

COMMUNITY NEWS

News & Events for the City of Vestavia Hills • March 2020

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 2020

- 5 **Design Review Board**, Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 9 **Senior Citizens Luncheon**, Dogwood Room, 11:30 a.m.
- 9 **City Council Meeting**, Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 10 **Chamber Luncheon**, Vestavia Country Club, 11:30 a.m.
- 12 **Planning & Zoning Commission**, Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 16 **City Council Work Session**, Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 17 **Parks & Recreation Board**, Executive Conference Room, 7 a.m.
- 19 **Board of Zoning Adjustment**, Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 23 **Spring Break Begins**, Vestavia Hills City Schools
- 27 **Friends of the Library**, Library in the Forest, 10 a.m.
- 30 **City Council Meeting**, Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
(Rescheduled from 3/23/2020)

City Hall

1032 Montgomery Highway, 35216
205.978.0100 • www.vhal.org

Chamber of Commerce

1975 Merryvale Road, 35216
205.823.5011 • www.vestavi hills.org

Board of Education

1204 Montgomery Highway, 35216
205.402.5100 • www.vestavia.k12.al.us

Action Center

www.vhal.org/action-center



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Ashley C. Curry, Vestavia Hills Mayor

Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow this year. So, as the legend goes, if Punxsutawney Phil had seen his shadow on February 2, six more weeks of winter weather lay ahead. With no shadow, comes the prediction of an early spring. Shadow or no shadow, spring is certainly upon us and this article is a good time to mention the efforts of the Vestavia Hills Garden Club and the Men's Garden Club. I recently had the opportunity to speak with both groups and thank them for all that they do. Both clubs are perfect examples of how volunteers make a difference in our city.

The Vestavia Hills Garden Club (VHGC) is probably the oldest volunteer group in our city. Founded in 1948, the VHGC preceded the incorporation of our city (1950). It was the VHGC that negotiated the acquisition of Sibyl Temple and arranged its relocation to the crest of Shades Mountain adjacent to Highway 31. The Men's Garden Club was organized 35 years ago. Both clubs are very active and provide a valuable service to the City.

During February, we solicited input from our residents regarding the "level of satisfaction" with City services. This information was

– **Mayor's Message** *continued on page 2*



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeff Donnes, Vestavia Hills City Manager

It's time to come out of hibernation folks! When you hear the crack of the baseball and the smell of grills getting back in action, you know that the slow pace of the winter is quickly coming to an end. Likewise, the City is picking up its pace with programming designed to offer ALL of our residents something to enjoy. Obviously, the construction at Wald Park, Cahaba Heights and the Sicard Hollow Athletic Complex (SHAC) will usher in fresh structures to update those that have been long-time staples in Vestavia Hills; however, I hope you will note the new opportunities that emerge over the spring and summer as well.

Our Parks and Recreation leadership, supported by a can-do attitude of new and old staff, will be introducing new programming for senior adults, as well as expanded programming for the new aquatic center when it opens later this spring. This past year, we offered the first

recreational pickleball play and volleyball league. As the new playing surfaces at SHAC are completed, futsal will have its inaugural offering in our community. Not to be undervalued, 2020 will also bring with it the City's first dog parks to be a part of both the Cahaba Heights Park and Wald Park complexes with future plans for inclusion at SHAC as well. On top of all of this, our Miracle League Field will be a new athletic home for those with special needs in our community.

These new programs will give our residents a reason to get out and spend time with their fellow Vestavians. I hope that everyone will enjoy the "new" of our community and want to share time with others. I want to thank all of the visionaries who have pushed to improve the old and new activities within our community. We do live "a life above" and the changes we see coming soon will reinforce that fact. Have a great start to the spring and get out and have fun!

BOARD OF EDUCATION



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

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

Our two boys are having a great time participating in recreational baseball and soccer. It is so much fun to watch them at a young age go out on the field with an eager smile and playful desire to spend time with friends. I find it to be a refreshing way to enjoy competition while looking forward to supporting them as they grow and pursue their sports interests.

This spring season, Vestavia Hills City Schools has almost 800 middle and high school students participating in sports. That's a remarkable number worth celebrating given the value that sports can have on adolescent development. Our school system has long supported the role of sports in the lives of its students. An important aspect of that support is to help students find the appropriate balance of academic and extracurricular responsibilities. In part, this means maintaining the right perspective on the true meaning of competition.

