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**TARCOG has a new YouTube Channel**  
**Get your first glimpse today!**



TARCOG is announcing its new YouTube channel that will feature videos to explain what the agency does and how it can be of help to the community.

"We've been around for 56 years and while many people in our region know about the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments and what we do, we feel there are still many who do not," Executive Director Michelle Gilliam Jordan said. "With our Area Agency on Aging and our Economic Development and Planning team, we make a huge impact throughout the region and we're ready to do more."

Adding a video element that will be available online 24/7 is another way we can engage with those in our region made up of DeKalb, Jackson, Limestone, Madison and Marshall counties, she said.

The first agency overview video is ready for viewing. Overviews of the Area

Agency for Aging and the Economic Development and Planning departments will follow.

Then, each month at least one of TARCOG's key programs will be featured until we cover them all to help educate the community about the services we provide.

[Read more](#)

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## Growing Our Economy: With a sewer expansion in Ider

In the small Town of Ider in DeKalb County, a newly funded sewer line expansion project will create and save 114 jobs.

In a town of 735 people, it's a big deal.

TARCOG's Economic Development & Planning Director Lee Terry said he and his staff helped the town apply for two recently awarded grants totaling \$450,000 to help pay for the expansion. The town will provide \$45,000 in matching funds to pay for the project.

Lee said the project involves extending the sewer line to service two businesses on Highway 75 including Steel Plus, a fabricated steel processing company, and Howard's Restaurant a locally owned, full-service family and buffet style restaurant.



*Closeups of Howard's Restaurant, top left and Steel Plus, bottom right, with the middle photo showing the short distance between the two businesses on Highway 75 in Ider.*

[Read the story](#)

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## Let's talk about: Open Enrollment

Medicare Open Enrollment starts in just a few weeks and TARCOG is here as a trusted resource for counseling and support to help you make an informed choice on your coverage.

During 2025, there have been 2,749



people in the TARCOG region have collectively saved more than \$2.5 million on their Medicare insurance premiums because of the Alabama State Health Insurance Plan Program (SHIP).

*TARCOG is ready to help with Medicare Open Enrollment between Oct. 15 - Dec. 7.*

Appointments are already being scheduled for the open enrollment period between Oct. 15 and Dec. 7.

“SHIP is here to help you every step of the way,” said Sheila Dessau-Ivey, director of aging programs. “The counselors save millions on Medicare insurance premiums each year for clients throughout our region.”

Sheila said counselors and volunteers are dedicated to helping participants navigate the often-confusing world of health insurance benefits.

[Read the story](#)

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## Senior Center Spotlight: Good Springs

It’s a Thursday morning and the smell of bacon welcomes everyone through the front door at the Good Springs Activity Center in western Limestone County.

A crowd of 14 gathered for a homecooked breakfast, one of two meals served each week at the center. It’s a big draw for participants, some who also contribute homemade treats to what’s prepared at the center on Alabama Highway 99 between Siniard and Shelton roads.

Some of the participants who grew up in the community remember attending school in the building when they were young.

Faye Boston, 78, can show you where her desk was in the sixth grade. “I sat right over there,” she said pointing before going to stand in her old desk



*Good Springs Senior Center in Limestone County.*

spot.

Music is what drew her back to the building a little more than a year ago when her brother came over from Muscle Shoals to play music at the center.

"I'd thought about coming before that because I'd heard a lot about it," Faye recalled. "So, I came to hear my brother play and I've been coming ever since."

[Read the story](#)

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## Employee of the Month: Gerald Carter

*The following is what one of three employees said about Finance Director Gerald Carter in nominating him for Employee of the Month.*

"Gerald consistently goes above and beyond his job description without ever voicing a complaint, at least not out loud. He's become something of an "Office Dad," always ready to step in where needed.

"Bug in the breakroom? Call Gerald.

"Shredder bag overflowing? Gerald's on it.

"Something heavy to move? You guessed it, Gerald.

"I once had a client who urgently needed \$60 to submit a housing application that same day or they would lose the opportunity entirely.

[Read more](#)



*TARCOC Finance Director Gerald Carter*

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**MORE NEWS**

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**UPDATE ON NEW OFFICE** We are excited about the progress at the new building site. The windows are in and the exterior finishes are shaping up. Inside, walls are up and painting has started!

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**LIMESTONE COUNTY COMMISSION** receives four vehicles from TARCOG. [Read more](#)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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**SAVE THE DATE** for **TARCOG'S Caregiver College** set for Friday, Nov. 21, 2025. The theme will be Educate. Empower. Elevate. More details to come.

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**Bloom! Don't Wither - Aging Means Living** at the free The Virginia Caples Lifelong Learning Institute's Fall 2025 **Successful Aging Initiative Conference** will be held Thursday, Oct. 2, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, 315 Winchester Road NE in Huntsville. [Read more](#)

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**Fall Festival for Seniors 60+** will be

Friday, Oct. 17, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
at the Central Church of Christ, 320  
U.S. Highway 31 N. in Athens. [View  
event flyer](#)

[Visit our  
Website](#)



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