# COMMUNITYNEWS

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

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

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

October 2019

- 1 9th Annual Community Night Out City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 3 Design Review Board Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 7 American Red Cross Blood Drive City Hall, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- 8 Chamber Luncheon Vestavia Country Club, 11:30 a.m.
- 10 Planning & Zoning Commission Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 14 Senior Citizens Luncheon Dogwood Room, 11:30am
- 14 City Council Meeting Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 17 **Board of Zoning Adjustment** Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 21 Vestavia Hills Historical Society Library in the Forest, 2 p.m.
- 21 Council Work Session Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 24 Friends of the Library Library in the Forest, 10 a.m.
- 26 Heights Heroes 5K & Fun Run The Heights Village
- 28 City Council Meeting Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 31 Halloween



## 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

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## 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 communitybuilt 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

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## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**



## 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.



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other entertainment and a key note 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.

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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.



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## 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 **Chickfil-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**

## BASKETBALL 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.

## **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 & ghostly 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.

## 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/cityleadership-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/vestaviahills-listens/

• Ask a question in "The Grapevine" or comment on a specific topic.

## LIBRARY IN THE FOREST

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

### **CHILDREN & TWEENS:**

205.978.0158 (Birth-Grade 5)

- 1 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M. Anatomy, Skeletons & Muscles, 3:30pm
- 2 Story Friends, 10:30amTween Scene: Fall Trivia!, 3:30pm
- 3 L.I.F.T., 9:30am Book Babies, 10am
- 5 Ms. Casey's Marvelous Music & Movement, 10:30am
- 7 Toddler A-Go-Go, 10:30am Fire Prevention Week Crafts
- 8 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M. Ghost Rockets, 3:30pm
   Fire Prevention Week Crafts
- 9 Story Friends, 10:30am
  Tween Scene: Mad Scientist
  Challenge, 3:30pm
  Fire Prevention Week Crafts
- 10 L.I.F.T., 9:30amBook Babies, 10amFire Prevention Week Crafts
- 13 Fire Prevention Week Crafts
- 14 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am
- 15 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M. Pumpkin Pinatas, 3:30pmFamily Night: Cap'n Dave, 6pm
- 16 Story Friends, 10:30amTween Scene: Gamechanger!, 3:30pm
- *17* L.I.F.T., 9:30amBook Babies, 10am
- 19 Ms. Casey's Marvelous Music & Movement, 10:30am
- 21 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am
- 22 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M. Candy Experiments, 3:30pm
- 23 Story Friends, 10:30amTween Scene: Art Group, 3:30pm
- 24 L.I.F.T., 9:30am Book Babies, 10am
- 25 Spooktacular, 6:30pm
- 26 Lego Wars, 11am

- 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
- 8 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!

## 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
- 14 Tai Chi for Beginners, 6pm
- 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

### 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

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



*City of Vestavia Hills* 1032 Montgomery Highway Vestavia Hills, AL 35216 205.978.0100 www.vhal.org

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