COMMUNITYNEWS

News & Events for the City of Vestavia Hills • February 2019

A joint publication of the City of Vestavia Hills, Vestavia Hills City Schools & Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

February 2019

- 7 Design Review Board Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 11 Senior Citizens Luncheon Dogwood Room, 11:30 a.m.
- 11 City Council Meeting Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 12 Chamber Luncheon Vestavia Country Club, 11:30 a.m.
- 14 Planning and Zoning Commission Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 18 Council Work Session Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 21 Board of Zoning Adjustment Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- **25** City Council Meeting Council Chamber 6 p.m.
- **26** Library Board of Trustees
 Library in the Forest, 4 p.m.
- 28 Friends of the Library Library in the Forest, 10 a.m.

City Hall

1032 Montgomery Highway, 35216 205.978.0100 • vhal.org

Chamber of Commerce

1975 Merryvale Road, 35216 205.823.5011 • vestaviahills.org

Board of Education

1204 Montgomery Highway, 35216 205.402.5100 • vestavia.k12.al.us

Action Center

https://vhal.org/action-center/



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Ashley C. Curry, Vestavia Hills Mayor

Happy New Year everyone! How many of you made New Year's resolutions?

I am reminded what Mark Twain said, "Giving up smoking is easy. I have done it hundreds of times." I also remember the saying, "New Year's resolutions come in one year and go out the other." Many of us have already forgotten or discontinued the resolutions that we made, but City staff and elected officials "resolve" to address the following items, plus many more, in 2019. We are committed to assuring that these resolutions are not forgotten!

We will begin the design phase of our Infrastructure and Community Spaces Plan including:

- · Road improvements on Crosshaven Drive
- Sidewalk additions to Green Valley Road and Crosshaven Drive

- Shaping of our new Wald Park to include a new swimming pool complex, additional ball fields, green space, walking trails, a miracle field and a dog park, just to name a few of the features
- Design and development of services to be offered at our new Community Building
- Renovations at the Cahaba Heights ballfields and the design and build plans for the "new" New Merkel house
- Additions to the Sicard Hollow Athletic Complex

We resolve to continue to address the opioid crisis that is sweeping the nation, our state, our counties and our city. On April 4 Vestavia Hills will host its second Community Awareness Breakfast. In addition to raising awareness about the opioid problem, we can now offer direction for addiction treatment and recovery

- Mayor's Message continued on page 3



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeff Downes, Vestavia Hills City Manager

"Times and conditions change so rapidly that we must keep our aim constantly focused on the future." — Walt Disney

This quote, from the master at creating a premier experience, is quite appropriate for the last few months in Vestavia Hills as it emphasizes that amidst change, we should keep focused on what makes our community special and, importantly, what can sustain the qualities that convinced us to make our lives here. The Western located in the Rocky Ridge Shopping Center announced that they will sell to Publix who will rebuild a 35,000 square foot location on the site. The Vestavia Hills location of Sprouts has closed its doors for good and Spectrum is relocating its Columbiana Road office to another part of the metro area. These

changes were not anticipated as our crystal ball explored 2019. However, circumstances such as these are accepted by leaders such as Walt Disney and just lead to reinforcement of the need to keep focusing on our strategic plans designed to benefit Vestavia Hills during periods of change.

During this same period, Dr. Swaid Swaid announced the construction of an outpatient surgery center to be located on Highway 31. Dunkin' Donuts joined Baumhower's Victory Grille as "new to market" restaurants to be built along the 31 corridor. AMC Theatres completed an incredible remodel of its Vestavia Hills location establishing a long-term commitment to the location. Publix announced the opening of a new Liberty Park store along

BOARD OF EDUCATION



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

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

Multiple Paths to a Bold Future

Last year, more than 90 percent of Vestavia Hills High School graduates had plans to attend

college. That percentage has been consistent for many years. The vast majority of our graduates will also complete the requirements to earn a four-year degree, significantly more than state and national averages. Where the difference lies is in the array of fields of study that students will pursue. Knowing those career interests is important to our mission of creating opportunities for students to experience learning without limits.

