

COMMUNITY NEWS

News & Events for the City of Vestavia Hills • October 2021

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



Jeff Downes,
City Manager
City of
Vestavia Hills

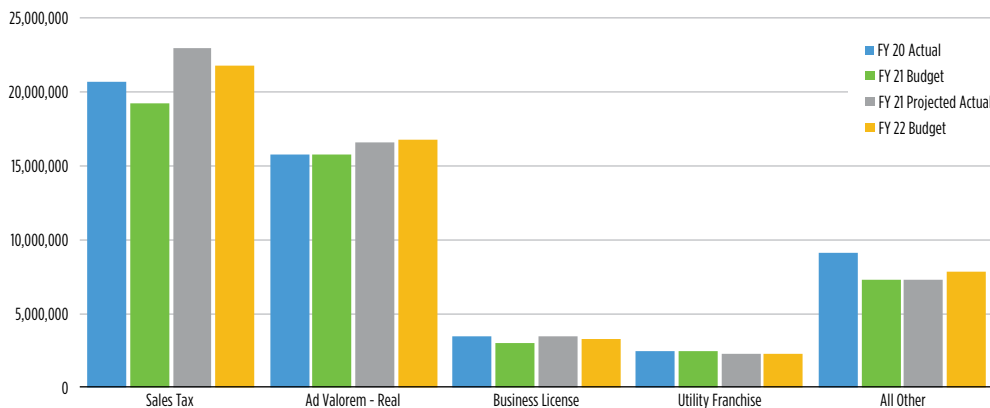
CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Every year I submit a proposed budget to the Vestavia Hills City Council for their consideration and approval. The budget is more than just a spending plan. It is focused as a key component to move forward on the Council's strategic initiatives that they have prioritized as a part of their planning process. As such, I see it as an exciting launchpad for many activities in the City. I was proud to present the proposed FY 2022 general and special fund budgets to the Council, and I am pleased to say it was adopted at the regular meeting of the City Council on September 13.

The budget represents a continuing philosophy of conservatism in revenue projection and expenditure plans that most effectively react to community needs and priorities as established by the City Council, as governing body. Due to the fact that FY 2021 was a record year relative to revenue growth, most, if not all, of the Council's identified priorities have been addressed in one way or another. FY 2022 General Fund budgeted revenues represent an 8.89% increase over the previous fiscal year budget.

Expressed another way, this is an additional \$4.2mm in financial resources available to address our needs compared to last year. To reinforce the conservatism in this budgeted general fund revenue projection, the FY 2022 total General Fund budgeted revenues are actually slightly less than projected actual General Fund revenues in FY 2021. The following graph and chart reflects these statements in an illustrative manner:

Historical Comparison of General Fund Budget and Actual Results



City of Vestavia Hills General Fund Revenue

	FY 20 Actual	FY 21 Budget	FY 21 Projected Actual	FY 22 Budget	% FY 21 Projected Actual vs. FY 22 Budget	% FY 21 Budget vs. FY 22 Budget
Sales Tax	20,680,685	19,253,514	22,963,583	21,783,737	-5.14%	13.14%
Ad Valorem - Real	15,786,903	15,740,785	16,595,139	16,785,573	1.15%	6.64%
Business License	3,475,946	3,033,890	3,429,776	3,316,615	-3.30%	9.32%
Utility Franchise	2,437,429	2,437,311	2,240,464	2,307,463	2.99%	-5.33%
All Other	9,093,840	7,318,173	7,318,173	7,838,736	7.11%	7.11%
Total	51,474,803	47,783,673	52,547,135	52,032,124	-0.98%	8.89%

