

Recreation Board Meeting:

- The next Recreation Board meeting is scheduled for Thur., Oct. 10th at 5:30p at Jeffrey Mansion.

Volunteer Local:

- In mid-2024, we purchased a web-based volunteer software program to help recruit and manage volunteers.
- We have used the software for several special events, both large and small. Splish Splash and Dash required nearly 75 volunteers while Mayor Kessler recruited four volunteers for his cookout trailer during the Smoke and Fire Festival.
- Anyone interested in volunteering can browse different opportunities and sign-up online at bexley.org/volunteer.
- This fall we are relaunching our neighbors helping neighbors program, the Good Neighbor Network, with a focus on leaf-cleanup. Individuals will sign up as a volunteer for the program and residents in need of assistance will contact our office and will be matched with a volunteer.

2023-24 Nature Grant Programming:

- In 2023, the department received a \$4,000 grant from the Bexley Community Foundation to support nature programming for the past year.
- The grant was used to provide seasonal nature programming for families and people of all ages.
- Data on the grant:
 - 16 youth programs
 - Just over 100 youth participants ages 6-12 years old
 - Nature programming as part of the 2024 COSI Science Festival with 15 family participants.
 - 19 adult programs that served 191 families.
- The grant was used to offset instructor and supply costs. The department was just awarded a \$7,500 BCF grant to support nature programming for 2024/25. Huge thank you to Kevin Smith and Barb Triffon for all of their work on these amazing program offerings.

**Harvest Festival – Fri., Oct. 18th from 530p-8p:**

- The Annual Bexley Harvest Festival will be held on Fri., Oct. 18th from 530p-8p at Jeffrey Park.
- This year we have extended the length of the event starting at 530p.
- Once again, we will have live music, food (pizza, hotdogs, Mayor's Chili and more), hay rides, corn maze, enchanted walk with new characters, and more.



Halloween Bash:

- Once again, Jeffrey Mansion will host both a Middle School and Adult Halloween Bash.
- Jeffrey Mansion will be decorated in Halloween décor for the Middle School Bash on Fri., Oct. 25th and the Adult Bash on Sat., Oct. 26th.
- The event will include food, drinks, entertainment, a photo booth, music and more.
- Registration is required and can be completed by going to www.bexleyrec.com. While there is space available, registrations are limited.
- Participants should dress in their Halloween costumes.



Halloween Patrol – Thur., Oct. 31st from 530p-7p:

- Trick-or-Treat will be held on Thur., Oct. 31st from 530p-7p.
- The recreation and parks department will once again organize volunteers to provide a community wide Halloween Patrol to walk the streets and help keep our little trick-or-treaters safe.
- As always, we continue to be in need of additional volunteers as the more volunteers on the streets the better.
- Anyone interested in volunteering can reach out to Daniel Hiser – dhiser@bexley.org and/or go to our volunteer registration site at www.cityofbexley.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/.