Every eighth grader in our school system completes a career interest inventory. Students in high school can also indicate their interests on assessments like the ACT. The majority of students indicate interest in fields that include human services, education, health services, arts, and technology. Workforce data shows that some of these are among the most in-demand, high-wage careers in the state and nation. A recent article by the World Economic Forum noted that the arts, computer science and engineering were the courses that students "liked the most."

Creating multiple paths for students to prepare for college and career choices is a pillar of our mission. It is important to be

SCHOOL SYSTEM EARNS AN "A" ON STATE REPORT CARD

Vestavia Hills City Schools earned an "A" on the Alabama State Report Card released in December by the Alabama State Department of Education. All eight of the district's schools also received an "A" on their respective report cards.

The Alabama State Report Card score was assigned using prior school year data from a wide variety of sources. The report card grade reflects several different factors including academic achievement, academic growth, chronic absenteeism, as well as graduation rates and college and career readiness.

The school system's score is a reflection of the array of opportunities provided to students at all levels. The school system increased access last year to the Academy of Craft Training program in Birmingham and increased offerings of Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

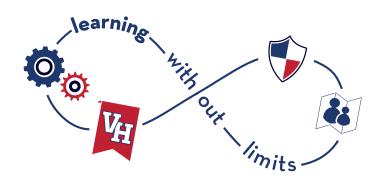
Vestavia Hills High School administered AP exams to 424 students

— an all-time high — and 75 percent of test-takers earned a score that qualified them for college credit.

mindful of the trajectory of career opportunities in the future based on workforce trends. Equally important is providing meaningful learning experiences that support skills and attributes necessary to be successful in life. Our goal should be that every course we offer embeds opportunities for students to sharpen their academic, interpersonal, and employability skills.

Students at VHHS have the opportunity to take a myriad of courses that support their preparation for college, career, and life. In addition to our award-winning arts and AP programs, courses are offered in drafting and design, construction, health science, engineering, business and marketing. Each of these provides a unique opportunity to learn through rich work-embedded experiences. Courses in these areas are the essence of how relevant and practical learning is designed.

The World Economic Forum article also gives a clarion call that we must be ahead of the curve when thinking about what our students need to know and how they learn. A forward-thinking school system must equip students with skills for what cannot yet been seen. That means our focus must remain on preparing them for an ever-changing and limitless highway of opportunity.



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Mayor's Message continued from page 1

services with a number of agencies that partner with the City in addressing this issue.

We resolve to continue to address crimes directed against our elderly. Vestavia Hills will host an event that will focus on financial exploitation of our senior citizens. The National Center on Elder Abuse reports that the number and complexity of reports involving financial abuse of vulnerable and older adults has grown significantly over the past decade. Unfortunately, an overwhelming number of the perpetrators are family members or caregivers. Additional event details to come.

We resolve to continue the high level of public safety for our residents. Our police and fire personnel are committed to maintaining the level of excellence that you expect. The same applies for all of our City employees as we maintain the high quality of life that makes Vestavia Hills a desirable place to call home.

We plan to keep our resolutions. What resolutions will you fulfill?

Manager's Message continued from page 1

with the City's continued investment in parks and infrastructure throughout the city. If we let a few disappointments overwhelm the positive momentum that our community is seeing and correspondingly lose focus, we would disappoint Mr. Disney.

Time and again, the residents of our city have placed priority with a quality of education, top notch recreation and a desire to improve infrastructure. This is coupled with sustenance of top public safety aspects of the community and healthy growth of our economy. These can only happen when we are not distracted by a few changes to our way of life. The ebb and flow of implementing a City strategic plan is reality. The City staff will continue its focus on implementing the plan. As residents, you can continue to take overt actions to support these efforts.

