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MEMBER FDIC



DEAR RESIDENTS -

Welcome to the very first East Athens Living magazine!

First and foremost, this is YOUR magazine. Everything you will find in these pages, as well as in future editions (every month), is and will be tailored to you. That's the most exciting part of this magazine!

We will feature a family on the cover of the magazine each month (this month is the Wolfes) and we'll have articles about things that matter the most to you. One of the most wonderful aspects of this magazine is the fact that it is a community magazine which means you get to write for it, submit recipes, share photos of you with your pets, etc. You can even share ideas for children's activities! If you'd like to submit an article, photo, idea, upcoming event, or want to be featured on the cover of the magazine, the information to do so is on this page.

All of this comes to you FREE each month starting right now. We can do this because of the businesses you will see in this magazine. They truly are invested in seeing this area become everything it can be. That's why they sponsored this magazine into existence. They believe you deserve your own publication and now, it is here. When you need products or services, please consider using our magazine sponsors. If they are in this magazine, they are good people. And if you are "good people" and want to be a part of this fantastic magazine as a sponsor, my contact is on this page. Reach out and we'll grab lunch.

Folks, please enjoy the inaugural East Athens Living magazine.



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



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-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 and click "Submit Content." You may also email your thoughts, ideas and photos to: 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.

—IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

| Emergency | 911 |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Police Department | 256-233-8700 |
| 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. See page 13 for how to begin.

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 with your name and submission info. Please note the Content Submission Deadline found on page 3. We look forward to hearing your ideas.





BVM at abartlett@bestversionmedia.com or (256) 783-8154.

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THE WOLFES:

SOON-TO-BE EMPTY-NESTERS SAVOR EVERY MOMENT WITH CHILDREN

by Adam Dodson | photos by Fly Leaf Photography

henever the Wolfes are all able to get together, it is always special. Parents Micky and Stacy are on the verge of being empty nesters with their youngest, Nolen, on the verge of leaving for Samford University on a golf scholarship.

The moments they have with their children are special.

As far as how they feel about all the kids soon being out of the house, the emotions are mixed

Stacy describes it as bittersweet, as it will be nice to have more time to spend with just the two of them, but they will certainly miss having their kids around. Micky is not sure how he feels about Nolen completing the trifecta of Wolfe children off to college.

"There's some excitement about being able to do some things together again like when we first married, but of course we are sad to not have anyone at home anymore," Stacy says. "We will be able to visit them all at different colleges."

Their oldest, Gentry, is at their alma mater of Union University in Jackson, Tennessee, and comes home when she can, but three hours there and three hours back is no small drive. However, it helps that the Union community is a home away from home for a family who used to reside there in Jackson.

"When I first got the offer to play volleyball there, it was sort of surreal," Gentry says. "Still to this day, this semester, I have professors who had classes with my parents. Now, with the situation with mom, they are very understanding. It is a very Christ-centered place, and I'm the third generation to go there."

Their middle child, Ella, is closer to home, currently at UNA in the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. She's never felt like the middle child due to her close relationship with both her big sister and little brother. This is also amplified by her being a Wolfe, whose parents have worked hard to be contributing members of society.

"Honestly, I did feel a lot more recognized than not because I did have a sister a few years older than me who was set on volleyball and then, a little brother who was set on golf. I felt I could be the middleman that could cheer them on in their sports while I do my own thing," Ella says.

"Having my parents in the community has been a big help. I feel like it is a big role to have, and it's inspiring because of everything they have gone through, to see all the stuff they have done has paid off. It is very deserving for them."

Nolen, the youngest, is close enough in age to Ella and Gentry that they all have a close and mature relationship. He will be around an hour and a half away from home in Birmingham attending Samford University as a student athlete playing golf. With Ella in her first year in college, Nolen is in his first year as the only kid at home and also enjoys when everyone is back in Athens.

"It's different for sure, because we all grew up pretty tight with each other," Nolen says. "Having them home is definitely cool. It feels like it did when we were younger. It doesn't happen often, so it's pretty cool."

According to Gentry, they don't bicker as much as they may have when they were younger. She also appreciates the opportunity to have everyone together in Athens.

"It is just really nice when we can all be together," Gentry says. "We all get along and have a lot more shared interests now that we are all older.



