



VESTAVIA HILLS
CHAMBER
of
COMMERCE

NEWS & VIEWS

August 2024

Volume 44 Issue 8

August 13 Luncheon Dr. Todd Freeman Vestavia Hills City Schools Superintendent

Dr. Todd Freeman is beginning his seventh year as superintendent of Vestavia Hills City Schools. From 2013 to 2018, Dr. Freeman was superintendent of Sylacauga City Schools in east Alabama. Prior to that, he spent twenty years in Auburn City Schools as a social studies teacher and coach, high school principal, and executive director of operations and services.



During his time in Vestavia Hills City Schools, the district has renewed its accreditation, implemented a revised strategic plan, and opened three new schools. The school system has also broken numerous records that include test scores, college scholarship offers, and career and technical education credentialing. This year, the school system will be launching a K-12 academic initiative that will provide new opportunities for profound learning in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Dr. Freeman holds a bachelor's degree in education from Jacksonville State University, a master's in education from Auburn University, and a doctorate in educational leadership from Valdosta State University.

(Continued on page 4)

LUNCHEON SPONSORS

America's First Federal Credit Union

Founded in 1936 at U.S. Steel's Ensley Works in Birmingham, AmFirst has a rich history of providing financial services to under-served individuals in Alabama. Today, we are a comprehensive, full-service financial institution with over \$2.3 billion in assets.



As a federally chartered credit union, AmFirst proudly serves our members through 21 branch locations, including our award-winning Vestavia Hills branch at 1112 Montgomery Highway, which was named Best Credit Union in Vestavia Hills by Vestavia Hills Magazine in 2023 and 2024.

With a membership base exceeding 200,000, AmFirst stands as one of the nation's strongest credit

(Continued on page 4)

First Horizon Bank

First Horizon is proud to serve the Vestavia Hills Community! As our company entered the Birmingham Market in 2009, our vision was to add bricks and mortar and invest in best-in-class talent to deliver exceptional service to our clients. In 2011, we chose Vestavia Hills as the location to build our first new office located at 613 Montgomery Highway. In May of this year, we were proud to celebrate 13 years of growing relationships and investing in the Vestavia Hills community.



Please stop by and visit us soon!

(Continued on page 4)

Here we are at the start of another month, and it is hard to believe that it is August already. As I came down Lime Rock last night, the band was already out on the field practicing and getting ready for the upcoming football season and another spectacular halftime show. Does School really start back next week? It seems like this summer has flown by, and yet here we are ready for the regular routines of school, band, football, and a kickoff to all the fall activities.



A great way to support your local Vestavia Hills businesses is by procuring your 2024-2025 School Year Vestavia Hills Shares Card. With the need for school supplies, new clothes, pre-game and post-game meals, many of our businesses are offering fantastic discounts and bargains that you can take advantage of and it will help you continue to shop local here in Vestavia Hills.

As we look towards the fall and the end of the Year, there are many opportunities for you and your business to get heavily involved with the Chamber. We will soon be preparing for our many fall activities such as Haunt the Hills, the annual Holiday in the Hills festivities, and even looking towards VIVA VESTVIA 2025. We would love your help in serving on one of these event committees, and it provides a great opportunity for you to get involved with the Chamber as well as build your network among fellow friends and business owners in our city.

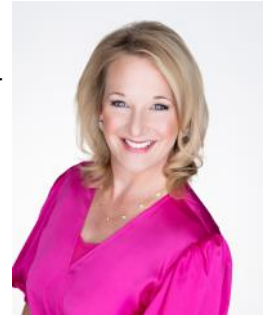
Again, I am honored to serve as your Chair, and if I can ever be of service to you, your family, or your business in any way, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Humbly serving,

Clabe Dobbs
Board Chair, 2024

Hello Vestavia Hills Chamber and Happy August!

