

# COMMUNITY NEWS

News & Events for the City of Vestavia Hills | February 2024

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

## NEW YEAR, NEW RESOLVE

I hope each of you are enjoying your New Year and that your New Year's resolutions are still intact.

Our city has several resolutions for 2024 and at the top of our list is the redevelopment of properties on the south end of Highway 31. Last March, the City hosted a multi-day series of public meetings, called a charette, to determine the best development use of the former Days Inn site, purchased by the City in 2022. City Manager Jeff Downes is in continuous dialogue with our project's master developer, Village Creek Development, as well as adjacent property owners. We will learn more about this project during our strategic

planning work session to be held February 15-16, 2024.

Redevelopment of Massey Road has been a priority for several years and, following resolution of some legal issues, we anticipate moving forward with resurfacing the roadway and adding sidewalks for the length of Massey Road from Highway 31 to Columbiana Road. As someone that drives this road every day, I can attest to the need for the project.

Let's not forget the Highway 31 pedestrian bridge. This walkway will provide users with easy access to both sides of Highway 31, specifically those visiting Wald Park and the Library in the Forest. This project, first proposed by Mayor Scotty McCallum over 15 years ago, has overcome a myriad of design changes, engineering reviews and multiple rulings by the Alabama Department of Transportation. We may actually see the beginning of this project this year as well.

Last, but not least, is the completion of Altadena Park. This passive park currently has walking trails, adequate parking and a plethora of open green space with a pavilion and restrooms under construction. Future development includes additional trails and a possible canoe launch for the Cahaba River.

During February, we have several dates to remember:

- **February 2: Groundhog Day.** On this day Punxsutawney Phil, the world's most renowned weather prognosticator, will come out of his house at Gobbler's Knob, and observe the weather. If he sees his shadow then we can expect six more weeks of winter. However, if he does not see his shadow, then we can expect an early spring. You may recall that he saw his shadow on Groundhog Day 2023. So, what will it be this year?
- **February 4: World Cancer Day.** This somber day of awareness was created in February of 2000 to raise awareness about the disease that is the number two cause of death worldwide.
- **February 14: Valentine's Day.** While it's certainly one holiday that will warm someone's heart, let's take time to show love to others.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Events and dates subject to change. Visit [vhal.org/calendar](http://vhal.org/calendar) for the most up-to-date event information.

### February 2024

- 1 Design Review Board,** Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 8 Planning and Zoning Commission, Council Chamber,** 6 p.m.
- 12 Senior Citizens Association Luncheon,** Civic Center, Dogwood Room, 11:30 a.m.
- 12 City Council Meeting,** Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 13 Chamber Luncheon,** Vestavia Country Club, 11:30 a.m.
- 14 Valentine's Day**
- 15-16 Council Work Session – Strategic Planning,** Council Chamber, 8am
- 15 Board of Zoning Adjustment,** Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 19 Council Work Session,** Council Chamber, 5 p.m.
- 20 Parks and Recreation Board,** Civic Center, 7:30 a.m.
- 26 City Council Meeting,** Council Chamber, 6 p.m.



Leadership Vestavia Hills is hosting a volunteer fair to provide meaningful volunteer opportunities for seniors in our community. **Join us at the Vestavia Hills Civic Center in the Cahaba Room on Monday, February 12 from 11am-2pm to engage with organizations offering a wide range of fulfilling volunteer opportunities.** For more information, contact Beth Loudermilk at [ealoudermilk@gmail.com](mailto:ealoudermilk@gmail.com) or call the Vestavia Hills Civic Center at 205.978.0166.



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

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The Vestavia Hills City Schools Board of Education recently recognized the newest inductees to the Educator Hall of Fame in a ceremony at the civic center: Beverly Brassell, William Clark, Jennifer Greer, Kym Prewitt and Jim Williams. Their legacy collectively spans the more than five decades our school system has been in existence.

Each one is synonymous with excellence and their influence crosses generations of families in our community.

The rich tradition of outstanding educators continues with the recognition of this year's Teachers of the Year: Kira Aaron, Debbie Bowman, Jennifer Burns, Kristen Kovarik, Melissa McIntyre, Becca Poe, Erika Ponder, Holly Robinson and Mary Wyers. Among this distinguished group are teachers, musicians, counselors and a reading coach. Mrs. Aaron and Mrs. McIntyre will represent our school system in the Alabama Teacher of the Year program.

We are blessed in our community to have teachers in our classrooms who love children, love learning, and are outstanding in their professions. They embrace every child's ability to learn in profound ways and thrive in helping them overcome challenges that limit learning. Every student in their classroom is valued and important. That mindset is invaluable!

