

# Leadership Vestavia Hills

## Leadership Vestavia Hills Alumni Newsletter

Issue 2:3  
May / June 2013

Leadership  
Vestavia Hills

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

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

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## Leadership Vestavia Hills Social

Thursday, May 9, 2013  
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
Mugshots

Come join fellow alumni for networking and socializing at **Mugshots** on **May 9, 2013** from 5:00 until 7:00 pm for **free drinks and appetizers**. See some friends you haven't seen in a while!

## Spring Baseball Clinic with the Birmingham Barons

Tuesday, April 23 was a picture perfect day for the 3rd Annual Spring Baseball Clinic at Wald Park. Sixty-two special needs students from Vestavia Hills City Schools and The Exceptional Foundation had a full day of baseball including having their names announced over the loudspeaker, on-field greeting from Barons players, training in four baseball



donnabyrdlvh@yahoo.com

**LVH 2012-2013 Alumni Council**

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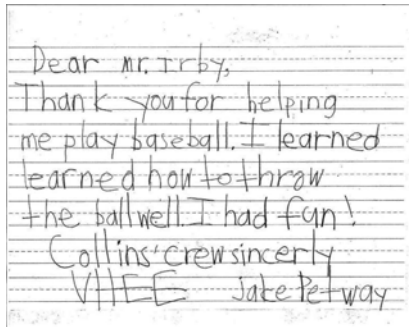


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skills, photo ops, autograph session and lunch at the ball park.



Linda Brady, Exceptional Children's Program Director for VHCS said, "This event gets bigger and better each year. When people ask me what makes Vestavia Hills different? I tell them it's the only place I've ever been that teaches compassion and tolerance so well. These kids are not only accepted but they are valued in their schools, in spite of their differences."

The event was hosted by Leadership Vestavia Hills after the original sponsor, The Vestavia Civitan Club, closed. According to incoming president and event chair, Brent Irby, "The event has meant a lot to the students and teachers over the last three years, as well as to the Barons players and volunteers in the Vestavia Hills community. It would have been sad and unfortunate to see it come to an end this year. But, as it always does, LVH stepped up without hesitation to make the project happen. Everyone involved was so every appreciative of LVH's efforts, and it makes you proud to be park of this organization."



**Jonathan Nelson  
Member Spotlight**

Jonathan Nelson is a native of Fairhope, Alabama and resides in Vestavia Hills with his wife, Christy, and their children Jonathan Jr. (12) and Sophia (8), and is a member of the Leadership Vestavia Hills Class of 2011.

Jonathan is in his ninth year as General Manager for Birmingham Barons baseball. He began his baseball career with the Barons in 1993 with an internship that led to a full-time position in Group Sales. In 1997, Jonathan worked for the Detroit Tigers Baseball Club at Tiger Stadium, selling season ticket and group ticket packages. He returned to the Barons in 1998 and served as their Assistant General Manager for seven seasons before his promotion to General Manager.



Jonathan graduated from the University of Montevallo in 1993 with a Bachelor of Arts in Speech. He served as President of the Montevallo chapter of Phi Kappa Alpha Fraternity in 1992. In February of 2005, he received the Nathalie Molton Gibbons Young Achievers Award that recognizes a Montevallo alum under the age of 35 who has contributed to society through their career. In 2007, The Birmingham Business Journal listed Jonathan in the "Who's Who" list, recognizing Birmingham hospitality leaders and recognized him as a "Top 40 Under 40." Following the 2009 Southern League season, Jonathan received the Jimmy Bragan Executive of the Year Award - an annual award, voted on by the Southern League General managers and was the first Barons General Manager since 1994.

Jonathan is a member of the Southern League's Board of Directors and serves on the League's Rules and Competition Committee. He manages the Barons' role in non-team events at Regions Field, such as local college baseball games, concerts and festivals. He is active with the American Baseball Foundation, Autism Society of Alabama, Vestavia Hills Youth Baseball and the Knights of Columbus as well as numerous Birmingham Area Chamber of Commerce organizations.

**2nd Annual Vestavia Hills  
Wing Ding Challenge  
Saturday, June 15, 2013  
10:30 AM - 3:00 PM  
Featuring "Rollin' In The Hay"  
Vestavia Hills City Center**

Leadership Vestavia Hills is proud to present Wing Ding 2nd Annual Hot Wing Challenge and Festival, at Vestavia Hills City Center on Saturday, June 15, 2013. Wing Ding will give local chefs an opportunity to impress and test their wing making skills. Live entertainment by "Rollin' In The Hay," wing cooking competition, activities for children, food and libations. Enjoy all the things that make our community great while benefiting the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Admission is \$4.00 per adult and free for children ages 12 and under.

Be sure and follow the [Wing Ding Facebook](#) page for updates, info and news about what will be a GREAT event.

For more information on registering a team, contact Hurston Raley at [hraley@egsinc.com](mailto:hraley@egsinc.com).

For sponsorship information or other general information, contact J. Dennis at [jdennis@aliantbank.com](mailto:jdennis@aliantbank.com)



Wing Ding 2012

## Members in the News



**Ryan Ferris** (Class of 2012) was promoted to senior project manager/estimator at Dunn Building Company, LLC.



## Youth Leadership Vestavia Hills (YLVH)

Update by Caroline Botcher

Farewell from YLVH President





Caroline Bottcher

It has been my privilege to serve as the Youth Leadership Vestavia Hills President this year. It has given me the opportunity to lead an organization I love and hopefully add some personal skills and wisdom gained from the past three years of being involved in the program.

Youth leadership has really brought me out of my shell and pushed me outside of my comfort zone. By being in the program, I have learned to celebrate the uniqueness in myself and in others. I have learned to also be more aware of those that are struggling and to help them embrace their individuality. Youth Leadership has also helped me develop friendships that I would have never known otherwise. Our pledge to "Be the Difference" holds a new meaning for me as a Senior graduating than it did as an upcoming Sophomore. Overall, I have learned that I AM the difference in my community and in my school.

I have had the chance to contribute to YLVH in multiple areas: multiple Bridges Panels, being a Sadie Hawkins committee chair, being a Luminaria committee member, a relay for life team member, taking the YL class, and being President of YL. Through it all, my biggest goal was to try to touch somebody's life through my service and actions. I believe I have lent my voice and took a stand against bullying and stereotyping in my school community. It is my sincere hope that I have helped use my voice as a way to help those who have not found theirs.

Thank you for ALL of your support.

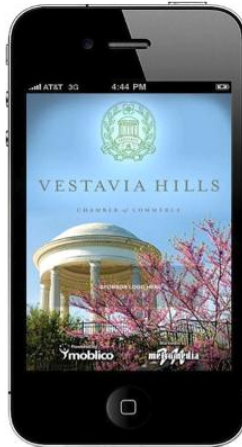
## Announcements

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).

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Vestavia Hills



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