

# COMMUNITY NEWS

News & Events for the City of Vestavia Hills • Dec. 2021/Jan. 2022

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



Ashley Curry,  
Mayor  
City of  
Vestavia Hills

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

At midnight on November 7, we turned our clocks back to accommodate daylight saving time. I have read in numerous print media that of all the years to add another hour to our lives, this was not a good one. This year is almost over, but to most, 2021 has been a continuation of 2020 with ongoing concerns about COVID-19 and its variants. To say that the pandemic disrupted our lives is an understatement. Hence, people do not want any more of 2021. They are ready to just move on to 2022.

I like a more positive approach to daylight saving time. With the extra hour we can celebrate the fact that COVID-19 numbers are improving, and we are beginning to see a relaxation of mask requirements. It is certainly a blessing that we can gather in groups without stringent social distancing concerns.

As for 2022, Vestavia Hills has much for which to look forward. We are almost finished with the Community Spaces and Infrastructure Plan, the largest City improvement plan in the City's history. You are already enjoying the improvements at Wald Park, the new Aquatic Complex and the park at Cahaba Heights. The street and sidewalk improvements on Crosshaven Drive are almost completed. Phase three of Wald Park, which will include additional green space and a dog park, is underway. Our new Civic Center (the former Gold's Gym building) is progressing. The renovated facility will have two gyms, plenty of meeting rooms and a large banquet room that can accommodate hundreds of guests. The building will also house our Chamber of Commerce and the Vestavia Hills Sports Hall of Fame.

During November, we honored our veterans at two separate events. One was held on November 9 at Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church. The second event was held at the New Merkel House in Cahaba Heights on November 10. We must never forget those that paid the ultimate price to preserve our freedoms and it is a privilege to honor those that served in our country in the various branches of our armed forces.

During the month of December, there are several holiday events that I hope you will enjoy. The Vestavia Hills Tree Lighting Festival was held on Tuesday, November 30 at City Hall, followed the next day by a Menorah Lighting Ceremony on Wednesday, December 1, also at City Hall. The annual Breakfast with Santa will be held on Saturday, December 11 and the holiday parade will be held on Sunday, December 12.

I hope that you had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and that you enjoy the Christmas season. Let's look forward to the new year focusing on our many blessings. Maybe we can use that "extra hour" of 2021 in a productive way. This year is not over yet and we have time to do something beneficial, if not for ourselves, at least for others.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### December 2021

- 1 **Menorah Lighting Ceremony,**  
City Hall, 5 p.m.
- 2 **Design Review Board,**  
Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 9 **Planning & Zoning Commission,**  
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 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.
- 16 **Board of Zoning Adjustment,**  
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 20 **Council Work Session,**  
Council Chamber, 5 p.m.
- 20 **City Council Meeting,**  
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 21 **Parks & Recreation Board,**  
Executive Conference Room, 5:30 p.m.
- 24 & 27 **Municipal Offices Closed,** Christmas\*
- 31 **Municipal Offices Closed,** New Year's\*

### January 2022

- 3 **Municipal Offices Closed,** New Year's\*
- 6 **Design Review Board,**  
Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 10 **Senior Citizens Luncheon,**  
Dogwood Room, 11:30 a.m.
- 10 **City Council Meeting,**  
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 11 **Chamber Luncheon,**  
Vestavia Country Club, 11:30 a.m.
- 13 **Planning & Zoning Commission,**  
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 17 **Municipal Offices Closed,**  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 18 **Parks & Recreation Board,**  
Executive Conference Room, 7 a.m.
- 20 **Board of Zoning Adjustment,**  
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 24 **City Council Meeting,**  
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.

\* Sanitation routes will run as normal due to holidays occurring on Saturday.



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

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Tradition is often synonymous with the holidays. For some, this means time spent with family and friends, attending performances and parties, or celebrating in houses of worship. There is also the tradition of helping others who have significant needs. This is at the heart of the perennial philanthropic tradition of students in Vestavia Hills City Schools.

Our school system is blessed with unparalleled community support from PTO, the Vestavia Hills City Schools Foundation, Partners in Education, service clubs and so many others. These partnerships are some of the many ways that make our schools such special places. When support is reciprocal, however, it adds a whole new depth of meaning for those involved.

This fall, students at Vestavia Hills High School completed two projects that are beautiful examples of living out the values of giving, serving and loving. For their annual fall charity drive, the students chose to support Children's Harbor whose mission is to "serve seriously ill children and their families through unique, no cost services." When the drive was completed, VHHS students collected and donated an amazing \$75,075.

