



# August 13, 2024 MAYOR'S UPDATE

## Coming up in Bexley:

August 15, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm:	Bexley Pool Adult Splash
August 15, 11:30 am-12:30 pm:	Bike Friendly Bexley Meeting
August 15, 4:00 - 7:00 pm:	Bexley Farmers Market (also August 22)
August 15, 5:00 - 7:00 pm:	LinkUs Bexley Open House
August 17, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm:	Splish, Splash, & Dash
August 19, 6:30 pm:	Land Use Strategy
August 20, 6:00 pm:	Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee
August 21, 4:00 pm:	Tree and Public Gardens Commission
August 22, 6:00 pm:	Board of Zoning and Planning
August 25, 5:00 - 7:00 pm:	Jazz in the Park with Fo/Mo/Deep
August 27, 6:00 pm:	City Council
September 1, 3:00 - 8:00 pm:	Labor Day Block Party
September 14:	Main Event & Smoke & Fire Fest
September 21:	Bexley Mural Fest

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

- Fourth of July festivities planning, staffing, and post-event review meetings and communications
- Onboarding for Matt Klingler
- Columbus Jewish News Article
- Call with Franklin Park Conservatory
- Meeting with Dr. Fine and Dave Kauffman
- MORPC Member Visit and Intern Cookout
- MORPC Nominating Committee
- Meetings/Communications related to 2200 E Main Development
- Planning and Meetings related to multiple upcoming events including Main Event, Smoke & Fire, and Mural Festival
- Livingston Avenue Budget meeting
- Year of the Parks work including work on Commonwealth Follies, Pedestrian Bridge, Pocket Park, among others
- Ride the Bus event
- BCF Grants Review Meeting
- Completed Auditor Training
- One Bexley video and meeting
- Calls, emails, and meetings with various residents on issues and questions
- Broad Street Bike Lanes Meeting
- Meeting with Roosevelt residents on traffic concerns
- Historic Preservation Meeting
- Meeting with Chief Lewis and Jewish Columbus
- Audit follow up and meeting
- Bexley Parks Signage Meeting
- MORPC Executive Committee Meeting
- Attended Jazz in the Park
- Cheered on Pelotonia at Drexel Circle
- Israeli Cyclists Training Ride
- Planning and Staffing of Kathy's Retirement
- Records Room Tour with Yvette
- OEC Meetings and Follow Up
- MORPC Intern Celebration
- Meetings/Calls with Business Owners/ Potential developers
- Attended Mayor Ginther US Council of Mayors Ceremony and Reception

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)



**BEXLEYBLAST**  
CITY OF BEXLEY EMAIL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

## July 4th

This year's celebrations proved that nobody does the Fourth of July like Bexley. yesterday was a phenomenal example of that. Behind the scenes, it takes months of prep and then an all-hands-on-deck whirlwind day to pull it off and I want to acknowledge the incredibly hard work that made the support of this event possible.

Our Service Department works tirelessly in the weeks before, day of, and days after the event preparing routes and event sites in countless ways. Our Police Department ensures the safety of the thousands of people enjoying festivities throughout the day with exceptional results this year through the leadership of Chief Lewis and Lieutenant Overly. The Fourth would not be possible without the hard work of these two departments. I'd also like to thank Emily Perfect, who put in countless hours pom'ing and fenestrating several floats, Natalie Vawter, who took the lead in organizing an amazing parade this year, and Elizabeth Ellman and the team from Green Bexley who worked long, humid hours at the trash tent, diverting as much as possible from the landfill, and the entire evening celebration volunteer crew, much of which is staffed by Paramount Church volunteers. There are many more who contribute to the success of this day, and I'm grateful to all who make this holiday so special in Bexley.

## Building and Zoning Department Update

After many years of dedicated service, we were delighted to celebrate Kathy's many successes and contributions to the City at her retirement celebration.

