

# COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

*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 information.*

*August 2020*

- 6 **Design Review Board**, Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 7 **Library in the Forest Family Concert**, City Hall Lawn\*, 6:30 p.m.
- 8 **Library in the Forest Family Concert**, City Hall Lawn\*, 6:30 p.m.
- 10 **City Council Meeting**, Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 13 **Vestavia Hills City Schools**, begin
- 13 **Planning & Zoning Commission**, Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 14 **Back 2 School in the Hills**, Cahaba Heights Park, 5:30 p.m.
- 14 **Cahaba Heights Park Grand Opening**, Time TBD
- 17 **Council Work Session**, Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 20 **Board of Zoning Adjustment**, Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 24 **City Council Meeting**, Council Chamber 6 p.m.
- 25 **Municipal Elections**

*\*Ticket required*



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

*Ashley C. Curry, Vestavia Hills Mayor*

I hope everyone is having a good summer in spite of the lingering COVID-19 pandemic. It has certainly been a challenge carrying on business operations under what has been described as the “new normal.” I am optimistic that this will pass and we will actually return to normal.

The pandemic has changed the manner in which we conduct business, but we have been able to adapt without significant disruptions in City services. As you know, we quickly became quite efficient at conducting City Council, board and commission meetings remotely.

For those who chose to attend these meetings in person, attendance numbers continue to be limited and participants must adhere to strict social distancing and facemask requirements. At City Hall, we have modified office spaces by installing plexi-glass shields for safe interaction with residents.

Adapting to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in many “firsts” for our city. Our first City Council meeting via Zoom took place on March 30. In order to continue serving the residents

*– Mayor's Message continued on page 3*



## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

*Jeff Downes, Vestavia Hills City Manager*

Uncertainty. That is not a word that many of us like. Uncertainty leads to anxiousness. It leads to a delay in decision making. It certainly makes us appear weakened. In this era of COVID-19 and amped up social discourse, none of us know what tomorrow will bring. From a city perspective, will our economy be strong enough to support a never ending demand of action? What will the fall school year look like? Will the materials that can allow completion of a public project make it to the job on time? These are just a few of the doubts that enter my thoughts, but I know everyone has some level of wonder about the future. My message today is that we are all in this together. Utilize patience and realize that all of us are feeling the effects of uncertainty. Take time to calmly understand the perspective of others and make deliberate decisions for the good of your community.

During the last several months, I have seen that many people have had to adapt in this

deliberate way to the new normal. Perhaps the uncertainty of what the new day brings allows for a more nimble mindset – a mindset that allows one to explore a new way to accomplish a task. In city government, it's the ability to conduct public meetings remotely. It's working from home in a productive manner. It's continuing to shop and eat out thanks to curbside service. I even enjoyed seeing it in a drive-in concert for the first time. Those of us that can adapt and patiently persevere, will be the most successful in the near-term and will be able to utilize those skills in the long-term as well.

I hope our City government has demonstrated the ability to adapt as we continue to navigate this world with its ever-changing future. We have trained to react to new things being thrown our way in the many disciplines offered in City service, and the City's financial plans will sustain us in this new world. I have great confidence that our employees will carry on in a manner that will make you proud. They certainly make me proud!



## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

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

Last year, Vestavia Hills City Schools completed a new strategic plan with a mission to provide every student the opportunity to learn without limits.

The intent of our plan was to be agile and adaptable to changing conditions in education and our world. Like most everyone else who develops long-range strategies, we never dreamed that changing conditions would include a pandemic. Yet, it is here, and we will rise to this challenge.

I often refer to our strategic plan as a living document that is much more like using the Waze mobile app rather than using an atlas. Using this metaphor, the vision of every student being successful in their personal and professional lives is our destination. Life inevitably forces detours that cause us to change routes but not the destination. That is precisely why we need a plan that adapts to detours without losing sight of our vision.

Our first goal is for students to learn and demonstrate profound knowledge. This will be different for every student this year. Some will attend school on-site, others will attend remotely, while many will experience going back and forth depending on their circumstances. The plumb line through every circumstance is that we ensure that profound learning does not become stifled by profound limits placed upon us. Effectively integrating technology to support learning will be a priority to make this happen.

Our second goal is confronting the problems and challenges that impact our system, families and students. Confronting means facing up to the realities around us and examining how we make the world a better place. The pandemic, racial injustices and general social upheaval have been the dominant themes of conversation the past

five months. We have the unique opportunity to support our students by listening to them, providing them a safe place to learn, inspiring perseverance and strengthening their mental health.

