BEXLEY TIMES

CITY OF BEXLEY NEWSLETTER

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A family enjoying summer fun at the Bexley Fourth of July Parade



From the Mayor's Desk

KEEPING OUR KIDS SAFE ON WHEELS

Summer is in full swing, and if you've spent time around Bexley lately, you've likely seen it: packs of kids gliding through the neighborhood on bikes, scooters, and skateboards—sometimes electric, sometimes not—joyfully, and often fearlessly. It's a scene I love, but it's also one that increasingly gives me pause. I want to take a moment to talk about riding safely, especially as it pertains to our youngest and most vulnerable residents.

As these personal mobility devices have grown in popularity and complexity, we've seen a rise in risky behavior involving them. From riding e-bikes at excessive speeds without helmets to darting through intersections on e-scooters without looking, the potential for serious injury—or worse—is real.



Don't have a helmet? Let us help! The City of Bexley partners with DARN on the ReCycle Bikes program; a program that accepts and fixes donated bikes, and gets them in the hands of families and kids in need in our community. ReCycle Bikes also offers free helmets to those who need them. I'd be delighted to personally drop one off myself if you're short one! If you're in need of a helmet, drop me a line at *mayor@bexley.org*.

That's one of the reasons why Bexley recently expanded our bicycle helmet law to better protect our youth. Under the new law, any person under the age of 18 riding a bike, scooter, skateboard, or other recreational mobility devices in Bexley is required to wear a helmet. This isn't about enforcement for enforcement's sake—it's about working to avoid tragedies that are all too preventable. Wearing a helmet significantly reduces the risk of head injury in crashes. This simple step can save a life.

Meanwhile, many parents and young people may not realize that under Ohio state law, the operation of certain classes of e-bikes by minors is illegal. Specifically, Class 3 e-bikes (which can reach speeds of 28 mph) cannot be operated by anyone under 16, even with a helmet. Moreover, riding any type of motorized scooter or e-bike on sidewalks is illegal in most public settings and especially dangerous in pedestrian-heavy environments like Bexley's Main Street corridor.

"We want Bexley to be a place where kids can enjoy the freedom of movement—but we also want them to make it home safely."

Unfortunately, the current regulatory environment is a patchwork, leaving many families and kids unsure of what's

legal, safe, or age-appropriate. And the risk isn't just hypothetical; there have already been several injuries in Bexley this year involving youth on electric personal mobility devices.

Over the coming months, you'll see us address the risk posed by the increase in reckless behavior from a variety of angles. We'll be launching several educational campaigns around the laws we have today; later this summer we'll roll out operation "Slow Down Bexley" a driver-education and intervention campaign designed to help curb speeding and attention issues; and I'm also currently in the process of working with City Council to take a closer look at the operation of motorized vehicles by minors. We need to bring common sense clarification to what is permitted on Bexley's streets and sidewalks, address safety concerns, and ensure that we're holding space for both innovation and public safety.

In the meantime, I'd like to encourage parents and adults in general to model safe riding behavior by putting on a helmet—even if isn't required—yielding at intersections, using hand signals, and in general demonstrating safe, defensive riding as you're out and about on a bike, scooter, or that rad skateboard you've been riding since the 90's.

We want Bexley to be a place where kids can enjoy the freedom of movement—but we also want them to make it home safely. Let's work together to promote awareness, model safe behavior, and ensure our community continues to thrive as a walkable, rideable, and safe place for residents of all ages.

In community,

Mayor Ben

Keep up with what we're working on via my "Mayor's Updates" mini-newsletter, published twice a month for Council meetings.



Helmeted up on the 4th parade Drexel median bike float

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO...

