

NEWS & VIEWS

September 2020 Volume 40 Issue 9

Virtual Luncheon: September 15 at 12:00 pm on Zoom Dr. Todd Freeman-Vestavia Hills City Schools

Dr. Todd Freeman has served as superintendent of Vestavia Hills City Schools since March 2018. Now in his third year with Vestavia Hills City Schools, Dr. Freeman has led the opening of three new campuses, the implementation of new strategic plan goals, and the renewal of the school system's accreditation.



From 2013 to 2018, Dr. Freeman was superintendent of Sylacauga City Schools in east Alabama. He also spent twenty years in Auburn City Schools as a social studies teacher, high school principal, and executive director of operations and services.

Dr. Freeman holds a bachelor's degree in education from Jacksonville State University, a master's in education from Auburn University, and a doctorate in educational leadership from Valdosta State University.

Dr. Freeman, his wife, Rachel, and two sons, Samuel and Jacob are residents of Vestavia Hills. Rachel is a group fitness instructor at Shades Valley YMCA. Samuel is a 1st grader and Jacob is a kindergartner at Vestavia Hills Elementary Dolly Ridge. Dr. Freeman is a member of the Vestavia Hills Rotary Club and Civitan International, and he and his family attend Shades Mountain Baptist Church.

LUNCHEON SPONSOR

America's First Federal Credit Union

America's First Federal Credit Union has a strong history in the state of Alabama. It was originally founded in 1936 at U.S. Steel's Ensley Works in Birmingham to provide financial services to under-served individuals. America's First has since grown to a full-service, one-stop financial institution with more than \$1.6 billion dollars in assets.



AmFirst is a community-chartered credit union with 19 branch locations, including their newest in Vestavia Hills at 1112 Montgomery Highway.

AmFirst is a full-service credit union with a 5-star "superior" rating from BauerFinancial, a nationally recognized rating agency for banks and credit unions.

With more than 170,000 members, AmFirst is one of the strongest credit unions in the nation and is always committed to providing cost-effective financial services. Every AmFirst member owns a share of the credit union and is required to maintain a \$5 balance in a Share Account (savings). AmFirst accounts are federally insured up to \$250,000 by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) and supplemental share insurance of up to \$250,000 provided by Excess Share Insurance (ESI).

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The amount of sunshine we have each day is a little less as we move into my favorite time of the year. Fall has always been my favorite time of the year as the temperatures start to slowly become a little cooler and football is always right around the corner. We will see how this year progresses with the football season with so many unknowns right now. Even though football is uncertain, please remember to continue to shop and eat with our local Vestavia Hills businesses. Rather than heading out of town to tailgate this year, remember to do a little extra shopping or have a great meal at home from one of our great restaurants.



John Henley

As a reminder, we will have the annual shredding and recycling day at the Vestavia Hills City Hall on Saturday, September 12th. This will run from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. Please check the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce Website for more information about the items which can be accepted that day. Without the normal Auburn or Alabama games that day, we are expecting a large turnout for this event.

As I always end my message, please be sure to see what is happening on social media with the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber website. Also please be sure to support our local businesses as well.

John Henley

John Henley-State Farm Insurance

Board Chair, 2020

From the President...
I don't know about you but I am ready for 2021! Nothing like wishing a year of your life away but I am so ready to get back to a "normal" routine!



Karen Odle

With that being said, we are beginning our plans for 2021 with the hope and promise of new beginnings and being able to come back together with luncheons, events and networking opportunities. If you have any ideas that you would like us to consider, please email me at kareno@vestaviiahills.org and share it with me for us to add to our list.

We am delighted to welcome Dr. Todd Freeman, Superintendent of the Vestavia Hills City Schools, as our keynote speaker for the September 15th monthly luncheon. (Please note this is a change in date from the regular 2nd Tuesday and was set last year before we knew about COVID-19). You can register by clicking [HERE](#) and a link will be sent to you the afternoon before around 3:00 PM.

We are excited to welcome America's First Federal Credit Union (AFFCU) as our sponsor for the month. We will hear briefly from Chris Thomas, Regional Development Coordinator for AFFCU, about some of their work during COVID-19 and how they are helping their members navigate through this difficult time.

