



May 13, 2025 MAYOR'S UPDATE

Coming up in Bexley:

May 15, 11:00 am:	Bexley Chamber of Commerce Economic Summit
May 15, 4:00 - 7:00 pm:	Bexley Farmers Market Returns! (also May 22)
May 16, 6:00 - 8:00 pm:	AAPI Festival
May 17-18:	Bexley Yard Sale and Freecycle Event
May 21, 8:30 am:	Records Commission
May 21, 4:00 pm:	Tree & Public Gardens Commission
May 22, 6:00 pm:	Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning
May 25:	Bexley HS Graduation
May 26, 11:00 am:	Memorial Day Ceremony
May 26, 5:00 pm:	Jazz in the Park
May 27, 6:00 pm:	City Council
May 30, 6:00-10:00 pm:	Main Event
May 31, 2:00 - 7:00 pm:	Bexley Re:Cycle Bikes Open Workshop

Some of What I've Been Up To:

- Hosted Jeff Speck and led multiple related events, meetings, and community walks.
- Multiple meetings with potential developers
- Interview with Busines First
- Capital University Tour and Follow Up
- City of Whitehall Arboretum Grand Opening
- Led Arbor Day Birch Walk Grand Opening
- Green Bexley Clean Up Day
- BMPA Circle of Excellence
- Meetings and calls with residents, businesses, and religious groups regarding Main Street BRT proposed station
- Board of Control meeting and prep
- BCF Annual Event and presentation for Larry Helman
- Dayton Food Bank Field Trip
- Work on proposed ADU ordinance
- One Bexley meetings and charter work
- Meeting on pocket park
- Recording for OSU Student group
- COMMA Meeting @ Hilltop Farm
- Work on Blast drafting and sending
- Habitat Triangle plantings
- Lunch with Camille Seals of CSG
- BCE Planning, meetings, and sponsore outreach
- Interview with Columbus CEO
- Meeting on Mayor's Court - HB 29
- Meeting with Capital regarding property condition
- MORPC Transportation Policy Committee
- Work on lanscape and public seating areas
- DARN Summer Cookout

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

LinkUs Outreach

We've continued to reach out to various businesses and residents regarding the proposed BRT station at Pleasant Ridge and Main. In addition to a number of calls and direct business visits, a special meeting was held with Christ Lutheran leadership on Monday, May 5 and a special BRT Focus *Meet Your Street* event was held on Wednesday May 7. Both meetings were well attended and offered some great opportunities to receive input and discuss concerns.

Personnel Policy Updates

Emily Buckley and Marc have completed the revisions to the City's Personnel Policy and Matt and I have reviewed and approved the updates and revisions. A PDF of the revised document is included in the updates folder and I want to thank Emily and Marc for their hard work bringing these much needed revisions over the finish line.

Jeff Speck Recap! Commercial Design/Streetscape Guidelines Kickoff

The Jeff Speck events focused on Commercial Design/Streetscape Guidelines through the lens of walkability were a resounding success. It was a busy few days with lots of valuable data and a big thank you goes out to Megan Meyer, City Directors and team members who helped, and to Council Members who participated and provided their input. Expect to see more from this study and event series as the data and recommendations will be incorporated as design guidelines are developed for different areas in the City.

Green Bexley Cleanup Day & DEA Takeback

Our annual Green Bexley Cleanup Day went off without a hitch and the volume of what was recycled at this event is impressive, including:

8,752 pounds of paper

2,137 pounds of e-waste

200 pounds of clothing

105 pounds of medication safely destroyed through the DEA Drug Takeback effort

Drexel Speed Limit Update

After working with our traffic engineers, ODOT, and City Attorney Fishel, in the context of post-project speed data we have two routes we can go for reducing the speed limit on Drexel:

1) ODOT can effect a reduction to 30 MPH based upon their analysis of our speed survey

2) The City can, through Council action, reduce the speed limit to 25 MPH through ordinance

Dayton Food Bank Field Trip

We traveled to the Dayton Food Bank to evaluate their composting facility and to assess the factors involved in in-house processing of food waste. The Dayton facility processes about 100 tons of food waste each year and the unit can work through up to 180 tons annually. It sits on a quarter acre and generally doesn't produce a noticeable odor. This is the third tour of composting tech that Elizabeth and I have conducted over the past year as we continue to explore optimal partnerships and solutions for our ongoing food waste management efforts.

