



# February 11, 2025 MAYOR'S UPDATE

10 YEARS

## Coming up in Bexley:

February 12, 4:00 pm:	Bexley City Schools Employment Informational & Networking Session
February 13, 6:00 pm:	Architectural Review Board
February 16, 1:30-4:00 pm:	Toni Morrison Day Celebration at Bexley Library
February 18, 6:00 pm:	Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee
February 19, 4:00 pm:	Tree and Public Gardens Commission
February 21, 10:30 am:	SWACO Land Fill Tour with Green Bexley
February 22:	Maple Syrup - Tree Tapping
February 23, 3:00 pm:	New Resident Welcome at Jeffrey Mansion
February 25, 6:00 pm:	City Council
February 27, 4:00-7:00 pm:	Council Retreat at Capital Alumni House
March 1:	Jeffrey Woods Festival
March 4, 6:30 pm:	State of the Community

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

- Planning work on New Resident Welcome and State of the Community
- Meeting and policy drafting for Water Bill Relief Program
- COMMA meeting and treasurer work
- Research and calls on multiple pending federal orders and potential legislation
- Cherry Blossom Festival meeting
- Attended Urban Emporium 10th anniversary celebration
- Bexley Celebrations and Events meetings and sponsorship packet work
- Work and meetings on Sustainability initiatives
- Meetings and communications on personnel matters
- 2025 Street Projects Meeting and follow up
- Slow Down Bexley meeting in Dublin
- Bexley Chamber Breakfast with Megan Meyer as guest speaker
- East Main BRT Meeting
- Follow up work on Board of Control Meeting
- One Bexley Strategic Session and Follow Up
- BCF Poker Tournament Fundraiser
- Lunch with Jim Lower of St. Charles
- Preparation of potential grant applications
- MORPC Executive Committee Meeting
- Call with City of Columbus on Livingston
- Call with Aspen Energy on Aggregation
- Work on proposed amended ordinance language
- Work on communications and website
- Phone calls and emails with residents on various issues

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

## Water Bill Relief Program & Water Consumption Monitoring

This week, we held an internal meeting to discuss the scope of the Water Bill Relief Program. This program would help to offset the cost of unusually high water bills (due to in-home plumbing issues impacting water use) for residents with financial need. This effort will help to formalize the City's existing efforts to help offset these costs in special circumstances. The initial policy has been drafted and is being reviewed internally with plans for a rollout this spring. This program will also work closely with an optional water use monitoring system, Aqua Hawk, which will be available this spring and will automatically provide high-water-use alerts to residents who sign up. Communications plans are being developed for both of these projects and we'll keep Council up to date as the details come together.

## New Resident Welcome & State of the Community

As a reminder, two important City events are coming up and we'd love to have you present at both! Our New Resident Welcome on Sunday, February 23 at 3:00 pm at Jeffrey Mansion will welcome new Bexley Residents and will offer the chance to meet City officials, other new neighbors, and representatives from some of our great community organizations. If you are available to welcome guests to this event, reach out to Natalie.

Our annual State of the Community event will be held on Tuesday, March 4 at 6:30 pm at Congregation Torat Emet on Main Street. This event will highlight some of the important work done in Bexley in 2024 while also highlighting some of the great things we have planned. If you haven't already submitted your RSVP, Natalie can take care of that for you.



## Talking to our Kids About Digital Safety

The pressures and pitfalls facing our kids in online spaces are frightening, and there can be dire real world consequences when kids don't know how to ask for help or don't feel safe in doing so. There have been a couple stark reminders of this in Bexley over the past few weeks, and it's another prompt to talk to encourage residents to talk to their kids about the real world dangers posed by bad internet actors, and help create an environment where their kids know they can safely turn to them if they are in trouble. There are countless resources to help us as parents communicate with our kids and build safe rules and a safe(r) internet environment for them, and Know to Protect site provided by the Department of Homeland Security (<https://www.dhs.gov/know2protect>) provides a good start.



## State and Federal Legislative Update

### House Bill 26

On January 28, 2025, fifteen members of the Ohio House of Representatives renewed a bill that aims to require Ohio political subdivisions to participate in federal immigration-enforcement actions moving forward. If the political subdivision does not do so, then the state would subtract ten percent of the political subdivision's allotted Local Government Funds ("LGF").

As a local jurisdiction, we don't have a role in investigating immigration status, and we don't intend to divert ever-important local law enforcement resources into doing so now. Our public safety focus will continue to be centered around preventing crime in our community, rigorously investigating crime when it does occur, and providing the tools and infrastructure for a safe and welcoming community. Beyond this, it should be noted that House Bill 26 is far from being enacted as law, but we'll continue to monitor progress closely.



*Happy 10th Anniversary, Urban Emporium!*