

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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



Ashley Curry,
Mayor
City of
Vestavia Hills

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Do you remember where you were on September 11, 2001 at 7:41am? I was attending the Vestavia Hills Kiwanis Club breakfast meeting at the old Morrison's Cafeteria in Vestavia Hills. On that fateful day, the United States was attacked by international terrorists. It was initially thought that an airplane had accidentally flown into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. As an FBI Agent at the time, I hurriedly rushed to the Birmingham FBI office, arriving in time to see the second plane strike the South Tower. It became painfully obvious that this was no accident.

Before the day was over there were four hijacked aircraft, two of them striking the World Trade Center towers, one striking the Pentagon and one that crashed in a field in Pennsylvania after passengers attempted to take control of the aircraft.

The impact of September 11, 2001 is still being felt today. Hundreds of thousands of people remain at risk due to the trauma and exposure to toxic air following each attack. Carcinogens from building materials, gases and jet fuel laced the air around each crash site, with the most severe toxicity among the ruins of the World Trade Center towers. Although 2,974 people lost their lives that day, 4,343 survivors and first responders have died in the years since, according to the World Trade Center Health Program. To date, more people have now died from this toxic exposure than in the 9/11 attacks.

May we never forget the sacrifice of our first responders. In their honor and to honor those who died in the terrorist attacks, the City of Vestavia Hills is grateful to have hosted the annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony and Patriot Day Celebration on the lawn at City Hall. The cities of Vestavia Hills, Homewood and Mountain Brook jointly participate in this annual event and Homewood is slated to host the 2023 event.

Also during the month of September, the Watercolor Society of Alabama held an art workshop at City Hall featuring renowned artist, Larry Lombardo. I hope you were able to participate in these workshops. They also held their reception in Vestavia Hills and are hosting the Alabama Members Showcase Exhibition, which is limited to Alabama artists only. This art exhibition opened on September 25 and will run through October 22. If you missed the workshops, you should take in the art exhibition which will feature 50 watercolor paintings by 38 Alabama artists. The Watercolor Society of Alabama is an 82-year-old nonprofit organization and one of the oldest art groups in the country.

On October 18, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., the Over the Mountain Mayors will host a Domestic Violence Awareness Forum, "Protecting our Teens and Young Adults from Dating Violence." The event will be held at the Vestavia Hills Civic Center (1090 Montgomery Highway, Vestavia Hills, 35216). The public is invited to attend this free event hosted by myself, along with Mountain Brook Mayor Stewart Welch, Hoover Mayor Frank Brocato and Homewood Mayor Patrick McClusky. I am honored that Vestavia Hills is participating in this forum to spread awareness and provide necessary tools to reduce the occurrence and long-term effects of domestic violence. Everyone has the right to be in a safe, violence-free relationship. Please make plans to attend this informative meeting.

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.

October 2022

- 5 Design Review Board,**
Executive Conference Room,
6 p.m. (*rescheduled from 10/6*)
- 6 Community Night Out,**
City Hall Lawn, 5 p.m.
Rain date: 10/27
- 10 Columbus Day and
Indigenous Peoples' Day**
- 10 Senior Citizens Association
Luncheon,** Civic Center, 11:30 a.m.
- 10 City Council Meeting,**
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 11 Chamber Luncheon,**
Vestavia Country Club, 11:30 a.m.
- 13 Planning and Zoning Commission,**
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 17 Vestavia Hills Historical Society,**
Council Chamber, 2 p.m.
- 17 City Council Work Session,**
Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 18 Parks and Recreation Board,**
Executive Conference Room,
11:30 a.m.
- 18 Domestic Violence Awareness
Forum,** Civic Center, 6 p.m.
- 20 Board of Zoning Adjustment,**
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 22 Haunt the Hills,** Wald Park, 4 p.m.
- 24 City Council Meeting,**
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 31 Halloween**



