

COMMUNITY NEWS

News & Events for the City of Vestavia Hills • August 2019

A joint publication of the City of Vestavia Hills, Vestavia Hills City Schools & Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

August 2019

- 1 Design Review Board
Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 8 Vestavia Hills City Schools Begin
- 8 Planning and Zoning Commission
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 9 Back 2 School in the Hills
Philadelphia Baptist Church,
6:30 p.m.
- 12 City Council Meeting
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 13 Chamber Luncheon
Vestavia Country Club, 11:30 a.m.
- 15 Board of Zoning Adjustment
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 19 Council Work Session
Executive Conference Room, 5 p.m.
- 21 7th Annual National Senior
Citizen Day Celebration
City Hall, 4 p.m.
- 26 City Council Meeting
Council Chamber 6 p.m.

City Hall

1032 Montgomery Highway, 35216
205.978.0100 • vhal.org

Chamber of Commerce

1975 Merryvale Road, 35216
205.823.5011 • vestavi hills.org

Board of Education

1204 Montgomery Highway, 35216
205.402.5100 • vestavia.k12.al.us

Action Center

<https://vhal.org/action-center/>



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Ashley C. Curry, Vestavia Hills Mayor

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer. Many of you with school-age children are gearing up for the school year and I hope you took advantage of the sales tax holiday for back-to-school items and that you have or will continue to shop locally.

In Greek mythology, the phoenix was a long-lived bird that rose from the ashes of its predecessor and was continually regenerated. The City has recently implemented the Phoenix Program to strengthen our commitment to assist individuals that are struggling with addiction so that they can “rise from the ashes” of their past and into a new beginning.

We understand that there is a short window of time to help addicted individuals. Therefore, the

basic premise is to provide immediate assistance once an individual has consciously decided to seek help. Anyone, not just residents, may walk into any Vestavia Hills fire station or the police department at any time, day or night, and ask for help without fear of being arrested. If the individual has drugs on their person, the drugs will be confiscated, but no arrests will be made. The individual will be assessed by our first responders and then an appropriate recovery resource agency will be contacted straightaway. The responding agency then will provide the necessary assessment and placement depending on the individual's needs and financial ability.

There are some volunteer opportunities to assist with this program. If interested, please contact the City at administration@vhal.org.

– Mayor's Message continued on page 3



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeff Downes, Vestavia Hills City Manager

Six years ago, my family and I made the decision to leave Montgomery, Alabama so that I could take a job as the City Manager of Vestavia Hills. Our decision was more than a job choice. It was a family and lifestyle decision. A decision that was scary as much as anything else. My entire family had only known one city and had a lifetime of friends and acquaintances in Montgomery. Our decision was not based upon unhappiness with our current situation, but it was a recognition that we needed to professionally go to the next chapter in our lives. One would think that we should have known the culture of Vestavia Hills living a short hour or so from the third largest city in Jefferson County. Honestly, we did not. Our focus had always been on our hometown of Montgomery. As we contemplate our move six

years later, I have to say that my eyes have been opened widely at the wonderful community and culture that Vestavia Hills offers. These are not realizations unique to me, but they are realizations I hear over and over. The cultural highlights include an education system second to none, a welcoming and involved base of residents and a desire to be the best. I would like to take very personal experiences with my family to emphasize these points.

As I write, I am preparing to take my daughter, Sydney, to college at the University of South Alabama (USA) for her freshman year. A May graduate of Vestavia Hills High School, she was able to engage as a six-year veteran of our exemplary school system. This school system was able to prepare her to earn multiple scholarship offers. For a whole host of reasons

– Manager's Report continued on page 3



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Todd Freeman, Ed.D., Vestavia Hills City Schools Superintendent

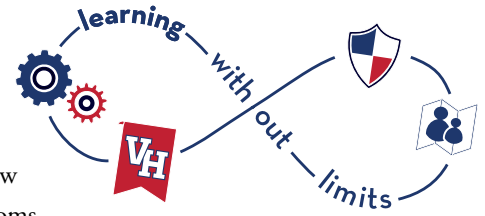
A New Season in Vestavia Hills City Schools

Beginnings are often the most joyous times in our lives. There is a special feeling that comes with the excitement of beginning something new. Perhaps it is a newborn baby, marriage, career change, or buying a new house that excites you. Or maybe it is the simple, yet welcomed, change of seasons. I especially enjoy when summer turns to fall. The air cools, leaves change to beautiful colors, and Friday night lights fill the autumn sky!