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

October 2021

- 7 Design Review Board,**
Executive Conference Room,
6 p.m.
- 11 Columbus Day**
- 11 Senior Citizens Luncheon,**
Dogwood Room, 11:30 a.m.
- 11 City Council Meeting,**
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 12 Chamber Luncheon,**
Vestavia Country Club,
11:30 a.m.
- 14 Planning and Zoning Commission,**
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 18 Council Work Session,**
Executive Conference Room,
6 p.m.
- 19 Parks and Recreation Board,**
Executive Conference Room,
5:30 p.m.
- 21 Community Night Out,**
City Hall, 5:00 p.m.
- 25 City Council Meeting,**
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 28 Board of Zoning Adjustment,**
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 28 Viva Vestavia Hills,**
Hollywood Pools, 6:30 p.m.
Ticket required
- 31 Halloween**



Ashley Curry,
Mayor
City of
Vestavia Hills

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

According to the 2020 census, Vestavia Hills' population grew by 5,000 residents since the 2010 census. We now have a population of 39,000 which places us on the list of the 15 largest cities in Alabama. But it is not our population that makes us a great place to live. It is a number of things.

Why did you decide to live in Vestavia Hills? Maybe you moved here for some of the scenery, such as the panoramic views from Shades Mountain. Maybe you moved here because of the excellent Vestavia Hills City schools. For most, it was a combination of factors that contribute to the "quality of life" that Vestavia Hills has to offer.

In my recent "State of the City" address, I referenced a report by "AreaVibes," an online service that rates cities across the country. According to them, the "livability" of a city is based on the quality of life that the city offers. This livability score is created from a unique algorithm based on these seven important metrics: amenities, cost of living, crime rates, education, employment, housing and weather.

The higher the livability score, the better the city. Vestavia Hills has again been listed as the #1 city for livability in Alabama. It was at the top of the list last year as well. Nationally, we are rated in the top 200 cities in the nation. Their ranking places us in the top 2% of the nation for livability.

The recent Community Spaces Plan (CSP) has upgraded most of our parks and recreational fields in all areas of the city. The infrastructure portion of the CSP included road improvements, specifically in Cahaba Heights, and additional sidewalks throughout the city.

Our city has a robust housing market. The demand for homes exceeds the supply, hence, many homes are sold within days of being listed.

Vestavia Hills has also, once again, been designated as the safest city in Alabama for cities over 24,000 in population. This is the third year in a row that Vestavia Hills has secured this rating.

Some significant accomplishments this year include an increase in the number of police officers. This increase in personnel will greatly reduce response times for the eastern portion of our city.

Our Fire Department continues to be rated as a Class 2 fire department by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). We are one of 47 departments in the state of Alabama to have obtained a Class 2 rating. This places us in the top 4% for the state of Alabama and in the top 5% of all ISO-rated fire departments nationwide.

All of these factors make Vestavia Hills a desirable place to live. At the end of this year, we will have finished the new civic center. You will be very proud of the finished product as we maintain the "livability" standard that we expect in Vestavia Hills.

This past month we honored our senior citizens with the observance of "National Senior Citizens Day." This day was created as a day to support, honor and show appreciation to our seniors and to recognize their achievements. Our seniors play a vital role in the vitality of our services and quality of life activities in our city.

Also, during September, our Vestavia Hills High School Habitat for Humanity Club sponsored a "Love Your Neighbor" concert to raise money for the club's participation in the construction of a home for a family in need in the greater Birmingham area. By proclamation, the City declared September 20-24, 2021 as "Love Your Neighbor Week" in Vestavia Hills. Take time this month to help someone or support some charitable group, your civic club, or your church that helps others.

Children born into all kinds of circumstances have dreams and dreams are powerful.

WE DO WHAT WE DO BECAUSE CHILDREN HAVE DREAMS.

