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Central Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission
Growing Communities Together



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The Town of Eclectic has been awarded a \$400,000 CDBG Grant from ADECA to make improvements to their Wastewater Treatment Plant!

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), written by Community Development Specialist Elizabeth Daly, will benefit the entire Town which currently has a population of 56.23% Low-to-Moderate Income Individuals according to CARPDC's latest town-wide survey.

Consideration for this CDBG is due to an under sizing of the *biosolids aeration tank during the original design, coupled with increased growth within the Town of Eclectic, left the Town in need of a larger biosolids aeration tank to successfully continue to operate the biosolids program.

The awarded CDBG project will construct a new 25,000-gallon biosolids aeration tank. This will increase the biosolids handling capacity by over 300%. The tank will be equipped with the proper aeration equipment to process the sludge to meet the biosolids program requirements. Biosolids will continue to be land applied as fertilizer in liquid form. This improvement will substantially minimize the need for releasing excess sludge that cannot currently be processed by the 7,500-gallon biosolids tank to the onsite lagoon. This alleviates environmental concerns with the treatment lagoon.

*Did you know?

Eclectic's wastewater treatment facility is one of the few treatment facilities of this size to operate a biosolids program within the State of Alabama? With the biosolids program, the sludge (in liquid form) created in the treatment process is disposed of by land application as fertilizer at a local farm.

Eclectic's biosolids program has given the Town's lagoon treatment system over a 70% reduction in sludge blanket levels. This gives the town a second sewage treatment system for high flow conditions with no concern of solids and TKN being a NPDES permit issue. This is a benefit as the biosolids program prevents Eclectic from applying heavy loadings to the effluent spray field which would cause ground water issues and contaminate local drinking water supplies.

The biosolids program is a responsible and sustainable practice for the Town and environmentally conscientious for the Town's residents. Additional benefits of a bio-solids program include, but are not limited to: improved crop yields, reduced fertilizer production (which means less commercial nitrogen and the exorbitant amount of energy used to produce it), better soil quality providing reduced irrigation needs and natural drought resistance, restoration of lands such as deforested areas, open mines, and stripped lands, reduction of greenhouse gases, alternative fuel sources, electricity production due to the methane, and landfill covers.

Employee Spotlight



Hi everyone! My name is Cade Gunnells and I've been with CARPDC since 2007. I've worked and helped in various fields, but my latest and greatest position is the Weatherization Program Manager.

Outside of work, I love spending time with my sons, Clark and Carter where we enjoy hunting, fishing, scuba diving, hiking, caving, ATV trail riding and the great outdoors in general.

CARPDC is looking for new staff to join our team!

- **Energy Auditor** - requirements include construction experience and computer skills
- **Planner I** - requirements include a Master's Degree as well as prior related public service/Planning experience.

Please send resumes to Chantil Nasef at cnasef@carpdc.com



In the Planning World...

* CARPDC's EPA Brownfield Assessment Program has begun work with United Consulting on building a brownfield advisory committee and is looking forward to hosting an advisory committee meeting soon.

To support this work, the Planning Section attended the Alabama Brownfields Association conference in Pelham and the EPA Region 4 New Grantee Orientation in Atlanta. The goal with United Consulting is to begin environmental assessments with community engagement in early 2025.

* The Central Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) held its last meeting in November where Ms. Marion Giles was elected chair and Mr. Kevin Boone as vice-chair. Congratulations to both!

The RPO is currently exploring how to best utilize its time and resources for the coming year as well as preparing for public involvement with the Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan draft.

* The Planning Section has been doing data collection work with Leavell Design Consulting, making steady progress on the Elmore County Placemaking Strategic Plan. The project team spent two days touring Elmore County, driving from town to town exploring places of cultural significance. During these tour dates, the project team had a chance to meet with stakeholders across the county to gain perspective on what was significant to them in their local area.

Broxton Sanders, Planner II, said this of the project, "I am excited to watch this project take shape and see how our stakeholders have responded with enthusiasm to the project. We look forward to being back out in the community soon." An initial draft of the plan is in the works.

To learn more about the Placemaking Strategic Plan, please click [here](#).



Around the Region

- **Coosada's ATV & Horse Trail Ride with Santa Parade**
 - Saturday, December 14th at 2pm.
 - Parade begins at 9162 Coosada Rd, ending at the Coosada Community Center
- **Eclectic's Christmas Village**
 - Saturday, December 14th from 4pm - 7pm
 - Pecan Orchard in Downtown Eclectic
- **Montgomery Zoo's Christmas Lights Festival**
 - Nightly until 12/31 from 5:30pm - 9pm
 - (Santa leaves 12/23)
- **Pike Road's Christmas Spectacular**
 - Tuesday, December 10th beginning at 5:30pm
 - Pike Road Town Hall
- **Prattville's A Main Street Christmas**
 - Thursday, December 12th from 5pm - 7:30pm
 - Downtown Prattville
- **Millbrook Community Players - Theatre Double Feature of Jingle Bells Jury & A Charlie Brown Christmas**
 - December 8, 14, 15 at 2:00 pm
 - December 9, 10, 12, 13, 14 at 7:30 pm
 - Millbrook Theater
 - 5720 Main Street, Millbrook, AL 36054
- **Wetumpka's Christmas on the Coosa | Jingle Bells & Gingerbread**
 - Saturday, December 14th from 12pm.
 - Ends at 7:30pm with a water-skiing Santa and fireworks

PIKE ROAD THEATRE CO.
2025 MAINSTAGE SEASON

- Fiddler on the Roof: February 13-March 2
- Chitty Chitty Bang Bang: April 24-May 11
- Grease: July 10-27
- Little Women: October 2-19
- A Christmas Story: December 4-21

YOUTH PRODUCTION CAMPS

- The Lion King: JUNE 13-14
- Finding Nemo: AUGUST 1-2
- Hedestown: TEEN EDITION NOVEMBER 6-16
- Seussical: March 3-7