This year, my wife and I become official parents in Vestavia Hills City Schools as our oldest son begins kindergarten. I'm more energized than ever at each new season in the life of my family and am reminded of a quote from Eric Liddell, on whom the movie Chariots of Fire was based. He said, "I believe God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure." Though I am not a runner, it is exciting to experience that same pleasure in keeping pace with our little Rebels as they grow up!

The month of August is exciting for educators as it is the beginning of a new school year. If you happen to be at school on the first day, you'll see lots of smiling faces eager with anticipation of seeing old friends, meeting new friends, and igniting their passion for learning.

Our wonderful school system begins a new season this August as we welcome Vestavia Hills Elementary Dolly Ridge to our family. This year, for the first time, all five of our elementary schools will house students in kindergarten through fifth grade. This configuration of grades will best support our mission of providing all students opportunities to learn without limits. Some of our students and families will become part of a new school family, whether they be at Dolly Ridge, East, or West. The staff at all three schools will also



enter a season with new colleagues and classrooms.

While I'm sure there will be surprises and adjustments with all this newness, I am also confident that the people who are a part of this system will move it to even greater heights!

Benjamin Franklin made a comment at the conclusion of the Constitutional Convention that I think is appropriate to this new season in Vestavia Hills. When speaking of the chair George Washington sat in throughout the convention, Franklin noted that the sun engraved on the back of it was rising, not setting. With that theme in mind, I know the best days lie ahead for our school system. I encourage students, families, and staff to embrace this school year as an unprecedented opportunity in time, seize the moment of greatness that it has for each of us, and welcome this new season with enthusiastic optimism.



Jackie O
Est. 1948

Jackie O'Neal School of Dance
www.jackieoneal.com
jackieonealdance@aol.com
205.822.6212



Back 2 School
In the Hills

Friday, August 9 6:30 pm
Philadelphia Baptist Church
3001 Pumhouse Road

Presented by:

- ARC REALTY
- PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST CHURCH
- DEBORAH'S DAYCARE
- JAMM
- PHILADELPHIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
- VESTAVIA HILLS CHRISTIAN FAMILY

Enjoy rides & inflatables for kids, tweens, teens & adults! Check out fun freebies from our sponsors and catch a family movie at dusk!
Find more details at www.vestaviahills.org

Please: NO Pets

Mayor's Message *continued from page 1*

Jonathon Tische has written a book entitled *The Power of We: Succeeding through Partnerships*. Tische, the Chairman and CEO of Loews Hotels, has been described as the "preeminent leader of the \$500 billion travel and tourism industry." In his book, Tische reminds us that working together yields the best results. This is true for industry as well as municipal government.

Vestavia Hills is a great place to live for many reasons. As I have frequently stated, one reason for our success is the number of volunteers who serve through our school organizations, boards and commissions, parks and recreation organizations, Chamber of Commerce, civic clubs and other City groups. These volunteers are part of the "Vestavia Hills Team" and our City staff and elected officials are also part of the team. We are inextricably linked and dependent on each other to achieve our goals.

Our Community Spaces and Infrastructure Plan is a current example of how our team developed a program by garnering input from stakeholders, planning accordingly and now implementing the plan. To say, "I did this," whether it is me or any member of city government, is simply not accurate. "We did this" is a more accurate statement. As leaders, we need to be careful about self-promotion rather than doing what is best for the team (which in our case is the City and the citizens we represent). Leaders who routinely state "I did this" rather than "we did this" promote themselves instead of recognizing the contributions of the broader team. I am proud to be part of the Vestavia Hills team.



City NEWS

Keeping Vestavia Hills Connected & Informed

Interested in an additional way to stay informed about events and projects going on in Vestavia Hills, including updates on road and sidewalk projects? If so, register for the "City News" electronic newsletter by visiting www.vhal.org, scrolling to the bottom of the home page and entering your email address where you see "Sign Up For Our Newsletter."

Don't worry ... We won't overload your inbox with junk mail. "City News" emails are typically sent only twice per month, usually following City Council meetings. (Additional emails may be sent to distribute emergency information when warranted.)

Manager's Message *continued from page 1*

she chose USA. One is her ability to cheer at the next level and another is to have access to one of the best nursing programs in the region. This is the same child that did not make the freshman cheerleading squad but, through hard work and persistence, became one of the leaders of the cheerleaders over the next three years. The academic lessons and life lessons offered by our school system will be a foundational piece of Sydney's life. Thank you Vestavia Hills!

