



VESTAVIA HILLS  
CHAMBER  
of  
COMMERCE

# NEWS & VIEWS

February 2024

Volume 44 Issue 2

## February 13 Luncheon Steve Ammons, Birmingham Business Alliance

Steve Ammons is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Birmingham Business Alliance (BBA), bringing with him a strong background of experience in economic development, regional collaboration, advocacy and stakeholder engagement. Before his current role, Ammons served as a Jefferson County Commissioner for District 5, where he chaired the Economic Development Committee and the Information Technology Committee. Ammons served as the county's liaison to key economic development organizations, including the BBA, where he previously worked on projects as an active member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors.



His dedication and leadership to public service led to numerous achievements, including the recruitment of the J.M. Smucker Company to the Greater Birmingham Region, resulting in a historic \$1.2 billion capital investment. Additionally, he helped draft the Good Neighbors Pledge, a pact to combat poaching and foster long-term economic growth for the region. This initiative was eventually adopted by the entire Jefferson County Mayors Association, demonstrating his continued commitment to fostering positive relationships and promoting regional cooperation.

*(Continued on page 4)*

LUNCHEON SPONSORS

### McDonald's/Black Family Restaurants

Black Family Restaurants is proud to be your neighborhood McDonald's restaurant – not just a restaurant in your neighborhood. Did you know the McDonald's in Vestavia has been here for 51 years? We have had the privilege of serving this community as Owner Operators for the last 8 years and we want to thank YOU for welcoming us in. Every day we strive to be a good neighbor and a positive influence in our community. Our 16 McDonald's restaurants support a wide variety of efforts throughout central Alabama including local churches and schools, arts and cultural events and, of course, our hometown Ronald McDonald House as they provide a home away from home for families in need. Giving back to our community is something we do because, like



*(Continued on page 4)*

### Jackson, Howard & Whatley, CPAs

For years, Jackson, Howard & Whatley, CPAs has been providing quality, personalized financial guidance to local individuals and businesses. Jackson, Howard & Whatley, CPAs' expertise ranges from basic tax management and accounting services to more in-depth services such as audits, financial statements, and financial planning.



Jackson, Howard & Whatley, CPAs is one of the leading firms in and throughout Birmingham. By combining our expertise, experience and the team mentality of our staff, we assure that every client receives the close analysis and attention they deserve. Our dedication to high

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It is hard to believe that one month of 2024 is already in the books. While we all dodged interesting weather, made changes as a result of New Year Resolutions, and reacted to the biggest sports news in two decades, January came and went like an express train with very few stops or slow downs.

The Chamber had an extremely busy month welcoming a new board, new members, and new businesses to the City of Vestavia Hills. We capped off the month with a very well attended and high energy celebration of our Vestavia Restaurants with Viva Vestavia Hills. Many thanks to our Past Chairman Sandra Cleveland and her committee for coordinating a fantastic event that highlighted another benefit we get to experience as Vestavia Hills.



February also brings numerous opportunities to shop, dine, and play here in Vestavia Hills. With Valentine's Day and the ping of baseball and softball bats to begin the season as major events in February, now is a great time for you and your business to let our Chamber help you drive traffic into your stores. Our Vice Chairmen and their committees are off to a great start with powerful momentum and great ideas to keep our city become the premier place to live "the life above"

As always, I am honored to serve as Chairman of the Board this year, and am always happy to see how our Chamber and me can best serve you. Thank You for being a member of our Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Thanks,

*Clabe Dobbs*  
*Board Chair, 2024*

## 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 2024, please email [katiew@vestaviiahills.org](mailto:katiew@vestaviiahills.org)

2024 Dates:

February 13  
March 12  
April 9  
May 14

June 11  
August 13  
September 10  
October 8

November 12  
December 10

Happy Greetings!

As we welcome in February here at the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce, we are excited to welcome 12 new members to our Chamber so far this year! Bringing a wonderful variety of business categories including a restaurant, an engineering company, construction and roofing company, insurance company, speech therapy, two banks, furniture and design, fitness, pool and spa, videographer, and an orthodontist, please stop by or call and welcome these businesses to our Chamber.



