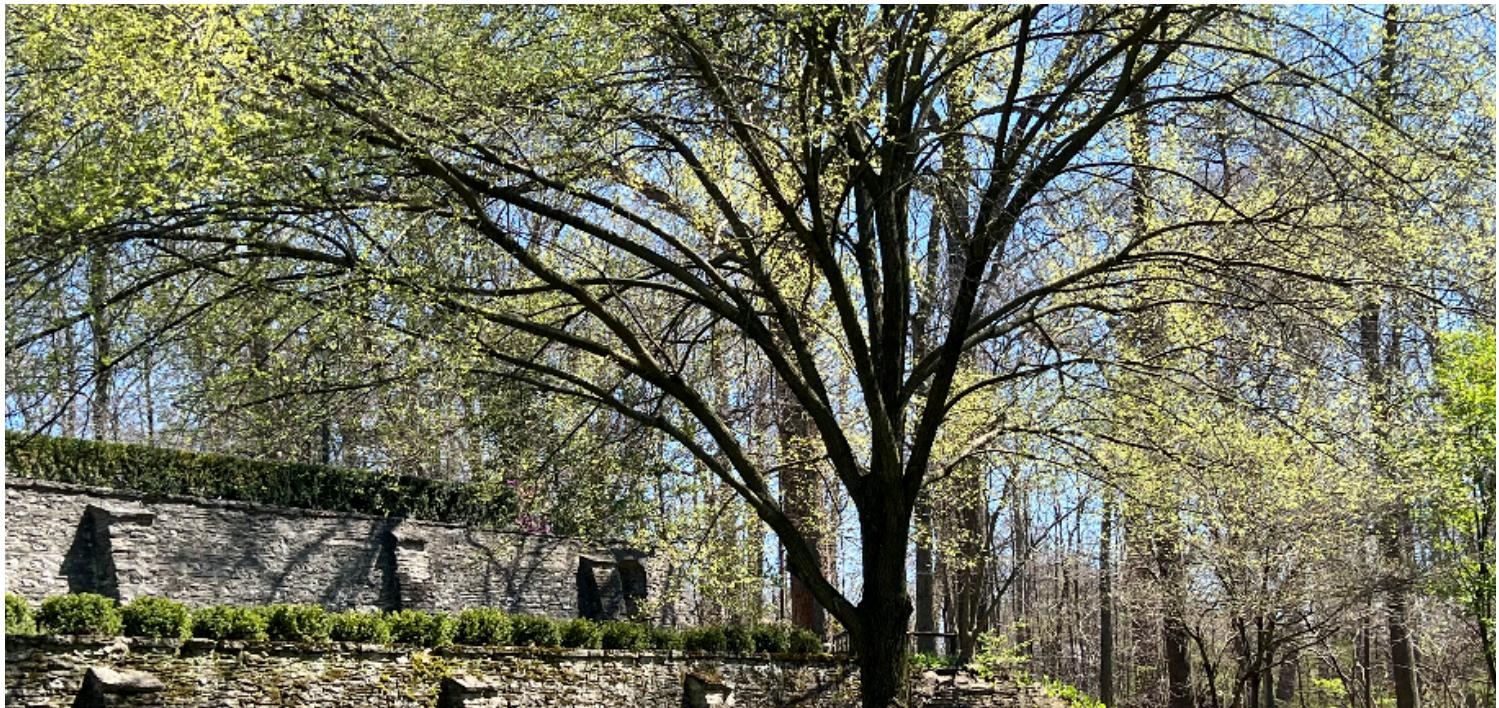
The One Bexley Project is a collaborative initiative of the City of Bexley, the Bexley City School District, and the Bexley Public Library, and will be a long term, multifaceted program designed to more deliberately and comprehensively bolster a community culture that ensures that Bexley is welcoming and provides a sense of belonging for all community members and visitors. The project aims to provide the information and tools necessary to create cultural transformation and foster a dynamic sense of belonging for all. This is an ambitious and exciting initiative, and one that will require the awareness and participation of the entire community. Our initial public planning workshop was held on May 18, and input from that meeting is being used to develop the details of the program which will launch this fall.

More information will be coming soon, so stay tuned for more details.

