



# March 25, 2025 MAYOR'S UPDATE

## Coming up in Bexley:

March 26, 4:00 pm:	Tree and Public Gardens Commission
March 26, 5:30 pm:	Land Use Strategy
March 27, 6:00 pm:	Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning
March 29, 2:30 pm:	Bexley Cherry Blossom Walk/Ride Week Kickoff Event
March 30, 3:00 pm:	Safe Biking in Bexley (at Bexley Public Library)
April 2, 5:30 pm:	Recreation Board
April 5, 9:00 - 11:00 am:	Repair Cafe and Bexley Re:Cycle Bikes
April 5, 10:00 am:	Trash Talk!
April 5, 7:00 pm:	Bexley Education Foundation BRAVO! Event
April 8, 6:00 pm:	City Council
April 18, 4:30 pm:	Trash Talk!
April 19, 12:00 pm:	Annual Egg Dash!
April 23, 6:00 pm:	Earth Month Keynote - Jeff Speck: Building a more Walkable Bexley

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

- EV Meeting and installation followup
- Attended State of the State with Senator Craig
- Provided testimony on State Bill 104
- MORPC State of the Region event
- Planning and prep work for BCE season
- One Bexley planning and meeting
- MORPC Transportation Policy Meeting
- Maryland Fun Run
- OEC Board Meeting and Alumni Open House
- Work on communications and reference sheet for Commission/Board members
- BCF Executive Meeting
- TPS Parking Lot Conversation
- Sewer Study Flow Monitoring Meeting
- Hosted Spring Break Trash Talk
- Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting
- BHS Bullit Park and Jeffrey Mansion Tour
- Presented proclamation to St. Charles Swim team
- Review Columbus Council Meeting agenda and documents relating to proposed ordinance
- Meetings and calls with residents and potential developers
- Livingston Avenue Coordination Meeting
- Land Use Strategy preview of documents
- ESID Board Meeting
- Follow up on various City projects (parks and street projects)

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)



## Sewer Flow Monitoring Project

The rainy season provides a unique opportunity to study and better understand issues in our stormwater and sanitary sewers and as part of our ongoing effort to identify and prioritize issues in our sewer system, and with the goal of effectively planning future improvements, water flow monitoring will be conducted in key points of our sewer infrastructure over the coming weeks. We recently met with Burgess & Niple to finalize the locations and placement of water flow monitors and are working on communications for the website and Blast to ensure community members are aware that technicians may be in the area. In order to ensure accurate and comprehensive data, the crews may need access to alleys and yards for field investigations, and during rainy weather, some drainage observations may take place overnight or during early morning hours to ensure a robust understanding of drainage during peak flow times.

## CIC: Lucky Lotto Building Update

As the CIC determines next steps for the site, it is working to secure the site and to make modest improvements to the exterior. Broken windows have been repaired and cameras are being added to enhance security to the site. Additionally, landscaping is being installed at the bed adjacent to the sidewalk. Completion of these projects can be expected in the next two to three weeks and we'll continue to keep you posted as to the CIC's next steps for this property.

## Livingston Avenue Update

Today we had our routine update meeting with the City of Columbus and OHM, who is overseeing the planning for the joint Livingston Avenue project. We reviewed stormwater treatment options from engineering subcontractor Burgess and Niple, discussed bridge widening plans to accommodate a safer pedestrian experience on the ODOT bridge, and reviewed preliminary estimates for right-of-way acquisitions. Overall, progress is continuing at a good pace on the design component of this project, and a public workshop is anticipated in the late Spring / early Summer timeframe.

## Additional Main Street Furnishings for Spring

Thanks to the continued generosity of the Bexley Community Foundation, in early April we'll have new inviting seating areas throughout the City. Keep an eye on the area just behind the sidewalk at the Capital Lawn at Main Street for new blue adirondack chairs. A selection of new chairs will also be installed at Commonwealth and may pop up at a few other locations throughout the City so keep your eyes peeled for new places to kick back and enjoy those beautiful spring days in Bexley, all made possible through the original Year of the Parks grant funding.

## Commonwealth Park Update

The unification at Commonwealth continues to progress. The new curbs and sidewalks at Columbia should be complete by next week and preconstruction meetings and plans are underway to determine more specific timing for the water line and pavement work in this area. Furthermore, we had a great internal meeting with landscape design for the center of the park, and expect to be workshopping draft plans in the near future.

## Cherry Blossom Kickoff (and Map!)

The 2025 Bexley Cherry Blossom Walk/Rides Kickoff event takes place this Saturday, March 29 at 2:30 pm at Bexley Public Library with music and special speakers to celebrate the season of cherry blossoms!

With the cherry trees just beginning to bloom across the City, this year's timing looks perfect to enjoy this once-a-season delight. In addition to speaking at Saturday's event, I've also created a map of cherry trees in Bexley. Check the map and maybe plan your next walk to bike route to include a few of these beautiful trees.

## Safe Biking in Bexley Event - Bexley Public Library

Megan will be joining *Safe Routes Bexley* on Sunday, March 30 at 3:00 pm to share the city's upcoming bike boulevard plans which will include street markings and wayfinding signage to promote safer biking throughout the City. *Safe Routes Bexley* is a grassroots citizen-led organization whose mission is to organize community-based projects to support projects and initiatives that improve the safety and ease of walking and biking on City streets and alleys. Several members of the group have provided valuable input and feedback throughout the implementation of different pieces of the Bike Friendly Bexley plan and I'm excited for this partnership program.

