



February 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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Contents >>>

***Black History Month**

***Stormwater Awareness**

***City Calendar**

***Bee Mine Valentine's Dance**

***Dixie Youth Baseball and Softball**

***Development Updates**

***General Reminders From the City**

***Who We Are**

***Let's Connect**



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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 2024 Theme

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

The Black History Month 2024 theme, “**African Americans and the Arts**,” explores the key influence African Americans have had in the fields of "visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression."



Maya Angelou- Poet



Ernie Barnes, Famous Painter-
The Sugar Shack



Nina Simone- Musician and Singer

Source: <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/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.



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Stormwater Awareness

Bessemer City is working to protect our local streams from being damaged by stormwater pollution.

When it rains, pollutants such as fertilizer, oil, grease and pet waste are picked up from the ground and carried into the nearest storm drain down the street. The storm drains are not connected to a treatment system, so everything that flows down the drain goes directly to the nearest water body.

You can make a difference and help us keep our local waters clean.

- *Adopt a couple of clean water habits to reduce pollution from your home and business.
- *Get involved with local projects and volunteer opportunities.
- *Report stormwater problems.

While citizens, businesses and industry are working to prevent stormwater pollution, Bessemer City is busy doing the same.

In 2005, we received a Phase II Stormwater permit that requires that we develop and implement a stormwater management program that includes the following measures:

- *Teach citizens and business owners about how they can prevent and reduce stormwater pollution.
- *Involve citizens in developing and implementing our local stormwater program.
- *Look for and remove unlawful discharges to the stormwater sewer system.
- *Regulate new development activities to ensure that they provide appropriate treatment for stormwater before it reaches local waterways.
- *Reduce and eliminate pollution resulting from our activities.

Stormwater Pollution

Examples of Stormwater Pollution:

- *Automotive fluids
- *Pet waste
- *Brake dust
- *Cigarettes
- *Leaves
- *Soil and garbage
- *Grass clippings
- *Litter



For more information about stormwater, visit:

<https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/energy-mineral-and-land-resources/stormwater>

Scan Here -->



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City Calendar

Events & Programs:

Senior Bingo* (Community Center)
Monday, February 26, 2024

Bee Mine Valentine's Dance* (Community Center)
Friday, February 2, 2024

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

Important Reminders:

City Utility Bill Due
Saturday, February 10, 2024

Public Meetings:

Bessemer City Planning Board/Board of Adjustment (City Hall)
Monday, February 5, 2024 at 6:00 pm

City Council Regular Session (City Hall)
Monday, February 12, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Bessemer City Parks & Recreation Board (Community Center)
Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 6:00 pm

Bessemer City Downtown Development (City Hall)
Monday, February 26, 2024 at 9:30 am

Bessemer City ABC Board (ABC Store)
Monday, February 26, 2024 at 5:00 pm

City Council Work Session (City Hall)
Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 3:30 pm

Quick Note

Is your contact information
updated with the City's
Customer Service Department?

Call today to make sure we
have your updated number
and email.

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Bee Mine Valentine's Dance



Bee
mine



Valentine's Dance

Friday, February 2, 2024

6 pm - 8 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



Cost \$25
per Adult/Child
Couple



(704) 629-5542



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Dixie Youth Baseball and Softball



**Dixie Youth Baseball & Softball Registration NOW
OPEN for ages 4 to 14.
Register online:**

<https://bessemercity.com/parks-recreation/recreation-sports/>

**For any questions please contact BC Parks & Recreation
Department at (704) 629-5111 or
email bwillis@bessemercity.com**



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Development Updates

Foundry Commercial: 280,000 square foot industrial project has been completed and awarded a Certificate of Occupancy (C.O.). This space is currently being marketed for lease.

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.

