MAYOR’S MESSAGE
Ashley C. Curry, Vestavia Hills Mayor

Vestavia Hills continues to be ranked as one of the best places to live, not just in Alabama, but in the entire United States. According to AreaVibes, a website that helps people find the best places to live in the USA, Vestavia Hills is ranked #1 in Alabama. The ranking is based on a “Livability Score” that considers factors such as crime rates, quality of schools, weather, employment, housing and other quality-of-life amenities. The report summary considered Vestavia Hills as “a very suitable city for families.”

Please join our Vestavia Hills Police and Fire departments as we celebrate “Community Night Out” on October 1, 2019. This is an opportunity for first responders to promote public safety, as well as network with local businesses, civic groups, churches, schools and community volunteers in a symbolic stance against crime. At this year’s event, there will be a special Bicentennial celebration that you will not want to miss!

In November, the City will host two events to celebrate Veterans Day. On Thursday, November 7, Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church will host the “Salute to Veterans” event that will feature a choral group and an ensemble from the Vestavia Hills High School band, plus

– Mayor’s Message continued on page 3

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT
Jeff Downes, Vestavia Hills City Manager

As I drove through the City’s various construction projects today, it struck me that the excitement over the new and improved quality of life assets that will be rising from the dirt must be tempered with the memories of old. I drove past the Senior Lodge that had been reduced to rubble. I noted the dogwood trees planted by the family of Patricia Dietlein nearby along the edge of Wald Park. I saw the soon to be demolished playground that had been constructed as the result of an incredible community undertaking. I looked down from the upper ridge of Wald Park and no longer see the community pool where so many families spent their long summer days. A quick 15-minute drive from Wald Park to the Cahaba Heights Ballfields revealed a mass graded site that will soon see a new, modern athletic and park complex. While some individuals only focus on the future, I want to take a moment to pay homage to the past.

When the Wald sisters agreed to sell their property to Vestavia Hills, I doubt they knew so many memories would be created on their property. Like many City programs, the dance classes that took place in the Senior Lodge started with just a few participants, but grew to significant numbers. The passion for dance was only overtaken by the love for community by these individuals that made the Senior Lodge their home away from home. The love of the children of our community led to a community-built playground adjacent to Vestavia Hills Elementary West, affectionately dubbed Castle Park. Those who participated in building the park is a “who’s who” of Vestavia Hills residents. Both of these assets can be seen from the highest point adjacent to Wald Park – the former home of Patricia Dietlein. Her father built the family home as Wald Park became a destination and filled the home with love and a passion for landscaping. While the landscape will change, the effort at creating a

– Manager’s Report continued on page 3
FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT
Todd Freeman, Ed.D., Vestavia Hills City Schools Superintendent

During Meet the Teacher night at the beginning of the school year, my son’s teacher said something that resonated with me. In speaking about attendance, she remarked that it is important for every child to be at school, and on time, every day. That is great advice. It reminded me of the end-of-year recognitions in my elementary school when students received certificates for perfect attendance. I even had a classmate that had perfect attendance from first grade to graduation. That is amazing!

One of the most commonly desired characteristics for employers is that their employees come to work every day. This priority of attendance is for good reason: absenteeism in the workplace verges on an epidemic. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that each year, absenteeism costs the nation’s employers more than $225 billion in productivity.

Absenteeism rates in schools are equally dramatic. It is estimated nationally that 5-7 million K-12 students miss at least 10% of days in school, which is defined as chronically absent. Last year in Vestavia Hills, that equaled about 570 children.

There are many legitimate reasons why people miss work and school. Health-related challenges, important family events and religious observances are just a few. While perfect attendance is impractical in many cases, the value of being consistently present whenever possible cannot be underestimated.

One goal of our strategic plan is “developing common understandings and shared community support for confronting the problems and challenges that impact the system, youth and families.” An important piece of the picture of success with this goal is that we value students being present in school. Accordingly, our system policy has been updated this year to encourage attendance. You can find it, and our goals, on our website at www.vestavia.k12.al.us.

