

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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



Cahaba Heights Park Ballfields & Inclusive Playground



CAHABA HEIGHTS PARK AND THE VESTAVIA HILLS AQUATIC COMPLEX OPEN FOR RESIDENTS!

Construction is complete on two major components of the Community Spaces Plan.

The Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting for Cahaba Heights Park was held August 14, 2020 at 6pm, complete with a first pitch ceremony. Inclement weather held off just long enough for residents, City staff and elected officials to celebrate the official opening of the park. The park features four turfed ballfields, a new field house for concessions and restrooms, batting cages and an inclusive playground. Future development will result in a new New Merkel House and an adjacent dog park. We hope residents will take a day to visit and enjoy this new park, located at 4401 Dolly Ridge Road.

The Vestavia Hills Aquatic Complex opened Labor Day weekend, September 5-7, 2020. Over the course of opening weekend, hundreds of residents visited the complex to enjoy the leisure and competition pools. The opening, originally scheduled for Memorial Day weekend, was delayed due to a variety of issues, most notably the shortage of construction materials due to COVID-19 shutdowns coupled with excessive rain delays.

Typically, Labor Day weekend signifies the end of the swim season. But for Vestavia Hills, “Splish Splash September” was just the beginning! Residents were invited to enjoy the pool for FREE every weekend in September. As the weather gets colder, the complex will be closing for the year, but we will be counting the days to reopening Memorial Day week for the 2021 summer swim season!



Vestavia Hills Aquatic Complex Leisure & Competition Pools



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Ashley C. Curry, Vestavia Hills Mayor

Many consider October the best month of the year. For southerners, it means a break from the oppressive summer heat and humidity. It is also generally considered the best month for viewing fall foliage. There's no better month of the year than October to enjoy the vibrant colors of the leaves as they change.

According to the online "National Day Calendar," October boasts a number of celebratory days. For example, make your friends, family or others smile this October 5 on "National Do Something Nice Day." This holiday encourages us to perform acts of kindness for strangers or loved ones or both! It's easy to become so caught up in our own stresses and struggles that we forget to show kindness to others. This holiday is a great reminder that doing good deeds makes the world better – and might even help you better manage your own troubles in the process. So, let's all celebrate this nationally recognized day. Also of note is National Take Your Parents to Lunch Day on October 14 and National Bosses Day on October 16.

Be sure to also mark your calendar for "Fire Prevention Week" October 4-11, 2020. According to legend, on October 8, 1871, Mrs. O'Leary was in her barn, milking her cow, when the cow kicked over a lamp and started the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. This event sparked major efforts in fire prevention. Forty years later, the Fire Marshals Association of North America, now known as the International Fire Marshals Association (IFMA), held the first "Fire Prevention Day." Our Vestavia Hills Fire Department encourages all residents to practice "EDITH" this month – Exit Drills in the House.

As I write this month's message, the COVID-19 numbers in our state are continuing to fluctuate according to the Alabama Department of Public Health. I encourage you to follow the advice of our public health officials: stay vigilant in social distancing, wear a mask and frequently wash your hands.

Stay safe and I hope you enjoy your October!



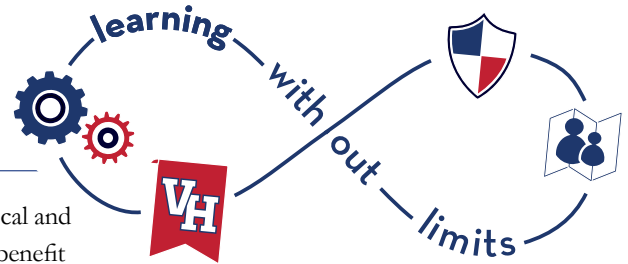
SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

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

We recently released the 2019-20 Annual Report for Vestavia Hills City Schools. Included are some of the many notable accomplishments of our students, staff and school system. You can read the report by visiting our website at www.vestavia.k12.al.us/reports.

One of the most significant takeaways from the report is the spirit of philanthropy that thrives within our schools. Google defines *philanthropy* in part as "the desire to promote the welfare of others." It is often associated with financial contributions but can also include gifts of time, establishing meaningful relationships and meeting other basic human needs. Philanthropy in its most authentic form is putting the needs of others before our own without seeking notoriety or fame.

Students in VHCS have consistently demonstrated a genuine desire to do good for others simply for the sake of doing good. Last year, our students contributed to organizations including the UAB O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Research Center, Ady's Army, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Magic Moments and the American Red Cross. Additional projects included food drives and a partnership with the New Merkel Senior Center.



