



# Open Line

a newsletter for you, our residents

## Griffin announced as new City Engineer



The City of Auburn is pleased to welcome Michael Griffin as Auburn's new city engineer and director of the Engineering Services Department, effective Feb. 16.

Griffin joins the City with nearly 20 years of experience in civil engineering in both the public and private sectors.

Before coming to Auburn, Griffin spent the past seven years as city engineer in Athens, Alabama. His career also includes roles as city engineer in Madison, Alabama; civil engineer for the Alabama Department of Transportation in Mobile, Alabama; and project manager for a private engineering firm in Athens, Alabama.

"Michael's extensive experience coordinating with regional agencies, contractors and city departments, along with his expertise in engineering management will be valuable assets to the Auburn community," said City Manager Megan McGowen Crouch. "I look forward to welcoming Michael to our team and have no doubt he will lead Engineering Services well as Auburn continues to grow and thrive."

Griffin began his career with ALDOT, where he built a foundation for skills he would continue to develop in design, project management, team management and contract negotiation. After eight years with the state, life led him and his family to north Alabama to be near his wife's family. He spent three years with a private engineering firm, working closely with the City of Athens, before he made the move to work directly for Athens as its city engineer.

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## Auburn ranked No. 10 Best-Performing Small City

Auburn ranked No. 10 on the Milken Institute's list of the 2026 Best-Performing Small Cities, which tracked the relative performance of 411 metropolitan areas across the United States. Auburn was the highest-ranked small Alabama city on the list, which appeared in the institute's annual Best-Performing Cities report.

The Milken Institute's Best-Performing Cities report "reflects the metropolitan areas' capacity to sustain strong labor market growth and an environment that fosters innovation, while maintaining high livability standards." Cities are ranked based on 13 metrics that combine labor market conditions, high-tech impact and access to economic opportunities.

Auburn maintained the No. 10 spot for the second year in a row, after gaining four positions from its 2024 ranking. To read more, visit [openline.auburnalabama.org](https://openline.auburnalabama.org)

**(ENGINEER, CONT.)** In Athens, Griffin designed and managed various infrastructure projects to improve safety and efficiency of intersections and roadways, including multiple roundabouts throughout town, a two-mile road widening project on a key corridor in the city, and the construction of a new collector road to provide relief to heavily travelled corridors in town.

Another major capital project led by Griffin was the design and construction of a 180-foot pedestrian bridge leading to the City's sportsplex, making a high-priority connection for pedestrians and alleviating safety concerns that had existed for years.

Griffin is a proponent of community engagement and awareness, recently leading an initiative to manage work being conducted in neighborhoods by outside agencies, like utility companies, to better inform citizens. Griffin also picked up experience in planning, public works and economic development while working in Athens, playing a key role in Buc-ee's opening at the Athens exit off I-65. He and his department coordinated site prep, the addition of three traffic signals for the development and the construction of a new city street.

Griffin has a passion for working in local government where he believes the biggest impact can be made to the everyday lives of community members.

"The level of fulfillment working with people at the local government level is unmatched; the things we do can have an almost immediate effect," Griffin said. "I am honored and thrilled to be a part of the City of Auburn. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the high quality of life that Auburn residents enjoy."

Stepping into his position at Auburn, Griffin is poised to seek opportunities for infrastructure expansion as the city continues to grow and looks forward to working in tandem with other departments to set Auburn up for continued success.

Griffin will live in Auburn with his wife, Megan, and their 11-year-old daughter, Rylin.



## Spring into April with CityFest and more!

Auburn springs to life this April with a full lineup of community favorites, starting with the 25th annual **Auburn CityFest** on **April 25, from 9 a.m.–4 p.m.** at Kiesel Park. This year brings the Pirates of the Colombian Caribbean, live music, children's activities, food trucks, and more than 100 arts, crafts, fine arts, and nonprofit vendors. The festival is **FREE**, held rain or shine, and supported by our Community sponsor: Four Seasons Federal Credit Union.

