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Athens and Sister City of Isahaya Japan Celebrate 40th Anniversary

The City of Athens will welcome a delegation of 15 visitors from its Sister City of Isahaya, Japan, for a special gathering at Eco Park today, Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2026, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Sister City relationship between the two communities.

The event will begin at 11:30 a.m. at Eco Park, located at 2900 George R. Price Boulevard in Athens, and is expected to last approximately one hour. The celebration will bring together representatives from Athens and Japan to recognize four decades of friendship, cultural exchange and cooperation between Athens and Isahaya.

Japanese Consul General Watanabe from the Consulate-General of Japan, based in Nashville, is expected to attend, along with executives from DENSO Manufacturing, City of Athens officials, members of the Athens City Council and members of the community. For 40 years, the Sister City relationship between Athens and Isahaya has provided opportunities for residents, students and community leaders to experience each other's cultures and develop lasting friendships across thousands of miles.

The visiting delegation's time in Athens will continue that tradition, giving the City's Japanese guests an opportunity to experience the community and the hospitality that has helped sustain the partnership for four decades.

*Source: Simon Rhodes
City of Athens Communications Coordinator & Public Records Coordinator*

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Tuesday, October 20, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

School Board Secretary/Administrative Assistant Recognized



Pictured L-R:
Missy Boyd, Athens President-Elect
Angel Stidham, Tullahoma, President
Tammi McKelroy, Collierville, Vice President

Athens City Schools proudly congratulates Missy Boyd, School Board Secretary and Administrative Assistant to the Director of Schools, Maintenance, and Transportation, on being recognized in the Tennessee School Board Association Journal!

Missy was featured as President-Elect of the

Tennessee Association of Board Secretaries (TABS) for the 2026–2027 school year. TABS supports the professional growth of school board and executive secretaries across Tennessee through collaboration and the sharing of ideas and experiences.

“We are proud of Missy and grateful for her dedication, leadership, and service to Athens City Schools and our community. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition! **ACS**

Community News You Can Use

- The City of Athens Public Works Department announces the following street closure: The area to be affected is MAYFIELD LANE from Jones Street to Ingleside Avenue. This street will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 20 and 21, 2026, from 7:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The purpose of this closure is for asphalt patching. For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.
- Youth Basketball registration opens October 19th for Pre K thru 6th grade. Register in person at 122 Regional Park or call 423-744-2704.
- Athens Community Theatre (ACT) is pleased to announce auditions for the Tony Award winning musical, *Ragtime*, directed by Tyler Peaden Monday and Tuesday, October 26 and 27, at 6:00 PM at The Arts Center. Show dates for *Ragtime* are February 19 - 28, 2027.

Abby Burke Carroll

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Starr Regional Medical Center to host Communitywide Trunk-or-Treat

Starr Regional Medical Center will host its second communitywide Trunk-or-Treat event on Thursday, October 29 from 5 – 7 p.m. The event will take place on the Etowah campus, located at 886 Highway 411 North, Etowah.

“We’re thrilled to bring Trunk-or-Treat back to our Etowah campus for a second year,” said John McLain, Chief Executive Officer of Starr Regional Medical Center. “After such a positive response to last year’s event, we’re excited to continue building a tradition that gives local families an opportunity to gather, have fun and connect with our team. Being part of the communities we serve is important to us, and we look forward to celebrating another memorable evening together.”

Children are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes and visit the decorated trunks hosted by hospital departments. The event is free, and everyone is invited to attend.

AACA Hosts Annual “Open Exhibit and Art Show”

Athens Area Council for the Arts (AACA) hosts its annual “Open Exhibit and Art Show”, featuring work by local artists, “Threads of Resistance, Stitches of Hope” by Resist-Stitch, and “American Witches” by Adam Romano, through October 30, 2026.

AACA’s Annual Open Exhibit & Art Show is a curated and judged art show for artists in McMinn and surrounding counties. This year, the theme is art that celebrates The United States’ 250th Anniversary.

“This year’s Open Exhibit recognition of America’s 250th birthday is really special,” said Program Director, Holly Doucette. “Gallery viewers will be able to see how different artists feel and therefore express what this milestone means to them.”

AACA is pleased to have Knoxville-based artist, Adam Romano, as judge for this year’s competition. Adam is exhibiting concurrently with the Open Exhibit.

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Alicia Fulbright, NP
Houston Yates, PA
Adam Thornton, PA
Eleanor Cresswell, NP

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Left to Right:
Eleanor Cresswell, NP;
Alicia Fulbright, NP;
Adam Thornton, PA;
Houston Yates, PA

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Tuesday, October 20, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5 Athens, Tennessee

Third Straight Victory at Home as Vols Beat Bama



The Tennessee Volunteers beat the Alabama Crimson Tide 26-10 at Neyland Stadium this past Saturday, October 17. One of the star performers was DeSean Bishop who rushed for 159 yards and 2 touchdowns. The vols forced 4 Alabama turnovers, two fumbles and two interceptions. They also held the Crimson Tide scoreless in the second half. Fans celebrated the victory by lighting cigars and storming the field. Tennessee enters the next game, which will be in Columbia, South Carolina ranked No. 11 as they travel to South Carolina this Saturday to play the Gamecocks. Kickoff is at 3:30 pm on ESPN

Facebook Photo

LETTERS TO MY GRANDDAUGHTER

WHAT IF ETERNITY ISN'T SOMETHING YOU EARN BUT SOMETHING YOU WAKE UP TO?

At eighty five, Scott Hallenberg writes to his granddaughter Sarah the way he wishes someone had written to him: honestly, warmly, and without fear. Raised in the Bible Belt but never quite at home in its certainties, he spent decades searching for an inward path to God one he found in the long buried Gospel of Thomas, the daring mysticism of Meister Eckhart, and the quiet discipline of Centering Prayer.

But this isn't a theology textbook. It's a grandfather's letters woven through with the family dog Velcro riding shotgun to the pharmacy, a chaotic beagle filled wedding at St. Patrick's Cathedral, a pallet business gone sideways, and the everyday absurdities that, Scott insists, are as close to grace as scripture ever gets.

Letters to My Granddaughter offers Sarah and every reader quietly tired of fear based faith a simple, radical idea: the Kingdom isn't a future reward. It's here, now, waiting in silence to be noticed.

LETTERS TO MY GRANDDAUGHTER

A DIFFERENT WAY TO KNOW GOD, WITHOUT FEAR OR THE CONSTANT WORRY OF GETTING IT WRONG

AUTHOR BIO

Scott Hallenberg has lived in Athens, Tennessee for over fifty years. A father, grandfather, and lifelong seeker, Letters to My Granddaughter is his first book written for Sarah, and for anyone still searching for another way.

Letters to My Granddaughter
Click [HERE](#)

SCOTT HALLENBERG