As an educator of 26 years, I can attest to the value of consistent attendance. It is an important life lesson we learn as early as kindergarten that begins a good habit for the rest of our lives.
other entertainment and a keynote speaker. On November 8, the New Merkel House in Cahaba Heights will host its annual celebratory recognition of area veterans. Please join us as we recognize all of our veterans that have made the freedoms we enjoy possible.

In August, we honored our senior citizens by celebrating “National Senior Citizens Day.” This national event, held annually, was created in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan to recognize the contributions that senior citizens make to their respective communities. The speaker at this year’s event was Steve Flowers, a former state representative, author and well-known political columnist.

Thank you to our senior groups and our numerous sponsors that made this event possible. Vestavia Hills senior groups who participated in this year’s event included: Senior Transportation Program; Beautification Board; Friends of the Library; Library in the Forest Adult Services; Men’s Garden Club; Senior Citizen Association; Monday Night Dancers; Friendship Force; New Merkel House; and OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute).

These groups offer many recreational, entertainment, educational and volunteer service opportunities for our citizens. You do not need to be a senior citizen in order to participate. If you would like to become involved with any of these groups, please contact our Civic Activities Coordinator, Julie Harper, at 205.978.0169 or jharper@vhal.org.

quality of place second to none will live on as a legacy for the new Wald Park.

This evolution is very similar for the Cahaba Heights Athletic Complex. It was built by a dedicated group of parents who wanted a special place for their children to play. If you were a Cahaba Heights Black Knight, you spent many an hour practicing on those fields. If you were an elementary school aged baseball player, you spent your spring and summers enjoying competition and an incredible view on the horizon of this special athletic complex. While we celebrate the park’s origins, we also recognize that it is clearly time for an upgrade. We are looking forward to the new amenities and spaces that will serve all of our residents—a new community building for our seniors, plus expansive green spaces and a dog park that will appeal to nature enthusiasts, dog lovers and anyone in search of a great day at a beautiful park.

I hope all of Vestavia Hills can balance their enthusiasm for the future with a healthy respect for the past. One of the neat things about Vestavia Hills is that many who grow up here return to the community so that their families can enjoy the lifestyle that made them who they are. I think the new Vestavia Hills can also keep the key elements of the old Vestavia Hills amid the major physical changes that we are undergoing. That is one of the keys to success for our community—a community unlike any other. I wish a good fall season for all as we move forward with positive change throughout Vestavia Hills.
SHAPE THE FUTURE OF VESTAVIA HILLS — BE COUNTED!

Census Day is Wednesday, April 1, 2020!

Responding to the census helps communities get the funding they need and helps businesses make data-driven decisions that grow the economy. Census data impacts our daily lives, informing important decisions about funding for services and infrastructure in your community, including health care, senior centers, jobs, political representation, roads, schools and businesses. More than $675 billion in federal funding flows back to states and local communities each year based on census data. For more information, visit www.census.gov.

2020 Confidentiality Factsheet: www.census.gov

Mayor Ashley Curry and the City of Vestavia Hills are honored to present “Salute to Veterans,” Thursday, November 7 at Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church.

This Veterans Day celebration will feature patriotic-themed musical performances and speakers. We hope you will join us to honor those who served.

We Need Your Photos!!

This event will feature a video loop of photos and we need your help! Please email a scanned photo of yourself, family members or friends who have served or are currently serving in any branch of the military to vestaviahillsgovt@gmail.com so that we can honor them in the Veterans Day video. Be sure to include the following information for each photo: (1) first and last name; (2) military rank; (3) branch of service; (4) military conflict/theater of operation; and (5) dates of military service (if available).

VHFD TRAINING FOR WATER RESCUES

The Vestavia Hills Fire Department VHFD is in the process of completing operator training on a specialized boat for use in water rescues. The inflatable rescue boat is equipped with a 25-horsepower motor which will assist us in reaching victims earlier in an incident. This piece of equipment will allow our technical rescue personnel to safely travel longer distances and navigate strong currents.

