

COMMUNITY NEWS

News & Events for the City of Vestavia Hills • September 2019

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

September 2019

- 2 Municipal Offices Closed, Labor Day
- 5 Design Review Board Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 9 Senior Citizens Luncheon Dogwood Room, 11:30am
- 9 City Council Meeting Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 10 Chamber Luncheon Vestavia Country Club, 11:30 a.m.
- 11 Patriot Day Remembrance Ceremony Homewood, AL (TBD), 8:30 a.m.
- 12 Planning and Zoning Commission Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 14 Helping Hands in the Hills Community Service Day
- 14 Helping Hands in the Hills Recycle Day City Hall, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 16 Council Work Session Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 17 Parks and Recreation Board Executive Conference Room, 7 a.m.
- 19 Board of Zoning Adjustment Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 23 City Council Meeting Council Chamber 6 p.m.
- 26 Friends of the Library Library in the Forest, 10 a.m.
- 30 U.S. Service Academy Night City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 30 Splash Pad at SHAC closes



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Ashley C. Curry, Vestavia Hills Mayor

I would like to recognize a Vestavia Hills volunteer that has made a lasting impression on our city. Zella Listerman, the long-time coordinator of our Monday Night Dancers, retired this past month. Zella served as the coordinator for this weekly event that was held at “The Lodge” for 11 years. I attended the “last dance” at the Lodge and was honored to present Zella with a certificate of recognition. This group, consisting mostly of senior citizens, will be meeting in the Dogwood Room until our new Community Building is completed. If you have not participated in this event, you need to come one Monday evening and enjoy the music, provided by live bands, and the opportunity to dance to all genres of music (maybe with the exception of Hip-Hop). Thank you, Zella, for

all you have done to make the Monday Night Dance group so much fun. You will be missed!

I would like to bring you up-to-date on our newly created Phoenix Program. This program became operational on July 1, 2019. As you may have read in last month’s submission, this substance abuse intervention program provides an opportunity for individuals that realize their addiction to seek counseling or recovery assistance through our police and fire departments. Individuals can seek assistance 24 hours per day, 7 days per week by coming to any Vestavia Hills Fire station or to the Vestavia Hills Police Department. First responders will contact participating recovery resource agencies that will provide the necessary assessment and placement depending on the individual’s needs

– Mayor’s Message *continued on page 3*



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeff Downes, Vestavia Hills City Manager

As I contemplated the subject of my article this month, I had just exited one of my favorite experiences of the year – the Vestavia Hills City Schools (VHCS) Institute Day. This official kick-off to the school year begins with a convocation of all VHCS staff at Mountaintop Church. In addition to expressing thanks to all who make our schools an incredible asset in our community, the VHCS leadership charts the plans and goals of the upcoming year to an audience that is inclusive of not just staff but community leadership. During this year’s presentation, Dr. Todd Freeman struck a tone of serious, intentional effort to not just sustain the many positive attributes of the system, but to also focus on tactics that drill down into the “learning without limits” guiding principle. In his presentation, he spoke of “policy, practice

and partnership.” From the city government perspective, the word “partnership” rung very loud to me. I have always believed that leadership without open partnership will not be successful. It takes more than one individual or entity to accomplish stretch goals associated with any plan.

Over the last two years, both the City schools and the City government have embraced plan development unprecedented for Vestavia Hills. VHCS has purchased two new schools to support continued healthy demand for its services by residents and invested in the upgrading of its existing facilities. The City government has addressed the unquestioned quality and quantity issues of its recreational facilities and is investing in high priority infrastructure projects. The next 12 to 18

– Manager’s Report *continued on page 3*



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

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

Dwight Eisenhower is credited with making the statement, “Plans are useless, but planning is indispensable.” There are various accounts of what he actually said, but the idea is one that resonates in life, relationships, and work. Like many of you, I enjoy a plan and am usually uncomfortable without one. The only guarantee I’ve learned with plans, however, is that they will certainly change. Planning, then, becomes the way in which we can more appropriately react to change.

For the past several months, our school system has been engaged in strategic planning. Stakeholders in the process included teachers, administrators, parents, business leaders, community and government leaders, and, most importantly, students. From the outset, we wanted to focus on a few high-leverage goals while keeping our mission and beliefs intact. The goals are intentionally written to be adaptable to change and serve as platitudes for our system to aspire to.

The first goal is to “ensure that students learn and demonstrate a profound understanding of knowledge and skills consistent with expectations of teachers, parents, and the community, and ensure that students find value and meaning in the work provided to them.” Our focus will be on policy that provides an environment for students to learn without limits, learning experiences that engage students, and partnerships that provide depth in those experiences.

