

# Leadership Vestavia Hills

## Leadership Vestavia Hills Alumni Newsletter

Issue 1:1 November / December 2012

Leadership  
Vestavia Hills

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### **Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Leadership Vestavia Hills Alumni Newsletter**

For over 15 years, Leadership Vestavia Hills (LVH) has enhanced the quality of leadership in Vestavia Hills by assisting leaders of the community become more aware of the social and economic issues that impact not only Vestavia Hills, but Jefferson/Shelby counties and Alabama. In an attempt to better engage our graduates and current class members, LVH decided to publish a bi-monthly newsletter to provide updates on alumni and Youth Leadership Vestavia Hills, a current calendar of events, current class information and class schedule, information on civic events and leadership opportunities within the community.

If you have any information that you would like to publish in future issues, please email Donna Byrd at [donnabyrdlvh@yahoo.com](mailto:donnabyrdlvh@yahoo.com).

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



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## *Holiday in the Hills*

### **November 9 Magical Marketplace**

The best Christmas bazaar in our area featuring more than 60 artists & crafts, bake sale, and popular lunch specials. - Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church, 9 AM - 4 PM

### **November 12 Veteran's Day Celebration**

A patriotic celebration of the "Greatest Generation" featuring special guest speakers, music and the amazing Iwo Jima re-enactors. Bring the whole family for an evening of inspiration. - Mountaintop Community Church 6 PM.

### **November 15 Merchant Open House Kick-Off Party**

The Chamber of Commerce hosts this special party to kick-off the holiday shopping season. There will be gingerbread cookies and children's activities plus the first 150 attendees will receive an insulated shopping bag featuring coupons & promotions. - Library in the Forest, 3 PM - 5 PM

### **December 4 Holiday Film Festival**

Vestavia Hills will be hosting the inaugural Holiday Film Festival featuring family favorites such as *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, *Elf*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and *It's a Wonderful Life*. Bring a blanket. Free admission & popcorn! - City Center special events room, near Zoe's, 12-9 PM

### **December 4 City Tree Lighting**

Come see which tree the Vestavia school children selected as the city's official Christmas tree! Santa is the headliner with special performances by the Pizitz Girls' Choir, A2 band, and the VHHS Rockettes. A Chamber Business Expo will feature giveaways & coupons. Children are invited to bring "Letters to Santa" for special delivery to the North Pole. - City Center 6 PM

### **December 8 Breakfast with Santa**

Chocolate chip pancakes will be back by popular demand! Bring the whole family to see Santa and enjoy breakfast. - Lodge, 7:30 AM - 10:30 AM

### **December 8 Seniors with Santa**

Vestavia Hills senior citizens are invited to enjoy holiday treats, entertainment, special decorations by the VH Beautification Board. - New Merkle House, Cahaba Heights 2 PM - 4 PM

### **December 9 Vestavia Hills Christmas Parade**

The city's official Christmas parade featuring the VHHS Band and Santa. Liberty Park will host the parade followed by a festival of area merchants.  
- Liberty Park 2 PM

**December 20-22 Cruising the Christmas Lights**

Families are encouraged to travel around the city in search of the best holiday light displays. Check the city website, [VestaviaHills.net](http://VestaviaHills.net), or the Holiday in the Hills Facebook page for a listing of addresses or submit your favorites. - Citywide, 7 PM+

For additional information and complete list of events, visit:

[www.VestaviaHills.org](http://www.VestaviaHills.org)

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

- November 6 - Leadership Vestavia Hills class - Vestavia Hills Baptist Church
- November 9 - Magical Marketplace - 9-4 PM - Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church
- November 12 - Veteran's Day Celebration - 6 PM - Mountaintop Community Church
- November 15 - Merchant Open House Kick-Off Party - 3-5PM - Library in the Forest
- December 4 - Leadership Vestavia Hills class - Board of Education Building, 2nd Floor
- December 4 - Holiday Film Festival - 12-9 PM - City Center special events room, near Zoe's
- December 4 - City Tree Lighting - 6 PM - City Center
- December 8 - Breakfast with Santa - 7:30-10 AM - Lodge
- December 8 - Seniors with Santa - 2-4 PM - New Merkle House, Cahaba Heights
- December 9 - Christmas Parade - 2 PM - Liberty Park
- December 20-22 - Cruising Christmas Lights - 7 PM+ - Citywide



