COMMUNITY NEWS

News & Events for the City of Vestavia Hills • April 2020
A joint publication of the City of Vestavia Hills, Vestavia Hills City Schools & Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

April 2020

The following information is accurate as of the print date of this publication. Based on mandates issued by the Jefferson County Health Department, the events and dates listed below are subject to change. Please refer to the calendar on the City of Vestavia Hills website for the most up-to-date event information.

1 Design Review Board, Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.

2 Planning & Zoning Commission, Council Chamber, 6 p.m.

3 Municipal Offices Closed in observance of Good Friday

4 Library Closed in observance of Easter

5 Senior Citizens Luncheon, Dogwood Room, 10 a.m.

6 City Council Meeting, Council Chamber, 6 p.m.

7 Chamber Luncheon, Vestavia Country Club, 6 p.m.

8 Candidates Day, Executive Conference Room, 10 a.m.

9 Tax Day

10 Board of Zoning Adjustment, Council Chamber, 6 p.m.

11 Vestavia Hills Historical Society, Library in the Forest, 2 p.m.

12 Council Work Session, Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.

13 Friends of the Library, Library in the Forest, 10 a.m.

14 City Council Meeting, Council Chamber 6 p.m.

15 30th Annual Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast*, Vestavia Country Club, 7 a.m.

* Ticket required

MAYOR’S MESSAGE

Ashley C. Curry, Vestavia Hills Mayor

It must be springtime. Mark Twain said, “In the spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours.” We have certainly experienced different kinds of weather in February and March. I have an azalea bush blooming with weeds in the flower bed. My allergies are acting up and my five-year-old granddaughter had her first T-ball game last Saturday. So, it must be springtime.

On April 28, the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce will host the 30th annual Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast. 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 so many people in other countries don’t have. Brodie Croyle, Director of the Big Oak Ranch, will be the keynote speaker at this year’s event.

The Big Oak Ranch was started in 1974 by Brodie’s father, John Croyle. John and his wife Teresa raised their daughter, Reagan, and son, Brodie (a former Alabama quarterback) at the ranch, which was founded as a home for boys and now also includes a girls’ ranch and a Christian school.

In a proclamation declaring April 28, 2020 as a “Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving,” we will thank the other way.

– Mayor’s Message continued on page 2

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Jeff Downes, Vestavia Hills City Manager

Everyone who knows me well can attest that I always see the glass as half full rather than being half empty. A positive attitude can certainly keep things moving forward rather than being stuck at square one. The last several months have called on this mind set to survive the concerns of the day. We have experienced the largest volume of rainfall this area has seen in many years. The fear of coronavirus has spooked the stock market and led to personal health concerns all over the world. This without even the mention of election year divisions that sometimes bubble up in relationships. All of these pressures could negatively affect one’s property, livelihood and mood. I contend, however, that there is always a silver lining and competing positive experiences that can cause the scales of success and happiness to tip the other way.

Let’s talk about Mother Nature. The rain that damages our infrastructure and delays our construction projects also makes for a realization of the needs to invest in our infrastructure – roads and stormwater drainage. The City has and will continue to invest in its public infrastructure in an intentional and monumental way. In fact, when combining the last two years’ investment, we, as a city, have made considerable strides with strong plans moving forward. The project delays caused by rain have made our staff work harder to manage existing assets and outside relationships to ensure available playing fields and recreational areas satisfy current demands. One mentor told me that the best managers are made in tough times, not easy times.

When the stock market tumbles, people’s confidence in the economy suffers. Here in Vestavia Hills, we have used this circumstance to refinance debt due to the all-time lows in

– City Manager’s Report continued on page 3
ON APRIL 30, 1970, the Vestavia Hills City Council created a school system with the goal of providing the very best education for the children in our city. This momentous decision was made with courageous confidence that it would be successful. What began with 2,250 students and two campuses in August of 1970 will be home to more than 7,100 students and nine campuses when school starts this fall. On the cusp of our golden anniversary, Vestavia Hills City Schools continues to be set apart as one of the very best.

As we all know, the people who are invested in an organization are what make it special. Exceptional teachers adeptly guiding our students in their learning endeavors are a distinguishing factor in our successes. Throughout its history, our school system has been blessed with teachers, administrators, and support staff who have poured their hearts and souls into providing every child the opportunity to learn without limits. Rarely a day passes that I do not hear a story from a VHCS graduate about a teacher who transformed their lives.

To celebrate their impactful influence, we are creating the Vestavia Hills City Schools Educator Hall of Fame. Our inaugural inductees will be announced during the grand opening of the new Louis Pizitz Middle School on August 18, 2020. If you would like to nominate someone to be considered, visit the VHCS website at www.vestavia.k12.al.us and click on “Hall of Fame Nominations.”

In addition to educators, it is equally important to have parents and community members who are invested and engaged. They provide a multitude of resources, volunteerism and passion that add great value to sustaining a high-performing school system. An example of this platitude of support that immediately comes to mind is the name Pizitz.

Louis Pizitz and his family believed in giving to the community and supporting the endeavors of the newly formed school system. Because of their generous gift of land, the existing Louis Pizitz Middle School opened in 1968 and eventually became a part of our fledgling system. Later, Vestavia Hills High School was built on property that, too, was gifted by the family.

