



May 27, 2025

MAYOR'S UPDATE

Coming up in Bexley:

June 12, 4:00-7:00 pm:	Bexley Farmers Market (Also June 19)
June 12, 6:00 pm:	Architectural Review Board
June 14, 9:00 am-1:00 pm:	Pelotonia Kids - Pedal for Pancakes
June 15, 1:00 - 2:30 pm:	Bexley Community Backyards Workshop
June 17, 4:00 pm:	Citizens Review Board
June 17, 6:00 pm:	Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee
June 18, 4:00 pm:	Tree & Public Gardens Commission
June 18, 7:00-8:30 pm:	HeartSafe Bexley CPR & AED Training
June 19:	Juneteenth - City Offices Closed
June 19, 6:00 pm:	Bexley Celebration of Freedom
June 20, 6:00 pm:	Main Event: <i>Wild Robot</i>
June 24, 6:00 pm:	City Council

Some of What I've Been Up To:

- Livingston Avenue Coordination Meeting
- MORPC Regional Sustainability Agenda
- Bexley Bloomers Work Day
- Commonwealth Pond Meeting and walk through
- Boulevard Sign RFP Work
- Summer Event meetings and follow up work
- East Main BRT Design Review Meeting
- Arboretum Plaque Design
- Lunch meeting with Bryan Drewry
- OEC Finance Committee Meeting
- 458 North Cassady Meeting/Tour
- Interviews with Board/Commission candidates
- Bike Path Retreat with Matt Klingler
- Meeting with Monique
- Commercial Design Guidelines prep and meeting
- Prevailing Wage Process Meeting
- Landscape Design staff meeting
- MORPC Executive Committee lunch and meeting
- Attended Transportation Innovation Forum
- COMMA Planning and Meeting with Legislators
- Library Pocket Park Meeting
- Bexley Re:Cycle Bikes
- Article Drafted for Bexley Times
- Personnel Meetings and Follow Up
- Tree and Public Gardence Ordinance Meeting Planning
- Calls and emails with residents
- Commonwealth Unification Meeting/Work
- SummerFest planning and communications work
- Ordinance research and work in prep for Council

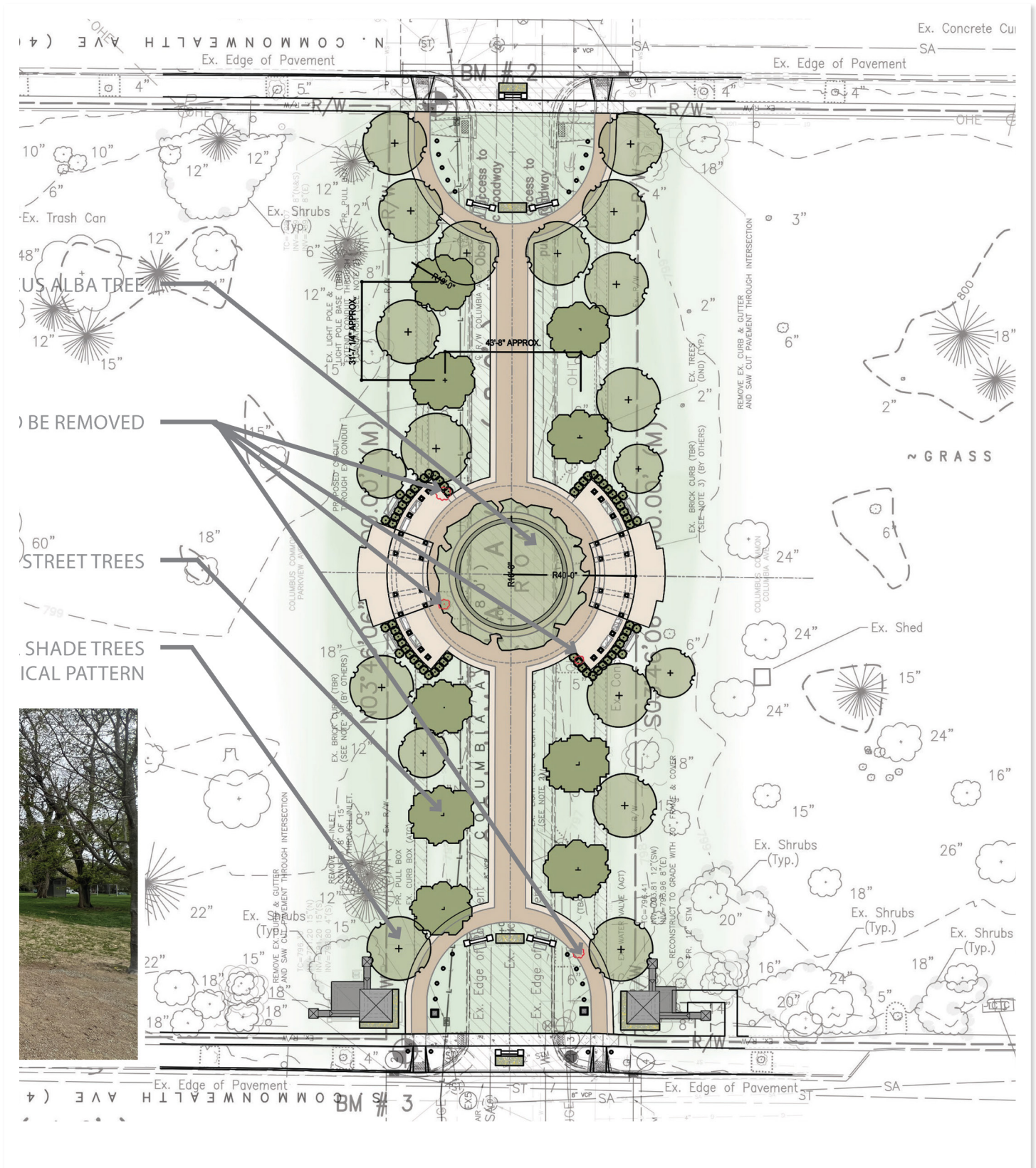
Keep in touch! To sign up for weekly email updates from the City of Bexley, including information on community events and timely notifications and reminders, visit: www.bexley.org/blast