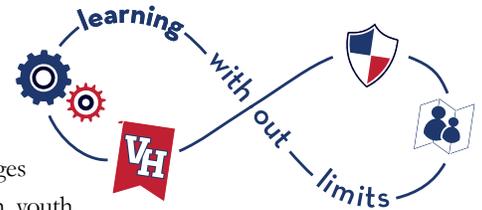
The second goal is to “embrace our leadership role in developing common understandings and shared community support for

confronting the problems and challenges that impact the system, youth, and families.” Our focus is on making strong connections with our students, working alongside our community partners to provide the optimal level of social and emotional support, and having an effective plan to communicate and garner support in this effort.

The third goal is to “strengthen leadership, management, and staffing systems committed to advancing the mission, beliefs, and goals of the strategic plan.” This goal speaks to ensuring that we have the capacity to implement the first two goals. This includes supporting our employees with exceptional professional learning, health and wellness, while engaging in recruiting and retention practices to keep the very best teachers and staff.

Our next steps in this journey will be to implement action plans and measurable outcomes for each goal. We will continue to rely on the collective expertise of stakeholders in designing this work.

John Maxwell says we never fully arrive at meeting lofty goals; yet it is the pursuit of those goals where we grow and continually improve. It is this mindset that makes strategic planning a vibrant, organic process focused on our mission to provide every student the opportunity to learn without limits.



IT'S IN THE BAG!

It still feels like summer, but fall will be here before we know it! So, what should we do with all of the fallen leaves, pine straw and other small yard debris? If your answer is to blow it into the street ... guess again! (If you have a yard service, be sure to remind them to not blow yard debris into the streets, ditches, etc.)

Leaf debris poses a serious hazard when it accumulates in storm drains and gutters. Storm drains are designed to allow water to quickly drain away after a heavy rainfall, but if they become blocked or clogged, serious flooding issues can result. We need to keep storm drains and gutters clear, and proper disposal of yard debris is a step in the right direction. How do we do it? There are a few ways:

- **Collect and store the leaves and grass clipping in bags to be collected on yard waste pickup day.** Proper disposal will keep our rivers clear and help prevent flooding.
- **Utilize the leaf litter and grass clippings as mulch** for flower beds, vegetable gardens or along fence lines to prevent weed growth.
- **Add the material to your compost.** Grinding the leaves with the lawnmower before adding to the compost will ensure that they release their nutrients and accelerate the composting process.
- **Allow grass clippings or ground leaves to dry and decompose in place.** They won't smother your grass; in fact, they will add nutrients and help retain soil moisture.



Mayor's Message *continued from page 1*

and financial ability. The person seeking help can surrender any illegal substances in their possession without fear of facing criminal charges.

Within the first week of its inception, an individual came to VHPD seeking help and surrendered a quantity of illegal substances. One of our partnering recovery resource agencies responded and began the assessment and placement of this individual in the recovery process. Since then, we have had another person call City Hall requesting assistance. We shared the number of a recovery resource agency and the person received help immediately.

These two interventions have made the program successful. If we have saved one life, then we have helped curb this epidemic that is sweeping our state and our nation. There are citizen volunteer opportunities in this program. If you are interested in learning how you can contribute, please call City Hall at 205.978.0100 or email your interest to administration@vhal.org.

I want to personally recognize our Police and Fire departments for making this program possible. Vestavia Hills is a great place to live because our city cares about its citizens, including those that are suffering from addiction.

Our Community Spaces Plan is proceeding. The bid has been awarded and you will begin to see major work at Wald Park very soon. Our objective is to complete the park in the following sequence: the ball fields (including Miracle Field) in time for baseball season, the pool facility in time for summer swimming programs and complete the Community Building last.

Lastly, please make a note to attend our "Community Night Out" on October 1 and our "Salute to Veterans" on November 7. More details will be provided later.



Vestavia Belles

Applications for Vestavia Belles, official junior hostesses for the City of Vestavia Hills, are now open!

New this year – candidates have the opportunity to apply online by visiting www.vhal.org/community/vestavia-belles.

Paper copies are also available in the City Administrative office on the 2nd floor of City Hall, or by download from the Vestavia Belle page. For qualifications and more information, please visit the City website at www.vhal.org, go to the Community tab and select Vestavia Belles.

Deadline to apply is September 20, 2019.

Manager's Message *continued from page 1*

months will see a full execution of these ideas. However, it would not be possible without partnerships. While these partnerships come in many different forms, I want to focus on the partnership between the City of Vestavia Hills and the Vestavia Hills City Schools.

