

COMMUNITY NEWS

News & Events for the City of Vestavia Hills • March 2021

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



CHARLES A. “SCOTTY” MCCALLUM: A LIFE WELL LIVED

Former Vestavia Hills mayor, Charles A. “Scotty” McCallum, Jr., MD, DMD, passed away in the early morning hours of January 16, 2021. McCallum was an accomplished oral and maxillofacial surgeon, and also a successful educator. Over the course of many years, he served as an instructor in the UAB Dental School, became a full professor of dentistry, was named Dean of the Dental School, served as Chair of the Oral Surgery Department and ultimately became President of UAB in 1987. One of McCallum’s most notable achievements as UAB President was formally establishing the UAB football program.

After retiring from UAB, a group of Vestavia Hills residents encouraged him to run for mayor. His campaign slogan was simple and to the point – “Go Scotty.” During his two terms as mayor, he definitely did “go.” His contributions to the City we enjoy today include: development and implementation of a sidewalk construction plan; acquiring property now known as the Sicard Hollow Athletic Complex; annexation of Cahaba Heights into Vestavia Hills; recruitment and engagement of the business community; implementation of professional financial controls and policies; and community involvement through a series of advisory committees. In 2010, his leadership and service to the City of Vestavia Hills was honored by renaming Little Shades Creek Park to “McCallum Park.”

McCallum’s civic, social and charitable contributions were substantial. He was a wonderful man and a dedicated servant

to many and will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Mayor Ashley Curry had the pleasure of knowing him for many years, both before and after his two terms as Vestavia Hills mayor. Mayor Curry said, “I am thankful to have had the opportunity to know Scotty. His impact on the City of Vestavia Hills will be felt for many, many years. He leaves a tremendous legacy.” City Manager Jeff Downes also spoke fondly of former mayor McCallum, “Many of the successes we see today are a direct result of the foundation laid by Scotty McCallum. He was a fine man and an influential member of our City government. His many contributions to the City of Vestavia Hills will continue to benefit our residents for years to come.”

According to his family, McCallum’s mission in life was to “make the world a better place.” By our measure, he was more than successful in achieving that mission.

Well done, good and faithful servant.
– Matthew 25:23



Mayor Ashley Curry is pictured with former mayors Sara Wuska, Scotty McCallum and Butch Zaragoza. Photo taken March 11, 2019.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The events and dates provided are subject to change. Please refer to the calendar on the City of Vestavia Hills website at <https://vhal.org/calendar> for the most up-to-date information.

March 2021

- 4 Design Review Board,**
Executive Conference Room,
6 p.m.
- 8 City Council Meeting,**
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 9 Chamber Luncheon,**
Zoom, 12 p.m.
- 11 Planning & Zoning
Commission,** Council Chamber,
6 p.m.
- 15 Council Work Session,**
Executive Conference Room,
6 p.m.
- 16 Parks & Recreation Board,**
Executive Conference Room,
7 a.m.
- 18 Board of Zoning Adjustment,**
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 22 City Council Meeting,**
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 22 Spring Break Begins,**
Vestavia Hills City Schools



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

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

As a teacher of American history, I gleaned much insight into the finer points of communication from many of our nation's leaders. Dr. Martin

Luther King Jr., and President Ronald Reagan, for example, were gifted in casting a vision for our nation through spoken word. Their gifted orations inspired audiences to strive for a more perfect union while acknowledging the challenges before them. And because of excellent communicators like this, the national conversation about a better future continued forward.

In late January, I had the privilege of watching the *We the People* class at Vestavia Hills High School win their state competition. *We the People* is a program that "promotes civic competence and responsibility" through "interactive strategies, relevant content and a simulated congressional hearing." Successful teams effectively articulate their responses to perplexing historical questions through the lens of the U.S. Constitution and other pivotal events in America's past. In this year's competition, VHHS student teams prepared for questions on topics that ranged from a Supreme Court decision on legislative districts to the historical impacts of the Civil War.

Teacher and sponsor Amy Maddox summed up their performance by saying, "I have been enormously proud of the *We the People* students all year. They have worked through unprecedented circumstances to achieve their goals. Traditional and remote students have coordinated to work as a team to prepare for district and state competitions. I am

so grateful for the students' efforts and could not have been happier with the manner in which they represented themselves



We the People at Vestavia Hills High School

and our school during their win at state competition in January."

