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# EAST ATHENS

## LIVING



AUGUST 2023

# THE REDMILLS

A FAMILY UNITED

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We are excited and honored to welcome Shannon Elliott as a Real Estate Advisor. Life time resident of Limestone County and 30+ years in sales experience, Shannon is the perfect local match for our global team of expert advisors. Contact Shannon to learn how we deliver world-class service right here at home.

**Shannon Elliott**, Real Estate Advisor

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## DEAR RESIDENTS

Friends, the response to the very first *East Athens Living* magazine was overwhelming! I heard from so many of you that were intrigued by this new adventure we are going to embark upon together. I am too!

Don't forget, this is really, truly your magazine. The content we are going to feature here is going to be from you and about you. If you are reading this, you can submit to the magazine for publish. It doesn't cost a nickel to write an article, submit a photo of you with your pets, share a recipe you like or even to put a classified to sell a piece of furniture you've been hoping to get rid of for the longest. Also, if you have interest in being featured on the cover of the magazine, send me an email.

Also I'd like you to keep this in mind: the businesses that are in this magazine are the biggest reason we can bring this magazine for you to have as your own, for FREE. Please consider giving them a call or paying them a visit to tell them how much you appreciate their appreciation for the community.



**ARKY SHEA**  
Publisher  
abartlett@bestversionmedia.com



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**659 HIGHWAY 72 W,  
ATHENS 35611**

### PUBLICATION TEAM

**Publisher:** Arky Shea  
**Content Coordinator:** Mark White  
**Designer:** Claire Jamison  
**Contributing Photographer:** Fly Leaf Photography

### ADVERTISING

**Contact:** Arky Shea  
**Email:** abartlett@bestversionmedia.com  
**Phone:** 256-783-8154

### FEEDBACK/IDEAS/ SUBMISSIONS

Have feedback, ideas or submissions? We are always happy to hear from you! Deadlines for submissions are the 10th of each month. Go to [www.bestversionmedia.com](http://www.bestversionmedia.com) and click "Submit Content." You may also email your thoughts, ideas and photos to: [markwhite@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:markwhite@bestversionmedia.com).

### HOA SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Are you on the association board for your subdivision? Contact us for information on how you can submit articles, updates, reminders, events and more to the residents. We create customized homeowners association sections at no cost to the HOA or the residents.

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Fire Department .....	256-233-8710
Town Hall.....	256-233-8004
Library.....	256-232-1233

### CONTENT SUBMISSION DEADLINES

CONTENT DUE:	EDITION DATE:
December 10	January
January 10	February
February 10	March
March 10	April
April 10	May
May 10	June
June 10	July
July 10	August
August 10	September
September 10	October
October 10	November
November 10	December

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# TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD MAGAZINE!

**East Athens Living is all about bringing people together and fostering a closer-knit community! Check out the many ways that you can contribute to and take advantage of your monthly neighborhood magazine:**

**RESIDENT FEATURES** Get to know your neighbors and community one resident at a time. We enjoy featuring residents from all walks of life. Make the magazine your own by submitting nominations of families or individuals who you would like to see highlighted—could be the newest or longest-living residents on the block, your friends next-door, the hobbyist, entrepreneur, etc. Help us honor those people who make this community a great place to live, work and raise a family. Or use this feature as a way to share your own story with neighbors. See page 6 for one example of a resident feature.

**SOCIAL SCENE** What's happening in the neighborhood? If you're part of a book club, social group or charity organization promoting fun or service in the community, share your experiences and photos, and invite others to join you!

**ASSOCIATION UPDATES** If your neighborhood has a homeowners association, we offer an open invitation to post information to your neighbors through this publication for free. Saving association money and putting it towards ways to improve your subdivision is important, so we create customized HOA sections, saving you time and money.

**YOUTH CLASSIFIEDS** Budding entrepreneurs can submit free classifieds advertising their services to the community. With parental permission, youth can grow their babysitting, lawn care, pet care and other small business services by submitting a free ad.

## **SCHOOL AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Showcase budding athletes, artists and actors among us by submitting photos and details on your kids' accomplishments, as well as information on school events and fundraisers your family is involved in.

