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Wednesday, July 29, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

4-H Members Spend Day of Service Giving Back Across McMinn County



McMinn County 4-H members devoted a full Day of Service to learning, volunteering, and supporting local organizations, taking part in projects that highlighted community needs and the value of public service.

The day began at the Athens City firefighter training station, where members learned about careers in emergency response and spoke with firefighters about the work they do to protect residents. The group then visited Read20, preparing books for the Read20 bus after hearing from Sandy Starr about how reading 20 minutes a day strengthens academic and problem-solving skills.

Members also volunteered at the McMinn Regional Humane Society, helping care for animals and supporting efforts to place cats and dogs in permanent homes. At Coordinated Charities, the group donated several Birthday Cake Kits to help families celebrate special occasions.

To close out the day, 4-H members partnered with Keep McMinn

Beautiful, picking up litter around the McMinn Higher Education Center and reinforcing the importance of keeping public spaces clean.

The Day of Service emphasized how small acts of kindness can make a meaningful impact, and 4-H leaders thanked the volunteers and partner organizations for their ongoing service to the community. *Source: Sara Smith, UT Extension - McMinn*



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Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Health Council will meet on Thursday, August 6 at 12 pm at Keith United Methodist Church.
- Cleveland State Community College now offers up to 12 college credits for individuals who earned a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential within the past five years. Credits apply toward Early Childhood Education courses and can count toward an associate degree or technical certificate. Eligible adult learners may also qualify for Tennessee Reconnect. For details, email: childdevelopment@cscctn.edu
- During Tennessee's Tax-Free Weekend beginning this Friday, July 31 through Sunday, August 2, the McMinn County Education Foundation is encouraging shoppers to pick up extra school supplies to support local students. New items will be distributed to schools across the county. Donations can be dropped off at Walmart, United Way of McMinn & Meigs, Keith Memorial UMC, Denso, and the Adult Education Building on Hicks Street. Every notebook, pencil pack, or folder helps local classrooms start the year strong.

Good Faith Clinic Open TOMORROW



The Good Faith Clinic will be open **TOMORROW**, Thursday, July 30 at 3 p.m. for re-fills and doctor visits. Test Results will be provided beginning at 3:45 p.m.

The Good Faith Clinic is free primary health care for residents of McMinn and Meigs counties, ages of 18-64, who do not have any form of medical insurance, including TennCare. The clinic meets on the campus of Christ Community Church at 18 S Congress Parkway in Athens.

REMINDER: The Good Faith Clinic is open the 2nd, 4th, and 5th, Thursdays of each month.

Source: Norma Barham, Good Faith Clinic



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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

July 27, 2026

Thomas Jackson, 62 of Etowah, charged with DUI and domestic assault.

Robert Moore, 38 of Decatur, charged with DUI, violation of implied consent, and resisting stop, Bond \$3,000.

Larry Call, 39 of Athens, charged with drug paraphernalia, and driving on a suspended license, Bond \$4,000.

Kenneth Robinson, 29 of Englewood, charged with vandalism and theft of property, Bond \$32,000.

Twinez Mixon, 32 of Birmingham, Alabama, charged with failure to appear for driving on a suspended license, Bond \$6,000.

Aiden Dunn, 21 of Spring City, charged with DUI, violation of implied consent, and open container law, Bond \$3,000.

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

Information gathered using public sources.

Etowah Town Band In Concert



The Etowah Town Band, under the direction of Ray Calfee, presented a concert of patriotic, religious and secular music Sunday afternoon July 26 at 5:00 o'clock at Keith United Methodist Church.

Photo by Gene Choate

Obituaries

Barbara Jean Shoemaker Ward, 84, of McMinn County, passed away on Sunday, July 26. Barbara was affectionately known as "**The Cake Lady**." For more than thirty-five years she owned and operated a successful catering and cake decorating business. Barbara was a member of First Baptist Church of Niota. A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Sunday, August 2 at 3:00 pm at First Baptist Church of Niota with Pastor Cullen Conner officiating the service. A Visitation will be held prior from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. [Companion Funeral Home of Athens](#) and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

Elizabeth Witt, 71, passed Saturday, July 25 in Atlanta, GA. Survivors and funeral arrangements to be announced. [M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home & Cremation Service](#) in charge of arrangements

Allan "Al" Boyd Hairris, 85, of Etowah, passed away on Tuesday, July 14. Graveside service will be announced at a later date. [Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah](#) is in charge of arrangements.

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