

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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



ABOVE AND BEYOND

The night of October 6, 2021 brought torrential thunderstorms that produced excessive rain totals in our area – 6-10 inches of rain fell in the vicinity of Highway 31 and Interstate 65. This rain fell onto already saturated ground resulting in a major flood event throughout Jefferson and Shelby counties. Trees fell. Roads closed. Homes flooded.

As reported by the National Weather Service – Birmingham, “... the most severe flooding occurred from Birmingham southward, including Vestavia Hills, Hoover, Helena, Pelham and immediate surrounding areas. Numerous roads became submerged and impassable. Countless water rescues were performed as travelers either became trapped by or drove into flood waters. Extreme runoff ... caused creeks and other waterways to rapidly swell. There was at least one report of a partial landslide in Pelham, sending dirt, rocks and pine trees onto the road.”

Ron Keith, an elderly resident of north Shelby County, was attempting to make his way home from church as the storm began to rage. Unfortunately for Mr. Keith, his regular route was not passable. After being rerouted multiple times due to road closures and downed trees, he found himself to be completely lost. He had been trying, without success, to make his way home for nearly three hours. He did not know what road he was on; he didn't even know what city he was in. Lucky for Mr. Keith, he had made his way to Vestavia Hills and crossed paths with Lieutenant Ken Sherer.

Lt. Sherer was finishing up his work at the scene of a downed tree on Massey Road when Mr. Keith asked for directions to Highway 280. Despite the chaos of that night, Lt. Sherer recognized that this gentleman was in need of a little extra help and he was happy to give it. He exchanged cell numbers with Mr. Keith and proceeded to drive from Massey Road to Highway 280 with Mr. Keith following close behind.

Once they reached Highway 280, Lt. Sherer asked Mr. Keith to call his cell when he arrived home. The storm was raging so it took quite a while for Mr. Keith to reach his home in the Valleydale Road area, but he made it safe and sound.

Mr. Keith took the time to contact the City of Vestavia Hills to share this story and express his immense gratitude for the grace, compassion and patience he received from our officer on that fateful night.

Thank you, Lt. Ken Sherer, for going above and beyond to help your fellow man. We are incredibly proud of you and all of the men and women who keep us safe in Vestavia Hills.



Lieutenant Ken Sherer,
Night Shift Watch Commander
Vestavia Hills Police Department

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

November 2021

- 4 Design Review Board,**
Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 7 Daylight Savings Time Ends**
- 8 71st Anniversary of City of Vestavia Hills Incorporation**
- 8 Senior Citizens Luncheon,**
Dogwood Room, 11:30 a.m.
- 8 City Council Meeting,**
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 9 Chamber Luncheon,**
Vestavia Country Club, 11:30 a.m.
- 9 Salute to Veterans Celebration,**
VHUMC, 2 p.m.
- 9 Planning & Zoning Commission,**
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 10 Veterans Celebration,** New Merkel House, Time TBD
- 11 Municipal Offices Closed,**
Veterans Day
- 13 Deck the Heights,** Cahaba Heights Shopping District, 2 p.m.
- 15 Council Work Session,**
Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 16 Parks & Recreation Board,**
Executive Conference Room, 7 a.m.
- 18 Annexation Committee,**
Executive Conference Room, 3 p.m.
- 18 Board of Zoning Adjustment,**
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 18 All is Bright Tree Lighting,**
Vestavia City Center, 6 p.m.
- 22 City Council Meeting,**
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 25 & 26 Municipal Offices Closed,**
Thanksgiving*
- 30 Tree Lighting Festival,**
City Hall, 6 p.m.

**Annwaste closed Thursday ONLY; remainder of weekly routes will be serviced on a one-day delay.*



Ashley Curry,
Mayor
City of
Vestavia Hills

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

In November we celebrate two big events: Veterans Day and Thanksgiving.

It would be safe to say that if it were not for our veterans, we probably would have nothing to celebrate. Without the freedoms that they fought for, we would not be able to live in a country that allows the quality of life that we enjoy. We must honor and

remember the service of our men and women in the military presently as well as those who served previously. The sacrifices made by our veterans should never be forgotten.