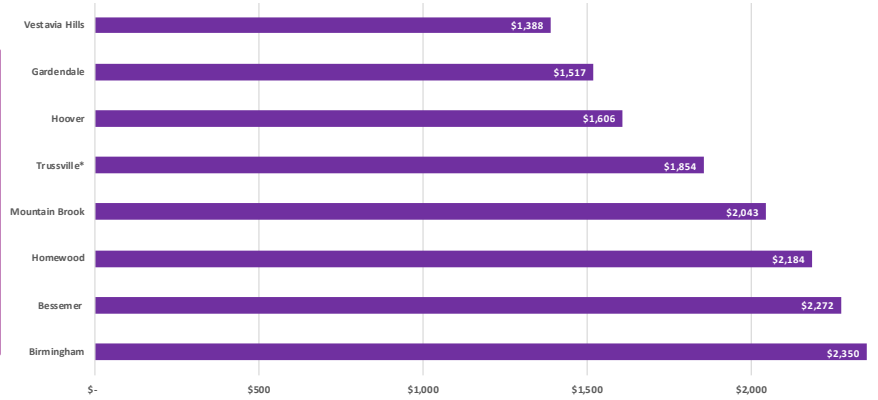
Jeff Downes,
City Manager
City of
Vestavia Hills

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

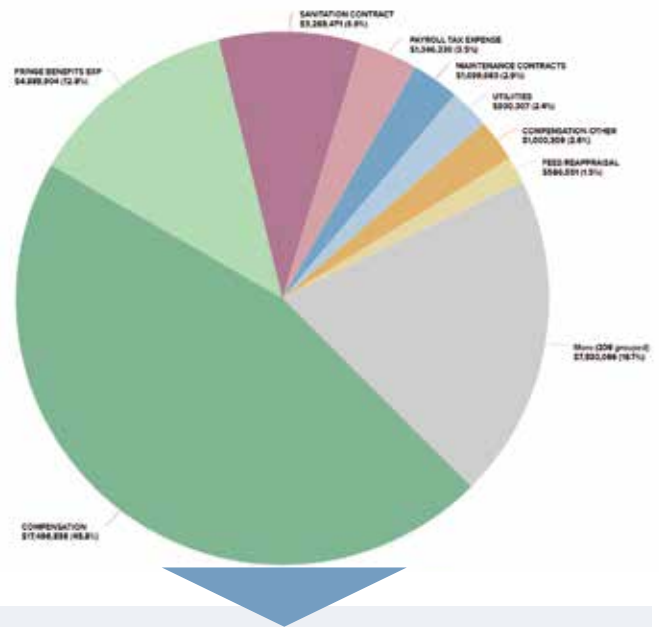
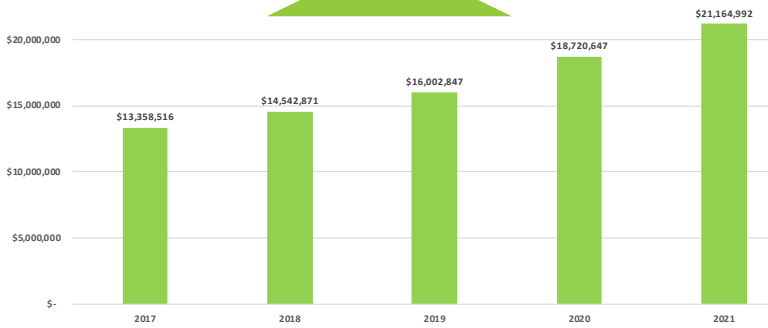
The month of October represents the beginning of a new fiscal year for many public entities, including the City of Vestavia Hills. This 12-month spending period with its accompanying plan is vital to accomplishing strategic goals and operating in an economically sustainable manner. Vestavia Hills continues to operate in remarkable fashion as evidenced by third-party, Moody's Investor Services, issuing the City a AAA rating – the highest possible credit rating. Instead of duplicating the FY 2023 budget message, as has been the case for previous October editions of the Community News, I am providing a dashboard of metrics that reinforce the financial strength of the City as it adopts its next fiscal year's financial roadmap. The dashboard highlights some important financial facts and principles that are key to our city's future.

General Fund Revenue Per Capita.

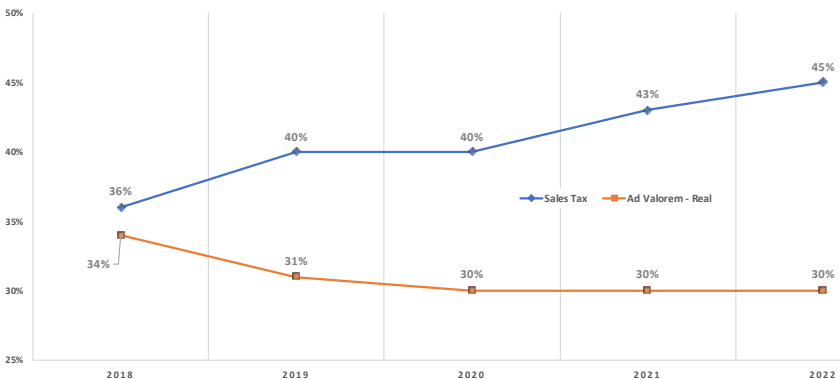
Vestavia Hills city government is run efficiently when compared to other Jefferson County municipalities. Our government provides a comprehensive array of services utilizing the least amount of revenue per capita in the county.



