A wise person once told me that you should always take the time to celebrate successes. What could be a more noteworthy city and community success than the completion of our new City Hall? Efforts, such as these, are once in a lifetime projects. They define a community, create energy within it, and serve as a legacy for its members. Furthermore, akin to a housewarming, our ability to celebrate the opening of the facility will create a certain warmth for our new community home. It has always been the desire of our leadership that this building is more than just the home of City offices. It will serve as the home for our community's memories and notable events. Let's do it right! Let's really show up to take a peek at the building; but, even more importantly, enjoy each other's company with a background of music by our children and the Alabama Symphony Orchestra.

We encourage all of our residents to come to the new City Hall located at 1032 Montgomery Highway on October 13. The doors open for tours at 4pm. Vestavia Hills City School choirs and ensembles will be entertaining us as we stroll through the facility. Kids will be entertained by inflatable equipment and our sponsors will be providing complimentary hotdogs, hamburgers and drinks. The Vestavia Hills Police and Fire Departments will showcase their operations by having their annual Community Night Out during the evening as well. At 7pm, the Alabama Symphony Orchestra will begin a free community concert that will become an annual City event. We call this celebration our “High Notes” event, one that will be a time to shout that we, the City of Vestavia Hills, live “A Life Above.”

We know this event will be well attended and are providing parking and shuttles to assist everyone to make access to “High Notes” convenient. While parking at City Hall and Wald Park will be conspicuously marked, you can access more detailed information at www.vhal.org/high-notes. Let’s all come out to celebrate this event with our friends and family! I look forward to seeing you at our new community home.

– Jeff Downes
Have you spotted a Pig in Vestavia Hills?

Have you seen our pigs? The Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce is in the process of introducing “pigs” to our local businesses that are designed to remind us to “invest in Vestavia Hills” (think piggy bank) by investing locally. The pigs are part of our Shop Dine Play initiative to help shoppers become more aware of the many incredible businesses and the many offerings that are available right here in Vestavia Hills!

A special thanks to local artists with Artists Incorporated for helping “dress up” our pigs. Artists Sam & Amy Collins, Karen Libecap, Bob Peterson & Amy Peterson and Libby Wright have all given freely of their time and talent to paint and decorate the pigs, and they each did an outstanding job; so we are grateful for this partnership!

Check out the Chamber website at www.vestaviahills.org to see where the pigs are visiting and also to check out some fun facts about local businesses and where the revenue goes when money is spent locally. You also will see the fun selfies sent in by our residents to #vhpigs and will be able to track the journey of the pigs. Please send us your selfie via Instagram to #vhpigs.

The Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce Foundation will be hosting a “taste of Vestavia Hills” at Viva Vestavia XIII on October 29. A special thank you to Hollywood Pools for hosting this fun evening and to Linda Parker with Bruster’s Real Ice Cream for chairing the event and sponsors Jackson Howard & Whatley CPAs, Champion Cleaners and American Osment. Viva Vestavia will feature favorite Vestavia Hills restaurants and restaurants outside the area that are Chamber members for an evening of wine and beer tastings, as well as tastes of the signature dishes from these restaurants. Tickets are $40 each with proceeds going to fund (a) a scholarship for a Vestavia Hills High School student that will be majoring in a business discipline (b) economic development projects in Vestavia Hills, or (c) capital improvements at the Vestavia Hills Chamber. Please check the Chamber website at www.vestaviahills.org for participating restaurants. A limited number of tickets will be sold. This year with the event being close to Halloween, costumes will be optional with prizes given for the top three costumes! For additional information, call the Chamber office at 205.823.5011.

Please continue to support our area businesses. By working together to keep our businesses successful, it helps keep our property values high and provides funding for services we all desire to keep at a high level such as our schools, police, fire and public works. Vestavia Hills. A Life Above.

– Karen Odle, Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce, President
Nine at VHHS Earn National Merit Honors

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation on Wednesday named its 2016 Semifinalists, including nine students at Vestavia Hills High School.

Semifinalists at VHHS include: Hannah Bae, Henry Barrett, Andrea Burris, Sarah Carnahan, Natalie Conboy, Will Mathews, Patrick Mills, Sarah Anne Pfitzer, and Erica Wei.

“We would like to congratulate our National Merit Semifinalists for their high academic standards,” Vestavia Hills High School principal Tyler Burgess, Ed.D., said. “We also want to thank our teachers who help them with the study process to get to this point. These students and teachers have represented Vestavia Hills High School as a place of academic excellence.”

According to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, about 1.5 million high school juniors entered the 2016 competition by taking the 2014 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). The nationwide pool of Semifinalists includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. Fewer than one percent of all high school seniors in the United States are named National Merit Semifinalists.

