

NEWS & VIEWS

October 2024

Volume 44 Issue 10

October 8 Luncheon Steve Flowers, Political Commentator

Steve Flowers was born and raised in Troy, Alabama. He attended public schools in Troy. He became a Page in the Alabama Legislature at age 12 and worked at the State Capitol throughout his high school years. Upon graduation from high school in Troy, he continued to the University of Alabama where he was a student leader and served in the student Senate. He graduated from the Capstone in 1974 with a degree in Political Science, History and English.



In 1982, at age 30, he entered politics and was elected state representative from his home county of Pike. In that, his first race, he received the largest number of votes for any person in the history of Pike County. In his first year in the legislature, "Alabama Magazine" named him the most outstanding Freshman member. He was overwhelmingly reelected four times. He left undefeated and uncontested choosing not to seek reelection in 1998.

During his tenure in the legislature Steve sustained a perfect attendance record for 16 consecutive years. In 1988, his House colleagues passed a resolution naming him The Most Ethical Member of the House, and in 1992, his colleagues voted him The Most Outstanding Member of the Alabama House of Representatives.

(Continued on page 4)

United Community Bank

United Community has been providing customers with a secure and safe place to bank since 1950. We operate on the philosophy of providing exceptional banking service while caring deeply for the communities we serve. We take our commitment to our customers seriously, with a strong focus on safety and



soundness, and will continue to protect our customers and their investments. We have a diversified portfolio both in regard to our loan and deposit customers, and we do not have significant concentrations, either by industry or by size. We have always believed in diversification, which helps provide stability in times of economic uncertainty.

United Community Bank proudly service customers in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. Locally we have three offices in the Birmingham Metro area, Vestavia Hills, Downtown Birmingham/Highland Ave and Meadow Brook/Hwy 280. United Community offers a full range of banking, wealth management, mortgage services for consumer and businesses, along with a national SBA lending franchise and a national equipment lending subsidiary (Navitas).

United Community is a 10-time winner of J.D Power award for outstanding Customer Service with Consumer Banking in the Southeast and #1 in Trust, a 15 Greenwhich Excellence and Best Brand awards for outstanding performance in Middle Market and Small Business Banking and named one of American Banker's "Best Banks to Work For" for the seventh consecutive year.

With more than 70 years of proven performance and the best bankers in the industry, United Community is one of the strongest and most secure banks in the Southeast. Whether it's business and personal banking solutions, real estate and mortgage lending, or advisory services, we are experts in getting you the financial support you need.

LUNCHEON SPONSORS

It is hard to believe we are entering the homestretch and final quarter of 2024. Fall is in the air. Many of us are in the full throws of fall decorating, football, and making that one last trip to the beach or lake as the weather will allow. This time of the year is by far my favorite time of the year allowing time for reflection on the past nine months but also beginning to make those plans with my friends, family, and clients for the upcoming New Year.



While this time of year provides many opportunities to fill the calendar with a football tailgate weekend, a great Chamber event to attend like Haunt the Hills, and all the gatherings associated with the upcoming Hol-

idays, my personal challenge and the challenge to you is to pace yourself and make room for the magic to happen. Take an extra minute to enjoy the band at halftime of a Vestavia Hills High School Football Game, sit outside at one of our great Vestavia Hills restaurants where you can maybe listen to some music, or maybe even visit one of our great parks and take nice evening walk breathing in the fresh air, and admiring the changes of scenery as leaves turn and fall.

This time of year is also a great time for you to get involved with our Chamber. We are always happy to have you serve on any of our standing committees, or join one of our event committees as we finish up Haunt the Hills planning and get ready for VIVA Vestavia 2025. We also have a dynamic lineup for our Chamber Luncheons to conclude the year, and would love to have you join us and enjoy the friendships and networking opportunities that can arise by you being a part.

Again, it has been a privilege to serve as the Chair of the Board of our Chamber this year, and as always if I can ever be resource to you, your family, or your business, please do not hesitate to let me know.

All my best,

Clabe Dobbs Board Chair, 2024

Hello and Happy October!

What a fabulous time of year! Here at the Chamber, October brings an array of business networking events, community partnerships, and fun events this month!

Our next Chamber Luncheon is Tuesday, October 8, 2024. Networking starts at 11:30 AM and our guest keynote speaker is Alabama's premier political journalist and commentator, Steve Flowers. Join us for an informative and engaging luncheon.

