

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

November 2018

- 1 Design Review Board
Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 8 Salute to Veterans
Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church, 1:00 p.m.
- 8 Deck the Heights
Cahaba Heights, 4 p.m.
- 8 Planning and Zoning Commission
Council Chamber 6 p.m.
- 9 Veterans Day Celebration
New Merkel House, 11 a.m.
- 12 Municipal Offices Closed
Veterans Day
- 12 Senior Citizens Luncheon
Dogwood Room, 11:30 a.m.
- 13 Chamber Luncheon
Vestavia Country Club, 11:30 a.m.
- 13 City Council Meeting
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 15 Friends of the Library
Library in the Forest, 10 a.m.
- 15 Board of Zoning Adjustment
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 19 Council Work Session
Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 20 Parks and Recreation Board
Executive Conference Room, 7 a.m.
- 22 & 23 Municipal Offices Closed
Thanksgiving
- 26 City Council Meeting
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 27 Library Board Meeting
Library in the Forest, 4 p.m.
- 27 Tree Lighting Festival
City Hall, 5:55 p.m.



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Ashley C. Curry, Vestavia Hills Mayor

I was honored to present the “State of the City” at last month’s Chamber of Commerce luncheon. It was a pleasure to see many of you at the event. For those unable to attend, I would like to take this opportunity to provide a recap.

There were two main topics covered in the address, the first of which was the financial standing of our City. As you know, the City Council recently approved a bond issue for \$58 million that will fund our Community Spaces and Infrastructure Plan. This project will address street improvements (primarily in Cahaba Heights), renovate our existing parks, and develop our new community building adjacent to City Hall. It is a testament to our financial standing that this bond issue did not affect our credit rating with the financial investor service agencies.

As you may have heard me say in the State of the City address, the loyal support of our small businesses has given stability to

sales tax revenues. While surrounding cities are experiencing a decline in revenue due to the “Amazon effect” on big box stores, our revenue has remained steady in growth. Please continue to support local businesses and your community by “shopping small.”

Quality of life/livability was the second topic. According to AreaVibes.com, an online service that determines the best places to live in America, Vestavia Hills was again rated the number one city for livability in Alabama. The livability score is created from a unique algorithm based on seven important metrics: amenities, cost of living, crime rates, schools, employment and housing. The higher the livability score; the better the city.

Safety in our community was another factor considered in determining quality of life for our residents. According to multiple rating services, Vestavia Hills was designated as the “safest city in Alabama” for cities with more than 30,000 in population. This was the second

– *Mayor's Message continued on page 3*



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeff Downes, Vestavia Hills City Manager

November is the month of Thanksgiving, and I have a lot to be thankful for including the ability to live in this wonderful City of Vestavia Hills. I know my fellow residents feel the same way.

My first and most important theme that I want to emphasize this month is that I am thankful for the generous and kind people of our community. Many of you know that my family has had the challenge of my wife, the mother of our four children, being diagnosed with cancer that required a stem cell transplant and nearly a month of inpatient treatment. While she is still recovering at home, there is light at the end of the tunnel as far as completing the tough treatment regimen. During this time, the people

of Vestavia Hills – friends, acquaintances and just caring people – have provided my family with food, transportation, support, prayers and love. The Downes family was the beneficiary of this incredible spirit, but the Vestavia Hills community would wrap their arms around anybody in need. For this, I am thankful.

Secondly, the community’s active participation in the planning and implementation of our most aggressive series of capital projects has been overwhelming. From the initial meetings to the engagement in the early design process, it shows our community cares for its future and wants to participate fully in the crafting of the next generation of Vestavia Hills. For this, I am thankful.

– *Manager's Report continued on page 3*



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

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

The Courage to Be Creative

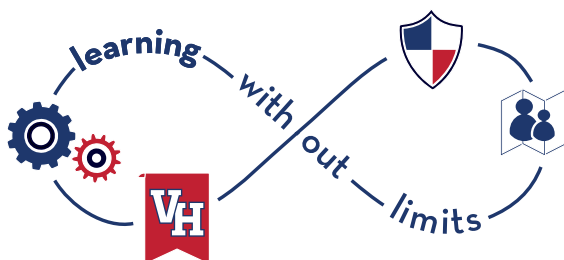
A pillar supporting Vestavia Hills City Schools' mission to provide students with opportunities to learn without limits is the courage to be creative. We know that our world is filled with complex challenges that require more than knowledge alone to solve. Accordingly, it is imperative that we stretch the minds of our future generations to imagine possibilities and solve problems that appear unsolvable.

