BEXLEY TIMES

CITY OF BEXLEY NEWSLETTER

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THANK YOU, MR. BEXLEY

2 Remembering Mayor Madison



From the Mayor's Desk

THANK YOU, MR. BEXLEY

"David had the heart of a servant for Bexley. He was always ready to help, whether responding to a household emergency or addressing issues throughout the city. His legacy of service and his standard of care for the community are still what we strive for today."
—Mayor Kessler

There isn't a school for new Mayors, so when you become one you rely on a network of people you trust and ideally someone who has been in that seat before. Lucky for me, I had a one-of-a-kind mentor in David Madison.

Some of what he didn't share with me (most of his advice ended up consisting of encouragement and affirmation) I have pieced together through the record established by the voluminous yellow notepads/to-do lists/correspondence from his 32 years of service. The record-keeping meticulous, it tells the story of a man with a true heart for Bexley, providing stellar service over many decades.

When flooding would occur (and friends, flooding has been known to occur) David was on call in the middle of the night, helping carry boxes out of basements and infusing empathy and care into incredibly stressful situations. During heavy snows, Mayor Madison was at the ready with a snowmobile and a snow shovel, ensuring plows were out when the first snowflake hit the pavement—a truly Madisonian philosophy. His expectation of service set a bar that any future Mayor walk away from at their own peril, and his same scrupulous standards extended to water main breaks, potholes, sidewalks, landscaping in public spaces—you name it. David's unbending dedication to service was a gift to our community.

Mayor Madison was fiercely protective of the safety of the community, and spent his career building up our Police Department and forging a strong relationship with the Columbus Fire Department. He established the mayoral tradition of showing up when there was or had been a house fire,

What you may not know about Mayor Madison...

1951 The year Mayor Madison graduated from Columbus Academy

32 Number of years served as Bexley's Mayor

16 Volunteer boards and commissions served on, including his favorite, Charity Newsies

3 Years served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, followed by service in the Navy Reserves

COUNTLESS Community events with Mayor Madison at the helm as founder of the Bexley Cookout Crew

and cooking steak dinners for the fire battalions to show his appreciation. Throughout all, Mayor Madison took his duty to protect and to serve with an energy and a fastidiousness that saved lives, secured property, and showed how seriously he took his obligation to serve as a shepherd to a community that benefited from the rigor and resilience of his protection.

In the midst of breaking water lines and trash misses and wind storms it's possible to get caught up in a stress loop. Mayor Madison had a quick and oft-used antidote in his sense of humor. It was biting, it was nimble, it was—I must say it—raucously inappropriate... it was 100%, consistently pure gold. You'd be in a serious conversation with him and he would lean into a cutting joke so quickly that it would take a few seconds to adjust. There's the story of the staff meeting, where a newly promoted service foreman was subjected to a fart machine placed under his seat. Or the puppet that hung on his office window, faced rear-end towards departing snow plows, flashing them while he waved. One of the last notes I received from David was so true to form - encouraging, heartening, and so amazingly inappropriate that I can't repeat it in writing here.

For David, humor was a vital part of this personality but it was also a tool that he used to do his job to its fullest. He never took himself too seriously and never let those around them take themselves too seriously, and in doing so, he promoted a collaborative posture of leadership.

Mayor Madison accomplished much throughout his long career, including launching the Labor Day Block Party; forming the legendary Bexley Cookout Crew; overseeing Summerfest; building up the 4th of July celebrations; facilitating the addition of the Jeffrey Mansion Garden Room; re-doing the Bexley Pool; setting the new Police Station on a path for construction; plus many more accomplishments than any of us can ever truly know or fully appreciate.

Most significantly of all, David was a friend; he was a friend to Bexley, he was a friend to me, he was a friend to all of us. In speaking with staff, over and over again what was most remembered about David was his unyielding support for his people, how he rallied behind our professional staff, how he encouraged, how he was a constant advocate and a trusted friend.

