

BEXLEY TIMES

City of Bexley Quarterly Newsletter

Volume N° 21 - October through December, 2013

**ON THE
FLIP
SIDE:**



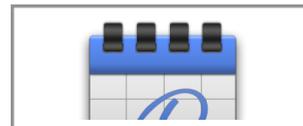
Spotlight on Medians



Code Enforcement Corner



Beggars' Night Details



Calendar of Events

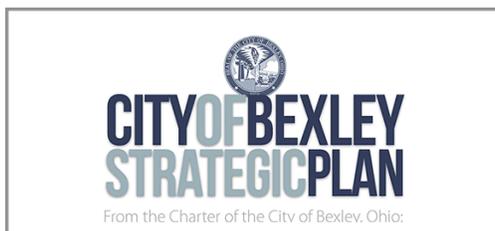
FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

An update on City Hall Redevelopment, the Main Street Project, and the Bexley Strategic Plan



Mayor Ben Kessler

In last quarter's water bill, the City Hall redevelopment project and Main Street project were highlighted. Today I'd like to update you on both issues, and also talk about the work that is underway on revising Bexley's Strategic Plan.



Strategic Plan. The requirement by Bexley City Charter for the Mayor to submit a strategic plan to City Council was added to the Charter in the late 1990s. I've been working on an update to the City's strategic plan over the past year, and first presented a draft to Bexley City Council in the early Spring of 2013. Bexley's strategic plan helps unify the prioritization of initiatives, and serves as a communication tool to help residents understand the foundation behind the direction pursued by City leadership. The draft Bexley Strategic Plan incorporates a series of recommendations and priorities organized by the following categories: Development, Finance, Safety, Services, Infrastructure, Recreation, Communication, Technology, and Community. Rather than being solely a stand-alone effort, this plan catalogues, builds off of, and essentially unifies a series of strategic planning efforts leading up to it, including previous Mayor-submitted City strategies, the Southwest Bexley Master Plan, and the Bexley Land Use Strategy, among others.

A good plan benefits from plentiful input from stakeholders (City residents and City leadership) and we would like your feedback. To read a copy of the plan, you can download it from www.bexley.org/mayor. After you've had a chance to check it out, City Council and I would like to know - what do you like about the plan? What's missing? What would you change? If you're able to make the public meeting/workshop, it will be at **6:00pm at Bexley City Council Chambers on October 8, 2013**. If you're not able to make the meeting, please provide feedback by filling out our survey at www.bexley.org/mayor.

Until next time - see you around Bexley!



Harvest Festival - Oct. 11

Come out to Jeffrey Mansion to celebrate our annual Harvest Festival. Please join the Bexley Recreation & Parks Department in collaboration with the Bexley Celebrations Association on **Friday, October 11, 2013 from 6:00pm - 8:00pm**. The Harvest Festival is a great time to bring out the family for a knee-slapping good time at Jeffrey Mansion. Free activities include a Corn Maze, Hayrides, Enchanted Walk, Live Music, Balloons, Face Painting and a bonfire! This is a free community event, so bring the family and come celebrate the fall season by joining us at the Harvest Festival. Community groups will be selling pizza, chili, popcorn, hot and cold drinks, and dessert.

After the Harvest Festival, grab a blanket and some hot chocolate and join us for a screening of "The Princess Bride" - this is the rain date for the "Main Event" movie that had to be postponed due to weather on September 20th.

City Hall Redevelopment Update

Progress continues steadily on the development of the Bexley City Hall site with a gourmet Market District grocery store. Many thanks to Bexley City Council and the Bexley Community Improvement Corporation for their incredible leadership and vision as we work cooperatively on this project. We expect to see concept details for the site's development firm up in the coming months, after which point we will work hard to get information out on the project. We've heard a lot of enthusiasm from residents for the project, and of course also legitimate concerns regarding project design and parking and traffic plans. While a lot of thought and consideration is being given to planning this development, this project will go through the standard public process just like any other proposed development in Bexley. Residents with questions are always encouraged to give me a call at 559-4210.

Main Street: What's Next

In the coming weeks, final touches will be made to our water line work, sewer line work, and street structure fortification. The next step will be milling the surface of Main Street and installing a new asphalt surface from Parkview to Gould. Soon after the resurfacing, work will commence on installing the brick paver intersections at Parkview, Drexel, Cassady, Remington, Roosevelt, and Gould. Also, the trees will be installed in the medians this fall. The signage revamp and traffic signal upgrades will continue into the Spring, but this portion of the project is low impact relative to traffic disruption. To learn more about the Main Street project, visit www.bexley.org/main.

The Bexley Strategic Plan

On October 8th, 2013, a public meeting will be held to solicit resident input on the modernization of Bexley's



Stay in the Loop!

