

COMMUNITY NEWS

News & Events for the City of Vestavia Hills • April 2022

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



Vestavia Hills DOGWOOD FESTIVAL

Spring into fun!

Hopefully you have already enjoyed a Dogwood Festival event [or two]. The festival wraps up in April, but there are still so many opportunities to LIVE and LOVE LOCAL ... get out and enjoy all of the incredible things Vestavia Hills has to offer!

There is something for everyone at the Dogwood Festival!

April Events

- 6: Dogwood Luncheon**
Vestavia Country Club | 11am-2pm
Advance purchase ticket required
- 7: Mastering Happy Hour**
Vestavia City Center | 2-6:30pm
- 7: Party on the Patio**
The Heights Village | 3-8:30pm
- 8: VHHS RISE Day**
Vestavia Hills High School | 4-10pm
- 9: Dogwood Dink Pickleball Tournament**
SHAC Pickleball Complex | 8am-4pm
- 15: Easter Eggstravaganza**
Wald Park | 11am
- 16: Battle of the Bands**
Rocky Ridge Business District | 5-9pm
- 16: Dogwood Days: Rocky Ridge**
Rocky Ridge Business District
- 18: Historical Society Presents: Who Designed Vestavia Hills?**
Vestavia Hills City Hall | 2pm
- 19: Dogwood Prayer Breakfast**
Vestavia Country Club | 7:30-9am
Advance purchase ticket required
- 21: Dogwood Days Farmer's Market: Liberty Park**
Liberty Park | 4:30-7:30pm
- 22: Concert Series: Sean Michael Ray**
Wald Park Grand Lawn | 7pm
- 23: Garden Club Yard Sale**
Scout Square | 8am-2pm
- 23: Wing Ding**
City Hall | 4-7pm
- 24: Heights Hangout**
The Heights Village | 2-7pm



Scan for detailed event info
or visit https://bit.ly/Dogwood_Fest

Share your fun on social!

Don't forget to tag us
in your event pics:
#pictureyourselfieVH



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The events and dates below are subject to change. Please refer to the calendar on the City of Vestavia Hills website for the most up-to-date event information.

- 7 Design Review Board,**
Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 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 & Zoning Commission,**
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 15 Municipal Offices Closed**
in observance of Good Friday*
- 17 Easter**
- 18 Tax Day**
- 18 Vestavia Hills Historical Society,**
Council Chamber, 2 p.m.
- 18 Council Work Session,**
Council Chamber, 5 p.m.
- 19 Parks and Recreation Board,**
Executive Conference Room,
5:30 p.m.
- 21 Board of Zoning Adjustment,**
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 23 Vestavia Hills Garden Club
Yard Sale,** Scout Square, 8 a.m.
Rain date: April 30
- 23 Wing Ding,** City Hall, 4 p.m.
- 25 City Council Meeting,**
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.

*NOT a sanitation holiday;
routes will run as normal.



Ashley Curry,
Mayor
City of
Vestavia Hills

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

On April 1, 1957, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) aired a documentary about spaghetti growers in Switzerland. Soon after the broadcast, the BBC received phone calls from viewers eager wanting to know if spaghetti really grew on trees and how they might grow a spaghetti tree of their own.

This may have been one of the greatest April Fool's Day pranks of all time. Hopefully your

April Fool's Day pranks are as innocent as this. Pranks withstanding, I hope you are enjoying a beautiful April and our spring weather.

As I have mentioned previously, April is the month that we officially recognize the important role that volunteers play in our city. April became "National Volunteer Month" as part of President George H. W. Bush's "1000 Points of Light" campaign in 1991. I cannot emphasize enough the difference that volunteers make in our city. We are blessed to have so many citizens that volunteer their time and talents to so many different causes. From our Parks and Recreation leagues, our garden clubs, our Foundations, our PTO's, our library volunteers, our civic clubs, and numerous others, we need to recognize all the volunteers that make our city a great place to live.

Speaking of civic clubs, we have a new civic club coming to Vestavia Hills. Join me in welcoming the new Vestavia Hills Kiwanis Club. Kiwanis was the first civic club in Vestavia Hills, having been organized in 1964. After a bit of an absence, the club is being reorganized. Kiwanis International is a global organization whose primary purpose is serving the children of the world. Kiwanis and

its family of clubs – nearly 600,000 members strong – annually raise more than \$100 million and dedicate more than 18 million volunteer hours to strengthen communities and serve children.

