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Friday, May 29, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Amy Sullins Named Interim Director of Main Street Athens



The Main Street Athens Board of Directors has named Amy Sullins as Interim Director, bringing a longtime community leader and educator into the role as the organization continues its work to support and strengthen downtown Athens.

Sullins has lived in Athens since 1998 and spent 25 years in secondary and higher education, concluding her career at Tennessee Wesleyan University. Her record of service includes the Athens City School Board, the McMinn County Education and Community Foundation, the Athens Area Council for the Arts, and leadership of United Way of McMinn & Meigs Counties fundraising campaigns alongside her husband, Dr. Stuart Sullins. She also serves as historian for Keith Memorial United Methodist Church, grant writer for Nourish One Child, and is active in the Kanunsita Garden Club and the Febb Burn Society of Women Philanthropists.

Her family's connection to downtown spans generations. The Sullins family optometry practice has operated in three downtown Athens locations since 1939, a history that has shaped her appreciation for the district's role in community life.

"Since I moved to Athens, our family has always lived close to Downtown and frequented the businesses and restaurants, as well as plenty of TWU soccer and basketball games," Sullins said. "The inviting and walkable Downtown is the heart of our small town—I want it to continue to grow and thrive for all of us to enjoy."

Main Street Athens is a Tennessee Main Street-certified nonprofit organization focused on economic vitality, historic preservation, and downtown development. According to the organization's public mission, it works to "promote, enhance, and preserve downtown Athens" through partnerships with the City of Athens, local businesses, and community volunteers. The group operates through committees dedicated to design, promotion, organization, economic vitality, and THRIVE initiatives, all aimed at supporting a vibrant and walkable downtown district. As Interim Director, Sullins will help guide these efforts during a period of continued growth and investment in Athens' historic core.

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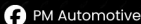
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Friday, May 29, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

WYXI to Broadcast Live from Dynasty Spas Sale Today



Dynasty Spas will host a community sale event today, featuring free refreshments and a live broadcast from WYXI Radio, Athens' Southern Gospel station heard on FM 94.5 and AM 1390. The remote will air from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the company's location on Dynasty Way.

Visitors can enjoy free hotdogs, chips, drinks, and Mayfield ice cream while browsing sale specials. During the broadcast, attendees may register—no purchase necessary—for giveaways including Soaky Mountain Waterpark tickets, McAlister's Deli gift cards, Captain D's gift cards, a 30-minute massage from Lena Perkins, LMT at Downtown Beauty Lounge and more.

Dynasty Spas will also offer additional incentives during the event. With the purchase of a spa, customers will be entered to win a family four-pack to Ripley's Aquarium in Gatlinburg or a Blackstone grill.

WYXI's on-air crew, including Brother Barry "B-Man" Sullivan and Stephanie Devine; members of the station's broadcast team, will be on site throughout the event, inviting the community to stop by, enjoy the refreshments, and take part in the festivities.

Listeners can tune in on 94.5 FM, 1390 AM, or through the station's online stream on the Live365 app: [HERE](#)

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

Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

- Boyd Memorial First Church of God on Highway 11 North in Athens will hold its first drive-through prayer service on Sunday, May 31 at 5 p.m. Anyone may pull into the parking lot to receive prayer, anointing, or support for any need. Pastor Chris Hampton and church members will be on site to pray with all who come. Everyone is welcome.
- Tim Zimmerman & The King's Brass will lead worship at First United Methodist Church, 3425 Ocoee St. North, Cleveland, on Sunday, June 7 at 10:45 a.m. Known for blending hymn classics with a contemporary sound, the group features brass, percussion, and keyboards and is celebrating its 48th anniversary season. Performing more than 150 concerts a year, The King's Brass is praised by critics as "superb in every way" and "truly unforgettable."
- **Celebrate Recovery** meets every **Tuesday** at 6:00pm at Woodward Ave. Church of God in Athens They also meet every **Thursday** at 6:00pm at Watts Bar Community Church in Decatur and Thursdays at **6:30pm** at **Spirit City Church North Etowah**.
- **St. Mary's Legacy Clinic** offers free mobile medical care for the uninsured. Anyone who is medically uninsured is eligible to receive care. **St. Mary's Catholic Church (1291 E Madson Ave, Athens) is the McMinn County location and accepts patients every 3rd Thursday of the month.**
- Bob Sellers will sing at Lakeview Baptist Church, 183 County Road 126, Athens (beside Dynasty Spa), on Sunday, May 31 at 10:45 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- The next Christian Men's Prayer Breakfast sponsored by New Hope Methodist Church will be Thursday, June 4 at 8 a.m. at Maddi Mae's Café in downtown Athens. This ecumenical gathering is open to all men of Christian faith and to those seeking a relationship with Jesus. For details, contact Marcus Guinn at marcusguinn@gmail.com or 423-507-7769.