Members of the technical rescue team undergo training in a variety of disciplines including rope, trench, structural collapse, confined space and swift water. The department’s technical rescue team is activated several times per year for calls involving water rescues in Vestavia Hills and in neighboring jurisdictions. Don’t be surprised to see our personnel conducting training evolutions on area waterways when the water level is sufficient.
CHAMBER NEWS
Karen J. Odle, Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce President

A special thanks to all of the volunteers that helped our disabled or senior citizens in Vestavia Hills on our 5th Annual Helping Hands in the Hills. We had over 200 volunteers take on 20 projects in the community and have had many notes and phone calls of appreciation from the recipients. This type of event is truly what makes Vestavia Hills “A Life Above,” as our tagline suggests.

In addition to the Helping Hands in the Hills, we continued Hazardous Waste Disposal as well as Medication Take Back along with the popular Shredding and e-Recycle event on September 14 at City Hall. A special thanks to the Vestavia Hills Police Department for handling the medication take back, they collected 176 pounds of unneeded or old medication. Republic Services did an outstanding job of helping us clean out unwanted paint/cans; pesticides; light bulbs and batteries collecting 10.43 TONS of these items to dispose of properly. Protec eRecycling handled our electronic recycling and collected 17,719 pounds of electronic items and Gone for Good, a United Ability company, handled our shredding for us and helped dispose of 13,048 pounds of papers that residents needed to clean out and were able to recycle to keep it out of the landfills.

Before the volunteers began their project, we gathered at the City Hall lawn and had muffins, donuts and orange juice courtesy of Publix and coffee courtesy of McDonald’s (Vestavia Hills). When the teams finished the project(s) they were assigned, they returned to City Hall for a lunch provided courtesy of Chick-fil-A, Domino’s Pizza (Cahaba Heights), Jimmy Johns (Vestavia Hills) and Bruster’s Real Ice Cream. It was a wonderful way to start and end a great effort thanks to the many volunteers in our city and the great businesses that supported the teams! Volunteers included: Horizon Church; Montclair Neighbors; Philadelphia Baptist Church; Shades Mountain Baptist Church; Sunrise Rotary; Trinity Presbyterian Church; Vestavia Hills Men’s Garden Club; Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; Vestavia Hills Rotary; VHHS Baseball Team; and VHHS Robotics Team.

Thank you to every individual and our businesses listed above that worked so hard to make Vestavia Hills “A Life Above”!

PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

NEW MERKEL SENIOR CENTER
Join us for monthly programs, nutritional education, events and guest speakers. We also play games EVERY DAY!

Monday-Friday: Fun, fellowship & lunch (served at 11:45 a.m.)
Monday: Exercise, 10:45 a.m. (stretching, light weights)
Tuesday: Tai Chi & Table Games, 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Students from VHECH visit New Merkel House for “Getting to Know You” lunches (during the school year)
Wednesday & Friday: Bingo or Table Games, 11:00 a.m.
Thursday: Tech Talk Thursdays
October 8: Art with Tina Chaffin
October 31: Spooky snacks & ghastly trivia games. Come in costume ... if you dare!

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.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Registration for Vestavia Hills Girls Basketball (grades K-7) is open NOW through October 19 for all Vestavia Hills girls K-7th grade. Player evaluations will be held October 20 at the Vestavia Rec Center and the regular season will begin December 7. For more information or to register, visit http://vesthgb.website.siplay.com. Follow us on Instagram and Twitter @vhgirlsbball.

Registration for Vestavia Hills Boys Basketball (grades 1-12) is open NOW through October 19. The cost is $150 per player and includes a uniform and shooting shirt. For more information or to register, visit www.vhybasketball.org.
WHO SHOULD I CONTACT?

