



NEWS & VIEWS

September 2022 Volume 42 Issue 9

September 13 Luncheon Pete Blank, Leadership Expert

After a stint as a television sportscaster, Pete began his Disney career in 1994. Over the next 13 years, he managed various areas of Disney's theme parks and resorts, where he learned what it takes to run a world-class organization. Pete was blessed to spend a majority of his time working at the Disney University. While there, he led the Traditions program, which is known worldwide as one of the premiere employee orientation programs. He also facilitated college level courses to thousands of Disney College Interns, and was a Segment Learning Manager for Walt Disney World, Disneyland Resort, and the Disney Cruise Line.



Pete is the Training and OD Manager for the Personnel Board of Jefferson County. As a leadership expert and professional speaker, he also works with organizations and associations all across the U.S., helping them achieve their goals in the areas of leadership, employee engagement and customer service.

(Continued on page 4)

LUNCHEON SPONSOR

Cellular Sales, Authorized Agent of Verizon Wireless

Cellular Sales was founded in 1993 by Dane and Meg Scism. The company marketed service on behalf of Cellular One and GTE Wireless prior to the advent of Verizon Wireless in April 2000. Cellular Sales continued to grow through the late 90's and early 2000's by making its original independent sales representatives, partners in new territory markets it opened.



The fourth region opened was the Alabama Market in 1998 with the original Alabama Headquarters opening in Gadsden. The company set itself apart from other cellular agents in the market by impressing a professional dress code and providing a unique buying experience by focusing on total customer satisfaction.

Nationally, Cellular Sales operates in 40 states with more than 750 locations. Today Cellular Sales of Alabama's main offices are here in Birmingham and consists of thirty-one locations including seven stores in Tallahassee and Panama City and South Georgia. Cellular Sales' Alabama Market employs over two hundred sales and administrative associates.

As Regional Directors, Jason Love and David Surber contribute the success of the company to a "People First" approach. The people who make the daily sacrifice to provide for their family by spending their "work life" with Cellular Sales, and the clients the company is so fortunate to serve, are together the people Cellular Sales serve first.

We are transitioning from summer to school and facing new schedules, leaving the short-lived leisure of summer schedules behind and gearing up for fall sports and community activities.

We heard from Dr. Todd Freeman, Superintendent of Vestavia Hills City Schools at our Chamber luncheon in August. Dr. Freeman presented the Strategic Plan for the school system with awesome renderings of the possible facility additions. The goal is to continue to excel at providing an excellent education for all students, add to the facilities to keep pace with the increase in the number of students and to attract and retain the teachers and staff that is at the center of the education. You will hear more about the Strategic Plan in coming months, and I know you will be proud of our school system and our community as we move forward to continue fulfilling the mission for Vestavia schools.



Sandra Cleveland

Mark your calendars for our September Luncheon where leadership and customer service expert Pete Blank will be sharing ways to help businesses achieve their goals in the areas of leadership, employee engagement and customer service. Pete has been our luncheon speaker twice before and we're looking forward to hearing about the "Magic of Customer Service" from him.

Also, in September on Saturday the 10th, the Chamber offers their annual Shred and Recycle Day. The location will be new – at the New Civic Center – and it starts at 8 am.

The community calendar is filling up and check out all the events at <https://business.vestaviahills.org/events/>

Our entire community is grateful and appreciative of the Chamber Champions and Trustees who offer their financial support for the Chamber to provide events and opportunities that benefit not just Chamber members but our entire community.

We are moving ahead on the Chamber's Strategic Plan that has detailed objectives for

- Programs and services championing the business community
- Enhanced community leadership and economic development
- Marketing and communications strategies and
- Developing an organization for growth

It is a delight for our board and community to work with our new President, Michelle Hawkins. If you have not met her, please look her up at the chamber office or the many events she attends around our community. She wants to meet YOU!

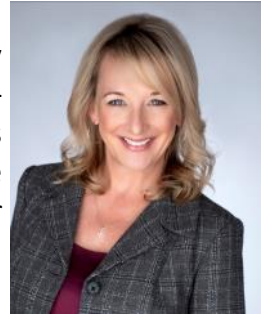
Vestavia Hills is on the move! Support our local businesses to continue the prosperity of healthy businesses and a healthy community. Your support makes a difference.