The voices that contribute positively to moving our nation forward are those which are most informed. The VHHS teams are perennial state champions because they consistently employ the fundamentals of great communication. Each team had command of the historical context around the questions, confidently articulated their position in thoughtful debate, and responded to the judges' questions in a respectful and informed manner.

Speaking, debating and otherwise engaging in crucial conversations are meaningful only when participants are willing to first be good listeners and interested learners. *We the People* reinforces the idea that our nation is stronger when we all embrace the responsibility to be informed citizens. Imagine the strength of our nation if we all followed the lead of this next generation of leaders!

SPRING YARD JUDGING

Vestavia Hills Beautification Board members will conduct the annual Spring Yard Judging April 5-12, 2021. Yards will be judged on their appearance and how well they are maintained. Winners in each area will receive a certificate of appreciation from Mayor Ashley Curry and will host a "Winning Yard" sign until the end of the month. We look forward to seeing the beautiful yards and blooms in our city!



City NEWS

Keeping Vestavia Hills Connected & Informed

Have you registered to receive the digital newsletter from the City of Vestavia Hills? **Sign up today so you won't miss a thing.** It's easy! Visit www.vhal.org, scroll to the bottom of the home page and simply enter your email address to have the newsletter delivered directly to your inbox!



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Ashley Curry, Vestavia Hills Mayor

Every year, the cold of winter melts away and spring brings a new beginning. I hope that our new beginning will bring hope that the coronavirus is under control and we can begin to restore normalcy in our city.

I am optimistic that, with the continued vaccination of citizens, we can get the virus under control and be able to host events that were canceled last year.

In spite of the virus, our Community Spaces Plan is moving right along. Cahaba Heights Park is completed and Wald Park is not far behind. Opening day for baseball was February 27 and the inaugural Miracle League season will kick-off this spring. The Grand Lawn and playground should be completed by April. The Vestavia Hills Aquatic Complex, already completed, will open for this year on Memorial Day weekend. We are tentatively planning to celebrate the completion of all of these amenities in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce and I Love America Day on June 24.

The City works through a third-party vendor to conduct a citizen survey every three years. The results of the 2020 survey were received recently and presented to the Council during the February 11-12, 2021 Strategic Planning Session. The survey asked residents to rate their level of satisfaction with City services. As always, our police department, fire department and library continue to receive high ratings. Sanitation service categories also saw marked improvements under our new provider. As we continue with repaving plans and sidewalk construction, we anticipate future improvement of ratings in all "quality of streets" categories. Also, once the Community Spaces projects are complete, we look forward to improved ratings of City parks and quality-of-life amenities.

The Council was honored to recognize individuals in our police and fire departments at the February 8 Council meeting.



Officer Daniel Holly was recognized for his heroic action in the rescue of an elderly motorist whose vehicle left the roadway and entered the Cahaba River on January 12, 2021. Without hesitation, Officer Holly entered the water and removed the driver from the vehicle. He provided assistance until paramedics arrived and transported the victim. During all of this, Officer Holly was experiencing pain from

appendicitis and once the incident was handled, Officer Holly was driven to the hospital and underwent an emergency appendectomy.

On the evening of January 25, the Vestavia Hills Fire department dispatched several units, including the recently acquired heavy rescue unit, to assist with tornado victims in Fultondale. VHFD personnel

responded to a residence with catastrophic structural failure and an occupant who was pinned in the house from a fallen tree. As the heavy rescue crew shored-up the dwelling, multiple fire personnel attended to the victim. **Deputy Chief Ryan Farrell, Fire-Medic Matthew Brown, Apparatus Operator Mat Burkett, Lieutenant Roger Mauldin, Fire-Medic Lawrence Pugliese, Fire-Medic Javaris Robertson, Fire-Medic Josh Roper and Fire-Medic Eric**



Tucker were recognized for their exemplary service during this crisis. We are thankful for their actions to secure the structure and prepare the patient so that UAB surgeons, who had been summoned to the scene, could safely amputate that patient's leg so that he could be transported for emergency treatment.

Please join me in congratulating these individuals. I am very proud of our first responders.

MAYBERRY DOESN'T EXIST ANYWHERE ANYMORE



Please do not misunderstand, Vestavia Hills is a wonderful community with a measurably low crime rate, but crime does unfortunately occur in Vestavia Hills.