City of Vestavia Hills
1032 Montgomery Hwy., 35216
205.978.0100 • vhal.org
Facebook: CityofVestaviaHills
Twitter: @VestaviaHillsAL

VH Chamber of Commerce
1975 Merryvale Rd., 35216
205.823.5011 • vestaviahills.org
Facebook: vhchamberofcommerce
Twitter: @vhchamber

VH City Schools
1204 Montgomery Hwy., 35216
205.402.5100 • vestavia.k12.al.us
Facebook: VHCSchools
Twitter: @vhcschools

Annexation & Rezoning
205.978.0131

Business Licenses & Sales Tax
205.978.0127

City Council Meetings
205.978.0131 or rleavings@vhal.org

Construction/Renovation Permits
205.978.0125 or inspections@vhal.org

Fire
Emergency: 911
Administration: 205.978.0225
Facebook: VestaviaHillsFire
Twitter: @VestaviaFire

JeffCo Tax Assessor
205.325.5505

Library in the Forest
205.978.0155
Facebook: LibraryintheForest
Twitter: @VestaviaHills

Liquor License
205.978.0131

Municipal Court
205.978.0121

New Merkel House
205.967.5977

Parks & Recreation
205.978.0166
Field Conditions: 205.978.0220
Liberty Park/SHAC Maintenance: 205.999.8237
Wald Park Maintenance: 205.999.8238
Facebook: VestaviaHillsParksandRecreation
Twitter: @VHParksandRec

Police
Emergency: 911
Desk Sergeant/Non-emergency: 205.978.0140
Admin & Records: 205.978.0124
Animal Control: 205.823.1153 / 205.978.0113
Code Enforcement: 205.978.0113
Facebook: vestaviahillspolice
Twitter: @VHPD1032

Post Office
(Montgomery Highway)
205.979.2195

Post Office
(Sunview Drive)
800.275.8777

Trash Service/Street Issues
https://vhal.org/action-center
or 205.978.0150

Utilities
Alabama Power: 800.245.2244
Birmingham Water Works: 205.244.4000
Spire: 800.292.4008

Vehicle Tags
205.978.0188

Voter Registration
205.325.5550
Unsure of your polling place? Visit alabamavotes.gov

Yard Sale Permits
205.978.0188

ONLINE RESOURCES
Action Center
https://vhal.org/action-center
- Report garbage issues
- Request bulk debris pickup
- Request a garbage receptacle
- Report road issues: pot holes, curb damage, blocked storm drains
- Request permit for block parties/community events

City Boards
For information on all City Boards, visit https://vhal.org/government/board-pages/

City Calendar
Want to know what is happening in the City? You can subscribe to the City calendar at https://vhal.org/calendar/.

City Council
To contact any member of the City Council, visit https://vhal.org/government/city-leadership-2.

City Projects
For information on all projects throughout the City, including road work, street closures and regular updates on the Community Spaces Projects, visit https://vhal.org/community/city-projects.

City Departments
For information, link to any City Department online at https://vhal.org/departments.
- Administration: 205.978.3675
- Animal Control: 205.978.0113
- Building Safety: 205.978.0125
- City Clerk: 205.978.0131
- Finance: 205.978.0127
- Fire: 205.978.0225
- IT: 205.978.0215
- Library: 205.978.0155
- Municipal Court: 205.978.0121
- Parks & Rec: 205.978.0166
- Planning & Zoning: 205.978.0179
- Police: 205.978.0124
- Public Services: 205.978.0150

City Newsletter
Want current news and information delivered to your inbox? Register for the City News by simply visiting the home page of the City website, scroll to the bottom and enter your email address.

Senior Services & Programming
https://vhal.org/community/senior-living/

Solicitors
All solicitors are required to wear placards which are visible at all times while soliciting within the City. For a list of currently permitted solicitors, visit https://vhal.org/departments/city-clerk/solicitation/

Vestavia Hills Listens
https://vhal.org/vestavia-hills-listens/
- Ask a question in “The Grapevine” or comment on a specific topic.
CHILDREN & TWEENS:
205.978.0158 (Birth-Grade 5)