**SCAN THE  
QR CODE**



**FOR MORE  
DETAILS**



## TAKING A STROLL IN THE ARBORETUM

In celebration of Arbor Day, 12 trees within Bexley parks were designated as official Landmark Trees. Inspired by The Year Of The Parks, the latest collection of Landmark Trees are all located in Bexley's beautiful parks. These trees were selected because of the unique qualities they add to our arboretum. A tree may be nominated for a variety of reasons, including historic significance; rarity; and/or for possessing outstanding characteristics of its species, including size, shape, variety, coloration, caliber, height, or rarity. Once chosen as a Bexley Landmark Tree, trees are marked with a plaque or sign. You can discover the Bexley Landmark Trees for yourself by embarking on one of our city wide tree walks published on our arboretum website.

In addition to our Landmark Trees, Bexley is home to 132 unique tree species. You read that right, 132 different kinds of trees growing in our parks and on our streets. And this diversity of species isn't cooincidental. A diverse urban forest helps protect our canopy, making our arboretum more resilient to harmful pests that may find their way to Bexley. The newest tree species to be introduced in Bexley is the Persian ironwood, which was planted this past March along the west side of North Parkview. Persian ironwood is a small upright tree with oblong leaves turn various shades of red, orange and yellow in the fall. (Morton Arboretum)

To keep you up to speed on all the latest tree news, Bexley's arborists have launched a new Instagram account, [@BexleyArboretum](#). Stay current on arboretum updates, learn about urban forestry, and enjoy images of the diverse ecology. This Instagram account will be managed by our parks arborist, so feel free to ask questions and engage in conversation.

Follow along on Instagram by searching for [@BexleyArboretum](#).



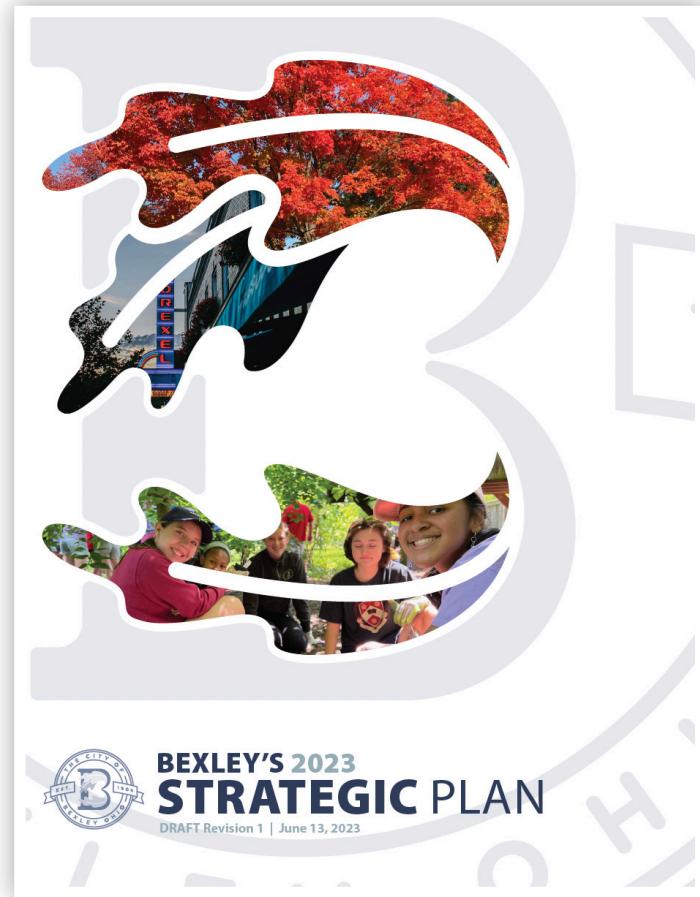
# UPDATING BEXLEY'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Several years in development, Bexley's Strategic Plan draft has been circulated to City Council, and public workshopping of the draft plan will be occurring later this summer / early fall.

Crafted in the 2021-2023 timeframe and slowed partially by the ongoing management of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the intensive public process of creating the Joint Livingston Avenue Plan (2021-2022), the Strategic Plan is Bexley's comprehensive plan, incorporating a variety of plans and strategies that are active, and encompassing a variety of new recommendations.

The key recommendations of the plan have been developed based on input from the community over a series of community surveys and input sessions, and based on input and experience from City leadership and its board and commissions.

To review the draft strategy and to follow upcoming workshops and opportunities for feedback prior to finalization of plan recommendations and confirmation by City Council, visit [bexley.org/plans](http://bexley.org/plans).



