

# COMMUNITY NEWS

News & Events for the City of Vestavia Hills | September 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

This month's Mayor's Message is in memory of Chief Dan Rary, our beloved Chief of Police. In trying to decide what to write about, the word "dedication" came to mind. One of our city's greatest resources is the dedication of our employees. As Police Chief, Rary's job required enthusiasm, self-sacrifice and most of all, dedication. He was the quintessential example of a dedicated employee, having served our police department for 42 years. In today's work place, there are not many people

that dedicate their lives to any one entity for that length of time. Chief Rary was clearly successful because of his commitment and dedication.

One of the main components of the quality-of-life in our city is safety. As you have heard me say in my last four "State of the City" presentations, our city is one of the safest in Alabama and the safest for cities over 25,000 in population. I would like to congratulate Chief Dan Rary and the men and women of the Vestavia Hills Police Department for making this happen. Safety, along with other quality of life factors, are some of the primary reasons people choose to live in Vestavia Hills.

Chief Rary was an ardent Auburn football fan. Legendary football Coach Shug Jordan included his five "Ds" in many presentations:

- **Discipline:** "Any successful person must learn to discipline themselves before they can discipline others."
- **Desire:** "To excel, you have to have that burning desire in yourself and on the field."
- **Determination:** "This is what makes you keep on keeping on."
- **Dedication:** "A man must be dedicated to achieving his ultimate goal."
- **Dependability:** "A man is only as good as his word."

Each one of these describes Chief Rary. Coach Jordan would be proud.

I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the Rary family. His wife, Carron, and their two children, Shane and Hannah, dealt with the stress common to all law enforcement families. Missed family events, late hours at work, and the ever-present worry about safety, are common with police families. I thank them for their sacrifice and their support of Chief Rary during his law enforcement career.

Thanks to all the many law enforcement agencies and police colleagues that have expressed their condolences for his family and our city during this time.

Lastly, thanks to the Hoover, Homewood and Mountain Brook Police Departments, as well as other agencies, for their assistance with traffic management and service coverage during Chief Rary's funeral.



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### September 2023

- 4 Municipal Offices Closed**  
in observance of Labor Day\*
- 7 Design Review Board,**  
Executive Conference Room,  
6 p.m.
- 9 Vestavia Hills Shred &  
Recycle Day,** Civic Center  
Parking Lot, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- 11 Patriot Day Ceremony,**  
SoHo Plaza, Homewood, 9 a.m.
- 11 Senior Citizens Association  
Luncheon,** Civic Center,  
Dogwood Room, 11:30 a.m.
- 11 City Council Meeting,**  
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 12 Chamber Luncheon,**  
Vestavia Country Club,  
11:30 a.m.
- 14 Planning and Zoning  
Commission,** Council  
Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 18 Council Work Session,**  
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 19 Parks and Recreation Board,**  
Civic Center, 7:30 a.m.
- 21 Board of Zoning Adjustment,**  
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 25 City Council Meeting,**  
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 30 Splash Pad Closes**  
for the Season, 7 p.m.

\*Sanitation holiday; routes will operate on a one-day delay.

— Mayor's Message, continued on page 3

# Vestavia Hills Shares



**Shop, Dine and Play with a Discount Card  
good at participating Vestavia Hills businesses!**

**Cards are only \$30 each!**

**How does it work?** Each month from September through May, participating business will choose a discount to offer. Scan the QR code below to check out this month's hot deals!

**When is the card valid?** September 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024

**Where can I buy my card?** Scan the QR code below or visit <https://www.vestaviahills.org/vestavia-shares-card-coming-soon-2>.

**Which businesses are participating?** Basecamp Fitness, Orangetheory Fitness, Player's Choice Tennis, The Retreat Day Spa, Davenport's Pizza Palace, Glam Beauty Boutique, Troup's Pizza, Cajun Seafood, Bruster's Ice Cream, Taziki's, Fleet Feet Birmingham, Vestavia Barber Shop, Hotworx Vestavia Hills, Prolift Garage Doors, Anytime Fitness, Vestavia Bowl, Rolls Bakery, American Kolache, Birmingham School of Music, Dunkin Donuts, Mason Music, Altadena Eye Care, Two Men and a Truck, Vestavia Hills Board and Brush, D1 Vestavia Hills, Animal Hospital of the Hills, The UPS Store #3091, Dear Emmaline, Bodybar Pilates Cahaba Heights, Monograms Plus, The Standard, Cafe Iz.  
(As of this publication's print date.)