Our Haunt the Hills is the Chamber's big Fall event. Please join the fun on October 19, 2024, beginning at 4:30 PM. There will be a Costume contest for children, adults, groups, and pets, and a Pumpkin Carving/ Decorating contest. After trick-or-treating *Halloweentown* will be showing on a big screen, so bring your chairs and quilts to enjoy the movie.



Michelle Hawkins

Ribbon Cuttings

We are so excited about our October Ribbon Cuttings! Come welcome and celebrate with our new Chamber members and enjoy these networking opportunities.

- Kimm Free with Clean Cajun Cookin October 15th 12:00 PM at the Chamber office
- Vicki's Amish Traditions October 17th 10:00 AM
- Avadian Credit Union Colonnade (New location) October 21st 4:00 PM
- Dave's Hot Chicken Tentatively October 25th 11:00 AM

Chamber and City Events

Mastermind Workshop

Wednesday, October 16th 7:30 AM Vestavia Hills Chamber Office

Community Night Out

Thursday, October 3rd 5:00 PM Vestavia Hills City Hall (Front Lawn)

BCR Wealth's Annual Fall Party

Thursday, October 17th 4:30 – 7:30 PM 1952 Urban Center Parkway, Vestavia, AL 35242 Food, libations and live music Will be provided.

Halloween in the Heights

Saturday, October 26th Trick-or-Treat 10 AM – 5 PM – **Cahaba Heights Businesses** Witches Ride 3 PM

Vestavia Hills Chamber Opportunities

We would like to encourage you as a Chamber member to get more involved by attending events and participating as a volunteer on a committee. The opportunities are abundant and the benefits from being a Chamber member will be substantial to you and your business. For more information, please email chamber@vestaviahills.org

Viva Vestavia Hills Committee

Wednesday, October 9th 11:30 AM

New Member Orientation

Monday, October 28th 5:00 PM

Business Development Committee Meeting

October 24th 7:30 (soft start) 8 AM-9 AM

Vestavia Hills Shares Card

Check out the October Hot Deals from our participating Chamber businesses with OUTSTANDING discounts, or FREE food and merchandise! The card can pay for itself in one day with the amazing hot deals AND you can continue to use the card every day through May 2025. A new list of deals will be released each month. Visit www.vestaviahills.org/vestavia-shares-card to purchase a Vestavia Hills Shares Card and view the most up to date list of discounts from our participating businesses. Cards are \$30 each and good now through May 2025. Unless otherwise noted, deals may be used once per day, every day.

As always, it is my honor and joy to serve all our Vestavia Hills Chamber members.

Michelle Hawkins President

October 8 Luncheon

Reservations must be made by 4:00 PM Thursday, October 3, 2024 and cost \$25. Late reservations will cost \$30. Make your reservation by visiting www.vestaviahi lls.org or by calling 823-5011.

Please Note:

- Reservations that are made and not cancelled by 4:00 pm Thursday, October 3 must be paid for, as we must pay for the number reserved.
- Please pay online or call the office with a credit card prior to the luncheon, or we can send you an invoice afterwards.
- Please make every effort to make your reservation on time. The number of reservations
 we have by the deadline is the number that we and the Vestavia Country Club prepare for.

Please remember the Vestavia Country Club policy of <u>NO JEANS</u> in the ballroom where we hold our monthly luncheons.

(Continued from page 1)

After leaving the legislature, Steve began writing a weekly column on Alabama politics. Overnight, it became the leading and most widely read column on Alabama politics in the state.

Today, Steve Flowers is Alabama's premier political journalist and commentator. His weekly column "Inside the Statehouse" appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers and publications with a circulation approaching 400,000. His dominance of Alabama political commentary is legendary and unparalleled in Alabama history.

In addition to his informative and entertaining weekly column he can be seen regularly on television outlets in Montgomery, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile and Dothan. His weekly public television show, "Alabama Politics with Steve Flowers" is seen throughout the state. As Alabama's premier columnist and commentator, Steve has analyzed Alabama politics for national television audiences on CBS, ABC, PBS, Fox, CNN, and the BBC.

His 2015 best selling book Of Goats and Governors, Six decades of Colorful Alabama Political Stories takes readers down memory lane with Alabama's rich and colorful political history. It is the Hallmark of political Lore in the Heart of Dixie.

Steve Flowers has been an up close participant and observer of the Alabama political scene for more than 60 years. He had a 16 year illustrious career in the Alabama Legislature. He now has been Alabama's leading and most widely read political columnist for the past 20 years. He is generally considered the ultimate authority on Alabama politics and Alabama political history.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please support our newest Chamber members and remember to 'Shop Vestavia Hills First'!!

