# COMMUNITYNEWS

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

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

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 2019

- 4 Freedom from Addiction Coalition Community Awareness Breakfast Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church, 7 a.m.
- 4 Design Review Board Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 8 Senior Citizens Luncheon Dogwood Room, 11:30 a.m.
- 8 City Council Meeting Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 9 Chamber Luncheon Vestavia Country Club, 11:30 a.m.
- 11 Planning and Zoning Commission Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 13 Chamber of Commerce Egg Hunt Byrd Park, 9 a.m.
- 13 Wing Ding City Hall, 4 p.m.
- 15 Vestavia Hills Historical Society Library in the Forest, 2 p.m.
- 15 Council Work Session Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 18 Board of Zoning Adjustment Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 19 Municipal Offices Closed in Observance of Good Friday
- 19 EGGstravaganza City Hall, 10:30 a.m.
- **22** City Council Meeting Council Chamber 6 p.m.
- 23 Mayor's Prayer Breakfast\* Vestavia Country Club, 7 a.m.
- 24 Library Board Meeting Library in the Forest, 4 p.m.
- 25 Friends of the Library Library in the Forest, 10 a.m.
- 25 Dogwood Luncheon\* Vestavia Country Club, 11 a.m.



#### MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Ashley C. Curry, Vestavia Hills Mayor

I just finished reading "Choosing Civility" by P.M. Forni. In his book,

Mr. Forni posits that civility improves the quality of our lives. The word "civility" is derived from the Latin word "civitas" which means city, especially the sense of civic community. Civility reminds us to be good citizens and good neighbors and, by being good citizens, we improve the quality of life for all our citizens. All of this struck a cord with me, as it reminded me that our City slogan, "A Life Above," challenges us to practice civility daily.

The 29th annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast will be April 23. It is always an uplifting experience as prayers are offered for praise and thanksgiving, our young people, and our nation and world. It is a time to reflect on the freedoms that we enjoy, freedoms that people in other countries

don't have. I am looking forward to hearing this year's keynote speaker, Micah McElveen. Micah is the Founder and CEO of Vapor Ministries. In 1995, Micah broke his neck in a near-fatal surfing accident. During his long recovery God began to reshape his life and create a passion for his ministry. The scriptural reference to "life is just a vapor" led to the creation of Vapor Ministries.

Hopefully you will receive this article in time to attend the Freedom from Addiction Coalition breakfast that will be held at Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church on April 4. Our City is hosting this event in hopes of continuing the awareness effort about drug addiction and the dangers of opioid use. The free breakfast starts at 7:00 a.m. and is open to everyone. Our speaker this year is Dr. Tom

- Mayor's Message continued on page 3



#### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeff Downes, Vestavia Hills City Manager

On a recent Sunday night, I sat down with my family for a night of captivating television when I turned

on the first episode of this season's *American Idol*. Who did I see but Vestavia Hills' own Walker Burroughs? Not trying to be overly dramatic, but I sincerely got chill bumps from an extraordinary singing performance and pride from the fact that our city was being highlighted in such a positive way. If that was not enough, I experienced similar poignant moments when I attended the winter choir performances at Vestavia Hills High School. Most notably, the show choir and Just Singin' brought me to tears as I watched our community's children perform at the highest level. Wow! You think my emotional

pinnacle was over? No way! I also attended the cheerleading national championships in Orlando, Florida and saw Vestavia Hills High School and Liberty Park Middle School duke it out in performances against the best cheer squads in the United States. They all performed at an incredibly high level. Now, this could be evidence that I am growing old and sentimental or that my Vestavia Hills community pride is growing faster than the Grinch's heart. I have to believe it is just evidence that Vestavia Hills produces champions and special people in many different ways.

Community pride is the hallmark of Vestavia Hills. It serves as a magnet for those that live in other communities. It serves as the secret sauce to real estate values and investment decisions in

\*Ticket required

- Manager's Report continued on page 3

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

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

#### A Safe and Nurturing Learning Environment

Three years ago, Vestavia Hills City Schools began an unprecedented capital plan to upgrade facilities and plan for long-term student growth. The remaining projects include a new classroom addition at the current Gresham Elementary School and a renovation at the former Berry High School campus. Originally, we planned to complete construction and opening new campuses this summer. However, our timelines have been adjusted to extend into August 2020.

The plan for Dolly Ridge, East and West elementary schools to house kindergarten through fifth grade will continue as scheduled and begin in August 2019. We are excited about Dolly Ridge and anticipate completion of the new classroom addition in late July. We have a contingency plan to utilize all available space in the existing buildings on the campus should the new addition not be complete. Dolly Ridge will also have improvements to the campus this summer including 175 new parking spaces, an extended car line, and new playground.

