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Friday, August 21, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Athens City Council Moves Quickly Through Light Agenda, Local Student receives Chief's Award



The Athens City Council held a brief regular session Tuesday evening, with Councilmember Sherlin absent due to illness. Most items moved swiftly, with several actions receiving unanimous approval from the members present.

Council approved minutes from the July 21 regular session and July 31 special called session before moving into presentations. Brycen White, a local student, received the Chief's Award from Athens Police Chief Fred Schultz, recognizing positive connections between students and School Resource Officers. The City also issued a proclamation honoring DENSO for earning "Gold Level Veteran Ready Business" status from the Tennessee Department of Veterans Services.

Meredith Wilson with Friendly City Festivals gave a presentation on this year's final Sounds of Summer Concert with Confederate Railroad. An estimated 2,000 people attended the event at Regional Park, and thanks to joint planning between the City of Athens and Friendly City Festivals, the concert was a great success. Meredith thanked the City for their support and help, and says that Friendly City Festivals is looking ahead to the next Sounds of Summer which may be condensed into one weekend.

The consent agenda passed unanimously, including Resolution 2026-20, which officially designates the former North City School property as a new public park to be incorporated into the city's Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Other approvals included grant applications, updates to IT pay scales, and purchases of equipment such as a CAT 275 skid-steer and a mini-paver system.

Under ordinances, Council approved Ordinance 1159 on second reading, establishing compensation for the mayor and councilmembers. The vote was 3-1, with Councilmember Duggan opposed and Sherlin absent. The new pay structure takes effect in November. Ordinance 1160, rezoning property off Spruce Street from I-1 to R-2, passed 4-0 among those present.

In new business, Council voted 3-1 (Curtis opposed) to direct Interim City Manager Bridget Roberts to have Public Works seek bids for FY 2026-27 paving and resurfacing. *Source: Simon Rhodes, City of Athens Communications Director*

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Athens, Tennessee

Heritage Museum to Present Tennessee Music Variety Show TOMORROW

The McMinn County Living Heritage Museum will host "From Bristol to Beale Street," a Tennessee music variety show, on **Saturday, Aug. 22 at 6 p.m. in Townsend Auditorium at Tennessee Wesleyan University**. The program blends 21 live songs, narration, dance, and comedy in the style of the classic Ed Sullivan Show.

Led by music historian Dr. Keith Mills, the show highlights Tennessee's statewide influence on American music — from Bristol's country roots to Memphis blues and rock 'n' roll, Chattanooga's Bessie Smith, and artists such as Elvis Presley, Dolly Parton, Tina Turner, and The Impressions. The evening spans genres including gospel, bluegrass, blues, country, pop, rock, R&B, and big band, with performances by a professional dancer, Opry-connected musicians, and comedian Karen Mills.

The event is open to the public. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 (or \$10 for students) and available at the Museum or online at Living Heritage Museum. Proceeds support the Museum. For details, call 423-745-0329. For tickets tap [HERE](#)

Body of Kayaker Found on Tellico Lake

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) confirmed Wednesday morning that the body of Richard Kitts, 57, of Maryville, was recovered on Tellico Lake, one week after he was first reported missing.

Kitts was located around 7:45 a.m. during a targeted shoreline search near the Citico Boat Ramp. Members of the Blount County Sheriff's Office Special Operations Team recovered his body at approximately 10:30 a.m. Authorities noted he was not wearing a personal flotation device.

TWRA launched a full search effort on Aug. 12, after Kitts' vehicle was found at the Tallassee Access Area. His kayak and paddle were later discovered adrift below Chilhowee Dam, prompting an extensive multi-agency search involving TWRA, Blount County SO, the Tennessee Highway Patrol, local rescue squads, and volunteer groups. Search methods included shoreline sweeps, aerial surveys, sonar scans, and deep-water technology was provided by CAM SAR.

This incident marks the 13th fatal boating accident on Tennessee waters this year.