Piddlin Art and Antique

Carol Rumore 2025 Kentucky Avenue, Suite A Vestavia Hills, AL 35216 (205) 427-5544 Categories: Antiques

Corvidi Design & Research

Stephanie Dean P.O. Box 43232 Vestavia Hills, AL 35243 (205) 201-1561 corvididesign.com Category: Consulting

Dry Clean City

Pete Polizos 1008 Vestavia Parkway Vestavia Hills, AL 35216 (205) 823-1265 Category: Dry Cleaners

♦ Sage Dental

Dr. Lee Chamoun 3066 Healthy Way Vestavia Hills, AL 35243 (205) 383-3703 mysagedental.com/Vestavia-hills Category: Dentists

• Alltech IT Solutions

Stuart Smith 300 Century Park South, Suite 200 Birmingham, AL 35226 (205) 593-5321 alltechsupport.com Category: Computer Technology

Brightmark Health

Dr. Joseph Wu 400 Century Park South, Suite 200 Birmingham, AL 35226 (205) 900-0888 brightmarkhealth.com Category: Healthcare Top Talent Recruiter
 Emily Fulton
 P. O. Box 241693
 Montgomery, AL 36124
 (334) 215-3570
 toptalentrecruiter.com
 Category: Employment Screening

• Low Latency Communications

Daryl Russo
241 Applegate Trace
Pelham, AL 35124
(205) 397-5468
lowlatencycomm.com
Category: Telecommunications

♦ Low Latency Communications

Jessica Saxton
241 Applegate Trace
Pelham, AL 35124
(205) 745-5457
lowlatencycomm.com

Category: Telecommunications

Sipsey Outdoor Solutions

Wesley Darby Vestavia Hills, AL 35216 (205) 999-1218 sipseyoutdoor.com

Category: Pest Control; Home Services

• Dave's Hot Chicken

Martin Peralta 632 Montgomery Highway Vestavia Hills, AL 35216 (619) 408-0039 daveshotchicken.com Category: Restaurants

St. Martin's in the Pines
 Walter Weingarten

4941 Montevallo Road Birmingham, AL 35210

(205) 956-1831

dvcr.com

Category: Independent Living; Senior Services

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please support our newest Chamber members and remember to 'Shop Vestavia Hills First'!!

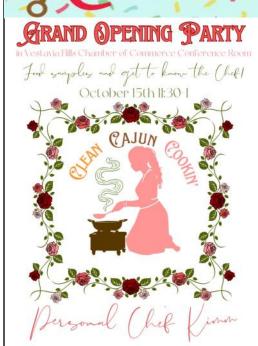
◆ TriaVision

Cari Callison 2198 Columbiana Road, Suite 200 Vestavia Hills, AL 35216 (205) 876-8975 triavision.com Category: Healthcare

Green Acres Realty ENT

Tomeka Bell 400 Vestavia Parkway, Suite 120 Vestavia Hills, AL 35216 (205) 747-0024 greenacresrealtyent.com Category: Real Estate (Broker)

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting



Thursday, October 17, 2024 10:00 am 1401 Montgomery Hwy, Ste 121 Vestavia Hills, AL 35216

Join us to welcome Vicki's Amish Traditions to Vestavia Hills and browse their collection of handcrafted furnishings, unique gifts, accessories & accents!



âvadian

You're Invited to the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for Our Colonnade Branch



RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY & CELEBRATION Monday, Oct. 21, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

oin us for treats followed by the on-Cutting Ceremony & Celebration 3401 Colonnade Parkway Birmingham, AL 35243









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on, P.O. Box 360287, Birmingham, AL 35238, United States, 1,888,282,3426





On Sale Now at vestaviahills.org!

Shop Dine and Play Vestavia Hills!! Shop locally and support our schools while you support our community.

Adopt a School

October Feature School: Liberty Park Middle School

Thanks to our October Sponsors!

























WORKSHOP INFORMATION

Unlock the full potential of your small business by joining our Business Mastermind Group! We will meet the third Wednesday of every month through March 19th. We will dive deep into Michael Gerber's "The E-Myth Revisited" with fellow entrepreneurs and uncover transformative strategies to elevate your business. This mastermind will offer practical insights, collaborative problem-solving, and actionable steps to implement Gerber's principles effectively. Don't miss this chance to network with like-minded professionals and refine your business strategy. Reserve your spot today so we can order your book in advance of our first meeting.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Breakfast will be provided.