“The National Merit program provides students with unprecedented college opportunities,” Vestavia Hills High School college counselor Oliver Aaron said. “These Semifinalists will have numerous academic and scholarship opportunities to consider.”

Finalists will be chosen in early 2016 after an application process that considers each student's academic performance, test scores, and endorsements from high school officials. Some 7,400 scholarships worth more than $32 million will be awarded this spring, the organization announced.

With more than 20 floor plans to choose from and four unique neighborhoods available, you are sure to find the perfect home for you and your family’s lifestyle.


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OCTOBER 2015
LPMS Student Chosen to be on Creative Kids Teen Advisory

Eigen Escario, a seventh grade student at Liberty Park Middle School, was one of twelve students nationwide who was accepted to be on the Teen Advisory Board of Creative Kids magazine. As a member of the Advisory Board, Eigen will serve for two years, from August 2015 to July 2017. During this time, he will provide feedback on the design and promotion of the magazine, as well as review books and products for the magazine. In addition, he will contribute artwork, stories, and essays for publication in the magazine or on the website.

Creative Kids magazine is a national magazine by kids for kids, ages 8–16. Everything in the magazine is written or created by kids. Creative Kids was started more than 20 years ago to support the work of kids across the world. Today, the magazine publishes four quarterly, full-color issues each year, including the super-sized (52-page) issue each summer. The staff includes editors with experience in teaching and working with talented kids, five senior contributors ages 14–18, and an advisory board of 12 students ages 8–16.

Pizitz Drama Revived

Middle school is full of drama. Now, Pizitz’s most dramatic students have a place of their own. Pizitz Drama club is an 8th period class that covers the study of speech, principles of acting, and production of a staged show. Students will perform monologues, practice improvisation techniques, and learn about all aspects of a theatrical production. A spring musical is slated for this February. “We’re looking at several options right now, but expect to hold auditions in December,” says Pizitz teacher and Drama sponsor Ashley Perry. “We have an amazing pool of talent at Pizitz, so I’m happy that Mrs. Hanson allowed us to reinstate this opportunity for students.”

LPMS Students Take Virtual Field Trip

Sixth grade students at Liberty Park Middle School participated in a virtual field trip sponsored by the Alabama State Department of Education. The students Skyped with Mike Myers from the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. The Skype session allowed students to examine multiple artifacts in the hall of fame and exposed them to the hundreds of careers available in and around the National Football League. A special thanks goes out to Chris Davis, Vestavia Hills City Schools Information Technology Specialist, who arrived at Liberty Park Middle school at 7 am to set up the session.

Leigh Anne Tuohy, subject of The Blind Side, to speak at luncheon for the VH City Schools Foundation

Thursday, October 8
11:30 am at Vestavia Country Club

www.vestaviasfoundation.org or 978-8808

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SUPERINTENDENT’S MESSAGE

Do you have a piece of gold jewelry that you cherish? Take a close look at it. Before it took its present, intricate shape, a refiner had to melt it with an intense fire. But unlike a forest fire that destroys wildly or an incinerator that consumes completely, a refining fire purifies. It removes impurities and those things that would ruin its value, leaving the gold intact. It is only through the heat of refining that the true beauty of gold is revealed.

In the same way, a refining fire was and is the intent of our strategic plan and the work we do here now. This is a plan, forged through collaboration, which challenges us to ignite curiosity about the world in every student, every day.

It’s not about conformity; it’s about community.
It’s not about exclusion; it’s about expansion.
It’s not about passivity; it’s about possibility.

This is a school system that is daily being refined by the fire of our conversations and our collective goals. It is a fire that we welcome. We know that through this daily refining, the true beauty of our gold — learning without limits — will be revealed.

— Sheila Phillips, VH School Superintendent

VHEW Welcomes New Students

On Aug 7, students new to Vestavia Hills Elementary West converged on Wald Park to meet new friends before the start of the 2015-16 school year. Several of the school’s PTO volunteers welcomed the families in attendance. Parents and students socialized while waiting to purchase treats from the ice cream truck. Kindergartners and first-time West students are invited to join this sweet tradition each year.

