

COMMUNITY NEWS

News & Events for the City of Vestavia Hills | May 2023

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

The 32nd annual Dogwood Prayer Breakfast was held on April 18. Lindy Cleveland, the Director of Unless U, described the services that they provide to adults with developmental disabilities and their families. What a blessing it is that Unless U can provide these students with continuing education and life skills in an environment that promotes independence. We are proud to have them in Vestavia Hills.

April 16-22 is "National Volunteer Recognition Week." This event is nationally recognized and celebrated by cities everywhere. One of the first things that I learned upon becoming Mayor was the significant contribution that volunteers make for our city. There are many boards that utilize volunteers to conduct City business – Planning and Zoning, Board of Zoning Adjustment, Library Board of Trustees, Parks and Recreation Board, Beautification Board, Sibyl Temple Foundation, plus a few different garden clubs. There are also volunteer boards that specifically support the school system – Board of Education and Vestavia Hills City Schools Foundation, plus numerous PTO volunteers. Needless to say, the City would not be able to achieve all that we do without the volunteers that serve on these boards. Thank you to all who are serving or have previously served in these volunteer efforts.

May is an inspirational month because that is when we celebrate Memorial Day and pay tribute to all the military veterans that died serving our nation. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that over one million veterans died in combat from the time our nation was founded until our present day "War on Terror." Memorial Day is not to be confused with Veterans Day wherein we celebrate all veterans, living and deceased, and thank them for their service to our nation. We should never forget the ultimate sacrifice that our service men and women have made preserving our way of life.

Finally, join me in paying tribute to our peace officers. In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls is delegated as "National Police Week." During this week we pay tribute to those law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

We are truly blessed to live in one of the safest cities in the United States, as well as in Alabama. For the fourth time in a row, our city has been designated as the safest city in Alabama for cities with populations over 30,000 citizens. Please take time this month to remember our police officers, both locally and throughout our nation.

Don't forget that Mother's Day is May 14. I remember the 1970's commercial that legendary Coach Bryant did for Southern Bell telephone company. He said "One of the first things we tell our players is to keep in touch with their families. And when our freshmen first arrive, we ask them to write a postcard home, right then. You know, we keep them pretty busy, but they always have time to pick up the phone and call. And it's really important to keep in touch."

He closed the commercial by saying, "Have you called your mama today? I sure wish I could call mine." How many of you join me in saying I wish I could call my mother today?

Last, but not least, May is when we celebrate the graduation of our Vestavia Hills High School senior class. This year's class features 21 National Merit Semi-finalists and 20 National Merit Finalists, which is the highest number in the state. The \$44 million in scholarship offers is a school record. I always look forward to the opportunity to address the graduating seniors and challenge them to pursue their dreams while remembering to serve others along the way. This year's graduation ceremony will be held on May 23.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

May 2023

- 1 Splash Pad Opens**, Sicard Hollow Athletic Complex, 9am
(Pending completion of scheduled maintenance)
- 4 Design Review Board**, Executive Conference Room, 6pm
- 8 Senior Citizens Association Luncheon**, Civic Center, Dogwood Room, 11:30am
- 8 City Council Meeting**, Council Chamber, 6pm
- 9 Special Municipal Election**, Polls open 7am – 7pm
- 9 Chamber Luncheon**, Vestavia Country Club, 11:30am
- 11 Planning and Zoning Commission**, Council Chamber, 6pm
- 12 Picnic in the Park with Chevy 6**, Wald Park, 6:30pm
- 13 Hazardous Waste Collection Day**, Sicard Hollow Athletic Complex, 8am – Noon
- 15 Council Work Session**, Council Chamber, 6pm
- 16 Parks and Recreation Board**, Civic Center, 7:30am
- 18 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, Council Chamber, 6pm
- 22 City Council Meeting**, Council Chamber, 6pm
- 27 Aquatic Complex Opens**, Wald Park, 10am
- 29 Municipal Offices Closed** in observance of Memorial Day*

* Sanitation holiday; routes will run on a one day delay



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

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Over the past 53 years, our Vestavia Hills school system has distinguished itself as one of the best. This is directly attributable to the unparalleled support it has received from our community.

Since its inception, the citizens of Vestavia Hills have been called upon three times to approve property tax increases to meet the needs of the schools. Each time, our community has answered the call.