**Michelle Hawkins**

Chopt Creative Salad Co., Bernhard, Global Roofing Co., Iron City Benefits, Salt & Light Speech-Language Resources, Synovus Bank, SouthState Bank, Arhaus, LLC, Battle Republic at The Summit, Clearwater Pools of Birmingham, Hill Media Productions, LLC, Blue Lake Orthodontics.

We are blessed to have a vibrant and active Chamber and I encourage everyone to get more involved this year. We are working on new ways to keep everyone informed and up to date as we grow our events and programs, plus we are super excited about energizing our committees this year. We are making goals to move the needle and provide intentional actions that will grow our Chamber membership and be instrumental to bring impactful economic growth to businesses in our City. Find the Events Calendar at <https://business.vestaviiahills.org/events/>

Again, I want to encourage all members to participate and volunteer; you will get back in so many ways more than the time you give.

For more information about getting involved with our Chamber committees, please contact us at: 205-823-5011 we'd love to hear from you!

As a Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce member, you all are the heart, soul, and future success of the Chamber and it is my honor and joy to serve you.

*Michelle Hawkins*

## February 13 Luncheon

Reservations must be made by 4:00 PM Thursday, February 8, 2024 and cost \$25. Late reservations will cost \$30. Make your reservation by visiting [www.vestaviahills.org](http://www.vestaviahills.org) or by calling 823-5011.

### Please Note:

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

*(Continued from page 1)*

Ammons' passion for public safety stems from his background as a U.S. Navy veteran. Ammons also brings valuable experience from his previous service as a two-term member of the Vestavia Hills City Council, where he contributed to revenue growth and quality of life improvements for the city.

In addition to his time in public office, Ammons is also a long-time small business owner, professionally having owned and operated an employment background screening services company based in Birmingham. Ammons' leadership extends beyond professional endeavors. He is a devoted family man, a husband and a father of four children. He and his family are active members of the Church of the Highlands, and they currently reside in the Vestavia Hills community.

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our customers, we live here. We are proud supporters of Vestavia Schools, Arts, Athletics and several organizations throughout this great city. We know many of you by face and by name, but if not we hope you will stop and introduce yourself to our team. We are Lovin' being a part of this city and look forward to all the great things ahead!

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standards, hiring of seasoned tax professionals, and work ethic is the reason our client base returns year after year.

We are committed partners to our community, with members of our team serving on the board of the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce for over 20 years, including Mike Jackson as 2003 Chair and Ben Chambliss as the current Treasurer, as well as providing services for the Chamber and Vestavia Hills Schools.

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

◆ Chopt Creative Salad Co.  
Bebe Jones  
708 Montgomery Highway, Suite 108  
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216  
(205) 737-8186  
www.choptsalad.com  
Category: Restaurants

◆ Bernhard  
Jennifer Mindler  
400 Vestavia Parkway, Suite 310  
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216  
(205) 829-2860  
www.bernhard.com  
Category: Engineers

◆ Global Roofing Company  
Steve Russell  
9 Office Park Circle, Suite 202  
Birmingham, AL 35223  
(205) 574-4149  
www.globalroof.co  
Category: Construction; Roofing

◆ Iron City Benefits  
Marc Batson  
1318 Alford Avenue, Suite 201  
Hoover, AL 35226  
(888) 244-4849  
www.ironcitybenefits.com  
Category: Insurance

◆ Salt & Light Speech-Language Resources  
Amanda Mavrakos  
400 Vestavia Parkway, Suite 135  
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216  
(205) 582-7717  
www.saltandlight-slp.com  
Category: Therapy

◆ Synovus  
Blake Harris  
550 Montgomery Highway  
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216  
(205) 868-1134  
www.synovus.com  
Category: Banks

◆ Arhaus, LLC  
Mandy Maples  
309 Summit Blvd  
Birmingham, AL 35243  
(256) 736-3693  
www.arhaus.com  
Category: Interior Design

