

Upcoming Events

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

AARC Conference

DATE: October 6-October 9
LOCATION: Huntsville, AL

Endless Opportunities

DATE: October 17-October 18
LOCATION: Decatur, AL

SE4A Conference

DATE: October 20-October 23
LOCATION: Gulf Shores, AL

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NARCOG Foundation WORX - 2024 Serve Day

The NARCOG Foundation WORX team participated in Serve Day 2024, partnering with local churches in and around the City of Hartselle. The team provided valuable assistance to an individual, focusing on cleanup and debris removal around their home. This effort not only enhanced the safety of the property but also

gave it a much-needed refresh.

NARCOG appreciates Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and Shelton Sign for being partners of NARCOG Foundation WORX. This was the first official project, and we anticipate many more in the future while we serve the Cullman, Lawrence, and Morgan communities.



SCSEP Digital Certification Program

The Center for Workforce Inclusion is offering a Digital Certification Program (DCP) to Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) participants!

DCP was created by the Center for Workforce Inclusion (CWI) to combat ageism and prepare older adults for a modern workplace. Surprisingly, 92% of jobs require some form of digital literacy and skills.

SCSEP job seekers received a laptop, headset, mouse, computer bag, lifetime access to Microsoft Office, and one year of prepaid hot-spot internet service. Every participant has access to a trained Digital Navigator through CWI. They provide one-

on-one coaching, support, and encouragement throughout the program.

DCP is a 10-week program in which individuals are taught different training topics each week, such as using email, Microsoft Office applications, internet basics, and more. They are expected to commit 10 hours a week, with at least 1.5 to 2 hours a week with a Digital Navigator. These hours can replace normal hours worked at a host agency, and all digital training is paid.

SCSEP Coordinator Daffney Harris comments, "The Digital Certification Program sponsored by CWI empowers seniors with the skills to navigate the digi-

tal world confidently, ensuring that computer help for seniors is accessible, practical and user friendly. The skills learned can help ensure that no senior feels lonely or isolated in this digital age."



Robby Cantrell | Executive Director

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Decatur-Morgan County Port Authority's Warehouse Expansion is now Complete!

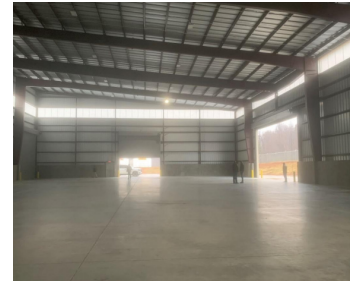
The Decatur-Morgan County Port Authority's Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Warehouse Expansion Grant Project is now complete and closed out.

The project expanded an existing 40,000-square-foot warehouse from a pre-engineered metal building by providing an additional 40,000-square-foot of

warehouse storage space needed to support the automotive sector. The warehouse now consists of 80,000 square feet! The newly expanded section of the warehouse will soon consist of automotive-grade storage.

The Port of Decatur is the closest port to the Mazda Toyota plant that can provide compre-

hensive steel trans-loading and storage services. The project was partially funded by a \$1,000,000 ARC Grant Award administered by NARCOG.



NARCOG Transit Hiring Drivers



NARCOG is currently hiring part-time drivers to join our dedicated team. This position involves providing reliable and safe transportation services to seniors and individuals with disabilities in our community. The part-time shifts available are from 7 AM to 12 PM or from 12 PM to 5 PM, offering

flexibility to fit your schedule.

As a driver, you will play a crucial role in ensuring the Decatur community can access essential services, medical appointments, and social activities, enhancing their overall well-being and independence. If you have a valid driver's license, a clean driving record,

and a passion for helping others, we encourage you to apply and become a valued member of the NARCOG team.

Please view the total job description on our website under Career Opportunities and apply online on Indeed.