**SHARE YOUR PHOTOS!** Do you have pictures from your latest vacation? Have you captured a nature scene or a touching moment that begs to be shared? Let us help preserve your memories!

**PET CORNER** Share your love for your precious pet by introducing him/her to the community! Whether your friend is of the feline, canine, amphibian, avian or other species, we recognize the uniqueness of your pet and are happy to share his/her quirks, habits, favorite activities and more.

**BULLETIN BOARD** Celebrate life's milestones and events! Post announcements such as engagements, weddings or anniversaries, hats off to graduates, military recognition, new baby announcements, retiree congrats, neighborhood garage sales and more.

*If you have a submission or feature idea, simply email Mark White at [markwhite@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:markwhite@bestversionmedia.com) with your name and submission info. Please note the Content Submission Deadline found on page 3. We look forward to hearing your ideas.*



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### CUSTOM FRAMING EXPERT

Tracie Spain  
**Frame Gallery of Athens**  
(256) 232-2302  
[www.framegalleryofathens.com](http://www.framegalleryofathens.com)



### TRAVEL PLANNING EXPERT

Angel Waite  
**Angel Waite—Embrace the Journey Travel**  
(402) 980-3120  
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### REALTOR EXPERT

Beth Medley  
**Beth Medley—Keller Williams Realty**  
(256) 508-8687  
[bethmedley@kw.com](mailto:bethmedley@kw.com)



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(256) 233-3310  
[david.turner@countryfinancial.com](mailto:david.turner@countryfinancial.com)



### HOME & BUSINESS MOVING EXPERT

Cam Toney  
**Toney's Transportation, LLC**  
(256) 874-8800  
[ToneyTransportation@gmail.com](mailto:ToneyTransportation@gmail.com)



### MORTGAGE BROKER EXPERT

Josh Winn  
**Josh Winn—Loan Depot**  
(256) 214-2573  
[joshwinn@loandepot.com](mailto:joshwinn@loandepot.com)



### WINDOWS AND DOORS EXPERT

Aubrey Nash  
**EarthSmart Windows & Doors**  
(256) 631-8390  
[EarthSmartWindowsandDoors.com](http://EarthSmartWindowsandDoors.com)

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# THE REDMILLS: A FAMILY UNITED



by Mark White | photos by Fly Leaf Photography

COVER STORY

This writer doesn't know the statistics, but it would be safe to say that in the 131 years that Alabama Football has existed there are very few Alabama football players who have traveled from Tuscaloosa to Auburn to find the love of their life. For Griff Redmill, that's exactly what happened for him to find Gelia.

Originally, Griff was from Jasper in Walker County, Alabama, and Gelia was from Athens.

**"I was born and raised in Athens. My whole family, my mom, my dad, their parents, everyone is from Athens and the majority of them are still there," said Gelia. "I finished at Athens High School in 1996 and went to Auburn to college and pursued fashion retail and marketing."**

At Auburn, Gelia was potluck roommates with Griff's best girlfriend from high school.

"I came home with her after my freshman year on Labor Day weekend and met Griff and we've been together ever since and that was in 1997," said Gelia.

Gelia went back to Auburn and Griff went back to Alabama and they long-distance dated for a year before Gelia transferred to Alabama. As for the friend who made the love connection?

"My kids call her Aunt Katie and we couldn't be closer," said Gelia.

Griff and Gelia have now been together for 25 years total.

"We began dating in 1997 and got married in 2003," said Gelia.

After marriage, the Redmills first settled in Madison.

"Griff was working in Huntsville and I was working at Athens High School in special education as an instructional aide. which had nothing to do with my major. We thought Madison split the difference between him working in Huntsville and me in Athens," said Gelia.