On June 6, 1984, the 40th anniversary of D-Day, President Reagan gave a speech on the high cliffs of Normandy. Known as the "The Boys of Point du Hoc" speech, President Reagan said, "Strengthened by their courage, heartened by their valor and borne by their memory, let us continue to stand for the ideals for which they lived and died."

In Vestavia Hills, we will be remembering our veterans with two separate events. There will be a Veterans celebration at Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church on Tuesday, November 9 and another celebration on Wednesday, November 10 at New Merkel House in Cahaba Heights. All are welcome to attend both of these events.

On October 3, 1789, George Washington issued his Thanksgiving Proclamation, designating for the people of the United States a "day of public thanks-giving" to be held on Thursday, the 26th day of November, starting in 1789.

As we approach Thanksgiving, we should take a moment to remember all the things for which we are thankful. I will mention a few:

- I am thankful for our nation, the freedoms we enjoy and the veterans who have served our country.
- I am thankful to live in Vestavia Hills, where people care about each other and their city. I am grateful for our citizens' investment in making our City even better.
- I am thankful for the Vestavia Hills police, fire and public safety employees who keep us safe and so often are the first to respond when tragedy strikes.
- I am grateful for our many City employees who are dedicated to serving Vestavia Hills and do so to the best of their abilities.
- I am thankful for our many faith-based organizations that provide hope, build community and provide opportunities for outreach.
- I am thankful for our excellent schools and for the teachers and administrators who improve the lives of our children every day.

Mark your calendar for these other upcoming holiday events:

- The annual Tree Lighting Festival, November 30 at City Hall beginning at 6:00pm.
- The inaugural Menorah Lighting Ceremony, December 1 at City Hall beginning at 5pm. Event details are available on the City's website and social media channels.

In closing, I am grateful for this community and for all the people in it. I wish each of you a very happy Thanksgiving!



VESTAVIA
HILLS

Salute to Veterans

Honoring Those Who Served

Mayor Ashley Curry and the City of Vestavia Hills are honored to present "Salute to Veterans." This annual Veterans Day celebration features patriotic-themed entertainment followed by a reception honoring all branches of service. This year's keynote speaker is Colonel (retired) Brian Hastings who serves as the current Director of the Alabama Emergency Management Agency.

Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at VHUMC
(2061 Kentucky Avenue, 35216)

Submit Service Member Photos

To be included in the event video, please email a scanned photo of yourself, family members or friends who have served or are currently serving in any branch of the military to vhplcommunications@gmail.com. Please include: (1) service member's first & last name; (2) military rank; (3) branch of service; (4) military conflict/theater of operation; and (5) dates of military service (if available).

If you previously submitted a photo, no need to resubmit.

We hope to see you November 9!



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

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

A well-organized and executed “game plan” is synonymous with success in athletic competition. For those who have played a sport at some point in life, we all realize that a game plan is the strategy you take into competition that always gets adjusted. A business plan, military operation or a school strategic plan are the same way.

They all start with a foundation of goals with action steps to achieve success while recognizing the likely need to be agile and change when necessary.

In the fall of 2021, VHCS Athletics undertook a visioning process to set the stage for the future of our program. The process of designing our future was led by a steering committee made up of executive leaders throughout the community. Coaches, parents, former and current student athletes and community members all participated in some form in the process. The result is a plan that is aligned with the mission and goals of our school system, the Alabama High School Athletic Association, and National Federation of State High School Association. You can read the plan on our website at www.vestavia.k12.al.us.

The vision of the 1REBEL 1FUTURE athletic plan is “to lead the way as a premier athletic program in student-athlete success with

distinction in academic achievement and athletic competition through innovation and by maximizing potential and an uncompromising commitment to the mission and values of Vestavia Hills Athletics.” The core values for student-athletes in our athletic program are sportsmanship, personal development, safety, community engagement and leadership.