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Friday, August 21, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

- [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.*
- Everyone is invited to a Community Fish Fry on Saturday, August 29 at 12 Noon at the McMinn Senior Activity Center, to kick off the Rebuilding Campaign for St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church.
- Eastanallee Baptist Church is looking for a part-time Financial Administrative Assistant. If interested, submit your resume to info@eastanallee.church
- The Tennessee Valley Area Operation Christmas Child team invites you to join them for Celebration 2026 on August 29th at 10:00 a.m. (check-in begins at 9:30 a.m.) at Union McMinn Baptist Church located at 314 County Road 316, Niota. Their Special Guest will be Kristiana, a shoebox recipient. Please pre-register at <https://hovqr.me/92feb1cc>.
- The next Christian Men's Prayer Breakfast sponsored by New Hope Methodist Church will occur on Thursday, September 3 at 8 a.m. at Maddi Mae's Cafe in downtown Athens. This ecumenical prayer breakfast is open to all men of Christian faith and those men who want to establish a relationship with Jesus. Please contact Marcus Guinn via email at(marcusguinn@gmail.com or 423-507-7769) for more information.

Tennessee Wesleyan invites qualified individuals to apply for the Admission Counselor position:

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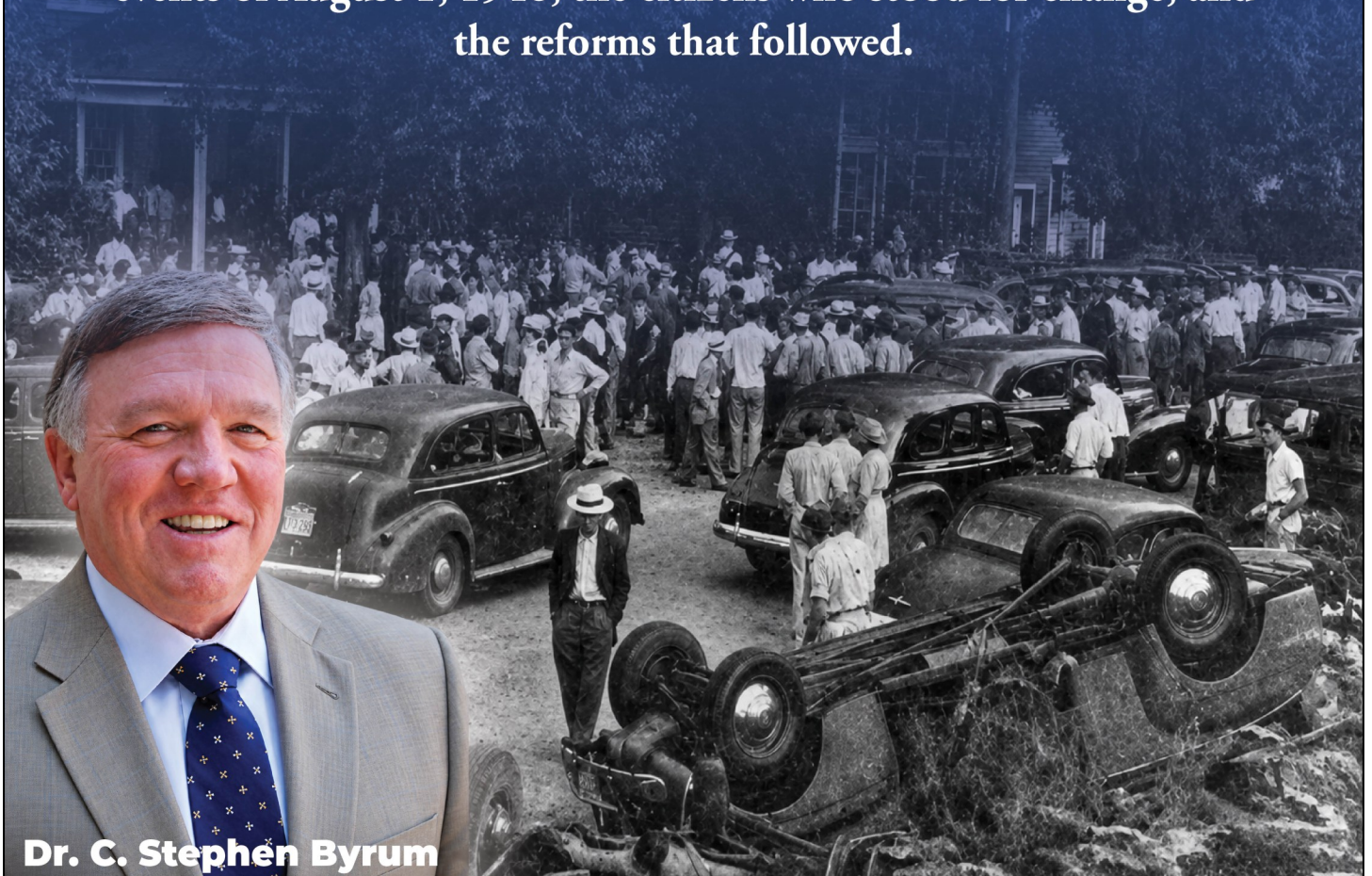
80TH ANNIVERSARY

