

# COMMUNITY NEWS

News & Events for the City of Vestavia Hills • September 2022

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

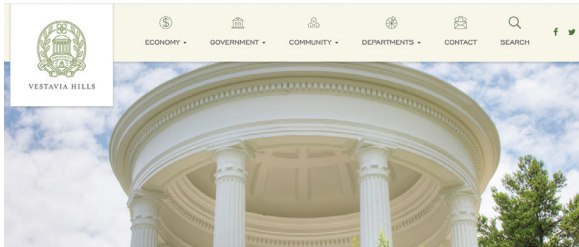


**Jeff Downes,**  
City Manager  
City of  
Vestavia Hills

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

I hope everyone had a great summer and is getting settled in for a good school year, football season and cooler temperatures. As our students are working at self-improvement, we in city government continue our efforts at improving our skills to provide more efficient and user-friendly services. Some people may consider efficiency and local government operations an oxymoron. I am not such a cynic. While governmental systems are designed to protect against unintentionally harming or alienating individuals, thereby creating “red tape” in the process, there

are ways local government can streamline access to municipal services. I am proud to share with you the latest City efforts in this arena.



First, most Vestavia Hills residents are aware of our Action Center. The Action Center is the one stop shop to request services from the City of Vestavia Hills. We have had this online service available since 2014, and it can be found on our homepage at [vhal.org](http://vhal.org) or through the dedicated app for your mobile device. If you

need a pothole filled, debris picked up from your home or to report speeding in your neighborhood, you are just a few clicks away from getting the request to the most appropriate party in City government. Your request can then be managed for responsiveness, and we can evaluate problem areas within our city.



While the Action Center is a helpful, routine means of communicating with the City, we still have certain City services that require an application and permitting approval prior to commencement of activities. In the past, many of these activities required trips to City Hall, frustration over what informational items are required and ultimately confusion on the status of the requested permit or other City approval. Given our desires to improve this area of citizen engagement, we have introduced a comprehensive option for online services that can be accessed from our homepage as well. These services allow a complete virtual option when a resident or their contractor needs various building permits or other business transactions with the City. With this introduction, our goal is to not only make conducting business easier, but to also monitor and manage how quickly and efficiently we respond to requests. Additionally, the online services options allow registered users the ability to monitor the progress of their request. The key here is improved transparency of City efforts and proper management of online services.



In addition to the Action Center and online services portal, we have launched a transparency portal. It is also accessible from the homepage of the City website. Any interested resident may visit this portal to peruse many different facets of Vestavia Hills' government. Whether it is a review of budget variances,

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Events and dates subject to change. Please refer to the City of Vestavia Hills website for the most up-to-date event information.

### September 2022

- 1 Design Review Board,**  
Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 5 Labor Day,** Municipal  
Offices Closed\*
- 8 Planning and Zoning Commission,**  
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 10 Helping Hands in the Hills  
Recycle Day,** Civic Center,  
8 a.m. – noon
- 11 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony,**  
City Hall, 8:30 a.m.
- 12 Senior Citizens Association  
Luncheon,** 11:30 a.m., Location TBD
- 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, 6 p.m.
- 20 Parks and Recreation Board,**  
Executive Conference Room, 7 a.m.
- 26 City Council Meeting,**  
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 30 Splash Pad Closes for the Season**

*\*Sanitation Holiday: All routes will run on a one-day delay.*



Ashley Curry,  
Mayor  
City of  
Vestavia Hills

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. It is hard to believe that it has passed so quickly and that our students have started a new school year.

The 2022 World Games concluded in July, and what an experience that was for Birmingham and surrounding areas. The economic impact, though not presently

determined, should be huge. There were many memorable moments, especially the standing ovation for the Ukrainian team as they entered Protective Stadium during the Opening Ceremony. I was thrilled to see The World Games 2022 Committee present a check for \$54,000 to support athletes and sports in Ukraine.

On a personal note, I particularly enjoyed participating in the “Old Glory Relay” sponsored by the Team Red, White and Blue (RWB). Team RWB carried a U.S. flag that had flown over the U.S. Capitol through 15 states and over 3100 miles and presented that flag at the opening ceremony of the World Games in Birmingham. A portion of the route to Birmingham passed through Vestavia Hills, and it was an honor for me to carry the flag from City Hall to Highway 31 and hand it off to my son, Stuart Curry. Stuart is an Air Force veteran and he, along with Air Force veteran Greg Cook, carried the flag to the next relay point in Vestavia Hills.