There were several sayings hanging up on his wall as Mayor. One that stands out—and I'm paraphrasing:

"People may not remember what you said or what you did, but they will remember how you made them feel."

Mayor, we do remember what you did, but most importantly, we remember how you made us feel. An entire community salutes you with love, gratitude, and in celebration of a life well lived.

Mayor Ben Kessler







"I've lived a wonderful life with no regrets—the good always canceled out whatever was bad!
—Mayor Madison

SO MANY THINGS FROM MAYOR BEN'S "FOUR THINGS"

The Bexley Blast—the City's weekly e-newsletter—is a must-have quick-guide to being "in the know" in the community. We start each week's email with a quick calendar list, followed by features on core events and programs coming up in the weeks ahead. We then like to round out each Blast with Mayor Ben's "*Four Things Friday*." *Four Things* offers up little tidbits or perspectives on items that might not otherwise be covered on the Blast. We've pulled some recent fav "Four Things" titles and definitely encourage a weekly read. Scan the QR code or visit **bexley.org/blast** to get added to the email list.

5/24: Memorial Day Service - Remembering Bill Harvey: While we take time each year on Memorial Day to honor those who have served, this year holds a special place for our community and in my heart [...]



4/19: Tomorrow morning I'll be picking up litter along Livingston Avenue at 9:00 am (sign up here to join!) and then heading over to the Alley of the Future block [...]

3/15: Is it possible that Pelotonia riders will be routing through Bexley again come August 3rd? Hmmm...Who knows? [...]



5/17: Re-upping the Eruv: Today I met with representatives from our Orthodox Jewish community and certified the continuation of the eruv. You may or may not have noticed the eruv along the banks of [...]

4/5: Service crews are finalizing the install of the uplights on the Drexel median trees. We're still waiting on ODOT to finalize their pavement plan for the summer, but are very much looking forward to the final step in the project being complete when they repave between Main and Broad later this summer [...]

5/10: Buckeye Tree blossoms are particularly stunning this week - great places to catch them include Mound Street east of Pleasant Ridge and on the perimeter of Commonwealth Park [...]

3/15:[...] don't forget that the Bexley Police Department offers a great house-check service [...]



2/16/24: Officer Jawana Smith Day: Today is Officer Jawana Smith Day! Officer Smith was sworn in on August 22, 1996, as the first African-American police officer of the Bexley Police Department [...]



OVER THE POND AND BACK AGAIN

On a recent trip to visit family in London, Mayor Ben stopped by the London Borough of Bexley (our Bexley's eponymous City) where he traded Bexley-themed gifts and garb with Baroness Teresa Ann Jude O-Neill (pictured at left), and talked about some of the same challenges facing the two Bexleys. Baroness O-Neill serves as Bexley's Leader of Council and holds a seat in the House of Lords.

Fun Fact: The place name "Bexley" comes from the old English "*Byxe Lēah,*" translating to "Boxwood Tree Woodland Clearing." This is why the boxwood hedge is used prominently as part of Bexley City Hall's landscaping!



COUNCIL CORNER

Tips for Engaging with Council from President Lampke

Hello Bexley! I'm Monique Lampke, President of your Bexley City Council. I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself to you if we've not met before and to share some helpful information with you about Bexley City Council. I am the proud mom of two amazing daughters and have lived in Bexley since 2000. I am a former litigation attorney and legal educator and love legal writing, including drafting legislation. I also enjoy volleyball, walking my rescue dog, and am Duran Duran's biggest fan. Please keep an eye out for future Council Corner spotlights here in Bexley Times and in the Bexley Blast. It is an honor to serve you!

