

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

November 2019

- 7 **Salute to Veterans**, Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church, 2:00 p.m.
- 7 **Design Review Board**, Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 11 **Municipal Offices Closed**, Veterans Day
- 12 **Chamber Luncheon**, Vestavia Country Club, 11:30 a.m.
- 13 **City Council Meeting**, Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 14 **Deck the Heights**, Cahaba Heights Shopping District
- 14 **Planning & Zoning Commission**, Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 15 **Friends of the Library**, Library in the Forest, 10 a.m.
- 18 **Council Work Session**, Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 19 **Parks & Recreation Board**, Executive Conference Room, 7 a.m.
- 21 **Board of Zoning Adjustment**, Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 25 **City Council Meeting**, Council Chamber 6 p.m.
- 28 & 29 **Municipal Offices Closed**, Thanksgiving Holiday
No trash service on Thanksgiving Day



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Ashley C. Curry, Vestavia Hills Mayor

Happy Thanksgiving everyone! We do have much for which to be thankful.

I recently gave the “State of the City” address at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon in October. I would like to share with you some of our successes this past year.

Vestavia Hills has again been rated as the safest city in Alabama for cities over 30,000 in population. This is our third year in a row. Also, Vestavia Hills has been rated the number one place to live in Alabama, based on a livability index used by the online site, “AreaVibes.”

The Library in the Forest will soon offer a remote library in Liberty Park thanks to the generosity of Liberty Park Pharmacy to allow library lockers that will enable patrons to pick up and return library materials.

Our Community Spaces and Infrastructure Plan is well underway with projected completion dates slated for next year. The plan is to have our ballfields ready by the spring, the pools open by June and the renovations to the new Community Building completed later in the year. Infrastructure improvements are in progress as well and include roadwork and sidewalks in multiple locations. We have already resurfaced more than 20 miles of roadways.

We are strong economically because we “do more with less.” Vestavia Hills is one of the most efficiently run cities in the area. Based on revenues received per capita, we are clearly the most efficient of our surrounding cities.

Our city is on the right track for continued improvement. But as Will Rogers said, “even

– Mayor’s Message *continued on page 3*



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeff Downes, Vestavia Hills City Manager

I have been asked many times why I chose a career in city government. It’s an easy answer for me. City

government is the government closest to the people. It is an environment where you can see tangible and – hopefully – positive results of your action. Put differently, a city employee can take an idea, develop it and turn it to action. That particular characteristic is something that energizes me and many other City employees who come to work with a positive attitude every day. The challenge, from my perspective, is that the achievements become expected and are not always recognized as they should be. So when and how can we really celebrate a success?

Well, last night I was eating fresh wings and gooey fries at Baumhower’s Victory Grill. Man,

they were so good. In a strange way, that was my celebration for our city and private development teammates achieving an incredible accomplishment – turning a dirty maintenance facility into another asset for Highway 31. The idea for that action started well over six years ago. After many starts and stops and after overcoming obstacles to completion, a new-to-market restaurant opened its doors.

The team that made this happen will also be able to celebrate as future redevelopment can emerge on Highway 31 catalyzed by this accomplishment. I was told by many people that the site of Baumhower’s and Dunkin’ was undevelopable. It lacked proper visibility to the road. It was an old fill site that couldn’t support

– Manager’s Report *continued on page 3*



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

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

John O'Leary is an example of resilience in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. In his book, *On Fire*, he recounts almost dying from a gasoline explosion, the grueling recovery process and life afterwards. O'Leary tells story after story of "inflection points" where he had to make a decision to give up or to keep pressing on. His message of hope and perseverance is an inspiration to me.

An important takeaway from the book is that O'Leary was surrounded by people who encouraged, challenged and walked alongside him throughout his difficult journey. The message of having supportive relationships in life is one that resonates with all of us. During our recent strategic planning process, students often spoke of the importance of positive and supportive relationships with teachers when faced with challenges. Visit our website to see and hear more of what they say about our wonderful teachers at www.vestavia.k12.al.us/celebratevhcs.

Unfortunately, there are children who walk the halls of our schools and the sidewalks in our community who carry heavy burdens we

may know nothing about. We know that approximately one in five adolescents in the United States will be faced with a mental health disorder and, unfortunately, most will not receive professional support. This crisis is an inflection point in our nation and community.

