



# NEWS & VIEWS

October 2021 Volume 41 Issue 10

## October 12 Luncheon Larry Thornton, Entrepreneur and Author

Larry Thornton is President and Owner of Thornton Enterprises, Inc., a McDonald's Franchisee. He serves on the Board of Directors for Coca-Cola Bottling Company United, Inc and First Commercial Bank (Synovus). He is primarily known as a business man and artist, however in April of 2019, he released his first book, *Why Not Win? a reflection on his fifty-year journey from the Jim Crow South to America's boardrooms and the lessons he learned*. Larry is known for saying he is excited about the book, but is more excited about what the book is doing. Since the book, the Why Not Win Institute, a leadership and professional development initiative has launched and has been delivered at Clemson University, Auburn University, Texas A&M University, University of Alabama, Fisk University, Alabama A&M University and Alabama State University.



Thornton was born in Montgomery, Alabama and graduated from Alabama State University with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Fine Arts. He taught High School Fine Arts at Vestavia Hills High School and subsequently joined Birmingham Coca-Cola where he served as Advertising Manager and Director of Business Development. He was the recipient of the Moss A. Kendrix award, a national distinction presented by Coca-Cola USA for excellence in community relations.

Thornton has also served in the following capacities:

(Continued on page 4)

LUNCHEON SPONSOR

## McDonald's-Black Family Restaurants

Black Family Restaurants is proud to be your neighborhood McDonald's restaurant - not just a restaurant in your neighborhood. As such, we strive to be a good neighbor and a positive influence in our community. Our 16 McDonald's restaurants support a wide variety of efforts throughout central Alabama, including local churches, schools, arts and cultural events, and of course our hometown Ronald McDonald House as they provide a home away from home for families in need. Giving back to our community is something we do because, like our customers, we live here. Our schools, churches and causes we support are much like your own, and we are proud to support the efforts of Vestavia Hills. For more than 30 years, we have called this area "home" and look forward to seeing you in the restaurant.



It is great to have a touch of fall in the air as we approach the last three months of the year. We have a huge month planned for the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce. Viva Vestavia is back this year, and we are so excited for its return. It is being held at Hollywood Pools/Alabama Gas-light and grill this year. Tickets are \$50 and we'll have a limited number of tickets so be sure to purchase yours soon.



John Henley

If you were not at the luncheon in September, we had a great presentation by the Vestavia Hills Mayor Ashley Curry. It is great to hear how well our city continues to do in these unusual times. However, it is important for us to keep this momentum up by continuing to shop our Vestavia Hills businesses to keep our tax dollars at home. Also, we had a record turnout for our annual recycling day and thanks to all of the volunteers who helped us with the event this year.

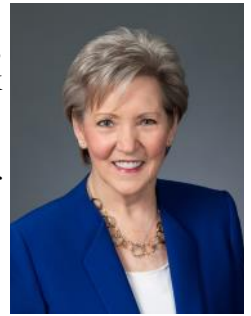
There was also another announcement at the luncheon. Karen Odle, the President and CEO of the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce announced she will be turning in her retirement letter to the Chamber of Commerce Board at the end of January, 2022 to be effective at the end of April 2022. The Chamber of Commerce Board has formed a search committee to begin the process of finding a new President and CEO of the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce. More information will be forthcoming about this process in the next couple of months, in the event we have anyone who may be interested in this position. We have huge shoes to fill with the selection of the new leader of our Chamber of Commerce.

Be on the lookout for a schedule of activities for the last quarter of the year. Our local businesses depend on you shopping local, so please be sure to make your lists and shop at your favorite Vestavia Hills Business! Thanks for being a part of the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce and for all of your continued support.

*John Henley*  
*John Henley-State Farm Insurance*  
*Board Chair, 2021*

**F**rom the President...

I can't believe we are in 4th quarter of 2021 already! As crazy as it has been, this year has flown by but I am more than ready for a new year and to get back to normal whatever that means!



**Karen Odle**

We have a lot of activity scheduled for the upcoming months so be sure and check our website for ribbon cuttings and other upcoming events.

