BEXLEY TIMES

CITY OF BEXLEY NEWSLETTER

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WHAT'S INSIDE? CHECK IT OUT!

2 WHY CONNECTIONS MATTER WITH MAYOR MIKE

3 LEGAL E-BIKES? A BUYERS GUIDE

6 WATER IN BEXLEY: RATE NEWS AND MORE

An autumn scene in Jeffrey Park



From the Mayor's Desk

WHY CONNECTIONS MATTER

Hello Bexley!

While I was lucky to serve Bexley for seventeen years as the Recreation and Parks Director, I can't tell you how excited I am to be writing you from my new role as Mayor. In the weeks since City Council elected me as the successor to Mayor Ben Kessler, I've received an outpouring of support, information, and wisdom that leaves me both grateful and humbled. But most of all, it leaves me inspired.

As both a lifelong resident and long-time public servant to this city, I know that our small town has an incredibly big heart, and when we work together, we accomplish amazing things.

"Our small town has an incredibly big heart, and when we work together, we can accomplish amazing things."

In the short weeks since I've been Mayor, we've cut the ribbon on the gorgeous mural beside City Hall, launched a survey to guide the creation of a public art plan for Bexley, celebrated the groundbreaking of Bexley Apartments with The Community Builders, and enjoyed the grand opening of the beautiful Outdoor Reading Room on East Main Street.

But our City is not without challenges, and while it is exciting to celebrate our successes, we must also work tirelessly to address areas of concern and find solutions to complex problems.

One of my first major projects as Mayor has been working with directors to propose a 2027 City Budget to Council. While City Administration is responsible for identifying the anticipated income and necessary expenditures for the coming year, City Council is charged with the responsibility of reviewing and voting on the budget. I've seen this process through the years as the Rec Director, and I believe it's a prime example of the importance of collaboration and cooperation. By bringing our unique perspectives, backgrounds, and goals to the process, we make sure our budget accomplishes the right things for Bexley.

And I believe the power of working together extends beyond those who work for the City. Our residents often connect through service organizations, neighborhood groups, block parties, and more, and these community relationships are what make Bexley vibrant and strong. As the cold season approaches, it can get trickier to connect with neighbors, which is why I'm creating the Connect 4 Neighbor Challenge to inspire us all to keep those connections strong! Check out the challenge to the right, and be sure to drop me a line if you finish all four!

In closing, I want to again share my gratitude for your enthusiasm, support, and patience with me as I learn the ropes. Being your mayor is one of the greatest honors of my life, and I am grateful for this opportunity and this community.

Thank you, Bexley!

Mayor Mike



CONNECT4 CHALLENGE

Get to Know Your Neighbors to Win!

Let's stay connected, Bexley! Take on Mayor Mike's Connect4 Neighbor Challenge by December 31! Can only do one or two? It's still an awesome way to get to know the people in your neighborhood. Complete all four? Capture a photo or two and email Mayor Mike at mayor@bexley.org, or scan the QR Code below. Winners will all be invited to a special dessert social, hosted by the Mayor!

MEET SOMEONE NEW

Whether it's a new neighbor on your street or a stranger you keep bumping into at the coffee shop, introduce yourself and make a new friend!

OFFER AN ACT OF KINDNESS

Help someone rake leaves, bring cookies to a neighbor, offer a cup of coffee or tea to a busy mom. Even small acts of kindness leave a big impact.

HOST DINNER OR DESSERT

Pick up where you left off and have dinner or dessert with someone in the community you haven't seen in a while! Dinner with the family who just moved in? It definitely counts!

LEARN SOMETHING NEW

Whether grabbing your mail or waiting in line at the bank, look for ways to strike up a conversation with a neighbor. See what new things you can learn!

COMPLETE ALL FOUR? CLICK HERE TO WIN BY 12/31!

BUYERS TAKE CARE!

How to Know if an E-Bike is Legal in Bexley

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

E-Bikes and e-scooters continue to grow in popularity, but some of the e-bikes you can easily purchase aren't legal for operation on Bexley's streets! With the holidays quickly approaching, we want to be sure you're in the know about what bikes are legal and permitted by Bexley's laws before you make that big purchase! Here are the four things to check:



CLASS

- ✓ Class 1 - 12+ w/Training
- ✓ Class 2 - 14+ w/Training
- ✓ Class 3 - 16+



THROTTLE

- ✗ Under 14
- ✓ 14-15 w/Training
- ✓ 16+



TOP SPEED

- ✓ 20 MPH 12+*
- ✓ 28 MPH 16+
- ✗ >28 MPH

**Class/Training still applies*



HELMET

- ✓ Every E-Bike
- ✓ Every Age
- ✓ Every Time

Ohio Senate Bill 477 (currently pending) may change minimum operation age to 14 for all e-bikes or e-scooters!