1 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M. Anatomy, Skeletons & Muscles, 3:30pm
2 Story Friends, 10:30am
   Tween Scene: Fall Trivial, 3:30pm
3 L.I.F.T., 9:30am
   Book Babies, 10am
5 Ms. Casey’s Marvelous Music & Movement, 10:30am
7 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M. Ghost Rockets, 3:30pm
8 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M. Anatomy, Skeletons & Muscles, 3:30pm
9 Story Friends, 10:30am
   Tween Scene: Thriller Chiller, 3:30pm
10 L.I.F.T., 9:30am
   Book Babies, 10am
11 L.I.F.T., 9:30am
   Book Babies, 10am
13 Fire Prevention Week Crafts
14 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am
15 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M. Pumpkin Pinatas, 3:30pm
   Family Night: Cap'n Dave, 6pm
16 Story Friends, 10:30am
   Tween Scene: Gamechanger!, 3:30pm
17 L.I.F.T., 9:30am
   Book Babies, 10am
19 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am
28 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am
29 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M. Problem Solving Challenge, 3:30pm
30 Story Friends, 10:30am
   Tween Scene: Thriller Chiller, 3:30pm
31 L.I.F.T., 9:30am
   Book Babies, 10am
   Trick or Treat at the Library!

TEENS: 205.978.3683 (Grades 6-12)

1 Scary Movie Night, 4pm
2 Writing Group, 4pm
4 Open Gaming, 4pm
6 Don’t Judge a Book by its Cover, 4pm
9 Mana Pool, 4pm
11 Open Gaming, 4pm
15 Pumpkin Painting, 4pm
16 Writing Group, 4pm
18 Open Gaming, 4pm
19 Teenspeak: Public Speaking Workshop, 10am
22 Anime Night, 4pm
23 Teen Art Group, 4pm
25 Super Smash Bros. Tournament, 4pm
30 Writing Group, 4pm
31 Trick or Treat at the Library!

TECHNOLOGY: 205.978.4679

8 Apple Mobile Devices with Connect It, 2pm
9 Intermediate Microsoft Excel Part I, 2pm
14 Intermediate Microsoft Word, 6pm
24 Advanced Microsoft Excel, 4pm
29 Online Safety, 10am

MAKERSPACE: 205.978.3683
(All ages, unless otherwise noted)

3 Intro to 3D Printing, 4:30pm
7 Open Maker Lab, 10am-6pm
8 Tear-Down Tuesday, 4pm
12 Open Maker Lab, 1-5pm
14 Open Maker Lab, 10am-6pm
17 Photography Workshop, 4:30pm
19 Open Maker Lab, 1-5pm
21 Open Maker Lab, 10am-6pm
22 Audacity 101, 4pm
28 Open Maker Lab, 10am-6pm

ADULTS: 205.978.4678 (Ages 18+)

2 Makerspace for Adults: Mason Jar Luminaries, 6:30pm
3 OLLI Presents: The Moon’s Purpose, Composition & Impact, 1:30pm
   Read & Feed Book Group, 6:30pm
4 First Friday Fiber Arts, 10am
7 Knit Night in the Forest, 6pm
8 Ms. Olivia’s Evening Reads, 6pm
9 ABCs of Medicare, 1pm
   Beginner Zumba, 6:30pm
11 Upcycle City: Canvas Painting, 7pm
16 Beginner Zumba, 6:30pm
21 Belly Dance with Bethany, 6pm
23 Beginner Zumba, 6:30pm
24 Friends of the Library Presents: Titanic, 10am
28 Tai Chi for Beginners, 6pm

LIBRARY IN THE FOREST

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

The Library in the Forest will open at 10am on Monday, October 7 due to staff training.
ELEVATE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Idyllic Setting Offering Breathtaking Views

Highly regarded as one of Alabama’s top five private clubs by Golf Digest, Old Overton Club offers world-class golfing in the heart of the Liberty Park Community. The 18-hole championship golf course is sculpted from rocky terrain for sweeping views and championship play. Discover what Old Overton and Liberty Park have to offer.

PH 205.972.9000 • OLDOVERTONCLUB.COM