

COMMUNITY NEWS

News & Events for the City of Vestavia Hills

July · August · September 2026

A joint publication of the City of Vestavia Hills & Vestavia Hills City Schools

Fireworks, Fun & Freedom

Mayor Ashley Curry

I hope you were able to attend this year's "I Love America Night" held at Wald Park on Thursday, June 25. This annual event is always one of the most-attended events in our city with over 5,000 residents and visitors participating. This wonderful patriotic celebration is made possible thanks to our Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce and generous sponsors.

As we welcome July, I hope you are enjoying time with family and friends and celebrating Independence Day – one of our nation's most cherished holidays. It is a time to reflect on the freedoms we enjoy and the sacrifices made by generations of Americans to preserve them.

One of my favorite reflections on freedom comes from President Ronald Reagan, who said:

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same." Those words serve as a meaningful reminder of our shared responsibility to protect and preserve the liberties we hold dear.

Closer to home, I am pleased to share that both Massey Road and the pedestrian bridge are expected to be completed later this summer. These long-awaited improvements will enhance connectivity and accessibility within our community and will certainly be worth celebrating upon their completion.

In the meantime, I wish you a safe, happy and enjoyable summer season.



Mr. Roy Brook

July

- 2 **Design Review Board**, Executive Conference Room, 6pm
- 3 **Municipal Offices Closed in observance of Independence Day**
(Sanitation holiday; collection may require up to 48 hours)
- 6 **City Council Meeting**, Council Chamber, 5:30pm
- 9 **Planning & Zoning Commission**, Council Chamber, 6pm
- 13 **Senior Citizens Association Luncheon**, Civic Center, 12pm
- 16 **Board of Zoning Adjustment**, Council Chamber, 6pm
- 17-19 **Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday**
- 20 **City Council Meeting**, Council Chamber, 5:30pm
- 21 **Parks & Recreation Board**, Civic Center, 7:30am

August

- 3 **City Council Meeting**, Council Chamber, 5:30pm
- 6 **Design Review Board**, Executive Conference Room, 6pm
- 10 **Senior Citizens Association Luncheon**, Civic Center, 12pm
- 11 **Chamber Luncheon**, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 11:30am
- 13 **Planning & Zoning Commission**, Council Chamber, 6pm
- 17 **City Council Meeting**, Council Chamber, 5:30pm

- 18 **Parks & Recreation Board**, Civic Center, 7:30am
- 20 **Board of Zoning Adjustment**, Council Chamber, 6pm
- 21 **National Senior Day Celebration**, Civic Center, 3-5pm

September

- 3 **Design Review Board**, Executive Conference Room, 6pm
- 7 **Municipal Offices Closed in observance of Labor Day**
(Sanitation holiday; collection may require up to 48 hours)
- 8 **Chamber Luncheon**, Vestavia Hills Methodist Church, 11:30am
- 9 **City Council Meeting**, Council Chamber, 5:30pm
(Rescheduled due to Labor Day)
- 10 **Planning & Zoning Commission**, Council Chamber, 6pm
- 11 **Patriot Day Ceremony**, City of Homewood, 8:30am
- 12 **Vestavia Hills Shred & Recycle Day**, City Hall & Civic Center, 8am-12pm
- 14 **Senior Citizens Association Luncheon**, Civic Center, 12pm
- 15 **Parks and Recreation Board**, Civic Center, 7:30am
- 17 **Board of Zoning Adjustment**, Council Chamber, 6pm
- 21 **City Council Meeting**, Council Chamber, 5:30pm
- 30 **Splash Pad Closes**

Growing Together: Investing in the Places We Love

City Manager Jeff Downes

There may be many topics on which Vestavians hold differing opinions, but one thing is certain: our community loves its parks, playgrounds, trails and natural spaces.

City leadership recognized this passion when it embarked on the Community Spaces Plan – a long-term investment designed to enhance recreational opportunities and improve quality of life throughout Vestavia Hills. Through this initiative, the City added a new Civic Center and Recreation Center, modernized the Aquatics Complex, improved athletic fields, expanded park amenities and enhanced our network of parks and nature areas. These improvements have not only elevated the appearance and functionality of our recreational facilities but have also created more opportunities for residents of all ages to gather, play, exercise and connect.

The results have been remarkable. Programming participation and facility usage continue to grow, demonstrating the value these investments bring to our community.

A recent analysis of visitation trends at several of the City's major recreational assets showed significant growth over the past three years.

These numbers tell a compelling story: more residents and visitors are choosing to spend their time enjoying the outstanding recreational amenities that Vestavia Hills has to offer.

Looking ahead, we see no signs of this demand slowing. From the planned installation of pool heaters to extend the swimming season, to continued trail improvements at Altadena Valley Park, to increasing participation in youth and adult athletics, the success of our recreational facilities continues to generate even greater interest and engagement.