When classroom space became the primary topic of conversation with our schools, the City and VHCS collaborated to develop a strategy to approach Hoover City Schools about the acquisition of the old Berry campus. Together, in partnership, the negotiation was successful and the City financially supported the purchase. We now eagerly await the opening of the new Pizitz Middle School. When the City needed more athletic field space, VHCS altered its original plans on the new Pizitz campus to construct a baseball and softball field that will be shared consistent with a joint use agreement. When unanticipated infrastructure costs associated with its global construction program became an issue for VHCS, the City stepped up to provide a 10-year funding commitment. When the redevelopment of Wald Park forced the temporary relocation of the City Public Service crews, the VHCS stepped up with a temporary home for these important employees, and so on and so on. These examples of daily collaboration between these two organizations are the product of true partnership.

Dr. Freeman, thank you for highlighting "partnership" as a key attribute of your incredibly successful organization. The City shares those thoughts. I hope the school year is one of success for all!

The Vestavia Hills Police & Fire Departments Present



Community Night Out

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2019

5:30-8:00 p.m.

Vestavia Hills City Hall

**Free Food . Live Music . Local Vendors
Safety Demos . Kid's Activities . Pet Friendly!**

**Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy a night of free family fun!
Community Night Out is an opportunity for residents to
join VHPD and VHFD in the promotion of public safety.
There will be a special Bicentennial celebration this
year that you won't want to miss!**

HOVERBOARD SAFETY



Over the past few years we have seen the number of hoverboards in the community increase dramatically. The Vestavia Hills Fire Department

wants you and your children to enjoy these devices in a safe manner. Hoverboards have been linked to a number of house fires causing property damage and injuries across the nation. To ensure a safe experience we encourage citizens to consider the following:

- Ensure the device carries the seal from an independent testing laboratory.
- Follow the manufacturer's directions.
- Never leave a charging hoverboard unattended.
- Never plug the hoverboard in over night.
- Should you see leaking fluid, excessive heat, smoke or sparking discontinue use and remove the hoverboard to an open area.
- Always wear a helmet!

WE REACHED 100% OF GOAL!!

Thanks to everyone who participated in last month's blood drive at City Hall, we exceeded our giving goal! Most of these donations were made by individuals who had scheduled an appointment to give. They showed up to save lives!



Mayor Ashley Curry & Finance Director Melvin Turner participating in last month's blood drive.

In 2018, the need for blood in Alabama required the use of almost 20,000 units from other states. One pint of blood can save up to three lives and, at 28 donations, we exceeded our giving goal. Vestavia Hills is making a difference in changing Alabama's status as a state that relies on others for blood.

The next blood drive is scheduled for Monday, October 7. Visit www.redcrossblood.org to make an appointment to save a life! If you are unable to give in October, additional drives are tentatively planned for January, March and August of 2020. We hope to see you there!

ELEVATE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Idyllic Setting Offering Breathtaking Views



Old Overton

Highly regarded as one of Alabama's top five private clubs by *Golf Digest*, Old Overton Club offers world-class golfing in the heart of the Liberty Park Community. The 18-hole championship golf course is sculpted from rocky terrain for sweeping views and championship play. Discover what Old Overton and Liberty Park have to offer.

PH 205.972.9000 • OLDOVERTONCLUB.COM

2019 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TRUSTEES

We would like to gratefully acknowledge our 2019 Chamber Trustees. These businesses support our Chamber and City at a high level of membership which enables us to events and projects in our City. Please let them know how much they are appreciated by visiting/using their products and services and thanking them for their support of Vestavia Hills.



