



VESTAVIA HILLS
CHAMBER
of
COMMERCE

NEWS & VIEWS

July 2023 Volume 43 Issue 7

New Resident Welcome Bags

Summer is a busy time for families moving into Vestavia Hills. We will be packing 150 Welcome Bags in July for the schools to distribute to their new resident families. This is an excellent way to introduce your business to these new members of our community. Start thinking now about what you would like to put in the bags—we will need your items by July 18.

- It doesn't have to be 150 of the same item; you can mix and match.
- Please make sure any coupons have long expiration dates. Leftover bags will be kept at our office and given out through next summer.
- Items can be brought to the Chamber Office at 1090 Montgomery Highway



Reminder: There is no July Luncheon.

*Our next luncheon will be on
August 8. Have a fun and
safe summer!*



Happy July, everyone!

A BLAST was had by all at the 41st Annual I Love America Night on June 22nd at Wald Park. It was outstanding! Turnout was surely a record number and thankfully the weather cooperated! Thanks once again to our title sponsor, McDonalds-Black Family Restaurants, for leading the way to a tremendous event. Presenting sponsors include Royal Automotive, United Community Bank, Standard Heating, Cooling & Plumbing, Shades Mountain Baptist Church, and Vestavia Hills Methodist Church.



Donnie Dobbins

There were over 70 sponsors who greeted guests at their booths with all types of treats and promotional "swag". Feedback from our member businesses was very positive!

Everywhere I looked there were kids, and lots of them! The kids' play area was full of children, parents and laughter, and the Free Swim at the community pool once again was a huge hit. The Vestavia Belles were on site for face painting and tattoos. Wow, were those lines long -but the little ones were so well behaved and patient!

Awesome sounds came from our musical guests, Lucky Larue and Chevy 6. Patriotic music filled the air as well throughout the evening. I personally witnessed several kids singing along to the patriotic music-how great is that?! Katherine Arnold belted out a beautiful singing of our National Anthem, and all sang along as Jeff and Caitlin Caulk performed the Armed Services Medley.

The excitement of the night's Grand Finale came as the lights went dark at 8:45 p.m. The long awaited and greatly anticipated fireworks show was about to begin. "BOOM, BANG....oh wow, so pretty" could be heard coming from the sea of families across Wald Park's green space. The show seemed to go on forever, and wrapped up with huge cheers from across the park. Another amazing display that I'm still hearing about from friends, families, and business constituents throughout our great City.

We have one of the finest new recreational spaces around, and it gives me pride to know that future generations of Vestavia families will continue to benefit from all that Wald Park has to offer.

Special thanks are again due to our City leadership. From Mayor's Curry's office, to the City Council, to the many volunteers, including Vestavia Hills Parks and Recreation, Vestavia Hills Police Department, Vestavia Hills Fire Department, to the Vestavia Hills City staff and Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce staff. So much coordination goes into this event to ensure a safe and smooth operation. The planning started months before, led by Tyler Kime and his I Love America Committee-a very special thank you to all the volunteers who participated on this committee!

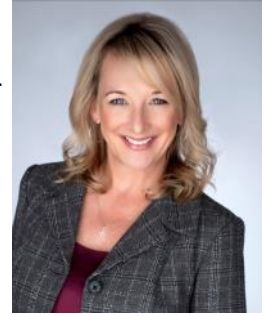
Our summer will come and go in a heartbeat, like it always seems to. Find time to try a new restaurant, shop at a new store, make new friends with our businesses. Much good can come from supporting our local merchants. As citizens of Vestavia Hills, we all play a role in our City's financial and economic success.

I look forward to seeing you the second half of 2023 at a ribbon cutting, special event, school

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Hello and Happy July!

What an amazing night, our 41st I Love America was incredible. We have so much to celebrate and so much to be thankful for here in Vestavia Hills. On behalf of the Chamber and along with my fabulous staff we want to thank all the Chamber businesses who sponsored this event. An event this size takes a lot of preparation, planning and time. A big shout-out to everyone on the ILA committee of volunteers and to my staff – Tracy Thornton, Annilyn Warner, and especially Katie Woodruff who Chairs the ILA committee.