2024 Council Calendar

Did you know that Bexley City Council generally meets the second and fourth Tuesday of every month (excluding July) at 6:00 pm at City Hall? Here is a list of our scheduled council meetings for the remainder of 2024 (subject to change due to holidays, etc).:

August 13	October 22
August 27	November 12
September 10	November 19
September 24	December 3
October 8	December 10

Curious about our agenda? Each Friday prior to a Council Meeting, we list the proposed legislation under consideration in the Bexley Blast. If you are not already subscribed to the Blast, you can submit your email address at **bexley.org/blast** (or use the QR Code on the previous page). You can also visit **bexley.org** for full meeting agendas.

Contacting Council Members

Residents are always welcome to attend any Council meeting in-person (or virtually by visiting the City of Bexley's channel on YouTube). Public comments are also welcome—simply fill out a speaker's slip at City Hall at the beginning of each meeting. If there is an issue that is important to you and you'd like to share your input, you are free to email council members (emails listed below) or chat with us when you see us out and about in the community. Council members also host periodic Open Office Hours, so please keep an eye out for those opportunities (which are posted on Facebook and listed in the Bexley Blast).

Lori Ann Feibel - lfeibel@bexley.org
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Alex Silverman - asilverman@bexley.org

Q&A: How Many Readings of Legislation Does Council Typically Do?

Bexley City Council is unique in that we typically read and consider a single piece of legislation during at least three separate meetings (each meeting is considered one reading) with the occasional exception. This allows City Council to thoughtfully consider the resident input, wording, and ramifications of the proposed legislation over the course of six weeks (sometimes for longer). Many other local governments do only one or two readings, but doing three readings on average gives us a greater amount of time to carefully weigh proposed legislation.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR A SUMMER TO REMEMBER





BEXLEY FARMERS MARKET

Every Thursday | Through October 24 | 4-7pm
Dawson and Main

Enjoy everything from fresh, local produce to delicious baked goods: **commongreensohio.org/bexley**



FOURTH OF JULY

Thursday, July 4
All around Bexley

Start your day with the John Barr 5K Run, the parade and end your day at Capital for activities and fireworks: **bexley.org/fourth**



JAZZ IN THE PARK

Sunday, July 28 | 5-7pm
Havenwood Park

Featuring music by Latin jazz-fusion trio *Clave Sonic* and grub from your favorite local food trucks: **bexley.org/jazz**



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, August 6 | 5-8pm
Commonwealth Park

Join Bexley Police for this free, family-friendly event featuring our men and women in blue and neighboring partners in public safety.



ADULT POOL SPLASH

Thursday, August 15 | 11am-2pm
David Madison Community Pool

Join us at the pool on the first day of school. Relax poolside and celebrate surviving summer. This event is free; Adults 21+.



SPLISH, SPLASH, & DASH

Saturday, August 17 | 9am-1pm
Jeffrey Mansion

Get ready to swim, bike, and run! Bexley Recreation and Park's annual youth triathlon. Registration is open: **bexley.org/ssd**

Pelotonia to Pedal Through Bexley Once Again!

Did you miss Pelotonia pedaling through Bexley last year? Us too! Which is why we're thrilled to see this ever-growing ride to end cancer return to Bexley on Saturday, August 3. Cheer on riders at "Drexel Circle" at the intersection of Drexel and Broad. To learn more about supporting Pelotonia visit: **www.pelotonia.org.**

Bexley Hometown Heroes Banner Program

New in 2024, Bexley is launching the Hometown Heroes banner program to honor and recognize active service members and veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. Submit nominations before the August 23 deadline at: **bexley.org/hometownheroes.**





JAZZ IN THE PARK

Sunday, August 25 | 5-7pm

Havenwood Park

Bring your picnic blankets and lawn chairs for the last Jazz in the Park of the season, featuring music by *Fo/Mo/Deep*: **bexley.org/jazz**

PAWS IN THE POOL

Tuesday, September 3 | 6-8 pm

David Madison Community Pool

As we wrap up our pool season, we don't mind a little fur in the filter on our final day! $5/dog; Two swim sessions based on weight.