**“... We go into this strategic plan update with a strengthened vision of and a blueprint for a Bexley community that is resilient, forward-thinking, creative, energized, and prepared... ”**

**- Mayor Ben Kessler**



# BEXLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

## MESSAGE FROM CHIEF LEWIS



On behalf of the men and women of the Bexley Police Department (BPD), I am excited to share the 2022 results, efforts and initiatives that occurred over this past year. As many of you know, I was selected as the city's 10th Chief of Police, succeeding Chief Rhinehart (ret.) after he served this amazing community for nearly 15 years. There is a rich history dating back to 1908 and its public safety and police department is believed to have formed in the 1920s. This quickly brings us to today and the many aspects associated to 21st Century policing and the implementation of change. As background, the department is comprised of 32 men and women whom are dedicated to protecting and serving the community of nearly 14,000 residents.

As part of the vision, we unveiled our three-year strategic plan highlighting four key pillars for success e.g. Community Policing, Communication, Administrative/Operational effectiveness, and Special Projects. The Core Values in any organization provide the

guiding principles for those committed to the mission. At the Bexley Police Department those core beliefs are forged in "F.I.R.E." e.g. Fairness, Integrity, Respect, and Empathy. I believe in our mission, "We, the men and women of the Bexley Police Department, are dedicated to the following as our mission: Enhancing the quality of life by working with agencies and individuals to provide a safe, friendly, secure community."

These sworn police officers are responsible for a range of responsibilities e.g. crime reports, investigations, medical assistance, assisting the public, parking and traffic enforcement, etc. Officers can be seen in marked cruisers, an electric motorcycle, bicycles, and foot patrols in and around Bexley performing business and wellness checks. The Bexley Police Department's Dispatch Center is fully staffed 24/7 and provides services to residents and the community,



## COMMUNICATIONS

As part of the strategic plan, meeting with key stakeholders in the community has been and continues to be a focus for the Bexley Police Department. Regularly scheduled meetings with the Bexley Minority Parents Association (BMPA), BRAIR, and the Bexley Coalition of Equitable Policing (BCEP) and others has generated positive change and more transparency on issues impacting the community.



## ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS

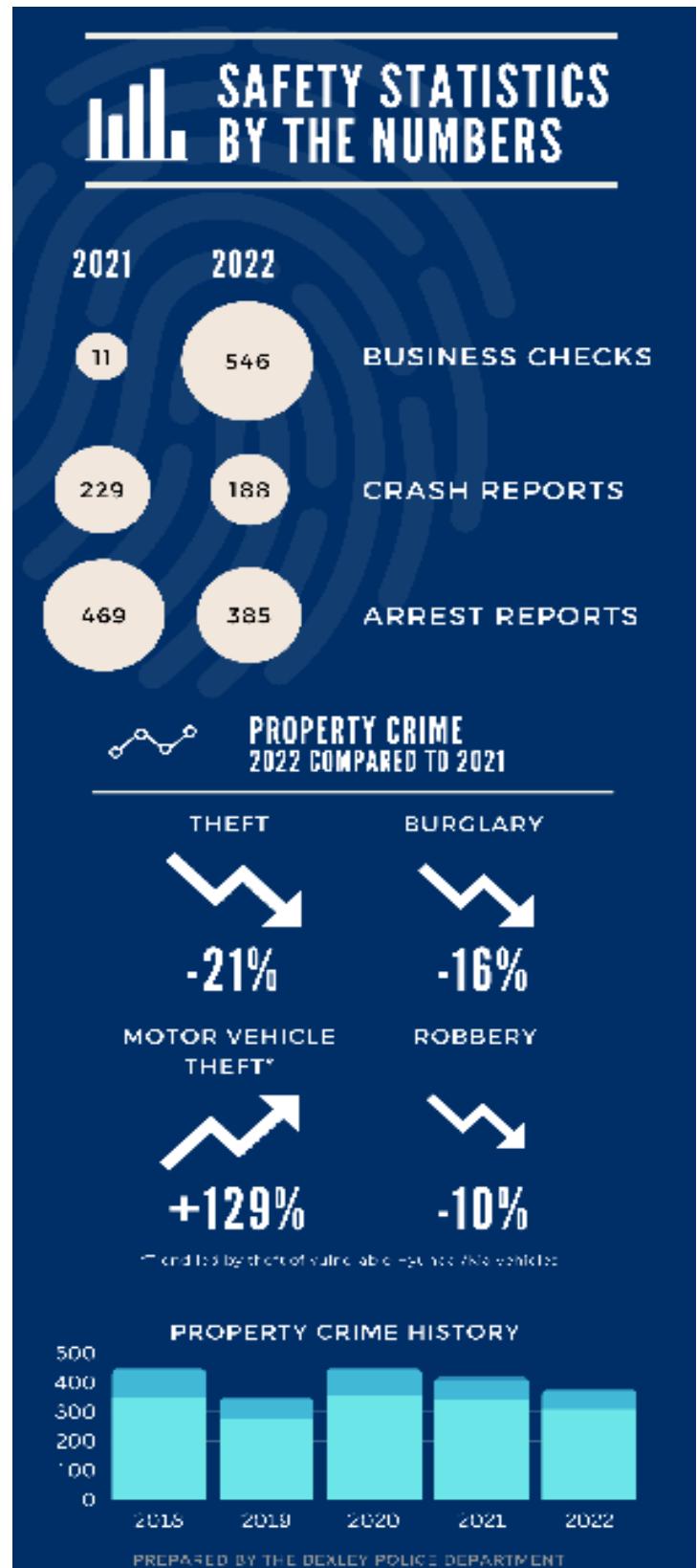
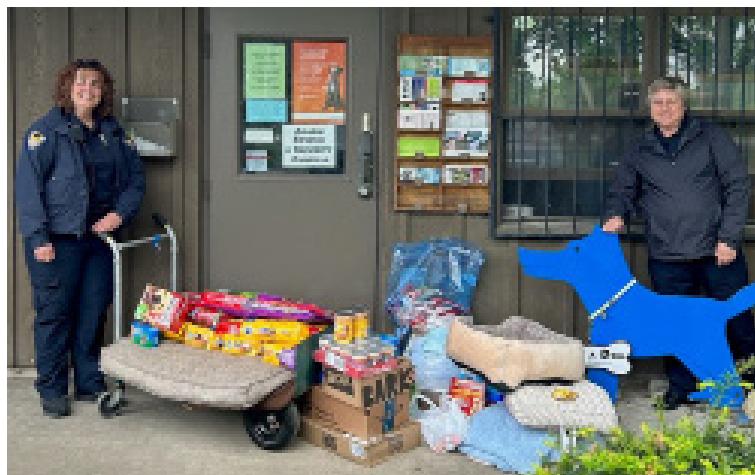
In 2022, steps were underway to focus on creating career development in new roles and positions while also building a long-term succession plan. A comprehensive evaluation of personnel, strengths, and opportunities took place with an emphasis on education and administrative oversight. The new organizational structure now includes three (3) lieutenants, a captain along with a deputy chief responsible for patrol operations.



to include being part of the 9-1-1 Emergency System in conjunction with local government. Animal Control is a component to public safety and the services provided to the community by Ms. Jennings. Calls for service include and are not limited to sick or injured wildlife to the enforcement of leash laws (Chapter 618 of the Bexley City Code).

In closing, as part of our new efforts, we will be working closely with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to provide services to the community are a priority. In 2022, members of BPD were assigned to the F.B.I. Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) to aid in increasing crimes against the elderly; and the US Marshal's Office as part of their effort to enforce outstanding warrants from around the country.

Chief Gary D. Lewis  
Bexley Chief of Police





## COMMUNITY POLICING

The Bexley Police Department strives to increase safety and security awareness by offering educational programs and disseminating information related to personal safety. Personal safety and property security are everyone's responsibility in the community.

BPD urges all members of the community to participate in making things as safe as possible by reducing crimes of opportunity. If you develop good security habits, you can assist us in safeguarding your property. The Bexley Police Department provides crime prevention and awareness presentations.

**The Bexley Citizen's Police Academy** is a free community education program intended to build lasting relationships between participants and the Bexley Police Department. To date, there have been seven (7) academy classes (one per year for 10 weeks). The academy gives an inside look at the values, philosophies, and operations of the police department, while serving as an open forum for questions, discussion, and the exchange of ideas.

**The Bexley Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association (BCPAAA)** was formed in 2016, as ten academy graduates wanted to continue with their education and involvement with the Bexley Police Department. Their mission is to serve as communication to the community and support programs sponsored by the Bexley Police Department. To date, the BCPAAA has 42 members and over half are lifetime members.

**Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.)** is a comprehensive twelve (12) hour course that begins with awareness, prevention, risk, reduction, and avoidance while progressing on to the basics of hands-on defense training. R.A.D. is taught by a certified instructor.

**The Neighborhood Watch Program**, designed by BPD, this program allows you and neighbors to help prevent and reduce potential crime in your neighborhood.