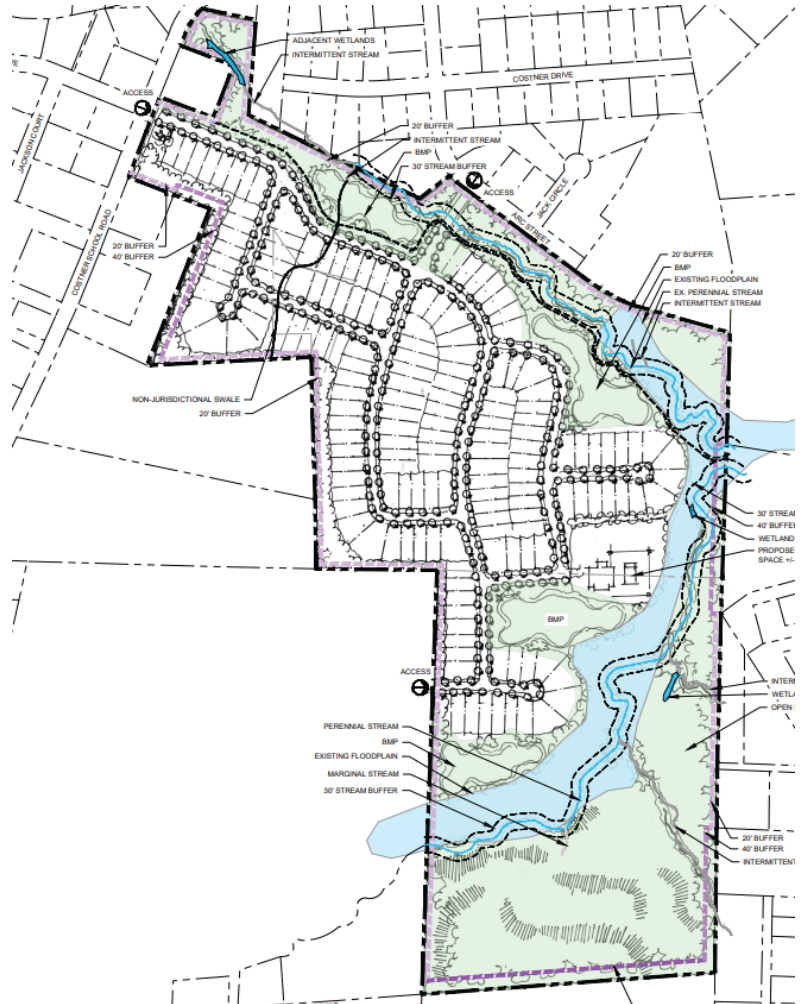
Lennar Homes: a 162 unit single family home project located off Costner School Road. The site is currently being graded and infrastructure install is scheduled to start in 2024. This project will have two entrances: 1) the main entrance will be at the Todd Dr./Costner School Rd. intersection. 2) the secondary entrance will be off Arc St.

Stewart Crossings: 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.

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.

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Yellow Jacket Ln Townhomes: a developer is planning to construct 77 townhomes at the corner of Yellow Jacket Ln and Besstown Rd. This property is currently zoned as Urban Residential (UR). The developer is requesting to rezone the property to Urban Residential- Conditional District (UR-CD). The Planning Board will review the application during their February Regular Meeting. City Council will hold a public hearing this month about the project.



Picture Above- Lennar Homes Project Located off Costner School Rd

For More Information About Development Projects, visit:

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



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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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Who We Are

Vision, Mission, Values, and Goals

Vision:

Bessemer City strives to be a unique and welcoming community that connects people to economic opportunities and a higher quality of life.

Mission:

Bessemer City provides high quality public services in a responsible manner that creates success.

Values:

Accountability
Ethics
Respect
Commitment/Dependability
Open-Mindedness
Honesty

Goals:

#1 Promote a desirable place to live and work that provides a healthy quality of life.

#2 Ensure a safe and secure community for residents and visitors.

#3 Invest in high quality infrastructure to support a thriving and diverse economy.

#4 Provide opportunities for citizen engagement and promote volunteerism.

#5 Foster organizational sustainability that embraces innovation and creativity.



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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