In October, we have the following ribbon cuttings:

God's Sitting Partner on October 7th at 4:30 PM

Cahaba Concierge on October 14th at 4:30 PM

FlexCare Infusion on October 19th at 4:30 PM

And the following community events:

American Red Cross Blood Drive on October 4th from 9 AM until 2:00 PM

New York Butcher will celebrate their grand reopening after a major remodel on October 7th from 4:30 PM until 7:00 PM

Community Night Out at City Hall from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM

Viva Vestavia XVII at Hollywood Pools from 6:30 PM until 9:00 PM (ticketed event)

Live 2 Lead at Vestavia Methodist at 8:00 AM (ticketed event)

As you can see we have a lot of things upcoming so be sure and participate in all that you can to let these businesses know how much we value them choosing Vestavia Hills to locate their business as they have many options. If you can't make the events, then drop them a note and welcome them to our community!

We are delighted to welcome Larry Thornton as our luncheon speaker in October. He is a McDonald's Franchisee and also an author, an accomplished artist (his first job was as art teacher at Vestavia Hills High School), entrepreneur and a true servant leader. We are excited for him to share his journey with us so be sure and make your reservation by October 8th. A special thank you to the Black Family Restaurants/McDonald's Franchise for sponsoring the October luncheon....they are incredible community partners and we are grateful for their support!

In November, you will be hearing about the kickoff for Holiday in the Hills. This will cover events throughout the community so stay tuned for details.

Thank you for allowing me to serve Vestavia Hills. This is truly the best community in which you could ever work, play and raise a family....find a place to get involved. You CAN make a difference as together we work toward "A Life Above!"

*Unity. Prosperity. Family.*

**Karen J. Odle**  
**President**

## October 12 Luncheon

Reservations must be made by 4:00 PM Friday, October 8, 2021 and cost \$25. Late reservations will cost \$30. Make your reservation by visiting [www.vestaviahills.org](http://www.vestaviahills.org) or by calling 823-5011.

### Please Note:

- Reservations that are made and not cancelled by 4:00 pm Friday, October 8 must be paid for, as we must pay for the number reserved.
- Please pay online or call the office with a credit card prior to the luncheon, or we can send you an invoice afterwards.
- **Please make every effort to make your reservation on time. The number of reservations we have by the deadline is the number that we and the Vestavia Country Club prepare for.**

**Please remember the Vestavia Country Club policy of NO JEANS in the ballroom where we hold our monthly luncheons.**

*(Continued from page 1)*

- A.G. Gaston Boys' Club Board of Directors
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters Board of Directors and Big Brother Volunteer
- Girls Incorporated, Board of Directors and Past President
- United Way of Central Alabama
- Chairman of the United Negro College Fund in 1995
- Birmingham Museum of Art Board of Directors
- Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham

Thornton is a past President of the Kiwanis Club of Vulcan and was named Kiwanian of the Year in 1988 and 1992, as well as State Kiwanian of the Year in 1993. He was elected in 1994 as Lt. Governor of the Alabama State District of Kiwanis. He is a current member of Birmingham Downtown Kiwanis Club, the largest Kiwanis Chapter in the world and is the incoming president in 2020. He is a graduate of Project Corporate Leadership Class, Leadership Birmingham, and Leadership Alabama.

Thornton served as Advertising and Marketing Representative for McDonald's Corporation's National Marketing in the area of the African American Consumer Markets and Media Budget.

In 2013 Larry was appointed by the Governor of Alabama, to the Board of Trustees of his alma mater, Alabama State University and was elected Chairman of the Board in 2014.

Larry continues to produce limited and open edition art. Some of the proud owners of pieces of the Larry Thornton art collection include world famous Maya Angelou, Oprah Winfrey, former US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and President of McDonald's Corporation Worldwide, Don Thompson.

## Luncheon Business Spotlights

As a benefit of Chamber membership, you are welcome to choose two luncheons to have a booth to showcase your business. The Vestavia Country Club will provide covered 6 foot tables\*-you just bring whatever information and items you would like to display!

If you would like reserve your spots for 2021, please email [chamber@vestaviiahills.org](mailto:chamber@vestaviiahills.org).

2021 Dates:  
October 12  
November 9  
December 14

\*Depending on number of participants each month, you may be sharing a table with another business.