**Active Shooter (Run / Hide / Fight) trainings** include video presentations and discussions and are designed to instill the survival mindset and teach realistic strategies for dealing with an active shooter in a community. These presentations are given to all new faculty and staff at their respective orientation and upon request for monthly department safety meetings.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

Under the guise of the Bexley Police Department, an **Emergency Management** Department for the City of Bexley was created with an emphasis disaster preparedness, response, mitigation and recovery pre or post a critical incident.

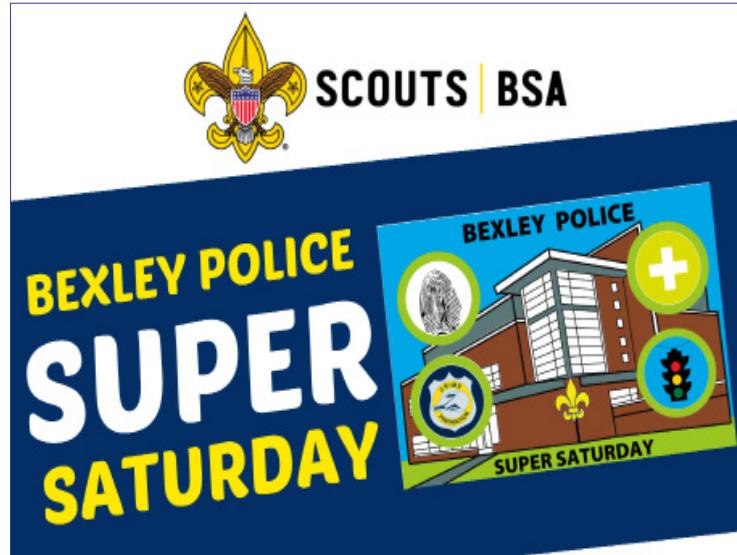
In an attempt to provide more proactive measures geared towards safety, security and visibility at places of worship, schools and businesses, a **Bomb Detection Canine (K9)** will be introduced to the community in the spring of 2023. The K9 will offer increased safety and security to include other areas such executive protection, special events, mutual aid, etc.

The **Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)** accreditation program is a credentialing authority through the joint efforts of law enforcement's major executive associations from around the country. The Bexley Police Department will implement steps during the three-year strategic plan to become a nationally recognized and accredited law enforcement agency, adding to its existing accreditation with the Ohio Collaborative and \_\_\_\_\_.



### GOLF CART SAFETY!

As the weather warms up, licensed and registered golf carts are a great way to get around town! As a reminder, golf carts may only be driven on public streets if they have been licensed with the BMV and inspected by a law enforcement agency (Bexley PD does golf cart inspections). The operation of golf carts is limited to streets and alleys with speed limits of 25 mph or lower, meaning golf carts may not be driven on Broad Street or Drexel Avenue. Additionally, golf carts may only be driven by licensed drivers; underage driving is illegal and unsafe. Now that we've covered all that, golf carts should be driven with a big smile on your face, because they're awesome and we love them! Thanks for staying safe!



### BEXLEY POLICE SUPER SATURDAY

Thanks to the support of Bexley Community Foundation, we will host the inaugural Super Saturday event with Scouts of America. "Super Saturday" will take place Saturday, August 26th. Scouts who participate will earn the following merit badges: fingerprinting, crime prevention, traffic safety, and community safety.

**BEXLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT  
NON-EMERGENCY LINE:**

**(614) 559-4444**

# STAYING SUSTAINABLE

Sustainability is evident in Bexley throughout the summer: an increase in cycling in lieu of driving, enjoying regeneratively grown food from the Bexley Farmers' Market and the Bexley Natural Market, linens drying on lines, and native plants in bloom, to name a few. In addition to these glimmers—more of which can be found at [greenbexley.org/gogreen](http://greenbexley.org/gogreen)—and continued advocacy from the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC/Green Bexley), there is much happening from the Sustainability Department behind the scenes:



## CURBSIDE FOOD WASTE RECYCLING

Congratulations, Bexley, on diverting over 1.5 million pounds of food waste, compostable products, and organics through the Curbside Food Waste Recycling Program! Thank you to the participating and piloting homes, events, restaurants, condominiums, and schools for contributing your waste to feed plants instead of the landfill. Learn more about our program, the importance of reducing food waste from the landfill, and Bexley's waste weights at [greenbexley.org/1point5million](http://greenbexley.org/1point5million). Thanks to The Mayor of Bexley for bringing this program to life, Earth Peak Organics for hauling and processing our material, Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio - SWACO for partnering for the Save More Than Food Campaign, and the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee for championing this program!



