

Upcoming Events

Tools of Trade Career Fair
DATE: November 8
LOCATION: Hanceville, AL

Lawrence Co. Health Fair
DATE: November 14
LOCATION: Moulton, AL

EDAA Winter Conference
DATE: January 29-31
LOCATION: Montgomery, AL

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Donations to NARCOG Foundation

The NARCOG Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that assists older adults and disabled clients to meet the unmet needs of other programs and services. This can include adding wheelchair ramps to homes, installing grab bars in showers, widening doorways, and more. We rely on gifts from the public to help fund these projects.

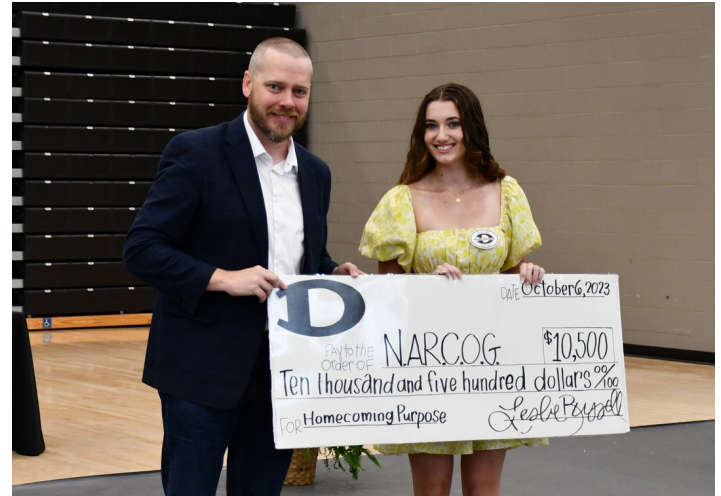
Decatur High School recently held its annual Homecoming event and chose to support NARCOG as its cause. All proceeds from Homecoming t-shirt sales were donated to NARCOG, which amounted to \$10,500. Their gen-

erous contribution will be used to support Foundation projects.

Executive Director Robby Cantrell says, "We are blown away by the hard work performed by the students from Decatur High! The time they spent to raise these funds and their willingness to give fits perfectly with the spirit of the NARCOG Foundation. We are incredibly grateful for our friends at Decatur High."

Shactee Engineering also donated to the NARCOG Foundation, nominated by Jennifer Motes. We are appreciative of the donation and the recognition from someone in our community!

Anyone interested in giving to the NARCOG Foundation can scan the QR code below or visit our website to donate at <https://www.narcog.org/impact/impact-giving>.



No Tricks, Just Treats Event

Spooky season is coming to an end, and what better way to celebrate than trick-or-treating?

NARCOG hosted a "No Tricks, Just Treats" trick-or-treating event on October 26, 2023. This event was open to grandparents or caregivers with children 12 and under, NARCOG clients and their families, and staff member families. This al-

lowed for a wide range of people to participate.

In the office, Halloween was in full effect. Each door was decorated by a staff member with a unique theme. Team members put in the effort to create diverse and imaginative decorations, including Halloween, autumn, outer space, and even a Christmas-themed door.



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Robby Cantrell | Executive Director

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October Anniversaries

Renaë Reynolds
Alabama Cares Coordinator
1 year of service

Jerry Monroe
Driver
3 years of service

Julie Campbell
SHIP/SMP Coordinator
7 years of service

Howard Williams
Driver
7 years of service

Jackie Turney
Driver
7 years of service

Claude Stevenson
Driver
7 years of service

Sharon Steel
Driver
7 years of service

Wayne Moseley
Driver
7 years of service

Mac McEntire
Driver
7 years of service

Donald Davis
Driver
7 years of service

David Bass
Driver
7 years of service

Jerry Barnett
Driver
7 years of service

Colbert Combustion Turbine

NARCOG Executive Director Robby Cantrell and NARCOG Director of Administration Kim Dove recently attended the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Colbert Combustion Turbine Plant for the expansion reveal in Tuscumbia, Alabama.

TVA is the nation’s largest public power supplier. This turbine expansion, powered by natural gas, can add 750 megawatts of power, assisting close to 400,000 homes across the Tennessee Val-

ley. The development will help reduce the strain on the power grid, especially during the hottest and coldest times of the year.

The project aligns with TVA’s mission to work towards a cleaner, more reliable future in power generation. Expanding natural gas power generation reflects a commitment to environmentally sustainable and efficient energy production.

NARCOG appreciates region-wide support of the TVA.



Ellen Reid (TVA Government Relations), Cantrell, Dove

Planning - Grant Close Outs

The NARCOG Planning and Development team has been busy closing out multiple grants.

The Planning team is closing out the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant project for Cullman County’s Stony Lonesome OHV Park. The project was awarded \$640,555.50 through the RTP grant and Cullman County Commission for two bridge replacements and trail improvements, including reflective signs and solar lights.

Also being closed out is the Community Development Block Grant

(CDBG) Project for the Town of Hillsboro. The project was awarded \$350,000 through the CDBG grant for needed drainage improvements.

