# COMMUNITYNEWS

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

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

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

May 2019

- 1 Splash Pad Opens Sicard Hollow Athletic Complex, Gravel Parking Lot
- 2 Design Review Board Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 9 Planning and Zoning Commission Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- Hazardous Waste Collection Day Sicard Hollow Athletic Complex, 8:30 a.m.
- 13 Senior Citizens Luncheon 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.
- 17 Friends of the Library Library in the Forest, 10 a.m.
- 20 Council Work Session Executive Conference Room, 5 p.m.
- **20** City Council Meeting Council Chamber 6 p.m.
- 21 Parks and Recreation Board Executive Conference Room, 7 a.m.
- 22 Library Board Meeting Library in the Forest, 4 p.m.
- 27 Municipal Offices Closed in observance of Memorial Day



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Ashley C. Curry, Vestavia Hills Mayor

This month's theme is milestones. The term "milestone" had its origin

in ancient Rome. As far back as 200 BC, the Romans would place stone obelisks on their roadways. These stones were placed roughly a mile apart and served as a way to measure how far you had travelled. Our state has certainly travelled a long way as we celebrate the "milestone" of the state's 200th birthday.

As part of the bicentennial celebration, Vestavia Hills will recognize our state's history as well as the history of our city. This year is our 69th birthday, a "milestone" as well.

The Vestavia Hills Library in the Forest, Historical Society, Beautification Board and Senior Citizen Association have helped with different bicentennial events. The Historical Society will host the Historical Sites bus tour on May 2, 2019. This event will include guided tours and visits of historical sites throughout the City. Hopefully you have already registered and will be able to attend this event.

During the summer months, our Library in the Forest will feature Alabama history

in its summer reading program and other events. You can also stop by City Hall and see a bicentennial exhibit that was created by our graduate student intern with the help of student representatives from the City Youth Connection.

On April 4, the City hosted its second Freedom from Addiction Coalition Awareness Breakfast. This event was held at Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church and featured keynote speaker, Dr. Tom Dooley. Dr. Dooley, a scientist by trade, shared an impactful presentation on the opioid epidemic that is sweeping the nation and our state. He and his family experienced the tragic side-effects of this epidemic firsthand with the loss of his son in 2017. His scientific background has led to discoveries of anti-anxiety medications that are non-addictive. This could be a real breakthrough in the treatment of mental health and addiction to pain medications.

Dr. Dooley's presentation will be available for viewing on the City's website at https://vhal. org/community/freedom-from-addiction/.

- Mayor's Message continued on page 3



# **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Jeff Downes, Vestavia Hills City Manager

For me, I know it's springtime in Vestavia Hills when outdoor events start to fill my calendar.

Whether awakened by the smell of wings smoking or shrimp boiling, we all emerge from our winter hibernation this time of the year. This is a time to have fun with friends and neighbors and, in many cases, support causes near and dear to our hearts. The City of Vestavia Hills is very supportive of many of these spring events by providing manpower and other resources to the leaders of the events. That being said, Vestavia Hills has always relied upon its community organizations to step up in this fashion to create and operate most of our City's events. The Chamber of Commerce, local merchants, civic clubs and non-profit groups, such as Leadership Vestavia Hills, often serve as the impetus of our community gatherings. All of these groups and many others shine in their efforts. I would like to highlight one particular event and one particular group this year – the Cahaba Heights Merchants Association (CHMA). Their efforts are directed to improving our community in a tangible way.

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**



## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

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

#### **Unparalleled Community Support**

In Vestavia Hills City Schools, we believe that community service is a civic duty and that every person has value. Google defines service as "the action of helping or doing work for someone." At its most fundamental level, it is a sacrificial act with nothing expected in return. Serving requires a call to action despite our hesitation or lack of confidence. In fact, serving is an act of self-confidence.

For our system, unparalleled community support is a shared responsibility that includes giving back. This spirit of philanthropy is ingrained beginning in our earliest grades and reaches a pinnacle in high school. For our students, service is much less about a grade and more about the motivation to do what is right and put our beliefs into action.

This spring, Vestavia Hills High School students engaged in an effort they call RISE (Rebels Impact through Service and Engagement). RISE was a semester-long service learning project supporting the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at UAB, one of the nation's leading research and treatment centers.

RISE encompassed four events for students at VHHS and four outreach endeavors for the greater community. Music enthusiasts attended a live concert featuring local artists. Runners participated in a 5K color run through the hills of the city. Children of all ages attended the Princess and Superhero Breakfast with more than 40 characters portrayed by high school seniors. These are a few of the many ways that students and the community supported RISE.

