

**GTPDD  
Welcomes  
New Employees**



Spencer Brooks  
Program Coordinator



Sharon Duke  
Project Developer



Phyllis Flake  
Homemaker Supervisor



Lena Starks  
Transportation Driver



Dixie Henley  
Solid Waste Clerk



Golden Triangle Planning and  
Development District, Inc.  
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Starkville, MS 39760-0828  
(662) 324-7860

**GTPDD SERVICES  
ANNIVERSARIES**

The GTPDD celebrates the anniversary of these employees with at least 5 years of service.

APRIL  
Rudy Johnson - 16 years

MAY  
Vicki Clay - 12 years

JUNE  
Tina Griffin - 6 years



**GOLDEN TRIANGLE  
Planning and Development District, Inc.**

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GTPDD Newsletter

Covering Apr. - Jun. 2006

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**Summertime...Barbeque...Beach...Vacation...  
Suntan...Fishing...Frog Giggling**

When I was a kid, summertime conjured up all sorts of potential for adventure when school was out. Of course, most of these never materialized. But what was important was the fact that I felt like I had the freedom to do anything I wanted!

Sure didn't like to find out as a teenager and young adult that what I had perceived as "freedoms" had price tags attached! And, with maturity, I had to acknowledge that my decisions and actions, from my freedoms, often impacted family and friends.

I did a survey among the PDD staff to see their immediate reactions to the word "freedom." The majority of the answers involved "personal choices." Other interesting responses were: God, America, Happiness, Peace, Bird.

Upon reflection, I realized that services by this agency help in determining favorable life choices for many of our disadvantaged citizens, e.g.:

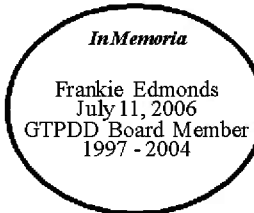
Scenario 1. Elderly, frail parents; cognitively unimpaired, but physically restricted in ability to drive, shop, cook, or otherwise care for themselves; children working or living away from the area. What are the choices for these seniors? What is the best choice? (a) Continue as they are: becoming more frail and subject to falls and malnutrition with limited access to physicians, pharmacies, and grocery stores; (b) Place their names on a nursing home waiting list; or (c) Stay in their home and apply for our senior services.

With Item (c) chosen, Seniors Mom and Dad can receive: a hot nutritious lunch delivered daily; a minimum of 1 hour housekeeping per week; free transportation to physician, pharmacy, grocery; monthly visit by an RN and Social Worker to monitor needs for linkage to other service agencies; insurance counseling; and respite services if one partner is a caregiver for the other. Thus, essential needs are served; Mom and Dad can remain in their home; adult children are not required to quit jobs to perform basic tasks for their parents; hence this choice has positively affected all involved.



Rupert L. "Rudy" Johnson  
Executive Director

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**In Memoriam**  
Frankie Edmonds  
July 11, 2006  
GTPDD Board Member  
1997 - 2004



The GTPDD office is centrally located in Oktibbeha County in the Starkville Industrial Park

# MEDICAID WAIVER

Mrs. Freddie Jewel Clanton has lived through two depressions in her life and understands from experience what it means to go through difficult times. Her first memorable challenge was when her father passed away when she was only 5 years old.

Mrs. Clanton has lived in Webster County since 1942 and boasts one son, two grandchildren and three great grandchildren. She worked at Wells Lamont Glove Factory for 23 years and Wilson's Leather Company for 16 years before retiring.

She also understands what it means to be a caregiver. She took an active role in providing the necessary assistance to her ill husband, mother and mother-in-law before they passed away. Mrs. Clanton comments, "During this time of my life I learned that one can handle more than what is thought possible and still find happiness in life."