The grand opening on August 18, 2020 is a fitting way to celebrate our formula for success: recognizing the gold standard of educators in a building named to honor a family who exemplifies the gold standard of unparalleled support. I look forward to sharing more details of the event as we get closer.
bond interest rates that are the result of the current economic state of affairs. Furthermore, we continue to celebrate milestones with business openings and developments like the Publix in Liberty Park, Cahaba Station in Liberty Park, the future Waffle House along Highway 31, and Local Spoke and Troups Pizza in Cahaba Heights. We are a blessed city in our ability to economically sustain ourselves.

My message this month is that, in the face of a world with much negativity, we need to stay focused on the good in our lives and community. If one is mired in self-pity or consternation of the negative, we don’t accomplish much of anything. The sun will come out. We will overcome hardships. We will recover and be better on the other side of the problem. We all are blessed to live in Vestavia Hills – a community that has proven to exude positive results in all aspects, whether looking at quality of life, safety or other such metrics. Have a wonderful month and keep that glass half-full!

**PARKS & RECREATION NEWS**

**SENIOR SERVICES**

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month and we will be honoring our volunteers that assist with our various senior adult activities. Without the assistance of volunteers, we would not be able to offer the many programs that are offered. The two programs that we will be highlighting are: Senior Transportation and Meals On Wheels.

The Senior Transportation program was started in July 1985 and, through the dedication of volunteers, is still going strong, offering daily rides to doctor appointments, grocery stores and many places in between. We are always looking for additional drivers and signing up new riders. For information on how you can get involved, please contact Sandi Wilson at 205.978.0163 or swilson@vhal.org.

The Meals On Wheels program services Vestavia Hills from the Recreation Center and New Merkel House. Without volunteers to deliver the meals there are many people in our community that would go without a hot meal every day. If you are interested in volunteering or for information on registering for this program, contact Sandi Wilson at 205.978.0163 or swilson@vhal.org.

We are planning an Appreciation Lunch to honor our volunteers on April 20, 2020. Make plans to join us in celebrating the “unsung heroes” of two of our very important programs and help us to say “Thank You” for all that they do to enhance the lives of the senior adults in our community. The luncheon will be held at the Vestavia Hills Civic Center in the Dogwood Room beginning at 11:30 a.m. To RSVP or to share a story about how a volunteer has impacted your life or how BEING a volunteer has impacted your life, contact Sandi Wilson at 205.978.0163 or swilson@vhal.org.

**HIRING SUMMER LIFEGUARDS**

Interested in working as a lifeguard at the new Vestavia Hills pool complex this summer? Contact Jeff Corley at jcorley@vhal.org or 205.978.0166.

**VESTAVIA HILLS GIRLS VOLLEYBALL**

The Vestavia Hills Girls Rec Volleyball League will host two free clinics featuring the Vestavia Hills High School girls varsity volleyball players: April 9 & 23, 2020

Cahaba Heights Elementary School Gym
6-7 p.m. for 4th & 5th graders
7-8 p.m. for 6th-8th graders

Donations to benefit the VHHS volleyball program will be accepted at each clinic – cash, check or Venmo @VestaviaHills-GirlsVolleyball

For more information or to register for the clinic, call 205.566.1164 or email vestaviangirlsvolleyball@gmail.com.
As I write this letter, it is a cold, rainy 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 our 30th Annual and will be held on Tuesday, April 28 at 7:30 a.m. at Vestavia Country Club. We are excited to have as our keynote speaker Brodie Croyle, Executive Director of the Big Oak Ranch taking over from his father, John Croyle. The Big Oak ministry grew out of the desire to give hurting children a chance. Four promises are made to every child that comes to the Ranch: 1) We love you, 2) We will never lie to you, 3) We will stick with you until you’re grown, and 4) There are boundaries, don’t cross them. They operate on the philosophy that “A hundred years from now it will not matter what kind of house we lived in, the kind of car we drove or how much money we had in the bank, but the world may be different because you and I were important in the life of a child.” Big Oak Ranch and the Croyles are truly making a difference with these children who are hurting. Tickets are $20 each and may be purchased on the Chamber website www.vestaviahills.org. Tickets are very limited so be sure to order before they sell out. For more information, please call our office at 205.823.5011.

Helping Hands Day, which will also includes shredding, e-recycle, hazardous waste and medication take-back, is scheduled for September 12. Further information will be forthcoming about the event, including an application to be completed if you are a senior in need of a “helping hand” around your home.

Make your calendar for the I Love America Celebration. It is scheduled for June 30 and Vestavia Hills High School has graciously allowed us once again to move our event to their facilities while 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!

We have several events and ribbon cuttings coming up and we would love to have you join us as we celebrate the many new developments in our community. Be sure to check the Community Calendar on our website for ribbon cuttings as well as other community events.

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.”

CHAMBER NEWS
Karen J. Odle, Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce President

As I write this letter, it is a cold, rainy 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.