Living the good life together,

Sandra Cleveland
BCR Wealth Strategies
Board Chair, 2022

From the President...

August was an exciting month for me and the Chamber of Commerce. My first Luncheon as the Chamber president, which featured Dr. Todd Freeman, Superintendent of the Vestavia City Schools was highly informative as he engaged the 140 attendees with the continued focus of a Profound and Supportive Learning Experience with Vestavia Hills City Schools, sharing his mission and goals. For more information visit www.vhcs.us.



Michelle Hawkins

I am super delighted to share that I am officially a VESTAVIA HILLS resident! I moved from the Indian Springs area -- not that far away -- but I wanted to be HERE! I truly believe this is the BEST community to live, work, dine, shop and play!

September brings several Chamber events, exciting new programs, and announcements of new upcoming events. Be sure and check out the calendar frequently on the Chamber website www.vestaviahills.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay on top of what's happening in Vestavia Hills.

Shred & Recycle Day will be on September 10th from 8am to 12pm. Don't miss this great opportunity to clean out, recycle and give back!

Mark, your calendars to attend the Ribbon Cutting for American Kolache at their new Vestavia Hills location, 1031 Montgomery Hwy. It's American Classic Comfort Food Stuffed in A Bun!

Don't forget to add your Member-to-Member Benefit and you'll be included in a drawing for a NICE gift basket donated by Rocky Ridge Drug Co.

We have two new upcoming events I am so excited to share:

- Coffee & Classrooms is an OUTSTANDING new program from the partnership of the Chamber, PTO and Vestavia Hills City Schools. We will bring Chamber members into our VHCS buildings, providing a great networking opportunity, personal interaction with businesses and school officials, and providing first-hand exposure to see the needs and opportunities in our schools. The kick-off date is September 29th from 10am-11am, at Vestavia Hills Elementary Dolly Ridge. We will be sending out a sign-up sheet. Let's make this a priority and get INVOLVED!
- We are also adding a brand-new event coming up in October – 2022 Haunt the Hills!! Kudos to Katie Woodruff, our Communications Manager for brainstorming this FUN family event! Check out more information included in this newsletter and find out how it can help promote your business too!

Please consider being a Chamber Champion in 2023. This will give you sponsorship benefits in almost all our events and allow you to budget for the year to maximize your dollars.

Thank you for allowing me to serve Vestavia Hills. You CAN make a difference as together we work toward "A Life Above!"

With Warm Wishes,

Michelle Hawkins
President

September 13 Luncheon

Reservations must be made by 4:00 PM Thursday, September 8, 2022 and cost \$25. Late reservations will cost \$30. Make your reservation by visiting www.vestaviahills.org or by calling 823-5011.

Please Note:

- Reservations that are made and not cancelled by 4:00 pm Thursday, September 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.

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 2022, please email chamber@vestaviahills.org.

2022 Dates:
September 13
October 11
November 8
December 13

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

(Continued from page 1)

Pete received the prestigious “Partners in Excellence” award from Disney, which is presented to the top 3% of all employees. He also earned the Certified Speaking Professional (CSP) designation from the National Speakers Association and the Certified Facilitator of Training (CFT) from The Center for International Credentials.

His two books are Employee Engagement: Lessons from the Mouse House and 55 Ways to add Disney Magic to your Organization. Both books are available on amazon.com.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

- ◆ Councilor Mike Shaw
Hoover, AL 35216
(205) 541-6542
www.electmikeshaw.com
Category: Government
- ◆ Ruwena Healy, Realtor with RealtySouth
Ruwena Healy
2409 Acton Road, Suite 137
Vestavia Hills, AL 35243
(205) 612-8242
www.ruwenahealy.realtysouth.com/
Category: Real Estate (Agent)
- ◆ Mighty Dog Roofing
Matt Maddox
2680B Valleydale Road
Hoover, AL 35244
(205) 535-3223
www.mightydogroofing.com/birmingham-al
Category: Roofing
- ◆ Sigao
Kristopher Broadhead
2901 2nd Avenue S., Suite 200
Birmingham, AL 35233
(855) 846-8546
www.sigao.io
Category: Computer Technology
- ◆ PrettyWash Pressure Washing & Softwashing
Caleb Campbell
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
(205) 915-9631
www.prettywash.com
Category: Pressure Washing; Cleaning Services
- ◆ Homewood Pediatric Dentistry
Dr. Caitlin Reaves
2828 Central Avenue
Homewood, AL 35209
(205) 332-3886
www.homewoodpediatricdentistry.com
Category: Dentists
- ◆ American Kolache
Chad Slade
1031 Montgomery Highway, Suite 123
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
(205) 538-5083
www.americankolache.com
Category: Restaurants