General Fund Balance. The City of Vestavia Hills' adheres to a set of financial policies that provide guidance for establishing and growing emergency reserves that are greater than 25% of annual operating expenses. This effort is best illustrated by an examination of the City's general fund balance over the last five years. As the cost of providing governmental services has grown, so have our reserves.



2021-2022 Actual. The largest expense type in the City budget relates to employee compensation and benefit costs. The City cannot provide services without a capable work force. While an expensive endeavor, the financial planning to keep pace in a robust labor market is crucial to the City's success. The FY 2023 budget includes a strong series of compensation improvements to ensure the City is successful in recruiting and retaining the best possible talent.



% of Total General Fund Revenue.

The City of Vestavia Hills' primary source of revenue is the sales tax. As a percentage of total revenues, it continues to grow in a healthy manner and outpace inflation. This metric reflects the strong economic health of our city.



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

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Throughout this school year, I plan to provide our community with background information about Vestavia Hills City Schools' *1Rebel 1Future* vision. This month and next, the focus is on our campuses and facilities. If you enjoy numbers, this newsletter is just for you!

Over the past decade, because of the unparalleled support of the community, our school system invested \$110 million in capital improvements to address growth in enrollment from 6,119 in 2010 to 7,192 in 2017 – a 17.5% increase. Our schools now have the necessary space for the number of students we currently serve. The focus moving forward is to make sure facility conditions meet the same high expectations we have for our academic programs.

The 7,000 children who attend Vestavia Hills City Schools will spend roughly 16,000 hours of their lives in our buildings this year alone. For 177 school days, about one-third of a student's day is spent under our roof. And that doesn't include time spent attending concerts, sports competitions, fall festivals and many other events. Given the amount of time we have children on our campuses, I'm confident we can all agree that maintaining top-notch facilities must be a priority.

Vestavia Hills City Schools is made up of 9 schools totaling more than 180 acres of property which includes 1.3 million square feet of

building space, 11 ball fields and 2,226 parking spaces. The age of buildings on our campuses range from 18 to 65 years with the average being 49 years. We have 9 kitchens/cafeterias, 13 gymnasiums, 9 libraries, almost 400 exterior doors and 600 classrooms. We also have additional spaces for school resource officers, nurses, counselors, speech language pathologists, interventionists, reading coaches and administrators.

Our school system employs 54 custodians and 6 maintenance technicians who take care of our facilities. That amounts to each custodian for every 24,000 square feet of building space, and one maintenance technician for every 216,000 square feet. The combined utilities cost for our campuses is more than \$3.2 million per year (more about this in next month's newsletter). With an operations budget of just over \$10 million, we spend about \$1,400 annually per student to maintain buildings and grounds.

The *1Rebel 1Future* vision was developed, in part, after VHCS completed assessments of our facilities to determine needs. These identified needs include safety and security; roofs, heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems; accessibility; parking lots and driveways, interior and exterior building conditions; electrical systems; and plumbing. This level of detail has provided the blueprint for developing a comprehensive plan to update and more effectively maintain our facilities. I encourage you to watch the September and October Board of Education meetings to learn more about these plans.

LIVE2>>LEAD
VESTAVIA HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

 JOHN MAXWELL #1 Leadership Expert and Best-Selling Author	 PATRICK LENCIONI Founder & President at The Table Group	 ERIC THOMAS Author, Speaker, Consultant, Pastor, and Audio Award Winner	 DR. TIM ELMORE CEO and Founder of Growing Leaders, Best-Selling Author, and International Speaker	 DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN Presidential Historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning Author
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THURSDAY, NOV. 10
8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
REGISTRATION: 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM
REGISTRATION \$25 AT VHUMC.ORG

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
CALL SUZANNE SCOTT-TRAMMELL AT 205-822-9631

TRUNK OR TREAT

**VESTAVIA METHODIST
PARKING LOT**

5-6pm Dinner in Fellowship Hall
6-7pm Trick or Treating at Trunks in
Main Parking Lot & Photo Booth

*All children must be supervised by an adult.