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Friday, May 29, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Arts Commission Awards \$163,800 in Grants Across District

Multiple organizations across Senate District 1 have been awarded a combined \$163,800 in Tennessee Arts Commission grants for Fiscal Year 2027 (July 1, 2026–June 30, 2027). These awards are part of the first round of funding the Commission will distribute throughout the year.

“These grants support local institutions that educate, inspire, and preserve the history and culture of our region,” the announcement stated. “They help organizations continue serving families, promoting tourism, and creating opportunities that strengthen communities across Southeast Tennessee.”

Anne B. Pope, Executive Director of the Tennessee Arts Commission, noted the statewide impact of the arts sector. “Tennessee boasts a unique array of artistic and cultural assets,” she said. “Arts and culture are vital tools for attracting and retaining businesses and help build stronger communities by enhancing the distinctive character of Tennessee places.”

The Tennessee Arts Commission expects to award approximately 1,000 grants across all 95 counties during FY2027, totaling up to \$13.8 million in 19 annual and rolling grant categories. Funding supports both rural and urban communities and contributes to tourism, education, and local quality of life.

Grant applications are reviewed by citizen advisory panels with expertise in multiple artistic disciplines before final approval by the Commission. Additional opportunities—such as Arts Build Communities grants and Student Ticket Subsidy grants—will be available later in the year.

According to the Commission, Tennessee’s nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$1.4 billion in annual economic activity statewide.

More information about programs and grant opportunities is available on the Tennessee Arts Commission website: <https://tnartscommission.org/>

Grant recipients include:

- Athens Area Council for the Arts – \$31,340
- Charleston-Calhoun-Hiwassee Historical Society – \$7,320
- City of Cleveland – \$17,550
- Etowah Arts Commission – \$5,900
- Lee University – \$4,300
- Lee University – \$9,990
- McMinn County Living Heritage Museum – \$10,000
- Museum & Cultural Center at Five Points – \$14,500
- Museum & Cultural Center at Five Points – \$9,400
- Museum & Cultural Center at Five Points – \$17,000
- Rhea Heritage Preservation Foundation – \$16,000
- Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association – \$14,200
- Trousdale School – \$6,300

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Friday, May 29, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Tennessee Taste of Soul Experience Set for June 13 in Athens

The Tennessee Taste of Soul Experience, presented by JSM Legacy Group, will take place on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at the McMinn Senior Activity Center Event Hall in Athens. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the program begins at 6:30 p.m.

The celebration highlights 250 years of Tennessee history, community, and culinary legacy, bringing together traditional and contemporary soul-food favorites, live music, and cultural storytelling. This year's event will feature a performance by the NuMAC Band, offering an evening of "flavor, rhythm, culture, and legacy."

Tickets are \$40 in advance and \$45 at the door. Sponsorships, VIP tickets, and group reservations are available. For tickets or information, contact Jasmine McDermott at 423-829-2979 ext. 0 or email jsmlegacygroup@gmail.com with the subject line *TICKETS*. Tickets may be purchased in person or online.

All net proceeds will support the restoration of the McMinn Legacy House, a historic Etowah residence built by the L&N Railroad to house the Black laborers who helped construct the L&N Depot. Additional funds will benefit local nonprofit initiatives.

Organizers describe the event as an energetic celebration of heritage and community, inviting guests to "share the story, enjoy the food, honor the legacy."

Athens to Debut First-Ever Drone Show at July 4th Celebration



The City of Athens will mark Independence Day with an expanded Buddy Liner Memorial Fireworks Show on Friday, July 4, featuring the community's first-ever drone show at Athens Regional Park. Festivities begin at 4:30 p.m., with the drone show at 9:30 p.m. and fireworks immediately afterward. Officials note that the best viewing area for the drone display is inside Regional Park.

The drone show, added in honor of America's 250th birthday, will feature high-powered drones creating patriotic images across the night sky. Throughout the afternoon and evening, visitors can enjoy a full arcade inside the Conference Center, a model aircraft show, concessions, food trucks, and the park's splash pad, open from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Entertainment continues with a free Sounds of Summer concert presented by Friendly City Festivals featuring MendingWall at 7:30 p.m. The city thanked sponsors for supporting this year's expanded celebration and encouraged families to arrive early and enjoy the full lineup of activities.

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Friday, May 29, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

AACA Continues Registration for Summer Art Classes

The Athens Area Council for the Arts has opened registration for a new slate of visual arts classes and workshops at The Arts Center. **Participants are asked to register at least three days before the start date unless otherwise noted.**

Intermediate Pottery Wheel with Patricia Shook is offered for ages 16 and older and is designed for students who have completed the seven-week beginner course. Classes meet Sundays, May 31–July 12, 6–8:30 p.m. The fee is \$225, including one 25-lb block of clay and all materials.

Live Drawing Studio, open to ages 16 and older, meets the second Wednesday of each month, with the next session on June 10, 5:30–7:30 p.m. This is an unstructured session featuring clothed models. Participation is free, though cash contributions to the model are appreciated. Easels and drawing boards are available; artists should bring their own materials.