A trademark of our school system is the unparalleled community support we receive. This allows us to provide a continuum of social and emotional support for students that include counselors and nurses at every school, a system social worker and multiple community partnerships. Confronting the rising rate of mental health disorders, however, will take a team effort. Families, churches, schools and the entire community are all important in this work. The African proverb that says "it takes a village to raise a child" is poignant and accurate.

In that spirit, we are all educators, and the invitation to positively impact our children is open to everyone. May we lift up our children who are faced with difficult circumstances. May we help them persevere toward the light that shines at the end of every dark tunnel. May we all embrace challenges as opportunities to reach higher than we thought was possible.

ELEVATE YOUR EXPERIENCE

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Old Overton

Highly regarded as one of Alabama's top five private clubs by *Golf Digest*, Old Overton Club offers world-class golfing in the heart of the Liberty Park Community. The 18-hole championship golf course is sculpted from rocky terrain for sweeping views and championship play. Discover what Old Overton and Liberty Park have to offer.

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Mayor's Message *continued from page 1*

if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there." I fully expect our city will keep moving forward and will maintain the excellence we all expect.

Our Community Night Out was held on October 1. Based on the comments I received from the many families present, it was a huge success. Though a little warm at the beginning, it was very pleasant by the end of the evening. I would like to commend our first responders, vendors and volunteers that made this community event possible.

In November, our city will hold its annual "Salute to Veterans" event at Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church. The doors will open at 1:30 p.m. with the program starting at 2:00 p.m. The keynote speaker will be photographer Jeff Rease and entertainment will include the Vestavia Hills High School Band Ensemble, as well as the VHHS Honor's Choir. You will not want to miss the Harmony Belles as they perform Big Band era songs from the 1940s. I hope you will make plans to join us as we honor all of our veterans.

Our new Phoenix Program, a program to assist addicted persons, has already helped nine individuals by placing them with recovery resource agencies. This has far surpassed our projections and we are clearly making a difference for these individuals. If we save just one life, then it has been worth the effort.

I wish each of you a happy Thanksgiving.

Manager's Message *continued from page 1*

more than maybe one business. The cost of relocating City staff and operations was too much. On top of that, a federal government covenant on the property prohibited private development. Our team did not take no for an answer. Based upon the smiles and full bellies I see tonight, many people are glad we did not give up.

We all have our routines, as well as daily struggles. I want to encourage you to step out of your day-to-day and take time to smell the roses and celebrate your successes. My goal in this article is to publicly celebrate a success of the City team and look forward to others as we move our city forward. Many thanks to all of the employees and residents who make Vestavia Hills a special place.

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Thursday, November 7, 2019 from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.
in Tyson Hall at Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church
2061 Kentucky Avenue • Vestavia Hills 35216

Doors open at 1:30 p.m. The program will begin promptly at 2:00 p.m. with a reception immediately following.

WE NEED YOUR PHOTOS!

To be included in the event video, please email a scanned photo of yourself, family members or friends who have served or are currently serving in any branch of the military to vestaviahillsgovt@gmail.com. Be sure to include: (1) service member's first & last name; (2) military rank; (3) branch of service; (4) military conflict/theater of operation; and (5) dates of military service (if available). *If you submitted a photo last year, no need to resubmit.*

VHFD GIVES BACK

In conjunction with the Vestavia Hills Professional Firefighters Local 2087 and Forge Fitness, Vestavia Hills Fire Department participated in the inaugural “Inferno” CrossFit competition fundraiser on Saturday, September 28, 2019. The event raised nearly \$7,000 in donations for Camp Conquest, the summer camp for burn survivors, and A4One Ministries, an outreach that empowers troubled youth to find and share their spiritual gifts through athletics.

The event hosted 41 teams (82 athletes) who participated in multiple workouts, one of which was the “firefighter” workout. This involved pulling a charged hose, carrying a dummy, hitting a Keiser sled (simulates a forced entry), plus other exercises. In addition to competing in the event, 25 VHFD firefighters volunteered their time to make the event a success.

The year’s event was a tremendous success and plans are already in the works for next year.



WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM

In an effort to assess the health of our watersheds, Mayor Ashley Curry, City Engineer Christopher Brady and Senior Engineering Inspector Jay Turner recently participated in a “catch and release” study to determine counts and variety of species of stream inhabitants. Led by the expertise of Dr. Ken Marion, staff from the Jefferson County Department of Health’s Watershed Protection Program netted hundreds of fish and a variety of species ranging from darters to red eye bass. The information collected will provide an annual report card of the health of these waterways and stress the importance of the City of Vestavia Hills Stormwater Management Program. The study by the Jefferson County Health Department began in 2010.

