

# Community First

Cotswolds & Oaks Bimonthly Newsletter

JUNE 2021

## Greetings from Your HOA

Dear Residents,

Summer is here! With warmer weather, longer days, and no school we will see an increase in children playing across the neighborhood. I know visibility isn't always the best, so please drive with care as you travel through our streets. We want to keep our kids safe and thank you all for your understanding.

We hope everyone has been enjoying the pools since opening in May. Those of you who have visited the Banbury pool already may have noticed there is new pool furniture. Please remember that furniture should not be walked on or placed in the pool so that we can keep enjoying it for several seasons. We've also repaired the fence and gate locks around the Banbury pool, installed new motion sensor light switches and reprogrammed the locks at Snowhill pool, as well as repaired leaks at both pools that were causing a rise in utility costs. If you notice any other issues around the neighborhood that require attention, we do hope you'll help us address them by notifying the HOA Manager of your concerns.

Lastly, I'd like to remind everyone that we are happy to answer any questions that residents may have. You're welcome to email our HOA Manager questions at any time or if you prefer an in-person discussion, please join us for our bi-monthly board meetings which are open to all residents and held outdoors at Banbury pool.

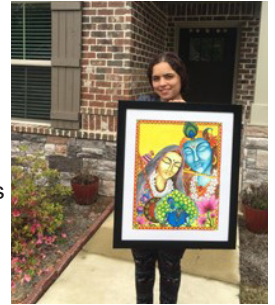
I hope everyone has a fantastic summer!

Lindsey Smith  
HOA President

## Business Showcase: Neighborhood Summer Art Classes

Looking for something for your kids to do this summer that's entertaining, fun, and creative?

Pour some paint, play with clay, and let your kids ideas come alive right in our very own neighborhood. Oaks neighbor, Prachi Bhave, is offering summer art classes for kids ages 6-12 years. There are 2 sessions to choose from or you can go to both. Participants will explore clay art, canvas painting, craft design, etc. There will be hands-on demonstration by Prachi and emphasis will be given to self expression and the use of elements of art. She also offers regular classes every Saturday from 10 am to 11 am and from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.



Prachi received her bachelor's degree in Fine Arts (painting) and Indian classical dance (Bharat Natyam) and a master's degree in industrial design from India where she also worked as a visual art teacher in the elementary schools. Prachi is also a member of the Auburn Arts Association and regularly participates in juried art shows.

The cost for each session is \$50 and includes all art supplies. Session 1 will begin June 7th through June 9th and Session 2 will be June 14th through June 16th. Both sessions will be from 9:30 am - 11:30 am. If interested please email at [ibhave@gmail.com](mailto:ibhave@gmail.com) or text/call at 774-510-0496.

## Save the Date! Neighborhood & Local Events Calendar

**Saturdays in June:** City Market

8:00 am - 11:00 am | Town Creek Park, 1150 S. Gay St., Auburn

**Thurs., June 3rd:** HOA Board Meeting

6:30 p.m. | Banbury pool

**Sat. June 5th:** 7th Annual Burger Wars

11:00 am - 2:00 pm | Downtown Opelika

**Sun., June 6th:** In the Garden with Cyndi

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm | Kreher Preserve & Nature Center  
2222 N. College Street, Auburn

**Fri., June 11th:** Summer Night Downtown Art Walk

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm | Downtown Auburn

**Fri., June 25th:** Summer Movies in the Park (Paddington)

6:30 p.m. - Yard games & food Vendors | 8:30 p.m. Movie Starts  
Municipal Park (Monkey Park), Opelika, AL

**Sat., July 3rd:** Neighborhood Bike Parade

Details to follow soon

**Sun, July 4th:** Annual 4th of July Celebration

8:30 p.m. | Duck Samford Stadium, 1840 East Glenn Ave., Auburn

**Sat., July 10th:** Nature Art Series: Bees

9:00 am - 11:00 am | Kreher Preserve & Nature Center

**Thurs., July 22nd:** HOA Board Meeting

6:30 p.m. | Banbury Pool

**Fri. July 30th:** Summer Movies in the Park (Mary Poppins)

6:30 p.m. yard games & food vendors | 8:30 p.m. Movie starts  
Municipal Park (Monkey Park), Opelika, AL

**Fri., July 30th:** Cheers on the Corner 2021

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm | Downtown Auburn

**\*\* Be on the lookout for emails & Facebook post  
for more Neighborhood Fun Events for this Summer!!**

## Getting to Know Your Neighborhood Covenants:

With spring & summer comes more time outdoors playing, planting & sprucing up our yards. Below are some covenant reminders regarding landscaping & other outdoor requirements and restriction that may be helpful. As always, if you have a question or need clarification OR if you are having a hardship, please email [www.info@cotswoldshoa.org](mailto:www.info@cotswoldshoa.org) and we will be happy to help.

