

# COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 2020

The following information is accurate as of the print date of this publication. Based on mandates issued by the Jefferson County Health Department, the events and dates listed below are subject to change. Please refer to the calendar on the City of Vestavia Hills website for the most up-to-date event information.

- 2 **Design Review Board**, Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 9 **Planning & Zoning Commission**, Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 10 **Municipal Offices Closed** in observance of Good Friday
- 12 **Library Closed** in observance of Easter
- 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.
- 15 **Candidates Day**, Executive Conference Room, 10 a.m.
- 15 **Tax Day**
- 16 **Board of Zoning Adjustment**, Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 20 **Vestavia Hills Historical Society**, Library in the Forest, 2 p.m.
- 20 **Council Work Session**, Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 23 **Friends of the Library**, Library in the Forest, 10 a.m.
- 27 **City Council Meeting**, Council Chamber 6 p.m.
- 28 **30th Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast\***, Vestavia Country Club, 7 a.m.

\* Ticket required



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Ashley C. Curry, Vestavia Hills Mayor

It must be springtime. Mark Twain said, "In the spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours." We have certainly experienced different kinds of weather in February and March. I have an azalea bush blooming with weeds in the flower bed. My allergies are acting up and my five-year-old granddaughter had her first T-ball game last Saturday. So, it must be springtime.

On April 28, the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce will host the 30th annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. It is always an uplifting experience as prayers are offered for praise and thanksgiving, our young people, and our

nation and world. It is a time to reflect on the freedoms that we enjoy. Freedoms that so many people in other countries don't have. Brodie Croyle, Director of the Big Oak Ranch, will be the keynote speaker at this year's event. The Big Oak Ranch was started in 1974 by Brodie's father, John Croyle. John and his wife Teresa raised their daughter, Reagan, and son, Brodie (a former Alabama quarterback) at the ranch, which was founded as a home for boys and now also includes a girls' ranch and a Christian school.

In a proclamation declaring April 28, 2020 as a "Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving," we will

– Mayor's Message continued on page 2



## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeff Donnes, Vestavia Hills City Manager

Everyone who knows me well can attest that I always see the glass as half full rather than being half empty. A positive attitude can certainly keep things moving forward rather than being stuck at square one. The last several months have called on this mind set to survive the concerns of the day. We have experienced the largest volume of rainfall this area has seen in many years. The fear of coronavirus has spooked the stock market and led to personal health concerns all over the world. This without even the mention of election year divisions that sometimes bubble up in relationships. All of these pressures could negatively affect one's property, livelihood and mood. I contend, however, that there is always a silver lining and competing positive experiences that can cause the scales of success and happiness to tip the other way.

Let's talk about Mother Nature. The rain that damages our infrastructure and delays our construction projects also makes for a realization of the needs to invest in our infrastructure – roads and stormwater drainage. The City has and will continue to invest in its public infrastructure in an intentional and monumental way. In fact, when combining the last two years' investment, we, as a city, have made considerable strides with strong plans moving forward. The project delays caused by rain have made our staff work harder to manage existing assets and outside relationships to ensure available playing fields and recreational areas satisfy current demands. One mentor told me that the best managers are made in tough times, not easy times.

When the stock market tumbles, people's confidence in the economy suffers. Here in Vestavia Hills, we have used this circumstance to refinance debt due to the all-time lows in

– City Manager's Report continued on page 3

## BOARD OF EDUCATION



### FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

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

On April 30, 1970, the Vestavia Hills City Council created a school system with the goal of providing the very best education for the children in our city. This momentous decision was made with courageous confidence that it would be successful. What began with 2,500 students and two campuses in August of 1970 will be home to more than 7,100 students and nine campuses when school starts this fall. On the cusp of our golden anniversary, Vestavia Hills City Schools continues to be set apart as one of the very best.

As we all know, the people who are invested in an organization are what make it special. Exceptional teachers adeptly guiding our students in their learning endeavors are a distinguishing factor in our successes. Throughout its history, our school system has been blessed with teachers, administrators, and support staff who have poured their hearts and souls into providing every child the opportunity to learn without limits. Rarely a day passes that I do not hear a story from a VHCS graduate about a teacher who transformed their lives.

To celebrate their impactful influence, we are creating the Vestavia Hills City Schools Educator Hall of Fame. Our inaugural inductees will be announced during the grand opening of the new Louis Pizitz Middle School on August 18, 2020. If you would like to nominate someone to be considered, visit the VHCS website at [www.vestavia.k12.al.us](http://www.vestavia.k12.al.us) and click on “Hall of Fame Nominations.”

