

COMMUNITY NEWS

News & Events for the City of Vestavia Hills • March 2023

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



Ashley Curry,
Mayor
City of
Vestavia Hills

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

On January 30, the Vestavia Hills City Schools inducted five teachers, administrators and staff into the Vestavia Hills Education Hall of Fame for 2022. Congratulations to these new inductees: Kelly Bagby, Brian Cain, Dr. Karen DeLano, Kimberly McBride and Audrey Pharo. These recipients all contributed to the excellence of our educational system and made a difference in their respective schools.

On February 16 and 17, our City Council held its annual Strategic Planning Work Session. The agenda for this meeting included discussions about the City's financial standing, our goal for digital record keeping (less paper),

goals for infrastructure projects to address stormwater issues and reports from City department heads, as well as presentations about other special projects for the coming year. You will be hearing more about the priorities that were set by the Council for the coming year.

Last month, Punxsutawney Phil emerged from his temporary home on Gobbler's Knob in Pennsylvania and saw his shadow. According to tradition, if Phil sees his shadow and returns to his hole, he has predicted six more weeks of winter-like weather. But, regardless of this "prediction," we know we will eventually see springtime here in Vestavia Hills. As you emerge from the winter freeze, be sure to check out all of the city-wide events taking place as a part of this year's annual Vestavia Hills Dogwood Festival – the longest-running Dogwood Festival in the state. Festival events are scheduled throughout the months of March and April and there is truly something for everyone! For the full list of events, visit www.bit.ly/dogwood_fest.

Other events to be celebrated or recognized in March include:

- March 3: National Employee Appreciation Day. This is a special day when companies show their appreciation for the employees who have contributed to the organization's success. Our Citizen Surveys continually indicate that our City employees have a high "customer satisfaction" rating from our citizens. We sincerely appreciate their contribution to the high quality of life that we enjoy in Vestavia Hills.
- March 12: Daylight Savings Time. Remember to "spring forward."
- March 22: National Goof Off Day. Should you choose to accept it, that duty is to take a day to relax, enjoy and goof off; leave the work until tomorrow and take a break. (Be sure to coordinate this "break" with your employer.)
- March 25: National Medal of Honor Day. This day was established by Congress to "foster public appreciation and recognition of Medal of Honor recipients." Let's remember these special veterans on this day.
- March 29: Mom and Pop's Business Owner's Day. On this day and throughout the year, please make every attempt to support our local merchants.

The new Vestavia Hills Civic Center has been open for a few months and is a resounding success. Feedback from event attendees, as well as citizens that are utilizing the recreational facilities, continues to be very favorable. If you haven't visited the new Civic Center, stop by for a tour or attend an upcoming program. What a blessing it is to have this facility in Vestavia Hills.

Last, but not least, the newly assembled Vestavia Hills Arts Council met recently and will be launching a series of events dedicated to promoting a variety of arts experiences. I hope you will participate in some, if not all, of these events. More to come as the Arts Council works to provide opportunities for all to experience the arts in our community.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Events and dates subject to change. Visit vhal.org/calendar for the most up-to-date event information.

March 2023

- 2 Design Review Board,** Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 9 1Rebel 1Future Community Meeting,** Civic Center, 10:30 a.m.
- 9 Planning and Zoning Commission,** Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 13 Senior Citizens Association Luncheon,** Civic Center, Dogwood Room, 11:30 a.m.
- 13 City Council Meeting,** Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 14 Chamber Luncheon,** Vestavia Country Club, 11:30 a.m.
- 16 Board of Zoning Adjustment,** Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 20 Council Work Session,** Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 21 Parks and Recreation Board,** Civic Center, 7:30 a.m.
- 27 City Council Meeting,** Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 27 VHCS Spring Break Begins**

Scan the QR Code below or see page 6 for the full list of upcoming Dogwood Festival events!



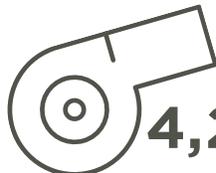
Vestavia Hills BY THE Numbers



2022 was quite a year for the City of Vestavia Hills and your City departments responded in a big way!



51,442
calls for service



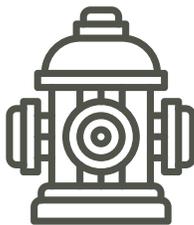
4,250
rec league
participants



68.8%
Municipal Court
payments
submitted online



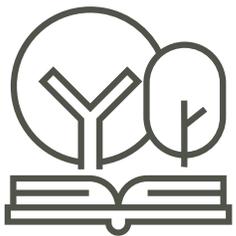
227 potholes & road defect repairs



5,662
calls for service



3,413
inspections
performed



20,609
library program
participants



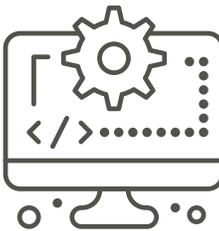
2,441
Civic Center &
Aquatic Complex
memberships
purchased