VESTAVIA HILLS GARDEN CLUB FUNDRAISING EVENT

Vestavia Hills Garden Club is hosting its annual fundraiser, Bid ‘n Buy, on Thursday, November 14, 2019 at Vestavia Country Club.

There will be a silent auction with one-of-a-kind packages to bid on, including a Spa Package, a Night on the Town, Theatre Night and Let’s Go to the Beach! The live auction, with Kay Yeager returning as auctioneer, will feature homemade meals, desserts, casseroles, soups and stews to use for the upcoming holiday season. The event will also feature Sibyl Treasures selling hand-crafted jewelry, table runners, garden art, and vintage china and linens. The auction will begin at 10 a.m. with lunch served at 11:45 a.m. All proceeds benefit the Sibyl Temple Foundation which maintains the structure and grounds at Sibyl Temple.

Reservations are \$30 and can be made by calling 205.222.1817. The deadline for reservations is November 7.



CHAMBER NEWS

Karen J. Odle, Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce President

Happy fall y'all! As I write this letter we are having our first day of "under" 90 degree temperature and it is nice! It is also inspiring me

to embrace the holidays that are around the corner and as I reflect on Thanksgiving coming up, I want to say how thankful I am for our incredible community. When I am asked why Vestavia Hills is so special, I immediately respond that it's the people. While we have a beautiful community and are blessed beyond what any of us deserve, it would not be what it is without the countless folks that give so selflessly to make a difference in Vestavia Hills so for that, I am thankful!

I am also thankful for our wonderful businesses that strive every day to serve our community and for that I thank you. We must stop and think about what their efforts afford us in the things that we value such as an outstanding police and fire departments, parks and recreation, public works, library, an incredible City staff and elected officials ... we have much to be thankful for.

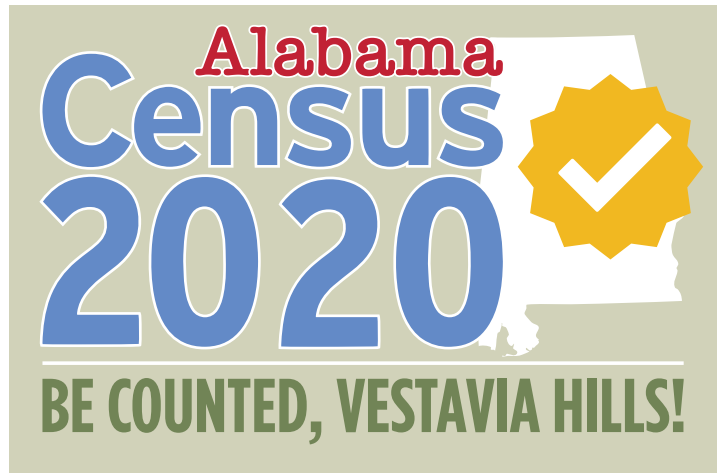
I also want to encourage everyone to remember that our brick and mortar businesses are the mainstay of our city – a city that operates primarily by sales tax and ad valorem. When you visit a food-truck that is renting space, remember that they do not pay the ad valorem taxes our brick and mortar businesses pay, at double the rate of what residences are taxed. So, when you are looking for a donation for your athletic team or your school carnival or whatever cause you are supporting, remember who you go to and support those brick and mortar businesses. It DOES make a difference in your community.

On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, we wish you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.



ALABAMA POWER TO TRIM TREES

Alabama Power will be trimming trees in our area between October 1, 2019 and April 15, 2020. Maps of the work areas are available on the City website at www.vhal.org/community/city-projects. All work will take place within the utility easement areas shaded in green on these maps (provided by Alabama Power Company.)



SHAPE THE FUTURE OF VESTAVIA HILLS – BE COUNTED!

Census Day is Wednesday, April 1, 2020!

Responding to the census helps communities get the funding they need and helps businesses make data-driven decisions that grow the economy. Census data impacts our daily lives, informing important decisions about funding for services and infrastructure in your community, including health care, senior centers, jobs, political representation, roads, schools and businesses. More than \$675 billion in federal funding flows back to states and local communities each year based on census data. For more information, visit www.census.gov.

