Bessemer City
NORTH CAROLINA EST.1893
City with a Heart



February 2025
City Newsletter

Elected Officials:
Becky S. Smith, Mayor
Michael Brooks, Ward 1
Nellie Floyd, Ward 2
Allen Hook, Ward 3, Mayor Pro Tempore
Brenda Boyd, Ward 4
Brent Guffey, Ward 5
Donnie Griffin, Ward 6

City Manager:
Joshua M. Ross, MPA

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Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.

Black History Month 2025 Theme

Since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme.

The Black History Month 2025 theme, "African Americans and Labor" focuses on the various and profound ways that work and working of all kinds – free and unfree, skilled, and unskilled, vocational and voluntary – intersect with the collective experiences of Black people.



ASALH- the Founders of Black History Month

Who Was Gwendolyn Harrison?

Gwendolyn Harrison was the first African American Woman to attend UNC Chapel Hill. Ms. Harrison was originally from Kinston, NC but spent most of her adult life in Bessemer City, NC. Read more about Gwendolyn at:

https://blogs.lib.unc.edu/uarms/2017/04/17/remembering-gwendolyn-harrison-the-first-african-american-woman-to-attend-unc/



Gwendolyn Harrison, 1951. From the Johnson C. Smith University yearbook. Harrison was on the faculty at Johnson C. Smith when she applied to UNC.

City Appointed Board Vacancies

The City is now accepting applications from individuals interested in serving on Council-Appointed Board and Commissions! There are vacancies on the following boards:

*Bessemer City ABC Board
*Bessemer City Downtown Development Board

If you are interested, please complete an application online at www.bessemercity.com/forms-documents/.

SCAN HERE -->



Baseball and Softball Registration



City Calendar

Events & Programs:

Bee Mine Valentine's Dance* (Community Center)
Friday, February 7, 2025
*Tickets Required: contact (704) 629-5111 for details

Senior Bingo* (Community Center)
Monday, February 17, 2025
*Tickets Required: contact (704) 629-5111 for details

Important Reminders:

City Utility Bill Due
Monday, February 10, 2025

Public Meetings:

Bessemer City Planning Board/BOA (City Hall)
Monday, February 3, 2025 at 6:00 pm

City Council Regular Session (City Hall)
Monday, February 10, 2025 at 7:00 pm

Bessemer City Parks & Recreation Board (Community Center)
Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 6:00 pm

Bessemer City Downtown Development (City Hall)
Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 9:00 am

Bessemer City ABC Board (ABC Store)
Monday, February 24, 2025 at 5:00 pm

City Council Work Session (City Hall)
Canceled in February

City Council Planning Retreat (Dhollandia Manufacturing)
Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 8:00am
Friday, February 28, 2025 at 8:00am



Did you know City Council Regular Meetings are now lived streamed on YouTube Live? Visit:

https://bessemercity.com/city-council-meetings/

WASTE COLLECTION REMINDERS FROM BESSEMER CITY

Excess Waste



City Ordinance 54.22 requires every household to use a roll out container provided by the City's contracted waste provider, Waste Pro. This eliminate wind driven debris and unsightly litter in and about residential and business areas. Trash bags left beside trash carts will not be collected.

You may request additional roll out containers by calling the Finance Department at (704) 629-5542.

Customers should bag all garbage. The City and Waste Pro are not responsible for garbage that scatters during the collection process. Please be sure that your trash container is not being overfilled. All trash must be placed directly in the container. The lid should always be closed. An open lid is a sign that you may have overfilled your cart.

Fines may be assessed if excessive trash is left next to your bin.

Bulk Pickup



Bulk pickup must be scheduled with Waste Pro by all customers.

Please call (980) 255-3800 to schedule pickup and to pay for bulk pickup services.

Bulk pickup is $35 for up to three (3) items and $15 for each additional item with a maximum of five (5) items per week.

Fines may be assessed for bulk items placed outside for pickup that are not schedule or paid with Waste Pro.

Reminders



1. Trash containers must be out by 7:00 am on the day of your pickup (We recommend putting them out the night before your scheduled pickup day).
2. Trash containers should not be overfilled. Packing the container too tight may result in the container not being fully emptied.
3. Lids should be completely closed.
4. Bags placed beside containers or loose trash will not be picked up.
5. Items such as sticks, yard clippings, leaves, and the like should not be placed in your cart. This should be placed at the edge of your property for the City to pickup (no charge).

Development Updates

Edgewood 85 Commerce Park: a 1,000,000 square foot industrial park scheduled to start in 2024 located off of Edgewood Road in Bessemer City. Coming in 2025 or later.

Lennar Homes: a 162 unit single family home project located off Costner School Road. The site is currently under construction with phase 1, including over 48 homes.

Stewart Crossing: a 99 unit single family home project located off Costner School Road. The site is currently being evaluated and engineering plans are being reviewed. This planned project will be located off of Costner School Rd directly behind the Ashley Park subdivision. This project is expected to have a pedestrian access bridge connecting residents to Stinger Park. The project has started. As of February 2025, the site has been nearly cleared and grading is taking place.

Surf and Turf Townhome Project: in 2021, City Council approved a 91 unit townhome project located off N. 14th St. beside of Surf and Turf Lodge on both sides. At this time, the project is expected to start in late 2024 or early 2025.

Yellow Jacket Ln Townhomes: a developer is planning to construct 62-69 townhomes at the corner of Yellow Jacket Ln and Besstown Rd. This property is currently zoned as Urban Residential Conditional District (UR-CD). City Council voted to approved the rezoning request at the May 2024 Regular City Council Meeting and in December 2024 with modification to conditions.

The Towns at Bessemer City: a developer is planning to construct 19, three story, townhomes at the corner of E. Virginia Ave. and N. 8th Street across from the Pet Hospital between Virginia Avenue and the railroad track.