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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.”
NEW APPARATUS FOR VHFD

The Vestavia Hills Fire Department will take delivery of a new heavy rescue/service truck this spring. The primary purpose of this truck will be to respond on all technical rescue incidents, which include rope rescue, swift water, confined space, structural collapse and trench rescue. Personnel that will be assigned to this truck attend extra training in these disciplines, on top of all other required training in fire and emergency medical services. One major advantage to purchasing this truck will be decreased response times to technical rescue incidents. This truck will replace multiple trailers by consolidating the equipment to one piece of apparatus. Come by Station 5 in Cahaba Heights this summer and check it out!
The Library in the Forest will be CLOSED until at least April 6, 2020. The following information is accurate as of the print date of this publication. Based on mandates issued by the Jefferson County Health Department, the events and dates provided are subject to change. Please refer to the Library in the Forest website at www.vestavialibrary.org for the most up-to-date information.

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<th>CHILDREN &amp; TWEENS</th>
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<td>205.978.0158</td>
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6 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am
   Intro to 3D Printing, 4:30pm
   Knit Night in the Forest, 6pm

7 Pick Up STEAM: Rubber Duck
   Math Race, 3:30pm
   Escape Room, 4pm
   Eighth of March Book Group, 6pm

8 Story Friends, 10:30am
   ABCs of Medicare, 1pm
   12 Below: Old School Games, 3:30pm
   Tabletop Gaming Group, 4pm

9 LIFT, 9:30am
   Book Babies, 10am
   OLLI Presents: Apollo 13, 1:30pm
   Open Maker Lab, 3:30-7:30pm
   Intermediate Microsoft Word, 4pm

10 Open Gaming, 4pm

11 Library Stop, 10:30am

12 CLOSED, Easter

13 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am

14 Apple Mobile Devices, 2pm
   Pick Up STEAM: Bugs & Spiders, 3:30pm
   Blackout Poetry, 4pm
   Teardown Tuesday, 4:30pm
   Ms. Olivia’s Evening Reads
   Book Group, 6pm

15 Story Friends, 10:30am
   12 Below: Game Changer, 3:30pm
   Writing Group, 4pm
   Intermediate Excel Part I, 4pm
   Grown-Up Gaming: Tabletop
   Game Night, 5:30pm

16 LIFT, 9:30am
   Book Babies, 10am
   Open Maker Lab, 3:30-7:30pm

17 Open Gaming
   Upcycle City: Zentangle with Darla, 7pm

18 Ms. Casey’s Marvelous Music & Movement, 10:30am
   Open Maker Lab, 1-5pm

20 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am
   Advanced Excel: Pivot Tables & Dashboards, 4pm
   Photography Workshop, 4:30pm
   Culture Trip: Capoeira Martial Arts, 6:30pm

21 Pick Up STEAM: Recycled Science, 3:30pm
   Earth Day Crafts, 4pm
   Family Night: Puppeteer
   David Stephens, 6pm

22 Story Friends, 10:30am
   12 Below: Earth Day Fun, 3:30pm
   Teen Art Group, 4pm

23 LIFT, 9:30am
   Book Babies, 10am
   Friends of the Library:
   The Holocaust Education Center, 10am
   Open Maker Lab, 3:30-7:30pm

24 Mario Kart 8 Tournament, 4pm

25 Dungeons & Dragons, 9:30am
   Lego Wars, 11am
   Open Maker Lab, 1-5pm
   Teenspeak: Public Speaking Workshop, 3pm

27 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am
   Google Drive, 5pm

28 Type-In, 3:30pm
   Pick Up STEAM: Challenge, 3:30pm
   Anime Night, 4pm

29 Story Friends, 10:30am
   12 Below: Creation Station, 3:30pm

30 LIFT, 9:30am
   Book Babies, 10am
   Open Maker Lab, 3:30-7:30pm

Full descriptions, including location and online registration, are available on the Library in the Forest website at www.vestavialibrary.org.

We do more because of you! Visit vhlibraryfoundation.org to make a tax-deductible donation to the Library in the Forest today. Your generous support is greatly appreciated!
Responding to the census helps our community get the funding we need! Census data impacts our daily lives for years to come. Lawmakers allocate more than $675 billion in federal funding back to states and local communities each year based on census data – funding for critical services and infrastructure in our community, including roads, schools, fire and police departments, businesses, hospitals and healthcare, senior centers, jobs and political representation. Census responses are safe and secure and cannot be used against you. For more information, visit www.census.gov.

Be counted, Vestavia Hills!

VESTAVIA HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT
YOUTH POLICE ACADEMY
June 8-11, 2020

The Vestavia Hills Police Department is proud to announce our annual Youth Police Academy opened to all Vestavia Hills youths, ages 12-16. We have partnered with local volunteers and sponsors to bring you a week of hands-on curriculum and challenges that will help you better understand your leadership role in our community. As you experience the many different challenges you will begin to understand the importance of problem solving and team building.

ARE YOU UP TO THE CHALLENGE?

A registration fee of $50.00 per student is required, along with a completed application packet. CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED.

For registration information please contact Sgt. Eddie Crim at ecrim@vhal.org or you may call him at 205-978-0119.
City of Vestavia Hills
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www.vhal.org