Our final goal is to strengthen systems that are in place to work toward our mission and goals. Systems thinking requires that we look at the whole picture of what school means for students, parents and the community. We desire to see creativity and calm to emerge through moments of chaos. This school year, we have designed learning opportunities, wellness strategies, and operational procedures that enable students to be in school in a way that still energizes their creativity while keeping them as safe as possible.

Vestavia Hills City Schools will move into its 50th year with a renewed sense of mission. Our direction has changed, but our destination remains the same. We will unite in clarity of vision by focusing on learning and not on the limits this detour has placed in front of us. We will hold fast to the values and beliefs that have made our school system the beacon of this wonderful community.

**URGENT CARE for CHILDREN**

COVID-19 HOTLINE (205) 848-2273

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[www.childrensurgent.com](http://www.childrensurgent.com)

**WHAT WE TREAT**

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 8 AM - 6 PM

NOW OFFERING TELEMEDICINE

**BACK 2 SCHOOL**

**In the Hills**

Back 2 School in the Hills and the Grand Opening of the New Cahaba Heights Park are scheduled for Friday, August 14, 2020, starting with the Ribbon Cutting at 5:30 pm.

4401 Dolly Ridge Road

Check [www.vestaviiahills.org](http://www.vestaviiahills.org) for updates and more details.

Please: NO Pets

of Vestavia Hills as safely as possible, I suspect the use of video communications for City meetings will continue for quite a while.

On July 14, I presented the "State of the City" address via Zoom. Some of the highlights from the address include:

- During the first six months of this fiscal year, Vestavia Hills recorded the strongest financial results (sales tax revenues, residential/commercial real estate growth) in the City's history.
- Vestavia Hills again received the Aaa bond rating from Moody's. We are one of only three entities in Alabama to receive this highest rating.
- Vestavia Hills was again rated as the #1 city for livability in Alabama (AreaVibes.org).
- Vestavia Hills was rated as the safest city in Alabama for cities with a population of 22,000+ (SafeHome.org).
- Our Community Spaces and Infrastructure Plan is coming to fruition. Cahaba Heights Park, Wald Park ballfields and the Aquatic Complex will reopen soon!

- The addition of City staff to enhance senior adult activities and provide new and improved recreational programming.

In spite of the virus, we are working to complete other long-overdue quality of life initiatives, including the new Community Building adjacent to City Hall, renovation of Wald Park, park improvements at SHAC, the road widening of Crosshaven Drive and various sidewalk projects throughout the City.

The Alabama State Department of Education has provided guidelines for the reopening of schools. Our school year for 2020/2021 will begin on August 13 with options for in-person or remote learning for your children. This is yet another example of how our city has adapted to COVID-19 circumstances. I have the utmost confidence in our Superintendent and the Board of Education as they continue to provide our Vestavia Hills students outstanding opportunities to learn.

Municipal elections will be held August 25, 2020. It is hard to believe that four years have passed since I and my colleagues on the city council took office. I would like to thank this council for all that we have accomplished in this term.



## 2020 PROJECT REQUEST

The Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce and City of Vestavia Hills are planning the 6th annual Helping Hands in the Hills, a day of service in the city to assist our residents (senior citizens, disabled, etc.) in need of a helping hand with minor projects around their home. This fun community service day will be Saturday, September 12, 2020. 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 [betsyw@vestaviiahills.org](mailto:betsyw@vestaviiahills.org).

**DEADLINE FOR PROJECT REQUEST SUBMISSION: AUGUST 7, 2020**

Your name\* \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number\* \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail\* \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name\* (Name of person in need, if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Project address\* \_\_\_\_\_

Project description\* \_\_\_\_\_

Number of hours required for 6-8 people to complete? \_\_\_\_\_

**Homeowners must provide needed tools and supplies to complete project request, i.e. rakes, mower, trimmers, wheelbarrow, pine straw/mulch. Requests for pressure washing projects will NOT be considered.**

Special instructions \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Required information*

# PICKLEBALL!

VESTAVIA HILLS PARKS & RECREATION

## JULY 7-AUGUST 29, 2020

Pickleball is a paddle sport that combines the elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis. It was created for all ages and skill levels, Pickleball is easy for beginners to learn, but can develop into a quick, fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players. Games are played using paddles to volley a plastic ball with holes (similar to a wiffleball), on a badminton size court with a modified tennis net.

