



BEXLEY TIMES

City of Bexley Quarterly Newsletter

Volume N° 25 - October through December, 2014

**ON THE
FLIP
SIDE:**



Refuse Pickup Changes



Code Enforcement Corner



Trick-Or-Treat Details



Calendar of Events

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK:

Community Update: Crime statistics and crime prevention tips with Chief Larry Rinehart



Mayor Ben Kessler



Chief Larry Rinehart

Bexley is blessed with a great neighborhood environment, a thriving Main Street, excellent educational institutions, and beautiful natural surroundings. The advantages of living and working in Bexley are numerous, many of which center on being in close proximity to a big city, yet being able to enjoy a Mayberry-esque charm in our neighborhoods. A challenge of being nestled in an urban environment is the reality that urban crime attempts to exploit our community. One of our great success stories is our excellent police coverage and responsiveness.

Bexley has always been and remains a safe place to live, but in order to continue to improve on the safety of our community we need to be aware of the type of crime that occurs and how we can help prevent it. Our

most common type of crime is property crimes such as theft and burglary. Violent crime continues to be exceedingly rare in Bexley. Property crime statistics in Bexley are relatively flat, as can be seen by the chart below. In 2013 we had crime rates slightly below the ten year average, and 2014 is looking to be similar overall to 2013, with a slight uptick in burglaries and a decrease in robberies.

Crime Prevention: What You Can Do

We'd like to take a moment to talk about what residents can do to make Bexley an even safer place to live, and help us in our continual efforts to "harden the target" - make it increasingly difficult for would-be criminals to gain any foothold in Bexley.

Tip #1: Always Ask To See a Solicitor's Permit

This is one of the most meaningful steps you can take as a resident to discourage crime. Burglary in Bexley is most likely to occur during the day, when residents are away from their home. This behavior pattern is common: would-be criminals knock on a door to determine if anyone is home prior to attempting entry of an unoccupied structure.

When someone knocks on your door, please ask to see a Bexley solicitor's permit. If the individual does not have a solicitor's permit, or has what appears to be an invalid permit or one not issued by the City, or even if a solicitor with a permit makes you feel uncomfortable or uneasy, **please call the Bexley Police Department at (614) 559-4444.**

Tip #2: Keep Belongings Secure
More often than not, theft in Bexley is a crime of opportunity, where residents leave cars or garages unlocked and provide

ease of access to their belongings. Make it a habit of hiding valuables from plain sight in your vehicle, and keep vehicles, garages, and homes locked and secured. It's easy to become complacent, but having valuables in plain view or leaving doors unlocked increases your chance of becoming a victim of crime.

Tip #3: When In Doubt, Call!

Bexley has a fantastic force that works around the clock to proactively patrol and respond to calls for service. But our ability to be effective is in many ways directly related to our residents' willingness to be our eyes and ears. If you see something out of line, suspicious, or in need of a closer look, do not hesitate to call. This is what we're here for! **Call us at (614) 559-4444** anytime you have any concerns regarding crime in Bexley. Our effectiveness is greatly enhanced by your awareness.

Tip #4: Organize a Block Watch

Block watches are simple but effective gatherings of residents who work to stay on top of neighborhood security issues. They're not a huge commitment, and they can be a fun way to become closer to your neighbors and proactively help keep Bexley safe. If you'd like to help set up a block watch, call 559-4200.

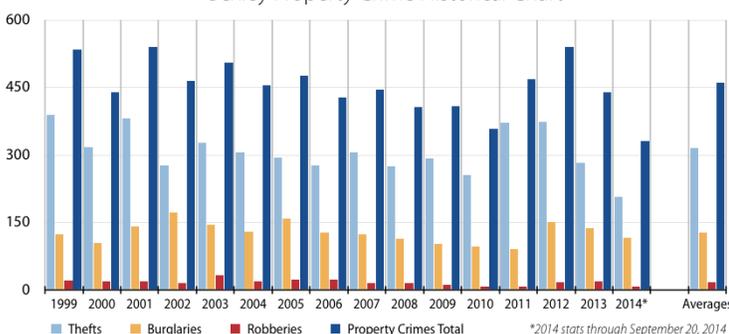
What Else We're Doing

We're always looking for ways to continue to chip away at crime in Bexley. Last year, Bexley deployed new police software to help us better analyze information and lower the administrative burden on officers so they can spend more time on the street. We've used new technologies to help reduce criminal activity, and we're working on infrastructure changes such as enhanced lighting in areas where it is needed. These, coupled with additional initiatives we'll be bringing to Council for our 2015 budget, are all intended to help prevent crime from reaching your property line.