Trustee Spotlight

Jeff Phillips-American Pest Control



American Pest Control was founded in 1945 and is still family owned and operated right here in Vestavia Hills. JoAnne (Jody) Mote, who many of you knew, was our founder's daughter and worked in our daily operations until her passing several years ago. She was a very special lady, who left us with a shining example of a lifetime of serving others.



My hope is that you'll feel free to use American Pest Control as a community resource with any questions, challenges or problems that we may be able to help you work out. We are here to help and to be helpful. To learn more about our services please visit us at www.americantermite.com or just give us a call and it will be our pleasure to help.



We're excited to introduce our first **Haunt the Hills** Trick-or-Treat Night on **Saturday, October 22** on the Grand Lawn at Wald Park with festivities starting at 4:00 pm! Sponsor businesses will be setting up booths on the Lawn to give out candy and other promotional information. We'll also be having a costume contest with categories of Kids (Age Groups TBD), Adults, Pets and Groups. We'll finish off the night with a Halloween movie.

Businesses can choose from 3 levels of sponsorships:

GOLD SPONSOR-\$500

- Limited to 6 businesses
- Logo displayed on screen before the movie
- Logo in News and Views (the Chamber's newsletter), posters, press releases, flyers sent home with Vestavia Hills elementary students, etc.-logo will need to be provided to the Chamber in a pdf or jpg format
- Provided with a 6' or 8' table and two chairs to decorate and give out candy and promotional items
 - Sponsor booths are open from 4:00-6:00 pm.
 - Access to electricity if needed for booth

SILVER SPONSOR-\$100

- Logo displayed on screen before the movie
- Business Name listed in printed materials: News and Views (the Chamber's newsletter) posters, press releases, flyers sent home with Vestavia Hills elementary students, etc.
- Provided with a 6' or 8' table and two chairs to decorate and give out candy and promotional items
 - Sponsor booths are open from 4:00-6:00 pm.

Trick-or-Treat Business-FREE

- Bring your own table and chairs to decorate and give out candy and promotional items
 - Sponsor booths are open from 4:00-6:30 pm.
- Not included in any publicity

Please note:

-Sponsor businesses are allowed to conduct sales at this event, but you **MUST** have a Vestavia Hills Business License to do so.

-In case of rain, event will be moved in to the Gym of the new Vestavia Hills Civic Center

-Electricity access at Wald Park is extremely limited and can only be guaranteed for Gold Level Sponsors. Please plan to bring your own generator if you will need it at your booth if you are doing the Silver and Trick-or-Treat levels.



2022 Haunt the Hills Sponsorship Form

Please complete the following and return to the
Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce by **September 23, 2022**

Business Name _____
As you would like the publicity to read. Please print legibly.

Contact _____

Address: Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

After Hours Phone _____ and/or Cell _____

Sponsorship Package

\$500 Gold Sponsor \$100 Silver Sponsor Trick-or-Treat Table-Free

Check Invoice Credit Card

Credit Card # _____ Exp. _____ Security Code: _____

Name on Card _____ Zip Code: _____

Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce
1975 Merryvale Road
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
Phone (205) 823-5011 Email: chamber@vestaviiahills.org

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 or call (205) 823-5011



Help us put a face to your name!

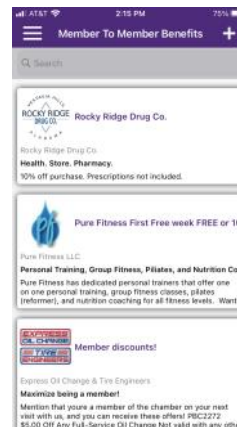
Add your picture to your directory profile.

- Go to www.vestaviahills.org and click the Member Login button in the middle of the homepage
- Login to your member account. Let us know if you need your login info.
- On the menu on the left side of the screen, choose Personal Information and then choose Photo
- Click the + under the placeholder photo to upload yours.
- Click Save Changes.
- Your photo will be on your listing in our web Directory.

