



April 8, 2025 MAYOR'S UPDATE

Coming up in Bexley:

April 10, 7:00 pm:	Attracting Bees with Native Plants: Heather Holm Talk
April 11:	Landmark Tree Nomination Deadline
April 15, 6:00 pm:	Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee
April 15, 7:00 pm:	Special Drexel Theatre Screening: <i>Giants Rising</i> Documentary
April 15, 5:30 pm:	Board of Health
April 16, 4:00 pm:	Tree and Public Gardens Commission
April 18, 4:30 pm:	Trash Talk featuring special guest, President Monique Lampke!
April 19, 12:00 pm:	Annual Egg Dash!
April 22, 6:00 pm:	City Council
April 23, 1:00 pm:	Author Talk with Amy Stewart
April 23, 6:00 pm:	Earth Month Keynote - Jeff Speck: Building a more Walkable Bexley
April 25, 4:00 pm:	Birch Walk Dedication and Tree Planting
April 26, 8:00 am:	Green Bexley Cleanup & DEA Drug Takeback Day
May 10, 10:00 am to noon:	Bexley Women's Health and Wellness Fair
May 17-18:	Bexley For Sale and Freecycle Event

Some of What I've Been Up To:

- BCE Summer Event Meetings and supporter follow up.
- Placemaking plan meeting and other Main Street Design Guidelines work
- Land Use Strategy meeting, document review, and follow up
- Payroll Coordinator Interview
- Lunch with Rec Department Staff
- Bexley Community Foundation Meeting
- Water Service Line Replacement Meeting
- Meetings and Follow up on park projects
- Spoke at Bexley Cherry Blossom Kickoff
- Safe Biking in Bexley event prep
- Proclamation to Marilyn Meyer at Bexley Library
- CIC Meeting and related prep/follow up
- Walk and assess Birch Walk and area for event
- Ribbon Cutting at COHatch
- Senior Center Timing meeting
- Walking meeting with Ahdra and Elena
- Work on sign package RFP
- One Bexley agenda prep and meetings
- LinkUs meeting and emails/calls
- MORPC Executive Committee Meeting
- Repair Cafe and Trash Talk
- COMMA Monthly Meeting
- Bexley Education Foundation BRAVO contributions and event
- Calls and meetings with potential developers

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



BEXLEYBLAST
CITY OF BEXLEY EMAIL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Commercial Design/Streetscape Guidelines Kickoff Study & Talk

The firm Speck Dempsey will be kicking off our Commercial Design/Streetscape Guidelines with a walkability study and recommendations from nationally recognized planner Jeff Speck. There are several events occurring around this kickoff, including internal workshops and a community talk at the Drexel Theatre. Any council member who would like to participate is of course welcome; **reach out to Megan Meyer by April 15** if you're interested in participating in any of the following:

Tuesday, April 22

3:30 - 5:00 pm:	Workshop 1: Main Street Bexley at City Hall
6:00 pm:	Jeff Speck Introduction at City Council Meeting
8:00 pm:	Dinner at Cafe Istanbul (Immediately following Council)

Wednesday, April 23

9:00 - 10:45 am:	Workshop 2: N. Cassady at Bexley Senior Center
11:00 am - Noon:	Workshop 3: Parks, Trees, and Public Art at City Hall
7:00 - 8:45 pm:	Keynote: Walkable Bexley Talk at the Drexel

Remote Meetings for Certain Bodies

House Bill 257 was signed into law in January 2025, permitting certain public bodies to hold virtual meetings. This law would permit virtual meetings under certain circumstances for Bexley's Boards and Commissions, however it's important to note that there are exclusions, including elected groups with compensated members.

While the law provides flexibility for virtual meetings, there are several conditions that would need to be met prior to any virtual meetings being held, including, among other conditions, the adoption of a virtual meeting policy and compliance with a minimum of 72 hours of public notice prior to holding a meeting virtually.

We are in the process of examining this law and determining which non-elected bodies this might make sense to incorporate in order to allow remote and/or hybrid meetings as appropriate.

