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Today's News...This Morning

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Tuesday, June 06, 2023

Athens, Tennessee

MVA St Francis St in Englewood

◆ Sunday night around 7pm the driver of a 2002 Ford F150 had a medical condition and hit a tree head on at the intersection of St Francis St and Englewood Ave, Englewood. The patient was transported to UT Hospital by AMR. Englewood Rural Fire Dept responded, and Englewood Police Officer Shannon Liner investigated the accident. Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department



LISTENING REMINDER: This week's guest on Main Street Moments will be Meleena Livesay, Program Director, E.G. Fisher Library The broadcast will be aired at 8:15 a.m. **TODAY** on WYXI RADIO: AM-1390 and FM-94.5.

Community News You Can Use

✓ Athens Public Works has announced that construction has begun on a new Animal Shelter. The new building will feature three entrances, an adoption center, animal shelter, and spay and neuter clinic all under one roof. The shelter will have 22 indoor/outdoor kennels and 10 indoor kennels, along with isolation rooms, a mom and pups room, and a meet and greet room. These indoor/outdoor kennels will help keep disease down and aide in the cleaning of kennels. The kennels are a modular, pre-fab custom made kennel made specifically for this building. The outdoor kennels will be covered and safe for all weather conditions. The new building will also have a cat room, kitten room, and cat quarantine room. The building is also sprinkled for safety of both animals, staff, and volunteers. In addition to the kennels, the shelter will also feature a commercial washer and dryer, bathing area, and feed prep area. This facility will provide a safe environment for animals in need of care, even the flooring is specialized for slip resistance and safe for claws. The partnership with the McMinn Regional Humane Society will continue with the new facility. MRHS will continue to operate the adoption and spay and neuter clinic component of the building. They are in the middle of their capital campaign raising funds for the clinic operations and necessary medical equipment. Kevin Helms of City of Athens, said: "We are excited to be able to offer these new facilities to our community. This new building will help us better serve the animals in our care. The building construction is moving along and we anticipate a great relief on our resources when all the care, adoption, and shelter facilities are at one location." For more information about the new Animal Shelter, please visit www.athenstn.gov. For more information about the McMinn Regional Humane Society, please visit www.mrhumane.org See photos below submitted by Brianna Baker



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Tuesday, June 06, 2023 Morning Fax@...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦ **Jimmy Lawrence Pitt**, age 84, passed away early Sunday morning, June 4th. He was born in Adairville, Kentucky. He graduated from Simpson County High School where he met the love of his life, Janice Shelton. They married in December of 1958 and lived many places before finally settling on Athens, as their forever home. Jim was an entrepreneur who served his Athens community in various organizations including president of the Kiwanis Club, the Economic Development Authority, and the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce, where in 1989 he was named Man of the Year. He also founded the highly successful Mid-East Tennessee Regional Fair, and proudly served on the Board of the Athens Community Hospital for a number of years. At the time of his passing he was co-founder and CEO of Polyform, Inc. of Decatur. A funeral service will be at 2:00pm Thursday, June 8th at First Baptist Church of Athens. Entombment will follow in McMinn Memory Gardens mausoleum. The family will receive friends from 11:30am-1:30pm, Thursday at the church prior to the service. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

♦ **Nita Arlene Widener Armstrong**, age 80, of Englewood, passed away Monday, June 5th at NHC of Athens. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens.

♦ **Barbara Stephens McDonald**, age 89, of Englewood, passed away Sunday, June 4th at her residence. She was a native of Knoxville and a longtime resident of McMinn County. A graveside service will be at 2:00 pm, Friday, June 9th at McMinn Memory Gardens. There will not be a formal visitation. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

More MooFest Photos

♦ The Ice Cream eating contest was one of many events that took place at MooFest this past Saturday. The photos below are some of the participants. Mayfield's was also celebrating their 100th Anniversary. In the photo bottom left are Elisha Elliot and Angie Melhorn in front of the Mayfield food truck and Maggie at the right. Photos courtesy of Main Street Athens



