Bessemer City
NORTH CAROLINA EST.1893
City with a Heart



May 2025
City Newsletter

Elected Officials:
Becky S. Smith, Mayor
Bill Whitmire, 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

Contents >>>

*Bill Whitmire Appointed to City Council

*Bessemer City Alive! Concert and Cruise-In Series- MAY

*37th Annual Down Home Festival

*City Calendar

*Development Updates

*Reminders from the Development Services Department

*Bessemer City Fact Check

*General Reminders From the City

*Let’s Connect

Bill Whitmire Appointed to City Council

On Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 3pm during a Special City Council Meeting, Mayor Smith swore in newly appointed Councilman Bill Whitmire. Mr. Whitmire was appointed by Council to finish the term of former Council Member Michael Brooks.

Mr. Whitmire has been involved with the City for a number of years serving as the Chair of the Bessemer City Downtown Development Board and serving in other local organizations such as the Bessemer City History and Arts Society.

Councilman Whitmire represents Ward 1 in Bessemer City.



Check out the City's Ward Map at:

https://bessemercity.com/download/city-ward-map/

<-- SCAN HERE

Dear Bessemer City Community,

It is with a heavy heart that I announce my resignation from my position as a member of the Bessemer City Council, representing Ward 1, effective March 10th, 2025 . This decision was not made lightly, and it comes after thoughtful prayer, deep reflection and careful consideration of my current ability to fully commit to the duties and responsibilities that this important role requires.

Serving on the City Council has been one of the greatest honors of my life. I am profoundly grateful to the residents of Bessemer City who placed their trust in me by casting their vote. Your support has meant the world, and it has been a privilege to be your voice in shaping the future of our community.

However, I recognize that attendance and active participation in Council meetings are vital to effective representation. It has become clear that my current circumstances prevent me from being as present and engaged as this role demands. To continue serving without the ability to fully participate by attending meetings would not only be a disservice to the Council but, more importantly, to the people I was elected to represent. I firmly believe that you deserve a representative who can dedicate the necessary time and energy to advocate for your needs and concerns.

While I am stepping away from my official role on the Council, my commitment to our community remains a priority. I plan to stay involved in local initiatives, support projects, and work alongside residents to keep Bessemer City moving forward. Public service is not bound by a title, and I look forward to continuing to contribute in every way I can.

In the near future, the City Council will announce next steps of appointing someone to finish out my term. I am confident they will work diligently to ensure a smooth transition and that Ward 1 will have the strong representation it deserves.

Thank you once again for the faith you placed in me. It has been an honor to serve you, and I remain dedicated to the betterment of our beloved community.
Sincerely,

Michael Brooks; Bessemer City Council, Ward 1



Former
City Council
Member
Michael Brooks
Ward 1

Bessemer City Alive! Concert and Cruise-In Series- May

Bessemer City ALIVE!

CONCERT & CRUISE-IN SERIES

Saturday, May 24, 2025
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
DOWNTOWN BESSEMER CITY!
MUSIC BY: Gary Lowder & Smokin Hot Band
Food, Entertainment,
Classic Car Cruise-In, and family fun!



May Event Sponsored by:

Piedmont Paving, Inc.

(704) 629-5542 bessemercity.com @BessemerCity @CityofBC

37th Annual Down Home Festival

Down Home Festival

DOWNTOWN BESSEMER CITY, NC

Thursday, May 8, 2025
6pm-9pm (rides only)

Friday, May 9, 2025
6pm-10pm

Saturday, May 10, 2025
12pm-10pm







Friday Main Stage
6:00 PM – Opening Ceremony and Rides Open
7:00 PM – Band: Julio and the Saltines

Saturday Main Stage
12:00 PM – Opening Festivities and Announcements
12:05 PM – Beauty Pageant Registration
1:00 PM – Miss Down Home Festival Pageant
7:00 PM – Band: Bailey Marie & The Tonez

Friday & Saturday Street Performers
Balloons By Becki
Sky High Skylar

visit bessemercity.com/dhf

(704) 629-5542 bessemercity.com @BessemerCity @CityofBC

City Calendar

Events & Programs:

