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**Monday, October 6, 2025**

**Page 1**

**Athens, Tennessee**

## Athens Planning Commission to Review New Subdivisions and Annexation Plan



The Athens Municipal-Regional Planning Commission will meet at noon on Monday, October 6, in the conference room at City Hall to consider several subdivision plats and an annexation plan for properties within the city's growing residential areas.

Among the items on the agenda are final plat approvals for two developments and preliminary approval for a larger proposed subdivision off Lee Drive.

Mesana Investments LLC is seeking final plat approval for an 8.43-acre property off Shadows Lawn Drive that would include 40 residential lots. Chester Leroy and Regina Brown are also requesting final plat approval for property located at the corner of West College Street and Thompson Street, combining six existing lots into a single 0.8-acre parcel.

In new business, Riverstone Construction has submitted a preliminary plat for a proposed 65-lot subdivision on a 22.2-acre tract located off Lee Drive. Commissioners will also hold a public hearing and consider a recommendation for the plan of services related to the annexation of a remaining 2.35-acre portion of the same property.

The meeting will include opportunities for public comments, petitions, and requests from the audience.


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Monday, Oct. 06, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

## AUB celebrates National Public Natural Gas Week & Public Power Week October 5-11



Athens Utilities Board (AUB) will join utilities across the country in celebrating Public Natural Gas Week and Public Power Week, October 5–11, 2025. These annual nationwide events highlight the value of community-owned natural gas and electric utilities and their role in providing safe, reliable, and affordable services.

**Athens Utilities Board** Across the United States, about 1,000 public natural gas systems serve more than 6 million customers, and nearly 2,000 community-powered, not-for-profit electric utilities deliver power to 49 million Americans.

“This year, AUB is focusing on innovation and partnerships that help us continue providing reliable, affordable, and sustainable services to our customers,” said Eric Newberry, AUB General Manager. “We are committed to building for the future while keeping our customers at the center of everything we do.”

“Because we operate right here in Athens and serve our friends and neighbors, we understand the importance of excellent customer service, energy efficiency, safety, and reliability,” said Amy McDonald of AUB. “We’re proud to power and fuel our community in ways that strengthen families, businesses, and quality of life.”

Athens Utilities Board thanks the community for its continued trust and support. Follow AUB on social media throughout the week as we celebrate the benefits of public natural gas and public power. Together, we look forward to a strong and sustainable future.



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Monday, Oct. 06, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## Lot to See, Do and Experience at Pumpkintown



**PUMPKINTOWN**

If you're looking for something to do on Saturday, October 11th, look no further than Pumpkintown in beautiful downtown Athens, Tennessee!

Pumpkintown has become one of the region's favorite fall festivals in the last 22 years and this year will be no different! Live entertainment will be presented on three stages with a variety of performers to please all ages starting at 10:00 a.m. and lasting until 5:00 p.m.

Kicking off the day at 11:00 a.m. at the Market Pavilion Stage will be The Greystone Drive Band followed by the Humane Society's Pet Costume Contest winners announcement at 12:30. Short Leach will take the stage at 1:00 p.m. and Scenic City Sound will perform at 3:00 p.m.

Be sure to check out the Pumpkin House constructed by Mayfield Farm Park at Knight Park where you will also find Misfits Petting Zoo and pumpkin painting at The Arts Center. Lots of opportunities for photo ops at Knight Park!

Inspirations Dance Studio will perform three sets at the East Madison Stage at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. along with a couple of line dance demonstrations by the YMCA.

Jim Brooks and his grandson Rafe Paul will open on the Courthouse Steps Stage at 10:15 a.m. and will be followed by Nina Ricci at 11:00 a.m. Tom Cordle will perform from 12:00 -1:00 p.m. and a live auction to benefit Hiking for Healing will be conducted by Dr. John Forgety at 1:00 p.m. Josh Gilbert will take the stage at 2:00 p.m. and Jim Brooks will close out the day from 3:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Pumpkintown is a free to the public production by Friendly City Festivals made possible by the following sponsors: The City of Athens Tourism Fund, McMinn County Tourism Board, VEC Customer Shares, Tennessee Overhill, Tennessee Arts Commission, Citizens National Bank of Sevier County, Athens Insurance, DENSO, Madison Avenue Pharmacy, Athens Kiwanis Club, Simmons Bank, Simmons Wealth Management Group, Starr Regional Medical Center, Warren Jackson CPAs, Valley Oil, Kona Ice, Pendleton's Playground, The Retirement Guys, Tonya Phenix Senior Insurance and Mayfield Dairy Farm.