LABOR DAY BLOCK PARTY & BREWFEST

Sunday, September 1

Main Street

Enjoy great food, drinks, music, and fun for everyone, including adult refreshments from our partners with Brewfest: **bexley.org/laborday**

COMMUNITY CAMPOUT

Friday, September 20 | 5:30 PM

Jeffrey Park

Enjoy time with family without having to plan an entire trip! Jeffrey Park turns into a local campsite: **bexley.org/campout**

MAIN EVENT: SMOKE & FIRE FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 14 | 5-8pm

Schneider Park

Adding to the Main Event, Smoke & Fire Festival features amazing BBQ flavors, vendors, and live music before the showing of *Wonka*: **bexley.org/smokefire**

INTO THE WOODS FEST

Sunday, September 29 | 11am-6 pm

Jeffrey Park

An all day music festival takes over Jeffrey Park, featuring food trucks, a silent disco, adult beverages, and more: **miessefest.com**

New Event!

Bexley Mural Festival

Multiple Events, Week of September 15, Main Street

Be part of the art at Bexley's newest community celebration, Mural Fest! Join in the fun as wall-sized canvases come to life, transforming Main Street Bexley. Find more details (coming soon) at: **bexley.org/muralfest**

ZONING UPDATE

How Recent Zoning Changes Help to Shape our Bexley Community

City Council recently adopted Ordinance 04-24 (Ord. 04-24) which, among other things, rezones the commercial area of Livingston Avenue from Commercial Service to Mixed-Use Commercial. Does this article already read like a snooze-fest? That's fair. But what may sound boring to some, could actually mean huge improvements for this busy, motorist-oriented corridor. By updating the Zoning Code to be more pedestrian and commerce friendly, the City hopes to create conditions that foster new investment into the corridor. So even if a zoning ordinance isn't your thing, we hope you read on to learn about the exciting changes coming soon to Livingston Avenue.

What are the main outcomes of Ordinance 04-24?

Applies similar zoning standards across Livingston Avenue, Main Street, and Cassady Avenue

Corrects Conditional Use language identified as ambiguous by the District Court of Appeals

Integrates the design standards of the Joint Livingston Avenue plan into the Zoning Code

Incorporates properties located on the old Holztmann Landfill into the same zoning as Livingston Avenue

Provides zoning conditions that remove barriers to future investment along Livingston Avenue, ultimately attracting more desirable development and increasing safety



About the Circulated Referendum Petition

While you may or may not have personally been interested in Ordinance 04-24, a number of Bexley community members weighed in throughout the process. Shortly after the adoption of Ord. 04-24, the City received notification that a referendum petition was circulating opposing the ordinance. In Ohio, for a referendum petition to trigger a ballot measure, a certain number of valid signatures must be collected. While the petition was filed, the Franklin County Board of Elections determined that an insufficient number of valid signatures were submitted, meaning the referendum will not go to ballot, and the ordinance is now in full effect.

While the referendum did not result in a ballot measure, the City recognizes that a number of Bexley residents signed the petition, signaling concerns and possible misconceptions about the ordinance. For more details, including an expanded FAQ and consideration timeline, scan the QR code at right or visit **bexley.org/livingstonrezoning.**

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Does the ordinance lower construction standards in Bexley?** No. The ordinance only modifies zoning. It does not change the City's Building Code which dictates construction standards. The ordinance does, however, create more rigorous architectural standards for Livingston Avenue through a set of conditions called an overlay.

2. **Does the ordinance give BZAP new authority to approve projects?** No. As is current practice, BZAP has a number of components to consider for any project seeking a variance or Conditional Use permit.

3. **Why did the City need to update its residential conditional use provision?** As the Zoning Code was previously written, all multi-family Conditional Use permits for commercial areas could have been legally challenged, in part because of what the District Court called "ambiguous" language relating to Conditional Use permits for multi-family dwellings in commercial districts.