The school system's primary responsibility is to support our teachers by providing them with the resources they need to do their jobs. This begins with prioritizing the needs of each classroom in our budget. A typical elementary classroom in Vestavia Hills includes children who receive academic support, behavioral intervention, assistance with chronic health conditions, and support for mental health crises. Maintaining smaller classes enable our teachers to best provide a high-quality education for every child while knowing that each of them has unique needs.

Vestavia Hills City Schools also prioritizes having staff with expertise in a multitude of areas to support the mission of providing every student the opportunity to learn without limits. Academic interventionists, reading coaches, behavioral therapists, nurses, counselors, librarians and school resource officers are some of the members of the team that support students through the challenges they face that are obstacles to learning.

Some of the most meaningful ways to support teachers is through professional learning experiences and provision of resources. Our teachers thrive on continual learning to improve their craft. The school system strives to provide them with opportunities to attend a multitude of professional learning experiences. We are also so fortunate to have the Vestavia Hills City Schools Foundation and school PTOs that partner with us in this endeavor. This year, the Foundation and PTO have continued the tradition of awarding

grants to teachers that provide creative and engaging experiences for students.

Teaching is a noble profession and we are blessed with teachers committed to providing the best experiences for our students. They are the cornerstone of success in our schools.



## Join us for Coffee & Classrooms!

January 30 at Louis Pizitz Middle School

February 27 at VH Elementary East

March 19 at VH Elementary West

April 23 at VHHS Freshman Campus

May 16 at VH Elementary Dolly Ridge

All dates begin at 8:30 a.m.

In partnership with Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce  
and Vestavia Hills City Schools PTO Council

**FEBRUARY  
Tech Classes**

Intermediate Word & Excel  
Windows 11 & Google Drive

**Register Today**  
[vestavialibrary.org/tech](http://vestavialibrary.org/tech)

# Vestavia Hills DOGWOOD FESTIVAL

## SPRING INTO FUN!

The Vestavia Hills Dogwood Festival activities celebrate all of the incredible things Vestavia Hills has to offer!

**There is something for everyone at the Dogwood Festival!**

### MARCH

- 1:** Concert in the Park: Jazz Band  
Wald Park  
7pm
- 2:** Dogwood Dink  
Pickleball Tournament  
Vestavia Hills Civic Center  
8am-4pm
- 2:** VHHS Superhero Fun Run  
VHHS  
8am
- 2:** VHHS Rebel 5K Color Run  
VHHS  
9:30am
- 2:** Dog Days at SHAC  
Sicard Hollow Athletic Complex  
10am-2pm
- 21:** Dogwood Luncheon  
Vestavia Country Club  
10:30am
- 25:** Spring Break Staycation Begins!  
Scan the QR code to check out  
this year's events and specials!
- 29:** Spring Yard Judging Begins!
- 29:** Easter Eggstravaganza  
Wald Park  
11am

### APRIL

- 6:** Dogwood Days: Cahaba Heights  
10am-8pm
- 6:** Battle of the Bands  
Rocky Ridge Business District  
5-9pm  
Rain date: April 7
- 7:** Spring Yard Judging Concludes!
- 12:** Concert in the Park  
Wald Park  
Time TBD
- 13:** VHHS RISE Day  
VHHS  
4-10pm
- 15:** Historical Society Presentation:  
Vestavia Hills Methodist Church  
Vestavia Hills City Hall  
2pm
- 16:** Dogwood Prayer Breakfast  
Vestavia Country Club  
7-9am
- 18:** Dogwood Days Farmer's Market:  
Liberty Park  
4-7pm
- 20:** Vestavia Hills Garden Club  
Yard Sale  
Scout Square (Highway 31 North)  
7am-1pm  
Rain date: April 27
- 21:** Library in the Forest Concert:  
Miles College Golden Voices Choir  
Vestavia Hills Civic Center  
3pm
- 27:** Wing Ding  
Vestavia Hills City Hall Lawn  
4-7pm
- 28:** Heights Hangout  
The Heights Village  
2-7pm



SCAN FOR  
DETAILED  
EVENT INFO  
or visit  
[https://bit.ly/  
Dogwood\\_Fest](https://bit.ly/Dogwood_Fest)

**WANT TO INCLUDE YOUR VESTAVIA HILLS EVENT IN THE DOGWOOD FESTIVAL?**

Contact Cinnamon McCulley at 205.978.0143 or [cmcculley@vhal.org](mailto:cmcculley@vhal.org).





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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**.