On August 23, the City hosted another “Crimes Against the Elderly” seminar at Vestavia Hills Methodist Church. This year’s program addressed two major topics – financial scams and elder abuse. Vestavia Hills Police Department personnel, along with representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, addressed some of the more common financial scams. Representatives from other participating agencies also information about elder abuse. I find it hard to grasp that this is happening in today’s society, and it is particularly troublesome that family members and caregivers are the primary offenders. We, as individuals and as a city, owe it to our seniors to protect this “Greatest Generation.” Thanks to all the agencies that assisted with this program.

One of the most frequently shared citizen complaints is speeding in our neighborhoods. These calls are in neighborhoods throughout the City and are not isolated to any particular area which makes it burdensome for our Police Department to handle. To address this issue, we have established a “traffic-calming” process that citizens can use to initiate the City’s response. After receiving the request, City staff can place speed detection devices in neighborhoods in an attempt to make drivers aware of excessive speeds. In addition, VHPD patrol units can monitor speeding and issue citations when warranted. I am told that the purpose of traffic citations is to modify driver behavior thereby reducing accidents, including the prevention of possible fatalities.

This is all about civility. Civility, which comes to us from the Latin word for citizen, includes not only the notions of courtesy and politeness, but also such matters as social relationships and proper conduct in human relationships. Civility is the essential glue that holds society together, and it involves such important issues as friendship, altruism, responsibility, dignity and justice.

Courteous and responsible driving habits are one of the elements of civility. Simply put, you would not want drivers speeding down YOUR street. Let’s be responsible citizens, lower our driving speeds and reduce the number of speeding complaints.

As you have most likely heard by now, the City acquired the former Days Inn property on Highway 31. I am excited about the acquisition as this will become the catalyst for renovation of the southern-most entrance to Vestavia Hills. Developers have already shared ideas for new restaurants and other retail businesses and this property would certainly be available to further that development. I look forward to the project enhancing this portion of Vestavia Hills and providing an economic boost for this area.

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

– Continued from page 1

revenue collections or building permits, the transparency portal is designed to provide easy access to a comprehensive and growing amount of City data to help everyone evaluate and understand what is happening in their area of interest.

While I recognize we are not perfect and things can be delayed or reach roadblocks, I am confident that these improvements will be helpful to many of our residents and businesses. I hope everyone finds value in these enhancements and takes the time to utilize this efficient, user-friendly way of engaging with the City of Vestavia Hills. Have a great fall season.



## VESTAVIA HILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mark your calendar for the next Vestavia Hills Historical Society meeting on October 17, 2022 at 2pm. **We will hear from Karen Odle who recently retired as President of the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce following a 20-year career.** We hope you will join us at City Hall to hear Karen speak about her career experiences and to meet Michelle Hawkins, the new Chamber President. We hope to see you there!

## 2022 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TRUSTEES

We would like to gratefully acknowledge our 2022 Chamber Trustees. These businesses and individuals support our Chamber and city at a high level of membership which enables us to support events and projects city-wide. Please let them know how much they are appreciated by visiting/using their products and services and thanking them for their support of Vestavia Hills.



VESTAVIA HILLS  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE  
A LIFE ABOVE

