

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

April 2021

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City of Auburn

CityFest 2021

The 20th Auburn CityFest, an Auburn spring tradition, will return to the Plains Saturday, April 24, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Kiesel Park. Enjoy live music, arts and crafts and food vendors, children's art activities, special appearances and more. This free outdoor arts and crafts festival is held rain or shine.

To accommodate the State of Alabama and CDC COVID-19 guidelines, the 2021 Auburn CityFest will be different than previous years. Masks will be required by all visitors and vendors. Arts and crafts and food vendors will be spaced throughout the entire park to allow the public to socially distance while shopping. Nonprofit organizations will not have an on-site presence.

The 2021 CityFest theme is "The Loveliest Arts and Crafts Festival on the Plains." This year's event will resemble a traditional arts and crafts festival and focus on works of art, food and building community.



The headlining entertainment will be the Bama Air Dogs, delivering a spectacular, action-packed show featuring canine disc entertainment. Musical entertainment will include 8 Track Rewind, a variety band, and the Auburn Community Orchestra.

As the event draws closer, the 2021 Auburn CityFest may be adjusted to satisfy the State of Alabama and CDC COVID-19 guidelines at the time of the event. Find more information at auburncityfest.com.



Auburn named among best-performing small cities

The Milken Institute ranked Auburn No. 17 on its list of the 2021 Best-Performing Small Cities in the nation. Auburn was ranked the second-highest of three Alabama cities that were listed in the top 50.

The Milken Institute's Best-Performing City index tracks the economic performance of about 400 U.S. metropolitan statistical areas. It evaluates metrics like job creation, wage gains, high-tech GDP growth and other factors to evaluate cities' performance relative to one another. It also evaluates cities' broadband access and housing affordability. Auburn climbed six spots from its 2020 ranking at No. 23.

Cemetery Viewer now available online

The Cemetery Viewer is a new online tool to help you easily find your loved one's grave at any of the City of Auburn's cemeteries. The feature includes an interactive map that displays information about municipal cemetery plots as well as an image of each grave marker. Search for loved ones in all of the City's municipal cemeteries by name, birth date, death date or burial date.

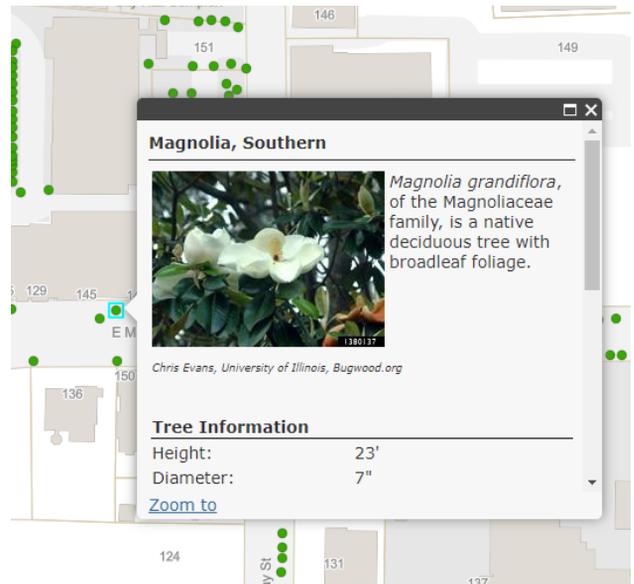
To use the Cemetery Viewer, visit auburnalabama.org/parks/cemeteries. Click on the Locate A Grave icon on the cemeteries landing page or the Memorial, Town Creek, Westview or Pine Hill Cemetery links. The Cemetery Viewer is not available for Baptist Hill Cemetery since the City of Auburn only maintains the cemetery grounds at Baptist Hill.

Auburn Street Tree Explorer

You can now discover trees near you and learn about the many benefits they provide using the new Auburn Street Tree Explorer app.

The app shows the location of Auburn's street trees and provides information on the species and characteristics of each tree, including height, diameter and more. The benefits that these trees bring, like how they capture stormwater, store carbon, remove pollution and provide energy savings for the structures they shelter from the sun and wind are even assigned a monetary value using data from i-Tree Eco, software from the U.S. Forest Service.

To find more details about the benefits of trees, check out the app at auburnalabama.org/forestry.



HOW MANY ROOMMATES MAY I HAVE?

There are three zoning districts in Auburn that limit to two the number of unrelated individuals living in a single dwelling. Those districts are Neighborhood Conservation (NC), Limited Development District (LDD) and Development District Housing (DDH). All other zoning districts allow up to five unrelated occupants.



City of Auburn



FIND OUT IF THESE LIMITATIONS AFFECT YOUR PROPERTY

VISIT WEBGIS.AUBURNALABAMA.ORG/UNRELATEDOCCUPANCYLIMITS FOR AN INTERACTIVE MAP OR CONTACT THE CITY OF AUBURN INSPECTION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT (334) 501-3170 OR WEBCODES@AUBURNALABAMA.ORG

Tucker Heights

The first home in Auburn's new affordable housing subdivision, Tucker Heights, will be ready for sale in March, signaling a new and exciting chapter in housing opportunities within the city.

