



LEADERSHIP
VESTAVIA HILLS

Leadership Vestavia Hills Newsletter

Spring 2017

Leadership
Vestavia Hills

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2016-2017

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 Alagasco PRESENTS



WING DING
HOT WING CHALLENGE
& FESTIVAL

THIS SATURDAY

Advisory Committee Chair
Rebecca Olsen

For Edits or Information to
include in future Alumni
Newsletters
Please contact
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MAY 20, 2017

VESTAVIA HILLS CITY HALL

11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Family Friendly Children's Area sponsored by
Tucker Family Dentistry**

Live Music: Mutton Chops at 11 am and BHPs at 12:15 pm

The 6th Annual Wing Ding - Hot Wing Challenge & Festival, sponsored by Leadership Vestavia Hills, is set for Saturday, May 20, 2017, 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Vestavia Hills City Hall, 1032 Montgomery Highway. This event is a great time for the whole family, as local teams of chefs compete for the title of Wing Ding Champion. In addition to the chance to sample the area's best wings, there will be live entertainment, children's activities, other foods and beverages. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Cost of admission is \$5.00 and free admission for children 10 and under.

For more information about the event, please visit the Leadership Vestavia Hills Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Leadership-Vestavia-Hills-233038256732110/



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WING DING!

Please use the link below and sign up to volunteer for Wing Ding on May 20th.

This is the signature event for Leadership Vestavia Hills and help is needed to put on this wonderful event!!!!

To sign up, go to:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0B4EA9A92EAAF49-wing3

JEFF DOWNES

Member Profile

Jeff Downes (Class of 2015) has been the City Manager of Vestavia Hills since July of 2013. This position was created in 2012 as a result of the City's vote to change its form of government. The role of City Manager carries the responsibility of serving as the CEO of the City of Vestavia Hills after appointment by the City Council. During his time as City Manager, Vestavia Hills has enjoyed substantial growth and revitalization.

Jeff comes to Vestavia Hills from Montgomery, Alabama, when he served as the Deputy Mayor of the City of Montgomery. Born and raised in Montgomery, Jeff enjoys hunting and sports, particularly the sport of football. After playing football for twelve years during his youth, Jeff began coaching high school football in 1985 and advanced in his passion until 2002 when he hung up his coaching cleats as a defensive coordinator for the Montgomery Catholic Knights. Every fall, he still yearns for those days where the smell of victory was in the air. Jeff has an identical twin and they, along with their families, were recently highlighted on an episode of Family Feud. Even though they lost, Steve Harvey told them "good job".



Jeff is focused on creating and implementing a long-term economic sustainability plan for the City of Vestavia Hills and believes that citizen engagement is important in this process. As a part of that engagement, he is a regular presenter on LVH's economic development day and keeps in touch with many of the community's resident leaders.

Some of Jeff's activities and accomplishments include:

- Eagle Scout
- Vestavia Hills Sunrise Rotary Club, Member
- Leadership Montgomery, Graduate
- Leadership Alabama, Graduate
- Alabama City-County Manager's Association, Director
- States Self-Insurer's Risk Retention Group, Trustee
- Local Government Health Insurance Program, Director

Jeff has lived in Vestavia Hills for almost 4 years. He and his wife, Penny, have four children ranging in age from 12 to 27. Jeff graduated with a bachelor of science from Auburn University and masters of public administration from Auburn University in Montgomery. He and his family attend St. Mark's Catholic Church.

Vestavia Hills students enjoy LVH Spring Baseball Clinic with the Birmingham Barons

The annual LVH Spring Baseball Clinic with the Birmingham Barons was held April 25 at Wald Park. LVH volunteers and the Birmingham Barons were on hand to teach and assist Vestavia Hills students with disabilities with their baseball skills and learn more about the game. **Jacob Leake (Class of 2016)** organized a group from Allstate Insurance to come out to cheer on the kids. It was a fun and exciting event for all. Thank you to Turner Food Systems, LLC for donating lunch for the participants. Also, thanks to all the volunteers who helped and especially Brent Irby and Ann Hamiter for coordinating this event.



Photo submitted by: Vaughn Sparks

HAVE A GOOD IDEA FOR A LVH CLASS PROJECT?

Make it known.

I need your help! My name is **Vaughn Sparks (Class of 2016)**. I am currently serving on the LVH Board of Directors and will be serving as the chair for Class Projects for the upcoming class. We have a stack of ideas

for projects that have been in the works for years. But we'd like to get some new ideas. That's where you come in.

You may see things or think of ideas that could be worthwhile projects every day through the course of your normal life. I'm simply asking you to let us know your thoughts on what could be a worthwhile project for future LVH classes. While we would love to have your help with the project you do not have to participate if you choose not to. Please send any ideas to me at vaughnsparks@gmail.com or call 205-313-9147.



President's Report

Submitted by Anna Hogewood

YLVH President 2016-2017

Youth Leadership Vestavia Hills has experienced tremendous success and growth this school year. With the incoming class of new members who will participate in the retreats this summer, over 2,000 students have been a part of Youth Leadership Vestavia Hills. Each day there are 560 members within the halls of the high school, creating an inclusive and positive environment. Relay for Life, which is sponsored by Youth Leadership Vestavia Hills, raised \$280,007.29 towards the fight against cancer. Additionally, the Youth Leadership class, taught by Mrs. Kym Prewitt, talked to all middle schools students in the VHCS system, brainstormed new ideas for school unity through a project called the Possible Project, practiced public speaking, and learned their personal strengths and weaknesses to enable them to become effective leaders. The Mentors class, taught by Mrs. Emily Erwood, has built many strong, two-way relationships with younger students in the system.

Throughout my years and roles in Youth Leadership Vestavia Hills, I have gained confidence and leadership skills. Being able to represent such an amazing organization inspires me to work hard at everything I do, and gives

me the confidence to lead others fearlessly. Having numerous opportunities to speak in front of different groups of people on a wide variety of topics has given me valuable practice in public speaking. Also, the retreat and the class taught me how to connect and relate with others who have different interests or backgrounds than me.

The greatest leadership lesson that I have learned in my high school experience comes from Youth Leadership's emphasis on leading through service. To be an effective leader, you do not need to hold a position or have a title. A leader can demonstrate leadership in any role no matter how small. Each member in Youth Leadership Vestavia Hills plays a vital role in the success of the organization as a whole. Youth Leadership Vestavia Hills constantly encourages students to step out of their comfort zones, develop connections with others, and make a large school feel small. Leadership is action, not position, and no matter where we are or what we do, we can be the difference.