In addition to educators, it is equally important to have parents and community members who are invested and engaged. They provide a multitude of resources, volunteerism and passion that add great value to sustaining a high-performing school system. An example of this platitude of support that immediately comes to mind is the name Pizitz.

Louis Pizitz and his family believed in giving to the community and supporting the endeavors of the newly formed school system. Because of their generous gift of land, the existing Louis Pizitz Middle School opened in 1968 and eventually became a part of our fledgling system. Later, Vestavia Hills High School was built on property that, too, was gifted by the family.

The grand opening on August 18, 2020 is a fitting way to celebrate our formula for success: recognizing the gold standard of educators in a building named to honor a family who exemplifies the gold standard of unparalleled support. I look forward to sharing more details of the event as we get closer.

## DOGWOOD LUNCHEON CANCELED



In light of recent recommendations by the Jefferson County Health Department, the Vestavia Hills Beautification Board has canceled this year's Dogwood Luncheon and will reschedule for spring 2021.

### Mayor's Message *continued from page 1*

recognize this day as a time to give thanks for the life we sometimes take for granted and to show compassion for others. In his book, *Raising a Princess*, John Croyle states that living for others is more fulfilling than living for ourselves. The Big Oak Ranch is the epitome of living and caring for others, and I look forward to hearing Brodie's presentation.

Also, this past month, Leadership Vestavia Hills recognized three of our citizens for their outstanding service to the city. Gina and John Henley each received the “Citizen of the Year Award” for their collective contributions to the community and the quality of life in Vestavia Hills across many years. Dr. Audie Woolley, chief of pediatric otolaryngology at The Children's Hospital of Alabama, received the “Distinguished Citizen Award,” which is given annually to a Vestavia Hills resident who has made significant artistic, scientific, social, political, economic or academic contributions regionally, nationally or worldwide. Each of these individuals have demonstrated exemplary service to Vestavia Hills and I would like to recognize them for these awards.

Amid Governor Ivey's proclamation of a State of Emergency, along with confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Alabama, specifically Jefferson County, and statewide school closings, the City of Vestavia Hills has enacted several precautionary measures for the health, safety and well-being of our residents. For information on changes to City services, as well as helpful links to school information and various health organizations, visit <https://vhal.org/alert-center>.

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MINOR ILLNESSES AND INJURIES SUCH AS:

- Fever
- Allergies
- Cough & Colds
- Sprains & Strains
- Vomiting
- Sore Throat
- And Other Non-life-threatening injuries

**ON-SITE SERVICES:**

- X-ray
- Laboratory
- Pharmacy

WEEKDAYS 2 - 10 PM  
WEEKENDS 10 AM - 8 PM  
SENSORY INCLUSIVE

bond interest rates that are the result of the current economic state of affairs. Furthermore, we continue to celebrate milestones with business openings and developments like the Publix in Liberty Park, Cahaba Station in Liberty Park, the future Waffle House along Highway 31, and Local Spoke and Troups Pizza in Cahaba Heights. We are a blessed city in our ability to economically sustain ourselves.

My message this month is that, in the face of a world with much negativity, we need to stay focused on the good in our lives and community. If one is mired in self-pity or consternation of the negative, we don't accomplish much of anything. The sun will come out. We will overcome hardships. We will recover and be better on the other side of the problem. We all are blessed to live in Vestavia Hills – a community that has proven to exude positive results in all aspects, whether looking at quality of life, safety or other such metrics. Have a wonderful month and keep that glass half-full!

**SENIOR SERVICES**

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month and we will be honoring our volunteers that assist with our various senior adult activities. Without the assistance of volunteers, we would not be able to offer the many programs that are offered. The two programs that we will be highlighting are: Senior Transportation and Meals On Wheels.

The Senior Transportation program was started in July 1985 and, through the dedication of volunteers, is still going strong, offering daily rides to doctor appointments, grocery stores and many places in between. We are always looking for additional drivers and signing up new riders. For information on how you can get involved, please contact Sandi Wilson at 205.978.0163 or [swilson@vhal.org](mailto:swilson@vhal.org).

