

PLANNING UPDATE

The Golden Triangle Planning & Development District submitted 17 Small Municipality and Limited Population County grant applications to the Mississippi Development Authority. Grants are available to municipalities with a population of 10,000 or less, and counties with a population of 30,000 or less. The maximum grant amount available under this program is \$150,000.

Official notification of approval will be sent to each applicant.

| <u>Community Name</u> | <u>Project Description</u> | <u>SMLPC Funds Requested</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Artesia | Sewer Improvements | \$150,000 |
| Brooksville | Water Improvements | \$150,000 |
| Caledonia | Sewer Improvements | \$150,000 |
| Choctaw County | Hospital Sprinkler | \$136,000 |
| Clay County | 911 Building | \$127,681 |
| Eupora | Water & Sewer Improvements | \$150,000 |
| Maben | Municipal Building | \$150,000 |
| Macon | Access Road | \$150,000 |
| Mantee | Fire Department Building | \$150,000 |
| Mathiston | Water Improvements | \$150,000 |
| Noxapater | Maintenance Building | \$ 96,800 |
| Noxubee County | Access Road | \$150,000 |
| Shuqualak | Water & Sewer Improvements | \$150,000 |
| Sturgis | Library Roof | \$150,000 |
| Walhall | Courthouse Square Improvements | \$150,000 |
| Weir | Sewer Improvements | \$150,000 |
| Winston County | Courthouse Roof Repair | \$150,000 |



Golden Triangle Planning and
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(662) 324-7860



GOLDEN TRIANGLE Planning and Development District, Inc.

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GTPDD Newsletter

Oct. - Dec. 2007

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



Rupert L. "Rudy" Johnson
Executive Director

Ringin' in the New!

Ancient mythology featured Janus, a two-headed god, with one face looking backward to the old year, and the other face looking toward the New Year. I believe there are only a couple of good reasons for looking back---to learn from our mistakes and to remember the good times.

With a change in local elected officials come 2008, I look back fondly to the productive results of cooperative activities the GTPDD staff has enjoyed, throughout the years, with local governments and the individuals comprising these entities. Folks, I think we can all be proud of the work we have done for the enrichment of the lives and communities we serve.

In looking to the next four years, may I congratulate you newly elected officials on your posts.

My staff and I enjoyed meeting those of you who attended the GTPDD Orientation in December; we look forward to meeting the rest of you and working with all of you on your particular areas of interest.

You (as the eyes, ears and mouths of your communities) stay informed of the needs and challenges of your counties and municipalities. How can the GTPDD help with those needs and challenges?

Call me, come by and visit, email me at rjohnson@gtpdd.com, but please stay in touch!

Remember, together we can accomplish GREAT THINGS!

A peaceful and happy New Year to all of you!

AGING

11th Annual Senior Fall Festival and Health Exhibit



Twenty-five area vendors displayed and sold an array of handmade items Saturday, October 20, 2007 at the 11th Annual Golden Triangle Senior Fall Festival and Health Exhibit. The event, sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging, was held at the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District on Miley Drive in the Starkville Industrial Park.

Needleworkers, bakers, wood carvers and quilters displayed their wares at the event. Other booths included furniture, jewelry, porcelain, ceramics, floral arrangements and Christmas decorations. During the Health Exhibit, area health care agencies provided services and counseling to those attending the festival.

Many attendees walked away from the event with a homemade cake from the cakewalk or a door prize donated by area merchants. As always, GTPDD thanks those who contributed cakes and door prizes for the day's events.

The Senior Craft Shoppe, located at the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District, provides an outlet for Seniors in the Golden Triangle area to display and sell their handmade items. Once sold, all proceeds go directly back to these senior citizens. The purpose of this annual fair is to promote the Senior Craft Shoppe and to educate citizens on the various health services available to them.



For more information on the Senior Craft Shoppe or services provided through the Golden Triangle Area Agency on Aging, please call 324-7860 or 1-888-324-9000.

