

NEWS & VIEWS

November 2024 Volume 44 Issue II

November 12 Luncheon Mayor Ashley Curry, State of the City

After finishing high school in Montgomery, Alabama, Ashley Curry obtained an undergraduate degree in Industrial Management from the University of Alabama and an MBA from the University of South Carolina. His professional career began with his work in production supervision, sales and accounting with Milliken & Company of Spartanburg, SC, followed by a 25-year career as a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He served the Tampa division for two years then was transferred to Birmingham in 1980 where he remained until his retirement in 2003. During his tenure with the FBI, he worked a myriad of criminal investigations including white collar crime, organized crime, public corruption, drugs, personal crimes and property crimes. Prior to his retirement, he worked



as the FBI Police Training Coordinator where he handled the training of state and local police officers.

After retiring from the FBI, Ashley served as the Assistant Federal Security Director for Law Enforcement with the newly created U.S. Department of Homeland Security, specifically the Transportation Security Administration, and was assigned to the Birmingham International Airport. In 2005, he left law enforcement and moved back into the corporate arena as the corporate recruiter for EBSCO Industries. In this capacity, he han-

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Medical Properties Trust

Medical Properties Trust, Inc. ("MPT") was founded in 2003 with a vision to improve hospital care by providing operators with access to more capital resources.



The Company's founders – Ed Aldag, Steve Hamner and Emmett McLean – recognized sale-leaseback transactions would provide hospital operators a low cost financing option for long-term real estate to provide operators funds for expansion, acquisitions and other operational improvements. By providing operators with the ability to lease rather than own an expensive asset, MPT helps create the capital flexibility necessary for hospitals to invest where it matters most – taking care of patients.

From the beginning, MPT focused on making long-term real estate investments in hospitals that are crucial to the health of their communities. In 2005, the Company became a publicly traded REIT on the New York Stock Exchange. By 2012, the Company had 82 leased properties in 24 states representing \$2.1 billion of investment. MPT then began to expand internationally with the 2013 acquisition of 11 German rehabilitation hospitals and 2014 purchase of a general acute care hospital in England.

Today, MPT is the second largest private owner of hospital real estate in the world with 435 facilities and approximately 42,000 licensed beds in nine countries and across three continents.

MPT has been proudly based in Birmingham, AL since its founding. The Company has been named one of the Best Places to Work in Healthcare for the past four consecutive years. MPT has consistently made it a top priority to give back to the communities in which it operates, and the Company has supported many non-profit organizations over the years through both financial and hands-on volun-

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LUNCHEON SPONSORS

As I was driving through Kentucky last week, I couldn't help but be in awe of the fall foliage and changing of the colors of the leaves. Despite a little warmup this week, we were all happy to break out longer sleeves with the cooler temperatures and change in weather last week. In the next few days, our Country is going to experience a change in our governmental leadership. The common denominator and consistent element in all this is that change itself never changes.



As we move into the last two months of the year, what all has changed for you and your business this year? What are you expecting to change as you prepare for 2025? While certain changes can be challenging, all

change provides a unique opportunity for us to learn, to grow, and to thrive. Let our Chamber be the resource you need to finish strong and conquer any changes you anticipate. Join us for our Chamber Luncheon this month to hear our Mayor update the changes in our City. Attend any of the Ribbon Cuttings for our new businesses, and join us for our beginning of the Holiday season, as you shop, dine, and play at our local Vestavia Hills businesses.

It is an Honor to serve as Chair of your Chamber Board, and as always, if I can be of service to you or your business, please let us know how we can serve . Thank you for letting the Vestavia Hills Chamber help you live The Life Above.

All my best,

Clabe Dobbs Board Chair, 2024

Hello Vestavia Hills Chamber and Happy November!

It's hard to believe we are entering into the holiday season --what a wonderful time of year! Here at the Chamber, November brings an array of business networking events, community partnerships, and fun events this month – Please join us!

Our November Chamber Luncheon on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, will be informative and interesting as our Mayor Ashley Curry will be presenting the State of the City. Networking begins at 11:30 AM; the buffet opens at 11:45 AM.



Michelle Hawkins

Small Business Saturday

Vestavia Hills Small Business Saturday is BACK! On November 23, 2024, SHOP DINE & PLAY at participating businesses and register to win 1 of 4 local gift baskets. Each gift basket will be filled with merchandise or gift cards from local merchants. The value of each gift basket will be over \$500.00. Shop often; Shop locally and the more times you can enter to win!