A reciprocal and inherent benefit of philanthropy is the empowering feeling of self-worth that comes from service. Students see firsthand that humility and generosity emboldens them far more than arrogance and greed. They learn that their own intrinsic values grow more from giving than from receiving.

One of the core beliefs in our system's strategic plan is that "community service is a civic duty." We are blessed in Vestavia Hills to have service organizations including Rotary International and Civitan International that model philanthropy and believe in "service above self" while being "builders of good citizenship." Equally encouraging is that Vestavia Hills students are learning these important civic lessons beginning in elementary school. They see how the power of living by the Golden Rule strengthens our community, state and nation.

When VHCS students see where there is a great need to help others, they are selfless and eager to rise to the occasion. To our students, respecting others is about taking action. So they serve those in need out of an abundance of compassion and love for mankind. I am grateful to still be learning about these important life lessons from our children.

NEW SANITATION PROVIDER

Thank you to everyone who participated in the recent Vestavia Hills Listens sanitation survey. The City Council reviewed all comments and, in support of the overwhelming desire of residents, voted unanimously for the option that provides collection two times per week.

Beginning October 1, 2020, AmWaste will provide two weekly pickups per household. One pickup will be treated as waste only – everything collected that day will be taken to the landfill. The other pickup will be a “mixed stream” – everything collected that day will be taken to RePower South and sorted to separate recyclables from waste. While both pickups allow for the removal of waste, only one will be sorted to extract recyclables. Residents who wish to participate in the recycling process are encouraged to retain recyclables until the “mixed stream” pickup day each week. A letter detailing the collection schedule for your household will be mailed in advance of the October 1, 2020 start date.

Initially, existing carts will continue to be utilized for waste collection. As the supply of new carts is made available, AmWaste will collect

and replace existing Republic Services carts.



Each household may receive up to 3 full-size trash carts at no charge. Additional carts may be purchased for a nominal fee. If your cart is broken and needs to be replaced immediately, please submit a request via the Action Center.

What Stays the Same?

- The option to recycle is not being eliminated.
- Bulk debris/waste pick-ups will remain as is. Service will continue to be requested via the Action Center and pickup will occur within 10 business days. Small debris (small limbs, bagged leaves and grass clippings, etc.) would continue to be collected with household trash in small amounts.
- Backdoor service will remain as is.

For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/VH-waste-collection>.

PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

SENIOR SERVICES

2020 has taught us many things, including how to be creative and think outside the box to solve problems. As much as we would love to offer programming for senior adults within our facilities, that is simply not an option at this time.



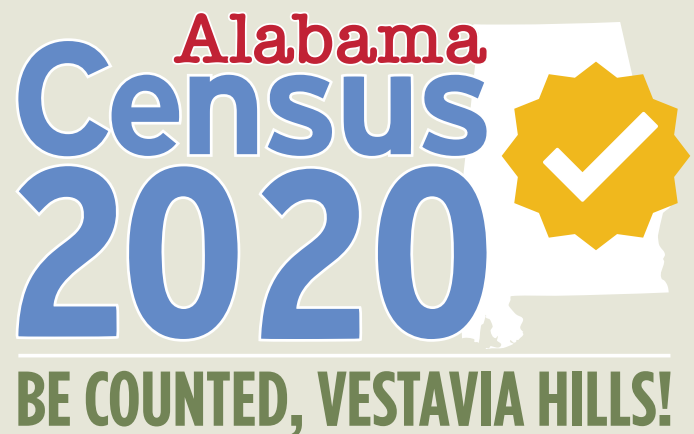
So, in the spirit of “making lemonade,” we are planning an October Scavenger Hunt! Interested in “hunting” this fall? Contact Sandi Wilson (swilson@vhal.org; 205.978.0163) to register a team, a family or an individual. The registration deadline is Monday, October 12, 2020. We can’t wait to get this hunt underway!

REC BASKETBALL

Registration is OPEN NOW for BOYS & GIRLS in grades 1-12!

BOYS: Register online at www.vhybasketball.org. Cost is \$150 per player; registration closes October 21, 2020.

GIRLS: Register online at www.vesthgb.website.sportssignup.com. Cost is \$140 per player; registration closes October 15, 2020.



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



A special thanks to all of the volunteers that worked at our 6th Annual Vestavia Hills Helping Hands in the Hills. Due to COVID-19, we had to cut back on many of our household projects to protect our most vulnerable population. However, we still had over 100 volunteers, including those that worked on seven community projects that did not have close contact with the homeowners. We have had many notes and phone calls of appreciation from the recipients. This type of event is truly what makes Vestavia Hills “A Life Above.”

