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Central Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission
Growing Communities Together

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Happy Birthday!

Cade Gunnells - October 26

During the Montgomery County Commission Meeting 10/15/24, Deputy County Administrator, Kindell Anderson, was appointed County Administrator, effective November 1, 2024.

Congratulations to Kindell

Employee Spotlight



Hello to all! My name is Broxton Sanders. I serve as Planner I. I have been with CARPDC since January 2024 following the completion of my master's degree in December. One of my favorite things about the planning profession is to meet with communities and help them see their vision in terms of practical steps. Their eyes suddenly open, and they realize that the things they want are truly possible! I look forward to meeting all of you soon.



PLANNING NEWS AND UPDATES

The planning division is currently engaged in the beginning stages of an EPA Brownfield Assessment grant. The EPA Brownfields program is designed to assist communities in identifying environmental risks at abandoned, underutilized or properties of unknown history. The goal is to characterize their conditions and remove the fear factor in redevelopment of such sites. This opens the door to redevelopment, job creation and neighborhood stabilization. And when properties are enrolled in the ADEM Brownfields program, it can assure liability protection and provide tax incentives for redevelopment. As a result of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation (BIL), funding for these projects was increased significantly. The grant to CARPDC is for \$1,500,000 for 4 years ending in September 2028.

"I am excited for this project as this is a great opportunity for the planning team to work directly with communities in achieving their goals for these properties that may have environmental impacts. The ultimate goal is to serve the communities, and that means make a difference for real people in real places," said Broxton Sanders.

2024 PLANNING CONFERENCES

Broxton Sanders, pictured below, attended the Alabama Transportation Planners' Association conference held at the Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge. He says, "I enjoyed having the opportunity to connect with other transportation experts around the state. It was a great opportunity to mix and mingle plenty of ideas on how to enhance the River Region."

Broxton also attended Local Hazard Mitigation Planning training held by the Alabama EMA. "Hazard mitigation is often associated with the recovery side of a disaster. By properly planning for how disasters can be averted, it really makes the entire community stronger", said Broxton. CARPDC is fully supportive of Local Hazard Mitigation Planning efforts within our region and is committed to supporting those efforts any way possible.

On October 8, 2024, Leslie York attended a meeting at the 2024 Annual Conference of the Alabama Association of Regional Councils where Mayor Gordon Stone of Pike Road, in his capacity as the Executive Director of the Higher Education Partnership of Alabama, introduced college students to speak on their plan to keep college students in Alabama after graduation. The Higher Education Partnership advocates for the 14 public universities in the State of Alabama and it engages student leaders, alumni, key leaders in the state, and legislators. The current program, funded by Innovate Alabama, is now in Cohort 3 where they have gathered community information directly from college students. Members from Cohort 3 will be speaking at an upcoming CARPDC Board meeting regarding findings so please watch for details.



Marshall Anderson

**FAREWELL &
BEST WISHES!**

The team at CARPDC thanks you for all you've done!!



Community Spotlight - Eclectic



Mid-South RC&D did a press tour for Elmore County on September 19, 2024 and one stop on the tour was Eclectic's Panther Palace Park. Mid-South awarded a grant to ensure completion of the park with essential security and surveillance equipment to keep the park and park goers safe and secure in their time utilizing the facility. The park has been completely revitalized thanks to a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). CARPDC's Community Development Staff in attendance included Elizabeth Daly and Leslie York. Mayor Gary Davenport, Leslie York, and State Elected Officials including Will Barfoot and Troy Stubbs, made remarks about the progress of Panther Palace Park thanks to the Mid-South RC&D Grant Program and stated appreciation that the CDBG program got the ball rolling on making Panther Palace Park a must visit destination for individuals and families in the Eclectic area.

The Town also recently submitted an application for a CDBG grant to make necessary improvements to increase the capacity of their Waste Water Treatment Plant which features one of the only Bio-Solids programs in the State, utilizing sludge as fertilizer on an appointed field(s).

In addition, Eclectic submitted a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) application to create additional park space at the Pecan Orchard, adjacent to Panther Palace Park. This new recreational space will be known as Pecan Orchard Park and will primarily feature a walking trail with lights and benches and a pavilion/stage for events like the annual Cotton Festival which just took place in the downtown area on October 12, 2024.

Around the Region

Autauga County

- October 19th at 10:00am - Old Kingston Park Ribbon Cutting - 1315 Co. Rd. 21 N. Prattville, AL 36067
- October 17th from 3pm-6pm - Paint & decorate your free pumpkin at Prattville Creative Arts Center!
- Pumpkins will be displayed during Prattville's 6th Annual Parade of Pumpkins beginning October 18th through October 31st
- Trick or Treating in Prattville is October 31st from 6pm to 8pm
- October 22nd from 6pm-8pm: 5th Annual Eleven86 Water Fall Festival! 2224 County Rd 14, Autaugaville, AL 36003

Elmore County

- October 24th from 6pm-8pm: Millbrook's Tunes on the Green Halloween Concert at Village Green Park, including a pet costume contest and family fun!
- Trick or Treating in Millbrook is October 31st from 5pm to 8:30pm
- City of Millbrook Street Department has decorated the city with painted hay bale decorations
- October 26th from 10am-2pm - Millbrook's 15th Annual Boo Fest at Village Green Park
- October 19th from 9am-1pm: City of Wetumpka is having their Fall Market at 304 E. Coosa St.
- October 19th from 10am-4pm: Wetumpka Wildlife Arts Festival
- Trick or Treating in Tallassee is October 31st from 5pm to 8pm

Montgomery County & City of Montgomery

- October 19 9am-5pm: Montgomery Zoo's ZooBrews and Food Festival
- October 19 & 20 10am-5pm: SweetCreek Arts and Crafts Festival - 85 Meriwether Rd Pike Road, AL 36064
- November 11th at 9:00am: City of Montgomery - Celebrate and Honor Veterans at the Veterans' Day Parade on Dexter Ave.
- Trick or Treating in Pike Road is October 31st. The Town does not have a set time - it is left to the neighborhoods