

# Leadership Vestavia Hills

## Leadership Vestavia Hills Alumni Newsletter

Issue 2:1  
January / February 2013

**Leadership  
Vestavia Hills**

**P.O. Box 660591  
Vestavia Hills, AL  
35266-0501**

[leadershipvestaviiahills.com](http://leadershipvestaviiahills.com)

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2012-2013**

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Brent Irby**

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### **Leadership Vestavia Hills Alumni Council keeping you informed**

The Leadership Vestavia Hills Alumni Council was created in 2012 for the sole purpose of keeping the LVH Alumni active in LVH and the community of Vestavia Hills. As of 2012 there are over 300 members that have graduated from LVH. The Council consists of alumni from each graduating class of LVH. The current officers of LVH Council are:

President: Hal Holland  
Vice-President: James Robinson  
Secretary: Kendra Thomley  
Board Liaison: Brent Irby

In order to keep our fellow alumni informed on civic events and updates of alumni and Youth Leadership Vestavia Hills, we need your help. Please contact Donna Byrd at [donnabyrdlvh@yahoo.com](mailto:donnabyrdlvh@yahoo.com) with any updates on alumni or events happening in Vestavia Hills or the surrounding area that you think may be of interest.

### **24th Annual Leadership Vestavia Hills Citizens of the Year**

**March 7, 2013**

**6:00 PM**  
**Vestavia Hills Country Club**

The Leadership Vestavia Hills Citizens of the Year program recognizes individuals and groups who make significant contributions to Vestavia Hills through volunteerism, generosity, fundraising and lifetime service. The 2013 recipients are:

[donnabyrdlvh@yahoo.com](mailto:donnabyrdlvh@yahoo.com)

Sharon Lovell - Lifetime Achievement Award  
Betty Bell - Distinguished Citizen Award  
The All-Star Baseball League - Citizens of the Year



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This year's banquet will be held on March 7, 2013 at 6:00 pm at the Vestavia Hills Country Club. Tickets are \$35.00 and may be purchased from the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce or online at [www.leadershipvestaviiahills.com](http://www.leadershipvestaviiahills.com). Sponsorships are available and you may contact Carol Buchanan at [cbuch54@bellsouth.net](mailto:cbuch54@bellsouth.net) or by visiting the LVH website. The deadline for recognition of sponsorship in the banquet program is February 15, 2013. Seating is limited, so please purchase tickets and make your sponsorship commitment early.

Sponsorship levels are:

Platinum: \$1,250.00 (includes 10 tickets/reserved table/name on event signage and flyers);

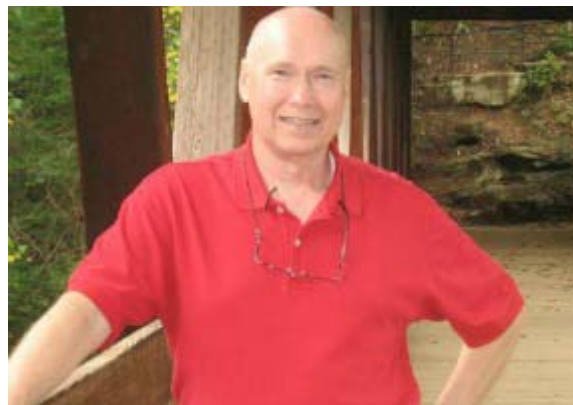
Gold: \$500.00 (includes 4 tickets/name on event signage and flyers);

Bronze: \$100.00 (includes 1 ticket/name on event signage and flyers).

Platinum level sponsors will be recognized individually with their logos projected on a screen throughout the reception. Gold and Silver level sponsors will be recognized as groups with their company or individual names displayed on a screen throughout the reception.

## **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

### **Dennis Anderson**



The importance of Dennis Anderson to Leadership Vestavia Hills cannot be overstated. Simply put, without Dennis Anderson, there would be no Leadership Vestavia Hills. It is with much pride and appreciation that we name Dennis Anderson as our member spotlight for this edition.

Dennis received his undergraduate degree from Georgia State University and Masters and Doctor of Education degrees from Southwestern Theological Seminary. Dennis began his ministry at Vestavia Hills Baptist Church in July of 1985. He currently serves as the Minister of Education and Administration at Vestavia Hills Baptist.