The plan to move Pizitz Middle School in August 2019 will not take place as originally scheduled. The project has experienced challenges because of three major factors: the unpredictable changes in a renovation of this size, our decision to replace the roof system instead of patching and above average rainfall. Students in sixth through eighth grades who are zoned to attend Pizitz will begin the 2019-20 school year on the existing middle school campus. We expect to make a decision in the coming months of when the new Pizitz Middle School on the Berry campus will open.

Because of this change for Pizitz, the Vestavia Hills High School Freshman Campus will not open for the 2019-20 school year. Freshmen will remain at Vestavia Hills High School for the entire school year. We will open the Freshman Campus in August 2020.

I want to commend the Board of Education for its vision to plan for growth through the K-5 elementary grade reconfiguration and capital plan. The purchase of the Berry and Gresham properties were key acquisitions to meet long-term needs of our system by providing additional space for student enrollment growth. The additional space is part of our strategic goal of safe and nurturing learning environments. When completed, the capital projects will serve to enhance this goal and our ability to provide every student opportunities to learn without limits.

### PIZITZ ROBOTICS TEAM TO COMPETE AT WORLDS

A robotics team from Louis Pizitz Middle School is headed to the world championships. Team Imperium competed in March

against the top 60 teams in Alabama and won the VEX Robotics Design Award. This qualifies them to move on to VEX Worlds, where they will compete against teams from more than 150 countries.



Team Imperium members are Nancy

Chen, Will Steur, Will Tenison and Savagna Veladandla. The Design Award is presented to a team that demonstrates an organized and professional approach to the design process, project and time management and team organization.

#### NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS

The 11 Vestavia Hills High School's National Merit Semifinalists recently learned that they are now Finalists! As Finalists, the

VHHS seniors are now eligible for approximately 7,500 exclusive scholarships worth more than \$32 million, according to the National Merit Scholarship



Corporation. Some 190 colleges and universities around the nation also extend scholarship offers to National Merit Finalists, according to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

2019 VHHS National Merit Finalists are Colin Bamford, Rachel Bates, Cross Hogland, Bryce Hutchinson, Alison Levine, Nicholas Muscolino, Lauren Nelson, Sydney Nelson, Ritika Samant, Julia Stewart and Walter Zhang.

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#### Mayor's Message continued from page 1

Dooley. Please plan to attend and bring a friend. We need everyone to help us address this epidemic that is sweeping our state and the nation.

I received an inquiry from one of our citizens regarding Massey Road. Massey Road is a well-traveled connector between Highway 31 and Columbiana Road. I travel Massey Road most every day and can attest to its deteriorating condition and the need for paving and sidewalks along this street. The City is working with the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) to repave the entire length of Massey Road and add sidewalks. This is an ALDOT-led project that should be bid by the end of this year. Project construction is tentatively scheduled to begin by late spring 2020. In the meantime, the City will maintain the road by patching washed out areas and replacing any malfunctioning drainage pipes. We will continue to work with ALDOT and make this one of our many paving priorities.

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation to all the volunteers that contribute so much to our City. This month I would like to recognize the Men's Garden Club. You can see the fruits of their labors as you observe the gardens located across Shades Crest road from The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills and directly across Highway 31 from the Sibyl Temple. Thank you to these volunteers.

#### Manager's Message continued from page 1

our fine community. When a community need arises, the people of Vestavia Hills step to the front and serve in a dramatic way. The City is at a very impressive moment in time where our physical presence from schools, parks and roads are all getting a makeover. However, please remember, for all of those focused on these physical changes, the real beauty of our city cascades from the talents and passions of those who choose to call it home - those who create and absorb the community pride within the borders. If we get a chance to vote for Walker in his American Idol pursuits, please give your support so that the entire country can see our community pride. We definitely live "A Life Above" and our neighbors and friends are the reason for this aspirational achievement. May your spring be filled with beauty and fun.

#### **GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL YARD SALE**

The Vestavia Hills Garden Club will be hosting their annual yard sale Saturday, April 27\* from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Scout Square (on Montgomery Highway in front of the Post Office). Find furniture, appliances, home and holiday décor, art, books and more! Proceeds benefit Sibyl Temple.

\*Rain Date: May 4





#### **PARKS & RECREATION NEWS**

#### **NEW MERKEL SENIOR CENTER**

Monthly programs, events and guest speakers; Games EVERYDAY!

Monday-Friday: Fun, fellowship & lunch (served at 11:45 a.m.)

