

open line

a monthly newsletter for you, our residents.

JUNE 2021



City of Auburn



CARES Act funding helps provide for thousands of Auburn residents

As the pandemic took a toll on families over the past year, Community Services Director Alfred Davis and his team tackled a familiar task with a greater sense of urgency — helping meet community needs through federal grant money allocated to the City of Auburn.

Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act in the spring of 2020. Through the grant money allocated to the City so far, 6,126 Auburn residents have found relief.

Auburn is one of 15 entitlement communities in Alabama, allowing the City to receive grant money through the CARES Act to help citizens struggling through the pandemic. The Community Services Department aids families and nonprofits annually through the Community Development Block Grant program, and the CARES Act funding helps the City extend those efforts.

After receiving word of the relief package, Davis and his team got to work.

"We keep our ears to the ground so we know what the needs are, and this year has been a unique experience," Davis said. "People are struggling and have been trying to deal with negative impacts of the pandemic largely in isolation. We are fortunate to have received additional funding to help provide some relief — to individuals and to some incredible nonprofits that we support."

In total, the City will receive about \$1.57 million in coronavirus relief funding that will be distributed in three allocation rounds. A portion of the first two rounds of grant money, which totaled \$821,280, was used to help pre-qualified families pay utilities, mortgage or rent. So far, about \$147,881 has been used for homelessness prevention efforts. The third round of funding, for which the City has applied, is expected to total \$750,000.

Many families have found a helping hand through local nonprofits. Organizations like the Food Bank of East Alabama, Joyland Child Development Center, Auburn Day Care Center, Auburn Senior Center and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Lee County's Auburn Unit, among others, were able to continue providing essential services to seniors, youth and families after implementing new ideas and receiving financial support from the City.



Trent Williams collects food from shelves at the Food Bank of East Alabama that will be delivered to one of the agencies the Food Bank supports.

When the pandemic was in full force, the Food Bank of East Alabama saw declines in food donations and an increase in needs. The Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Lee County, whose Auburn Unit is housed in the Boykin Community Center, closed for one week before reopening with renewed determination to serve despite a significant reduction in revenue streams.

"The Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Lee County was built for a time such as this," said Richard Curry, president of the Auburn Unit. Typically, the Auburn location has an average daily attendance of 200 children and teens, but the organization saw the number it was serving reach 600 during the pandemic as initiatives were created that assisted kids outside of the Club's facility.

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CARES ACT FUNDING DISTRIBUTION

as of April 2021



SENIOR CITIZEN SERVICES

\$7,033

We supported the Lee-Russell Council of Governments' Senior Center which has cared for one of our most vulnerable populations throughout the pandemic.

IMPACTED 361 YOUTH



\$90,000 went to agencies that support Auburn's youth like the Boys and Girls Clubs and Joyland Child Development Center.



\$147,881

FOR HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

We helped 549 people stay in their homes and navigate losing their homes by providing utility, mortgage and rental assistance and connecting them with local agencies who can help provide shelter.

HELPING FAMILIES

More than 136 families have received support through \$55,000 that has gone to agencies like the Family Resource Center, the Domestic Violence Intervention Center and Esperanza House.



FEEDING THE HUNGRY

\$397,060 has gone to the Food Bank of East Alabama and the Auburn Community Development Corporation to feed the food insecure in our area.



(continued) Through support from the City, the Boys and Girls Club was able to buy sanitation stations and hire a dedicated sanitation worker for summer camp and afterschool programs. The Club purchased resources for "Go Kits" that brought the Club to the homes of young people in the community through engaging activities. They even used the funding to create virtual programming for connecting with youth.

At the Food Bank, Executive Director Martha Henk was solving problems of her own. Not only were families struggling with hunger, but many local food pantries were shutting down. At one point, only 29% of the Food Bank's agencies were still open.

"We have had to 'think on our feet' to figure out how to get food out into the community," Henk said.

Receiving grant money from the City allowed the Food Bank to purchase food to meet the increase in need and hire temporary employees to continue operations when volunteers were scarce or completely unavailable. They also rented refrigerated storage space to house large quantities of perishable food bought to feed the community. The Food Bank is expected to receive further funding from the City in the third round of allocations.

By helping distribute grant funding to the community, the Community Services Department is fulfilling its core mission: to preserve and develop a viable community, decent housing and a suitable living environment.

Find more info at auburnalabama.org/community-development.

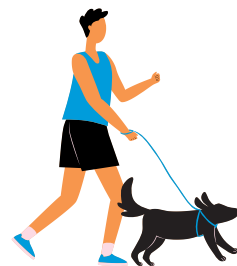


Students from day cares housed at the Boykin Community Center learn about vegetables and gardening at the Veggie Trails garden.

2021 Summer Learning Challenge



Ready to take on the challenge? Sign up for the Summer Learning Challenge with the Auburn Public Library, and read 1,000 minutes in 60 days! The challenge begins June 1 and runs through July 31. If you reach 1,000 minutes, you'll win your choice of either a T-shirt or hoodie and will be entered into the grand prize drawing! Find more information at auburnalabama.org/library or by calling 334-501-3296.



DYK?

