

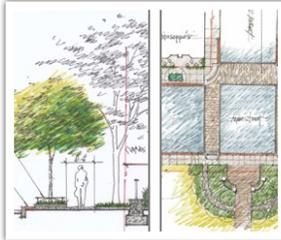


BEXLEY TIMES

City of Bexley Quarterly Newsletter

Volume N° 22 - January through March, 2014

ON THE FLIP SIDE:



Main Street Update



Recreation Registration



Code Enforcement Corner



Calendar of Events

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK: 2013 IN REVIEW

A look back at the ideas and events that shaped Bexley in 2013



Mayor Ben Kessler with outgoing council president Rick Weber

There wasn't a dull moment to be found in 2013, which was characterized by a flurry of new activity in Bexley. Here's a brief overview of some of the highlights from 2013...

A Year of Firsts The Main Event quickly blossomed into a

monthly movie and entertainment/activity event that drew around 800 participants by the time the season hit its stride. We found ourselves playing youth "highland games" on Capital's Main Lawn, and rocking out to Bexley's greatest talent at September's "Bexley's Got Talent" talent show, and then following up an evening of activities with movies under the stars. Many thanks to our sponsors and a generous grant from the Bexley Community Foundation for making the Main Event possible!

The Splish, Splash and Dash Youth Triathlon was a great success, with over 150 participants age 6 and up entering in a friendly swim/bike/run competition. With help from over 60 volunteers this event was a blast, and we're already working hard on planning next year.

Bexley Chautauqua - In July, Capital's main lawn was transformed with the signature red and white striped high top of the Ohio Chautauqua. Visitors and residents were regaled with "first-person" accounts of life when Ohio was a western frontier.

The Bexley Arboretum - In March the City was certified as an arboretum by the Morton Register of Arboreta, becoming the first City to have achieved this designation. This designation is made possible because of the City's emphasis on tracking/maintaining over 130 species of trees within City right-of-way and because of strong community support from groups such as Trees for Bexley and the Bexley Tree Commission. The City plans to continue to maintain our arboretum designation and to work with community groups to formulate educational materials and curricula centered around Bexley's remarkable urban forest.

The Main Street Project

This summer contractors worked continuously to connect a new water line on Main Street, perform some storm sewer upgrades, make repairs to the underlying structure of Main Street, and install medians and brick crosswalks in portions of the corridor. Although a portion of the project will be completed this Spring (see next page), we're already able to enjoy a fresh take on Main Street, and we thank you for your patience and endurance through this summer's major project!

City Hall Redevelopment

Progress is continuing on plans for a two-story Giant Eagle Market District neighborhood grocery store on the City Hall site. A special TIF district on the City Hall site will, in combination with ground rent income from the site and other project related income, pay for the City's relocation costs. This is an exciting move for the City as we bring in new payroll as well as a high quality neighborhood grocery store focused on fresh and organic produce and meats and high quality prepared foods. Throughout 2014 the City will be working on our relocation efforts, with groundbreaking anticipated for late 2014.

The Alum Creek Park

In 2013, the final pieces for continuous access along Alum Creek were gifted to the City by Trinity Seminary and Capital University, opening up the ability to move forward with the long-planned Alum Creek Park. More info on the column to the right on this exciting concept.

New Businesses!

Zoe Cafe, a sister location to Tasi Rigsby's "Tasi" restaurant and bakery in the Short North, announced plans to open a Bexley location in the former Grinder's space. This restaurant is due to open in early 2014.

C'est Si Bon Creperie took space between Star Jewelers and the Drexel. Owner Pryest and Billy Strickland serve up fresh crepes, coffee, and other treats. After a successful "soft launch" in Mid-December, the restaurant will be open in early January for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. **The Bexley Animal Hospital** has begun

working on their new space next to the Bexley Natural Market on North Cassady. Dr. McClure will be bringing a great new use to North Cassady's growing offering of quality businesses.

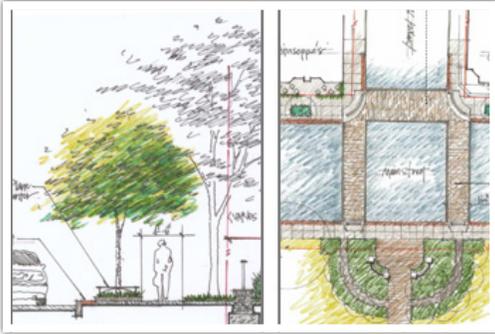
A Commitment to Excellence

There's much more ground to cover, but underlying everything is this simple commitment: to provide responsive City services and great customer service. Our culture of excellence and community service is embodied by all City staff, who do great work day in and day out, constantly going above and beyond. So as this year wraps up I want to thank them for their hard work and dedication, and thank you for all you do to support us in our mission to provide outstanding city services to you. If you ever have any feedback - ideas, concerns, compliments, or anything at all - please reach out to me at mayor@bexley.org or via phone at (614) 559-4210. Until then - Happy New Year!