Volunteers come in all shapes and sizes. They pick a cause and make a difference in their communities or someone's life. Sometimes the difference is a drop in the bucket. Other times it creates a tidal wave of change. At the recent Community Leadership Awards Banquet, sponsored by Leadership Vestavia Hills, Vestavia Hills resident Antoinette (Toni) Vines, founder and president of Mercy Deliverance Ministries, received the Distinguished Citizen Award, and Karen Odle, president of the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce, received the Lifetime Achievement Award. We are honored to have these two amazing volunteers call Vestavia Hills their home!

Finally, I would like to commend the Cahaba River Society in their efforts to restore and protect the Cahaba River watershed. Founded in 1988, they have continuously offered programs to raise awareness about the rich diversity of life in and around the river. One such program is their "CLEAN" program, which provides students an opportunity to experience a hands-on education in the importance of protecting the river. During April, the Cahaba River Society will be offering other opportunities for citizens to participate in several educational programs. If you are interested in participating or volunteering, contact the Society at clean@cahabariversociety.org.

If you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities in Vestavia Hills, visit <https://vhal.org/government/board-pages>.

DOGWOOD LUNCHEON

Make plans to join us for the annual Vestavia Hills Beautification Board Dogwood Luncheon to be held April 6, 2022 at Vestavia Country Club.



This year's event will feature a silent auction, along with guest speaker Whitney Miller. Whitney is a chef, cookbook author, recipe and menu developer, food stylist and more! Tickets are \$30 and are available for purchase at <https://2022vestaviahillsdogwoodluncheon.eventbrite.com>.



VESTAVIA HILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WHO DESIGNED VESTAVIA HILLS?

Historical documents archived in the Library of Congress indicate that Vestavia Hills was designed by Olmsted Brothers, the amazing landscape architecture firm established in 1898 by brothers John Charles Olmsted and Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., sons of landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted. Their firm designed major cities and projects nationwide, including Central Park, Washington D.C. and Biltmore Estate.

Join the Vestavia Hills Historical Society as Alan Coshatt presents the famous Olmsted Brothers and their early influence on Vestavia Hills. **The meeting will be held April 18 at 2pm at Vestavia Hills City Hall.** We hope to see you there!



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

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

One goal of the Vestavia Hills City Schools strategic plan is a clarion call to “embrace our leadership role in developing common understandings and shared community support for confronting the problems and challenges that impact the system, youth and families.” This ambitious goal is achievable because of the exceptional professionals

in our schools who are entrusted with educating our children. There are no programs or curriculum that take the place of caring educators who have a heart for wanting children to succeed.

Counselors have long been at the forefront of partnering with students and families in confronting challenges to learning. Because of the unparalleled support of our community, VHCS has 21 counselors who serve more than 7,000 students. Mrs. Cortney McKinney serves as the counselor at Vestavia Hills Elementary Cahaba Heights and was recently named our Elementary Teacher of the Year. She describes the calling of counselors as one of assisting students in removing the factors that create limits to learning and that “can alter the trajectory of student success.”

Mrs. McKinney’s program exemplifies what we do in each of our schools to promote a safe and nurturing learning environment. It starts with equipping teachers with the necessary knowledge and skills to recognize challenges our students face. She is also relentless in collaborating with community partners in ways that effectively confront those challenges.

Mrs. McKinney explains her primary role as being a helper to students. She spends most of her time investing in the lives of students by teaching about core values, engaging in exploring career interests and setting individual goals. Her focus is on building authentic, trusting relationships with each one of them. Earlier this year, I had the privilege of joining her for a class and experienced the value of this work. Students were literally on the edge of their seats with the lesson they learned about the school’s core values.

The great news is that no matter which school our children attend, they are supported by counselors with the same enthusiasm and commitment as Mrs. McKinney. You can learn more about the work our counseling team does by visiting our website at www.vestavia.k12.al.us or listening to *The Intentional Pursuit* podcast.