Need a photo of yourself? We're working to arrange a few dates for a photographer to take headshots at the Chamber office. Be on the lookout for more details, coming soon!

Member²Member Discount

Did you know discounts are available from your fellow Vestavia Hills Chamber members? Login to your Member account either through www.vestaviahills.org or the MemberPlus mobile app to see what's available or add one of your own!



Save the Date



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 on Sale Soon!



We're looking for Silent Auction Items!
If you would like to donate something, please email katie@vestaviahills.org.

COFFEE & CLASSROOMS

The Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce with the Vestavia Hills City Schools and Vestavia Hills PTO Council are excited to introduce Coffee and Classrooms! New this school year, Coffee and Classroom will replace the recognition of Partners in Education at our monthly Chamber lunches.

Each month, a different Vestavia Hills School will host a coffee and networking event for Chamber Members to meet with school officials and learn about the school's needs and opportunities for them to get involved at the school and with the PTO.

Our first Coffee & Classrooms will be hosted by **Vestavia Hills Elementary Dolly Ridge on Thursday, September 29 from 10:00-11:00 am. RSVP is REQUIRED!** Register at www.vestaviiahills.org.

A large red number '9' is positioned to the left of two vertical bars, one grey and one blue.

Remembrance Ceremony & Patriot Day Celebration

Sunday, September 11, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

Vestavia Hills City Hall
1032 Montgomery Highway
Vestavia Hills, Alabama

*This year's keynote speaker will be Michael Williams,
Retired Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Secret Service for Alabama & Mississippi*



VESTAVIA HILLS



Member Notes

- Get ready for Fall planting, talk with experts and support a great cause at the **Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens'** Fall Plant Sale. The sale will be held on Saturday, September 10 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. outdoors in the Gardens' Formal Lawn and Hill Garden. Members of the Friends will enjoy first dibs on plant offerings through our Member Early-Bird Shopping (10 a.m.–5:30 p.m. on Friday, September 9).
- **Mountain High Outfitters** is in search of energetic and enthusiastic people who love the outdoors and would like to help us share the "Mountain High Experience" with our customers. To apply for any position, please email careers@mhovement.com and submit a resume along with why you feel you would be a good fit for MHO.
- **Waldo's Chicken and Beer** is now open in Cahaba Heights! Stop in for lunch or dinner at 3009 Pumphouse Road, Suite 102!
- Looking to join the **Davenport's** team at their new Vestavia Hills location? Text 5392002 to 31063 or visit davenportspizza.com to view all of our available positions.
- Check out Fit for Life at **Birmingham Physical Therapy!** This small group functional fitness class is led by a physical therapist and is designed for people 55+. There are two groups - one that comes Monday/Wednesday and the other comes Tuesday/Thursday. Classes meet at the clinic between 12-1pm and are \$150/month or \$20/class. Email melaniecosio.dpt@gmail.com for more info and to get signed up!
- **VIVA Health** offers a 5-Star rated Medicare Advantage plan, which means Alabamians can enroll in VI-VA MEDICARE any time of the year for their 2022 coverage. Call us today at 1-888-830-8482 (TTY: 711) or visit www.VivaHealth.com/Medicare to enroll in the highest rated plan in Alabama.
- Read the latest issue of **Birmingham Christian Family** that includes Chamber Member Children's of Alabama and more! Read it online at <https://birminghamchristian.com/issues/>.
- **Vestavia Toastmasters Club** meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 6pm and would love to have you visit! Learn about them at www.vestavia.toastmastersclubs.org

If you have any news or events you would like to put in the News & Views, email it to chamber@vestaviiahills.org.

Refer & Win

To be entered in the 2022 Third Quarter Refer and Win prize drawing, simply refer someone to the chamber who joins as a new member. Contact the at (205) 823-5011 or email chamber@vestaviiahills.org. We 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 2022 Third Quarter drawing for a **Catering Certificate for 10-25 people Taco Mama!**



Enjoy a Taco/Nacho bar: Ground Beef and Chicken with all the Fresh Fixings*

*Available for pickup or delivery (\$20 delivery fee will apply) - time must be approved 24 hours in advance. Valid for one catering, may not be split into multiple caterings