The culminating RISE Day event took place in the gymnasiums and on the athletic fields of VHHS in April. The whole community was invited to gather and honor cancer survivors, remember loved ones, and celebrate the season. It was a wonderful celebration!

Everyone can serve in their own unique way, and the perfect time is whenever there is a need. RISE sponsor Kym Prewitt sums up well the outcomes when she says that "unlikely friendships form, work ethic develops, character is built, and all of this is accomplished by teamwork." There is not a letter grade that can adequately demonstrate the important life lessons this community service taught our students! LOCAL PASSION NUMBERS • 1,003 students and teachers participated on 59 RISE teams all semester. These teams raised money in so many creative GLOBAL IMPACT ways. They did everything from swing dance lessons to helping the Easter Bunny to hosting a 3-point March Madness Shootout.

BY THE

- More than 1,100 students helped the UAB Basketball team RISE to the Rim in an epic slam dunk contest.
- 830 music lovers attended Concert for a Cure featuring Walker Burroughs and Riverbend.
- 764 students attended the Sadie Hawkins Dance.
- 337 runners ran in the 5K and 220 runners ran in the 1-Mile Fun Run at the Annual Rebel Run. That's a total of 557 runners!
- 400 children visited with 44 characters at the Princess & Superhero Breakfast.
- 228 students served on 20 RISE committees.
- 38 sponsors donated \$53,300 as well as gifts-in-kind such as food, bounce houses and race equipment.
- We held 8 major events for one cause the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at UAB.
- Raised \$250,678 for cancer research in Birmingham, Alabama!!

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## Mayor's Message continued from page 1

Our city is exploring other options to help our citizens that are dealing with substance abuse or addiction. One such option is a "volunteer request for help" program where an individual could seek help through the Vestavia Hills Police or Fire departments. This individual could walk into the police station or any one of the fire stations, turn in their drugs (legal or illegal), and be placed with a recovery assistance program without fear of being charged for narcotics possession. You will be hearing more about this program in the coming weeks. Vestavia Hills cares about our citizens and we will do all we can to address this issue and save lives.

The 29th annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast was held on April 23. Speaker Micah McElveen addressed a sold-out crowd and reminded us that we never know how much time we have in our lives. His personal story of surviving a near-fatal accident made him realize that his life's purpose was to found and lead Vapor Ministries, which currently has five community centers in three countries.

April 7-13, 2019 was proclaimed as "National Volunteer Recognition Week." There are many volunteers that contribute so much to our city. This month I would like to recognize the Vestavia Belles. The Belles celebrate their 40th anniversary this year and their presence as hostesses for the City is much appreciated.

## Manager's Message continued from page 1

Instead of standing on the sidelines and bemoaning what is missing in their business district, the CHMA stepped up and is in the second year of their Heights Hangout event. Scheduled for May 4, 2019 from 2 to 7pm, this event offers live music, incredibly delicious food and kids activities for all who are interested. It takes place along Pipeline Road and The Heights Village. All proceeds from the event are utilized for the beautification of Cahaba Heights. Over \$6,000 was raised as 1,000 people enjoyed last year's festivities. This effort happens because dedicated individuals had an idea and continually work hard to make it happen. So many businesses and families clearly benefit from the effort. What if this effort could be modeled throughout the City on an even more frequent basis? The community vibrancy we feel in springtime would not be just seasonal. Even more funding could be focused on addressing community needs.

It is always easy to comment on what should be or what could be. It is incredibly refreshing to watch individuals jump into the fray to improve our community or assist in efforts that bring us together. The CHMA is just one example of this type of noble effort. I hope we can see many more in the future. Please let me know if the City can assist your ideas in any way as we strive to create "A Life Above" that is perennial. I wish the best for you and your families in this most beautiful time of the year.



# PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

#### **New Merkel Senior Center**

#### Monthly programs, events and guest speakers; Games EVERYDAY!

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 a "Getting to Know You" lunch

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

Thursday: Tech Talk Thursdays

May 10: "Mothers Memories," share memories of your mother

May 14: Art with Tina Chaffin

May 27: Closed in observance of Memorial Day

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.

#### Flag Football

Vestavia Hills Flag Football registration is open now through June 2; late registration is June 3-30. For more information and to register your 1st through 8th grade student, visit www.vhff.net.

#### VHYF Little Rebel Football

Registration for VHYF Little Rebel Football is open now through May 31. For more information or to register your kindergarten-6th grade child, visit www.vhyf.com.