Much has changed since our last property tax election in May 1990. In a brief span of time, between 2011–2015, our schools grew from 6,000 students to more than 7,000. To meet the needs of this dramatic increase, we added two campuses, new classroom additions, and larger cafeterias, gymnasiums and libraries. We also increased the number of teachers and support staff in order to maintain low class sizes, meet the increasingly complex needs of our students and continue offering unique academic opportunities. These needed investments have placed financial limits on our ability to carry out our mission.

Vestavia Hills City Schools has a plan to protect the legacy of excellence our community has come to expect. We will protect student experiences by strengthening academic opportunities, by adding new world language and STEM classes for all elementary students. We will provide a greater level of support for teachers and students. We will protect school experiences by renewing, repairing and revitalizing our decades-old facilities with a focus on safety, health and accessibility. We will also add much-needed learning spaces for academics, arts and athletics on elementary, middle and high school campuses.

The annual investment needed for this plan is \$8.2 million, which would be funded through a proposed 9.8-mill property tax increase. All of the revenue from this tax increase would be allocated to our school system.

Vestavia Hills voters will have the opportunity to vote FOR or AGAINST the plan on Tuesday, May 9. Please make sure to verify your polling location as it may be different from the general election last November; you may visit the City of Vestavia Hills website for information at vhal.org/departments/city-clerk/municipal-elections.

The return on protecting our legacy of excellence will be seen for decades to come. The experiences for our students will be invaluable. And because our schools are the crown jewel of Vestavia Hills, it will enhance the value found in our quality of life, economic vitality and property.

Horace Mann, considered the father of American education, made an astute observation when he said, “No community

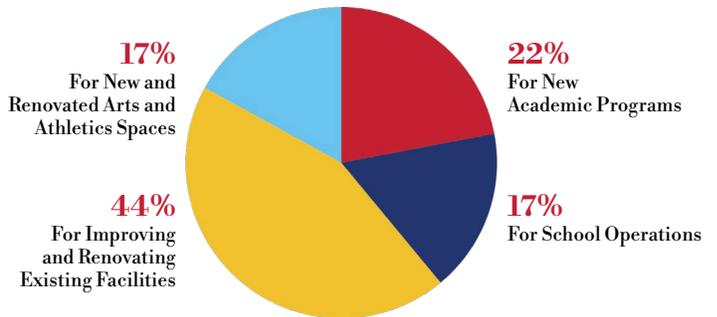
should rest contented with being superior to other communities, while it is inferior to its own capabilities.” I believe that the capabilities in Vestavia Hills to accomplish our mission are limitless. I am confident we all agree on that. **Learn more about this plan by visiting irebellfuture.com.**

Polling Locations

A special municipal election will be held in the City of Vestavia Hills on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. CST. Following are the polling locations and a map of these districts is available online at <https://vhal.org/departments/city-clerk/municipal-elections>.

- Polling District/Place 1** Shades Mountain Baptist Church
2017 Columbiana Road, 35216
- Polling District/Place 2** Vestavia Hills Methodist Church
2061 Kentucky Avenue, 35216
- Polling District/Place 3** Mountaintop Community Church
225 Centerview Drive, 35216
- Polling District/Place 4** Vestavia Hills Civic Center
1090 Montgomery Highway, 35216
- Polling District/Place 5** Cahaba Heights Baptist Church
3800 Crosshaven Drive, 35243
- Polling District/Place 6** The Church at Liberty Park
12001 Liberty Parkway, 35243
- Absentee Ballot Box** Vestavia Hills City Hall
1032 Montgomery Highway, 35216

Projected Budget: \$8.2 Million Per Year From 9.8 Mills of Additional Property Tax



How Much Will 9.8 Mills Cost?

Tax-Appraised Home Value	Additional Taxes (Per Year)	Additional Taxes (Per Month)
\$300,000	\$292.50	\$24.38
\$400,000	\$390.00	\$32.50
\$500,000	\$487.50	\$40.63
\$600,000	\$585.00	\$48.75
\$700,000	\$682.50	\$56.88
\$800,000	\$780.00	\$65.00



Michelle Hawkins,
President
Vestavia Hills
Chamber of Commerce

CHAMBER NEWS

Greetings Vestavia Hills – Happy May!

What a joyful and beautiful time of year – April showers bring May flowers! I LOVE the color and flowers of May.

