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Monday, February 02, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

AUB Crews Assist with Power Restoration Following Winter Storm Fern

Athens Utilities Board (AUB) power crews are assisting with restoration efforts across Tennessee following Winter Storm Fern, which brought ice and severe winter weather that caused widespread power outages.

A seven-member AUB lineman crew departed Athens on Sunday, Jan. 25, to help restore power in the Rockwood area. The crew completed work there by Tuesday, Jan. 27, before moving on to Harriman to assist with additional restoration efforts. The crew returned to Athens late Thursday night.

AUB continues to provide mutual aid support. A second seven-member lineman crew was scheduled to depart for Nashville on Friday to assist Nashville Electric Service (NES). As of Friday, Jan. 30, approximately 112,608 homes and businesses—about 24.3 percent of NES customers—remained without power due to extensive damage caused by ice accumulation and severe weather across Middle Tennessee.

David St. John, superintendent of power for Athens Utilities Board, praised the efforts of AUB's linemen and the positive response from communities they assisted.

"I received a call from Larry Brackett in Rockwood letting me know how impressed he was with our linemen," St. John said. "He told me that out of all the crews he has worked around, our team stood out."

St. John also commended the teamwork and dedication of AUB's crews, noting their willingness to help other communities while facing challenging conditions.

Athens Utilities Board regularly participates in mutual aid efforts during major weather events while continuing to serve customers locally.

Source: Amy McDonald, AUB



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SCHEDULE WEATHER PERMITTING:

- Monday: Closed
- Tue: Madisonville Wil Sav 10:30 - 2
- Wed: Etowah Across from Johnsons-10:30 - 2
- Thu: Athens Family Dollar 10:30 - 2
- Fri: Sweetwater Little Drugs-10:30 - 2:30



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Monday, Feb. 02, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Community News You Can Use

- Due to continuing below-freezing temperatures and the presence of snow and ice on many of the bus routes, city and county roads, and school parking lots, Athens City Schools will be closed **TODAY**, Monday, Feb. 2. Kids Connection will also be closed.
- McMinn County Schools will be closed **TODAY**, Monday, Feb. 2, due to icy road conditions. Look for future updates via text and social media.
- The McMinn Living Heritage Museum has announced several February programs featuring hands-on workshops, history presentations, and traditional cooking classes at its Athens location. Events include a basket making class on **Saturday Feb. 7**, a free History for Lunch program on Little Debbie and McKee Foods on **Thursday, Feb. 12**, the debut of the Heritage Table cuisine series with a Shabu Shabu cooking class on **Saturday, Feb. 21**, and a Louisiana gumbo class on **Saturday, Feb. 28**. Registration details and additional information are available through the museum.

Single-Vehicle Crash Reported on Highway 307 in Athens



A single-vehicle crash was reported around 11 p.m. Thursday on Highway 307 at County Road 422 in Athens.

According to authorities, the driver lost control of a 2018 Subaru Forester, resulting in the crash. When AMR arrived on scene, the driver declined medical transport.

Responding agencies included Athens Rural Fire, Niota Rural Fire, Englewood Rural Fire, and the McMinn County Sheriff's Department. The accident was investigated by Tennessee Highway Patrol Trooper Leigha Jones.

Photo provided by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD

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Monday, Feb. 02, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

AMRPC to Meet Today to Consider Plat Approval, Historic Overlay

- The Athens Municipal-Regional Planning Commission is scheduled to meet Monday, Feb. 2, 2026, at noon in the conference room to conduct regular business and consider two items of new business. The meeting will begin with roll call, followed by approval of minutes from the Jan. 29, 2025, work session and the Jan. 5, 2026, regular meeting, if there is a quorum. Under new business, the commission will hear public comments and consider final plat approval for Porter Clark on property identified as Tax Map 056L, Group A, Parcels 038.00, 039.00 and 040.00 on the Tennessee Real Estate Property Assessment Data website. The property, located off Decatur Pike and the unopened Railroad Avenue right of way, includes 0.61 acres divided into three lots and is zoned B-3 Intensive Business District and R-2 Medium Density Residential. The commission will also take public comments and review the Athens Historical Preservation Committee's proposed H-2 Commercial Historic Preservation Overlay within the B-2 Central Business District, along with making a recommendation on the proposal. The agenda also includes time for petitions and requests from the audience, followed by a staff report.
- The guest on the Main Street Moments radio broadcast on Tuesday, Feb 3rd will be Natasha Versa with Biskit NV which is a new business in Athens that is based at the Food Hub at 3 West College Street. Biskit NV serves Southern Style breakfast 3 days a week. Join Maggie Blaine at 8:15 Tuesday morning on WYXI RADIO FM 94.5 & AM 1390 and hear her interview with Natasha.