## **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

### **John Henley**

For our first edition of the LVH Newsletter, who better to include in the Member Spotlight than John Henley. As a graduate of the 2005-2006 Leadership Vestavia Hills class, John is an excellent example of what community leadership and what LVH is all about. As he has shown in all aspects of his community involvement and his business, John carries all of the great traits of a true leader - - - commitment, energy, honesty, integrity, and likability. We are proud to include John in this month's Member Spotlight.

John and his family have lived in Vestavia Hills for almost ten (10) years. John and his wife, Gina, have been married for 17 ½ years and have two (2) daughters, Katharine and Lily. John is a State Farm agent and opened his business in Vestavia Hills in June 2010. His agency has seen tremendous growth in the short time since its opening in Vestavia Hills.

John's community involvement and dedication to making Vestavia Hills a better place is extraordinary. John has served on the Pastoral Council and Stewardship Committee of St. Elias Maronite Catholic Church for most of the last ten (10) years and has been a lector there the last fourteen (14) years. John has been a very active member of the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce and currently serves on its Board of Directors. John is also a charter member of the Vestavia Hills Sunrise Rotary Club and is currently serving as the Club President. John also served on the Market Street Vision Planning Committee in 2011 and is currently serving on the Market Street Implementation Committee. John was a member of the LVH Board of Directors from 2006 until 2012, and he served as President of Leadership Vestavia Hills in 2010-2011. He is currently serving as a Class Facilitator for this year's LVH class.

In August, John was elected by our citizens to serve on the Vestavia Hills City Council. In the short time John has been on the

Council, he has already been successful in using his extraordinary leadership skills to move our city forward. We are proud of John and all of his accomplishments, and we are especially proud to call him an LVH alum. Way to go John!!

## Members in the News

Representative **Greg Canfield '97** was appointed Secretary of the Alabama Department of Commerce by Governor Robert Bentley.

**Greg Hulseley '09** was recently inducted as a member of the Vestavia Hills Sunrise Rotary Club.

**Linda Parker '07** has opened the second Brewster's Ice Cream in the Birmingham area.

**Jeff Tenner '13** has opened a Soca Clothing store in Nashville, Tennessee.

Congratulations to **Mark Hogewood '03** in becoming the newest member of the Vestavia Hills Board of Education.

**Brent Irby '09** will serve as an adjunct professor at the University of Alabama School of Law for the 2013 spring semester.

(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 Kelly Bottcher

"The YLVH tagline reads: Be the Difference! Youth Leadership is an important vehicle in making a big school feel small, a place where every single student feels a sense of belonging, acceptance and importance," said Cas McWaters, Principal Vestavia Hills High School (VHHS). This has been the passion and purpose for this program since 2003.

The New Student Committee started 2 years ago and was born out of a need for our newest students to feel a part of the Rebel Family. Maybe you have been the "new kid. " You walk into a high school of almost 2,000 students, and you don't know anyone. Lunch is anxiety-producing because it seems like everyone has friends to sit with or "saved seats ." The Friday night football game sounds fun, everyone is going, but who do you sit with on the bleachers? I hope this doesn't sound too dramatic. However, these are the words we have heard over and over from many new students. Sadly, this is a place where some of our kids have fallen through the cracks.



I could not be more proud of the hard work of this committee, one of several under the YLVH umbrella. Here are the words of the parent of a new student, a new VHHS student, and one of our fine VHHS Guidance Counselors. I think their words speak better than mine because they are first hand:

"Relocating to a new area and beginning at a new school is difficult for a child, but VHHS eased my child's fears and anxiety with a group of student's that are a part of Youth Leadership. My child was paired with a member, who reached out to him, eased his fears and anxiety, and made my child feel welcome," said Kelly Blair, Vestavia Hills parent

"My student ambassador really helped me establish a place for myself. I'm generally a shy person until I feel comfortable, and they (YLVH) really helped me get to that point by being a friend and helping introduce me to new friends," one VHHS new student stated

"I had a parent of a new Vestavia parent call me to say that the YLVH lunch was the BEST thing VHHS has done. She said her son's attitude has completely turned around after being with other students. She said to please let all responsible for organizing the event know that her family was so thankful," said Christine Rohling, VHHS 9th Grade Guidance Counselor.