Residents can remember to shop local. A decision to shop local is an investment in "staying focused" that will pay dividends for all of us. Be on the lookout for information about the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce's eat local campaign, coming this summer. I hope you will pay attention to the message and participate as warranted. Residents can continue to provide timely input to decision makers when various alternatives are presented to move our plans along. And most importantly, residents can be the biggest cheerleaders for the community. As encouraging words go much further than discouraging words when referencing Vestavia Hills, residents are our city's best ambassadors.

I am excited about the future of Vestavia Hills. As Walt Disney created a second to none experience for park visitors, my desire is to continue efforts to support a second to none quality of life experience in our community. I hope your new year is going well. Let's keep focused on the incredibly positive future for our fine city.





CHAMBER NEWS

Karen J. Odle, Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce President

Happy New Year from the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce! We have a lot of new businesses opening so visit the Community Calendar on our

website at www.vestaviahills.org and join us at the Ribbon Cuttings for these new businesses. It's a great way to meet the business owners and welcome them to our community, as well as an opportunity for businesses to meet our residents.

Stories for the 2019 "Vestavia Hills Living" will be finalized within the next few weeks. If you have an idea for an interesting story that you would like to have considered, please send it to me at kareno@vestaviahills.org along with your contact information.

Please join me in thanking the following Chamber members for their commitment and contributions to the Vestavia Hills Chamber as well as the Vestavia Hills community:

- Board Member(s) of the Year: Ben Chambliss, Jackson Howard & Whatley CPAs & Mark Macoy, Mark W. Macoy, LLC
- Dr. Charles A. "Scotty" McCallum Leadership Award: John Henley, State Farm Insurance, The Henley Agency
- Ambassador of the Year: Erin Holtz, Pure Fitness
- Member of the Year: Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church
- Volunteer of the Year: Alberto C. "Butch" Zaragoza, Retired, City of Vestavia Hills
- President's Choice: Linda Parker, Bruster's Real Ice Cream

In addition to the individuals above, please join me in recognizing The Lili Pad & GiGi's Teen as our 2018 Business of the Year - Retail. Sisters Katherine McRee and Susan Day own and operate the children's and teen store in Cahaba Heights and have been a catalyst for encouraging and supporting "Shop Local" in our business districts. Special thanks to Katherine and Susan for their support and their efforts in raising awareness of the importance of supporting local businesses!

We also want to recognize Liberty Park Joint Venture (LPJV) as our 2018 Business of the Year - Service. LPJV has been an incredible partner not only with the Chamber, but with the City and Schools in their efforts to continue the development in Liberty Park. They have been deliberate in all they do to continue "smart growth" to compliment the community as a whole. We are grateful to Sean Arterburn, Carlyle Thornton and the entire team at LPJV. Thank you for being such a vital part of Vestavia Hills!

It is gratifying to have businesses helping others make Vestavia Hills a great place to have a business! Our doors are always open at the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce. Feel free to drop by and see us or email us thoughts or ideas you may have as we work together for "A Life Above."



Bama at Work and the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce have joined forces to provide the best solutions to the challenges faced by local business owners by offering monthly workshops. These halfday programs are designed to develop leadership capabilities and hone skills of seasoned professionals as well as newcomers to professional roles.

Next Seminar: February 27, 2019

8:30 am to 12:00 pm Vestavia Hills City Hall Topic: Team Building

Instructor: Dr. Curtis Curry

Registration: \$129

Workshops are approved for 4 hours of Business Related CPE by Alabama State Board of Public Accountancy and 3.25 PDCs by Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM).

> Register online at nolimits.ua.edu or call (205) 348-3000.

VESTAVIA HILLS DOGWOOD LUNCHEON

The annual Vestavia Hills Dogwood Luncheon will be held Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. at Vestavia Country Club.

For more information, visit the Beautification Board's Facebook page, Vestavia Hills Beautification, or www.vestaviabeautiful.com.

Watch for more details to come!!

