

# A New Space for City

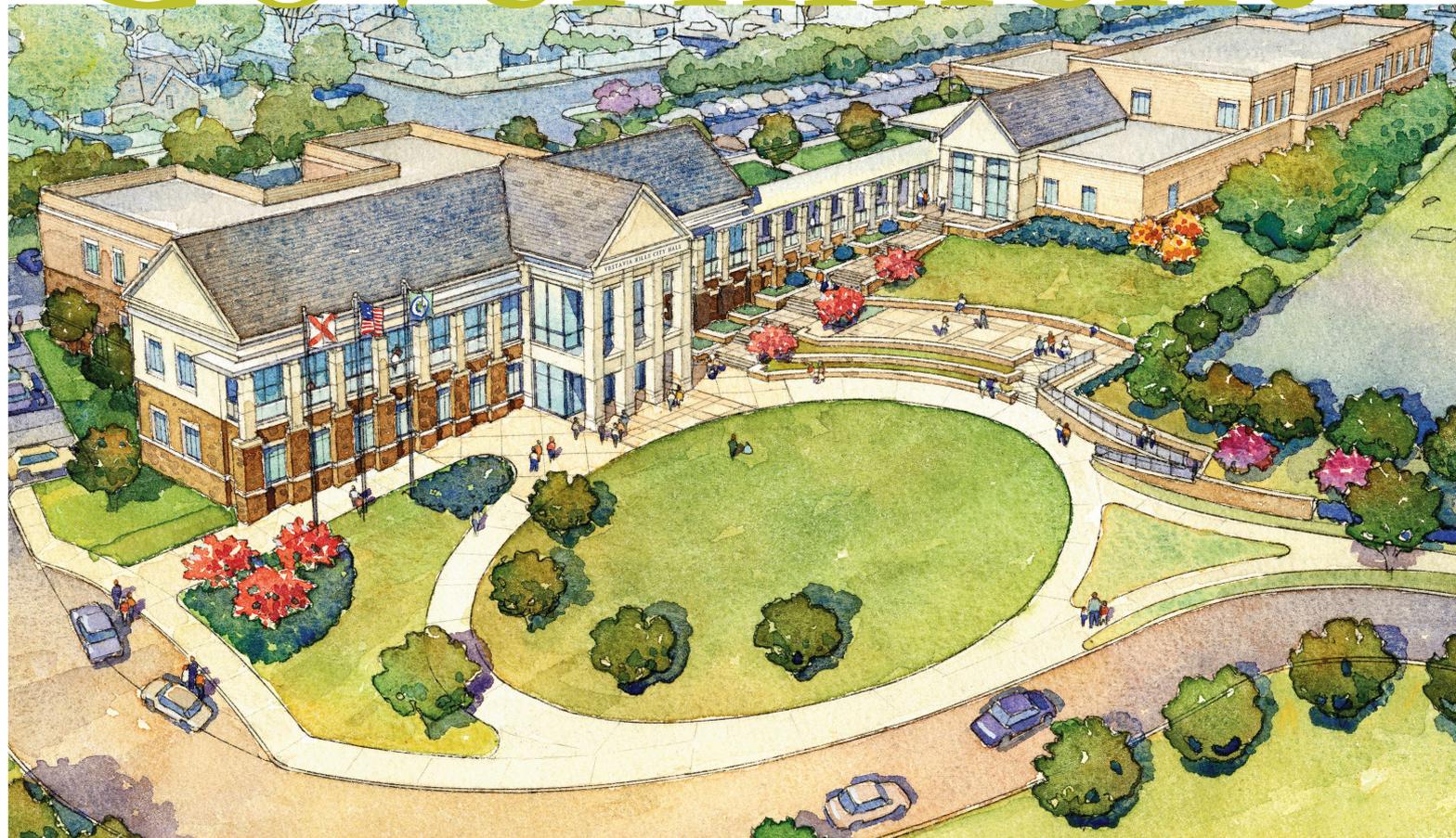


FOR YEARS, THE BUSINESS OF VESTAVIA HILLS CITY GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CONDUCTED IN THE CRAMPED QUARTERS OF CITY HALL, HOUSED AMONG STRIP CENTERS AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS.

While the space has been adequate, city leaders have long wished the property offered room for a true city gathering space, where the community could come together for special events, and for a City Hall that would evoke a richer sense of place that would uniquely identify the City of Vestavia Hills.

Those wishes are finally coming true. Currently, a new City Hall is taking shape and will soon be visible on Montgomery Highway adjacent to the Vestavia Plaza Shopping Center at the site of the former Food World and Joe's Ranch House. By August 2015, construction is scheduled to be complete. Not only will city government officials gain new offices, but city residents also will gain

# Government



a new landmark gathering space that will become the site of special city events and the hallmark of the city.

“The current City Hall is outdated and the limited space inhibits efficient operations of various administrative functions of city government,” says Jeff Downes, Vestavia Hills city manager. “Furthermore, the lack of available land around the current City Hall limits the ability to have a civic gathering space and town center for various recurring activities.”

Picture this: A modern City Hall, designed to capture the mountainous views of Vestavia Hills, with fully functional offices and plenty of indoor and outdoor public gathering spaces. These new spaces may become the sites of future Christmas tree lighting ceremonies, Dogwood Festival events and open government sessions. “The most exciting thing about the move is the opportunity

to create a community-oriented structure and campus that all of Vestavia Hills will be proud to call its town square,” Downes says. “The new City Hall will feature a gracious plenty green space to hold civic oriented events. Memories will be made there. People will spend some of the most important times of the year gathering on that site.”

In addition to creating a space to be used and enjoyed by all Vestavia Hills residents, the new City Hall campus will also boost local economic development efforts. “The construction of this building will serve as a catalyst for further quality redevelopment along the Highway 31 corridor,” Downes says. And when outside business people consider locating their operations in Vestavia Hills, their first introduction to the city government will be conducted “in a place of pride that will send the right message to all,” he adds.