Senior Bingo* (Community Center)
Monday, May 19, 2025

*Tickets Required: contact (704) 629-5111 for details

37th Annual Down Home Festival
Thursday, May 8, 2025; 6-9pm
Friday, May 9, 2025; 6-10pm
Saturday, May 10, 2025; 12-10pm

Concert & Cruise-In! (Downtown)
Saturday, May 24, 2025 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Important Reminders:

City Utility Bill Due
Saturday, May 10, 2025

Closures:

Memorial Day
City offices and facilities will be closed on Monday, May 26, 2025 in observance of Memorial Day.



Public Meetings:

Bessemer City Planning Board/BOA (City Hall)
Monday, May 5, 2025 at 6:00 pm

City Council Regular Session (City Hall)
Monday, May 12, 2025 at 7:00 pm

Bessemer City Parks & Recreation Board (Community Center)
Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 6:00 pm

Bessemer City Downtown Development (City Hall)
Thursday, May 27, 2025 at 7:00 pm **(NEW TIME)**

Bessemer City ABC Board (ABC Store)
Monday, May 19, 2025 at 5:00 pm

City Council Work Session & Budget Session III (City Hall)
Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 2:00 pm

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

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

Follow the 2025-2026 City Budget Development Process. Visit

https://bessemercity.com/budget

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.

Creekside Cottages: a 162 unit single family home project located off Costner School Road. The site is currently under construction with Phase I, including over 48 homes. Phase II has began.

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 and is currently installing utilities.

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.

Stratford Townes: a developer is planning to construct 63 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 project's plans are currently under staff review.

The Towns at Bessemer City: a developer is planning to construct 18, 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. Grading has started on the site.

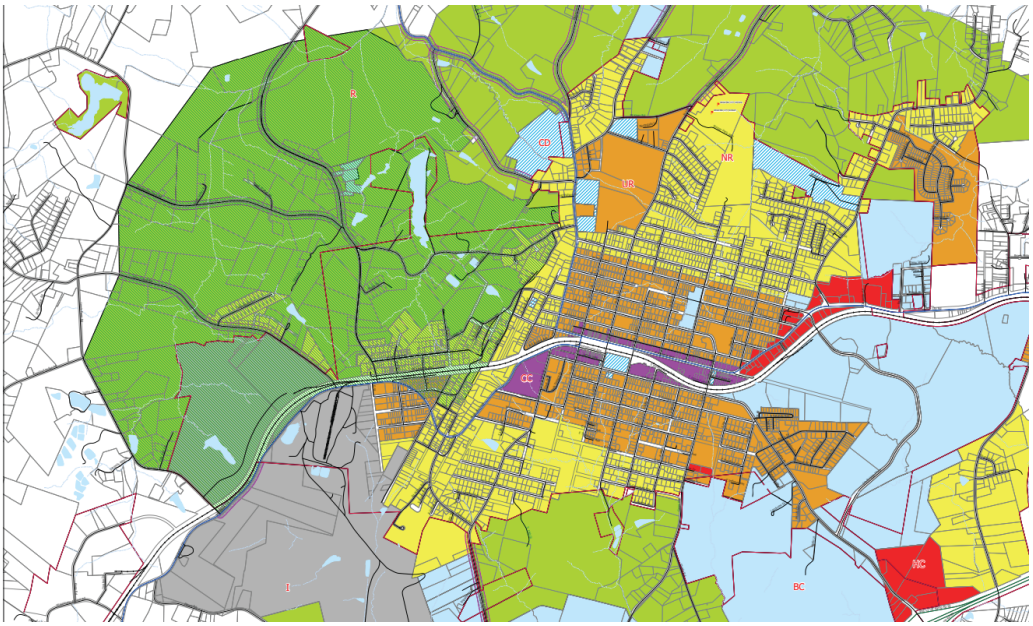
Sunset Ridge: a developer is proposing to construct 93 single family homes off of Sherwood Road and North 14th Street for a new subdivision, Sunset Ridge. The property has been rezoned for the proposed subdivision.

