

Upcoming Events

<https://www.narcog.org/news-meetings-events/meetings-events>

Go-Red Health Fair

DATE: May 4

LOCATION: Decatur, AL

Annual OAM Luau

DATE: May 15

LOCATION: Decatur, AL

CSPC Meeting

DATE: May 23

LOCATION: Decatur, AL

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Public Transportation



NARCOG understands that transportation is not just a means of getting from one place to another. It is a lifeline that enhances the well-being of our community, providing mobility and access to employment, community resources, medical care, and recreational opportunities.

NARCOG Transit extends public transportation services to Decatur, catering to individuals of all ages. Handicapped-accessible vehicles are available upon request. Each one-way trip costs two dollars, or you can purchase a \$20 Connect Card, available at the central office or on a transit vehicle. Each Connect Card is valued at \$22.

Operating Monday through Friday, 7:00 AM to 5 PM, rides can be scheduled by contacting 256-580-2088 at least 24 hours in advance.

The NARCOG Transit Agency operates under the umbrella of the North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments in collaboration with the City of Decatur and the Federal Transit Administration.

2024 Montgomery Trip

NARCOG's Falguni Patel, Director of Transportation, and Kim Dove, Director of Administration, recently participated in the 2-day 2024 Montgomery Trip alongside Decatur Morgan County Chamber of Commerce members, community leaders, Excellence in Leadership members, and Edge Student Leadership. This event schedule included visits to significant landmarks such as the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, the State Capitol, House and Senate Legislature Sessions,

the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, and the Legacy Museum. The agenda also featured valuable opportunities such as a Q & A session with Morgan County Delegation members, Senator Arthur Orr, Representative Terri Collins, Representative Parker Moore, House Majority Leader Scott Stadthagen, and Representative Ernie Yarbrough.



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Robby Cantrell | Executive Director

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Eva Sewer Expansion Project Complete

The Town of Eva's sewer expansion project is now complete. The sewer extension along Highway 35 consisted of approximately 900 feet of low-pressure PVC sewer main from Frost Road to the State of Alabama Surplus Property Center building located in the Industrial Park. The project will benefit three (3) businesses that previously experienced problems with their septic systems. The expanding business will create 10 new jobs and retain 20 jobs. The project was funded by two \$100,000 grants from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the CDBG Economic Development fund.



Community Health Fairs

Wellness fairs aim to promote holistic well-being by offering resources, activities, and information on physical, mental, and emotional health. They provide opportunities for individuals to engage in health-promoting behaviors, learn about wellness initiatives, and connect with local health professionals and resources.

Community Action Partnership of North Alabama (CAPNA) hosted its Third Annual Wellness Fair on April 26 at the Decatur Senior Center. NARCOG participated alongside over 30 other organizations, including the Alabama Department

of Human Resources, Crisis Services of North Alabama, Decatur Fire and Rescue, and more! Several individuals from the community came to take advantage of this free event with the nutrition lab, driving simulations, and blood pressure checks.

On May 4, NARCOG will attend the Go-Red Health Fair at Ingalls Harbor Pavilion from 11 AM to 2 PM. This event is hosted by the Central North Alabama Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the Psi Kappa Kappa Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Participants can receive free

blood pressure monitoring, information about good eating habits and how to engage in physical activity effectively, and free emergency kits. The health fair is open to the public.



Upcoming Annual OAM Luau



Mark your calendars! Our Annual Older Americans Month Luau is happening in two weeks!

The Luau will take place on May

15, 2024, from 9:30 AM to 12 PM at Ingalls Harbor Pavilion in Decatur, Alabama. It is free to attend and open to anyone 60 years of age and older living in Cullman, Lawrence, and Morgan Counties.

Director of Aging Justin Graves comments, "We look forward to hosting these events every year! These days are designed for fellowship and fun while making sure our attendees have a great time."

This event will include a variety of games, several sponsor vendors, Oliwia's Shaved Ice, DJ K Rock, several SWAG items, door prizes,

lunch, and more.