Alabama Power Company, Kimberly Jackson	First US Bank, Dan Bundy	RealtySouth-Scott Perry, Scott Perry	SouthPoint Bank, Steve Smith	Taylor Burton Co., Taylor Burton
American Pest Control, Jeff Phillips	Frank S. Buck, P.C., Frank Buck	RealtySouth-Angela Stevens, Angela Stevens	Spectrum Reach, Amy Kabase	Truist, Steve Vickery
America's First Federal Credit Union, Chris Thomas	Grandview Medical Center, Ashley Mathews	Regions Bank, Margaret Schuneman	SpeedPro, Rob Dowda	Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church, Bill Brunson
Jefferson County Commissioner Steve Ammons	Harbert Realty Services, Charlie Norton	Senator Dan Roberts	Spire, James Robinson	Senator Jabo Waggoner
Ascension St. Vincent's Health System, Tommy Cannon	Hollywood Outdoor Living, Steve Mote	Sentry Heating, Air Conditioning, Plumbing & Electrical, Lauren Trim	Starnes Media-Vestavia Voice, Dan Starnes	The Welch Group, Beth Moody
BancorpSouth, Patrick Cushman	Jackson Howard & Whatley CPAs, Mike Jackson	Shades Mountain Baptist Church, Tommy DeRamus	Standard Heating, Cooling & Plumbing, Tyler Kime	Williams Blackstock Architects, Stephen Allen
BCR Wealth Strategies, Sandra Cleveland	John Henley State Farm Insurance, John Henley	Southern States Bank, Scott Jenkins	Sterling Seacrest Pritchard, Charlotte Ann Adams	Yanosky Orthodontics, Mark Yanosky
B.L. Harbert International, Ben Nevins	KPR-Vestavia City Center, Stan Glantz			
Birmingham Business Journal, Ginger Aarons	Leaf & Petal, Jamie Pursell			
Butler Snow LLP, Angie McEwen	Liberty Park Joint Venture, John Bonanno			
Cahaba Benefits Group, Chad Gay	Mark W. Macoy, LLC, Mark Macoy			
Cahaba Mountain Brook Animal Clinic, Dr. Darcy Shofill	McCallum Hoaglund & McCallum, LLP, Chip McCallum			
Cameron, Travis & Co., Jennifer Partain	McDonald's, Jim Black			
Representative Jim Carns	Method Mortgage, Roger Steur			
Carr, Riggs & Ingram, CPA, Brian Barksdale	Morgan Properties, Robin Morgan			
Cellular Sales Authorized Agent of Verizon Wireless, David Surber	Newk's Eatery, Todd Jackson			
Children's of Alabama, Doug Dean	OnTime Service, Kerry Adkins			
Dog U, Calvin Brown	Over the Mountain Journal, Maury Wald			
Eco Three, Jonathan Handey	Overture Tributary, Lisa Bearden			
First Horizon Bank, Donnie Dobbins	Progress Bank, Sean Johnson			
	Ray & Poynor Properties, Harriet Cochrane			

# Shred & Recycle Day

## September 10th, 2022 8AM to 12PM

New Vestavia Hills Civic Center  
1090 Montgomery Highway 35216

**Drop off your unwanted electronics, household hazardous waste, paper shredding, and medication (no needles)**

**Electronics Accepted**

PCs & Laptops, servers, cell phones & tablets, satellite & cable boxes, gaming systems & components, stereos & radios, switches & firewalls, printers, fax machines, VCRs & DVD players, remote controls, MP3 players, A/C adapters & other cables, LCD monitors, CRT monitors\*, ink & toner cartridges, rechargeable batteries, hard drives\*, speakers, cameras, modems & routers, CD players, small kitchen appliances, consumer electronics, battery backups, keyboards & mice, stand alone copiers\* and TVs\*

\*Disposal fee required: hard drive & CRT monitors: \$10 each, TVs: \$20 each

**Not Accepted**

Large appliances or wooden console TVs

**Hazardous Waste Accepted**

Paint, batteries (household & automotive), light bulbs, and pesticides. Paint and pesticides MUST be in their original containers or they will NOT be accepted. **Household amounts only, No contractors! Proof of Vestavia Hills Residency required for hazardous waste disposal.**

**Special Thanks to: PROTEC Recycling, AmWaste, Gone for Good (a program of United Ability), and VHPD**

For more information, visit [vestaviiahills.org](http://vestaviiahills.org) or call (205) 823-5011



# PARKS & RECREATION

## ACTIVE ADULTS (55+)

- Join us for **fun, fellowship, and lunch** at **New Merkel House** in Cahaba Heights every Monday-Friday. Lunch is served daily at 11:45am; stretching classes on Mondays at 10:30am; Tai Chi on Tuesdays at 12:30pm; and chair yoga on Thursdays at 10:30am.
- On Tuesday, September 20, we will **celebrate Grandparents Day with a Family Night** at the Civic Center! Bring your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren for a night of fun and pizza. Reservations are required; call 205.978.0166.
- **Senior Luncheon** returns this month! Join us on Monday, September 12, at 11:30am at the Civic Center for a delicious lunch and entertainment by Brad Ryan. Please note, the luncheon cost has increased to \$10 per person. Call 205.978.0166 to make your reservation by September 7.
- **Lunch Bunch** will be on Thursday, September 22, at Red Pearl Chinese Restaurant in Homewood! Meet at Vestavia Hills Aquatic Complex at 10:45am for free transportation. Lunch is at your discretion; call 205.978.0166 to reserve your spot today!
- Join us Thursday, September 29 at 10am for the **Active Adults (55+) Health & Wellness Fair** at the new Civic Center. Publix will provide FREE flu shots; Medicare advisors will answer Medicare questions; and the Vestavia Hills Police Department will provide important safety information. Don't forget to get your blood pressure checked by the Vestavia Hills Fire Department and register to win a door prize!



