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Wednesday, August 12, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Athens Breaks Ground on New Fire Station at Elizabeth Street Site

The City of Athens officially broke ground Tuesday afternoon on its new fire station, holding a golden-shovel ceremony at 300 Elizabeth Street to mark the start of construction on a project city leaders say will strengthen public safety for decades to come.

City officials, Athens Fire Department personnel, project partners, and community members gathered for the event, which highlighted the city's continued investment in high-quality emergency services. The new station will expand the department's service area, improving response times for fires, medical calls, vehicle accidents, and other emergencies throughout the community.

The facility will be staffed by nine firefighters, including three new positions approved in this year's budget—part of a broader effort to enhance emergency response capabilities and ensure the station is fully equipped from day one.

Tuesday's ceremony marked the official start of construction on the long-planned facility, which city leaders described as a milestone for Athens and its future growth.

For more information, photos of today's event and a rendering of how the new fire station will appear, click or tap [HERE](#).

Good Faith Clinic Open This Thursday



The Good Faith Clinic will be open **TOMORROW**, Thursday, August 13 at 3 p.m. for refills and doctor visits. Test Results will be provided beginning at 3:45 p.m.

The Good Faith Clinic is free primary health care for residents of McMinn and Meigs counties, ages of 18-64, who do not have any form of medical insurance, including TennCare. The clinic meets on the campus of Christ Community Church at 18 S Congress Parkway in Athens.

REMINDER: The Good Faith Clinic is open the 2nd, 4th, and 5th, Thursdays of each month.

Source: Norma Barham, Good Faith Clinic

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Athens, Tennessee

AACA Revives Big Time Small Town Series with American Patchwork Quartet

American Patchwork Quartet

FRIDAY Sept 25
at 7:00 PM at The Arts Center
athensartscouncil.org



The Athens Area Council for the Arts is bringing back its Big Time Small Town performance series this fall, opening with a concert by the American Patchwork Quartet (APQ) on Friday, Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. in the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater at The Arts Center.

Led by multi-GRAMMY® winner Clay Ross, APQ blends American folk traditions with jazz, country, West African rhythms, and East Asian influences. The group's debut album earned a nomination for Best Folk Album at the 67th GRAMMY® Awards. Ross is joined by an ac-

claimed lineup: GRAMMY®-winning vocalist Falguni Shah, internationally recognized bassist Moto Fukushima, and celebrated jazz drummer Rudy Royston.

This year's Big Time Small Town season spans large-scale and intimate performances, including a Broadway-style production in the 800-seat ACMS Auditorium and APQ's folk-focused evening in the 200-seat Black Box Theater. Tickets for all performances are now on sale for \$20–\$25, and patrons are encouraged to purchase early.



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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

August 10, 2026

Jeremy Lipps, 34, of Knoxville, charged with disorderly conduct. Bond \$2,000.

Daniel Sledge, 41, of Athens, charged with domestic assault. Bond \$3,000.

Kendrick Harris, 35, of Chattanooga, charged with domestic assault and false imprisonment.

Tina Goh, 57, of Calhoun, charged with dogs at large causing serious bodily injury. Bond \$70,000.

Bailey Graham, 26, of Georgetown, charged with driving on a revoked license.

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

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Obituaries

Johnny Walter Laymon, 59, of Dunlap and Decatur, passed away on Friday, August 7. He will forever be remembered by those who knew and loved him for his kind heart, wonderful sense of humor, and the special way he brought laughter into the lives of others. A memorial service will be held at a later date. [Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services](#) is honored to serve the Laymon family.

Cecil Perry Borden, 84, of Sweetwater, passed away on Sunday, August 9. Arrangements are pending at this time. [Ziegler Funeral Home](#) has been entrusted with the care of Cecil Perry Borden.

Michael Todd "Mike" Wilson, 64, of Ten Mile, passed away on Monday, July 27. He worked as a paint contractor in the surrounding area and enjoyed deer hunting and fishing in his spare time. His favorite hobby was spending time with his grandchildren and loved riding them on his 4-wheeler. A memorial service will be held on Monday, August 17 at 12:00 noon in the Chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Mike will be laid to rest in the Meigs County Memorial Cemetery. [Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services](#) is honored to serve the Wilson family.

Mary Isabell Niemann, 83, of Athens, passed away on Thursday, August 6 at NHC of Athens. She was a loving mother, grandmother, and most recently became a very proud great-grandmother. Over the years, Mary could be found picking blueberries, camping with the family, watching her favorite game shows, mastering a 5000-piece puzzle or just cozying up with a good romance novel. Funeral services will be private. [Ziegler Funeral Home](#) has been entrusted with the care of Mary Isabell Semonite Niemann.

Virginia Rose Burton, 83, of Athens, passed away on Saturday, August 8. She was a member of Wildwood Baptist Church although unable to attend recently because of her health. She retired from Athens Products Inc. with over 30 years of employment. She loved gardening, cooking and most importantly spending time with her family. The family will receive friends from 11am-1pm Thursday, August 13 in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home with a 2 pm graveside service to follow at McMinn Memory Gardens. [Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home](#) is in charge of the arrangements.