My experiences as a high school football and baseball coach gave me an insight that shapes my view of competition today. Participants in sports learn resilience in adversity, responsibility to their team, and respect for diversity. For some, it reinforces making healthy lifestyle choices. Others learn to be effective communicators and agile problem solvers.

Another insight I learned in coaching was that when winning becomes the primary goal, we miss out on the opportunity that competition has to impact our lives. Competition creates the desire for an athlete to consistently get better in all the skills they learn from sports. The drive for excellence is much more enjoyable when scoring the most points is not the only objective. The score is never more important than the lessons learned along the way.

I appreciate "The Process" that Nick Saban employs at The University of Alabama. My take on his philosophy is that the art of competing with excellence is the true motivation. Further, if the players do all of the little things well, practice what the sport teaches, and compete with all their heart, winning takes care of itself.

Our school system is committed to preparing our students for life after high school. The lessons learned from competing will surely open the doors of opportunity to be successful in personal and professional pursuits. Join me in committing to teach our children to compete with all their heart, learn from the process, and grow in their character. That is a winning formula every time!

Mayor's Message *continued from page 1*

shared with our department heads and our city council members. Our police department, fire department and library continue to receive high ratings. Whereas the quality of our streets and the quality of our sanitation services received the lowest ratings. The paving of some of our busiest thoroughfares should resolve the streets issue. The sanitation service issue is more difficult, as recycling has become problematic. The cost of recycling currently exceeds the benefit and the contamination rate of our recyclable materials is among the highest in the area. The council will be addressing these topics and you will hear more about the City's options as we explore this issue.

I would like to recognize the Pizitz Middle School robotics program under the direction of Diane McAliley. In a recent competition held at Pizitz, three of the six robotic teams qualified for the State Championship at Auburn University held on February 26-27. At this meet, the all girls team, comprised of sixth and seventh grade students, won the highest honors for a middle school team. They have also won the Design Award for their engineering notebook and design process.

We also need to recognize the "We the People" team from Vestavia Hills High School. Our school represented the sixth congressional district at the "We the People" competition and won another consecutive state championship. VHHS competed against teams from three other congressional districts to win the championship.

On February 3, our city hosted the annual U.S. Service Academy Nominee Reception at Vestavia Hills City Hall. This event, held annually and sponsored by Congressman Gary Palmer, recognizes the young men and women that are nominees for the different Service Academies. Some of these students receive offers from multiple academies. This is a tremendous honor for our students and a credit to the Vestavia Hills School System. Thank you, Congressman Palmer, for recognizing our students and promoting the Service Academies. The City is honored to participate in this event.

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SENIOR SERVICES NEWS

There are some very exciting things planned for Vision 2020!

The feature for March is “March on Over.” Join the fun at the Recreation Center on March 20, 2020 for Exercise and Line Dance Classes beginning at 11:00 a.m. Participate or simply observe to get an idea of what to expect during future classes. In addition to discussing fitness, you will have an opportunity to share your ideas for future classes and events to be added to the schedule. There will also be door prizes and some healthy snack options. Don't be shy! There will be something for all levels of fitness!

A few things on the horizon as we look toward the future:

- **April: Volunteer Appreciation Month** – We encourage you to share a special volunteer experience you have had.
- **May: Older Americans Month** – We are planning a special day in the park so be on the lookout for more information!
- **August 21: National Senior Citizens Day** – Planning is underway and we are looking forward to a wonderful event!
- **September: Health and Wellness Fair** – Check out the booths, visit vendors and demonstrations and get your annual flu shot.
- **October: Fall Festival**

For more information or to give feedback on senior services, please contact Sandi Wilson at swilson@vhal.org or 205.978.0163. She would love to hear from you!

NEW MERKEL HOUSE

Monthly nutritional education, 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.

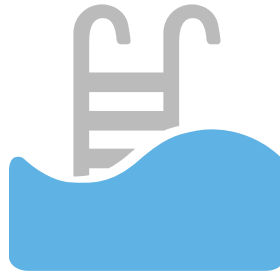
Wednesday: Students from VHECH visit New Merkel House for “Getting to Know You” lunches

Thursday: Tech Talk Thursdays

March 10: Tuesday Art with Tina Chaffin

March 17: St. Patrick's Day Celebration

More information, including the **full calendar of Senior Programming activities**, can be found on the City website at www.vhal.org/community/senior-living or by contacting Melanie Perry at 205.967.5977.