Conditional District 05-2024 (Parkview Commons): Visit www.bessemercity.com/development-projects/ for rezoning details. This was a multi-family project that included up to 41 townhomes. The Planning Board recommended the project with a 4:2 vote at their February 2025 Regular Meeting. City Council held a public hearing on Monday, March 10, 2025 at 7:00 pm to hear public comment about the project. Council planned to vote on this rezoning at the April 14, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting; however, the developer recended their request for a townhome project and plans to pursue a Single-Family Home Project. This project will go before the Planning Board for Recommendations and City Council for approval as required in the Bessemer City Land Development Code (LDC).



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

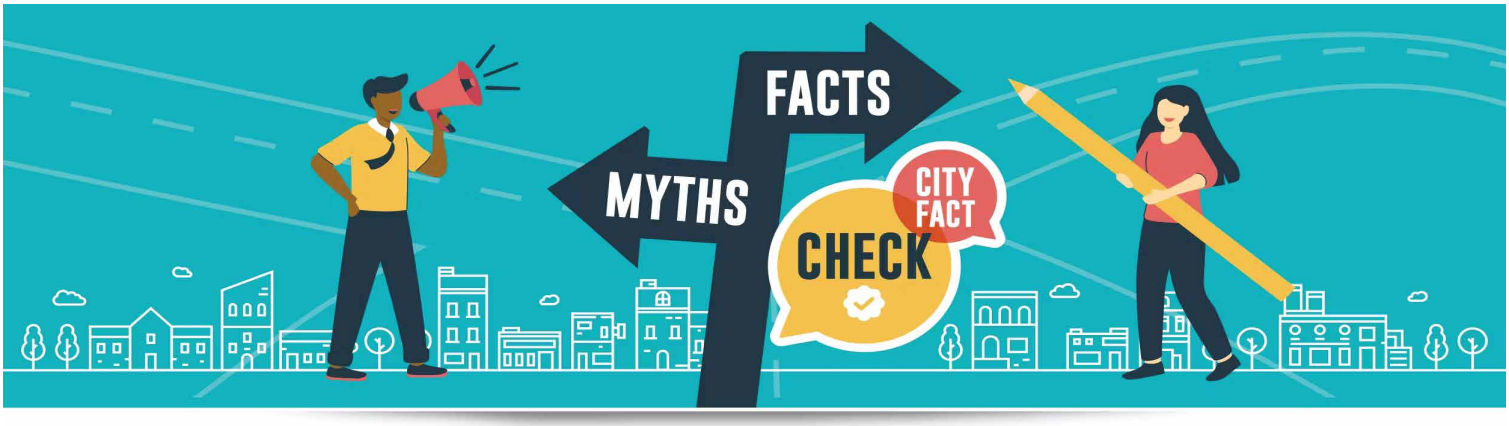
LDC Section 3.8
Signs



Examples
- Aluminum
- Vinyl
- Chain-Linked
- Wood

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

Bessemer City Fact Check



About

In today's world, information on almost any subject is available at our fingertips from a variety of sources.

Whether fact, fiction, opinion-based, or somewhere in-between, information travels quickly and sometimes can be contradictory, confusing and often overwhelming. The City has created a page to provide facts and accurate background information on some of the most widely discussed and compelling topics of the day. We hope you find this resource helpful.

#KnowYourFacts

Visit the BC Fact Check page at www.bessemercity.com/facts

Submit Your Question

You have questions and we believe you deserve timely, accurate information. BC Fact Check addresses questions and rumors residents have heard about the community and Bessemer City government. If there is a question or rumor not already addressed on this page, you can request an answer. Together, we'll build a more informed community.

Visit:
www.bessemercity.com/facts

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.

Apply to Serve on an Appointed Board!

Visit www.bessemercity.com to apply today!

Bessemer City
NORTH CAROLINA EST.1893
City with a Heart

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

A Publication from the City of Bessemer City
All Rights Reserved 2025