In addition to the Helping Hands in the Hills projects, we continued Hazardous Waste Disposal, as well as Medication Take Back and the popular Shredding and e-Recycle event on September 12. Special thanks to the Vestavia Hills Police Department for handling the medication take back, where they collected 168 pounds of unneeded or expired medication. Republic Services did an outstanding job of helping us clean out unwanted paint/cans, pesticides, light bulbs (12 buckets) and batteries (18 buckets), collecting 12.68 tons of these items to dispose of properly. Protec eRecycling handled our electronic recycling and collected 14,935 pounds of electronic items. Last, but not least, Gone for Good, a United Ability company, helped shred and dispose of 11,090 pounds of paper that residents were able to recycle to keep out of the landfill.

We had record amounts of items collected and recycled and could certainly tell that residents have been cleaning out their homes this spring and summer. Thank you to every individual and business that worked so hard to make a difference in the lives of many. A special thank you to the following groups for their part in making this year’s event a success: Montclair Neighbors; Philadelphia Baptist Church; Shades Mountain Baptist Church – English Sunday School Class; Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; Sunrise Rotary; Vestavia Hills Rotary; and VHHS Baseball Team.



Jackie O Est. 1948

JACKIE O'NEAL SCHOOL OF DANCE

3336 Rocky Ridge Plaza
 Vestavia Hills, AL 35243
 205-822-6212
 jackieonealschoolofdance.com

FIRE PREVENTION MONTH



Every October, the Vestavia Hills Fire Department recognizes Fire Prevention month. We take this opportunity to teach school-aged children about fire safety by discussing smoke alarms and portable heaters, as well as the prevention of all types of fires. Historically, VHFD would take the smoke trailer to our schools so that students can practice exiting a smoke-filled structure. For the safety of students, teachers and fire department staff, we will not be visiting our schools this year. Instead, we will have a video for teachers to show that will emphasize a variety of safety precautions, such as exiting a smoke-filled structure, meeting up with your family after a fire and never re-entering a structure that is on fire. Be sure to take this opportunity to review your escape plan with the entire family so that everyone knows what to do in case of fire!

BOARD VACANCY

• **APPLY NOW** •

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

The Vestavia Hills Board of Zoning Adjustment will have two vacancies to be filled as of October 31, 2020. Vacancies are for alternate members. Alternates attend meetings, but only vote if the board is in need of a quorum.

The civic engagement of volunteer members of City boards and committees is essential to our high quality of life in Vestavia Hills. We are grateful for the great contribution of service these volunteers make to our community. For more information, including qualification requirements and how to apply, visit <https://vhal.org/government/board-pages/board-of-zoning-adjustment> or call 205.978.0100.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Walk Safely

- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross.
- Put electronic devices down, keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.
- Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.
- Join kids under age 12 for trick-or-treating. If children are mature enough to be out without supervision, tell them to stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.



Drive Safely

- Slow down and be on alert, especially in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
- Take extra time to look for children at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways, alleys, etc. slowly and carefully.
- Get rid of any distractions in your car – like your phone – so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
- Turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.
- Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Be especially alert during those hours.

Costume Safety

- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
- Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.
- Carry glow sticks or flashlights to aid in being seen by drivers.
- When selecting a costume, make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls.

Source: www.safekids.org

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The events and dates listed below are subject to change. Please refer to the calendar on the City of Vestavia Hills website at <https://vhal.org/calendar> for the most up-to-date information.

October 2020

- 1 Design Review Board,**
Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 8 Planning and Zoning Commission,**
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 12 City Council Meeting,**
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 13 Chamber Meeting,**
Online, Time TBD
- 15 Board of Zoning Adjustment,**
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 19 Council Work Session,**
Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 26 City Council Meeting,**
Council Chamber 6 p.m.
- 31 Halloween**

FREQUENTLY REQUESTED INFO

City Hall

1032 Montgomery Highway, 35216 • www.vhal.org

City Departments – www.vhal.org/departments.