Planning Department Events and Deadlines

August 6, 2024

Hartselle Comprehensive Plan Update

August 13, 2024 - August 14, 2024

RPO Committee Meetings

September 4, 2024 - September 5, 2024

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)
2024 Annual Conference
Chattanooga, TN

October 16, 2024 - October 18, 2024

Annual Alabama/Mississippi Joint Chapter American Planning Association Fall Conference

Cullman Cornhole Baseball Tournament



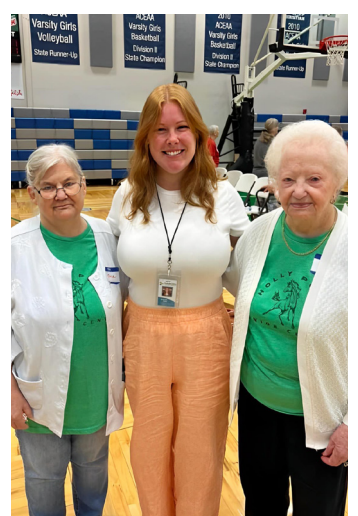
Fifteen teams of competitive senior citizens competed in the inaugural Senior Cornhole Baseball Tournament at Cullman Christian School on Friday, July 26. The Rowdy Bunch team from the Hanceville Senior Center emerged as the champions, while

the Cullman Senior Center players were runners-up.

The game is played similarly to typical cornhole with a few unique twists. Each hole on the board represents different bases or foul balls. Three chairs are set up at each base, and the batter

walks to the appropriate base with each hit. These ingenious modifications promote senior wellness by encouraging functional mobility, functional transfers, and bonding among team members and opponents.

"This event is such a fun way to motivate seniors to be active while also presenting fun fellowship. Several centers practiced every week for this event, and some continuously played throughout the year to keep their skills sharp, and really, because it's a fun game to play. I'm already excited for next year!" says Kylie Bolyard, NARCOG Outreach Coordinator.



NARCOG Submits Nearly \$1.3M in CDBG Grants!

The NARCOG Planning and Grants Team was pleased to assist three of our communities with submitting nearly \$1.3M in CDBG grants to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) this year. These grants will help with the funding needed to make infrastructure improvements for their low-and-moderate income residents. Information on each of the

three grant projects are below.

Moulton Sewer Improvements: A \$500,000 grant was resubmitted to make sewer improvements in the neighborhood south of downtown around Byler Road. The total project cost is nearly \$750,000 including local match funds.

North Courtland Water Improvements: A \$400,000 grant was submitted to make water im-

provements along College Street. The local match and engineering fees will be provided by the West Morgan East Lawrence Water and Sewer Authority for this approximately \$530,000 project.

Hillsboro Street Improvements: A \$343,317 grant was submitted to make street improvements along Owens Road, Oakdale Avenue, Beatrice Boulevard, and Horton Road. No local match was

required.

All of these improvements will greatly improve the quality of life for the low and moderate-income residents living in each of the communities. The communities should hear from the Governor and ADECA if their respective projects are funded in late October.

NARCOG Attends Summer EDAA Conference

NARCOG Executive Director Robby Cantrell and Director of Administration Kim Dove attended the 2024 Summer Economic Development Association of Alabama (EDAA) Conference to continue working alongside other professionals, legislators, and agencies focused on promoting programs, policies, businesses, and quality-of-life activities in Alabama.

The 4-day conference began with conversations with the Alabama Department of Commerce Made in Alabama Senior Project Manager Ted Clem, EDPA President Greg Barker, ADECA Director Kenneth Boswell, and EDAA Executive Director Jim Searcy. AIDT Assistant Director Bobby Jon Drinkard provided an update on Alabama's workforce training agency's statewide impact and evolving efforts to continually provide quality and customized technical training programs offered at no cost to employers or trainees throughout the state. Governor Kay Ivey expressed how proud she is of the state's progressive strides in attracting over \$42 Billion in new capital investments

and nearly 80k new jobs impacting rural and metro regions. The Governor is committed to pressing Alabama's economic development teams forward without any intentions of slowing down.