10.26
6-7PM

PARKS & RECREATION

ACTIVE ADULTS (55+)

- Don't forget, the **deadline to sign up for the Vestavia Hills Senior Services' trip to Charleston, SC is Saturday, October 15!** See beautiful, historic Charleston, SC, lit up with Christmas lights this December 5-9! You do not want to miss this fabulous trip with the Vestavia Hills Senior Services! For more information or to register, call 205.978.0166.
- 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.
- **Senior Luncheon** is Monday, October 10 at 11:30am. Join us for a delicious lunch and entertainment by the Harmony Hills Chorus. Admission is \$8 per person. Call 205.978.0166 to make your reservation by October 6. *Entertainment sponsored by Sincere Companion Services.*
- Join us Thursday, October 13 from 10am to 2pm 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!
- **Lunch Bunch** will be on Thursday, October 20 at Sawmill Restaurant in Brent, AL. Meet at Vestavia Hills Aquatic Complex at 10am for free transportation. Lunch is at your discretion; reserve your spot by calling 205.978.0166!
- Join us at New Merkel House on Monday, October 31 for a fun **Fall Festival!** We will celebrate International Coffee Month, National Apple Day, World Food Day and the fall season with coffee and apples for everyone! Be sure to bring canned goods to donate to the local food bank. *Event sponsored by Cornerstone Care Giving.*



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Michelle Hawkins,
President
Vestavia Hills
Chamber of Commerce

CHAMBER NEWS

Happy, Happy! Joy, Joy! It's October in Vestavia Hills! I hope everyone is thrilled as I am that fall has arrived! It's my FAVORITE time of year! Cooler temperatures, gorgeous autumn colors, football games, happy crisp fragrant scents, delicious fall treats and fun filled family events!

The Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce is super excited to announce a new family fun night! **Haunt the Hills** at Wald Park! Come dressed in your best costume on Saturday, October 22. Starting at 4pm, there will be trick-or-treat on the Grand Lawn with local businesses, and a costume contest with prizes for kids, adults, pets and groups. Bring a chair or blanket to watch a family Halloween movie at dusk! For more information, visit vestaviiahills.org or call us at 205.823.5011.

Mark your calendars for the **Community Night Out Fall Festival** on Thursday, October 6 from 5-8pm at City Hall. And, on October 29, come enjoy **Halloween in the Heights** and trick-or-treat with Cahaba Heights merchants from 10am-5pm.

I am so proud to announce **Coffee & Classrooms** – a new program that will bring our community schools and business together! The Chamber is partnering our businesses with PTOs and Vestavia Hills City Schools. Chamber business representatives will have the opportunity to visit VHCS buildings, interact with school officials and see, first-hand, the needs and opportunities in our schools. The program started in September with the first visit at Dolly Ridge Elementary School and we are looking forward to this month's visit to Liberty Park Middle School.

October brings fun-filled activities and events for everyone. Be sure to check the calendar frequently on the Chamber website at vestaviiahills.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay on top of what's happening in Vestavia Hills.

On a personal note, this fall is extra special to me! It is my first fall being a Vestavia Hills resident. I sold my Birmingham home in July and found the perfect home here in Vestavia Hills. Thank you for allowing me to serve Vestavia Hills. I feel blessed to be a part of this wonderful community!

Haunt
THE HILLS

Saturday, October 22, 2022
Wald Park

Trick-or-Treat on the Grand Lawn with local businesses from 4:00-6:00 pm!

Dress in your best family-friendly costume for a Costume Contest with prizes for Kids, Adults, Pets and Groups!

Bring a chair or blanket to watch a family Halloween Movie at dusk!

Visit vestaviiahills.org for more info.

VIVA
VESTAVIA HILLS

A Taste of Vestavia Hills Restaurants & Fine Wines

November 1, 2022
6:30-9:00 pm

New Vestavia Hills Civic Center
1090 Montgomery Highway

Enjoy food & wine tastings provided by Vestavia Hills Area Restaurants, plus a silent auction. Proceeds benefit the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

Tickets are \$50 each and can be purchased at www.vestaviiahills.org or calling (205) 823-5011.