We have numerous ribbon cuttings that we will be doing over the month of September. We will do this with all of the proper protocols in place so we invite you to join us but be sure and wear your mask and meet the new businesses that have opened during COVID-19....they deserve a gold medal and ALL of us at their event.

The list of ribbon cuttings are (see full invite elsewhere in this newsletter):

- Sept. 3 @ 4:30 PM, Flower Betty (Wine and refreshments will be served) - Rocky Ridge
- Sept. 24 @ Noon, The Lindsey Building - Patchwork Farms)
- Oct. 1 @ 4:30 PM, RE101 (Refreshments will be served) Highway 31 South
- Coming Soon: Milos Hamburger - Cahaba Heights

We have finalized the *Vestavia Hills Living* magazine so look for your copy within the next few weeks to be delivered to your home. We really hated to miss the summer delivery but it wasn't possible to get the photographs and information that we needed with everyone working from home during this time but we are excited to have it finished and I think you will enjoy reading about your neighbors and what's happening in Vestavia Hills.

Please consider being a Chamber Champion in 2021. This will give you sponsorship opportunities in almost all of our events and allow you to budget for the year to maximize your dollars. Contact Lisa Christopher at 205.862.3445 for details.

Be sure and check out the calendar frequently on the Chamber website and watch your email and Facebook to stay on top of the 'happenings' in Vestavia Hills.

Thank you for allowing me to serve Vestavia Hills. This is truly the best community in which you could ever work, play and raise a family....find a place to get involved. You CAN make a difference as together we work toward "A Life Above!"

Unity. Prosperity. Family.

Karen J. Odle
President

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please support our newest Chamber members and remember to 'Shop Vestavia Hills First'!!

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Keller Williams Vestavia
Rees Denham
3595 Grandview Parkway, Suite 250
Birmingham, AL 35243
(205) 213-3644
www.reesdenham.kw.com
Category: Real Estate (Agent)◆ Graybar Electric
Zach Rea
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
(205) 306-9306
www.graybar.com
Category: Wholesale Items◆ Parker Smith Agency, LLC
Parker Smith
2017 Canyon Road, Suite 46
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
(205) 383-3403
www.parkersmithinsurance.com
Category: Insurance◆ Strategic Financial Partners
Berry Marshall
3500 Colonnade Parkway, Suite 140
Birmingham, AL 35243
(205) 439-4910
www.strategicfinancialpartners.com
Category: Financial Services◆ Total Sleep
Eve Ovitt
100 Centerview Drive, Suite 240
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
(205) 878-3360
www.totalsleep.me
Category: Sleep Clinic; Healthcare | <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Total Sleep
Kenzie Marable
100 Centerview Drive, Suite 240
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
(205) 878-3360
www.totalsleep.me
Category: Sleep Clinic; Healthcare◆ inVision Ophthalmology
Tizzy Howard
2660 10th Ave S., Suite 201
Birmingham, AL 35205
(205) 879-2221
www.choieyemd.com
Category: Optometrists & Ophthalmology |
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As a not-for-profit cooperative, we are able to offer checking accounts with no monthly service fees and help you earn greater dividends on your savings. AmFirst money market and share (savings) accounts carry higher rates than many other financial institutions — giving back more to our members. In addition, we offer some of the most competitive loan rates in the market. Members turn to AmFirst for loans on homes, vehicles, small business loans, credit cards and other items.

For more information, call (205) 320-4000 or toll free at 800-633-8431.

Register for the September 15 Virtual Luncheon!

Register online at www.vestaviiahills.org. You will receive an email reminder the afternoon before with the link to the ZOOM meeting. We encourage you to order lunch from one of our fabulous Vestavia Hills restaurants to enjoy! When you register, you will see a link to these restaurants.

Refer & Win

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2020 Second & Third Quarter Refer and Win Prize Drawing! They will be entered in the drawing to be held at the September Luncheon for a **\$250 gift certificate to Bistro V, courtesy of Roger Steur with Method Mortgage**. When it comes to your mortgage, you need a helpful roadmap. And a friendly guide, too. Let Method Mortgage lead you to The Smartest Way Home. To learn more, visit www.methodmortgage.com, call 205.705.1650, or email us at rsteur@methodmortgage.com.



