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Central Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission
Growing Communities Together

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CARPDC Promotions!

Cade Gunnells – Weatherization Program Manager
Jeannie Ward – Assistant Weatherization Manager

CARPDC is excited to announce that Cade Gunnells and Jeannie Ward have been promoted to Weatherization (Wx) Managers! For 17 years, Cade has been an excellent asset to CARPDC's team as an Energy Auditor, and he is looking forward to growing the Wx Program as Weatherization Manager. Jeannie Ward has been selected as the Assistant Weatherization Manager. Her work as the Wx Clerk has been excellent - Jeannie's organizational skills will continue to benefit the program and CARPDC. Congratulations Cade and Jeannie!



Community Spotlight:



The Montgomery County Commission and CARPDC hosted a community garden build day on Friday, June 9th at the Montgomery County Activity Center (MCAC) near Grady - a food desert. The garden will provide residents a place to grow fresh produce. Attendees helped to construct the garden and plant vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, squash, and sweet potatoes.

Progress photos from July 14th confirm a decent crop in the near future - Congratulations Montgomery County!

Montgomery County

Community
Garden
Build Day



Staff Spotlight

“My name is Lauren, and I've been working as a Planner at CARPDC for over a year now; I had the privilege of being appointed Treasurer of the Alabama Chapter of the American Planning Association in January of 2023. I enjoy helping CARPDC with the newsletter and organizing events like our annual forum. I graduated from Auburn in December of 2020 after getting my dual masters in Community Planning and Public Administration. You've probably seen me at a meeting or two scribbling notes on a yellow steno pad; it's my favorite accessory. But then again, I am the type to find the fun in standardized testing - I can't decide if I would prefer taking the LSAT or the AICP exam next, but I'm looking forward to both.”



- Lauren Bess Benson

Now Hiring! \$\$\$
Building Official / Inspector
Towns of Coosada & Elmore
Building Official / Chief of Inspections wanted!

The Building Official position reports to the Mayor and directs all building functions within the town and its police jurisdiction, to include inspections for compliance with construction standards and zoning regulations. This employee inspects buildings for safety, as well as the installation and operation of electrical, plumbing, gas, and air conditioning systems. This employee also investigates miscellaneous complaints, and initiates corrective action as necessary.

For further details, please email the Town of Coosada (coosada@elmore.rr.com) and/or the Town of Elmore (clerk@townofelmore.com)!

2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Competition is steep this CDBG cycle - the state's allocated \$23 million is a reduction in funds from previous years. The deadline for the CDBG Application was Monday, July 24th, and CARPDC's Community Development team have been working tirelessly to assist our governments pursue funding for these important public projects.

This cycle, CARPDC submitted 6 CDBG applications, and we'd like to acknowledge the hard work of the staff members responsible: a big thank you Leslie York, Carol Sposato, Mechel Raysor, and Elizabeth Daly! If you are interested in applying next year, contact Leslie York (lyork@carpdc.com).

Applications CARPDC submitted detailed below:

City of Millbrook

Demolition of Vacant, Abandoned, & Dilapidated Properties

Millbrook is adamant about the beautification of their community; they have a "Clean-Up Day" four times a year. A recurring topic at Millbrook's public meetings is the need to demolish and clean-up dilapidated and abandoned structures throughout the city. This project intends to remove fifteen (15) of these properties. Millbrook is requesting \$166,500 in grant assistance to be matched with \$18,500 in local cash.



Town of Elmore

Construction of Community Center

The Town of Elmore applied for a \$400,000 CDBG Community Enhancement grant to replace their Community Center which had to be razed due to unsafe conditions.

The newly constructed 2,000 square foot center will be adjacent to Elmore pond park and will serve the entire population of 1,280 Elmore residents with various activities such as computers, special-occasion parties, educational programming, holiday celebrations, meals, reunions, etc. The Town will match the CDBG grant with \$237,000 for an anticipated project cost of \$637,000.

Montgomery County

Scattered Site Housing Rehabilitation

The Montgomery County Commission applied for scattered site housing rehabilitation assistance for income-eligible residents throughout the unincorporated areas of the County. The program to rehabilitate the estimated twenty-four (24) dwellings may take up to 24 months to implement.



Total project costs is expected to be \$550,000, of which \$500,000 is requested in CDBG assistance and \$50,000 provided from the Montgomery County Commission. CARPDC administers the County's Weatherization (Wx) Program, and our staff have seen many household 'walk-aways', meaning the critical repairs needed far outweigh what Wx can provide (See *Photos, left.*) That work is, almost always, financially unfeasible for the owner, leaving their home to further deteriorate. By bringing in another funding source, these deserving homeowners may be able to receive Wx assistance after other areas are brought up to code.

City of Prattville

Drainage Improvements for Bent Tree, Archie Lane, & 10th Street

The City of Prattville's Engineer and KREBS Engineering have identified critical improvements to be made to current drainage infrastructure to correct drainage deficiencies located in a naturally low area of North Prattville. The improvements will address the erosion of roads, safety and illness hazards, and overall quality of life for residents. The estimated \$645,728 of necessary drainage improvements include installing a series of open throat inlets, reinforced drainage pipes, perforated PVC underdrains, open-graded gravel trench, and high-grade filter fabric.