HIRING SUMMER LIFEGUARDS

Interested in working as a lifeguard at the new Vestavia Hills pool complex this summer?

For more information or to apply, contact Jeff Corley at jcorley@vhal.org or 205.978.0166.

MEET SOME FRIENDS!

Looking for a great group of friends? Check out the Vestavia Hills Friends of the Library!

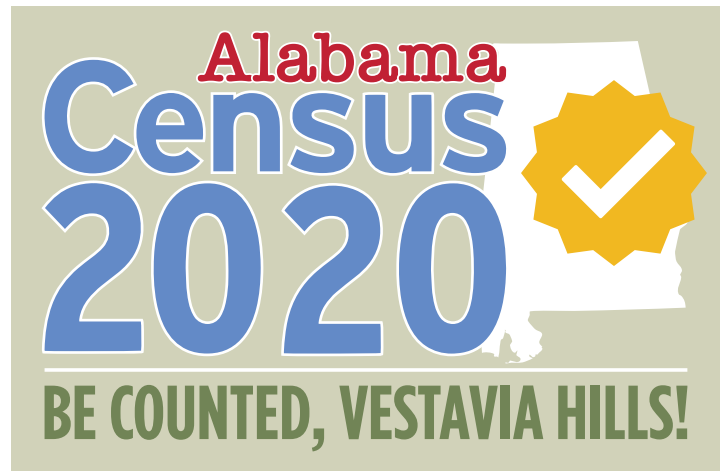
Join us at the Library in the Forest on Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 10 a.m.

This month's speaker will be Jay Jones from Home Instead. He will speak about aging in place and the services that are available to make that possible.

This meeting is free and open to adults 18 and older. Light refreshments will be served.



FRIENDS OF THE
VESTAVIA HILLS
LIBRARY IN THE FOREST



SHAPE THE FUTURE OF VESTAVIA HILLS!

Responding to the census helps our community get the funding we need! Census data impacts our daily lives for years to come. Lawmakers allocate more than \$675 billion in federal funding back to states and local communities each year based on census data – funding for critical services and infrastructure in our community, including roads, schools, fire and police departments, businesses, hospitals and healthcare, senior centers, jobs and political representation. **Census responses are safe and secure and cannot be used against you.** For more information, visit www.census.gov.

Be counted, Vestavia Hills!



CHAMBER NEWS

Karen J. Odle, Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce President

As I write this letter, it is a beautiful spring-like day but, since it is the first of February, I suspect that we still have some winter weather coming. For now, I will enjoy these “tastes of Spring”! We have a lot of things happening in our city so please make note of some upcoming dates and be part of making Vestavia Hills a great place to live, work and play.

This year’s Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, April 28 at 7:30 a.m. at Vestavia Country Club. We are excited to welcome Brodie Croyle as our keynote speaker. Brodie now serves as the Executive Director at the Big Oak Ranch, taking over from his father, John Croyle. Big Oak Ranch was founded in 1974 by John Croyle out of his desire to give hurting children a chance. Since 1974, they have served over 2,000 children by giving them a solid, Christian home and a chance to fulfill God’s plan for their lives. We are delighted to welcome Brodie as our speaker to hear about the impact of Big Oak Ranch on these children. Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased on the Chamber website www.vestaviiahills.org. Tickets are extremely limited so be sure to order before they sell out. For more information, please call our office at 205.823.5011.

We have several events and ribbon cuttings coming up and we would love to have you join us as we celebrate the many new developments in our community. The following ribbon cuttings have been done since the last newsletter: we have welcomed Ardent Preschool and Daycare of Patchwork Farms; Pigtails and Crewcuts in Vestavia City Center; Longleaf at Liberty Park; and a joint ribbon cutting for Romeo Sporting Goods and Relax the Back in Park South Shopping Center. These are all incredible businesses and we are thrilled to have them in Vestavia Hills! We would love to have you stop by these new businesses and welcome them to our community. Be sure to check the Community Calendar on our website for details and additional ribbon cuttings as well as other community events and join us when you can.

Be sure to note the upcoming I Love America Night. It is scheduled for June 30 and Vestavia Hills High School has graciously allowed us once again to move our event to their facilities while the construction is ongoing at Wald Park. We look forward to sharing more about that fun celebration in future newsletters. We are working on some exciting additions!

Feel free to drop by and see us or email us thoughts on ideas you may have as we work together for “A Life Above.”

