



## How to Get Involved in Vestavia Hills

Listed below are many ways that you can become involved in the civic life of Vestavia Hills. The strong engagement of our residents and businesses make ours a truly great community we can describe as “A Life Above.”

### Elected Official – Mayor, Council

**What:** Mayor, Council. The Mayor presides over City Council. Members are elected at-large and serve four-year terms. The City of Vestavia Hills has a Council-Manager form of government.

**How:** See [www.AlabamaVotes.gov](http://www.AlabamaVotes.gov) or contact the Alabama Secretary of State at 1-800-274-8683. Persons interested in running for municipal office should also check the Alabama League of Municipalities, <http://www.alalm.org/>.

**When:** Municipal Elections will be conducted in August 2016. Qualification for office of Mayor, Council Place Numbers 1, 2, 3 & 4 will be held in July 2016. If an individual decides to run ahead of time, he or she can declare candidate status and begin collecting campaign funds a year before the election, August 2015. Candidates are responsible for filing FCPA disclosures with the Probate Judge of both Jefferson and Shelby Counties.

### City Boards

**What:** Board of Zoning Adjustment, Design Review, Beautification.

**How:** Appointments to these boards are made by the Mayor. To find out how to become involved, send the Mayor a letter expressing interest.

**When:** Ongoing.

### Parks and Recreation Board and Library Board

**What:** The Parks and Recreation Board and Library Board are the governing bodies of the Vestavia Hills Parks and Recreation Department and Vestavia Hills Public Library, respectively. They determine the policies and strategic plans within the governance of the City of Vestavia Hills for those organizations.

**How:** Applications are available at the City Clerk’s office in October, and candidates are interviewed.

**When:** Applications taken annually in October; appointments made in November for terms beginning in January.



<b>Parks and Recreation Foundation</b>	<p><b>What:</b> The mission of the Foundation is to strengthen our local community through investments in parks and recreational activities for people of all ages. We are committed to investing time and resources into community parks, green spaces and the environment as well as programs to promote a healthy, thriving community, supporting mind, body and spirit.</p> <p><b>How:</b> To find out how to donate to a VHPRF campaign or to express interest in joining the Foundation, visit <a href="http://vhprf.org">http://vhprf.org</a> or contact VHPRF President Jordy Henson <a href="mailto:jordyh@charter.net">jordyh@charter.net</a>.</p>
<b>Library Foundation</b>	<p><b>What:</b> Buy a Leaf to display your support of the Vestavia Hills Library in the Forest on the wall by the grand staircase. Also, make other contributions or consider joining the Foundation.</p> <p><b>How:</b> Membership to the Vestavia Hills Library Foundation is by invitation. Interested persons may contact Lauren Daniel at 978-4632 or <a href="mailto:foundation@libraryintheforest.org">foundation@libraryintheforest.org</a>. See <a href="http://www.vestavialibrary.org/foundation/">http://www.vestavialibrary.org/foundation/</a> for more information.</p> <p><b>When:</b> Ongoing.</p>
<b>Board of Education</b>	<p><b>What:</b> Vestavia Hills City Schools is renowned for excellence, with its schools, programs and students receiving state and national recognition. As an entity, Vestavia Hills City Schools is separate from the City government, and the Board of Education is its governing body.</p> <p><b>How:</b> Applications are available at the City Clerk’s office in March.</p> <p><b>When:</b> Appointments made in April.</p>
<b>Vestavia Hills City Schools Foundation</b>	<p>The Vestavia Hills City Schools Foundation (VHCSF) is the fund-raising arm of the Vestavia Hills City Schools system. To find out more about the activities of VHCSF, visit <a href="http://vestaviafoundation.org/">http://vestaviafoundation.org/</a>.</p>
<b>City Committees</b>	<p><b>What:</b> Education Committee, Financial Advisory Committee</p> <p><b>How:</b> Members are appointed by the Mayor.</p> <p><b>When:</b> Ongoing.</p>