Ribbon Cuttings

Cahaba Dermatology & Skin Health Center Thursday November 7th 4:00 PM 3965 Crosshaven Dr STE 113

Dave's Hot Chicken – Ribbon Cutting Friday November 8th 11:00 AM 632 Montgomery Hwy

Stretch Zone Wednesday, November 13th 4:00 PM 3056 Healthy Way, Suite 120

Salt & Light Speech Language Resources Thursday, November 21st, 12:00 pm 400 Vestavia Parkway, Suite 135 Green Acres Realty Monday, December 2nd, 5:00 pm 400 Vestavia Parkway, Suite 120

Upward Behavioral Health Thursday, December 12th, 12:00 pm Vestavia Hills Chamber Office

Events & Announcements

Lunch and Learn - "For the Love of Cities" With City Manager, Jeff Downes and Assistant City Manager, Cinnamon McCulley Wednesday, November $6^{\rm th}$ 11:30 AM Vestavia Hills Civic Center

Salute to Veterans - Hosted by Mayor Ashley Curry

Thursday, November 7th 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM Vestavia Hills Civic Center Ballroom

Deck the Heights Holiday Open House & Pop Ups

Saturday, November 16th 2:00PM – 7:00PM Free Family Event

Masterminds Workshop – Led by CARA

Wednesday, November 20th at 8:00 AM (new time) Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce

November 12 Luncheon

Reservations must be made by 4:00 PM Thursday, November 7, 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, November 7 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 NO JEANS in the ballroom where we hold our monthly luncheons.

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dled the recruitment of executive level positions within the company's 30 different business units. He retired from EBSCO in 2014.

In the summer of 2016, Ashley launched his campaign to become the mayor of Vestavia Hills, Alabama. He was elected in August and began his first term in office in November of that same year. At the conclusion of his first term, Ashley ran for re-election and began serving his second term in office in November 2020.

Ashley and his wife, Marga, have been residents of Vestavia Hills since 1986. They are active members of Vestavia Hills Methodist Church and recently celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary. They have two children: Stuart and Anna. Their son, Stuart Curry, is a dentist and resides in Vestavia Hills with his wife, Christy, and their two children. Anna Curry Gualano, their daughter, is an attorney and also resides in Vestavia Hills with her husband, Mark, and their two children

(Continued from page 1) teer support.

MPT is excited to be moving into its new headquarters to Vestavia Hills' Liberty Park neighborhood in 2025 and continue positively impacting healthcare on a global scale.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Park Crest Event Facility

Kate Schneider 2034 Little Valley Road Hoover, AL 35216 (205) 822-7275

parkcrestevents.com

Category: Event Facilities

• Park Crest Event Facility

Brooke Page 2034 Little Valley Road Hoover, AL 35216 (205) 822-7275

parkcrestevents.com

Category: Event Facilities

Visiting Angels of Birmingham

Karlin Fleming

52 Medical Park Drive East, Suite 320

Birmingham, AL 35226

(205) 777-7802

visitingangels.com/Birmingham

Category: Home Health Care

Precision Lice Clinic

Jessica Hudson

3499 Independence Drive, Suite 131

Homewood, AL 35209

(205) 747-0077

precisionliceclinic.com

Category: Healthcare

• Jefferson County Commissioner Mike Bolin

716 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd. N., Suite 230

Birmingham, AL 35203

(205) 325-5503

jccal.org

Category: Government

◆ The Edge Travel

Kasey Bodine

Vestavia Hills, AL 35216

(334) 332-9064

theedgetravel.com

Category: Travel

• OLLI at UA: Greater Birmingham Chapter

Jana Smith

240 Paul W. Bryant Drive

Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

(205) 348-3002

olli.ua.edu

Category: Organizations; Education

♦ Cahaba Heights Chevron

Lawrence Angelo

3100 Cahaba Heights Road

Vestavia Hills, AL 35243

(205) 967-7440

Category: Service Stations; Car Wash

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Tree Lighting Festival

Tuesday, December 3rd 6:00 PM Front Lawn at Vestavia Hills City Hall and Civic Center

Save the Date for VIVA Vestavia Hills Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 6:30PM – 9:00PM

As always and especially this Holiday Season SHOP. DINE. PLAY. In Vestavia Hills!

