

COMMUNITY NEWS

News & Events for the City of Vestavia Hills | June/July 2023
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 don't mean to be a broken record; however, those that know me understand the strong held principles that buoy my leadership as City Manager. One such, often repeated principle, is that a successful city develops an intentional, emotional connection with its residents. The use of the word "love" will then become a regular part of the vocabulary when describing the engagement with such a city. Over the last several weeks, it has been gratifying to experience many expressions that demonstrate this "love."

In March of this year, the City hosted a design charrette to inclusively and openly develop a reimagined plan for the south end of Highway 31 in Vestavia Hills. Residents, commercial property owners and potential investors actively participated with great enthusiasm to chart an achievable course forward on a much-maligned area of our city. In a post-charrette evaluation, an online survey was offered to individuals so they could weigh-in on the direction established by the charrette generated ideas. You can see below what respondents said about the plan via a computer-generated word cloud.

Love

access along 31 improvement so
more Having idea too Really hope
near community needs bridge connect library Wald Park highway make use
Please vision think Temple much currently what nice area way looks traffic
where Columbiana right turn need red people into Such from like going see up
down green space Restaurant just center type hotel restaurants fast food Vestavia
keep areas entertainment retail amazing south First spaces all shops road
could do something some great eyesore mixed Trussville similar Inn

Wow! This is certainly a reassuring community feedback on the plan AND the future of the city.

In April, the two largest events that are a part of the annual Dogwood Festival wrapped up two months of community building activities. Both the annual Wing Ding and Heights Hangout were rousing successes. There is a lot of "love" going around as evidenced by the early closing of entry gates at Wing Ding due to an all-time record consumption of chicken wings and the 22% increase in ticket sales (2,000+ attendees) at Heights Hangout.

I hope we can build on these successes and continue an attitude that sustains and grows the love affair with our city. There is a lot to love about Vestavia Hills.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

June 2023

- 1 Design Review Board,**
Executive Conference Room, 6pm
- 8 Planning and Zoning Commission,**
Council Chamber, 6pm
- 12 Senior Citizens Association Luncheon,**
Civic Center, Dogwood Room, 11:30am
- 12 City Council Meeting,**
Council Chamber, 6pm
- 13 Chamber Luncheon,**
Vestavia Country Club, 11:30am
- 15 Board of Zoning Adjustment,**
Council Chamber, 6pm
- 17 BBQ in the Park with Jenni's Mixtape,**
Wald Park, 6:30pm
- 18 Father's Day**
- 19 City Council Work Session,**
Council Chamber, 6pm
- 20 Parks and Recreation Board,**
Civic Center, 7:30am
- 22 I Love America Night,**
Wald Park Grand Lawn, 6pm
- 26 City Council Meeting,**
Council Chamber, 6pm

July 2023

- 4 Municipal Offices Closed in**
observance of Independence Day*
- 6 Design Review Board,**
Executive Conference Room, 6pm
- 10 Senior Citizens Association Luncheon,**
Civic Center, Dogwood Room, 11:30am
- 10 City Council Meeting,**
Council Chamber, 6pm
- 13 Planning and Zoning Commission,**
Council Chamber, 6pm
- 17 City Council Work Session,**
Council Chamber, 6pm
- 18 Parks and Recreation Board,**
Civic Center, 7:30am
- 20 Board of Zoning Adjustment,**
Council Chamber, 6pm
- 24 City Council Meeting,**
Council Chamber, 6pm

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



Ashley Curry,
Mayor
City of
Vestavia Hills

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I am excited to share a bit about the significant events that took place during the past month.

The Vestavia Hills Beautification Board hosted the 44th annual Vestavia Belles Presentation at Vestavia Country Club. Each year the newly-selected Belles are introduced, and the junior and senior class Belles are recognized for their years of service.

Between their duties serving as hostesses at City events and their volunteer time each summer at the Library in the Forest, these young ladies provide outstanding service to our city.

The First Responders Picnic, sponsored by the Vestavia Hills Sunrise Rotary Club, was held on the lawn at City Hall. This annual event recognizes our city's first responders and their families. It is very important to recognize the families in addition to the first responders themselves, as they live with constant concern about the safety of their loved ones. I salute these families and the men and women of our police and fire departments.

I attended the VHHS Awards Day on April 19 and participated in the athletic awards that were presented by Coach Buddy Anderson. As you may recall, three VHHS football coaches were killed in an automobile accident in August of 1971. In September of 1971, the City passed Resolution 332 which honors coaches Thomas Harold Ward, Robert Cooper Ray and Phillip M. Puccio. These awards are given to deserving male and female athletes as selected by the VHHS Athletic Department. It is fitting that Coach Buddy Anderson presents these awards as he represents the character and leadership attributes that these three coaches instilled in our student athletes. Congratulations to this year's recipients and thank you, Coach Anderson.