Vestavia Hills was built on a commitment to supporting families through exceptional schools, strong neighborhoods and an outstanding quality of life. Our parks and recreational facilities play an important role in that mission. We are proud to continue investing in the places that bring our community together and help make Vestavia Hills one of the most desirable places to live, work and raise a family.

Three-Year Visitation Growth by Recreation Area



Fire Extinguishers: A Valuable Tool for Home Safety

Fire extinguishers have been a trusted tool in the fire service for generations and remain an important first line of defense during fire emergencies. While most residential extinguishers are small enough to be handheld, they can be

highly effective at controlling or extinguishing small fires when used properly by a trained adult.

The Vestavia Hills Fire Department recommends keeping a multi-purpose fire extinguisher in your home. Often referred to as an ABC extinguisher, this type of extinguisher is designed to combat the most common types of household fires: combustibles such as wood, paper and cloth; flammable liquids, including cooking grease and oil; and electrical fires.

If a small fire occurs, always call 911 first. Then remember to **PASS**:

- **P**ull the pin
- **A**im the nozzle at the base of the fire
- **S**queeze the lever
- **S**weep from side to side

After purchasing a fire extinguisher, take time to familiarize yourself with its operation and place it in an easily accessible location.

Most importantly, know when it is time to leave. If a fire begins to grow, spread rapidly or creates unsafe conditions, your priority should be protecting lives not property. Follow your family's escape plan, close doors behind you as you exit and move to a safe location outside the home. Once safely outside, stay out and wait for firefighters to arrive.



The 2026–27 school year is starting soon!
Visit the Vestavia Hills City Schools website
for information about enrolling your child
and to download this year's school calendar.

www.vhcs.us





Vestavia Hills is a community that has always expected great things from its students – and the Vestavia Hills High School Class of 2026 delivered in remarkable fashion.

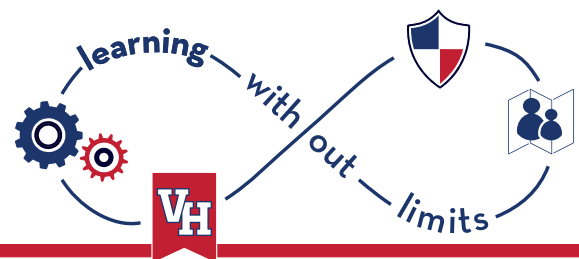
Academically, this class stands apart. 24 seniors earned National Merit Finalist honors, the highest number of any individual high school in Alabama this year and the most at VHHS since 2006. More than 30 percent of graduates earned the Seal of Biliteracy, a record for the program, demonstrating proficiency in eleven languages. The Speech and Debate Team claimed its fifth consecutive state championship, while the Math Team added to a dynasty with three more state titles. The Economics Team won both the National Economics Challenge and National Personal Finance Challenge state competitions – for the fourth consecutive year – and a Mock Trial team earned runner-up honors at the State Championship and a bid to national competition.

In athletics, 26 of the school's 27 teams qualified for postseason play. State championships were earned in boys cross country, boys and girls golf, boys tennis and cheerleading – with the cheer program also claiming a national title. Numerous student-athletes earned all-state and all-metro recognition and more than a dozen will continue their careers at the collegiate level.

Off the field and outside the classroom, RISE Team students raised more than \$217,000 for the O'Neal Cancer Center at UAB, accumulating over 5,000 service hours in the process.

76 percent of graduates were offered scholarships, with more than \$45 million in offers extended and a school-record \$19 million accepted.

The Class of 2026 has set a standard worthy of this community's pride. **Congratulations to the Class of 2026!**



Vestavia Hills City Schools would like to extend appreciation to all of the family and community partnerships that made the 2025-26 school year a success:

City of Vestavia Hills
Vestavia Hills City Schools PTO
Vestavia Hills City Schools Foundation
Vestavia Hills Community Partners

Thank you for your ongoing support of our mission of Learning Without Limits!



HONORING THE IMPACT

of Our Teachers & Staff

Each year, the teachers and staff of Vestavia Hills City Schools work tirelessly to make learning without limits possible for each of our students. We would like to express our gratitude for their selfless service throughout the 2025-26 school year.

In May, the Board of Education recognized employees who have achieved 20 years of service in VHCS as well as those who retired at the end of the school year. Please join us in congratulating these faculty and staff who have contributed so much to the success of our students and schools.