NARCOG would like to thank the following sponsors for making this event possible: VIVA Health, Aveanna, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Cullman Regional, Decatur Morgan Hospital, Redstone Federal Credit Union, Alabama Mountain Lakes, Aetna, City Center Village, Simpra Advantage, People's Bank of Alabama, Riverside Senior Living, Venza Care, Fourroux Prosthetics, Hospice of North Alabama, Senior Alliance, Westminster of Decatur, Amedisys, Gentiva, and Bathman, LLC.

Planning Department Events and Deadlines

May 6, 2024-May 8, 2024
Birmingham Main Street Now Conference

May 7, 2024
North Alabama Trails and Recreation (NATR) Mini Conference: Foundations for Funding

May 31, 2024
FY 2025 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Application Deadline

June 7, 2024
North Alabama Trails & Recreation (NATR) Mini-Conference: Foundations for Funding

June 17, 2024
Federal Highway Administration's Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Application Deadline

July 30, 2024-August 1, 2024
NADO National Regional Transportation Conference

July 21, 2024 - July 24, 2024
Economic Development Association of Alabama (EDAA) Summer Conference

October 16, 2024 - October 18, 2024
Annual Alabama/Mississippi Joint Chapter American Planning Association Fall Conference



April Anniversaries

Tamera McCloud
Personal Choices Case Manager
1 year of service

Deann Saint
I&R Specialist
5 years of service

Busy Working on CDBG Applications

The NARCOG Planning Team is busy developing potential projects for a street improvement grant in Hillsboro and a water improvement project in North Courtland. The Planning Team will also be resubmitting a \$500,000 sewer improvement

grant for Moulton in Lawrence County. If you have a potential Community Block Development Grant (CDBG) projects in your community, please contact NARCOG Director of Planning, Joey Hester, at 256-355-4515, ext. 235, or jhester@narcog.org with any

questions or for more information. The CDBG grant deadline is July 22, 2024!



FROM PAGE 1: Visiting Alabama’s Capital, Montgomery

Additionally, there was a breakfast with Nick Moore, Director of the Governor’s Office of Education & Workforce Transformation (GOEWT), and a luncheon at the RSA Plaza Terrace with Angela Till, Deputy Secretary of The Depart-

ment of Commerce. The trip concluded with group photos taken on the Capitol steps with Governor Kay Ivey.

Nucor Steel Decatur was the presenting sponsor of the 2024 Montgomery Trip, with Contrac-

tor Service and Fabrication, Inc. and Shawn D. Garth, Realtor as gold sponsors. Thank you to Adams Beverages, the annual sponsor for the Public Policy Agenda, and the dedicated team at the Decatur Morgan Chamber of

Commerce for orchestrating this significant event that fostered connections between students, business leaders, and legislators.

Planning Team Continues Grant Administrations

The NARCOG Planning Team continues to provide grant administration for community and economic development projects totaling over \$6M in Falkville, Colony, Garden City, Lawrence County, Moulton, the Decatur-Morgan County Port Authority, and the

Lawrence County Board of Education funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Some upcoming CDBG monitoring visits by the Alabama Department of Economic and Communi-

ty Affairs (ADECA) include Garden City CDBG Sewer Improvements on April 24th, Falkville Drainage Improvements on May 2nd, and Lawrence County CDBG Economic Development on May 22nd.



Cullman Distinguished Citizen Award

The Distinguished Citizen Award recognizes outstanding individuals in the community for their impact on the lives of others. Rachel Dawsey, resident of Cullman, Alabama, is the recipient of the Cullman Times Distinguished Citizen Award.

North Alabama Agriplex, created in 2001, aims to educate and raise awareness of agriculture in Alabama. In 2012, the Agriplex Board opened

the Heritage Center in Cullman, which offered several outside learning opportunities for children and individuals in the community. This is when Rachel Dawsey, a Cullman native, began her time with the Center.