Tuesday: Tai Chi & Table Games, 12:30 p.m.

**Wednesday:** Students from VHECH visit New Merkel House for a "Getting to Know You" lunch

Wednesday & Friday: Bingo, 11:00 a.m.

Thursday: Tech Talk Thursdays

April 7-13: Points of Light National Volunteer Week

April 9: Art with Tina Chaffin

April 19: Closed in observance of Good Friday

April 20: Easter-themed activities

More information, including the **full calendar of Senior Programming activities**, can be found on the City website at https://vhal.org/community/senior-living/ or by contacting Melanie Perry at 205.967.5977.

### POOL PROGRAMMING AT THE COMMUNITY BUILDING

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

**Aqua Fitness.** 6:35-7:15 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday Cardio, muscle conditioning and stretching. 8 sessions for \$35 or \$5 per session.

**Stroke Development.** 6:35-7:15 p.m. Monday & Wednesday 8 sessions for \$35 or \$5 per session.

#### Swim Lessons, Group - Monday through Thursday.

5:15-6 p.m. For children ages 3-12.

Session 1: March 4-7 – one week session, \$60

Session 2: March 18-21 & 25-28 – two week session, \$120 *Missed classes are non-refundable and cannot be made up.* 

To register, text 205.910.9092.

#### Swim Lessons, Group - Saturday.

10-10:45 a.m. For children ages 3-12. New group lessons 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.

Swim Lessons, Private & Semi Private – Saturday.

10-10:30 a.m. For more information, text 205.910.9092.

Swim Lessons, Private & Semi Private – Saturday. 10:30-11 a.m. For more information, text 205.910.9092.

#### **PLEASE MOVE OVER**

Did you know that fighting a fire or arresting a criminal is not the most dangerous part of a first responder's job? Operating at roadway

incidents results in a high percentage of deaths and injuries for first responders.

Alabama's Move Over Law states: When an emergency vehicle



using any visual signal is stopped or parked on or next to a roadway, drivers approaching the emergency vehicle should (1) make a lane change into an available lane not immediately adjacent to the emergency vehicle; or (2) if unable to safely make a lane change, slow down to a reasonable speed for existing weather, road, and vehicular or pedestrian traffic conditions.

Please be aware of the dangers faced by first responders and either move over or slow down so we can work safely at roadway incidents.

#### VESTAVIA HILLS TO COMMEMORATE ALABAMA'S 200th BIRTHDAY IN 2019



The City, in conjunction with the Vestavia Hills Historical Society,

Beautification Board and Senior Citizen Association, will be hosting a number of events to celebrate the Alabama Bicentennial. Additionally, in our City schools and library there will be an emphasis on Alabama history. Join the celebration and participate in these events:

- April 15, 2019 Vestavia Hills Mayor's Message with Mayor Ashley Curry. 2 p.m. at the Library in the Forest
- May 2, 2019 Historical Sites Bus Tour. A guided tour and visit of historical sites throughout Vestavia Hills, including Liberty Park, Cahaba Heights and Patchwork Farms. The tour will depart at 8:45 a.m. from Vestavia Hills City Hall and the cost is \$10 per person. To register, email vhHistoricalSociety@gmail.com or mail payment to: Vestavia Hills Historical Society, c/o Library in the Forest, 1221 Montgomery Highway, Vestavia Hills, AL 35216. The deadline to register is April 26.
- Birthday Party. The City will host a 69th birthday celebration for the City of Vestavia Hills. Look for more information to come!

To learn more about the state of Alabama and the Alabama Bicentennial, visit www.Alabama200.org.



#### **CHAMBER NEWS**

Karen J. Odle, Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce President

As I write this letter, it is a cold, windy day in March but we know that beautiful spring weather is around the corner! We have a lot of things happening in our city so please make note of

some upcoming dates and be part of making Vestavia Hills a great place to live work and play.

This year's Mayor's Prayer Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, April 23 at 7:30 a.m. at Vestavia Country Club. We are excited to have as our keynote speaker Micah McElveen who is the founder of Vapor Ministries. In 1995, Micah suffered a near-fatal surfing accident which shattered his dreams of being a collegiate athlete. After being rushed to the hospital he awoke as a quadriplegic in ICU. It took many years of rehabilitation to restore the use of his limbs and during this time of healing he remembered a verse in the Bible that states that "life is but a vapor." Micah says this near-death experience taught him the brevity of life. "We're not guaranteed a long life," he says. The truth is, our time on earth is like a vapor. When you realize that, you are afforded an opportunity to live it differently." Join us to hear Micah's story about

his mission to alleviate poverty in third world countries. He is truly making a difference with his time on earth. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased on the Chamber website www.vestaviahills.org. Tickets are limited so be sure to order before they sell out. For more information, please call our office at 205.823.5011.