The State of Alabama has also created an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Task Force to understand the current uses, encourage responsible and effective use, and recommend policies and procedures related to the use of GenAI in the state executive branch agencies. GLS Consultant Cedric Colbert educated attendees on how AI could disrupt site selection and economic development. EDPA Chief Operating Officer Miller Girvin moderated the discussion of talent attraction and retention in Alabama with an impressive college student panel --Nasir Jordan, UAB. Rylen Dempsey, UA. MarKaylee Talton, Shelton State. Chaney Scott McCorquodale, UA. Chief. Oakworth Capital Bank Chief Economist John Norris provided an analysis of the US economy's past present and possible future.

JLL Executive Managing Director Buff Teague and Delaney

Property Group Partner Michael Delaney discuss things a commercial developer wished city officials knew. The topic of how existing industries can continue to succeed was discussed among Chambers County Development Authority Senior Project Manager Ansley Emfinger, City of Auburn Economic Development Workforce Development Director Amy Brabham, Limestone County Economic Development Association Project Manager Amber Turner, and Butler County Commission for Economic Development Executive Director David Hutchison. Burr Forman Attorney Marcel Debruge spoke about union organizations impact on the industry, the recent United Auto Workers (UAW) loss, and the new state of labor relations. The conference wrapped up with a legislative update.

Other conference opportunities included sponsorships, networking receptions, business sessions, and entertainment. For more information regarding the Economic Development Association of Alabama (EDAA) membership please visit edaa.org.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA

New Hires



Asia Sticka



Michele West



Rosa Worth



Seketa Shaw

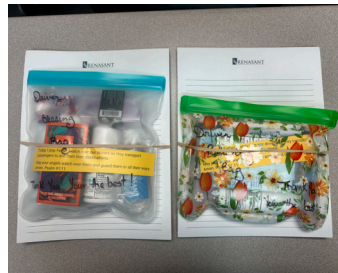
July Anniversaries

Taylor Brann
Case Manager
1 year of service

Jacklyn Moore
Economic Development
Specialist
2 years of service

Shelby Selman
Planner
7 years of service

Robby Cantrell
Executive Director
12 years of service



Thank You to Transit!

With this extremely hot weather the last couple of weeks, we are grateful for our Transit team and their dedication to providing an essential service to the City of Decatur. As a thank you, each driver received a goodie bag

with little treats, including a gift card to Chick-fil-A and a notepad from Renasant Bank, both provided by their respective companies. We appreciate Chick-fil-A and Renasant Bank for helping us thank our drivers!



Meals on Wheels Receives \$2,400

NARCOG recently participated in the Hartselle Health Fair organized by The Cottages, themed "Disney Through the Years." The event drew close to 200 seniors from 8 senior centers in Morgan County and others in the community and featured 37 companies that set up tables.

A total of \$4,450 was collected from exhibitors and sponsors. From these funds, \$2,083 was spent on essential items for the eight Morgan County Senior Centers, including items like a deep freezer, utility cart, leaf blowers, printers, puzzles, craft items, dart boards, sewing machines, and tickets to the Cook Museum.

The remaining \$2,367 is being donated to Meals on Wheels & More through the Community Action Partnership of North Al-

abama, further supporting our community's seniors. We appreciate The Cottages for their dedication to serving local nonprofits.



SenioRx - Free or Low-Cost Prescriptions

Alabama SenioRx is a program designed to assist seniors and those of any age with disabilities in obtaining the prescription medications they need but may be unable to afford. The program offers a lifeline to those without prescription drug coverage, those underinsured, or who fall into the Medicare Part D "donut hole." Through partnerships with pharmaceutical companies and other resources,

SenioRx provides access to free or low-cost medications, ensuring that seniors maintain their health and well-being.

One of the significant benefits of Alabama SenioRx is its comprehensive support system, which includes medication management, education, and assistance with the application process. This holistic approach helps seniors navigate the complexities of the healthcare

system, ensuring they receive the right medications at the right times.

By alleviating the financial burden of prescription costs, the program enhances the quality of life for many residents in Alabama, reducing the risk of complications from untreated conditions and promoting overall health stability.

Please call Stephanie King at 256-355-4515, ext. 247, with any questions or for more information.

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