



February 13, 2024

MAYOR'S UPDATE

Coming up in Bexley:

February 20, 6:00 pm:	Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee
February 21, 4:00 pm:	Tree and Public Gardens Commission
February 21, 6:00 pm:	Skate Park Public Workshop at Bexley Senior Center
February 22, 8:30 am:	Records Commission Meeting
February 22, 11:30 am:	Bike Friendly Bexley Bike Boulevard Meeting
February 22, 6:00 pm:	Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning
February 24, 9:00 - 11:00 am:	Jeffrey Woods - Maple Tapping
February 25, 3:00 pm:	Maggie Smith - Children's Book Author Visit at Bexley Library
February 27, 6:00 pm:	City Council
March 2, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm:	Jeffrey Woods Festival (Re:Cycle Bikes Workshop 9:00-11:00 am)
March 7, 6:30 pm:	State of the Community Address
March 30:	Egg Dash
April 27:	Green Bexley Cleanup Day
May 18-19:	Community Yard Sale and Freecycle Weekend

Some of What I've Been Up To:

- Work on BCE 2024 Season and sponsorship packet
- Attended AFSCME hearing
- OEC Working Space tours and follow up work
- Preparation and facilitation of Commonwealth Park Unification Workshop
- COMMA Meetings including Board transition preparation
- Skate Park workshop, design review and input analysis
- Payables Meeting and related follow up
- OEC Strategic Planning meeting
- FOP Negotiations
- Meeting with various business owners and potential developers
- Substantial work on multiple Land Use Strategy meetings and related follow up
- Emails, calls, and meeting to address various resident issues
- St. Charles Nation Day Program
- Multiple swearing-in ceremonies for new officers and promoted sergeant
- Meetings and research on potential future ordinances
- Ferndale/Mayfield study assessment and meeting
- Bexley Re:Cycle Bikes meeting
- One Bexley plan review and related follow up
- Work on State of the Community Preparation and video script
- MORPC Lunch and Meeting
- Jeffrey Mansion Preservation Meeting
- Communications planning for Earth and Arbor month and upcoming newsletter
- Community leaders meeting with Congresswoman Beatty
- Continued orientation/onboarding with Karrie and Megan
- Correspondance and calls on traffic/parking
- Year of the Parks meetings and related work

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



Commonwealth Park Workshop

We had robust attendance at our Commonwealth Park workshop on January 25, where we discussed multiple visions for connecting the two sides of Commonwealth into a unified park. After consideration of the feedback received to date, Resolution 01-24 has been drafted for the proposed closure of Columbia Avenue between Commonwealth North and Commonwealth South. We will continue to work with neighbors to respond to questions and concerns relating to this project and will keep Council apprised.

Oral History with Jessie Mae Thornton

I wanted to share a great [oral history interview with Jessie Mae Thornton](#), a former resident of Hanford Village. It's important for us to know and learn more about Hanford Village, a historical black community south of Main Street and west of Alum Creek that was infamously gutted to accommodate the construction of I-70. Today fragments of the original streets remain, as well as the namesake Hanford Village park that occupies an orphaned piece of the former village, on Alum Creek Drive between Main and Livingston. Once an autonomous village that had its own government and was a refuge for the Columbus black community during the first half of the 20th century, Hanford is a tragic example of infrastructural segregation and forced disinvestment. I highly recommend a listen and taking some time to contemplate the ways structural racism has manifested on our doorstep, and continues to send ripple effects today and into the future.

Land Use Strategy Update

Since their January meeting, the Land Use Strategy Commission hosted multiple smaller working group meetings to develop initial recommendations. The Commission also fielded an online Community Priorities survey to collect broad feedback on redevelopment, housing and desired end-uses. At their February 12 meeting, the working groups reported on their ideas and the Commission discussed community input to date, including the survey results and feedback from the November 2023 public workshop. The Commission is developing a timeline for the remainder of the year, including future public feedback opportunities. The next Commission meeting is Monday, March 4 at 6:30 pm.

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2024 BEXLEY
STATE OF THE COMMUNITY

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