BEXLEYBLAST
CITY OF BEXLEY EMAIL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Commonwealth Park Public Workshop for Unification Design

The Recreation Board and Tree and Public Gardens Commission have reviewed preliminary options for Commonwealth Park's center walkway. A refined option will be discussed at an upcoming public workshop, tentatively planned for July 16th at 6:00 pm.





A Note to the Community on Bike/Scooter Safety

This note is set to go out in an upcoming Blast or newsletter. Including the draft here for any feedback!

Summer is in full swing, and if you've spent time around Bexley lately, you've likely seen it: packs of kids gliding through the neighborhood on bikes, scooters, and skateboards—sometimes electric, sometimes not—joyfully, and often fearlessly. It's a scene I love, but it's also one that increasingly gives me pause. I want to take a moment to talk about riding safely, especially as it pertains to our youngest and most vulnerable residents.

As these personal mobility devices have grown in popularity and complexity, we've seen a rise in risky behavior involving them. From riding e-bikes at excessive speeds without helmets to darting through intersections on e-scooters without looking, the potential for serious injury—or worse—is real.

That's one of the reasons why Bexley recently expanded our bicycle helmet law to better protect our youth. Under the new law, any person under the age of 18 riding a bike, scooter, skateboard, or other recreational mobility devices in Bexley is required to wear a helmet. This isn't about enforcement for enforcement's sake—it's about preventing tragedies that are all too preventable. Wearing a helmet significantly reduces the risk of head injury in crashes. This simple step can save a life.

Meanwhile, many parents and young people may not realize that under Ohio state law, the operation of certain classes of e-bikes by minors is illegal. Specifically, Class 3 e-bikes (which can reach speeds of 28 mph) cannot be operated by anyone under 16, even with a helmet. Moreover, riding any type of motorized scooter or e-bike on sidewalks is illegal in most public settings and especially dangerous in pedestrian-heavy environments like Bexley's Main Street corridor.

Unfortunately, the current regulatory environment is a patchwork, leaving many families and kids unsure of what's legal, safe, or age-appropriate. And the risk isn't just hypothetical; there have already been several injuries in Bexley this year involving youth on electric personal mobility devices.