October

Erma Booth 05 years
Chris Bingham 05 years
Charlotte Caldwell 06 years
Nora Carroll 09 years
Melody Corbell 09 years
Lula Eland 09 years
Shirley Forrester 09 years
Martie Gibson 08 years
Janie Harris 09 years
Betty Hunt 09 years
Aldean Ky 09 years
Shirlean Johnson 09 years
Hardie Jordan 09 years
Joyce Lampkin 09 years
Eunice Lee 09 years
Joanne Peterson 14 years
Lovje Richardson 09 years
Annie Sanders 09 years
Ida Taylor 08 years
Glenda Thompson 09 years
Tresa Sanders 09 years
Lauren Smith 07 years

November

David Bandi 10 years
Alicia Barry 06 years
Shayla Bibbs 06 years
Mary Byron 06 years
Gloria Cockrell 06 years
Millie Donald 06 years
Jewell Fair 06 years
Jessica Foxx 07 years
Earline Gandy 06 years
Candace Jobe 06 years
Annie Lee 06 years
Mary Lee 06 years
Beatrice Logan 06 years
Julia Lucas 06 years
Lue Outlaw 06 years
Elberta Phillips 15 years
Lillie Pittman 06 years
Ethel Robinson 06 years
Sadie Smith 06 years

Staff Anniversaries

Staff members that have served at least 5 years at the GTPDD.

December

Tonga Gillespie 06 years
Laura Hairston 06 years
Rhonda Prisock 13 years

MEDICAID WAIVER

Major changes have occurred in the Elderly & Disabled HCBS Medicaid Waiver Program since October 1. Eligibility for the E & D Waiver is now determined through the application of a comprehensive preadmission screening with a scope that includes activities of daily living, sensory deficits, cognitive deficits, behaviors and medical conditions/services. This screening data is entered into an algorithm that generates a numerical score. The score will be compared to a numerical threshold set at 50 for eligibility. Individuals with a score of 50 or greater will be deemed clinically eligible.

An applicant must either be elderly (age 65 or older) or disabled (21 years or older) who is either: Medicaid eligible and qualifies as an SSI recipient, or Non-Medicaid eligible and whose income falls at 300% of the SSI Federal Benefit Rate.

The client is advised of all available placement options as part of ensuring that an informed choice is made regardless of where an individual applies for services.

For additional information regarding this program, please call Vicki Clay, RN Supervisor or the appropriate Case Manager at (662)324-7860.

Though involved with the challenges of the new screening process, the Case Managers have taken time from their busy work schedules to celebrate with the joys and giving of Christmas to their clients. The Case Managers prepare boxes of food items and gifts to give to clients of the Medicaid Waiver program. The GTPDD is generous in allowing this opportunity to bless those who are less fortunate.



Golden Triangle Medicaid Waiver Teams shop for needy clients for Christmas.

Annual Food Drive

The Golden Triangle Planning & Development District joined with Golden Triangle Bingo to provide others a Merry Christmas. GT Bingo patrons donated non-perishable food items and toiletries which were delivered by GT Medicaid Waiver teams to clients within the seven-county area. Thank you, GT Bingo patrons, for the donations for the needy. Pictured, GT staff sorting items for distribution.



Choctaw County
Lynn Harndon, LSW
Jennifer Hopkins, RN

Clay County
Heather Corley, LSW
Mitzi Phelps, RN

Lowndes County # 1
Janice Miller, LSW
Libby Wansley, RN

Lowndes County # 2
Lea Wilson, LSW
Angie Gregory, RN

Lowndes County # 3
Angela Sansing, LSW
Michelle Harris, RN

Noxubee County # 1
Beverly Baker, LSW
Helen Smith, RN

Noxubee County # 2
Angela Nichols, LSW
Tammy Castla, RN

Oktibbeha County # 1
Stephanie Cannon, LSW
Tina Griffin, RN

Oktibbeha County # 2
Janny Grantham, LSW
Charlotte Dowd, RN

Webster County
Chris Bingham, LSW
Jean Jolly, RN

Winston County
Lauren Smith, LSW
Kim Mills, RN

WIA
(Workforce Investment Act)

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

**"We've got spirit. Yes we do!
We've got spirit. How'bout you?"**

That has been the chant of the WIA In-School Youth Program participants as they volunteered in their communities to help improve the lives of local citizens. You've always heard the saying, "It is better to give than to receive" and these students have found that giving of their time is sometimes more valuable than giving of their money. From picking up trash, to providing after school tutorial services to elementary children, to collecting coins to fund CPR training for the local police department, to collecting canned goods for local food pantries, these students have experienced the joy of doing something for others. Isn't that what life is all about? The Christmas season may be over but the WIA Program would like to challenge each of you to keep that Christmas Spirit alive all year. Look around your community and find something that needs to be done, someone that needs a helping hand and give of your time to meet that need.