As the summer is wrapping up August brings excitement to Vestavia Hills. With our schools starting back next week the activities are abundant. Here at the Chamber, after skipping our July Luncheon we will be resuming on August 13th at 11:30am. Our keynote speaker, VHCS superintendent, Dr. Todd Freeman will be presenting the state of our school system. Dr. Freeman always draws a big crowd, and we are looking forward to seeing everyone! To register, please visit our website www.vestaviahills.org and find it on our event calendar under Events & News.



Michelle Hawkins

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

Girl Scout Dream Lab - Ribbon Cutting – Friday, August 16th 4:00 PM
600 Montgomery Hwy Suite 208, Vestavia Hills, AL 35216

Talking Social – Ribbon Cutting – Thursday, August 29th 4:30 PM
512 Montgomery Hwy Suite 200, Vestavia Hills, AL 35216

European Wax Center – Ribbon Cutting – Thursday, September 5th 5:00 PM
790 Montgomery Hwy Suite 116, Vestavia Hills, AL 35216

Vestavia Hills Shares Card is back! The Vestavia Hills Shares Card is a fundraiser partnered between the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce and VHCS Arts and Athletic groups and teams. The participating businesses are offering great deals for 10 months! Cards go on sale August 12th for only \$30.00 to support your favorite student or club. Cards are valid from August 12, 2024, through May 31, 2025. This year you can save the card to your phone wallet or pick up a physical card from the Chamber. There is no cost to businesses to participate - It is a WIN WIN for everyone! Right now, we have over 50 businesses participating, and we would love more! Please contact our office if you are interested 205-823-5011.

Sign up today for our free Lunch and Learn with the Chamber. We will be hearing from three different Tech professionals on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM. Speakers from General Informatics, CMIT Solutions, and Talking Social. Lunch will be provided and sponsored by EOS Worldwide. Register at vestaviahills.org.

We are thrilled to be partnering with Collette travel company to offer Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce group travel to Ireland – Irish Splendor trip February 27 – March 6, 2025. Book now and save \$300 per person. The 8-day trip includes airfare, accommodations and nine meals. Highlights include Dublin, Christ Church Cathedral, Blarney Castle, Dingle Peninsula, Farm Visit, Cliffs of Moher, Whiskey Distillery, and a Castle overnight stay. All of this for only \$3,399. To find out more information, join us on Tuesday, August 27th at 5:00 at the Vestavia Hills Civic Center. We would love for you to travel with us to Ireland!

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

Michelle Hawkins
President

August 13 Luncheon

Reservations must be made by 4:00 PM Thursday, August 8, 2024 and cost \$25. Late reservations will cost \$30. Make your reservation by visiting www.vestaviahills.org or by calling 823-5011.

Please Note:

- Reservations that are made and not cancelled by 4:00 pm Thursday, August 8 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.

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Freeman, his wife, Rachel, and two sons, Samuel and Jacob, are residents of Vestavia Hills. Rachel is a former elementary school teacher and now provides group fitness instruction. Samuel is a fifth grader and Jacob is a third grader at Vestavia Hills Elementary Dolly Ridge. Dr. Freeman is a member of the Vestavia Hills Rotary Club and Civitan International, and he and his family attend Shades Mountain Baptist Church.

(Continued from page 1)

unions, dedicated to offering cost-effective financial services. AmFirst accounts are federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA).

AmFirst provides checking accounts with no monthly fees and offers higher dividends on savings. Our savings accounts boast higher rates compared to many other financial institutions, ensuring our members receive more in return. Additionally, we offer some of the most competitive loan rates in the market, assisting members with loans for homes, vehicles, small businesses, credit cards, and more.

Discover more about AmFirst by visiting amfirst.org or calling (205) 320-4000.