Kem Bennett, VHECH · Stratton Brock, Pizitz ·
 Lisa Crawford, VHELP · Dr. Timarie Fisk, VHHS ·
 Zenobia Foreman, VHEW · Jenny Lou Grindle, VHEDR ·
 Katie Hicks, VHECH · Stacy Loftin, VHELP ·
 Amber Maniscalco, VHECH · Katie Mash, VHEW ·
 Sammy Queen, VHHSFC · Angie Richardson, VHHS ·
 Carlson Riddle, BOE · Anna Smith, VHEE · Wesley Smith, VHECH ·
 Kris Thomas, VHHS · Angie Whiddon, VHEW

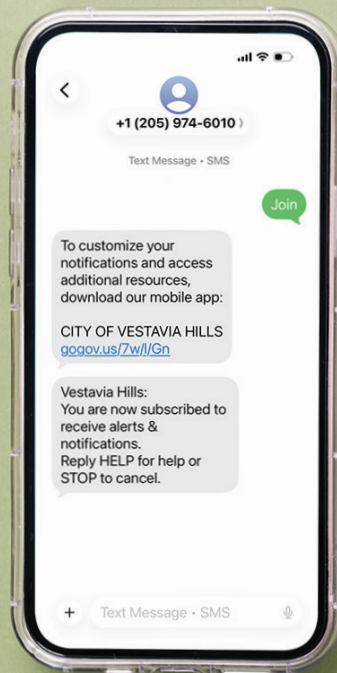


Laura Aiken, VHHS · Melanie Banks, VHEDR ·
 Roger Bittinger, VHHS · Shelia Branch, Pizitz · Mandy Burgess, Pizitz ·
 Andrea Coleman, VHEW · Brent Coleman, Pizitz ·
 Kate Donaldson, VHEDR · Michael England, VHELP ·
 Cathy Fisher, VHHS · Rhonda Frazier, VHEE · Sue Frazier, VHELP ·
 Alexis Grammas, VHEDR · Jamie Harris, VHHS ·
 Elizabeth Hester, VHEDR · Jupie Lindley, VHECH ·
 Jamie Kolb Lord, VHEW · Amy Maddox, VHHS ·
 Kim Matchen, VHEDR · Lora Meeks, VHEE ·
 Leslie Mundt, VHEDR · Emily Powell, VHEE ·
 Lois Powers, VHEW · Lori Reeves, VHEE/VHEW ·
 Jeremy Renfroe, VHHSFC · Eleanor Rushing, VHHS ·
 Cindy Smith, VHECH · Vicky Smith, VHEE ·
 Melanie Tingle, VHHSFC

STAY IN THE LOOP!

Sign Up TODAY
for Text or Voice
Messages!

To receive notifications from the City of Vestavia Hills ...



SMS TEXTING

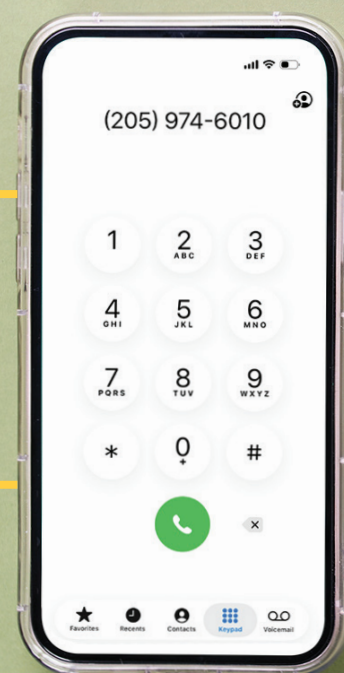
Text 'Join' to
205.974.6010

VOICE CALL

Call

205.974.6010

Press '1'
to Opt In



THURSDAY • 10:30 AM & 3:30 PM



**VENTRILOQUIST
GENE CORDOVA**

JULY 2 **ALL AGES**

**THURSDAY • 10:30 AM
3:30 PM @ LIBERTY PARK**

**Barry Mitchell
& Sam the Turtle
and a Chicken!**



JULY 9 **ALL AGES**

Finish Summer Strong

vestavialibrary.org

THURSDAY • 10:30 AM & 3:30 PM

**Michelle's
Magical Poodles**

JULY 16



ALL AGES

**THURSDAY • 10:30 AM
3:30 PM @ CAHABA HEIGHTS**

**the
science
GUYS**

JULY 23

ALL AGES



For more information, call 205.978.0166 or visit www.vhparksandrec.com

YOUTH SPORTS REGISTRATION

>To register for Rec Sports Programs, visit <https://bit.ly/vhpr-registration>.

Boys Basketball: Register September 7-October 25. Cost: \$160 resident/\$210 non-resident

Girls Basketball: Register September 7-October 25. Cost: TBD

High School Basketball: Register September 7-October 25. Cost: TBD

Softball: Register July 17-August 16. Cost: TBD

Miracle League: Register July 20-August 23. Cost: \$30

SENIOR PROGRAMMING

District Masters Games: July 7-9. The Master's Games of Alabama is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the health and engagement of seniors through a variety of games that encourage movement and camaraderie. Residents of Alabama who are 50+ can compete in 18 different events to qualify for the Master's Games held in October. Events include horseshoes, cornhole, Nerfball throw and more. Depart from the Civic Center; transportation provided. Contact Sandi Wilson to register (205.978.0166; swilson@vhal.org).