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*All reports are published January 2015, based on data available by the end of December 2014. All reports presented are based on data supplied by the Birmingham Association of REALTORS® or its MLS.
Library in the Forest Events

CHILDREN (April Moon 978-0158)

Maker Mondays – Every Monday @ 6:30 pm pottery, car design kits, woodworking
PJ Story Time with Ms. Courtney – Every Tuesday (EXCEPT Oct. 13) at 6:30 pm
L.I.F.T. (Library in the Forest Time) Oct. 1, 15, 22, 29 (9:30 am-12 pm); social play program
Book Babies – Oct. 1, 15, 22, 29 @ 10 am (ages birth-18 mo.) Call to register.
Together with Twos – Oct. 6, 13, 20, & 27 @ 9:30 am & 10:30 am; ages 18 mo.-35 mo.
Story Friends with Mrs. Lisa – Oct. 7, 14, 21 & 28 @ 10:30 am; ages 3 & up
W.H.Y.? – Every Wednesday & Friday @ 3:30 pm crafts on Wed.; movie on Fri.
Preschool Pals: Hugs from Henry Hugglemonster – Oct. 8 @ 10:30 am
Lego Wars – Oct. 24 @ 11 am School-age children; parents must remain with children 7 and under.
Spooky Tales on the Spooky Trail – Oct. 30 @ 6:30 pm Creepy Critters, Monster Flashlight Club, etc. (open-house style)

TEENS (Daniel Tackett 978-2160)

Open Gaming – Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23 @ 4 pm video games on the Wii U and Xbox 360; board games
Minecraft in the Forest – Oct. 4 @ 2 pm Must register.
Teen Art Group – Oct. 7 @ 4 pm
Scary Movie Night – Oct. 13 @ 4 pm
Writing Group – Oct. 14, 28 @ 4 pm
Otaku Time – Oct. 20 @ 4 pm
Studio 1221: Crystal Ball Candlestick – Oct. 21 @ 4 pm Make Halloween decorations with creepy images, a clear glass ball and a candlestick holder.
Anime Night – Oct. 27 @ 4 pm
Mario Kart 8 Tournament – Oct. 30 @ 4 pm

ADULT SERVICES (Terri Leslie 978-4674)

OLLI: Backyard Bird Buffet with Helena Uber-Wamble – Oct. 1 @ 1:30 pm Create a bird oasis; a short hike—wear sturdy shoes and bring binoculars.
Cahaba Heights Book Group @ The Pita Stop – Oct. 8 @ 6:30 pm The Martian by Andy Weir
Upcycle City: Tipsy Tangles Beginning Zentangle – Oct. 9 @ 7 pm Darla from Tangled Stones Studio will introduce you to the art of zentangle. Wine & hors d’oeuvres; free, materials supplied, must be 21+. Space is limited; registration required.
Ms. Olivia’s Evening Reads – Oct. 13 @ 6 pm The Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline
OLLI: Senior Residences & End of Life Decisions – Oct. 15 @ 1:30 pm Jack Norris, speaker
FIGHT BACK: Self-Defense Workshop for Women – Oct. 17 @ 4 pm ages 18+ Registration required.
Lunch Bunch Book Group – Oct. 20 @ 12 pm My Sister’s Keeper by Jodi Picoult; bring lunch, drinks provided.
Literary Libations Book Group @ Cahaba Brewery – Oct. 28 @ 7 pm Information: litlibations@gmail.com, or visit Facebook.com/BhamLiteraryLibations. Must be 21+; October title TBA on their Facebook page.
Antebellum Ghost Stories with Jim Phillips – Oct. 29 @ 1 pm
Rocky Horror Picture Show Halloween Trivia Blowout – Oct. 31 @ 7 pm; trivia, beer & prizes—Must be 21+; ID required.

TECHNOLOGY (Rick Moody 978-0164)

For more information about Library in the Forest programs, visit www.VestaviaLibrary.org
PARKS & RECREATION
FALL PROGRAMS

The Vestavia Hills Parks and Recreation Department is in the middle of our fall programs and getting ready for the winter.

Please visit the City website at www.vhal.org for links to ongoing boys and girls basketball registration.

The season begins in early November and ends in late February. If you are looking for a sport for your child to participate in during the cold winter months, indoor basketball is your answer.

For more information, you may call 978-0166.

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EAT, DRINK & BE SCARY!
A Taste of Vestavia Hills
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Benefitting the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce Foundation
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2015
6:30-9:00 PM
Hosted at Hollywood Pools
1441 Montgomery Highway
Tickets cost $40 each.
To purchase tickets, call 823-5011 or visit www.vestaviahills.org
Ages 21 and over only please.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 8</td>
<td>Planning &amp; Zoning Commission, 6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 12</td>
<td>Senior Citizens Luncheon, Dogwood Room, 11:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>City Council meeting, 5 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>Chamber Luncheon 11:30 a.m., Vestavia Country Club</td>
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<td>Alabama Symphony Orchestra, High Notes/City Hall Grand Opening, 4-9 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>Board of Zoning Adjustment, 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>October 18</td>
<td>Vestavia Hills Pumpkin Patch, 1-4 p.m., Liberty Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 19</td>
<td>Historical Society, 2 p.m.</td>
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<td>October 22</td>
<td>Friends of the Library, 10 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 26</td>
<td>City Council meeting, 5 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 29</td>
<td>Viva Vestavia Hills, 6:30-9 p.m., Hollywood Pools</td>
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