Sunset Ridge: a developer is proposing to construct 93 single family homes off of Sherwood Road and North 14th Street for a new subdivision, Sunset Ridge. The property has been rezoned for the proposed subdivision.

NEW: Conditional District 05-2024 (Parkview Commons): Visit www.bessemercity.com/development-projects/ for rezoning details. This is for a multi-family project that includes up to 41 townhomes. The Planning Board plans to hear the project again at their Monday, February 3, 2025 Meeting and provide a recommendation. After a recommendation is provided, the City Council will tentatively establish a public hearing in March 2025 and tentatively vote in April 2025 on the rezoning request.

NEW: Conditional District 04-2024 (S. Skyland Dr.): Visit www.bessemercity.com/development-projects/ for rezoning details. This is for a three (3) unit single-family home subdivision. A Public Hearing was held on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 7:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers. City Council will discuss at the January 2025 Work Session Meeting. A vote on the rezoning will take place at a future Regular Meeting.



For More Information About Development Projects, visit:

https://bessemercity.com/development-projects/

Reminders from the Development Services Department

The Development Services Department would like to remind citizens and businesses that the City's Land Development Code (LDC) regulates the placement and type of accessory structures, fences, and signs. Permits are required to ensure that the regulations of the Land Development Code (LDC) are follows.

More information about the Land Development Code (LDC) can be found at:

https://bessemercity.com/planning-zoning/



Examples
- Storage Buildings
- Detached Garage or Carport
- Gazebo
- Decks

LDC Section 3.2 B
Accessory Structures



Examples
- Monument Signs
- Pole Signs
- Directional Signs
- Building Signs

LDC Section 3.8
Signs



Examples
- Aluminum
- Vinyl
- Chain-Linked
- Wood

LDC Section 3.5.H.
Fences, Walls, and Berms



Bee mine Valentine's Dance

Friday, February 7, 2025

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Allan Farris Community Center

(220 South 14th Street, Bessemer City)

Cost: $25 per adult/child couple

Tickets will include DJ, photo booth, games, refreshments and an evening full of fun and laughter!

Open to ALL YOUTH ages 5 to 14 and a special adult.

Dress attire is semi-formal and please no jeans, flip flops or shorts.

For more information please contact:
Bessemer City Parks & Recreation
(704) 629-5111
or visit bessemercity.com

Bessemer City

Cost $25 per Adult/Child Couple

General Reminders from the City

Utility Payments: Utility bills are due the 10th of each month. Late fees are assessed on the 11th (15%) and utility cut off occurs after the 19th of the month. The City provides multiple options for utility payment:

In-Person: cash, check, debit and credit (note- 3% merchant fee applies for debit and credit payments) are accepted at the City Hall Annex during business hours (M-F 8am-12:30 pm & 1:30pm-5:00pm)

Drop Box: cash, money order, and checks can be placed in the night-drop box outside of City Hall Annex. Please include account number and address with payment.

Drive-Thru: cash, check, money orders and credit payments can be accepted at the City Hall Annex drive-thru during business hours (M-F 8am-12:30 pm & 1:30 pm-5pm)

Online Bill Pay: debit and credit payments are accepted through our online bill pay system ($2 + 3% merchant fee). Visit us online at www.bessemercity.com for details.

ACH Draft Payments: setup automatic ACH payments with your financial institution with the City. The City and its third-party administrator does not charge for this service.

Code Enforcement: The City's Code Enforcement Division works diligently to address all code violations in accordance to local ordinances and North Carolina General Statutes (NCGS). To report a violation, please call (704) 629-5542 and select option 4.

For more information on City codes, including the Code of Ordinances and Land Development Code (LDC), visit:

bessemercity.com/administration/city-codes/



Your Water Department Reminds You To Keep Drains "FOG" Free

To ensure our sewer drains remain free of fats, oils, and grease which cause clogged lines and drains please try the following:

Use coffee grounds or kitty litter (or even some leftover powder laundry detergent) to absorb the oil and/or grease, and then dispose in the trash can. Use paper towels to wipe out greasy pots and pans after the fats, oils, or grease have cooled down.

Pour any leftover fats, oils, or grease into an empty coffee can or plastic container after they have cooled down and dispose in the trash can. Your children can have fun making a grease can by painting or coloring the outside of the can!

Please try to keep our sewer lines and drains clean and costs for clean-up and repairs at a minimum. Keep the Grease Gang away! Note: Please remember to let the fats, oils, or grease cool down before pouring into newspaper, cans, etc.

Cemetery Cleanup

- The City will conduct a Cemetery Cleanup at the Bessemer City Memorial Cemetery and Vantine Memorial Cemetery the last week of February 2025. Please visit www.bessemercity.com or call (704) 629-5542 for additional details.



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Let's Connect

(704) 629-5542

bessemercity.com

@BessemerCity

@CityofBC

City Hall and BCPD
132 West Virginia Avenue
Bessemer City, NC 28016
City Hall: (704) 629-5542
Police (non-emergency): (704) 629-2235

City Hall Annex
125 East Virginia Avenue
Bessemer City, NC 28016
(704) 629-5542

Bessemer City Fire Department
119 West Washington Avenue
Bessemer City, NC 28016
(704) 629-5396

Allan Farris Community Center
220 South 14th Street
Bessemer City, NC 28016
(704) 629-5111

Kiser Senior Center
123 West Pennsylvania Avenue
Bessemer City, NC 28016
(704) 729-6465

J.V. Tarpley Water Treatment Plant
298 Logan Street
Bessemer City, NC 28016
(704) 629-5542

Bessemer City Public Works
405 North 9th Street
Bessemer City, NC 28016
(704) 629-5542

The City of Bessemer City is an equal opportunity provider

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