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Registration Opens for Athens Parks & Recreation "Learn to Swim" Lessons



Athens Parks & Recreation has officially opened registration for its Learn to Swim program, offering both small group and large group lesson options for children ages 5 and up. The department announced the launch this week as families begin planning summer activities across McMinn County.

Two formats are available to accommodate different schedules and learning styles. Small group lessons provide more individualized instruction, while large group sessions offer a lower-cost option with expanded class times. Session dates, times, and pricing are posted through the department's seasonal programming.

Parents and guardians can register in three ways:

- By phone at 423-744-2704
- Online through the city's recreation catalog
- In person at Athens City Hall

With summer approaching, Parks & Recreation encourages families to secure spots early and help young swimmers build confidence and safety skills in the water. As the department put it, "Let's make this summer a splash."

Community News You Can Use

- The City of Athens Public Works Department will close Dennis Street from Layman Road to Congress Parkway beginning Thursday, May 14 at 7 a.m. through Friday, May 22 at 6 p.m. for continuous asphalt paving work. Drivers should expect delays and watch for detours, signage, pedestrians, and work crews. For details, contact Public Works at 423-744-2745.
- The McMinn County Election Commission will meet for a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 19 at 5:00 pm in the election office of the McMinn County Courthouse and will conduct any election business to legally come before the board. The agenda will be posted on the bulletin board at the election office and the election commission website: www.mcminnelections.com by Friday, May 15th.

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McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

Upcoming Spring Events

HERITAGE SCHOOL:

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SATURDAYS, MAY 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*

NATURAL DYES FROM THE KITCHEN WITH PAT ARMSTRONG
SATURDAY, MAY 30TH @ 11:00 AM
\$5 EACH OR FREE WITH MEMBERSHIP

HISTORY FOR LUNCH:
THE HISTORY OF LEWIS & CLARK WITH JOHN BINANUDO
THURSDAY, MAY 28TH @ NOON *FREE ADMISSION*

Programs sponsored by C. Scott & Muriel 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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WSL Softball Returns to Athens for "Friendly City Showdown"



Athens Regional Park will host another full day of tournament action this Saturday as Tennessee World Sports League brings its slow-pitch adult softball series back to town for the Friendly City Showdown. Teams registered through the WSL's tournament system will compete in a packed schedule beginning at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 16, with games continuing well into the late evening.

According to WSL's tournament listings, events of this type typically draw teams from across multiple regions, and Athens is no exception — squads are expected from as far north and east as Johnson City and as far south as Polk County, bringing a wide competitive field to McMinn County.

The Friendly City Showdown is part of WSL's broader slate of adult slow-pitch tournaments held throughout the Southeast, known for full-day schedules, multiple divisions, and high-volume bracket play. While the official team list for this specific event is hosted on the WSL tournament page, the organization's platform confirms its focus on large, multi-team events and World-Series-style tournament experiences.

Spectators are welcome throughout the day, and with games running from early morning until late night, Athens Regional Park is expected to stay busy with players, families, and fans.

Source: Matthew Siniard, Parks and Recreation Director, City of Athens



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Thursday, May 14, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

New Starr Regional ICU Ribbon Cutting



A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for Chamber member, Starr Regional Medical Center and their new Intensive Care Unit expansion. Starr Regional Medical Center is dedicated to its mission of making communities healthier. The ICU expansion, along with investments in new technology and enhanced capabilities, improves access to critical care services for families, friends, and neighbors. Shown here are SRMC employees & Board members, County & City Officials, Government Officials, Chamber representatives and John McLain, CEO of SRMC, who is holding the scissors.

McMinn County Arrest Reports

May 12, 2026

Stephen Hicks, 60 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation.

Darrell Dale, 67 of Athens, charged with DUI, Bond \$4,000.

Sarah Miller, 47 of Ten Mile, charged with DUI, driving while in possession of meth, possession of meth and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$50,000.

Stacey Watkins, 48 of Athens, charged with violation of probation in Monroe County.

Oscar Anguana, 39 of Athens, charged with driving on a suspended license, and failure to have insurance, Bond \$1,500.

Michael Dixon, 60 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for possession of meth, Bond \$1,756.

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



COMMUNITY REVIVAL

MAY 17TH-22ND
SUNDAY NIGHT @ 6PM
MON - FRI @ 7PM



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Psalm 51:10 KJV

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Athens, Tennessee

Cleveland State Awards 264 Degrees at Spring Commencement

Cleveland State Community College held its spring commencement ceremonies recently in the L. Quentin Lane Gymnasium, celebrating graduates from across its service area. The college hosted two ceremonies, where 264 associate degrees and technical certificates were awarded.

Cleveland State, which serves Bradley, McMinn, Monroe, Meigs, and Polk counties, recognized students from programs across its academic divisions, including university transfer pathways and workforce training fields.

Family, friends, faculty, and staff filled the gym as graduates crossed the stage, marking the completion of their studies and the start of their next chapter.



Graduates in the Advanced Technologies program line up for the afternoon commencement ceremony. Left to right: Roshawn Holloway, Joshua Scott, Gideon Anderson, Gregory Johnson, and Logan Johnson.



After the commencement ceremony, nursing graduate Graham Delmote walks through the line of celebrating faculty.



Graduate Jayla Gillespie leaves the ceremony through the line of celebrating faculty.

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