VESTAVIA HILLS DOGWOOD LUNCHEON



Thursday, April 16, 2020
Vestavia Country Club

Vestavia Hills Beautification Board is pleased to announce Sophie Hudson as this year’s featured speaker. Sophie is a co-host of “The Big Boo Cast” with over 160 episodes. Her blog, BooMama.net, is a collection of stories with a humorous mix of wit and encouragement about everyday life. She has also written four books including *Home is Where My People Are*, *A Little Salty to Cut the Sweet: Southern Stories of Faith, Family and 15 Pounds of Bacon*, and *Giddy Up, Eunice: Because Women Need Each Other*.

This year’s luncheon features beautiful table décor and a silent auction benefiting Vestavia Hills Beautification Board projects. Doors open at 11:00 a.m. and lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

Tickets are \$30 each and must be purchased in advance. The deadline for ticket purchase is April 9. To purchase individual tickets please visit www.eventbrite.com/e/vestavia-hills-dogwood-luncheon-tickets-91190558415.

In the words of Sophie, “Saddle up, sister. This is going to be fun.” Please make plans to join us for this entertaining event!

30th Annual



April 28, 2020

7:30 a.m. at Vestavia Country Club

This year’s speaker is **Brodie Croyle**, Executive Director of Big Oak Ranch.

For more information or to buy tickets, contact the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce at 205.823.5011 or visit www.vestaviiahills.org.



Vestavia Belles
2020-2021



Alice Armstrong



Blakely Berryhill



Julia Ann Bratton



Mallory Bullock



Marie Duncan



Elizabeth Eickholt



Callan Elkins



Anne Lauren Ermert



Emily Everett



Merritt Flynn



Louise Fulkerson



Malone Gammill



Morgan Green



Gabrielle Gregory



Katie Guillen



Bailey Hale



Abby Hardwick



Ella Harper



Laura Ellen Hayes



Amelia Johnston



Emma Kerby



Catherine Largent



Makayla Leak



Mary Nelson Litt



Mary Claire Magee



Mary Alex Maluff



Baylor Martin



Reagan Nix



Margaret Phillips



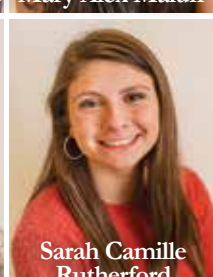
Mallory Pugh



Anna Ridgway



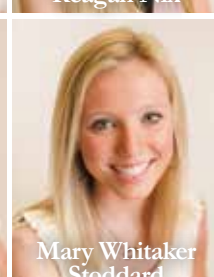
Morgan Robison



Sarah Camille Rutherford



Mary Lansley Schick



Mary Whitaker Stoddard



Sophie Mae Talbert



Ashby Thomas



Sarah Kaye Turner



Gabrielle Velez



Catherine Whitcomb

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 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am
- 3 Pick Up STEAM: Build a Computer, 3:30pm
- 4 Story Friends, 10:30am
12 Below: March Madness, 3:30pm
- 5 LIFT, 9:30am
Book Babies, 10am
- 7 Ms. Casey's Marvelous Music & Movement, 10:30am
- 9 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am
- 10 Pick Up STEAM: Dinosaurs & Fossils, 3:30pm
- 11 Story Friends, 10:30am
12 Below: St. Patty's Day Celebration, 3:30pm
- 12 LIFT, 9:30am
Book Babies, 10am
- 14 Library Stop, 10:30am
- 16 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am
- 17 Pick Up STEAM: Lego Challenge, 3:30pm
Family Night: Magician Russell Davis, 6pm
- 18 Story Friends, 10:30am
12 Below: Game Changer, 3:30pm
- 19 LIFT, 9:30am
Book Babies, 10am
- 21 Ms. Casey's Marvelous Music & Movement, 10:30am
- 23 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am
Staycation Week: The Bubble Show, 3pm
- 24 Staycation Week: Unicorn & Emoji Slime, 3pm
- 25 Story Friends, 10:30am
Staycation Week: Drummer Mark Seymour, 3pm
- 26 LIFT, 9:30am
Book Babies, 10am
Staycation Week: Unicorn Dream Catchers & Pipe Cleaner Ninjas, 3pm

- 28 Lego Wars, 11am
- 30 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am
- 31 Pick Up STEAM: Challenge, 3:30pm

TEENS: 205.978.3683 (*Grades 6-12*)

