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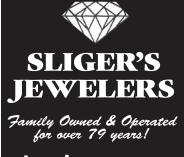
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ATHENS AREA GUIDEBOOK 2024

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On the Cover - Scott Crisp Memorial PowWow at Pumpkintown (Photo special to The DPA)

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President's Message





As we move into 2024, I reflect on the positive things that happened in 2023 and look forward to another great year. We saw a record number of ribbon cuttings for the second year in a row and continued to help our members by promoting them on our social media as well as through our weekly newsletter. The Chamber had considerable growth of new members by almost 10 percent which was the most in several years.

The Athens Area Chamber of Commerce serves around 500 members in the Athens area as well as over 40 other cities including five other states besides Tennessee. Our mission, and my goal, is to provide community leadership supporting economic development, education, local government and quality of life for our wonderful community. The Athens Area Chamber of Commerce is the largest professional membership organization in McMinn County. We have a wonderful group of diplomats who volunteer to help accomplish our organization's bold mission.

Member Benefits include dozens of specialized advertising, networking and business opportunities including our monthly business before hours. This meeting is hosted each month by Chamber members. Each member also receives a free Internet listing along with a link to their website. One new tool which the chamber invested in is ChamberMaster which will enable our members to go on the site and update their information as well as post job openings and available property. The Chamber is also proud to conduct ribbon cuttings for each new member.

Another great benefit is being listed in this guidebook. This publication is utilized as the key recruiting piece for families and small businesses considering relocation to the area. The chamber provides thousands of direct and indirect referrals to its members and provides them with targeted professional development and educational opportunities. We also provide free seminars for our members throughout the year on topics such as customer service, social media, tax laws, marketing and retirement planning.

The Chamber also offers a wonderful program for adults – Leadership McMinn. The goal of this program is not only to produce leaders in the community but to give these individuals a detailed look at what our area has to offer. For more information about our events and programs, please call us or check out our website at www.athenschamber.org.

I really enjoy working with the businesses and people of the Athens Area to make our community a better place to live, work and play. My office door is always open and I want to encourage everyone to visit the Chamber in historic downtown Athens or call us at 423-745-0334.

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www.athenschamber.org ATHENS CHAMBER AREA GUIDEBOOK 2025 5

We hope you like what you see and we invite you to become a "Friendly City" resident.

Athens is a vibrant community that offers a variety of events and resources that make it a great place to live, work and play. Residents in "The Friendly City" enjoy a small-town atmosphere where neighbors feel like family and newcomers are always welcome.

This community is fortunate to have a strong and diverse industrial base, a wealth of educational opportunities, a dynamic cultural scene, as well as a rich heritage steeped in tradition, all of which are outlined in the pages of this Guidebook.

Nestled in the picturesque East Tennessee, outdoor recreational opportunities are an important part of our identity and are widely available. Nearby, residents enjoy whitewater rafting, hiking, mountain biking, boating, fishing and many other outdoor recreations.

When it's time to plan a vacation or weekend getaway, Athens is within easy driving distance to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. Athenians can also enjoy a wide range of amenities from nearby cities. Conveniently located halfway between Knoxville and Chattanooga on Interstate 75, Athens is less than a three-hour drive to two metropolitan cities: Athens and Nashville; and it's less than a day's drive to Memphis, Savannah, Charleston, Asheville, Charlotte, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Birmingham and Lexington, to name a few.

As you explore the streets and neighborhoods of the Athens area, use this Guidebook to learn more about all Athens has to offer, including the cultural experiences, businesses, food, activities and most importantly, the people.



DENSO (DMAT- Athens)	1589
McMinn County Schools	746
Starr Regional Medical Center	704
Adient	520
E&E Manufacturing	428
Mayfield Dairy Farms (Dean Foods)	365
ABB (formerly Thomas & Betts)	336
Heil Trailer International	310
Johns Manville	302
Resolute Forest Products	200



History of Athens



While the Athens area has played a role in regional and national historic events, the city is also rich with more than 200 years of history.

The first explorers to the area found Cherokee living on the land. The City of Athens sits halfway between the Cherokee villages of Great Tellico to the north and the Overhill Cherokee villages to the south. The Cherokees signed the Calhoun Treaty in 1819, selling the land north of the Hiwassee to the United States, which includes all of modern-day McMinn County.

The City of Athens was organized on Nov. 12, 1819, and consisted of 35 acres. Calhoun was the original county seat, but the county seat was soon relocated to a more central location, known originally as Pumpkintown, to make it more accessible to the majority of McMinn Countians.

The Tennessee Legislature renamed the town Athens on Aug. 23, 1822. Local lore credits the city's name to Elijah Hurst, one

of the original town commissioners, because he had read about Athens, Greece, and believed the two were similar.

McMinn County's population grew to more than 14,000 by 1830. According to the 1830 census, Athens had a population of 500, comprised of four doctors, four lawyers, four divines (ministers), 10 stores (three more than Knoxville at the time), one tavern, one printing office, one painter, two hatters, two tailors, two shoemakers, two tanners, two silversmiths, one wagon maker, two mills, one factory and a male and female academy.

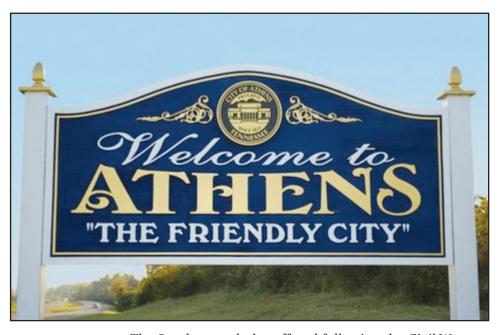
One of the early prominent residents was Jesse Mayfield, whose descendants created the Mayfield Dairy Farm.

In 1836, Athens experienced one of its more tragic events when General John Wool arrived to help coordinate the Cherokee Removal. His headquarters were located in what was the Bridges Hotel located across from the McMinn County Courthouse. The removal was originally voluntary, but when many Cherokees were still in the area in 1838, it became mandatory. The removal included with a forced march west that became known as the Trail of Tears.

The railroad had its beginnings here in the mid-1830s when the state chartered a rail line to be built from Knoxville to Dalton, Georgia. In fact, the first railroad construction in Tennessee began in 1837 about 1.5 miles from the center of town. A statewide depression halted the building of the railroad in 1839 and it did not start again until 1849.

McMinn County was divided during the Civil War, as was most of East Tennessee. McMinn County voted against secession by a vote of 904 to 1,144, although the state of Tennessee joined the Confederacy in 1861.

Loyalties were divided in McMinn County: 12 units were sent to fight with the Union Army and eight units fought for the Confederacy. Union General William T. Sherman used the Bridges Hotel as headquarters briefly during the war.



The South as a whole suffered following the Civil War and rebuilding was hampered in the Athens area, as well. The railroad somewhat spurred development and, by 1887, several companies were established, including the Athens Mining and Manufacturing Company. Other manufacturing and industrial companies in the area at that time included flour mills, timber mills, textile mills and some furniture factories.

There are 11 historical markers in McMinn County, six of which are in Athens. Take a few hours and find each one.

(stop along the way and take some photos, learn more about the area, eat some lunch and visit with a few residents. Some may be tricker to find than others):

- 1. **Free Hill** located on Knoxville Avenue across from the Athens-McMinn Family YMCA in Athens.
- 2. **The Battle of Athens** located at the intersection of North White Street and East College Street in Athens.
- 3. **Bethsalem Presbyterian Church** located off TN Highway 30 at Watson Road in Athens.
- 4. **Harry Thomas Burn** located on Willson St. just north of Burn Rd., Niota.
- 5. **John Tyler Morgan** located at the intersection of Ingleside Avenue (Tennessee Route 305) and Old Niota Road in Athens.
- 6. **Joseph McMinn** located at 5195 Highway 11, Calhoun
 - 7. McMinn-Meigs County Line
- 8. **Petty-Manker Hall** located at 443 Green Street in Athens.
- 9. **Samuel Cleage** located on North Jackson Street north of East Hornsby Street in Athens.
- 10. **Tennessee Wesleyan University** located at the intersection of North Jackson Street and East College Street in Athens.
- 11. **The Nocatula Legend** located on Coach Farmer Drive east of North Jackson in Athens.

www.athenschamber.org ATHENS CHAMBER AREA GUIDEBOOK 2025 7



Newcomer Information



If you're a new resident of the Friendly City — or plan to become one soon — below is some helpful information to help you become familiar with the services provided in the Athens area.