One Bexley Minutes - Call for Action

The One Bexley Project is looking for quick reflections on your personal experiences or insights in helping to craft a more welcoming Bexley. Interested in filming a One Bexley Minute? Touch base with Megan Meyer to get started!

Changes Coming to City Hall

An Invitation to Bid is now live for renovations to Bexley City Hall to optimize space and to create additional work and meeting space along the east wall. These improvements will include upgrades to security, public meeting technology, and storage in Council Chambers as well. With construction likely this summer and our new payroll coordinator starting next week, we'll also see some office shuffling at City Hall with some rotating staffing at a CO-Hatch office space on a temporary basis leading up to and through the construction period. We're excited to see these improvements take shape and will keep you updated on timelines as they develop.

CO-Hatch Grand Opening

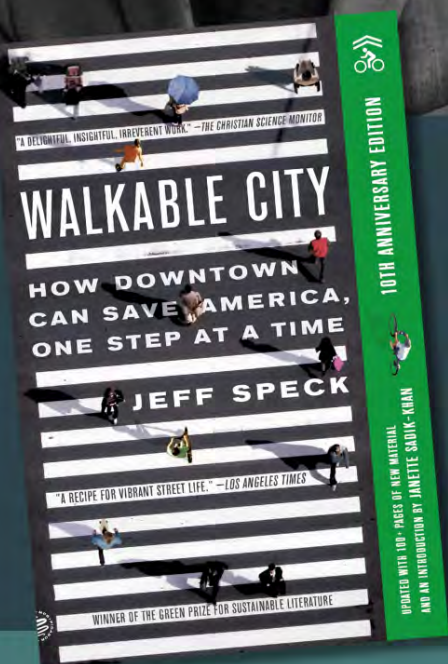
Last week, I was joined by Council Members Lampke and Saad and a slew of community members and leaders to celebrate the grand opening of CO-Hatch Bexley. It's an awesome space and it's been thrilling to see this area of Main Street come alive with the new energy infused by what is a really great community amenity. If you haven't had the chance to check out their new space, I'd highly recommend stopping by.



BEXLEY EARTH MONTH KEYNOTE

JEFF SPECK

WALKABLE CITY TALK



Wednesday, April 23
at 7:00 pm, Drexel Theatre

**Reception and book
signing to follow,
sponsored by:**



Ohio Environmental Council

Join Jeff Speck, internationally renowned urban planner and author of "Walkable City," "Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream," and "The Smart Growth Manual" for a keynote talk on building an even more walkable Bexley.


Event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. Get your tickets at bexley.org/events/speck or by scanning the QR code at right.


GRAMERCY
BOOKS
BEXLEY, OHIO
Find it here.



BEXLEY
community foundation



 Bexley Arboretum

Earth & Arbor Month Events

April is Earth & Arbor Month and I'm incredibly excited about some of the things coming up. While I'd particularly love to have you join me at the following events, there is a full slate of great options available at bexley.org/earthandarbor/.

Tuesday, April 15 at 7:00 pm: Special Screening at Drexel Theatre: *Giants Rising*

Meet us at Drexel Theatre for a free screening of *Giants Rising*: an award-winning documentary highlighting the importance of California's redwoods, and their role in our larger ecosystem. Event sponsored by the Bexley Community Foundation.

Wednesday, April 23 at 1:00 pm: Arbor Day Author Visit with Amy Stewart

Don't miss NYT best-selling author and accomplished artist Amy Stewart, as she joins us to discuss her latest book, *The Tree Collectors: Tales of Arboreal Obsession* in celebration of Arbor Day.

Wednesday, April 23 at 7:00 pm: Earth & Arbor Month Keynote: Jeff Speck - Towards a More Walkable Bexley

Join Jeff Speck, internationally renowned urban planner and author of *Walkable City*, *Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream*, and *The Smart Growth Manual*, for a keynote talk on building an even more walkable Bexley.