Our next ribbon cutting will be for HotWorx in the Vestavia City Center on April 5 at noon. Please join us as we welcome this new business to Vestavia Hills.

Please be sure and note the upcoming I Love America Celebration, scheduled for June 27. Vestavia Hills High School has graciously allowed us to move our event to their facilities while the construction is ongoing at Wald Park. We look forward to sharing more about that fun celebration in future newsletters. We are working on some exciting additions!

Be sure to check the Community Calendar on our website for additional ribbon cuttings as well as other community events and feel free to drop by and see us or email us thoughts on ideas you may have as we work together for "A Life Above."



The Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce is excited to present the 2nd Annual Egg Hunt in the Hills! March 18-April 12, we will be having an Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt around Vestavia Hills.

- On different days and times we will be posting a clue on our Facebook page with the location of an egg.
- The first person to find each egg, will win a prize donated from Chamber member businesses.\*
- When you find the egg, take a picture of it and post it in the comments of the clue. If you do not use Facebook, you will need to call the Chamber Office within 1 hour of finding the egg, otherwise that egg will be void and a replacement will be hidden.
- If the egg is at a business, you will turn it in to their staff to collect the prize.
- Eggs found in public areas, such as the Library in the Forest or City Hall, will need to be brought to the Chamber Office to receive the prize.

Then on **April 13**, at 9:00 am at Byrd Park, children 3rd grade and younger can join us for an Easter Egg Hunt! Bring your basket to hunt for eggs filled with candy and small prizes!

Visit www.vestaviahills.org for more info.

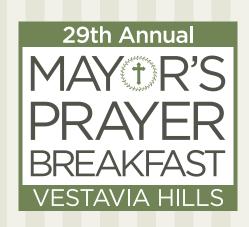
1 Prize Egg Per Household

#### DOGWOOD LUNCHEON

The 2019 Vestavia Hills
Dogwood Luncheon will be
Thursday, April 25, 2019 at
11:00 a.m. at Vestavia Country Club. As we
celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Vestavia Belles,
we are pleased to welcome Ashley Lowe Nance, former Belle,
blogger and educator, to share the history of the Belles
in a presentation featuring memories and Belle fashions through
the years. Tickets are \$25 each and must be purchased in advance.
The deadline to purchase is April 15, 2019. Tickets will NOT be
available at the door. To purchase tickets, contact Gina Henley at
ghenley401@charter.net or 205.910.4837. We hope to see you there!

#### SPRING YARD JUDGING

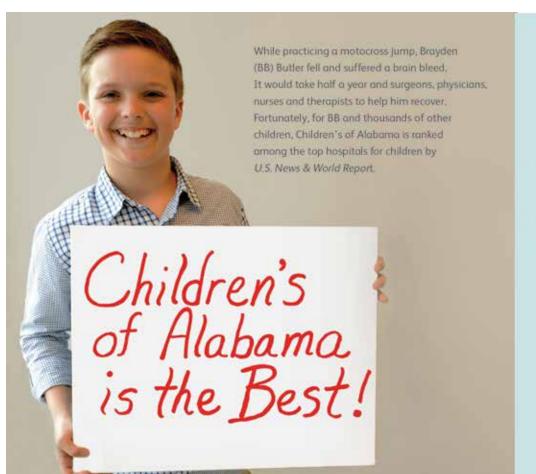
Vestavia Hills Beautification Board will conduct its annual Spring Yard Judging beginning April 22 through April 29. Winners in each area will receive a certificate of appreciation from Mayor Curry and will host a winning yard sign for a period. We are looking forward to seeing some of the beautiful yards and blooms in our city.



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.





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#### LIBRARY IN THE FOREST

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY?

#### CHILDREN: 205.978.0158 (Preschool-Grade 5)

- M Toddler A-Go-Go. 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
- *Tu* **P.J. Storytime.** 6:30 p.m.
- W Story Friends. 10:30 a.m.
- The L.I.F.T. (Library in the Forest Time). 9:30 a.m.
- The Book Babies. 10 a.m.
- 2 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M. Car Mechanics & Propulsion. 3:30 p.m.
- 3 This & That: Kids Theater. 3:30 p.m.
- 6 Ms. Casey's Marvelous Music and Movement. 10:30 a.m.
- 7-12 Poetry in Flight Butterfly Project. Stop by any time!!
  - 9 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M. Prisms & Rainbows. 3:30 p.m.
- 10 This & That: Art Group. 3:30 p.m.
- 16 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M. Math. 3:30 p.m.
- 16 Family Night: Animal Tales! Dinner, 6p.m.; Show, 6:30 p.m.
- 17 This & That: Earth Day Celebration. 3:30 p.m.
- 19 Easter EGGstravaganza. 10:30 a.m. at City Hall
- 23 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M. Mexico. 3:30 p.m.
- 24 This & That: Game Changer. 3:30 p.m.
- 27 Lego Wars. 11 a.m.
- 30 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M. DIY Planters with Seeds. 3:30 p.m.