Those entered are: Bob Duncan; Justin Collier; Erin Holtz; Linda Parker; Michael Giardina; Sandra Cleveland; Sheri Darnell; Zoe Langner x2; Mary Duncan Proctor; Jeff Downes;

To be entered in the 2020 Fourth Quarter Refer and Win prize drawing, simply refer someone to the chamber who joins as a new member. Contact the chamber's Membership and Marketing Consultant, Lisa Christopher at 862-3445 or email lisac@vestaviiahills.org. Lisa will be happy to provide complete membership information to your prospects and will diligently try to "close the deal" so you can be included in the 2020 Fourth Quarter drawing.

Trustee Spotlight



Jeff Phillips-American Pest Control

American Pest Control was founded in 1945 and is still family owned and operated right here in Vestavia Hills.

JoAnne (Jody) Mote, who many of you knew, was our founder's daughter and worked in our daily operations until her passing last June. She was a very special lady, who left us with a shining example of a lifetime of serving others.



My hope is that you'll feel free to use American Pest Control as a community resource with any questions, challenges or problems that we may be able to help you work out. We are here to help and to be helpful. To learn more about our services please visit us at www.americantermite.com or just give us a call and it will be our pleasure to help.

Hoover Area | Vestavia Hills | Homewood Area | Mountain Brook | Bessemer | Shelby County

Six Chamber Virtual Networking Event

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Zoom Conference Call

Register online at www.vestaviiahills.org

There is no cost to attend. Space is limited.

Member Notes

- A new Shop, Dine, Play Pig has found it's home at **Dunkin'**! Stop by to see it and grab a donut while you're there! Thanks to the **Pizitz Middle School** Art Department for painting it! 1284 Montgomery Highway
- **Vestavia Hills Rotary Club's** Hike the Hill is a sustainable community event that brings people together to benefit their overall health and well-being, while celebrating and supporting impactful programs (PTO and Rotary) that connect us here and around the world. Participants will select their School PTO Team during registration. A portion of \$35/individual or \$70/family entry fee will help fund your PTO Team's mission of building stronger relationship with teachers, faculty and staff to support student education that includes providing financial support in the form of grants to support student education. Start your hike any time between September 1-20 at Little Shades Creek Bridge on Morgan Road and continue the climb to the crest past Vestavia Hills High School, ending at the corner of Limerock and Panorama. The round trip hike covers approximately 1.5 miles and ascends over 250 feet.
- Join the **Jimmie Hale Mission** for their inaugural Rescue Run 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run on October 10th at 7:30 am in Downtown Homewood! The race starts and ends on 29th Street by Dave's Pizza. Register at <https://runsignup.com/Race/AL/Birmingham/JimmieHaleMissionsRescueRun>
- The September issue of **Birmingham Christian Family** is now available to read online!
- **Ashley Mac's** is hiring! Apply online at <https://ashleymacs.com/job-opportunities/>



Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce Helping Hands in the Hills Recycle Day



SEPT
2020

12

Vestavia Hills City Hall
1032 Montgomery Hwy

9:00 am-
1:00 pm

Electronics are made with valuable reusable materials, including steel and precious metals that can be recovered, recycled and reused. Paper shredding services are also available to destroy any sensitive files or documents. Household Hazardous Waste Disposal* will be available and the Vestavia Hills Police Department will be collecting unneeded medications for disposal (NO needles).

ACCEPTABLE ELECTRONIC ITEMS: PCs including laptops; Servers; Cell phones and tablets; Satellite & cable boxes, Gaming systems & components; Stereos & radios; Switches & firewalls; Printers & fax machines; VCRs & DVD Players; Remote Controls; MP3 Players; A/C adapters & other cables; LCD Monitors; CRT Monitors* ; Ink & Toner cartridges; Rechargeable batteries; Hard drives including external*; Speakers; Cameras; Modems & Routers; CD Players; Small kitchen Appliances; Consumer electronics; Battery backups; Keyboards & mice; Standalone Copiers*; TVs*

*Fees apply

ACCEPTABLE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ITEMS: paint; batteries (both household and automotive); light bulbs; and pesticides. Paint and pesticides MUST be in their original containers or they will **NOT** be accepted.