City Services: Athens is a full-service city, providing fire, police, community development, parks and recreation, utilities, education, sanitation, environment, and infrastructure for citizens and guests. All of the departments can be reached via the city's website, cityofathenstn.com or by phone (423) 744-2700.

Hours for general office operations are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Sanitation: Residential and commercial pickup is provided by Athens Department of Public Works in the city limits, as well as a convenient recycling



center located at 118 Rocky Mount Road. The recycling center provides receptacles for dropping off mixed paper, tin cans, aluminum, cardboard, used motor oil, used auto batteries, used cooking oil, used electronic



equipment (except for television and computer monitors), and hazardous household waste.

Utilities: The Athens Utilities Board (AUB) provides utility services for the Athens area. Services include: Water, sewer, electricity and natural gas. To reach AUB's offices, call (423) 745-4501.

TV/Internet/Phone: AT&T and Comcast both offer paid television, internet and landline phone services.

Local Media: The local newspaper for the Athens area is The Daily Post-Athenian (The DPA), which has been in circulation since 1848.

The DPA provides complete coverage of local news and community and sporting events, as well as national coverage through its affiliation with The Associated Press. The DPA's website dailypostathenian.com is updated daily with local information and also includes a community calendar. Call The DPA's office at (423) 745-5664 for more information.

There are several local radio stations: WJSQ 101.7 FM (country), WYGO 99.5 FM (adult contemporary) and WLAR 1450 AM (classic hits). WYXI 1390 AM (oldies/talk) broadcasts a local Trading Post twice daily Monday through Friday

and once on Saturdays. Additionally, on weekdays, they send out "The Daily Fax," which contains local information.

Registering to Vote: Eligible McMinn County residents can pick up a voter registration application at the McMinn County Election Commission office, the County Clerk's office, the Register of Deeds office, public libraries, any public assistance agency, the Tennessee Department of Safety's driver's license testing centers, or download an application at sos.tn.gov/elections. Eligibility requirements, as well as instructions on where to turn in or mail the registration form, are included on the application. Registration must be completed 30 days prior to Election Day. Contact the McMinn County Election Commission with any questions - (423) 745-0843.

Driver's License Information: New Tennessee residents have 30 days from the time permanent residency is established to convert to a Tennessee driver's license. You must pass a vision test, present a valid license from another state, have an approved form of identification (certified birth certificate or passport), and two proofs of Tennessee residency (two received pieces of mail with your name and new address) to obtain a Tennessee driver's license. The

Athens Driver Services Center is located at 150 Plaza Circle in Athens. Call (423) 744-2812 for more information.

Vehicle Tags and Registration: The County Clerk's office requires current vehicle registration or title, or the name and address of the lien holder, in order to obtain a Tennessee license plate or to renew your registration. For more information regarding vehicle registration, call the County Clerk's office at (423) 745-4440.

Those planning to start a business: The Main Street Athens office is located at 3 West College Street and Director Lisa Dotson can be reached at 423-333-0329 or by e-mail at athensmainstreet@gmail.com or interested parties can visit the Athens Main Street Facebook page or website at www.mainstreetathens.org to learn more.

The LITE House: A business incubator in Downtown Athens. Interested parties seeking more information on it can e-mail Ann Montgomery at your-litehouse1@gmail.com, visit their website at yourlitehouse.com, or find them on Facebook and Instagram. The LITE House is located adjacent to Tennessee Wesleyan University's campus, upstairs from the White Street Market at 1 W College Street, Athens, TN 37303.



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Athens Area Education



There are three public school systems in the Athens area: Mc-Minn County, Athens City and Etowah City, as well as several private, church-sponsored schools. Tennessee Wesleyan's main campus is in Athens and Cleveland State Community College has a satellite office in the area. The Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Athens also offers post-secondary education opportunities at their Athens facility.

The Athens City School System has a voluntary pre-kindergarten program. There are three schools in the system and all are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

McMinn County Schools is committed to providing students with the highest quality learning environment possible. With seven elementary schools (Pre-K to 8), two high schools, and a vocational school, MCS has approximately 5,200 students in the system.

To keep pace with 21st century learning, MCS understands facility improvements play a vital role in supporting student academic gains. In conjunction with the McMinn County Government, MCS is implementing an LED lighting project that will provide uniform lighting for optimal cognitive performance. By converting to LED, the cost savings in electricity is funding the project.

Other current projects include science lab renovations at both county high schools, new outdoor classrooms at all elementary schools, and proposed construction/renovations at both Englewood and Riceville Elementary Schools.

Enhancing school safety is at the forefront of every project. Specifically, access controls are being installed in conjunction with new security cameras and systems.

Other areas of improvement include new auditorium sound systems, lighting, and stage curtains



at both high schools. High school tracks and tennis courts are also being renovated.

McMinn County will continue to improve facilities to enhance student success in all areas of school life.

Etowah is a single-school system and is overseen by the Etowah Board of Education.

There are five private schools in McMinn County: Valley Christian Academy, Liberty Christian School, Fairview Christian Academy, Christ's Legacy Academy and Antioch Christian Academy.

Area Colleges

Tennessee Wesleyan University, founded in 1857, is a private, four-year,

liberal arts institution affiliated with the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church. The school is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the University Senate of the United Methodist Church.

Cleveland State Community College, a two-year public college, is fully accredited and operates within the governance of the Tennessee Board of Regents and is approved by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Cleveland State Community College has an Athens campus located inside the McMinn

Higher Education Center.

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Athens is fully accredited and is governed by the Tennessee Board of Regents. The Tennessee College of Applied Technology has been a member of the Athens community since 1965 and offers

10 diploma programs in career technical fields. All programs are eligible for federal financial aid and the HOPE Lottery scholarship.

The Tennessee Promise is both a scholarship and mentoring program focused on increasing the number of students that attend college in our state. It provides students a last-dollar scholarship, meaning the scholarship will cover tuition and fees not covered by the Pell grant, the HOPE scholarship or state student assistance funds.

Students may use the scholarship at any of the state's 13 community colleges, 27 colleges of applied technology, or other eligible institution offering an associate's degree program. For more information, visit tnpromise.gov

The Tennessee Promise can be used to attend two local institutions: Cleveland State Community College and Tennessee College of Applied Technology - Athens.

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Athens Area Higher Learning



Tennessee Wesleyan University



Near the center of Athens, Tennessee Wesleyan University provides experiences one expects from a major university with the attention and nurturing a liberal arts education offers.

Since its founding in 1857, TWU has been dedicated to helping students live a meaningful life. Offering more than 50 undergraduate and graduate academic programs, students prepare for in-demand careers in industries like business, science, health professions, education, and much more.

Faculty and staff are dedicated to assisting students in the realization of

their full potential through holistic and transformational learning experiences in the classroom, the field, and our community. TWU is a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and offers 21 athletic teams.

As a part of the TWU family, the southeast Tennessee community plays an important role in the development of our region's future leaders. The main campus is located two blocks from the town center, with easy access to the surrounding area.

Instructional sites in Knoxville house

the TWU-Fort Sanders Nursing Program and the Master of Occupational Therapy program. Additionally, TWU offers degree completion in Criminal Justice, Nursing, and Management, either fully online or with fully online options. No matter where a student chooses to take their classes, they will find learning experiences and a supportive community to help them grow personally and professionally.

Explore all that Tennessee Wesleyan offers to students, alumni, and community members by visiting www.tnwesleyan.edu

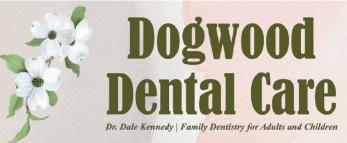




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Athens Area Post Secondary Learning



Tennessee College of Applied Technology

As the industrial process is revolutionized by technology, many companies are finding that skilled labor is becoming harder to come by.