**When we share, we all win!**

*Scan to view participating  
businesses & monthly  
"Hot Deals"!*





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

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Ensuring that students learn and demonstrate a profound understanding of knowledge and skills is a goal in Vestavia Hills City Schools. Measuring the success of a school system requires considering a multitude of factors. Last year, test scores in Vestavia Hills City Schools were the second highest in the state. Additionally, we had the most National Merit Semifinalists of any

high school in Alabama, and the Class of 2023 was offered more than \$41 million in scholarships.

Another example of success is in the Advanced Placement program at VHHS. Last year, 625 students took more than 1,400 exams.

The results were impressive with 87% earning scores that made them eligible for college credit.



**625 VHHS students took 1,424 AP exams last year, and 87% earned a qualifying college credit score**

Students are clearly demonstrating knowledge at a profound level which gives them an advantage when starting college.

One of the hidden gems of experiential learning within the Advanced Placement program is the WE Project. Its purpose is to identify local, state and global problems and develop solutions. Teacher Zach Morgan describes the WE Project as an opportunity that allows students to “use their historical skills to foster and fulfill a service project related to the AP U.S. History curriculum.” Teacher Mrs. Amy Maddox says, “This service learning program empowers our AP United States History students to have a positive impact on their communities while simultaneously enriching their understanding of historical context.”

Since its inception two years ago, 80 students have completed the requirements of the WE Project. Their projects have resulted in donating toys for Toys for Tots and more than 8,000 books to promote literacy for children living in the Black Belt. Mr. Morgan adds: “My favorite part is for the students to see the connection between the historical aspect of the project ... and that what they do matters in their community.” This is the power of profound learning!

Developing the habits of good character is an important outcome of the WE Project. In fact, one of the most rewarding learning experiences in life is the act of giving. Google defines philanthropy as “the desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by the generous donation of money to good causes.” Merriam-Webster adds depth to its meaning by calling it “a spirit of goodwill toward all people.” No matter which definition most speaks to you, the act of serving others is most meaningful when done without an expectation of getting something in return.

Students who attend Vestavia Hills City Schools have this spirit of giving and service in their DNA. Over the course of the school year, there will be many student-led efforts to donate money, supplies, or time to the service of others. We invite the community to engage in these meaningful learning experiences. This is one way you can invest and add value in our children’s education.

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE *(continued from page 1)*

Next month, our Vestavia Hills Arts Council will highlight “Arts-tober”. During October, the Arts Council will sponsor numerous events that will include the following events:

- October 1-31: **Visual Art Exhibit** at City Hall
- October 22: **Cahaba Chamber Chorale**, Civic Center, 3pm
- October 24: **VHHS Choir Concert**, Vestavia Hills Methodist Church, 7pm
- October 26: 29th VHHS Theatre production of **CLUE**, 7pm
- October 26: **Vestavia “He(Art)” Fest**, City Center, 5-8pm
- October 27: **2nd Grade “America” program**, Vestavia Hills Elementary West, 1pm

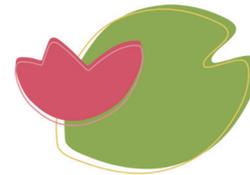
I hope everyone had a great summer and are gearing up for fall football season. Go Rebels!

**Thank You!**  
**19 Years of Dressing Vestavia Hills**



**BE KIND. BE GRACIOUS. BE YOU**

**3140 Heights Village**



**the lili pad**

children's boutique

**3138 Heights Village**

**"where being a Mom just got a little easier."**



## 2024 BELLE APPLICATIONS

2024 Belle applications being accepted NOW!  
Apply online at <https://vhal.org/community/vestavia-belles>.

Download a fillable PDF or complete and submit your application online today. You may also pick up a printed copy in the City Administrative office at City Hall.

The deadline to submit your 2024 Vestavia Belle Application is September 29, 2023. Interviews will be held October 14 - 15, 2023.

SAVE THE DATE

**Haunt**  
THE HILLS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28  
WALD PARK  
4:30 PM

TRICK-OR-TREAT ON THE GRAND LAWN  
WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES FROM 4:30-6:00 PM!