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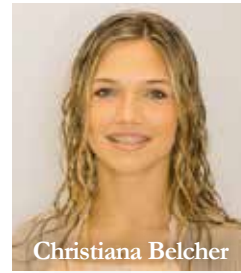
Abby Aven



Bebe Bazemore



Vestavia Belles
2022-2023



Christiana Belcher



Josie Blanchard



Abby Grace Brunson



Mary Grace Butler



Tait Davidson



Virginia Dove



Leah Gordon



Anna Harmon



Ellie Grace Hunter



Haleigh Kelley



Sophia Lindsey



Caroline Lucas



Sara Kate Lynch



Brennan Martin



Madison Martin



Ava Grace Moore



Ivy Morin



Sophie Rose Morros



Lilli Myers



Scarlett Padgett



Claire Pappalardo



Kati Plaia



Farima Pournia



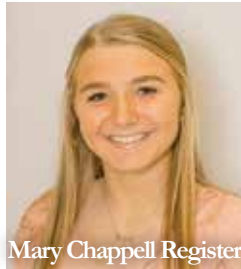
Amelia Preston



Campbell Price



Meg Parker Pugh



Mary Chappell Register



Skylar Scott



Charlee Spencer



Maggie Stewart



Lilly Stockard



Addie Tarrant



Emma Traylor



Emma Watkins



Callie Wilson

PARKS & RECREATION

CIVIC CENTER OPENING SOON!

The new Vestavia Hills Civic Center will be open late spring/early summer 2022. We can't wait for residents to check out the major equipment and facility upgrades – indoor walking track, cardio room, game room and gym access for basketball, pickleball and volleyball – all accessible at a minimal cost for monthly or annual membership. Combine Civic Center membership with Aquatic Complex membership and save!

Membership Options

Category	Monthly	Annual	VHAC Combo*
Individual	\$15	\$135	\$210
Family	\$35	\$300	\$500
Senior (55+)	\$10	\$100	\$125

*Includes Aquatic Complex and Civic Center membership.

Hours of Operation

Sunday: 1-5pm
 Monday through Thursday: 6am-9pm
 Friday: 6am-6pm
 Saturday: 8am-6pm

31st Annual DOGWOOD PRAYER BREAKFAST *Vestavia Hills*

April 19, 2022 at Vestavia Country Club

7:00 a.m. Buffet Opens | 7:30 a.m. Program Begins

This year's speaker is renowned artist, **Steve Skipper**.

Tickets are \$20 each and may be purchased online at www.vestaviahills.org or by calling the Chamber of Commerce at 205.823.5011.

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APRIL

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 **National Library Month Book Give-Away**
Open Gaming, 4pm, Community Room
- 2 **Dungeons & Dragons: The Journey Continues**, 10am, Historical Room
Ms. Courtney's Library Stop!, 10:30am, Community Room
- 4 **Spring/Easter Photography Studio Opens!**
Handmade with Holly: Earth Day Planters, 11am, Community Room
Microsoft PowerPoint, 5pm, Electronic Classroom
- 5 **Late Open (Staff Meeting)**, 10am
Toddler-a-Go-Go, 10:30am, Community Room
- 6 **Story Friends**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room
Picking Up STEAM: Watercolor Resistant Art, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room
Intermediate Microsoft Excel Part II, 4pm, Electronic Classroom
Writing Group, 4pm, Historical Room
- 7 **Chess Club**, 4:30pm, Historical Room
Read & Feed Book Group: The Sentence, 6pm, Virtual Meeting/Zoom
- 8 **Open Gaming**, 4pm, Community Room
- 9 **ACT Workshop**, 9am, Community Room
- 11 **Belly Dance with Bethany Series: Veils**, 6pm, Community Room
- 12 **Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 9:30am, Community Room
Toddler-a-Go-Go, 10:30am, Community Room
Q&A: Windows 10, 4pm, Electronic Classroom
Wordle Wars, 4pm, Historical Room
Family Night: Aaron Hancock & The Reptile Show, 6pm, Community Room
- 13 **Story Friends**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room
Picking Up STEAM: Cloud in a Jar & Rainbow Shaving Cream Painting, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room
Art Group, 4pm, Treehouse
- 15 **Easter Eggstravaganza**, 11am, Wald Park
Open Gaming, 4pm, Community Room
Craft*Lab: Painted Book Totes, 7pm, Community Room
- 16 **Last Day for the Spring/Easter Photography Studio**
Ms. Courtney's Library Stop!, 10:30am, Community Room
- 17 **Easter**, Library Closed
- 18 **Intro to 3D Printing**, 4:30pm, Makerspace
Belly Dance with Bethany Series: Veils, 6pm, Community Room
- 19 **Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 9:30am, Community Room
Toddler-a-Go-Go, 10:30am, Community Room
Earth Day Crafts, 4pm, Treehouse
Teardown Tuesday, 4:30pm, Makerspace