Special thanks to media support from The Morning Fax, The Athens Area Chamber of Commerce, The Daily Post Athenian, Mix 104.1 and 3 Rivers Radio Group.

For more information, please contact Meredith Willson at 423/887-3544 or by email: [meredithw2009@comcast.net](mailto:meredithw2009@comcast.net).

Their website is [friendlycityfestivals.com/pumpkintown](http://friendlycityfestivals.com/pumpkintown)



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Monday, Oct. 06, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## Community News You Can Use

- The City of Athens Public Works Department announces the following street closure: The areas to be affected are JACKSON STREET from Green Street to Washington Avenue and MADISON AVENUE from White Street to Green Street. These closures will be on Saturday, October 18, from 4:00p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Motorists are advised to use extreme caution and watch for traffic signage, workers, and pedestrians. The purpose of this closing is for the Athens Travelers Car Club Cruise-In event.
- Yesterday, WYXI Radio celebrated a remarkable milestone — **59 years of continuous radio broadcasting** in McMinn County! Since first signing on the air **October 5, 1966**, WYXI has been a familiar voice for generations of listeners, making it the **longest continuously operating radio station in McMinn County**. Broadcasting on **FM 94.5 and AM 1390**, WYXI continues its proud tradition of sharing uplifting **Southern Gospel music** and local programming. The station is home to listener favorites like **Burke's Gospel Jubilee** every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and the **Trading Post Morning Show** on weekdays at 8:30 a.m. Congratulations to WYXI for 59 years of service, faith, and community connection — and here's to many more years on the air!

## McMinn County Arrest Reports

### 10-2-25

**Allen Pittman**, 30 of Athens, charged with public intoxication, disorderly conduct, drug paraphernalia, and schedule six drugs, Bond \$7,500  
**Nathan Frasier**, 43 of Madisonville, charged with Manufacturing, Selling, Delivery, and Possession of a Controlled Substance, Bond \$30,000

**Nathaniel Leverett**, 46, of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for theft of property \$2500 to \$10,000

**Madison Robertson**, 23 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for possession of Schedule II meth, casual exchange and possession of meth, Bond \$9,148

**Amber DeSette**, 51 of Athens, charged with DUI, Bond \$1,000

**Albert McCowan**, 63 of Niota, charged with domestic aggravated assault, Bond \$15,000

### 10-3-25

**Patricia Self**, 59 of Athens, charged with DUI, Bond \$2,000

**Kayla Harris**, 32 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for possession of meth, Bond \$2,676.90

**Melissa King**, 60 of Athens, charged with shoplifting, and theft of property under \$1,000, Bond \$1,000

**Dante Johnson**, 34 of Etowah, charged with failure to appear for drug paraphernalia and state violation of probation, 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. 06, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

**Billy Joe Millsaps**, 87 of Delano, passed away on Friday, October 3. Joe was of the Christian faith, and was saved as a young man. He was a veteran of the Korean War having served the war effort in the United States Air Force. Joe retired from the Ironworkers 704 of Chattanooga. He was deeply committed to his community, coaching Rural Vale baseball and Tellico Youth football for many years. He was also an active member of AMVets Post 100 in Etowah. Funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Monday, October 6, in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. Family will receive friends from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., Monday prior to the service. Interment will follow the service in Brown Hill Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

**Charles L. Billingsley 'Lukey'**, 69, passed on Friday October 3, at a health facility in Knoxville. Survivors and funeral arrangements to be announced by M.D. Dotson and Sons Funeral Home of Athens, TN.

**Daniel "Duke" Russell**, 78 of Englewood, passed away on Friday, October 3, in the comfort of his home surrounded by his family and friends. He was a member of East View Baptist Church. Duke started buying and selling vehicles at the young age of sixteen and owned and operated his own car dealership for sixty years. Funeral service will be held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 7, in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday prior to the service. Family and friends will assemble at Bordwine Funeral Home Wednesday, October 8th at 10:00 a.m. and go in procession to Sunrise Cemetery for the 11:00 a.m. committal service. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

**George Watkins**, 83 of Etowah, passed away surrounded by family in his home on Saturday, October 4. George was a member of New Zion Baptist Church of Etowah. He was an avid hunter, and a member of Buck Creek Hunting Club. Funeral service will be held at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 8, in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday prior to the service. Family and friends will assemble at Bordwine Funeral Home at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, October 9 and go in procession to New Zion Baptist Church Cemetery for the committal service. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.



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