Administration: 205.978.0100
Animal Control: 205.978.0113
Building Safety: 205.978.0125
City Clerk: 205.978.0131
Finance: 205.978.0127
Fire: 205.978.0225
IT: 205.978.0215
Library in the Forest: 205.978.0155
Municipal Court: 205.978.0121
Parks & Rec: 205.978.0166
Planning & Zoning: 205.978.0179
Police: 205.978.0124
Public Services: 205.978.0150

Chamber of Commerce

1975 Merryvale Road • 205.823.5011
www.vestaviiahills.org

Board of Education

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

Action Center

www.vhal.org/action-center

LIBRARY IN THE FOREST

CHILDREN & TWEENS

Birth-Grade 2 & Grades 3-5

TEENS

Grades 6-12

ADULTS

Ages 18+

MAKERSPACE

All ages, unless otherwise noted

TECHNOLOGY

Ages 18+

OCTOBER 2020

1 Read & Feed Book Group:
The Secrets We Kept, 6pm, Zoom

2 Open Gaming Goes Online,
4pm, Discord

6 12 Bel^ow, 2pm, YouTube
Smash Bits!, 4pm, YouTube

Eighth of March Book Group:
Mexican Gothic, 6pm, Zoom

7 Writing Group, 4pm, Zoom

**8 OLLI Presents: Eating Well During
Cancer Treatments & Beyond**, 12pm,
Zoom

Tic-TECH-Toe: Pinterest,
4pm, YouTube

9 Open Gaming Goes Online,
4pm, Discord

13 Storytime Stars, 10:30am, YouTube

Librarians Play: Werewolf,
4pm, YouTube

Kara Recommends: *Know My Name*,
3pm, YouTube

14 Trivia Night, 4pm, Zoom

**15 Tara's Creative Corner: Book
Pumpkins**, 6pm, YouTube

16 Maker-ween, 3:30pm, YouTube

Open Gaming Goes Online,
4pm, Discord

20 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M!, 2pm, YouTube

Doodles with Derek: Doodleween,
4pm, YouTube

21 Virtual Pumpkin Painting, 4pm, Zoom

22 OLLI Presents: Mayor Ashley Curry,
City of Vestavia Hills, 12pm, Zoom

Tech in Ten: LinkedIn Basics,
4pm, YouTube

23 Open Gaming Goes Online,
4pm, Discord

**Library Libations: Crockpot
Butterbeer**, 6pm, YouTube

27 Storytime Stars, 10:30am, YouTube
Teardown Tuesday, 3:30pm, YouTube

Lauren's Book Buzz, 4pm, YouTube

28 Art Group, 4pm, Zoom

30 Open Gaming Goes Online,
4pm, Discord

Art Group Join us to play drawing games, along with basic drawing exercises you can do at home.

Doodles with Derek: Doodleween Get in the Halloween spirit with some spooky doodles!

Eighth of March Book Group *Mexican Gothic* by Sylvia Moreno-Garcia

Kara Recommends *Know My Name* by Chanel Miller

Lauren's Book Buzz Find your next favorite read!

Librarians Play: Werewolf We'll try to discover the Werewolf among us using good detective work, along with incredibly false accusations!

Library Libations Joi's October trick is Crockpot Butterbeer: part drink, part dessert, totally magic!

Maker-ween Get spooky with these Halloween-themed maker projects!

OLLI Presents: Eating Well During Cancer Treatments and Beyond Dietitian Katie Ghossein discusses general nutrition to help manage treatment side effects, boost your immune system and increase overall well-being. (Visit www.vestavialibrary.org event calendar for registration information.)

OLLI Presents: Mayor Ashley Curry, Vestavia Hills Mayor Curry will discuss the growth, development and challenges of the "most livable city in Alabama." (Visit www.vestavialibrary.org event calendar for registration information.)

Open Gaming Goes Online Join the fun and play Super Smash Bros and Jackbox.tv games. (Link available on www.vestavialibrary.org event calendar.)

Pick Up S.T.E.A.M! Fun, online. STEAM-themed activities for school-aged children.

Read & Feed Book Group *The Secrets We Kept* by Lara Prescott

Smash Bits! We've combined our teen's best Smash Bros plays from Open Gaming goes Online into one hard-punching reel!

Storytime Stars Join Ms. Anjie and Ms. Lisa online for stories, songs, puppets and learning fun. Ages five and under.

Tara's Creative Corner – Book Pumpkins! Give old books new life by creating unique pumpkins, perfect for autumn and Halloween decorations.

Teardown Tuesday Join us in the "Breaker Space" where we tear down small appliances and electronic devices to see what makes them tick, learn about their components and harvest parts.

Tech in Ten: LinkedIn Basics Learn to create a LinkedIn account, build your profile and start searching for jobs in 10 minutes or less.

Tic-TECH-Toe: Pinterest Need a new recipe, DIY craft ideas or better ways to organize the garage? Learn how to create visual idea boards and get pinning!

Trivia Night From Harry Potter to the latest social media trends, see if you have what it takes to come out on top in our digital Trivia Night!