The Meals On Wheels program services Vestavia Hills from the Recreation Center and New Merkel House. Without volunteers to deliver the meals there are many people in our community that would go without a hot meal every day. If you are interested in volunteering or for information on registering for this program, contact Sandi Wilson at 205.978.0163 or [swilson@vhal.org](mailto:swilson@vhal.org).

We are planning an Appreciation Lunch to honor our volunteers on April 20, 2020. Make plans to join us in celebrating the “unsung heroes” of two of our very important programs and help us to say “Thank You” for all that they do to enhance the lives of the senior adults in our community. The luncheon will be held at the Vestavia Hills Civic Center in the Dogwood Room beginning at 11:30 a.m. To RSVP or to share a story about how a volunteer has impacted your life or how BEING a volunteer has impacted your life, contact Sandi Wilson at 205.978.0163 or [swilson@vhal.org](mailto:swilson@vhal.org).



**HIRING SUMMER LIFEGUARDS**

Interested in working as a lifeguard at the new Vestavia Hills pool complex this summer? Contact Jeff Corley at [jcorley@vhal.org](mailto:jcorley@vhal.org) or 205.978.0166.

Live Music!  
Food By The Ridge & Mudtown!




**Sunday, May 17, 2020 - 5:00pm - 8:00pm**

Rocky Ridge Entertainment District | Tickets \$40 | Kids 12 & Under \$10 each

Join us for an electric evening of mouthwatering food and toe-tapping live music under a beautiful sunset sky in The Ridge parking lot. All proceeds from Grand Slam Sunday go to support the Vestavia Hills Parks & Recreation Foundation's Miracle League Field capital campaign. Vestavia's Miracle League Field will guarantee that America's pastime is accessible to every child in our community.

To purchase tickets, go to [ticketstripe.com/GrandSlamSunday](https://www.ticketstripe.com/GrandSlamSunday)




visit [www.vhprf.org](http://www.vhprf.org) for more information

**VESTAVIA HILLS GIRLS VOLLEYBALL**

The Vestavia Hills Girls Rec Volleyball League will host two free clinics featuring the Vestavia Hills High School girls varsity volleyball players: **April 9 & 23, 2020**

**Cahaba Heights Elementary School Gym**  
**6-7 p.m. for 4th & 5th graders**  
**7-8 p.m. for 6th-8th graders**

Donations to benefit the VHHS volleyball program will be accepted at each clinic – cash, check or Venmo @VestaviaHills-GirlsVolleyball

For more information or to register for the clinic, call 205.566.1164 or email [vestaviahillsgirlsvolleyball@gmail.com](mailto:vestaviahillsgirlsvolleyball@gmail.com).



## CHAMBER NEWS

Karen J. Odle, Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce President

As I write this letter, it is a cold, rainy day in March but we know that beautiful spring weather is around the corner! 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 our 30th Annual and will be held on Tuesday, April 28 at 7:30 a.m. at Vestavia Country Club. We are excited to have as our keynote speaker Brodie Croyle, Executive Director of the Big Oak Ranch taking over from his father, John Croyle. The Big Oak ministry grew out of the desire to give hurting children a chance. Four promises are made to every child that comes to the Ranch: 1) We love you, 2) We will never lie to you, 3) We will stick with you until you're grown, and 4) There are boundaries, don't cross them. They operate on the philosophy that "A hundred years from now it will not matter what kind of house we lived in, the kind of car we drove or how much money we had in the bank, but the world may be different because you and I were important in the life of a child." Big Oak Ranch and the Croyles are truly making a difference with these children who are hurting. Tickets are \$20 each and may be purchased on the Chamber website [www.vestaviahills.org](http://www.vestaviahills.org).

Tickets are very limited so be sure to order before they sell out. For more information, please call our office at 205.823.5011.

Helping Hands Day, which will also includes shredding, e-recycle, hazardous waste and medication take-back, is scheduled for September 12. Further information will be forthcoming about the event, including an application to be completed if you are a senior in need of a "helping hand" around your home.

Make your calendar for the I Love America Celebration. 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 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!

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. Be sure to check the Community Calendar on our website for ribbon cuttings as well as other community events.

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."

# Helping you achieve your goals has always been ours

Congratulations to Stephen M. Davis for being named to the *Forbes* "Best-in-State Wealth Advisors" 2020 list.