49
new building permits issued
(45 residential / 4 commercial)



130
ordinances
& resolutions
processed



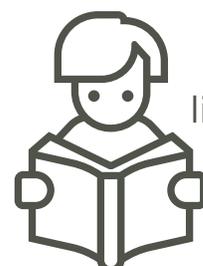
1,538
IT service tickets
completed



12,569
Action Center
requests submitted



13,106
tag office transactions
(10,480 walk-in / 2,626 online)



293,021
library visitors



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

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The Vestavia Hills High School class of 2022 received more than \$44 million in scholarship offers. 21 students were named National Merit Semifinalists, the most of any high school in Alabama. These remarkable achievements are indicative of the legacy of excellence in our school system.

In a typical year, about 85% of our graduates will go on to attend college. Almost eight out of 10 of our college-bound graduates will finish with a postsecondary degree – another outstanding accomplishment when measured against state and national averages. These successes are a cause for celebration and a launching pad to reach even higher.

Student voice is a priority in determining our vision for the future. Their insights into the learning opportunities that connect them to the real world are important. And their voices are being heard through their academic performance and preferences.

Our school system ranks second in the state on our students' performance on state assessments and the ACT. Last year, we had the highest number of students since 2016 who earned college credit through an Advanced Placement exam. While those are notable accomplishments, we have an opportunity to take another step forward. By improving their success in math and science, our students will gain an additional edge for college and career readiness.

Our students are speaking to us about their preferences. Almost one-fourth of our graduates who earned a degree at an in-state university between 2015-2021 did so in a STEM-related area (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Almost half of the students in the VHHS class of 2021 who attended college declared a STEM-related major. Notably, their most-chosen STEM-related degrees and majors are in engineering and health science.

The future prospects are also informing us of important trends in the job market. Alabama workforce data shows STEM-related fields to be the fastest growing industries in the state; this is also true for the nation and world. When coupled with what our students are telling us, this is compelling and a clarion call to action.

Connecting and engaging students in profound learning experiences means that we must expand STEM opportunities. The Southern Region Education Board defines STEM teaching as “dedicated to engaging students in ways that other areas cannot, in order to develop unique cognitive skills, habits of mind, and attitudes that will benefit learners throughout their lives.” These are skills that are beneficial to students in whatever career choices they make. In fact, SREB goes on to say that “STEM teaching also recognizes that a learner who masters the STEM curriculum is uniquely empowered to enter the world of the 21st century.”

1Rebel 1Future will strengthen connections our students make to science and math by adding a STEM class for all elementary students and strengthening STEM opportunities in our secondary schools. You can learn more about the vision for protecting our legacy of excellence by watching Board of Education meetings and listening to the Vestavia Hills City Schools Podcast at www.vhcs.us.



**KEEP AN
EXTINGUISHER
CLOSE BY!**

Fire is divided into five classes (A, B, C, D and K) that are primarily based on the fuel that is burning. This classification system helps to determine the most effective type of extinguishing agent:

Class A fires involve common combustibles such as wood, paper, cloth, rubber, trash and plastics.

Class B fires involve flammable liquids, solvents, oil, gasoline, paints and other oil-based products.

Class C fires involve energized electrical equipment such as wiring, controls, motors, machinery or appliances.

Class D fires involve combustible metals such as magnesium, lithium and titanium.

Class K fires involve combustible cooking media such as oils and grease commonly found in commercial kitchens.

Most household fires are Classes A, B or C and can be put out by a trained person using a hand-held, multi-purpose fire extinguisher (also called an ABC extinguisher). Fire extinguishers have a long history in the fire service and continue to be used to this day in emergency situations. **The Vestavia Hills Fire Department recommends keeping a multi-purpose extinguisher in your home for use on small fires.**

When using a fire extinguisher, remember to PASS:

Pull the pin.

Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire.

Squeeze the lever.

Sweep from side to side.

Be sure to become familiar with the extinguisher soon after purchasing it and place it where it is easily accessible. Most importantly, know when to get out of the house! Life safety is the #1 priority. Enact your escape plan, close the door behind you and get to a safe place.

Extinguishers should be disposed of after 10 years. To dispose of properly, discharge the contents outdoors then put the fully discharged extinguisher in your household trash. VHFD does NOT accept old extinguishers.



Michelle Hawkins,
President
Vestavia Hills
Chamber of Commerce

CHAMBER NEWS

Welcome to March, a glorious springtime in Vestavia Hills and such a marvelous time for our City. I love seeing the happy colors as new blooms come alive and the fresh bright greens emerge in the warm fresh sunlight. My heart smiles every morning on the drive into the office, appreciating the beauty and neatness of our community. What a privilege we have

being a residence in a community full of pride, love and care; this passion is evident in our neighborhoods and homes. We are truly blessed and should always strive to encourage our neighbors and offer a helping hand to others who may not be able for whatever reason. A helping hand will blossom the blessing and multiply.