The visioning process outlined six emphasis areas for the future: academic and athletic excellence; personal development, and well-being of student-athletes and students; facilities improvements; funding and external support; gender equity, diversity, and inclusion; school and community engagement, marketing, support and collaboration; staffing, leadership and professional development of staff. We will take these emphasis areas and develop actionable steps to making them become a reality. And, we will commit to continually adjusting them so that we provide a premier experience for our student-athletes.

For any plan to be successful and a vision realized, it must have exceptional leadership. Coach Myra Miles is that kind of leader and joined the Vestavia Hills City Schools team this summer as our new Director of Athletics. You can hear Coach Miles talk more about 1REBEL 1FUTURE by tuning in to The Intentional Pursuit podcast located on our website.

Window fashions to match every design personality.



Designer Screen Shades

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From traditional to contemporary, Hunter Douglas window fashions enhance the beauty of any décor. Contact us to explore the wide variety of fabrics, textures, styles and colors for your home. Whatever you select, your rooms are sure to be inviting for years to come.

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Sun: Closed
(205) 822-3548
www.blinds-birmingham.com

HunterDouglas  Gallery



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**Karen Odle,
President**

Vestavia Hills
Chamber of Commerce

CHAMBER NEWS

Happy fall! The weather is gorgeous and fall is in the air. It inspires me to embrace the holidays that are around the corner and, as I reflect on the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, I want to say how thankful I am for our incredible community. When I am asked why Vestavia Hills is so special, I immediately respond that it's the people.

While we have a beautiful community and are blessed beyond what any of us deserve, it would not be what it is without the countless folks that give so selflessly to make a difference in Vestavia Hills. For that, I am thankful!

I am also thankful for our wonderful businesses that strive every day to serve our community. Your efforts contribute so much toward affording the things that we value, such as outstanding police and fire departments, updated parks and recreation facilities and trails, an outstanding library, dedicated City staff and elected officials and incredible leadership at our Board of Education. We have much to be thankful for.

Please remember to support our brick-and-mortar businesses, as they are the mainstay of our city. So many of our businesses are still struggling to overcome the loss of income during the height of the pandemic, so when you are thinking about your holiday shopping,

please shop our local businesses first. It is harder to replace a business than it is to keep one, so let's do our part and NOT take the easy way out and shop online! Support our brick-and-mortar businesses ... it DOES make a difference to our community.

We have welcomed or scheduled many upcoming ribbon cuttings and would like to invite you to stop by and welcome these new businesses to Vestavia Hills. They have a choice where to locate their business and we are grateful they chose Vestavia Hills! These new businesses include Grand Cantina (Dolly Creek Station); God's Sitting Partners (Cahaba Heights); Cahaba Concierge Medicine (Liberty Park); FlexCare Infusion Center (Dolly Creek Station); Reveal Beauty (Acton Road); Community Bank (Liberty Park); AllStar Realty (Columbiana Road); and Nx Nails (Dolly Creek Station). Be sure to check the Chamber website at www.vestaviiahills.org for the latest ribbon cutting event information. We would love to see you there!

I hope you will save the adjacent Holiday in the Hills events page. There are many fun events scheduled to kick-off the holidays with SHOP DINE PLAY in Vestavia Hills. So, make plans to participate in this fun start to the holiday season.

On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, we wish you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

DON'T INVITE VHFD TO DINNER!

With the holidays fast approaching, attention will soon turn to families and food. How many people are coming for dinner? How many sweet potatoes do I need? How many gallons of gravy will Uncle Quint put on his turkey? While these are all good questions, the Vestavia Hills Fire Department wants you to ask yourself ... How can I safely cook my meal for a "kitchen-fire free" holiday?

According to the National Fire Protection Association, cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and injuries. Keep in mind the following tips while cooking this holiday season:

- Always stay in the kitchen when frying, broiling, grilling or boiling food. If you leave the kitchen for any reason, turn the stove off.
- When simmering, baking or roasting food, use a timer as a reminder to check the food regularly.
- Keep all flammable materials away from your stove. This includes oven mitts, towels, food packaging, etc.
- Do not cook when sleepy. Many kitchen fires start when people start cooking and then fall asleep (while planning to "rest for a few minutes").



