

COMMUNITY NEWS

News & Events for the City of Vestavia Hills • September 2018

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

September 2018

- 3 Labor Day
Municipal Offices Closed
- 3 Wald Park Pool Closes, 5 p.m.
- 6 Design Review Board
Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 8 Helping Hands in the Hills
Community Service Day, 8:00 a.m.
- 8 Helping Hands in the Hills Recycling
Day, Wald Park, 9 a.m.
- 10 Senior Citizens Luncheon
Dogwood Room, 11:30 a.m.
- 10 City Council Meeting
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 11 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony &
Patriot's Day Celebration
City Hall, 8:30 a.m.
- 11 Chamber Luncheon
Vestavia Country Club, 11:30 a.m.
- 11 U.S. Service Academy Night
City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 13 Planning and Zoning Commission
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 17 Council Work Session
Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 18 Parks and Recreation Board
Executive Conference Room, 7 a.m.
- 20 Board of Zoning Adjustment
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 24 City Council Meeting
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 25 Library Board Meeting
Library in the Forest, 4 p.m.
- 27 Friends of the Library
Library in the Forest, 10 a.m.
- 30 Splash Pad at SHAC Closes



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Ashley C. Curry, Vestavia Hills Mayor

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation website, the FBI has

gathered crime statistics from law enforcement agencies across the nation that have voluntarily participated in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program since 1930. These statistics have been published each year and have been available in the publication *Crime in the United States* since 1958. This year's numbers reflect very favorably on Vestavia Hills.

What do we know about the crime statistics for Vestavia Hills? I am proud to report that Vestavia Hills was rated the "safest city in Alabama" by HomeSnacks, an organization that has been professionally ranking cities, neighborhoods, counties and states across America for over three years. HomeSnacks combines recent data from the Census, the FBI, OpenStreetMaps and dozens of other sources into bite-sized studies to help you

understand what it is like to live in different communities across the country.

This number one ranking was based on an analysis of 90 cities in Alabama with a population of more than 5,000 using the latest FBI crime data. This was the second year in a row that Vestavia Hills was rated the safest city in Alabama.

There are other sources that list Vestavia Hills as second or third safest, but for cities over 30,000 in population, Vestavia Hills is clearly the safest.

I borrowed the following quote from an FBI publication, and I believe it clearly defines the importance of safety, particularly for our children: *"The protection and well-being of all children is paramount to having a peaceful community, now and in the future. Children are molded by what they see, by what they hear and by what they feel."*

– Mayor's Message continued on page 3



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeff Downes, Vestavia Hills City Manager

Fiscal year 2018 has marked high points for the City of Vestavia Hills in many different ways. From

commencement of the Community Spaces Plan execution to extraordinary results with the City's financial status, we are positioned for continued positive change in many different ways over the next 12 months. The proposed budget for fiscal year 2019 is buoyed by the previous year's results that are anticipated to continue with healthy growth.

As with previous budget development efforts, our Finance department independently projects revenue for the upcoming fiscal year. This revenue

projection serves as the starting point for the budget planning process and is conservative in nature. Past history has shown that actual revenue receipts have outpaced our budget projections in almost all years. The chart below expresses stellar results from a budgetary planning perspective and has been the topic of conversations by credit rating firms such as



– Manager's Report continued on page 3



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

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

Robert Putnam's book, *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis*, chronicles the economic and social decline of the close-knit town in which he was raised. Over time, the economy dwindles, the spirit of community wanes and the town ceases to thrive. A long-term effect is the declining education system, a mirror image of its surrounding environment. One of the many takeaways from this book is the critical value of community engagement in the livelihood of a city.

A core strength of Vestavia Hills City Schools is the unparalleled community support it receives. The system mission for every child to learn without limits would simply not be possible without a high level of commitment from the community. For example, our school system is able to employ 95 additional teachers this year above what our state funding provides. This impressive financial support means we can provide learning experiences in the arts, languages, STEM and other career exploratory courses.

The City of Vestavia Hills and the Chamber of Commerce are pillars of support and consistently place a priority on high-quality schools.