The Cullman Times describes Dawsey as “the kind of person who finds a way to credit everyone except herself for the steady ascent of the Agriplex, which in 2024 is officially cel-

ebrating its 24th year of operation—and half of it under her leadership.

“Dawsey’s investment in both her community and, more specifically, in her aptly selected vocation shines through when she talks about Cullman, the Agriplex itself, and the people she’s come to know through more than a decade of welcoming local families into her rural-focused world.”

NARCOG congratulates Rachel

Dawsey on her award and appreciates North Alabama Agriplex’s role as a host agency for the Senior Community Service Employment Program.



The North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments, or NARCOG, is your local elected officials and community leaders working together to make your community a better place to live, work, play, and do business. The compassionate team at NARCOG is continuously searching for new ways to positively impact the quality of life for individuals and the vibrancy and livability of communities with the three-county region of Cullman, Lawrence, and Morgan Counties.

AGING SERVICES

The Area Agency on Aging is part of a nationwide network of aging services under the direction of the U.S. Administration for Community Living and is funded through the Alabama Department of Senior Services (ADSS). This partnership with ADSS, working under the authority of the Older Americans Act, is to plan and carry out a comprehensive, coordinated service delivery system to address the needs of people over 60, or persons with disabilities of any age, and help them maintain their independence. Services include:

- In-Home Services
- Prescription Drug Coverage
- Caregiver Support
- Long-Term Care Advocacy
- Senior Legal Assistance
- Senior Employment (55+)
- Food Assistance
- Nutrition Options
- Health Promotion Activities
- Wellness Programs
- Medicare and Medicaid Counseling
- Hospital-to-Home Transitions
- Referral Help and Support Services (any age)
- Fraud Prevention
- Home and Community Based Services

IMPACT GIVING

The NARCOG Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that assists older adults or disabled clients to meet the unmet needs of other programs or services. 100% of the funds or items donated are used for client assistance. The Foundation can help retrofit homes, including wheelchair ramps, steps, handrails, grab bars, purchase AC and heat resources, and provide batteries for a power scooter with monetary donations. Several different types of donations are accepted, including:

- Monetary donations
- Cleaning Supplies
- Personal Hygiene Items
- Canned or Shelf-Stable Food
- Kleenex
- Bath Tissue
- Incontinence Supplies
- Mobility Aids
- Adult Diapers
- Group and Individual Volunteering

PLANNING SERVICES

The NARCOG Planning Department provides community and economic development planning services for our member governments and municipalities. These services support developmental efforts in our three-county region. Services include:

- Comprehensive Planning
- Development Planning
- Recovery Planning
- Downtown & Corridor Planning
- Zoning Ordinances
- Geographic Information System (GIS) Mapping
- Grant Technical Assistance
- Urban Design Solutions
- Subdivision Regulations
- Creating Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The NARCOG Transit Agency operates an urban public transportation system within the Decatur Urban Area. The purpose of this service is to provide mobility opportunities to individuals of all ages and abilities in collaboration with the City of Decatur and the Federal Transit Administration.

- Call 256-580-2088 to schedule a ride at least 24 hours in advance
- Wheelchair-accessible vehicles are available
- Each one-way ride costs \$2
- Connect Cards (prepaid punch cards) can be purchased at the main office or on a transit vehicle for \$20
- Ride Operations are Monday through Friday from 7 AM to 5 PM
- Ride Scheduling is Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 4 PM

BUSINESS LOAN FINANCING

The NARCOG Accelerate Business Growth Fund is a local lending resource to support business start-ups, or expansions that result in job creation, leverage private sector investment, and reduce unemployment in Cullman, Lawrence, or Morgan Counties.

- Traditional or Microloan Funding Options
- Competitive Interest Rates
- Business financing used to purchase or renovate real estate, machinery, equipment, inventory, or working capital
- Business loan requirements must be met for consideration
- Loan amounts from \$10,000 to \$250,000