Capital Planning / Zoning Update

Last week our team met with Capital University to discuss the status of their Campus Plan District and the need for an official plan on file. The University is working on tailoring their 2024 adopted plan for the zoning text, and it should be making its way to BZAP soon.

DARN Cookout / Resource Event

We had spectacular weather for the DARN cookout this year and the event was an absolute blast. DARN does a great job with this annual event and it's always a great opportunity to connect with families in our community and to see the work of our Re:Cycle Bikes team and others come to fruition.

Summer Events!

Summer is just around the corner and summer in Bexley means a ton of outstanding events. Here are a few to keep on your calendar!

Thursday, May 15 from 4:00-7:00 pm: Bexley Farmers Market Returns!
Friday, May 16 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm: Bexley AAPI Festival at Bexley Library
Saturday-Sunday, May 17-18: Yard Sale & Freecycle Days
Sunday, May 25 from 10:00 am -12:00 pm: Bexley High School Graduation
Monday, May 26 at 11:00 am: Memorial Day Service at Drexel Circle
Monday, May 26 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm: Jazz in the Park
Friday, May 30 from 6:00 - 10:00 pm: Main Event

Boards & Commissions Openings

As part of our annual board application process, the following boards have seats which are up for renewal or will be vacant (please note that members currently serving may be seeking reappointment). We've already received some great applicants, but if you know anyone interested in serving, please pass the word along:

The Boards/Commissions with possible openings include:

Architectural Review Board
Board of Health
Board of Zoning and Planning
Citizens Review Board
Civil Service Commission
Community Improvement Corporation
Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council
Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee Officer (Green Bexley)
Records Commission
Recreation Board
Tree & Public Gardens Commission



Consolidated Update from the Ohio Municipal League:

- Sponsor testimony was held in the House Natural Resources Committee last week on House Bill 182, preemption legislation sponsored by Rep. Levi Dean (R-Xenia) that would prohibit a public water system from adding fluoride to its water.
- Sponsor testimony was held in the House Public Safety Committee last week on House Bill 26, which is a push for local governments to work with the federal government on immigration enforcement. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Josh Williams (R-Sylvania Twp.) and Rep. Tex Fischer (R-Boardman), and it specifies that a political subdivision or local law enforcement agency that does not comply is ineligible to receive homeland security funding and 10% of any Local Government Fund distributions.
- The Senate passed legislation last week to largely restrict hemp products to marijuana dispensaries -- SB86, sponsored by Sen. Steve Huffman (R-Tipp City) and Sen. Shane Wilkin (R-Hillsboro) -- and to ban the use of police quotas -- SB114, sponsored by Sen. Tom Patton (R-Strongsville). Both bills will be sent to the House.
- The Ohio Ballot Board approved certifying a proposed constitutional amendment, "Protecting Ohioans' Constitutional Rights," ending qualified immunity for police officers and other government officials as one issue. The certification took place following a series of legal battles, and amendment backers will need to collect more than 400,000 signatures to get it on the ballot.
- Sponsor testimony was held in the House Natural Resources Committee this week on House Bill 182, preemption legislation sponsored by Rep. Levi Dean (R-Xenia) that would prohibit a public water system from adding fluoride to its water.
- House Bill 161, legislation sponsored by Rep. Adam Bird (R-New Richmond) and Rep. Jim Thomas (R-Jackson Township) would extend local lodging taxes to short-term rentals (with no regulatory preemption), as well as require short-term rental platforms to collect and remit the taxes.
- The Ohio House passed House Bill 126, legislation sponsored by Rep. Adam Mathews (R-Lebanon) and Rep. Meredith Craig (R-Smithville) that restricts the ability to use the state's public nuisance law to sue companies over products such as opioids, guns, and vehicle anti-theft systems. The bill sponsors, Rep. Adam Mathews (R-Lebanon) and Rep. Meredith Craig (R-Smithville), sought to codify the Ohio Supreme Court ruling in *In re National Prescription Opiate Litigation* (2024). The court found that public nuisance claims cannot be used to seek remedies for product-related harms. Instead, such claims must be handled exclusively under Ohio's Product Liability Law, which limits corporate liability for defective or harmful products. HB126 undermines Home Rule authority and would prevent municipalities from using public nuisance claims to hold manufacturers, distributors, or retailers accountable for harms caused by their products – shielding bad actors and forcing municipalities to rely on state and federal agencies that may not act swiftly or effectively.
- State Issue 2, a proposed constitutional amendment to renew the State Capital Improvement Program by providing \$2.5 billion in state backed bonding over ten years, was approved by voters with roughly 68% over the vote. Thanks to all the municipalities officials who spoke out about the positive aspects of the program to fund local infrastructure projects across the state.
- The Ohio Department of Natural Resources opened the application period for its Urban Forestry Grant Program, with applications due before Aug. 27.