Here's a list of some of what I've been working on with staff over the past few months! - *Mayor Ben*

- Securing $2.92m in LinkUS TSI grant funding for Livingston, Main St Bridge, Calm Corridors
- Obtaining a $1.5m refund from Columbus
- Deploying public outdoor AED stations
- Creating the "Slow Down Bexley" campaign
- Rolling out new adirondack seating spaces throughout the community
- Alum Creek bike/pedestrian bridge bid prep
- Commonwealth Park unification infrastructure install and central feature design progress
- Renewing Pumphouse Park lease
- Creating a community competition process for the Lucky Lotto building redevelopment (see page 11 for details)
- Drafting ordinances for: Drexel speed limit; noise ordinance modernization; elevator maintenance req; Accessory Dwelling Units; expanding the DORA; extending Chief Lewis' contract



Shaping the Future of Our Streetscape

COMMERCIAL DESIGN GUIDELINES

Ever walk down Main Street and notice how it makes you feel? At its best, the expansive tree canopy, generous sidewalks, welcoming storefronts, and eclectic architecture all come together to create a uniquely "Bexley" experience. These elements—our built environment, the surrounding trees and landscape, and our attention to detail—make streets feel safer, more welcoming, and more interesting to walk or bike along.

For decades, Bexley has worked to uphold high standards for architectural quality and streetscape design in our commercial areas. Our Main Street Design Guidelines (adopted in 2002), along with our zoning code and a thoughtful planning review process, have helped ensure new developments and infrastructure projects reflect those values—incorporating architectural details, green elements, and pedestrian-friendly features.

But after more than 20 years, it's time for an update, to reflect on what has worked well, and what improvements in our guidelines can help craft the next generation of Bexley's story. The City is launching an initiative to modernize our Main Street Design Guidelines and expand them to include all commercial corridors in Bexley—including Livingston and Cassady Avenues. These updated Commercial Design Guidelines, developed alongside our near-complete Land Use Strategy, will help shape the future of Bexley's business districts and community spaces.

To kick things off, in April we invited renowned urban planner and *Walkable City* author Jeff Speck to conduct a "walkability audit." Speck and his team praised many of Bexley's existing assets—from our vibrant tree canopy and recent infrastructure improvements (like the landscaped medians and bump-outs on Drexel), to the overall character of our buildings and streetscape.

At the same time, they also identified opportunities for growth: reducing travel lane widths (aka "street diets"), improving on-street parking, rethinking road striping, and enhancing public spaces with murals, outdoor seating, and other creative elements.

These recommendations will feed directly into guiding principles that the newly formed Commercial Design Guidelines Steering Committee will put to use as they work with planning firm McKenna over the next nine months to shape the next chapter of Bexley's commercial districts.

And of course—in true Bexley fashion—we want your voice to be part of the guideline development process. Join us for the first Commercial Design Guidelines Public Workshop at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 10 at City Hall. Stay tuned for more information at *bexleydesignguidelines.com* and look for a community survey launching this summer!

Spend Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

EAT LOCAL THIS SUMMER

Shopping local keeps spending in your neighborhood, supports small business, is more sustainable generally, and saves time you'd otherwise waste in driving in traffic.

From our weekly Farmers Market, to beloved bakeries, to a natural market full of the very best organic, earth-friendly products, Bexley has a ton of wonderful businesses to support. Check out the following list for a few great options, and plan your next summer shopping trip today!



BEXLEY FARMERS MARKET

Corner of Dawson & Main
Thursdays - 4:00 - 7:00 pm
Local produce, artisanal goods, music, and more



CHERBOURG BAKERY

547 S Drexel
Hours vary by day
Familiar pastries free of gluten and nuts, along with pour over coffee



KITTIE'S

2424 E Main
Daily - 7:00 am - 4:00 pm
Cozy coffee shop with breakfast sandwiches and baked goods



KHAAB INDIAN KITCHEN

2400 E Main
Hours vary by day
Traditional Indian dishes with a buffet and full bar



ZEN CHA

2396 E Main
Hours vary by day
International teas and light global fair



BEXLEY NATURAL MARKET

508 Cassady Avenue
Mon - Fri - 10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Grocery store offering natural, bulk and organic products



GUISEPPE'S RITROVO

2268 E Main
Hours vary by day
Pizzas, pastas, and other Italian classics



NEWFANGLED KITCHEN

2258 E Main
Hours vary by day
Creative menu featuring meatloaf sandwiches



KATALINA'S

2741 E Main
Daily - 8:00 am - 3:00 pm
The Little Cafe with Lots of Local Goodness



THE LION

2511 E Main
Hours vary by day
Coffee shop by day, cocktail bar with live music by night

The list above is just a start! Scan the QR code at right for more ideas of how to eat (and shop) local or visit *bexley.org/entertainment*.

