

COMMUNITY NEWS

News & Events for the City of Vestavia Hills | December 2023/January 2024

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



Ashley Curry,
Mayor
City of
Vestavia Hills

THE MAGIC OF THE HOLIDAYS

On November 5, we held our annual Salute to Veterans event at our new Civic Center. I would like to thank our sponsors, City personnel and keynote speaker, Major General David Burford, for another outstanding event. On November 8, we also celebrated Veterans Day at the New Merkel House in Cahaba Heights. This annual event recognizes the veterans in attendance and presents certificates for family members of deceased veterans. In addition,

students from the adjacent Vestavia Hills Elementary Cahaba Heights greet the veterans, recite the Pledge of Allegiance and sing a special song for those in attendance. May we never forget the veterans and their sacrifices to keep our nation free.

The annual Deck the Heights event on November 11 brought the magic of Christmas back to Cahaba Heights with shopping, food, drinks and fun! Everyone in attendance braved the rain to visit pop-up shops throughout Cahaba Heights, enjoy the seasonal music and even ride a mechanical bull!

I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving and that you were able to spend time with family and friends. It is such a blessing to gather together and realize our many blessings.

The annual Tree Lighting Festival was held at City Hall and the Civic Center on November 28. It is always such fun to see the students perform and to light the Christmas tree.

There are several events in December that you don't want to miss. The annual Holiday Parade and Party in the Park will be held in Liberty Park on December 3. Don't forget the annual Breakfast with Santa at the Civic Center on December 9. Lastly, the annual Menorah lighting will take place at City Hall on December 14.

As we move into the Advent season, let us remember that many faiths and cultures around the world celebrate the holidays, including Christians, Jews, Buddhists and Hindus, who all have their own traditions and beliefs. Those who are not religious or do not practice faith throughout the year may also celebrate the holidays in a religious or non-religious way.

January will be the start of a new year for our city. During the coming year we should see several projects underway, including the repaving and sidewalk construction on Massey Road, as well as the long-anticipated construction of the pedestrian bridge between Wald Park and the Library in the Forest.

English author and poet Alex Morritt reminds us that we all will start a new year. In your book of life, "Will it be a new chapter, a new verse or just the same old story? Ultimately, we will write it. The choice is ours."

I wish you all a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December 2023

- 3 Holiday Parade & Party in the Park**, Liberty Park, 2pm
Rain date: December 10
- 7 Design Review Board**, Executive Conference Room, 6pm
- 9 Breakfast with Santa**, Civic Center, 7:30am
- 11 Senior Citizens Association Luncheon**, Civic Center, Dogwood Room, 11:30am
- 11 City Council Meeting**, Council Chamber, 6pm
- 12 Chamber Luncheon**, Vestavia Country Club, 11:30am
- 14 Planning and Zoning Commission**, Council Chamber, 5pm
- 14 Menorah Lighting**, City Hall, 5:30pm
- 18 Council Work Session**, Council Chamber, 5pm
- 18 City Council Meeting**, Council Chamber, 6pm
- 19 Parks and Recreation Board**, Civic Center, 7:30am
- 21 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, Council Chamber, 6pm

22 & 25 Municipal Offices Closed, Christmas*

29 Municipal Offices Closed, New Year's

**Christmas Day is a sanitation holiday; all routes will be serviced on a one-day delay*

January 2024

- 1 Municipal Offices Closed**, New Year's*
- 4 Design Review Board**, Executive Conference Room, 6pm
- 8 Senior Citizens Association Luncheon**, Civic Center, Dogwood Room, 11:30am
- 8 City Council Meeting**, Council Chamber, 6pm
- 9 Chamber Luncheon**, Vestavia Country Club, 11:30am
- 11 Planning and Zoning Commission**, Council Chamber, 6pm
- 15 Municipal Offices Closed**, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 16 Parks and Recreation Board**, Civic Center, 7:30am
- 18 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, Council Chamber, 6pm
- 22 City Council Meeting**, Council Chamber, 6pm
- 23 Viva Vestavia Hills**, Civic Center, 6:30pm

**New Year's Day is a sanitation holiday; all routes will be serviced on a one-day delay*

Light Up
Vestavia Hills

Residents are encouraged to place a tree featuring white lights, a menorah or any seasonal symbol in the yard, visible from the street, this holiday season!



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

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The mission of Vestavia Hills City Schools is to provide every student the opportunity to learn without limits. One of our goals is to confront the inevitable challenges students face which create barriers, or limits, to their learning. We have a multi-pronged approach that is grounded in reinforcing the values of our families in developing boys and girls of character.

Author James Merritt says, "Character must be indispensably woven into the fabric of our lives, but this does not happen by accident. We must work hard to cultivate it." Our schools focus on character traits that equip children

to make good decisions, do their best and persevere through challenges. We cultivate this culture of character through community partnerships.

One such example is found at Vestavia Hills Elementary East which hosts an annual Color Run focused on the school's core values. The many

community partners that support this event help offset the costs of making character education a priority.