Council President Jess Saad On Community
DISTINCTLY BEXLEY

As your City Council President, I am frequently asked what makes Bexley such a singular place to live, work, and raise a family. While it's easy to point to our tree-lined streets, our historic architecture, or the vibrant energy bouncing off Main Street, Bexley's true distinction lies in its people. We are a community fiercely proud of where we've been, actively engaged in where we are today, and unified in our vision for tomorrow.

This past year has been historic for our city. When long-serving Mayor Ben Kessler stepped down after 14 years of exemplary service, your City Council decided to undertake a rigorous selection process. We proudly elected unanimously our former Parks and Recreation Director, Mike Price, as Bexley's next Mayor. This rigorous, thoughtful transition underscored exactly what makes Bexley work: a shared commitment to stability, mutual respect, and collaborative civic leadership. Thank you to all of City Council for your time and commitment to a transparent process, and thank you to all of our residents who applied. Your enthusiasm and willingness to serve are inspiring, and you were all seen, heard, and valued.

True pride isn't just felt; it is action-oriented. Time and again, Bexley residents prove their dedication to our city by showing up where it matters most. Whether it is volunteering in our community or simply packing the stands for Friday night lights.

Together, we will continue to champion an environment where everyone can achieve a future that is truly, uniquely, and "Distinctly Bexley". Hope to hear from you or see you at office hours soon!

In Community,
Jess





Want to Chat with City Council?

Your feedback and ideas are appreciated! Here are a few ways to connect!

- Email Council@Bexley.org
- Submit a Public Comment at a Council Meeting
- Visit Open Office Hours on 12/17 from 8:30-10:30 am with Council Member Marcellino and Council President Saad at Starbucks

WHAT'S COMING UP, BEXLEY?
This Season's Can't Miss Events at a Glance



NOVEMBER 26 - 9-11 AM
St. Alban's Turkey Trot
St. Alban's Church



DECEMBER 5 - 8:30-11 AM
Pancake Breakfast
Jeffrey Mansion



DECEMBER 6 - 5-7 PM
Christmas Tree Lighting
Drexel Circle



DECEMBER 7 - 6:30-7:30 PM
Menorah Lighting
Drexel Circle



DECEMBER 17 - 8:30-10:30 AM
Open Office Hours
Starbucks on Main Street



MARCH 6 - 8AM-1PM
Jeffrey Woods Festival
Jeffrey Park

STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE BLAST!

Want to be in-the-know about all-the-things? Click the QR code to the right to sign up for the Bexley Blast, our weekly e-newsletter and number one source for important news and upcoming events. Sign up today!



