

# WIA

## WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA) ACTIVITIES Employability Skills In-School Youth Program

Fall is a very busy time for teachers and staff of the Employability Skills program. This year the program is being provided in nine service area high schools: Eupora High School, West Lowndes High School, Ackerman High School, Weir High School, Louisville High School, Noxapater High School, Noxubee County High School, West Point High School and Starkville High School. Thank you to all the high school staff, particularly the student counselors, who facilitated the registration process.

The WIA staff congratulates all the students who completed the program in June. All students who completed last year's program evaluated their experience in the WIA program and made the following comments: Deangelo states that he "learned how I should act under peer pressure and...in different situations...This class has taught me how to manage my budget and how to fill out tax forms completely. Josh says, "Some of the things I've learned are dealing with peer pressure...conflict resolution, about personal values, strengths and weaknesses, making career decisions..." And Ciera comments that "This is not just a plain old class where a person just works; this class also gets you ready for the real world." The students who leave this program have had the opportunity to obtain not only employability skills but life skills as well. The WIA Employability Skills program graduates are great ambassadors for their schools and communities when entering the world of work.

If your business is interested in obtaining a student worker, whose salary is paid through the WIA program, please call the GTPDD WIA staff at (662)324-7860.



Golden Triangle Planning and  
Development District, Inc.  
P.O. Box 628  
108 Miley Rd  
Starkville, MS 39760-0628  
(662) 324-7860



## GOLDEN TRIANGLE Planning and Development District, Inc.

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GTPDD Newsletter

Covering July - Sept. 2006

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Rupert L. "Rudy" Johnson  
Executive Director



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

### From the Director...

In a recent newsletter, I told you that there are ten Planning and Development Districts in the State of Mississippi. It has since occurred to me that some of you might have relatives/friends in other areas of Mississippi who could benefit from services provided by PDDs.

All Districts offer: Senior Citizen Services; Economic Development, Technical (e.g. Information Systems) and Planning Assistance (e.g. CDBG application); Low Income Housing Assistance; and Small Business Revolving Loan Program(s). Many PDDs offer Childcare Assistance Programs; also offered are mapping/redistricting services, using Geographic Information Systems. Others are involved in Workforce activities (job training) and Regional Clearinghouse coordination. Additionally, Districts work with their counties and cities to perform specialized functions desired by these entities. All Districts were awarded Katrina Recovery grants (see article elsewhere in this newsletter).

### Mississippi's other Planning and Development Districts:

District	Location	Phone	Counties Served
Central	Jackson	601-981-1511	Copiah, Hinds, Madison, Rankin, Simpson, Warren, Yazoo
E. Central	Newton	601-683-2007	Clarke, Jasper, Kemper, Lauderdale, Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott, Smith
N. Central	Winona	662-283-2675	Attala, Carroll, Holmes, Grenada, Leflore, Montgomery, Yalobusha
N. Delta	Batesville	662-561-4100	Coahoma, Desoto, Panola, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tunica
Northeast	Booneville	662-728-6248	Alcorn, Benton, Marshall, Prentiss, Tippah, Tishomingo
S. Delta	Greenville	662-378-3831	Bolivar, Humphreys, Issaquena, Sharkey, Sunflower, Washington
Southern	Gulfport	228-868-2311	Covington, Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River, Perry, Stone, Wayne
Southwest	Natchez	601-446-6044	Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Franklin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lincoln, Pike, Walthall, Wilkinson
Three Rivers	Pontotoc	662-489-2415	Calhoun, Chickasaw, Itawamba, Lafayette, Lee, Monroe, Pontotoc, Union

Until December..

## MEDICAID WAIVER

On August 21 through August 24, 2006, the Division of Medicaid conducted a routine case management review of the Elderly & Disabled HCBS Medicaid Waiver Program with each project site at the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District.

Not surprisingly, each site was in full compliance with all State and Federal regulations set forth in the approved waiver. This accomplishment is not to be taken lightly because of the many details involved with case management.

Case management is a primary issue in the provision of health and social services to aged and disabled individuals. Case Management provides the comprehensive assessment by which an individual's needs for services are determined, arranges for those services in an organized and coordinated way to meet goals and objectives of an individualized services plan, and periodically monitors and reevaluates progress in the attainment of those goals.

In a nutshell, it means that Case Managers provide services to individuals whether it is in the cold, heat, rain, sleet or snow. Monthly duties include driving many miles for home visits, follow up with physicians, monitoring hospitalizations and equipment needs, and making telephone contacts on behalf of the client to providers, pharmacists, and the Division of Medicaid.

Much work occurs before documentation can take place. It is in the details of documentation and organization within a project site that determines compliance with State and Federal regulations year after year.

The Case Managers are to be commended for their dedication, positive attitude, flexibility and attentiveness to the details of service. The Case Managers are a valuable part of the GTPDD team, always willing to go that extra mile to provide quality care and ensure success.