Michelle Hawkins

I hope everyone had a fantastic Fourth of July celebration and a great summer so far. July is a busy month for businesses with the start of the third quarter and for many, the beginning of the new fiscal year. This is a great time for establishing new goals, taking inventory, working on budgets and new marketing ideas, and preparing for the fourth quarter.

Here are some marketing ideas and company activities you might want to consider this month:

- July is the National Independent Retailer Month. Retailers are an important part of Vestavia Hills, and here at the Chamber we work diligently to help promote and support our retailers and restaurants. We ask all our Chamber members to join us in our SHOP. DINE. PLAY. in Vestavia Hills. Your business may not fall in this category, but by putting your dollars back into our City, this also will directly affect your business and improve our parks, roads, schools, and more.
- July is National Anti-Boredom Month. After the celebrations of the July 4th festivities, the summer humidity and heat, and a lack of normal structure, we can fall into boredom and non-productiveness. So like January, when many establish month-long challenges, July can become a great time for a mid-year focus around food, fitness, hydration, and health.
- Here are several ideas to help your personal and professional growth. Find a Vestavia Hills personal trainer, join a gym, or our Vestavia Hills Civic Center.
- July is a good time to schedule appointments with your doctors for your regular health care checkups for oral, eye, dermatology, and primary care. Regular appointments are always the best practice of prevention. Vestavia Hills truly has the best doctors in Birmingham.
- Give yourself a mental break from social media and use that time to sign up to volunteer with Vestavia Hills organizations. There are many groups looking for help now for programs and events starting in August and September. Here are some organizations to choose from:
 - Arts Council Vestavia Hills – www.vhal.org/community/arts-council/
 - Friends of the Library- www.vestavialibrary.org/friends-of-the-library/
 - Sibyl Temple Foundation- Email sibylbricks@gmail.com
 - Parks and Recreation Programs- <https://vhparksandrec.com/>
 - Senior Citizens Association- contact Ruby Denson- 205-822-8788
 - Historical Society- Contact Shelia Bruce at 205-979-1356
 - Senior Transportation- contact Julie Harper at jharper@vhal.org
 - City Schools Foundation- www.vestaviafoundation.org
- Everybody deserves personal care and focus. Find a professional to provide this service for you. Whether that be a traditional massage, physical therapist, nail and hair salon or spa treatment. Vestavia Hills provides amazing professional services.
- International Chocolate Day – July 7th. Everyone can get behind this delicious day and benefit from marketing ideas too. Try a candy counting contest, give out chocolate kisses to your customers, or just post a cute meme.
- Gruntled Workers Day – July 13. So, believe it or not, gruntled is a word and it means content, pleased, or satisfied. Use this day to gather feedback from your employees whether it be a fun group outing including

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- family members, or an in-office company catered lunch, or renting an afternoon at the Golfclub for an interactive company team competition. Happy employees make for happy customers.
- Give Something Away Day – July 15th. Consider a company donation or fundraiser for a Vestavia Hills church or charity. Involving your business in something that benefits the community provides a blessing for not just the recipient but the giver.
 - National Ice Cream Day – July 16th (Third Sunday in July). There are so many fun marketing ideas your business can offer around this sweet, tasty day. Treat customers with gift cards or coupons or have an ice cream sundae party by purchasing with our Vestavia Hills ice cream shops at Bruster's, Sunshine Creamery, and Jeremiah's Italian Ice -- a new Vestavia Hills business and Chamber member.
 - Get to Know Your Customers Day – July 20th (Third Thursday of every quarter). What a great opportunity and reminder to build and strengthen your client relationships.
 - National Parents' Day – July 23rd (Fourth Sunday in July). Vestavia Hills has so many terrific gift shops for that perfect gift, fabulous restaurants gift cards or dine in, or gift cards for pampering services. Retailers take this opportunity to advertise this day and other Vestavia Hills businesses, always remember to shop locally at this continues to build our community.