4. **Does the ordinance allow for the 2300 Livingston project to move forward as previously proposed?** No. Should a developer be interested in redeveloping 2300 Livingston (the former funeral home), it would need to go through a complete zoning and site redevelopment review process. If a multi-family development was proposed for that side (as before), the plan would require a Conditional Use permit, meaning it would be subject to one of the City's highest levels of review.



JOINT LIVINGSTON AVENUE PLAN

$18.3 Million Secured for Livingston Improvements

Following a multi-year public engagement process, the Cities of Bexley and Columbus adopted the Joint Livingston Avenue Plan. The plan provides a framework for a more safe and accessible Livingston Avenue, with cooperative economic development and land use policies focused on revitalizing the corridor and surrounding neighborhoods of Bexley, Berwick, Eastmoor, and Driving Park.

As a direct result of the efforts behind the plan, Bexley and Columbus partnered to secure over $15 million in federal grant funds to support over $18.3 million in expansive streetscape improvements to Livingston. The project, which is estimated to be completed by 2030, includes roadway reconstruction, enhanced crosswalks, landscaped medians, shared use paths, street lighting, stormwater improvements, signal replacements, and COTA upgrades. Vew the full plan at **bexley.org/livingston**.

ORANGE IS THE NEW GREEN

Curbside Recycling Expands with Hefty ReNew™ Program

Hefty® is bringing a new program to Central Ohio to help collect and reprocess hard-to-recycle items. Hefty ReNew™ offers an easy option for otherwise recyclable items not accepted curbside by Rumpke. Interested households can purchase special orange Hefty ReNew™ bags at area Kroger and Target stores. If you're not ready to fully commit, Hefty® is offering starter kits which include program instructions and a free sample bag.

To participate, place your tied orange bags with your Hefty ReNew™ approved items in your curbside recycling toter. Note - only Hefty ReNew™ items should be bagged. Regular curbside recycling should continue to be placed loose in your recycling toters. Learn more and find a link to request a starter kit at **bexley.org/sustainability**.

Place These Items in Your Orange Hefty ReNew™ Bags

Hefty ReNew™ PROGRAM FOR HARD-TO-RECYCLE PLASTICS

ReThink ReCycling with ReNew

ACCEPTABLE
Hard-To-Recycle Plastic Items
ALL ITEMS MUST BE CLEAN, DRY AND FREE OF FOIL LINING

KITCHEN PANTRY

- Candy wrappers
- Cereal box liners
- Chip bags
- Cookie/cracker box liners
- Dry mix liners (cake, powder mixes)
- Foam egg cartons
- Fresh/frozen vegetable & fruit bags
- Granola & energy bar wrappers
- Plastic pet food bags
- Salad bags
- Shredded cheese packages
- Snack food bags
- Stand up pouches

OFFICE & SHIPPING

- Bubble wrap
- Clear plastic overwraps
- Foam block packaging
- Foam peanuts
- Plastic air pillow pack

STORAGE & CLEANING

- Dry and wet disposable cleaning cloths
- Food Storage Bags
- Plastic food wrap
- Plastic grocery bags
- Plastic wraps on paper towels and toilet paper

*Please include plastic bags & wraps if store drop-off recycling programs are not available locally

DINING & EATING

- Foam cups
- Foam to-go boxes
- Plastic colored cups
- Plastic or foam plates and bowls
- Plastic straws and stirrers
- Plastic utensils

The following items ARE NOT accepted in the orange bags

- **NO** batteries or electronics
- **NO** food, liquid or coffee grounds
- **NO** cans, glass or PVC
- **NO** plastic bottles, tubs or PET #1 containers
- **NO** paper, cartons or boxes
- **NO** medical products or hazardous waste
- **NO** hoses, tubes or rope
- **NO** foil, foil lining or aluminum

*Please include plastic bags & wraps if store drop-off recycling programs are not available locally.