"DON'T MISS" SERIES AND EVENTS IN BEXLEY

Your Guide to a Summer to Remember



Bexley Farmer's Market



Jazz in the Park

Thursdays | 4:00 - 7:00 pm
Dawson and East Main

Stock up on fresh-from-the-farm fruits, flowers and vegetables, artisan jams, baked goods and more, and bring the family or a friend to enjoy live music or grab a bite to eat!

The market is open every **Thursday from May 15 through October 23**, rain or shine. We encourage shoppers to bring their own bags! To learn more, visit *commongreensohio.org*.

This event is sponsored or funded by the **Bexley Celebrations & Events fund** at **Bexley Community Foundation**. Help fund the fun at *bexleycommunityfoundation.org* or by scanning the QR code on the next page.

Jazz in the Park is an outdoor concert series held at Havenwood Park. Each summer, the City showcases some of the best central Ohio bands. Grab a blanket or chair and bring a friend!

Sunday, June 22 | 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Featuring *Tony Monaco Trio* and some fantastic food trucks, including Cousins, Ono Turo Turo, Papas Donuts and Coffee, and Johnsons Real Ice Cream!

Sunday, July 20 | 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Our July Jazz concert will showcase *Paw Paw Orchestra* by Andy Woodson, with delicious food offerings from Dos Hermanos, Schmidts, and Konfetti Carts!

Sunday, August 17 | 5:00 - 7:00 pm

In August, Jazz welcomes *Zach Compston Big Band* and a great food truck lineup including Paddywagon, Explorer's Club, and Johnson's Real Ice Cream!



The Main Event

The Main Event is an outdoor summer movie series located on the Capital Lawn on Main Street. At each Main Event, there are featured musical performances, family activities, crafts, and food trucks to enjoy before the movie begins.

Friday, August 15 | 6:00 - 10:00 pm
Join us on the Capital Lawn for *Inside Out 2* and music by *The Fair Weathered*.

Friday, September 12 | 6:00 - 10:00 pm
Our September Main Event will feature music by *The Conspiracy Band* and a viewing of *If*.

SCAN HERE TO FUND THE FUN

Help us keep the great events (and the good times) rolling! Donate to Bexley Celebrations & Events and Fund the Fun today!

BEXLEY 4TH OF JULY IT'S A BLAST!

There's nothing like the Fourth of July in Bexley, and this year it's going to be a Blast! From the 5K to the parade to the evening festivities and fireworks, this all-day celebration is one you don't want to miss!

John Barr 5K | 8:00 am - Jeffrey Mansion
Start your day with a run! The John Barr 5k, presented by Bexley Automotive, is a great way to start out your Independence Day fun!

Parade | 9:30 am - Throughout Bexley
Our 2025 parade theme is **Bexley: It's a Blast!** This year there will be PRIZES for the top three entries, including a free pizza party at Bexley Pool! So get creative and make your float extra spectacular!

Evening Festivities | 6:30 pm - Capital Lawn
The evening festivities kick off at 6:30 pm with live music, inflatables, food trucks, and plenty of activities for the whole family to enjoy!

Fireworks | 10:00 pm - Capital University
Independence Day wouldn't be complete without a fantastic fireworks display, so sit back and enjoy!



National Night Out

Tuesday, August 5 from 5:30-7:30 pm

Don't miss Bexley Police Department's third annual National Night Out event at Commonwealth Park. This family friendly event is a fun way to get to know our officers!



Splish, Splash & Dash

Saturday, August 16 at 9:00 am

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



SUMMERFEST IS BACK!

Each Labor Day Weekend, Bexley holds a huge community block party on Main Street, and this year, we're pulling out all the stops! "Summerfest" is back, with live music, food trucks, and vendors for the whole family to enjoy. And this year, we're combining forces with Mural Fest, so get ready for some awesome art additions to the fun! Details are still developing so keep an eye on the Blast and our website as Summerfest approaches.