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Athens is located at 1635 Technology Way, Athens, and provides valued skills training in several job fields. The school operates day courses currently on the trimester system and provides special industry training in the evenings for local industries.

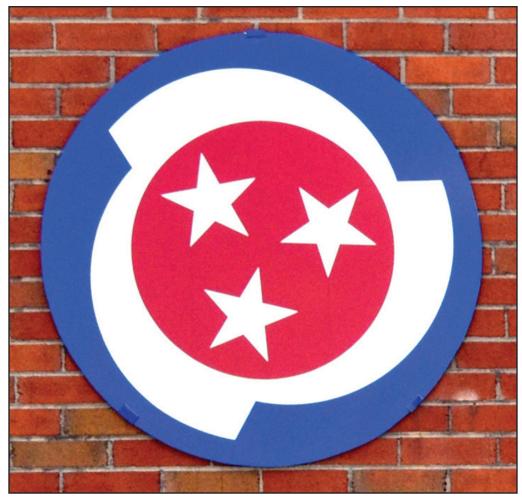
The courses to study at the school include collision repair, automotive technology, computer electronics, machine tool technology, practical nursing, administrative office technology, electromechanical technology, welding and pharmacy technology. Certificates and diplomas are offered in the varying fields of study.

Financial aid is available, including scholarship opportunities provided to local high school students. Also, students can qualify for a Wilder-Naifeh skills grant, funded through the Tennessee Lottery Corp. TCAT Athens also participates in the Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Reconnect.

The basic philosophy of TCAT is that every citizen should have the privilege and opportunity to reach as high a station in life as the student is capable of reaching or desires to reach. Recognizing that all people do not have the same background, abilities or desires and therefore cannot be fitted into the same mold, the objective of TCAT is that each student is treated as an individual.

Individualized instruction is utilized to the maximum in most programs. School policy provides that a student may enter a program when a vacancy occurs, start training at the the student's own level, and progress at a pace to the level desired within the limitations of the school. Individualized instruction provides the student with the highest quality instruction possible in the occupational area chosen.

The philosophy is further subscribed to that the mere development of specific



skills and knowledge in an individual is not sufficient. Desirable worker characteristics are emphasized to instill character development, good work habits, reliability, honesty and respect for authority needed for a productive society.

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology — Athens is governed by the Tennessee Board of Regents and is approved by the Council on Occupational Education

For more information, call 744-2814. The school's website is www.tcatathens.

TCAT Athens has been the go-to resource for technical education programs since 1965 and offers nine different areas of study:

- Administrative office technology
- Automotive technology
- Collision repair technology
- Computer electronics
- Electro-mechanical technology
- Machine tool technology
- · Practical nursing
- Welding

More information about programs is available on the website at tcatathens. edu

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) Athens works directly with the McMinn County Economic Development Authority, local schools, government agencies, and manufacturing partners to develop solutions that benefit students and build strong businesses.







Rachel Jestrab Worley, MD, FAAP Melanie Long, FNP-BS Joy Asbury, FNP-C

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Athens Area Post Secondary Learning



Cleveland State Community College

Cleveland State Community College (CSCC) is a comprehensive two-year public community college operating within the governance of the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) and approved by the Tennessee **Higher Education** Commission. For almost 50 years, Cleveland State has been committed to providing a quality education and open access for the people of Bradley, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe and Polk counties.

The college enrolls approximately 3,500 credit students and 1,500 non-credit students in a typical fall semester. Cleveland State offers a wide variety of programs including Associate of Arts, Associate of Fine Arts, Associate of Science and Associate of Applied Science degree options, as well as over 25 technical certificates. There are a number of different scheduling options for working adults, as well as the Advance program, the TN e-Campus, and programs for veterans.

The 105-acre campus has 11 major buildings housing modern classrooms, laboratories and student activity centers. Additional features include an excellent library, a multimedia



production studio, dvnamic classrooms. computer laboratories, a 400-seat theatre, a 3,000-seat gymnasium, athletic fields, a small business development center, a workforce readiness center, and a full-service student center with cafeteria, bookstore and student lounge areas. In addition, the college recently opened the new state-of-the-art Health and Science Center, the first new academic building in

over 46 years.

The college also maintains off-site locations to serve students in the northern service area. The McMinn Higher **Education Center** in Athens provides students in McMinn, Meigs and Monroe counties with a convenient location to access classes and various student services. The Monroe County Center, located in the Tellico West Industrial Park in Vonore, currently provides workforce development training, continuing education opportunities and also offers certificate and degree programs in addition to its mechatronics program.

CSCC is also home to the OneSource Workforce Readiness Center made up of mechatronics assessment machines that assess an individual's aptitude and skill set for electrical, mechanical and PLC (programmable logic

control). This method

of assessment and training is unique to the region.

In addition, Cleveland State offers Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Reconnect, last dollar scholarships for both traditional (Promise) and non-traditional (Reconnect) students who want to obtain a degree.

For more information about Cleveland State and its programs, visit the college's website at www. clevelandstatecc.edu



ABB Installation Products, formerly Thomas and Betts, has been a leading manufacturer in Athens, TN since 1965. Employing 300+ associates, we design and manufacture wiring and cable management equipment for homes, buildings, industrial facilities and public infrastructure. Distributed globally, 250 million pieces of electrical equipment are produced annually at our Athens facility, including high-demand products like ABB's Steel City® boxes, Kindorf® framing systems and Ty-Duct® wiring duct.

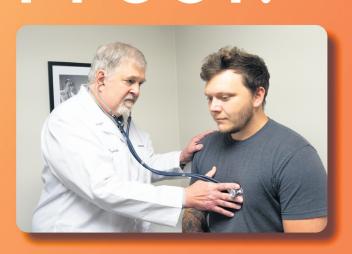
We are a proud recipient of the prestigious Industry Magazine Best Plant Award, as well as several McMinn Economic Development Awards. Committed to the Athens community, we sponsor Rogers Creek Elementary School, along with other local organizations throughout the year.

At ABB Installation Products, safety is our top priority. We strive to maintain a safe environment with continuous training for our employees. As a global technology leader and top employer in Athens, we seek talented individuals to join our team and continue to build their careers with a growing global company.

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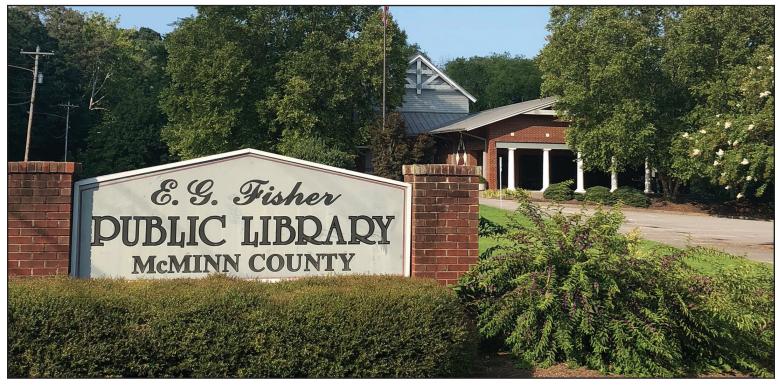
*Visit Website For Full Details.





E.G. Fisher Public Library





The E.G. Fisher Public Library builds community, offering all people in McMinn County a full range of resources needed to live, learn, govern and work.

The library is a dependable source of reliable information and of challenging ideas that enlighten and enrich. The library offers materials in many formats that enhance leisure time and expand our knowledge of our world.

The library encourages the love of reading and the joy of learning and offers the assistance people need to find, evaluate and use electronic and print information resources that help us live successful and rewarding lives.

E.G. Fisher Public Library is a full-service library with over 110,000 visitors each year. Not only can you find best-selling, newly released books, audiobooks and blockbuster movies, you can also find resources on local history and unique genealogical resources.

The library provides free computer use and 24/7 wireless Internet access. E-books, audiobooks and streaming video are available through the Overdrive R.E.A.D.S. program and the library offers one-click access to the Tennessee Electronic Library, which pro-

vides online test-preparation resources, homework help, university-level research materials and much more.