◆ Battle Republic at The Summit  
Abby Burton  
333 Summit Blvd  
Birmingham, AL 35243  
(205) 881-1711  
www.battlerepublic.com  
Category: Fitness

◆ Clearwater Pools of Birmingham  
Jenny Headley  
4704 Cahaba River Road, Suite E  
Birmingham, AL 35243  
(205) 988-5982  
www.clearwateralabama.com  
Category: Pools & Spas

◆ SouthState Bank  
Holton Bell  
600 Luckie Drive, Suite 200  
Birmingham, AL 35223  
(205) 313-8124  
www.southstatebank.com  
Category: Banks

◆ Hill Media Productions  
Daniel Hill  
16700 Highway 280  
Chelsea, AL 35043  
(205) 677-7701  
www.hillmediaproductions.com  
Category: Videographers

◆ Blue Lake Orthodontics  
Dr. Zehra Syed  
3100 Blue Lake Dr., Suite 200  
Vestavia Hills, AL 35243  
(205) 473-9066  
www.bluelakeorthodontics.com  
Category: Orthodontics

◆ Birmingham Design House  
Jessica Prier  
709 Chestnut Street  
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216  
(205) 960-6101  
www.birminghamdesignhouse.com  
Category: Interior Design

# Member Notes

- **VHHS RISE** Pinkies Up Tea Party is on February 10, from 9-11 am at Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church. You will find all sorts of fun activities including face painting/make-up, manicures, crafts, dancing and a sing-a-long. Ticket Link: <https://gofan.co/app/events/1325770?schoolId=AL2466>. Children are \$10 each; Parents are free. Benefitting the Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology Program at UAB
- Join **Vulcan Park and Museum** for a romantic evening for Valentine's Day. Enjoy soft live music, food and wine. Valentine with Vulcan will provide couples with a package for two which includes: Access to a grazing table of artisan cheeses and meats, market fresh fruit, crackers and assortment of pastries provided by The Happy Catering Company; Two drink tickets for wine or beer of your choice; Complimentary champagne toast for two; Two complimentary Vulcan keepsake champagne flutes; Romantic photo scenes & photo booth; Access to the museum, park grounds and observation deck; Live acoustic music and MORE. Purchase tickets at <https://visitvulcan.com/event/valentine-with-vulcan-2/>
- Celebrate Leap Day with **Jeremiah's Italian Ice!** On Thurs, February 29th, they will be offering \$.96 Treats all day long to our J-List members, to commemorate their founding year of 1996! 790 Montgomery Highway, Suite 106
- Read the February issue of **Birmingham Christian Family** magazine that features Alabama Senator Katie Britt plus Chamber member 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](mailto:chamber@vestaviiahills.org).*

## RIBBON CUTTINGS

February 15<sup>th</sup> 4:30 PM  
Bernard Engineering  
400 Vestavia Parkway, Suite 310  
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216

February 16<sup>th</sup> 12:00 PM  
New Day Car Wash  
4740 Cahaba River Rd  
Birmingham, AL 35243

February 29<sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM  
RAM Hotels Groundbreaking  
3580 Grandview Parkway  
Birmingham, AL 35243

March 1<sup>st</sup> 11:00 AM  
The Great Greek at the City Center  
700 Montgomery Hwy, Suite 190  
Vestavia Hills AL 35216



You're invited:

## BUSINESS BUZZ

Roundtable

21 February 2024 | Vestavia Hills City Hall  
8:30 AM | City Council Chambers

Come share ideas, best practices, and collaborate with other business professionals on how we can build our business districts, create community events, and maintain wonderful relationships within our city.