AUBURN HAS A LEASH LAW

Here in Auburn, we have an ordinance that requires dog owners to keep their furry friends "under restraint at all times" to keep both the dog and the community safe.

A dog is considered "under restraint" when:

1. The dog is confined to a building, fenced pen or fenced yard on its owner's property or on someone else's property who has given their consent.
2. The dog is on a leash.
3. The dog is tethered on its owner's property or on someone else's property who has given their consent. The dog must not be able to access public property (like a sidewalk or road) or other private property while tethered. Please note, dogs must be properly tethered in accordance with Section 4-17 of the City Code.
4. The dog, while not meeting any of the conditions above, is in a peaceful attitude on the property of its owner and is wearing rabies vaccination tags.

Dogs are allowed to be off leash at our dog parks, including Kiesel Park and Town Creek Park, **only if** the dog is "under immediate and effective voice control" of its owner. Dogs who are not voice trained should be kept on a leash for their safety and for the safety of those around them.

Visit auburnalabama.org/environmental-services/animal-control for more info. Read what the City Code says about restraining and tethering dogs at auburnalabama.org/city-code in Sections 4-16 and 4-17.



Summernight Downtown Art Walk

JUNE 11 • 6-10 P.M.

The SummerNight Downtown Art Walk will be held Friday, June 11, from 6-10 p.m. in downtown Auburn!

Festivities will begin with a Starting Line Party and Parade at Pebble Hill at 5 p.m. Join us downtown at 6 p.m. to peruse works by local artists and enjoy live musical entertainment. There will be children's activities, and everyone is invited to take part in the Love and Lemons culinary contest. Downtown merchants and restaurants will also be open after regular business hours.

Applications are available online for artists, the culinary contest, volunteers and parade participants. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. The event is FREE and will take place rain or shine. Find more info at auburnsummernight.org or call (334) 501-2963.

COVID-19 Note: Attendees will be required to adhere to all COVID-19 regulations in place at the time of the event.

Board & commission vacancies

One vacancy on the Indian Pines Recreation Authority will be announced at the May 4 Auburn City Council Meeting. Applications will be open through May 24. The City Council will make an appointment at its June 1 meeting. Learn more about the authority and find a link to apply at auburnalabama.org/boards.

Back in person: public meetings transition away from Zoom

In April, the Auburn City Council returned to meeting in person after nearly a year of virtual Zoom meetings. Most of our other boards and commissions followed suit and resumed in-person meetings in April and May. City Council, Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Adjustment meetings are livestreamed on the City's Facebook and YouTube (@CityofAuburnAL).

FIND MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS → auburnalabama.org/boards

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JUNE 2021 upcoming events

Open Line is produced by the Office of the City Manager
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<p>6</p> 	<p>7</p>  <p>Planning Commission Packet Meeting Noon Marvel Movie Madness @ 2 p.m. Cemetery Advisory Board 4 p.m. Ward 4 Meeting 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>Summer Serendipity: Dr. Magical Balloons 2 p.m. Historic Preservation Commission 4 p.m.</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>Marvel Movie Madness @ 2 p.m.</p>	<p>10</p>  <p>Planning Commission 5 p.m.</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>City Council Agenda Review Meeting Noon SummerNight Downtown Art Walk @ 6-10 p.m.</p>	<p>12</p>  <p>City Market Town Creek Park @ 8-11 a.m. Marvel Movie Madness @ 2 p.m. USTA Summer Invitational Tennis Tournament</p>
<p>13</p>  <p>USTA Summer Invitational Tennis Tournament</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>Marvel Movie Madness @ 2 p.m.</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>Library Board 10 a.m. Greenspace Advisory Board Noon Summer Serendipity: Captain Dave 2 p.m. Reader's Review Virtual Adult Book Club 5 p.m. Committee of the Whole TBD City Council 7 p.m.</p>	<p>16</p>  <p>Marvel Movie Madness @ 2 p.m.</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>Water Works Board 4 p.m.</p>	<p>18</p> 	<p>19</p>  <p>City Market Town Creek Park @ 8-11 a.m. Marvel Movie Madness @ 2 p.m.</p>
<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p>  <p>Marvel Movie Madness @ 2 p.m.</p>	<p>22</p>  <p>Summer Serendipity: Yasu 2 p.m.</p>	<p>23</p>  <p>Marvel Movie Madness @ 2 p.m.</p>	<p>24</p> 	<p>25</p>  <p>Story Time (in person/virtual) Thursdays @ 9:30 a.m. & 1 p.m. Puppet Shows (in person/virtual) Fridays @ 10:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. Tree Commission 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>26</p>  <p>City Market Town Creek Park @ 8-11 a.m. Day in Clay Dean Road Rec Center @ 1-4 p.m. Marvel Movie Madness @ 2 p.m.</p>
<p>27</p> 	<p>28</p>  <p>Marvel Movie Madness @ 2 p.m.</p>	<p>29</p> 	<p>30</p>  <p>Marvel Movie Madness @ 2 p.m.</p>	<p>31</p>  <p>Programs & events are subject to change. Find up-to-date information at auburnlabama.org.</p>	<p>Background Photo: SummerNight Downtown Art Walk Parade 2 p.m.</p>	