****Proof of Vestavia Hills Residency required for Hazardous Waste Disposal.***

Shredding of Hard Drive and CRT Monitors: \$10
Televisions: \$20

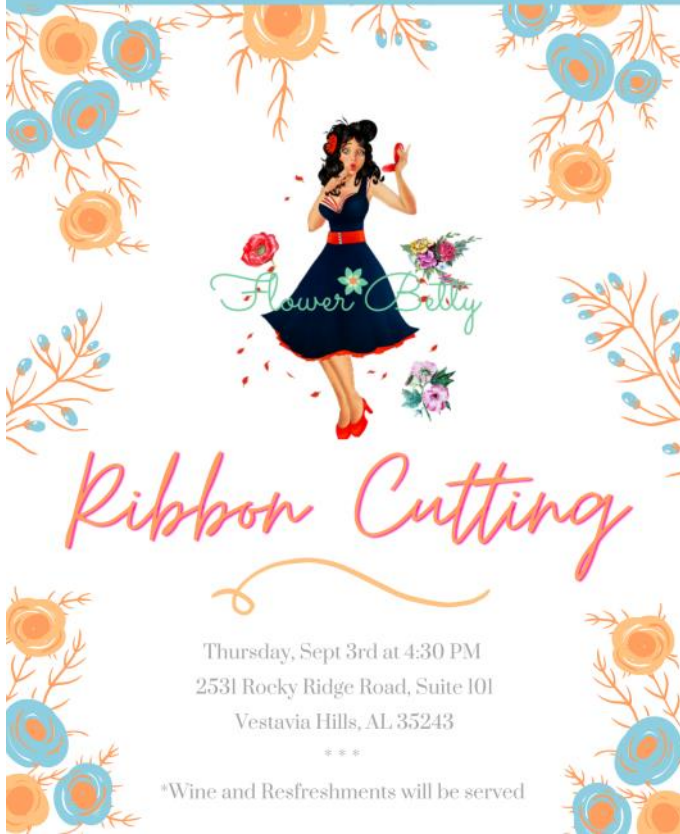
Special Thanks to:

PROTEC Recycling Republic Services
Gone For Good (A program of United Ability)



RIBBON CUTTINGS

Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce



Thursday, Sept 3rd at 4:30 PM
2531 Rocky Ridge Road, Suite 101
Vestavia Hills, AL 35243

*Wine and Refreshments will be served

VESTAVIA HILLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

"Birmingham's Newest Coworking Space"

THE
LINDSEY
BLDG.

RIBBON CUTTING



SEPT. 24, 2020 | 12:00 PM
2828 OLD 280 COURT
VESTAVIA HILLS, AL 35243
(REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED)



VESTAVIA HILLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

RE101

RIBBON CUTTING

Oct. 1, 2020 | 4:30 pm
601 Vestavia Parkway,
Suite 280
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
*Refreshments will be served.



205-823-5011 | CHAMBER@VESTAVIAHILLS.ORG | WWW.VESTAVIAHILLS.ORG

VESTAVIA HILLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - SAFETY SEMINAR SERIES -

TOPIC: SELF AWARENESS AND PERSONAL SAFETY

Presented by Chris Mize, Owner/Instructor Gracie Jiu-Jitsu

September 23, 2020 | 8:00-9:30 AM
Vestavia Hills City Hall – Council Chambers
1032 Montgomery Hwy,
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216

In partnership with the Vestavia Hills Police Department, the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce will be offering some programs over the next few months for our area businesses in an effort to help our businesses with safety awareness and things you should be considering for your business and employees.

Register online at www.vestaviiahills.org. Seating is limited to the first 35 that sign up.

There is no cost to attend.



Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce
1975 Merryvale Road
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
205.823.5011 | vestaviiahills.org



VESTAVIA HILLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - SAFETY SEMINAR SERIES -

TOPIC: MEDICAL EMERGENCIES IN THE WORKPLACE

Presented by the Vestavia Hills Fire Department

October 28, 2020 | 8:00-9:30 AM
Vestavia Hills City Hall – Council Chambers
1032 Montgomery Hwy,
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216

In partnership with the Vestavia Hills Police Department, the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce will be offering some programs over the next few months for our area businesses in an effort to help our businesses with safety awareness and things you should be considering for your business and employees.

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2020 Trustees

Alison Howell Steineker-Alabama Power Company
 Chris Thomas-America's First Federal Credit Union
 Jeff Phillips-American Pest Control
 Beau Bevis-ARC Realty
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 Patrick Cushman-BancorpSouth
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 Sandra Cleveland-BCR Wealth Strategies
 Ben Nevins-B.L. Harbert International
 Ginger Aarons-Birmingham Business Journal
 Frank Buck-Frank S. Buck, P.C.
 Angie McEwen*-Butler Snow LLP
 Chad Gay-Cahaba Benefits Group
 Representative Jim Carns
 Brian Barksdale-Carr, Riggs & Ingram, CPA
 David Surber-Cellular Sales Authorized Agent of Verizon Wireless
 Doug Dean*-Children's of Alabama
 Dennis Cameron-Cooke, Cameron, Travis, Campbell & Co.
 Calvin Brown-Dog U
 Charlie Norton-Harbert Realty Services
 Steve Mote-Hollywood Pools
 Donnie Dobbins-Iberia Bank
 Mike Jackson*-Jackson Howard & Whatley, CPAs
 Matthew Allen-JBMC Media, LLC
 Stan Glantz-Katz Properties
 John Bonanno-Liberty Park Joint Venture
 Garrett Griffith-Luckie's Pine Straw
 Mark Macoy-Mark W. Macoy, LLC
 Chip McCallum-McCallum Hoaglund & Irby, LLP
 Jim Black-McDonald's
 Roger Steur*-Method Mortgage
 Robin Morgan*-Morgan Properties
 Todd Jackson-Newk's Eatery

Kerry Adkins-OnTime Service
 Maury Wald-Over the Mountain Journal
 Dr. Melanie Petro-Petro Facial Plastic Surgery & MedSpa
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 Angela Stevens-RealtySouth
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 Becky Hicks-RE/MAX Southern Homes
 Senator Dan Roberts
 Lauren Trim-Sentry Heating, Air Conditioning,
 Plumbing & Generators
 Scott Jenkins-Southern States Bank
 Amy Kabase-Spectrum Reach
 Rob Dowda-SpeedPro Imaging Direct
 Keith Andrews-SperryCGA-The Andrews Group
 James Robinson*-Spire
 Tyler Kime-Standard Air, Plumbing & Insulation
 John Henley-John Henley State Farm Insurance
 Dr. Nicol Pettway-Summit Express Urgent Care
 Dr. Bill Brunson-Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church
 Dan Starnes-Vestavia Voice
 Senator Jabo Waggoner
 Stephen Allen-Williams Blackstock Architects
 Mark Yanosky, D.M.D.-Yanosky Orthodontics

*Chamber Past Chair

2020 Chamber Champions



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Karen J. Odle, President

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Web: www.vestaviiahills.org

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Email: lisac@vestaviiahills.org

Betsy Webster, Office Manager

Email: betsyw@vestaviiahills.org

Katie Woodruff, Communications Manager

Email: katiew@vestaviiahills.org

Upcoming Chamber Meetings

Sept 15

Virtual Luncheon, 12 pm, Zoom

Sept 17

Board of Directors, 7:45 am

Events

Sept 3

Ribbon Cutting: Flower Betty, 4:30 pm

Sept 12

Helping Hands Recycle Day, 9am-1pm

Sept 23

Safety Seminar, 8 am

Sept 24

Ribbon Cutting: The Lindsey Building, 12 pm

Other Meetings & Holidays

Sept 10

Planning & Zoning Commission, 6 pm

Sept 14

City Council Meeting, Council Chambers 6 pm

Sept 17

Board of Zoning Adjustment, 6 pm

Sept 28

City Council Meeting, Council Chambers 6 pm



News and Views

Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce

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