THAT'S making a difference!

## Announcements

LVH Class Sponsorship: There is a need for one additional sponsor for a LVH class for 2011-2012. For more information, please contact Carol Buchanan at [cbuch54@bellsouth.net](mailto:cbuch54@bellsouth.net).

Board Position Vestavia Hills Parks and Recreation Foundation - VHPRF is currently accepting applications for Board positions. If you are interested, please contact Leigh Belcher at 205-527-8788 or [leighbelcher5@att.net](mailto:leighbelcher5@att.net) to learn more about the application process. The application deadline is November 15, 2012.

## LVH Class Schedule

**November 6, 2012 Team Building Day**

Vestavia Hills Baptist Church - Jim Pounds and Tal Prince  
8 AM - 4 PM

**December 4, 2012 Government Day**

Board of Education Bldg, 2nd Floor - Robin Morgan and Lisa Christopher  
8 AM - 4 PM

**January 10, 2013 Education Day**

Board of Education Bldg, 1st Floor (multiple sites) - Pauline Parker  
8 AM - 4 PM

**February 5, 2013 Economic Development Day**

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

**March 5, 2013 Quality of Life 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



A Taste of Fabulous Vestavia Hills Restaurant Fare & Fine Wines

Thursday, November 1, 2012  
 6:30 P.M. ~ 9:00 P.M.  
 Hollywood Pools  
 1441 Montgomery Highway



- Ticket Price ~ \$35.00 per person (85% tax deductible)  
 Includes a Viva Vestavia X commemorative etched wine glass
- Raffle Tickets \$5.00 each or 6 for \$25 to enter drawing for:
  - \$1000 Gift Certificate to Hollywood Pools
  - Husqvarna 560BT Backpack Blower from Advanced Mower
  - Weekend Stay for 2 at the Hilton Garden Inn-Liberty Park
  - Floral Arrangement from Conti Bros. Gift Basket
  - \$100 Gift Certificate from the Fitting Touch  
 ( Raffle drawing at 8:00 p.m. )



A joint effort between Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce Foundation,  
 & Vestavia Hills restaurants & businesses

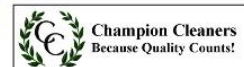
Proceeds to benefit:  
 The Chamber Foundation scholarship fund & the Chamber Foundation capital fund.

We will also have competition among the restaurants to compete for "Best of Show" (presentation) as well as "Best Food" all of which will be voted on by the attendees at the vent. The winner of each category will be featured in an article in the 2013 Vestavia Hills Living Magazine

**Food and Drinks Contributed By:**

Bistro V \* Blackwells Neighborhood Pub \* Bruster's Real Ice Cream  
 Conti Bros. Gift Basket \* Earth Fare-The Healthy Supermarket \* Everything Iz  
 Healthy Connections \* Ichiban \* Klingler's European Bakery & Cafe  
 Moe's Original BBQ \* Moe's Southwest Grill \* Mudtown Eat & Drink  
 Mugshots Grill and Bar \* Newk's Eatery \* O'Carra's \* Publix Supermarket  
 The Olive Branch \* Ruth's Chris Steak House \* Rx Catering \* The Ridge Eat & Drink  
 Sekisui \* Western Supermarket \* Wine Cellar \* Yellow Bicycle Catering Company

**Sponsors:**



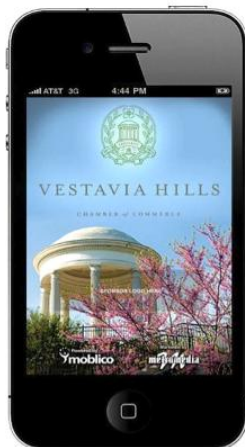
To purchase tickets, call the Chamber at 823-5011.



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VESTAVIA HILLS

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Angela A. Kiser, President 2012-2013

*Sponsored by the  
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