If you do have a small fire on a stove, cover the pan with a lid and turn off the burner. **DO NOT put water on a grease fire.** This will spread the fire and possibly injure you. If you have a small fire in the oven, turn the oven off and leave the door closed. If all else fails, get out of the house, close the door behind you and call 911 from outside!

Stay safe Vestavia Hills!



Vestavia Hills

Presented by the City of Vestavia Hills & the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce
Visit www.vestaviahills.org for more details and an extended list of events.

Deck the Heights

November 13

Cahaba Heights, 2:00-7:00 pm

Join the merchants of Cahaba Heights for family fun, entertainment & holiday cheer! Check out Holiday Pop Up Shops all around Cahaba Heights starting at 10:00 am.

All is Bright

November 18

Vestavia City Center, 6:00 pm
700 Montgomery Highway

Join the Vestavia City Center for their 2nd annual Tree Lighting to kick off the holiday season!

Tree Lighting Festival

November 30

Vestavia Hills City Hall, 6:00 pm
1032 Montgomery Highway

Enjoy entertainment, merchant give-aways, a visit with Santa & the lighting of the tree!

Menorah Lighting

December 1

Vestavia Hills City Hall, 5:00 pm
1032 Montgomery Highway

See the lighting of the Menorah and enjoy refreshments and activities!

Breakfast with Santa

December 11

Vestavia Hills Civic Center, 7:30-10:00 am
1975 Merryvale Road

Bring the whole family for a pancake breakfast with Santa! Free to attend-Breakfast courtesy of the City of Vestavia Hills.

Vestavia Hills Christmas Parade

December 12

Liberty Park Sports Complex
to Alston Meadows, 2:00-4:00 pm

Enjoy the city's official parade!

Register to be in the Parade!

Find the form at www.vestaviahills.org.

We help navigate the mental health system for teens and children.

Psychiatric Intake
Response Center (PIRC)
205-638-PIRC
(7472)

The PIRC is a confidential service provided by licensed mental health professionals that connects adult callers to mental health resources for children and teens.

PIRC is NOT a crisis or suicide hotline. Call for mental health resources.



Children's
of Alabama®

The PIRC is generously supported by funding from the Anne B. LaRussa Foundation of Hope, Brasfield and Gorrie, LLC, the Daniel Foundation of Alabama, the Hill Crest Foundation, the Gorrie family, and the Walker Area Community Foundation.



WELCOME TO VESTAVIA HILLS!

Have seen the new avenue banners on Highway 31 and in the Rocky Ridge Road and Cahaba Heights districts? Thank you to the Vestavia Hills Beautification Board for their dedication to welcoming visitors to our beautiful city!

Photographed with one of the new banners (left to right): Anne Boston (Beautification Board Chairman); Cinnamon McCulley (City of Vestavia Hills Communications Specialist); and Mary Kate Clemons (Beautification Board Landscape Chair)

PARKS & RECREATION

MIRACLE LEAGUE

The Miracle League's fall season wrapped up at the end of October. Practices and games were filled with lots of fun and the players enjoyed every moment. We cannot wait for the spring season to kick off! If you are interested in volunteering with the Miracle League, contact Allison Maners at allisonmaners@icloud.com. Stay tuned for spring registration information coming soon!

CHILDREN'S ART CLASSES

Join us for children's art classes at the Rec Center! Instructor Svetlana Belotserkovskaya will teach a variety of art techniques related to scale, composition, shading, color theory and values. Students will learn to draw using various media, including charcoal, colored pencils, watercolor, acrylic, pastel and much more.

Classes are held on Wednesdays from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Ages 6+; \$110 per month (4 classes); Pick up from VHEW extended care is provided. For more information or to register, call/text 205.862.2789 or email artinbirmingham@gmail.com.