- 20 **Story Friends**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room
Picking Up STEAM: A Spill in the Ocean, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room
Among Us, 4pm, Discord
- 21 **Open Maker Lab**, 2-6pm, Makerspace
- 22 **Open Gaming**, 4pm, Community Room
Concert Series: Sean Michael Ray, 7pm, Wald Park
- 25 **Heat Press Workshop**, 4:30pm, Makerspace
Belly Dance with Bethany Series: Veils, 6pm, Community Room
- 26 **Toddler-a-Go-Go**, 9:30am, Community Room
Toddler-a-Go-Go, 10:30am, Community Room
Anime Club, 4pm, Historical Room
- 27 **Story Friends**, 10:30am, Children's Program Room
Picking Up STEAM: Lego Math, 3:30pm, Children's Program Room
Blackout Poetry, 4pm, Treehouse
- 28 **Friends of the Library: ASFA Performance**, 10am, Community Room
Apple's Photos, 10:30am, Electronic Classroom
Open Maker Lab, 2-6pm, Makerspace
- 29 **Super Smash Bros Tournament**, 4pm, Community Room
- 30 **Ms. Courtney's Library Stop!**, 10:30am, Community Room

Spring/Easter Photography Studio
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 and be sure to tag us on social!
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PICTURE Yourselfie
 VESTAVIA HILLS



**Karen Odle,
President**

Vestavia Hills
Chamber of Commerce

CHAMBER NEWS

As I write this letter, it is a beautiful spring day – and has been all week – but we know that we are bound to have a few more days of winter. I make myself enjoy this weather, as I know we will be lamenting the heat before long.

We have a lot of things upcoming in our city so please make note of these dates and be part of making Vestavia Hills a great place to live work and play.

We are excited to have the Dogwood Prayer Breakfast on April 19 at Vestavia Country Club. Speaker and renowned artist, Steve Skipper, will share his journey with us. Skipper, a former drug addict and ex-gang member, transformed into an incredible artist with international exposure and respect. He is the first African American to complete artwork sanctioned by NASCAR, the University of Alabama, Auburn University, NFL, PGA and many other organizations. He has been recognized by Ambassador Andrew Young, as well as NFL legends Bart Starr, Ozzie Newsome, Kenny Stabler and Coach Nick Saban, as one of the best in the business. With no formal training in art, Skipper gives glory for his gift and every open door to his Lord. You won't want to miss his story! Tickets are limited, so visit the Chamber office or our website at www.vestaviahills.org to buy yours today.

We have had several ribbon cuttings already this year: Hand and Stone Massage and Facial Spa (Vestavia City Center); Birmingham Martial Arts (Liberty Park); ERA King Real Estate (Rocky Ridge); and Dear Emmaline (Highway 31 North). Upcoming ribbon cuttings this month include Cohn Plastic Surgery (Patchwork Farms) on April 14 and Grandview Financial Group (Cahaba Heights). We are excited to welcome these businesses to Vestavia Hills and would love to have you join us as we celebrate the new businesses in our community. Be sure to check the Community Calendar on our website for additional ribbon cuttings as well as other community events.

Mark your calendar for Helping Hands Day, scheduled for September 10, 2022. This day of service will also include our shredding, e-recycle, hazardous waste collection and medication take-back. Additional information will be published as soon as it is available.

We are excited to announce our annual I Love America Celebration is scheduled for June 23 at Wald Park. Last year's event was wonderful, and this year should be no different as we plan to end the evening once again with FIREWORKS! So, mark your calendar and look for further information about this fun celebration.

Feel free to drop by and see us or email us your thoughts or ideas as we work together for "A Life Above."

He is Risen

EASTER

AT VESTAVIA METHODIST

APRIL 17

SUNRISE SERVICE
6:30 AM

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
8:30, 9:45, & 11:00 AM

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
11:00 AM

Rise

AGAINST HUNGER

APRIL 24-26

COMMUNITY MEAL PACKING EVENT

FILLING EMPTY BOWLS

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