12 Bel^ow Features trivia, games, challenges and activities online for school-aged kids.

Virtual Pumpkin Painting Pick up a pumpkin at the library, grab your paintbrushes and join on Zoom to paint pumpkins with the Teen librarians.

Writing Group Join our writing group and build writing skills while providing feedback to one another, using Zoom and Google Docs to share ideas.

LIBRARY IN THE FOREST

The Library Board of Trustees met recently and, following extensive discussions regarding the opening of the library, have elected to remain closed. Opening the library will be re-evaluated at the next regular BOT meeting scheduled for October 28, 2020. In the meantime, patrons are encouraged to take advantage of online programming and databases, and pick-up of materials via curbside service. A new service launched last month – Li(VE)brarians – where patrons can utilize Skype to interact live with library staff to receive one-on-one reference, reader’s advisory assistance and technology instruction. Also new in September – Virtual Bookshelf Hot Reads! – featuring some of the most popular current books, along with a link to reserve these Hot Reads! Both new services are accessible under the Services tab on the Library website!

NEED A LIBRARY CARD?

No problem! To register online for library card, visit <https://vestavialibrary.org/library-membership>.

Why is the Library Still Closed?

- 1. Minor renovations.** Beginning October 1, 2020, the library is scheduled to undergo minor renovations, including carpet replacement, which will require the removal of furniture and bookshelves.
- 2. Staffing concerns.** Compared to other local libraries, the Library in the Forest has a relatively small staff (32 employees) but have had three COVID-19 cases in the last two months. If directly exposed, multiple staff members would be required to self-quarantine for a minimum of 14 days and the library would not have sufficient staff to cover open departments.
- 3. After school library use.** A significant number of students typically use the library on a daily basis, especially on weekday afternoons. Due to capacity limitations, the library would not be able to accommodate the students that previously spent their afternoons at the library.
- 4. Case numbers.** For the safety of the library staff and patrons, the BOT is continuing to monitor the number of COVID-19 cases in Jefferson County and will consider reopening only after a steady decline in cases over a 14-day period.

Curbside Pickup to Check Out Materials

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). Visit www.vestavialibrary.org/curbside-pickup for links to reserve materials (books, magazines, DVDs and more) online through the JCLC Encore Catalog or call 205.978.0155 ext. 2. Need help choosing books? Visit the online Virtual Bookshelf at www.vestavialibrary.org/virtual-bookshelf.

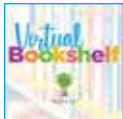
Access Digital Resources 24/7!

Library in the Forest digital services are always open online at www.vestavialibrary.org! Discover a wide range of FREE digital resources that may be accessed from home with your library card — including eBooks, audiobooks, streaming movies, online databases and more. **Having trouble accessing digital offerings? Call 205.978.0155 for assistance from a librarian.**

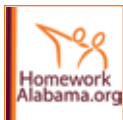
Check out these digital resources and more at www.vestavialibrary.org:



Patrons can utilize Skype to interact live, one-on-one with library staff to receive assistance, technology instruction, etc.



Visit the Virtual Bookshelf to check out curated lists of recommendations from your Library in the Forest librarians.



Log in with your library card for one-to-one homework help.



Enjoy critically-acclaimed movies, inspiring documentaries, award-winning foreign films and more!



Did you know the Library in the Forest has thousands of eBooks and audiobooks? You can borrow them, instantly, on your phone or tablet.



Vestavia Hills residents can quickly download or stream movies, TV shows, music and audiobooks.



Duolingo makes it easy to learn a language. It's 100% fun, science-based learning.



Universal Class offers more than 500 online non-college credit continuing education courses.



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

PRSR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 BIRMINGHAM, AL
 PERMIT #585



Shades Mountain Imaging

Trust Us to Be Your Partner in Health



Shades Mountain Imaging will help you navigate the health care process.
 We will work with your physician to provide you with top notch care as well as a hassle-free experience.

Shades Mountain Imaging provides you with:

- Free Parking
- Insurance Submissions
- Large Wide Bore MRI with a “Zen” Theater Package to keep you relaxed during your exam

Services Provided at Shades Mountain Imaging:

- X-Rays
- Ultra Sound
- CT
- MRI
- Friendly and Knowledgeable Staff
- NO additional FEE as compared to a Hospital Based imaging center

When your physician orders one of these tests, tell them you want to go to Shades Mountain Imaging!

502 Montgomery Highway, #101 Vestavia Hills, AL 35216

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

www.shadesmountainimaging.com