Creativity has the power to challenge processes, redefine solutions, and generate innovative thinking. Much has been written and researched about the importance of creativity. So much so that Author Ken Robinson says it "has produced the most extraordinary results in human culture." He points out that creative skills flourish in all subject disciplines including math, science, humanities, and physical education.

The arts are another great pathway to develop the courage and confidence needed to express the creative abilities we all possess. In his book *Originals*, Adam Grant notes that Nobel prize winning scientists were much more likely to be involved in the arts than their less-accomplished peers. In fact, he says the chances for winning a Nobel Prize are 22 times greater for scientists who participate in art performances.

Vestavia Hills City Schools embraces the important role that the arts have in sharpening the creative edge. Our students participate in rich experiences through visual arts, music, dance and theatre. We are blessed to have outstanding teachers in our programs who continue to raise the bar of excellence. Last year, 17 percent of our graduates earned the Arts Literacy Seal with their diplomas. Students and groups also earned numerous accolades for their success while being lauded throughout the state for their exceptional quality.

"Creativity is contagious, pass it on" is an appropriate thought attributed to Albert Einstein. Some of the most moving experiences in my life have been through participating or attending performances in the performing arts. I encourage you to attend one of our school events this year that will feature many talented Vestavia Hills City Schools students. You will be uplifted by their incredible performances and catch the creative spirit!



VESTAVIA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

Art Education Events 2018-2019

October	21	Fall Choir Concert
November	9-12	The Musical Comedy: Murders of 1940
	15	Jazz Band Concert
December	6	Celebrate the Season
January	11-12	Contempo Choral Festival
February	24	Winter Choir Concert
March	14	Dessert and Drama
April	11	Percussion Ensemble Concert
	25	VHHS Art Show Opening Reception
	25-27	Bright Star Musical
	29	Jazz Concert
May	5	Spring Choir Concert
	7	Spring Band Concert
	9	Dance Showcase

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Mayor's Message *continued from page 1*

year in a row that Vestavia Hills has received this recognition. Our Police and Fire departments consistently receive high ratings from our citizens. Speaking of the Fire department, I would like to recognize their "smoke house" program currently being administered at our elementary schools. This program teaches children how to escape a fire through a simulation exercise using a smoke-filled trailer.

As we approach Thanksgiving we should we should take a minute and remember all the things for which we are thankful. I am thankful for our nation, the freedoms we enjoy, and the veterans who have served our country. I am thankful to live in Vestavia Hills, where people care about each other and their city. I am grateful for our citizens' investment in making our City even better. I am thankful for Vestavia Hills' Police, Fire and Public Safety employees who keep us safe and so often are the first to respond when tragedy strikes. I am grateful for our many City employees who are dedicated to serving Vestavia Hills and do so to the best of their abilities. I am thankful for our many faith-based organizations that provide hope, build community and provide opportunities for outreach. I am thankful for our excellent schools and for the teachers and administrators who improve the lives of our children every day. I am grateful for this community and for all the people in it.

President John F. Kennedy reminded us that: *"We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives."* I hope you will do that this month.

I wish each of you a very happy Thanksgiving!



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Manager's Message *continued from page 1*

As a first hand observer of the value of a great education in the Vestavia Hills system, I find my daughter evaluating multiple scholarship opportunities. I see real estate values growing throughout the City due to the incredible demand to be a part of this wonderful community and its education system. The return on investment in this is seen in all of our family's budgets, the community's budget and our quality of life. For this, I am thankful.

When I look into the horizon and see such beautiful nature and see the smiles on the children that are playing together at our parks, neighborhoods and commercial enterprises, it is priceless. This continues into the lives of our senior citizens when they gather to share a meal at the Dogwood Room. Their smiles are contagious as they enjoy this City's various programs. For this, I am thankful.