2022 Trustees

Kimberly Jackson-Alabama Power Company
 Chris Thomas-America's First Federal Credit Union
 Jeff Phillips-American Pest Control
 Jefferson County Commissioner Steve Ammons
 Tommy Cannon-Ascension St. Vincent's Health System
 Patrick Cushman-BancorpSouth
 Sandra Cleveland-BCR Wealth Strategies
 Ben Nevins-B.L. Harbert International
 Ginger Aarons-Birmingham Business Journal
 Frank Buck-Frank S. Buck, P.C.
 Angie McEwen*-Butler Snow LLP
 Chad Gay-Cahaba Benefits Group
 Dr. Darcy Schofill-Cahaba Mountain Brook Animal Clinic
 Jennifer Partain-Cameron Travis & Company, CPAs
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 David Surber-Cellular Sales Authorized Agent of Verizon Wireless
 Doug Dean*-Children's of Alabama
 Calvin Brown-Dog U
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 Ashley Mathews-Grandview Health Center
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 Steve Mote-Hollywood Pools/Alabama Gaslight & Grill
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 Jamie Pursell-Leaf & Petal
 John Bonanno-Liberty Park Joint Venture
 Mark Macoy-Mark W. Macoy, LLC
 Chip McCallum-McCallum Hoaglund & McCallum, LLP
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 Roger Steur*-Method Mortgage

Robin Morgan*-Morgan Properties
 Todd Jackson-Newk's Eatery
 Kerry Adkins-OnTime Service
 Maury Wald-Over the Mountain Journal
 Lisa Bearden-Overture Tributary
 Sean Johnson-Progress Bank
 Harriet Cochrane-Ray & Poynor Properties
 Scott Perry-RealtySouth
 Angela Stevens-RealtySouth
 Margaret Schuneman-Regions Bank
 Senator Dan Roberts
 Lauren Trim-Sentry Heating, Air Conditioning,
 Plumbing & Generators
 Tommy DeRamus-Shades Mountain Baptist Church
 Scott Jenkins-Southern States Bank
 Steve Smith-SouthPoint Bank
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 Rob Dowda-SpeedPro Direct
 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
 Steve Vickery-Truist
 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

2022 Chamber Champions



Board of Directors

Chair: Sandra Cleveland, BCR Wealth

Chair Elect: Donnie Dobbins, IberiaBank/FirstHorizons

Vice Chair Membership Development: Keri Bates,
Rocky Ridge Drug Co.

Vice Chair Business Development: Marty Martin,
B.L. Harbert

Vice Chair Community Affairs: Clabe Dobbs, Progress
Bank

Vice Chair Programming: Linda Parker, Dream
Vacations

Vice Chair Public Education: Rachel Patterson, Bradford
Health Services

Treasurer: Ben Chambliss

Jackson, Howard & Whatley, CPAs

Secretary/Legal Counsel: Mark Macoy
Mark W. Macoy, LLC

Immediate Past Chair: John Henley, State Farm Past

Chair: Gary Jordan, Summit Franchising Group

Directors

Christina Babineaux

Taylor Burton, Taylor Burton Co., Inc.

Doug Dean, Children's of Alabama

Erin Holtz, Pure Fitness

Tyler Kime, Standard Heating, Cooling & Plumbing

Jamie Pursell, Leaf & Petal

Chris Thomas, America's First Federal Credit Union

Michelle Hawkins, President

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Email: michelleh@vestavi hills.org

Web: www.vestavi hills.org

Annilyn Warner, Office Manager

Email: annilynw@vestavi hills.org

Katie Woodruff, Communications Manager

Email: katiew@vestavi hills.org

Upcoming Chamber Meetings

Sept 13

Monthly Luncheon, 11:30 am, Vestavia Country Club

Sept 15

Board of Directors, 7:45 am, Chamber Office

Events

Sept 9

Ribbon Cutting: American Kolache, 12 pm

Sept 10

Shred & Recycle Day, City Hall, 8 am-12 pm

Sept 11

Patriot Day Remembrance Ceremony

Other Meetings & Holidays

Sept 8

Planning & Zoning Commission, 6 pm

Sept 12

City Council Meeting, Council Chambers 6 pm

Sept 15

Board of Zoning Adjustment, 6 pm

Sept 26

City Council Meeting, Council Chambers 6 pm



News and Views

Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce

1975 Merryvale Road

Vestavia Hills, AL 35216