1600 7TH AVENUE S.
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35233
(205) 638-9100

ChildrensAL.org

Children's of Alabama

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

— Continued from page 1

Following are highlights of the major themes supported in the FY 2022 budget:

- To recognize the value of our City staff and in acknowledgment of the increasing cost of living, the budget includes a 3% COLA for all City employees. Furthermore, the budget fully funds longevity pay, merit increases and absorbs an anticipated growth in the cost of health benefits.
- To continue a priority with improving public safety operations, the budget includes funding for additional police officers, fire fighters, one-to-one assignment of police vehicles for patrol officers, in addition to facility and equipment upgrades for the Fire Department.
- Infrastructure is a priority as well. The budget proposal includes resurfacing nearly nine miles of residential streets, and includes, for the first time, dedicated public storm water pipe replacement funding, as well as professional services and an additional employee to assist in the engineering execution of these priorities.
- The budget includes significant increases in employee resources to manage our new Parks and Recreation assets along with enhanced contractual support for grass cutting activities.
- With the increased number of assets, both vehicular and building related, the need to manage the associated increases in technology is addressed in the budget with an additional IT employee and technology upgrades.
- Other facility upgrades include the replacement and addition of artificial turf to improve the playing condition and increase the utility of various fields at SHAC and Wald Park. Recognizing the need to continuously maintain aging structures, the Library in the Forest and Liberty Park athletic complex receive upgrades as well.

Again, this list is not intended to be all encompassing but just to give a flavor of the areas that our noteworthy financial growth has been able to fund. I encourage you to review complete budget on the City's website at https://bit.ly/FY22budget_VH. The bottom line is that our FY 22 spending plan and recent financial success have expedited many of the priorities that will make our city a better place to live.

I hope you can see the results over the next 12 months.



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

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The Vestavia Hills City Schools strategic plan includes a goal of embracing our leadership role in developing common understandings and shared community support for confronting the problems and challenges that impact the system, youth and families. We can all agree that those challenges are only growing. We can also agree that confronting them begins with students feeling safe, supported and appreciated.

The priority in this goal is a safe and secure learning environment. Healthy school buildings are an important part of this work. VHCS has partnered with DOL Solutions to enhance our security procedures and this year will be investing almost \$700,000 in security improvements to our campuses. The system is also partnering with Schneider Electric to implement our healthy school buildings management plan. This year, we will invest nearly \$5 million in lighting, indoor air quality and roofing improvements at VHHS and VHEE. We have an additional \$16 million in projects for our other schools when funding becomes available.

VHCS also strives to meet each student at the point of their social and emotional needs. This year, our counselors are leading professional learning for all teachers on mental health awareness. We are also expanding our efforts by adding a mental health therapist who will focus on elementary grades. The district is fortunate to have 22 counselors that work with our students, which is one for every 322 students. The academic guidance and social/emotional needs of our students, however, continue to increase. An ideal ratio for our counseling team to meet those needs would be one for every 250 students.

Finally, each of our schools emphasizes character development and growth. I recently heard a great definition of character: it is the sum of our habits. Core values are the building blocks of habits that form character. They ground us when we disagree and guide us in how we appreciate and respect others, no matter their skin color, creed or condition. You can learn more about this exciting work by visiting our website and listening to The Intentional Pursuit podcast at vestavia.k12.al.us/podcast.

As we look to the future and the next fifty years in our school system, we desire to have a sustainable model that supports students with the capacity and agility to confront challenges, known and unknown. That is how we remove limits to learning for all of our students. It is a clarion call for our school system.



**Karen Odle,
President**

Vestavia Hills
Chamber of Commerce

CHAMBER NEWS

A special thanks to all of the volunteers that worked at our 7th Annual Vestavia Hills Helping Hands in the Hills event on September 11 at City Hall. We continued hazardous waste disposal, as well as medication take back and the popular shredding and e-recycle event for the community. It was a huge success! Special

thanks to the Vestavia Hills Police Department for handling the medication take back. They collected 169 pounds of unneeded or old medication. Amwaste Services did an outstanding job of helping us clean out unwanted paint/cans, pesticides, light bulbs and batteries, collecting 14.64 tons of these items to dispose of properly. Protec e-Recycling handled our electronic recycling and collected 8.19 tons of electronic items. Last, but not least, Gone for Good, a United Ability company, handled our shredding for us and helped dispose of 7 tons of paper that will be recycled and kept out of landfills.