### Refer & Win

To be entered in the 2021 Fourth Quarter Refer and Win prize drawing, simply refer someone to the chamber who joins as a new member. Contact the chamber's Membership and Marketing Consultant, Lisa Christopher at 862-3445 or email [lisac@vestaviiahills.org](mailto:lisac@vestaviiahills.org). Lisa will be happy to provide complete membership information to your prospects and will diligently try to "close the deal" so you can be included in the 2021 Fourth Quarter drawing for ten (10) **\$25 gift certificates to Leaf & Petal** and just in time for their always amazing holiday selections! For fall, people come from all around for their incredible selection of heirloom pumpkins, wreaths, candles, home decor and more (not to mention the plants!). For Christmas, Leaf & Petal's fresh wreaths, garland, and signature "Silver Tip" Christmas trees even draw folks to our area from neighboring states. Leaf & Petal is a store that changes by the day and has incredible offerings for all seasons every season.



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please support our newest Chamber members and remember to 'Shop Vestavia Hills First'!!

- ◆ Sherwin-Williams Company  
Casey Grace  
3900 Crosshaven Drive  
Vestavia Hills, AL 35243  
(205) 969-5461  
www.sherwin-williams.com  
Category: Paint
- ◆ NX Nails & Spa  
Agus Wardana  
2409 Acton Road, Suite 121  
Vestavia Hills, AL 35243  
(205) 824-1335  
www.nxnail.com  
Category: Nail Salon; Massage
- ◆ FlexCare Infusion Center  
Matt Holden  
2409 Acton Road, Suite 153  
Vestavia Hills, AL 35243  
(205) 379-0174  
www.flexcareinfusion.com  
Category: Physicians; Healthcare
- ◆ Reveal Beauty  
Dr. Ben Pearce  
2871 Acton Road, Suite 101  
Vestavia Hills, AL 35243  
(205) 408-9787  
www.revealbeauty.net  
Category: Physicians; Spa
- ◆ PearleVision  
Theron Hill  
3060 Healthy Way, Suite 104  
Vestavia Hills, AL 35243  
(205) 968-1995  
www.pearlevision.com  
Category: Optometrists/Ophthalmologists;  
Opticians; Healthcare
- ◆ Essential MVMT + Pilates  
Stuart Elizabeth Browning  
3394 Morgan Drive  
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216  
www.essentialmvmt.com  
Category: Fitness
- ◆ Avani Rupa Fine Jewelers  
Avani Patel  
2408 Canterbury Road  
Mountain Brook, AL 35223  
(205) 982-4888  
www.avanirupa.com  
Category: Jewelers
- ◆ Grand Cantina Bar & Grill  
Mayolo Paredes  
2409 Acton Road, Suite 129  
Vestavia Hills, AL 35243  
(205) 460-1117  
www.grandcantinaalabama.com  
Category: Restaurants; Caterers;  
Event Facilities



# Trustee Spotlight



## Roger Steur-Method Mortgage



Roger Steur is one of the founding partners at Method Mortgage, LLC. He is excited to have been a part of this fantastic company since their beginning in 2007 - all the while, owned and operated locally here in Vestavia Hills. Method Mortgage, LLC is currently working with clients to achieve the dream of homeownership. He and the other partners, Adam Stoffregen, and Craig Tindall, manage this growing business, which has been recognized as a top mortgage originator in the Birmingham area and Alabama in recent years and was awarded as one of the Top Mortgage Companies to work for in the country in 2019 and 2020.



Roger has worked in the banking and finance industry since 2001, helping customers with a variety of needs including investment strategies, mortgages, construction loans and insurance. During his career he has received numerous distinctions, including Rookie of the Year, and the President's Club award for the levels of quality service he has provided to his clients. Roger is a graduate of Wake Forest University and is a member of the Birmingham chapter of the Wake Forest Alumni Club.

Roger is actively involved in the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce and is a 2010 graduate of Leadership Vestavia Hills. In 2017, Roger had the privilege of being the Chairman of the Board for the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce and has remained on the Board of Directors of the Chamber since then. Additionally, Roger has served as the Chair of Church Council at Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church for the past four years. Roger and his wife Annie have two children and reside in Vestavia Hills.



## VESTAVIA HILLS

CHAMBER of COMMERCE

A LIFE ABOVE

*Celebrating 40 Years*



The Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce is 40 years old! We will be having celebrations at the October 12 Luncheon and Viva Vestavia Hills!



