



# January 24, 2023

# MAYOR'S UPDATE

## Coming up in Bexley:

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| January 26, 6:00 pm:           | Board of Zoning and Appeals Planning                               |
| January 27, 6:00 pm:           | Bexley Community Foundation Texas Hold'em Fundraiser               |
| February 4, 9:00 am:           | Bexley Re-Cycle Bikes open workshop                                |
| February 5, 6:00 pm:           | Tea at Three @ Bexley Library with Zakk Jones Trio                 |
| February 7, 6:00 pm:           | City Council   |
| February 8, 5:00 pm:           | Civil Service Commission Working Group                             |
| February 8, 5:30 pm:           | Recreation Board   |
| February 8, 6:00 pm:           | Board of Education   |
| February 9, 6:00 pm:           | Architectural Review Board   |
| February 13, 5:30 pm:          | Bexley Historical Society  |
| February 15, 9:00 am-12:00 pm: | City Council Strategic Planning Session                            |
| February 15, 4:00 pm:          | Tree and Garden Commission   |
| February 15, 7:30 pm:          | Gerhold Lecture Series featuring Marlon James @ Capital University |
| February 25:                   | Sugar Maple Tapping in Jeffrey Woods                               |
| February 26, 3:00 - 4:30 pm:   | New Residents Welcome Event at Jeffrey Mansion                     |
| March 4, 8:00 am and on:       | Jeffrey Woods Festival   |

## Some of What I've Been Up To:

- Weekly departmental meetings
- Routine staff and cabinet touch-base meetings
- Meetings and follow up with City Engineer on upcoming and potential projects
- Meeting regarding 4th Parade Route Planning
- Meeting regarding north end water meter replacement plans
- Extensive work on strategic plan refresh
- Extensive Year of the Parks work including multiple meetings, planning work, and emails and phone calls with stakeholders
- Meetings, research and follow up on pending and existing tobacco legislation
- EDAC Meeting
- Meeting with City of Columbus regarding potential public art grant challenge
- Work, research and calls on Land Use Strategy 2.0
- Gun violence meeting preparation and follow up
- Board of Health Meeting
- Tree and Gardens Commission Meeting
- ESAC Meeting presentation and Q&A
- Brickey retirement recognition and reception
- Pickleball Court discussion with Capital
- Meetings with potential developers
- Meeting with a student regarding stormwater management concept
- Extensive research on parcels and zoning near Schneider Park.
- Planning and communication work for Alley of the Future workshop

Keep in touch! To sign up for weekly email updates from the City of Bexley, including information on community events and timely notifications and reminders, visit: [www.bexley.org/blast](http://www.bexley.org/blast)



## Year of the Parks Update

Work and meetings for our many Year of the Parks projects are in full swing. While visible progress can be seen at Havenwood Park and at the dog park, lots of exciting developments are unfolding on several other projects, including Commonwealth Park, the Outdoor Reading Garden, and the Schneider Park splash pad.



### Meetings and Progress Over Past Couple Weeks:

- Outdoor reading garden plans conditionally approved by Library Board
- Reconvened YOTP Visioning Committee for an update and brainstorming
- Meeting regarding funding, plans, and parcel research related to pedestrian bridge
- Meetings and follow up on dog park equipment and next steps
- Meeting regarding Schneider Park entrance at Astor Avenue
- Received preliminary estimate on Commonwealth pond and bridge

### Next Steps Coming Up Soon:

- Presentation of refined Outdoor Reading Garden to Torat Emet Board
- Work with architect, engineering, and surveying related to Outdoor Reading Garden
- Review and assess preliminary estimate on splash pad at Schneider Park
- Finalize plans for bidding process on Commonwealth Follies and Pond
- Selection of vendor for park signage package



## Remembering Joe Ridgeway

Long-time Bexley resident Joe Ridgeway was a legend in the world of traffic engineering, having served as Bexley's traffic engineer for many decades, and also having served for a time as the City of Columbus Director of Public Service.

I had the advantage of serving as Mayor after Mayor Madison, who trained Joe well to put up with creative mayoral traffic calming concepts, and he was always patient and unflustered and endlessly pragmatic. Joe lived a life of public service, and he was so unerringly passionate and optimistic in the way that he helped and guided us. Our community owes Joe a debt of gratitude, and our thoughts are with his family in the midst of their loss. Cheers to you, Joe!

## Lieutenant Promotions in Police Department

Chief Lewis announced today that, after a panel of public safety professionals from the Grove City and Gahanna Police Departments, Bexley Civil Service Commission, FOP Lodge #9, Emergency Management and the Command conducted interviews for the Lieutenant positions, the department is proud to announce that effective February 1, 2023 the following promotions and new responsibilities will be as follows:

Patrol Lieutenant - Ron Kenefick

Detective Lieutenant - Bob Holdren

Administrative/Emergency Management - Dawn Overly

We are planning a public swearing-in ceremony at an upcoming Council meeting in February. Congratulations to our new Lieutenants!

## Thank You Sergeant Brickey

Congratulations to Sergeant Pete Brickey who retired from the Bexley Police Department this week after serving on the force for twenty-nine years. I had the pleasure of swearing Sergeant Brickey in as sergeant in 2015. In working alongside him, I have appreciated his integrity and leadership over the years. Sergeant Brickey will be missed and we're wishing him an adventurous and rewarding retirement.





**SAVE THE DATE**  
**THE 10TH JEFFREY WOODS**  
**FESTIVAL**  
**MARCH 4 2023**



## My Major Goals for 2023

Here's an incomplete and evolving list of major goals for 2023

### Safety and Community Health

- Finalize and complete the Year of the Parks projects
- Continue to study and pursue the cleanup of unsafe environmental sites
- Complete and institute Youth Interaction Working Group recommendations
- Enact income-based fines for minor misdemeanors
- Craft and institute community mental health and social services support model
- Support and encourage police department community policing expansion
- Help facilitate new, positive programs with police and schools around traffic and student safety and relationship development
- Help facilitate police department command structure updates
- Launch bike boulevard network and signage
- Institute trail town recommendations

### Environment and Sustainability

- Finalize and complete the Year of the Parks projects
- Work with Council to advance zero emissions landscaping incentive ordinance
- Complete Climate Action Plan for Council adoption
- Pass and institute universal recycling
- Monitor electrical aggregation options

### Zoning and Development

- Finalize and complete the Year of the Parks projects
- Facilitate unsafe environmental site remediation and redevelopment
- Launch Land Use Strategy Commission update process
- Continue to encourage development of the Gateway South site
- Work with the property owner of Chelsea and Main to remove all site improvements, remediate the site, and make it available for development
- Update Livingston Avenue Zoning Code to conform with Joint Livingston Avenue Plan recommendations

### Parks and Recreation

- Finalize and complete the Year of the Parks projects
- Work with Council and Rec Board on modernizing park rules and rec board ordinance
- Work with Recreation Department to launch Jeffrey Park Plan process

### Service and Infrastructure

- Finalize and complete the Year of the Parks projects
- Leverage ARP funds to fast-track sewer infrastructure improvements
- Work with Council to implement rigorous onsite stormwater treatment requirements for additive impermeable surface
- Plan and install "Alley of the Future" project
- Finalize Columbia Place proposal
- Complete Drexel Avenue road diet
- Plan and execute 2023 street program

### Communications and Strategy

- Complete 2023 Strategic Plan Update (early 2023)
- Draft and circulate Annual Report to the Community
- Re-launch New Resident Welcome events
- Revamp internal communications
- Institute HR audit recommendations



