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'May Mayhem' Softball Tournament Set for Athens Regional Park



The "May Mayhem" softball tournament is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, at Athens Regional

Park, with games beginning at 9 a.m.

Hosted by Tennessee Fastpitch and sanctioned by USSSA Softball, the tournament will utilize all five fields at the park's new turf complex. Teams are expected from across the region, including areas as far as Ringgold, Georgia; Knoxville; and Hayesville, North Carolina.

For more information about hosting events at Athens Regional Park, contact the Parks and Recreation Office at 423-744-2704.

Source: Matthew Siniard, Athens Parks & Rec.

Community News You Can Use

- The City of Athens Public Works Department has announced a temporary closure of College Street from Jackson Street to Long Street on Wednesday, April 29, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The closure is to accommodate Tennessee Wesleyan University's Bulldog Bash event. Motorists are advised to use caution, follow posted signage, and expect delays in the area.
- The Etowah Friendly Garden Club will host its Annual Plant Sale on Saturday morning, May 9 at the Historic L&N Depot in the heart of Etowah from 8 a.m. to 12 Noon. The club's members will sell trees and flowers that they've grown in their yards and flower beds. Proceeds from the plant sale to go to area charities that include the Etowah Christmas For Kids Program, the Etowah Boys and Girls Club, and the Miracle Lake Rehabilitation Center in Etowah.
- Main Street Athens Tennessee will host a community meeting Thursday, April 30, at 6 p.m. in the Blue Room of the McMinn County Courthouse to discuss the reopening of the Downtown Improvement Grant program. Downtown business and property owners are encouraged to attend and participate.

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McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

Upcoming Spring Events

HERITAGE SCHOOL:

BEGINNING ITALIAN WITH JOYCE SIMPSON
SATURDAYS, MAY 2ND, 9TH & 16TH @ 11:00 AM
\$5 EACH OR FREE WITH MEMBERSHIP

BOOK SIGNING: "SEE ROCK CITY BARNS" WITH JUDITH AND LEN GARRISON
SATURDAY, MAY 9TH @ 11:00 AM *FREE ADMISSION*

HISTORY FOR LUNCH:

THE HISTORY OF LEWIS AND CLARK WITH JOHN BINANDO
THURSDAY, MAY 28TH @ NOON *FREE ADMISSION*

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

Museum 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

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Thursday, April 30, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Trash & Treasure Sale Raises Over \$23,000 for Living Heritage Museum

The annual Trash & Treasure Sale at the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum drew strong crowds April 22–25, raising more than \$23,000 to support the museum's programs and preservation efforts.

A highlight of the event came Friday during a live remote broadcast by WYXI Radio, where personalities Cousin Mark Lefler and Brother Barry Sullivan interviewed museum staff and interacted with shoppers throughout the day. Museum Director Brett King and Guild President Terry Kratz were among those featured during the broadcast.

Shoppers filled both the museum basement and annex locations in search of bargains, while several attendees also won prizes, including museum memberships, tickets to Soaky Mountain Waterpark, and passes to upcoming performances at The Arts Center.

Organizers described the event as a successful and busy weekend, with proceeds benefiting ongoing operations.



Cousin Mark and Brother Barry interview Museum Director, Brett King



Museum Director Brett King and Julia Young, winner of a 1-year museum membership



Cousin Mark with Karianne McElhaney winner of Soaky Mountain and Arts Center tickets



Cousin Mark and Brother Barry interview Museum Guild President, Terry Kratz

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Sample Ballot
OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR McMINN COUNTY
PRIMARY ELECTION HELD ON
May 5, 2026

Precinct NEWSPAPER
Page 1 of 3

Please use a black or blue ink pen to mark your ballot. To vote for your choice in each contest, completely fill in the box next to your choice.

McMinn County Election Commission
Todd Watson, Chairman
Bobby Goodman, Secretary
Stephen Miller, Member
Amber Robinson, Member
Brenda Ratledge, Member
Bridgett Pritchard, Administrator of Elections

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY BALLOT

COUNTY MAYOR
Vote for One (1)

Ballot form for County Mayor with candidate John M. Gentry and a write-in line.

COUNTY COMMISSION
District 1
Vote for Two (2)

Ballot form for County Commission District 1 with candidates Darrell Allen, Brent Carter, Tad Simpson, Scott D Williams and write-in lines.

COUNTY COMMISSION
District 2
Vote for Two (2)

Ballot form for County Commission District 2 with candidates Jared C Lynn, J. W. McPhail, Jerry L Millsaps, Susan W Peglow, Jake Roberts, Jerry Wattenbarger and write-in lines.