Thanks to Jim Moeller at The New York Butcher Shoppe for providing the food for our Trustee Reception! Stop by and see their newly renovated store at 3158 Heights Village!



THE VESTAVIA HILLS POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS PRESENT



# Fall Festival COMMUNITY NIGHT OUT

THURSDAY,  
OCTOBER 21

5:00PM - 8:00PM

VESTAVIA HILLS CITY HALL

*Join us for a night of free, family fun!*

**FREE FOOD . PHOTOBOTH . PUMPKIN PATCH . DJ  
JUMPHOUSES . KIDS ACTIVITIES . LOCAL VENDORS  
HALLOWEEN COSTUMES ENCOURAGED**

Community Night Out is an opportunity for first responders to network with local businesses, civic groups, churches, schools, and community volunteers in a symbolic stance to promote public safety. Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy a night of free family fun! There will be jump houses, photobooth, pumpkin patch, free food and more! Thank you to Shades Mountain Baptist Church and all of our contributors who will be passing out candy and free swag.

Learn more by visiting the Vestavia Hills Police Department Facebook page.  
For more information call 205.978.0123 or email [vhpfadn@gmail.com](mailto:vhpfadn@gmail.com)







**VIVA**   
**VESTAVIA HILLS**

*Eat, Drink & Be Scary!*

**A TASTE OF VESTAVIA HILLS  
RESTAURANT FARE & FINE WINES**

*Thursday, October 28, 2021*

**6:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.**

**HOLLYWOOD POOLS/ALABAMA GASLIGHT & GRILL  
1441 MONTGOMERY HIGHWAY**

**PRESENTED BY THE VESTAVIA HILLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION,  
& VESTAVIA HILLS RESTAURANTS & BUSINESSES**

**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT:**

**THE CHAMBER FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND & CAPITAL FUND.**

**TICKETS - \$50.00 PER PERSON (85% TAX DEDUCTIBLE)**

**INCLUDES A VIVA VESTAVIA XVII COMMEMORATIVE ETCHED WINE GLASS**

**VISIT VESTAVIAHILLS.ORG OR CALL (205) 823-5011 FOR TICKETS**

**MUST BE 21 OR OVER TO ATTEND.**

**SPONSORS**



## Member Notes

- Bring a friend and your Christmas list too for Girls Day Out on October 5 at **Monograms Plus!** Enjoy 20% off plus light bites and refreshments from 10 am-7 pm. 1360 Montgomery Highway, Suite 122
- Join the **Jimmie Hale Mission** on October 9th for their 2nd Annual Rescue Run 10K, 5K, & 1 Mile Fun Run! Register at [www.jhmrescuerun.com](http://www.jhmrescuerun.com)
- Spend the evening on **Vestavia City Center's** green space for music, local vendors, glitter tattoos, candy, and more at their Live after 5 Fall Festival on October 14 from 5:00-7:30 pm! 700 Montgomery Highway
- Stop by the **Shops at Oak Park** on October 17 from 1:00-5:00 pm for The Market at Rocky Ridge! Find local vendors including artists, handmade goods, baked goods, farmers, food trucks and live music! 2531 Rocky Ridge Road
- Join **Vestavia Methodist** on Sunday, October 17, from 4:00-6:00 pm for their Fall Festival with family entertainment, food, and fun with the entire community. There will be FREE hotdogs, popcorn, cotton candy, water, and cokes! The parking lot will be filled with games, inflatables, pony rides, face painting, and music. Admission is totally free, but we hope you will bring socks that we will be collecting for the homeless. There will also be an ice cream truck for you to purchase a sweet treat of your choice. 2061 Kentucky Avenue
- The **Shops at Oak Park** are excited for the 2nd Annual Drive-thru Trick or Treat on October 29 from 5:00 -7:00 pm! Participating businesses will be decorating and passing out candy, toys and more. This event is FREE to the public and will be Drive Thru only. That means you never even have to get out of the car! We encourage you and the little ones to dress up and maybe even decorate your vehicle. 2531 Rocky Ridge Road
- Trick or Treat with the **Cahaba Heights Businesses** all day, Saturday October 30, 2021 from 10-5PM. The Businesses will be full of Treats for the entire family.
- Read the October issue of **Birmingham Christian Family** featuring Children's of Alabama and much more! Read it online at <https://birminghamchristian.com/issues/>
- **Iz Catering** is booking holiday parties. Catering available on location, for pick up, or at our private venue **Iz the Place**. 205-979-9722. Don't forget to pick up a loaf of our freshly baked pumpkin bread this season to enjoy or gift. 3325 Rocky Ridge Plz., Vestavia Hills, 35243.
- Join the **Vestavia Hills Library in the Forest** for Halloween-themed events for kids, teens and adults throughout October! Find the calendar at [vestavialibrary.org](http://vestavialibrary.org).
- Vendor registration is open for **Vestavia Methodist's** Magical Marketplace! Become a vendor for one of the city's best holiday marketplaces! This large craft market is filled with many local artists and crafters. Early bird pricing is available right now for \$100 per booth, and goes up to \$125 after October 8. So make sure to grab your space soon before we run out. Homemade items from local artists and crafters only. Register at <https://vhumc.tpsdb.com/OnlineReg/508>
- Congratulations to **Unless U** for receiving a \$25,000 State Farm Neighborhood Assist Grant! State Farm will present Unless U Scoops with a check for \$25,000 on Friday, October 8th at 3:00 pm at 737 Chestnut Street, Vestavia Hills, AL 35216. The public is invited to come grab a Big Spoon of Joy as the students of Unless U serve the community