Babies, toddlers and their caregivers are encouraged to participate in the weekly story times and musical play times. The library also hosts a weekly Lego Club and a weekly tech program, called STEM Night, when schoolaged children can build and experiment with open sources software, Legos and more.

The Friends of the Library, a group of library supporters and advocates, present monthly book discussions and host the ongoing Gently Used Book Sale. Most months throughout the year, a Noon Book Discussion comes together over lunch on the third Tuesday to discuss thought-provoking reads.

Once a year, The Annual Used Book Sale takes place, offering Athens the best selection of used books locally available.

This is one of the Friends of the Library's annual fundraisers and all proceeds to go support the library.

A second fundraiser, the Book Ball, has also been started, where guests are invited to dress as a book character and help raise funds for special library projects

Membership to Friends of the Library

is open to everyone and membership forms can be found at www.fisherlibrary.org

E.G. Fisher Public Library also offers meeting rooms for rent. Baby showers, retirement parties, business meetings, and birthday surprises are all welcome in the community room.

Rental fees are determined by the hour and a discounted rate is available for non-profit organizations. The library also offers a small meeting room for use free of charge. Reservations for the board room are available on a weekly basis.

The Wetlands at E.G. Fisher Public Library is a unique habitat for native plants, birds and other wildlife. Created by the City of Athens Public Works Department, The Wetlands offers over a mile of walking trails and plenty of opportunities to learn about flood control, native habitats and wildlife conservation.

The Pergola offers picnic seating and is often the venue of musical events and other gatherings during good weather.

For more information about E.G. Fisher Public Library, visit fisherlibrary. org, like them on Facebook, or call at (423) 745-7782.





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Dr. Saji Gopinathan, a highly skilled and caring pediatrician, has been nominated with the esteemed 2024 Best Physician Pediatric Award from The Daily Post Athenian. This is the third year in a row that he has been recognized with this honor, highlighting his outstanding contributions to our community. Dr. Gopinathan, along with his exceptional team of clinicians and staff, continuously exceeds expectations by providing topnotch healthcare to children in the greater Athens area. Their dedication and commitment to delivering the best pediatric care have earned them this well-deserved recognition.

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Financial institutions are an essential part of the economy and the single most important supplier of credit. They make loans to consumers to finance purchases of homes, education, cars and major appliances.

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MCMINN COUNTY
COURTHOUSE ANNEX
Photograph provided by Jay Hacker

McMinn County...200 years and still growing.

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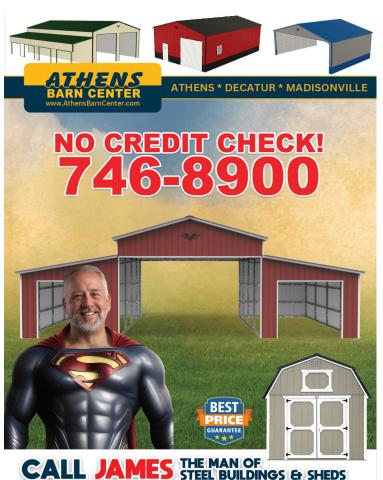
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Athens Area Industries



"Make it in McMinn"

Industries make up more than one third of the employment base in McMinn County, leading all other business sectors, but it is the diversity of this sector that is exciting!

McMinn County is well known globally for its automotive supply cluster. It is also home to established Fortune 500 companies such as Johns Manville, a Berkshire Hathaway Company, and DENSO Manufacturing.

Numerous small business operations that are crucial to our local economy also call McMinn County home. These industries are doing some exciting things and making their mark in their various fields of expertise.

DENSO Manufacturing Athens Tennessee, a Fortune Global 500 leader in automotive supply manufacturing, is the largest employer in McMinn County.

Creative Foam, E&E Manufacturing, Adler Pelzer, Heil Trailer, Adient, Maxwell Industries, Morgan Automation, Southern Hydraulic Cylinder and Waupaca Foundry are some of the local industries that contribute to the automotive supply cluster.

At more than 100 years old, Mayfield Dairy is one of Athens' oldest industries. Resolute Forest Products continues to be an employer in McMinn County.

Originally a newsprint paper manufacturer, it currently manufactures

bath tissue at the Calhoun mill.

Because of Mayfield Dairy's and Resolute Forest Products' presence in McMinn County, agriculture still plays an important part in McMinn County's industrial make-up.

Although the textile industry has

significantly declined in the U.S. over the past couple of decades, Crescent Sock Company, established in 1902, is family owned and operated, and the oldest operating hosiery mill in the U.S. Crescent Sock Company continues to offer the "World's Softest Sock" here in McMinn County.

McMinn County Economic Development Authority

They operate a retail establishment in Athens, The Sock Shop, where they sell their socks direct to the public.

The McMinn County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) is the single recruiter of industry to McMinn

County and is also responsible for existing industry retention and expansion programs. The mission of the MCEDA is to facilitate the creation and retention of quality jobs for the citizens of McMinn County and increase capital investment through a targeted marketing plan and program with regional partnerships.

The MCEDA owns and manages several industrial properties in McMinn County:

Athens McMinn Interstate Industrial Park: The Athens McMinn



Lindsey Ferguson Executive Director McMinn County Economic Development Authority

Interstate Industrial Park has 130 acres available for development. This site has interstate visibility and excellent highway accessibility. Tenants of the Athens McMinn

Interstate Industrial Park include: DENSO, Midlab, Morgan Automation, Creative Foam, and NDX Rogers Dental Lab.

Mt.Verd Industrial Park: The Mt.Verd Industrial Park consists of 223 acres and has excellent interstate accessibility.

Approximately 200 acres remain for development. Adler Pelzer is the anchor tenant in the park.

North Etowah Industrial Park: The North Etowah Industrial Park includes 270 acres of developable CSX rail-served industrial property, where Piedmont Lithium is planning to locate. This site has been recognized as a certified site by both CSX Select and Select TN Sites

certification programs. Existing and established industries located in the North Etowah Industrial Park include: Inspectech and Johns Manville.

Additional public owned and privately owned industrial sites are available throughout McMinn County.

For information related to available industrial properties in McMinn County, please contact Lindsey Ferguson, MCEDA executive director, at (423) 745-1506 or by e-mail at Lindsey@MakeltlnMcMinn.org

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Main Street Athens



Since 2016 Athens has been designated as an Accredited Main Street America community. Accredited status is Main Street America's top tier of recognition and signifies a demonstrated commitment to comprehensive commercial district revitalization and proven history of successfully applying the Main Street Approach. The mission of the program is bringing economic vitality back to commercial districts and improving quality of life throughout the entire community.

Main Street Athens is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that is managed by an active board of directors who collaborate well with the executive director in establishing sustainable plans that increase entrepreneurship, embraces arts and culture, and preserves history. The organization networks with representatives at a local, state, regional and national level to become more aware of resources that will help improve the economy and create a more vibrant community. Main Street is an economic development program that focuses on enhancing downtown but the impact of the project has benefits for the whole community.

The Main Street Approach for revitalization has four transformation strategies:

- Organization: which focuses on strategic planning and bringing key stakeholders together to determine the need for the downtown district.
- Promotion: provides and promotes effective community programs and events that take place within

the downtown district.

• Design: focuses on beautification ideas, seeking funds for façade improvements, and encourages guidelines

which preserves the historical integrity of buildings throughout the downtown district.

• Economic Vitality: helps in business recruitment, retention, and the tracking and reporting the economic progress of the district.

Athens became a part of The THRIVE Regional Partnership Initiative in 2018 and this value-added component helps

Explore Downtown



bring more awareness of the local arts and the cultural assets and have learned to utilize them as a driver for economic development, whether through programs, projects, or events. The Athens Arts Center has been a collaborative partner with Main Street Athens since its inception.

In 2016 when the program started, the vacancy rate of ground floor buildings was reported as 40%.

According to the 2022 Main Street Athens Annual Designation Report, this percentage is now at 10%.

The façade improvements that have taken place in the dis-

trict is an attraction for other businesses.

In addition, a combination of forty-four new business ventures and/or developments (including Food City Grocery Story) have taken place in downtown since 2016.