Over the last few weeks, Vestavia Hills has been mourning the loss of Joanne Mote. The past leader of the City Christmas parade, business woman, mother and grandmother, historian and all-around friend – she epitomized Vestavia Hills. My wife, Penny, had become particularly close to Joanne and has stated to me more than once that Joanne lived a life to be modeled by her and others. Without the move to Vestavia Hills such friendships and iconic figures would not be brought to life for me and my family. Thank you Vestavia Hills!

And finally, I have been able to view first-hand the strong desire for the collective Vestavia Hills citizenry to be the best they can be in many different areas and a desire to live a life above. I see it in athletic achievements – both school and recreationally based. I see it in the creative arts as our residents bring a quality of life both to our community and the greater community outside of Vestavia Hills. I see it in strong opinions on how we should improve our community assets. I see it in the strong desire to keep our traditions alive. Thank you Vestavia Hills!

Well, by now, I guess anyone can see the writing on the wall. I can speak and share the wonderful virtues of Vestavia Hills first-hand as a six-year resident, one of many leaders of this fine city, and as a family that made a great decision to move here in July of 2013. Thank you Vestavia Hills!

★ The Vestavia Hills Police & Fire Departments Present ★



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2019
5:30-8:00 p.m.
Vestavia Hills City Hall

**Free Food . Live Music . Local Vendors . Safety Demos
Kid's Activities . Pet Friendly!**

Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy a night of free family fun!
Community Night Out is an opportunity for residents to join VHPD and VHFD in the promotion of public safety. There will be a special Bicentennial celebration this year that you won't want to miss!

VHFD AT SUMMER CAMP

Each summer for more than a decade, Vestavia Hills Fire Department personnel have volunteered as Camp Conquest counselors on Lake Martin. Camp Conquest is a summer camp for children who have been treated for burn injuries at Children's of Alabama. Campers experience a traditional summer camp with peers who have traveled the same road. Much of the volunteer staff is a mix of professional fire fighters and burn unit staff from Children's.



VHFD, along with Forge Fitness and many other community partners, will host a CrossFit competition on September 28, 2019 to raise money for Camp Conquest. If you are interested in registering or supporting Camp Conquest, please contact Adrian Millican at amillican@vhal.org or register online at <https://www.conquestevents.net/events/the-forge-inferno/details>.



VESTAVIA HILLS

A LIFE ABOVE

Please join us for the
**7TH ANNUAL NATIONAL SENIOR
 CITIZEN DAY CELEBRATION**

"An Evening with Steve Flowers"

Wednesday, August 21, 2019
 4:00-6:00 p.m. at
 Vestavia Hills City Hall
 1032 Montgomery Highway
 Vestavia Hills, Alabama

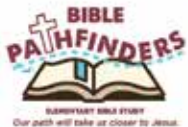
- 4:00-5:00 p.m. Reception with wine, refreshments and light hors d'oeuvres
- 5:00-6:00 p.m. Keynote speaker, Steve Flowers

Please RSVP by August 16, 2019 to Julie Harper at 205.978.0169 or jharper@vhal.org



VHUMC | A PLACE FOR KIDS

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR



SUMMER SERVO SERVE

Our path will take us closer to Jesus.

Wednesday night Bible study, 6:00 - 7:00 pm, for 1st - 5th graders following a path to know Jesus. We learn through music, memory verses, skits, lessons, game, and more!

Wednesday night class, 6:00 - 7:00 pm for children ages 3K-5K, teaching Bible truths through prayer, praise music, crafts, and scripture lessons.



MUSIC & ARTS

Ministry for Children

After-school - 5:00 pm for children K-5th grade, providing the opportunity to be creative in sessions such as choir, bells and chimes, drama, visual arts, drumming, and Orff instruments. We offer transportation from Vestavia East, West, Dolly Ridge and the Vestavia Day School to VHUMC every Wednesday.

MARRIAGE NIGHT

Come enjoy a night to laugh and learn with your spouse significant other as you hear from marriage experts and discover how to honor God in your marriage/relationship.

Friday, August 16, 2019 | 5:30 - 9:00 pm
 VHUMC - Tyson Hall
 Registration: vhumc.org/events

Speakers



Francis & Lisa Chan
Co-authors of You and Me Forever



Les & Leslie Parrott
Bestselling co-authors of Love Talk



Michael Jr., Comedian
Featured on The Tonight Show



CHAMBER NEWS

Karen J. Odle, Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce President

I am not sure where the summer went! The first week in August finds the teachers already back at school working to get ready for students the next week! We have many things planned for August as well as the rest of 2019. I hope you will mark your calendar and join us at all events possible.