The "Bexley Blast" is a weekly email from the City with articles on what's going on around the City as well as a regular calendar of community events and City meetings. To sign up, visit www.bexley.org.blast.



changes were made at several of the median locations in order to receive approval from the Fire Department. We were careful to study the issue from all angles, so that by the time the construction drawings were finalized we knew we had anticipated any foreseeable issues with this concept and made any changes that were necessary for a sound plan.

The medians are funded by a special TIF fund on Main Street that was established in 2005 in order to finance this and future streetscape projects, so the cost of streetscape is solely funded by specially allocated property taxes from Main Street properties. The medians represent approximately 10% of the cost of the 2013 Main Street project.

Spotlight: Main Medians

Key Stats:

- Designers: MKSK & EP Ferris Engineers
- # of Medians: 7
- Landscape Detail: Lacebark Elm trees and "winter creeper" ground cover
- Hardscape Detail: Limestone curbs and brick paver inlay

One of the key principles of the Main Street Streetscape Project is this: Bexley should be instantly recognizable as a highly pedestrian environment. This is especially true on Main Street where drivers pass through a blend of uses and activities: a University, a vibrant business setting, our library, coffee shops, kids walking to elementary school, and residents strolling the sidewalk. And so the primary motivation when we first started studying the median concept was to create an environment on Main Street that prioritized pedestrian safety and walkability. This was a common concern among residents and businesses that the medians help to address. Medians much like ours are used in other similar environments throughout Ohio and the U.S. and have proven effective at enhancing pedestrian safety, walkability, and also beautification. By creating a "signature" feature on Main Street, one that will be beautified with trees and landscaping, traffic is more clearly divided into two lanes, and drivers get a tangible sense that they are entering a pedestrian environment. When people are in their cars on Main, we want them to feel they are driving through a pedestrian-centric town center, not a suburban shopping center. And of course a wonderful byproduct of this improvement is the creation of an attractive feature that distinguishes Bexley and helps to fortify a quality sense of place.

Extensive research and planning went into the development of the median idea. Traffic engineers conducted a traffic study along Main Street and at each potential median location in order to ensure adequate stacking of the center turn lane and to maintain existing left turn lane access where needed. Several possible locations were examined and eventually rejected because the installation of medians in those areas would have restricted access to properties or disrupted traffic flow. As the plan developed, it was reviewed with the Columbus Fire Department, and

Today, amid the dust and organized chaos of the Main Street project, median curbwork is complete, and the next step will be hardscape and landscape within the medians themselves. When the final coat of asphalt is laid down Main Street, when the new brick crosswalks have been installed, and when the medians are full with Lacebark Elm trees and attractive landscaping, Bexley will have signature Main Street features that increases safety and beautifies the street. In the meantime, thank you for your patience as we all deal with a summer of frustrating Main Street construction traffic!



Code Enforcement Corner

Fall is almost here and the leaves have already started falling. Please remember to keep your gutters, downspouts and curb gutters free of leaves and debris so we don't overtax our storm drain system.

Fall is a good time to prune and remove deadwood from trees on your property. Rumpke will pick up yard waste at the curb if it is in yard waste bags or tied in 4 foot lengths and 2 foot diameter bundles.

With the political season here please remember signs are prohibited from being posted in the right-of-way, tree lawn or on any utility pole, or traffic control sign/device. This is not just limited to political signs, but also includes garage sales, missing animals and other events that may be happening around the city. After the election please remove signs.

If you ever have any questions, comments or complaints, please contact Code Enforcement Officer Dave Hays at dhays@bexley.org or 614-559-4247.



Trick-or-Treat - Oct 31st

This year, Trick-or-Treat is scheduled for **Thursday, October 31st, from 5:30 to 7:00pm**. As always, we are looking for volunteers for our Halloween Patrol. Volunteers will be asked to walk a designated street and work to help keep our little trick-or-treater's safe on Halloween night. If you're interested, please contact the Bexley Recreation and Parks Department to volunteer by emailing recreation@bexley.org or calling 559-4300.



Mark Your Calendar

- Oct 11, 6:00 - 8:00pm:**
The Bexley Harvest Festival
- Oct 11, 8:00pm:**
"The Princess Bride" outdoor movie at Jeffrey Park
- Oct 14, 5:00 - 9:00pm:**
Taste of Bexley at Franklin Park - bexleyareachamber.org
- Oct 31, 5:30 - 7:00pm:**
Beggar's Night / Trick-Or-Treat
- November 5th: Election Day! Local Elections**
- Dec 7, 8:30 to 11:30am:**
Pancake Breakfast at Jeffrey Mansion
- Dec 8, 5:00 - 6:00pm & 7:00 - 8:00pm:**
Storytime with Santa at Jeffrey Mansion
- Dec 15, 4:30pm:**
Tree Lighting at Drexel Circle

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



To sign up for weekly e-mail updates from the City of Bexley, visit: www.bexley.org/blast