### Where?

- Vestavia Hills Rec Center Gym, 1973 Merryvale Road, 35216

### When?

- Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:30-8:45pm
- Wednesdays & Fridays, 10am - noon
- Saturdays, 8-11:30am

### How Much?

- Vestavia Hills residents – FREE!
- Non-residents – \$10

### Join the Fun!

- All levels and ages of players are welcome.
- No experience necessary; clinicians/instructors will be on-site to teach you the game.
- Players will be matched based on skill level.
- Don't have equipment? Don't worry. Equipment is available for check out at the Rec Center.

### Need More Information?

- Call Vestavia Hills Parks and Recreation at 205.978.0166 or email Jeff Corley at [jcorley@vhal.org](mailto:jcorley@vhal.org).



City of Vestavia Hills  
**ELECTION**  
AUGUST 25, 2020

A municipal election for the purpose of electing a mayor and four (4) city councilors will be held August 25, 2020. Vestavia Hills elections are “at large,” meaning each councilor runs in a designated “place” but represents all residents city-wide. For more information about this upcoming election, including a list of candidates, visit <https://vhal.org/departments/city-clerk/municipal-elections>.

## SENIOR SERVICES

Normally, we would be gearing up to mail invitations, contact sponsors, order decorations, check the menu and generally assure everything will be perfect for the annual National Senior Citizen Day celebration. Unfortunately, that won't be the case this year. Instead, we are hard at working preparing for next year! We hope you all stay safe as we look forward to getting back to normal – attending parties, going to dances, taking trips and sharing a cup of coffee with a friend while “mask-less”!

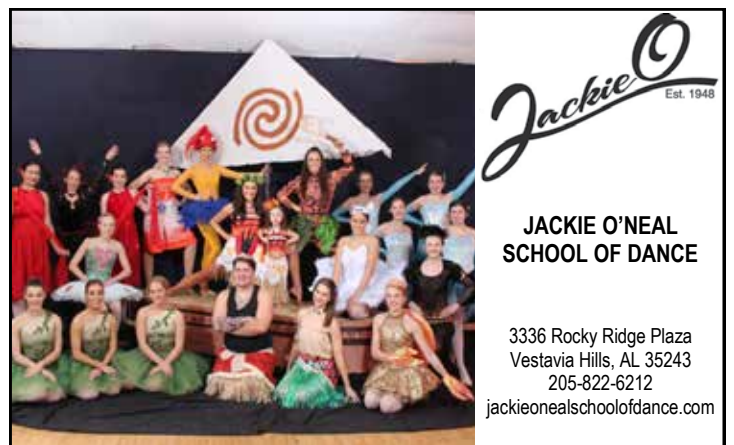
Senior Services staff can't wait to hear your stories once this pandemic is behind us! Feel free to give us a call at 205.978.0163 if you need anything – a run to the grocery store or just a friendly chat.

## HAPPENING AT THE RECREATION CENTER

Did you know that the Vestavia Hills Recreation Center opens at 7 a.m. Monday through Friday? Members are encouraged to get your morning started right with a quick walk around the track or shooting baskets in the gym.

There are also “Open Play” times for the Rec Center gym, Monday through Friday from 7-8:15 a.m. and 3-5 p.m. The gym may not be reserved during these times, but is open for members to use and enjoy. (Any previously scheduled conflicts will be posted at the Rec Center.) If the gym is not reserved, it may be available for “Open Play” at other times as well. Additional opening times will be posted daily on the Vestavia Hills Parks and Recreation Facebook page or you may call the Rec Center office at 205.978.0166,

No membership? No worries! Membership is FREE for Vestavia Hills residents. Stop by the Rec Center office at 1973 Merryvale Road with your photo ID and two forms of proof of residency to request your badge. We hope to see you soon!



**Jackie O'Neal** Est. 1948  
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[jackieonealschoolofdance.com](http://jackieonealschoolofdance.com)



## CHAMBER NEWS

*Karen J. Odle, Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce President*

In previous years, we all looked forward to enjoying the lazy, hazy, days of summer. But in these crazy times, I think everyone just wants to get back to normal – EVEN in the heat. While we realize that any semblance of normal won't be here for a while, please remember to be careful and cautious when you are out and about.

There are many people who may be health-compromised or simply nervous to be in public during this pandemic. These people will not support our local businesses unless they feel safe doing so. Therefore, I encourage you to take this into consideration as you patronize area merchants, grocery stores, etc. Please do your part to help our businesses recover from the recent shutdown – social distance and wear a mask. This won't last forever!