West Point High School WIA students donate \$240 to Sue Wornack, Director of the West Point/Clay County Red Cross.

"First Job"

In the fall semester, WIA students prepped themselves for that significant life experience of "first job". Within the next two months, students that meet the program requirements will be assigned work placement in their communities. Golden Triangle PDD, thru WIA funding, will pay salary and worker's comp insurance for each participant. This is a win-win situation in that the employer gets a free worker and the student is provided an actual job experience. If you know a business that would be interested in a student worker, call Mitzi Lawrence at (662)324-7860.



Ackerman High WIA class working hard to prepare for spring job placement.

CHILD CARE

Mississippi Department of Human Services - Office for Children and Youth and The Early Childhood Institute at Mississippi State University have partnered to steer the MS Child Care Quality Step System (MCCQSS). For fiscal year 2007-2008, Golden Triangle PDD has been chosen as a pilot area.

The MS Child Care Quality Step System is a voluntary program, which offers incentives to licensed child care providers for improving the level of quality in their centers. The goals of the MCCQSS are:

- To prepare all children to learn and to be ready for school;
- To provide opportunities for children to learn to value and respect authority;
- To provide opportunities for children to learn and practice self discipline; and
- To provide opportunities for children to learn how to be observant and to practice socialization skills.

For information regarding GTPDD Child Care Services please call (662)324-7860 or 1-888-286-1193.

SMALL BUSINESS LOANS

Golden Triangle Planning and Development District, Inc.

Golden Triangle Planning and Development District, Inc. (GTPDD) encourages economic development and job creation through a variety of small business financing programs. These programs are designed to help create new jobs by providing a portion of the funding for the expansion of an existing business or the opening of a new business. These small business financing programs are intended to work with, but not replace, existing commercial financing that is available through your local bank.

| Loan Programs | Targeted Businesses | Maximum Loan Amount | Terms/ Interest Rate (a) | Funds can be used for: | Portion of Project Financed |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Appalachian Regional Commission | Small Business | \$ 100,000.00 | Up to 15 years 5.00% fixed | Fixed Assets, Inventory, Working Capital | 50% |
| Economic Development Administration | Small Business | \$ 225,000.00 | Up to 15 years 5.00% fixed | Fixed Assets, Inventory, Working Capital | 33% |
| Minority Business Enterprise | Minority Owned Small Business | \$ 35,000.00 | Up to 5 years 9.00% fixed | Fixed Assets, Inventory, Working Capital | 100% |
| Minority Business Enterprise | Minority Owned Small Business | \$ 250,000.00 | Up to 15 years 5.00% fixed | Fixed Assets, Inventory, Working Capital | 50% |
| Small Business Assistance | Small Business | \$ 250,000.00 | Up to 15 years 5.00% fixed | Fixed Assets, Inventory, Working Capital | 50% |

(a) Interest rates are subject to change---rates effective as of December 13, 2007.

Each program has specific eligibility criteria and conditions. GTPDD will help the business owner determine the most appropriate financing program.

Contact your local bank to discuss how participation with GTPDD would provide benefits to your business.

Questions regarding the available small business financing programs may be addressed to:

Jimmy Cole, Loan Officer
Golden Triangle Planning and Development District, Inc.
P. O. Box 828
106 Miley Drive
Starkville, Mississippi 39760-0828
Phone: (662)324-7860
Extension: 133

BLANKET DRIVE

Golden Triangle Planning & Development District Area Agency on Aging is conducting a drive for FLEECE BLANKETS or TROWS for senior adults.

If you would like to donate a blanket or throw, please bring it to the GTPDD office located at 106 Miley Road, Starkville, MS. For more information, call Bobby Gann at 662-324-7860.