The subdivision is located on the corner of Byrd and Tucker streets and is a part of the City's ongoing efforts to support low- to moderate-income families in Auburn. The completion of Tucker Heights will bring the number of homes the City has built for first-time homeowners to 150. Most recently, the City built 29 homes in the Northwest Village subdivision, for which construction began in 2006.

"As a City, this is something we get really excited about — providing a family the opportunity to have their own home in Auburn," said Alfred Davis, director of Community Services. "It's part of the American Dream, owning your own home, and that is a dream that citizens of all income levels aspire to."

Tucker Heights is built by the North Auburn Housing Development Corporation (NAHDC), a nonprofit with goals of increasing homeownership opportunities for all citizens. To further its mission, the NAHDC is annually allocated Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, which the City receives from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Through the City's agreement with NAHDC, about \$137,000 is allocated for the planning and development of new affordable housing in Auburn.

"The NAHDC has been a tremendous partner for the City of Auburn," Davis said. "They make it possible for us to embark on affordable housing projects that can benefit our citizens. We are excited to celebrate the completion of the first house in Tucker Heights and to make progress on the development of this subdivision that will give more families a place to call 'home' in Auburn."

Tucker Heights will feature seven houses that will be built as qualified buyers are identified and funds are made available through income from the sale of a home in the subdivision or through the annual allocation of CDBG funds to NAHDC.



Each home will feature three bedrooms, two baths and comparable lot sizes to other homes in the area. Construction on the first home began in September 2020, with completion expected in March 2021.

NAHDC has identified potential buyers for the first three homes in Tucker Heights. If you are interested in owning one of these homes, please contact the Community Services Department at 334-501-7280 or communityservices@auburnalabama.org.

Each applicant must meet the following requirements to apply:

- Meet HUD's income limits for low- to moderate-income
- Complete an application
- Attend housing counseling
- Secure financing for the home's sales price of approximately \$130,000
- Have a \$500 minimum down payment
- Have reasonably good credit with no outstanding federal debt.

Through CDBG funding, the City of Auburn has also been able to rehabilitate 19 homes in the City over the past three years as well as provide homeless assistance in the amount of \$1.8 million that has benefited 520 families, 2,191 youth and 1,737 seniors.

Boards vacancies

One vacancy on the Board of Education was announced at the Feb. 16 Auburn City Council meeting and will be filled at the April 20 meeting. Applications will close on March 22 at 5 p.m. Two vacancies on the Historic Preservation Commission will be announced at the March 2 City Council meeting and will be filled at the April 6 meeting. Applications will close on March 19 at 5 p.m.

Visit auburnalabama.org/boards to apply or for more information about volunteering for one of the City's 22 boards and commissions.



eNotifier

now

Keep up with what's happening in Auburn!

Stay up to date with the latest info by signing up for text and/or email updates through our eNotifier.

auburnalabama.org/eNotifier

MARCH UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to space considerations, we are unable to publicize events that are not directly affiliated with a City department.



City of Auburn

Programs and events are subject to change. Please visit auburnalabama.org for up-to-date information on program and event cancellations.

Auburn Public Library
auburnalabama.org/library
(334) 501-3198

City Meeting Schedule
auburnalabama.org
(334) 501-7260

Parks and Recreation
auburnalabama.org/parks
(334) 501-2930

3	2	1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.
Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m.	Virtual Puppet Shows 10:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.	Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m.	Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m.	Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m.	Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m.	Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m.	Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m.	Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m.	Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt	Tree Commission 11:30 a.m.	Parks and Recreation Summer Brochure Available	Board of Zoning Adjustment 4:30 p.m.	Planning Commission Packet Meeting Noon	City Council 7 p.m.	City Council 7 p.m.	City Council 7 p.m.	City Council Agenda Review Meeting Noon	Easter Egg Hunt
17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.
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Cops on Top	City Council Agenda Review Meeting Noon	Planning Commission 3 p.m.	Board of Zoning Adjustment 4:30 p.m.	Historic Preservation Commission 4 p.m.	City Council 4 p.m.	Easter Egg Hunt Rain Date	City Council 7 p.m.	City Council Agenda Review Meeting Noon	Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m.
24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15
Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.
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20th Annual Auburn CityFest	Cops on Top	Water Works Board 4 p.m.	Water Works Board 4 p.m.	Library Board 10 a.m.	Greenspace Advisory Board Noon	Library Board 10 a.m.			
City Council Agenda Review Meeting Noon	City Council Agenda Review Meeting Noon	Auburn CityFest Juried Art Show Reception	Auburn CityFest Juried Art Show Reception	City Council 7 p.m.					
30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21
Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m.
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