Character is also the foundation for living out the time-honored exhortation to treat others the way we would want to be treated. Cicero said that "within the character of the citizen, lies the welfare of the nation." Virtues such as respecting, serving and being kind to others are common expectations in our schools. One unique illustration of putting these virtues into action is the partnership between the students at Vestavia Hills Elementary Cahaba Heights and the senior adults at New Merkel House. The time they regularly spend together, learning across generations, is invaluable in developing future citizens who carry on the legacy of our community.

While character is a necessity to confronting challenges in life, there is often a need for additional layers of support. Merlin, the facility dog who works at Vestavia Hills Elementary West, is a perfect example of such support. Merlin spends his time connecting with and supporting students by encouraging and comforting in ways only a dog can do. Merlin is professionally trained to sense those students and staff who need a little more attention and the calming presence of a friend. Without knowing it, Merlin is modeling the character traits of empathy and respect. West has great partnerships with Pet Wellness Animal Hospital and Happy Dog Grooming that make Merlin's work possible.

Unparalleled community support for character education is mutually beneficial. Thomas Lickona says, "...in a culture that often undermines good character, schools and families need support from the wider community." Our schools are blessed with, and thankful for, the many unique ways that we are supported. We would love to have you join us!

VHEE Color Run

EAGLE

CarePath CONSULTANTS | BLACK FAMILY RESTAURANTS | McDonald's

TWENTY TWELVE Annual Wine | **The TrakShak Running Shops**

LEAN AYERS | **BIG COLOR** | **ITALIAN ICE**

EST. 1984 | **DAVENPORT'S PIZZA PALACE** | **VULCAN** WELLNESS & AESTHETICS

TACO MAMA | **VESTAVIA HILLS, AL** | **Rachel Powell HOMES** | **Red Hills REALTY**

VESTAVIA SMILES | **tazikis** MEDITERRANEAN CAFE

Thank you to our 2023 sponsors!

Hope lives here.

Our dedicated doctors, nurses, researchers and staff are committed to finding a cure, so kids like Adrian can live their healthiest life – cancer free. We never give up hope of a world without childhood cancer and blood disorders, and that's why we are here.

Children's of Alabama® | **BEST CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS** USNews CANCER 2022-23

VIVA VESTAVIA HILLS

A taste of Vestavia Hills Restaurants and Fine Wines

Presented by
the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce Foundation
benefiting the Chamber Foundation
Scholarship & Capital Funds

January 23, 2024, 6:30-9:00 pm
Vestavia Hills Civic Center
Tickets: \$50 each

On sale this month at <https://www.vestavi hills.org>

elf ZunZun

(no minors)



A pop-up holiday bar featuring a selfie-inducing explosion of Christmas décor and holiday-themed cocktails and appetizers!

Location: El ZunZun Patio
4105 Crosshaven Drive

Hours: Open to the public every Thursday, Friday & Saturday through December 23

Available for private events
Sunday, Tuesday & Wednesday nights

For more information or to schedule your private event, contact Elf ZunZun at leah@el-zunzun.com or 205.791.7711.



Holiday Studio Now Open
appt.link/holidaystudio



HOLIDAY in the HILLS

Vestavia Hills

Mark your calendar for this year's Holiday in the Hills events!
For more information, visit <https://vhal.org/community/city-events>.

Tuesday, November 28
Tree Lighting Festival
6pm
City Hall Complex,
1032 Montgomery Highway

Thursday, November 30
Elf ZunZun Opens
4pm
4105 Crosshaven Drive
Holiday Bar, open weekly
Thursday through Saturday
til Christmas;
Adults (21+) only

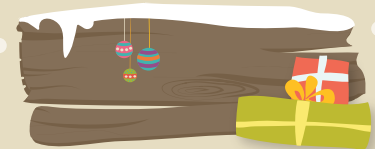
Saturday, December 2
All is Bright
5:30-7:30pm
Vestavia City Center,
700 Montgomery Highway

Sunday, December 3
Holiday Parade & Party in the Park
2pm
Liberty Park (Rain Date: December 10)

Saturday, December 9
Breakfast with Santa
7:30-10am
Civic Center,
1090 Montgomery Highway

Thursday, December 14
Menorah Lighting
5:30pm
City Hall,
1032 Montgomery Highway

Saturday, December 16
Reindeer Dash 5k & Fun Run
7:30am
Olde Towne Plaza,
100 Old Town Road





City of Vestavia Hills
 1032 Montgomery Highway
 Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
 205.978.0100
 www.vhal.org

PRSR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 BIRMINGHAM, AL
 PERMIT #585



His Name Shall Be Called

TRADITIONAL SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10AM
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: 2PM, 4PM, 6PM, 8PM, 11PM
 FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT VHMC.ORG/ADVENT



2061 KENTUCKY AVE. VESTAVIA HILLS, AL 35216 • VHMC.ORG • (205) 822-9631