"This shifting has been a result of public-private investments and we are excited about what the future of downtown Athens. Our vision is to join forces with our partners and key stakeholders to transform downtown into a prosperous, popular, business and tourist destination for residents and visitors to shop, eat, play and live," states Lisa Dotson, Main Street Athens Executive Director.

Main Street Athens office is located at 3 West College Street Contact: 423-333-0329 or by email at Athensmainstreet@ gmail.com

For updated event information visit Athens Main Street Facebook page or website at www.mainstreetathens.org





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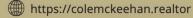
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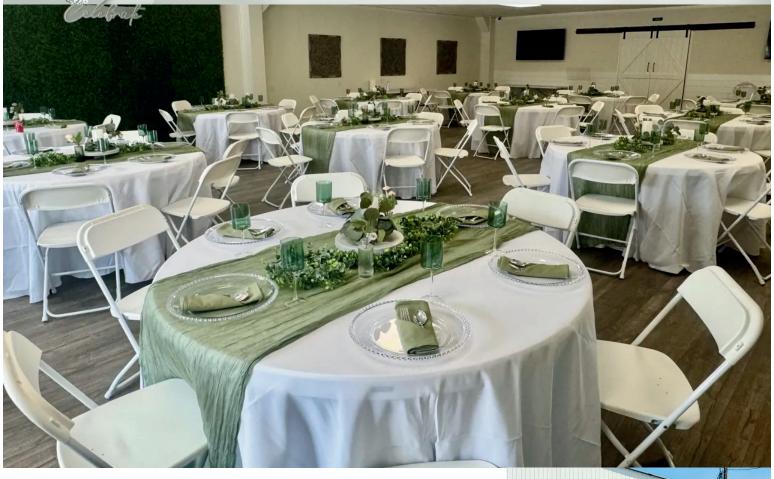


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Athens: A Quick Look



Demographics:

Population: 14,225 (2021)

Male: 48.7% Female: 51.3%

Median Age: 40.4 years

Married: 40.7% Single: 59.3%

High School Graduates (age 25+): 85% Bachelor's Degrees or More (age 25+): 22.7% Graduate or Professional Degree: 7.5%

Racial Diversity:

White: 79.6% Black: 7.6% Hispanic: 7.6%

Two or More Races: 4.0%

Asian: 1.0%

American Indian: 0.2%

Other: 0.2%

Housing Information:

Median Household Income: \$43,135

Estimated Median House/Condo Value: \$198,530

Property Tax per \$100 (2023): City/\$1.0078 County/\$1.0823

Year City Incorporated: 1860

Elevation: 867 feet

Land Area: 15.1 square miles

Form of Government:

Council-Manager, Private Act Charter. Five at-large council members serve staggered terms as the governing body, selecting a mayor from amongst themselves. Council appoints a professional city manager to serve as the administrative head of the municipal government. Council also appoints a city attorney and a city judge.

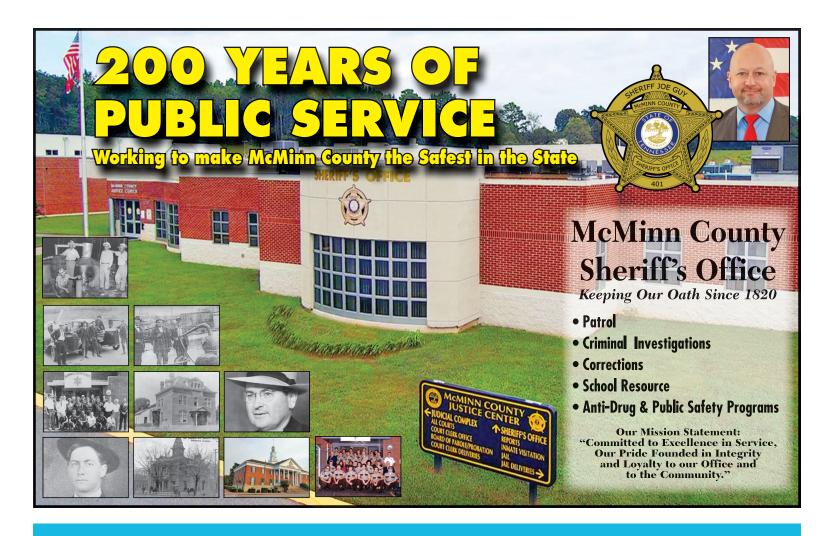
Budget: \$21,000,000

County Seat:

Athens is the county seat for McMinn County and the McMinn County Courthouse is located in downtown Athens.

Statistics from United States Census Bureau, city-data.com – valid as of 2022.







Meet the Team



Tiffany Ahlberg, Au.D., CCC-A Audiologist



Kelsey Mullen, Au.D.Audiologist



Beverly StevisonOffice Manager





Lynda Klee, Au.D.Audiologist



Grace Young, Au.D.Audiologist



Donny Ahlberg
Director of Business
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Athens Area Recreation





The Athens area has an abundance of recreational resources available. Several of the outstanding recreational facilities offered in the Athens area are detailed here.

The Athens-McMinn Family YMCA includes a basketball court, exercise classes, an indoor pool, an indoor walking track, a racquetball court, fitness programs and multiple weight rooms with modern exercise equipment. The YMCA also provides sports for children as well as swimming lessons, before and after-school care, day camps and fitness programs. For more information call (423) 745-4904 or visit athensmcminnymca.org

The City of Athens serves the area with 12 parks covering 282 acres.

With over 324,000 annual visitors, these facilities serve citizens locally and regionally with a wide variety of programs and amenities. The 162-acre Athens Regional Park boasts meeting facilities inside the Southeast Trade and Conference Center, two fishing lakes, a 36-hole disc golf course, five baseball/softball fields, a three-mile walking/mountain bike trail, miles of paved walks and seven soccer fields.

Additionally, the park boasts one of the largest splash pad/playground areas in the state complete with three

shade structures perfect for outdoor parties. The large lake is stocked with trout regularly and has an overlook pavilion great for family reunions or outdoor events.

The park is also home to a story book trail, the only one outside of a state-owned park, where entire books are printed on story boards and families can take a healthy stroll and practice reading. The story board trail was developed by students at Athens City Middle School.

Market Park and Veterans Park anchor the downtown area. Veterans Park is home to a 4,000 brick Veteran's Walkway, monuments to each branch of service and to county historical veteran events. A half-mile paved walking path runs the length of the property making it a popular place for downtown walking.

Market Park is home to the Athens Farmers Market, Sounds of Summer and numerous festivals throughout the year. The park has a large pavilion making it a favorite place for these types of events.

Ingleside Recreation Complex has eight lighted tennis courts, which are also marked for pickleball; a skatepark and a swimming pool.

The nationally recognized Eureka

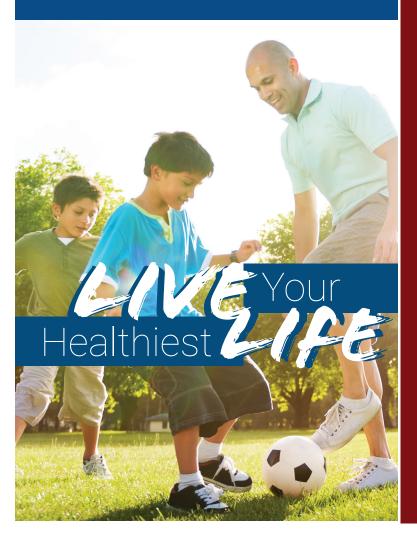
Trail begins in Athens and ends in Englewood and is a great place for running, bicycling, horseback riding and walking. Eureka is built on over 5.5 miles of converted railroad line and is a hard-packed gravel surface.

The Athens area and surrounding regions overflow with a multitude of recreational opportunities sure to please everyone in the family.

The Athens area has four nearby golf courses: Mouse Creek, an 18-hole public course in Athens; Ridgewood, an 18-hole public course with a driving range, located between Athens and Etowah; Springbrook Golf and Country Club, a private club with an 18-hole golf course in Niota; and White Oaks, an 18-hole public course just outside the Athens city limits.

Another venue for recreational activities is the McMinn Senior Activity Center in Athens, which provides numerous opportunities for adults 50 years and older.