Continue to Recycle These Items Curbside, Loose in Your Toter



Plastic Bottles & Tubs



Paper, Plastic & Aluminum Cups


Glass Bottles & Jars


Cardboard & Paper


Cartons & Juice Boxes

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Call for 2024 Citizens Police Academy Applicants

6:00-9:00 pm, Tuesdays, September 3-November 5
Ever wonder about all that goes into keeping a community safe? The Bexley Citizens Police Academy gives an insider-look into the values, philosophies, and operations of the police department, while providing an open forum for questions, discussion and an exchange of ideas. This free, 10-week course covers forensics, crime scene investigation, patrol operations, first-aid/CPR, and more. Interested? Email Community Relations Officer Clayton Adams at *cadams@bexley.org* or call 614-559-4444. Must be 21+ to participate.

2023 Police Annual Report

Did you know that the Bexley Police Department had over 18,600 calls for service in 2023? Or that officers made over 2,400 house checks? To learn more about their mission, services and statistics from 2023, the department invites you to review their 2023 Annual Report, available in print at the police station and Bexley City Hall, and online by scanning the QR code at right or visiting **bexley.org/pdannualreport**.

ONE BEXLEY

Join Us in Shaping a Connected and Inclusive Bexley

One Bexley is more than a movement—it's a commitment to create a community where everyone belongs. Anchored by the values of *History, Help, Hope,* and *Healing*, our initiative strives to transform Bexley into a beacon of inclusivity and solidarity.

What We Aim to Accomplish:

- *Acknowledge* and *Learn* from our shared history and current challenges.
- *Engage* and *Empower* all voices, especially those traditionally underheard.
- *Champion* and *Influence* policies that ensure equity and justice for every resident.
- *Celebrate* and *Educate* through community events that foster understanding and appreciation of our diverse experiences.

Get Involved: Your voice is crucial. Participate in our upcoming forums, workshops, and town halls designed to weave together the rich tapestry of our community. Share your story, volunteer, attend an event, or simply come to listen and learn.

Visit **onebexley.us** to learn more and join our journey towards a more inclusive future.

Together, let's build a Bexley where everyone truly belongs.

SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

Help Shape Future Green Bexley Initiatives

The City is in the process of creating a Sustainability Action Plan, which will join the City's Zero Waste Plan, Bike Friendly Bexley Plan, and other plans which aim to address the City's mission and vision including "Protect, preserve, and enhance Bexley's natural and developed environment" and valuing "safety and sustainability" as well as "economic and environmental health."

Your feedback is essential to the process and outcome of a worthwhile plan for our community and environment. We have three feedback tools available online: two for students and one for adults using the *Consider.It* platform. Paper surveys are also available by request at City Hall. We will select one participant to receive a gift card as a thank you for sharing your thoughts.

Learn more about the plan and take the survey at **bexley.org/sap**.

City of Bexley
2242 East Main Street
Bexley, Ohio 43209

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DEVELOPMENT DOWNLOAD



Katalina's Bexley

Beloved pancakeball destination, Katalina's, is opening it's third Central Ohio location at the site of the old Boston Market. We look forward to a grand opening later this fall! Menu: **katalinas.com.**



COhatch

A new two-story facade is taking shape at the much anticipated Bexley COhatch location, set to open it's doors in September. Learn about this ever-growing coworking opportunity at **cohatch.com.**



2200 East Main

Demolition is underway at the site of the former Trinity Apartments to make way for Bexley's newest mixed-use development. As work is underway, expect temporary sidewalk closures between Parkview and College, with a detour to the south side of Main Street. Learn more at **bexley.org/2200-main.**



LinkUs Bus Rapid Transit

Planning for major public transit improvements continues as LinkUs partners (COTA, City of Columbus, and MORPC) zero-in on traffic engineering for the bus rapid transit (BRT) line planned for East Main Street. Look for upcoming engagement opportunities and learn about the BRT from Bexley's perspective at **bexley.org/linkus.**

Thank You to Our *Bexley Times* Contributors

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