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Thursday, December 04, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Discover McMinn Launches Holiday Lights Contest Across the Entire County

This holiday season, Discover McMinn invites residents to embrace the spirit of the season with a festive new tradition: the McMinn County Holiday Lights Tour & Contest! From twinkling rooftops to glowing gardens, neighbors across the county are decking the halls — and their homes — with dazzling displays of holiday cheer.

Celebrate the Season, One Light at a Time As you cruise through McMinn County's neighborhoods this winter, take in the creativity, warmth, and joy radiating from homes and properties adorned with holiday decorations. Whether it's a classic string of lights or a full-blown winter wonderland, every display adds a sparkle to our community.

Nominate Your Favorite Display. Discover McMinn wants to recognize the resident who best captures the magic of the holidays. McMinn County residents are encouraged to nominate their favorite holiday light display by completing a quick online form. The winner will be selected based on community nominations and will receive a special prize — along with bragging rights as the county's most festive home!

How to Participate

- Drive around and enjoy the lights throughout McMinn County
- Spot a display that makes your season bright?
- Submit your nomination via the online form (link available on Discover McMinn's website and social media)

Let's make this season merry and bright — together. Join us in celebrating the creativity and holiday spirit that make McMinn County shine!

For more information and to submit your nomination, visit www.discovermcminn.com website or follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

WISHING YOU
Happy Holidays
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**McMinn County
Living Heritage Museum**

Upcoming Events

HERITAGE SCHOOL:
Join us for a fun and easy craft for the holiday season! This
diamond painting class is great for all ages.
Saturday, Dec. 6th @ 11:00 AM
\$5 or free for members.

HISTORY FOR LUNCH:
The Final Offensive:
How the B-29 Closed WWII
with Bob Roseberry
Thursday, December 11th @ Noon
Free Admission

Programs sponsored by C. Scott & Muriel S. Mayfield Family Foundation, Tennessee Arts Commission, Hugh M. Willson Family Foundation, and City of Athens

Hours:
Tuesday - Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM
Saturday: 10 AM - 1 PM
Sunday - Monday: Closed

Admission:
Adults: \$5.00
Senior 60+: \$3.00
Students: \$3.00

More Information
522 W Madison Ave.
Athens, TN 37303
423-745-0329
www.livingheritagemuseum.org

SEE WEBSITE
FOR FULL
PROGRAM
INFORMATION

**21st Annual
Etowah Community
Christmas Concert**
Thursday, Dec 11 @ 7 pm
First Baptist Church Etowah

FEATURING
Etowah Town Band
Etowah Community Choir
Flute & Saxophone Ensembles

FREE ADMISSION

Bring non-perishable food or monetary donations
to help the Etowah Cooperative Food Pantry.

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Thursday, Dec. 04, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

Gem Theater Getting New Exterior Upgrade



Etowah City Manager Russ Blair met this week with Adam Alfrey, a consultant assisting the city with the design and installation of new informational panels for the exterior display cases at the historic Gem Theater.

Their meeting comes as the City of Etowah moves forward with planned improvements made possible by \$100,000 in recently awarded grant funding. The grant was provided through the Tourism Enhancement Grant program administered by the Tennessee Department of Tourism Development (TDTD).

City officials say the funding will support renovations and updates at the Gem Theater, one of Etowah's key cultural and historic landmarks. Potential future projects include upgrades to staging, signage, ADA accessibility, historic preservation work, and other improvements aimed at enhancing visitor experience and boosting local tourism.

The renovations are part of Etowah's ongoing efforts to invest in community attractions and preserve the city's historic character for future generations.

Community News You Can Use

- Etowah Carnegie Library is offering kid's activities at 4 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays leading up to winter break. Join them for paper reindeer and snowmen on December 9th and a paper plate wreath craft on December 11th. For more information, call (423) 263-9475 or visit www.etowahlibrary.com.
- The Athens City Schools Board of Education draft agenda and packet for the Monday, December 8 board meeting can be viewed online on the Athens City Schools website. If an individual wishes to address the board on an item on the agenda, he/she may sign up on the form provided before the beginning of the board meeting to request time to speak. Delegations must select only one individual to speak on their behalf unless otherwise determined by the board.