As the leader of the City employees, I am impressed every day with the professional and skillful way that our employees do their job. Whether they are savings lives, cleaning ditch lines or leading programs, they express an attitude of caring. When one cares, they make a difference. For this, I am thankful.

Please take a few moments in this month of thanks to reflect on what you are thankful for, and I believe your wonderful City will be at least a small part of those thoughts. May you realize these blessings as I know I have realized them in a most poignant manner.



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Presented by the City of Vestavia Hills & the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce

Visit www.vestaviahills.org for an extended list of events.

Shop, Dine, Play Bingo

November 1-26

Kick off your holiday shopping with Vestavia Hills merchants! See below for details.

Deck the Heights

November 8

Cahaba Heights, 4:00-8:00 pm

Enjoy refreshments and sales from your local merchants. Take a ride through Cahaba Heights on the Heights Express and fill your Passport for a chance to win prizes and free Doodles

Tree Lighting Festival

November 27

**Vestavia Hills City Hall, 5:55 pm
1032 Montgomery Highway**

Enjoy entertainment, merchant give-aways, a visit with Santa and the lighting of the tree!

Breakfast with Santa

December 8

**Vestavia Hills Civic Center, 7:30-10:00 am
1975 Merryvale Road**

Bring the whole family for a pancake breakfast with Santa! Free to attend-Breakfast courtesy of the City of Vestavia Hills.

Vestavia Hills Christmas

Parade & Celebration

December 9

**Liberty Park Sports Complex
to Alston Meadows, 2:00-4:00 pm**

Enjoy the city's official parade followed by the Liberty Park Christmas Celebration with kids' activities, refreshments, music, pictures with Santa and more!

SHOP, DINE, PLAY



Support your Vestavia Hills Merchants and enter for a chance to win great prizes from our merchants, and our Grand Prize, **4 Walt Disney World park tickets***, plus a \$500 and \$250 Visa Gift Card! Starting November 1, pick up a Bingo Card (printed on an envelope) from the Chamber office or print your own from www.vestaviahills.org. When you make a purchase from a participating merchant, mark their name off on your card and put the receipt or a copy of the receipt in your envelope. Turn your envelope in to the Chamber Office by **November 26**. You will receive one entry in the prize drawing for each completed Bingo. Bingos can be made by completing full lines vertically, horizontally, or diagonally. Completing the sheet also counts as one Bingo. We will draw for the winner at the Tree Lighting Festival on November 27 at Vestavia Hills City Hall. You do not have to be present to win.

*Grand Prize is four 1-Day Park Hopper Tickets to Walt Disney World.

DON'T INVITE VHFD TO DINNER!

As Thanksgiving approaches, we look forward to visiting with our families, friends and enjoying the delicious food associated with the holiday. However, did you know that 47% of house fires begin in the kitchen and account for 45% of injuries nationwide? With all the fun that comes along with Thanksgiving, it is important to note that the holiday brings the highest number of cooking fires. The Vestavia Hills Fire Department and the National Fire Protection Association suggest you follow these simple steps to avoid inviting VHFD to your gathering:

- Stay in the kitchen while frying, boiling, grilling or broiling. If you leave the kitchen for any amount of time, turn off the oven.
- If you are simmering, baking or roasting food, check on it periodically and set a timer to remind you.
- Keep anything flammable away from the stove top including pot holders, towels and wooden utensils.
- Do not use gas-fueled turkey fryers. These units use a substantial quantity of oil at high temperatures and are extremely dangerous even when used carefully. We suggest using an oil-less turkey fryer.



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PARKS & RECREATION

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Monthly programs, events and guest speakers;
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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
"Getting to Know You Lunches"

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

Thursday: Tech Talk Thursdays

November 9: Veterans Day Celebration, 11:00 a.m.

November 12: Closed, Veterans Day observed

November 13: Art with Tina Chaffin

November 19: Vision Screening by UAB Eye Clinic

November 22 & 23: Closed, Thanksgiving holiday

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.



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While practicing a motocross jump, Brayden (BB) Butler fell and suffered a brain bleed. It would take half a year and surgeons, physicians, nurses and therapists to help him recover. Fortunately, for BB and thousands of other children, Children's of Alabama is ranked among the top hospitals for children by *U.S. News & World Report*.