The exciting momentum our 17th annual food and wine event, Viva Vestavia, held in the new Vestavia Hills Civic Center, brought happy energy as we rolled into February. And even with a shorter month, February zoomed on with fun events including our Valentine's Day Chamber Luncheon, Coffee and Classrooms at Vestavia Hills East Elementary, New Member Orientation and Lunch and Learn.

Ribbon Cuttings are such a great opportunity for the community to welcome new businesses to our fabulous Vestavia Hills. Please mark your calendar to join us this month:

March 3, 4-5pm: Highland Dental Arts,
1360 Montgomery Highway, Suite 110, 35216

March 16, 4-5pm: River Bank and Trust,
1425 Montgomery Highway, Suite 151, 35216

This month's Coffee and Classrooms is a back-to-back event held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 beginning at 9am at Vestavia Hills Liberty Park Middle School and then at 11:30am at Liberty Park Elementary School. This is an amazing opportunity for businesses to connect with our schools. Call our office at 205.823.5011 and sign up today!

Mark your calendars for Wing Ding, hosted by Leadership Vestavia Hills, on Saturday, April 22, 2023 at 4pm at Vestavia City Hall. At last year's Wing Ding, more than 2,800 people attended, over 800 canned goods were collected and more than \$19,500 in ticket sales and sponsorship was raised to benefit the VHMC Food Bank, Cystic Fibrosis and Vestavia Hills Parks and Recreation Foundation. For more information or to sponsor the event, contact Marty Martin, Wing Ding Challenge Chair, at 205.802.2917 or mmartin@blharbert.com.

Let's Spring into Fun! The Vestavia Hills Dogwood Festival is underway with activities that offer something for everyone! Check out the calendar of events in this month's Community News or online at https://bit.ly/dogwood_fest.

As part of this year's Dogwood Festival, we are excited to welcome Lindy Cleveland, Executive Director of Unless U, as our guest speaker at the Dogwood Prayer Breakfast on April 18, 2023. Call the Chamber office at 205.823.5011 for ticket information.

My staff and I want to help promote your business and provide networking opportunities for connections and professional growth. We hope you will reach out to get involved with the energy of your Chamber of Commerce.

Thank you for the honor of serving Vestavia Hills! I truly believe this is the BEST community to live, work, dine, shop and play and I am grateful for this incredible community!

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oswaldosialer@bellsouth.net



VESTAVIA HILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SHADES MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH: From its origins to today

Monday, April 17 at 2pm – Vestavia Hills City Hall

Join the Vestavia Hills Historical Society for an engaging presentation about Shades Mountain Baptist Church.

Founded in 1911, SMBC is the oldest established church in the city limits of Vestavia Hills. The presentation will include musical selections by the SMBC Jubilee Singers, as well as highlights of the church's history and a review of their current community involvement initiatives.

PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES



Spring into FUN with Parks and Recreation!

March 3 from 6-9:30pm at Wald Park

There will be music, food trucks, face painting, bounce houses, vendors and

more! Then we'll end the night with an outdoor ALL AGES concert by Jenni's Mixtape!



Silver Sneakers at the Civic Center

Cardio and Strength, taught by Kristin Long, will be every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11:15am!

This fitness class combines a variety of exercises to help increase cardio endurance while strengthening muscle. For more information or to register, contact Sandi Wilson (205.978.0163; swilson@vhal.org).

Aquatic Complex Memberships

Summer 2023 memberships will be available for purchase starting April 1! Visit <http://bit.ly/VH-poolpass> to register and purchase a membership online:

- \$75 individual (0-54yo)
- \$35 senior adult (55+)
- \$300 family (families of 4 or more; families of 3 or less should purchase individual memberships)
- \$10 daily guest pass (guests must be accompanied by a member; max of one guest per member per day)



**HELP OUT YOUR
COMMUNITY.
BECOME A
POLL WORKER.**



POLL WORKERS NEEDED!!

Poll workers are urgently needed for the upcoming special Municipal Election to be held on May 9, 2023. The need is particularly strong for the Cahaba Heights Baptist Church and The Church at Liberty Park polling locations. For requirements, duties and stipend amounts, visit <https://vhal.org/poll-workers>.

If interested in working in the Special Election of May 9, 2023, visit <https://bit.ly/vh-poll-worker> to complete your application online. If you have questions or prefer another application method, contact Rebecca Leavings, City Clerk, 205.978.0184 or email rleavings@vhal.org.