Another student club, VHHS Habitat for Humanity, completed its second annual "Love Your Neighbor Week." The purpose of the week was to demonstrate support for the entire community through small acts of kindness. One event included recognition of all of our faculty and staff. Habitat students galvanized the community to donate more than \$7,000 through individual contributions which paid for a delivered Chick-fil-A lunch for every employee in the system. Additional proceeds received from the club's efforts will fund construction of homes this spring for families in need.

This holiday season, students across Vestavia Hills City Schools are collecting and donating nonperishable snacks, socks, books, toys, canned foods, gift cards and other essential items. They will soon donate these items to beneficiaries including Children's Hospital, Boys and Girls Club, Unless U, Jimmy Hale Mission, Jessie's Place, neighboring schools and many more. You can learn more about these student-led efforts by listening to The Intentional Pursuit podcast on Spotify or on our website at [vestavia.k12.al.us/podcast](http://vestavia.k12.al.us/podcast).

When our students give, they do it with humility. When they serve, they do it sacrificially. As they love their fellow man, they do it with compassion. They put others before themselves and respect the worth of every individual. The affirming message

from our future generation is that these are the values that knit the tapestry of a community unparalleled in supporting its neighbor. Giving, serving and loving others unconditionally outshines the fog of indifference. What a blessing it is to live in Vestavia Hills!



**A RISE EVENT**

# A SANTA CELEBRATION

**December 5**  
**4-6 pm**  
**VHHS Gym**

- Pictures with Santa
- Cookie Decorating
- Sing-a-long with Jovie the Elf
- Snowball Fights with Buddy the Elf
- Make Reindeer Food
- Christmas Crafts
- Coloring Station
- And more . . .

## VESTAVIA HILLS BEAUTIFICATION BOARD

**Light Up Vestavia Hills.** Beginning **December 1, 2021**, all residents are encouraged to **place a live or artificial tree featuring white lights in your front yard** (visible from the street). Encourage your neighbors to do the same and **let's Light Up Vestavia Hills!**

**Yard Judging.** VHBB members will conduct the annual holiday yard judging **December 13-20, 2021**. **Winners will receive a certificate of thanks from the Mayor's office and will host a "Winning Yard" sign until the end of the month.** Happy decorating!



## SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATION

**Youth Baseball.** Vestavia Hills Youth Baseball (VHYB) provides recreational baseball opportunities for youth, ages 4-18, living in Vestavia Hills and surrounding areas. Spring registration is open December 15 through January 15. For more information or to register your player, visit [www.vhyb.com](http://www.vhyb.com). To be eligible to play, your player must be 4 years old by April 30, 2022.

**Youth Softball.** Youth softball registration is open NOW! For more information and to register your player, visit [vhgsa.com](http://vhgsa.com). For more information, contact Bevia Robinson ([brobinson@vhal.org](mailto:brobinson@vhal.org)).

**Adult Athletics Coming Soon!** Parks and Recreation will begin offering adult softball, basketball, cornhole, volleyball, flag football and kickball rec starting this spring. Registration for adult softball will be open January 5-26. Adult basketball registration will open January 19 through February 9. And pickleball will begin on January 11! Visit our website and be sure to follow us on social media for the full schedule of events! For more information, contact Doug Rogers ([drogers@vhal.org](mailto:drogers@vhal.org)).

## WINTER ART CLASSES

Registration for children's art classes **CLOSES** on December 17, 2021. Children's art classes will be held December 20-23, 2021 from 8:30am-noon in the art room at the Vestavia Hills Civic Center. For more information, contact Melinda Burnett ([mburnett@vhal.org](mailto:mburnett@vhal.org)).

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES!

**Lifeguards.** Now hiring lifeguards for the summer swim season at the Vestavia Hills Aquatic Complex. For more information or to apply, contact William Laatsch ([wlaatsch@vhal.org](mailto:wlaatsch@vhal.org)).

**Facility Monitors.** Responsibilities include unlocking/locking fields or buildings, turning on lights, working with athletes, coaches, user groups and parents to ensure the safety and security of Parks and Rec facilities. For more information or to apply contact Mike Prociuk ([mprociuk@vhal.org](mailto:mprociuk@vhal.org)).

## SENIOR ADULT ACTIVITIES

Visit <https://vhal.org/community/senior-living> to download the Senior Adult Event Calendar featuring detailed info for each of the following events!