<b>City Commissions</b>	<p><b>What:</b> Planning and Zoning Commission, Tree Commission.</p> <p><b>How:</b> Write letter of interest to the Mayor or City Manager; appointments are made by the Mayor</p> <p><b>When:</b> Watch City Facebook page, Twitter, and Public Notices on <a href="http://www.vhal.org">www.vhal.org</a> for announcements</p>
<b>Chamber of Commerce</b>	<p><b>What:</b> The mission of the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce is to promote and improve the economic, civic, education and general business conditions of its members and the Vestavia Hills community, and to work with other organizations in these endeavors in a non-partisan manner.</p> <p><b>How:</b> <a href="http://www.vestaviiahills.org/membership">http://www.vestaviiahills.org/membership</a> Even if you are not a Chamber member, the Chamber has many social media channels to share its activities. See <a href="http://www.vestaviiahills.org">www.vestaviiahills.org</a>.</p> <p><b>When:</b> Ongoing.</p>
<b>Volunteer – Senior Transportation</b>	<p><b>What:</b> Volunteer drivers use a City car to take Vestavia Hills residents to doctor’s offices in the Birmingham area and errands within Vestavia Hills.</p> <p><b>How:</b> Contact Coordinator Gayle England, <a href="mailto:geengland@bellsouth.net">geengland@bellsouth.net</a> or call Vestavia Hills Parks and Recreation at 205.978.0166.</p> <p><b>When:</b> ongoing. The volunteers meet every other month to coordinate the driver schedule. Volunteers usually drive once or twice a month, Tuesday through Friday.</p>
<b>Volunteer – Parks and Recreation</b>	<p><b>What:</b> Coaches, boosters, etc. for the various athletic programs through Vestavia Hills Parks and Recreation.</p> <p><b>How:</b> Contact the board for the particular sport where you would like to volunteer. To find the listing of Vestavia Hills sport board websites, visit <a href="http://vestaviiahillsparks.com/athletics/">http://vestaviiahillsparks.com/athletics/</a> or call 205.978.0166 for assistance. (The individual sports boards operate under the governance of the Vestavia Hills Parks and Recreation Board.)</p> <p><b>When:</b> Ongoing.</p>



<p><b>Volunteer – Library PALS, Friends of the Library</b></p>	<p><b>What:</b> PALS (People Affecting Library Success) is a group of parents committed to supporting the Children's Department of the Vestavia Hills Library in the Forest through volunteer and monetary support.</p> <p><b>How:</b> Please contact a member of PALS or the Children's Department staff if you are interested in joining. Learn more about PALS by visiting us online at <a href="http://www.librarypals.org">www.librarypals.org</a>.</p> <p><b>When:</b> New members are invited to join in January. Activities and events are held throughout the year.</p>
<p><b>Leadership Vestavia Hills, Youth Leadership Vestavia Hills</b></p>	<p><b>What:</b> Persons interested in leadership roles in Vestavia Hills meet to learn about various aspects of the community such as its government, economy, and school system.</p> <p><b>How:</b> Participants are nominated to apply by existing members. See <a href="http://www.leadershipvestaviiahills.com/index.php/how-to-join-lvh/">http://www.leadershipvestaviiahills.com/index.php/how-to-join-lvh/</a> for more information.</p> <p><b>When:</b> September through April, the class meets once a month plus some social and service events.</p>
<p><b>Men's Garden Club</b></p>	<p><b>What:</b> The Men's Garden Club keeps the Men's Garden Corner on Shades Crest Road opposite Sibyl Temple. This small park is open to visitors and includes a short walking path and benches.</p> <p><b>How:</b> Contact club president Lee Higginbotham, <a href="mailto:lee.higginbotham@advancedmower.com">lee.higginbotham@advancedmower.com</a> or (205) 368-4141.</p> <p><b>When:</b> Ongoing.</p>
<p><b>Vestavia Hills Garden Club</b></p>	<p><b>What:</b> The Vestavia Garden Club (established 1949) owns the Sibyl Temple monument on US 31 and Shades Crest Road. Members of the Vestavia Garden Club volunteer hands-on in beautification activities at the Sibyl Temple.</p> <p><b>How:</b> To get involved with the Vestavia Hills Garden Club, contact club president Dawn Bendig at 527-3529. New members are nominated annually by existing members according to the number of vacancies in the club.</p> <p><b>When:</b> Ongoing. Most activities take place September – May.</p>



<b>Sibyl Temple Foundation</b>	<p><b>What:</b> The mission of the Sibyl Temple Foundation is to raise funds to preserve and maintain the Temple and its grounds and facilities. Members of the Sibyl Temple Foundation also volunteer alongside the Vestavia Garden Club.</p> <p><b>How:</b> To find out more about making a donation or becoming a member of the Sibyl Temple Foundation, contact Wendy Henry at <a href="mailto:wendyhenry0325@bellsouth.net">wendyhenry0325@bellsouth.net</a></p> <p><b>When:</b> Ongoing.</p>
<b>Flag Foundation</b>	<p><b>What:</b> The Flag Foundation sponsors the Vestavia Hills Avenue of Flags, located in the medians along US31, Columbiana Rd, Cahaba Heights business district, and Liberty Parkway. The group also assists residents with old flags in need of disposal.</p> <p><b>How:</b> Find out how to join or donate by contacting Councilman Jim Sharp at 822.4686.</p> <p><b>When:</b> Ongoing.</p>
<b>Vestavia Hills Historical Society</b>	<p><b>What:</b> The Vestavia Hills Historical Society is dedicated to preserving the history of our City. The VHHS meets at the Vestavia Hills Library in the Forest. There is always a very interesting speaker on local and state history and points of interest.</p> <p><b>How:</b> Contact Sheila Bruce, <a href="mailto:sbruce8710@gmail.com">sbruce8710@gmail.com</a> or (205) 979-1356.</p> <p><b>When:</b> The Historical Society meets once per quarter: 4th Monday in Jan at 2pm, 3rd Monday in April at 2 pm, 3rd Monday in July at 6pm, 3rd Monday in Oct. at 2pm</p>
<b>CERT Emergency Training</b>	<p><b>What:</b> C.E.R.T., Community Emergency Response Team, is offered to the community by the Vestavia Hills Fire Department. C.E.R.T. training teaches how to prepare homes and families for the critical period following a disaster.</p> <p><b>How:</b> See <a href="http://vestaviahillsfire.com/safety/c-e-r-t-2/">http://vestaviahillsfire.com/safety/c-e-r-t-2/</a> or call 205.978.0225.</p> <p><b>When:</b> CERT classes are typically offered every 2-3 months as there is sufficient need/number of participants.</p>
<b>Council Meetings</b>	<p><b>What:</b> Regular meeting of the City Council to discuss City business and make decisions by passing ordinances and resolutions and making proclamations.</p> <p><b>How:</b> Contact City Clerk Rebecca Leavings in order to be added to the agenda,</p>