We are frequently out-and-about saying hello to our Chamber business members and promoting these businesses with selfies on our social media stories. Please follow us on Instagram and Facebook to check out all our activities, Try it Tuesdays, and business promotions. Remember to tag us on your social media stories and posts so we can share it on our social media. More "likes, comments and shares" increases everyone's marketing campaigns!

Please check out all our Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce businesses whether you are looking for a restaurant, salon, physician, oil and tire service, clothing store, bank, landscaper, etc., we have it here!

Thank you so much for supporting the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce through your membership. We are here to promote and support you! Please let us know how we are doing; we are here for you!

With Warm Wishes,

Michelle Hawkins,
President

August 8 Luncheon

Reservations must be made by 4:00 PM Thursday, August 3, 2023 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, August 3 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 2023, please email katie@vestaviahills.org

2023 Dates:

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

August 8
September 12
October 10
November 14
December 12

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events, and of course, our monthly luncheons. Your Chamber has some exciting plans ahead!

My best to each of you and your families-I hope everyone enjoys a safe and fun July 4th holiday!

Cheers!

*Donnie Dobbins
First Horizon Bank
Board Chair, 2023*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

- ◆ Birmingham Lifestyle
Kali McNutt
2801 University Blvd, Suite 101
Birmingham, AL 35233
(205) 527-9508
www.citylifestyle.com/birmingham
Category: Publications
- ◆ JanPro of Central AL
Rhonda Gilbert
234 Aquarius Drive, Suite 106
Birmingham, AL 35209
(205) 767-7435
www.jan-pro.com/centralalabama
Category: Cleaning Services
- ◆ The Happy Catering Company
Alex Bouloukos
P.O.Box 19519
Birmingham, AL 35219
(205) 251-8925
www.happycatering.net
Category: Caterers
- ◆ Vulcan Wellness & Aesthetics
Shannon Powell
2015 Kentucky Avenue
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
(205) 438-6009
www.vulcanwell.com
Category: Weight Loss/Management
- ◆ Rise Against Hunger
John Corso
Vestavia Hills, AL 35226
(205) 913-2215
www.riseagainsthunger.org
Category: Fundraising; Organizations
- ◆ D1 Vestavia Hills
Chris Hargreaves
1014 Montgomery Highway
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
(205) 509-5434
www.d1training.com/birmingham
Category: Fitness; Gym/Health Club
- ◆ Jeremiah's Italian Ice
Ricky McKnight
790 Montgomery Highway, Suite 106
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
(334) 488-0962
www.jeremiahsice.com
Category: Ice Cream/Frozen Desserts
- ◆ Mudtown Eat & Drink
McCall Harwell
3144 Green Valley Road
Vestavia Hills, AL 35243
(205) 967-3300
www.mudtownalabama.com
Category: Restaurants; Caterers
- ◆ The Ridge Eat & Drink
McCall Harwell
3325 Rocky Ridge Plaza
Vestavia Hills, AL 35243
(205) 917-5080
www.theridgealabama.com
Category: Restaurants; Caterers



SHOP. DINE. PLAY

BINGO



The Shop, Dine, and Play pigs are placed around Vestavia Hills in businesses and community spaces. These pigs represent when you spend money in Vestavia Hills you are putting your dollars back into the city's piggy bank! When you shop local that money goes back into improving our streets, parks, schools, and other city spaces. Most of these pigs were painted by local school art classes and artists.

Shop, Dine, Play Bingo happening from June 1st through July 31st! Print your bingo card from <https://www.vestaviiahills.org/58378-2/> or pick one up from the Chamber Office. Follow the clues to find each pig and write down the hidden letter to spell out a special phrase. Once you have completed the phrase, you can turn your card in to be entered in a grand prize drawing, valued at over \$1000!

Want extra entries in the drawing? Turn in any shopping receipts from any Vestavia Hills business with your completed card.



