



Building for the future



A vacant one-acre lot of Alabama red clay on Corporate Drive in the Mid City District will transform over the next year to feature a new 25,000 square foot office building for TARCOG.

“We are very excited to have reached this point,” said Executive Director Michelle Jordan. “It’s taken nearly two years of thoughtful planning, but we believe the building plan is perfect for our needs now and into the future.”

Architect Les Tillery, principal with Fuqua Architects, said the modern two-story building will be constructed of structural steel, brick and metal siding.

“We have been working in harmony with the design guidelines and standards at Mid City to complement the aesthetic standards set by them,” Les said.

Once started, construction should take a year to complete.

TARCOG’s new building will be built across the street from the Dynetics Mid City Campus at 4991 Corporate Drive NW. The location is about three blocks east of TARCOG’s old building site, which was on Research Park Drive, next to the Orion Amphitheater. The street name changes to Corporate Drive at the Avocent Way intersection.

[Read the story](#)

A new cookbook is in the works by the Alabama Department of Senior Services (ADSS) and all 12 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) throughout the state aiming to showcase delicious recipes from each county.

“We are excited about this cookbook that will highlight some of the best cooks and recipe collectors in the TARCOG region,” said Director of Aging Programs Sheila Dessau-Ivey. “I love to cook, and I know many in the region do as well so we’re looking forward to seeing some great recipes and the stories behind them.”

Judging will happen at local and county levels to determine which recipes will make it into the new cookbook. Then at state level, a final judging will determine the best recipes in the state for the following categories:

- Breads, Loaves & Muffins
- Main Dishes
- Side Dishes
- Desserts (Cakes, Pies, Cookies, Bars & Candy)
- This & That (Miscellaneous)

[Learn more](#)



A new cookbook coming in 2025

Growing the Economy: Joint Land Use Study and Implementation for Redstone Arsenal

TARCOG is planning a virtual discussion with statewide military installation leaders and other municipal and regional partners to share details about the Joint Land Use Study and Implementation Project for Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville.

Executive Director Michelle Jordan said the meeting will showcase work funded by two grants from the U.S. Department of Economic Adjustment, now called the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC).

The first grant provided the City of Huntsville funding for a joint land use study of Redstone Arsenal and its contiguous boundaries with multiple municipal and county jurisdictions that started in 2017. That was followed by an implementation grant to TARCOG



Alabama Military Installation Meeting Planned.

for items identified in the study.

“Now we want to share what we learned through the process with other military installations who may be interested in doing something similar,” Michelle said. “This particular grant is available to help military installations remain viable and protected as their contiguous cities continue to grow and thrive.”

[Read more](#)

Improving Communities: Winter Wishes Update

The TARCOG office is starting to look like Santa’s Workshop as sponsors are beginning to drop off donated gifts for our aging and disabled clients as part of the annual Winter Wishes campaign.

Melissa Brinkley, manager of the Medicaid Waiver Program, said all seniors aged 60 and older were adopted, however there are still about 30 on the list from our disabled programs who have needs. Those ages range from infants to 59.

“We are so appreciative of everyone in our region who graciously gives of their time and resources to help us make sure our clients have a bright spot during the holiday season,” Melissa said.

Sponsors range from individuals, churches, businesses, and civic groups. They adopt a participant, purchase the gifts, wrap them, and drop them off at the TARCOG office. Melissa said each year there are additional sponsors who make monetary or gift card donations that staff uses to shop for those who are not adopted at the end of the campaign.

[Read more](#)



An SUV loaded with Winter Wishes donations from Monte Sano United Methodist Church being unpacked at TARCOG.

Senior Center Spotlight: Rainsville

Right on Main Street, in the heart of Rainsville, the city’s Senior Center is located in the Tom Bevill Enrichment Center where a walking trail and other amenities provide additional

opportunities for the aging community.

Jim Smith, 82, is a regular on the walking trail.

“Four laps is a mile, and I try to do four to six of them just about every day,” he said. “I enjoy walking.”

Margaret McSpadden, who will be 85 on Nov. 22, said keeping up with exercise is just one of the reasons she enjoys going to the center.

“I walk and do as much exercise as I can because you know, there’s going to come a day when we can’t do these things any longer so it’s important,” Margaret said. “If I had to stay home all day and watch TV where it’s who killed who or people fussing and fighting all the time it would drive me crazy.”

Instead, Margaret joins a group of the ladies at the center where they play games and laugh.



Jim and Helen Smith met and got married at the Rainsville Senior Center

[Read the story](#)

Employee of the Month: Danasia Sowers

Danasia Sowers has been with TARCOG for three and half years and currently works a Medicaid Waiver Case Manager, visiting 35 aging and disabled clients to make sure they are receiving the services they need.

When she was growing up, Danasia wanted to be a choreographer with intentions to pursue a career in dance. Now, she is focused on helping others and hopes to obtain a license for her master's degree in social work in the near future.

Danasia says her hero is her Nana, for her all the things she's done to support her in her life's journey.



*Danasia Sowers
Medicaid Waiver Case Manager*

[Read more about Danasia](#)

MORE NEWS

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in Huntsville EVENT Magazine's Best

of Huntsville 2024 Awards. [Read more](#)



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