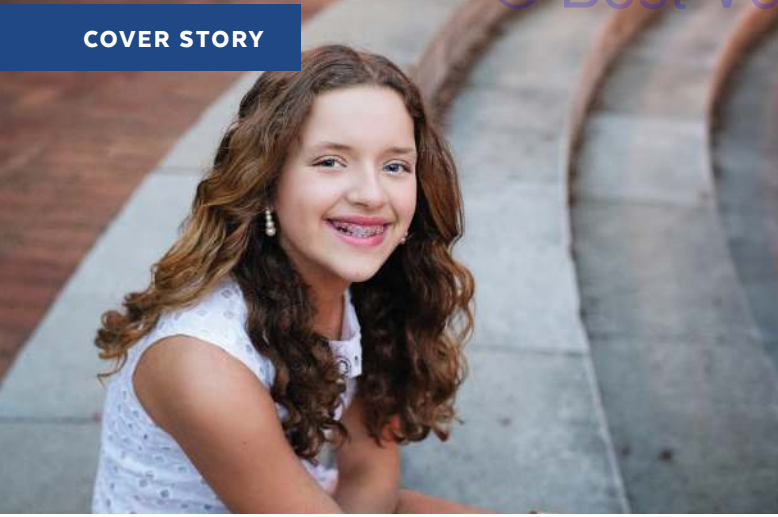
Gelia enjoyed working with special needs students as an instructional aide.

"I loved it! I'm actually doing it again this coming year. I had always taken enough education classes because I knew that once we had children, I wanted to have a similar schedule as my mom, my grandmother, and Griff's mom who were teachers. This was always a backup plan," said Gelia.

Working with special needs children helped Gelia gain invaluable experience when it came to raising her own children.



COVER STORY



"You're very very appreciative of what you have and you understand how fragile these children can be. These children come from all walks of life and different situations. There is an innocence about the kids in general. It's a really rewarding and gratifying job. I don't know if my kids would say I am awesome as a mom, but those kids love me," said Gelia.

The Redmills have three teenagers, Langley, who is 18, and Ann Bailey and Jack who are 13-year-old twins.

"It's a work in progress," said Griff.

"Even though they are ours, we have been very fortunate. They are all very different, but they are all very good and respectful kids. Griff and I both had said that at some point we just expected that everything would be absolute chaos and we would just do the best we could. I don't know if we were prepared or everything just evolved where it worked out, but it has worked out fine," said Gelia.

Gelia described the qualities that she sees in her firstborn, Langley, who is set to attend the University of Alabama as a freshman this next school year.

"Langley is kind. She has the kindest heart and is so responsible. Griff and I joke that she's more responsible than we are. She gives 100% in everything she does. She is always so respectful. The world is going to get an amazing person when she goes off to school," said Gelia.

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Griff and Gelia are proud of their thirteen year old twins, Ann Bailey and Jack, too.

“Those two could not be more different. Ann Bailey takes life 100%. She throws herself into it and enjoys everything. Jack is so kind. Jack is more literal. Our children complement each other well. They love each other. They get along. It’s beautiful to watch their relationship and especially how it’s evolved throughout the years,” said Gelia.

For the Redmills, being a part of the Athens community is important to them.

“I could not ask for a better situation. To be honest, I was one of those who said that when I leave, I’m not coming back. It was not for any other reason than I wanted something bigger. It is absolutely one of the best places to have children, raise children, and be involved in the community,” said Gelia.



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# STAYING CONNECTED

## WITH NEIGHBORHOOD CLUBS

by Christina Novak

My mom's friends used to gather once a week for art club, rotating around to each other's homes. Each friend would bring an art project they were working on, varying from painting to rubber stamping and greeting cards to jewelry-making. Everyone would lug in their art supplies and set up their stations around the kitchen table. Then they'd talk and laugh all night long. Art was their excuse to get together, and friendship grew out of their shared interests.

Maybe you've been thinking of starting up a neighborhood group to get to know your neighbors better. Check around and see if there are any existing groups in your neighborhood. If not, how about starting up your own? All you need is one other neighbor with an interest similar to yours. Set a date and time and invite others to join you.

The possibilities are endless: bridge, poker or mahjong game nights, golf outings, dinner parties, book clubs, Bible studies, family movie nights, playgroups, traveling clubs, walking buddies, knitting niches, you name it!



If you are the member or leader of a new or existing neighborhood club, submit information about your group to this magazine at [www.bestversionmedia.com](http://www.bestversionmedia.com) or email Mark White at [markwhite@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:markwhite@bestversionmedia.com). We'd love to hear about it!



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# TO BUY OR WAIT, THAT IS THE QUESTION



by Josh Winn

To buy or wait, that is the question. There are perceived benefits and opinions on both sides of the fence in a market that's recently trending significantly higher than what we've seen in the last decade or so. To be fair, the average interest rate over the last forty years or so is around 6.875%—so we aren't in as wild of an interest rate environment as some may think.

