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Free Community Lunch Planned in Athens to Celebrate Extension Month



Residents are invited to enjoy a free lunch this week as UT Extension celebrates Extension Month across Tennessee.

The "Brunch-Lunch" event will take place Friday, March 20, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the UT

Extension Office, located at 2345 Denso Drive in Athens. The event is open to the public and free for all attendees.

March is recognized statewide as Extension Month, highlighting the impact of UT Extension, the outreach and engagement arm of the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture. The program connects communities with research-based education in areas such as agriculture, family and consumer sciences, youth development, and natural resources.

With nearly 300 county Extension agents serving all 95 counties in Tennessee, along with 136 subject-matter specialists, UT Extension works to bring university research directly into local communities. The program is part of a nationwide Cooperative Extension System supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and land-grant universities.

Local officials say the event is an opportunity not only to enjoy a meal, but also to recognize the role Extension programs play in improving quality of life across the region.

Community members are encouraged to stop by, learn more about available programs, and help celebrate Extension Month.

Source: Stacye Heath, UT Extension - McMinn County

What is GYB?

G.Y.B.
/dʒi- wai- bee/

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Thursday, March 19, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

15th Annual United Way "Power of the Purse" Fundraiser



UNITED WAY
McMinn and
Meigs Counties

United Way of McMinn and Meigs Counties will host its 15th annual "Power of the Purse" fundraiser on Thursday, March 26, bringing an evening of entertainment and philanthropy to the community.

The event will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. at The Barn at Faith Farms, with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. Proceeds from the fundraiser support United Way's ongoing efforts to serve residents across McMinn and Meigs counties.

Attendees can expect a variety of activities, including a silent auction featuring designer purses, dinner, and interactive games such as "Who Are You" and "What's In Your Purse?" The popular "Twice New Room," offering gently used purses and jewelry, will also return, along with a punch bowl drawing.

Tickets are \$40 each, while sponsored tables of eight start at \$350. Event T-shirts are also available for pre-order for \$20. Organizers note that the punch bowl drawing will be cash only, and donations for the Compassion Closet must be new items.

Organizers encourage community members to purchase tickets in advance and "mark their calendars" for the annual event, which continues to be a signature fundraiser supporting local programs and services.

Community News You Can Use

- The Athens Utilities Board Budget and Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for today, Thursday, March 19 at 11:30 a.m.
- The Athens Area Council for the Arts has opened registration for a variety of art classes and its free youth art club, The Studio (ages 11-17), which meets monthly and explores painting, drawing, sculpture and more. Upcoming sessions are March 23 (4-5:30 p.m.) and April 25 (2-3:30 p.m.). Participants should register at least three days in advance; sign up online at athensartscouncil.org/classes (fees apply) or call 423-745-8781 to register without a fee.
- The City of Athens Parks & Recreation Department has announced that the Annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled to take place at Athens Regional Park on Saturday, March 28 at 11:30 am. The hunt will be for children ages 12 and under. The event will be split by age groups 0-5 and 6-12.



Museum Hours:

Tuesday - Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM
Saturday: 10 AM - 1 PM
Sunday - Monday: Closed

Admission:

Adults: \$5.00
Senior 60+: \$3.00
Students: \$3.00

More Information

522 W Madison Ave.
Athens, TN 37303
423-745-0329

www.livingheritagemuseum.org

Upcoming Spring Events

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MARCH 28TH AT 11:00 AM
\$5 OR FREE WITH MEMBERSHIP.

History for Lunch:
The Bill of Rights Part 2 and selected amendments with Director Brett King
March 26th at Noon
Free Admission

Programs sponsored by C. Scott & Muriel S. Mayfield Family Foundation, Tennessee Arts Commission, Hugh M. Willson Family Foundation, and City of Athens

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SAT APRIL 25: 10 AM - 3 PM
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**10 AM- 2PM
MARCH 26, 2026**




Thursday, March 19, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

Athens City Council Highlights Student Recognition, Grants, and Zoning Change



The Athens City Council met Tuesday, March 17, approving multiple grant applications, recognizing community contributions, and addressing new business items during its regular session.

Following routine opening procedures and approval of minutes, council members heard several presentations. Crystal Sutton of Morning Pointe was honored with the VIVID (Very Important Volunteer Individual) Award by Vice Mayor Jordan Curtis after raising \$65,000 for scholarships. Curtis also highlighted the "Our Town, Our Tales" project, a student-led effort celebrating the community through a handwritten book that will be preserved at the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum.

Mayor Larry Eaton provided a recap of the recent "Be Pro, Be Proud" truck event held at Athens Middle School and McMinn County High School, where students explored careers in the trucking industry through hands-on demonstrations.

All items on the consent agenda were approved, including resolutions authorizing the city to apply for several grants through agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Tennessee

Department of Health. These include funding opportunities for fire services, community development, park improvements, and traffic signal modernization.

In new business, the council unanimously passed an ordinance rezoning property at the corner of Hicks Street and Eastanallee Avenue from light industrial to medium-density residential.

A request for an extension from a third proposed liquor store was approved in a 4-1 vote, allowing up to six months for the business to meet city requirements. Councilmember Sherlin cast the lone dissenting vote, favoring a shorter extension period.

City Manager Dr. Randall Dowling reported strong turnout at recent regional park tournaments, producing \$3,000+ in concession revenue over two weeks, with people coming from Knoxville to Dalton, Ga.

City attorney Matt Dunn announced the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals sided with the City concerning numerous suits filed by Glenn Whiting. Whiting started speaking, and despite being warned to stop, continued. He was then escorted out of the council chambers.

During final public comments, former councilmember Dick Pelley said he thought American Flags around the city could be lit up better at night. The meeting concluded with adjournment.

Courtesy of Simon Rhodes, Athens Communications Director

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GoComics

McMinn County Arrest Reports

Obituaries

March 10, 2026

Tiffany Howard, 31 of Athens, charged with schedule II meth, possession of legend drugs, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$15,000.

Mark Richardson, 55 Athens, charged with schedule II meth for resale, driving while in possession of meth, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$44,000.

Amanda Malini, 40 of Athens, charged with criminal trespassing, Bond \$1,500.

William English, 41 of Chattanooga, charged with failure to appear for criminal impersonation, shoplifting, driving on a revoked license, simple possession casual exchange of schedule 3 testosterone, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$16,000.

Joseph Presley, 48 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for driving on a suspended license, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$6,047.25.

Christopher Graham, 37 of Englewood, charged with criminal trespassing, Bond \$1,500.

James Lyle Chambers, 77, of Englewood, passed away on Thursday, March 5. A proud Marine veteran, Lyle served his country honorably for two years in Vietnam. Following his military service, Lyle built a successful over 20-year career at Heil Trailer International. Friends and family will assemble, Tuesday, March 24 at McMinn Memory Gardens Mausoleum for a 2:00 p.m. inurnment service. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

William "Bill" McKinney, 93, of Etowah, passed away on Monday, February 23. Bill retired from Bowater Paper Mill in Calhoun after 40 years of service. He was an active member of Carlock Fellowship Church. Family and friends will assemble at Green Hill Cemetery on Friday, March 20 a 2:00 p.m. graveside service

Clara Swafford, 85 of Cleveland, passed away on Monday, March 16. Survivors and home going celebration service to be announced by M.D. Dotson and Sons Funeral Home of Cleveland.

Shirley Jean Welch passed away on Sunday, March 15. Survivors and a home going celebration service to be announced by M.D. Dotson and Sons Funeral Home

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