

Recreation Board Meeting:

- The Recreation Board met on Wed., Oct. 8th at Jeffrey Mansion.
 - The Board received year end updates on the following:
 - Jeffrey Mansion Preschool
 - Before/After Care
 - Jeffrey Summer Camp
 - Mayor Kessler presented the Bexley Land Use Strategy.
 - The board reviewed options for pool management strategies for 2026.

Day Care End of the Year Reports:

- 2024/25 Jeffrey Mansion Preschool
 - Started the year with 59 students and finished with 62 students.
 - Provided \$6,975 in scholarship support.
- 2024/25 Before/After Care
 - 297 - Registered participants (322 – 2023/24)
 - 205 - Average daily attendance (212 – 2023/24)
- 2025 Jeffrey Summer Camp
 - 593 – Registered participants (535 – 2024)
 - 311 – Weekly attendance (306 – 2024)
 - We received \$21,325 in scholarship support from the Ryan Solomon Memorial Fund.
- The board reviewed a day care (JMP, BACPack & JSC) finance analysis comparing 2025 finances to pre-COVID finances.
 - In 2022, the board passed a 4 year plan for Day Care Programs with a goal of returning to pre-COVID levels. That plan included proposed 7% increases to program costs through 2026 in an effort to recoup the significant increases to operations costs (mainly staff costs) seen from 2020-20222 and beyond.
 - While we anticipated the final 7% increase for 2026, a review of the finances found that a 3% increase in 2026 would bring us back to pre-COVID financial levels.
 - Day care programs are need based programs. We have consistently worked to keep pricing affordable for families as so many rely on this service. As a result, the board made the decision to move forward with a 3% increase in 2026 as opposed to the original plan of 7%. We are hopeful that moving forward we will be able to return to normal increase levels from year to year.

Community Camp Out:

- It was a beautiful night at Jeffrey Park for the annual Community Campout held on Fri., Sept. 19th.
- Over 60 families pitched tents at Jeffrey Park enjoying a cookout, bonfires, s'mores, a movie, pancakes the next morning and a scavenger hunt.
- Huge thank you to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts for all of their support of the event.



Smoke and Fire:

- The annual Smoke and Fire event was held on Sat., Sept. 27th at Schneider Park.
- Huge thank you to Councilman Silverman for organizing the event which had 8 registered cook teams vying for the coveted championship belt.
- The event also included wonderful food/desert trucks, beer from Seventh Sons brewery, and amazing live music from Blue Spectrum.



Harvest Festival:

- Jeffrey Park hosted the Annual Harvest Festival on Fri., Oct. 8th.
- It was a perfect night for the event with an estimated 2,000+ in attendance for the myriad of activities.
- This year's Harvest Festival included community favorites such as hayrides, the corn maze, the enchanted walk, a magic show and more.
- The bonfire was back after the drought of 2024. We added face painting and a balloon artist.
- Thank you to all involved in making this event happen including, but not limited to, Police and Service Dept. staff, Elizabeth Ellman, the Special Education PTO, Girl Scouts, Recreation and Parks staff, and Jeffrey Mansion Preschool staff.



Halloween Patrol – Thur., Oct. 30th from 530p-7p:

- Trick-or-Treat will be held on Thur., Oct. 30th from 530p-7p.
- The recreation and parks department will once again organize volunteers to provide a community wide Halloween Patrol to walk the streets and help keep our little trick-or-treaters safe.
- As always, we continue to be in need of additional volunteers as the more volunteers on the streets the better.
- Anyone interested in volunteering can reach out to Daniel Hiser – dhiser@bexley.org and/or go to www.bexley.org/halloween.



Middle School Halloween Bash – Fri., Oct. 31st:

- Once again, Jeffrey Mansion will host both a Middle School Halloween Bash on Fri., Oct. 31st from 730p-10p.
- Jeffrey Mansion will be decorated in Halloween décor for the bash.
- The event will include food, drinks, entertainment, a photo booth, music and more.
- Registration is required and can be completed by going to www.bexleyrec.com. While there is space available, registrations are limited.
- Participants should dress in their Halloween costumes.



Murder Mystery – Sat., Nov. 1st:

- Jeffrey Mansion will host its first ever adult Murder Mystery event on Sat., Nov. 1st from 7p-10p.
- The party theme is “Best Laid Plans” an old Hollywood Whodunit!
- Registration is required and spots are limited as we are nearing our max registration. Participants will have a night of mystery and intrigue as they work to solve the crime. Hors d’oeuvres will also be included.