So, it's just really comforting when I get to come home and all five of us are here."

Micky and Stacy have always enjoyed their time in Athens, living in Canebrake for the past 10 years. Micky runs the operations for the prestigious Canebrake Club, a well-respected country club in North Alabama.





Micky has always enjoyed golf and this naturally rubbed off in the family, especially on his son. While Micky is certainly not disappointed Nolen decided to develop a passion for golf, he also insists he did not push Nolen towards the sport, but let his son choose his own path.

Media

"I think we have definitely let them do what they want to do," Micky says. "When they got to the point that they desired to do it, we tried to give them every opportunity."

"I started off being really big into baseball, thought I wanted to be a big baseball player or something," Nolen says. "I picked up golf because I thought it was the coolest sport. No one around here really played it. Golf is just something I fell in love with because what you put in it is what you will get out of it."

"They tried it all. We had basketball, soccer, baseball, cheerleading," Stacy says. "We had a little bit of everything all the years growing up, then they all focused in on what interested them the most.

For Gentry, she was never pushed to attend her parents' alma mater, but rather chose that route on her own.

This connection with Gentry at Union University gives further ties to Micky and Stacy with Jackson, Tennessee. Though they no longer reside in the city, they have not stopped giving back to their former home in which they still remain in touch with many in the community.

It is a place of special memories for the family. After all, Micky and Stacy did meet their freshman year. It didn't take them too long to get married after college, not even making it half a year before deciding to tie the knot.

"We graduated in May of 1998 and got married in September," Micky said. "Some of our first memories are being at Union."

They were both able to use their degrees from Union University out in the real world to make a living and make an impact on people's lives.

Stacy was a double major in music and psychology and was able to use both of those degrees as a children's music teacher





for Lindsay Lane Baptist Church for 16 years and communications director for a year and a half.

Micky majored in business management and, according to Stacy, much of his time was spent with golf. While this may or may not be true, what is a fact is that Micky was able to turn his passion for business and golf into a profession of managing operations at prestigious golf clubs and courses, namely Canebrake.

While they have lived elsewhere in North Alabama, Athens has truly ended up being a home for them, with a sense of community with Canebrake, Athens, and Limestone County.

"There's been a huge difference in the sense of community since moving to Athens," Stacy says. "We've not only seen that just in the city of Athens, which is first and foremost, but also in the Canebrake community. It is definitely more of a community feel."

The times have not always been easy, but with the help of this same community, they were able to pull through it. As the people who have always given back to the community, they have now become recipients of love and well-wishes from their community.

"Canebrake has definitely been a huge part of our journey," Stacy says. "In all of our years living here, almost 10 years, people are always out walking and stopping to talk. This was particularly true when I was diagnosed with cancer. We had people bring in meals and surprising us with sweet things. We feel a part of a community that is genuine."

Stacy was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2019 and has been a fighter ever since. She took the initiative and founded the Stacy Wolfe Breast Cancer Foundation in 2021. Since then, she has helped to provide assistance to other cancer patients and their families while working to address their immediate needs.

That genuine community is something each one of the kids is trying to bring to their new home, whether that is Birmingham, Florence, or Jackson. The Athens feel is something they take with them.

"I couldn't imagine living in a place where everyone doesn't know each other and know who you are," Ella says.











by Angel Waite

often get asked "Why should I use a travel agent?"

First and foremost, so that you have someone in your corner to help you! Travel agents are knowledgeable in all aspects of travel. It's their entire journey to walk you through the options for your vacation, so that you can get the most of your trip. *pull quote* Travel is an expense, and as such, you want to get the most for your vacation dollars. *pull quote*

Many think they can simply book online. That's true, but you have to do all the work. Did you also make sure you booked your transfers? Did you get the best price at the resort? Can you book excursions while you are on vacation? If so, are they reputable and safe? A vacation for you and your family takes on a lot of dynamics.

Like with Disney—many families visit Disney every year. Most believe that it is an easy trip to plan. Simply book, show and go. Not anymore.

- Did you know that you must book dining sixty days in advance for the best availability?
- Did you know that you must make park reservations so that you can get into the park even with a valid ticket?