Community spirit takes center stage earlier in the month with **Cops on Top** on **April 10**. Officers from Auburn Police, Opelika Police, and the Lee County Sheriff's Office will be at the Dean Road Kroger and Tiger Town Kroger collecting donations for Special Olympics. Some officers will even take to the rooftops while athletes greet shoppers and share their stories.

Music lovers can enjoy an evening outdoors at **Orchestra on the Hill** on **April 28**, at **7 p.m.** The Auburn Community Orchestra will perform at Pebble Hill, offering a relaxed, open air concert.

Young athletes can dive into the season at the **Youth Splash n Dash** on **April 18**. Kids ages 6–12 will take on a 200 yard swim followed by a 2K run. The race begins at 7 a.m., with packet pickup and course details shared on April 3 at the Lake Wilmore Park Recreation Center. Registration is \$30.

## A reminder about Auburn's leash law

Did you know Auburn has a leash law? City Code states that dog owners should keep their dogs "under restraint at all times" for the safety of both the dog and our community.

What does "under restraint" mean? A dog is considered under restraint when:

1. The dog is confined in a building, fenced pen or fenced yard on its owner's property or on the property of another person with their consent.
2. The dog is leashed.
3. The dog is tethered — in accordance with section 4-17 — on its owner's property or on the property of another person with the other person's permission. The dog must be tethered so that it cannot access public property or other private property.
4. The dog, though not meeting any of the conditions above, is in a peaceful attitude on the property of its owner and is wearing rabies vaccination tags.

We have designated a few dog parks in Auburn where well-behaved pups are allowed to be off leash, including Kiesel Park, Town Creek Park and Dinius Park. Dogs may **ONLY** be off leash if they are "under immediate and effective voice control" of their owners. Dogs who aren't voice trained should be kept leashed for everyone's safety.

More details can be found at [auburnal.gov/environmental-services/animal-control](http://auburnal.gov/environmental-services/animal-control).



## Multi-use path regulations

Be mindful of City laws when using one of our multi-use paths around town! See the highlights below and find more information plus tips for multi-use path etiquette online at [auburnal.gov/multiuse-paths](http://auburnal.gov/multiuse-paths).

### NO PARKING ON THE PATH.

Vehicles are NOT allowed on the path & can NOT be parked on any part of the multi-use path at any time. This keeps the path unobstructed and safe for users! Vehicles in violation may be ticketed.

### MULTIPLE WAYS TO TRAVEL.

The paths support two-way travel by users. Allowed are pedestrians, wheelchairs & other mobility devices, bicycles, skates, skateboards, kick-scooters, electric bicycles & scooters.

### MULTI-USE PATH DEFINED.

A multi-use path is now defined in City Code. These paths are physically separated from the roadway and are more than 5 feet wide to support multiple modes of transportation.

### NO VEHICLES ALLOWED.

Multi-use paths are designed for multiple modes of transportation with the exception of motorized vehicles. This means no golf carts, low-speed vehicles, cars or motorized vehicles of any kind.

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# APRIL 2026

## upcoming events

Open Line is produced by the  
Office of the City Manager  
334.501.7268 | [openline@auburnal.gov](mailto:openline@auburnal.gov)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

**Awesome Art**  
Wednesdays | 4 p.m.  
**Untidy Tales**  
Wednesdays | 1 p.m.  
**Baby's First Story Time**  
Wednesdays | 9:30 a.m.  
**Board of Zoning Adjustment**  
Tuesdays | 4:30 p.m.  
**Eggcellent Easter Scavenger Hunt**  
All Day

**Teen Dungeons & Dragons**  
Thursdays | 6 p.m.  
**Lullabies for Little Ones**  
Thursdays | 11 p.m.  
**Toddler Tales**  
Thursdays | 9:30 a.m.  
**City Council Agenda Review Meeting**  
Thursdays | 4 p.m.

**Puppet Show**  
Fridays | 9:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.  
**Tree Commission**  
Thursdays | 11:30 a.m.

**Family Storytime**  
Saturdays | 10:30 a.m.  
**Movers & Shakers**  
Saturdays | 10:30 a.m.  
**Untidy Tales**  
Saturdays | 10:30 a.m.  
**46th Annual Easter Egg Hunt**  
Duck Samford Park | 9 a.m.