April has been a busy and exciting month with Dogwood Festival events. We were excited to hear from Mayor Ashley Curry and local church and community leaders,

along with keynote speaker, Lindy Cleveland, at our 32nd Dogwood Prayer Breakfast. Lindy inspired the audience with her heartfelt testimony. We also had a rock’n fun time at Battle of the Bands in Rocky Ridge, an energized RISE event at VHHS, a terrific tasty Wing Ding at City Hall and wrapped up the Dogwood Festival with a blast at Heights Hangout!

The Vestavia Hills Chamber is growing and blooming and adding fun events celebrating and promoting businesses with ribbon cuttings, Business After Hours, Lunch and Learns, Try it Tuesday’s, Coffee and Classrooms, engaging business development, ambassador events, such as our “Birdies and Bites,” and fabulous networking and intriguing monthly Chamber Luncheons.

Please remember to SHOP LOCAL as you are getting ready for summer and please come see us any time! We are always here to help and to promote Vestavia Hills businesses, Chamber of Commerce members and the entire community of our wonderful City of Vestavia Hills. We are committed to you!

YOUR ADVERTISEMENT COULD BE HERE!

Advertising in the Community News
is a great way to market your business to
Vestavia Hills residents in a cost-effective way!

To reserve your space TODAY, contact the
Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce –
call 205.823.5011 or email
chamber@vestaviiahills.org.

City of Vestavia Hills HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY



Saturday, May 13, 2023
8am-Noon
Sicard Hollow Athletic Complex
4851 Sicard Hollow Road, 35242

The City, in conjunction with Amwaste, is hosting a Hazardous Waste Collection Day from 8am to noon in the parking lot of Sicard Hollow Athletic Complex (SHAC). Please note that this is for Vestavia Hills residents only (proof of residency required); collections will not be accepted from contractors or non-residents.

Accepted. Paint* (household amounts only); batteries (household and automotive); light bulbs; and pesticides* (household amounts only). *Paint must be dry; paint and pesticides MUST be in their original containers or they will NOT be accepted.

Not Accepted. Large appliances; wooden console TVs; gas; gas cans; paint/pesticides NOT in their original container

NOTE: Vestavia Hills police officers will NOT be on-site to collect unneeded or expired medications for disposal at this event. Medication collection will be available at the September collection event.

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> Activities for Active Adults (55+)

- **May is Senior Citizens month!** Did you know that the City offers a volunteer **Senior Transportation program** coordinated through Parks and Recreation? We are excited to welcome new volunteer drivers who enable us to continue this excellent service for our senior residents. Volunteers typically drive one day each month. For more information on becoming a volunteer, please call 205.978.0166 or email swilson@vhal.org.
 - Join us for **fun, fellowship and lunch** at New Merkel House in Cahaba Heights every Monday-Friday. Lunch is served daily at 11:45am.
 - Fitness is essential for all ages! New Merkel House offers **stretching classes** on Mondays at 10:30am, **Tai Chi** on Tuesdays at 10:30am and **chair yoga** on Thursdays at 10:30am. The Vestavia Hills Civic Center offers **senior dance classes** on Mondays at 6pm, and **Silver Sneakers** exercise classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11:15am. Tuesday's programming includes **Learn2Play**, which teaches attendees a new fun game, and **Walk My Way**, an exercise program where participants walk around the indoor track to their favorite music.
- Did you know there is an Active Adults newsletter just for our residents age 55+? **Sign up today on the homepage of the City's website – vhal.org.**

> Register NOW for Summer Rec Sports!

Vestavia Hills Swim and Dive

- **Participation:** Children ages 5-18 are eligible to participate in the summer Swim and Dive program if able to swim 25 yards independently. The 2023 Swim and Dive season will be held May 30 through July 29.
- **Registration:** Open now! Register online at https://bit.ly/pr_sportsman.
- **Location:** Vestavia Hills Aquatic Complex
- **Cost:** \$200 per participant

Youth Flag Football

- **Participation:** Open to boys and girls. Grouped by grade: 1st & 2nd Grade; 3rd Grade; 4th Grade; 5th & 6th Grade; 7th-9th Grade. Practices begin on August 14; games tentatively begin on September 9.
- **Registration:** Open now through July 24. Register online at https://bit.ly/pr_sportsman.
- **Location:** Varies
- **Cost:** \$120/player (resident); \$170/player (non-resident)
- **More Information:** Contact Will Harrington at 205.834.5295 or wharrington@vhal.org

Youth Girls Volleyball

- **Participation:** For girls in grades 3-7. Player evaluations will be held on August 7 from 12-2pm at the Civic Center; Coaches Clinic will be August 9 from 6-8pm at the Civic Center. Practices begin on August 15; games begin on August 20.
- **Registration:** Open now through August 4. Register online at https://bit.ly/pr_sportsman.
- **Location:** Vestavia Hills Civic Center (games and practices)
- **Cost:** \$140/player (resident); \$190/player (non-resident). Late registration: \$150/player (resident); \$200/player (non-resident)
- **More Information:** Contact Mike Sullivan at 205.978.0167 or msullivan@vhal.org.