### New Merkel House NEW HOURS as of January 2022!

Mondays-Friday.....9:00am-4:00pm  
Saturday & Sunday..... Closed

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

### Events, Activities & Outings!

#### December 2021

- 2 **Bridge Bash**, Dogwood Room, 10am-2pm
- 6 **Monday Night Dance**, Dogwood Room, 6-9pm
- 9 **Holiday Concert** *featuring the VHHS Jazz Band*, Dogwood Room, 3-5pm
- 13 **Senior Luncheon**, Dogwood Room, 11:30am
- 13 **Monday Night Dance**, Dogwood Room, 6-9pm
- 16 **Lunch Bunch**, The Bright Star, 10:25am
- 20 **Monday Night Dance**, Dogwood Room, 6-9pm

#### January 2022

- 10 **Senior Luncheon**, Civic Center, 11:30am
- 10 **Monday Night Dance**, Dogwood Room, 6-9pm
- 13 **Day Trip: Tour of the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament**, 9am
- 20 **Lunch Bunch**, Niki's West, 10:45am
- 24 **Monday Night Dance**, Dogwood Room, 6-9pm
- 31 **Monday Night Dance**, Dogwood Room, 6-9pm

## CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

Amwaste is offering two options for residents to dispose of live Christmas trees:

1. Place the clean tree, stripped of all decor, on the curb at your home for pick-up.  
*Every attempt will be made to collect the tree on your regular trash day, but may be delayed if the truck is full.*
2. Don't want to wait until trash day? Drop your tree in the Amwaste container at City Hall.

**NOTE:** There will be no interruption to household sanitation routes this holiday season, as both Christmas Day and New Year's Day occur on Saturdays this year.





**Karen Odle,  
President**

Vestavia Hills  
Chamber of Commerce

## CHAMBER NEWS

As we come to the close of another year, I find myself reflecting on our business community. While things have opened back up, our small business community has continued to face challenges like never before. Inability to obtain supplies, insane price increases (due to availability and inflation!) and extremely low workforce

participation have made it very difficult to return to pre-pandemic operations. Please be patient with our businesses and kind and realize that most of the issues they are dealing with are out of their control; it is not their desire to have long lines or not have products that you want. While some businesses did close during the pandemic, we are fortunate to have lost very few.

Although it has been challenging and stressful, it also has shown the tenacity and courage that we have as both businesses and residents of this wonderful city, state and country! I am so very grateful for the freedoms that we have in this country. We are still blessed beyond anything we any deserve. Thank you to the many wonderful people that spend countless hours making our community a better place for all. Our citizens continue to amaze me with their energy and focus on making Vestavia Hills a great place to work, play and live as we strive for “A Life Above” for every member of our community.

I trust that as you are thinking about your holiday shopping and dining, you will remember the many incredible businesses we have in Vestavia Hills. They are the ones you go to when you need a silent auction item, a sponsor for your little league team or something for your church projects so please help keep our small business IN business. Taxes from the revenue produced by these businesses are what enables our city to provide many of the incredible services that we enjoy. If you wonder what’s in it for you, please remember:

- Small businesses are the life blood of any community.
- There are 32.5 million small businesses in the U.S. (SBA, 2021)
- Small businesses account for 99.9% of all businesses in the US. (SBA, 2021)
- Small businesses donate 250% more than larger businesses to non-profits and community causes (Source: Seattle Good Business Network).
- It is easier to keep a business than recruit a new one so support of the small business community is vital for retention.

- COVID-19 has continued to place an undue hardship on our small businesses as overhead continues even though revenues have taken a hit.

I quote all of these statistics to help our residents understand what a wonderful opportunity we have to help our Vestavia Hills small business owners stay in business by supporting them before we leave our city to shop at stores outside Vestavia Hills. They have each been hit hard by COVID-19 and many are struggling to stay afloat. Please support our local businesses to show (and tell) them how much we value them ... YOU can make a difference!

As this is the last issue for 2021, my family and I would like to wish you and your family a blessed holiday season and abundant peace and joy. May 2022 be a year blessed with good health and prosperity for each of you. As always our doors are always open at the Chamber office. We look forward to working with you as we strive for “A Life Above.”

Ask a child what he dreams of doing in the future. His answer brings everything into focus for us.

WE DO WHAT WE DO BECAUSE CHILDREN HAVE DREAMS.

**Children's of Alabama**

**DOWNTOWN RUSSELL CAMPUS**  
1600 7TH AVENUE SOUTH  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35233  
(205) 638-9100

**VESTAVIA PEDIATRICS**  
1936 OLD ORCHARD ROAD  
VESTAVIA HILLS, AL 35216  
(205) 978-3200



Vestavia Hills

**Presented by the City of Vestavia Hills & the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce**  
**For more information and a full list of holiday events, visit [www.vestaviiahills.org](http://www.vestaviiahills.org).**

### *Tree Lighting Festival*

**November 30**

**Vestavia Hills City Hall, 6:00pm**  
**1032 Montgomery Highway**

Enjoy entertainment, merchant give-aways,  
a visit with Santa & the lighting of the tree!