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Breakfast of Givers Fundraiser

WOODWARD AVE CHURCH OF GOD

DECEMBER 4, 2025

7AM-9AM

WE WILL HAVE A SILENT AUCTION
PROCEEDS WILL HELP TO CONTINUE OUR
MISSION IN ATHENS



\$25 DONATION

DEADLINE TO PRE-ORDER TICKETS IS
NOVEMBER 26

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Thursday, Dec. 04, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Friendly Fellow Club Seeks Donations to Meet Record Demand for Christmas Food Boxes

The Friendly Fellow Club has been providing food boxes at Christmas to families in need in McMinn County for nearly 90 years. The boxes contain enough food staples to help families through the winter. Because of a larger than normal number of applications for food boxes, the Friendly Fellow Club is seeking additional donations to ensure it can continue to meet needs this year.

The Friendly Fellow Club is a 501(c)(3) organization. Not only are the donations tax-deductible, but because FFC operates under an all-volunteer board, 100 percent of all donations—every single penny—goes to help families in Athens and McMinn County. As always, only families residing within McMinn County are eligible for assistance, meaning your donations stay right here at home.

Online donations via credit/debit card or PayPal can be made by visiting friendlyfellows.org. Donations can also be mailed to P.O. Box 325, Athens, TN 37371-0325 or dropped off at The Daily Post-Athenian offices in Athens. Make checks payable to Friendly Fellow Club. Donations in honor or memory of a loved one are always a special tribute and are most welcome. Donors using the online payment portal can add an honorarium/memorial by including that information in the "Add Note" section of the donation portal.

Boxes will be packed and distributed at the National Guard Armory, located between Athens and Etowah off Highway 30. Boxes will be packaged on Monday, December 22, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. They will be distributed to members of eligible households at the same location on Tuesday, December 23, 2025, from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. As always, community members are welcome and encouraged to come to the armory and aid with the packing.

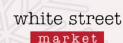
Source: Chris Adams, Friendly Fellows

DOWNTOWN ATHENS HOLIDAY PASSPORT

NOVEMBER 29TH - DECEMBER 6TH



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Thursday, Dec. 04, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Grace & Mercy Ministries Hosting "Breakfast of Givers" Fundraiser on Dec. 4



Grace & Mercy Ministries will host its annual *Breakfast of Givers* fundraiser on Thursday, December 4, 2025, (**This Morning**) from 7 to 9 a.m. at Woodward Avenue Church of God. The event will include a silent auction, with all proceeds supporting the organization's mission in Athens.

Special awards will be presented at 8 a.m. Tick-

ets are available for a \$25 donation. A QR code for online payment is also provided by the organization.

Tickets can be purchased at the door.

See ad on Page 2 for full details.

Barn-Garage Destroyed in Fire; Firefighters Save Nearby Home



A barn/garage on County Road 348 was destroyed in a fire Wednesday morning around 9 a.m., prompting a multi-agency response as flames threatened nearby structures and vehicles.

Firefighters arrived to find the building fully engulfed with a home just 30 feet away. Crews acted quickly to protect the 2,500-square-foot residence and were able

to prevent further damage. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Niota Rural Fire Chief Travis Newberry commanded the scene. Responding agencies included Niota, North McMinn, Clearwater, Englewood, and Athens Rural Fire Departments. AMR personnel were also on scene providing rehab support.

Photos by David Prater, Niota Rural FD

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Thursday DECEMBER 4th
4PM to 6PM
MAYFIELD Visitor Center



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Madison Avenue Pharmacy

Thursday, Dec. 04, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

12-02-25

Regina Ingram, 56 of Athens, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$2,000

Carl Shoemaker, 57 of Athens, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$2,000

Justin Smallin, 39 of Niota, charged with domestic assault and interference with 911 calls.

George Mizer, 38 of Sweetwater, charged with theft of property.

Dustin Atkins, 39 of Loudon, charged with casual exchange, possession of meth, and drug paraphernalia.

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

Information gathered using Public Sources.

Obituaries

Sandra "Sandy" Malone, 65 of Decatur, went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, December 2. Sandy brought light and love to all who knew her. A devoted member of the Baptist faith, she embraced the values of compassion and kindness, which she imparted to her family and the community. A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 6, in the Chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Interment will follow in the Decatur Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 12 to 2 p.m., prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Malone family.

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- DJ LIL' CINDY-LOU
- CHRISTMAS BOOTS ON THE GROUND DANCE CONTEST
- UGLY SWEATER CONTEST

Durant Tullock Memorial CHRISTMAS PARADE

Thursday December 4th - 7pm
Downtown Etowah

2025