Town of Pike Road

Construction of Inclusive 'Miracle Playground'

The Town is seeking \$400,000 in grant funds to construct an inclusive playground. Pike Road's main concern is having more than just an ADA compliant playground, but one that is an inclusive playground. An inclusive playground is universally designed, and a sensory-rich environment that enables disabled children to develop physically, socially, and emotionally.

The inclusive playground will contain components that are ADA compliant but all equipment will be integrated, so children across a wide range of needs will be able to use the equipment to learn and play together.

Autauga County

Old Kingston Park

Old Kingston Park is the only park maintained by Autauga County; to encourage park visitation and physical activity within the area, the County submitted a Community Enhancement application to add park features, such as picnic and restroom facilities, a playground, seating, a walking trail, and safety/access features that adhere to ADA policy.

The revitalization project is estimated to be funded by Autauga County's match of \$40,000 to CDBG's requested \$400,000 in grant funds. Through the rehabilitation of park property via installation of new amenities, there is a solid plan to improve upon the available nine acres of green space and park ground facilities.

Project Spotlight: City of Montgomery, Whitewater Project Grand Opening



On Friday, July 7th, Montgomery Whitewater officially opened for business. This comes after years of hard work to bring a premiere outdoor adventure destination for Montgomery residents and tourists.

Montgomery Whitewater features a huge, Olympic-standard, recirculating river system divided into two channels that include Class II-IV whitewater activities; these channels mimic a natural river, so everyone, beginners and experienced rafters alike, get a full whitewater thrill ride in a controlled environment.

Congratulations to the City of Montgomery and the Montgomery County Commission!

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) For Procurement and Implementation of an EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant

CARPDC is seeking a qualified firm to assist in grant application preparation, and then implementation of, an EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant. The purpose will be to conduct Phase I & II environmental site assessments (ESAs) at brownfield sites located within Autauga, Elmore and Montgomery Counties in an effort to spur redevelopment and reuse of these sites.

A successful consultant would bring their experience to a partnership with CARPDC to refine and implement the EPA grant proposal and explore other grants and brownfields initiatives as funds become available.

Food Desert Roundtable

CARPDC is in the process of drawing together regional partners in a series of meetings to advocate and garner momentum/public interest in how Food Deserts personally affects many Central Alabama residents.

Mrs. Shirley Stewart explained her experience living in a food desert like this:



“It’s difficult. If I have an appointment in Montgomery, a doctor’s appointment, then I’ll go by the grocery store then. I hate to just make one trip to Montgomery just for groceries, so I usually have a list of things that I need to do. And then, when you go to Montgomery to shop for groceries, I have to buy in bulk, because you can’t just run to the store everyday.”

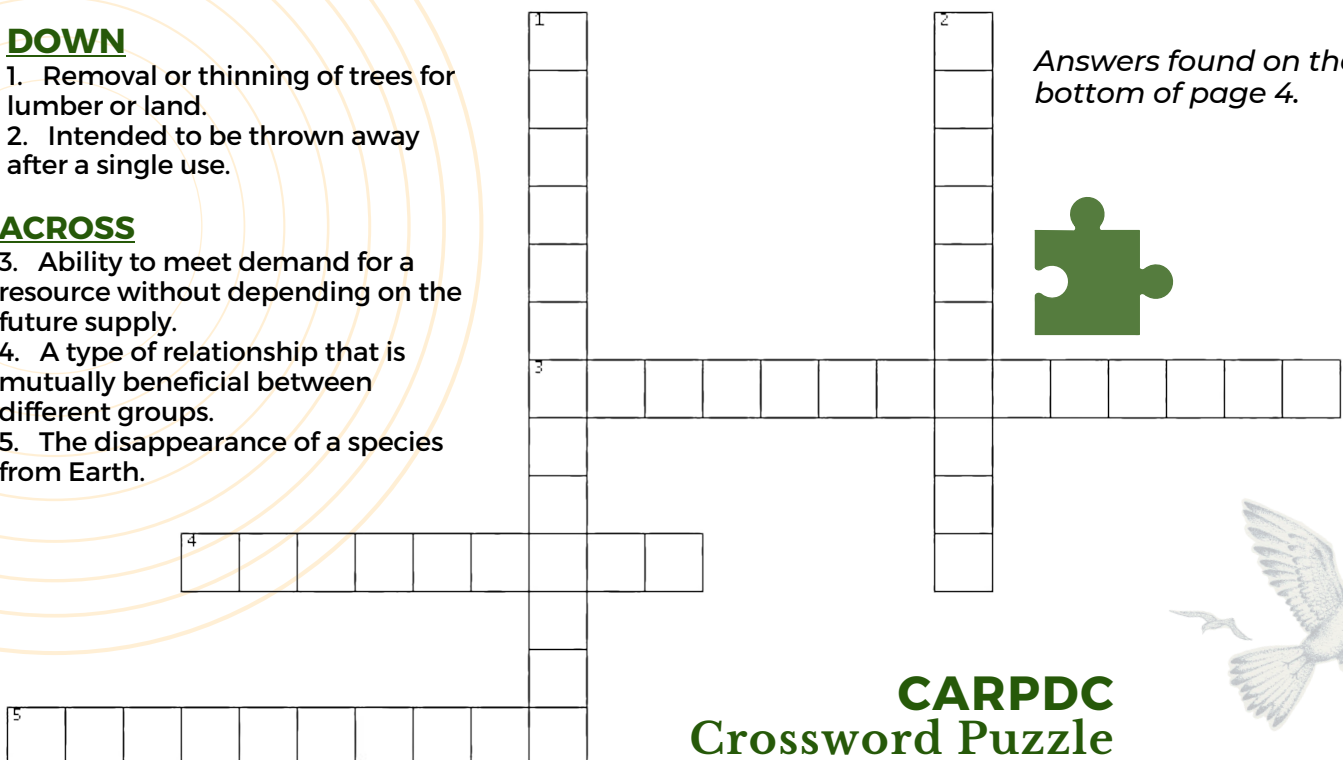
We are conducting interviews with residents (like Mrs. Stewart) from Montgomery County food deserts so that their lived experiences and needs are heard, taken seriously, and utilized by their local leaders.