Mrs. Freddie Jewel Clanton now suffers with osteoporosis, scoliosis and osteoarthritis. Her pain and immobility have gradually worsened in recent years. She states, "I have a lot of health problems. My back is so bad; I got to the place where I could not clean my house or take a bath safely. Someone told me about this program and it has been a blessing to me. I try to motivate myself and do all that I can for myself, but there comes a time when one must have help."

Currently, Mrs. Clanton receives the services of homemaker, home health aid and home delivered meals. She smilingly expresses, "I am so happy. God has made this program available to me. I pray for my workers and this service every day. I want to stay at home as long as I can. Without this service, I would not have that opportunity."

The Elderly & Disabled HCBS Medicaid Waiver Program is designed to help qualified Medicaid beneficiaries receive services that allow individuals to remain in their homes rather than enter nursing homes. If you know of anyone who may need this service, please call Vicki Clay, RN Supervisor or the appropriate Case Manager at (662)324-7860.



## Choctaw County

Lynn Herndon, LSW  
Jennifer Hopkins, RN

## Clay County

Heather Corley, LSW  
Mitzi Phelps, RN

## Lowndes County # 1

Janice Miller, LSW  
Libby Wansley, RN

## Lowndes County # 2

Lesa Wilson, LSW  
Angie Gregory, RN

## Lowndes County # 3

Angela Nichols, LSW  
Michelle Harris, RN

## Noxubee County # 1

Beverly Baker, LSW  
Helen Smith, RN

## Noxubee County # 2

Amy Hatcher, LSW  
Tammy Castle, RN

## Oktibbeha County # 1

Stephanie Cannon, LSW  
Tina Griffin, RN

## Oktibbeha County # 2

Jenny Grantham, LSW  
Charlotte Dowd, RN

## Webster County

Chris Bingham, LSW  
Jean Jolly, RN

## Winston County

Lauren Smith, LSW  
Kim Mills, RN

# AGING SERVICES



The Golden Triangle Planning and Development District/Area Agency on Aging sponsored a National Senior Health and

Fitness Day program on May 31, 2006 at the Golden Triangle Bingo Facility located on Highway 45 North in Columbus.

Approximately 80 seniors participated in the activities. Door prizes were donated by numerous businesses and individuals in Starkville and Columbus. A free lunch of grilled hamburgers was provided by the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District.



Representatives from North MS Rural Legal Services, Secretary of State's Office, and Attorney General's Office were present to address the group concerning Medicare Prescription Drugs, Taxpayer Rights and Responsibilities, Consumer Protection Services and Scam Updates. Exhibitors from area home health agencies also contributed to the day by setting up booths and distributing information about their agencies.



Members of the Wellness Connection staff in Starkville instructed the group on simple ways for seniors to stay active and heart healthy.

This agency thanks all of you for your generous support of National Senior Health and Fitness Day. Your participation contributed greatly to the overall success of the program.



*Thanks!!!*



Pictured is Edna B. Avery, who served as Manager at the Eupora Nutrition Site for 30 years. She was hired when the Center opened in July, 1976.

Edna, we appreciate your years of loyalty, dedication and service to the seniors in Webster County.

# WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA) NEWS

## Employability Skills Class/ High School Activities

The Employability Skills program in the GTPDD seven county service area ended its year with awards ceremonies in all the high schools to celebrate the students' successful completion of both their academic achievements and their spring work placement experience. Students will complete their summer work experience at the end of June. Area businesses in all seven counties have participated in this program by accepting work students, whose salaries are paid through the program, but who need beginning job experience. This win-win situation provides a work learning experience for the young people and a paid workforce for the businesses that participate. The GTPDD WIA Department wishes to thank all those businesses that have helped mentor these young people and provided them an entry point into the world of work.

Space is available for seniors to enroll in next year's Employability Skills classes. If you know of someone who may benefit from this program, please call our office for more information.

## WIA Rapid Response Activities

Rapid Response is an early intervention service offered to businesses and workers affected by layoffs and plant closings. Rapid response services are offered at no cost to the business or the participating employees. The Rapid Response Team is a collaboration of local and state resources that provides services and information; this group includes MDES, community colleges and local Workforce Investment staff. For more information, or to request services, call Gloria Bagwell-Rowland at (662)324-7860.