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 Hemdon, 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

Angelia Sansing, LSW  
Michelle Harris, RN

### Noxubee County # 1

Beverly Baker, LSW  
Helen Smith, RN

### Noxubee County # 2

Angela Nichols, 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

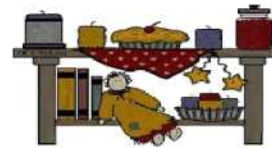
Lauren Smith, LSW  
Kim Mills, RN

## 10th Annual Golden Triangle Fall Craft Festival and Health Exhibit



Saturday, October 21, 2006  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

106 Miley Drive  
Starkville Industrial Park



Sponsored by:

Golden Triangle Planning & Development District  
Area Agency on Aging

For More Information, call 324-7860

### GOLDEN TRIANGLE SENIOR CRAFT FESTIVAL AND HEALTH EXHIBIT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2006  
9:00 A.M. UNTIL 2:00 P.M.

### VENDOR REGISTRATION SHEET

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

AGE 60 OR ABOVE? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

(If under age 60, please enclose \$10 fee.)

CRAFTS/PRODUCTS: \_\_\_\_\_

TABLE NEEDED? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER INFORMATION: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please return registration form as soon as possible (no later than October 19th).

Please mail vendor registration form to: Golden Triangle Area Agency on Aging  
Senior Fall Festival  
P. O. Box 828  
Starkville, MS 39760

For more information, call Melody at (662)324-7860.

# PLANNING

## CDBG

### Public Facilities Application Deadline

FY2007 Public Facilities Category, Community Development Block Grant Applications, will be accepted by the Community Services Division of the Mississippi Development Authority on December 7 & 8, 2006. Statewide, 119 applications were submitted in FY2006 and only 51 (19 Regular, 32 Small Municipality) received funding. Mississippi has seen a decrease in funding over the past several years, which makes the competitive process even more challenging. Any governmental entity within the GTPDD service area that has any questions or a potential project should contact Phylis Benson, George Crawford or Patsy Patterson at (662)324-7860 immediately.

It is important for governmental entities to remember that the Community Services Division of MDA must receive an audit-reporting package each fiscal year. The Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133 require a single audit for state and local governments, which expend \$500,000 or more in federal awards for that year. Entities, which expend less than \$500,000 a year in federal awards, are exempt from federal audit requirements for that year, but records must be available for review. Failure to provide this information to the Mississippi Development Authority will disqualify an applicant from submitting a CDBG application during the fiscal year.

## HOME Program



Pictured are three houses under construction under the HOME grant in the Town of Maben. Similar houses are also under construction in Webster, Clay & Lowndes Counties.

## Town of Artesia Completes Upgrades

The Town of Artesia has completed the upgrading of water, sewer and gas services within the town limits. Artesia was the recipient of a Small Municipality Limited Population County Grant of \$250,000.00 and a Community Development Block Grant of \$300,000.00 to complete these activities. The CDBG funding was primarily used to construct a new water well. Mayor Jimmy Sanders is pictured with some of the improvements.



## Appalachian Regional Commission Meets in Columbus

GTPDD staff assisted in hosting the Appalachian Regional Commission quarterly meeting in Columbus July 25-26. All, or part, of thirteen states are served by the ARC; twenty-four counties in Mississippi are ARC grantees, via planning and development districts.

Members attended a reception at White Arches, an antebellum home; barbeque and catfish cook-out at Temple Heights, an antebellum home; and an evening tour of Friendship Cemetery. Students from the Mississippi School for Math and Science hosted the tour, which included skits depicting historical families who are now buried in the cemetery.



# LOANS

## Business Loan Programs

The GTPDD 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.



To date, GTPDD has provided funding of \$12,790,243.85 to 138 businesses located within its seven counties. As a result of this funding, 1,565 new jobs were created and 1,244 existing employees were retained by the new or expanding businesses.

Loan program funding may be provided in amounts ranging from \$2,000.00 to \$250,000.00 depending on the eligibility of a project. As of September 1, 2006, the interest rate on GTPDD loan programs was 5.00% fixed for the entire term of the loan. Funding from these programs may be used to provide a portion of the borrowed funds for a customer to start a new business or to expand an existing business. Most of the time, GTPDD will establish a partnership with a commercial bank that will provide the additional borrowed funds.

An eligibility requirement to receive funding through revolving loan programs is the creation and/or retention of jobs within the seven-county district.

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

## WEST POINT BUSINESS TO RELOCATE



Valeda Carmichael, owner of Culin Arts, presently located at 111 Commerce Street in West Point, Mississippi, plans to relocate so she can expand her business. Culin Arts carries gourmet kitchen products for your home entertaining. Also offered are paintings and pottery from specialized area artists. And, a bridal registry is maintained to facilitate your selection of unique gifts. When you finish browsing, you can enjoy a break in the coffee shop.



Valeda has purchased two commercial buildings located next to City Hall with the addresses of 134, 136, 138 and 140 Commerce Street. After renovations and improvements to these buildings, Valeda will move Culin Arts so she will have more than double her present space.

In addition to the relocation of her existing retail business to this new space, Valeda will also have completely furnished apartments for rent on the second floor. Work has already been started on the renovations with an expected completion date during the first quarter of 2007. Visit this unique business now and watch for an announcement concerning the "GRAND OPENING" in the new location.