The volunteers were incredible and made such a difference in the lives of many. We could certainly tell that folks had been home cleaning out their basements and garages, as we had a record amounts of items collected and recycled. A special thank you to the following groups for all of their efforts to make this event a success: Mountaintop Community Church; Philadelphia Baptist Church; Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors; Vestavia Hills Sunrise Rotary; Vestavia Hills Rotary; and VHHS Baseball Team. THANK YOU to every individual and business that worked so hard to make Vestavia Hills "A Life Above"!

Viva Vestavia XVII is scheduled for October 28. We are excited to bring this "taste of Vestavia Hills" back and we are so grateful to Hollywood Pools/Alabama Gaslight & Grill for hosting us once more before as we eagerly await the move into our new office space. This is a fun event with costumes optional, and a great way to taste the fare of restaurants you may not have visited before. Get your ticket early! Tickets are \$50 each and may be purchased on our website at www.vestaviahills.org.



THE BLACK FAMILY

McDonald's® is proud to be your neighborhood restaurant-not just a restaurant in your neighborhood. As such, we strive to be a good neighbor and a positive influence in Vestavia Hills. Locally owned and operated, McDonald's restaurants support a wide variety of efforts throughout central Alabama, including schools, arts and cultural events, and of course, our hometown Ronald McDonald House as they support keeping families close.

***Thank you for the opportunity to serve
our community for over 40 years.***



Your Vestavia Hills McDonald's®

DON'T HUNT IN YOUR BACKYARD!

What is hunting? Hunting includes pursuing, shooting, killing, capturing and trapping wild animals, wild birds and all lesser acts, such as disturbing, harrying or worrying, or placing, setting, drawing or using any device used to take wild animals, wild birds, whether they result in taking or not, and includes every act of assistance to any person in taking or attempting to take wild animals or wild birds.

What are the guidelines regarding hunting in a residential area? The Alabama Administrative Code states: "It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt or attempt to hunt within 100 yards of any dwelling belonging to another, whether occupied or not, without permission of the owner or lessee of said dwelling." Violating this law, AL 220-2-.139, is a misdemeanor offense in the state of Alabama.

If you suspect someone of illegally hunting within the city limits of Vestavia Hills, please contact Vestavia Hills dispatch at 205.823.1153 or the Alabama Game and Fish dispatch at 800.272.GAME.

★★★ THE VESTAVIA HILLS POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS PRESENT ★★★

Fall Festival
COMMUNITY NIGHT OUT
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21
5:00PM - 8:00PM
VESTAVIA HILLS CITY HALL

Join us for a night of free, family fun!

FREE FOOD . PHOTOBOOTH . PUMPKIN PATCH . DJ
JUMPHOUSES . KIDS ACTIVITIES . LOCAL VENDORS
HALLOWEEN COSTUMES ENCOURAGED

For more information, follow the Vestavia Hills Police Department on Facebook, call 205.978.0123 or email vhpfdn@gmail.com.



VIVA VESTAVIA HILLS
Eat, Drink & Be Scary!
A TASTE OF VESTAVIA HILLS RESTAURANT FARE & FINE WINES
Thursday, October 28, 2021
6:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
HOLLYWOOD POOLS/ALABAMA GASLIGHT & GRILL
1441 MONTGOMERY HIGHWAY
**PRESENTED BY THE VESTAVIA HILLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION,
& VESTAVIA HILLS RESTAURANTS & BUSINESSES**
PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT:
THE CHAMBER FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND & CAPITAL FUND.
TICKETS – \$50.00 PER PERSON (85% TAX DEDUCTIBLE)
INCLUDES A VIVA VESTAVIA XVII COMMEMORATIVE ETCHED WINE GLASS
VISIT VESTAVIAHILLS.ORG OR CALL (205) 823-5011 TO PURCHASE
MUST BE 21 OR OVER TO ATTEND.

