

# COMMUNITY NEWS

News & Events for the City of Vestavia Hills • May 2021

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



## SUMMER READING AT THE LIBRARY IN THE FOREST

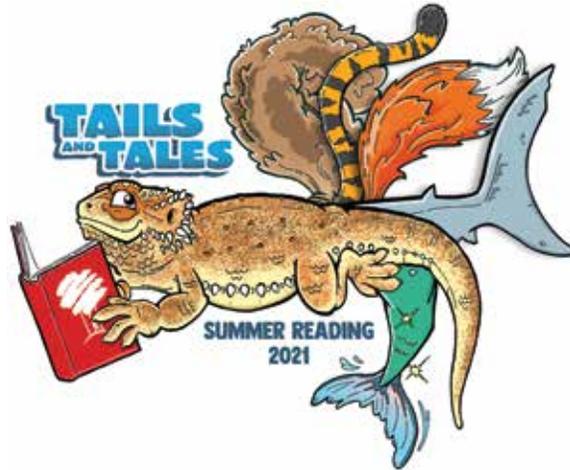
Taneisha Tucker, Library in the Forest Director

Summer is quickly approaching, and the Library in the Forest invites you to participate in “Tails and Tales,” our 2021 Summer Reading Program. This annual tradition promotes reading for all ages, combats summer learning loss in students and offers programs and services to make the summer memorable and exciting. Beginning May 22, sign-up at [vestavialibrary.org](http://vestavialibrary.org) and prepare to log and complete your reading goals, enter drawings for amazing prizes, attend virtual programs and more!

Summer Reading will kick-off with the Children’s Department hosting Dynamic Educational Adventures on Saturday, May 22 from 10am to 4pm. A 30-minute outdoor program will begin at the top of each hour featuring some of your favorite animals. Registration is required. To register, call 205.978.0158. Make sure to also sign up for the Summer Reading Program and learn about other children’s programs, including the citywide bingo game happening in June and July!

Summer Reading for adults begins Tuesday, June 1. Adults can sign up, participate in virtual programs and visit the Adult Services desk to compete in the “Best Guess Prize Jar” challenge.

Teens will also begin Summer Reading programming on Tuesday, June 1. Register for the “Library Olympics” by calling 205.978.3683. You are invited to participate and compete in a variety of challenging and unique programs you do not want to miss!



The library is the place for YOU to be this summer! Check our calendar of events, as some programs will take place in person, on Zoom, Facebook Live and YouTube! Pick up a calendar at the Library or download one from our Summer Reading event page for complete information on everything happening at the library this summer.

Lastly, thank you for the continued support you have given the library. In 2020, your gifts to the Library Foundation totaled almost \$30,000. These monies will be used to fund library projects and services. In addition, the pandemic challenged us to explore new avenues for offering programs and services to you; we are glad that you readily ventured into uncharted waters with us by utilizing online databases, curbside service and attending programs virtually. Your flexibility and support are the reasons why our library remains vibrant and relevant.

Summer Reading may be different this year, but we hope to make it one of the most exhilarating programs yet! Get ready for “Tails and Tales” and we will see you soon at the Library in the Forest!

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The events and dates provided are subject to change. Please refer to the calendar on the City of Vestavia Hills website at <https://vhal.org/calendar> for the most up-to-date information.

### May 2021

- 1 Splash Pad Opens**, Sicard Hollow Athletic Complex
- 6 Design Review Board**, Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 9 Mother’s Day**
- 10 City Council Meeting**, Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 11 Chamber Luncheon**, Vestavia Country Club, 11:30 a.m.
- 12 Dogwood Luncheon**, Vestavia Country Club, 10:30 a.m. *Ticket required*
- 13 Planning and Zoning Commission**, Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 17 Council Work Session**, Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 18 Parks and Recreation Board**, Executive Conference Room, 7 a.m.
- 20 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 22 Summer Reading Kick-off**, Library in the Forest, 10 a.m.
- 24 City Council Meeting**, Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 28 Aquatic Complex Opens**
- 31 Municipal Offices Closed** in observance of Memorial Day  
*Trash collection will be delayed by one day.*



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Ashley Curry, Vestavia Hills Mayor

During the month of May we celebrate Memorial Day and pay tribute to the military veterans that died while serving our nation. Many who were raised in the rural South may remember this holiday as "Decoration Day." It was a time when families gathered at the home church cemetery to remember and place flowers on the graves of loved ones. Memorial Day did not become the more common name until after World War II and was not declared the official name by Federal law until 1967.