Fee: Free for Chamber Members; \$20 for Non-Members **Date & Time:** Wednesday, October 16, 7:30-8:30 am

Location: Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce, 1090 Montgomery Highway,

Vestavia Hills, AL 35216



SCAN TO REGISTER

For questions, contact: Tracy Thornton at TracyT@Vestaviahills.Org













Trustee Spotlight





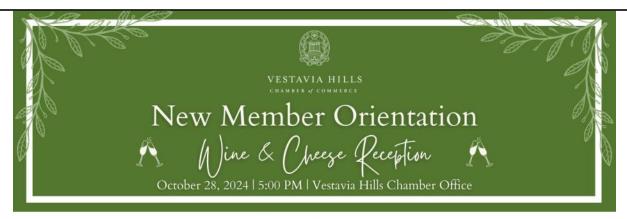
Kelvin Johnson-Spire

Kelvin Johnson serves as the Manager of Economic and Community Development for Spire's service territories in Alabama and Mississippi. In this role, he engages with regional, state, and local economic development organizations, mayors, and community partners to support the recruitment of companies, business retention, and expansion efforts in these areas.

Kelvin began his career at Spire in 1994 as a customer service/sales representative. Over the years, he has held various positions, including roles in appliance sales, customer service, residential marketing, and small commercial/industrial marketing. His extensive experience has equipped him with a deep understanding of the industry and a strong commitment to community development.

Kelvin holds a degree in Business Management from Miles College. He has also contributed his expertise to several boards, including the Alabama Center for Real Estate (ACRE), the Jefferson County Board of Zoning and Adjustment, the Jefferson County Industrial Development Authority (JCEIDA), and the Commercial Development Authority of the City of Birmingham.

Kelvin resides in McCalla, Alabama, with his wife, Shunnetta Johnson.



Anyone is welcome! w

If you're new to the VH Chamber, or simply want a refresher, we'll be going over member benefits, resources, advertising options and more!

Join us at our office, 1090 Montgomery Highway in the Vestavia Hills Civic Center

NEWS AND VIEWS Member Notes

- Monograms Plus's Fall Open House is happening October 1-2 with 20% OFF your purchases, excluding enewton and monogramming. We have some amazing door prizes! Also, Ellen Skrmetti will be here for a book signing on October 2! 1360 Montgomery Highway, Suite 122
- Vestavia Hills Methodist Church's Bargain Bazaar will be on October 5th from 7am-2pm! This community-wide thrift sale at the former Central Elementary School in Vestavia is in support of our mission partner, Royal Divinity in Wylam, to help replace the roof on their warehouse. We will also be hosting a Pre-Party on Friday, October 4th from 6-8pm before the main even on Saturday. Pre-Party tickets give you access to a silent auction, food, and live music in addition to early shopping. Tickets are only \$25! Purchase tickets at vhmc.org/bargain-bazaar/
- The 5th Annual Jimmie Hale Mission Rescue Run 10K, 5K, & 1 Mile Fun Run will be on October 5th! Join them for a run through Homewood, starting and finishing on 29th Avenue South between 18th St. S. & 19th St. S. Register at runsignup.com/Race/AL/Birmingham/JimmieHaleMissionsRescueRun
- The Junior League of Birmingham's Shop, Save & Share is happening October 16-27. Purchase a Shop, Save & Share card for \$40 to save on purchases at over 275 participating retailers! All proceeds support the Junior League of Birmingham's work Building Partnerships for a Better Birmingham. Purchase your card at shopsaveandshare.net
- Down Syndrome Alabama's annual STEP UP for DOWN SYNDROME Walk was established to promote acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome and to celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October. The STEP UP Walk is an opportunity for anyone and everyone to walk — or support a walker — and raise funds for Down Syndrome Alabama. Join them on October 20 from 12:30-4 pm at Wald Park. Register at https://downsyndromealabama.org/step-up-for-down-syndrome
- Join Libby's Friends on Saturday, October 26 from 12-5 pm at Cahaba Brewing Company for the second annual Franks N' Steins! A family-friendly event featuring costume contests, stein hosting, a hot dog eating contest, and more! Enjoy trick or treating, live music, and more as we work to raise money for Libby's Friends.
- Celebrate the Holidays with HEAL United! Join them for Gather & Give on November 14, from 5:30-8:00 pm at the Vestavia Hills Civic Center. This special evening is an opportunity for our community to come together in the spirit of giving, with all proceeds supporting HEAL United's mission to promote health equity and education in underserved communities. Let's gather, give, and make a lasting impact this holiday season! Featuring: Silent Auction & Gift Wrapping; Dinner provided by Kathy G. Catering; Music Presentation by Taylor Hicks; Book signing by Senator Jabo Waggoner. Purchase tickets at healunited.org/ gathergive
- Read the latest issue of *Birmingham Christian Family* magazine that features Chamber members Jimmie Hale Mission and more online at https://birminghamchristian.com/issues/.