I'm not saying it's not smart to wait to buy your next home until rates improve—but consider what we saw the last time rates were low in our market—massive demand and dwindling supply. While existing homeowners continue to sit on their low-rate mortgages below 4%, inventory for existing home sales has become almost non-existent. That's where new home sales come in—and the incentives being offered. Many builders and sellers are offering record level incentives for purchasers on new contracts.

Here's an idea: Pay a lower price for your home purchase now at a higher rate and refinance later. Save yourself the hassle of fighting of buyer competition and bid wars. Save yourself the headache and disappointment of multiple offers lost in your home search. Why would you wait for rates to drop from 7% to 5% to save a couple hundred dollars per month when you can pay far less for the investment itself while demand is down? Why would you want to stand in line and fight multiple

offers to save that per month when you're going to overpay for the house because a lot of folks want it?

Markets are cyclical and rates will improve again. How much? That remains to be seen. Don't get caught in the rate craze waiting for things to happen you can't control. Use the market to your advantage with the variables that are available. Take advantage of the incentives being offered to homebuyers. They won't be around when the market improves again. Get a loan officer who will work with your family to help you meet your financial goals, regardless of where rates are. After all, we're all in the same boat.

Contact me today for any home loan needs!



## Josh Winn

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# REAL ESTATE IS OPPORTUNITY WAITING TO BE GRASPED



by Beth Medley

**What a blessing to be a resident of East Athens/Eastern Limestone County! More than 33 years ago, my husband**

**David and I made a choice to move from our childhood home of Madison to Eastern Limestone County. We chose here to build a home and raise a family. What a GREAT decision that was for us. We will be here for the rest of our lives!**

Like many of you, we have seen so much change in our area in the last three decades and I expect to see even more in the weeks, months and years ahead. While change can be hard, it is also a great OPPORTUNITY! With more churches, jobs, restaurants, shopping, schools, and industry comes more opportunities for us—even in real estate. Buying, selling, or investing in real estate can be an incredible opportunity to build wealth for you and your family—for generations to come.

Despite some national trends of slight declines in real estate value, our area in particular remains strong and is actually increasing in market value. Whether you are looking for a spacious family home, a quiet retreat in the countryside, or a parcel of land for development, Eastern Limestone County offers a diverse range of real estate options. The diversity of options is unique in our area and the convenience of our location is unrivaled! One of the most often used real estate phrases when discussing property value is "LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!" Nobody has a better location in North Alabama than Eastern Limestone County.

So when choosing to grab that opportunity to build the kind of wealth that can springboard generations, choosing the perfect Realtor becomes critical. Picking the best Realtor is as crucial as choosing the right CPA, lawyer, or financial advisor. It's a big decision and one you should take seriously.

I would welcome the opportunity to sit down with you and discuss how I could support you to grow your wealth in East Athens! I am a Top 5 Realtor in our office, as well as a Keller Williams Military specialist and a Keller Williams Luxury specialist so whatever your situation and/or background, I can see you thru this major life step. Take the leap and let's build something special together.

**BETH MEDLEY**  
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# LINDSAY LANE'S CHLOE RUBLE COMMITS TO PLAY GOLF FOR UAB



by **Adam Dodson**  
photo by **Dee Ruble**

Chloe Ruble is a standout girls golfer for Lindsay Lane Christian

Academy. Chloe picked up the sport only 5 years ago, but has made significant strides to the point where scoring in the mid-to-low 70s is a regular for her. She still finds ways to critique her game even on her hole-in-one shot during a round with her grandfather.

While Chloe has goals to improve on her game each round she plays, the next step to her ultimate LPGA dream was her desire to play for a D1 college.

However, midway through Summer, it was uncertain what the future held for the upcoming senior, despite knowing how much value she could bring to a team with her attitude, work-ethic and approach to the game.

That changed recently, however, when Chloe announced she has verbally committed to the UAB Women's Golf - a cumulation of hard work and a keen talent for self-promotion.

While the recruiting process was stressful, Chloe did not wait around hoping it would happen, but decided to do what she could to make it happen.

