

# COMMUNITY NEWS

News & Events for the City of Vestavia Hills • June/July 2022

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

Oftentimes, veteran public servants such as myself see great value in tangible accomplishments associated with our jobs. Whether it is the planning and construction of a road or building, the completion of an idea hatched in the public forum that brings value to our residents is what we are here to facilitate. However, I am writing today with a smile on my face – not for an object that has been raised from nothing, but I am smiling thinking about the lives that are being changed by the actions of our community leaders and City staff that are bringing our

community's "brick and mortar" to life.

The most direct example that I want to highlight is our Miracle League Program. Initiated by community volunteers and supported by new City assets, the most vulnerable, special individuals in our city now have a place to call home and have fun taking part in the national pastime –

baseball. What has led to this poignant experience, for me, was my participation as a coach for the Miracle League Challenge Team. This team was created to advance the skill level of our special needs program participants through more frequent practice and exploration of a competitive environment by taking Miracle League teams from other communities. This season the Vestavia Hills "Red Tornadoes," as they call themselves, have played Helena, Moody and the Exceptional Foundation, each in a two-game series.

The number of home runs, hits and strikeouts do not matter. The number of smiles created is the only statistic that does matter. As a coach, it was the greatest blessing to see the enthusiasm and sense of pride that each of the participants showed day in and day out.

I was told that young Fitts Sanders awakened every practice and game day with baseball on his mind and was devastated if it rained. Chad Littleton laid out his uniform days in advance of a game. Matthew Fisher and his dad would sprint to the ball field to get in all the extra practice time they could find. Wilson Taylor's parents shuffled carpool drivers to make sure their son could hit a home run against the week's competition, while Tripp Wiggins and Lyndsay Davis were cemented in their positions at first and third base and would not let anyone replace them on the diamond. These were individuals who might be on the outside looking in if it were not for the Miracle League. There are many examples of players whose lives were enriched by this season's program. The thing to remember is that without the support of programs such as the Miracle League, a whole segment of our population would be missing a major component of their life experience. My thought is that everyone wants a shot at participating in life not just observing.

Whether it is a special needs population or an able-bodied population, the ability to enhance the quality of life through time and effort is just as important as building things. Our wonderful community has been blessed with the tangible items, so let's now work to provide spirit, ideas and elbow grease so that our community can be all it can be. Keep this in mind when you are looking for a way to make a difference in Vestavia Hills.



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Events and dates subject to change. Please refer to the City of Vestavia Hills website for the most up-to-date event information.

### June 2022

- 2 Design Review Board,**  
Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 9 Planning and Zoning Commission,**  
Council Chamber, 6 p.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.
- 18 Concert Series: Walker Burroughs,**  
Wald Park Grand Lawn, 8 p.m.
- 19 Father's Day**
- 20 Council Work Session,**  
Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 21 Parks and Recreation Board,**  
Executive Conference Room,  
5:30 p.m.
- 23 I Love America Night,**  
Wald Park Grand Lawn, 6 p.m.
- 27 City Council Meeting,**  
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.

### July 2022

- 4 Municipal Offices Closed** in observance of Independence Day\*
- 7 Design Review Board,**  
Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 11 City Council Meeting,**  
Council Chamber, 6 p.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, 7 a.m.
- 21 Board of Zoning Adjustment,**  
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 25 City Council Meeting,**  
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.

\*Sanitation holiday; All routes will run on a one-day delay for the remainder of the week.



Ashley Curry,  
Mayor  
City of  
Vestavia Hills

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Hello summer! I don't know about you, but I am ready for the warm weather and sunshine.

There are still a few Infrastructure and Community Spaces Plan (CSP) projects that are nearing completion and should be finished this summer. The infrastructure component of the plan includes the road

improvements on Crosshaven Drive in Cahaba Heights. Anyone who travels in that area frequently knows this has been in the works for a while. Many unforeseen infrastructure issues were discovered during construction and had to be rectified, but two of the three construction phases are complete, and the finish line is in sight.

