

Tuesday, May 06, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Etowah Friendly Garden Club to host annual plant sale on Saturday



The **Etowah Friendly Garden Club** will host its **Annual Plant Sale** from 8 a.m. to 12 Noon at the Historic L& N Depot on Tennessee Avenue (Highway 411) in the heart of Downtown Etowah. Proceeds from the Plant Sale will be donated to different area projects and charities.

Past Etowah Friendly Garden Club Annual Plant Sale proceeds have been awarded to the Etowah Christmas For Kids Program, the Etowah Boys and Girls Club, Scholarships to area High School students interested in Garden and Agricultural careers, and providing Thanksgiving/Christmas Lunch for the Miracle Lake Center in Etowah. A wide variety of household plants, both indoor and

outdoor, tree seedlings, plant seeds, and more will be for sale for well below retail prices. These plants have been grown locally, and cared for by area Etowah Friendly Garden Club members. They will be at the Plant Sale wearing their familiar yellow shirts and will be glad to answer any questions about their plants. There will also be gardening tools and accessories for sale at the Plant Sale. Items will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Those looking for a specific plant can message the Etowah Friendly Garden Club on their Facebook page.

The Etowah Friendly Garden Club was founded in the late 1940's. While its mission may have changed over the decades, their focus has always been on educating the public on the benefits of gardening and giving back to the community. The Etowah Friendly Garden Club serves Etowah, TN and the surrounding areas. They're interested in growing healthy and beautiful plants and flowers, selling them to the public, and donating the proceeds to area charities. The Etowah Friendly Garden Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Etowah Community Center. Check their Facebook page for the latest information, or call the club President Gene Keller at 423-263-1506. *Source: Etowah Friendly Garden Club - Facebook*

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Boyd elected Vice President of TABS



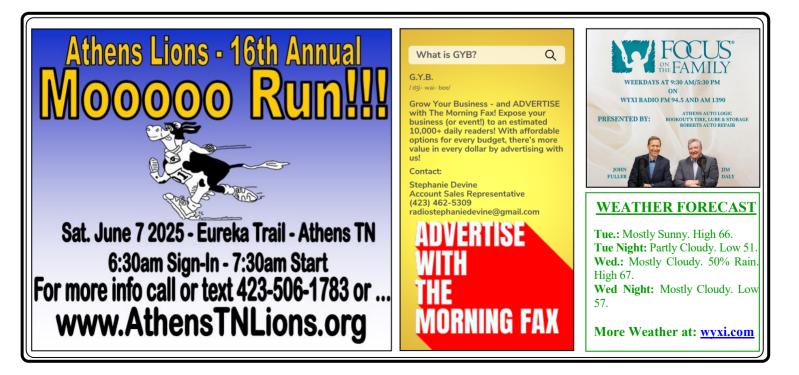
Missy Boyd of Athens has been elected Vice President of the **Tennessee Association of Board Secretaries (TABS)** for the 2025–2026 term. The announcement was made during the Tennessee School Boards Association's Annual Board Secretaries' Conference held on May 1.

In addition to her new leadership role, Boyd was also recognized with a Level III Certification—the highest level in the TABS Certification Program, which promotes professional growth among school board secretaries.

Other officers elected include Jana Gore of Arlington as President and Angel Stidham of Tullahoma as President-Elect. *Source: Julie Lofland, ACS*

Community News You Can Use

- The City of Athens Public Works Department will close **Tellico Avenue from Knoxville Avenue to Hammerhill Road** beginning **Wednesday**, **May 7 at 8:00 a.m. through Thursday**, **May 8 at 4:00 p.m.** for pavement repairs. For more information, contact Public Works at **423-744-2745**.
- The Athens Area Chamber of Commerce will have a ribbon cutting TODAY for *LPT Realty Shannon Lingerfelt*, located at 805 Willson Street in Niota. It will be held at 1:30 p.m.
- The Mid-East Tennessee Community Chorus will host a benefit concert for St. Mark AME Zion Church TODAY at 7:00PM at Allen Memorial United Baptist Church (800 Decatur Pike, Athens) Donations are being collected to raise funds for the St. Mark AME Zion Church Rebuilding Fund.
- The McMinn County Senior Activity Center is having a yard cleanup day this Saturday at 9:00 a.m. Volunteers are needed to assist in the trimming of trees and bushes, pulling weeds, and planting flowers.





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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Michael (Mike) Austin Malone, 63 of Sweetwater, passed away on Jerry Michael Wittenmyer, 74 of McMinn County, passed away Sunday, May 4 after a battle of cancer. He attended Tennessee Auto Diesel College in Nashville. He had always worked as a Master Mechanic. Family and Friends are gathering this Thursday, May 8 at his home (877 County Road 350, Sweetwater). Walk in, grab a bite, and tell a tale between 5:30pm - 8:00pm. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services is honored to serve the family of Michael (Mike) Austin Malone.

Garnet Ford Hackler Cofer, 93 of Decatur, passed away on Sunday, April 13. Garnet was a member of Savannah Methodist Church in Ooltewah and a past member of Decatur First Baptist Church. She received her LPN nursing degree in 1960. She worked in several hospitals and nursing homes in TN and FL. Later, she owned and operated "Home for the Aged" in Decatur. A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, May 9, 2025 in the Sewee Church of God Cemetery. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Family of Miss Garnet.

Stephen "Steve" Lawrence Robbins, 75 of McMinn County, passed away on Saturday, May 3. He was retired after 27 years with Johns Manville where he worked as a superintendent. Steve served in the National Guard. A celebration of Steve's life will be held at a later date. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Stephen "Steve" Lawrence Robbins.

on Saturday, May 3. Jerry served in the United States Army. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, May 7 from 5:00 - 7:00 PM at Ziegler Funeral Home. Family and friends will gather for a graveside service with military honors at McMinn Memory Gardens at 2:00 PM on Thursday, May 8. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Jerry Michael Wittenmyer.

Larry Eugene Abston, 67 of Athens, passed away on Wednesday, April 30. Larry retired from Whirlpool after 28 years of dedicated service. There will be no formal services at this time. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens, TN, and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

Donna Marie Steinbach, 55 of Calhoun, passed away peacefully at home on Friday, May 2 surrounded by her loving family. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, May 24 at 1 p.m. at Benton Church of God, 587 Clemmer Ferry Rd., Benton, TN. The urn burial will follow at the Steinbach residence in Calhoun. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the Steinbach family with these arrangements.

