

# SOUTHEAST ALABAMA REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



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## Agency Mission Statement:

To Improve the Quality of Life for the Citizens of Barbour, Coffee, Covington, Dale, Geneva, Henry and Houston Counties.

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Prepared by Brittany McCree, Office Manager

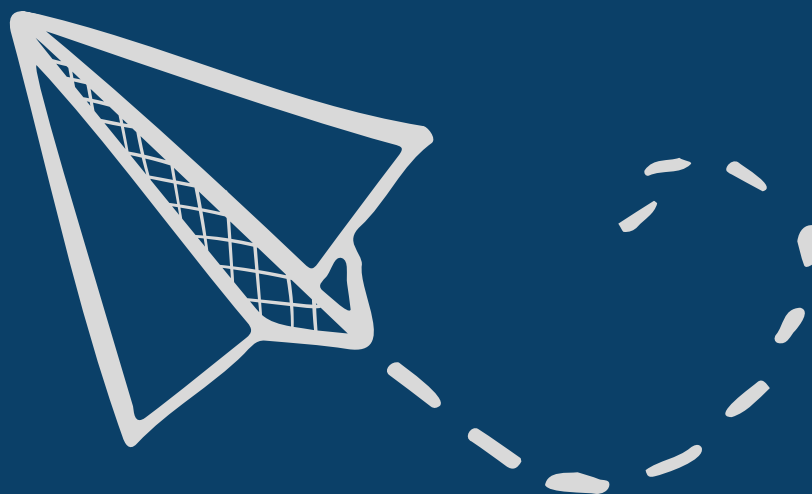
[bmccree@searfdc.org](mailto:bmccree@searfdc.org)

## Message from the Executive Director

On behalf of the SEARP&DC staff, we are pleased to unveil our new e-newsletter. We plan to provide regular updates on recent projects, announcements, and other information regarding the different ways we impact the Southeast Alabama region.

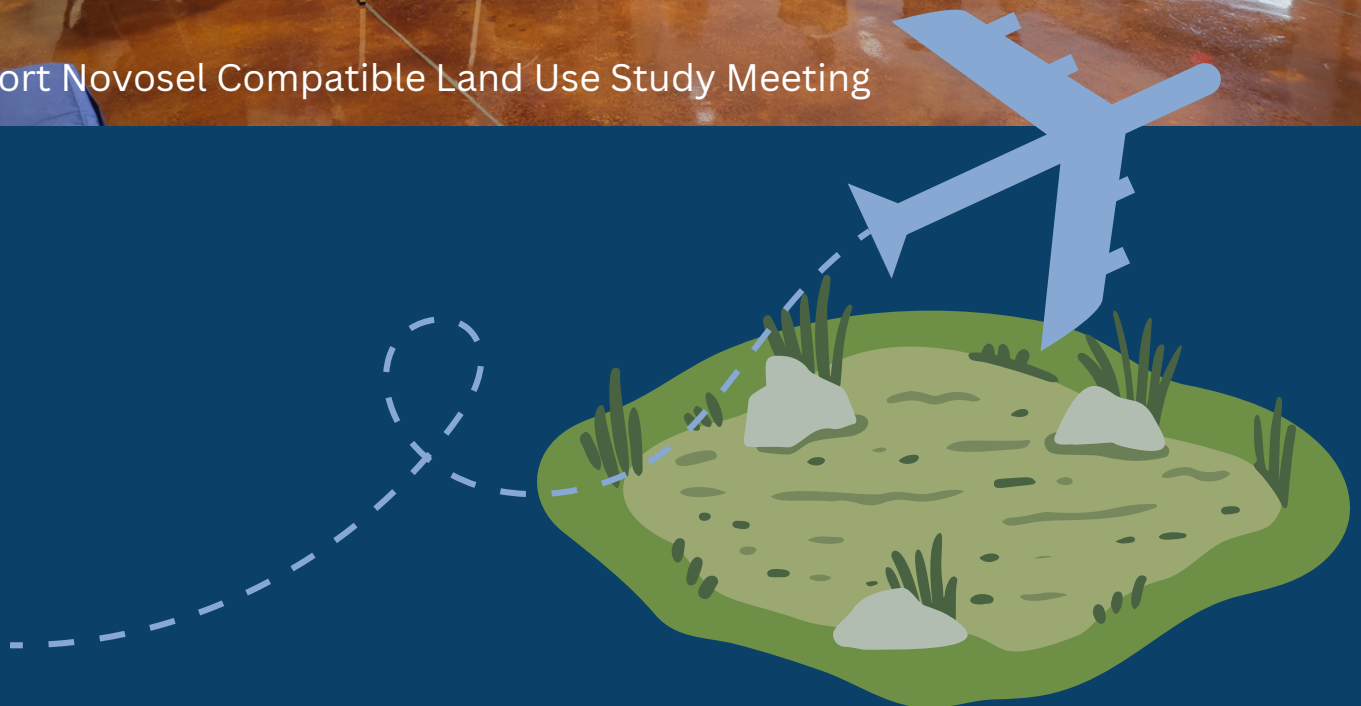
Over the past 55 years, we have appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with our local communities and non-profits to facilitate essential federal, state, and local services to benefit our regional citizens, spanning from newborn children through senior adults. We continue to be appreciative of our connections and we continue to strive to build a stronger region through our vital partnerships.