Paws in the Pool



Smoke & Fire Festival

Tuesday, September 2 at 6:00 pm

Before we close Bexley Pool for the season, we give our furry friends their chance to splash and play at Paws in the Pool, a special swim event for dogs! Registration is required and slots are limited. Learn more at *bexleyrec.org*.

Saturday, September 27 at 2:00 pm

Get ready for a sizzling experience at the Smoke and Fire Festival! This event combines the mouthwatering flavors of barbecue with the infectious rhythms of live music. Learn more at *bexley.org/smokefire*.

BEXLEY BLAST

CITY OF BEXLEY EMAIL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Are you in the know about all things Bexley? Sign up today for Bexley Blast, our weekly email newsletter. Inside each edition you'll find important City updates, the latest news, and details for upcoming events.



Spotlight on Sustainability

YOUR GUIDE TO A SUSTAINABLE SUMMER

Whether you're looking to save money on your air conditioning bill, stay safe in the sun while protecting the reef, or pick the most sustainable summer sweet treat, there are many ways to make your summer sustainable and sunsational and Green Bexley is here to help!

To name a few options: this summer enjoy beverages in an innovative reusable cup service with partners Kitties and Swonderful Times Café in Chambers Music Studio; donate unwearable textiles for recycling through Circular Thrift; keep an eye out for information about upcoming tours to Rumpke and the landfill via the Bexley Blast. Interested in learning more about the City's wind-based electrical aggregation or going solar at your home? For more information about these topics and many more, visit *bexley.org/sustainability* or email *eellman@bexley.org* to connect with our Sustainability Programs Coordinator, Elizabeth Ellman.

You can also find information on eco-friendly living, tips and tricks, and snapshots of sustainability throughout Bexley at *greenbexley.org* and *@greenbexley* on Facebook and Instagram.

CURBSIDE COLLECTION 411



FOOD WASTE GOT YOU DOWN?

Sign up for Bexley's curbside food waste recycling at ***bexley.org/food-waste*** or, for excess waste, utilize City Hall's food waste recycling drop off to discard extra food waste.



WAS YOUR PICKUP A MISS?

Report misses for trash, recycling, yard waste, and food waste collection online at ***bexley.org/trash*** by 2:00 pm on Tuesdays for a special pickup on Tuesday afternoons.

Introducing the BEXLEY "FREEDGE"



Later this summer, the City is proud to launch our very first freedge—a free community refrigerator aimed at reducing food waste and helping our neighbors in need. Think of it like a Little Free Pantry, but with the ability to safely store fresh, perishable, and frozen foods. The Bexley Freedge will be open to the public, offering a simple way for individuals and businesses to share extra food that might otherwise go to waste—and for anyone in need to take what they need, no questions asked.

When donating, we ask that items are:

- whole and unopened (no open packages or sliced produce);
- labeled with date and ingredients or potential allergens;
- prepackaged from a licensed kitchen or retailer;
- individually portioned, if possible;

Keep an eye on the Bexley Blast for an online donation sign up system, and admire the Bexley Freedge as it's being constructed near the side access gate to the North Community Garden. Thanks to the Bexley Community Foundation and No Child Goes Hungry for sponsoring this project.



From Lotto to Launch BUSINESS COMPETITION

The Bexley Community Improvement Corporation (BCIC) is seeking bold, creative, and community-serving proposals for the transformation of a key commercial property at 2220 E. Livingston Avenue (the former site of Lucky Lotto).

Located on a fast-moving, auto-oriented corridor, this site has sat underutilized for years—but that's about to change. We're launching a 6-week community challenge to select a visionary tenant or partner to bring this site to life as a model for adaptive reuse and corridor revitalization. Proposals will be evaluated on a number of criteria including community value, financial viability, rental rate, and parking dependence.

To support this community-serving business, the BCIC will provide a lightly renovated building with the following (other improvements will be up to the tenant):

New roof | HVAC system | Accessible restroom
Support for creative indoor/outdoor activation
Flexible lease terms with affordable rates

SCAN ME

Ready to make your pitch? Learn more by scanning the QR code at right or visiting *bexley.org/CIC*. Proposals are due on Friday, August 1.