Above all, our hope is that residents become increasingly informed regarding ways to foster a strong and healthy safety culture. Thank you for helping us to "harden the target" and create a safe and secure Bexley!

- Mayor Ben Kessler & Chief Larry Rinehart

Bexley Property Crime Historical Chart





Harvest Festival

Come out to Jeffrey Mansion to celebrate our annual Harvest Festival. Join Bexley Recreation & Parks in collaboration with the Bexley Celebrations Association to welcome fall on Friday, October 17 from 6-8 p.m. The Harvest Festival is a great time to bring out the family for our many free activities, such as the corn maze, hay rides, enchanted walk, live music, balloons, face painting, and a bonfire. This is a free community event, so bring the family and celebrate the fall season. Community groups will be selling pizza, chili, popcorn, hot and cold drinks, and desserts.



Trick or Treat

Trick or Treat is scheduled for Friday, October 30 from 5:30-7 p.m. As always, we are looking for volunteers for our Halloween Patrol. Volunteers will be asked to walk a designated street to help keep our little ones safe on Halloween night. If you're interested in helping, please contact the Bexley Recreation and Parks Department by emailing recreation@bexley.org or calling 559-4300.



Taste of Bexley

On October 13th the Bexley Area Chamber of Commerce holds their 6th annual Taste of Bexley from 5:30 to 8:00 pm on October 13th at Franklin Park Conservatory. The Taste offers an opportunity to sample food from over 25 area restaurants and caterers at a great community event. For more information, visit bexleyareachamber.org/taste-bexley.



Fall & Winter Service Update

Leaf Removal

Leaf removal will begin around the second or third week of October. Crews will make a total of 3 passes through the City, with anticipated completion in late December. To keep tabs on status of the pickup, visit www.bexley.org/service.

Northeast Quadrant Water and Street Project

The NEQ project is in process. New water lines are in, and street surfaces and curb work is underway. The project is projected to be complete by November 30.

Main Street Signalization Project

The City has been awarded a federal grant to update the traffic signals on Main Street. The new signals will provide better network timing capabilities, better glare resistance, and greater energy efficiency. This project is underway and should be completed by November 30.



Refuse Pickup Changes

Changes are coming to trash and recycling pickup in the City of Bexley! See the attached flyer in this water bill for more details, but here are the basics:

- Residents will be issued a standard 65-gallon recycling and trash receptacle. If you would like a larger or smaller receptacle for either trash or recycling, fill out the enclosed form or sign up online at www.bexley.org/trash by November 14th. You can view the three size options at City Hall, or see the attached flyer for capacity references.
- Driveway carry-out service will remain for residents who receive this service.
- Your quarterly trash fee will decrease slightly as a result of the new contract.

Full information is online at www.bexley.org/trash.



Mark Your Calendar

- October 11 & 12:** Community Yard Sale/Freecycle
- October 13, 5:30-8:00 p.m.**
Taste of Bexley @ Franklin Park Conservatory
- October 17, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**
Harvest Festival @ Jeffrey Mansion
- October 25:** Sawmill Workshop at Jeffrey Park
- October 25, 6:00 p.m. +**
Community Tailgate at Jeffrey Park (OSU v Penn)
- October 30, 5:30-7:00 p.m.:** Trick or Treat
- November 4:** Election Day!
- December 7, 4:30 p.m.:** Tree lighting Ceremony
- December 13, 8:00 a.m. to early afternoon**
Prof. tree-climbing competition at Jeffrey Park
- December 13, 8:30-11:30 a.m.**
Pancake Breakfast @ Jeffrey Mansion

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



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.

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.

For questions, comments or complaints, please contact Code Enforcement Officer Dave Hays at dhays@bexley.org or 614-559-4247.



BEXLEYBLAST
CITY OF BEXLEY EMAIL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

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