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Thursday, October 01, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Red Cross Seeks Volunteers for Smoke Alarm Installation Events



American Red Cross

The American Red Cross of Tennessee is seeking volunteers to help install free smoke alarms and provide fire safety education during its annual Sound the Alarm campaign taking place across Tennessee this October.

The initiative partners Red Cross volunteers with local fire departments and community organizations to help make homes safer by installing smoke alarms at no cost to residents. Volunteers do not need previous experience, as on-site training will be provided before teams visit homes to install alarms and share fire prevention information.

Joel Sullivan, regional chief executive officer for the American Red Cross of Tennessee, said the program offers a meaningful opportunity to help protect local families, noting that working smoke alarms can make the difference between life and death during a home fire.

Residents interested in volunteering can sign up at SoundTheAlarm.org/Tennessee and enter their ZIP code to find a nearby event. Homeowners who need a smoke alarm can also schedule a free installation through the website. During the approximately 20-minute visits, volunteers provide safety information, help families develop fire escape plans, and discuss ways to prevent home fires.

The Red Cross said donations help make the free smoke alarm installations and other disaster preparedness services possible.



Judy Bugs Crafts Booth
inside
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McMinn County Living Heritage Museum



ANNUAL QUILT SHOW
"HERITAGE, NEEDLE, & NATION" SEPTEMBER 29TH - OCTOBER 28TH

Hosted by: The Heritage Quilt Guild of McMinn County
Sponsors by: Denso, George Financial, Joy Weegand and The Heritage Quilt Guild of McMinn County

HERITAGE SCHOOL:
APPALACHIAN BURGEOO WITH DRUE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD @ 11:00 AM

"NO SEW" GARLAND WITH CHARLENE SUCH
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH @ 11:00 AM

HISTORY FOR LUNCH:
UTK'S FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY CENTER
WHERE SCIENCE MEETS SERVICE WITH LIAM JOHNSON
THURSDAY 10/22/26 @ NOON

LET'S READ 20 CELEBRATION SATURDAY 10/24/26 FROM 10AM - 2 PM
SCAVENGER HUNT, FREE BOOKS, VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE QUILT,
KIDS CHOICE QUILT AWARD

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
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More Information

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www.livingheritagemuseum.org



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MCS and Health Dept. Open Registration for 2026 School Flu Vaccine Clinic

McMinn County Schools is again partnering with the McMinn County Health Department to offer flu vaccines to students on campus this fall. Registration for the 2026 School Flu Vaccine Clinic is open now.

Parents and guardians who want their child vaccinated at school must register in advance through the Tennessee Department of Health's online form.

The registration deadline is 4:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9. Registrations will not be accepted after that time, and families are encouraged to sign up early. Families with questions about the clinic or registration may call the McMinn County Health Department at (423) 745-7431.

Source: Camille Luttrell, McMinn County Schools

Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Historical Society monthly meeting is this Sunday, October 4 at 2:00 pm in the Blue Room of the McMinn County Courthouse.
- The sidewalk and left-hand lane on E. Madison Avenue between Jackson Street and Long Street will be closed Thursday, Oct. 1, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for tree maintenance.
- Parking spaces 112, 113, and 114 on White Street between Madison Avenue and Bank Street will be closed Monday, Oct. 5, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the Hiwassee Builders Supply Customer Appreciation Event.
- The Touch-A-Truck Event at the Hillcrest Church Parking Lot on Saturday October 3 has been postponed due to weather. The future date will be announced at a later time.



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McMinn County Arrest Report

September 29, 2026

Dustin Martin, 45, Athens, charged with failure to appear for Schedule 6, and violation of probation for possession of meth. Bond \$16,000.

Auburn King, 28, of Ten Mile, charged with violation of probation for public intoxication, aggravated burglary, and aggravated assault against a first responder. Bond \$67,000.

Nathaniel Smith, 30, of Athens, charged with domestic assault, and assault. Bond \$3,000.

Kevin Crowder, 38, of Etowah, charged with theft of property, \$2,500 to \$10,000. Bond \$4,000.

Rita Goody, 52, of Athens, charged with disorderly conduct, and public intoxication.

Mark Woodby, 42, of Athens, charged with domestic assault, criminal trespassing, resisting stop, and assault.

Shayla McRae, 25, of Decatur, charged with shoplifting and theft of property. Bond \$2,000.

Matthew Rowden, 26, of Ten Mile, charged with shoplifting theft of property. Bond \$2,000.

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

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FRIDAY, OCT. 02 @ 7:00 PM



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FRIDAY, OCT. 02 @ 7:00 PM



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Athens, Tennessee

Whirlpool Apprentices Complete Four-Year Apprenticeship Program



Five Whirlpool employees have completed the classroom portion of the Industrial Maintenance Repairer Apprenticeship Program through Cleveland State Community College, marking a major milestone in

the four-year training program.

The apprentices recently presented a capstone project that included designing and building a robotically loaded press and transfer system using skills learned throughout the program. In addition to more than 8,000 hours of on-the-job training at Whirlpool, participants completed 576 hours of technical instruction through Cleveland State.

College and Whirlpool officials praised the apprentices' dedication and highlighted the partnership's role in preparing skilled workers for careers in advanced manufacturing. Five additional Whirlpool apprentices are currently working toward completion of the college's Tool and Die Maker Apprenticeship Program in 2027.

Whirlpool apprentices left to right: Tre Cannon, Courtney Walters, Canaan Bennett, Dakota Webb and Bryan Hafley pose with Workforce Instructor, Rick Monroe, at the capstone presentation. **CSCC**

Obituaries

Kerry Shane "Skip" Willett, 70 of Athens, passed away on Monday, September 28. Visitation was on Wednesday at Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens. A Graveside Service is today (Thursday), October 1 at 11:00 am at McMinn Memory Gardens. [Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens](#) is honored to serve the family of Kerry Shane "Skip" Willett.

Jeanette DeLane Howard, 75, of Athens, passed away on Monday, September 28. DeLane was an avid soccer fan, especially devoted to Liverpool. She had a special love for birds, with hummingbirds and pink flamingos being among her favorites. She enjoyed camping with her husband and making memories together at the Rod Run. The family will hold a private celebration of life. [Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens](#) is honored to be entrusted with these arrangements.

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