RECREATION CENTER

Rec Center membership is FREE for all Vestavia Hills residents! Be sure to visit <http://bit.ly/VHParksandRec> for more information and operating hours for the walking track, open gym times, Jazzercise and pickleball.

SENIOR ADULT ACTIVITIES

Senior Luncheons

Senior Luncheons are back! Bring your friends or meet someone new to enjoy an entertaining afternoon! Contact Ruby Denson (205.822.8788) for more information or to make your reservation.

New Merkel House

Coffee & Conversations begin at 10am and hot lunch is served Monday through Friday beginning at 11:45am.

Join us for Daily Activities!

Mondays Stretching exercises, 10:30am
Tuesdays Tai Chi
Thursdays Tech Talk
Fridays Bingo, 11am
November 10 Veterans Day Celebration, 11am
November 11 Closed, Veterans Day
November 25 & 26 Closed, Thanksgiving

For more information about New Merkel House, contact Melanie Perry (205.967.5977; mperry@vhal.org).

NOVEMBER events

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



- 2 **Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 10:30am, Community Room
- 3 **Story Friends**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room
Handmade with Holly: Cards That Pop!, 11am, Community Room
Picking Up S.T.E.A.M., 3:30pm, Children's Program Room
Writing Group, 4pm, Historical Room
- 4 **Tai Chi**, 3pm, Community Room
Online Chess Club, 4pm, Zoom
GIMP: the Free Photoshop, 4pm, Electronic Classroom
Read & Feed Book Group, 6pm, Zoom
- 5 **Open Gaming**, 4pm, Community Room
- 6 **Ms. Courtney's Library Stop!**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room
- 8 **Word Play Writing Group**, 6pm, Community Room
- 9 **Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 10:30am, Community Room
Teen Wolf, 4pm, Historical Room
Basic Microsoft Word, 4pm, Electronic Classroom
Family Night with Authors Charles Ghign (Father Goose) & Anna Marie Giuffre, 6pm, Community Room
- 10 **Story Friends**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room
ABCs of Medicare, 12pm, Community Room
Picking Up S.T.E.A.M., 3:30pm, Children's Program Room
Art Group, 4pm, Treehouse
- 11 **Veterans Day**

- 12 **Open Gaming**, 4pm, Community Room
Craft*Lab: Autumn Art with Darla, 7:00pm, Library's Community Room
- 15 **More Than Words Book Group**, 6pm, Tree House
- 16 **Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 10:30am, Community Room
T-shirt Painting, 4pm, Amphitheater
Intermediate Microsoft Word, 4pm, Electronic Classroom
- 17 **Friends of the Library: Music in the Morning**, 10am, Community Room
Story Friends, 10:30am, Children's Program Room
Picking Up S.T.E.A.M., 3:30pm, Children's Program Room
Among Us, 4pm, Discord
- 19 **Super Smash Bros Tournament**, 4pm, Community Room
- 20 **Ms. Courtney's Library Stop!**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room
- 22 **Disguise a Gingerbread Man Contest**, Daily through December 10, Children's Department
- 23 **Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 10:30am, Community Room
Anime Night, 4pm, Community Room
- 24 **Story Friends**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room
- 25 & 26 **Closed in observance of Thanksgiving**
- 27 **Dungeons and Dragons One-Shot**, 10am, Historical Room
- 30 **Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 10:30am, Community Room

An advertisement for a portrait studio. The background is a collage of autumn-themed items like pumpkins, gourds, and leaves. On the left, there is a large white outline of a camera. Inside the camera's lens area, the word "PICTURE" is written in large, bold, white letters. Below "PICTURE", the words "Yourself (ie)" are written in a cursive font. At the bottom left, "VESTAVIA HILLS" and "LIBRARY IN THE FOREST" are written in a smaller, sans-serif font. On the right side, there is text in white and yellow that reads: "Grab your cell phone and snap your family holiday portrait in the ALL NEW PORTRAIT STUDIO at the Library in the Forest! The holiday studio is available for patrons and professionals NOW through December 22, 2021! Time slots will fill up fast. For more information and to reserve your spot TODAY, visit vestavialibrary.org."



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