At our high school graduation on May 23, I challenged the graduates to be "significant" as they pursue success in their respective careers. I used Dr. Albert Sweitzer as an example. He left a distinguished career as a theologian, professional musician and medical doctor in Strasbourg, Austria to become a medical missionary in Africa. At a commencement address for a boy's school, Dr. Sweitzer stated, "I do not know what your destiny will be, but I do know the only ones among you who will be truly happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve others."

Father's Day is always celebrated on the third Sunday in June. This year it will be Sunday, June 18. Father's Day began in 1910, two years after the first official celebration of Mother's Day. Last month we celebrated Mother's Day, so let's not forget to recognize our fathers this month.

Finally, we must remember to celebrate our nation's Independence Day on July 4. I hope you will join us as we celebrate the founding of our country at the "I Love America" event on the evening of

June 22 at Wald Park. There will be free swimming at the Vestavia Hills Aquatic Complex, sponsor booths, children's activities sponsored by Vestavia Hills Methodist Church, a live musical performance and an amazing fireworks show!

We should never take our freedoms for granted and we should understand that with those freedoms come great responsibilities. We should pass this on from generation to generation so freedom's light will forever burn in the hearts and minds of every American.

I hope you have an enjoyable summer.

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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!**



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

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

British historian Arnold Toynbee once said, "You can pretty well summarize all of history in four words: *Nothing fails like success.*" This is perhaps the best motivation for a company, business or organization to continually strive to improve its outcomes.

A church, business, industry and any organized group must adapt to meet the changing needs of its members or customers. If it does not, it will eventually lose its relevance and, subsequently, the people it seeks to reach. I can say confidently that this has been the key motivation in sustaining the legacy of our school system since its founding in 1970.

Vestavia Hills City Schools has a perpetual mandate to continuously improve what we do. I believe we must always challenge the process, learn from our successes and be agile in adapting to the needs of our students. Our children's futures are our priority, and we must be committed to meeting their ever-changing needs. An important part of this commitment is that we examine how our students are doing and, more importantly, where we can improve their experiences.

The school system has a strategic plan with a mission of providing every student the opportunity to learn without limits. The three goals of our plan emphasize profound learning experiences, confronting challenges our students face and providing effective systems of support for students and staff. We constantly evaluate our progress in these goals through the lens of what we believe is a picture of success. You can learn about our strategic plan by visiting our website at www.vhcs.us/strategicplan.

Each year, we provide the community with an Annual Report of our school system. The pages will be filled with the many, varied accomplishments of our students and schools. Those will include awards and distinctions, philanthropic efforts, performances, test scores and much more. Be looking for this report to be released in August.

Summer is an important time for all of us to build on the successes of the past year. We do this by getting much-needed rest, staying connected in meaningful ways to learning and being physically active. The season is a great time to look less at computer screens and more at natural scenes; to prioritize more time with family and friends and less virtual time with others; to reignite enthusiasm for learning; to rest; to have fun; and to reflect on the overflow of blessings we have.

While school is out, our staff will be busy preparing for next school year. The buildings will still be brimming with academic, art and athletic camps. Teachers will be engaged in professional learning. Our facilities will be refreshed. And our work will be focused on continual improvement by learning from our successes.



**Michelle Hawkins,
President**
Vestavia Hills
Chamber of Commerce

CHAMBER NEWS

Hello and Happy June from your Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce! Summertime is here! It's a busy month here at the Chamber as we are getting ready for our largest event of the year – I LOVE AMERICA NIGHT. We are super excited and anticipating it to be one of our best yet! So many fun business expo tables, free swimming at the pool, lots of inflatables, bouncy houses and games for the children, and a variety of music and entertainment. And the grand finale – the fabulous FIREWORKS! In my opinion, they rival the best in the Birmingham area. Please join in the FUN for our 41st I Love America Night on June 22, 2023, from 6-9 p.m. at Wald Park.

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. Please follow us on Instagram and Facebook to see all the latest fun activities such as our SHOP DINE and PLAY "Pig Scavenger Hunt."

For those looking for a job, check out our Job Fair! We are constantly adding new job listings on our Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce job board on our website at vestaviiahills.org.

Come by and see us any time and check out the wonderful facility here at the Vestavia Hills Civic Center. While many of you will be preparing to travel out of town for vacation, please remember to SHOP LOCAL as you are getting ready for your summertime events and activities. Share the Love of Vestavia Hills!