I recently participated in a webinar on Cybersecurity and the current environment with COVID-19. Reported scams have increased by 350%. Please take precautions and don't fall for these scams! Remember the old axiom, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!" We have information on this topic on our website under the banner of COVID-19 Resources.

Sadly, we were not able to host our 39th annual I Love America event which was planned for June 30. We would not have been able to properly clean and sanitize, given the number of people that typically attend this event. Therefore, for the safety and health of our community, we felt it best to cancel this year's event. We are planning to be back even bigger and better next year!

Don't forget to complete your 2020 Census. Your response is critical for several reasons, including: 1) State funding decisions are generally based on population. Please be counted so that Vestavia Hills will receive the maximum amount of state funding for critical services, including public safety. 2) The number of elected officials is based on census population numbers. We must be adequately represented in Federal offices and don't want to lose a Congressional seat. The date to complete the Census has been extended to October 31, 2020. If you haven't completed yours, please do so TODAY!

Savor the Summer is going strong! Be sure to continue to collect your receipts to area restaurants and turn them in to the Chamber by August 7! Also check out our social media for features on the "restaurant of the week." It has been so fun getting to know more about each of our wonderful restaurants and their staff!

The 2020 Vestavia Hills Living has been delayed due to the lockdown that we encountered recently but we are hard at work getting it on track to mail in September. We look forward to sharing stories of our wonderful city with our residents. Thank you to everyone that has placed an advertisement in the magazine, as that enables us to mail this to every household in Vestavia Hills.

Lastly, I know I have said this so many times before but please be sure to support local businesses during these summer months. Our businesses struggle to compete with big box stores AND online retailers, so please carefully consider your options before purchasing goods and services outside of Vestavia Hills.

Please let us know how we can better assist you and help our businesses grow! Together we can all achieve "A Life Above."

**Alabama**  
**Census**  
**2020**  
**BE COUNTED, VESTAVIA HILLS!**

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# LIBRARY IN THE FOREST

**AUGUST PROGRAMMING IS ONLINE.** Full descriptions, including online location and registration, are available on the Library in the Forest event calendar at [www.vestavialibrary.org](http://www.vestavialibrary.org).