## Davis, Word & Taylor Wealth Management

### Stephen M. Davis, CFP®, ChFC®, CPFA

Senior Vice President  
Wealth Management Advisor  
Portfolio Manager

205.326.9656  
[stephen\\_m\\_davis@ml.com](mailto:stephen_m_davis@ml.com)

### Merrill Lynch Wealth Management

569 Brookwood Village  
Suite 501  
Birmingham, AL 35209

205.326.9670  
[fa.ml.com/dwt](http://fa.ml.com/dwt)



Source: The *Forbes* "Best-in-State Wealth Advisors" list, January 16, 2020. Data provided by SHOOK™ Research, LLC. Data as of June 30, 2019. The *Forbes* "Best-in-State Wealth Advisors" ranking was developed by SHOOK Research and is based on in-person and telephone due diligence meetings to evaluate each advisor qualitatively, a major component of a ranking algorithm that includes: client retention, industry experience, review of compliance records, firm nominations; and quantitative criteria, including: assets under management and revenue generated for their firms. Investment performance is not a criterion because client objectives and risk tolerances vary, and advisors rarely have audited performance reports. Rankings are based on the opinions of SHOOK Research, LLC and not indicative of future performance or representative of any one client's experience. Rankings and recognition from *Forbes* are no guarantee of future investment success and do not ensure that a current or prospective client will experience a higher level of performance results, and such rankings should not be construed as an endorsement of the advisor. Neither *Forbes* nor SHOOK Research receives compensation in exchange for placement on the ranking. *Forbes* is a trademark of Forbes Media LLC. All rights reserved. For more information: [www.SHOOKresearch.com](http://www.SHOOKresearch.com).

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## NEW APPARATUS FOR VHFD

The Vestavia Hills Fire Department will take delivery of a new heavy rescue/service truck this spring. The primary purpose of this truck will be to respond on all technical

rescue incidents, which include rope rescue, swift water, confined space, structural collapse and trench rescue. Personnel that will be assigned to this truck attend extra training in these disciplines, on top of all other required training in fire and emergency medical services. One major advantage to purchasing this truck will be decreased response times to technical rescue incidents. This truck will replace multiple trailers by consolidating the equipment to one piece of apparatus. Come by Station 5 in Cahaba Heights this summer and check it out!

4.24.2020

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# LIBRARY IN THE FOREST

The Library in the Forest will be **CLOSED** until at least **April 6, 2020**. The following information is accurate as of the print date of this publication. Based on mandates issued by the Jefferson County Health Department, the events and dates provided are subject to change. Please refer to the Library in the Forest website at [www.vestavialibrary.org](http://www.vestavialibrary.org) for the most up-to-date information.

## CHILDREN & TWEENS

205.978.0158

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

## TEENS

205.978.3683 (Grades 6-12)

## ADULTS

205.978.4678 (Ages 18+)

## MAKERSPACE

205.978.3683

(All ages, unless  
otherwise noted)

## TECHNOLOGY

205.978.4679

6 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am  
Intro to 3D Printing, 4:30pm  
Knit Night in the Forest, 6pm

7 Pick Up STEAM: Rubber Duck  
Math Race, 3:30pm  
Escape Room, 4pm  
Eighth of March Book Group, 6pm

8 Story Friends, 10:30am  
ABCs of Medicare, 1pm  
12 Below: Old School Games, 3:30pm  
Tabletop Gaming Group, 4pm

9 LIFT, 9:30am  
Book Babies, 10am  
OLLI Presents: Apollo 13, 1:30pm  
Open Maker Lab, 3:30-7:30pm  
Intermediate Microsoft Word, 4pm

10 Open Gaming, 4pm

11 Library Stop, 10:30am

12 CLOSED, Easter

13 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am

14 Apple Mobile Devices, 2pm  
Pick Up STEAM: Bugs & Spiders,  
3:30pm  
Blackout Poetry, 4pm  
Teardown Tuesday, 4:30pm  
Ms. Olivia's Evening Reads  
Book Group, 6pm

15 Story Friends, 10:30am  
12 Below: Game Changer, 3:30pm  
Writing Group, 4pm  
Intermediate Excel Part I, 4pm  
Grown-Up Gaming: Tabletop  
Game Night, 5:30pm

16 LIFT, 9:30am  
Book Babies, 10am  
Open Maker Lab, 3:30-7:30pm

17 Open Gaming, 4pm  
Upcycle City: Zentangle with  
Darla, 7pm

18 Ms. Casey's Marvelous Music &  
Movement, 10:30am  
Open Maker Lab, 1-5pm

20 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am  
Advanced Excel: Pivot Tables &  
Dashboards, 4pm  
Photography Workshop, 4:30pm  
Culture Trip: Capoeira Martial Arts,  
6:30pm