SENIOR TRIPS. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Contact Sandi Wilson to register for the Senior Trips (205.978.0166; swilson@vhal.org).

Barber Motorsports Museum: July 23 – 10:15am. Join us for a guided tour of the museum and then lunch at Sherry's Cafe! Museum ticket is \$20; be sure to bring additional funds for lunch and a stop at Bucce's for snacks. Depart from the Civic Center; transportation provided. Reserve your spot today!

Montgomery, AL: August 28 – 7am. We will start with a guided tour of the Hyundai Plant, followed by lunch at a local restaurant. The day will conclude with a visit to the Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald Museum. Museum ticket is \$10; be sure to bring additional funds for lunch. **Reserve your spot by August 10.** Depart from the Civic Center; transportation provided.

Hank Williams Sr & Harper Lee Museums: September 17 – 7:30am. We will begin by visiting Hank Williams Sr.'s childhood home in Georgiana, AL, then visit the Harper Lee Museum in Monroeville, AL. **Reserve your spot by August 30.** Depart from the Civic Center; transportation provided.

ASO Coffee Concert: Thief, Poet & Songs: October 2 – 9am. Join us to see the Alabama Symphony Orchestra perform "Thief, Poet & Songs," followed by lunch at Niki's West. Depart from the Civic Center; transportation provided. Reserve your spot today!

SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Bingocize: August 13, 20 & 25 – 10:30am. Bingocize is a 10-week program at New Merkel House that combines exercise and health information with the familiar game of Bingo. Each session usually lasts 45-60 minutes.

Birthday & Bingo: July 27, August 31 & September 28 – 11am. Celebrate monthly birthdays at New Merkel House – enjoy delicious cake, warm company and plenty of fun with spirited bingo games.

Crafty Days: July 14, 21 & 28; August 4, 11 & 18 – 10am. Join us for a fun crafting program to explore various mediums with skilled artists. We'll work on meaningful projects, like blankets for veterans, décor for upcoming events and so much more. This program is perfect for crafty seniors of all skill levels and will alternate between the New Merkel House and the VH Civic

Center. Come connect, create and share your love of crafting!

New Merkel House Days: July 14 & 28 and August 11

Civic Center Days: July 21 and August 4 & 18

Crochet Nook: July 9 & 23; August 6 & 20 – 10:30am. Love fiber arts? Bring your current projects or come to New Merkel House for inspiration from our volunteer instructor, Ms. Myra. All skill levels are welcome, from beginners to advanced crocheters.

Mahjong Camp: July 20, 22 & 24; August 17, 19 & 21 – 10am-12pm. Join us on Monday, Wednesday and Friday to learn mahjong rules, strategies and techniques in a fun, welcoming environment. Whether you're new or need a refresher, you'll leave ready to play! Cost: \$150. July camp reservations must be made no later than July 14; August camp reservations must be made no later than August 11.

National Senior Day Celebration: August 21 – 3-5pm. Join us on Friday, August 21, to celebrate National Senior Day! This special event will have an All-American theme, delicious hors d'oeuvres and a chance to connect with both old and new friends. Explore vendor booths showcasing local services and products designed for seniors. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Senior Citizen Association Luncheons: July 13, August 10 & September 14 – 12pm. Bring your friends for a delicious lunch and afternoon of fun and fellowship at the Civic Center! **Must register no later than 7 days prior to luncheon – call 205.978.0166.**

"Wise Ways to Navigate the Probate Process": July 16 – 10am. Join us at New Merkel House for a presentation on how to simplify the probate process.



AUGUST

21

**3-5
PM**

**LET'S
CELEBRATE!**

**National
Senior
Citizens
Day**

**VESTAVIA HILLS CIVIC CENTER
1090 MONTGOMERY HIGHWAY, 35216**



**PARTY THEME:
ALL-AMERICAN**



**Applications for Vestavia
Belles open August 24!**

For more information
and the link to apply,
visit [https://vhal.org/
community/vestavia-belles](https://vhal.org/community/vestavia-belles).



COMMUNITY NEWS

1032 Montgomery Highway
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216

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**Food for Fines
Sept 2026**



**September is
Library Card Sign-up Month**

We are celebrating by accepting food
donations. For each item, you will receive \$1.00
in waived fines up to \$10 per card holder.



**VESTAVIA HILLS
LIBRARY IN THE FOREST**

vestavialibrary.org