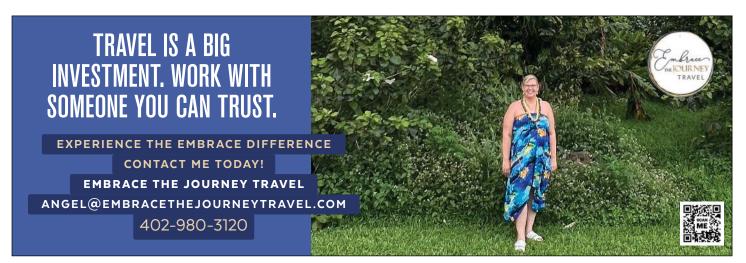
A good travel agent should know that and many more tips to make sure your trip doesn't hit unforeseen snags and delays. A good travel agent knows that, for example, if Disney releases a promo, the agent can re-book your trip saving you even more money!

Using a travel agent allows you to have a professional on your side. When you are sick, you call a doctor; when you have a legal problem you consult an attorney.

When spending potentially thousands of dollars, it's a good strategy to have a knowledgeable agent to battle for you.

No one plans for there to be an issue with their vacation, but unfortunately sometimes things happen. Having an agent to call and get to work for you immediately can save your family time and stress. Whether it is navigating a missed or canceled flight or an illness while you travel. A good travel agent will be there to help you with how to best resolve your situation.

Not all travel agents are created equal. Do your homework. Find an agent who has been in the industry for a while and who works their job full-time. There are a lot of "on the side agents" and unfortunately, they are not always available when you need them. Interview the agent and make sure that they are a good fit for you. Then, use them to plan the vacation of your dreams!



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SEEKING STARS FOR STORIES!

Do you want to discover new things about your neighbors? Want to be in the headlines? Want to see your pictures published? We're looking for neighborhood families or individuals with a story to share to grace the covers of the magazine.

Your story might include love, romance, drama or any combination of the three. It could be to celebrate a milestone in your life, share about a recent vacation, or simply to introduce yourself and share what you love about the community. Everyone has a story to share, and we want to help you tell yours. We'll talk with you, write the article and give you a free, professional photo session at your home so you can look your best in the magazine!

If you know others who would enjoy this opportunity, we welcome nominations. Begin by brainstorming the people you know who you'd like to see in this magazine. They might be your next-door neighbors and friends, volunteers who serve others through local charities, community leaders, athletes, artists or hobbyists.

To get started, go to www.bestversionmedia.com and click "Submit Content." Or, simply e-mail your content coordinator at markwhite@bestversionmedia.com with your contact information and ideas.

With your help, we can bring people together, stay connected and create an informative, family-friendly forum through your magazine.



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We are excited and honored to welcome Ginna Chittam as an Executive Broker.

With more than 36 years of experience as a REALTOR® in Limestone County,
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NEIGHBORHOOD

CLASSIFIEDS

Have something to sell or give away?

It might be just the thing your neighbor is looking for!

To place your free classified, go to www. bestversionmedia.com and click "Submit Content." Ads must be 40 words or less, text only, and no business listings.

SAMPLES:

YAMAHA PIANO MODEL 305T, \$1750.

This beautiful French Provincial upright is 18 years old but kept in top condition. Please call Dave at 333-333-3333.

PLAY SET, BEAUTIFUL KIDS' PLAY SET

FOR SALE. Has built-in picnic table, two swings, fort, slide and hanging bar. A great set for a growing family. Set was stained each year. Best offer. Call 222-222-2222.

YOUTH

CLASSIFIEDS

Hey Kids! Free Advertising!

Be in business for yourself and make a little money—all while helping your neighbors! To place your free classified offering services, go to www.bestversionmedia.com and click "Submit Content." Please limit to 40 words. Parental permission will be obtained. Please be advised that all communication regarding Kids' Classifieds will be directed through a parent or guardian.

SAMPLES:

LANDSCAPING TYLER I have worked at a landscaping company for two summers and can mow lawns, water plants and perform general maintenance in your yard. Call 333–333-3333.

PET SITTING AMY I can take care of your dogs and cats while you are busy or on vacation, up to a week at a time. Call my mom at 555-555-5555.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAYS-SATURDAYS IN JULY

ATHENS LIONS CLUB KIDDIE CARNIVAL

COST: FREE (rides and concessions extra)

TIME: 6:30pm - 9:30pm LOCATION: 309 E. Forrest St.