Workshop: Alum Creek Park

Thanks to the donation of land by Capital University and Trinity Seminary, the City of Bexley now has frontage along the entirety of Alum Creek from Main Street to Livingston Avenue. Thanks to a grant from the Bexley Community Foundation as well as a grant from the Jeffrey Foundation, funds have been secured for the creation of an Alum Creek park plan as well as initial trail work. An initial series of public meetings and survey work has been completed, and we will be reviewing a draft park plan created by MKSK at a public meeting on **January 16th, 2014 at 7:00pm at the Bexley Public Library Auditorium**. Please stop by to hear concepts for the park and provide your feedback. Hope you can make it!



Main Street Project Update

Main Street work is wrapping up for the winter, with crews focusing on cleaning up work sites and removing orange barrels, etc. A portion of this project has been delayed until the Spring due to the weather - this includes the brick crossings at Cassady, the north and south crossings at Roosevelt, and the remainder of the Gould crossing. This Spring these crossings will be completed, and the signage simplification and traffic signal upgrades will also be completed.

The Main Street water line, traffic signal, resurfacing, and streetscape project is funded via a combination of State of Ohio grants (about 38% of cost), the Main Street Streetscape TIF (about 50% of cost), and an OPWC interest-free loan (about 12% of cost). To learn more about the Main Street infrastructure and streetscape project, visit www.bexley.org/main.



Code Enforcement Corner

Winter has arrived! Please remember that Bexley now has an ordinance requiring snow removal from residential sidewalks in addition to snow removal in front of businesses. Removing snow goes a long way toward helping people move safely about our city to shop, go to school or visit neighbors. Your compliance with the ordinance is greatly appreciated.

Winter is also a good time of year to start looking at what might need to be done to your property once spring arrives. Look for peeling paint, gutters and downspouts in disrepair, roof issues, driveway/sidewalk/pavement concerns, etc. Also, please make sure you have your address posted and that it is visible from the street. If you live on an alley the address must be posted there as well. If you have any questions, comments or complaints please contact me at dhays@bexley.org or 614-559-4247.



Recreation Registration!

The Bexley Recreation & Parks Winter/Spring Activity Brochure is now available for viewing online! All activities/events from January - March will be listed in this brochure. Bexley residents will receive a hard copy of the brochure on January 2nd in the This Week Bexley News. We will also provide extra hard copies at Jeffrey Mansion, City Hall, and the Library. Activity Registration Opens: Monday, January 6th at 12:00 noon (online or in-person). For more information or if you have a question, please call us at (614) 559-4300.



Bexley Maple Syrup

With help from the Mayor's Office, the Bexley Recreation and Parks Department, and the Bexley Tree Department and in partnership with the Boy Scouts, this winter Maple Syrup workshops will be held in Jeffrey Park. We'll be learning how to identify a sugar maple, how to tap a tree, and finally how to turn sap into syrup. This program is still being put together, but a tentative schedule is below. Check www.bexley.org/maple and the Bexley Blast for more information as this program is finalized.

- February 8th:** Sugar Maple ID & tagging at Jeffrey Park
- February 22nd:** Maple tapping
- March 1st:** Maple syrup production

Water Bill Payment Options

In 2014, we'll be rolling out online payments for water bills. But in the meantime, did you know that you can also pay your water bill using direct deposit or through your bank's bill pay system?

The City of Bexley Water Department offers direct debit from a checking or savings account. Your account will be directly debited on the water bill due date. Direct debit forms are available at www.bexley.org/water-department or can be picked up at City Hall.

To use your bank's bill pay system, enter your water bill account number and the bill amount into the system and specify payment to the City of Bexley at the City's billing address. All of this information can be found on your water bill.

Water/Sewer Capital Fee

In 2013, following three public meetings and over a year of discussion on the matter, Bexley City Council voted to create a water and sewer capital fee to be assessed against water/sewer bills effective January, 2014. The fee is a 6.56% premium (equivalent to \$15 per quarter for the average water/sewer bill) which will be used exclusively as a reserve to fund water and sewer infrastructure replacement and repair.



Mark Your Calendar

January 6, 12 noon:
Bexley Recreation Winter/Spring Registration Opens

January 16, 7:00pm @ Bexley Library:
Alum Creek Draft Park Plan - Public Workshop
www.bexley.org/alumcreekpark

January 31, 8:00am @ Cup O Joe:
"Coffee with the Mayor" - come grab a cup, learn about what's happening in Bexley, and share your questions, concerns, and feedback!

February 8, 22 & March 1 @ Jeffrey Park:
Bexley Maple Syrup Workshops
www.bexley.org/maple

April 19, 12 noon:
Community Easter Egg Hunt

For more events, visit www.bexley.org/events



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CITY OF BEXLEY EMAIL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

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