The improvements are continuing at Wald Park. Phase three includes the construction of tennis courts, pickleball courts, additional parking and a dog park adjacent to the upper end of the tennis courts. With this additional dog park, the City will have three designated dog parks located at Wald Park, Cahaba Heights Park and SHAC.

We anticipate the much-awaited completion of our Civic Center this summer. Dealing with supply chain issues for construction materials has been tedious, but the project is coming along. Plans for a grand opening celebration will be announced as we near completion. We hope you will join us to celebrate the opening of this amazing community amenity.

This past month I had the honor of attending an Awards Day and the Graduation for our VHHS seniors. I am always impressed with the academic standing of our graduates. It is always impressive to see the dollar amount of scholarships that have been offered to our seniors. Congratulations to the faculty, staff and the students for another outstanding class.

In my address to the seniors, I encouraged them to persevere in pursuing their goals. Nothing in life comes easy or is simply handed to you. Most of you reading this article have probably learned that by now. The second thing I asked of them was to help others along life's journey. You never know the impact you will make on someone with a simple act of kindness. This was exactly what Steve Skipper, our featured speaker at the Dogwood Prayer Breakfast, mentioned in his presentation. Steve overcame a difficult childhood with the help of an acquaintance who invited him to attend a church service. At that service, he experienced a deeply religious experience that altered his self-destructive path completely. The very next day, he left the gang he had been a member of for years and became the renowned fine artist that he is today.

Summertime is full of celebrations. Father's Day began in 1910, two years after the first official celebration of Mother's Day, is always celebrated on the third Sunday in June. Let's not forget to recognize our fathers this month on Sunday, June 19.

Finally, we must remember to celebrate our nation's Independence Day on July 4. To kick-off the celebration, Vestavia Hills will have its 40th annual "I Love America Night" on Thursday, June 23 at Wald Park. Don't miss this amazing celebration!

We should never take our freedoms for granted and we should understand that with those freedoms come great responsibilities. We should pass this on from generation to generation so freedom's light will forever burn in the hearts and minds of every American. It is something we should cherish and never take for granted. President Abraham Lincoln probably captured it best when he said, "Freedom is the last, best hope of earth."

I hope you have a blessed summer.

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**35<sup>th</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY

40th Annual

**I LOVE**  
*America*  
**NIGHT**

**Thursday, June 23, 2022**  
**6:00 pm at Wald Park**

Presented by:



BLACK FAMILY RESTAURANTS



**Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce & City of Vestavia Hills**

**6:00-8:00 pm**

**Children's Area Sponsored by Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church**

**Sponsor Booths**

**Free Swimming at the Wald Park Aquatic Complex**

**Performance by The Three Bobs, 6:00-7:00 pm**

**Patriotic Concert by Shades Mountain Baptist Church Orchestra, 7:30 pm**

 **FIREWORK SHOW** at 8:45 pm 

**Free Shuttles will be available from nearby parking lots.**

**Visit [www.vestaviiahills.org](http://www.vestaviiahills.org) for Parking and other Information.**

**NO PETS please.    Rain date: June 30**



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

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Vestavia Hills City Schools is a reflection of the values of its community, and the results are a magnifying glass into its priorities. When excellent teachers are supported by engaged parents, collaborative partnerships and local government, students are far more likely to succeed in their academic endeavors.

Vestavia Hills is the picture of just this kind

of community support, and the 2021-22 school year is a clear reflection of this commitment.

Google defines the eye of a hurricane as the calm region in the center of the storm. While winds roar and rain envelops everything around it, the eye is quiet and eerily still. Throughout this school year, I have remarked that our school system has been the eye of a storm – the place where students have sensed calm. Without question, our nation has faced some very difficult times since March 2020. Yet, the Vestavia Hills community has continued to make the success of our school system a priority. And because of this steadfast and sturdy support, we have been able to continue the work of our mission to provide every student the opportunity to learn without limits.

Students from Pre-K through high school have learned and used knowledge in profound ways, have strengthened their character and are more prepared to confront challenges. They have excelled in their endeavors as evidenced by the remarkable number of academic accomplishments, scholarships offered to students and state championships in art and athletic competitions. Students have traveled throughout the state and nation to learn, perform and compete. They have found meaning in learning about math and science, reading biographies and creating projects. And, they've had fun doing it!