If you have any news or events you would like to put in the News & Views, email it to chamber@vestaviahills.org.

2024 Trustees

Kimberly Jackson-Alabama Power Company Beverly Cochran-America's First Federal Credit Union Tommy Cannon-Ascension St. Vincent's Health System Ashley Wilbanks-Avadian Credit Union Sandra Cleveland*-BCR Wealth Ben Nevins-B.L. Harbert International Ginger Aarons-Birmingham Business Journal Frank Buck-Frank S. Buck, P.C. Angie McEwen*-Butler Snow LLP Chad Gay-Cahaba Benefits Group Jane Dewitt-Cahaba Dermatology Skin Health Center Dr. Darcy Schofill-Cahaba Mountain Brook Animal Clinic Gerry Travis-Cameron Travis & Company, CPAs Representative Jim Carns Rian Turner-Carr, Riggs & Ingram, CPA David Surber-Cellular Sales Authorized Agent of Verizon Wireless Doug Dean*-Children's of Alabama Calvin Brown-Dog U Jonathan Handey-Eco Three Donnie Dobbins*-First Horizon Bank Dan Bundy-First US Bank Ashley Mathews-Grandview Health Center Charlie Norton-Harbert Realty Services Steve Mote-Hollywood Pools/Alabama Gaslight & Grill Mike Jackson*-Jackson Howard & Whatley, CPAs Stan Glantz-KPR-Vestavia City Center Jamie Pursell-Leaf & Petal John Bonanno-Liberty Park Joint Venture Mark Macoy-Mark W. Macoy, LLC Chip McCallum-McCallum Hoaglund & McCallum, LLP Jim Black-McDonald's

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*Chamber Past Chair

2024 Chamber Champions

Platinum



















Jason Frey-Medical Properties Trust













































Board of Directors Chair: Clabe Dobbs, Peoples Bank of Alabama		Upcoming Chamber Meetings
Chair Elect: Keri Bates, Rocky Ridge Drug Co.	Oct 8	Monthly Luncheon, 11:30 am, Vestavia Country Club
Vice Chair Membership Development: Katherine McRee, The Lili Pad	Oct 17	Board of Directors, 7:45 am, Chamber Office
Vice Chair Business Development: Taylor Burton,		Board of Britations, 11.10 and, Gridings Chief
Taylor Burton Co., Inc.		Franta
Vice Chair Community Affairs: Christina Babineaux, IRA Innovations		Events
Vice Chair Programming: Tyler Kime,	Oct 3	Community Night Out, 5 pm, Vestavia Hills City Hall
Standard Heating, Cooling & Plumbing	Oct 15	Ribbon Cutting: Clean Cajun Cookin, 12 pm
Treasurer: Ben Chambliss	Oct 16	Masterminds Workshop, 7:30 am, Chamber Office
Jackson, Howard & Whatley, CPAs Secretary/Legal Counsel: Mark Macoy	Oct 17	Ribbon Cutting: Vicki's Amish Traditions, 10 am
Mark W. Macoy, LLC	Oct 19	Haunt the Hills, 4:30 pm, Wald Park
Immediate Past Chair: Donnie Dobbins, First Horizon Bank	Oct 21	Ribbon Cutting: Avadian Credit Union, 4 pm
Past Chair: Sandra Cleveland, BCR Wealth	Oct 24	
Directors		Business Development Meeting, 7:30 am, Chamber Office
Kelly Atchison, TWO MEN & A TRUCK	Oct 25	Ribbon Cutting: Dave's Hot Chicken, 11 am
Jamie Black, McDonald's	Oct 28	New Member Orientation, 5 pm, Chamber Office
Andrew Burke, General Informatics Bridgett Glasgow, ERA King Real Estate		
Roger Jackson, Jackson, Howard & Whatley, CPAs		
Scott Perry, RealtySouth		
Jamie Pursell, Leaf & Petal		
Michelle Hawkins, President		
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