Many Thanks to All Our Sponsors



BLACK FAMILY RESTAURANTS



Gold Sponsors

Abenoja Orthodontics * Action Martial Arts * Allstate-The Sabatini Agency
America's First Federal Credit Union * Angelica Rohner Pediatric Dentistry
Ascension St. Vincent's Health System * Aspire Physical Recovery Center * Avadian Credit Union
AVIA Apartments * BBB Serving Central & South Alabama * Birmingham Christian Family
Birmingham Martial Arts * BodyBar Pilates Cahaba Heights * Britt Animal Hospital
Brittney W. Gilbert, Family Dentistry * Buffalo Rock * Cahaba Mountain Brook Animal Clinic
Cellular Sales Authorized Agent of Verizon Wireless * Chick-fil-A Vestavia Hills * Crumbl Cookies
Digital Trends * Dog U * Domino's Pizza Cahaba Heights * ERA King Real Estate
Family Medical Supply * First Horizon Bank * Grandview Medical Center * Highlands Dental Arts
Homewood Pediatric Dentistry * IRA Innovations, LLC * Jackson, Howard & Whatley, CPAs
The Jimmie Hale Mission * John Henley State Farm Insurance * KidStrong * Leaf & Petal
Levy's at Gus Mayer * Liberty Park Children's Dentistry * Liberty Park Joint Venture
Magnetic Hope * Medicare Advisors of Alabama Method Mortgage * Morningside of Vestavia Hills
Mountain Chapel Methodist Church * Mountaintop Church * Norris Orthodontics * OnTime Service
Orangetheory Fitness * OsteoStrong Cahaba River * Overture Tributary * ProLift Garage Doors
Pure Fitness * Ray & Poynor Properties * RealtySouth Acton Road * Regions Bank * Right at Home
Samurai Japan * Sarver Orthodontics
Sentry Heating, Air Conditioning, Plumbing, Electrical & Generators * Shoe Station
SouthPoint Bank * SpeedPro Direct * Spire * Stone Building Company * StoneCreek Dental Care
TWO MEN AND A TRUCK * UAB Callahan Eye * Vestavia Barber Shop * Vestavia Hills Board & Brush
Vestavia Voice * Village Dermatology * Voyage Family Chiropractic * Vulcan Materials
Walmart Neighborhood Market * Wedgworth Construction
Drs. Wood, Spooner and Mills-Cosmetic and General Dentistry

Silver Sponsors

Altadena Eye Care * bDot Architecture * Caprine Engineering * Cayo Coco Rum Bar & Restaurant
Champion Cleaners * Davenport's Pizza Palace * Don's Carpet One * Dunkin'
Heights Dermatology & Aesthetics * Iz Café * The Lili Pad * Promotional Creations
Richter Landscape Company * Roofing Contractor-Oswaldo Sialer * Slice Pizza & Brewhouse
Steed's Jewelers * Town Village Vestavia Hills * The UPS Store * Vulcan Park & Museum