## BIKE INFRASTRUCTURE

Over the last few months, Mayor Kessler and the City's Sustainability Programs Coordinator have been hosting bi-weekly open workshops to help co-create and implement the Bike Friendly Bexley Plan (available at [bexley.org/masterplans](http://bexley.org/masterplans)) and other transportation initiatives. Meetings are open to the public and generally occur every other week at City Hall. Dates, times, and more information are located at <https://bexley.org/calendar/bexley-events-calendar/>.



## BEXLEY SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

This past May, fourth graders at Montrose and Cassingham concluded a multi-month educational program about environmental sustainability. This was the first year of the partnership with Bexley City Schools; 130 students participated each month and learned about a new environmental sustainability topic at each session. Your kiddos can learn about sustainability, too! Information geared toward them is available at [greenbexley.org/kids](http://greenbexley.org/kids).





## SOLAR & EV CHARGER CO-OP

Imagine walking into a solar company's office with 50 or 100 of your neighbors and saying, "We all want to get solar. What kind of deal can you give us?" That's a solar co-op! Solar United Neighbors' Columbus Area 2023 Solar and EV Charger Co-op is open to homeowners and small businesses in Franklin County through August 28, 2023. The co-op provides you with information, a direct line to ask specific questions, a team that solicits and reviews proposals from solar companies, community, and a bigger impact. Learn more via the link to at [bexley.org/solar](http://bexley.org/solar).

Furthermore, in collaboration with SolSmart, we are working to streamline the processes for solar approval by City Staff. Next steps can be found on the MA #3 application linked at [bexleyoh.viewpointcloud.com/catego](http://bexleyoh.viewpointcloud.com/catego)



## FREE COGO ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Get ready to ride, Bexley! In partnership with the Columbus Dept. of Public Service, residents 18 and older can receive a FREE CoGo Annual Membership! To register, visit [cogobikeshare.com](http://cogobikeshare.com), click JOIN, create an account, Annual Membership, and enter the promo code COGOBEXLEY.



## FEDERAL FUNDS

Get ready to ride, Bexley! In partnership with the • Federal Funds – We are doing our best to keep our eyes and ears open for available federal funds and dreaming up meaningful ways in which we can use them. If you have ideas, please share them with us!

Thank you for doing your part to maintain a sustainable City. To learn more about what you can do at home, or ways you can get involved, please visit [greenbexley.org](http://greenbexley.org) or Green Bexley on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok.

Questions about any of the above programs can be directed to Elizabeth Ellman, Sustainability Programs Coordinator, at [eellman@bexley.org](mailto:eellman@bexley.org) or (614) 559-4250, and further information is available at [bexley.org/sustainability](http://bexley.org/sustainability).

# SERVICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES



## STREET PROJECTS

### **SOUTH DREXEL: *Estimated Completion Date - October 2023***

South Drexel, from as north as Broad and as south as Main, will be receiving a series of safety improvements this summer. Construction crews will be working on South Drexel installing bump-out and medians to reduce speeding on the street and crosswalks to allow pedestrians a protected crossing area.

### **BROAD STREET REVAMP: *Estimated Completion Date - October 2023***

From Westland Avenue to the bridge over Alum Creek, Broad Street will be resurfaced and markings will be repainted.

### **ALLEY OF THE FUTURE: *Estimated Completion Date - November 2023***

The alley from Broad to Denver, in between North Remington and North Stanwood will be receiving new paving, light fixtures and other amenities to transform the alley into a more utilized space. This alley is set to begin being worked on later this summer.

### **2023 STREET RESURFACING: *Estimated Completion Date - November 2023***

Beginning this summer, Pleasant Ridge, North Cassingham, Charles, and North Roosevelt will all be resurfaced. Expect detours or slowed, one-way traffic on these streets while work is being done on them.

### **STORM SEWER LINING: *Estimated Completion Date - End of Summer 2023***

On College Avenue from Mound to Francis, North Cassingham from Denver to Maryland, Charles from Cassingham to Montrose, and North Roosevelt from Maryland to the North Corporation Limit, work will be done on the storm sewer-lining. The majority of the work has already begun, but the work on the gas mains by Columbia Gas is stalling the completion of the project by a few weeks.