Please let us know how we can continue to assist!



# Community Economic and Development

SEARP&DC has completed the Fort Novosel Compatible Land Use Study to mitigate encroachment and incompatible land uses near Fort Novosel. The full document is available for viewing at [www.searpcdc.org](http://www.searpcdc.org).



## “IT’S SPRING – LET’S WALK”

The Community and Economic Development Department recently assisted two communities with grants to construct new walking trails.

The City of Headland received \$90,420 in grant dollars from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Recreational Trails Program and provided \$89,901 in local funds to construct a new walking trail at Douglas Park. The Douglas Park Walking Trail is located at 312 East Main Street. It has a smooth asphalt surface, .75 mile in length, well lit and open year round.



The Town of Malvern received \$70,656 in grant dollars from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Recreational Trails Program to construct a .25 mile walking trail at Ethel Webb Memorial Park. The asphalt path winds through the ballpark and along the woodline that surrounds the park. Malvern provided \$140,192 in local funds to construct the walking trail.



## Employee Spotlight



Monica Warren

Monica has been with Wiregrass Transit for 9 years, and her plans are to retire with this Agency. This will be her second retirement, she retired with Walmart Inc. with eighteen years under her belt. She started as a driver with Transit and moved up to dispatcher. She loves her job and loves interacting with the customers. She is also a licensed life/health agent as well, and she protects families part time. Outside of work, she enjoys educating people about the importance of having insurance, retirement and generational wealth. Monica has 4 kids with ages ranging from 43 years to 24 years. All successful and doing well.

She also loves to cook and attend church.

Our question to Monica: If you could do anything for a day, what would you want to do?

“I would take a trip to get away, relax, shop, and eat.” - Monica Warren

# TITLE V SENIOR EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

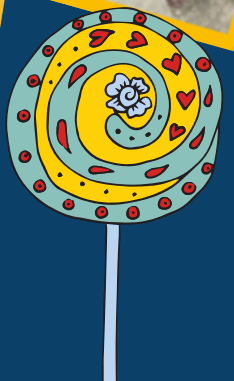
The available openings by county

Barbour County - 4  
Coffee County - 4  
Covington County - 1  
Dale County - 0  
Geneva County - 1  
Henry County - 2  
Houston County - 2

In search of individuals 55  
and older with limited  
incomes interested in job  
training. Please contact  
Gail Clark, Senior  
Employment Program  
Coordinator  
334-794-4093 Ext 1421

# Head Start and Early Childhood Development

Head Start and Early Head Start are buzzing with excitement and learning! Since the beginning of school in August, the students have gone from not knowing basic skills to mastering skills in language and literacy, social and emotional learning, and physical and cognitive skills. Reading Across America Week was a fun-filled and exciting for the parents, students, and staff. From “Thing One and Thing Two” Crazy Hair” Day to “Green Eggs and Ham” Day to “Fox in Socks” Crazy Sock Day, the children have continued their love of learning. Our staff loves our students and families. It is hard to believe that Spring Break holidays are underway, and we are on the last quarter of the 2023-2024 school year. Enrollment for next year is open, and families need to get their child’s registration finished because the slots are filling up fast! These next two months will be full of learning, field trips, and getting ready for the next school year.



# Wiregrass Transit - Enterprise, AL.

## Enterprise Update

We are here and operating in Enterprise, AL. The prospect of a public transportation system operating in Enterprise started almost a year ago with preliminary meetings with our Director, Mike Crittenden and officials from the City of Enterprise. After receiving approval from ALDOT, securing funding, and hiring/training staff, we began operating in Enterprise on October 2nd, 2023, with three Drivers, one Dispatcher, and one Assistant Director. Our first month we were able to transport over 300 riders who otherwise would not have transportation to their destinations. Since we began, we have more than doubled our initial ridership and continue to add to new riders almost daily. Our staff has additionally grown with two Part-Time Drivers and a Part-Time Dispatcher. Our most current data has us transporting almost 50% of our riders for employment, almost 25% for healthcare appointments and the other 25 % rounded out by trips for shopping, education at the local community college, and miscellaneous destinations. From the feedback we are receiving from our customers, they are appreciative of all who endeavored to bring public transit to Enterprise.