#### Pool Programming at the Community Building

**Ai Chi.** 6-6:30 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday 8 sessions for \$35 or \$5 per session.

**Aqua Fitness.** 6:35-7:15 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday 8 sessions for \$35 or \$5 per session.

**Stroke Development.** 6:35-7:15 p.m. Monday & Wednesday 8 sessions for \$35 or \$5 per session.

**Swim Lessons, Group – Monday through Thursday.** 5:15-6 p.m. For children ages 3-12. One week session, \$60; Two week session, \$120. To register, text 205.910.9092.

#### Swim Lessons, Group – Saturday.

10-10:45 a.m. For children ages 3-12. New group lessons begin every 2 weeks. \$120 for the 8 group lessons. To register, text 205.910.9092.

Swim Lessons, Private & Semi Private – Saturday. 10-10:30 a.m. For more information, text 205.910.9092.

Swim Lessons, Private & Semi Private – Saturday. 10:30-11 a.m. For more information, text 205.910.9092

# VACATION CRIME PREVENTION

With summer break quickly approaching, many go out of town for vacation. VHPD wants everyone to have a safe getaway and secure home upon their return. Following are some tips to ensure you have both!

- Do not advertise your vacation. Specifically, do not post them on social media.
- Try to ensure that there will be no deliveries while you are away. Packages on the doorstep are a quick indicator that you are away.
- Enlist a trusted friend or relative to monitor your home while you are away and urge them to call VHPD immediately if they see suspicious behavior at your home.
- Consider having a friend park a vehicle in your driveway occasionally, retrieve your mail and newspaper and place a garbage container on the curb on collection day.
- Make certain your trusted friend or relative has all of your pertinent contact information.
- Consider timers in your home for lights and radios, and install dusk to dawn sensors for outdoor lights to make your home appear occupied.
- Test your smoke alarms.
- If you have an alarm: be sure it is functioning properly; program the alarm to notify VHPD first; and be sure to SET YOUR ALARM when you leave your home.
- VHPD will gladly assign a patrol request to your property while you are away. Call 205.978.0140 prior to your departure to request a welfare check. Upon request, VHPD will also provide you with a status update on your home.
- Enjoy yourself. VHPD is here if you need us!



Enjoy children's activities, Pops in the Park concert, & a family movie!

Visit www.vestaviahills.org to vote for the movie you would like to see!

\*Location change due to Wald Park Construction



## CHAMBER NEWS

Karen J. Odle, Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce President

Why is it important to support our local businesses? Most everyone will agree that a community's educational system reflects the priorities and values of that community. Even

before Vestavia Hills was incorporated, its residents placed a high priority on education; thus, the formation of a local school system which is one of the best in our state.

But what does supporting our local business have to do with our stellar school system? A lot! Over 53% to be exact – because **more than 53%** of the funding for our school system comes from **local** dollars.

How are these local dollars raised? Local dollars come in two ways: Ad valorem<sup>1</sup> tax and sales tax. The ad valorem tax paid on a home is assessed at 10% of the value of the home. The 10% value is then multiplied times the Vestavia Hills millage<sup>2</sup> rate of .0926 mil<sup>3</sup> of which .05205 mil goes to the school system. As you can see, the higher the value of a home, the more funding generated for the school system. On the other hand, a **business** in Vestavia Hills is assessed at **20%** of the value of the business. Therefore, the more profitable a business, the more funding generated for the school system.

Based on the current U.S. Census figures, there are 13,987 households in Vestavia Hills. If each of those households spent \$50 per week **IN** Vestavia Hills that they currently spend outside of the City, businesses would have an additional \$33,568,800 per year in sales! That is no small number to our businesses and our school system. Those funds would exponentially increase the value of our businesses thereby creating additional revenue to our schools and city.

Please think about this before you make purchases or plan your shopping for the week. **It PAYS to shop Vestavia Hills first!** Visit https://vhliving.epubxp.com/t/10611-vestavia-hills-living to access the online magazine, *Vestavia Hills Living*, for a listing of Vestavia Hills businesses.

