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Friday, February 28, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Artist Spotlight: Brianna Carroll Paints Cleveland's Newest Mural



An Englewood native, with humble beginnings, [Brianna Carroll](#) has a near 20-year history in the Tennessee Art Scene—an impressive accomplishment by itself, made even more so when you consider that she is only 31 years old. Carroll has been passionate about creating artistic works and helping others since her youngest days, donning a smock as young as three years old. She entered and won Best-In-Show at an art competition at The Arts Center in Athens during her time as a student at Athens Junior High School, and continued to nurture her passion for the artistic medium at McMinn County High School. She furthered her passion by working her way through college at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, TN. She studied psychology and art, eventually winning additional awards and publications in both fields. Her style can be described as a mix between [realism](#) and [impressionism](#). She has traveled to art museums throughout the United States and France where she has relished the exposure to artists of both the past and current generations. Upon returning to Athens, Brianna created *Studio 3:16 Community Art Space*—a conceptual mix of Art Studio, Shared Art Space, Event Center and an artistic co-op where local artists could have a space to teach classes of their own design without having to operate a physical space of their own.

In 2024, Carroll began undertaking a new project upon being contacted by the owners of the Star Vue Shopping Center in Cleveland, TN. They requested the commission of a mural to cover the side of their shopping center and the Star Vue Wishing Wall was completed in 2025. The mural depicts dandelions blowing in the breeze with butterflies surrounding them to depict the beauty of of the Appalachian landscape, and, she says, "to brighten people's day." Visitors to the mural have not wasted time posting pictures with the mural using [#StarVueWishingWall](#)

If you wish to visit the mural and take a picture of your own, the mural is located on the side of the Star Vue Shopping Center located at 222 Grove Ave., Cleveland, TN. Furthermore, Brianna is still hard at work in all of East Tennessee. She is designing her next commissions, teaching private lessons, pursuing the field of therapeutic art, and is currently scheduled to teach an [Acrylic Painting & Gold Leaf Application](#) course at [Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts](#) in Gatlinburg on March 18.



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Spring Break Hours Update

March 2: Closed
March 9: Closed



Scan and select the upcoming Sunday from the lunch meal period.



Everyone is Invited!
McMinn County
Historical Society
Monthly Meeting

Sunday at 2:00 pm
in Blueroom of
Courthouse



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Friday, February 28, 2025 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Donna Jane Lillard, 71 of Decatur, passed away on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at Deane Hill Place Memory Care in Knoxville. A private memorial service to celebrate Donna's life will be held at a later date. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Lillard Family.

Jeffrey Clay Brady, 62 of Athens, passed away on Wednesday, February 26. He was the owner of Superior Guttering Services and served in the United States Army. He enjoyed hunting and fishing. A funeral service will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 3 in the chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Interment will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, in the McMinn Memory Gardens. The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m., prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Brady Family.

Naomi Louise Frank, 84, passed away on Thursday, February 27, 2025. Graveside services will be held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, March 2, 2025, at Sullins Cemetery in Athens. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Naomi Louise Frank.

Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Commission will hold their Annual Strategic Planning Session TODAY February 28, 2025, 5:30 pm. at the McMinn Higher Education Center on Denso Drive, Athens.
- The next McMinn Co. Historical Society meeting will be Sunday March 2 at 2:00 PM in the blue room of the McMinn County Courthouse. Paul Dietrich is delivering a program on Judge Charles Fleming Keith.
- The McMinn County High School Dance team has announced the "Egg My Yard" Fundraiser taking place from now until April 19. Prices range between \$15 and \$35 depending on how many dozens of eggs you would like. Filled, plastic eggs would be placed in your yard before Easter, so your kids can wake up and see the Easter Bunny has been there. To reserve your spot, call gmoore@mcminnschools.com

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WEATHER FORECAST

Friday - Sunny. High 56.
Fri. Night - Mostly Cloudy. Low 44.
Sat. - Mostly Sunny. High 58. Low 31.
Sun. - Sunny. High 45. Low 26
More Weather at: wyxi.com



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Friday, February 28, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3

Athens, Tennessee

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL RECAP

Recent action of the Athens City Council included a special called meeting, which took place yesterday, February 27.

During the meeting the council authorized Mayor Larry Eaton, City Manager Randy Dowling and City Attorney Chris Caldwell to begin negotiations on the purchase of real estate for a new Athens City Hall. At this point, two pieces of property are under consideration; the former BB&T Bank Building on West Washington Avenue and the former Robert E. Lee Hotel at the corner of East Madison Avenue and North Jackson Street.

The council also authorized the city attorney, Chris Caldwell, to pursue third party arbitration in a lawsuit filed against the city by a company that had been originally considered to renovate the former DPA building on South Jackson Street and convert it into the Athens-McMinn Animal Shelter. The company claimed that it incurred expenses of nearly \$100,000 in prep work when the city discovered that it was planning to use sub-contractors that were not approved. The contract was then actually awarded to another company that did comply with the terms. The first company then filed suit to recoup its losses.

At the council's regular monthly meeting held on February 18th, the following action was taken.

A proclamation was presented to Denso Manufacturing of Athens. The company was recently awarded "Silver Star" status by the State of Tennessee for their exemplary treatment of Veterans that work there. The proclamation was presented by Vice-Mayor Jordan Curtis.