### *Menorah Lighting Ceremony*

**December 1**

**Vestavia Hills City Hall, 5:00pm**  
**1032 Montgomery Highway**

See the lighting of the Menorah and enjoy seasonal music,  
traditional donuts, latkes and a balloon twister for children!

### *Breakfast with Santa*

**December 11**

**Vestavia Hills Civic Center, 7:30-10:00am**  
**1975 Merryvale Road**

Bring the whole family for a FREE  
pancake breakfast with Santa!  
Breakfast provided courtesy of the City of Vestavia Hills.

### *Vestavia Hills Christmas Parade*

**December 12**

**Liberty Park Sports Complex**  
**to Alston Meadows, 2:00-4:00pm**

The Grand Marshal for this year's parade will be  
former Vestavia Hills Mayor Sara Wuska!  
Want to participate in the parade?  
Download the registration form  
at [www.vestaviiahills.org](http://www.vestaviiahills.org).



# Progress Looks Like

Creating  
Memories  
That Make A  
New House

# Home

 Member  
**FDIC**  
NMLS# 401921

**Birmingham**  
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**Vestavia**  
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205.705.1500

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## Rainbow Paint & Decorating

1450 Montgomery Hwy  
Vestavia Hills, AL

M-F: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Sat: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sun: Closed

(205) 822-3548

[www.blinds-birmingham.com](http://www.blinds-birmingham.com)

HunterDouglas  Gallery



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# DECEMBER 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 **Story Friends**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room  
**Handmade with Holly: Tree Slice Ornaments**, 11am, Community Room  
**Picking Up S.T.E.A.M.**, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room  
**Basic Microsoft Excel**, 4pm, Electronic Classroom  
**Writing Group**, 4pm, Historical Room
- 2 **CLOSED, Staff Training**  
**Online Chess Club**, 4:30pm, Zoom
- 3 **Open Gaming**, 4pm, Community Room
- 4 **Ms. Courtney's Library Stop!**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room
- 6 **Hallmark Movie & Bingo Party**, 6pm, Community Room
- 7 **Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 9:30am, Community Room  
**Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 10:30am, Community Room  
**Online Safety**, 4pm, Electronic Classroom  
**DIY: Deck-It-Yourself**, 4pm, Historical Room
- 8 **Story Friends**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room  
**ABCs of Medicare**, 12pm, Community Room  
**Picking Up S.T.E.A.M.**, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room  
**Art Group**, 4pm, Treehouse
- 9 **Read & Feed Book Group: When We Believed in Mermaids**, 6pm, Zoom
- 10 **Gingerbread Men** are DUE TODAY!  
**Open Gaming**, 4pm, Community Room
- 13 **Extended Library Hours**, 9am-9pm, Library  
**Exam Study Breaks**, 3pm, 5pm & 7pm, Historical Room  
**Word Play Writing Group**, 6pm, Community Room
- 14 **Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 9:30am, Community Room  
**Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 10:30am, Community Room  
**Pictures with Santa**, 3-6pm, Makerspace  
**Extended Library Hours**, 9am-9pm, Library  
**Exam Study Breaks**, 3pm, 5pm & 7pm, Historical Room
- 15 **Story Friends**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room  
**Picking Up S.T.E.A.M.**, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room  
**Extended Library Hours**, 9am-9pm, Library  
**Exam Study Breaks**, 3pm, 5pm & 7pm, Historical Room

- 17 **Super Smash Bros Tournament**, 4pm, Community Room  
**Craft\*Lab: Marbled Ornaments**, 7pm, Community Room
- 18 **Ms. Courtney's Library Stop!**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room  
**Dungeons and Dragons One-Shot**, 4pm, Historical Room
- 20 **More Than Words Book Group: Dashing Through the Snow**, 6pm, Tree House
- 21 **Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 9:30am, Community Room  
**Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 10:30am, Community Room  
**A Very Ghibli Christmas**, 4pm, Community Room
- 22 **Story Friends**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room  
**Holiday Camp/Break for Mom**, 2-5pm, Community Room  
**Teen Ginger-Bread Challenge**, 4pm, Treehouse
- 25-27 **CLOSED, Christmas**
- 31-1/3 **CLOSED, New Year's**



**IT'S NOT TOO LATE!!**

Snap your family holiday portrait in the  
**ALL NEW PORTRAIT STUDIO**  
at the Library in the Forest!

Available for patrons AND professionals  
NOW through December 22, 2021!

Reserve your spot TODAY at  
<https://vestavialibrary.org/makerspace/photography-studio>.



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

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# CHRISTMAS EVE

2PM, 4PM, 6PM,  
 8PM, 11PM

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT  
[VHUMC.ORG/ADVENT](http://VHUMC.ORG/ADVENT)