The Chamber office will be closed on Friday, November 11th for Veterans Day, November 28th and 29th for Thanksgiving.

It is my honor and joy to serve all our Vestavia Hills Chamber members.

Michelle Hawkins President



Mark your calendar for this year's Holiday in the Hills events!

For more information, visit https://vhal.org/community/city-events.

Monday, November 18 Holiday Photo Booth Opens

Regular library hours Reservation required: appt.link/holidaystudio

Library in the Forest 1021 Montgomery Highway (Open until January 4, 2025)

Tuesday, December 3
Tree Lighting Festival

6pm City Hall Complex 1032 Montgomery Highway Thursday, December 5
All is Bright

6-8pm

Vestavia City Center 700 Montgomery Highway

Sunday, December 8 Holiday Parade & Party in the Park

2pm

Liberty Park (Rain Date: December 15)

Tuesday, December 10
Family Night with Santa

6pm Library in the Forest 1021 Montgomery Highway Saturday, December 14

Breakfast with Santa

7:30-10am

Civic Center 1090 Montgomery Highway

Thursday, December 19

Gingerbread House Contest

4pm

Library in the Forest 1021 Montgomery Highway

Monday, December 30

Menorah Lighting

5:30pm City Hall

1032 Montgomery Highway

Small Business Saturday

Vestavia Hills Businesses are invited to participate in our Small Business Saturday event on November 23. Participants are asked to donate 4 prizes or gift cards valued at \$25 each. You will be provided with entry forms for shoppers to enter the prize drawing.

After November 23rd the businesses will need to turn in all of their shoppers entries to the Chamber, Lili Pad, or Tangles.

We will then highlight the winner on the Chamber website.

You will receive marketing with logos for participating and continuous shout outs on social media!

Sign up at https://forms.gle/g8oaFcxnXdEAaDTdA



The 14th Annual Vestavia Hills Tree Lighting Festival will be held on **Tuesday, December 3**, **2024 at 6:00 pm**, featuring the lighting of the City's tree, performances by Vestavia Hills schools choirs and dancers, business booths and a visit with Santa. Performances and activities will be held both on the lawn at Vestavia Hills City Hall and inside the Vestavia Hills Civic Center.

Deadline to register: November 15

- Free to Participate
- Vendors must be either located in Vestavia Hills or a member of the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce.
- Vendors are allowed to sell items, but must have a Vestavia Hills Business License.
- Any activities with sand, glitter, paint, etc. must be located outside on City Hall Lawn
- Space is limited and will be reserved on a first come basis.

Please fill out and return form to the Chamber. 1090 Montgomery Highway, Vestavia Hills, AL 35216 Email: chamber@vestaviahills.org

Contact Name:	
Company:	
Phone:	_Email:
Would you prefer to be located: Inside the Civic Center Outside on City Hall Lawn *In case of rain, everything will be moved inside the Civic Center. Activities with sand, glitter, paint, etc. will need to be adjusted to exclude those items. Will you need access to electricity: Yes No What activity or give-away do you plan to have at your booth?:	

RIBBON CUTTINGS











205.214.7546

Spa Cahaba

evate your skincine routine with luxuinous eatments now available at Spo Cahaba in shaba Heights. Whether you're looking to thresh your complexion with a Hydrafacial, righten your skin with Diamond Glow, or nijoy smooth, radiant skin with our expert king and dermaplaning services, we've got

> Facials | Waxing | Tints | Brows hemical Peels Microneedling & More

RIBBON CUTTING



Thursday, November 21, 2024 12:00 pm 400 Vestavia Parkway Suite 135 Vestavia Hills, AL 35216

Join us as we cut the ribbon for Salt & Light Speech Language Resources' new Office in Vestavia Hills. LIGHT Refreshments will be Served



November 14th 5 pm-6 pm 3325-121 Rocky Ridge Plz, Vestavia Hills, AL 35243







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, November 20, 8:00-9:00 am

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

Vestavia Hills, AL 35216















Wednesday, November 6 11:30 am-1:00 pm Vestavia Hills Chamber Office 1090 Montgomery Highway



Join us for a Lunch & Learn with City Manager Jeff Downes and Assistant City Manager Cinnamon McCulley discussing Peter Kageyama's book For the Love of Cities

Sponsored by





Follow the QR Code to register or visit vestaviahills.org Free to attend!