Over the coming months, you'll see us address the risk posed by the increase in reckless behavior from a variety of angles. We'll be launching several educational campaigns around the laws today; later this summer we'll roll out operation "Slow Down Bexley" a driver-education and intervention campaign designed to help curb speeding and attention issues; and I'm also currently in the process of working with City Council to take a closer look at the operation of motorized vehicles by minors. We need to bring common sense clarification to what is permitted on Bexley's streets and sidewalks, address safety concerns, and ensure that we're holding space for both innovation and public safety.

In the meantime, I'd like to encourage parents and adults in general to model safe riding behavior by putting on a helmet—even if isn't required—yielding at intersections, using hand signals, and in general demonstrating safe, defensive riding as you're out and about on a bike, scooter, or that rad skateboard you've been riding since the 90's.

We want Bexley to be a place where kids can enjoy the freedom of movement—but we also want them to make it home safely. Let's work together to promote awareness, model safe behavior, and ensure our community continues to thrive as a walkable, rideable, and safe place for residents of all ages.

Arboretum Signage Project

Late last year, we purchased equipment to allow us to engrave, with a focus on being able to create signage for arboretum features. We deployed our first wave of signage in time for Commonwealth's appearance at the House and Garden Tour - check it out if you haven't already - they look great!



Commonwealth Pond



Commonwealth Pond in the winter

*"August of another summer, and once again
I am drinking the sun
and the lilies again are spread across the water..."
- Mary Oliver, The Pond*

Learn more at:
www.bexleyarboretum.org



Commonwealth Pond was created as a focal point of the west arboretum walk in Commonwealth Park, thanks to a generous grant from the Bexley Community Foundation. Ponds and other water features have long served as traditional centerpieces of arboreta across the globe. A water feature on this site was even hinted at in original park plats from the late 1800s.

This pond creates a serene natural setting for a diverse range of plant and tree life, enhancing the Bexley Arboretum experience. Structural work was completed in late 2023, but full biological stabilization will take time. Over the next several years, caretakers will work to establish a healthy aquatic environment that supports a balanced mix of plant and animal life.

Currently, the pond's filtration and aeration systems are being refined. Algae blooms are expected during this early stage, as the nitrogen cycle matures and natural biological filters become established. As aquatic plants grow and provide shade, and as beneficial bacteria take hold, the pond will begin to regulate itself more effectively.

In time, native aquatic plants and fish species suited to this habitat will be introduced. The Japanese Maple on the central island may be replaced with a species more tolerant of wet soil. Surrounding plantings will continue to evolve with guidance from the Tree and Public Gardens Commission and the Bexley Bloomers volunteer corps.

Thank you for visiting. We invite you to return often to witness the pond's transformation as it matures into a thriving ecological centerpiece.



BEXLEY
community foundation

Schneider Park 2025 Projects Update

We're closing in on two major projects breaking ground at Schneider. The most complex components of the Year of the Parks projects - the skate park and bridge - are due to break ground by the fall.

Brownfield Remediation Grants Update

The Ohio Department of Development announced nearly \$60 million in state support to help clean up and redevelop 51 hazardous brownfield sites in 27 counties. Unfortunately, the projects submitted By Bexley were not among them; in Franklin County, there were 3 projects that got funding out of the 12 that were submitted.

Furthermore, the latest draft of the budget bill under consideration would change the program for the future and not allow the city to be an applicant.

We are now regrouping with legal counsel regarding the grant submitted for the Holtzmann Landfill assessment project to determine next steps and how to best move forward with the consortium of property owners we have been working with.

2220 East Livingston Avenue Community Challenge

Last week the Community Improvement Corporation authorized moving forward with broadcasting a community-based call for proposals for the former "Lucky Lotto" building on Livingston.

"The Bexley Community Improvement Corporation (BCIC) is seeking bold, creative, and community-serving proposals for the transformation of a key commercial property at 2220 East Livingston Avenue. Located on a fast-moving, auto-oriented corridor, this site has sat underutilized for years—but that's about to change. We're launching a 6-week community challenge to select a visionary tenant or partner to bring this site to life as a model for adaptive reuse and corridor revitalization."

Look for more info to come in the coming weeks!