How to Give Your Input at Council Meetings

Bexley City Council meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6:00 pm at Bexley City Hall. These meetings are always open to the public, and we welcome your voice and perspective. Have something on your mind or a topic you're passionate about? Come share it with us! Learn how to participate in public comment by taking a look at the Public Speaking Policy at *bexley.org/council*.

Agenda Items and Council Decisions Summarized in Bexley Blast

Curious about what Council is voting on next? Or what action has come out of recent meetings? The City provides a quick guide of upcoming Council agenda items and formal action in the weekly Bexley Blast e-newsletter. For updates sent directly to your inbox, subscribe at *bexley.org/blast*.

From the Council Dias
LEAP TOGETHER

Dear Bexley Residents,

I recently heard some great life advice from Kermit the Frog. While he said "it's not easy being green" (pun intended!), Kermit also recommended we should strive to "listen more, make connections and remember that life is better when we leap together." His sage wisdom came during his commencement speech address at the University of Maryland where my oldest daughter was a graduate. As President of Bexley City Council, this amphibious advice rings true with me as we kick off the summer season in our extraordinary Bexley community.

Your City Council continues to be busy writing, evaluating, and voting on important legislation that impacts our residents. For example, at just our May 27 meeting alone, Council considered 10 different pieces of legislation ranging the proposed speed limit of 25 on Drexel Avenue, to whether Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) should be permitted, to reviewing financial appropriations. For a wider perspective, your City Council passed 51 pieces of legislation in 2024 involving:

- Fees for electric vehicle charging stations;
- Funding summer meals with DARN;
- Appointing smart and experienced residents to many of our boards and commissions;
- Installing life-saving AED devices around town;
- Adding protective helmet requirements for our children riding e-bikes or similar vehicles;
- Requiring the securing and fencing of building sites during certain construction activities;
- The unifiying of Commonwealth Park East with Commonwealth Park West; and
- Passing a balanced budget that raised our city's emergency savings to its highest balance ever and paid down city debt.

During its spring retreat, Council discussed priorities for 2025 which include city finances, infrastructure, police community programs, safety, golf carts, green spaces, Bexley's senior citizens, accessible playgrounds, drones, development, and our beloved arboretum. As we move through 2025, your City Council remains focused on the everyday challenges and opportunities that shape life in Bexley. We



President Lampke's daughter Megan donning her graduation gown and Kermit (of course)!

know these issues matter deeply—because they affect all of us. Every voice counts, and your Council is committed to listening, learning, and leading with that in mind.

Speaking of which, a few weeks ago, I attended a New Resident Welcome event where a new Bexley community member told me how much he loves local government. When I asked him why (with a smile on my face), he explained that local governments and local officials get to look into the eyes of the residents they directly serve and create solutions for issues that we can see, hear, and feel from our front yards. The unique size of our Bexley community allows us all to make meaningful connections with each other and to craft solutions to everyday issues. I take very seriously the enormous trust that you have placed in me and I thank my neighbors, fellow residents, and business owners who readily share their opinions with Council on things that matter the most to them.

If we remember to leap together, we can accomplish anything. So spread kindness like confetti and let's all listen more, make connections, and remember that life is better when we "leap together." Kermit would be proud.

—President Monique Lampke

Where on Main Answer Key (See Back Cover for Quiz)
In order from left to right, top to bottom:
Bexley Public Library, Rubino's Pizza Mural, Drexel Theatre, Brassica, Montrose Elementary, Graeter's Ice Cream, DGB Kindness Park, Rubino's Pizza Sign, Guiseppe's Italian Ritrovo

Spotlight on SAFETY

The dedicated officers of Bexley Police Department work diligently to keep our community safe. Below, check out two of the many wonderful resident services they offer.



VACATION HOUSE CHECKS

If you'll be out of town for an extended trip, be sure to fill out the Vacation House Check Form at *bexley.org/police*. While you're away, BPD will keep an eye out for unusual activity to keep your property safe.