#### **TEENS: 205.978.3683 (Grades 6-12)**

- 2 Escape Room. 4 p.m.
- 3 Fold n' Hold. 4 p.m.
- 5 Open Gaming. 4 p.m.
- 9 Fortnite Night. 4 p.m.
- 10 Writing Group. 4 p.m.
- 12 Open Gaming. 4 p.m.
- 16 Reduce, Reuse, Recraft! 4 p.m.
- 17 Teen Art Group: Earth Day Edition. 4 p.m.
- 19 Open Gaming. 4 p.m.
- 23 **Oh, Snap!** 4 p.m.
- 24 Writing Group. 4 p.m.
- 26 Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Tournament. 4 p.m.
- 30 Anime Night. 4 p.m.

#### **TECHNOLOGY: 205.978.4679**

- 4 Basic Microsoft Word. 4 p.m.
- 9 Apple Mobile Devices with Connect It. 2 p.m.
- 10 Mac 101. 2 p.m.
- 22 Basic Microsoft Excel. 6 p.m.
- 30 iPad Basics Part I. 10 a.m.

#### **ADULTS:** 205.978.4678 (Ages 18+)

- 1 Knit Night in the Forest. 6 p.m.
- 3 Makerspace for Adults: Blackout Poetry. 6:30 p.m.
- 4 Read & Feed Book Group at Taziki's Liberty Park. 6:30 p.m.
- 5 First Friday Fiber Arts. 10 a.m.
- 8 Tai Chi: Beginner. 6 p.m.
- 9 Ms. Olivia's Evening Reads Book Group. 6 p.m.
- 10 ABCs of Medicare. 1 p.m.
- 11 Tai Chi: Beginner & Intermediate. 2 p.m.
- 11 Chinese Language Workshop for Beginners (8-week course). 6:30 p.m.
- 12 Upcycle City: Zentangled Trees with Darla. 7 p.m.
- 15 Beginner Belly Dance Series with Bethany. 6 p.m.
- 18 OLLI Presents: Crooks, Scoundrels & Other Politicians. 1:30 p.m.
- 22 Tai Chi: Beginner. 6 p.m.
- 25 Friends of the Library Presents: Artist Craigger Browne. 10 a.m.
- 25 Tai Chi: Beginner & Intermediate. 2 p.m.
- 29 Beginner Belly Dance Series with Bethany. 6 p.m.



- 1 Open Maker Lab. 10 a.m.
- 4 Intro to 3D Printing. 4 p.m.
- 6 Open Maker Lab. 1 p.m.
- 8 Open Maker Lab. 10 a.m.
- 15 Open Maker Lab. 10 a.m.
- 16 Intro to Arduino. 4 p.m.
- 22 Open Maker Lab. 10 a.m.
- 25 Vinyl Cutting 101. 4 p.m.
- 27 Open Maker Lab. 1 p.m. Makerspace
- 29 Open Maker Lab. 10 a.m.
- 30 Intro to Arduino. 4 p.m.

## CHECK OUT THE LIBRARY'S NEW WEBSITE!

Full descriptions, including location, are on the new Library website calendar at www.vestavialibrary.org/event-calendar/.

For programs requiring registration, you can now register online as well!

Just look for the "Register" button in the event scroll.

Want to receive program and event information via email? Submit your information under "Join Our Mailing List" at www.vestavialibrary.org/contact-us/.



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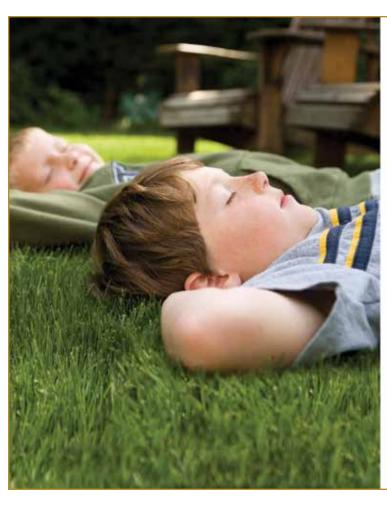








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