Let us all remember the many Americans that have died defending our country, our way of life and the freedoms that we enjoy. The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that nearly one million veterans died in America's wars and conflicts between 1775 and the present War on Terror. We should never forget the ultimate sacrifice that all of these men and women paid on our behalf.

There is another nationally recognized day of remembrance in May. Peace Officers Memorial Day is May 15. On this day, we pay tribute to local, state and federal law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice or been injured in the line of duty. The observance takes place during Police Week (May 9-15, 2021). Please join me in congratulating the Vestavia Hills Police Department for

their professionalism and sense of duty in making our city one of the safest cities in Alabama. If you meet an officer, thank him/her for their service as well.

Another significant event in May is Mother's Day, which will be celebrated this year on Sunday, May 9. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation making Mother's Day an official holiday, to take place each year on the second Sunday of May. This holiday was originally intended to celebrate the personal, individual connection between a mother and her children. I remember the Bell South television ads featuring the legendary football coach, Paul "Bear" Bryant. In the ad, Coach Bryant stated, "Call you mother today, I sure wish I could call mine." His ad must have made a lasting impact. Did you know that more phone calls are made on Mother's Day than any other day of the year? These holiday chats with Mom often cause phone traffic to spike by as much as 37 percent. Don't miss the opportunity to call your mother this holiday. I wish that I could call mine.

Finally, May will be graduation for our senior class at Vestavia Hills High School. We wish these students continued success as they begin a new chapter in each of their lives.

**YOUR  
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HERE!**

Advertising in the *Community News* is a great way to market your business to Vestavia Hills residents in a cost effective way!

To reserve your space TODAY, contact the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce - call 205.823.5011 or email [chamber@vestaviiahills.org](mailto:chamber@vestaviiahills.org).



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

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

Earlier this semester, I had the privilege of visiting Laura Buder's German class and Sara Means' Latin class at Vestavia Hills High School.

Students in German were debating current social, economic and political issues from the perspectives of the country's six different political parties. Latin students were translating lines from the poem "Apollo and Daphne." I was extremely impressed with my experiences for two reasons.

First, Frau Buder and Magistra Means created engaging learning activities that were relevant and meaningful. This was accentuated by classroom environments that were safe for students to learn by taking risks and making mistakes. Second, the students far surpassed simply learning the language. Instead, they were applying language while gaining knowledge about politics, history and literature. It was evident that students were working hard and, judging by their effort, were genuinely engaged in learning at a profound level.

Vestavia Hills City Schools is committed to the value of offering a range of different world languages. The system has 20 teachers who specialize in five different languages. Students at VHHS can take classes in French, German, Latin, Spanish and American Sign Language. Students at Liberty Park and Louis Pizitz middle schools

can take classes in French, German and Spanish. This school year, more than 1,700 students in grades 6-12 have taken a world language class.

Learning world languages in VHCS gives students the opportunity to excel beyond the course requirements alone. In 2016, VHHS implemented the prestigious Seal of Biliteracy credential. Students earn the seal when they attain proficiency in two or more languages. To date, 335 VHHS graduates — including 92 this year — have earned the seal in nine different languages.

This year, VHHS implemented the Global Seal of Biliteracy, becoming one of the first high schools in Alabama to do so. VHHS Department Chair Lisa Garrison says this is a "global credential that celebrates bilingualism and expands future opportunities" including advanced level placement in college, transferable college credit and enhanced job prospects. This year, 58 VHHS students earned the Global Seal in six different languages.

World Languages in VHCS provides students the opportunity to learn without limits by providing multiple pathways to success and developing a broader appreciation of diversity. You can learn more about the VHHS world languages program by visiting our website at <https://www.vestavia.k12.al.us/domain/260>.

### VESTAVIA HILLS DOGWOOD LUNCHEON



Make plans to join us for the annual Vestavia Hills

**Dogwood Luncheon Wednesday, May 12,**

**2021.** There will be a silent auction beginning at 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and a fashion show featuring spring fashions for all ages presented by various Vestavia Hills clothing merchants. Tickets are \$30 and must be purchased in advance.

**The deadline to purchase is May 5, 2021,** so purchase your ticket today at <https://2021vestaviahillsdogwoodluncheon.eventbrite.com> or call 205.978.0100 for more information.

Luncheon details are also on the Vestavia Hills Beautification Facebook page.