VESTAVIA HILLS
CHAMBER of COMMERCE
A LIFE ABOVE

ADT Security Services	Method Mortgage
Alabama Power Company	Morgan Properties
American Pest Control	Newk's Eatery
America's First Federal Credit Union*	Nurse Next Door*
ARC Realty	OnTime Service*
BB&T	Over the Mountain Journal
B.L. Harbert International	Peoples Bank of Alabama*
Background IQ	Joe Perez
BancorpSouth	Petro Facial Plastic Surgery & MedSpa
Berk Cleveland Rathmell Wealth Strategies	Progress Bank*
Birmingham Business Journal	Rainbow Paint*
Butler Snow LLP	Regions Bank*
Cahaba Benefits Group	RE/MAX Southern Homes – Becky Hicks*
Representative Jim Carns	Sentry Heating, Air Conditioning, Plumbing & Electrical*
Carr, Riggs & Ingram Cellular Sales Authorized Agent of Verizon Wireless*	Southern States Bank
Children's of Alabama	Spectrum Reach
Cooke, Cameron, Travis & Co.	SpeedPro Imaging Direct*
Costco Wholesale	Sperry CGA – The Andrews Group
Harbert Realty Services	Spire*
Hollywood Pools	Starnes Publishing – Vestavia Voice*
HotWorx Vestavia Hills*	Standard Air, Plumbing & Insulation*
IberiaBank	State Farm Insurance – John Henley*
Infomedia*	Summit Express Urgent Care*
Jackson Howard & Whatley CPAs*	Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church*
The Jimmie Hale Mission*	Vestavia Title & Mark E. Gualano, LLC
KPR-Vestavia Hills City Center	Senator Jabo Waggoner
Liberty Park Joint Venture*	Williams Blackstock
Luckie's Pine Straw*	Butch Zaragoza
Mark W. Macoy, LLC	
Mark Yanosky Orthodontics	
McCallum Hoaglund & Irby, LLP	
McDonald's*	
McGowin-King Mortgage	<i>*Chamber Champions</i>

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HELPING HANDS IN THE HILLS RECYCLE DAY

September 14, 2019
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at City Hall

Items available to be recycled include electronics, paper and household hazardous waste.* In addition, VHPD officers will be on-site to collect unneeded and/or expired medications for disposal. (Needles will NOT be accepted.)

**Proof of Vestavia Hills residency required for hazardous waste disposal.*

The full list of items being accepted, as well as those NOT being accepted, is available at https://vhal.org/event/helping-hands-in-the-hills-recycle-day/?instance_id=4014.

Special thanks to: PROTEC Recycling, Republic Services and Gone for Good (a program of United Ability)





**BASKETBALL
REGISTRATION
IS OPEN**

Vestavia Hills Youth Girls Basketball will be hosting **Fall Girls Night Out** with instruction led by JSmith Hoops. These FREE basketball skills sessions for Vestavia Hills girls K-7th grade and will be held on Tuesday nights September 17 through October 8 at the Vestavia Rec Center. Registration is NOT required. For more information, visit <http://vesthgb.website.siplay.com/>.

Registration for **Vestavia Hills Girls Basketball** (grades K-7) is open NOW through October 19 for all Vestavia Hills girls K-7th grade. Player evaluations will be held October 20 at the Vestavia Rec Center and the regular season will begin December 7. For more information or to register, visit <http://vesthgb.website.siplay.com>. Follow us on Instagram and Twitter @vhgirlsbball.

Registration for **Vestavia Hills Boys Basketball** (grades 1-12) is open NOW through October 19. The cost is \$150 per player and includes a uniform and shooting shirt. For more information or to register, visit www.vhybasketball.org.

NEW MERKEL SENIOR CENTER

Join us for monthly programs, nutritional education, events and guest speakers. We also play games EVERY DAY!

Monday-Friday: Fun, fellowship & lunch (served at 11:45 a.m.)

Monday: Exercise, 10:45 a.m. (stretching, light weights)

Tuesday: Tai Chi & Table Games, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Students from VHECH visit New Merkel House for “Getting to Know You” lunches (during the school year)

Wednesday & Friday: Bingo or Table Games, 11:00 a.m.

Thursday: Tech Talk Thursdays

September 10: Art with Tina Chaffin

September 23: Guest Speaker: Lauren Sanderline, Kirkwood by the River

More information, including the **full calendar of Senior Programming activities**, can be found on the City website at <https://vhal.org/community/senior-living/> or by contacting Melanie Perry at 205.967.5977.

VULCAN PARK AND MUSEUM PRESENTS
**VULCAN AFTERTUNES
FALL CONCERT SERIES**

**SEPT 22
LOGAN LEDGER**

**SEPT 29
GRIFFIN HOUSE**

**OCT 06
CHRISTONE "KINGFISH"
INGRAM**

TICKETS STARTING AT \$5.
ALL PERFORMANCES BEGIN AT 3PM.

BUY TICKETS AT
VULCANAFTERTUNES.COM

INCLUDES ADMISSION TO THE MUSEUM, TOWER 6, BABYPALOOZA, KID'S ZONE, CASH BAR + FOOD TRUCKS

SPONSORED BY:
VULCAN PAINTERS INC., BIRMINGHAM COCA-COLA BOTTLING Co., ABC 3340/MY68/CW 21 AND BABYPALOOZA MAGAZINE

LIBRARY IN THE FOREST

Full descriptions, including location and online registration, are available on the Library in the Forest website at www.vestavialibrary.org.

