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Athens City Schools Launches Free Summer Meal Program *Today*

Athens City Schools is once again offering free summer meals to children and teens, with the 2025 Summer Feeding Program set to begin TODAY, Monday, June 2.. The program will run through July 18. Funded by the USDA and administered locally by Athens City Schools, the program provides nutritious meals to all children 18 years and younger at no cost. This initiative ensures that local youth have continued access to healthy food throughout the summer break.

There is one notable change this year: North City, previously one of the primary distribution sites, will no longer be available due to ongoing demolition at that location. As a result, several alternate sites have been added to the summer feeding schedule.

Distribution will be held **Monday through Friday at Athens City Intermediate School, located at 255 Keith Lane. Families can utilize the drive-thru service between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.** In addition, mobile meal sites have been scheduled at the following community locations:

- Athens Gardens/Mews: 11:00–11:20 a.m.
- Forrest Hills Apartments: 11:35–11:55 a.m.
- McMinn Villa: 12:20–12:45 p.m.
- Clem Jones Apartments: 1:00–1:20 p.m.

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No sign-up or documentation is required, and meals are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Organizations such as Vacation Bible Schools or summer camps that are interested in offering free meals through the program are encouraged to reach out to the program coordinator at 423-333-3347 for more information. The Summer Feeding Program is part of the USDA's commitment to supporting families and communities during the summer months by ensuring that children continue to receive the nutrition they need to thrive.

Athens City Schools reminds residents that the program is open to all children regardless of income and encourages families to take advantage of this important service.

Source: Julie Lofland, Athens City Schools

Monday – Closed

- Tuesday-Decatur at the Boys and Girls Club -10:30 - 2:00
- Wednesday-Etowah Across from Johnsons-10:30 - 2:00
- Thursday-Athens Family Dollar 10:30 -1:30
- Friday-Sweetwater-Little Drugs-10:30 - 2:30
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Monday, June 2, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

CNB collecting for Nourish One Child



The Athens Branch of Citizens National Bank is currently taking donations for *Nourish One Child*, a program and ministry of Keith Memorial UMC, which provides weekly food bags to the children of Athens City Schools who would otherwise go an entire weekend without a meal. **Items requested include:**

• NutriGrain Bars (any flavor and store brand is fine)
• Easy Mac individual packs or cups
• Vienna Sausage
• Individual packs of oatmeal/grits
• Fruit cups

With your help, we can make sure a child does not go hungry over a weekend. Donations will be collected through July 31. Donations may be dropped off in the bank lobby at 1305 Decatur Pike, Athens. **Source: Julie Jones, Citizens National Bank**

Vehicle Crashes Through Fences, Strikes Pole on County Road 275

A Subaru Outback driver lost control Tuesday while traveling on County Road 275 near County Road 276, crashing through two fences before coming to a stop against a utility pole. Fortunately, no injuries were reported among the driver or passenger. Emergency crews from the Niota Rural Fire Department, North Monroe Fire, and Sweetwater Utilities responded to the scene, along with the Tennessee Highway Patrol. Trooper Tyra Johnson is leading the investigation into the accident.



Photo courtesy of David Prater, Niota Rural Fire Department

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Monday, June 2, 2025

Page 4

Athens, Tennessee

E.G. Fisher Library to Host Colorful Summer Reading Kick-Off Party June 5

E.G. Fisher Public Library's
SUMMER READING 2025 KICK OFF PARTY
 +Community Partners+Water Slide+Bubbles+Balloon Animals+Games+Snacks
THURSDAY, JUNE 5TH 10:30 AM TO 1:30 PM
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E.G. Fisher Public Library is inviting the community to dive into a season of stories, learning, and fun with its “Color Our World” Summer Reading Kick-Off Party on Thursday, June 5, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The event promises a festive atmosphere packed with free activities for the whole family. Attendees can enjoy a giant water slide, balloon animals, temporary tattoos, games, music, snacks, and more. Community partners will be on-site, and visitors will have the opportunity to sign up for the 2025 Summer Reading Challenge. The Kick-Off Party is free and open to the public, made possible through the support of the Kiwanis Club of Athens.

The library is also serving as a Summer Feeding site, in partnership with the YMCA. Children and teens can receive free lunches from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and free snacks Monday through Friday from 4:00 to 4:30 p.m. Meals must be eaten on site. Summer Feeding runs through July, with school-year meals resuming August 1. In addition to the Kick-Off Party, the library will host daily events Monday through Friday at 12:30 p.m., immediately following lunch. Programs are tailored for children, tweens, teens, adults, and families. The last day to log reading minutes and spin the prize wheel is July 18, with a Summer Reading Finale Party planned for July 22 at 4:30 p.m.

Volunteers are still needed for the Kick-Off Party, and those interested in helping are encouraged to contact the library. For more information about the Summer Reading Program or to volunteer, contact Meleena Livesay at (423) 745-7782 or email programming@fisherlibrary.org. Source: Mileena Livesay, E.G. Fisher Public Library Program Director

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Monday, June 2, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Richard James Ferguson, affectionately known to all as "Shorty," 81 of Decatur, passed away peacefully at his home on Tuesday, May 27. He dedicated many years of service as the head custodian in the Wallkill, New York school system. He was an active member of the Rough Riders Car Club. A memorial service was held on Sunday, June 1 at 7:00 PM at Companion Funeral Home in Athens. The immediate family will receive friends and other family members from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM with the service held at 7. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens, TN, and the Cody family to assisted the Ferguson family with these arrangements.

Tamara "Tammy" Armistead, 66, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 27. Tammy had a lifelong love for animals and was rarely without the companionship of a beloved dog. She found joy in the outdoors, especially fishing and observing nature, and she loved the camaraderie of playing softball. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens, TN, and the Cody family to assisted the family with arrangements.

Robert "Bob" Lee Ward, 72, passed away on Wednesday, May 28. Bob was cherished by all of his family and friends and will be missed greatly. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens, TN, and the Cody family assisted the Ward family with funeral arrangements.

Vickie "Diane" Hunt Gill, 73 of Tellico Plains, passed away peacefully at her home on Wednesday, May 28. Diane dedicated 47 years of her life to the medical field as a Medical Laboratory Technician. She was a long-standing member of the Alliance for Native American Indian Rights and found great joy in participating in Pow Wows and cultural gatherings across the country. Honoring Diane's wishes, no formal service will be held. Instead, she asked that a tree be planted with her ashes beside her beloved husband, Dave at their home. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens and the Cody family assisted the Gill family with these arrangements.

Steven "Steve" Ray Cayce, 74 of Chattanooga, passed away on Thursday, May 22. He was the proud owner of Concert and Theatrical Services and Supplies and ran sound and lighting for many concerts and events in the tri-state area. Steve loved playing instruments for his grandkids and sharing music with family and friends. He will be honored with a Celebration of Life on Sunday, July 27 at Cloudland Canyon State Park in the Group Shelter from 2-4 pm. Family and friends are encouraged to bring an instrument and join in a final jam session for Steve. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens and the Cody family assisted the Cayce family with these arrangements.

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