# City NEWS

Keeping Vestavia Hills Connected & Informed

Have you registered to receive the digital newsletter from the City of Vestavia Hills? **Sign up today so you won't miss a thing.** It's easy! Visit [www.vhal.org](http://www.vhal.org), scroll to the bottom of the home page and simply enter your email address to have the newsletter delivered directly to your inbox!



## AQUATIC COMPLEX

**The Vestavia Hills Aquatic Complex opens Memorial Day weekend for the summer swim season!** Resident passes for the 2021 season (Memorial Day through Labor Day) are on sale now:

- \$75 individual (0-54yo)
- \$35 senior adult (55+)
- \$300 family maximum
- \$10 daily guest pass (*Guests must be accompanied by a member.*)

The Aquatic Complex features a competition pool and a family-style leisure pool, both of which are closely monitored by trained lifeguards. The family-style leisure pool features a zero-step entry, interactive water features and a swirling vortex offered specifically to entertain our youngest swimmers. The competition pool is designed for intermediate to advanced swimmers and offers a 12' diving well, four dedicated lap lanes and an open swim area. Also within the pool area are lounge chairs for tanning or relaxing in a shady areas, restrooms/locker rooms and a concessions area with a dedicated covered dining space.

Aquatic Complex membership is open to Vestavia Hills residents only. A current driver's license or other state-issued photo identification is required for proof of residency. If your I.D. does not list your current Vestavia Hills address, you may present your photo I.D. along with a current utility bill bearing your name and accurate address.

A Vestavia Hills Parks and Recreation Activity Guide will be available later this spring that will include information on programming options through Parks and Recreations, including swim lessons and aquatic fitness classes at the Aquatic Complex. For more info, visit <https://vhal.org/parks-facilities>.

Be sure to stay tuned to our Parks and Recreation social media (FB: @VestaviaHillsParksandRecreation; Twitter: @VHParks\_Rec) for the latest information, including Open Gym schedules and events! If you have questions or would like to share programming ideas, contact Sandi Wilson ([swilson@vhal.org](mailto:swilson@vhal.org)) or Jeff Corley ([jcorley@vhal.org](mailto:jcorley@vhal.org)).

**NOW HIRING  
SUMMER LIFEGUARDS!**

**Training classes available. For more information or to apply, visit <https://vhal.org/lifeguards>.**

**Congratulations to the 10U girls basketball team!** The team won 1st place in this year's ARPA STATE Tournament. Great job ladies! **We are proud of you and honored to have you represent the City of Vestavia Hills!**





## CHAMBER NEWS

Karen Odle, Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce President

Wow! What a difference a year makes! This time last year we were scrambling to see how to help businesses remain open and viable as no one knew what was to come and we certainly didn't expect it to be a year later before we were able to get back to whatever normal was to be. With that said, while I have included this in past issues, I think it is imperative that we all think about how we can do our part in helping our businesses get back to normal operations.

Most everyone will agree that a community's educational system reflects the priorities and values of that community. Even before Vestavia Hills was incorporated, its residents placed a high priority on education; thus, the formation of a local school system which is one of the best in our state. But what does supporting our local business have to do with our stellar school system? A lot! Over 53% to be exact - this is because more than 53% of the funding for our school system comes from local tax dollars.

How are these local dollars raised? Local dollars come in two ways: Ad valorem<sup>1</sup> tax and sales tax. The ad valorem tax paid on a home is assessed at 10% of the value of the home. The 10% value is then multiplied times the Vestavia Hills millage rate<sup>2</sup> of .0926 mil<sup>3</sup> of which .05205 mil goes to the school system. As you can see, the higher the value of a home, the more funding generated for the school system.

On the other hand, a business in Vestavia Hills is assessed at 20% of the value of the business. Thus, the more profitable a business, the more funding generated for the school system.

Based on the current U.S. Census figures (currently 2010 Census) there are 13,987 households in Vestavia Hills. If each of those households spent \$50 per week they currently spend OUTSIDE of Vestavia Hills and spend it INSIDE Vestavia Hills, businesses would have an additional \$33,568,800 per year in sales! That is no small number to our businesses and our school system. Those funds would exponentially increase the value of our businesses and, in return, generate additional revenue for our schools and city.

If you want to see the power of your tax dollars at work, look around at the beautifully upgraded parks and facilities that are blossoming throughout our community. Vestavia Hills is taxed at 10 cents on the dollar with 4 cents coming to Vestavia Hills and 1 cent of that being earmarked for the upgrades on our beautiful parks. We have so very much to be thankful for!

Please consider this information before you make purchases or plan your shopping for the week. Unsure of everything Vestavia Hills has to offer? Visit <https://www.vestaviahills.org> and click "Shop. Dine. Play." in the navigation bar. It PAYS to shop Vestavia Hills FIRST!

