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#### Assistance to Older Adults:

Our greatest range of services is that of benefiting senior citizens in the 7 counties. When we can assist our older adults in addressing the physical needs that aging brings, we are helping them to remain longer in their homes with their families, and this contributes to their mental and emotional well-being. (Aging programs are supported by federal, state, and local funding).

**Home Delivered Meals** are taken to those who are homebound; **Congregate Meals** are served at the nutrition sites for seniors who can travel; and **Transportation** is offered in some counties for trips to doctors, pharmacies, and grocery shopping. **Insurance Counseling** provides information about plans and payment assistance available; **Ombudsman Activity** is the link to nursing home clients and their care. **Legal Services** can provide, at no cost, advice and some simple services, such as will preparation.

In-home Aging assistance includes that of a **Homemaker**, who performs light housekeeping, errands and laundry for the homebound; **Respite Care** is relief for a full time 24-hour caregiver of an older adult, and the **Medicaid Waiver Case Management** team of Nurse/Social Worker monitors and coordinates available community services for the homebound.

**Information and Referral** maintains a service delivery resource manual and distributes information to connect older citizens to supporting means toward their independent living; the toll free telephone number for information and referral is 1-888-324-9000.

**Elder Abuse Prevention** is designed to generate public awareness of abuse of the elderly, both physical and emotional, including neglect and exploitation. Reported instances of abuse are provided to Adult Protective Services for investigation and action. An individual who is contemplating entry into a nursing home is advised of alternatives through our **Long Term Care Case Management** program; often, services of which the person is unaware can be implemented, thereby forestalling institutional care.

I count 12 distinct highlighted aging services listed. Soon we will make it a baker's dozen of 13! The GTPDD has purchased a building in East Columbus to be used as a Senior Enrichment Center. As the program develops, I will keep you posted.

HAPPY SPRING!



Rupert L. "Rudy" Johnson  
Executive Director



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## GOLDEN TRIANGLE Planning and Development District, Inc.

Volume 8, No. 1

GTPDD Newsletter

Jan. - Mar. 2008

#### From the Director...

One of ten (10) planning and development districts in the State of Mississippi, the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District was created by Governor's Executive Order #81 in 1971, to promote multi-jurisdictional economic growth in the seven (7) county area.

I thought it would be helpful to print a GTPDD Service Guide for you newly elected officials.

Among the offerings the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District provide are:

#### Assistance to Counties and Municipalities:

-GTPDD staff prepares applications for CDBG and other federal and state grants for public improvements, such as water, sewer, road, drainage, bridges, rural development, fire and police protection, parks/recreation and public buildings. The GTPDD works closely with FEMA and MEMA in responding to weather emergencies; we provide office space and accommodations for EMA representatives when they must locate temporarily in the area.

-IT employees are available to provide technical assistance in GIS mapping, redistricting and E-911 addressing, along with additional specialized computer hardware/software services. Other staff can help with administrative functions, such as budgeting and financial planning.

-Our in-house service of billing and collections for solid waste, sewer and water services is available to counties, cities, water and sewer districts.

-The boardroom at 106 Miley Drive in Starkville can be reserved for meetings for area governmental entities, as well as use by industry and business.

**Business and Industry:** Small businesses can take advantage of the revolving small business loan program, if their startup, or expansion, creates jobs in the community. (Article inside Newsletter).

#### Individuals/Families:

-A Child Care program, via CCDF funding, assists in child care expenses of students/working parents with low income;

-High school seniors are given an opportunity to participate in an on-the-job training class, thanks to our Workforce Investment Act program;

-Homeowners with very low income can be considered for the HOME Rehab service, which supports demolition of an old, and construction of a new, house.

-Rapid Response provides job counseling to dislocated workers who have experienced job loss due to plant cutback/closure. (con't on page 8)

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#### In Memoria

James Watson  
March 5, 2008  
GTPDD Board Member  
1996 - 2007



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

## MEDICAID WAIVER

Many unpleasant issues can confront the elderly and disabled on a daily basis. Physical impairment, decision making, and a depressed emotional state present challenges, often producing fear, frustration, and decreased confidence in the ability to continue living at home.