"The stress and the challenges of being recruited has jolted my game forward, and I am excited to see what playing in D1 tournaments can do to it as well," Chloe said. "College golf is just the first step in achieving my ultimate goal of playing on the LPGA as a professional Women's Golfer. Ever since I picked up a club, I couldn't imagine not playing golf."

Chloe first met her coach at UAB, Jesse Lawley, during an Elite ID camp she attended while Lawley was the head

coach of the Lipscomb Women's Golf program. Lawley was named the new coach of the Blazers on August 23, 2022, according to UAB's Athletics website. Chloe then attended UAB's camp this past June.

What set Chloe apart was not only her ability to make connections with coaches along the way, but her ability to promote herself through the use of communication.

Starting her sophomore year, according to Chloe, she would send coaches updates on her stats every few weeks or so. This not only showed her talent, but also how she was improving.

In an interview with 256 Sports Radio, Chloe talked about how she also started working with a personal trainer during the past winter, which has led to her putting on muscle and hitting the ball farther.

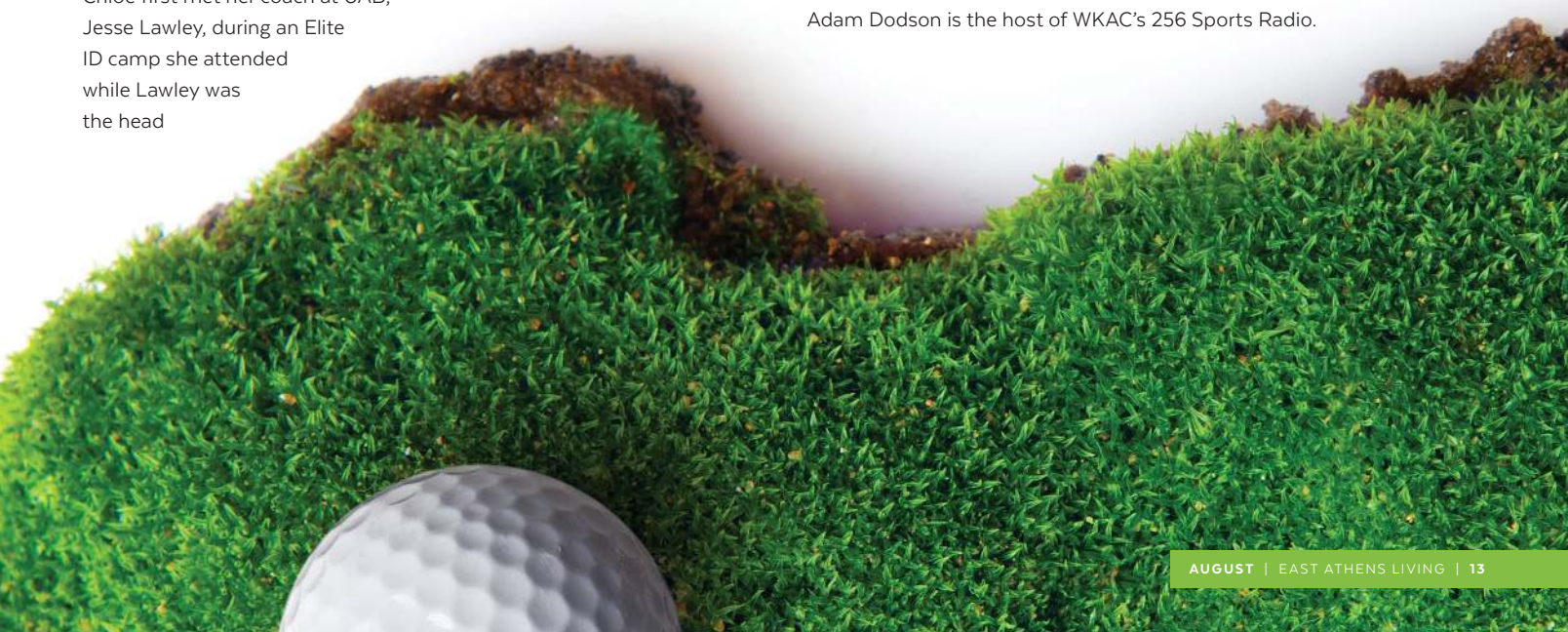
For someone who is always looking to improve her approach shots following her drives, her ability to hit the ball farther off the tee has made a huge difference in her game. There is also a high degree of accuracy to her drives, as Chloe says she hit every fairway during the state competition for high school.