<sup>1</sup>Ad valorem means 'according to value'

<sup>2</sup>Millage is a rate charged per \$1,000 of value

<sup>3</sup>Mil is 1/10th of 1% (.001)

## TRAINING DRIVERS OF THE BIG RED TRUCKS



Every year, Vestavia Hills Fire Department officers and apparatus operators – drivers of the big red trucks – attend leadership training. This beneficial training, held this year April 6-9, provides information on the most recent changes in the fire service, and allows us to sharpen our skills on emergency calls and to improve our leadership abilities. This training time is also used to share ideas and look at possible changes the department could make in order to improve services to the residents of Vestavia Hills.

The department was honored to have Todd Edwards, a retired deputy chief from Atlanta Fire Department, lead this year's training. The classroom and practical evolutions focused on firefighters as individuals and as a department. Topics included tactics and strategies, motivating fellow employees and leadership traits. Thank you to Chief Edwards for an incredible four days of training.



# UPCOMING events

## MAY 2021

**Children** (Birth-Gr. 1) | **Tweens** (Gr. 2-5) | **Teens** (Gr. 6-12) | **Adults** (Ages 18+)  
**Tech** (Ages 18+) | **Makerspace** (All ages, unless noted)

**MOST PROGRAMS & EVENTS ARE ONLINE ONLY.**  
 Additional information, including online location and registration requirements, is available at [www.vestavialibrary.org/event-calendar](http://www.vestavialibrary.org/event-calendar).



**4 Kahoots Trivia Challenge: May the Fourth Be With You,** 12pm, Facebook  
**Smash Bits!,** 4pm, YouTube

**20 Tech in Ten: Windows 10 Basics Part 2,** 4pm, YouTube

**21 Book Talks with Pet Pals of Librarians,** 2pm, YouTube  
**Makercade,** 3pm, YouTube

**5 Writing Group,** 4pm, Zoom

**6 Chess Club,** 4pm, Zoom

**Tic-TECH-Toe: Sign Up for Library Text Message Notifications,** 4pm, YouTube

**Read & Feed Book Group: Transcendent Kingdom,** 6pm, Zoom

**7 Book Talks with Pet Pals of Librarians,** 2pm, YouTube

**Open Gaming Goes Online,** 4pm, Discord

**9 Mother's Day**

**11 Teen Librarians Take on the M&M Challenge,** 4pm, YouTube



**12 Among Us,** 4pm, Discord

**13 Tara's Creative Corner: Mason Jar Fairy Houses,** 3pm, YouTube

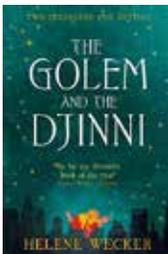
**14 What's It?,** 2pm, YouTube

**Open Gaming Goes Online,** 4pm, Discord

**18 Storytime Stars,** 10:30am, YouTube

**Kara Recommends: The Golem and the Jinni,** 3pm, YouTube

**19 Virtual Game Night,** 4pm, Zoom

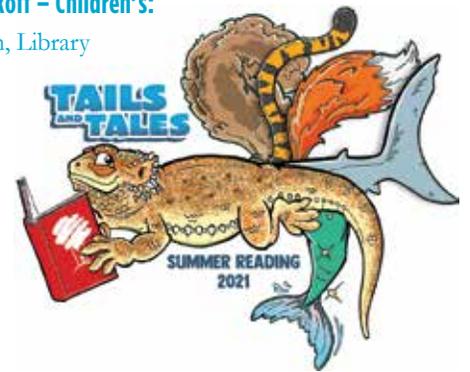


**22 Summer Reading Kickoff – Children's: Tails and Tales,** 10am, Library

**25 Summer Reading Kickoff – Tweens: Tails and Tales,** 2pm, YouTube

**Memorial Day Virtual Tours,** 12pm, Online

**Doodles with Derek: Tails and Tales,** 4pm, YouTube



**26 Art Group,** 4pm, Zoom

**28 What's It?,** 2pm, YouTube

**Open Gaming Goes Online,** 4pm, Discord

**31 Page Turner Animal Adventures: Myrtle Over the Moon,** 10am, YouTube

**Library Closed,** Memorial Day

For more information, visit [vestavialibrary.org/event-calendar](http://vestavialibrary.org/event-calendar) or call 205.978.0155.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

**Among Us** Join us on Discord and see if you can figure out who the impostor is or fool all of your friends! Link available at [vestavialibrary.org/event-calendar](https://vestavialibrary.org/event-calendar).