SAVE the DATE

29th Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

April 23, 2019 7:30 a.m. at Vestavia Country Club

This year's speaker is Micah McElveen, CEO & Executive Director of Vapor Ministries.

For more information or to buy tickets, contact the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce at 205.823.5011 or visit www.vestaviahills.org.



LEADERSHIP VESTAVIA HILLS

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Leadership Vestavia Hills will honor outstanding local citizens at the 29th annual Community Leadership Award Banquet on February 26 at 6 p.m. at the Vestavia Country Club. This year's honorees are Frank Hernandez and Dr. Marty Heslin.



Frank Hernandez, a vice president at Regions Bank, will be recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his long-time dedication to Vestavia Hills. An active parent to his two children, Hernandez has served in a variety of leadership roles in Vestavia Hills City Schools Parent Teacher Organizations, including vice

president of communications for Liberty Park Elementary and Liberty Park Middle schools. Over the past three years, he revamped the concession stand fundraiser for the Band Boosters Association at the high school, which increased sales, service and partnerships with local businesses in a significant way. He also currently serves as president of the board for the Vestavia Hills Soccer Club. In 2015, he was honored as volunteer of the year by the Alabama Soccer Association for his work with VHSC. He and his wife Olga live in Vestavia Hills and have a son and a daughter.



Martin "Marty" Heslin, M.D., associate director for clinical Programs at the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center will be honored with the 2019 Distinguished Citizen Award. At UAB, Heslin is a Professor and Executive Vice Chair of the Department of Surgery, Chief of the Medical Staff at UAB Hospital and Senior Scientist at the

UAB CCC. There, Heslin specializes in the research and treatment of gastrointestinal cancers and soft-tissue sarcomas. He is the director of the Multidisciplinary Gastrointestinal Oncology Clinic, where he provides care to patients with liver, pancreas, colorectal, esophageal and gastric cancer as part of a multidisciplinary process. Dr. Heslin created and continues to co-manage a large human tissue bank to support innovative research in the Department of Surgery. He has been named to the Newsweek Top Cancer Doctors list and is a reviewer of four professional journals, author or co-author on over 80 publications and 9 book chapters. He also works with the Robert E. Reed Foundation to support research in GI cancers. He and his wife Amy live in Vestavia Hills and have three sons.

Please visit http://leadershipvestaviahills.com/ for more information regarding tickets and sponsorships.

PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

POOL PROGRAMMING AT THE COMMUNITY BUILDING

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY:

5:15-6 p.m. **Group Swim Lessons.** For children ages 3-12.

New group lessons will begin every 2 weeks. The cost is \$120 for the 8 group lessons. Missed classes are non-refundable and cannot be made up.

To register, text 205.910.9092.

6-6:30 p.m. **Ai Chi.** 8 sessions for \$35 or \$5 per session.

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY:

6:35-7:15 p.m. **Stroke Development.** 8 sessions for \$35 or

\$5 per session.

TUESDAY & THURSDAY:

6:35-7:15 p.m. Aqua Fitness. Cardio, muscle conditioning and

stretching. 8 sessions for \$35 or \$5 per session.

SATURDAY:

10-10:45 a.m. **Group Swim Lessons.** For children ages 3-12.

New group lessons will begin every 2 weeks. The cost is \$120 for the 8 group lessons.

Missed classes are non-refundable and cannot be made up.

To register, text 205.910.9092.

10-10:30 a.m. Private & Semi Privates Swim Lessons.

Instructor(s) TBD. Registration will be arranged

directly with instructor(s).

10:30-11 a.m. Private & Semi Private Swim Lessons.

Instructor(s) TBD. Registration will be arranged

directly with instructor(s).

