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Monday, October 13, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Athens City Council to Review City Hall Expansion, Zoning Changes Monday



The Athens City Council will hold a work session Monday, October 13, at 5 p.m. to discuss a range of city projects and ordinances.

Major items include plans for City Hall renovations and expansion, and the sale of city-owned property on Tellico Avenue. Council will also hold public hearings and readings on several ordinances, including one to rezone property at 2201 Decatur Pike for residential use and another updating floodplain management regulations to maintain eligibility in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Other business includes storm water code amendments, bid awards for HVAC replacements at Fire Station #2 and City Hall, and a new electronic gate at Regional Park.

The meeting will take place at the Athens Municipal Building and is open to the public.

Community News You Can Use

- The 9th Annual Idea Leap Grant competition, hosted by TVFCU, is now accepting applications from small business owners across the region. A total of \$225,000 in grants will be awarded, with individual businesses eligible to win up to \$30,000. Eligible applicants must be for-profit businesses with 2–25 employees, annual revenue of \$2.5 million or less, and at least 12 months of operation within TVFCU's 17-county service area. Applications are open until Monday, October 27, at 5 p.m. ET. For full eligibility details, rules, FAQs, and the application link, visit tvfcu.com/idealeap.
- The City of Athens Public Works Department announces the following street notice: The following streets will be occupied by runners, walkers, and spectators from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 25, 2025: Jackson Street, Washington Avenue, Madison Avenue, McMinn Avenue, Elizabeth Street, Keith Lane, Crestway Drive, and S. White Street. The purpose of this notice is for the Costumes for CASA 5K.

Monday - Bicentennial Park 5:30-8:30ish
Tue-Closed

- Wed-Etowah Across from Johnsons-10:30 - 2
- Thu-Athens Family Dollar near Ingles 10:30 - 2
- Thu PM-Decatur Kickin it for kids 5-8ish
- Fri-Sweetwater-Little Drugs-10:30 - 2:30

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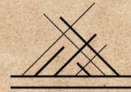
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Monday, Oct. 13, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

Jeep Catches Fire on County Road 213 Friday Afternoon



A early 2000's model Jeep Wrangler caught fire on Friday, October 10, around 3 p.m. on County Road 213. Firefighters from Athens Rural, Niota Rural, and Clearwater Rural Fire Departments responded quickly to the scene.

No injuries were reported. Chuck Burris with Athens Fire Department was in charge of the scene.

Photo by Christian Willis

One Injured in Rollover Crash Near Niota Thursday Night



A woman was injured Thursday night, October 9, after her 2001 Dodge pickup overturned on Highway 11 near County Road 324 in Niota.

According to reports, the southbound truck dropped off the right side of the road, then overcorrected, crossing the highway and overturning. The female driver was transported by ambulance to a local hospital for treatment.

Niota Rural Fire, North McMinn Rural Fire, Athens Rural Fire, and AMR responded to the scene, with Christian Willis of Niota Fire Department in command. Tennessee Highway Patrol Trooper Jaylon Skipper is investigating the crash.

Photos by David Prater, Niota Rural FD

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Monday, Oct. 13, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3

Athens, Tennessee

State Officials Urge Caution as Tennessee Enters Wildfire Season



With Tennessee's annual wildfire season underway and National Fire Prevention Week being observed, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry (TDF) is reminding residents to practice safe burning and obtain the required burn permits beginning October 15.

State Forester Heather Slayton said Tennessee averages about 1,000 wildland fires each year, burning roughly 18,000 acres, with more than 90% caused by humans. She noted that extra debris from Hurricane Helene could increase fire risks this season. "Getting a burn permit, burning safely, and avoiding risky activity can greatly reduce wildfire danger," Slayton said.

Burn permits help the Division of Forestry monitor when and where it is safe to burn. They are free and available online at www.BurnSafeTN.org or through the MyTN mobile app, issued daily from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. local time. Burning without a permit is a Class C misdemeanor, and leaving a fire unattended is a Class B misdemeanor. Fires must be fully extinguished by the time the permit expires.

Residents without internet access can call 877-350-BURN (2876) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central. Officials encourage online applications due to high call volume. Those living within city limits should check local ordinances before burning and are urged to consider non-burning options for disposing of yard or storm debris. Information about burning restrictions and materials that are illegal to burn is available at www.tn.gov/environment/air/open-burning.html, or by calling 1-888-891-TDEC to report illegal burning. For more tips on safe burning and wildfire prevention, visit www.BurnSafeTN.org or follow @TNWildlandFire on social media.

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

10-9-25

Caitlin Spain, 26 of Athens, charged with failure to appear for Schedule II fentanyl, Bond \$14,000

Frank Simony, 28 of Decatur, charged with felony aggravated assault in Meigs County.

Randy Cagle, 35 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for theft of property \$1000 to \$2500.

Joshua Taylor, 37, of Muscatine, Iowa, charged with violation of probation for driving on a suspended license, third offense, Bond \$5,089.75.

Juan Gabriel, 38 of Athens, charged with driving without a license.

Destin Wenger, 18 of Athens, charged with failure to appear for possession of marijuana, Bond \$4,000

10-10-25

Robin Harden, 45 of Englewood, charged with violation of probation for DUI, Bond \$774.95

Carrie Scherber, 53 of Calhoun, charged with violation of probation for fraudulent use of a credit card, and possession of meth, Bond \$3,500

Jeffrey Ridges, 58 of Etowah, charged with failure to appear for drug paraphernalia, Bond \$2,000

Kenyon Eaton, 18 of Madisonville, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$1,000

Anthony Berchard, 39 of Soddy Daisy, charged with driving without a license, driving on a suspended license, and speeding.

Michael McCready, 39 of Sweetwater, charged with DUI second offense, Bond \$4,000

**Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.
Information gathered using public sources.**

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Monday, Oct. 13, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Hershell Paul McMillan, age 80, of Athens, died Friday morning. Paul was a US Army Vietnam Veteran. Paul was retired from the US Post Office as a mail carrier for 34 years. Funeral services will be 1:30 PM Monday, October 13, 2025, at Woodward Avenue Church of God. Burial will follow in Cedar Grove Cemetery with Military Honors. The family will receive friends Monday at Woodward Avenue Church of God from 12:00 PM until 1:30 PM prior to the service. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Hershell Paul McMillan.

Collen Brown, 67, formerly of Etowah, passed away on Tuesday October 7 in Knoxville, TN. Survivors and funeral services to be announced. M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home and Cremation Service entrusted with funeral arrangements.

Bonnie Jean Daniels Spears, 81 of Decatur, passed away on Thursday, October 9 at her home, surrounded by her family. She attended Bethel Springs Baptist Church. A Celebration of Life will be held on Tuesday, October 14 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Spears family.

Avery Eugene Jackson, passed away on Thursday October 10 at his residence in Oak Ridge. Survivors and arrangements to be announced. M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home and Cremation Service entrusted with funeral arrangements.

We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, sports results or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to: wyxiradio@gmail.com



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