An Update from your Lee-Russell Council of Governments

Your COG at Work

2207 Gateway Drive, Opelika, AL 36801
(334) 749-5264 Phone  (334) 749-6582 Fax  www.lrcog.com

Updates – June 11th 2007

The Lee-Russell Council of Governments announces 40th Anniversary

The Lee-Russell Council of Governments proudly announces that it is in its 40th year of providing services to its member governments. Stay tuned for announcements about our open house and 40th Anniversary celebration.

The Lee-Russell Council of Governments welcomes a new Professional Staff Member

Please welcome Ms. Carolyn Brewer to the position of Title III Outreach Coordinator. Ms. Brewer will be responsible for assessing seniors to determine eligibility for the home delivered meals program. Ms. Brewer has recently received her Bachelors of Science in Social Work at Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama. Ms. Brewer has been with the council previously while in school as an intern with the Area Agency on Aging. If you would like to reach Ms. Brewer please call ext.242.

FUNDRAISING UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lee-Russell Aging Foundation to Raise Funds for Seniors through Fun and Inventive Fundraisers

The Lee-Russell Council of Governments Staff will again host the Annual Festival of Wheels Car Show. This year’s event will be held at beautiful Keisel Park in Auburn, Alabama and has been scheduled for Saturday, October 13, 2007. Registration will be 8 am and last till noon. Door prize drawings begin at 10 am and continue until the Cash Tree awards start at 2 pm. Registration fee for cars, trucks and motorcycles is $10 in advance and $15 day of the Festival. For more information please contact Jean Causey ext.229 or see http://www.lrcog.com/Lee-RussellAgFoun.html.
The third annual “Unforgettable Footsteps” Memory Walk has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, November 10, 2007. In honor of National Family Caregivers Awareness Month and National Alzheimer’s Awareness Month, the Caregiver Support Group, Adult Day Center, Lee-Russell Council of Governments Aging Foundation, and Memory and Healthy Aging Center are joining forces to raise money and increase awareness about dementia, Alzheimer’s disease, and other related illnesses. All of the proceeds will go toward assisting and educating senior adults and caregivers who are affected by memory related issues. For more information on how to register as a participant or as a sponsor please contact Leisa Askew ext.215 or see http://www.lrcog.com/Lee-RussellAgFoun.html.

Please note: all fundraising flyers and forms can be found at http://www.lrcog.com/Lee-RussellAgFoun.html. The Lee-Russell Aging Foundation is a Non-profit 501c3 foundation that accepts donations that are used to supplement available resources and services for the elderly. 100% of all donations are used for client services within Lee and Russell Counties. Donations may be routed via check to the Lee-Russell Council of Governments, Attn: Lee-Russell Aging Foundation Donations, 2207 Gateway Drive, Opelika, AL 36801.

EVENT UPDATES & LRCOG NEWS

LRCOG Area Agency on Aging Hosts Annual Senior Citizen’s Picnic

The 2007 LRCOG Senior Citizens Picnic was held on Thursday, May 10, 2007 at Keisel Park in Auburn. Over 400 senior citizens from Lee and Russell Counties came out to join in the exciting planned activities such as bingo, the ring toss, croquette, horseshoes, dancing and shuffleboard. Door prizes, games, health education, goodie bags and other events added to the days festivities. This is traditionally a time for seniors to mix and mingle with each other and also have time for food, fun, and entertainment with some health awareness thrown in for good measure. Entertainment was provided by the Phenix City ROTC Color Guard, John Bodiford DJ Services, Smiths Senior Center Line Dancers, Auburn Day Care Kids, Central Senior Center and Fun Exercises with Canterbury Health Facility. Wellness screening was graciously provided by East Alabama Medical Center and Central Alabama Nursing Services. For more information about attending next year’s picnic, becoming an exhibitor at next year’s event or to sponsor next year’s Senior Picnic, please contact Lou Ella Foxx at (334) 749-5264 ext.209 or visit the LRCOG website at http://www.lrcog.com/. Thanks to our sponsors and vendors for their generous donations including:

Gold Sponsors
Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind
Charter Bank
East Alabama Medical Center
Oxford Health Care

Silver Sponsors
Alabama Power
Alagasco
Humana
The Lee County Bankers Association

Bronze Sponsors
Canterbury Nursing Facility
Central Alabama Nursing Services
First American Bank
Coca-Cola Bottling Company

Food Provided By
Valley Services, Inc.