COUNTY COMMISSION
District 3
Vote for Two (2)

Ballot form for County Commission District 3 with candidates Tim King, Roger Masingale and write-in lines.

COUNTY COMMISSION
District 4
Vote for Two (2)

Ballot form for County Commission District 4 with candidates Tony Allman, Kim Bivens and write-in lines.

COUNTY COMMISSION
District 5
Vote for Two (2)

Ballot form for County Commission District 5 with candidates Travis Crisp, Scott Curtis and write-in lines.

COUNTY TRUSTEE
Vote for One (1)

Ballot form for County Trustee with candidate Phil Tuggle and a write-in line.

SHERIFF
Vote for One (1)

Ballot form for Sheriff with candidates Joe Guy, Michael H. Hayes and a write-in line.

CIRCUIT COURT CLERK
Vote for One (1)

Ballot form for Circuit Court Clerk with candidates Doug Bailey, Amanda Carr Howard, Stephanie S Raper, Stephanie Swafford and a write-in line.

COUNTY CLERK
Vote for One (1)

Ballot form for County Clerk with candidate Melinda King and a write-in line.

REGISTER of DEEDS
Vote for One (1)

Ballot form for Register of Deeds with candidate Cheryl P. Ingram and a write-in line.

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER
Vote for One (1)

Ballot form for Highway Commissioner with candidates Dan P Evans, Charles Slack and a write-in line.

SCHOOL BOARD
District 1
Vote for One (1)

Ballot form for School Board District 1 with candidate Joe Malone and a write-in line.

SCHOOL BOARD
District 2
Vote for One (1)

Ballot form for School Board District 2 with candidate John Ulrich and a write-in line.

Sample Ballot

Sample Ballot
OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR McMINN COUNTY
PRIMARY ELECTION HELD ON
May 5, 2026

Precinct NEWSPAPER
Page 2 of 3

SCHOOL BOARD
District 3
Vote for One (1)

Ballot form for School Board District 3 with candidate Mike Cochran and a write-in line.

SCHOOL BOARD
District 4
Vote for One (1)

Ballot form for School Board District 4 with candidate Bill Irvin and a write-in line.

SCHOOL BOARD
District 5
Vote for One (1)

Ballot form for School Board District 5 with candidate Greg Sloan and a write-in line.

CONSTABLE
District 1
Vote for One (1)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for Constable District 1 with a write-in line.

CONSTABLE
District 2
Vote for One (1)

Ballot form for Constable District 2 with candidate Larry Gaston and a write-in line.

CONSTABLE
District 3
Vote for One (1)

Ballot form for Constable District 3 with candidate Shawn Martin and a write-in line.

CONSTABLE
District 4
Vote for One (1)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for Constable District 4 with a write-in line.

CONSTABLE
District 5
Vote for One (1)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for Constable District 5 with a write-in line.

CONSTABLE
District 5
Vote for One (1)

Ballot form for Constable District 5 with candidate Mitchell Boyd and a write-in line.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION
City of Etowah
SCHOOL BOARD
City of Etowah
Vote for Three (3)

Ballot form for Municipal Election School Board City of Etowah with candidates Bob Lambert, Christie Rhodes and write-in lines.

Sample Ballot

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY BALLOT
COUNTY MAYOR
Vote for One (1)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for Democratic Primary Ballot County Mayor with a write-in line.

COUNTY COMMISSION
District 1
Vote for Two (2)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for County Commission District 1 with write-in lines.

COUNTY COMMISSION
District 2
Vote for Two (2)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for County Commission District 2 with write-in lines.

COUNTY COMMISSION
District 3
Vote for Two (2)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for County Commission District 3 with write-in lines.

COUNTY COMMISSION
District 4
Vote for Two (2)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for County Commission District 4 with write-in lines.

COUNTY COMMISSION
District 5
Vote for Two (2)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for County Commission District 5 with write-in lines.

COUNTY COMMISSION
Vote for Two (2)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for County Commission with write-in lines.

COUNTY COMMISSION
Vote for Two (2)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for County Commission with write-in lines.

Sample Ballot
OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR McMINN COUNTY
PRIMARY ELECTION HELD ON
May 5, 2026

Precinct NEWSPAPER
Page 3 of 3

COUNTY TRUSTEE
Vote for One (1)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for County Trustee with a write-in line.

SHERIFF
Vote for One (1)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for Sheriff with a write-in line.

CIRCUIT COURT CLERK
Vote for One (1)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for Circuit Court Clerk with a write-in line.

COUNTY CLERK
Vote for One (1)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for County Clerk with a write-in line.

REGISTER of DEEDS
Vote for One (1)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for Register of Deeds with a write-in line.

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER
Vote for One (1)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for Highway Commissioner with a write-in line.