Costume Contest **Silent Auction**

OCTOBER events

Children (Birth-Gr. 1) | Tweens (Gr. 2-6) | Teens (Gr. 6-12) | Adults (Ages 18+)
 Tech (Ages 18+) | Makerspace (All ages, unless noted)



- 1 **Open Gaming**, 4pm, Community Room
- 2 **Ms. Courtney's Library Stop!**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room
- 5 **Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 10:30am, Community Room
Open Maker Lab, 3:30pm, Makerspace
Smash Bits!, 4pm, YouTube
- 6 **Story Friends**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room
Handmade with Holly: Graham Cracker Haunted Houses, 11am, Community Room
Picking Up S.T.E.A.M: Building with Candy Pumpkins, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room
Writing Group, 4pm, Historical Room
- 7 **Book Babies**, 10am, Treehouse
Tai Chi, 3pm, Community Room
12 Bel^ow: Game On!, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room
Intermediate Microsoft Excel Part II, 4pm, Electronic Classroom
Online Chess Club, 4pm, Zoom
Vinyl Cutting 101, 4:30pm, Makerspace
Read & Feed Book Group: Klara and the Sun, 6pm, Historical Room
- 8 **Open Gaming**, 4pm, Community Room
- 11 **Word Play Writing Group**, 6pm, Community Room
- 12 **Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 10:30am, Community Room
Open Maker Lab, 3:30pm, Makerspace
The Eerie Escape, 4pm, Community Room
Family Night with Juggler Ron Anglin, 6pm, Community Room
- 13 **Story Friends**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room
ABCs of Medicare, 12pm, Community Room
Picking Up S.T.E.A.M: Spider Slime, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room
Pocket Size Pixel Art, 4pm, Treehouse
- 14 **Book Babies**, 10am, Treehouse
Tai Chi, 3pm, Community Room
12 Bel^ow: Candy Challenge, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room
Advanced Excel: Pivot Tables and Dashboards, 4pm, Electronic Classroom
The Breakerspace Teardown, 4:30pm, Makerspace

- 15 **Open Gaming**, 4pm, Community Room
- 16 **Ms. Courtney's Library Stop!**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room
- 18 **More Than Words Book Group: All by Myself Alone**, 6pm, Tree House
- 19 **Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 10:30am, Community Room
Pumpkin Painting, 4pm, Amphitheater
- 20 **Story Friends**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room
Picking Up S.T.E.A.M: Pumpkin Monsters, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room
Among Us, 4pm, Discord
- 21 **Book Babies**, 10am, Treehouse
Tai Chi, 3pm, Community Room
12 Bel^ow: Crafternoon Pumpkin Painting, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room
Find the Perfect Job, 4pm, Electronic Classroom
- 22 **Open Gaming**, 4pm, Community Room
Craft*Lab: Halloween Wreath, 7pm, Community Room
- 26 **Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 3:30pm, Community Room
Anime Horror Night, 4pm, Community Room
- 27 **Story Friends**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room
Picking Up S.T.E.A.M: Halloween Fun, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room
Art Group, 4pm, Treehouse
- 28 **Book Babies**, 10am, Treehouse
Friends of the Library: City Programs for Seniors, 10am, Community Room
Tai Chi, 3pm, Community Room
12 Bel^ow: Halloween Trivia for Prizes!, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room
Google Drive, 4pm, Electronic Classroom
- 29 **Super Smash Bros Tournament**, 4pm, Community Room
Spooktacular, 6:30pm, Community Room and Amphitheater
- 30 **Dungeons and Dragons One-Shot**, 10am, Historical Room

For more information, visit vestavialibrary.org or call 205.978.0155.

PARKS & RECREATION



YOUTH BASKETBALL

Registration for **Girls Youth Basketball** is open NOW through October 15. Register online at www.vesthgb.website.sportssignup.com.

