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Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

SHIP Representatives to Offer Medicare Updates in Etowah and Athens



SHIP

State Health Insurance
Assistance Program

Residents seeking information about Medicare changes for the coming year will have two opportunities to meet with representatives from the Tennessee State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) on Wednesday.

SHIP representatives will be at the Etowah Senior Center, located at 435 Cooper St., from 9 to 11 a.m. to discuss upcoming Medicare changes, updates and coverage information. Later in the day, representatives will be available at the E.G. Fisher Public Library in Athens from 1 to 4 p.m. for additional Medicare assistance and information sessions.

Tennessee SHIP is a federally funded program that provides free, unbiased and confidential counseling to Medicare-eligible individuals, their families and caregivers. The program helps beneficiaries understand Medicare coverage options, compare plans, navigate enrollment periods and learn about potential cost-saving programs.

According to the Tennessee Department of Disability and Aging, SHIP counselors do not sell insurance products or promote specific insurance agencies. Instead, they provide objective information to help beneficiaries make informed decisions about their health coverage.

The informational sessions come as Medicare beneficiaries prepare for annual coverage reviews and enrollment decisions for the upcoming year. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and learn about any changes that may affect their Medicare benefits.

For more information about Tennessee SHIP services, residents may call 1-877-801-0044.

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Tuesday, September 15, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

New Firefighting Nozzle Demonstrated at Etowah Rural Fire Department



Members of the Etowah Rural Fire Department received a firsthand look at new firefighting technology during a HEN Nozzle demonstration held Tuesday evening at the department.

The demonstration was led by Darren Watkins, a HEN

Demo Specialist, who explained the features and benefits of the nozzle while providing a live demonstration of the equipment in use.

According to the presentation, the HEN nozzle is designed to cover a larger area while using less water, offering firefighters a more efficient tool for fire suppression operations.

Firefighters and department personnel had the opportunity to observe the nozzle's performance and learn how the technology could enhance firefighting efforts.

The demonstration took place at the Etowah Rural Fire Department. *Photos courtesy of the Etowah Rural FD*

Athens Police Participates in Operation Iron Hickory



The Athens Police Department recently joined fellow law enforcement agencies from across the 10th Judicial District in Operation Iron Hickory, a coordinated public safety and crime-fighting initiative facilitated by the 10th Judicial District Attorney General's Office.

As part of the operation, Athens police officers had the opportunity to take to the skies, providing a unique perspective to support law enforcement efforts during the coordinated initiative.

Department officials said operations such as Iron Hickory demonstrate the value of interagency cooperation, allowing departments to share resources, coordinate strategies and combine personnel to enhance public safety across the region.

The Athens Police Department expressed appreciation for its law enforcement partners throughout the 10th Judicial District and their continued commitment to working together to keep communities safe.

Source: [City of Athens - Facebook](#)



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Tuesday, September 15, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

September 13, 2026

Justin Jack, 38, of Benton, charged with DUI, simple possession casual exchange of fentanyl, and drug paraphernalia. Bond \$16,000.

Teresa McGill, 63, of Athens, charged with resisting stop, assault against a first responder, and dogs at large. Bond \$6,000.

Juan Lopez, 27, of Athens, charged with failure to appear for drug paraphernalia. Bond \$6,000.

Danica Peck, 35, Athens, charged with domestic assault. Bond \$1,000.

Dylan O. Ellison, 35, of Athens, charged with criminal trespassing.

Carrington Waite, 39, of Bronx, New York, charged with shoplifting, and conspiracy to commit a crime.

Shanice Malcolm, 41, of Jamaica, New York, charged with shoplifting, and conspiracy to commit a crime.

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

Information gathered using public sources.

Rachel Osborne, 65, of Athens, charged with driving on a revoked license, and driving without due care.

Anthony Lawrence, 41, of Athens, charged with domestic aggravated assault, false imprisonment, and drug paraphernalia.

Obituaries

Floyd Sherman Wright, age 90, went home to be with Jesus on September 12, 2026. Floyd worked as an upholsterer until his retirement. Retirement, however, never truly slowed him down. He continued working alongside his sons and grandsons in construction. Floyd was a member of Lighthouse Church International and found comfort and strength in his faith. He was also a great athlete who loved sports and enjoyed the competition, camaraderie, and discipline they brought into his life. The family will receive friends on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at The View at Grace Ridge. A celebration of Floyd's life will immediately follow at 7:00 p.m., with his sons, Pastor Mitchell Wright and Rex Wright, officiating. [Ziegler Funeral Home](#) has been entrusted with serving the family of Floyd Sherman Wright.

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Tuesday, September 15, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5 Athens, Tennessee

AACA Announces 'Gone 90s Country' as Next House Blend Concert Series Production



The Athens Area Council for the Arts has announced the next production in its 2026-27 House Blend Concert Series, bringing audiences a night of country music nostalgia with "Gone 90s Country" on Friday, Oct. 23, 2026.

The concert, directed by Traci McKenzie, will begin at 7 p.m. in the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater.

The show will celebrate the iconic country hits of the 1990s, featuring the songs and artists that helped define the decade while continuing to influence the genre today. Organizers say millennials will enjoy revisiting the music of their youth, while audience members of all ages can appreciate the lasting impact of the era's country sound.

The live performance will feature both new and familiar faces from the Athens Area Council for the Arts. Vocalists for the production are expected to be announced in September.

Accompanying the performers will be September Song, AACA's house band led by Andrew Kimball. McKenzie, who has directed Athens Community Theatre productions including The Addams Family and School of Rock, is no stranger to AACA audiences. She previously directed the 2024 House Blend production Look What You Made Us Do and last season's Mic Drop: The Women Who Rule Music. She has also appeared on stage in productions such as 9 to 5: The Musical.

Tickets and additional information about Gone 90s Country will be available through the Athens Area Council for the Arts.



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