DRESS IN YOUR BEST FAMILY-FRIENDLY COSTUME FOR A  
COSTUME CONTEST.

BRING A CHAIR OR BLANKET TO WATCH A FAMILY  
HALLOWEEN MOVIE AT DUSK.

VISIT [VESTAVIAHILLS.ORG](https://VESTAVIAHILLS.ORG) FOR MORE INFO.

## Only Rain in the Storm Drain!

### *What happens when debris enters storm drains?*

- > It is **ILLEGAL!** Violators who put leaves, clippings or other materials in the storm drains are subject to fines or, when warranted, additional enforcement by the City.
  - > Clogged storm drains may result in **flooding**, creating safety hazards and causing property damage.
  - > Rotting leaves cause **algae blooms in water bodies**, harming plants and animals and reducing water quality.
  - > Debris clogging storm drains can be a breeding ground for **rodents and insects**.
- > Cleaning out clogged storm drains **costs taxpayers money!**

## SHRED & RECYCLE DAY

Saturday, September 9, 2023

8am-Noon

Vestavia Hills Civic Center  
1090 Montgomery Highway, 35216



The Vestavia Hills Shred & Recycle Day drop off will be in the parking lot at the Vestavia Hills Civic Center (adjacent to City Hall). Items will be collected from 8am to noon (or until capacity is reached).

**Items available to be collected include:** electronics and household hazardous waste. (Proof of Vestavia Hills residency is required for hazardous waste disposal.) Paper shredding services will also be available and Vestavia Hills police officers will be on-site to collect unneeded or expired medications for disposal. (Needles will NOT be accepted.)

**Electronic items to be accepted include:** PCs and laptops; servers; cell phones and tablets; satellite and cable boxes; gaming systems and components; stereos and radios; switches and firewalls; printers and fax machines; VCRs and DVD players; remote controls; MP3 players; A/C adapters and other cables; LCD monitors; CRT monitors\*; ink and toner cartridges; rechargeable batteries; hard drives, including external drives\*; speakers; cameras; modems and routers; CD players; small kitchen appliances; consumer electronics; battery backups; keyboards and mice; stand-alone copiers\*; and TVs\* (\*Fee required for the disposal of these items: hard drive and CRT monitors: \$10 each; televisions: \$20 each)

**Household hazardous waste items to be accepted include:** paint; batteries (household and automotive); light bulbs; and pesticides. Paint and pesticides MUST be in their original containers or they will NOT be accepted. Paint must be DRY. Proof of Vestavia Hills residency required for hazardous waste disposal.

**Not accepted:** large appliances; wooden console TVs; gas; gas cans\*; wet paint; or paint/pesticides NOT in their original container

\*Empty gas cans will be collected with your household trash. Be sure to remove the lid/nozzle and place the items in your trash cart. Unemptied gas cans may be left open until the gas evaporates. Be sure the can is open in a well-ventilated area. If you are unsure about how to safely allow the gas to evaporate, contact VHFD at 205.978.0225.

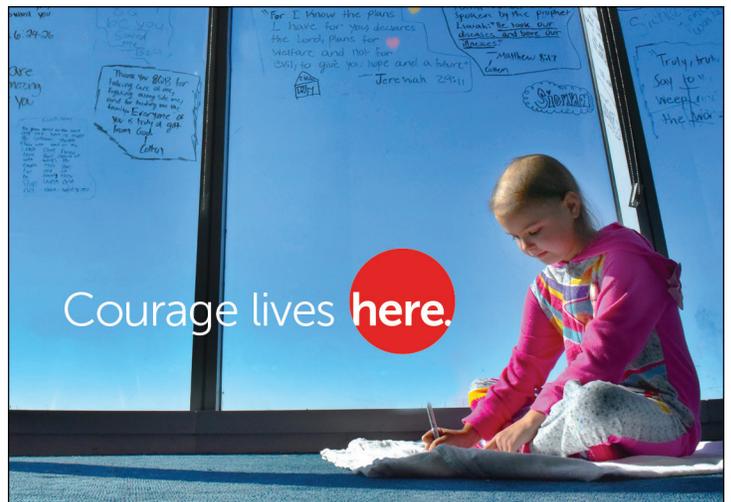
**Special thanks to: PROTEC Recycling; Amwaste; Gone for Good (a program of United Ability); and the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce.**

## JOIN THE FOUNDATION

The Vestavia Hills Police Foundation (VHPF) is dedicated to supporting the Vestavia Hills Police Department, its officers and their families through benevolence, community outreach, continuing education scholarships and equipment upgrades. They put their lives at risk on behalf of the residents they serve, and our goal is to provide the tools and support they need.