Baseball Tournament

The Vestavia Hills Parks and Recreation Department will host a Baseball Tournament for all 6U Divisions. The tournament is scheduled for Friday, May 19 through Sunday, May 21 at Cahaba Heights Park. Teams may register for any division that best suits their needs. For more information or to register, contact david@bandwagonssports.com.



Scan the QR code or visit https://bit.ly/pr_sportsman, click "Create a New Account" or login to your existing account to register **TODAY!**

> Vestavia Hills Aquatic Complex Memberships & Opening Day!

The 2023 Aquatic Complex Swim Season kicks off Memorial Day weekend – May 27 at 10am! **Aquatic Complex memberships for Summer 2023 are on sale now!** Visit <http://bit.ly/VH-poolpass> to register and purchase a membership online. Combination Aquatic Complex/Civic Center memberships are also available but, at this time, are only available for purchase IN-PERSON at the Civic Center.

Plan Options	Aquatic Complex ONLY	Civic Center ONLY		Aquatic Complex/ Civic Center COMBO
		Monthly	Annual	
Individual (0-54 yrs)	\$75	\$15	\$135	\$210
Family	\$300 ¹	\$35	\$300	\$500
Active Adult (55+)	\$35	\$10	\$100	\$125
Track Pass*	N/A	N/A	\$25 ²	N/A
Guest Pass	\$10 ³	N/A	N/A	N/A

¹ For families of 4 or more; families of 3 or less should purchase individual memberships

² Annual Track Pass for Active Adults (55+) = \$12

³ Guests must be accompanied by a member; max of one guest per member per day)

> Game Room Coming to the Civic Center!



Vestavia Hills Parks and Recreation wants to expand programming to include Esports. Esports (electronic sports), is a form of video game competition. Esports often involves organized, multiplayer video game competitions, particularly between professional players, individually or as teams. Esports leagues are available for games like Madden, Rocket League, Super Smash Bros, NBA 2K and more. With our brand-new game room opening at the Civic Center on June 1, we are trying to devise creative ways to utilize such a fantastic space! **Does this interest you? We want your feedback!** Take this quick survey and let us know if you are interested in Esports programming: <https://communityfeedback.opengov.com/12743>.



There are so many exciting summer camp options this summer in Vestavia Hills! There's something for everybody, from a Legos® camp to a creative writing camp! Let's start making memories that will last a lifetime! Camp descriptions and online registration are available online at https://vhrecreation.activityreg.com/selectactivity_t2.wcs.

> Rock Out in Wald Park

We have more fun concerts coming your way this summer with the return of the 2023 Concert Series! Each show will feature family-friendly music set against the gorgeous backdrop of the Wald Park amphitheater! It's the perfect way to shake off the winter blues by dancing the night away!

Vestavia Hills CONCERT SERIES

FREE
APRIL 21 - JUNE 22
WALD PARK
(2521 Waldridge Road, 35216)

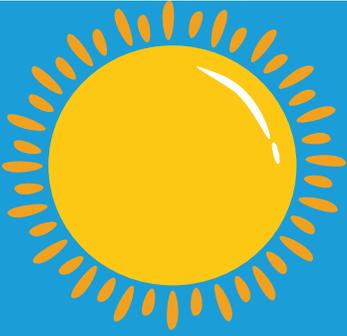
April 21
The Mountain Grass Unit with Will Stewart @ 7pm. Presented by the Library in the Forest

May 12
Picnic in the Park with Chevy 6 @ 6:30pm.

June 17
SummerFest BBQ with Jenni's Mix Tape @ 6:30pm.

June 22
I Love America Day with the Shades Mountain Orchestra @ 6pm.

Visit <https://vhparksandrec.com/programs-camps/> for more details.