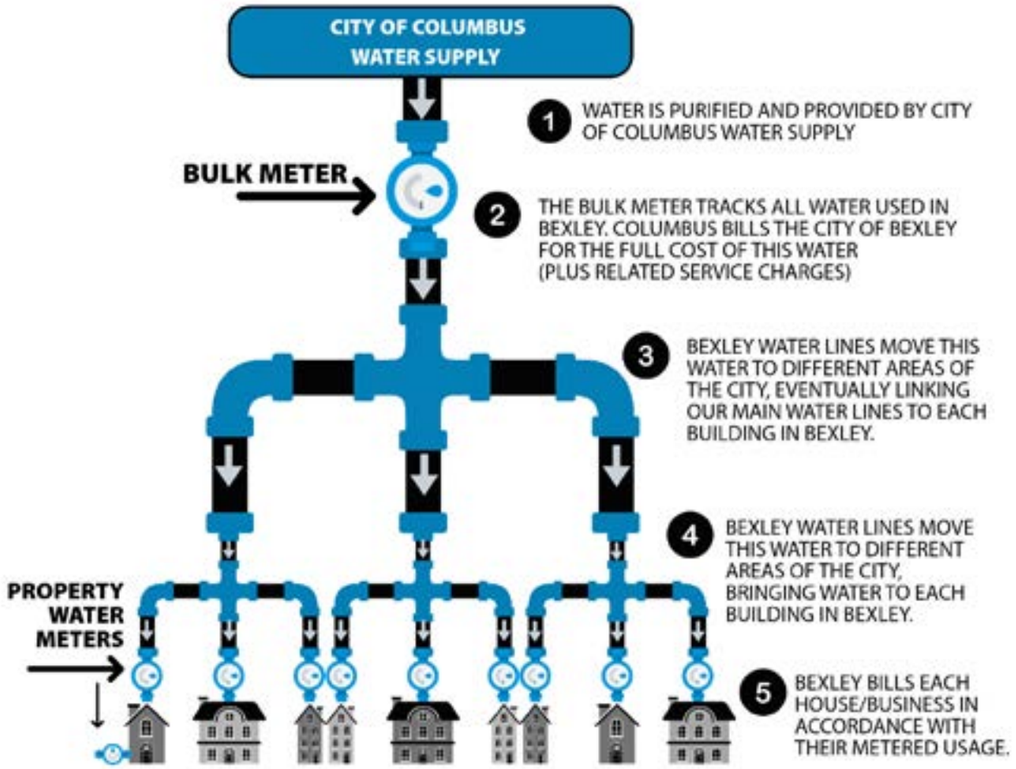
HOW WATER WORKS IN BEXLEY

Get the Scoop on Your Water Service

Most of us fill our bathtubs and turn on our dishwashers without a second thought to where the water comes from. But with an anticipated significant rate increase on the horizon, we want to be sure to provide the details you need and tips to reduce your water usage.

When it comes to water usage, the City of Bexley is a bulk-meter community with all water provided by City of Columbus facilities. What this means is that Columbus has a large meter for all water that is pumped into the City of Bexley. We're charged for that water use, plus service fees for their water system facilities and upkeep. After passing through the bulk meter, water is then routed through Bexley water lines to individual properties, including businesses and homes. Each property has a meter (sometimes two!) that tracks all water used by that property. The water portion of your water and sewer bill is calculated according to that usage and your payments offset the City's payment for the full bulk-meter water use.

Each year, the City of Columbus establishes water rates for all bulk-meter communities it serves. In 2026, Columbus instated an 18% increase in water rates, and another 18% increase has been instated for 2027 water use. These increases are substantial, and are in part related to planned water facility additions and upgrades. While we can't determine or change these rates, we recognize these are significant and impactful increases. Check out the graphic below to learn more about how bulk meter water supply works, and check out the opposite page for important tips on how you can reduce water use on your property.



WATER & SEWER RATES RISING

Columbus Increases Bexley's Rates for 2027

In recent weeks we received word from the City of Columbus that they will increase Bexley's water and sewer rates for 2027, with a substantial 18% increase to water rates, and 4% increase to sewer rates. These increases go into effect on January 1, 2027.

As is outlined on the previous page, the City of Bexley is liable for payment of all water consumption within City limits. The City determines the water and sewer rates for water users in Bexley. The water portion of your water, sewer and trash bill is calculated by multiplying the water consumed at your property by the current Bexley rates. Your payments of these invoices are used to offset the City's cost for water service.

As of the writing of this article, City Council has not yet passed the budget for 2027, but we know these increases will significantly impact water bills for residents and businesses in the City. We wanted to provide as much notice of a potential increase as possible. Along with this, we encourage you to evaluate your home's water usage for potential reduction opportunities.

A stuck icemaker or leaking toilet can waste thousands of gallons of water in a month, and irrigation and sprinkler systems use a substantial volume of water. Ahead of the new year, consider adjustments to limit irrigation and watering. And take time to evaluate your house for drips and leaks. Even seemingly small issues can add up, so make sure your systems are running well.

KEEP A HAWK EYE OUT... ...FOR AQUAHAWK

The City of Bexley is currently testing Aquahawk, a monitoring portal that will allow residents the option to monitor their household water use in real time. Aquahawk will offer a convenient tool for residents to evaluate water consumption in their home.

If you'd like to sign up to be notified when Aquahawk is available for use, scan the QR Code here!

REDUCE WATER USE!

Practical Ways to Use Less

Got a stuck icemaker or leaking toilet? Seemingly small problems and everyday choices can lead to huge water

Check out the following ways to reduce your water use today!



City of Bexley
2242 East Main Street
Bexley, Ohio 43209

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BEXLEY APARTMENTS: CONSTRUCTION UPDATES!

The Latest on 2200 East Livingtson & 420 North Cassady

Construction on The Bexley Apartments developments at 2200 East Livingston and 420 North Cassady are both underway! Demolition is complete and site preparation is in progress at both sites, so please be alert to road closures and traffic changes that should be anticipated near these sites for the coming weeks. Construction on the building is expected to begin at the Livingston Avenue development by the end of the year, so stay tuned for the latest construction news at bexley.org/tcb/!



Tis the season for recycling! Did you know we offer multiple opportunities for special recycling throughout fall and early winter? Check out great options for the holiday season below or scan the QR code for the full list!

HOLIDAY TREES

Ongoing

Curbside

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Dec. 1-22

2100 Clifton Ave.

STYROFOAM

Dec. 24-Jan. 5

2100 Clifton Ave.

Thank You to Our *Bexley Times* Contributors

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