These initiatives showcase the value of grant funding and community projects by addressing essential needs through improvement projects. Local authorities are working diligently to invest in public health, recreational facilities, and infrastructure improvements for the betterment of their communities.



FROM PAGE 1: No Tricks, Just Treats

Team members were stationed at each decorated door, and they distributed various goodies to the trick-or-treaters and their families. These treats included candies, cookies, donuts, and other delicious snacks. In addition to sweets, participants were provided with a hotdog, chips, and a soda, making it a complete and

enjoyable experience.

To add a fun competition to the mix, door decorations went through two rounds of judging. Board members and partner organizations conducted one round of judging, while the other round was for staff members. Individuals with the best door decorations won a \$25 gift card.

NARCOG enjoys creating opportunities for the community to come together and enjoy special events.



NARCOG Attends AARC Conference

The Alabama Association of Regional Councils (AARC) is a non-profit organization that represents all municipalities and counties in the state of Alabama. There are collectively 12 regional councils, all serving different regions. The mission of the AARC is "to expand and strengthen the capabilities of Regional Councils to serve local governments and the citizens of Alabama."

AARC recently held its Annual Conference at the Perdido Beach Resort, which took place from October 8 through October 11.

The Annual Conference serves as a crucial platform for local leaders to come together and share information and ideas. This event has proven to be successful in generating regional solutions to address both local and

statewide issues.

The significance of this conference lies in its ability to facilitate collaboration and dialogue among regional councils and local leaders.

By providing a space for these discussions and learning opportunities, AARC helps create effective solutions to the challenges faced by municipalities and counties throughout Alabama. This type of networking and idea-sharing is important in promoting the development and well-being of the state and its communities.

The next AARC Conference will be held in Huntsville, Alabama from October 6 through October 9, 2024.



New Hire - Jimmy George
Driver



Promotion - Monica Shannon
Personal Choices Case Manager II



Promotion - Jennifer Jones
Case Manager II

LWCF Grant for Kimbrel Park Improvements

NARCOG is working with the Town of Trinity and Goodwyn Mills Cawood (GMC) on a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant for park improvements at Kimbrel Park. The grant request will be for approximately \$150,000. The total estimated

project cost is nearly \$300,000, including the required local match.

The park improvements consist of the removal of the 50-year-old playground equipment, site prep, installation of shade trees, and new playground equipment to include an arch swing, double bay

post swing set, an inclusive play tower, and rubberized play surfaces with concrete curbing. The play equipment was specifically chosen to offer safe, inclusive activities and independent play for all users.



Kimbrel Park Improvement Map, Courtesy of GMC

NARCOG Participates in Walk for Talk

NARCOG recently participated in Walk for Talk, a cause deeply supported by our Executive Assistant, Cathleen McCulloch.

Walk for Talk is an annual four-day event to benefit Dysphonia International. This event aimed to bring the community together to walk, run, bike, or swim to increase awareness of voice conditions and raise money to help them fund vital research to defeat spasmodic

dysphonia and related voice conditions.

“When was the last time you thought about your voice?” McCulloch asks. “I have had Spasmodic Dysphonia and Muscle Tension Dysphonia for five years now. Whether we realize it or not, it is part of our identity that many people take for granted. Losing your voice can change relationships, careers, and social interactions. I

want to find answers, treatments, and hopefully a cure for vocal disorders. Dysphonia International’s ‘Walk for Talk’ is my powerful voice that can be heard for miles in hopes of changing the lives of those with voice disorders.”

Cathleen McCulloch led the initiative, and on October 13, in Downtown Decatur, she led several staff members in a walk around the block. They were equipped

with Walk for Talk banners, shirts, and hand fans to raise awareness for this vital cause.

The 4th Annual Walk for Talk event has exceeded its fundraising goal. It raised an impressive \$113,129, surpassing the initial goal of \$90,000. Additionally, it’s noteworthy that all donations were matched 100%, further boosting the impact of the contributions.



Senior Spooktacular Celebrations



NARCOG hosted two Halloween celebrations for the older adults in Cullman and older adults in Lawrence and Morgan County.

On October 19, Cullman seniors gathered at the Active Adult Center in Cullman, Alabama, for the “Creepy Cookout.” Cullman Commission on Aging (COA) and the Sheriff’s Office partnered with NARCOG to put on a successful event. Participants enjoyed the cookout, with the Sheriff’s Office providing hamburgers and Cullman COA providing chips and water.

On October 25, Lawrence and Morgan County seniors gathered at the Sparkman Civic Center in Hartselle, Alabama, for the “Bad to the Bone Shindig.” TRIO Community Meals provided hotdog lunches for all event participants.

Seniors had a chance to partic-

ipate in Bingo, Guess the Candy Corn, and Costume Contests for fun fall-themed prizes.

These events not only brought joy to older adults in our Region but also showcased the importance of community collaboration and support for seniors. These events would not have been possible without various organizations’ sponsorship.

Planning Department Events and Deadlines

November 7, 2023
Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Grant Deadline

November 15, 2023
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LFCW) Grant Deadline