### Article 6.09: Landscaping

(b) Sodding is necessary of the Front, Sides, & Rear of each Lot, unless approved by the ARC as a natural area or unless the same is landscaped with other approved plant life. Shrubbery must be planted in beds, adjacent to house on the Front, Rear, and Sides of each house. The plants must be of a sufficient size to look mature against a high foundation. Each front yard will initially have at least one (1) three inch (3") and up to three (3) three inch (3") caliber trees initially, specified by the ARC planted at pre-approved locations. All plants, size and type will be approved by ARC

(e) **NO** bird baths, fountains, reflectors, flagpoles, statues, lawn sculptures, lawn furnishings, artificial plants, rock gardens, rock walls, bird houses, or other fixtures and accessories shall be placed or installed within the front or side yards of any Lot

(f) Small vegetable, herb, or similar gardens or plants are allowable to be planted and maintained in the rear (back) yard as long as it is behind a fence and not visible from the street.

(h) **NO** Owner shall allow the grass on the Owner's Lot or Dwelling to grow a height in excess of five (5) inches, measured from the surface of the ground.

(i) Seasonal or holiday decorations (e.g. Christmas trees and lights, pumpkins, Easter decorations) shall be promptly removed from each Lot or Dwelling within 15 days as such holiday passes.

### Article 6.15: Fences

Fences are not required, but if a shadowbox fence is built, it must be six feet (6') in height, and must be "stained" inside AND out, with a color specified by the ARC that is standard for the entire development. Other fence material (6' aluminum, etc.) shall be submitted and reviewed by the ARC Board to be approved on a case by case basis. No fences shall be allowed in front yards. Fences may be allowed up to 50% on any side yard nearer the street beyond a line projected from the plane of the rear wall of the Dwelling after submittal and approval is granted by the ARC. Specifications for approved fencing and location approval may be obtained from the ARC Board.

### Article 6.21: Outdoor Furniture, Recreational Facilities, & Clotheslines

(a) **NO** furniture shall be placed, kept, installed, maintained, or located in or on the front or side YARDS or areas of a Lot or Dwelling. Any furniture placed, kept, installed, maintained, or located at the rear of or behind a Dwelling shall, to the greatest extent practicable, be located so that the same shall not be visible from any street.

(c) Children's toys, swing sets, jungle gyms, trampolines, and other outdoor and recreational equipment and appurtenances shall be allowed **ONLY AT THE REAR of a dwelling** and shall, to the extent practicable, be located so that the same are not visible from the street directly in front of the residence of a majority of the view of the equipment is blocked by a fence of such design as approved by the Cotswolds covenants and ARC. In an instance where the residence backyard has a hinderance and said hinderance does not allow the structure to sit in a safe manner, the ARC can provide relief on a case by case review.



Picture taken of Luminaries honoring the life of Price Hornsby, son of Ray & Lee

## Get to know your HOA/ACC Board Members



**Mark Weeks**  
Vice President

**Tell us a little bit about yourself.** My wife, Michele, and I have lived in Auburn for 3 years, along with our five kids, Ava, Harrison, Hudson, Jackson, & Georgia. We own Barberitos Southwest Grill, located in front of the Auburn Mall opposite of Starbucks. We love serving our local community and if you haven't tried us yet, please come by and visit!

### What do you like most about living in Auburn?

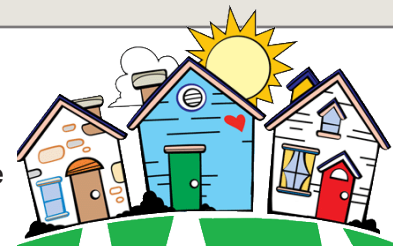
We love the community feel of living in Auburn. We have lived in numerous places all over the country - West Virginia, Georgia, Texas, Pennsylvania - but we feel most home here in Auburn (although we did love our time in all the other places we lived too). We have great friends and love our Cotswolds neighbors.

**Hobbies:** My favorite hobbies are anything our family can do together outside as a family. We enjoy camping, fishing, and the outdoors in general. I love coaching little league sports that my kids are associated with, although I might not be very well versed in all aspects of all sports... spending time with my family is priceless.

**Fun Fact:** I am 6'10! Surprises most people, but yes it is a fact. Also, I have the distinct honor of serving as Chairman of the Board for a non-profit. We own and operate a children's home outside of Nairobi, Kenya. Involving our family in this endeavor over the past 6 years has been a true blessing.

## Got Something You Would Like to

We love knowing more about our neighbors, local business, or just seeing fun neighborhood pictures. If you would like to contribute to our Bimonthly Newsletter please send information or pictures to Jennifer Delmore at [jenniferj@auburn.edu](mailto:jenniferj@auburn.edu)



# Teaching Your Kids About Strangers

Most children understand that a stranger is someone they don't know. But is every person they don't know dangerous? Of course not. The vast majority of strangers aren't sexual abusers; they're simply regular people your child has not met yet. Most children don't need any help understanding who is or isn't a stranger to them. What they need to know is which strangers they should avoid.