- <sup>1</sup> Ad valorem means 'according to value'
- <sup>2</sup> Millage is a rate charged per \$1,000 of value
- <sup>3</sup> Mil is 1/10th of 1% (.001)



# 2019 PROJECT REQUEST

The Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce and City of Vestavia Hills are planning the 5th annual Helping Hands in the Hills, a day of service in the city to assist our residents (senior citizens, disabled, etc.) who need a helping hand with minor projects around their home. This fun community service day will be Saturday, September 14, 2019. To submit a project for consideration, complete the form below and submit it to the Chamber of Commerce at 1975 Merryvale Road, Vestavia Hills, AL 35216. For more information or to volunteer, contact the Chamber of Commerce at 205.823.5011 or email dianez@vestaviahills.org.

## DEADLINE FOR PROJECT REQUEST SUBMISSION: AUGUST 14, 2019

Your name*	
Phone number*	E-mail*
Contact name* (Name of person in need, if different from about	ne)
Project address*	
Number of hours required for 6-8 people to complete?	
Homeowners must provide needed tools and suppli straw/mulch. Requests for pressure washing projec	es to complete project request, i.e. rakes, mower, trimmers, wheelbarrow, pine ts will NOT be considered.
Special instructions	
*Required information	

# **GRILL LIKE A [SAFETY] PRO!**

It's summertime and the smell of burgers and BBQ is in the air! While it is the best time of the year to enjoy grilling out with friends and family, it is important to be aware that July is the peak time for



grill fires across America. The Vestavia Hills Fire Department has responded to several structure fires due to improper grilling techniques in the past.

To keep your family and neighbors safe during grilling season, VHFD asks you to be aware of the dangers associated with outdoor grilling. For multi-family structures only, Vestavia Hills has an ordinance against using a BBQ grill within 10 feet of the structure. It is also not permitted to store propane within 10 feet of a multi-family structure.

To keep your cookout safe and fun, please follow the following guidelines provided by the National Fire Protection Association and VHFD:

#### Safety Tips:

- · Propane and charcoal grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Gas grills should be inspected and a soapy solution should be applied to the supply hose to ensure no leaks are present.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

#### **Charcoal Grills:**

- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids on the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord rated for outdoor use.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

# HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

The City in conjunction with Republic Services is hosting a Hazardous Waste Collection Day Saturday, May 11, 2019 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the parking lot of Sicard Hollow Athletic Complex (SHAC).

#### What is Being Accepted?

**Paint** – Empty latex paint containers or hardened solid paint are safe to dispose of in your household garbage. If there is still liquid paint in an old can, the liquid can be solidified by mixing the paint with cat litter, oil dry, sand or sawdust. Once solidified, place the can with the lid off in your household garbage bin.

**Bulbs** – The EPA recommends that consumers take advantage of available local options for recycling CFLs, fluorescent bulbs and other bulbs that contain mercury, and all other household hazardous wastes, rather than disposing of them in regular household trash.

**Batteries** – Most single use and rechargeable batteries, such as lithium and button batteries, are recyclable. Regular alkaline, manganese and carbon-zinc batteries are not considered hazardous waste and can be disposed of with ordinary trash.

Household amounts of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers will **NOT** be accepted, but can be disposed of in your household garbage by adhering to the following ADEM guidelines:

- Attempt to share it with someone in need. If the product is still viable, give it to someone who can use a small amount, such as a local nursery or community garden.
- If you have no other options, you may put it in your regular trash for disposal, but you must meet each of the following conditions:
  - Follow the instructions on the product's label!
  - Be sure that there are no freestanding liquids. Open the container and allow any liquid to evaporate or absorb the liquid into cat litter, sawdust or other absorbent material.
  - Carefully contain the absorbent material and any remaining residue in a leak-resistant bag or other container while the waste is being transported to a disposal facility.
  - Be sure that you only dispose of a small amount of waste at a time. Divide larger quantities and dispose of them over several collection periods.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY?