Wellness Screenings Provided By
East Alabama Medical Center
Central Alabama Nursing Services

Vendors and Displays Provided By
The Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind
Oxford Health Care
Charter Bank
East Alabama Medical Center
Alabama Power
Humana
Lee County Bankers Association
Central Alabama Nursing Services
Canterbury Health Facility
Home Instead

Speakers
Mike Malandro
Kathleen Healey
Anne Coffin, Alabama Dept. of Senior Services
Jackie Pinkard, AAA Director LRCOG
Suzanne Burnette, Executive Director LRCOG

See picture below for this wonderful event…..
PROGRAM UPDATES FOR THE LRCOG

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Annual Caregivers Legal Issues & Medicare Part D Workshop

When: June 14, 2007 @ 8:30 - 4:00 (Central Standard Time)

Where: EAMC Health Resource Center, 2027 Pepperell Parkway, Opelika, Alabama

What: Please join us for a FREE educational workshop for seniors, professional and personal caregivers.

Issues related to Health Care Access
- Medicare & Medicaid overview
- Medicare & Medicaid related to long-term care
- Long Term Care insurance
- End of life issues
- Wills, Estates, Property & Burial
- Caregiver Representative Capacity
- Medicare Part D update
- Medicare Part D Advantage Plans Explained
- Senior Medicare Patrol

Register by calling LRCOG at 334-749-5264 or e-mail Leisa Askew by June 12, 2006.

**CEU's have been applied for with the Alabama State Board of Nursing and the Alabama State Board of Social Work.

Certified Nursing Assistant Appreciation Dinner

Tuesday, June 19, 2007 - 5:30 pm @ Oak Park in Auburn. Contact Maria Davis at ext. 207 for more information or to make your reservation.

The annual Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Banquet is sponsored by the Ombudsman Advisory Council in an effort to thank these individuals for the labor intensive work they do for their clients. CNA’s put many hours of effort and also a lot of heart in to all they do to care for the clients that have been assigned to them. This is a chance for the healthcare facilities that employ them to thank them for a years worth of hard work and caring.

Senior ID’s

Senior ID’s for all Seniors (Lee and Russell County) are available to be made at the Lee-Russell Council of Governments between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm central standard time, Monday through Friday. Please call first to make an appointment so that the appropriate staff person can assist you in this (334) 749-5264. Senior ID’s for Russell County Seniors are also made available at the Central Senior Center on the fourth Thursday of the first month of each quarter. The next dates will be July 26, 2007, October 25, 2007, January 25, 2008 and April 24, 2008. For more information about the Senior ID Program please contact Leisa Askew at (334) 749-5264 ext.215.
LRCOG Revolving Loan Funds Distributed: PEPS, LLC (Professional Event Planning Services) was awarded Revolving Loan Funds (RLF) from the Lee-Russell Council of Governments on May 31, 2007. The LRCOG was pleased to work with Charter Bank representatives Linda Drummond and Mike Waldrop to help facilitate full financing for this project. PEPS, headed by Lisa Ditchkoff, will be located in the newly renovated historic downtown Opelika building that once housed Creations by Jan. PEPS looks to provide high quality professional and event planning services to clients in the Opelika-Auburn community and beyond. Their official ribbon cutting will be soon. Please help the LRCOG to welcome this company to our wonderful community. Current projects that PEPS is involved with include the Opelika Miracle Field Project, Auburn Football Letterman’s Club, the AU College’s of Human Services, and the Wildlife and Building Science division of A.U. The RLF enables Lee-Russell to partner with a private lender to provide gap financing to businesses whose start-up and expansion will result in the creation or retention of permanent jobs in Lee and Russell counties and in the enhancement of private sector investment. For more information about the LRCOG’s RLF Program, please email Erin Stephens or call 334-749-5264 ext.204.

CDBG applied for on behalf of Phenix City: The PED Department has recently submitted a Community Block Grant Application to ADECA for competitive funds in the amount of $500,000 for the City of Phenix City. Phenix City has requested funding to replace deteriorating water lines and outdated fire hydrants in the neighborhoods bordered by Summerville Road, North Railroad, 14th Avenue and 23rd Street. The proposal was submitted on May 15, 2007.

