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**Eagle Scout Project Collects Dozens of Flags for Retirement Ceremony**



A local Eagle Scout project aimed at honoring the American flag concluded with strong community support and a meaningful ceremony earlier this week.

Jack Hutsell, a member of Boy Scout Troop 118 in Athens and the Great Smoky Mountain Council, collected 42 worn and damaged U.S. flags during a two-week "Flags of Honor" collection drive held in late April. The flags were gathered for proper retirement during a ceremony at the McMinn Senior Activity Center.

The collection effort was part of Hutsell's Eagle Scout service project, which focuses on respectfully retiring American flags in accordance with traditional guidelines. Community members were invited to drop off flags at designated locations throughout Athens ahead of the ceremony.

The project culminated in a public flag retirement ceremony, bringing together Scouts, veterans and residents to observe the time-honored tradition and reflect on the symbolism of the flag.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest achievement in Scouting and requires the completion of a community service project demonstrating leadership and service. Hutsell's project highlighted both, organizers said, while providing an opportunity for the community to participate in honoring the nation's flag.

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**Tuesday, May 05, 2026**

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**Athens, Tennessee**

## Grandparents, Kids Invited to Grand Ball Fundraiser for Arts Scholarships



The Athens Area Council for the Arts is inviting grandparents and honorary grandparents to bring their grandchildren to the second annual "Grand Ball" on Friday, May 29, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at The Arts Center.

Admission is by donation at the door, with all proceeds benefiting AACA scholarship programs that help local youth attend arts classes and summer camps. Organizers hope to raise at least \$2,000 this year to meet anticipated financial aid requests for the organization's 2026 summer programs.

The event was created by 11-year-olds Sloane Shepherd and Taylor Kimball, daughters of AACA staff members, after last year's inaugural dance raised more than \$1,000 for scholarships. This year's dance will feature music from the 1940s through today, along with cookies, balloons and a selfie station.

Funds raised will support the Marian Biddle Trew Scholarship Fund, which provides tuition assistance for youth arts education, as AACA continues its efforts to make arts programming accessible to local families facing financial barriers. Donations may also be made directly through AACA online, by phone or in person.

## Planning Commission Reviews Rezoning Request at Monday Meeting

A rezoning request involving a portion of property tied to Denso Manufacturing and the Athens-McMinn Family YMCA was the primary item of business when the Athens Municipal-Regional Planning Commission met on Monday, May 4.

The commission was scheduled to convene at noon in the conference room, where members first considered approval of minutes from the April 27 work session and the April 6 regular meeting.

Under new business, commissioners gave time for public comments and reviewed a request to rezone a 3-acre parcel from I-2 Heavy Industrial District to B-3 Intensive Business District. The parcel is being created from a larger 50-acre developed tract identified as Map 046, Parcel 049.00 on state property records. The 3-acre parcel is located on Denso Drive and George R Price Boulevard.

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# McMinn County Arrest Reports

## May 03, 2026

**Amanda Malini**, 40 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for criminal trespassing, Bond \$479.45

**Lenox Stingis**, 21 of Niota, charged with DUI, and violation of implied consent, Bond \$1,000.

**Lacey Owsley**, 31 of Corryton, Tennessee, charged with theft of property greater than \$100,000, theft of property motor vehicle, Bond \$80,000.

**Michael Slack**, 54 of Athens, charged with driving on a revoked license.

**Christopher Hanley**, 35 of Athens, charged with burglary, Bond \$60,000.

**Jonathan Sliger**, 41 of Riceville, charged with criminal trespassing, Bond \$500.

**Roy Roberts**, 65 of Calhoun, charged with possession of meth, drug paraphernalia, and driving on a revoked license.

**Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.**



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AMONG THE NATIONS

**SEEKING HIM**  
IN ALL GENERATIONS  
1 CHRONICLES 16:24 NASB

**THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026**

75<sup>TH</sup>

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER


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**7:30-9:00am - Prayer Breakfast**  
 at Spirit City North Etowah  
(231 Pennsylvania Ave)

**12:00-1:00pm - Prayer Gathering**  
 at the L&N Depot Pavilion  
(831 Tennessee Ave)

**6:00-7:00pm - Prayer & Praise Service**  
 at the GEM Theater  
(700 Tennessee Ave)

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Tuesday, May 05, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

**Patsy Vivian Kennedy (maiden name Johnson)**, 85, passed away peacefully at her home on Saturday, May 2. Patsy lived a life rooted in faith, love, and devotion to her family. Patsy retired from Eaton Manufacturing, where she worked faithfully for many years. She was a life-long member of Lakeview Baptist Church and loved the Lord with all her heart. The family will receive friends from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at Ziegler Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow at 1:00 PM at the funeral home. A graveside service will be held at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at McMinn Memory Gardens. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Patsy "Pat" Vivian Johnson Kennedy.



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**MAY 5<sup>th</sup> 2026**

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