## COHatch Ribbon Cutting

The COHatch project is nearing completion and I hope you'll join me on Wednesday, April 2 at 9:30 am for a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting. If you didn't have the chance to join us at the tour a few weeks ago, I can tell you the building looks fantastic. If you have some time to stop by to check things out, I'd love to see you there!

## Trash Talks Coming Up!

Trash Talk dates are up! I'll be helping to host at least three more trash talk events this spring and I'd love to have you co-host with me if you're able to make one of the events. We offer sign ups for these events to give residents the opportunity to ask questions or pitch ideas while we clean up litter in our community. Some great conversations have started at these events and they're always a ton of fun. If you're interested in stopping by - or better yet being a co-host - reach out to Natalie. Dates are listed below for your reference:

- Saturday, April 5 at 10:00 am
- Friday, April 18 at 4:30 pm
- Tuesday, April 29 at 4:30 pm

## Earth & Arbor Month Events

April is Earth & Arbor Month and Green Bexley and Elizabeth Ellman have done a great job creating a robust lineup of events to enjoy. In particular, I'd recommend checking out the following events, but the full slate of options is available at [bexley.org/earthandarbor/](http://bexley.org/earthandarbor/).

### **Thursday, March 27 at 9:00 am: Green Bexley Tour of Rumpke Materials Recovery Facility**

Are you curious about what happens to your recyclables after they leave the curb? Join us for a tour of Rumpke's recycling facility to see firsthand how materials are sorted, processed, and prepared for reuse! If you haven't been on a Rumpke tour before, it's an illuminating experience I'd recommend to everyone.

### **Saturday, April 5 at 9:00 am: Repair Cafe and Bexley Re:Cycle Bikes**

What do you do with a broken toaster? Or with a sweater full of moth holes? Toss it? No way! On April 5 at City Hall, everything centers on making repairs, and we're inviting the Re:Cycle Bikes crew to join in on the fun! Throughout the morning, community members can bring their broken items to the City's third Repair Café, where volunteers will be on hand to make repairs free of charge. Preregistration is suggested and walk-ins will be accepted as time permits.

### **April 11: Landmark Tree Nominations Deadline**

Bexley's Landmark Tree program honors the remarkable trees planted by past generations and ensures their legacy continues for decades to come. Each year, residents are invited to nominate exceptional trees—whether for their historical significance, impressive size, unique shape, striking coloration, or rarity, and the 2025 Landmark Tree program is highlighting the White Oak (*Quercus alba*), a species known for its strength, longevity, and beauty. If you know of an outstanding White Oak, submit a nomination by April 11!



## Senate Bill 104 Update - Short Term Rentals

State Senator Andrew Brenner has introduced Senate Bill 104 to outlaw local controls of short term rentals, including limitations, zoning controls, outright bans, or requirements that the properties be owner-occupied. COMMA has moved to formally oppose the bill, and we are working on a coordinated campaign of testimony and outreach to legislators (my testimony is attached to this update in PDF format).

- **As drafted, the bill would prohibit all degrees of regulation trying to limit the number and impact of short-term rentals**—from zoning restrictions in residential areas, limiting numbers by lottery, or prohibiting them altogether. When residents come to our offices and city council meetings seeking relief from the disruption of short-term rentals in their neighborhoods, we will have few if any effective tools and will have to direct them to the Statehouse.
- **In communities facing shortages of permanent housing, the proliferation of short-term rentals in residential areas only exacerbates the problem**—reducing supply and driving up demand. It should remain a local decision whether to discourage existing housing stock being devoted to short-term rental business rather than permanent housing for workers who will contribute to the local economy and community.
- **As drafted, the bill would prohibit owner-occupation requirements.** These regulations, however, are among the most effective local means of preventing absentee owners from profiting from the rental at the expense of their neighbors' quality of life.
- **As drafted, the bill would prohibit restricting the number of rentals an owner may operate.** But regulating the number of rentals an owner may operate is a critical local tool to avoid proliferation of short-term rentals that are either owned by outside investment groups (who have no community investment) or that are poorly kept up by overwhelmed proprietors.
- **Finally, as drafted, the bill would artificially cap registration fees at \$20 per property.** This undermines registration itself, as these fees would not come close to cost recovery.

## Other Items We're Tracking:

- **Police Pension funding:** As the House Public Safety Committee held a hearing on the HB96, the state operating budget, this week the topic of inserting language from previous legislation to increase employer contributions to the Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund as an amendment was raised by union representatives. Rep. Cindy Abrams (R-Harrison) said she intends to introduce the measure as both a budget amendment and a standalone bill.
- **HB154 - School District approval - CRA Exemptions** (Rep. David Thomas, Rep. Chris Glassburn)  
To require school district approval of residential community reinvestment area property tax exemptions.
- **SB114 - Law Enforcement Quotas** (Patton, T)  
To prohibit law enforcement agencies from using quotas for arrests and citations (For the record, Bexley does not. But it does use statistics to track officer productivity). Senate Judiciary, (First Hearing)
- **HB28 - Eliminate Replacement Property Tax Levy Authority** (Mathews, A; Hall, T)  
To eliminate the authority to levy replacement property tax levies. House Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)
- **SB63 - Prohibit Ranked Choice Voting** (Gavarone, T; DeMora, W)  
To generally prohibit the use of ranked choice voting and to withhold Local Government Fund distributions from a municipality or chartered county that uses ranked choice voting. Senate General Government, (Second Hearing)



*Spec'ing out the Main Street adirondacks*



*With Congresswoman Betty at the MORPC SOTR*



*Maryland knows how to (fun) run*



*Our first Trash Talk of the year yielded a great haul at the Livingston Avenue on-ramp*



*ParkMobile has been live for a little over a week, and seems to be working well*