Dennis and his wife, Karen, have long been devoted to civic involvement in Vestavia Hills. Back in the mid 90's while he served as a leader in the Vestavia Hills Rotary Club and his wife Karen served as President of the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce, they each became frustrated with their personal lack of knowledge of the scope of community organization and resources. Dennis and Karen were certain of the leadership talent that existed within the city limits, but the question remained as to how the citizens might be gathered together for the purpose of understanding how to maximize the knowledge, skills, and capabilities that resided among the people of Vestavia Hills.

Dennis soon found that he was not alone in his concerns. From these concerns and discussions with others in the community came the formal idea of an organization that would seek to bring together potential city leaders and assist them in becoming more aware of the social and economic issues that impacted their community. The idea of this type of group led Dennis to explore the tools used by other successful communities to identify and educate their "best and brightest".

After much study of other leadership development programs and with the assistance of others in the community, Dennis' vision and hard work came to fruition in 1996 when the inaugural class of Leadership Vestavia Hills began.

Dennis served as the founding coordinator of Leadership Vestavia Hills from 1996-2001. He served on the Board of Directors of Leadership Vestavia Hills from 1997-2002. His contributions to the improvement of the quality of life of the city through this organization and other civic service earned him recognition as the 1997 Citizen of the Year in Vestavia Hills.

His recent civic involvement has included serving as a trustee of the Vestavia Hills Public Library, where he assisted in the fundraising and planning for the new \$12 million Library in the Forest. He is also involved in assisting Manos Amigos, a Mexican-American non-profit religious organization, in building the Centro de Esperanza, the Center of Hope, in Los Mochis, Sinaloa, Mexico. Centro de Esperanza provides a church, a community facility, a playground, and a basketball court in Siglo XXI, one of the poorest areas of western Mexico.

The LVH organization will forever be indebted to Dennis Anderson. Thanks Dennis for all you have done and continue to do for LVH!

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

- February 22 - February 24, 2013 - Severe Weather Tax Holiday - the state of Alabama and city of Vestavia Hills will waive sales tax on the purchase of certain items needed to prepare for severe weather emergencies.
- February 23, 2013 - Dinner, Diamonds & Destinations - 6:30 PM - Ted's Garage - benefiting the Vestavia Hills City Schools Foundation. Tickets are \$75.00 per person and went on sale January 2, 2013 at [www.dinneranddiamonds.org](http://www.dinneranddiamonds.org).
- March 7, 2013 - 14th Annual Citizens of the Year - 7 PM - Vestavia Hills Country Club. Tickets are \$35.00 each and may be purchased from the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce or online at [www.leadershipvestaviiahills.com](http://www.leadershipvestaviiahills.com).

## 7th Annual Dinner, Diamonds & Destinations

Saturday, February 23, 2013

Ted's Garage

Mark your calendar for the 7th Annual Dinner, Diamonds & Destinations benefiting the Vestavia Hills City Schools Foundation to be held at Ted's Garage on Saturday, February 23, 2013 at 6:30 PM. Come hear live music from the Undergrounders, enjoy delicious cuisine from Yellow Bicycle Catering, and experience a silent and live auction packed with enviable treasures.

Items available for bid include beautiful jewelry from Paul's Diamond Center, a bicycle from Cahaba Cycle, artwork from local artists, and cosmetic services from a local dermatology group.

Among the dream items up for auction are a Top Gun experience, a Nascar experience, trips to the Kentucky Derby, the NCAA Final Four Tournament, the French Open Tennis Tournament, the Country Music Awards, and the Grammy Awards and many other trip packages.

For more information about the event and to purchase tickets, go to [www.dinneranddiamonds.org](http://www.dinneranddiamonds.org). Tickets are \$75 per person and went on sale January 2, 2013. Last year's event was a sell-out! Get your tickets early and don't miss out!

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Please contact [director@vestaviafoundation.org](mailto:director@vestaviafoundation.org) or call the Foundation Executive Director, Ashley Thompson, at 999-8021 for more information.

## Members in the News

A second Bruster's Real Ice Cream in the Birmingham area was opened by **Linda Parker '07** (this is a correction of from the November/December 2012 issue).