MEET JAY TURNER

Jay Turner is a Principal Engineering Inspector in the Public Works – Engineering department. His primary responsibility is to inspect construction sites to assure compliance with our

stormwater management requirements and City ordinances. There are approximately 200 active sites within our City limits and they are required to be visited a minimum of one time per month. As he inspects the various sites, he enters all inspection reports into the Storm Water Management Authority, Inc (SWMA) data base. (SWMA is a cooperative agency formed to assist the municipalities of Jefferson County comply with their National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Stormwater permit issued by Alabama Department of Environmental Management, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 122.)

Jay and his wife, Keisha, live in Moody and have three sons – Trace (19), James-Grant (15) and Grayson (3). In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with family, watching college football (WDE!), taking part in any activities or sports his sons may be involved in and playing tennis and pickleball.



VESTAVIA HILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The next Vestavia Hills Historical Society meeting is 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!

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OCTOBER events

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

- 1 **Courtney's Library Stop**, 10:30am, Community Room
- 4 **Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 9:30am, Community Room
Toddler-a-Go-Go, 10:30am, Community Room
After-School Adventures: Taco Tuesday, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room
LEGO Mindstormers, 4pm, Makerspace
- 5 **Story Friends**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room
Handmade with Holly: Pumpkin Painting, 11am, Community Room
Twelve Below: Minute to Win It, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room
Writing Group, 4pm, Historical Room
- 6 **Book Babies**, 10am, Treehouse
Open Maker Lab, 2-6pm, Makerspace
Intermediate Microsoft Word, 4pm, Electronic Classroom
Chess Club, 4:30pm, Historical Room
Read & Feed Book Group: "How High We Go in the Dark," 6pm, Community Room
- 7 **Open Gaming**, 4pm, Community Room
- 8 **Dungeons & Dragons One-Shot**, 2pm, Historical Room
- 10 **Intro to 3D Printing**, 4:30pm, Makerspace
Beginner Belly Dance, 6pm, Community Room
- 11 **Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 9:30am, Community Room
Toddler-a-Go-Go, 10:30am, Community Room
After-School Adventures: Nature Prints, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room
Tabletop Gaming Group, 4pm, Community Room
- 12 **Story Friends**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room
Twelve Below: Name That Song, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room
Art Group, 4pm, Makerspace
iPad Basics Part II, 4pm, Electronic Classroom
- 13 **Book Babies**, 10am, Treehouse
Open Maker Lab, 2-6pm, Makerspace
- 14 **Open Gaming**, 4pm, Community Room
Craft*Lab: Glitter Pumpkins, 7pm, Community Room
- 15 **Courtney's Library Stop**, 10:30am, Community Room
- 17 **HTV Workshop**, 4:30pm, Makerspace
Beginner Belly Dance, 6pm, Community Room
- 18 **Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 9:30am, Community Room
Toddler-a-Go-Go, 10:30am, Community Room
After-School Adventures: The Floor is Lava, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room
Pumpkin Painting, 4pm, Amphitheater
- 19 **Halloween Photo Studio OPENS**, Makerspace
Story Friends, 10:30am, Children's Program Room
Twelve Below: Haunted Graham Crackers, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room
Among Us, 4pm, Discord
- 20 **12 Days of Halloween Trivia Challenge**, Adult Services
Book Babies, 10am, Treehouse
Google Drive, 4pm, Electronic Classroom
- 21 **Open Gaming**, 4pm, Community Room
- 24 **Beginner Belly Dance**, 6pm, Community Room
- 25 **Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 9:30am, Community Room
Toddler-a-Go-Go, 10:30am, Community Room
After-School Adventures: Pumpkin Painting, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room
D&D Miniature Painting, 4pm, Community Room
Intermediate Microsoft Excel Part I, 4pm, Electronic Classroom
- 26 **Story Friends**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room
Twelve Below: Halloween Movie & Pumpkin Decorating, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room
Scary Anime Club, 4pm, Historical Room
- 27 **Book Babies**, 10am, Treehouse
The Friends of the Library: The Apollo 14 Moon Tree Project, 10am, Community Room
Cozy Mystery Movie Trivia Party, 2pm, Community Room
- 28 **MultiVersus Tournament**, 4pm, Community Room
Spooktacular, 6:30-8pm, Community Room
- 31 **Beginner Belly Dance**, 6pm, Community Room



Spooky Photography Studio
Open October 19-31, 2022

This spooky season, snap your perfect Halloween costume pics and selfies in our Halloween-themed Photography Studio!

The studio will be open October 19-31.

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