Clay County suffered two business closures during the past quarter that utilized the Rapid Response team services. American Trousers laid off approximately thirty office and administrative staff in May. Griffin International laid off approximately 310 workers in June. A contract was completed by Griffin for armored cabs produced for use in Iraq. The Rapid Response team provided orientation meetings at which the dislocated workers were given information about services and work retraining available to them. The Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) deployed a mobile unit to the Griffin International worksite to provide quick access to register for MDES services and apply for jobs at SeverCorr for which MDES is performing applicant screening.



## GTPDD Hosts MASL Update Conference

The Golden Triangle Planning and Development District hosted the Mississippi Association of Supervisors Legislative Update on April 11, 2006. This has become an annual event and the GTPDD was excited to observe the great response from local Supervisors and Legislators within its seven-county district.



## Heard Certified in Computer Forensics

Tim Heard successfully completed a computer forensics class in Florida in April and has passed the examinations necessary to become a Certified Computer Examiner (CCE). He is a member of the International Society of Forensics Computer Examiners (ISFCE). Tim's training and certification allows the GTPDD to offer another service to its counties. Computer Forensics involves gathering, preserving, processing, and reporting computer data. If the GTPDD can assist your local government, please call Tim Heard at (662)324-7860.

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) applications for Fiscal Year 2007 funding consideration will be due in Mississippi's Appalachian Regional Office by September 1, 2006. Preparation should begin immediately to meet this approaching deadline. Interested governmental entities should call Phyllis Benson, George Crawford or Patsy Patterson at (662)324-7860.

## BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAMS

Golden Triangle Planning and Development District, Inc. continues to promote economic development through the use of four low interest revolving loan programs designed to supplement, but not replace, other commercial financing sources such as banks.

Funding from these programs may be used to provide a portion of the borrowed funds for a project to start a new business or to expand an existing business. Usually, the GTPDD will establish a partnership with a commercial bank that will provide the additional borrowed funds.

An eligibility requirement to receive funding through these revolving loan programs is that the project must create and/or retain jobs within the seven-county district.

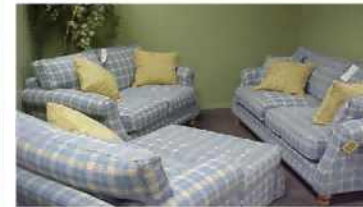
For more information, call Jimmy Cole, Loan Officer at (662)324-7860 ext. 133.

## NEW BUSINESS TO OPEN IN STARKVILLE

Patricia Fulgham and Terry Fulgham have owned and operated Inside Addition, LLC since June of 1998. The business is located at 102 Highway 82 West in Starkville, Mississippi. Pat said they offer home furnishings, catalog returns, discount housewares, as well as home decor items. Interior design services are provided upon request.

Pat and Terry had been looking for additional retail space to expand product line and offer new services. They purchased, and are remodeling, commercial property located at 201 Highway 12 East in Starkville, Mississippi. Their new business will operate as Designers' Gallery.

Artist rendering of new facade for Designers' Gallery



The new business will provide mid to high-end furniture, gift items and accessories. Designers' Gallery will also have a custom upholstery line where the customer can choose the style of furniture as well as the fabric.

Pat and Terry are excited about their full-time designer on staff. Cyndi Rutherford, who has a degree in Interior Design from Mississippi State University, will be available to provide professional interior design services complementing customer's home plans. A furniture layout will be prepared to help guide customers in making the best selections for their homes, decisions that reflect a customer's own personal style.

Cyndi has worked as a freelance Designer in Starkville, Mississippi for more than three years. She has also worked as a Designer for Mississippi State University and Luke Peterson Kaye Architects.



Cyndi Rutherford  
Interior Designer