CHILDREN & TWEENS:

205.978.0158 (*Birth-Grade 5*)

- 3 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M., 3:30pm
- 4 Story Friends, 10:30am
- 4 Tween Scene: Beach Party Kickoff, 3:30pm
- 5 L.I.F.T. (Library in the Forest Time), 9:30am
- 5 Book Babies, 10am
- 7 Ms. Casey's Marvelous Music & Movement, 10:30am
- 8 Together with Grandparents Craft, 2pm
- 9 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am
- 10 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M., 3:30pm
- 11 Story Friends, 10:30am
- 11 Tween Scene: Gamechanger!, 3:30pm
- 12 L.I.F.T. (Library in the Forest Time), 9:30am
- 12 Book Babies, 10am
- 16 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am
- 17 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M., 3:30pm
- 17 Family Night: Tom Foolery, 6pm
- 18 Story Friends, 10:30am
- 18 Tween Scene: Art Group, 3:30pm
- 19 L.I.F.T. (Library in the Forest Time), 9:30am
- 19 Book Babies, 10am
- 21 Ms. Casey's Marvelous Music & Movement, 10:30am
- 23 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am
- 24 Pick Up S.T.E.A.M., 3:30pm
- 25 Story Friends, 10:30am
- 25 Tween Scene: Hangout in the Hills, 3:30pm
- 26 L.I.F.T. (Library in the Forest Time), 9:30am
- 26 Book Babies, 10am
- 28 Lego Wars, 11am
- 30 Toddler A-Go-Go, 9:30 & 10:30am

TECHNOLOGY: 205.978.4679

- 10 Apple Mobile Devices with Connect It, 2pm
- 11 Basic Microsoft Excel, 2pm
- 17 Mac 101, 10am
- 23 Basic Microsoft Word, 6pm
- 26 Intermediate Excel Part II, 4pm

TEENS: 205.978.3683 (*Grades 6-12*)

- 3 Escape Room, 4pm
- 4 Writing Group, 4pm
- 6 Open Gaming, 4pm
- 10 Superhero Shows, 4pm
- 11 Teen Art Group, 4pm
- 13 Open Gaming, 4pm
- 17 Level Up Your Locker, 4pm
- 18 Writing Group, 4pm
- 20 Open Gaming, 4pm
- 24 Anime Night, 4pm
- 25 Button Making, 4pm
- 27 Mario Kart 8 Tournament, 4pm

ADULTS: 205.978.4678 (*Ages 18+*)

- 5 Read & Feed Book Group at Taziki's, 6:30pm
- 6 First Friday Fiber Arts, 10am
- 9 Tai Chi for Beginners, 6pm
- 10 Ms. Olivia's Evening Reads Book Group, 6pm
- 11 ABCs of Medicare, 1pm
- 11 Makerspace for Adults: Book Page Jewelry, 6:30pm
- 13 Upcycle City: Craft Paper Coasters, 7pm
- 23 Tai Chi for Beginners, 6pm
- 26 Friends of the Library Presents: City Manager Jeff Downes, 10am
- 30 Belly Dance with Bethany, 6pm

MAKERSPACE: 205.978.3683

(All ages, unless otherwise noted)

- 5 Intro to 3D Printing, 4:30pm
- 6 Molding & Casting with Drew Burgess, 4pm
- 9 Open Maker Lab, 10am-6pm
- 10 Tear-Down Tuesday, 4pm
- 14 Open Maker Lab, 1-5pm
- 16 Open Maker Lab, 10am-6pm
- 19 Vinyl Cutting 101, 4:30pm
- 21 Open Maker Lab, 1-5pm
- 23 Open Maker Lab, 10am-6pm
- 24 Audacity 101, 4pm
- 30 Open Maker Lab, 10am-6pm

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

The Library in the Forest will be **CLOSED** September 1 & 2 in observance of Labor Day.



Program & Event Calendars

Program and event information for every department is now available in one handy book. Be sure to pick one up today at the Library in the Forest!

Also available online at www.vestavialibrary.org.



Food for Fines

\$1 in fines will be waived for each unexpired canned/boxed food item donated in the month of September! (Up to \$10 per library card holder.)



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

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While practicing a motocross jump, Brayden (BB) Butler fell and suffered a brain bleed. It would take half a year and surgeons, physicians, nurses and therapists to help him recover. Fortunately, for BB and thousands of other children, Children's of Alabama is ranked among the top hospitals for children by U.S. News & World Report.



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PRIMARY CARE
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 Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
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www.ChildrensAL.org