BEXLEY SAFE AT HOME

Bexley Safe At Home is a free daily phone check-in service for homebound or elderly community members. Once you are enrolled, you'll receive a daily check-in call, a helpful tool to alerting authorities if there is an issue. Sign up at *bexley.org/police*.





INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS UPDATE

Construction season is underway, with multiple major projects now active throughout the Bexley community. As a reminder, please use extreme caution when driving, biking, or walking near an active construction area. When driving, please proceed slowly and be prepared to stop when workers are present. We appreciate your patience and care in keeping our crews safe! For more frequent street project updates, stay tuned to *bexley.org/street-projects* and subscribe to the Bexley Blast. In particular, keep an eye out for active construction in the following areas:



2200 E. MAIN STREET - THE FITZGERALD REDEVELOPMENT

The sidewalk on the north side of Main between College and Parkview will be closed for several weeks. The sidewalk to the south will remain open. Periodic and temporary lane closures may also occur on Main Street to facilitate construction.



N. COLUMBIA AVENUE - WATERLINE IMPROVEMENTS

The next phase of this project will take place on Columbia between Maryland to North Commonwealth Park. There will be parking restrictions on the street and temporary road closures to through traffic during working hours. Access to local residents will be maintained. Please check with the workers on site if you need assistance accessing a residence.



STANBERY AVENUE - WATERLINE IMPROVEMENTS

Work is substantially complete on the water main installation and street resurfacing. Some minor pavement marking and punch list work will be completed to finalize this project.

CITY OF COLUMBUS UPDATE: CASSADY AVENUE CONSRUCTION

The City of Columbus has started work on North Cassady Avenue that will create a lengthy traffic pattern change on Cassady north of the railroad tracks just north of Delmar. The City of Columbus is offering a sign up for periodic updates and additional information. Scan the QR code to subscribe for project updates.

BRT STATION LOCATION UPDATE

Thanks to the Bexley Community for Your Input

After months of meaningful community engagement—including one-on-one conversations, small group discussions, an online survey, and formal public comment—Bexley City Council voted to support the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) station at Pleasant Ridge and Main Street. This process was more than a procedural step—it was a collective effort to ensure Bexley's voice helped shape the future of regional transit and how it interacts with our streetscape and community. The time spent listening, reflecting, and refining was well worth it. Public input directly influenced several design considerations and action items that City staff will carry forward as plans develop.

Pleasant Ridge and Main emerged as the preferred location following a comprehensive review of Main Street intersections. Its central position along key housing, retail, and employment corridors—as well as its proximity to Capital University and the Bexley Public Library—make it a strategic and accessible choice. Importantly, the station will be integrated into the existing median at that location and will not alter current traffic patterns, as dedicated bus lanes are not feasible within Bexley's limited Main Street right-of-way.

Looking ahead, City staff will partner closely with COTA to refine design elements, with updates and checkpoints at relevant City boards and commissions. While construction is not expected until 2027, and service is anticipated to begin in 2029, design work and coordination are already underway. To track regional updates, visit *linkuscolumbus.com/eastmain*, and for Bexley-specific information, go to *bexley.org/linkus*.

Thank you to every resident and business community member who lent their time, ideas, and energy to this process—your input helped shape a major investment in Bexley's and Central Ohio's future.



A design rendering of the Pleasant Ridge BRT station.

Thank You to Our *Bexley Times* Contributors

Mayor Ben Kessler
Editor-in-Chief

Megan Meyer
Managing Editor

Natalie Vawter
Copy Editor

Monique Lampke
Council Contributor

Elizabeth Ellman
Sustainability

Emily Perfect
Recreation & Parks

City of Bexley
2242 East Main Street
Bexley, Ohio 43209

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WHERE ON MAIN: NAME THAT SPOT!

Main Street is the place to be in Bexley this summer! Whether you're walking the dog, cruising in a golf cart, or soaking up the vibes at a community event, chances are your summer includes a spin down Main Street. Can you name all nine Main Street spots pictured above? Flip to page 13 for the answer key!