One of the first things you should teach your child is that someone's personal appearance is not a good way to judge whether or not they should be considered bad strangers. Children have a tendency to look at friendly, well-dressed, attractive people as always "good" and gruff, imposing, or less attractive people as always "bad." This error in judgement can put a child at a serious disadvantage when approached by a stranger. A child who shies away from a tough-looking police officer but climbs into a vehicle with a smiling person who offers candy and a ride is a child in serious trouble.

## HOW TO AVOID BAD STRANGERS

Often, it's not enough to explain to your children how to tell the difference between a good stranger and a bad stranger. Children need clear, concrete examples and lots of practice before they can successfully use these strategies in the real world. With our child's participation, craft a plan that addresses what to do if you and your child get separated. Point out safe places in stores, parks, neighborhoods, etc. By the same token, help your child to identify what may make another place not as safe (bad lighting, poor visibility,



Take the opportunity to point out good strangers whenever possible. Explain to you child that good strangers may have badges or uniforms that identify them. If they are responsible for other children, that's a good sign that they can be trusted to offer help in an emergency. Role-play with them about what they would do if they are approached by a bad stranger. Help them to craft and practice their responses, which will boost their confidence. Ask "What if" questions to cover different scenarios in which your child may be approached by a stranger. Some examples include:

- What if a stranger asks for help finding a lost puppy?
- What if a stranger in a car says your parents sent him or her to pick you up?
- What if a stranger offers to buy you some ice cream?
- What if you notice that a stranger is following you?

Create a family password, and teach your children that if there is ever an emergency, you won't send someone they don't know to pick them up without also sharing the family password. Encourage your children to listen to their instincts. Emphasize that good strangers will never try to get them away from open, busy places where everyone is welcome. Reassure them that it's okay to kick, scream, hit, bite, or do whatever is necessary to get away from a stranger who tries to grab them or restrain them. Teach them to shout, "This is NOT my mom or dad!" In this case, they should not worry about using "inside voices."

As a parent, your children are counting on you to continue talking about bad strangers as they grow. Encourage them to ask questions and speak honestly with you. This situations in which they encounter strangers will change with each stage of their lives, but the danger never goes away. When you child outgrows the playground, there will be online chat rooms. By keeping the conversation open and ongoing, you can help ensure that your child has the skills and knowledge to avoid dangerous situations now and in the future. ([www.offenderwatchinitiative.org](http://www.offenderwatchinitiative.org))

## LOCAL HAPPENINGS: CITY MARKET — FRESH • LOCAL • HANDMADE

If you are looking for a place to shop fresh, local, and handmade then look no further than your own back door at Auburn's City Market. The Auburn Parks and Recreation Department invite the entire community, growers, and consumers alike, to join in the fun. City Market is held every Saturday in June and July at Town Creek Park from 8:00 am - 11:00 am.

The purpose for creating the City Market is to help local farmers, growers and artists to sell their fresh, local and handmade products to community members. Past participants have included Hornsby Farms, Nellie's Southern Fried Pies, Serenity Farms and Bakery, Heavenly Candy Brittle, and Pecan Point Farm...just to name a few.

To stay up-to-date on all City Market announcements and weekly vendor lists follow them on Facebook and Instagram @CityMarketAuburnAL.



# Meet Your Neighbors: The Hamasha Family

The Hamasha family moved to The Oaks in 2018 with their two girls; Tala is 10 years old, and Tama is 5 years old. Haneen and Sa'd are originally from Jordan. They met in college where they both majored in Biosystems Engineering and then got a master's degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering. In 2011, they moved to the United States to pursue PH.D. in Industrial and Systems Engineering at the State University of New York, where they lived for 4 years. Then, Sa'd moved to work in Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Indiana for one year before he got recruited by Auburn University. Sa'd is a professor at Auburn University where he leads the manufacturing research group at the Industrial Engineering Department. Haneen decided to work in the healthcare quality and process improvement field after a history of cancer. She is currently a professor in the Health Services Administration program at Auburn University.

**What is your favorite thing about Auburn?** The best thing about Auburn is the family atmosphere and all the collaborative community. The community is family-oriented and family-centered, with a great school system, safe parks, and a safe environment in general. And, we have the sweetest police officers.

**What is your favorite dining spot?** We rarely eat outside. We both are pretty good cooks, so we cook at home most of the time. But, Haneen likes Arricia the most, Sa'd likes Hamiltons., and the girls like any junk-food, of course!

**What is your favorite thing about the neighborhood?** The neighborhood diversity. We have neighbors from all around the world. We like that our children are exposed to all the different cultures. We like how the children can play outside together safely. The interaction between the neighbors is unique and everyone is willing to help and support



If you would like to nominate a family for the newsletter, please send your nomination to Jennifer Delmore at [jenniferj@auburn.edu](mailto:jenniferj@auburn.edu). Please be sure to include the family's name, address, and email and anything else you would like to include.

## Neighborhood Out & About: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL PICS