Congratulations! To Main Street Athens

Main Street Athens has received accreditation from Main Street America for 2023 based on the reporting data that was submitted in January. Main Street Athens has been designated as an Accredited Main Street America™ program for meeting rigorous performance standards. Each year, Main Street America and its partners announce the list of Accredited programs to recognize their exceptional commitment to preservation-based economic development and community revitalization through the Main Street Approach™. “We are very proud to acknowledge this year’s 862 Accredited Main Street America programs, and their steadfast dedication to nurture economically and culturally vibrant downtown districts,” said Hannah White, Interim President & CEO of Main Street America. “The increase in the size and impact of our network speaks volumes to the power of the Main Street movement to respond to the needs of local communities and drive innovative solutions.” In 2022, Main Street America programs generated \$6.2 billion in local reinvestment, helped open 7,657 net new businesses, facilitated the creation of 29,174 net new jobs, catalyzed the rehabilitation of 10,688 historic buildings, and leveraged 1,528,535 volunteer hours. On average, for every dollar that a Main Street program spent to support their operations, it generated \$24.07 of new investment back into their downtown communities. Collectively, 2 million people live or work within the boundaries of designated Main Street America districts. An estimated workforce of 1.1 million people contributes their skills and expertise to advancing the missions of these historic downtowns and commercial corridors. *Main Street Athens’s* performance is annually evaluated by *Tennessee Main Street/TN Department of Economic & Community Development*, which works in partnership with Main Street America to identify the local programs that meet rigorous national performance standards. To qualify for Accreditation status, communities must meet a set of rigorous standards that include commitments to building grassroots revitalization programs, fostering strong public-private partnerships, nurturing economic opportunity for small businesses and entrepreneurs, and actively preserving historic places, spaces, and cultural assets. In 2022, private investments of \$2,464,500 were made to improve the historic downtown district and a portion of these dollars were additionally supported by private foundation funds that Main Street Athens received to assist small business with façade improvement. Since the program’s existence in 2016, the organization has been able to support eighteen (18) properties with renovations. The Athens program is also working in collaboration

Continued on page 3

Congratulations! to Main Street Athens Continued

with the City of Athens Public Works department with the development of the multi-module transportation plan which will help improve the traffic flow and improved sidewalks which will improve mobility for bikers and pedestrians. The goal is to make downtown Athens a destination for tourist to shop, eat, play, and enjoy events & entertainment. "The Main Street Athens Program has been a driver for our downtown commercial district and entire community" states Lisa Mayfield, Board Chair. "Main Street has partnered with The LITE House Innovation Center in developing several entrepreneur programs and our state Main Street Program has been a big supporter as they have selected Athens as a pilot program to develop a community kitchen incubator, which will offer co-working for food and beverage entrepreneurs. Our program is reaching more than just downtown but is established to be a liaison for the entire community!" states Lisa Dotson, Executive Director. Main Street Athens is a nonprofit 501c3 organization committed to revitalizing the unique and artistic business district of downtown Athens.

Below are some before and after photos of some of the businesses that benefited from the Downtown Improvement Grant. Photos submitted by Lisa Dotson, Executive Director of Main Street Athens.



Note: Tree will be trimmed

Main Street Athens
Downtown Improvement Grant
109 North Jackson Street



Main Street Athens
Downtown Improvement Grant
312 N. White Street

After



Photo Credit



Main Street Athens
Downtown Improvement Grant
6 E Washington Avenue



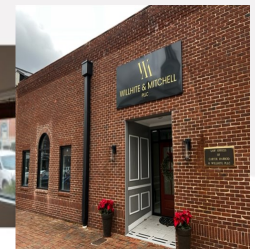
Before



After



Main Street Athens
Downtown Improvement Grant
One East Madison Avenue



Main Street Athens
Downtown Improvement Grant
10 North White Street



10 North White Street



Main Street Athens
Downtown Improvement Grant
211 East Washington Avenue