### **GRANDON AVENUE WATER MAIN: *Estimated Completion Date - November 2023***

From Livingston to Main Street, the Grandon Avenue Water Main is being improved. On that same stretch of road, the street is being resurfaced. The street resurfacing is set to be completed Summer 2024, after the completion of the Columbia Gas Main from Livingston to Charles.

### **NORTH COLUMBIA RECONSTRUCTION: *Estimated Completion Date - Summer 2024***

During this first phase of Commonwealth Park Plaza Project the water main will be installed, overhead utilities will be relocated, storm sewers will be improved, and roadways will be reconstructed.

### **COLUMBIA GAS MAIN: *Estimated Completion Date - October 2023***

Work is being done by Columbia Gas of Ohio. New gas main and new meters on College and Astor. Gas Main only on Pleasant Ridge from Mound to Francis and Francis from Pleasant Ridge to Livingston. (Day-time detour for College. Flaggers are present)



## A LITTLE LIGHTNING

As part of our move to transition Bexley's fleet towards carbon-neutral alternatives, the Service Department took delivery of its first electric pickup truck, a Ford F-150 Lightning. In addition to serving during the week as a Tree Department vehicle, the lightning works weekends as a battery generator for community events and the ambassador truck for the Year of the Parks initiative.



## WASTE TIPS

Was your recycling, yard waste, or recycling missed on collection day? Report it at:

[bexley.org/reportamiss](http://bexley.org/reportamiss)

Need a large item picked up for disposal? Call Rumpke to schedule a bulk pickup at:

1-800-828-8171

When requesting pickup for an upholstered item, it must be wrapped in plastic. Plastic wrap is available for rental at Bexley City Hall for a down-payment of \$25. \$20 will be returned to you when you return the roll.

## SERVICE DEPARTMENT BY THE NUMBERS



NEW WATER LINES - 4,800'



SANITARY SEWER LINES - 4,800'



STORM SEWER LINES - 1,535'



ROADWAY RESURFACED - 3,700'



24

WATER MAIN REPAIRS



41

MANHOLE COVERS REHABBED

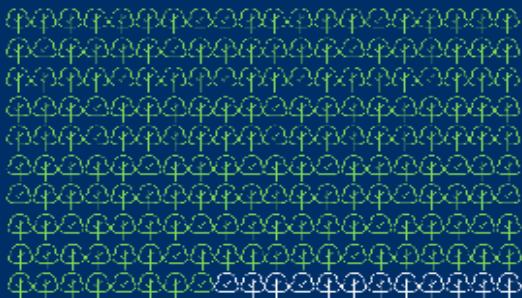


XX

BRICK SPOT REPAIR



TREES PLANTED - 88



AND ALSO...  
SOME SUPER COOL  
TRAFFIC CALMING INSTALS

SOURCE: CITY OF BEXLEY SERVICE DEPARTMENT

## STREET PROJECTS PAGE

Scan the QR Code for the latest news on street projects. Or visit:  
[bexley.org/street-projects/](http://bexley.org/street-projects/)





## CALM CORRIDOR

Calm Corridors is a resident-initiated project to create a continuous calm connector, through infrastructure, allowing students the ability to safely get to and from school via foot, bike, or scooter. On May 19, 2023, community members met at the Calm Corridors Community Workshop to share ideas for concepts for slowing traffic and providing a safer environment for our youngest pedestrians and cyclists on their routes to school. Some of the presented ideas from that meeting included :

Colorful crosswalks to incentivise walking

Bi-directional bike lanes to incentivize biking

Table top (raised) intersections to slow down vehicular traffic

Boulevards and medians

The Calm Corridors project is still in the early stages of development. All suggestions are subject to changes, additions, or subtractions. Construction on Calm corridors is set to begin in 2024.



## SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT POLICY

2023 marks an exciting change in Bexley in many ways, including an exciting change to our sidewalk replacement policy. In the past, homeowners in Bexley have been responsible for the cost of replacing or repairing sidewalk panels showing significant deterioration or poor condition relating to age and normal use. This policy created a higher financial burden on residents on corner lots or in areas of heavy sidewalk use.

Fortunately, this policy has changed for the better. While owners will still be responsible for replacing or repairing damaged or broken panels, the City will now pay the replacement cost for panels identified for replacement or repair during routine sidewalk assessments.



## LIVINGSTON AVENUE UPDATE

Six years ago, the City of Bexley and the City of Columbus began a project to identify opportunities for improvements to the Livingston corridor that benefits the residents of all surrounding communities.