THE BATTLE OF ATHENS

Join us as we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Athens with a special presentation by TWU alumnus and author Dr. C. Stephen Byrum. His presentation will explore the events of August 1, 1946, the citizens who stood for change, and the reforms that followed.



Dr. C. Stephen Byrum



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Athens, Tennessee

Ribbon Cutting Held for Warren Jackson CPA's New Athens Location



A ribbon cutting was recently held for Warren Jackson CPA's, PLLC, celebrating the firm's new building and location at 1005 W. Madison Ave. in Athens. The event brought together Chamber representatives, business partners, city and county officials, and the firm's staff and partners to mark the occasion.

The Athens Area Chamber of Commerce congratulated Warren Jackson CPA's on the milestone and welcomed the firm's continued presence and growth in the community.

WYXI to Broadcast Live from Heritage Museum's Trade Fair Days Today

The McMinn County Living Heritage Museum, 522 West Madison Avenue, is bringing extra excitement to its annual Trade Fair Days as WYXI Radio goes live on-site today from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The broadcast will feature interviews with crafters, vendors, museum staff, and visitors, giving listeners a real-time look at the energy and creativity filling the grounds.

The Trade Fair itself remains the centerpiece of the weekend, running today and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the museum. Guests can explore crafts, music, history demonstrations, food, textiles, quilting, and a wide range of artisan displays—an event designed to showcase local talent and celebrate regional heritage.

Attendees may also register for giveaways, including Soaky Mountain Waterpark tickets, Downtown Beauty Lounge gift cards, McAlister's Deli and Captain D's gift cards, and more. No purchase is necessary, and registration is available during the live remote.

Organizers encourage the community to stop by, enjoy the fair, meet the vendors, and be part of the live broadcast atmosphere.

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

August 19, 2026

Tricia Shrewsbury, 53, of River Grove, Illinois, charged with failure to appear for domestic assault.

Lindsay Knox, 33, of Sweetwater, charged with DUI, drug paraphernalia, casual exchange and possession of meth. Bond \$16,000.

General King, 49, of Cleveland, charged with drug paraphernalia. Bond \$4,000.

Kimberly Gonzalez, 62, of Madisonville, charged with disorderly conduct. Bond \$1,000.

Timothy Singleton, 34, of Birmingham, Alabama, charged with domestic assault, vandalism, and interference with 911 calls. Bond \$1,500.

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

Obituaries

John Haden Joines Jr., 67 of Athens, passed away on Thursday, July 30. He was a 1976 graduate of Central High School, a former employee of TVA, spent 22 years at Textron and retired from Arch Chemicals. He was a veteran of the U. S. Navy serving aboard the USS Denver. He loved to travel, visiting all 50 states and many foreign countries. **UPDATED SERVICE TIMES: The family will receive friends on Saturday, August 22 from 1:00 PM-3:00 PM in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. A graveside will follow at 3:30 PM in Cedar Grove Cemetery. [Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home](#) in Athens is in charge of the arrangements.**

John "Jackie" Mason, 83 of Madisonville passed away Wednesday August 19, 2026, at his residence. He was a native of Sparta, Ga., former resident of Athens, Tenn., and resident of Madisonville for 20 years. He was a member and Deacon of Marshall Hill Baptist Church and retired from Heil Mfg. Co. after 30 years of service. Funeral services will be 5:00 P.M. Sunday in the Chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home with Greg McCosh officiating. Interment will be 11:00 A.M. Monday in McMinn Memory Gardens. [Laycock Hobbs Funeral Home](#) of Athens in charge of arrangements.

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