(Continued from page 1)

First Horizon Corp. (NYSE: FHN), with \$81.8 billion in assets as of March 31, 2024, is a leading regional financial services company, dedicated to helping our clients, communities and associates unlock their full potential with capital and counsel. Headquartered in Memphis, TN, the banking subsidiary First Horizon Bank operates in 12 states across the southern U.S. The Company and its subsidiaries offer commercial, private banking, consumer, small business, wealth and trust management, retail brokerage, capital markets, fixed income, and mortgage banking services. First Horizon has been recognized as one of the nation's best employers by Fortune and Forbes magazines and a Top 10 Most Reputable U.S. Bank.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

- ◆ Vicki's Amish Traditions
Vicki Stroup
1401 Montgomery Highway, Suite 121
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
(334) 399-5563
vickisamishtraditions.com
Category: Furniture
- ◆ Birmingham Business Resource Center
Robert Dickerson
1500 1st Avenue N, #12
Birmingham, AL 35203
(205) 250-6380
mybbrc.biz
Category: Business Development
- ◆ Guild Mortgage Company
Bryan Goldman
2700 US Highway 280, Suite 290E
Mountain Brook, AL 35223
(205) 908-9782
guildmortgage.com
- ◆ Next Level AVL
Jared Morton
151 Business Center Drive
Hoover, AL 35244
(205) 578-3156
nextlevelavl.com
Category: Audio & Video
- ◆ Upward Behavioral Health
Susan Rathmell
400 Vestavia Parkway, Suite 406
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
(205) 983-4063
upwardbehavioralhealth.com
Category: Counseling
- ◆ The Dean Building
Amanda Hancock
2828 Old 280 Court, Suite 200
Vestavia Hills, AL 35243
(205) 497-3284
thedeanbldg.com
Category: Shared Office Services

Ireland 2025

FEBRUARY 27TH-MARCH 6TH



VESTAVIA HILLS

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Join the Chamber on an Irish Splendor!

**Stops on the Group Tour:
Dublin, Killarney, Ennis, & Kingscourt**



Jack Brinson

Sr Business Development Manager

Book Now and Save \$300 Per Person:

Double: \$3,399

Single: \$3,899

Triple: \$3,369

Our next interest meeting will be on

August 27th at 5:00 PM

Scan to Sign Up Below!

Deposit due

11, SEPTEMBER, 2024



Stop by the Chamber with any questions and pick up an information packet.

1090 Montgomery Hwy Vestavia Hills AL 35216 (205) 823-5011

RIBBON CUTTINGS

girlscouts
of north-central
alabama

RIBBON CUTTING

GIRL SCOUT DREAMLAB

August 16th, 2024 4:00PM
600 Montgomery Hwy ste 208
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216



TALKINGSOCIAL

RIBBON CUTTING

8.29.2024

4:30 PM
512 Montgomery Hwy ste 200
Vestavia Hills Al 35216

LUNCH AND LEARN WITH THE CHAMBER

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Cords?
Where were going
we don't need cords!



SPEAKERS FROM GENERAL INFORMATICS, CMIT SOLUTIONS, & TALKING SOCIAL

AUGUST 21ST
1090 MONTGOMERY HWY VESTAVIA HILLS AL 35216
11:30 AM-1:00 PM
A LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

Sponsored by:
EOS
PROFESSIONAL IMPLEMENTER

sign up on our website

Adopt a School

August Feature School:
Vestavia Hills Elementary Cahaba Heights

Thanks to our August Sponsors!





Sponsors:



2024-2025 Vestavia Hills Shares Card

Coming Soon!

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



Aug 3

11 am - 1 pm

SHAC - Liberty Park

Aug 10

11 am - 1 pm

Kelly Field - Cahaba Heights

vestavialibrary.org/backtoschool

The Library is looking for child and family-friendly businesses that would like to have a booth or one or both of the Back to School events. Businesses would need to give out water or school related items. For more information, please contact Todd Richardson at todd.richardson@vestaviiahillslibrary.org

Rocky Ridge - Cahaba Heights - Hwy 31
Liberty Park - Patchwork Farm



VESTAVIA HILLS BARGAIN DAYS



Vestaviiahills.org

SAVINGS UP TO 90% OFF

9-11 AUGUST

Luncheon Business Spotlights

As a benefit of Chamber membership, you are welcome to choose two luncheons to have a booth to showcase your business. The Vestavia Country Club will provide covered 6 foot tables*-you just bring whatever information and items you would like to display! If you would like reserve your spots for 2024, please email katiew@vestaviiahills.org