Organizations including the Vestavia Hills City Schools Foundation, Parent Teacher Organization, Partners in Education and Help the Hills provide an array of support to raise the bar of learning experiences and chances of success for our students.

For this strong support to be mutually beneficial to the community, our schools must instill the belief that service is a duty. Last year, students in Vestavia raised funds or participated in projects for The Bell Center, Habitat for Humanity, American Heart Association, Relay for Life, Alabama Cancer Society, Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund, hurricane relief, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and Magic City Harvest. More than \$360,000 was raised for these organizations in addition to hands-on support for projects.

For a community to thrive, an attitude of service must be evident. The spirit of giving is at the heart of our citizens, the city of Vestavia Hills, and its schools. I am so appreciative of the tradition and intentional commitment of our community partners to support our schools. I also look forward to seeing the many ways in which our students serve others this year.

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VHECH NURSE RECEIVES STATE AWARD

Vestavia Hills Elementary Cahaba Heights' nurse Julie Corley is Alabama's School Nurse of the Year.

Corley, who has been a school nurse at VHECH for 11 years, received the award in July during the Alabama State Department of Education's Summer Conference in Mobile. She was recognized during the conference for excellence in the field of school nursing and for going above and beyond the call of duty.

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VHHS MATH TEAM PLACES THIRD IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

The VHHS math team placed third at the Mu Alpha Theta national convention held July 8-13 in Colorado Springs.

This is the team's highest placement since placing third in 2015.

Individual national champions were Courtney Flurry (Theta Applications) and Eileen Liu (Speed Math). Forty VHHS students participated in the competition and 82 awards were brought home.



Mayor's Message *continued from page 1*

Let our children see beauty, hear praise and feel safe.” It also challenges us to set good examples by what we say and do.

I would like to congratulate Chief Dan Rary and the men and women of the Vestavia Hills Police Department for making this happen. Safety, along with other quality of life factors, are the main reasons people choose to live in our city.

I was particularly pleased with the “Crimes Against the Elderly” seminar that was held at Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church on August 7. This informational seminar was in response to numerous citizens having contacted me about financial scams in which they were victimized. Our Police department was one of the agencies that participated in the seminar. It is our hope that awareness is one of the best ways to prevent our citizens from being victimized by one of these financial scams, and we will continue to address issues that impact our citizens.



WELCOME MAYOR ASHLEY CURRY!

Make plans to join Friends of the Library as they welcome Mayor Ashley Curry! All are invited to attend this free event
Thursday, September 27 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the Community Room at the Library in the Forest.

City Manager's Report *continued from page 1*

Moody's and Fitch in their reaffirmation of the City's extraordinary credit ratings. Following course, our FY 2019 budget shows a 15% growth in total anticipated General Fund revenue, growing the General Fund budget by an additional \$5,759,330. A large portion of that increase is created by the additional sales tax instituted effective June 1, 2018. As directed by ordinance, 25% of the total sales tax collections will be transferred to the Community Spaces Fund to support our highly anticipated plan implementation. After such transfer of funds, the General Fund operations will be supported by a total 3.3% growth in revenues totaling \$1,298,253 in new funding.

As we establish our financial parameters for FY 2019, there are several priorities that we propose to address. Most notably these include positioning of our employee compensation in a manner to ensure we are an employer of choice and beginning efforts to create a sustainable path for timely and regular infrastructure maintenance and improvement including roads and drainage infrastructure. The list of operational goals is substantive, but they pale in comparison to the efforts that will be undertaken this next fiscal year as we work to rebuild most of our recreational assets, add sidewalks, resurface roads and drainage infrastructure, and add road capacity through the Community Spaces plan. These efforts represent great promise, some risk and incredible excitement. Please take a few moments to review the entire proposed spending plan for 2018-2019 online at <http://vhal.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Proposed-Budget-2019.pdf>. This plan positions Vestavia Hills to have a very exciting and progressive year!