SCHOOL BOARD
District 1
Vote for One (1)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for School Board District 1 with a write-in line.

SCHOOL BOARD
District 2
Vote for One (1)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for School Board District 2 with a write-in line.

SCHOOL BOARD
District 3
Vote for One (1)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for School Board District 3 with a write-in line.

SCHOOL BOARD
District 4
Vote for One (1)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for School Board District 4 with a write-in line.

SCHOOL BOARD
District 5
Vote for One (1)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for School Board District 5 with a write-in line.

CONSTABLE
District 1
Vote for One (1)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for Constable District 1 with a write-in line.

CONSTABLE
District 2
Vote for One (1)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for Constable District 2 with a write-in line.

CONSTABLE
District 3
Vote for One (1)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for Constable District 3 with a write-in line.

CONSTABLE
District 4
Vote for One (1)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for Constable District 4 with a write-in line.

CONSTABLE
District 5
Vote for One (1)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for Constable District 5 with a write-in line.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION
City of Etowah
SCHOOL BOARD
City of Etowah
Vote for Three (3)
No Candidate Qualified

Ballot form for Municipal Election School Board City of Etowah with write-in lines.

Sample ballot

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Athens Opens Registration for Adult Co-Ed Softball League on May 1

The City of Athens is now accepting registrations for its Adult Co-Ed Softball League, with sign-ups running from May 1 through June 22. Games are scheduled to begin June 30 at Athens Regional Park.

League play will take place on Tuesday nights, with game times set for 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Teams may register for a fee of \$400, while individuals without a team can sign up as free agents for \$30 and will be placed on a roster at the close of registration.

Registration is available online, by phone at 423-744-2704, or in person at Athens City Hall. The league is open to participants ages 16 and older.

League rules require teams to include a mix of male and female players on the field, and all participants must use approved equipment. A mandatory meeting for all teams and free agents will be held June 25 at Athens Regional Park. *Source: Matthew Siniard, Athens Parks & Rec.*

McMinn County Arrest Reports

April 28, 2026

- Desiree Kohler**, 31 of Spring City, charged with DUI, violation of implied consent, violation of the open container law, and violation of the light law, Bond \$2,000.
- Gavin Sotelo**, 21, charged with statutory rape by an authority figure.
- Jacob Hall**, 43 of Delano, charged with violation of probation, and child support, Bond \$6000.
- Melissa Gonzalez**, 48 of Riceville, charged with failure to appear for driving on a revoked license, Bond \$2,000.
- Juan Espinoza**, 36 of Kayak, Mexico, charged with DUI, and failure to have insurance.

The accused remain innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.
Information gathered using Public Sources.

Athens Lutheran Church
Rummage Sale & Bake Sale

Friday & Saturday,
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710 Forrest Ave.
(across from Library wetlands)

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Thursday, April 30, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Susan Lynette Brown, 69, of Athens, passed away on Saturday, April 25. All are invited to gather at her final resting place marked by an Angel in the Collegedale Memorial Park Cemetery on Sunday May 3 at 1:00 p.m. Good Samaritan Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Luther "Stanley" McKee, age 85, of Sweetwater, passed away on Sunday, April 26. Stanley was a devoted man of faith and attended Miracle Deliverance Tabernacle in Athens. He had a giving heart and faithfully supported St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The family will receive friends on Saturday, May 2 at the Chapel of Companion Funeral Home in Athens from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. A Celebration of Life Service will follow at 4:00 PM. Interment will immediately follow at St. Mary's Cemetery in Madisonville. Companion Funeral Home and Cremation Service in charge of arrangements.

Donna Lynn Robinson, 50, of Athens, passed away on Monday, April 27 at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga. She had a generous and selfless spirit, always willing to give all she had and more to anyone in need. She was proud to be a part of the Hero Walk in Chattanooga. At this time, no formal services are planned. The family will hold a private gathering at a later date to celebrate Donna's life. Companion Funeral Home and Cremation Service in charge of arrangements.

Ruth "Ruthie" Miller Lynn, 79 of Loudon, died Monday, April 27, at Parkwest Hospital. Ruthie was a retired employee of Maremont Corporation and was of the Baptist faith. She enjoyed watching and looking after the wildlife in her backyard and had a general love for animals. Survivors include her husband of 62 years, Charles Lynn and son, Richard "Chip" Lynn. She frequently spoke fondly about the trips she took with her son and their many adventures. Visitation will be Friday, May 1 from 5-7 PM at Loudon Funeral Home, with the funeral service to follow at 7:00 PM. The graveside service will be Saturday, May 2 at 11:00 AM at Roberson Springs Cemetery. Loudon Funeral Home and Cremations is proud to serve the Lynn family.



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