2024 Dates:
August 13-full
September 10
October 8
November 12
December 10



Trustee Spotlight



Tyler Kime-Standard Heating, Cooling and Plumbing



Tyler Kime is a long-time resident of Vestavia Hills having attended Vestavia Hills East, Central, Pizitz, and Vestavia Hills High School. During that time, he participated in the Vestavia recreational program playing soccer and baseball. He graduated from VHHS in 1999 where he participated in the Drum Line for all four years, serving as Section Leader during his senior year. As a result of these life experiences, he and his wife, Jenni, decided to move to Vestavia Hills when it came time to raise their family. He and Jenni have three children who attend Vestavia Hills schools. Their children are Thomas (14), Kinley (11), and Karaline (9).



Tyler graduated from Auburn University in 2003 with a degree in Finance. Even though Tyler and Jenni attended Auburn at the same time, they didn't meet until after Tyler graduated. Needless to say, they are both

huge Auburn fans.

After college Tyler worked for two different banks in two different cities, Montgomery and Panama City for a couple of years. It was then that he decided that he wanted to work in the family business in Birmingham, Standard Heating & Air Conditioning Company. He traded a suit for blue jeans as his first job at Standard was as an apprentice installing heating and air conditioning systems. He later served as an accounting clerk, project manager, salesman, home performance specialist, and is now general manager. He loves what he does because his efforts not only make homeowners and business owners more comfortable, but he also has the opportunity to lead a group of co-workers who are dedicated to providing the best customer service possible.

In 2017 The News, a national HVAC publication named Tyler to their "Top 40 Under 40" in the industry. Tyler was part of the 2017-18 Leadership Vestavia Hills class has served on the board and was LVH President for 2020-2021 year. He currently serves on the boards of the Better Business Bureau and is serving his 3rd term on the Vestavia Hills Chamber board.

Donnie Dobbins-First Horizon



Donnie Dobbins has 30 years of commercial and retail banking experience primarily in the Birmingham market. As Senior Vice President at First Horizon, he currently manages a portfolio of commercial and industrial clients, providing banking services to both private and publicly held companies.



Donnie joined the former IBERIABANK organization in 2010 where he led the Retail Sales efforts for the Alabama Markets. Additionally, Donnie was Group Manager over the Business Banking efforts for the Birmingham Market. Prior to returning to his current Commercial Banking role in 2018, Donnie led the Business Banking Segment for IBERIABANK, providing sales management over the bank's eight (8) state footprint. Donnie also spent eleven (11) years with Regions Bank and five (5) years with SouthTrust Bank.

Donnie is a life-long resident of Vestavia Hills, having graduated from VHHS in 1989. Donnie graduated from the University of Alabama in 1993 with a major in Marketing. He and his wife, Lynne, met shortly thereafter and have three children, sons Connor (23) and Grayson (21), and daughter Berkley (17) who is a senior at VHHS. In his spare time, Donnie enjoys playing golf and hunting, as well as outdoor cooking.

Donnie is a Trustee and Immediate Past Board Chair (2023) for the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Virginia Samford Theatre, where he was former Board Chair in 2016, and currently serves as Chair of the Investment Committee.