VHPD is reminding residents to lock their

vehicles and conceal or remove their valuables. This practice alone could substantially reduce the number of these crimes in our city. If you are victim of this type of crime, please report it. Reports help us identify trends and allocate resources more effectively. Mayberry may not exist anywhere anymore, but this is our community and if we all do our part, look out for one another and take reasonable steps to protect ourselves and our property, we can continue to insure Vestavia Hills is "A Life Above."

IT'S TIME TO LOCK UP #9PMROUTINE

UPCOMING events

MARCH 2021

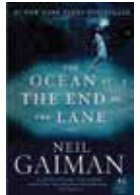
Children (Birth-Gr. 1) | **Tweens** (Gr. 2-5) | **Teens** (Gr. 6-12)
Adults (Ages 18+) | **Tech** (Ages 18+) | **Makerspace** (All ages, unless noted)

ALL PROGRAMS & EVENTS ARE ONLINE ONLY.
Additional information, including online location and registration requirements, is available at www.vestavialibrary.org/event-calendar.

- 2 **12 Bel^ow**, 2pm, YouTube
Smash Bits!, 4pm, YouTube
Eighth of March Book Group: *Hood Feminism*, 6pm, Zoom
- 3 **OLLI Presents: I Want to Publish My Story**, 12pm, Zoom
Writing Group, 4pm, Zoom
- 4 **Chess Club**, 4pm, Zoom
Tic-TECH-Toe: Pet Tech, 4pm, YouTube
Read & Feed Book Group: *Rodham*, 6pm, Zoom
- 5 **What's It?**, 10am, YouTube
Open Gaming Goes Online, 4pm, Discord
- 9 **Storytime Stars**, 10:30am, YouTube
Teen Librarians Take On Teen Trivia, 4pm, YouTube
- 10 **OLLI Presents: From the Quad to the Stadium**, 12pm, Zoom
Among Us, 4pm, Discord
- 11 **Tara's Creative Corner: Spring Wreath**, 3pm, YouTube
- 12 **Book Talks with Pet Pals of Librarians**, 10am, YouTube
Open Gaming Goes Online, 4pm, Discord
Library Libations: Baileys Coffee Slushies, 6pm, YouTube
- 16 **Picking Up S.T.E.A.M!**, 2pm, YouTube
Lauren's Book Buzz, 4pm, YouTube
- 17 **Escape the Madness**, 4pm, Zoom
- 18 **Tech in Ten: Libby**, 4pm, YouTube
Kahoot Trivia Challenge: *Bridgerton*, 6pm, Facebook



- 19 **What's It?**, 10am, YouTube
Open Gaming Goes Online, 4pm, Discord
- 22-26 **Spring Break Community Scavenger Hunt**, Daily, Various Locations
- 23 **Storytime Stars**, 10:30am, YouTube
AI: ARTificial Intelligence, 4pm, YouTube
- 24 **Art Group**, 4pm, Zoom
- 25 **Kara Recommends: *The Ocean at the End of the Lane***, 3pm, YouTube
- 26 **Makercade**, 3pm, YouTube
- 30 **12 Bel^ow**, 2pm, YouTube
Tara's Creative Corner: How to Make a Face Mask, 3pm, YouTube



VESTAVIA HILLS
LIBRARY IN THE FOREST

For more information, visit vestavialibrary.org/event-calendar or call 205.978.0155.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

12 Bel^ow Features trivia, games, challenges and activities online for school-aged children.

AI: ARTificial Intelligence Join Derek as we see how fast a machine learning neural network can recognize his doodles. Based on this “Quick, Draw!” experiment: <https://quickdraw.withgoogle.com>

Among Us Join us on Discord and see if you can figure out who the impostor is or fool all of your friends! Link available at vestavialibrary.org/event-calendar.

Art Group Enjoy drawing, sketching or doodling? Play drawing games, like Drawful 2, or learn basic drawing exercises you can do at home.

Book Talks with Pet Pals of Librarians Watch our librarian’s pets talk about their favorite book this week!

Chess Club Join one of your peers – a decorated chess champ – and learn to play or challenge other veterans! For students grade 6-12 only (no adults).

Eighth of March Book Group *Hood Feminism* by Mikki Kendall. Link is available at vestavialibrary.org/event-calendar.

Escape the Madness It’s March Madness at the library! Work with your friends to solve our bookish puzzles and leave as a 2021 Library March Madness Champion.

Kahoot Trivia Challenge: Bridgerton Everybody is buzzing about Bridgerton, the hot new Netflix series based on Julia Quinn’s novels. Test your knowledge of the Bridgerton family!