Please mark your calendar and be sure to join us August 9 as we celebrate the start of school at the 6th Annual "Back 2 School" event in Cahaba Heights. We are grateful to Philadelphia Baptist Church for partnering with us as we celebrate Back 2 School at their facilities located at 3001 Pumphouse Road! This event is brought to you by the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with JAMM Entertainment, Deborah's Party Rentals and Birmingham Christian Family with ARC Realty being our title sponsor for the event. We will have inflatables for the entire family, a DJ, a business expo with our incredible sponsors that make this event a reality, and at dusk will have a family movie. Check www.vestaviahills.org for the name of the movie as well as other updates for the event.

We hope that you have enjoyed "Savoring the Summer" as we have explored the many fantastic restaurants that we have in Vestavia Hills –

over 100 of them! We will be collecting everyone's envelopes to see who our winners are for the \$500, \$300 and \$200 gift cards so I hope you have saved your receipts. Be sure to get them to the Chamber office by August 5 to be part of this fun effort.

I hope by now you have received your 2019 Vestavia Hills Living. Make sure you read the story on our Vestavia Hills High School students that started a new program this past year called RISE. We have been so impressed with their efforts that we chose to feature some of them on our cover this year. There are many great things that are happening in our city. We have had tremendous feedback from our residents on the magazine, so I hope you enjoyed your copy. If you missed receiving your issue, please stop by the Chamber office and pick one up. We strive with each issue to provide information about different areas of our city. Please support the advertisers in this magazine as we would not be able to mail this to every resident without their support.

Remember, Shop, Dine and Play local! Our local businesses support our community and our schools. So, let's keep them vibrant as we all strive for "A Life Above."



2019 PROJECT REQUEST

The Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce and City of Vestavia Hills are planning the 5th annual Helping Hands in the Hills, a day of service in the city to assist our residents (senior citizens, disabled, etc.) who need a helping hand with minor projects around their home. This fun community service day will be Saturday, September 14, 2019. To submit a project for consideration, complete the form below and submit it to the Chamber of Commerce at 1975 Merryvale Road, Vestavia Hills, AL 35216. For more information or to volunteer, contact the Chamber of Commerce at 205.823.5011 or email dianez@vestaviahills.org.

DEADLINE FOR PROJECT REQUEST SUBMISSION: AUGUST 14, 2019

Your name* _____

Phone number* _____ E-mail* _____

Contact name* *(Name of person in need, if different from above)* _____

Project address* _____

Project description* _____

Number of hours required for 6-8 people to complete? _____

Homeowners must provide needed tools and supplies to complete project request, i.e. rakes, mower, trimmers, wheelbarrow, pine straw/mulch. Requests for pressure washing projects will NOT be considered.

Special instructions _____

**Required information*

TIME FOR FALL SPORTS!

For information or to register for the youth fall sports offered through Parks & Recreation, call 205.978.0166 or visit the websites listed below for each sport.

Baseball

Vestavia Hills Youth Baseball provides recreational baseball opportunities for youth living in Vestavia Hills and the surrounding areas. Registration for the fall league is available online at www.VHYB.com NOW through August 18, 2019. Fall league games run September through November.

Soccer

Vestavia Hills Soccer Club sponsors recreational soccer programs in the fall and spring of each year. The fall soccer season runs from September through November and the spring season runs from February through May. Players can choose to play one or both seasons and may play at either Liberty Park* or Central Field. Registration is open NOW through August 9, 2019. For more information or to register online, visit www.vestaviasoccer.com.

*Please note that all U9-U19 recreational soccer is played at Liberty Park Soccer Complex.

Softball

The VHGSA fall season consists of two pre-season practices and five games (all on Sundays) starting September 8, 2019 and running through October. Registration opens August 5, 2019 and the cost is \$75 per player for Vestavia residents. For more information or to register online, visit www.vhgsa.com or email vhgsoftball@gmail.com.

NEW MERKEL SENIOR CENTER

Join us for monthly programs, nutritional education, events and guest speakers. We also play games EVERYDAY!

Monday-Friday: Fun, fellowship & lunch (served at 11:45 a.m.)

Tuesday: Tai Chi & Table Games, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Students from VHECH visit New Merkel House for "Getting to Know You" lunches (during the school year)

Wednesday & Friday: Bingo or Table Games, 11:00 a.m.