NEW DECORATED MODELS NOW OPEN



THE TOBE

The 5 BR / 5 BA, 3-car-garage, 3,700 square foot Tobe has soaring 10' ceilings and an abundance of windows. With the master suite on the main floor, you'll have the convenience of a large laundry room off the master bedroom and you'll enjoy an expansive master bathroom with his & hers vanities and an oversized shower.

THE CLAYTON

A 5 BR / 4 BA, 3,411 square foot plan, The Clayton features a gourmet kitchen, island, and plentiful cabinet space and flows into a large Great Room. This open floor plan allows for a seamless transition between cooking, eating, and relaxing, bringing friends and family closer together.



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BASKETBALL REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Registration for **Vestavia Hills Girls Basketball** (grades K-7) is open now through October 19. The cost is \$140 per player with a \$10 early registration discount. (Price does not include the cost of a uniform, if needed.) The 2018-2019 season starts November 17 and ends February 10. For more information or to register, visit www.vhygbasketball.com.

Registration for **Vestavia Hills Boys Basketball** (grades 1-12) is open now through October 19. (Registration for 7th and 8th grade only will be extended through October 26 to allow for middle school basketball tryouts.) The cost is \$150 per player. The 2018-2019 season starts December 1 and ends February 10 for 1st through 8th grades; November 5 through January 25 for 9th through 12th grades. For more information or to register, visit www.vhybasketball.org.

NEW MERKEL SENIOR CENTER

Monthly programs, events and guest speakers;
Games **EVERYDAY!**

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

Monday & Wednesday: Exercise & Table Games. 10:30 a.m.

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

Thursday: Tech Talk Thursdays

September 3: Closed

September 7: Guest Speaker John Eddins, Beltone Audiology

September 10: In honor of Grandparent's Day, bring your favorite pictures as we share memories of our grandparents.

September 11: Art with Tina Chaffin

September 11: Friendship Force joins us for lunch

More information, including the **full calendar of Senior Programming activities**, can be found on the City website at <http://bit.ly/SeniorProgramming> or by contacting Melanie Perry at 205.967.5977.



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2018 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TRUSTEES



We would like to gratefully acknowledge our Chamber Trustees for 2018. These

businesses support our Chamber and City at a high level of membership to enable us to do events and projects in the City so please let them know how much they are appreciated by visiting their business and thanking them for their support of Vestavia Hills.

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Spectrum Reach
Spire
Starnes Publishing – Vestavia Voice
Standard Air, Plumbing & Insulation
State Farm Insurance – John Henley
Summit Express Urgent Care
Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church
Senator Jabo Waggoner
Wild Birds Unlimited
Williams Blackstock
Butch Zaragoza



HELPING HANDS IN THE HILLS RECYCLE DAY

Helping Hands in the Hills Recycle Day is September 8 at Wald Park (1973 Merryvale Road) from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Items available to be recycled include electronics, paper and household hazardous waste.* In addition, VHPD officers will be on-site to collect unneeded and/or expired medications for disposal (needles will NOT be accepted).

**Proof of Vestavia Hills residency required for hazardous waste disposal.*

For additional information, including the full list of items being accepted for recycling and any applicable charges, visit https://vestavi hills.org/event-page/?ct_id=4846.

Special thanks to: Secure Destruction, PROTEC Recycling and Republic Services



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9 | 11

Remembrance Ceremony & Patriot's Day Celebration

Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

Vestavia Hills City Hall
1032 Montgomery Highway
Vestavia Hills, Alabama

This year's keynote speaker will be Colonel Trever J. Nehls



VESTAVIA HILLS



CROSSFIT VHFD — “FIT TO SERVE”

In 2014, the Vestavia Hills Fire Department (VHFD) formed a fitness committee tasked with improving the fitness level within the department. After surveying department members and researching best practices, VHFD invested \$5,000 and began outfitting all fire stations with the equipment identified. Since 2014, VHFD has continued to incrementally expand the workout equipment available to its personnel. Fitness committee members continue to design workouts comprised of functional movements that are common on the fire ground to better prepare personnel for emergency operations.