Activities include, but are not limited to: dancing, arts and crafts, fitness programs, computer classes, and card games. Visit the McMinn Senior Activity Center on Facebook at facebook. com/McMinnSeniorCenter, online at mcminnseniors.com or call (423) 745-6830 for more information.



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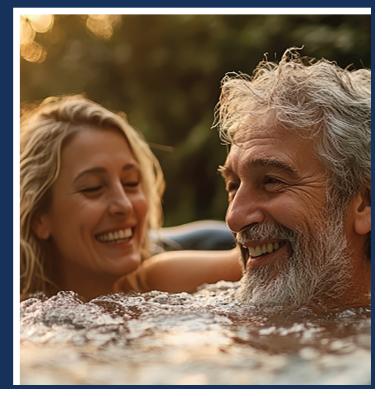


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View high quality art in a small town atmosphere or see a Broadway musical with talented local performers. There's history, colorful stories, events and people of our past a short drive or walk away and places for children to enrich arts and cultural understanding or learn to use creative thinking skills right here in Athens.

Athens is a small town full of artistic souls, who have cultivated long standing arts and culture organizations and programs. Our rich history and cultural heritage as well as performing and visual arts are affordable and accessible to all the people of our region.

Children who participate in arts education develop skills and aptitudes that make them successful in work and school. That's why Athenians strive to provide high quality arts and cultural educational opportunities. We want present and future generations to stay connected with a deeper aesthetic and a continuing appreciation of their roots.

How do we do it? With volunteers, employees and administrators of the various organizations that work tirelessly and passionately to provide these arts and culture programs.

We are privileged to share our stories, joys, sorrows and way of life with each other in creative ways. Find out where you fit in Athens' arts and culture scene, starting with Athens Area Council for the Arts (AACA).



Photo courtesy of Emma Trew

The Arts Center Home of Athens Area Council for the Arts (AACA) | 320 North White St., Athens

Athens Area Council for the Arts has has provided the region with a front row seat and backstage pass to worldclass visual and performing arts experiences for more than 40 years. The volunteers and administrators at The Arts Center in downtown Athens uphold the mission its founders penned in 1979 "to enrich the quality of life and make a difference for our community by providing opportunities for the expression and appreciation of the arts."

Under Executive Director Lauren Brown, AACA is the premier arts and cultural resource for our community. In 2024, The Arts Center completes an expansion, which nearly doubles its square footage and space to host arts experiences.

Part of AACA's rich legacy is hosting performances at an affordable price. The Sue E. Trotter Theater at The Arts Center is a home venue for concerts by national touring artists and regional performers, community theatre productions and a variety of free performances throughout the year.

The Arts Center is also home to exhibit spaces such as The Willson Exhibit Room and Hall Gallery, which hosts up to eight curated exhibitions each year by regional and local artists including an annual themed art and college and high school art competitions each year. The

Artisan Corner is where locals buy handmade gifts and original artwork by artists in the region.

AACA offers arts education opportunities to local students, such as live performances, artist residences and workshops and master classes with professional musicians ... most at no cost to the schools or students (thanks to the gracious support of the C. Scott & Muriel Mayfield Family Foundation, the Tennessee Arts Commission and AACA members).

Four generations of students have benefitted from these arts education programs, including public art works such as sculptures like those on display at Athens City Middle School and the mobiles that hang at The Arts Center, as well as the



Arts & Culture in Athens



etchings in the walls surrounding The Arts Center's River of Life Marian Biddle Trew Memorial Fountain. Art students of all ages can take classes year round at The Arts Center.

For more information, call (423) 745-8781 or visit athensartscouncil. org

It's probably no surprise that arts and cultural programming has a huge economic impact on the Athens area. That's why AACA led McMinn County's participation in Arts & Economic Prosperity 6, the largest nation-wide survey conducted by Americans for the Arts.

The survey, which measures the economic impact of arts programming, found that arts & cultural events in Mc-Minn County generated \$8.6 million of spending in 2022.

Tennessee Wesleyan University 205 College St. | Athens

TWU's Fine Arts
Department hosts art exhibits at The Muriel Mayfield
Exhibit Hall in Reece Hall
and live performances in
Townsend Auditorium.

For more information, call (423) 745-7504 or visit tnwesleyan.edu

E.G. Fisher Public Library 1289 Ingleside Avenue | Athens

Nestled in the curve of the Oostanaula Creek and just blocks from historic Ingleside School and the Mayfield Visitors Center, stands a barn-like structure that houses E.G. Fisher Public Library.

A hub of community learning and regional culture, our public library hosts workshops, book discussions



and children's story time, as well as free activities for youth and teens. Home of the Goldie Mayfield Gallery, the Community Artists' League of Athens hosts rotating exhibits.

For more information, call the library at (423) 745-7782

or visit fisherlibrary.org

Sounds of Summer at Market Park Pavilion | Corner of Green and Jackson Streets in Downtown Athens

On summer Saturday

nights, bring your lawn chair and enjoy a free concert by regional performers, presented by Friendly City Festivals, Sounds of Summer volunteers and community sponsors.

For more information, visit facebook.com/SOSAthensTN



Athens Area Health



Starr Regional Medical Center

Starr Regional Medical Center, part of Lifepoint Health, is a two-hospital system with campuses in Athens and Etowah.

The Athens campus, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in September 2023, provides emergency, inpatient and outpatient services through its 118bed acute care facility. Starr Regional Medical Center's Etowah campus is home to an emergency department, outpatient services, an 88-bed skilled and longterm care nursing home, geriatric behavioral health program and wound care center.

Starr Regional is committed to expanding access to services and investing in new technology and capabilities to meet the needs of our growing community. In 2022, 57 employed and independent providers were added in cardiology, emergency medicine general surgery, nephrology, midwifery, OB/GYN, oncology, pathology, pediatrics, podiatry, urology and more; and more than \$6.6 million in capital improvements were completed, including upgraded equipment for various departments; renovations to Senior Care, a geriatric behavioral health program that provides acute inpatient treatment; and a building expansion for the new cardiac catheterization lab.

In April 2023, Starr Regional Medical Center celebrated the completion of the cardiac cath lab addition on its Athens campus with an Open House and Ribbon Cutting. Starr Regional, which is an accredited Chest Pain Center, has been working diligently to improve the cardiac services offered within the community. The providers and technology within the cardiac cath lab will diagnose and provide treatment for heart blockages and other cardiac conditions allowing more patients the ability to receive this important care closer to home.

Additionally, Starr Regional provided nearly \$42.7 million in health services to those in need, demonstrating its continuous commitment to ensuring everyone has access to care, regardless of their ability to pay.

Starr Regional Medical Center is also devoted to creating environments where providers want to practice and employees want to work. In 2022, the hospital distributed more than \$41.5 million in salaries, wages and benefits for its approximately 635 employees, while contributing more than \$70,000 in professional development and tuition assistance so all its employees can have the opportunity to learn, grow and improve the care they provide their patients.

Last year, the organization paid \$7.5 million in local and state taxes, while also continuing its support of local activities and organizations committed to serving the region, including the American Cancer Society, Athens City Schools, Etowah City School,

Friendly City Festivals, Friendly Fellow Club, Good Faith Clinic, Isaiah 117 House, McMinn County Economic Development Authority, McMinn County Living Heritage Museum, McMinn County Schools and United Way of McMinn and Meigs Counties.

Starr Regional Medical Center's Emergency Departments, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, are accredited Chest Pain Centers, which means the staff has achieved a higher level of expertise to care for patients who arrive with symptoms of a heart attack. Emergency services, including telepsychiatry and telestroke assessments, are available on both campuses with private rooms and specialty rooms for cardiac and trauma events.

Advanced imaging services are available to patients on both campuses. These services include X-ray, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), ultrasound and positron emission tomography-computed tomography (PET/CT). Also, the Etowah campus offers low-dose CT screenings for patients with an increased risk for lung cancer. Upgrades are planned for both CT and MRI equipment on the Athens campus in 2024.

The Starr Regional Breast Center in Athens offers 3D mammography, making it possible to detect breast cancer in earlier stages so treatment can begin sooner and giving patients a greater chance at beating the disease. Additional services offered include breast ultrasound, bone density tests and stereotactic and ultrasound core biopsies.