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May 20  11 am

Wald Park

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BRIAN DAVIS FAREWELL

Change is Constant

My nearly 22-year tenure with Vestavia Hills began in November 2001. During my time with the City of Vestavia Hills, we have seen growth beyond anyone's imagination. I cannot begin this farewell address without thanking Dr. Charles A. "Scotty" McCallum. He took a chance on a young, wide-eyed, optimistic recreation director, and the ride has been significant.

Four months into my journey, a group of parents, led by Kendra Veach Thomley, along with over 2,000 volunteers, changed the landscape of Wald Park by constructing a community-built playground in just 10 short days. Cahaba Heights was annexed into the City and, while the facilities were older, they were new to us and much needed. We immediately began planning for growth. While we weren't able to accomplish much of those early plans, there was still a vision. We kept working and striving to improve facilities, but the timing wasn't quite right.

In 2011, a tornado changed many lives as well as the landscape of Vestavia Hills. We continued to plan and grow and added the Sicard Hollow Athletic Complex to the list of amenities in Vestavia Hills. It was a much-needed addition and has been utilized at near capacity since the gates opened.

Nine years ago brought another change to the City – Jeff Downes was hired as the Vestavia Hills City Manager. Jeff has been a mentor, confidant, friend and leader to me. His vision, leadership and drive have changed the direction of this great city. His ability to share a vision, get others on board with the vision, and then secure the funds to accomplish the vision is extraordinary. Under his tutelage, we have accomplished so much, especially due to implementation of the Community Spaces Plan over the course of the last four years. We have built new facilities and completed upgrades to older facilities, all under Jeff's direction.

As I step into a new venture, I can look back and say with great confidence that Vestavia Hills is a place apart, as well as a life above. I know there are so many more names that I could list that have been influential in my time here, but I don't have the space to list them. From the depths of my heart, thank you citizens of Vestavia Hills for allowing me to be a small part of your lives over the past 21 years.

Only Rain in the Storm Drain!

What happens when debris enters storm drains?

- > It is **ILLEGAL!** Violators who put leaves, clippings or other materials in the storm drains are subject to fines or, when warranted, additional enforcement by the City.
 - > Clogged storm drains may result in **flooding**, creating safety hazards and causing property damage.
 - > Rotting leaves cause **algae blooms in water bodies**, harming plants and animals and reducing water quality.
 - > Debris clogging storm drains can be a breeding ground for **rodents and insects**.
- > Cleaning out clogged storm drains **costs taxpayers money!**



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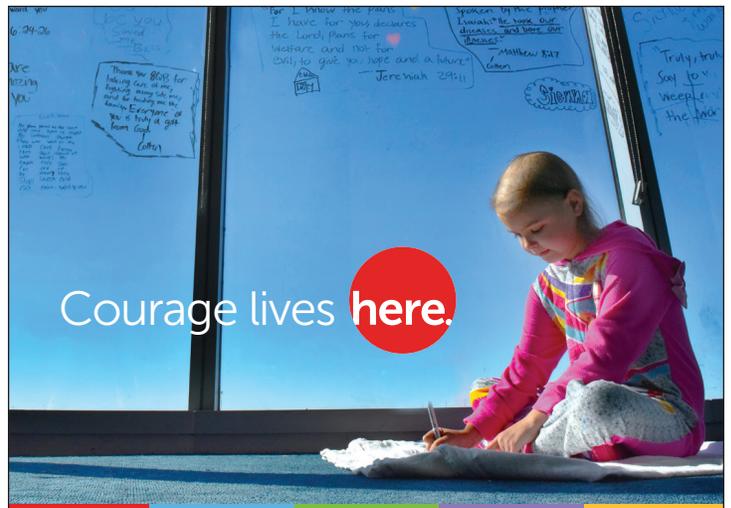
June 22, 2023 ★ 6:00 pm ★ Wald Park
 Featuring live music, kids' area,
 free swimming, sponsor booths
 and a FIREWORKS SHOW!

Presented by:

Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce & the City of Vestavia Hills



BLACK FAMILY RESTAURANTS



Most people cannot even imagine what it feels like to watch a child take on a battle against cancer. The courage, strength and resilience our patients demonstrate every day is what inspires us to give our best. We are here when families need us the most, caring for their children and never giving up hope in their fight against cancer.



Children's
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Learn more at [ChildrensAL.org/cancer](https://www.childrensal.org/cancer)