**YOUR
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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.



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41st Annual

I LOVE America NIGHT

**June 22, 2023 at Wald Park
6:00-8:00 pm**

Free Swimming at the Wald Park Aquatic Complex
Kids' area sponsored by Vestavia Hills Methodist Church

Sponsor Booths

Live Music **6:00-8:30 pm**

FIREWORKS SHOW at 8:45 pm

Pack a picnic or grab dinner at the concession stand.
Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Free shuttles available from nearby
parking lots. Visit www.vestaviiahills.org for more information.

Presented by:

Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce & the City of Vestavia Hills



BLACK FAMILY RESTAURANTS



PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES



> Vestavia Hills Aquatic Complex & Civic Center Memberships

The 2023 Aquatic Complex Swim Season has officially begun! **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, must be purchased 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)

> Swim Lessons

Swimming lessons teach children self-confidence, encourage physical fitness and reduce drowning risk. We offer a variety of swim lessons at the Vestavia Hills Aquatic Complex for first-time swimmers to experienced swimmers who need help working on their strokes!

Swim Lessons will be available June 5-15, June 19-29, July 10-20 and July 24-August 3. The cost is \$120 per 8-day session. Classes will be held Monday-Thursday, with Friday as a make-up day in case of inclement weather. Classes will begin daily at 8am and last approximately 30 minutes.

To register for swim lessons, scan the QR code at right or visit https://bit.ly/pr_sportsman.

> **Beginner Swim Lessons:** This is a beginner swim class or level 1 and intro to swimming. This is for children who cannot put their faces in the water or float.

> **Intermediate Swim Lessons:** This swim class is for children between the ages of 5-11 who know how to put their faces in the water and can float. These children can have some forward progress in the water with no help from someone or a flotation device.

> **Advanced Swim Lessons:** This level of lessons is for an advanced swimmer who can swim across the pool but needs help refining their stroke and learning new strokes.



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!**

> Activities for Active Adults (55+)

- **Senior Luncheon – June 12, 11:30am:** Join us for games, lunch and activities! Learn about the Masters Games of Alabama, a non-profit organization that promotes healthy lifestyles for active adults aged 50 and over through social, mental and physical activities! To reserve your spot, call 205.978.0166.
- **Lunch & Trip – June 20, 9:30am:** Take a trip to the Berman Museum and the Anniston Museum and Gardens, followed by lunch at Bistro 1307. Transportation is provided, but lunch is at your own discretion. Meet at the Civic Center at 9:30am. To reserve your spot, call 205.978.0166.
- **Wetumpka Trip – June 27, 7:30am:** Take a trip to Wetumpka, AL! We will visit the Windcreek Casino and tour the “Hometown Project.” Meet at the Civic Center at 7:30am! To reserve your spot, call 205.978.0166.
- **Senior Luncheon – July 10, 11:30am:** What says summer better than a Bar-B-Que? That’s right – we are cooking out! Join us for fun, fellowship, bar-b-que and more! To reserve your spot, call 205.978.0166.
- **“Take me out to the Ballgame” – July 18, 5:00pm:** Enjoy a baseball game at Regions Field where the Barons will play against the Chattanooga Lookouts! Meet at the Vestavia Hills Civic Center at 5:30pm; transportation is provided. The game starts at 7pm. Make your reservations today by calling 205.978.0166!
- **Lunch & Trip – July 27, 9:30am:** Take a trip to Barber Motorsports with a stop at Buc-ee’s and lunch at Grand River! Meet at the Vestavia Hills Civic Center at 9:30am; transportation is provided. To reserve your spot, call 205.978.0166.
- 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 Fall Rec Sports!

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. **We need coaches!** A Coaches Clinic will be held 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

Esports League

- **Participation:** Game days will begin the week after League play and will continue through August 12 for the most popular League game. August 13-September 30 will be for H2H & eCommunity Leagues – NEW Madden, FIFA, Rocket League, Super Smash.
- **Registration:** Open July 1 through August 1. Register online at https://bit.ly/pr_sportsman.
- **Location:** Vestavia Hills Civic Center (games and practices)
- **Cost:** FREE for Vestavia Hills Civic Center members
- **More Information:** Contact Will Harrington at 205.834.5295 or wharrington@vhal.org





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41st Annual
I LOVE
America
NIGHT

June 22, 2023 ★ 6:00 pm ★ Wald Park

Look for more details inside
 this newsletter!

Presented by:

Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce & the City of Vestavia Hills



BLACK FAMILY RESTAURANTS



In the little moments and major milestones of childhood, we are here for our patients and their families – helping, healing, teaching and discovering.



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