The Rehabilitation Services Department at Starr Regional Medical Center serves patients both in the hospital and outpatient settings. Therapy professionals offer outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapies at convenient locations in Athens and Etowah. Specialized treatment programs are available for patients with various diagnoses, including dry needling, Instrument Aided **Soft Tissue Mobilization** (IASTM), VitalStim and light/laser therapy.

The Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Programs are medically supervised and educational exercise programs that are tailored to each patient's specific needs. The cardiac program assists patients who have suffered a recent cardiac event and focuses on reducing specific risk factors for cardiovascular disease and improving many aspects of the patient's overall health. The pulmonary program focuses on lung function through improved exercise tolerance, breathing techniques, disease management and energy conservation. Rehabilitation programs are also available for patients who have been diagnosed with Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD) as well as those who may be experiencing ongoing complications following a COVID-19 infection.

The Sleep Diagnostic

Center's physicians and Registered Sleep Technologists focus on finding the cause of sleep deprivation and offering a treatment plan, so patients get a better night's sleep. The Center is accredited by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine.

Starr Regional Surgical Services Department offers innovative, personalized total hip and knee replacement procedures utilizing surgical robotics equipment. The surgical team also provides expertise in general surgery procedures and those relating to gastroenterology, gynecology, podiatry and urology. Surgeries are performed at Starr Regional Medical Center – Athens.

The Surgery Center of Athens, which is located at 105 North Meadows Drive, offers an additional option for patients undergoing sameday procedures. Surgeries performed at The Surgery Center include those related to general surgery, ophthalmology and gastrointestinal procedures.

Inpatient services also include The Center for Women & Babies at Starr Regional, which delivers more than 300 babies each year. The team of maternity professionals provides families with an exceptional birthing experience.

On the Etowah campus, Starr Regional Health & Rehabilitation specializes in major joint and stroke rehabilitation, providing individualized care for each patient through the coordination of various on-site services, including physical, occupational and speech therapies. Longterm residents also take part in daily activities, special events and outings. The facility is an 88-bed, licensed nursing home for both skilled and intermediate patients, and adjoins Starr Regional Medical Center -Etowah, which ensures continuity of care and immediate access to imaging and emergency services when

Senior Care is a geriatric behavioral health program that provides acute inpatient treatment. The care team comprises nurses, social workers and activity/occupational therapists under the direction and supervision of a psychiatrist.

Starr Regional Advanced Wound Care Center offers highly specialized wound treatments to patients with acute or chronic wounds that are difficult to heal, including diabetic ulcers, pressure ulcers, venous ulcers, infections and others. The Center utilizes advanced techniques such as hyperbaric oxygen therapy, designed to improve the body's ability to heal itself, so patients can return to the activities they enjoy.

Starr Regional Medical Group offers primary, urgent and specialty care to patients of all ages in Athens, Etowah and Charleston. The physician practices include Athens Family Practice, Medical Associates of Athens, Starr Convenient Care - Athens, Starr Convenient Care – Charleston, Starr Orthopedics & Sports Medicine, Starr Regional Cancer & Hematology Clinic and Starr Regional Family Practice in Etowah. Starr Cardiology Associates and Starr Surgical Associates are the newest clinics in the group, added in 2023, offering specialty services for cardiology and general surgery.

Additional services and outreach initiatives, including the Starr Regional Diabetes Center, CPR classes and community wellness programs, help to further Starr Regional Medical Center's mission of making communities healthier®.

For a complete list of services and to learn more about Starr Regional Medical Center, visit StarrRegional. com. To find a healthcare provider, call 423.374.6571.



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Proudly Serving Athens, Cleveland & Southeast Tennessee

Athens Area Health Other Institutions



Some of the health organizations near the Athens area are listed below.

McMinn County Health Department

Offers a wide range of services including immunizations, the Special Supplemental Nutritional Program for Women, Infants and Children, (WIC), tuberculosis testing, wellness checkups for children, communicable disease control, and family planning. The health department also offers flu and pneumonia vaccinations in the fall. It is located at 393 County Road 554 in Athens. For more information call (423) 745-7431.

Good Faith Clinic in Athens

A free clinic created by local doctors to treat the needs of uninsured McMinn Countians. The clinic typically operates two evenings each month. The clinic is

located at 14 Congress Parkway South and offers physician evaluations, consultations, diagnostic and medical testing, and medication. The Good Faith Clinic is a non-profit, volunteer-staffed operation, and a partner agency of the United Way of McMinn & Meigs Counties. For more information call (423) 745-8185 or visit cccathens.org/ goodfaithclinic.html

Sweetwater Hospital Association (SHA)

Offers family practice, general surgery, internal medicine, geriatrics, gastroenterology, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, orthopedic surgery, urology, neurosurgery, pulmonology, podiatry, oncology, otolaryngology and emergency medicine. SHA also offers many patient services including, but not limited to, pharmacy, radiology and physical, speech, and occupational therapies. For more information call (865)

213-8200 or visit sweetwaterhospital.org Tennova Healthcare in Cleveland

Offers diagnostic, rehabilitative, surgical and orthopedic series. Its two campuses also include a dialysis clinic, a cardiac and cardiopulmonary care emergency department, a sleep center, nutritional counseling, and a wound care center. For more information call (423) 559-6000.

The Surgery Center of Athens

Provides same-day surgical services for general surgery; gastrointestinal (colonoscopy and EGD); orthopedics; ear, nose and throat; ophthalmology (cataract); and podiatry procedures, which require more care than can be offered in a physician's office, but do not require an overnight hospital stay. For more information call (423) 649-3300.





Joining in Service





American Legion Bill Rodgers Memorial Post 68 American Cancer Society Athens Area Council for the Arts Athens Lions Club Charities Camp Living Stones, Inc. CASA Corridor of East Tennessee Challenge Golf Association Clean Living Athens Dream Life Thrift Store E.G. Fisher Public Library **East Tennessee Foundation** FCA Ocoee Region Fellowship of Christian Athletes Friendly City Festivals Full Circle Women's Services Good Faith Clinic Goodwill Industries Grace & Mercy Ministries Great Smoky Mountain Council BSA Helping Hands Ministry Hiwassee Mental Health Center Hope Center Junior Achievement of the Ocoee Region Kiwanis Club of Athens Main Street Athens

McMinn County Education Foundation

McMinn County Humane Society McMinn County Living Heritage Museum McMinn County Republican Women McMinn County Senior Citizens, Inc. McNabb Center NAACP of McMinn County Nurture The Next Optimist Club of Athens Solomon Family Solutions St. Mark AME Zion Church Straightway Ministry Sweetwater Bible Club Swift Museum Foundation, Inc. Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association The Better Living Center Tri-County Center United Way of McMinn & Meigs Counties Valley Christian Academy Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Women at the Well Ministries **YMCA**

For information on the services offered by any of the above, please call the Chamber of Commerce at (423) 745-0334.



Things To Do Around Athens





The Arts Center

The Athens Area Council for the Arts (AACA) in Downtown Athens has served as the main organization dedicated to the enhancement of the community's cultural life. Throughout its 30-year history, AACA has brought hundreds of artists specializing in various artistic disciplines to perform in the community and to work with students and teachers. For more information call (423) 745-8781.

Athens Regional Park

The largest of 12 municipal parks in the Friendly City, Regional Park is 162 acres of recreational bliss. The park boasts a large playground; softball, baseball and soccer fields; 36 hole disc golf course; pavilions; walking and hiking trails; fishing lake; and a large splash pad. It is also home to the Southeast Trade and Conference Center.

Englewood Textile Museum

The museum is located in Downtown Englewood – only a short drive from Athens. It traces the area's textile industry from 1850 with a special emphasis on working-class women in the mills. Call (423) 887-5455 for more information.

Gem Theater

This historic theater, located in Downtown Etowah, hosts live performances throughout the year, including concerts, plays, and movie screenings. Special tours can also be arranged. Call (423) 263-3270 for more information.