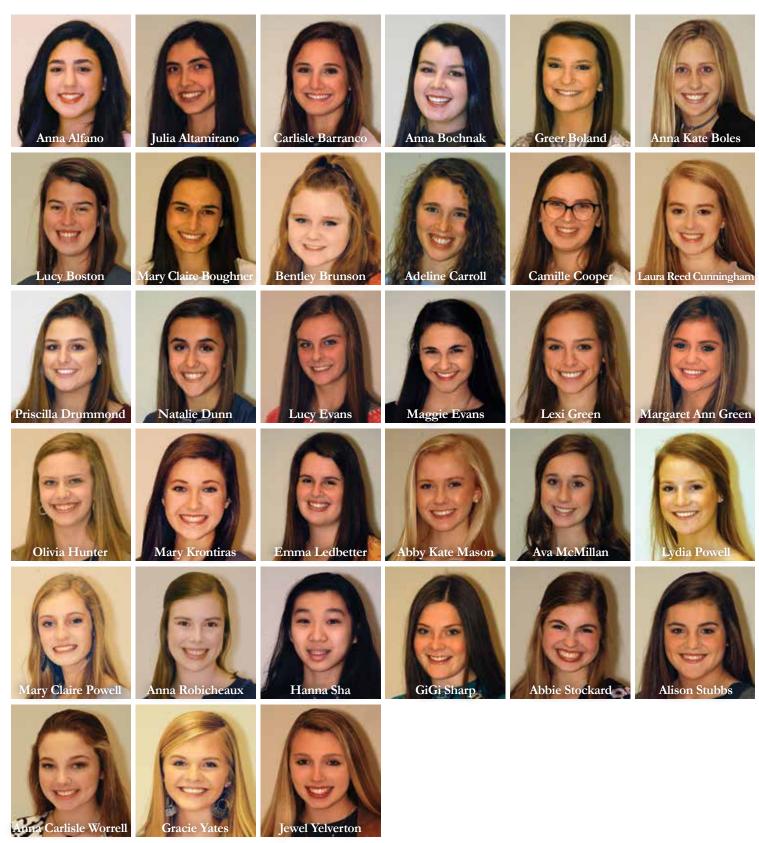
CPR CERTIFICATION

If a friend or family member suddenly went into cardiac arrest, would you know how to react? Did you know that beginning CPR immediately after a patient goes into cardiac arrest may double or even triple the chances

of that patient surviving? Each year more than

350,000 patients experience cardiac arrest outside of the hospital. The key to survival for these patients is early bystander CPR and early activation of the 911 system. The Vestavia Hills Fire Department offers American Heart Association CPR certification for citizens on a regular basis. The cost of the class is \$35 which covers the cost of the certification card. To view a class schedule or to register, please visit https://vhal.org/departments/fire-department/ and click "CPR Training & Registration" at the bottom of the page.





LIBRARY IN THE FOREST

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY?

To view the full calendar of this month's programming, visit https://vestavialibrary.org.

CHILDREN: 205.978.0158

- M Toddler A-Go-Go. 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. Community Room.
- Tu P.J. Storytime. 6:30 p.m. Children's Program Room.
- W Story Friends. 10:30 a.m. Children's Program Room.
- Th L.I.F.T. (Library in the Forest Time). 9:30 a.m. Children's Program Room
- Th Book Babies. 10 a.m. Treehouse (Registration suggested)
- 2 **Ms. Casey's Marvelous Music and Movement.** 10:30 a.m. Children's Program Room.
- 5 Full Steam Ahead: What Can You Do With a Lego? 3:30 p.m. Makerspace
- 6 This & That: Puppet Show Theater. 3:30 p.m. Children's Program Room.
- *12* **Full Steam Ahead: Magnets and Magnetism.** 3:30 p.m. Children's Program Room.
- 13 This & That: Valentine Hangout Party. 3:30 p.m. Children's Program Room.
- 16 Ms. Casey's Marvelous Music and Movement. 10:30 a.m. Children's Program Room.
- 19 Full Steam Ahead: China: Chinese New Year, Discover Your Chinese Zodiac, DIY Kites. 3:30 p.m. Makerspace
- *19* **Family Night: Kit's Fabulous Bubble Show!** 6 p.m. Community Room.
- 20 This & That: Game Changer. 3:30 p.m. Children's Program Room.
- 23 Lego Wars. 11 a.m. Children's Program Room.
- 26 Full Steam Ahead: 3s-Triangles, Pyramids, Counting by 3s. 3:30 p.m. Children's Program Room.
- 27 **This & That: Art Group Box Projects.** 3:30 p.m. Children's Program Room.

