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Coalition plans sober Alabama football tailgating event at Government Plaza

Family friendly party will be held Sept. 19

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Bloody Marys, mimosas and bourbon are standard offerings at many tailgating spots before University of Alabama football games.

But not all fans like to mix booze and football. A coalition of recovery and drug treatment organizations in Tuscaloosa is hosting a Sober Tailgate event on the day Alabama plays a home football game against Ole Miss, which kicks off at 8:15 p.m.

The event, held in honor of National Recovery Month, will be at Government Plaza in downtown Tuscaloosa from 2-6 p.m. on Sept. 19.

"We want the community to have a sober, family friendly option on game day and show that sobriety is an option," said Tara Sprewell-Moore, community representative for Bradford Health Services.

Bradford first began to hold National Recovery Month events 11 years ago. About 30 people attended the first event, held at a church, Sprewell-Moore said. More than 600 attended the first sober tailgate event held last year, she said.

The event isn't just for people recovering from alcohol or substance abuse.

"It's for families and will be a good way to have clean, sober fun," Sprewell-Moore said.

There will be a bounce house, pre-game broadcasts, cornhole games, face painting and an appearance by Big Al.

There will be free Full Moon barbecue, popcorn, cotton candy, snow cones and T-shirts.

The event is sponsored by the West Alabama Recovery Coalition, which includes Bradford, Indian Rivers Mental Health Center, Phoenix House, Self-Recovery, North Harbor Pavilion, Celebrate Recovery and the University of Alabama Collegiate Recovery Community.

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Tuscaloosa News

Fans tailgate in The Grove and The Little Grove outside Vaught-Hemingway Stadium in Oxford, Miss. before the Alabama vs. Ole Miss football game Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014. Michelle Lepianka Carter | The Tuscaloosa News