**Art Group** Enjoy drawing, sketching or doodling? Play drawing games, like Drawful 2, or learn basic drawing exercises you can do at home.

**Book Talks with Pet Pals of Librarians** Watch our librarian's pets talk about their favorite book this week!

**Chess Club** Join one of your peers – a decorated chess champ – and learn to play or challenge other veterans! For students grade 6-12 only (no adults).

**Doodles with Derek: Tails and Tales** Derek transforms Herman into the logo for this year's Summer Reading Program theme, Tails and Tales!

**Kahoots Trivia Challenge: May the Fourth Be With You** How well do you know the Star Wars universe? Test your knowledge by celebrating National Star Wars Day with us!

**Kara Recommends** *The Golem and the Jinni*, by Helene Wecker, is about a chance meeting between mythical beings that will take you on a dazzling journey through cultures in turn-of-the-century New York.

**Library Libations: Mint Julep** It's Derby time! Tune in to learn how to make the cool and refreshing signature cocktail (and mocktail) of the Kentucky Derby – a Mint Julep.

**Makercade** Join us as we explore some fun maker projects that combine STEM and gaming!

**Memorial Day Virtual Tours** Commemorate Memorial Day and honor the men and women who have fought and paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Enter Street View in this Google Earth link to access the many memorials in our nation's capital.

**Open Gaming Goes Online** Join us on Discord to play Super Smash Bros and Jackbox.tv games. Link available at [vestavialibrary.org/event-calendar](https://vestavialibrary.org/event-calendar).

**Page Turner Animal Adventures: Myrtle Over the Moon** Kicking off our Page Turner's Animal Adventures is "Myrtle Over The Moon"! Watch a live-action mooosical adventure about a bovine that seeks love and fame on MooTube by attempting to jump over the moon!

**Read & Feed Book Group** *Transcendent Kingdom* by Yaa Gyasi. Zoom link is available at [vestavialibrary.org/event-calendar](https://vestavialibrary.org/event-calendar).

**Smash Bits!** We've combined our teen's best Smash Bros plays into one hard-punching reel! Want to make our next highlights? Join us in Open Gaming Goes Online every Friday at 4pm!

**Storytime Stars** Join Ms. Anjie and Ms. Lisa for stories, songs, puppets and learning fun. For ages five and under.

**Summer Reading Kickoff – Children's: Tails and Tales** Register for a slot to watch the animal show from Dynamic Educational Adventures in the amphitheater! It will be a perfect time to sign up for Summer Reading, get your Bingo cards and first location, and then take home your yummy surprise! Masks are preferred and everyone must pre-register. Call 205.978.0158 to register.

**Summer Reading Kickoff – Tweens: Tails and Tales** This fun program for school-aged kids features trivia, games, challenges and activities, including options for you to post your own version of the challenges!

**Tara's Creative Corner: Mason Jar Fairy Houses** Magic isn't just for kids! Calling all adults to join us on Tara's Creative Corner to make a delightful fairy house. We'll get you started with all of the supplies. Free Take & Make Bags are available while supplies last. Call 205.978.4678 or email [terri.leslie@vestavialibrary.org](mailto:terri.leslie@vestavialibrary.org) to reserve your bag today.

**Tech in Ten: Windows 10 Basics Part 2** Tech tips in 10 minutes or less! Brush up on your Windows 10 skills in this introduction to Microsoft's latest operating system. If you missed part one, it is available on the library's YouTube and Facebook pages.

**Teen Librarians Take on the M&M Challenge** Watch your teen librarians as they see who has the most precise taste buds!

**Tic-TECH-Toe: Sign Up for Library Text Message Notifications** Learn how to enroll in text message alerts for your library account with Shoutbomb. Get texts for upcoming item due dates, items ready for pickup, and more!

**Virtual Game Night** Join Lauren and the other Teen Librarians as we compete in a variety of neat virtual games.

**What's It?** What IS that thing? See if you can guess what the strange object could be! Answers will appear in the following show. Tune in to see if you were right!

**Writing Group** Join our writing group to share ideas and build writing skills while providing feedback to one another.

For more information, visit [vestavialibrary.org/event-calendar](https://vestavialibrary.org/event-calendar) or call 205.978.0155.



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Save the date

I Love America

Night

and Ribbon Cutting of  
 the new Grand Lawn

Thursday, June 24, 2021

6:00 pm

Wald Park