MAKERSPACE/TECHNOLOGY: 205.978.4679

- 6 Intermediate Microsoft Word. 2 p.m. Electronic Classroom.
- 11 **GIMP:** the Free Photoshop. 6 p.m. Electronic Classroom.
- 12 Apple Mobile Devices with Tech Ease. 2 p.m. Electronic Classroom.
- 26 Facebook Basics. 10 a.m. Electronic Classroom.
- 28 Intermediate Microsoft Excel. 4 p.m. Electronic Classroom.

TEENS: 205.978.3683 (Grades 6-12)

- 1 Open Gaming. 4 p.m. Community Room.
- 5 Fandom Night. 4 p.m. Community Room.
- 6 Cookie Wars. 4 p.m. Treehouse.
- 8 Open Gaming. 4 p.m. Community Room.
- 9 Chess Club. 10 a.m. Historical Room.
- 12 Fortnite Night. 4 p.m. Community Room.
- 13 Writing Group. 4 p.m. Historical Room.
- 15 Open Gaming. 4 p.m. Community Room.
- 20 Teen Art Group. 4 p.m. Treehouse.
- 22 Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Tournament. 4 p.m. Community Room.
- 26 Anime Night. 4 p.m. Community Room.
- 27 Writing Group. 4 p.m. Historical Room.

ADULTS: 205.978.4678 (Ages 18+)

- 1 First Friday Fiber Arts. 10 a.m. Treehouse.
- 4 Knit Night in the Forest. 6 p.m. Treehouse.
- 6 Makerspace for Adults: Love Lights. 6:30 p.m. Makerspace.
- 7 Read & Feed Book Group at Taziki's Liberty Park. 6:30 p.m.
- 11 Tai Chi: Beginner. 6 p.m. Community Room.
- 12 Finance Series: Maximizing Your Personal Wealth. 6:30 p.m. Community Room.
- 13 ABCs of Medicare. 1 p.m. Treehouse.
- 14 Tai Chi: Beginner & Intermediate. 2 p.m. Community Room.
- 15 Upcycle City: Book Page Jewelry. 7 p.m. Community Room.
- 18 Beginner Belly Dance with Bethany. 6 p.m. Community Room.
- 25 Tai Chi: Beginner. 6 p.m. Community Room.
- 26 Finance Series: Financial Tips for Your Small Business. 6:30 p.m. Community Room.
- 28 Friends of the Library: Alabama School of Fine Arts. 10 a.m. Community Room.
- 28 Tai Chi: Beginner & Intermediate. 2 p.m. Community Room.

HAVE YOU VISITED THE NEW MAKERSPACE?

There is so much to do in the new Makerspace! Check out this month's programming:

The **Children's Department** will be hosting a brand new S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) program for kindergarten through second grade children. The program will be held in the Makerspace on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month and in the Children's Program Room on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday.



The **Adult Department** will be offering

"Love Lights" on February 6 – a chance to gather and craft in our fabulous new Makerspace, while making beautiful Valentine luminaries.

Our **Teen Department** wants to help you get in the Valentine's Day spirit with fan-favorite YA adaptations on February 5.



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At Liberty Park, the homes are built with energy-efficient features designed to keep families warm and cozy during cold weather months without running up extravagant power bills. Every home is equipped with a natural gas heating system and fireplace, creating an ultra comforting environment when the temperatures drop. Special R-38 insulation and Low-E glass windows help keep the heat in and the cold out while smart home systems allow families to adjust the thermostat remotely. The homes of Liberty Park make it easy for families to conserve energy and stay warm.