Member Notes

- **Chick-fil-A Cahaba Heights** is having a Stuffed Animal Sleepover (Friday-Saturday) July 7-8! Friday 5pm-9 pm: Wear your pj's and bring your favorite stuffed animal! We will provide name tags, a cozy bed for your pal, and a cow plush toy to take home while your buddy is away! Saturday 6:30 am-9 pm: Pick your stuffed pals up and receive a treat from us! 3949 Crosshaven Drive
- Join the **Vestavia City Center** on July 14 from 6-9 pm at Moonlight Movies with a showing of Ratatouille on green! Grab dinner before the movie at one of their amazing restaurants and then enjoy a movie and free popcorn! 700 Montgomery Highway
- Join **Karen's Hallmark** for an unforgettable Ornament Premiere Event, July 15–23, as we celebrate our 50th anniversary and all the memories we've made together. Find your favorites from 250 all-new Keepsake Ornaments and fill up on holiday cheer during Christmas in July. It's the perfect time to get a head start on the season you love most—while enjoying the best Bonus Points of the year. 620 Montgomery Highway
- The Vestavia Hills Farmers Market is open from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm every Wednesday through August 30! Located at Scout Square, right off of Highway 31, the Farmers Market is an outreach ministry of **Vestavia Hills Methodist Church**, created to bring local crafts and seasonal goods into our community!
- **Town Village Vestavia Hills** invites you to Rolls & Referrals Networking Event the 3rd Wednesday of Each Month! Pop in anytime from 8 am-9:30 am. Local businesses can build relationships and create awareness for themselves or their company. Casual networking while enjoying warm cinnamon rolls and coffee. Also, door prize drawings. Free to attend and no RSVP is needed. 2385 Dolly Ridge Road
- **VIVA MEDICARE** is a 5-Star rated Medicare Advantage plan, which means Alabamians can enroll in VIVA MEDICARE any time of the year for their 2023 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.
- **Birmingham Physical Therapy** in Cahaba Heights has a couple of small group fitness classes led by PTs! The first is Fit for Life, which is held from 12-1pm Monday-Thursday and focuses on improving the strength, balance, and endurance of its participants. The second is Fit for Life: Mobility, which will be held at 7am on Tuesdays and Thursdays and will focus on improving the mobility and flexibility of its participants. If you are interested in learning more, please email melaniecosio.dpt@gmail.com.
- Read the latest issue of **Birmingham Christian Family** that features Chamber members Unless U, Children's of Alabama and more online at <https://birminghamchristian.com/issues/>.

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

ALABAMA

Back to School

Sales Tax Holiday

Alabama's 18th annual back-to-school sales tax holiday begins at 12:01 a.m., Friday, July 21, 2023, and ends at midnight Sunday July 23, 2023, giving shoppers the opportunity to purchase certain school supplies, computers, books and clothing free of the state's four percent sales or use tax.

Vestavia Hills will be participating (Jefferson County's Special Revenue" sales and use tax of 1 percent will still apply).

Visit <https://www.revenue.alabama.gov/sales-use/sales-tax-holidays> for a list of tax exempt items.

Shop LOCAL for all your back to school needs!

2023 Trustees

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 Ben Nevins-B.L. Harbert International
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 Frank Buck-Frank S. Buck, P.C.
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 Gerry Travis-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
 Jonathan Handey-Eco Three
 Donnie Dobbins-First Horizon Bank
 Dan Bundy-First US Bank
 Ashley Mathews-Grandview Health Center
 Charlie Norton-Harbert Realty Services
 Steve Mote-Hollywood Pools/Alabama Gaslight & Grill
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 Scott Perry*-RealtySouth
 Daniel Gordon-Regions Bank
 Senator Dan Roberts
 Lauren Trim-Sentry Heating, Air Conditioning,
 Plumbing & Generators
 Tommy DeRamus-Shades Mountain Baptist Church
 Maury Molyneaux-Shoe Station
 Scott Jenkins-Southern States Bank
 Steve Smith-SouthPoint Bank
 Rob Dowda-SpeedPro Direct
 Kelvin Johnson-Spire
 Tyler Kime-Standard Heating, Cooling & Plumbing
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 Dr. Bill Brunson-Vestavia Hills 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

2023 Chamber Champions

Platinum



Gold



Silver



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Phone: 823-5011 Fax: 823-8974

Email: michelleh@vestaviiahills.org

Web: www.vestaviiahills.org

Tracy Thornton, Dir. Membership/Marketing

tracyt@vestaviiahills.org

Annilyn Warner, Office Manager

Email: annilynw@vestaviiahills.org

Katie Woodruff, Communications Manager

Email: katiew@vestaviiahills.org

Upcoming Chamber Meetings

July 20

Board of Directors, 7:45 am, Chamber Office

July 21-23

Alabama Back to School Sales Tax Holiday

Events

Other Meetings & Holidays

July 10

City Council Meeting, Council Chambers 6 pm

July 13

Planning & Zoning Commission, 6 pm

July 20

Board of Zoning Adjustment, 6 pm

July 24

City Council Meeting, Council Chambers 6 pm



News and Views

Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce

1090 Montgomery Highway

Vestavia Hills, AL 35216