The Auburn-Opelika Metropolitan Planning Organization meetings scheduled: The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) (of the Auburn-Opelika Metropolitan Planning Organization AOMPO) will meet on Tuesday, June 12, 2007 at 10:00.

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Board (of the Auburn-Opelika Metropolitan Planning Organization) will meet on Wednesday, June 13, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.

Lee & Russell County RPO formed: Rural Planning Organizations (RPO’s) are designed to help facilitate communication between local rural governments and the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) and allow input from rural areas into ALDOT’s decision making process. The goals of the RPO are:

- A well managed training process
- An effective transportation committee structure
- A comprehensive data library and distribution source
- Reports that are useful to the ALDOT
- A well informed public who actively participates in the rural transportation planning process

For more information about the Lee and Russell County RPO, please email Barbara Scott, or call 334.749.5264 ext.237 or visit the Lee-Russell RPO webpage located on the LRCOG website.
Lee-Russell Council of Governments applying for funds for their member governments:

Grant Alerts: The Lee-Russell Council of Governments’ staff has been busy during the winter and early spring months of 2007. There have been many, many grant opportunities that have been applied for on behalf of our member governments:

- **FMA’s (Flood Mitigation Assistance Grants)**
  - Carson Drive Project – Russell County (Applied For)
  - Highway 10 SDA Church Project – Town of Hurtsboro (Applied For)
- **ESG (Emergency Shelter Grant)**
  - House of Restoration – Russell County (Applied For)
- **DRA (Delta Regional Authority)**
  - Phenix City (Pre-Application Filed)
- **West Point Foundation**
  - Opelika Sportsplex & Aquatic Center – City of Opelika (Applied For)
- **ADECA (Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs)**
  - Phenix City Waterline FY07 (Applied For)

The following is a current status of existing and submitted grants:

- **HMGP’s (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program)**
  - Siren Project – Russell County (Up for FEMA Review)
  - Individual Safe Room Project – Russell County (Up for FEMA Review)
  - Russell County EMA Safe Room Project – Russell County (Awarded)
  - Russell County Water System Generator Project – Russell County (Up for FEMA Review)
  - Town of Hurtsboro Buyout Project (Up for FEMA Review)
  - Twin Gates Buyout and Demolition (In Process of being closed out)
- **Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates**
  - Lee County EMA – Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update (In Process)
  - Russell County EMA – Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update (In Process)
  - Lee County Emergency Food and Shelter Funds (Awarded)
    - Aids Outreach of EAMC
    - Alabama Council on Human Relations
    - Christian Care Ministries

**HELPFUL LINKS**

Check out the Lee-Russell Council of Governments helpful links webpage [http://www.lrcog.com/links.html](http://www.lrcog.com/links.html) for a wide variety of local, state and federal links to programs, municipal governments and other areas of interest to help our citizens find the information they need when they need it.
A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is with great pride that the LRCOG’s Board of Directors and the Council’s staff join me in announcing a very significant milestone in the history of our agency. We will soon be celebrating our 40th Anniversary…. 40 years young. Forty years strong and forty years of service to our member governments and their citizens.

With the rapid growth and expansion of Federal Programs in the 1960’s, local elected officials had the wisdom and foresight to recognize the fountain of opportunities offered by joining together in forming an area wide planning and development organization. Our agency was one of the first Council of Governments to be established in the State of Alabama. Its success and that of other sister agencies were the foundation for the creation of a statewide network of Regional Planning Agencies.

We are so excited to be planning an Open House scheduled for the Fall of 2007, to not only celebrate the successes of the past but to also look towards the future and the opportunities it may offer our communities. We would be honored to have you as our guest at this celebration of forty years of accomplishments and service. Look for details to come through future COG at Work’s, emails and also mail-outs.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

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<td>Citizen Advisory Meeting</td>
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<td>East Alabama Coalition for the Homeless Meeting</td>
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<td>Certified Nursing Assistant Appreciation Dinner</td>
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Please feel free to email for more information on any event. All meetings are open to the public.
For more information about the LRCOG, its programs or to become an ENews subscriber please contact Erin Stephens at ext.204.