2020 Confidentiality Factsheet: www.census.gov

NEW MERKEL SENIOR CENTER

Join us for monthly programs, nutritional education, events and guest speakers. We also play games EVERY DAY!

Monday-Friday: Fun, fellowship & lunch (served at 11:45 a.m.)

Monday: Exercise, 10:45 a.m. (stretching, light weights)

Tuesday: Tai Chi & Table Games, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Students from VHECH visit New Merkel House for "Getting to Know You" lunches (during the school year)

Wednesday & Friday: Bingo or Table Games, 11:00 a.m.

Thursday: Tech Talk Thursdays

November 8: Veterans Day Celebration, lunch & ceremony

November 11: CLOSED in observance of Veterans Day

November 12: Art with Tina Chaffin

November 28 & 29: CLOSED in observance of Thanksgiving

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.



Vestavia Hills

Presented by the City of Vestavia Hills & the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce
Visit www.vestaviiahills.org for an extended list of events.

Shop, Dine, Play Bingo

November 1-25

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

Deck the Heights

November 14

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

December 3

Vestavia Hills City Hall, 6:00 pm

1032 Montgomery Highway

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

Breakfast with Santa

December 7

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 8

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!

Register to be in the Parade! Find the form at www.vestaviiahills.org.

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***! Starting November 1, pick up a Bingo Card (printed on an envelope) from the Chamber office or print your own from www.vestaviiahills.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 25**. 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. Each receipt can only be used for 1 Bingo Card. We will draw for the winner at the Tree Lighting Festival on December 3 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.

LIBRARY IN THE FOREST

Full descriptions, including location and online registration, are available on the Library in the Forest website at www.vestavialibrary.org.

CHILDREN & TWEENS:

205.978.0158 (*Children: Birth-Grade 2;*
Tweens: Grades 3-5)

- 2 Ms. Casey's Marvelous Music & Movement, 10:30am
- 4-10 Patriotic Craft Projects, all day
- 4 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am
- 5 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M.: Snap Circuits, 3:30pm
- 6 Story Friends, 10:30am
- 6 Tween Scene: Brain Teaser!, 3:30pm
- 7 L.I.F.T., 9:30am
- 7 Book Babies, 10am
- 11 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am
- 12 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M.: Leaf Crafts, 3:30pm
- 13 Story Friends, 10:30am
- 13 Tween Scene: Gamechanger!, 3:30pm
- 14 L.I.F.T., 9:30am
- 14 Book Babies, 10am
- 16 Ms. Casey's Marvelous Music & Movement, 10:30am
- 18 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am
- 19 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M.: Marshmallow Math, 3:30pm
- 19 Family Night: "Holiday Safari," 6pm
- 20 Story Friends, 10:30am
- 20 Tween Scene: Writing Group, 3:30pm
- 21 L.I.F.T., 9:30am
- 21 Book Babies, 10am
- 23 Lego Wars, 11am
- 25 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am
- 26 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M.: Challenge!, 3:30pm
- 27 Story Friends, 10:30am
- 27 Tween Scene: Groovy Movie: "Free Birds", 3:30pm

TEENS: 205.978.3683 (Grades 6-12)

- 1 Open Gaming, 4pm
- 5 Pixels & Popcorn, 4pm
- 6 Writing Group, 4pm
- 8 Open Gaming, 4pm
- 9 ACT Workshop, 1pm
- 12 T-shirt Painting, 4pm
- 13 Mana Pool, 4pm
- 15 Open Gaming, 4pm
- 19 Choose Your Own Adventure, 4pm
- 20 Writing Group, 4pm
- 22 Mario Kart 8 Tournament, 4pm
- 26 Anime Night, 4pm
- 27 Teen Art Group, 4pm

MAKERSPACE: 205.978.3683 (All ages, unless otherwise noted)

- 4 Open Maker Lab, 10am-6pm
- 7 Intro to 3D Printing, 4:30pm
- 9 Open Maker Lab, 1-5pm
- 11 Open Maker Lab, 10am-5:30pm
- 12 Tear-Down Tuesday, 4pm
- 16 Open Maker Lab, 1-5pm
- 18 Open Maker Lab, 10am-6pm
- 20 Paper Marbling, 12 p.m.
- 21 Vinyl Cutting 101, 4:30pm
- 25 Open Maker Lab, 10am-6pm
- 26 Audacity 101, 4pm