## CHILDREN & TWEENS

*Birth-Grade 2 & Grades 3-5*

## TEENS

*Grades 6-12*

## ADULTS

*Ages 18+*

## MAKERSPACE

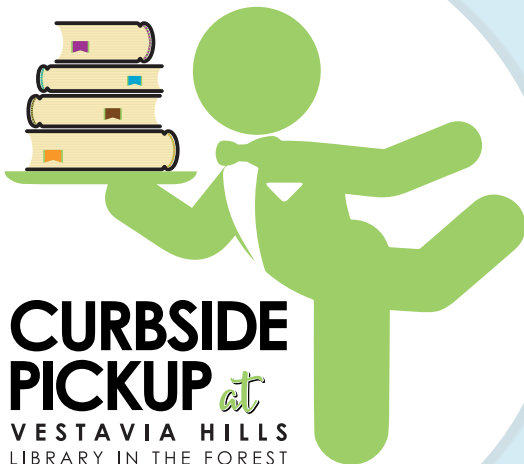
*All ages, unless otherwise noted*

## TECHNOLOGY

*Ages 18+*

August 2020

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p>4 <b>NEW! Storytime Stars, 10:30am, YouTube</b><br/><b>Smash Bits!, 4pm, YouTube</b><br/><b>Eighth of March Book Group: <u>Americanah</u>, 6pm, Zoom</b></p> <p>5 <b>Pick Up S.T.E.A.M!, 2pm, YouTube</b></p> <p>6 <b>Read &amp; Feed Book Group: <u>When Breath Becomes Air</u>, 6pm, Zoom</b></p> <p>7 <b>Open Gaming Goes Online, 4pm, Discord</b><br/><b>Family Concert: Drummer Mark Seymour, 6:30pm, City Hall Lawn</b></p> <p>8 <b>Family Concert: Drummer Mark Seymour, 6:30pm, City Hall Lawn</b></p> <p>11 <b>NEW! Storytime Stars, 10:30am, YouTube</b><br/><b>Tara's Creative Corner: Origami Paper Folding, 3pm, YouTube</b><br/><b>Librarians Play Fibbage 2, 4pm, YouTube</b></p> | <p>12 <b>12 Below, 2pm, YouTube</b><br/><b>Writing Group, 4pm, Zoom</b></p> <p>13 <b>Kara Recommends: <u>Get a Life, Chloe Brown</u>, 3pm, YouTube</b><br/><b>Tic-TECH-Toe: eCards, 4pm, YouTube</b></p> <p>14 <b>Open Gaming Goes Online, 4pm, Discord</b></p> <p>18 <b>NEW! Storytime Stars, 10:30am, YouTube</b><br/><b>Teardown Tuesday, 3:30pm, YouTube</b><br/><b>Doodles with Derek: Cartoon Faces, 4pm, YouTube</b></p> <p>19 <b>Pick Up S.T.E.A.M, 2pm, YouTube</b><br/><b>Quiz Party, 4pm, Zoom</b></p> <p>21 <b>Open Gaming Goes Online, 4pm, Discord</b><br/><b>Summer Sips Series: Piña Colada, 6pm, YouTube</b></p> | <p>24 <b>Truth, Lies and Media Literacy, 6pm, Zoom</b></p> <p>25 <b>NEW! Storytime Stars, 10:30am, YouTube</b><br/><b>Bob's Burgers Virtual Escape, 11am, Facebook</b><br/><b>Intro to 3D Printing, 3:30pm, Zoom</b><br/><b>Lauren's Book Buzz, 4pm, YouTube</b></p> <p>26 <b>12 Below, 2pm, YouTube</b><br/><b>Art Group, 4pm, Zoom</b></p> <p>27 <b>Tech in Ten: Resume Builder, 4pm, YouTube</b></p> <p>28 <b>Intro to 3D Printing, 3:30pm, YouTube</b><br/><b>Open Gaming Goes Online, 4pm, Discord</b></p> |
|---|---|---|



## THE LIBRARY MAY BE CLOSED, BUT YOU CAN STILL CHECK OUT MATERIALS!

- Curbside service is available daily from 10am to 6pm, Monday through Saturday (except holidays)!
- Reserve materials (books, magazines, DVDs and more) online and pick up outside the library!
- Need help choosing books? Request a Browser Bag instead and library staff will pull a customized selection of books for you.
- For more information or to reserve books today, visit <https://vestavialibrary.org/curbside-pickup>.

## BEAT THE HEAT!

Summer is in full swing, and so is the Alabama heat! The Vestavia Hills Fire Department would like to remind you to please be cautious as you go about your daily activities. Heat-related illnesses can start small, but quickly become a serious medical emergency that needs attention. Here are a few signs and symptoms to be aware of:

**Heat cramps:** An early sign that your body is having trouble with the heat. Symptoms include muscle spasms and cramps due to excessive sweating. *Take action:* Move to a cooler place (shaded if possible), stretch the affected muscle and drink water or an electrolyte-containing fluid.

**Heat exhaustion:** A more severe condition that requires attention. Signs and symptoms include cool, moist skin, weakness, nausea and dizziness. *Take action:* Move to a cooler place and loosen any clothing in order to apply a wet cloth/towel to the skin (preferably the neck or armpit areas.) Call 911 if the person does not improve.

**Heat stroke:** The most severe form of heat-related illnesses. Signs and symptoms may include high body temperature, change in consciousness, altered mental status, vomiting and seizures. *Take action:* Call 911 immediately. Emergency care by trained personnel is needed as soon as possible.

### Tips for beating the heat this summer:

- Wear light colored, loose fitting clothing.
- Wear a hat.
- Drink plenty of water before, during and after any outside activities.
- Drink water even if you are not thirsty.
- Take plenty of breaks in cool, shaded areas.
- Plan activities for early morning or late evening instead of the middle of the day.

Heat Exhaustion	or	Heat Stroke
Faint or dizzy		May lose consciousness
Excessive sweating		No sweating
Rapid, weak pulse		Rapid, strong pulse
Nausea or vomiting		Nausea or vomiting
Cool, pale, clammy skin		Red, hot, dry skin
Muscle cramps		Throbbing headache
<i>Help the person get to a cooler, air conditioned or shaded place. Encourage them to drink water if they are fully conscious.</i>		<b>Body temperature above 103°</b> <i>Call 911. Take immediate action to cool the person until help arrives.</i>



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Phone: 205-823-0882 Fax: 205-823-0872

[www.shadesmountainimaging.com](http://www.shadesmountainimaging.com)



City of Vestavia Hills  
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