Kara Recommends See Kara’s book trailer for *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*, the brilliantly imaginative and moving fairy tale from Neil Gaiman, the modern master of wonder and terror.

Lauren’s Book Buzz Looking for a new book to dive into? Check out Lauren’s latest Book Buzz to find your next favorite read!

Library Libations: Baileys Coffee Slushies Start your St. Patty’s Day off right with this Baileys Coffee Slushy, a perfect pairing of cold-brew coffee and Baileys. It’s not green, but you will definitely feel lucky after drinking this delicious, icy treat!

Makercade Join us as we explore some fun maker projects that combine STEM and gaming!

OLLI Presents: From the Quad to the Stadium The University of Alabama’s Crimson Tide home field and campus are something to behold! Join us for the history and changes both have undergone. Registration required. Register online at olli.ua.edu or call 205.348.3000.

OLLI Presents: I Want to Publish My Story An independent bookseller will discuss the process and pitfalls of bringing your works out into the world. Registration required. Register online at olli.ua.edu or call 205.348.3000.

Open Gaming Goes Online Join us on Discord to play Super Smash Bros and Jackbox.tv games. Link available at vestavialibrary.org/event-calendar.

Picking Up S.T.E.A.M! Ms. Holly and Ms. Marie share fun STEAM-themed activities for all school-aged children. Most activities planned with things you have at home so you can play along!

Read & Feed Book Group *Rodham* by Curtis Sittenfeld. Zoom link is available at vestavialibrary.org/event-calendar.

Smash Bits! We’ve combined our teen’s best Smash Bros plays into one hard-punching reel! Want to make our next highlights? Join us in Open Gaming Goes Online every Friday at 4pm!

Spring Break Community Scavenger Hunt Each morning during Spring Break, a clue will be posted on the library’s front window, leading you to a community business that is part of our scavenger hunt! Follow the clue to visit the business, tell them you are participating in the library’s scavenger hunt and they will give you a prize!

Storytime Stars Join Ms. Anjie and Ms. Lisa for stories, songs, puppets and learning fun. For ages five and under.

Tara’s Creative Corner: How to Make a Face Mask Are you a beginner at sewing? Tara will show you how to create unique face masks with supplies you already have on hand at home. It’s fun and easier than you think!

Tara’s Creative Corner: Spring Wreath Welcome Spring with a wreath made of upcycled book pages. We’ll get you started with all of the supplies. Free Take & Make Bags available while supplies last. Call 205.978.4678 or email terri.leslie@vestavialibrary.org to reserve your bag.

Tech in Ten: Libby Tech tips in 10 minutes or less! Learn how to use the Libby app to get free library eBooks and audiobooks anywhere, anytime.

Teen Librarians Take On Teen Trivia See which of our Teen Librarians knows the most about teen literature, TV shows and culture!

Tic-TECH-Toe: Pet Tech Celebrate National Puppy and Cuddly Kitten Day with these tech ideas for your furry friends. Keep your pet pals safe, entertained, well trained or comfy with the latest tech toys and gadgets.

What’s It? What IS that thing? See if you can guess what the strange object could be! Answers will appear in the following show. Tune in to see if you were right!

Writing Group Join our writing group to share ideas and build writing skills while providing feedback to one another.

For more information, visit vestavialibrary.org/event-calendar or call 205.978.0155.

RECREATION CENTER

Still too cold to get outside to exercise? You and your family can exercise in comfort at the Recreation Center. Membership is FREE for Vestavia Hills residents!

Times vary for Open Play at the Recreation Center Gym.

Visit <https://vhal.org/parks-facilities> for the current schedule.

The walking track at the Rec Center is open daily:

Sunday	1:00-8:00pm
Monday-Friday	7:00am-9:00pm
Saturday	8:00am-8:00pm

CLASSES, PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Parks and Recreation offers a variety of classes for Vestavia Hills residents, including:

- Jazzercise
- Tai Chi
- Pickleball
- Baton
- Karate

For a full list of programs and activities currently offered, visit the Parks and Recreation website at <http://bit.ly/VHParksandRec> or call 205.978.0166.

NEW MERKEL HOUSE

Although indoor gatherings remain on hold at New Merkel House, City staff and volunteers are continuing to deliver meals to Meals On Wheels participants, as well as delivering puzzles, word searches, art projects and nutrition education materials.