School hasn't been perfect; rather, it has been a place of consistent and steady focus on our most important endeavor – learning. We have all had to adapt and adjust every day to stay focused on our mission. As a superintendent, I am so appreciative of the incredible staff that has persevered through many challenges and held firm to their professional calling. As a parent, I am thankful and overwhelmed that my children have grown by learning, playing, failing and recovering, all while being surrounded by educators who genuinely love them.

The conditions that make our schools perpetually vibrant are created by the people who invest in them each day. What I have witnessed this year is that, even when we do not agree, we keep our eye on the success of our students. This is the bulwark that emboldens our

schools, supports our teachers and allows our students to learn. It is also the energy that will propel our school system to even greater heights. I look forward to the bright future that awaits us.

Thank you, Vestavia Hills, for the unwavering and unparalleled support you have given this year!

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### SUMMER FUN IN VESTAVIA HILLS!

#### Seniors 55+

- Join us for fun, fellowship and **lunch at New Merkel House** in Cahaba Heights every Monday-Friday. Lunch is served daily at 11:45am.
- Fitness is important for all ages! New Merkel House offers **stretching classes** on Mondays at 10:30am, **Tai Chi** on Tuesdays at 12:30pm and **chair yoga** on Thursdays at 10:30am.
- New Merkel House will also host an **Iced Tea and Peanut Butter Cookie Day Celebration**, with a special presentation on safety by Sgt. Eddie Crim from the Vestavia Hills Police Department on Thursday, June 9 at 12:30pm.
- **Lunch Bunch** will be on Thursday, June 16 at the Fish Market and Thursday, July 21 at The Club. Meet at the Vestavia Hills Aquatic Complex at 10:45am. Lunch is at your discretion; reserve your spot by calling 205.978.0166 today!
- On Thursday, June 30, we will hit the road to visit the **Rattlesnake Saloon** in Tuscumbia, Alabama! The bus will leave the VH Civic Center at 9am and is scheduled to return at 6pm. Reservations are required – call 205.978.0153. Transportation is provided, but lunch is at your discretion.

- Celebrate **World Chocolate Day** on July 7! Stop by New Merkel House or the new Civic Center and get a free chocolate bar! *Sponsored by Galleria Woods.*
- Join us at New Merkel House on Monday, July 18 for **Bingo and Ice Cream!** Bingo will begin at 12:30pm, and there will be prizes for the winners! *Sponsored by Complete Health.*

#### Concert Series

The Vestavia Hills Concert series is heating up this summer! Vestavia Hills native and Top 8 American Idol alumni, **Walker Burroughs**, will perform on the Grand Lawn at Wald Park on June 17 at 8pm. Then, on June 23, our concert series ends with a bang at I Love America Night with a **Shades Mountain Baptist Orchestra** performance, followed by fireworks!

#### Aquatic Complex

**The Vestavia Hills Aquatic Complex is open for the summer swim season!**

Purchase your resident pass today at <http://bit.ly/VH-poolpass>.

We work tirelessly to help kids get well because the world needs to see what Natalie dreams up.

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BECAUSE CHILDREN HAVE DREAMS.