**Awesome Art**  
Wednesdays | 4 p.m.  
**Untidy Tales**  
Wednesdays | 1 p.m.  
**Baby's First Story Time**  
Wednesdays | 9:30 a.m.  
**Special Olympics Track Meet**  
Auburn University Track | All Day

**Teen Game Night**  
Thursdays | 6 p.m.  
**Lullabies for Little Ones**  
Thursdays | 11 p.m.  
**Stress Management Series**  
Thursdays | 10 a.m.  
**Toddler Tales**  
Thursdays | 9:30 a.m.  
**Planning Commission**  
Thursdays | 5 p.m.

**Puppet Show**  
Fridays | 9:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.  
**Cops on Top**  
All Day

**Family Storytime**  
Saturdays | 10:30 a.m.  
**Movers & Shakers**  
Saturdays | 10:30 a.m.  
**Untidy Tales**  
Saturdays | 10:30 a.m.  
**Perfect Game Super Regional**  
All Day

**Awesome Art**  
Wednesdays | 4 p.m.  
**Untidy Tales**  
Wednesdays | 1 p.m.  
**Baby's First Story Time**  
Wednesdays | 9:30 a.m.

**Teen Dungeons & Dragons**  
Thursdays | 6 p.m.  
**Lullabies for Little Ones**  
Thursdays | 11 p.m.  
**Toddler Tales**  
Thursdays | 9:30 a.m.  
**City Council Agenda Review Meeting**  
Thursdays | 4 p.m.

**Puppet Show**  
Fridays | 9:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.

**Family Storytime**  
Saturdays | 10:30 a.m.  
**Movers & Shakers**  
Saturdays | 10:30 a.m.  
**Untidy Tales**  
Saturdays | 10:30 a.m.  
**Youth Splash-n-Dash**  
Lakes Wilmore Park Recreation Center | 7:30 a.m.

**Awesome Art**  
Wednesdays | 4 p.m.  
**Untidy Tales**  
Wednesdays | 1 p.m.  
**Baby's First Story Time**  
Wednesdays | 9:30 a.m.

**Teen Game Night**  
Thursdays | 6 p.m.  
**Lullabies for Little Ones**  
Thursdays | 11 p.m.  
**Toddler Tales**  
Thursdays | 9:30 a.m.  
**Water Works Board**  
Thursdays | 4 p.m.  
**CityFest Art Show**  
Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center | All Day  
**Doubles Camp**  
Yarborough Tennis Center | All Day

**Puppet Show**  
Fridays | 9:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.  
**Doubles Camp**  
Yarborough Tennis Center | All Day  
**CityFest**  
Kiesel Park | All Day

**Family Storytime**  
Saturdays | 10:30 a.m.  
**Movers & Shakers**  
Saturdays | 10:30 a.m.  
**Untidy Tales**  
Saturdays | 10:30 a.m.  
**Doubles Camp**  
Yarborough Tennis Center | All Day  
**CityFest**  
Kiesel Park | All Day

**Awesome Art**  
Wednesdays | 4 p.m.  
**Untidy Tales**  
Wednesdays | 1 p.m.  
**Baby's First Story Time**  
Wednesdays | 9:30 a.m.

**Teen Game Night**  
Thursdays | 6 p.m.  
**Lullabies for Little Ones**  
Thursdays | 11 p.m.  
**Royal Tea Party**  
Thursdays | 10 a.m.  
**Toddler Tales**  
Thursdays | 9:30 a.m.

**Auburn Public Library**  
[auburnal.gov/library](http://auburnal.gov/library)  
**City Meetings**  
[auburnal.gov/boards](http://auburnal.gov/boards)  
**Parks & Recreation**  
[auburnal.gov/parks](http://auburnal.gov/parks)  
**Citywide Events**  
[auburnal.gov](http://auburnal.gov)

**Programs & events are subject to change.**  
**Find up-to-date information at [auburnal.gov](http://auburnal.gov).**