TECHNOLOGY: 205.978.4679

- 6 Intermediate Excel Part II, 2pm
- 12 Apple Mobile Devices with Connect It, 2pm
- 13 Advanced Excel, 2pm

ADULTS: 205.978.4678 (Ages 18+)

- 1 First Friday Fiber Arts, 10am
- 4 Knit Night in the Forest, 6pm
- 6 Makerspace for Adults: Bath Bombs, 6:30pm
- 7 OLLI Presents: The History of Theatre Through the Ages, Part 1, 1:30pm
- 7 Read & Feed Book Group, 6:30pm
- 8 Upcycle City: Holiday Luminaries, 7pm
- 12 Ms. Olivia's Evening Reads, 6pm
- 13 ABCs of Medicare, 1pm
- 14 Knitting Without Needles, 6:30pm
- 15 Friends of the Library Presents: Southern Museum of Flight, 10am
- 18 Belly Dance with Bethany, 6pm
- 19 Card Making with Connie, 12pm
- 21 OLLI Presents: The History of Theatre Through the Ages, Part 2, 1:30pm
- 25 Tai Chi for Beginners, 6pm

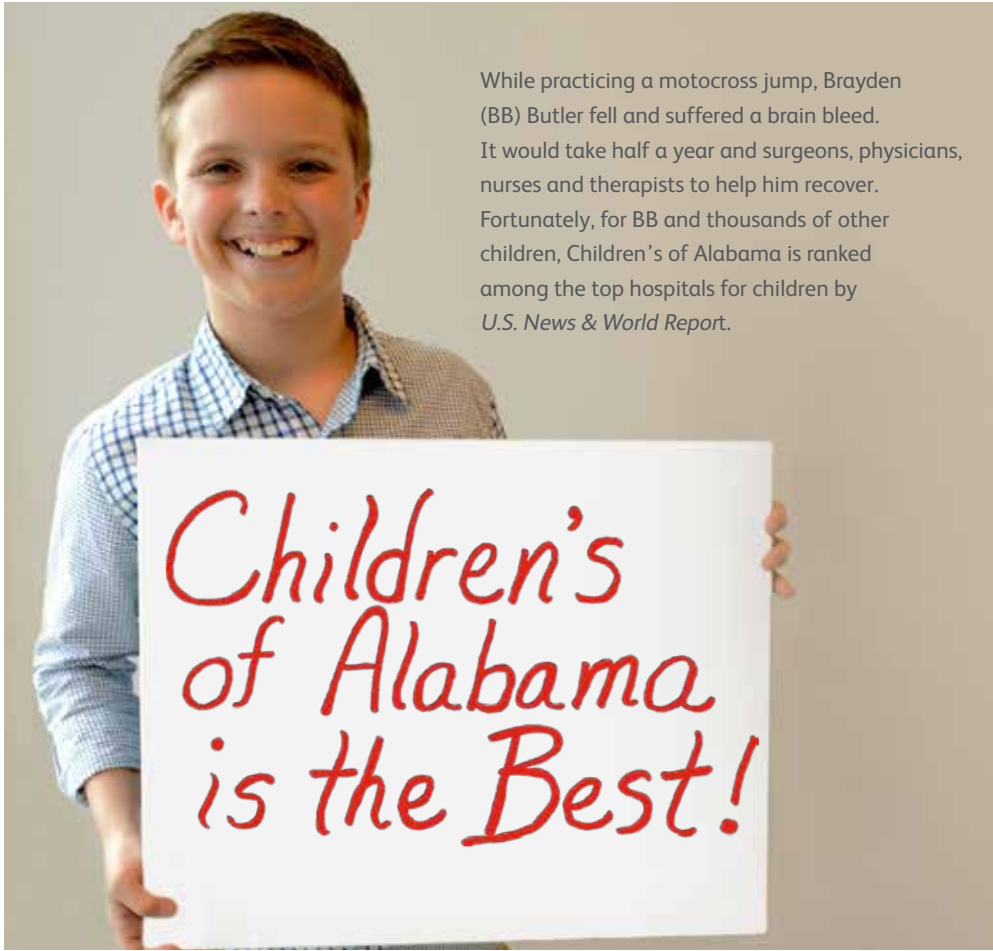


The Library in the Forest
will **CLOSE** at 6pm
Wednesday, November 27
and will be **CLOSED**
Thursday, November 28
and Friday, November 29 in
observance of Thanksgiving.



City of Vestavia Hills
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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