REBEL FUTURE

Community Information Meeting

March 9 at 10:30am at the Civic Center

Vestavia Hills City Schools Superintendent, Dr. Todd Freeman, will host a community meeting to present information about the *1Rebel 1Future* plan – a strategic investment plan to protect our community's legacy as well as our student and school experiences.

All are encouraged to attend the meeting at the Vestavia Hills Civic Center on Thursday, March 9 at 10:30am. There will be a question and answer period following Dr. Freeman's presentation.

DOGWOOD LUNCHEON

Make plans to join us for the annual Vestavia Hills Beautification Board Dogwood Luncheon to be held April 4, 2023 at Vestavia Country Club.



The silent auction will kick off at 10:30am and the luncheon will begin at 11:30am. Heidi Elnora, an Alabama-based female entrepreneur, will serve as this year's guest speaker. Heidi is a wedding dress designer, inspirational speaker, television personality and industry leader. Visit <https://www.vestaviabeautiful.com/dogwood-luncheon> to read more about Heidi.

Tickets are \$35 each and must be purchased in advance. Tickets may be purchased via Venmo (@vh-dogwood) or by check (payable to: Vestavia Hills Beautification Board). For both Venmo and check payments, include your full name in the notes section, along with the names of attendees to be seated at your table, if applicable. For more information, email dogwoodluncheon@gmail.com.

Vestavia Hills DOGWOOD FESTIVAL

Spring into Fun!

The Vestavia Hills Dogwood Festival activities celebrate all of the incredible things Vestavia Hills has to offer!

There is something for everyone at the Dogwood Festival!

March

3: SpringFest & Concert

Wald Park, 6-9:30pm

4: VHHS Superhero Fun Run

VHHS, 8am

4: VHHS Rebel 5K Color Run

VHHS, 9:30am

4: Dog Days at SHAC

Sicard Hollow Athletic Complex
10am-2pm

9: Dogwood Festival Fashion Show

Civic Center, 4-6pm

11: Dogwood Days: Cahaba Heights

The Heights Village, 10am-8pm

16: Live After 5

Vestavia City Center, 5pm

18: VHHS RISE Kids Day

VHHS, 9-11am

**24: Historical Society Self-Guided
Tour Begins**

26: Spring Break Staycation Begins

April

4: Dogwood Luncheon

Vestavia Country Club
10:30am

7: Easter Eggstravaganza

Wald Park, 11am

7: Mastering Happy Hour

Vestavia City Center, 2-6:30pm

8: Battle of the Bands

Rocky Ridge Business District
5-9pm

13: Dogwood Days: Liberty Park

4-7pm

15: VHHS RISE Day

VHHS, 4-10pm

17: Historical Society Presents:

Shades Mountain Baptist Church
Vestavia Hills City Hall, 2pm

18: Dogwood Prayer Breakfast

Vestavia Country Club, 7am

20: Lunch Bunch & Historical Tour

21: Concert Series

Wald Park Grand Lawn, 7pm
Sponsored by the Library
in the Forest

22: Wing Ding

Vestavia Hills City Hall, 4-7pm

30: Heights Hangout

The Heights Village, 2-7pm

Scan for
detailed
event info

or visit

[https://bit.ly/
Dogwood_Fest](https://bit.ly/Dogwood_Fest)



Want to include your Vestavia Hills event in the Dogwood Festival?

Contact Cinnamon McCulley at 205.978.0143 or cmcculley@vhal.org.

Friends of the Library *present*



DOLORES HYDOCK

MARCH 23, 2023 | 10:30 AM

TICKETS \$15

VESTAVIA HILLS LIBRARY IN THE FOREST

FREE WITH MEMBERSHIP
ANNUAL FEE \$20

FAMILY NIGHT

MAGIC SHOW

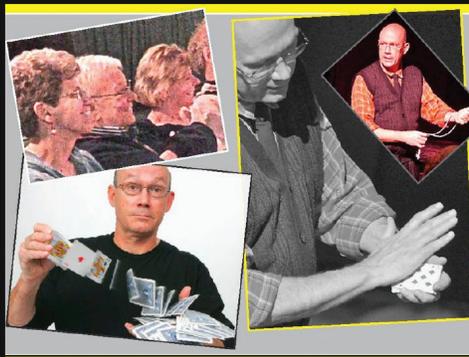
with
Russell Davis



14

MARCH

DINNER 6PM | SHOW 6:30PM
LIBRARY IN THE FOREST





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

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 PERMIT #585



He is Risen
EASTER

AT VESTAVIA METHODIST

APRIL 9

SUNRISE SERVICE

6:30 AM | VPMC COLUMBARIUM

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

8:30, 9:45, & 11:00 AM | SANCTUARY

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

11:00 AM | TYSON HALL

Rise

AGAINST HUNGER

APRIL 16-17

COMMUNITY MEAL PACKING EVENT

FILLING EMPTY BOWLS

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, VISIT VPMC.ORG