

PAINT THE TOWN

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Auburn Paints the Town Teal

Auburn will (temporarily) change its colors from blue and orange to teal this week honoring National Gynecologic Cancer Awareness month. Teal-colored ribbons will be displayed throughout the community and a variety of activities are set to promote awareness of this critical health issue affecting mothers, sisters, daughters, wives and girlfriends every day.

Sponsored by Teal Magnolias, an ovarian cancer support group based in Opelika, events will feature a keynote reception on Thursday evening, Sept. 4, 6:00 pm at EAMC Health Resource Center. Guest speaker, Kim Evans, Head Coach of Women's Golf at Auburn University, will recount her own experience as both patient and survivor of ovarian cancer. The public is invited to attend.

Throughout the week, Beard/Eaves Coliseum lit in teal and other colors, recognizing all cancers impacting the community.

“Although the month of September is designated for gynecologic cancers, we want to salute all patients and survivors of this disease,” said Nan Galik, founding member of Teal Magnolias.

“Whether it's breast (pink), colon (dark blue), pancreatic (purple), or lung (white), the color of cancer is a spectrum, reflecting light and hope.”

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In the United States, a woman is diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer every six minutes. It is estimated there will be more than 90,000 new cases diagnosed in the United States this year, resulting in almost 30,000 deaths. Ovarian cancer, the deadliest of all gynecologic cancers, is the 11th most common of all cancers in women and the fifth leading cause of cancer-related death in women. While the relative survival rate is about 44%, survival is much higher for women diagnosed early in their disease.

Other statewide activities commemorating the month include the GYN Cancer Lighting and Awareness Ceremony in Birmingham on Sept. 2 and the *State of Teal* Lighting of the State Capitol in Montgomery on Sept. 6. On Sept. 25, EAMC-Lanier Hospital in Valley will host a women's forum from 12:00 noon—1:15 pm at the Chambers County Bradshaw Library. Guest speakers will include local healthcare professionals who will discuss the diagnosis and treatment of gynecologic cancers.

Sponsored by Oak Bowery United Methodist Church and affiliated with the Parish Nurse program at East Alabama Medical Center, Teal Magnolias is a volunteer-based organization supporting women, their families and friends affected by ovarian and other gynecologic cancers including uterine, cervical, vaginal and vulvar disease.

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“Our mission is to reassure women that the diagnosis of a gynecologic cancer is NOT the end. It’s the beginning of a journey. A journey that doesn’t have to be traveled alone,” Galik said. “Sometimes it helps to talk with somebody who’s already been there.”

For more information on Teal Magnolias or for details about the week’s events, go to [Facebook.com/TealMagnoliasAL](https://www.facebook.com/TealMagnoliasAL) or email TealMagnoliasAL@yahoo.com

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The Color of Cancer ... Local volunteers will *Paint the Town Teal* the first week of September. Ribbons will be displayed throughout Auburn-Opelika, Chambers County and the Valley area recognizing National Gynecologic Cancer Awareness month. A reception featuring AU Women’s Golf Coach and cancer survivor, Kim Evans, will be hosted Thursday, Sept. 4 at EAMC Health Resource Center beginning at 6:00 pm. The public is invited to attend.