### CHILDREN: 205.978.0158 (Preschool-Grade 5)

- 1 Story Friends. 10:30-11:15 a.m.
- 1 This & That: Happy Hula Days. 3:30-4:15 p.m.
- 2 L.I.F.T. (Library in the Forest Time). 9:30 a.m.-noon
- 2 Book Babies. 10-10:30 a.m.
- 4 Ms. Casey's Marvelous Music & Movement. 10:30-11:15 a.m.
- 6 Toddler A-Go-Go. 9:30-10a.m. and 10:30-11 a.m.
- 7 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M. @ the Library! Lights & Lasers. 3:30-4:15 p.m.
- 7 **P.J. Storytime.** 6:30-7:15 p.m.
- 8 Story Friends. 10:30-11:15 a.m.
- 8 This & That: Game Changer. 3:30-4:15 p.m.
- 9 L.I.F.T. (Library in the Forest Time). 9:30 a.m.-noon
- 9 Book Babies. 10-10:30 a.m.
- 13 Toddler A-Go-Go. 9:30-10a.m. and 10:30-11 a.m.
- 14 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M. @ the Library! Australia. 3:30-4:15 p.m.
- 14 P.J. Storytime. 6:30-7:15 p.m.
- 15 Story Friends. 10:30-11:15 a.m.
- 15 This & That: End of the Year Party! 3:30-4:15 p.m.
- 16 L.I.F.T. (Library in the Forest Time). 9:30 a.m.-noon
- *16* Book Babies. 10-10:30 a.m.
- 18 Ms. Casey's Marvelous Music & Movement. 10:30-11:15 a.m.
- *30* Summer Reading Kickoff with Roger Day! 10:30-11:15 a.m. & 6:00-7:15 p.m.

#### TEENS: 205.978.3683 (Grades 6-12)

- 1 Pocket Size Pixel Art. 4-5:30 p.m.
- *3* **Open Gaming.** 4-5:30 p.m.
- 7 Fortnite Night. 4-5:30 p.m.
- 8 Writing Group. 4-5:30 p.m.
- 10 Open Gaming. 4-5:30 p.m.
- 15 Extended Library Hours. Open until 9 p.m.
- 15 Exam Study Breaks. 3, 5 & 7 p.m.
- 16 Extended Library Hours. Open until 9 p.m.
- 16 Exam Study Breaks. 3, 5 & 7 p.m.
- 17 Open Gaming. 4-5:30 p.m.
- 20 Extended Library Hours. Open until 9 p.m.
- 20 Exam Study Breaks. 3, 5 & 7 p.m.
- 21 Snack & Field. 4-5:30 p.m.
- 22 Teen Art Group. 4-5:30 p.m.
- 24 VR Tournament. 4-5:30 p.m.
- 28 Anime Night. 4-6 p.m.
- *29* Writing Group. 4-5:30 p.m.
- *31* **Open Gaming.** 4-5:30 p.m.

#### ADULTS: 205.978.4678 (Ages 18+)

- 1 Makerspace for Adults: Cinco de Mayo Flowers. 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- 2 OLLI Presents: Aegean World & Early Greece. 1:30-3 p.m.
- 2 Read & Feed Book Group at Taziki's Liberty Park. 6:30-8 p.m.
- 3 First Friday Fiber Arts. 10 a.m. noon
- 6 Knit Night in the Forest. 6-7:30 p.m.
- 8 ABCs of Medicare. 1-2 p.m.
- 9 Tai Chi: Beginner & Intermediate. 2-3 p.m.
- 13 Tai Chi: Beginner. 6-7p.m.
- 14 Ms. Olivia's Evening Reads Book Group. 6-7:30 p.m.
- 16 OLLI Presents: Classical Greece. 1:30-3 p.m.
- 17 Upcycle City: May Flowers. 7-9 p.m.
- 20 Beginner Belly Dance with Bethany. 6-7 p.m.
- 23 Tai Chi: Beginner & Intermediate. 2-3 p.m.
- 27 Tai Chi: Beginner. 6-7p.m.

## **TECHNOLOGY: 205.978.4679**

- 6 Intermediate Microsoft Excel. 6-7:30 p.m.
- 7 iPad Basics Part II. 10-11:30 a.m.
- 14 Apple Mobile Devices with Connect It. 2-3:30 p.m.
- 16 Intermediate Microsoft Word. 4-5:30 p.m.
- 22 Microsoft PowerPoint. 2-3:30 p.m.



- 4 Open Maker Lab. 1-5 p.m.
- 6 Open Maker Lab. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- 9 Intro to 3D Printing. 4-5:30 p.m.
- 13 Open Maker Lab. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- 14 Intro to Arduino. 4-5:30 p.m.
- 20 Open Maker Lab. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- *23* Vinyl Cutting 101. 4-5:30 p.m.
- 25 Open Maker Lab. 1-5 p.m.
- 27 Open Maker Lab. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- 28 Intro to Arduino. 4-5:30 p.m.

## CHECK OUT THE LIBRARY'S NEW WEBSITE!

Full descriptions, including location, are on the new Library website calendar at www.vestavialibrary.org/event-calendar/.

For programs requiring registration, you can now register online as well! Just look for the "Register" button in the event scroll.

Want to receive program and event information via email? Submit your information under **"Join Our Mailing List"** at **www.vestavialibrary.org/contact-us/**.



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