

► Festival Sponsors

Special thanks to the following businesses and individuals for helping to make this year's festival a great success!

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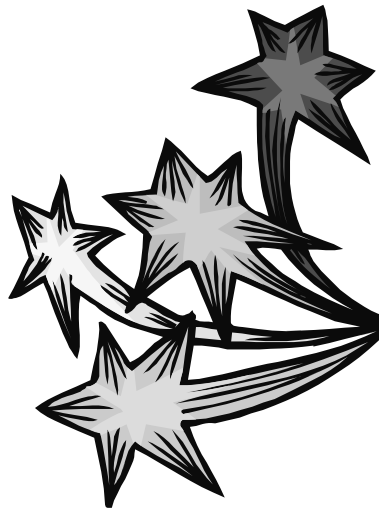
► Directions & Info

Driving to the 2008 Down Home Festival? From I-85, take Exit 13 and follow Edgewood Rd. into Bessemer City. Look for the festival signs. Festival activities will be held in the downtown area along Virginia Ave. For more information about the festival, give us a call at (704) 833-0362, (704) 833-0361 or (704) 629-5111.

Please, No Bicycles, Skateboards or Dogs at Festival

Down Home Festival 2008
City of Bessemer City
132 W. Virginia Ave.
Bessemer City, North Carolina 28016

Down Home Festival



2008

20th Anniversary

**POSTAL PATRON
BESSEMER CITY, NC 28016**

20th Anniversary

Down Home Festival



"Bring a chair and stay all day!"

Friday, May 9

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 10

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

DOWNTOWN BESSEMER CITY



**Gaston County's Most
Popular Spring Festival!**

Presented by the City of Bessemer City

► Festival Fun

It's the 20th anniversary of the Down Home Festival and you have the opportunity to enjoy two days of festival fun.

Friday, May 9 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. is Family Fun Night. The Summerdaze Band performs beginning at 6:00 p.m. for a street dance on Pennsylvania Ave. Grandma Hoyt's and the Masonic Lodge will provide food for the evening. Activities include a tethered hot air balloon ride and a fireworks display at 9:00 p.m. by Hale Artificier. Rides and amusements will be open with a special armband price of \$5.00.

On Saturday, May 10 from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., a wide variety of food and crafts vendors will line Virginia Ave. and civic clubs and churches will sponsor booths. Entertainment on three stages includes Summerdaze, Loaded Mule, Blue Creek and more. Also, don't miss performances by Mickala Sherbert, the BCHS Chorus, Scott Splawn, dance teams and a variety show.

Delicious hamburgers, hot dogs, funnel cakes, barbecue, cotton candy, ice cream, snow cones and speciality foods are just a few of the tasty treats festival goers will enjoy on Saturday. A wide range of crafts will be available and everyone can enjoy face painting, bake sales and much more.

The festival also features exciting amusement rides provided by Palmetto Amusements. Enjoy the Loop-O-Plane, Zorro Mechanical Bull and Giant Slide, to name just a few of the fun rides.

• ARMBAND SPECIAL

Buy an armband and ride all day! The festival's amusement ride armbands give children and adults unlimited access to the amusement attractions. Armbands cost \$5.00 for the Family Fun Night on Friday. Armbands cost \$12.00 for Saturday. Individual tickets also are available.

► 2008 Highlights

We're celebrating our 20th anniversary
This year's festival promises to be bigger and better than ever. We'll see you May 9-10 in downtown Bessemer City!

• BEAUTY PAGEANT

The Miss Down Home Festival Pageant will be held on the East Virginia Ave. stage (near SunTrust Bank) at 10:30 a.m. with girls newborn to age 19 competing for titles in various age categories. All contestants will receive a tiara and the winners become members of the Miss Gastonia queens' court. The entry fee is \$40.00. For information and an application, call Delores Cox at (704) 827-7277 or Todd Hagans at (704) 739-4842 or visit www.missgastoniapageant.com. Applications also are available at City Hall. The Miss Gastonia Scholarship Association, Inc. sponsors the pageant with proceeds benefiting the Miss Gastonia scholarship fund.

• JAZZ ALIVE 5K RACE/WALK

The annual 5K race is sponsored this year by the Bessemer City High School Student Government Association. Proceeds from the event will benefit the JAZ Alive Scholarship Fund in memory of Jonathan Lynn, Amber Vasquez and Zachary Elliott. The SGA invites the community to support the race as a way to honor and respect the three students lost during the 2007 school year. The race kicks off festival activities on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. and features a course for novice and advanced runners. The registration fee is \$20. Awards will be presented to the winners in a number of categories. Children and adults are invited to participate. For information, call Melissa Simmons at (704) 678-6027.

► Entertainment

This year's festival features top quality music and entertainment for the entire family!

■ Friday, May 9

The Summerdaze Band performs beginning at 6:00 p.m. and a spectacular fireworks display by Hale Artificier is set for 9:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Piedmont Paving and Carolina Grading & Site Development

■ Saturday, May 10

The opening ceremonies begin at 10:00 a.m. Don't miss a full schedule of entertainment including the Summerdaze Band, Loaded Mule, Kelly Paris & Lost Cause, Mickala Sherbert, Blue Creek, the Cochran Family, Scott Splawn & Three O'Clock People, the Country Legends Show, 2 the Extreme - Area Dance Teams, the Carolina Academy of Performing Arts, Bessemer City High School, Saddle Pals High Noon Gunfight, Crowders Mountain Fire and Rescue Smoke House, DJ Music and so much more!

• MOTORCYCLE DISPLAY

Carolina Harley Davidson joins the festival for one of the best motorcycle displays you've ever seen! A variety of Harley Davidsons will surely catch the eye of all motorcycle lovers.

• MUSEUM TOURS

The Bessemer City History and Arts Society is pleased to be a part of the Down Home Festival. Museum tours will be held on Saturday from 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m. at the museum located at 209 West Washington Ave., within walking distance of the festival. Admission is free and donations accepted. Everyone is invited to stop by to learn more about our fascinating history.