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Wednesday, February 04, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

E.G. Fisher Public Library Highlights Black History Month, Family Events in February



E.G. Fisher Public Library has announced a full schedule of February programs combining Black History Month observances with family-friendly and community-focused events.

The month opens with **Take Your Child to the Library Day** on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., featuring activity stations and opportunities for families to explore library resources. On Friday, Feb. 13, the **Teen Advisory Board** will host an **all-day bake sale** from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., while supplies last, with proceeds supporting teen programs.

In recognition of Black History Month and the 2026 theme, *A Century of Black History Commemorations*, the library will feature book displays, local history banners, and a community reflection wall throughout February.

The Noon Book Club will meet Wednesday, Feb. 11, at noon to discuss *The Narrative of Frederick Douglass*, led by Frank Walker of First Baptist Church of Cleveland. A light lunch will be provided by the Friends of the Library. Also planned is **Voices Remembered**, a **Black History Month essay contest** open to all ages, with submissions due by noon on Monday, March 16. Selected essays will be displayed in the library, and winners will be invited to read during a community reflection event.

The month concludes with **Community Reflection: Honoring a Century of Black History** on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 6 p.m., featuring readings from selected essay winners and an open, guided discussion for community members. Light refreshments will be provided.

Library officials invite residents of all ages to participate in the February events. Full details are available at fisherlibrary.org, on the library's social media pages, or by calling 423-745-7782.

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Athens, Tennessee

Community News You Can Use

- SETHRA, in partnership with the Chattanooga Area Food Bank, will distribute USDA food commodities to eligible Meigs County residents on Tuesday, Feb. 11, starting at 11 a.m. at the Meigs County City & County Building in Decatur. Residents may sign up the day of the event or register in advance by calling 423-334-3305. Proof of income or eligibility is required.
- The City of Athens Public Works Department has announced a temporary street closure on Mayfield Lane, from Ingleside Avenue to Madison Avenue. The closure will begin Wednesday, Feb. 4 at 6 a.m. and remain in effect continuously through Friday, Feb. 6 at 6 p.m. Detours will be posted during the project. The closure is necessary for work related to Mayfield regional detention. For more information, contact the Athens Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.
- The McMinn County Historical Society and Archives will host their monthly meeting on Sunday, February 8 at 2:00pm in the Blue Room of the McMinn County Courthouse. The Guest Speaker will be Dr. Warren Dockter discussing Intelligence and the Battle of Kings Mountain.

AACA Spring Break Class Registration

Athens Area Council for the Arts has announced registration for Artsplorations visual arts workshops for school-aged youth **March 17 & 19, 2026**. All workshops are beginner-friendly.

Participants should register by Friday, March 13 for all Spring Artsplorations workshops. The cost for each session is based on a four-tier Pay What You Can scale and materials are included for all tiers.

Discover Pottery with Patricia Shook is open to ages 5 - 10. The workshop meets **Tuesday, March 17, 10:00 AM - Noon**.

Explore Pottery with Patricia Shook is open to ages 11 - 16. The workshop meets **Tuesday, March 17, 1:00 - 3:00 PM**.

Discover Painting with Katie Bragg is open to ages 5 - 10. The workshop meets **Thursday, March 19, 10:00 AM - Noon**. I

Explore Painting with Katie Bragg is open to ages 11 - 16. The workshop meets **Thursday, March 19, 1:00 - 3:00 PM**.

Information about the instructors, as well as links to register for all classes and workshops, is available online at athensartscouncil.org/classes. Please note there is a transaction fee to register online; however, students may register over the phone at 423-745-8781, or in person at The Arts Center, with no transaction fee.



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McMinn County Arrest Reports

February 02, 2026

- Justin Coogler**, 40 of Athens, charged with burglary.

Letitia Garcia, 25 of Sweetwater, charged with failure to appear for driving without a license, Bond \$2,000.

David West, 43 of Niota, charged with possession of meth, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$32,000.

Hector Vidal, 54 of Athens, charged with drug paraphernalia, Bond \$10,000.
- Kaitlyn Snyder**, 25 of Etowah, charged with simple possession, casual exchange of Schedule 2 and Schedule 4, possession of meth, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$50,000.

David Cooley, 32 of Etowah, charged with driving on a revoked license.

Dale Kryzak, 62 of Madisonville, charged with driving on a revoked license.

Emma Kibbe, 30 of Englewood, charged with domestic assault, 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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Athens, Tennessee

Auditions for *Steel Magnolias* Coming Soon to Athens

Athens Community Theatre (ACT) has announced auditions for the beloved play, *Steel Magnolias*, by Robert Harling, directed by G. David Brown, **one night only, Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 6:00 PM at The Arts Center. Show dates for *Steel Magnolias* are April 17 - 26, 2026.**

Director **G. David Brown** needs a cast of six women ages 18 and older. Roles range from women in their 20s to 60s+. **Auditionees should come prepared to read from the script** and be able to take simple direction. **Call backs** for those selected will be **Wednesday February 25.**

Anyone wanting to audition with an existing conflict on Tuesday, February 24 should contact the director or The Arts Center about attending the Wednesday callback.

Anyone who wants to help with the production in any capacity should attend auditions.

Everyone interested in being a part of the show will need to bring work, school, and family schedules for February 25 - April 26, 2026.

Obituaries

Mildred Imogene Trew Miller, 93 of Decatur, passed away on Monday, February 2. She was a member of Idlewild Church of Christ and devoted her life to serving the Lord. A funeral service will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 5 in the Chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Interment will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, February 6 in the Luminary Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 5 - 7 p.m., prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Miller family.

Luther Starkey, 75 of Etowah, passed away on Monday, February 2. Luther dedicated 40 years of his professional life to the J.M. Huber Corporation, where he was known not only for his strong work ethic but also for the camaraderie he fostered among his colleagues. A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

Ina Mae Coffey Stewart, 76 of McMinn County, passed away on Sunday, February 1. Visitation will be held from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Thursday, February 5 at Ziegler Funeral Home. Graveside services will follow at 2:00 PM at Fort Hill Cemetery in Cleveland. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Ina Mae Coffey Stewart.

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