**Join the Vestavia Hills Police Foundation to help provide funding for these support services and equipment desired by the VHPD.**

To join the Vestavia Hills Police Foundation or make a donation, please mail a check to VHPF, 732 Montgomery Highway, PMB 415, Vestavia Hills, AL 35216; donate online at <https://bit.ly/3CWu8W6>; or scan the QR code to donate. For other questions, please contact us at [vhpfdn@gmail.com](mailto:vhpfdn@gmail.com) or 205.201.1496.



Courage lives here.

Most people cannot even imagine what it feels like to watch a child take on a battle against cancer. The courage, strength and resilience our patients demonstrate every day is what inspires us to give our best. We are here when families need us the most, caring for their children and never giving up hope in their fight against cancer.



Children's  
of Alabama®



Learn more at [ChildrensAL.org/cancer](https://www.childrensal.org/cancer)



will be door prizes available. Don't miss this exciting and educational event!

> **Activities for Active Adults (55+)**

• **Health Fair and Wellness Expo – September 7, 9am-1pm:**

This year's Health Fair and Wellness Expo will be held at the Civic Center. Take advantage of free flu shots from Publix and speak with Medicare advisors. The Vestavia Hills Police Department will provide safety information, and the Fire Department will check your blood pressure. Additionally, there

**Health & Wellness Fair**

**Date:** September 7, 2023  
**Time:** 9am-1pm  
**Location:** Vestavia Hills Civic Center (1090 Montgomery Highway, 35216)

Follow us on social media for updates:  
**@VestaviaHillsParksandRecreation:** Facebook  
**@vestavihillsparksandrec:** Instagram

• **Senior Luncheon – September 11, 12pm:**

We invite you to a delicious lunch at the Civic Center at noon, complete with live entertainment! The cost is only \$8 per person. Bring your friends along for an enjoyable afternoon of fun. Please note that you must make a reservation to attend. To reserve your spot today, call Parks and Recreation at 205.978.0166.

• **Lunch & Trip – September 19, 10am:**

\*\* \$5 travel fee required at registration \*\*

Take a trip to the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and enjoy a delicious lunch in downtown Birmingham! Meet at the Vestavia Hills Civic Center at 10am; transportation is provided. To reserve your spot today, call 205.978.0166.

> **Register NOW for Fall Rec Sports!**

**Adult Coed Kickball**

- **Registration:** Open now through September 18. Register online at [https://bit.ly/pr\\_sportsman](https://bit.ly/pr_sportsman).
- **Game Play:** Monday League with games starting at 6:30pm. Players must be 18 years or older. Must have at least 4 female players at all times. 8 games plus playoffs. Games begin on September 25.
- **Location:** All games and practices to be played at Wald Park (2521 Waldridge Road, 35216)
- **Cost:** \$400 per team. (Entry fee is the total cost for the league. Game officials do not require an additional fee.)
- **More Information:** Contact Doug Rogers at 205.978.0178 or [drogers@vhal.org](mailto:drogers@vhal.org)



**Did you know there is an Arts Council in Vestavia Hills?**

Join us at our next meeting to see what it's all about!

For more information, including a calendar of upcoming meetings and events, visit <https://vhal.org/community/arts-council>.

Scan the QR code or visit [https://bit.ly/pr\\_sportsman](https://bit.ly/pr_sportsman), click "Create a New Account" or login to your existing account to register TODAY!





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

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 PERMIT #585



A VESTAVIA METHODIST  
 MEN'S EVENT

**SEPTEMBER 17**

**5:30-7:30**

AT THE LIGHTHOUSE

REGISTER AT [VHMC.ORG](http://VHMC.ORG)

**TRUNK  
 OR  
 TREAT**

OCTOBER 25, 6 - 7 PM  
 VESTAVIA METHODIST  
 PARKING LOT