# Health & Wellness Fair

**Date:** September 29, 2022  
**Time:** 10am-2pm  
**Location:** NEW Vestavia Hills Civic Center  
 (1090 Montgomery Hwy, Vestavia Hills, AL 35216)

Follow us on social media for updates:  
 @VestaviaHillsParksandRecreation - Facebook  
 @vestaviahillsparksandrec - Instagram  
 @VHParks\_Rec - Twitter




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**CHARLIE CONKLIN**  
PRESIDENT

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

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Embarking on a new school year is filled with excitement and adventure. Our more than 7,000 students will be busy making connections to new knowledge and friends while problem-solving, exploring and creating. I am truly amazed at how many opportunities our students will have because of the unparalleled support of the Vestavia

Hills community. Whether you are an employee, parent, grandparent or community member, there is much to be celebrated in our school system. And one of our priorities is to communicate all of the wonderful things that happen when our students come to school.

Each August, we publish an Annual Report that summarizes the accomplishments of our students from the past year. You can read that report by visiting our website at [www.vhcs.us/reports](http://www.vhcs.us/reports). The website is a helpful resource for information about our school system strategic plan, calendars, policies, employment opportunities and budgets. You can also learn about content standards for the courses we teach and the many resources available to students and families. Each school has its own website with school-specific information about academics, extracurricular activities and a staff directory. These pages are viewed more than 1.5 million times per year, making the VHCS website one of our most important resources for community engagement.

There are many other ways to keep up with what is happening in our school system in real-time. Each of our schools use social media such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, as well as e-newsletters to share events, announcements and good news about student achievements and accolades. We provide our families and students with mobile apps to keep track of calendar updates, lunch menus and scores from athletic events. We also use a mass notification system that can alert parents instantly through phone calls, text messages and emails to changes in school schedules and other important messages.

The school system provides a number of other opportunities to stay connected. All of our Board of Education meetings are live-streamed on YouTube, and meeting agendas and minutes are posted on our website. Our VHCS podcast gives the community an opportunity to hear from school staff and students about the great work taking place in the schools. And, we have enjoyed a longstanding partnership with the City and Chamber of Commerce on the production of this community newsletter to help share our story with every Vestavia Hills resident.

Nobel laureate George Bernard Shaw once wrote, "The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place." We believe our work as a school system to communicate, inform and

engage is never finished because we know that the education of our children is a partnership with families and the community. These communication efforts help us greatly to inform everyone about the events, accomplishments and operations of our school system. But the best way to truly experience what is happening here is to make connections with teachers and administrators, visit the school or come to an event.

**SEPTEMBER 18TH | 5:30-7:30**

**HOL(EY) SMOKES**  
A VESTAVIA METHODIST MEN'S EVENT

**RODNEY SCOTT PIT MASTER | GOLF SIMULATOR**  
REGISTER AT [VHUMC.ORG](http://VHUMC.ORG)

**FALL FESTIVAL**  
*Food. Family. Fun.*  
**SEPTEMBER 25 . 4-6PM**

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## GET TO KNOW PUBLIC WORKS

**What is the function of Public Works in Vestavia Hills?** Public works is the combination of physical assets, management practices, policies and personnel necessary for a municipality to provide and sustain structures and services essential to the welfare and acceptable quality of life for its residents. When disaster strikes, immediate action by First Responders can make a life-or-death difference. In the midst of a crisis, residents expect to see uniformed service providers – fire, police and medical services. However, another essential member of the team is Public Works, whose chief responsibilities include designing, building, operating, maintaining and protecting our public infrastructure and facilities. When the infrastructure is threatened, Public Works is prepared to take a comprehensive and collaborative role with other First Responders in emergency management – prepared and equipped to safeguard lives and reduce or repair damaged critical infrastructure.

In addition to the role of First Responder, Vestavia Hills Public Works staff oversees the sanitation contract and manages litter collection, stormwater infrastructure and inspection, right of way maintenance (both public and private) and other issues related to the public rights of way. If you have a need for Public Works' services, we encourage you to submit your request in the Vestavia Hills Action Center via the app or online at [www.vhal.org/action-center](http://www.vhal.org/action-center), as this is the best way for our staff to track and manage your concerns. Be on the lookout for future articles highlighting various areas of operation and updates on ongoing projects!