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# SUMMER READING 2022

# OCEANS OF POSSIBILITIES

## VESTAVIA HILLS

LIBRARY IN THE FOREST



### JUNE

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

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p><b>1 Adult Summer Reading Begins!</b><br/><b>Story Friends</b>, 10:30am, Children's Program Room<br/><b>Handmade with Holly: Sensational Sun Catchers</b>, 11am, Community Room<br/><b>Organizing Computer Files</b>, 4pm, Electronic Classroom<br/><b>Writing Group</b>, 4pm, Historical Room</p>                                     | <p><b>Summer Tweens: Nailed It/Failed It DIY Ocean Snack</b>, 2pm, Community Room<br/><b>GIMP: The Free Photoshop</b>, 4pm, Electronic Classroom<br/><b>Summer Reading Kickoff – Teens: The Weird Games</b>, 5:30pm, Amphitheater</p> | <p><b>15 Story Friends</b>, 10:30am, Children's Program Room<br/><b>Afternoon at the Movies</b>, 2:30pm, Community Room<br/><b>D&amp;D Miniature Painting</b>, 4pm, Makerspace</p>        | <p><b>23 Didgeridoo Down Under</b>, 10:30am Community Room &amp; 3:30pm, Splash Pad Pavilion at SHAC<br/><b>Beginner Yoga with Kathy</b>, 1pm, Community Room<br/><b>Open Maker Lab</b>, 2-6pm, Makerspace</p>                                 |
| <p><b>2 Hip-Hop Choreographer: Winston Strickland</b>, 10:30am, Community Room &amp; 3:30pm, Splash Pad Pavilion<br/><b>Intermediate Microsoft Word</b>, 10:30am, Electronic Classroom<br/><b>Chess Club</b>, 4pm, Historical Room<br/><b>Read &amp; Feed Book Group: "These Precious Days" by Ann Patchett</b>, 6pm, Historical Room</p> | <p><b>8 Story Friends</b>, 10:30am, Children's Program Room<br/><b>Art Group</b>, 4pm, Treehouse</p>  | <p><b>16 The Science Guys – Nashville</b>, 10:30am &amp; 3:30pm, Community Room<br/><b>Beginner Yoga with Kathy</b>, 1pm, Community Room<br/><b>Open Maker Lab</b>, 2-6pm, Makerspace</p> | <p><b>24 Super Smash Bros Tournament</b>, 4pm, Community Room</p>  |
| <p><b>3 Open Gaming</b>, 4pm, Community Room</p>  | <p><b>9 That Puppet Guy</b>, 10:30am &amp; 3:30pm, Community Room<br/><b>Beginner Yoga with Kathy</b>, 1pm, Community Room<br/><b>Open Maker Lab</b>, 2-6pm, Makerspace</p>   | <p><b>17 Open Gaming</b>, 4pm, Community Room</p>   | <p><b>25 Ms. Courtney's Library Stop!</b>, 10:30am, Community Room</p>   |
| <p><b>4 ACT Workshop</b>, 9am, Community Room<br/><b>#pictureyourselfieVH Selfie Scavenger Hunt CONCLUDES!</b></p>  | <p><b>10 Open Gaming</b>, 4pm, Community Room<br/><b>Craft*Lab: Summer Cocktail Glasses</b>, 7pm, Community Room</p>  | <p><b>18 Father/Daughter Tea</b>, 11am, Community Room<br/><b>Dungeons &amp; Dragons: One-Shot</b>, 2pm, Historical Room</p>  | <p><b>27 Track Lab</b>, 2pm, Historical Room<br/><b>Step in Line! Line Dancing for Beginners</b>, 6:30pm, Community Room</p>   |
| <p><b>6 Track Lab</b>, 2pm, Historical Room<br/><b>Intro to 3D Printing</b>, 4:30pm, Makerspace<br/><b>Intermediate Microsoft Excel Part I</b>, 5pm, Electronic Classroom<br/><b>Step in Line! Line Dancing for Beginners</b>, 6:30pm, Community Room</p>   | <p><b>11 Ms. Courtney's Library Stop!</b>, 10:30am, Community Room</p>  | <p><b>19 Father's Day</b></p>   | <p><b>28 Toddler-a-Go-Go</b>, 9:30am &amp; 10:30am, Community Room<br/><b>Summer Tweens: World Games Celebration</b>, 2pm, Community Room<br/><b>Soldering 101</b>, 4:30pm, Makerspace<br/><b>Pancake Painting</b>, 5:30pm, Community Room</p> |
| <p><b>7 Toddler-a-Go-Go</b>, 9:30am &amp; 10:30am, Community Room</p>   | <p><b>12 Track Lab</b>, 2pm, Historical Room<br/><b>Step in Line! Line Dancing for Beginners</b>, 6:30pm, Community Room</p>  | <p><b>20 Track Lab</b>, 2pm, Historical Room<br/><b>Coding With LEGO® Mindstorms</b>, 4pm, Makerspace<br/><b>Step in Line! Line Dancing for Beginners</b>, 6:30pm, Community Room</p>     | <p><b>29 Story Friends</b>, 10:30am, Children's Program Room<br/><b>Anime Club</b>, 4pm, Historical Room</p>   |
| <p><b>8 Toddler-a-Go-Go</b>, 9:30am &amp; 10:30am, Community Room<br/><b>Summer Tweens: Yasu Ishida</b>, 2pm, Community Room<br/><b>Teardown Tuesday</b>, 4:30pm, Makerspace<br/><b>Harry Potter: Dumbledore's Army</b>, 5:30pm, Community Room</p>   | <p><b>13 Track Lab</b>, 2pm, Historical Room</p>  | <p><b>21 Toddler-a-Go-Go</b>, 9:30am &amp; 10:30am, Community Room<br/><b>Summer Tweens: Cartoonist Joe Wos</b>, 2pm, Community Room<br/><b>Acrylic Academy</b>, 5:30pm, Makerspace</p>   | <p><b>30 Lew-E's Comedy Show</b>, 10:30am &amp; 3:30pm, Community Room<br/><b>Beginner Yoga with Kathy</b>, 1pm, Community Room<br/><b>Open Maker Lab</b>, 2-6pm, Makerspace</p>   |
| <p><b>9 Story Friends</b>, 10:30am, Children's Program Room</p>   | <p><b>14 Toddler-a-Go-Go</b>, 9:30am &amp; 10:30am, Community Room</p>  | <p><b>22 Story Friends</b>, 10:30am, Children's Program Room<br/><b>Escapededdon</b>, 4pm, Community Room</p>   | <p><b>31 Open Maker Lab</b>, 2-6pm, Makerspace</p>   |