We hope you can make it. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

**Tracy Thornton**

[tracyt@vestaviiahills.org](mailto:tracyt@vestaviiahills.org) || [www.vestaviiahills.org](http://www.vestaviiahills.org) || (205)823-5011



VESTAVIA HILLS  
CITY OF ALABAMA

## 2024 Trustees

Kimberly Jackson-Alabama Power Company  
 Beverly Cochran-America's First Federal Credit Union  
 Angela Stevens-ARC Realty  
 Tommy Cannon-Ascension St. Vincent's Health System  
 Ashley Wilbanks-Avadian Credit Union  
 Sandra Cleveland\*-BCR Wealth  
 Ben Nevins-B.L. Harbert International  
 Steve Ammons -Birmingham Business Alliance  
 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  
 Gerry Travis-Cameron Travis & Company, CPAs  
 Representative Jim Carns  
 Rian Turner-Carr, Riggs & Ingram, CPA  
 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  
 Mike Jackson\*-Jackson Howard & Whatley, CPAs  
 Stan Glantz-KPR-Vestavia City Center  
 Jamie Pursell-Leaf & Petal  
 John Bonanno-Liberty Park Joint Venture  
 Mark Macoy-Mark W. Macoy, LLC  
 Chip McCallum-McCallum Hoaglund & McCallum, LLP  
 Jim Black-McDonald's

Eric Smith-Medicare Advisors of Alabama  
 Robin Morgan\*-Morgan Properties  
 Todd Jackson-Newk's Eatery  
 Kerry Adkins-OnTime Service  
 Maury Wald-Over the Mountain Journal  
 Lisa Bearden-Overture Tributary  
 Lacey Alford-Ray & Poynor Properties  
 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  
 John Henley\*-John Henley State Farm Insurance  
 Taylor Burton-Taylor Burton Company  
 Steve Vickery-Truist  
 Sean Johnson-United Community Bank  
 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

## 2024 Chamber Champions

### Platinum



### Gold



### Silver



**Board of Directors**

Chair: Clabe Dobbs, Millennial Bank

Chair Elect: Keri Bates, Rocky Ridge Drug Co.

Vice Chair Membership Development: Katherine McRee, The Lili Pad

Vice Chair Business Development: Taylor Burton, Taylor Burton Co., Inc.

Vice Chair Community Affairs: Christina Babineaux, IRA Innovations

Vice Chair Programming: Tyler Kime, Standard Heating, Cooling & Plumbing

Vice Chair Public Education: Erin Holtz, Pure Fitness

Treasurer: Ben Chambliss

Jackson, Howard & Whatley, CPAs

Secretary/Legal Counsel: Mark Macoy

Mark W. Macoy, LLC

Immediate Past Chair: Donnie Dobbins, First Horizon Bank

Past Chair: Sandra Cleveland, BCR Wealth

**Directors**

Kelly Atchison, TWO MEN & A TRUCK

Jamie Black, McDonald's

Andrew Burke, The Lioce Group

Bridgett Glasgow, ERA King Real Estate

Roger Jackson, Jackson, Howard & Whatley, CPAs

Scott Perry, RealtySouth

Jamie Pursell, Leaf & Petal

Michelle Hawkins, President

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Email: annilynw@vestaviiahills.org

Katie Woodruff, Communications Manager

Email: katiew@vestaviiahills.org

**Upcoming Chamber Meetings**

Feb 13

Monthly Luncheon, 11:30 am, Vestavia Country Club

Feb 15

Board of Directors, 7:45 am, Chamber Office

**Events**

Feb 15

Ribbon Cutting: Bernhard, 4:30 pm

Feb 16

Ribbon Cutting: New Day Car Wash, 12 pm

Feb 21

Business Buzz Roundtable, 8:30 am, City Hall

Feb 26

New Member Orientation, 5 pm, Chamber Office

Feb 27

Coffee & Classrooms, 8:30 am, VHEE

Feb 29

Ground Breaking: RAM Hotels, 2 pm

**Other Meetings & Holidays**

Feb 8

Planning & Zoning Commission, 6 pm

Feb 12

City Council Meeting, Council Chambers 6 pm

Feb 15

Board of Zoning Adjustment, 6 pm

Feb 26

City Council Meeting, Council Chambers 6 pm



*News and Views*

*Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce*

*1090 Montgomery Highway*

*Vestavia Hills, AL 35216*