Thursday: Tech Talk Thursdays

August 13: Art with Tina Chaffin

August 16: Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Milar, Bluffs at Greystone

More information, including the **full calendar of Senior Programming activities**, can be found on the City website at <https://vhal.org/community/senior-living/> or by contacting Melanie Perry at 205.967.5977.

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HELPING HANDS IN THE HILLS RECYCLE DAY

September 14, 2019
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at City Hall

Items available to be recycled include electronics, paper and household hazardous waste.* In addition, VHPD officers will be on-site to collect unneeded and/or expired medications for disposal. (Needles will NOT be accepted.)

**Proof of Vestavia Hills residency required for hazardous waste disposal.*

For additional information, including the full list of items being accepted for recycling and any applicable charges, visit https://vhal.org/event/helping-hands-in-the-hills-recycle-day/?instance_id=4014.

Special thanks to: PROTEC Recycling, Republic Services and Gone for Good (a program of United Ability)



LIBRARY IN THE FOREST

Full descriptions, including location and online registration, are available on the Library in the Forest website at www.vestavialibrary.org.

TEENS: 205.978.3683 (Grades 6-12)

- 2 Open Gaming, 4 p.m.
- 9 Open Gaming, 4 p.m.
- 13 Fortnite Night, 4 p.m.
- 14 Writing Group, 4 p.m.
- 16 Open Gaming, 4 p.m.
- 20 Stained Mason Jars, 4 p.m.
- 21 Teen Art Group, 4 p.m.
- 23 Open Gaming, 4 p.m.
- 27 Anime Night, 5:30 p.m.
- 28 Writing Group, 4 p.m.
- 30 Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Tournament, 4 p.m.

ADULTS: 205.978.4678 (Ages 18+)

- 1 Read & Feed Book Group at Taziki's, 6:30 p.m.
- 2 First Friday Fiber Arts, 10 a.m.
- 5 Knit Night in the Forest, 6 p.m.
- 7 Makerspace for Adults, 6:30 p.m.
- 8 Afternoon Tai Chi, 2 p.m.
Alabama & the Great Influenza, 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Upcycle City, 7 p.m.
- 12 Tai Chi for Beginners, 6 p.m.
- 13 Ms. Olivia's Evening Reads, 5 p.m.
- 14 ABCs of Medicare, 1 p.m.
- 22 Afternoon Tai Chi, 2 p.m.
- 26 Tai Chi for Beginners, 6 p.m.

CHILDREN & TWEENS: 205.978.0158 (Preschool-Grade 5)

- 1 Share YOUR Alabama Story, 10:30 a.m.
*This is the only Children's program for August.
Programming will resume Tuesday, September 3, 2019.*

TECHNOLOGY: 205.978.4679

- 13 Apple Mobile Devices w/Connect It, 2 p.m.
- 15 Intermediate Microsoft Excel, 4 p.m.
- 19 Google Drive, 6 p.m.
- 21 Facebook Basics, 2 p.m.
- 27 Apple Photos, 10 a.m.

MAKERSPACE: 205.978.3683 (All ages, unless otherwise noted)

- 5 Open Maker Lab, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- 8 Intro to 3D Printing, 4 p.m.
- 12 Open Maker Lab, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- 14 FIY: Fix It Yourself, 4 p.m.
- 17 Open Maker Lab, 1-5 p.m.
- 19 Open Maker Lab, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- 22 Vinyl Cutting 101, 4 p.m.
- 23 Cosplay Dojo, 4 p.m.
- 24 Open Maker Lab, 1-5 p.m.
- 26 Open Maker Lab, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- 27 Tear-Down Tuesday, 4 p.m.

AUGUST PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

Program & Event Calendars



Program and event information for every department is now available in one handy book. Be sure to pick

one up today at the Library in the Forest!

Cosplay Dojo with @Morrisworld

Interested in cosplay and prop making but not sure where to start? From materials to techniques, Cosplay Sensei Sarah Morris will show you the ropes on August 23 at 4 p.m. Registration required. Register online or call 205.978.3683. Ages 13+.

Using Google Drive



Need to backup your files?

Learn how Google Drive, a cloud-based file storage and synchronization service, is the perfect tool! August 19 at 6 p.m., we will discuss how to create and share Google docs, slides and sheets. **Class participants must have a Gmail account and know their password.** Registration required. Register online or call 205.978.4679 to register.



City of Vestavia Hills
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 Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
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 www.vhal.org

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