May 10, 10:00 am to Noon @ BPL

WOMEN'S HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR



Join us for the Arbor Day

ROBERT FROST BIRCH WALK

DEDICATION & TREE PLANTING

Schneider Park, Bexley

4:00 PM APRIL 25, 2025

Birches

ROBERT FROST

BEXLEY
community foundation



2025 love your alley

Bexley Habitat Triangle Edition



greenbexley.org



Attracting Bees and Beneficial Insects with Native Plants

Speaker: Heather Holm

April 10, 7:00 pm, Bexley Public Library, In-person and Online

Did you know that native plants can be selected to attract specific bees and beneficial insects including predatory and parasitic wasps, beetles, flies, true bugs, and lacewings? Learn about the predator-prey relationships of these flower-visiting insects and how they help keep problem insects in balance.

Let's Turn Water Problems into Water Solutions

Speakers: Chris Anderson and Madison Wisniewski

April 30, 7:00 pm, Bexley Public Library

Some yards have "too much" water, while others dry out quickly. In this talk we'll explore why native plant landscapes in the wild don't need ongoing irrigation — and how features like rain gardens and bioswales can help both wet and dry sites to soak up water, create important habitat for native birds and beneficial insects, and slow down fertility loss — all while beautifying landscapes with privacy, color and edible elements.



Natives 101: What, Where, When, Why, & How?

Speaker: Josh Zingg

May 14, 7:00 pm, Bexley Public Library

This talk will explore the meaning and value of native plants in the residential landscape. It will describe the various terms associated with the Native Plant movement and include specific ways you can use them in your own landscape.

Village &
Wilderness



Thank you to Village & Wilderness
for generously funding this initiative!





April 4 Update from the Ohio Municipal League:

- The Ohio House Finance Committee accepted a substitute bill this week of House Bill 96, the state operating budget. The bill is our first glimpse of the House budget priorities and includes a slight increase in the LGF percentage compared to where it stands today, a reduction in marijuana tax distributions for host communities, a provision that requires a petitioner of a local option election for alcohol sales to pay the entire cost of an election if it is held on a day without other candidates or issues from a political subdivision, as well as having brownfields funding included in the bill. A comparative document against the governor's proposed budget can be viewed [here](#). OML's submitted testimony on the sub bill can be viewed [here](#). Municipal provisions are listed in the article below.
- The Ohio Senate Finance Committee began its hearings on the state operating budget this week, receiving testimony from the Office of Budget & Management and the Legislative Service Commission, with additional state agencies to follow. Most state agencies will testify in the standing committees that oversee relevant subject matter.
- Gov. DeWine signed House Bill 54, the \$11.5 billion state transportation budget, which goes into effect July 1. He highlighted funding for construction and maintenance, safety, and the creation of the Division of Advance Air Mobility. He did not veto any items.
- The House Transportation Committee received sponsor testimony from Rep. Riordan McClain (R-Upper Sandusky) and Rep. Ron Ferguson (R-Wintersville) on House Bill 83, legislation to clarify ODOT's responsibilities -- how they split road maintenance with municipalities -- for state highways located within corporation limits. Proponent testimony could be heard as early as this coming Tuesday, and OML will inform its members when a hearing is scheduled.
- The House Judiciary Committee received sponsor testimony from Rep. Brian Stewart (R-Ashville) on House Bill 160, legislation focused on marijuana and intoxicating hemp. The bill is said to be closer to the statewide issue passed by voters than other legislation, but it reduces the tax distribution to communities with host dispensaries (the same as the operating budget) from 36% to 20% of the overall tax. Only local governments with a licensed or provisionally licensed dispensary by June 30 2025 would be eligible for the distributions, which would also stop after five years.
- Rep. Brian Lorenz (R-Powell) introduced House Bill 209 this week. The bill would exempt tips from state, municipal, and school district income taxes.
- OML members are invited to a webinar to receive an update on the latest legislative happenings at the Ohio Statehouse. It will take place from 11 a.m.-Noon on April 24.



Trash Talking through the rain!



Hanging with Mayor Sal from "Big Fish"





A great reminder from Jeffrey Mansion Preschool



Making way for the upcoming Alum Creek bike and pedestrian bridge