Songwriter's Night to Close Black Box Concert Series This Friday

The Athens Area Council for the Arts will host *Songwriter's Night with Kyshona* on Friday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m. in the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater at The Arts Center.

The concert will close the 2025–26 Black Box Concert Series and features an intimate evening of original music curated by singer-songwriter Kyshona Armstrong. Armstrong, known for using storytelling and music to build connection and promote healing, will be joined by fellow singer-songwriters Damien Horne and Joy Clark.

Joy Clark, a Louisiana-born singer-songwriter and guitarist, brings music from her debut album *Tell It to the Wind*, reflecting both personal independence and the traditions of her New Orleans roots. Damien Horne, originally from Hickory, North Carolina, began performing at a young age and later gained national exposure after being discovered in Nashville, leading to touring opportunities with several well-known artists.

All Black Box Concert Series performances are held in the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater. Tickets are on sale now and range from \$20 to \$25. Early ticket purchases are encouraged.

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Monday, Feb. 02, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

January 29, 2026

Jason Smith, 39 of Turtletown, charged with violation of probation for shoplifting and restitution, Bond \$2,650.

Mary Payne, 41 of Turtletown, charged with violation of probation for theft and restitution, Bond \$1,560.45.

Nitorious Williams, 23 of Athens, charged with domestic assault, and interference with 911 calls, Bond \$3,000.

Sarah Rogers, 41 of Madisonville, charged with driving on a revoked license, Bond \$4,000.

Timothy Pierce, 57 of Riceville, charged with state violation of probation for burglary.

January 30, 2026

April Stamey, 51 of Athens, charged with violation of probation. for introduction of contraband into a penal facility.

Sarah Weinweber, 28 of Athens, charged with theft of property, drug paraphernalia, violation of probation for criminal trespassing, Bond \$3,500.

Gordon McKenzie, 60 of Sweetwater, charged with felony aggravated domestic assault, unlawful carry or possession of a weapon by a felon, theft of firearm, Bond \$40,000.

James Taylor, 64 of Athens, charged with DUI second offense, driving on a revoked license, Bond \$4,000.

Cameron Cleveland, 36 of Niota, charged with DUI, Bond \$1,000.

Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Information gathered using public sources.



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Monday, Feb. 02, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Myra "Tiny" Rose Creasman, 92 of Decatur, passed away on Friday, January 30. She retired from Meigs County Board of Education after forty plus years of service. She was a graduate of Tennessee Tech University (1955). Before teaching school in Roane County, she taught in the Philippines and McMinn County. Myra was a devoted member of Decatur United Methodist Church for many years. The family will receive friends from 1 - 3 p.m., on Monday, February 2 at Decatur United Methodist Church. A private graveside service will be held per Tiny's request. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Creasman family.

Linda Gail McConkey, 68 of Sweetwater, passed away on Thursday, January 29. There will be no formal services at this time. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

Steve Young "John R.", 71 of Niota, passed away on Thursday, January 29. Steve had a deep love for wildlife and made sure every creature around his home was well fed. Steve worked as a coal miner until an injury ended his career. A true jack of all trades, he could fix just about anything without needing to call for help. There will be no formal services at this time. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

Robin Denise Beddingfield, 63, passed away on Wednesday, January 28. She worked as a nurse at NHC for more than 25 years. Funeral Services will be 6:00PM Wednesday, February 4 in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Graveside services will be 2:00 PM Thursday, February 5, 2026 at Roane Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends from 4-6 PM Wednesday prior to the service at the funeral home. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral home in Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

Lloyd Ann Joines 86 of Vincent AL, passed away peacefully at her home on Tuesday, January 27. She was a native of Niota, and was a 1957 graduate of McMinn County High School. Ann was recognized by all as an especially graceful and accomplished dancer. She was stylish and elegant both on and off the dance floor. A graveside service will be held 1:00 PM, Tuesday, February 3 at Mt. Harmony Cemetery. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in charge of local arrangements.

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