TUES-FRI 7AM-5:30PM

SAT. 7AM-2PM

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# SEPTEMBER events

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

- 1 **Open Maker Lab**, 2-6pm, Makerspace  
**Chess Club**, 4:30pm, Historical Room  
**Read & Feed Book Group**, 6pm, Community Room
- 2 **Open Gaming**, 4pm, Community Room
- 3 **Ms. Courtney's Library Stop!**, 10:30am, Community Room
- 6 **Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 9:30am & 10:30am, Community Room  
**After-school Adventures: Dinosaur Fossils**, 3:30 pm, Children's Program Room  
**Collage Barrage**, 4pm, Treehouse  
**Teardown Tuesday**, 4:30pm, Makerspace
- 7 **Story Friends**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room  
**Handmade with Holly: Tin Can Crafts**, 11am, Community Room  
**Twelve Below: What's in the Box?**, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room  
**Writing Group**, 4pm, Historical Room
- 8 **Book Babies**, 10am, Treehouse  
**Open Maker Lab**, 2-6pm, Makerspace  
**Basic Microsoft Word**, 4pm, Electronic Classroom  
**Library After Hours: Line Dancing for Beginners**, 6:30pm, Community Room
- 9 **Open Gaming**, 4pm, Community Room
- 10 **Dungeons & Dragons One-Shot**, 2pm, Historical Room
- 12 **Intro to 3D Printing**, 4:30pm, Makerspace
- 13 **Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 9:30am & 10:30am, Community Room  
**After-school Adventures: Games**, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room  
**Paperbowl**, 4pm, Community Room  
**Family Night with Children's Musician Andrew Best**, 6pm, Community Room
- 14 **Story Friends**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room  
**Afternoon at the Movies: Downton Abbey: A New Era**, 2pm, Community Room  
**Twelve Below: Fakémon Creations**, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room  
**Art Group**, 4pm, Treehouse  
**iPad Basics Part I**, 4pm, Electronic Classroom
- 15 **Book Babies**, 10am Treehouse  
**Open Maker Lab**, 2-6pm, Makerspace  
**Library After Hours: Line Dancing for Beginners**, 6:30pm, Community Room
- 16 **Open Gaming**, 4pm, Community Room  
**Craft\*Lab: Beginner Zentangle**, 7pm, Community Room
- 17 **Ms. Courtney's Library Stop!**, 10:30am, Community Room
- 19 **Understanding Alzheimer's & Dementia**, 6pm, Community Room
- 20 **Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 9:30am & 10:30am, Community Room  
**After-school Adventures: Space Art & Bingo**, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room  
**GIMP: The Free Photoshop**, 4pm, Electronic Classroom  
**Teen Wolf**, 4pm, Treehouse  
**Soldering 101**, 4:30pm, Makerspace
- 21 **Story Friends**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room  
**Twelve Below: STEM Challenge**, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room  
**Among Us**, 4pm, Discord
- 22 **Book Babies**, 10am, Treehouse  
**The Friends of the Library: Vestavia Hills: Early History**, 10am, Community Room  
**Open Maker Lab**, 2-6pm, Makerspace  
**Library After Hours: Line Dancing for Beginners**, 6:30pm, Community Room
- 23 **Open Gaming**, 4pm, Community Room
- 24 **Dungeons & Dragons: The Journey Continues**, 10am, Historical Room
- 26 **Vinyl Cutting**, 4:30pm, Makerspace
- 27 **Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 9:30am & 10:30am, Community Room  
**After-school Adventures: Lego Challenge**, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room  
**Basic Microsoft Excel**, 4pm, Electronic Classroom
- 28 **Story Friends**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room  
**Twelve Below: Marvel Trivia**, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room  
**Anime Club**, 4pm, Historical Room

- 29 **Book Babies**, 10am, Treehouse  
**Open Maker Lab**, 2-6pm, Makerspace  
**Library After Hours: Line Dancing for Beginners**, 6:30pm, Community Room
- 30 **Super Smash Bros Tournament**, 4pm, Community Room



## Let's Write the Next Chapter!

Vestavia Hills Library Foundation

Help the Vestavia Hills Library Foundation "Write the Next Chapter" in the library's history! **The Foundation is hosting an online fundraising campaign September 19-24, 2022** to bolster the library's resources and further important community programming. The Foundation invites you to donate any amount to support our beloved Library in the Forest.

For more information, to register as an online fundraiser or to make a donation at any time, scan the QR code below or visit <https://vestavialibrary.swell.gives>.





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