**SELFIE SCAVENGER HUNT**

**PICTURE Yourselfie**  
VESTAVIA HILLS

**#PICTUREYOURSELFIEVH**

PICTURE YOURSELF HAVING SUMMER FUN AROUND TOWN AND YOU COULD WIN A GIFT CARD!

FROM MAY 28 THROUGH JUNE 4, FOLLOW THE CHECKLIST AND POST YOUR BEST SCAVENGER HUNT SELFIES ON SOCIAL MEDIA WITH THE HASHTAG: #PICTUREYOURSELFIEVH

THE MORE LOCATIONS YOU VISIT, THE BETTER YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING!

**PICTURE YOURSELFIE:**

- AT YOUR FAVORITE VESTAVIA HILLS RESTAURANT
- SIGNING UP FOR THE SUMMER READING PROGRAM
- CHILLING AT THE CITY POOL
- SHOWING YOUR VESTAVIA HILLS SCHOOL SPIRIT
- AT SIBYL TEMPLE
- PLAYING AT THE SPLASH PAD
- WITH A VESTAVIA HILLS PIG STATUE
- WITH A VESTAVIA HILLS EMPLOYEE
- OUTSIDE A LOCAL FIRE STATION
- CHECKING OUT A LIBRARY BOOK
- PLAYING PICKLEBALL

f i t #PICTUREYOURSELFIEVH

## SELFIE SCAVENGER HUNT

From May 28 through June 4, share your Scavenger Hunt selfies on Facebook, Instagram and/or Twitter using #pictureyourselfieVH for a chance to win an awesome gift card!

### What is it?

A fun and free way to have a blast visiting some awesome spots in Vestavia Hills!

### How does it work?

Start by picking one of the selfie assignments from the Selfie Scavenger Hunt check list and head to that location. Take a selfie that satisfies that criteria and then post it on Facebook, Instagram and/or Twitter with #pictureyourselfieVH. Then it's on to the next scavenger hunt selfie. Each hashtagged selfie you post from the check list increases your chances of winning a gift card!

### Can I post multiple selfies for the same category?

While you can post as many selfies and hashtags as you like, only one selfie for each checklist item will be considered. So, try to do as many different selfies from the list as you can. **Remember, your Scavenger Hunt Selfies must be posted by June 4!** Snap them all and become a Scavenger Hunt legend!

We can't wait to see the cool, creative posts you all come up with, so get out there and Picture Yourselfie in Vestavia Hills!





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