Arbor Day Birch Walk Tree Planting and Dedication



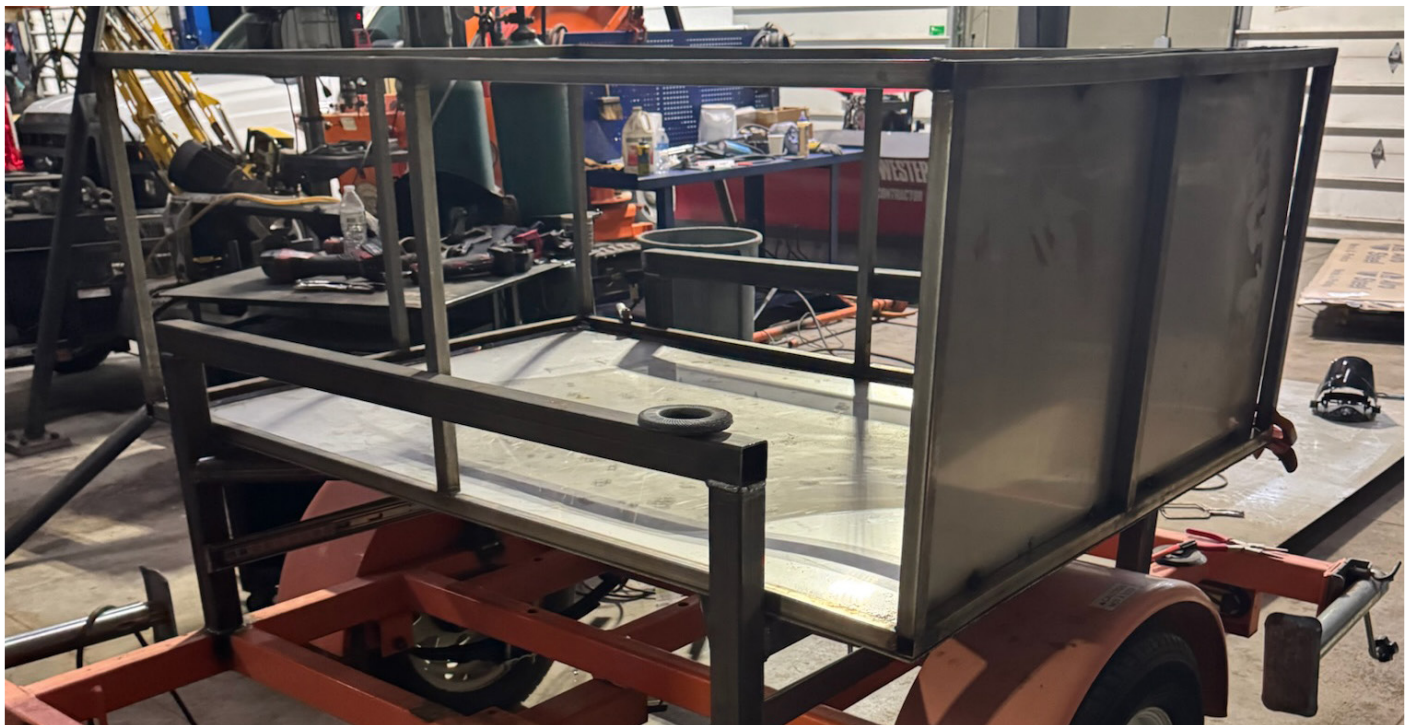
Fire pit at Schneider



Adirondacks on Main - thank you BCF!



Airborn loos at the Fitzgerald site



The Water Buffalo™ event water trailer under construction



Adirondacks at Commonwealth Pond - thank you BCF!



Shipping Container composting at Dayton Food Bank