Most importantly, her persistence through email and social media made it to where her hard work couldn't be ignored.

"At the end of the day, coaches everywhere are going to recognize someone who is putting in the time and focusing on getting better. Once you start to improve, you will not be able to go unnoticed," Chloe said, providing advice to other golfers aspiring for college.

Chloe's upcoming senior season for Lindsay Lane will provide plenty of time to improve her golf game even further. However, as a Senior leader, Chloe says she will be spending just as much time helping her teammates improve their own game through practicing the right way and being mentally tough.

Adam Dodson is the host of WKAC's 256 Sports Radio.



# august

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 1****ATHENS FARMERS MARKET****COST:** FREE**TIME:** 3pm - 7pm**LOCATION:** 409 W. Green St.**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2****LIMESTONE LEGENDS BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT****COST:** \$10**TIME:** 6:45pm**LOCATION:** 111 S. Marion St., Suite A**THURSDAY, AUGUST 3****BLAZIN' BEATS BINGO**

Blazin' Beatz Bingo is a fast paced free to play music bingo game where our hosts will play part of songs while you listen and mark them off on your bingo card.

**COST:** FREE**TIME:** 6:30pm - 8:30pm**LOCATION:** Athens Ale House, 111 W. Washington Street**FRIDAY, AUGUST 4****FOOD TRUCK FRIDAYS FROM FIRST METRO BANK + SINGING RIVER DENTISTRY****TIME:** 8am - Noon**LOCATION:** 22026 Gateway Boulevard**FRIDAY, AUGUST 4****31ST ANNUAL PINEY CHAPEL AMERICAN FARM HERITAGE DAYS**

Piney Chapel American Farm Heritage Days is considered one of the best antique engine shows in Alabama offering festivalgoers a chance to see an array of farm equipment including gasoline and steam engines in action, horse-drawn equipment, antique tractors, cars, and trucks and other farming collectibles. The two-day event also offers a variety of flea market, parts and handmade craft vendors and old-fashioned concessions.

**COST:** \$5, children under 12 FREE.

Parking is FREE

**TIME:** Gates Open 7am**LOCATION:** Limestone County Sheriff's Arena, 18165 Lucas Ferry Road**SATURDAY, AUGUST 5****31ST ANNUAL PINEY CHAPEL AMERICAN FARM HERITAGE DAYS****COST:** \$5, children under 12 FREE.

Parking is FREE

**TIME:** Gates Open 7am**LOCATION:** Limestone County Sheriff's Arena, 18165 Lucas Ferry Road**SATURDAY, AUGUST 5****ART WALK ON THE SQUARE: DOG DAYS OF SUMMER HOSTED BY ATHENS ARTS LEAGUE AND HIGH**

Cotton Arts. Please stop by HCA to get your brochure and follow the map on the back. Participating businesses will have refreshments and/or presentations/demonstrations for your enjoyment. Lots of great deals are happening during art walk hours.

**COST:** FREE**TIME:** 10am - 1pm**LOCATION:** 103 W. Washington Street**SATURDAY, AUGUST 5****ATHENS FARMERS MARKET****COST:** FREE**TIME:** 8am - Noon**LOCATION:** 409 W. Green St.**SATURDAY, AUGUST 5****CRUISE-IN ON THE SQUARE**

Cruise-In on the Square is a once monthly event focusing on classic cars & trucks in historic and beautiful downtown Athens.

**COST:** FREE**TIME:** 6pm**LOCATION:** 200 W. Washington Street**TUESDAY, AUGUST 8****ATHENS FARMERS MARKET****COST:** FREE**TIME:** 3pm - 7pm**LOCATION:** 409 W. Green St.**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9****LIMESTONE LEGENDS BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT****COST:** \$10**TIME:** 6:45pm**LOCATION:** 111 S. Marion St., Suite A**THURSDAY, AUGUST 10****BLAZIN' BEATS BINGO**

Blazin' Beatz Bingo is a fast paced free to play music bingo game where our hosts will play part of songs while you listen and mark them off on your bingo card.