**Loring S. Jones III '97** served as timekeeper this past Fall for two political forums to introduce 2012 candidates for various local, county and state-wide

elections to the citizens of Vestavia Hills. Both forums were sponsored by the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce and Leadership Vestavia Hills.

(If you have any announcements regarding professional or civic accomplishments for yourself or fellow LVH alum, please email the information to Donna Byrd at [donnabyrdlvh@yahoo.com](mailto:donnabyrdlvh@yahoo.com)).



## Youth Leadership Vestavia Hills (YLVH)

Update by Kym Prewitt

### Building Bridges In Middle School and Beyond

On the last week of November, twenty students in the Youth Leadership class at VHHS visited 6th grade classrooms at Pizitz and Liberty Park middle schools to present their annual program called Bridges. The purpose was to share with the students personal stories of struggles and triumphs, all related to bullying and thriving in the middle school years. Groups of five students, accompanied by adult facilitators, presented during history classes in an intimate setting where the 6th graders were encouraged to also share their own stories.



According to Kym Prewitt, one of the facilitators, "We find that this format truly empowers the students. They are inspired by the older students who have recently walked in their shoes. We stressed to the Class of 2019 that they have the power to create a culture in their school where everyone feels accepted and valued and important. In that kind of a school there is no room for bullying. That is our challenge to them, to use that power for the good. The idea is that conversation leads to action; action leads to habit, and habit becomes change."

Angie Richardson, YLVH teacher and sponsor, believes that "this is one of the most important aspects of our entire program because it involves outreach in the community and helps these young students begin the conversation about holding the power to change a school climate and to really make a difference in the lives of others. It is truly our foundation. We talk about celebrating differences and finding common ground in order to get along better."

Kelly Bottcher and Lindy Walker are the other two adult facilitators. They, along with Richardson and Prewitt, work with the presenters, all juniors and seniors, for many hours preparing for the program. It is an equally empowering experience for these older students who gain insight and perspective along with improving their public speaking skills.

One of the presenters, senior Tim Sanderlin, shared his story about being picked on in elementary school and then turning on his best friend in 6th grade, in an attempt to be cool. That friend, Summer Hyché, presented alongside of Sanderlin and shared her perspective of being the recipient of hurtful words in front of others. Sanderlin shared with the students that "being a bully is something you will always regret, but doing the right thing by becoming an ally will always make you proud."

Daily Moore, one of the 6th grade students in the audience at Pizitz Middle School, particularly enjoyed the part where the older students showed pictures of themselves when they were in 6th grade. She liked seeing the changes she has in store. Daily learned that, "compassion has no boundaries and kindness cannot be restrained." She saw it as a program of hope, and because that message is universal, the Bridges program is also presented to adult groups including the LVH classes and school faculties.

## Announcements

Visit the LVH website to see recent upgrades to the LVH webpage making it easier to access profiles and personal information. Logon to the webpage by using either your work email or home email address. If you want to change your logon, update your profile and create a user name. If you have forgotten your password or wish to change it, this can be done from the LVH website. If you have any questions or need assistance contact Burke Swearingen at [bswearingen@bellsouth.net](mailto:bswearingen@bellsouth.net).

Sponsorships are available for the 2013 Dinner, Diamonds & Destinations to be held on February 23, 2013 to benefit the Vestavia City Schools Foundation. Please contact [director@vestaviafoundation.org](mailto:director@vestaviafoundation.org) or call the Foundation Executive Director, Ashley Thompson, at 999-8021 for more information.

## LVH Class Schedule

### **February 5, 2013 Economic Development Day**

Iz is the Place - Brian Wolfe and Kevin Jaquess  
8 AM - 4 PM

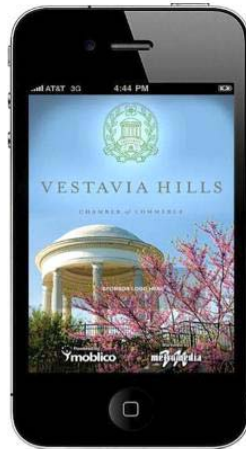
### **March 5, 2013 Education Day**

Board of Education Bldg, 2nd Floor (multiple sites)  
8 AM - 4 PM

### **April 2, 2013 Graduation Day**

Vestavia Country Club  
8 AM - 1:30 PM

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of  
Vestavia Hills



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*Sponsored by the  
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