## 2021 Trustees

Kimberly Jackson-Alabama Power Company  
 Chris Thomas-America's First Federal Credit Union  
 Jeff Phillips-American Pest Control  
 Beau Bevis-ARC Realty  
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 Jimmy Nuckles-Regions Bank  
 Senator Dan Roberts  
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 Plumbing & Generators  
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 Steve Smith-SouthPoint Bank  
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 Rob Dowda-SpeedPro Imaging  
 James Robinson\*-Spire  
 Tyler Kime-Standard Heating, Cooling & Plumbing  
 John Henley-John Henley State Farm Insurance  
 Charlotte Ann Adams-Sterling Seacrest Pritchard  
 Taylor Burton-Taylor Burton Company  
 Tony Truitt-Truitt Insurance & Bonding  
 Dr. Bill Brunson-Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church  
 Dan Starnes-Vestavia Voice  
 Senator Jabo Waggoner  
 Beth Moody-The Welch Group  
 Stephen Allen-Williams Blackstock Architects  
 Mark Yanosky, D.M.D.-Yanosky Orthodontics

\*Chamber Past Chair

## 2021 Chamber Champions



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Chair Elect: Sandra Cleveland, BCR Wealth  
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Pure Fitness  
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Clabe Dobbs, Progress Bank  
Linda Parker, Dream Vacations  
Rachel Patterson, Bradford Health Services  
Jamie Pursell, Leaf & Petal

Karen J. Odle, President

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Lisa Christopher, Membership Consultant

Email: lisac@vestaviiahills.org

Betsy Webster, Office Manager

Email: betsyw@vestaviiahills.org

Katie Woodruff, Communications Manager

Email: katiew@vestaviiahills.org

**Upcoming Chamber Meetings**

Oct 12 Chamber Luncheon, 11:30 am, Vestavia Country Club  
Oct 19 Business Development, 8 am, Chamber Office  
Oct 21 Board of Directors, 7:45 am, Chamber Office

**Events**

Oct 7 Ribbon Cutting: God's Sitting Partners, 4:30 pm  
Oct 14 Ribbon Cutting: Cahaba Concierge Medicine, 4:30 pm  
Oct 19 Ribbon Cutting: FlexCare Infusion Center, 4:30 pm  
Oct 28 Viva Vestavia Hills, 6:30 pm, Hollywood Pools

**Other Meetings & Holidays**

Oct 11 City Council Meeting, Council Chambers 6 pm  
Oct 14 Planning & Zoning Commission, 6 pm  
Oct 25 City Council Meeting, Council Chambers 6 pm  
Oct 28 Board of Zoning Adjustment, 6 pm



*News and Views*

*Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce*

*1975 Merryvale Road*

*Vestavia Hills, AL 35216*