The Livingston area bordering Berwick and Bexley, and bookended by Driving Park and South Eastmoor, encompasses the north and south side of Livingston Avenue from Alum Creek to Kenwick Road. The commercial section of the corridor is primarily located between Alum Creek Drive and College Avenue, with current use in this area including service and convenience oriented retail along Livingston Avenue; institutional uses; multifamily residential; and parkland.

A variety of challenges existed that made it difficult for substantial redevelopment and improvement to occur within the East Livingston Area of Bexley and Berwick. However, this is an area that presents a tremendous opportunity for two neighboring communities to unite behind a common vision for improvements to the corridor, bringing renewed value to the area that provides meaningful physical and cultural connectivity, and enhancements to pedestrian, cyclist, motorist, and public safety.

The Cities of Bexley and Columbus envisioned a 5-phase plan. After many meetings with various community members and stakeholders, the Joint Livingston Avenue Committee developed several near-term recommendations and long-term recommendations. The near-term recommendation, combatting more immediate concerns, was "responding to the urgent need to create a safer neighborhood corridor for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists." These remedies included developing tree lawns in the right-of-way to offer more of a barrier between pedestrians and cars. For the long-term solutions, the Committee developed separate plans for the commercial and residential areas to serve each different population best. The commercial districts are set to receive 10-foot wide urban sidewalks and large planters between the pedestrian urban sidewalk and the street. The residential areas will receive major renovations, including: medians, larger tree lawn medians, 11-foot wide turning lanes, and wider multi-use pathways to better serve pedestrians and cyclists.

Over the next 3-4 years, the Cities of Bexley and Columbus will conduct traffic surveys and constructing new streetscape features.

For more information and specific data on the traffic studies:





**City of Bexley**  
2242 East Main Street  
Bexley, Ohio 43209

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# UPCOMING EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS



## BEXLEY FARMERS' MARKET | Every Thursday from 4-7 pm

📍 Dawson and Main

Bike, walk, or run over and join us at the Bexley Farmers' Market to enjoy everything from fresh, local produce to delicious baked goods.



## SMOKE AND FIRE FESTIVAL | August 26

📍 Schneider Park

The 2nd Annual Smoke and Fire Festival in Bexley will showcase amazing BBQ flavors of local vendors and foodies, live music by Lungo Vyb, and BOB RAS.



## 4TH OF JULY COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS | July 4

📍 Throughout Bexley

John Barr 5k starts at 8:00am, the parade steps off at 9:30am, events at the Main Street Lawn begin at 6:30pm and the fireworks show begins at 10pm.



## LABOR DAY BLOCK PARTY AND BEWFEST | September 3

📍 Main Street

The Labor Day Block Party and Brewfest is back, featuring great food, drinks, music, and a whole lot of fun for everyone.



## SPLASH PAD GRAND OPENING | July 9, at \_\_\_\_\_

📍 Schneider Park, adjacent to the playground

Come cool off from the July heat as we celebrate the grand opening of the Splash Pad at Schneider Park, a Year of the Parks project.



## FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL | September 17

📍 Main Street Lawn

As Summer comes to a close, and the weather gets a bit colder, our Bexley City School students head back to school.



## MAIN EVENT: MIGHTY DUCKS | July 21

📍 Main Street Lawn

Join us under the sun for some delicious food trucks, fun games on the lawn. The Mighty Ducks movie will begin once the sun sets.



## MAIN EVENT: TOP GUN: MAVERICK | September 29

📍 Main Street Lawn

Join us at the Main Event one last time, as we enjoy the remainder of the Summer weather together. Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) will play at sundown.



## JAZZ IN THE PARKS | July 30 at 5:30

📍 Havenwood Park

Come enjoy the vocal stylings of Sydney McSweeny at this Summer's final Jazz in the Park festival. Food trucks will be present.



## SPLISH SPLASH AND DASH | August 19

📍 Jeffery Mansion

Get ready to swim, bike, and run! Bexley Recreation and Park's annual youth triathlon, the Splish, Splash, and Dash, is just a few short weeks away.



## BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE!

To view the full calendar of upcoming events, meetings, and programs throughout the Bexley community, visit us online at [bexley.org/events](http://bexley.org/events).



You're Missing Out if You're Not Reading Your Bexley Blast!

To receive weekly email updates from the City of Bexley, including information on community events, updates, & helpful reminders, visit [bexley.org/blast](http://bexley.org/blast).