



BEXLEY TIMES

City of Bexley Quarterly Newsletter

Volume N° 26 - January through March, 2015

ON THE FLIP SIDE:



Refuse Contract Update



Code Enforcement Corner



Recreation Registration



Calendar of Events

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK: 2014 IN REVIEW



Volunteers help clean a yard as part of the City's "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" volunteer assistance program

Small Successes, Big Returns

Years from now, I wouldn't be at all surprised if we look back at 2014 as one of the busiest and most hectic years in memory here at City Hall. It's easy to see why we've been busy - this year we've been intently focused on moving our City Hall and Service Garage complex in order to allow for the redevelopment of the Main Street City Hall site. There are contracts to manage, boxes to sort through, and countless decisions to make as we work to make our deadlines.

Beyond the machinations of our move, we've seen a flurry of new activity throughout the City. A sampling of examples:

- This year, the Planning Commission approved more than \$20,000,000 combined in commercial investment along Main Street, North Cassady, and Livingston Avenue.
- The City's Main Street Streetscape Project wrapped up, and plans are underway for the 2015 grant-funded Broad Street improvement project.
- Our Recreation Department saw a more than 10% increase in revenue over 2013, led by new and expanded programming.
- Community programs such as the Splish, Splash & Dash Youth Triathlon and the Main Event series have more than doubled the number of community activities organized by the City.
- New resident growth has been strong, as evidenced by a strong real estate market and a record incoming 2014 kindergarten class size.

Beyond the more attention grabbing stories, 2014 saw many lower profile happenings that perhaps say even more about Bexley. Here's a sample of some smaller successes that deserve recognition:

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

Spend a day riding around with City Code Enforcement Officer Dave Hays, and you'll quickly realize that code enforcement is much more complicated than writing warnings and citations. Every violation has a story. And it's not uncommon for financial hardship, physical disability, or emotional turmoil to be behind a code violation. We've been working on putting together a program called "Neighbors Helping Neighbors," where Hays connects groups of volunteers with residents in need of a helping hand. In the summer of 2014, volunteers helped spruce up overgrown yards, and painted an entire house.



Larger-than-life portraits of Montrose students look out onto the playground

Montrose Mojo

When the City's Planning Commission reviewed the proposal for the Montrose Elementary art installation, it was certainly the first time they'd seen anything like it. Montrose parent and local professional photographer Mark Steele volunteered and took the portraits of subjects making funny and playful faces. The photos are aimed at showing how powerful the simple act of play is and how it is an integral part of learning. Speaking of play - this summer City service workers performed excavation and site work to ready the Montrose site for the new Montrose Playground. The community came together in a fundraising blitz that raised funds for the new fully accessible playground improvements. Community volunteers constructed the playground over an intense three-day build, and now

Montrose boasts a new playground - a great amenity for Montrose kids, and for the entire community.



Grant Archer, Mike Price, Mayor Ben Kessler, and Ron Gould with Bottle #1

Bexley Produces Maple Syrup

As part of the Bexley Arboretum educational series, Bexley produced its first batch of "Kelveden" maple syrup. Residents young and old joined the workshop, learning how to identify and tag Sugar Maples, how to tap trees, and how to produce maple syrup from the collected sap. For details about the 2015 maple syrup workshop, see the recently released Rec Brochure.

Streetlights on Ferndale and Mayfield

Street lights are a small start. The City is rolling out a comprehensive stabilization effort at Ferndale and Mayfield, two streets just off of Livingston. For years, this area has struggled due to its lack of connectivity to the rest of the City, its having been developed on top of a former landfill, and the lack of positive investment. In 2014 we created a landscape grant program for the area, and in 2015 we hope to add to the effort with new recreational and infrastructure improvements, including continued progress on the Alum Creek Park project.

Sometimes, in the midst of the bigger projects and the stories that garner the most interest, it's easy to overlook some of the hidden gems that make Bexley... Bexley. Here's to 2015, and to another year of small successes with big returns. See you around Bexley!

Mayor Ben Kessler



Refuse Contract Update

PLEASE NOTE: The City of Bexley will not be moving to a semi-automated trash pickup system as previously advertised.