Recently, two members graduated from the CrossFit Level 1 Trainer course which focused on methodology, kinesiology, nutrition and exercise science. Following many small steps such as equipment purchasing, establishing buy in of personnel, training certification and support from fire administration, VHFD was ready to identify the future of the program. The next step was becoming an official CrossFit affiliate, a process which took several months and a tremendous amount of work. CrossFit offers free affiliation for military and public safety agencies as a way of promoting fitness to those who serve, and it validates our efforts to make physical fitness a priority among the department. VHFD continues to be officially recognized as part of a worldwide movement of bringing fitness to the forefront. Affiliation allows VHFD access to different sources of education including coaching, nutrition and fundraising.

CrossFit VHFD is the culmination of many man hours and determination to bring fitness and healthy living to the fire service. Adopting the slogan “Fit to Serve,” CrossFit VHFD strives to prepare our members for any challenge they may encounter while serving the citizens of Vestavia Hills.



LIBRARY IN THE FOREST



Following are highlights of the programming available during the month of September at the Library in the Forest. To view the full calendar, including program descriptions, visit <https://vestavialibrary.org/events>.

CHILDREN: 205.978.0158

- 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.
- W* **This & That.** 3:30 p.m.
- Th* **L.I.F.T.** 9:30 a.m.
- Th* **Book Babies.** 10 a.m.
- 1* **Ms. Casey's Marvelous Music & Movement.** 10:30 a.m.
- 5* **Back-to-School Jam Party.**
- 12* **Crazy Crafting.**
- 15* **Ms. Casey's Marvelous Music & Movement.** 10:30 a.m.
- 18* **Family Night with the DIY Magician.** 6 p.m.
- 19* **Game Changer!**
- 22* **Lego Wars.** 11 a.m.
- 26* **Puppet Show Theater.**

TEENS: 205.978.3683 (Grades 6-12)

- 1* **Writing Workshop.** 10 a.m.
- 4* **Game Over.** 4 p.m.
- 5* **Button Making.** 4 p.m.
- 7* **Open Gaming.** 4 p.m.
- 11* **Fortnite Night.** 4 p.m.
- 12* **Writing Group.** 4 p.m.
- 14* **Open Gaming.** 4 p.m.
- 18* **Fold N Fly.** 4 p.m.
- 19* **Teen Art Group.** 4 p.m.
- 21* **Open Gaming.** 4 p.m.
- 25* **Anime Night.** 4 p.m.
- 26* **Writing Group.** 4 p.m.
- 27* **Mario Kart Tournament.** 4 p.m.
- 29* **ACT Workshop.** 1 p.m.

ADULTS: 205.978.4678 (Ages 18+)

- 3* **Knit Night in the Forest.** 6 p.m.
- 6* **Read & Feed Book Group at Taziki's Liberty Park.** 6:30 p.m.
- 7* **First Friday Fiber Arts.** 10 a.m.

- 10* **Tai Chi: Beginners.** 6 p.m.
- 11* **Ms. Olivia's Evening Reads Book Group.** 6 p.m.
- 12* **ABCs of Medicare.** 1 p.m.
- 12* **Treehouse Poetry Reading Series.** 6 p.m.
- 13* **Tai Chi: Beginner & Intermediate.** 2 p.m.
- 17* **Beginner Belly Dance.** 6 p.m.
- 24* **Tai Chi: Beginners.** 6 p.m.
- 27* **Friends of the Library present Mayor Ashley C. Curry.** 10 a.m.
- 27* **Tai Chi: Beginner & Intermediate.** 2 p.m.

MAKERSPACE/TECH CLASSES: 205.978.4679

- 5* **Microsoft Publisher.** 2 p.m.
- 11* **Apple Mobile Devices with Tech Ease.** 2 p.m.
- 13* **Google Drive.** 4 p.m.
- 18* **Beginner Blogging.** 10 a.m.
- 20* **Intro to 3D Printing.** 4 p.m.
- 24* **LinkedIn.** 6 p.m.



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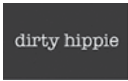
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