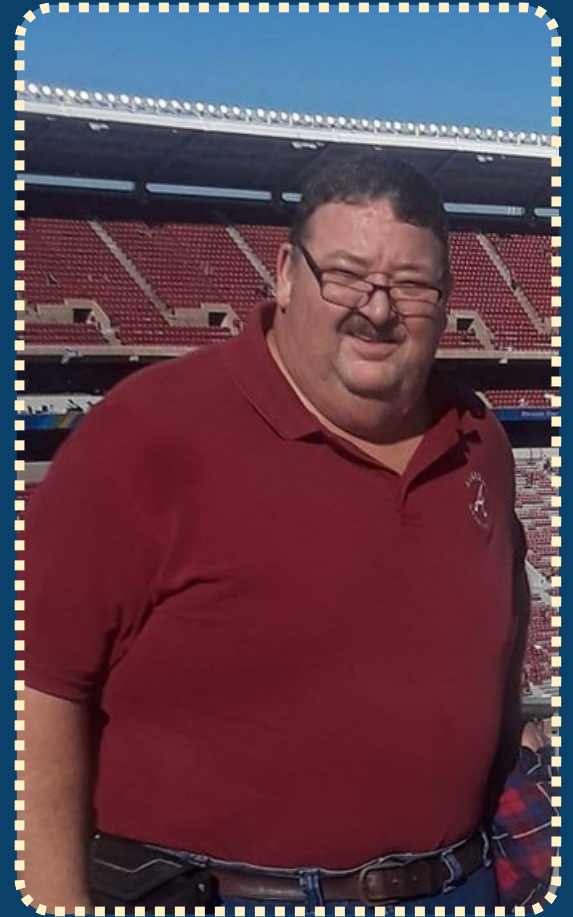
- Philip French



Thank you Glenda Chancey for your 22 years of service! You have been such a great asset to SEARP&DC. We hope you enjoy retirement!



**PROMOTED!**



James Tidwell - Assistant  
Director Transit (Dothan,  
AL)

*Congrats!*



**PenAir Credit Union  
NOW Program Winner  
Beverly Johnson**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

*Administrative  
Professionals Day*



Wednesday April 24, 2024


## SOLAR ECLIPSE APRIL 8, 2024



### NASA VIEWING TIMES FOR OUR AREA

↓ READ MORE ↓

Location	Beginning Time	Ending Time	Total Coverage by Percent
Dothan	1240p	316p	75.30%
Eufaula	1242p	317p	77.00%
Enterprise	1240p	316p	76.60%
Geneva	1239p	315p	75.70%
Floral	1238p	315p	76.60%
Opp	1239p	315p	77.30%
Andalusia	1238p	315p	77.90%



**SEARP&DC Board of Directors**  
**Executive Committee \***  
**As of 4/1/2024**

Barbour:

Jack Tibbs Jr.,  
Jason Davis  
Thomas E. Crossley \*  
Earl Gilmore \*  
Marrilu Salmon  
Rachel Smith

Geneva:

William Birdsong  
Toby Seay \*  
Rob Hinson (Sec./Treas.) \*  
David Hayes  
Kelli Brannon  
Paul Rose

Coffee:

Gladys Yelverton  
Dean Smith  
Al Britt  
Rod Morgan (2nd Vice Chair) \*  
Tom Maddox  
Johnathan Lockett

Henry:

Henry Grimsley  
David Money \*  
Jimmy Money  
Gregory Reynolds  
Emmanuel Bankston  
John Glover

Covington:

Greg White  
Charlotte Hunt  
Sammy Glover \*  
Patricia Gunter  
Joe Richburg

Houston:

David Crutchfield  
Lori Wilcoxon (Chairperson) \*  
Matt Parker \*  
Brandon Shoupe  
Kimberly Trotter  
Michael Smith

Dale:

Steve Mckinnon  
Mark Blankenship (1st Vice  
Chair) \*  
Jayme Stayton  
Frankie Wilson  
Derek Dickens  
Leah Harlow \*

Upcoming Commission Meetings

June 13th, 2024

September 12th, 2024 (Annual)

