



Members of the Scarboro 85 from left to right: Emma McCaskill, Mary Ellen Mahoney Bohanon, Alma Stevens, Eloise Mitchell and L.C. “Larry” Gipson help at the Scarboro 85 monument groundbreaking at A.K. Bissell Park in Oak Ridge on Sept. 3. The monument honors 85 students who were part of the first schools in the Southeast to integrate in 1955 after the Brown vs. Board of Education decision to end segregation in schools. PHOTOS BY ANGELINA ALCANTAR/ NEWS SENTINEL

\$5.6M Scarboro 85 monument underway

Honors Oak Ridge students who made history desegregating schools

Donna Smith

The Oak Ridger
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

A groundbreaking for the \$5.6 million Scarboro 85 Monument was held Thursday, Sept. 3. It comes 71 years since 85 Black students from Scarboro School walked into two all-white Oak Ridge schools and made history.

Sept. 6, 1955 was the day the students walked into Oak Ridge High School and Robertsville Junior High School, now called Robertsville Middle School. They were the first to desegregate schools in the Southeast following the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision *Brown vs. Board of Education* that ordered the integration of the nation's public schools.

The 12 Black students who integrated Clinton High School in the nearby Anderson County school system would do so a year later and face protests and violence

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Attendees walk past a sign at the Scarboro 85 monument groundbreaking at A.K. Bissell Park in Oak Ridge on Sept. 3.

'90s bands to headline Oak Ridge Atomic Fall Fest on Sept. 12

The Oak Ridger
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Atomic Fall Fest is set for Saturday, Sept. 12, at A.K. Bissell Park. This is the second year for the festival, which will include live music, free family activities, arts and crafts vendors, food trucks and more.

The festival is free, but you'll need to purchase a ticket if you want to rock at Saturday night's concert. The concert lineup features three alternative-rock acts that enjoyed national success in the late 1990s and early 2000s: The Verve Pipe, best known for the song "The Freshmen"; Tonic, known for "If You Could Only See"; and Vertical Horizon, whose hits include "Everything You Want."

Tickets for the concert are \$25 at the festival or \$26.90 online at atomic-fallfest.com/tickets.

"We are bringing back a full slate of free, kid-friendly activities for this year's Atomic Fall Fest," Atomic Fall Fest Executive Director Jon Hetrick said in a city news release. "We will have attractions for children of all ages, like bounce houses, face painting, and splatter painting, while teens and older kids can try the rock-climbing wall, a bungee jump, sports, and more."

According to city government information, here's the schedule for Saturday:

● **10 a.m.** – Festival opens with free kids' activities, food trucks, and local dance performances from Creative Edge Dance Studio

● **Noon** – Opening ceremony in the main field with the Oak Ridge High School Dance Cats

- **5 p.m.** – Concert gates open
- **6 p.m.** – The Verve Pipe opens the show, with Tonic and Vertical Horizon co-headlining

Festival-goers can look forward to a wide variety of attractions and entertainment:

- **Arts and Crafts Show:** Browse through the dozens of artisan vendors in the parking lot in front of the Oak Ridge Senior Center

• **Lactation Station and Sensory Safe Space:** A cool, private space is reserved in the Oak Ridge Senior Center for East Tennessee Lactation's Lactation Station and parent changing tables; Xander's Place is also hosting their sensory safe space for young

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