



January 2024 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



(704) 629-5542



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MLK Day of Service



Taking place each year on the third Monday in January, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service (MLK Day) is the only federal holiday that is also designated by Congress as a national day of service – a “day on, not a day off.” Participation in service activities has grown each year as more Americans are encouraged to provide meaningful change in their communities. Whether service meets a tangible need, such as fixing up a school or senior center, builds a sense of community or mutual responsibility. In a pandemic environment, service can take on the form of sending a meal through a meal delivery service, serving as a virtual mentor, or donating money to a charitable cause to help those who lack basic essential items.

No matter the choice, service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, creates solutions and moves us closer to Dr. King’s vision of a beloved community. It breaks down barriers by bringing people from different backgrounds together and it benefits those who choose to serve. Coretta Scott King said, “The greatest birthday gift my husband could receive is if people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds celebrated the holiday by performing individual acts of kindness through service to others.”

As stewards of America's lands and natural resources, the work we do at DOI epitomizes Dr. King’s belief in the power of service, as expressed in his legendary quote, “We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” In keeping with Dr. King’s example, let us embrace the belief that our destiny is shared and accept our obligations to each other, future generations and the American people by strengthening the bonds that hold together the most diverse Nation on earth. Each one of us can help answer his call by pledging to love and serve.

Article Source: US Department of the Interior

Link: <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/mlk-day-service>



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New City Council Members Take Office

On Monday, December 11, 2023, newly elected Council Members were sworn into office with their families. Newly Council Members include:

Becky S. Smith, Mayor-

Term: 2024-2028

Michael Brooks, City Council Ward 1-

Term: 2024-2028

Allen Hook, City Council Ward 3-

Term: 2024-2028

Brenda Boyd, City Council Ward 4-

Term: 2024-2028



Becky S. Smith, Mayor



Michael Brooks, City Council Ward 1



Allen Hook, City Council Ward 3



Brenda Boyd, City Council Ward 4



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City Calendar

Events & Programs:

Senior Bingo* (Community Center)
Monday, January 22, 2024

*Tickets Required; contact the Parks and Rec.
Department for details (704) 629-5111

Important Reminders:

City Utility Bill Due
Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Trash Pickup Delays
NEW YEARS-*Trash pickup will be delayed by one day
for Monday and Tuesday routes the week of New Years.
Thursday route will still be picked up on Thursday.*

*Monday's route will be picked up on Tuesday.
Tuesday's route will be picked up on Wednesday.
Thursday's route will still be picked up on Thursday.*

Closings:

New Year's Day
*City offices will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2024 in
observance of New Year's Day.*

Martin Luther King Day
*City offices will be closed on Monday, January 15, 2024
in observance of Martin Luther King Day.*

Public Meetings:

Bessemer City Planning Board/Board of Adjustment (City Hall)
Canceled for the Month of January

City Council Regular Session (City Hall)
Monday, January 8, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Bessemer City Parks & Recreation Board (Community Center)
Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 6:00 pm

Bessemer City Downtown Development (City Hall)
Monday, January 29, 2024 at 9:30 am

Bessemer City ABC Board (ABC Store)
Monday, January 29, 2024 at 5:00 pm

City Council Work Session (City Hall)
Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 3:30 pm



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City Council Meeting Schedule

<u>CITY OF BESSEMER CITY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE</u>		
<u>Holiday</u>	<u>DATE(S)</u>	<u>CLOSED DAY(S)</u>
New Year's Day	January 1	Monday
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	January 15	Monday
Easter Friday	March 29	Friday
Memorial Day	May 27	Monday
Independence Day	July 4	Thursday
Labor Day	September 2	Monday
Veteran's Day	November 11	Monday
Thanksgiving	November 28 and 29	Thursday and Friday
Christmas	December 24, 25 and 26	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

<u>BESSEMER CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE</u>	
<u>7:00PM CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS- 2ND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH</u>	
January 8	July 8
February 12	August 12
March 11	September 9
April 8	October 14
May 13	November 12
June 10	December 9

<u>BESSEMER CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING SCHEDULE</u>	
<u>3:00PM CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS- LAST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH</u>	
January 30	July 30
February 27	August 27
March 26	September 24
April 30	October 29
May 28	November 26
June 25	December- no meeting

<u>BESSEMER CITY PLANNING/BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS MEETING SCHEDULE</u>	
<u>6:00PM COUNCIL CHAMBERS- 1ST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH</u>	
January 2	July 1
February 5	August 5
March 4	September 3
April 1	October 7
May 6	November 4
June 3	December 2



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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 Planning Board/Board of Adjustment
- *Bessemer City Downtown Development Board
- *Bessemer City Parks and Recreation Board

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

SCAN HERE -->



Citizen Engagement



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New Gaston County Access Bus Route

JUMP ON IT!



Need transportation from and to Bessemer City?

Gaston County **ACCESS** is your affordable solution!

\$1 Each Way Monday - Friday

Service begins at 5:30 a.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m. at the Gastonia
Transit Bradley Bus Station. Trips to stops within 3/4 mile of the route
may be arranged in advance by calling 704.866.3206.

Stop	Location	Departure
Gastonia Transit Bradley Bus Station	121 N. Oakland St., Gastonia	30 minutes after the hour
Nature's Own Bakery Outlet	2602 Bessemer City Rd., Bessemer City	41 minutes after the hour
Ingles	1205 Gastonia Hwy., Bessemer City	44 minutes after the hour
Gaston County Public Library-Bessemer City Branch	207 N. 12th St., Bessemer City	47 minutes after the hour
Centennial Park	114 W. Virginia Ave., Bessemer City	48 minutes after the hour
Park Terrace Apartments	309 Park Terrace Dr., Bessemer City	50 minutes after the hour
Post Office	124 E. Alabama Ave., Bessemer City	51 minutes after the hour
First Wesleyan Church	510 E. Alabama Ave., Bessemer City	52 minutes after the hour
Dole Fresh Vegetables	220 Southridge Pkwy., Bessemer City	56 minutes after the hour
Advanced Drainage Systems	333 Southridge Pkwy., Bessemer City	57 minutes after the hour
Affordable Suites of America	1921 Bessemer City Rd., Gastonia	2 minutes after the hour
Gastonia Transit Bradley Bus Station	121 N. Oakland St., Gastonia	15 minutes after the hour



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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 selection option 4.

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

bessemercity.com/administration/city-codes/



<-- Scan Here

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.

Questions?

Call Customer Service at
(704) 629-5542



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Let's Connect

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

 (704) 629-5542

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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