The council also approved a Bid Award for Heritage Park Playground Equipment and other Amenities with a 50% match up to \$1.25 million. Approved a Bid Award of \$43,249 for July 4th Fireworks at Regional Park. Approved Installation of a Safe Haven Baby Box at Fire Station Headquarters. Approved Requesting County Funds in the Amount of \$42,000 to Acquire Two LUCAS Chest Compression Devices for the City Fire Department. Approved Submitting a 2025 Tennessee Rescue Squad Grant Application. Approved appointment of Bill Wilson Jr. to the Council Advisory Committee. Approved appointment of Amy Sullins to the Council Advisory Committee to fill the unexpired term of Tyler Forrest. Approved appointment of Kim Cochran-Graham to the Historic Preservation Commission to fill the expired term of Tyler Boyd. (Term Expires: March 2030) Approved appointment of Juanita McClure-Lewis to the Athens Housing Authority to fill the expired term of Everette Gillespie. (Term Expires: March 6, 2030) And approved Road and Railroad Safety Improvements at the Intersection of West Madison Avenue, Rocky Mount Road and Old Riceville Road. The city will apply for a grant from the Tennessee Office of rail engineering through the highway-railroad grade crossing program for the improvements.

The second reading of Ordinance number 1136 to include a Historic Overlay District for the Downtown area did not pass.

The council was asked to reconsider the demolition of North City School and rescind the approval of that motion 3 that was made on December 17, 2024. That was not approved.

The council also appointed Jacob Burnette to serve on the McMinn County Library Board.

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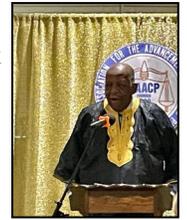
Friday, February 28, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4

Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

- **Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship** (317 Maple Street, Athens) holds Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- **Christ Community Church** is once again opening the Prom Shop on Saturday, March 29 from 9 am - 3 pm. The Prom Shop provides Prom Formal wear at no cost for any student to attend their prom or dance. Christ Community Church is located at 14 S. Congress Pkwy in Athens. For more information, email promshopathens@yahoo.com.
- **Celebrate Recovery** meets every **Tuesday** at 6:00 P.M. at Woodward Ave. Church of God (507 Woodward Ave., Athens). They also meet every **Thursday** at 6:00 P.M. at Watts Bar Community Church (1517 TN-68, Decatur)
- Are you grieving the loss of someone close to you? **Clearwater Baptist Church** (964 County Road 180, Athens) is beginning a new session of GriefShare helping those grieving find hope, comfort, and guidance. Beginning on Thursday, March 6th from 6 pm - 7:30 pm there will be an ongoing (in 13 week rotations) grief support group that you can join at any time and is open to the community. For more info visit: clearwaterbc.org/grief-share
- **New Life Church** hosts weekly Prayer Meetings every Wednesday night beginning at 7:00 pm. The church is located at 204 Fisher St. in Athens. All are welcome.
- **The McMinn-Meigs Baptist Association** will host a **Community Revival at First Baptist Church of Athens** from March 2 - 5 beginning at 6:30 pm nightly. Childcare will be provided for Children up to 5 years old.
- **Mars Hill Presbyterian Church**, 205 North Jackson St. Athens, TN, Circle II presents "**A Song for the Cure**" on March 1st at 7pm. Doors open at 6pm with ticket cost set at \$15. Tickets can be purchased from Circle II members or at the door. All proceeds go to Relay for Life.
- Rev. Harold Middlebrook spoke at the **McMinn County Branch of the NAACP** Freedom Fund Banquet held this past Saturday at the McMinn Co. Living Heritage Museum. Rev. Middlebrook was with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr when he was assassinated in Memphis in 1968. He is 83 years old and has been the Pastor of the Canaan Baptist Church in Knoxville for several decades.
- Lane's Chapel AME Zion Church is hosting a **Mortgage Burning Service** on Sunday, March 2 at 4:00pm. The ceremony will take place at 904 County Road 264 in Niota. Rev. & Mrs. Hugh Dixson are the Pastors-in-Charge with Special Guest Bishop Daran H. Mitchell.
- **Watts Bar Community Church** is hosting their monthly "Man Up" Breakfast this Saturday, March 1 beginning at 9:00 am. It is always held on the first Saturday of the month.



2025-2026

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION



Keith Children's Academy is accepting registration for the 2025-2026 school year!

March 3
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- ✓ Parents' Day Out
- ✓ Registration forms on website:



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Friday, February 28, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Healing Hearts Grief Camp helps area children process loss

Healing Hearts Grief Camp was held recently at Calhoun School under the leadership of the School Counselor, Mrs. Tullier. Each child who attended had a recent experience with a deep, personal loss. It was a wonderful day of connecting, sharing, and healing.

With support animals (including a registered dog and miniature horses), journaling, and crafts, the students were able to begin to process profound grief with other students walking the same path. Grief counseling helps children reflect on their loss and begin to ex-



press their feelings by learning healthy coping strategies. This annual event was sponsored by the McMinn County Education Foundation and staffed by Guidance Counselors from all across our area.

Source: Ginger Robinson, Executive Director MCEF

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