This month, City staff will host a St. Patrick's Day trivia contest to be held outdoors – as long as the weather cooperates! As the weather turns warmer, be on the lookout for additional outdoor events and games to be offered for senior residents. All events will strictly adhere to safety protocols, including mask requirements and social distancing.

AQUATIC COMPLEX

2021 Membership Costs

Pool Passes will be on sale beginning late April/early May:


- \$75 individual (0-54yo)
- \$25 senior adult (55+)
- \$300 max per family
- \$10 daily guest pass (*Guests must be accompanied by a member. Max of one guest per member per day.*)

Proof of Residency

Aquatic Complex membership is open to Vestavia Hills residents only. When purchasing 2021 passes, a current driver's license or other state-issued photo identification is required for proof of residency. If your I.D. does not list your current Vestavia Hills address, you may bring your photo I.D. along with a current utility bill bearing your name and accurate address.

Summer Lifeguards

Interested in working as a lifeguard this summer? For more information or to apply, contact Jeff Corley at jcorley@vhal.org or 205.978.0166.



The Parks and Recreation staff continually to explore new and exciting programming for our residents. Is there a **class, program or new sport** you would like to see offered? Are there **camps or workshops** that you wish you or your children could participate in? Is there a **special event** that you think would be of great interest to you and your neighbors? Please let us know your thoughts and ideas by emailing Jeff Corley (jcorley@vhal.org) and/or Sandi Wilson (swilson@vhal.org).



CHAMBER NEWS

Karen Odle, Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce President

We have a lot of things happening in our city this spring! We are keeping our fingers crossed that we will be able to be “back in person” by the second quarter of this year. We are making plans to move forward, but will remain flexible if things change. Please make note of the following upcoming dates and be part of making Vestavia Hills a great place to shop, dine and play.

We are **tentatively** rescheduling the Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast for later this spring. We look forward to welcoming Brodie Croyle as our keynote speaker. Brodie now serves as the Executive Director at the Big Oak Ranch, taking over for his father, John Croyle. Big Oak Ranch was founded in 1974 by John Croyle out of his desire to give hurting children a chance. Since 1974, they have served over 2,000 children by giving them a solid, Christian home and a chance to fulfill God’s plan for their lives. We are delighted to welcome Brodie as our speaker and to hear about the impact of Big Oak Ranch on these children. Ticket information will be available on the Chamber website (www.vestaviahills.org) and via social media as soon as a specific date is determined.

Since the beginning of the year, we have celebrated the grand openings of Altadena Eye Care in Dolly Creek Station and The Backyard Market in the former Joel’s Restaurant. These are incredible businesses and we are thrilled to have them in Vestavia Hills! Please do all that you can to support our local businesses that have taken a leap of faith and opened during the pandemic – stop by, say hello and shop their stores. For more information about why the Chamber always encourages “Shopping Local,” visit <https://www.vestaviahills.org/how-taxes-work> to view a video that breaks down where taxes go and what services are provided when you shop, dine and play local.

Mark your calendar for June 24 and join us for I Love America Night, which will be held in conjunction with the completion of the Grand Lawn at Wald Park. We look forward to celebrating our country along with the completion of this wonderful community amenity. We are working on some exciting additions and look forward to sharing more about this fun celebration in future newsletters!

Last, but not least, be sure to check the Community Calendar on our website and join us when you can for additional ribbon cuttings, as well as other community events. Feel free to drop by and see us or email us thoughts on ideas you may have as we work together for “A Life Above.”

Ask a child what he dreams of doing in the future. His answer brings everything into focus for us.

WE DO WHAT WE DO
BECAUSE CHILDREN HAVE DREAMS.



Children's of Alabama



DOWNTOWN RUSSELL CAMPUS
1600 7TH AVENUE SOUTH
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35233
(205) 638-9100

VESTAVIA PEDIATRICS
1936 OLD ORCHARD ROAD
VESTAVIA HILLS, AL 35216
(205) 978-3200



INVEST IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

The Help the Hills Coalition is a community group with a united mission: to end the use and abuse of harmful substances among youth in Vestavia Hills and to promote healthy living.

Your investment allows us to provide important resources for parents and guardians in our community, including information for healthy living and prevention of substance abuse.

To donate today, visit
<https://givebutter.com/HelpTheHills>

Help the Hills Coalition has applied for Section 501(c)(3) status and approval is pending.



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