- 3 Monster Movies, 4pm
- 4 Writing Group, 4pm
- 6 Open Gaming, 4pm
- 7 ACT Workshop, 1pm
- 10 Stick the Landing, 4pm
- 11 Tabletop Gaming Group, 4pm
- 13 Open Gaming, 4pm
- 17 Duct Tape Mania, 4pm
- 18 Writing Group, 4pm
- 20 Open Gaming, 4pm
- 25 Teen Art Group, 4pm
- 27 Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Tournament, 4pm
- 28 Dungeons & Dragons, 9:30am
- 31 Anime Night, 4pm

ADULTS: 205.978.4678 (*Ages 18+*)

- 2 Knit Night in the Forest, 6pm
- 3 Eighth of March Book Group, 6pm
- 4 Makerspace for Adults: Painted Confetti Glass, 6:30pm
- 5 Read & Feed Book Group, 6:30pm
- 6 First Friday Fiber Arts, 10am
- 10 Ms. Olivia's Evening Reads Book Group, 6pm
Zumba for Beginners, 6:30pm
- 11 ABCs of Medicare, 1pm
- 18 Grown-Up Gaming: Tabletop Game Night, 5:30pm
- 20 Upcycle City: Boho Fringe Necklace, 7pm
- 26 Friends of the Library: Senior Planning with Jay Jones, 10am

MAKERSPACE: 205.978.3683

(*All ages, unless otherwise noted*)

- 2 Intro to 3D Printing, 4:30pm
- 5 Open Maker Lab, 3:30-7:30pm
- 9 Cosplay Dojo with @Morrissworld, 4:30pm
- 10 Teardown Tuesday, 4:30pm
- 12 Open Maker Lab, 3:30-7:30pm
- 19 Open Maker Lab, 3:30-7:30pm
- 21 Open Maker Lab, 1-5pm
- 24 Type-in, 3:30pm
- 26 Open Maker Lab, 3:30-7:30pm
- 28 Open Maker Lab, 1-5pm
- 30 Intro to Arduino, 4:30pm

TECHNOLOGY: 205.978.4679

- 10 Apple Mobile Devices, 2pm
- 12 Basic Microsoft Word, 4pm
- 18 Basic Microsoft Excel, 4pm
- 23 Intermediate Excel Part II, 4pm
- 30 HTML Coding for Newbies, 5pm



JOIN US FOR A SPRING BREAK STAYCATION!!

March 23:

The Bubble Show with Kit Killingsworth

March 24:

Unicorn & Emoji Slime

March 25:

Drummer Mark Seymour

March 26:

Unicorn Dream Catchers & Pipe Cleaner Ninjas

SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES



Each day in America, lives are saved by functioning smoke detectors, but statistics show that 60% of fire fatality victims do not have a working smoke detector. Standard smoke detectors rely heavily on the ability to hear, but the Hearing Loss Association of America estimates

that approximately 48 million Americans suffer from some degree of hearing loss. In these cases, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Vestavia Hills Fire Department recommend that smoke detectors for the hearing impaired be installed so that loved ones are alerted wherever they may be in the home. Smoke detectors with strobe lights may be used to notify the hearing impaired in the living spaces of homes where they would normally be awake. In order to alert residents when they are sleeping, the NFPA recommends a bed-shaker device which vibrates the resident's pillow or bed to alert them to evacuate the structure. Another option for a resident with partial hearing is to use a loud, mixed or low-pitched device designed for the hearing impaired.

MAYBERRY DOESN'T EXIST ANYWHERE ANYMORE

Please do not misunderstand, Vestavia Hills is a wonderful community with a measurably low crime rate, but crime does unfortunately occur in Vestavia Hills.

VHPD is simply reminding residents to lock their vehicles and conceal or remove their valuables. This practice alone could substantially reduce the number of these crimes in our city. If you are victim of this type of crime, please report it. Reports help us identify trends and allocate resources more effectively. Mayberry may not exist anywhere anymore, but this is our community and if we all do our part, look out for one another and take reasonable steps to protect ourselves and our property, we can continue to insure Vestavia Hills is "A Life Above."



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- Sprains & Strains
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- Sore Throat
- And Other Non-life-threatening Injuries



WEEKDAYS
 2 – 10 PM



WEEKENDS
 10 AM – 8 PM



SENSORY INCLUSIVE

ON-SITE SERVICES:

- X-ray
- Laboratory
- Pharmacy