21 Pick Up STEAM: Recycled Science,  
3:30pm  
Earth Day Crafts, 4pm  
Family Night: Puppeteer  
David Stephens, 6pm

22 Story Friends, 10:30am  
12 Below: Earth Day Fun, 3:30pm  
Teen Art Group, 4pm

23 LIFT, 9:30am  
Book Babies, 10am  
Friends of the Library:  
The Holocaust Education  
Center, 10am  
Open Maker Lab, 3:30-7:30pm

24 Mario Kart 8 Tournament, 4pm

25 Dungeons & Dragons, 9:30am  
Lego Wars, 11am  
Open Maker Lab, 1-5pm  
Teenspeak: Public Speaking  
Workshop, 3pm

27 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am  
Google Drive, 5pm

28 Type-In, 3:30pm  
Pick Up STEAM: Challenge, 3:30pm  
Anime Night, 4pm

29 Story Friends, 10:30am  
12 Below: Creation Station, 3:30pm

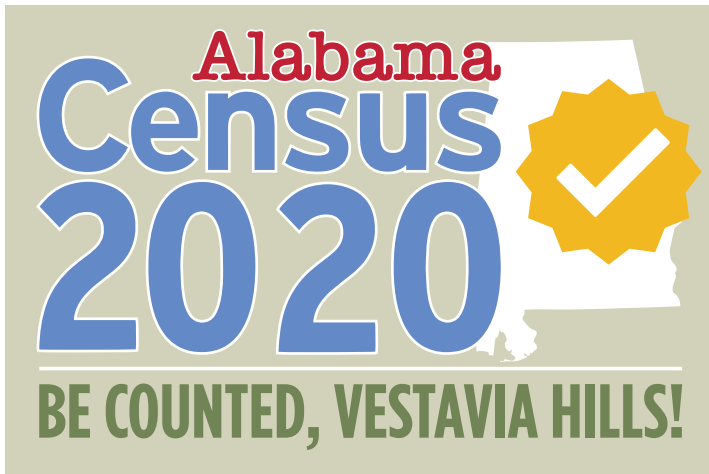
30 LIFT, 9:30am  
Book Babies, 10am  
Open Maker Lab, 3:30-7:30pm

Full descriptions, including location and  
online registration, are available on the  
Library in the Forest website at [www.vestavialibrary.org](http://www.vestavialibrary.org).

We do more because of you!  
Visit [vhllibraryfoundation.org](http://vhllibraryfoundation.org)  
to make a tax-deductible  
donation to the Library in the  
Forest today. Your generous  
support is greatly appreciated!



FOUNDATION  
VESTAVIA HILLS  
LIBRARY IN THE FOREST



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](http://www.census.gov).

**Be counted, Vestavia Hills!**



## VESTAVIA HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT YOUTH POLICE ACADEMY June 8-11, 2020

The Vestavia Hills Police Department is proud to announce our annual Youth Police Academy opened to all Vestavia Hills youths, ages 12-16. We have partnered with local volunteers and sponsors to bring you a week of hands-on curriculum and challenges that will help you better understand your leadership role in our community. As you experience the many different challenges you will begin to understand the importance of problem solving and team building.


**ARE YOU UP TO THE CHALLENGE?**

A registration fee of \$50.00 per student is required, along with a completed application packet. **CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED.**

For registration information please contact Sgt. Eddie Crim at [ecrim@vhal.org](mailto:ecrim@vhal.org) or you may call him at 205-978-0119.

Summer 2020-YPA Curriculum/Activities

- ◆ PT Challenges
- ◆ Team Challenges
- ◆ Problem Solving
- ◆ Crime Scene Investigation
- ◆ SWAT
- ◆ Self Defense
- ◆ Use of Force Simulator
- ◆ CPR Training





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

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**EASTER**  
*at Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church*

**SUNRISE SERVICE**  
 6:30am

**TRADITIONAL WORSHIP**  
 8:30, 9:45, & 11:00am

**CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP**  
 11:00am

**Rise**  
 AGAINST HUNGER  
*food • community • sustainability*

COMMUNITY MEAL PACKING EVENT

**FILLING EMPTY BOWLS**

April 26-28, 2020  
 VHUMC Lighthouse

For more information & to register visit [vhumc.org](http://vhumc.org)