Stepping into Kathy's former role, Matt Klingler has truly hit the ground running. Matt worked closely with Kathy to learn the ropes in his first weeks, but he has also already stepped out as a leader, implementing several measures to improve efficiency and streamline processes, including the creation of online inspection requests, resolution of many backlogged applications, and implementation of new response time standards for his department.

## Police Academy Graduation

In adding to the new faces on the City team, Chief Lewis and I were thrilled to celebrate the successful graduation of our two newest police recruits from the OSHP police academy. Officer Shih and Officer Heston graduated with aplomb, with Officer Shih achieving top academic marks in his class and being selected to speak on behalf of the 150th class at the ceremony. Both officers are in field training now with the department, so if you see them out and about say hi!

## LinkUs Bexley Open House -August 15 at 5:00 pm

As engineering for the East Main Street segment of the bus rapid transit (BRT) line progresses toward 60%, City staff continue to meet biweekly with COTA and consultants Kimley Horn to work through Bexley-specific design elements. Recently, staff hosted an internal working group with select Council representatives and the Bexley Chamber of Commerce to review current plans and the results of an in-depth lane configuration analysis. As a follow-up to that meeting, the City has requested additional data regarding ridership (current and projected), as well as more information on the proposed station location at Drexel and Main.

Additionally, MORPC recently released preliminary project proposals for inclusion in a 5-year Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) capital improvement plan, which would be funded through the half-of-a-percent sales tax increase tied to the fall LinkUs ballot initiative. If the ballot measure is approved by voters, multiple Bexley projects would be funded including \$750,000 toward pedestrian and cyclist improvements at the Main Street/Alum Creek bridge and \$1.67 million toward Bexley's local match for the Livingston Avenue streetscape and safety improvement project.

To learn more about LinkUs, the BRT and TSI plans, the community is invited to an Open House this Thursday, August 15 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at City Hall. For more information and other Open House dates throughout the region, visit [bexley.org/linkus](http://bexley.org/linkus).

## Ride the Bus Event

I had a blast hanging out with COTA CEO Monica Téllez-Fowler, Council President Monique Lampke, Chamber director Bryan Drewry, Bexley Sustainability Coordinator Elizabeth Ellman, and a great group of residents as we learned the latest passenger tips from COTA and heard about the future of COTA service in central Ohio.

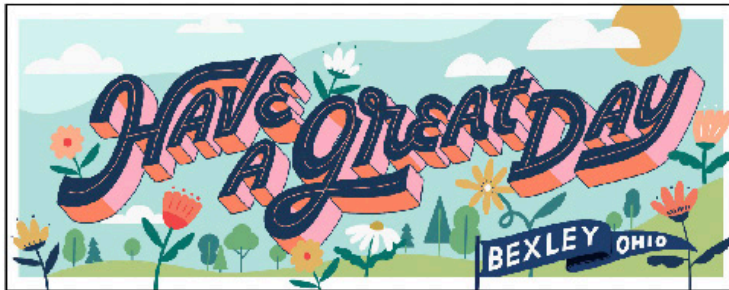
Bexley has 3 great COTA lines (Broad (line 10), Main (line 1), and Livingston (line 2)) and COTA is going zero emissions by 2035! If you're interested in learning more about COTA, I'd encourage you to check out <https://www.cota.com/riding-cota/how-to-ride/> for lots of great information and resources.

## Mural Festival

The first murals on Main Street as part of Bexley's long-awaited Mural Festival will come to life in just a few short weeks. Up first, the Mural Festival Planning Committee is supporting an installation by local artist Martha Gallagher Michael. Martha's mural will be installed on the western elevation of Anthony Thomas Chocolates, a building owned by her sister, Marjorie Gallagher.

Later this month, wall prep (power washing and priming) will be underway at the other mural sites including Rubino's Pizza, 2nd Glance Hair and Nails, WesBanco, and Bexley Square. The Festival itself will feature celebrations of art from Thursday, September 19 to Saturday, September 21. On Saturday, don't miss the "Artist Alley," showcasing local arts and crafts for sale. For more information and to apply to Artist Alley, visit [bexley.org/muralfest](https://bexley.org/muralfest).

