



An Older Americans Month Event



Celebrate Like it's Mardi Gras at Fun Fest!

Think back to 1980 — or the many celebrations since that year when you may have heard Kool and the Gang singing, "Celebrate good times, come on," and you will have an idea of what's in store for the upcoming 2024 Senior Fun Fest.

It's going to be a party to remember for up to 2,000 seniors celebrating Older Americans Month, which is recognized in May. Fun Fest is sponsored by TARCOG and the Madison County Commission. This year will be the first time since 2019, before COVID, that seniors from all the region's counties will gather in one place to celebrate their month.

Participants can expect a pre-event Zumba Gold workout, BINGO, a photo booth, live music, a Masters Games competition, and more.

"This is always a fun event, and we can't wait to be there at Sharon Johnston Park and celebrate, truly celebrate all of our amazing TARCOG region seniors," said Emmitt Davis, this year's Senior Fun Fest coordinator. "Our staff is hard at work putting all of the details in place so that it's a special day to remember."

[Find Out More](#)

Serving People: SHIP saving TARCOG Seniors >\$2.5 Million

There are 2,749 people in the TARCOG region collectively saving more than \$2.5 million this year on their Medicare insurance premiums thanks to the Alabama State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP).



"The SHIP program provides seniors with hope. Hope that they can afford medicine and still be able to get groceries and other household items with the extra monies that the SHIP program has allowed them to save," said TARCOG's SHIP resource specialist.

"This program is especially important because seniors have the opportunity to get their medicine free or at a cheaper rate than they might otherwise have to pay for it," said TARCOG SHIP Resource Specialist Teresa Hazzard.

Additionally, clients were counseled with information that would allow them to make decisions regarding their Medicare in the future.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Improving Communities: Regional Safety Action Plan Progress

Traffic crash data has been analyzed and mapped for a new Regional Safety Action Plan currently under development for DeKalb, Jackson, Marshall, and portions of Limestone and Madison counties.



IMPROVING SAFETY TOGETHER

"We are excited about the progress we're making on this plan that will improve safety for the region's roadway users," said Lee Terry, TARCOG's director of economic development and planning.

The project is funded by a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

Drivers are encouraged to complete a survey that will provide input for the safety plan: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XBTWTFV>

[Learn More](#)

Growing Our Economy: How to Win Grants, Fund Projects

TARCOG's Economic Development and Planning staff is staying on top of new grant requirements to guide its member governments more effectively through the application process, project implementation and administration.



The staff recently attended an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Getting the Grant workshop in Birmingham, and are prepared to help those interested in pursuing ARC grants in 2024.

For more information about ARC grants, contact Lee Terry, TARCOG ED&P director, at lee.terry@tarco.us or 256-630-0818.

Anyone interested in pursuing ARC grants this year should contact staff early in the process. Grant deadlines may not be until June or later, but staff needs a minimum of three months to prepare a competitive application.

[Learn More](#)

Employee of the Month: Jeanne Hayes

Jeanne Hayes is the Medicaid Waiver Case Manager at TARCOG. Let's get to know her!



Pictured: TARCOG's March Employee of the Month: Jeanne Hayes.

How long have you been at TARCOG and what do you do? One year. I ensure services are provided for participants to reside in their home near family and friends — and try to prevent long-term placement.

If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be? Volunteer to help with the floats for the Rose Bowl Parade. All flowers and plants are attached to the float the week leading up to the parade.

[Learn More about Jeanne](#)

Senior Center Spotlight: Pisgah - Where Seniors are Young at Heart

It's been said that there's power in a name and the Young at Heart Activity Center in Pisgah is proof with its steady attendance of caring and fun-loving participants.



Pictured: Musician Jimmy Ray Weatherly played his guitar and sang for seniors at Young at Heart Activity Center in Pisgah.

The senior center is in a town of about 681 that sits along the western edge of Sand Mountain in Jackson County.

There are several activities for seniors at the center, like a workout room, Bingo, dancing, card games, a penny auction and puzzles. In addition, entertainers visit the center from time to time.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Even More News from TARCOG!

- TARCOG's Finance Director, Gerald Carter, was a featured panelist at a regional conference in February.
- TARCOG is hiring!



Upcoming Events

Black Family Wellness Expo
All are welcome March 16th at Union Chapel Church. See flyer for more information.

Your Town Alabama Workshop
Learn how to learn and grow our 'sense of community' April 3-5. Registration is now open! Click [here](#) to learn more.



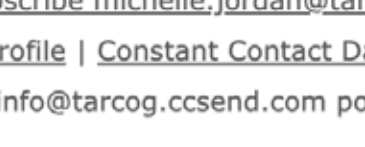
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For senior or disabled services, or to make a referral, please call 256-716-2666.

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