On December 9, 2014, Bexley City Council approved new trash and recycling rates for 2015-17 starting on January 1, 2015. City Council and staff also determined that it would be in the city's best interest to accept Rumpke Waste and Recycling's three year "status quo" option given new information regarding the semi-automated option that was brought to light during contract negotiations. Specifically, while the City was told that additional cans would be able to be purchased by residents for a one time fee, it had not been specified that this was to be in addition to a recurring monthly fee in the range of \$5.00 to \$7.00. This recurring fee would negate any cost savings and would cost considerably more for residents requiring more than one can for trash or recycling. Due to this change, the City felt that it would be in the best interests of residents to retain our current level of service with Rumpke, with no change to the plan options.

In summary, residential solid waste, recycling, yard waste and bulk items will remain unlimited and will be picked up using current means and methods each Monday. There will be no changes to the service currently being received, and there will not be totes distributed to residents. Savings from the new contract still apply. Even as the contract remains "status quo", the City will continue to evaluate options that limit litter and increase recycling, while improving efficiency and the overall aesthetics of the city.

For more information, please contact Bexley Service Director Bill Dorman at (614) 559-4220.

2015 Utility Rates

Refuse Rates:

Effective January 1, 2015, residents will see an annual savings of \$7.56 while senior citizens will see an annual savings of \$19.80 relating to their solid waste bill.

2015 Refuse Rate: \$25.20 (2014 was \$25.83)

2015 Senior Refuse Rate: \$22.68 (2014 was \$24.33)

Water and Sewer Rates:

As of April 1, 2015 water and sewer rates will increase by 3%, which is a direct pass-through of Columbus rate increases for 2015.

2015 Water Rate: \$54.03 per 1,000 cubic feet

2015 Sewer Rate: \$67.47 per 1,000 cubic feet



Recreation Registration

The Bexley Recreation & Parks Winter/Spring Activity Brochure is now available for viewing online! All activities/events from January to March will be listed in this brochure. Bexley residents will receive a hard copy of the brochure on December 30th in the This Week Bexley News. We will also provide extra hard copies at Jeffrey Mansion, City Hall, and the Library. Activity Registration Opens on Monday, January 5th at 12:00 noon (online or inperson) for residents, and on Wednesday, January 7th at 12:00 noon for non-residents. For more information or if you have a question, please call us at (614) 559-4300.

Pay Your Bill Online Today!

Bexley's online water bill system is now up and live at www.bexley.org/water

In addition to automatic withdrawal and payment by check, the Water Department now also accepts payment via credit card. To try it out, visit www.bexley.org/water today.



2015 State of the Community Address

The 3rd Annual "State of the Community Address" will be held on March 3, 2015, at 7:00 pm, at the new Bexley City Council Chambers at 2242 East Main Street (former Bexley Monk space).

At the State of the Community Address, attendees will hear updates and a look ahead from Bexley's major institutions, including the City, the Bexley City Schools, the Bexley Public Library, the Bexley Chamber of Commerce, Capital University, Columbus School for Girls, and St. Charles Preparatory School.

For more information on the Bexley State of the Community Address, visit www.bexley.org/soc.



Code Enforcement Corner

No doubt about it - winter has arrived! Please remember that Bexley 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. Residents are given a 24 hour period after a snowfall to clear sidewalks. Over the past several years, code enforcement has issued warnings to property owners who are not complying with the ordinance based upon random checks of properties as well as reports by residents. This season, repeat violators may be issued citations for failure to comply with the City's sidewalk clearing code.

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



Mark Your Calendar

January 5, 12 noon:
Bexley Recreation Winter/Spring Registration Opens

January 31, 9:00am @ Cosi:
"Coffee with the Mayor" - come grab a cup, learn about what's happening in Bexley, and bring your questions!

February 21 & 28 @ Jeffrey Park:
Bexley Maple Syrup Workshops
www.bexley.org/maple

March 3, 7:00 pm @ New Bexley City Hall:
Bexley State of the Community Address

April 4, 12 noon:
Community Easter Egg Hunt

April 24th:
Arbor Day Activities

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



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