Template 1: Two Story Wall



Total Width: 56 Feet

Total Height: 22 Feet



## Livingston Avenue Update

While Livingston is within Columbus' physical footprint/jurisdiction, The City of Bexley continues to be firmly and actively rooted in working towards a vision of a safer Livingston Avenue corridor for all residents and users. Following a multi-year public engagement process, the Cities of Bexley and Columbus adopted the Joint Livingston Avenue Plan. The plan provides a framework for a more safe and accessible Livingston Avenue, with cooperative economic development and land use policies focused on revitalizing the corridor and surrounding neighborhoods of Bexley, Berwick, Eastmoor, and Driving Park.

Here are a couple of updates on where things stand:

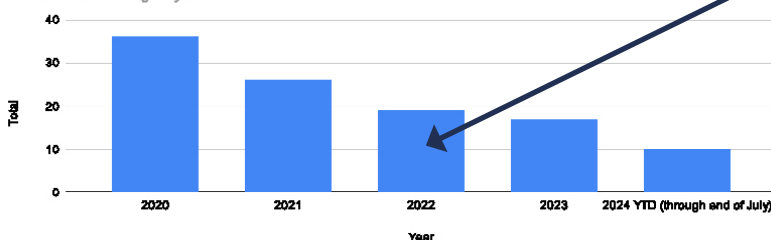
- Bexley partnered with Columbus to apply for and receive a federal grant to fund the major infrastructure work needed to see through the Livingston Avenue Plan
- It's the largest grant the City of Bexley has ever received - over \$13 million in funding
- The funding will provide bike paths, wider tree lawns, safer sidewalks and crosswalks, and physical dividers/medians in the center of the street between College and Kellner. Additionally, it will provide new crosswalks, better connection to the Alum Creek bike way, and improvements to the streetscape in the commercial portion between College and Alum Creek Drive.
- This is an approx. 7 year project. The long timeline is because this requires extensive engineering and planning, and it is ambitious in what it aims to do. There isn't a way to expedite this timeline - it is informed both by the scope of prep work needed as well as the federal process for the funding.
- The engineering project for the Livingston Avenue infrastructure project kicked off late last fall, and progress continues. The initial survey work has been completed; utilities have been identified; and base mapping is underway. With this information, preliminary alignment designs will be crafted, expected by November. This provides the first real sense of how the engineering design is lining up against the Joint Livingston Avenue Plan design. The incredibly detailed alignment design will continue to be tweaked throughout 2025, and environmental investigation will then begin. Right of way acquisition will follow plan finalization, and that phase will lead into the construction phase at the end of this decade. While timing is being driven in part by the complexity of the planning and engineering process, another key driver is the federal funding calendar, which specifies the release of construction funds beginning in 2029.
- All of these improvements are based upon the Joint Livingston Avenue Plan
- Bexley also recently zoned the commercial district to conform to the Joint Livingston Avenue Plan, elevating standards and ensuring specifications are compatible with the push for better pedestrian buffers, wider sidewalks, etc.
- You can view the plan and more information at [www.bexley.org/livingston](http://www.bexley.org/livingston)

We understand that improving Livingston also means shorter term improvements. Those include the recent road diet. We also recently (earlier this summer) met with Columbus police command to advocate for additional speed enforcement in the corridor, and have since touched base with them regarding accidents that have occurred this summer. We do frequent litter pick ups and business checks. We will continue to ask for more attention to the corridor and facilitate its improvement.

I am working on organizing a public forum to provide a comprehensive update and a Q&A, tentatively set for the evening of October 1, and we are inviting the City of Columbus to participate and present at this forum. Keep an eye out for more info soon!

Livingston Avenue Injury Accident History (Alum Creek to Kenwick)

source: Ohio State Highway Patrol



restriping construction  
began mid 2022

 **-9** MPH

Average speed reduction following restriping in  
residential district of Livingston  
source: City of Columbus





## Mayor's Update to City Council