**COST:** FREE**TIME:** 6:30pm - 8:30pm**LOCATION:** Athens Ale House, 111 W. Washington Street**SATURDAY, AUGUST 12****ATHENS FARMERS MARKET****COST:** FREE**TIME:** 8am - Noon**LOCATION:** 409 W. Green St.**TUESDAY, AUGUST 15****ATHENS FARMERS MARKET****COST:** FREE**TIME:** 3pm - 7pm**LOCATION:** 409 W. Green St.**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16****LIMESTONE LEGENDS BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT****COST:** \$10**TIME:** 6:45pm**LOCATION:** 111 S. Marion St., Suite A**THURSDAY, AUGUST 17****BLAZIN' BEATS BINGO**

Blazin' Beatz Bingo is a fast paced free to play music bingo game where our hosts will play part of songs while you listen and mark them off on your bingo card.

**COST:** FREE**TIME:** 6:30pm - 8:30pm**LOCATION:** Athens Ale House, 111 W. Washington Street

At the time this magazine went to print, all events and locations were accurate. Please check event websites for the most current information as some events may have been postponed or canceled.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 18**

**ATHENS ACTIVITY CENTER  
GAME NIGHT**

Join the Athens Activity Center for a Game Night for ages 50 and up. This month will feature dominoes, pool and corn hole.

**COST:** FREE

**TIME:** 3pm - 7pm

**LOCATION:** 912 W. Pryor Street

**COST:** FREE

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 19**

**ATHENS FARMERS MARKET**

**COST:** FREE

**TIME:** 8am - Noon

**LOCATION:** 409 W. Green St.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 19**

**GIRL SCOUTS BLOCK PARTY**

Girl Scouts Service Unit 210 would like to invite the Athens-Limestone community to join us for some fun and games! Free and open to the community.

**COST:** FREE

**TIME:** 9am - Noon

**LOCATION:** Athens All Kids Park at Athens Sportsplex, 1403 Highway 31

**MONDAY, AUGUST 21**

**GIRL SCOUTS MAKERS NIGHT**

Girl Scouts Service Unit 210 would like to invite the Athens-Limestone community to join us for some fun and games! Free and open to the community.

**COST:** FREE

**TIME:** 6pm - 8pm

**LOCATION:** Athens First Methodist Youth Center at 203 N. Jefferson St.

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 22**

**ATHENS FARMERS MARKET**

**COST:** FREE

**TIME:** 3pm - 7pm

**LOCATION:** 409 W. Green St.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23**

**LIMESTONE LEGENDS BILLIARDS  
TOURNAMENT**

**COST:** \$10

**TIME:** 6:45pm

**LOCATION:** 111 S. Marion St., Suite A

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 24**

**BLAZIN' BEATS BINGO**

Blazin 'Beatz Bingo is a fast paced free to play music bingo game where our hosts will play part of songs while you listen and mark them off on your bingo card.

**COST:** FREE

**TIME:** 6:30pm - 8:30pm

**LOCATION:** Athens Ale House, 111 W. Washington Street

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26**

**ATHENS FARMERS MARKET**

**COST:** FREE

**TIME:** 8am - Noon

**LOCATION:** 409 W. Green St.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26**

**SUMMERFEST ON THE SQUARE**

2nd annual summer concert on the square in downtown Athens. Bring your lawn chair, blanket and friends for a night of bands while raising for Make A Way, a local benefit honoring the community.

**COST:** FREE

**TIME:** 6pm - 10pm

**LOCATION:** 136 S. Marion Street

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 29**

**ATHENS FARMERS MARKET**

**COST:** FREE

**TIME:** 3pm - 7pm

**LOCATION:** 409 W. Green St.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30**

**LIMESTONE LEGENDS BILLIARDS  
TOURNAMENT**

**COST:** \$10

**TIME:** 6:45pm

**LOCATION:** 111 S. Marion St., Suite A

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 31**

**BLAZIN' BEATS BINGO**

Blazin 'Beatz Bingo is a fast paced free to play music bingo game where our hosts will play part of songs while you listen and mark them off on your bingo card.

**COST:** FREE

**TIME:** 6:30pm - 8:30pm

**LOCATION:** Athens Ale House, 111 W. Washington Street



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