[rleavings@vhal.org](mailto:rleavings@vhal.org), 205.978.0184.

**When:** Meetings are held 5pm 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month (except holidays) in the Council Chamber of the Vestavia Hills Municipal Center. There is open public comment at the end of each Council meeting. To request to be on the agenda, contact the City Clerk by Tuesday the week prior.

**Mayor's Meeting with the Council (Council work session)**

**What:** Work session in which the Mayor, City Council, and invited presenters meet to gather and discuss information about pending City business prior to taking action in the regular Council meetings.

**How:** Open to public, but comment only by invitation from the Council. Limited space available.

**When:** The work session is usually held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 5pm, in the North Conference room of the Vestavia Hills Municipal Center.

**Vestavia Hills Action Center**

**What:** A great way to let the City know of maintenance requests. Citizens who submit requests via the Action Center receive email confirmations of the request as well as when the City has made a response. The Action Center can also be used to add pictures of issues and send messages directly to City staff who are assigned to a particular type of request.

**How:** Find it at [www.vhal.org](http://www.vhal.org). Mobile app available on iTunes and Google Play.

**When:** Ongoing, launched April 2014.

**VH2Go – Show some love to the local businesses**

**What:** One-stop-shop to locate Chamber news, members by business category, Chamber and City calendars, and more.

**How:** Available on iTunes and Google Play.

**When:** Ongoing.

**Vote!**

Make sure your registration is up-to-date! See upcoming elections you may participate in, check your voter registration status, and print a registration application card at [www.AlabamaVotes.gov](http://www.AlabamaVotes.gov). Remember that your polling place may be different for municipal elections versus state elections.



<b>Vestavia Hills Senior Citizens Association</b>	<p><b>What:</b> Senior Citizens group that meets once a month for lunch and entertainment.</p> <p><b>How:</b> Contact Ruby Denson, 205.822.8788.</p> <p><b>When:</b> Ongoing, meetings are held at 11:30am the second Monday of the month, usually at the Dogwood Room at the Vestavia Civic Center.</p>
<b>Schools – crossing guards, PTO, other volunteer roles</b>	<p>Follow this link to contact the leaders of your school’s PTO to find out more about volunteer needs, <a href="http://www.vestavia.k12.al.us/pta.cfm">http://www.vestavia.k12.al.us/pta.cfm</a>.</p>
<b>Follow us on social media</b>	<p><b>What:</b> Breaking City news, fun facts, tips, and more. Facebook, Twitter, and more to come! We are listed as “City of Vestavia Hills Government”, @VestaviaHillsAL, and more channels to come.</p> <p><b>How:</b> Some types of social media require an account, and some don’t. You don’t have to have a Facebook or Twitter account to see the City’s posts, but if you do have one, please be sure to “Like” us!</p> <p><b>When:</b> Watch for the launch of new social media channels this fall. They will be listed on our City website <a href="http://www.vhal.org">www.vhal.org</a></p>
<b>Join the fun!</b>	<p>Read the various print and social media channels to find out about community events, and then don’t miss being there! I Love America Celebrations, music and socials at the Vestavia Hills Library in the Forest, First Night Out VHPD events, Wing Ding, Dogwood Festival, Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast, Holiday in the Hills events, Art in the Hills, Citizen of the Year and more great events to be planned!</p>
<b>Be a sport!</b>	<p>Participate in weekend adult soccer at the SHAC*or train for the annual Run for the Hills in November. *Sicard Hollow Athletic Complex</p>
<b>Join a civic group</b>	<p>Vestavia Hills has several civic groups, including two Rotary clubs, a Civitans club, and more. To become involved, visit the website of the organization you are interested in and search for chapters in or near Vestavia Hills.</p>
<b>Share your talents</b>	<p>Do you have photography or videography skills, musical talents, etc.? Contact the City Manager’s office or the leadership of whichever City board, committee, or commission that matches your interests.</p>