Consolidated Update from the Ohio Municipal League:

- The Ohio Senate Finance Committee accepted a substitute bill for House Bill 96, the FY2026-2027 state operating budget legislation. OML sent a member alert email with some highlighted provisions that can be viewed [here](#).
- Rep. David Thomas (R-Jefferson) introduced House Bill 335, legislation that would end \$3.5 billion in inside millage property tax collections to Ohio local governments on Jan. 1, 2026. Called the "Property Tax Relief Now Act," it also includes other previously introduced property tax provisions.
- The House Public Insurance and Pensions Committee received sponsor testimony on House Bill 280 from Rep. Cindy Abrams (R-Harrison) and Thomas Hall (R-Middletown). The bill would allow employer contribution rates to the Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund to increase gradually over five years for police officers, from 19.5 percent to 24 percent. If the amortization period then exceeds 30 years, the board could unilaterally increase the percentages 1.5 percent over a three-year period.
- The House Judiciary Committee held an additional hearing on Senate Bill 56, sponsored by Sen. Steve Huffman (R-Tipp City), which makes changes to the state's cannabis laws. A substitute bill accepted last week make it so local governments that host adult use cannabis facilities will receive 25% of the 10% adult use marijuana tax over seven years -- rather than the 36% of the tax revenue in perpetuity found in current law.
- The Senate Local Government Committee had an additional hearing on Senate Bill 104, preemption legislation sponsored by Sen. Andrew Brenner (R-Delaware) that seeks prohibitions on the local regulation of short-term rentals, such as Airbnb and Vrbo. A substitute bill was accepted, but the bill still takes authority away from local governments.
- The House passed a ban on ticket quotas for law enforcement agencies (HB131 Bill), and to make changes related to land banks in order to more efficiently reclaim blighted properties (HB86 Bill). All of these bills will be sent to the Senate for consideration.
- Rep. David Thomas (R-Jefferson) and Rep. Angie King (R-Celina) said they will soon introduce legislation that would amend multiple sections of the Ohio Revised Code and enact new provisions to require that certain local taxes subject to voter approval must pass with at least a 60% majority.



Bloomin' with the Bloomers!



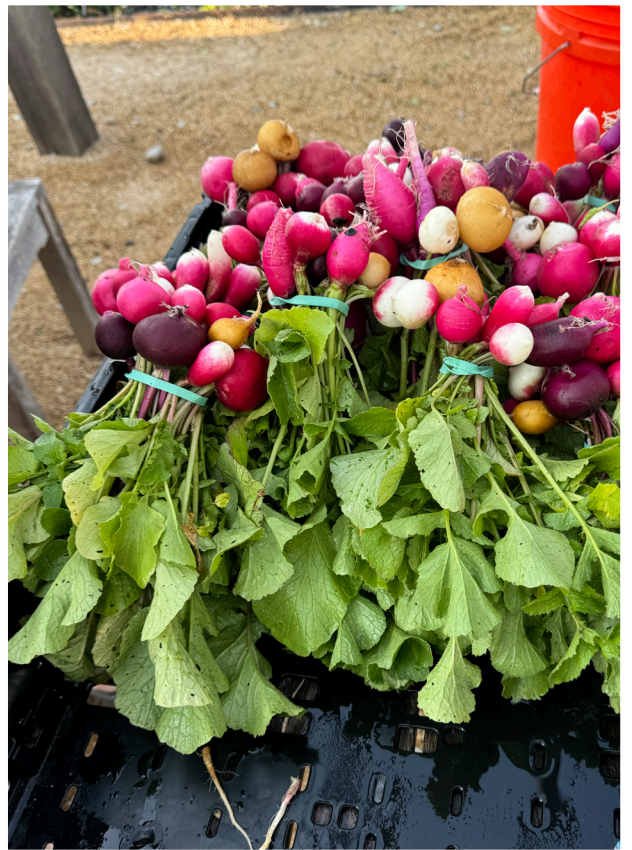
Local lunching



Measuring Shared Use Paths in prep for Livingston



2025 Bexley Pride Walk



Radishes from the Community "Giving Garden"



Gerri Peacock and her photographer working on photos for the upcoming Cherbourg cookbook