Trustee Spotlight



Tommy DeRamus-Shades Mountain Baptist Church



Tommy DeRamus serves as the Adults Plus Engagement Minister at Shades Mountain Baptist Church and is proud to represent the church with the Chamber. The Adults Plus Ministry at Shades is for people age 60 and better, and part of Tommy's role is to help Shades r



people age 60 and better, and part of Tommy's role is to help Shades members find places to volunteer in the community.

The Shades mission statement is "Leveraging who we are and what we've been given for the sake of the Gospel, wherever we are and wherever God takes us." We want to help all our members find opportunities to serve in our city and share the Gospel wherever we go.

Tommy is thankful for the opportunities the Chamber provides for churches to be involved in Vestavia Hills. Shades has volunteer teams that serve in our schools and we have teams that support our First Responders on a regular basis. The church also participates in the Dogwood Prayer Breakfast and I Love America Night.

Shades has a wide range of ministries for the entire family, including bible study and worship times specifically designed for children. We also have an excellent ministry for children and young adults with special needs, called Hand in Hand. Participants in Hand in Hand have one-to-one buddies specifically trained to provide care and companionship while they enjoy the classes and worship times. The Shades Women's Ministry leads quarterly worship and fellowship events called Breathe that are open to all ladies in the community.

On Christmas Eve we will have Candlelight services open to the community at 1:00, 3:00 and 5:00pm. These special services offer a memorable worship experience for the entire family to celebrate the gift of our Savior's birth.

Shades worship services are on Sundays at 9:00am and 10:30am. If you and your family do not have a church home we invite you come and experience the life-changing message of the Gospel. For more information about the ministries and events at Shades please visit shades.org.



2024-2025 Vestavia Hills Shares Card

On Sale Now at vestaviahills.org!

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

NEWS AND VIEWS Member Notes

- Celebrate the grand opening of Bricks & Minifigs Vestavia Hills at 10 am on November 2! Stop by their new store at 1056 Montgomery Highway to welcome them!
- Kick off the holiday season at **Dear Emmaline's** Christmas Open House on November 7! Enjoy shopping, refreshments and give-aways from 10 am-7 pm. 628 Montgomery Highway
- Sip, shop and see what's new at **Rocky Ridge Drug Company**'s Holiday Open House on November 7 from 5-7 pm! Appetizers, cocktails and great seasonal sales! 3346 Morgan Drive
- **GrandView Financial Group's** Annual Shred Day is happening on November 14 from 9 am-12 pm. Gone for Good will be on site to provide secure shredding services. 3168 Cahaba Heights Road
- Vestavia Hills Methodist Church's Magical Marketplace will take place November 14-15. Get a head start on your holiday shopping with our exclusive early shopping event on Thursday evening, November 14, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. For just \$5, you'll gain access to a first look at all the unique gift items our vendors have to offer. All proceeds from this event directly benefit Unless U. Join us on Friday, November 15, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm for a full day of holiday shopping. With over 50 vendors showcasing their one-of-a-kind crafts and gifts, you're sure to find something special for everyone on your list.
- GLASSES UP for Down Syndrome is presented by Clyde Mays Whiskey and is a charity bourbon and spirit tasting event benefitting **Down Syndrome Alabama**. The event will take place on Thursday, November 14, from 6-9, at a secret speakeasy in Vestavia Hills. Tickets can purchased at https:// downsyndromealabama.org/glasses-up-for-down-syndrome/
- 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
- Deck the Heights is happening on November 16 in Cahaba Heights! Bring the whole family to Cahaba Heights for arts, shopping, face painting, a mechanical bull, train, inflatables, food, beverages, music, Santa & more!
- Upward Behavioral Health is pleased to announce that Dr. Susan Rathmell has been elected President-Elect of the Alabama Psychological Association. A clinical psychologist with 17 years of experience in Alabama, she specializes in treating insomnia, depression, anxiety, PTSD, and adult ADHD. Through her role in the Association, she aims to advance evidence-based therapy, improve access to mental healthcare, address healthcare provider burnout, and support psychologists as businesspeople. Upward Behavioral Health (www.upwardbehavioralhealth.com) offers in-person counseling in Vestavia Hills and Hoover and telehealth counseling statewide.
- Read the latest issue of *Birmingham Christian Family* magazine that features Chamber members Jimmie Hale Mission, Children's of Alabama 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

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*Chamber Past Chair

2024 Chamber Champions

Platinum



















Jason Frey-Medical Properties Trust













