DOWN

1. Removal or thinning of trees for lumber or land.
2. Intended to be thrown away after a single use.

ACROSS

3. Ability to meet demand for a resource without depending on the future supply.
4. A type of relationship that is mutually beneficial between different groups.
5. The disappearance of a species from Earth.



Answers found on the bottom of page 4.



CARPDC
Crossword Puzzle



Project Spotlight:

City of Montgomery CNI: Choice Neighborhood Initiative

The Centennial Hill Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan was accepted by the US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development! The Montgomery Housing Authority and City of Montgomery have completed the 2-year planning process and are preparing for revitalization efforts for the Centennial Hill neighborhood and Paterson Court. This Transformation Plan describes a course of action for improving resident resiliency, neighborhood reinvestment, housing and economic development and historic preservation, which can be accomplished with or without HUD CNI Implementation grant funding. Senior Planner Marshall Anderson attended the last public meeting for this project held on July 10th, 2023.

ELMORE COUNTY PLACEMAKING STRATEGIC PLAN

2024 Grant Application:



Appalachian
Regional
Commission

In order to enhance economic / community vitality for the region, CARPDC has submitted an application to ARC

for funding assistance to create a Strategic Placemaking Plan for the municipalities and communities in Elmore County.

This plan would bring together leaders, residents, and stakeholders to create and distinguish a vision for the living histories, stories, and traditions that make our communities unique, and then connecting them together in a network of signage.

Upcoming Events: August and Onwards



6th Annual Hog Days of Summer - Montgomery
August 26th (2-10pm). Union Station Train Shed

Zoobilation at the Zoo
September 14th (6-10pm). Montgomery Zoo.

17th Annual Bark in the Park (Fort Toulouse Park)
September 17th (12pm-4pm). Wetumpka, AL

Oktoberfest - Wetumpka
September 30th (11am-6pm). Downtown

Zoo Fall Harvest Festival
October 14th (9am-6pm). Montgomery Zoo.

Eclectic's 30th Annual Cotton Festival
October 14th (8am-4pm). Eclectic, AL

AARC: Furthering Alabama's Progress and Preparing for Its Future.
October 8-11th. Orange Beach, AL

Mississippi | Alabama Fall Chapter Conference
October 18-20th. Starkville, Mississippi

Coosada Planning Commission Training

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Building Permit Application Process

During Coosada's Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, July 6, 2023, CARPDC Planner Lauren Benson gave a training presentation for local public officials on Building Permit Application Process and Procedures, according to zoning ordinance and previous Building Official's procedures. Coosada's current zoning ordinance violation citation procedure was also reviewed, and further trainings for the Planning Commission will be held to cover case studies relating to common violations and enforcement procedures.

CARPDC provides training services across any public governance or planning topic to our member governments; please contact CARPDC's office or manderson@carpdc.com for further information about your town's training needs.

2023 Annual Conference Alabama Transportation Planners Association (ATPA)

July 19-21st, 2023
Tuscaloosa, AL



The ATPA provides a forum for metropolitan planning organizations (MPO) and rural planning organizations (RPO) in Alabama.

The ATPA annual conference promotes both the art and the science of professional transportation planning in the state, and provides an opportunity for state and federal agencies to interact and collaborate with Alabama's MPOs and RPOs, offering guidance on transportation related issues. Planners Lauren - Benson - and Marshall Anderson attended the conference on CARPDC's behalf.

2023 Conferences CARPDC's Looking forward to:

Alabama Association of Regional Councils (AARC) 2023 Annual Conference will be held at Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, Alabama on October 8-11, 2023.

American Planning Association (APA) MS | AL Joint Chapter Annual Conference will be held at The Mill Conference Center in Starkville, Mississippi on October 18-20, 2023.