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www.ChildrensAL.org

DOLORES HYDOCK: NOVEMBER 15

Storyteller Dolores Hydock will present “Abundant Blessings – Stories of Thanksgiving” at the Friends of the Vestavia Hills Library event Thursday, November 15 at 10:00 a.m. Kick-off the holiday season with stories about Thanksgiving blessings, sibling rivalry and the mysterious healing power of sweet potato casserole! Light refreshments will be served. Admission will be \$10 for the general public, but the event is FREE to all Friends of the Library members. Membership dues for the year are \$20 single or \$30 per couple. You may pay dues at the door in lieu of a ticket and enjoy member benefits all year!

HARRY POTTER FAN EVENT

Calling all wizards, witches and Harry Potter fans. Tuesday, November 13, 2018 from 4 to 6 p.m., we will recognize you with our Harry Potter fandom event. We will watch the first “Fantastic Beasts” movie and make a craft as we gear up for the release of the second film! Hogwarts worthy snacks will be served. For teens, grades 6-12.

Following are highlights of the programming available during the month of October 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. Community Room.
Ages 18-36 months.
- Tu* **P.J. Storytime.** 6:30 p.m. Children’s Program Room. All ages.
- W* **Story Friends.** 10:30 a.m. Children’s Program Room.
Ages 5 and under.
- W* **This & That.** 3:30 p.m. Children’s Program Room. Grades 3-6.
- Th* **L.I.F.T. (Library in the Forest Time).** 9:30 a.m.
Children’s Program Room.
- Th* **Book Babies.** 10 a.m. (*Registration suggested*)
Babies birth-18 months.
- 7 Tween Hangout at the Hills.** Snacks served.
- 14 Art Group.** Snacks served.
- 28 Game Changer.** Snacks served.

TEENS: 205.978.3683 (Grades 6-12)

- 2 Open Gaming.** 4 p.m. Community Room
- 6 Fortnite Night.** 4 p.m. Community Room
- 7 3D Printed Ornaments.** 4 p.m. Electronic Classroom
- 9 Open Gaming.** 4 p.m. Community Room
- 13 Harry Potter Fandom.** 4 p.m. Community Room
- 14 Writing Group.** 4 p.m. Historical Room
- 16 Open Gaming.** 4 p.m. Community Room
- 20 Painting ROCKS!** 4 p.m. Treehouse
- 21 Teen Art Group.** 4 p.m. Treehouse
- 27 Anime Night.** 4 p.m. Community Room
- 28 Writing Group.** 4 p.m. Historical Room
- 30 Mario Kart 8 Tournament.** 4 p.m. Community Room

ADULTS: 205.978.4678 (Ages 18+)

- 1 Read & Feed Book Group at Taziki’s Liberty Park.**
6:30 p.m.
- 2 First Friday Fiber Arts.** 10 a.m. Treehouse
- 5 Knit Night in the Forest.** 6 p.m. Treehouse
- 8 Adult Tai Chi: Beginner & Intermediate.** 2 p.m.
Community Room
- 8 Treehouse Poetry Reading Series.** 6 p.m. Treehouse
- 12 Tai Chi for Beginners.** 6 p.m. Community Room
- 13 Ms. Olivia’s Evening Reads Book Group.** 6 p.m.
Historical Room
- 14 ABCs of Medicare.** 1 p.m. Treehouse
- 15 Friends of the Library: Dolores Hydock Fundraiser.**
10 a.m. Community Room
- 26 Tai Chi for Beginners.** 6 p.m. Community Room
- 29 Rock & Roll Bingo: We Love the 60s, Daddy-O.**
6 p.m. Community Room

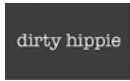
MAKERSPACE/TECHNOLOGY: 205.978.4679

- 6 Basic iPad Part I.** 10 a.m. Electronic Classroom
- 8 Basic iPad Part II.** 10 a.m. Electronic Classroom
- 12 Advanced Excel: Pivot Tables and Dashboards.**
6 p.m. Electronic Classroom
- 13 Apple Mobile Devices with Tech Ease.** 2 p.m.
Children’s Program Room
- 15 Intermediate Microsoft Word.** 4 p.m. Electronic Classroom



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