The Studio, a free monthly art club for ages 11–17, will next meet Monday, June 29, 3–4:30 p.m. The club offers rotating activities in painting, drawing, sculpture, and more. Attendance is flexible, but registration is requested for each meeting.

Stained Glass Workshop with Adrienne Doucette, open to ages 16 and older, will be held Thursday, June 25, 5:30–8:30 p.m. This beginner-friendly workshop is \$50, with all materials provided.

Gouache Painting with Chris Ingram, for ages 16 and older, meets Tuesdays, June 30–July 27, 4:30–6:30 p.m. The six-week beginner class is \$200, including materials.

Basic Pottery Wheel with Patricia Shook, for beginners or those wanting a refresher, meets Fridays, July 10–August 21, 6–8:30 p.m. The seven-week course is \$210, with all materials included.

Instructor information and registration links are available at athensartscouncil.org/classes. Students may also register by phone at 423-745-8781 or in person at The Arts Center to avoid online transaction fees.

AACA also announces that past and current pottery students may now purchase studio hours for \$20 per month. Sign-ups must be completed by phone or in person during office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. The Arts Center is located at 320 North White Street in Historic Downtown Athens.

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Friday, May 29, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

Obituaries

May 27, 2026

Chelsea York, 32 of Athens, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$2,000.

Samuel Smith, 45 of Riceville, charged with failure to appear for driving on a revoked license, violation of probation for driving on a revoked license, Bond \$18,536.90.

Sheila Hyde, 62 of Athens, charged with DUI, and evading arrest.

Preston Mooney, 33 of Etowah, charged with manufacturing, delivery, sale, or possession of fentanyl for resale, schedule 2 meth, simple possession casual exchange for schedule 6 and Schedule 3 suboxone, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$33,000.

Colton Gravitt, 26 of Niota, charged with aggravated assault and is being held for Hamilton County pickup.

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

Kay Frances Hammonds, 84 of Cleveland, passed away Thursday May 28 at her residence surrounded by her family and friends. She was a member of Candies Creek Baptist Church. Despite her disabilities, she had a positive attitude and encouraged everyone she met. Kay loved to do diamond art and gave away 100's of her pieces to anyone and everyone that loved her work. Her career spanned years, including working in accounting and banking, as well as Proffitt's in Cleveland, where she made several life long friends. A special thank you to her friend and caregiver Carla Sturgeon. Graveside services will be held at Calhoun Cemetery, 2:00 Friday, May 29. Good Samaritan Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

William "Bill" Ray Goodman, 75, went to his eternal home to be with the Lord on November 22, 2025. Originally from Etowah, TN, Bill was a University of Tennessee alumnus with a degree in Aerospace Engineering. Just after graduation he was recruited into the US Navy and served as a Naval Aviator in the Vietnam War. He had an impressive 50-year career in construction and engineering in both the private and public sectors. He traveled extensively throughout the US and internationally for military service, work, and pleasure. Bill retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs in October of 2020 at 70 years of age. A visitation will be held from 11:00am-12:00pm, Saturday, May 30th, 2026 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

Henrietta Willis Johnson, age 81, of Englewood, Tennessee, passed away peacefully on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at her family's home, surrounded by her loved ones. Henrietta was known as "Hen," "Mom," and her favorite title, "Nana." She spent her whole life taking the best care of anyone who would let her, especially her loved ones. She stopped at nothing to make sure that, before anyone left a conversation with her, they knew about her love for Jesus and how she desired for them to know that love as well. Funeral services will be held at 7:00 p.m., Monday, June 1, 2026 at Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Monday prior to the service. Family and friends will assemble at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 2nd at the funeral home and will go in procession to Sunrise Cemetery for the 11:00 a.m. committal service officiated by Dr. Shane Johnston. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

NOTICE

Pursuant to **Section 67-5-508, Tennessee Code Annotated**, the property assessment records of **McMinn County** will be available for public inspection in the **Office of the Assessor of Property, McMinn County Courthouse** during normal business hours. Any person desiring to inspect these records may do so at the appointed time and place.

The **McMinn County Board of Equalization** will begin its annual session to examine and equalize the county assessments on **June 1, 2026**.

THE BOARD WILL ACCEPT APPEALS FOR TAX YEAR 2026 ONLY UNTIL THE LAST DAY OF ITS 2026 REGULAR SESSION, WHICH WILL BE June 12, 2026.

Board will meet each weekday from the hours of **8:30 am to 4:00pm** in **The Blue Room of the McMinn County Courthouse**. Any owner of property who wishes to make a complaint or appeal to the County Board of Equalization should call **423-745-2743** to make an appointment. Owners must appear before said Board at this time personally or by personal appearance of an agent for the owner bearing the owner's written authorization. Failure to appear and appeal an assessment will result in the assessment becoming final without further right of appeal.