Seeking help is not a sign of weakness!

The Elderly & Disabled HCBS Medicaid Waiver Program is a statewide program designed to offer assistance to qualified Medicaid beneficiaries. This service offers support to help the individual stay in the home. Meeting the needs of the elderly and disabled in the District is a major goal of the GTPDD. Services offered under this waiver are:

1. **Case Management:** the team consists of a Registered Nurse and Licensed Social Worker who are responsible for managing and coordinating the services for each participant.
2. **Homemaker Services:** offers assistance with light housekeeping, laundry, errands, meal planning and food preparation.
3. **Home Delivered Meals:** a well balanced meal is delivered to the home of the person who has difficulty with meal preparation.
4. **Escorted Transportation:** this is offered for the frail beneficiary and may be used for trips to the doctor when the participant has no other means of transport.
5. **Home Health Aide:** this service offers assistance with bathing, hygiene and personal care needs.
6. **In-Home Respite:** this is provided to participants on a short-term basis because of the absence or need for relief for the caregiver.
7. **Adult Day Care:** this service offers a structured program that focuses on the strengths and abilities of the participants. (In the planning stage).

The Golden Triangle serves 1,100 clients residing in its 7-county area. Eleven Case Management teams cover Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston Counties. Referral sources are hospitals, home health agencies, Community Counseling, physicians, nursing homes, Hospice, Department of Human Services, churches and individuals who know or suspect someone has a need.

Anyone interested in this service should contact Vicki Clay, RN Supervisor or the Case Managers at 662-324-7860.

**Choctaw County**  
Lynn Hamdon, LSW  
Jennifer Hopkins, RN

**Clay County**  
Heather Corley, LSW  
Mitzi Phelps, RN

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

**Lowndes County #2**  
Lasa Wilson, LSW  
Carmen Ellis, RN

**Lowndes County #3**  
Angelia Sensing, LSW  
Michelle Harris, RN

**Noxubee County #1**  
Bevally 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 Eingham, LSW  
Jean Jolly, RN

**Winston County**  
Lauren Smith, LSW  
Kim Mills, RN

**January**  
Phylis Benson 14 years  
Tricia Black 14 years  
Jessie Evans 09 years  
Jean Jolly 07 years  
Rosie Spencer 05 years  
Wendy Williams 09 years  
Liz Wyatt 08 years

**February**  
George Crawford 30 years  
Michelle Harris 05 years

**March**  
Claudine Campbell 05 years  
Jimmy Cole 14 years  
Evelyn Dickerson 12 years  
Sylvia Fair 05 years  
Bobby Gann 34 years  
Ethel Goss 05 years  
Deborah Hill 05 years  
Barbara Ray 09 years

### Staff Anniversaries

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

## WIA MAKE IT HAPPEN!

What is the difference between a goal and a dream? A dream is what a person desires; a goal is the plan to fulfill that desire. How many dreams fall by the wayside because of excuses? When that dream becomes a purpose in life and endeavors are directed (often times repeatedly) toward that purpose, then the goal can be reached.

Webster's dictionary defines a barrier as something that stops progress. To WIA Youth that barrier may be limited finances, an unplanned pregnancy, lack of family support, lack of transportation, or a variety of other personal issues. These youth have proven that these barriers do not mandate failure. The following examples are proof of the self motivation, determination, and leadership qualities of several WIA participants.

Seventeen year old Michael entered the WIA In-school Youth Program as a senior from a single parent home. His family of three was dependent on SSI benefits for life's necessities. Regardless of his situation, throughout the program Michael was a model student. He attended class daily, served as a role model for his classmates, received perfect evaluations from his assigned workplace, graduated at the top of his class, enlisted in the Army Reserves and immediately after graduation reported to Fort Jackson, SC for the beginning of his military training as an automated logistical specialist. After completing his training in Virginia he returned home in late October, found immediate employment, and made plans to attend MSU. Michael is now enrolled at Mississippi State University pursuing a major in Biological Sciences with a minor in Pre-Med. Congratulations Michael!