SATURDAY, JULY 1

ATHENS FARMERS MARKET

COST: FREE TIME: 8am - Noon

LOCATION: 409 W. Green St.

CRUISE-IN ON THE SQUARE

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

COST: FREE TIME: 6pm

LOCATION: 200 W. Washington St.

TUESDAY, JULY 4

ATHENS FARMERS MARKET

COST: FREE TIME: 3pm - 7pm

LOCATION: 409 W. Green St.

RED, WHITE AND BOOM! FIREWORKS DISPLAY

TIME: 8pm COST: FREE

LOCATION: Athens Middle School

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5

LIMESTONE LEGENDS BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT

COST: \$10 **TIME**: 6:45pm

LOCATION: 111 S. Marion St., Suite A

SATURDAY, JULY 8

TENNESSEE VALLEY LITERARY FESTIVAL

COST: FREE TIME: 9am - 2pm

LOCATION: Athens-Limestone Public Library

ATHENS FARMERS MARKET

COST: FREE
TIME: 8am - Noon

LOCATION: 409 W. Green St.

TUESDAY, JULY 11

ATHENS FARMERS MARKET

COST: FREE TIME: 3pm - 7pm

LOCATION: 409 W. Green St.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12

LIMESTONE LEGENDS BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT

COST: \$10 **TIME**: 6:45pm

LOCATION: 111 S. Marion St., Suite A

THURSDAY, JULY 13

BLUE HIGHWAY CONCERT

Blue Highway celebrates 29 years of touring. The band has earned a collective 32 IBMA Awards, six SPBGMA Awards, one Dove Award, plus three Grammy nominations.

COST: \$5-\$15 **TIME**: 7pm

LOCATION: McCandless Hall @ Athens State University | 302 Bryan St, Athens

FRIDAY, JULY 14

SINGING IN THE PARK

COST: FREE TIME: 6pm

LOCATION: Big Spring Park, 100 N. Beaty St.

SATURDAY, JULY 15

ATHENS FARMERS MARKET

COST: FREE
TIME: 8am - Noon

LOCATION: 409 W. Green St.

TUESDAY, JULY 18

ATHENS FARMERS MARKET

COST: FREE TIME: 3pm - 7pm

LOCATION: 409 W. Green St.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

LIMESTONE LEGENDS BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT

COST: \$10 **TIME**: 6:45pm

LOCATION: 111 S. Marion St., Suite A

SATURDAY, JULY 22

ATHENS FARMERS MARKET

Tomato Sandwich Day

COST: FREE TIME: 8am - Noon

LOCATION: 409 W. Green St.

TUESDAY, JULY 25

ATHENS FARMERS MARKET

COST: FREE TIME: 3pm - 7pm

LOCATION: 409 W. Green St.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

LIMESTONE LEGENDS BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT

COST: \$10 **TIME**: 6:45pm

LOCATION: 111 S. Marion St., Suite A

THURSDAY, JULY 27

COFFEE WITH THE SHERIFF

COST: FREE TIME: 7am - 9am

LOCATION: Limestone Sheriff's Rodeo Arena

FRIDAY, JULY 28

FRIDAYS AFTER 5

COST: FREE
TIME: 5pm - 8:30pm
LOCATION: Downtown Athens

SATURDAY, JULY 29

ATHENS FARMERS MARKET

COST: FREE
TIME: 8am - Noon
LOCATION: 409 W. Green St.

DISCLAIMER—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.

THANK YOU TO OUR CHARTER SPONSORS

We would like to take a moment to thank the sponsors who made *East Athens Living* possible by signing on to support it before this inaugural issue first went to print. They trusted our vision for the magazine as a source of local stories and community connection and they were instrumental in bringing it to your mailbox. *East Athens Living* would not exist without their sponsorship and we encourage you to show them your support in return.

We'll be checking in with our Charter Sponsors periodically and will bring you exciting news, updates and more from the local businesses who made our community a priority and got East Athens Living up and running. Watch for that in upcoming issues!

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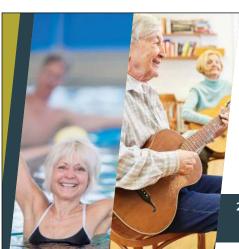
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