

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Community News You Can Use

✓ Keep McMinn Beautiful will be conducting a litter pickup this Friday, February 7th, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Anyone who would like to volunteer is welcome. Call Stephanie Myers, executive director, for information at 506-7316.

✓ On March 1st, all unpaid 2019 Athens City property taxes will become delinquent, with a penalty added at the rate of oneand-one-half percent per month for each month until the delinquent taxes are paid. After March 1st, 2020, all unpaid 2018 city property taxes must be filed in Chancery Court for collection. Court costs, additional penalties, and legal costs may be avoided by paying 2018 property taxes prior to March 1st. This information comes from the City of Athens Finance Department.

✓ The Annual Athens Area Chamber of Commerce meeting will take place Thursday, February 6th, starting at 5:30 p.m. at The Barn at Faith Farms, 136 County Road 260. At the meeting, the annual awards will be presented, including Man of the Year, Mother of the Year, Young Man of the Year, Farmer of the Year, and Teacher of the Year.

✓ United Way of McMinn & Meigs Counties announces that their 2020 annual meeting will be held on Thursday, February 13th, at the McMinn County Senior Center. If you are planning to attend, you should RSVP by February 11th to the United Way office at 745-9606.

Another Joe Guy History Moment

Just behind First Baptist Church in Athens is the Lowery House, It's stately squared columns rising from the hill. It has overlooked Athens for almost 200 years.

William Lowery purchased land on Eastanaulee Creek in 1820, after the Hiwassee Purchase opened former Cherokee lands to settlement. Lowery arrived to find his land already occupied by an Irishman named William Gardenhire who had built a cabin and was operating a small farm from on the hill above the creek. Paying Gardenhire for his improvements, Lowery is believed to have added his own larger frame house to the Gardenhire cabin, which is today the rear portion of the house, and operated a successful farm there. The Lowery home was completed in 1828.

When a new county seat was needed, Lowery sold acreage for the town of Athens to be built. He would continue to be a leader in McMinn County government and business for many years. For the past century and a half the house would eventually be owned by other well-known names in Athens, including Keiths, Rices, Gettys, Duggans, Shermans, and Carters.

It can be said that the first home in Athens still stands, as the logs of William Gardenhire's old cabin are still visible in the Lowery House.

(Moments of McMinn County History are prepared by Historian Joe Guy)





Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

• Sandra "Sandy" D. Russell, age 49, of Athens, died Monday. Funeral services will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Bordwine Funeral Home with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. prior to the service.

• Mary Sue Craig, age 75, of Athens, died January 27th at Life Care of Athens. A private service will be held at a later date with burial in Delano Cemetery. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge.

• **Ronnie Franklin Fairbanks,** age 55, of Decatur, died Wednesday at Grace Healthcare in Decatur. There will be no formal services. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge.

• Ellen Diana Price Beverley, age 58, of Athens, died January 31st at the home of her daughter in Etowah. She was a school teacher for many years. A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday at Mars Hill Presbyterian Church with visitation from 1 to 3 p.m. prior to the service. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is in charge.

✓ The guest on "Hope from the Well" this week is Loretta Edgeman, a volunteer. "Hope from the Well" is presented by Women at the Well each Thursday at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI Radio, FM 94.5 and AM-1390 and ONLINE

McMinn Co. Home Sales for Jan.

There were 41 home sales in McMinn County in January. The information is provided by Tennessee Valley Appraisal Services. Here is a sampling of the home sales:

County Rd 550, Athens - $\$250,000$ Holt Street, Athens - $\$240,000$ Ingleside Ave., Athens - $\$230,000$ Kenwood Drive, Athens - $\$2230,000$ County Rd 452, Athens - $\$220,000$ County Rd 452, Athens - $\$220,000$ County Rd 620, Etowah - $\$195,700$ County Rd 675, Athens - $\$190,000$ County Rd 675, Athens - $\$190,000$ County Rd 100, Decatur - $\$180,000$ Woodlawn Circle, Athens - $\$180,000$ County Rd 786, Etowah - $\$178,000$ 3rd Street, Etowah - $\$159,900$ N. Niota Rd, Englewood - $\$156,000$ County Rd 653, Athens - $\$150,000$ County Rd 903, Etowah - $\$141,000$ CR 587, Englewood - $\$144,0000$ Richardson St., Athens - $\$136,000$ Milard St., Athens - $\$134,000$ Vermont Ave., Athens - $\$127,000$ Buck Brown Street, Englewood - $\$122,000$ County Rd 907, Calhoun - $\$120,000$		
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