Hiwassee River Rail Adventure

Restored vintage trains carry passengers on the former Louisville & Nashville Railroad's "Old Line" for breathtaking rides into the Hiwassee River Gorge and over the legendary Hiwassee Loop. At the top of the Great Hiwassee Loop, the train passes over a bridge 62 feet above tracks just traveled as the rails negotiate a spiraling formation. For more information call (423) 894-8028 or visit tyrail.com

Louisville and Nashville Railroad Station and Museum

This 1906, two-story Victorian rail station, located in Etowah, is open for tours. An exhibit tells the story of how this town was built as a planned community by the L&N Railroad and traces its working class history. Outside is a working rail yard where visitors are entertained by trains switching, changing crews and passing through.

Mayfield Corn Maze & Pumpkin Patch

"Pick-your-own" strawberry and watermelon patches are available in the spring and summer, respectively. During the fall season, activities are available for the entire family including a corn maze, hay wagon rides, pedal cars, and more. For more information call (423) 746-9859 or visit mayfieldfarmandnursery.com

Mayfield Dairy Visitor Center

See firsthand how Mayfield Dairy produces the South's favorite milk and ice cream by going on a plant tour. For

44 ATHENS CHAMBER AREA GUIDEBOOK 2025 www.athenschamber.org

more information call (423) 649-2653 or visit mayfielddairy.

McMinn County Airport

The airport, located between Athens and Etowah, is now giving 30-minute plane rides specific to passengers' preferences. Flight training and aircraft rentals are also available. For more information call (423) 746-0439 or visit athensair.net

McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

Thirty permanent exhibit areas at the museum depict the turbulent history of Southeast Tennessee from the Cherokee Indians and early pioneer settlers through 1940. The museum also has several changing exhibits and programs available through the year. For more information call (423) 745-0329 or visit livingheritagemuseum.com.

Sunshine Hollow

Sunshine Hollow is a small, Tennessee agri-business located in Riceville. The Gardens of Sunshine Hollow display thousands of perennials, numerous annuals, and various shrubs on 20, well-manicured acres. For more information call (423) 745-4289 or visit sunshinehollow.com

Swift Museum

The Swift Museum is located at the McMinn County Airport. It has multiple Swift aircraft on display (including the prototype No. 1), stock production and modified Swifts from 1946 to 1951, and two T-35 Buckaroo USAF trainers. The museum is open for individual and group tours. For more information call (423) 745-9547 or visit swiftmuseumfoundation.org

Tsali Notch Vineyard

Surrounded by majestic mountain views in lush foothills outside nearby Madisonville, Tsali Notch is a vineyard and tasting room specializing in wine and products from the Muscadine, "America's Wild GrapeTM," indigenous to the

Southeastern United States. For more information call (423) 506-9895 or visit tsalinotch.com

Veterans Memorial Park

Veterans Memorial Park was dedicated in 2000 to honor veterans.

There are several monuments in the park to honor area servicemen. In 2002, the park was dedicated with a plaza area with memorial bricks purchased in honor of veterans, monuments representing the five branches of service, and a plaque in honor of Charles R. Ware. The park also offers sitting and picnic areas, as well as a 0.5-mile walking trail. The park is adjacent to Market Park in the historic commercial core of Athens. For more information call (423) 744-2700 or visit city-ofathenstn.com

Outdoor activities

In nearby Meigs County, the 39,000-acre Watts Bar Lake offers a perfect location for fishing, water sports and sailing. The lakes in East Tennessee are among the most beautiful in the country and many offer scenic mountain views.

There are also several rivers and streams nearby that provide fishing opportunities. Also, not far from Athens is the Ocoee River in Polk County, where the 1996 Summer Olympics whitewater events were held. Several rafting outfitters provide day trips for all ages.

There are still plenty of opportunities for recreation in Athens, even in the case of inclement weather. Athens is a part of the Tennessee Overhill, which encompasses three counties: McMinn, Polk and Monroe. The Overhill works to highlight places that honor local history, traditions, culture and natural resources.

Whether you want to take a scenic drive, visit a winery or take a complete culinary tour, you can do so within this region.



Churches and Ministries



301 Central Ave., Athens • 423-745-1394 www.eastathens.org

Sunday: Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m. Age Group Choir Rehearsals - 6:00 p.m. Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting

Mission Organizations • Choir Rehearsals Rev. Mike Dannel, Executive/Worship Pastor Dr. Bryan Trapp, Senior Pastor



600 W. Madison Avenue, Athens 423-745-2612

Traditional Service: 9:00 am Contemporary Service: 11:00 am

https://www.keithumc.org

Pastors: Melissa Smith & Mark Reedy



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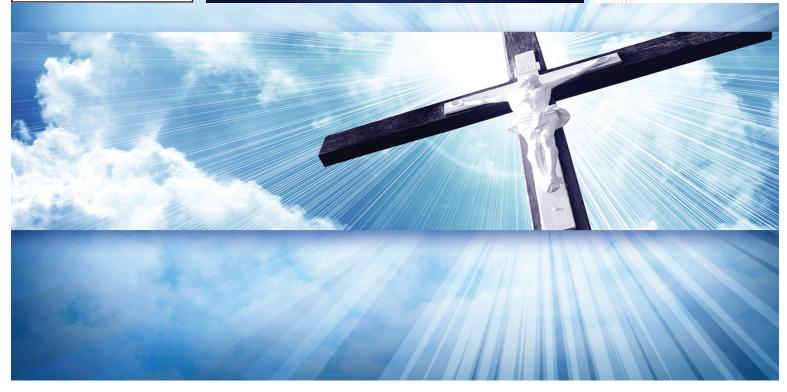


St. Mary's Legacy Clinic SMLCares.com



3rd Thursday; every month 10am-2pm St. Mary's Catholic Chur 1291 E. Madison Ave Athens, TN 37371







Athens McMinn Family YMCA



The Athens-McMinn Family YMCA has been a part of McMinn County since 1975. While our YMCA has changed in appearance and services over the years, we still stand firm in believing that strengthening community is our cause.

We know that lasting personal and social change comes about when we all work together. Every day, our YMCA staff, volunteers and members work side-by-side with our neighbors to make sure that everyone, regardless of age, income or background, has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive.

The Y stands firm in our cause for youth development, for healthy living and for social responsibility. That's because a strong community can only be achieved when we invest in kids, our health and our neighbors.

The Athens-McMinn Family YMCA is located in the heart of downtown Athens. Serving individuals and families alike, our branch as a wide variety of amenities and programs. There is something for all ages. We offer:

Full-Service Cardio Room
Full-Service Weight Room
Full-Service Agility Room
Full-Service Indoor Aquatics Center
Two Court Gymnasium
After School Care
Schools Out Camp
Summer Day Camp
Y-CAP

Youth Swim Team and Basketball Clinics Group Exercise Personal Training Indoor Pickleball and Racquetball Aquatics

Learn-to-Swim Programs for All Ages Corporate Wellness Programs Financial Assistance Program

In addition to all of the services listed, we offer a culture of connection. We are a place for our members to come inside our walls, build new relationships and feel an instant sense of connection to our community.

We hope that those new relationships and connections will be the spark that will encourage our members to go out into McMinn County and make it a better place to live.

Our Y is for everyone. Our programs, services and initiatives enable kids to realize their potential; prepare teens



for college; offer ways for families to have fun together; empower people to be healthier in spirit, mind and body; welcome and embrace newcomers; and help foster a community-wide service ethic. And that's just the beginning.

Stop by the Y today. Have a cup of coffee with staff, take a tour of the facilities and find out what makes being a YMCA member so special.



2024 Chairperson





My name is Julie Cardin. I've served on the Athens Chamber Board of Directors since 2021. I have lived in Mc-Minn County most of my life and graduated from Tennessee Wesleyan College in 2000 with a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources Management and Finance.

I have been married to Mitchell Cardin for 17 years and we have three adult children we are very proud of. We are members of Delano Baptist Church where we are currently involved in Discipleship Training.

I am the Director of Human Resources at Mills Products, LLC, in Athens, where I have been blessed to work for 23 years. I am also a certified practitioner of the Myers Briggs Indicator and a member of Senior Executive Network and the Greater Athens Human Resources Association.

I participated in the 2018 Leadership McMinn Class where I gained a desire to serve my community. It's an honor to be a part of the Chamber of Commerce and I look forward to serving my community.



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