Registration for **Boys Youth Basketball** is open NOW through October 8. (7th & 8th grade boys may register through October 26.) Register online at www.vhybasketball.org.

Practices for both leagues will begin the week of November 2; games will begin on November 13.

CHILDREN'S ART CLASSES

Join us for children's art classes at the Rec Center! Instructor Svetlana Belotserkovskaya will teach a variety of art techniques related to scale, composition, shading, color theory and values and will learn to draw using various media, including charcoal, colored pencils, watercolor, acrylic, pastel and much more.

Classes are held on Wednesdays from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Ages 6+; \$110 per month (4 classes); Pick up from VHEW extended care is provided. For more information or to register, call/text 205.862.2789 or email artinbirmingham@gmail.com.

RECREATION CENTER

Rec Center membership is FREE for all Vestavia Hills residents! Be sure to visit <http://bit.ly/VHParksandRec> for more information and operating hours for the walking track, open gym times, Jazzercise and pickleball.

SENIOR ADULT ACTIVITIES

Senior Luncheons

Senior Luncheons are back! Bring your friends or meet someone new to enjoy an entertaining afternoon! Contact Ruby Denson (205.822.8788) for more information or to make your reservation.

New Merkel House

Coffee & Conversations begin at 10am and hot lunch is served Monday through Friday beginning at 11:45am.

Join us for Daily Activities!

Mondays Stretching exercises, 10:30am
Tuesdays Tai Chi
Thursdays Tech Talk
Fridays Bingo, 11am

Closed October 11 in observance of Columbus Day

For more information about New Merkel House, contact Melanie Perry (205.967.5977; mperry@vhal.org).



CALLING 911

When you have a need for emergency services (police, fire or EMS), calling 911 should be one of your first actions.

Following are a few tips to assist you in getting the help you need during an emergency situation:

- First and foremost, stay calm so the 911 dispatcher can understand your emergency.
- Know your location and where the emergency is located. Providing the exact street address, along with a nearby cross street/intersection, is extremely helpful.
- Vestavia Hills Police and Fire are dispatched from a call center in Shelby County. With most 911 calls coming from cell phones, your call may be routed to another 911 center depending on the cell tower that picks up your call. Be sure to let the 911 dispatcher know you are in the City of Vestavia Hills.
- Give a quick description of your emergency. The dispatcher will ask questions that you need to answer. This DOES NOT delay the dispatch of needed help. One dispatcher will take the call and send the information to another dispatcher. They will in turn send the necessary resources to the location of the emergency.
- Do not hang up until the dispatcher advises you to do so. Responders may need additional information to provide a better response.
- Do NOT call a fire station or City Hall if you have an emergency. This will delay getting the help you need. Though fire stations are staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, personnel may be out on another call and unable to answer your phone call. Shelby County 911 is staffed and ready to take your call every hour of every day.

Stay safe!



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

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



FALL FESTIVAL
Food. Family. Fun.
 OCTOBER 17 • 4-6PM
 Vestavia Methodist

TRUNK OR TREAT
 Wednesday, October 27
 6PM
 VESTAVIA METHODIST PARKING LOT

LIVE2»LEAD

VESTAVIA HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



- LEAD YOURSELF — INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS
- LEAD YOUR TEAM — MULTIPLY BUY-IN FOR VISION AND MISSION
- LEAD OTHERS — CREATE COLLABORATIVE CULTURE

THURSDAY, NOV. 4, 2021
8:30 AM — 12:00 PM

REGISTRATION: 8:00 AM — 8:30 AM
 LOCATION: VESTAVIA HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 2061 KENTUCKY AVE., VESTAVIA HILLS, AL 35216
 REGISTRATION \$25 AT: VHUMC.ORG

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
 CALL SUZANNE SCOTT-TRAMMELL AT 205-822-9631