Member Notes

- **Unless U** is turning 10! Join them at Unless U Scoops for a day of fun, ice cream, and celebration as we mark a decade of making a difference! What's in store: BOGO Ice Cream - Buy one, get one free all day long! Games - Fun and engaging games for everyone. Happy Hats Customizable Hat Cart - Create your own unique hat! Bring your friends and family for an unforgettable day celebrating 10 amazing years of Unless U. 737 Chestnut Street
- **The Reed Foundation** Junior Board is proud to announce the first-ever Otey's to Otey's run, set to take place on August 10, 2024. This event is designed to raise critical funds for gastrointestinal cancer research and support. This marks a significant milestone in the foundation's efforts to combat this devastating disease. The race will begin at the Otey's location in Homewood and end at the original Otey's location in Crestline Village. This unique event invites runners and walkers of all ages and fitness levels to participate! Register at runsignup.com/Race/AL/Birmingham/ReedGICancerResearchOteystoOteysRun
- Time flies when you're scoopin' Ice, and we can't believe it's already a year here at **Jeremiah's Ice of Vestavia Hills!** The entire community has been so great to us, and we'd like to give you a little taste of our appreciation at our 1 Year Anniversary Celebration Saturday, August 10th as we celebrate with a day full of tasty treats, freebies, and fun! Enjoy 50% off small and medium treats all day long! The first 20 guests to use your J- List Rewards app during the event will receive a FREE Jeremiah's Italian Ice T-shirt and a FREE treat! From 2pm-6pm The Face Painting Chick will be available! 790 Montgomery Highway, Suite 106.
- The Vestavia Hills Farmers Market is open from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm every Wednesday through September 11! Located at Scout Square, right off of Highway 31, the Farmers Market is an outreach ministry of **VHMC**, created to bring local crafts and seasonal goods into our community!
- Looking for an office getaway? A team building moment? Sign your business up to compete in **Vestavia Hills Rotary Clubs** Community Cornhole Tournament on Saturday, August 10 from 2:00-5:30 pm at the Vestavia City Center! Great way to support Childrens of Alabama, First Responders and Vestavia Hills Student Scholarships and Programs. \$50 Entry Fee. Top two teams move on to statewide tournament. Go to www.vestaviarotary.org and click Cornhole Tab for more information.
- Join **Birmingham Parent** for their Happy, Healthy Kids Fair, a FREE exhibition of healthcare services, schools, educational programs, enrichment classes, community service & more on August 24 from 10 am-2 pm at the Vestavia Hills Civic Center. Interested in being a sponsor, exhibitor or donating a door prize? Contact Carol Evans at carol@birminghamparent.com or visit <https://birminghamparent.com/directory/2024-happy-healthy-kids-fair/>
- Read the latest issue of **Birmingham Christian Family** magazine that features Chamber members Chamber members Children's of Alabama, The Arc of Central 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

Kimberly Jackson-Alabama Power Company
 Beverly Cochran-America's First Federal Credit Union
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 Dr. Darcy Schofill-Cahaba Mountain Brook Animal Clinic
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 Donnie Dobbins-First Horizon Bank
 Dan Bundy-First US Bank
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 Charlie Norton-Harbert Realty Services
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 John Henley*-John Henley State Farm Insurance
 Taylor Burton-Taylor Burton Company
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 Dr. Bill Brunson-Vestavia Hills Methodist Church
 Dan Starnes-Vestavia Voice
 Senator Jabo Waggoner
 Beth Moody-The Welch Group
 Stephen Allen-Williams Blackstock Architects
 Mark Yanosky, D.M.D.-Yanosky Orthodontics

*Chamber Past Chair

2024 Chamber Champions

Platinum



Gold



Silver



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Email: annilynw@vestavi hills.org

Katie Woodruff, Communications Manager

Email: katiew@vestavi hills.org

Upcoming Chamber Meetings

August 13

Monthly Luncheon, 11:30 am, Vestavia Country Club

August 15

Board of Directors, 7:45 am, Chamber Office

Events

August 16

Ribbon Cutting: Girl Scouts Dream Lab, 4 pm

August 19

New Member Orientation, 5 pm Chamber Office

August 21

Lunch & Learn, 11:30 am, Chamber Office

August 27

Ireland Tour Info Meeting, 5 pm, Dogwood Room

August 29

Ribbon Cutting: Talking Social, 4:30 pm



News and Views

Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce

1090 Montgomery Highway

Vestavia Hills, AL 35216