Shortly after entering the WIA program, Chinara was faced with an all too familiar situation: an unplanned pregnancy. She continued to attend class until the birth of her son. This mountainous barrier seemed to doom Chinara's dreams. With no option for childcare, her goal of a May graduation quickly disappeared. However, Chinara did not give up. With guidance, support, and her continued motivation, Chinara attended adult education classes, received her GED in January and is now gainfully employed, supporting her son, and continuing to pursue further goals. Congratulations Chinara!



Most teenagers do not have to worry about food, clothing, and shelter, but during participation in

WIA, Lanika found herself in this situation. She moved from place to place, never sure about tomorrow, but continued to attend class as regularly as possible. As the other students in her class began their job assignments, Lanika continued to complete the pre-requisites for job placement. Once on the job, Lanika had a chance to prove herself, applying her self-determination and using the skills learned through WIA. At the end of the school year she was slightly short of the necessary credits for graduation. Not one to make excuses, she returned to high school to complete her English IV credit. She continues to work in the childcare program where she completed her WIA internship and serves as mentor to newly placed WIA participants. Congratulations Lanika!

The spirit and resilience of these students is highly commendable. No matter your age, no matter your desires, no matter your barriers, it is never too late to pursue your dreams. Will you make excuses or will you MAKE IT HAPPEN?



## Development District Association of Appalachia Annual Conference

This year's DDAA conference entitled *The Changing of Appalachia: The People, the Workforce, and the Economy* was held on February 24-26 in Arlington, Virginia. The conference focused on large-scale economic and demographic changes that are taking place in Appalachia and how local development districts (LDDs) can manage these changes to create a more positive future for their communities.

As one of 72 LDDs from the thirteen states that make up the membership of the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District was represented by staff and board members at this conference. Mr. Larry Crowley, who is a representative on the Board of Directors of the GTPDD, Inc. and serves as the secretary/treasurer, participated in making the annual Congressional Award to retiring Mississippi Third District U.S. Representative Chip Pickering at the closing breakfast meeting. Mr. Crowley is President of the Webster County Board of Supervisors and has been on the Board of Directors of the GTPDD since 1981.



From left:

Hon. Chip Pickering,  
Congressman, Third District, MS;  
Mike Armour,  
MS Appalachian Regional Director, Tupelo;  
Anne B. Pope,  
Appalachian Reg. Com Federal Co-Chair;  
Larry Crowley,  
Pres., Webster County Board of Supervisors

## Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Update

FY 2008 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Facilities applications were received by the Community Services Division of the Mississippi Development Authority on March 3-4, 2008. The State of Mississippi has been allocated approximately \$30 million to be made available to cities and counties on a competitive basis. These funds may be used in activities of public facilities and economic development.

The purpose of the public facilities category is to assist communities, that demonstrate a need for assistance, with activities such as water, sewer, streets, drainage and certain public buildings. The minimum grant size is \$1,000,000; maximum is \$600,000 for Regular Competition applications and \$450,000 for the Small Government applications.

CDBG Public Facilities applications submitted by the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District staff requesting a total of \$3,706,000 includes the following:

Lowndes County	Public Buildings - Health Depart. Construction
City of Macon	Sewer Improvements
Town of Mathiston	Sewer Improvements
Town of Noxapater	Sewer Improvements
Town of Shuqualak	Wastewater Treatment
Village of Walthall	Streets & Drainage Improvements
Town of Weir	Sewer Improvements
City of West Point	Bridge & Drainage Improvements
Winston County	Bridge Replacement

## HOUSING DEPARTMENT

The City of West Point was recently awarded a Homebuyer Assistance Grant from the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) HOME Program. This grant will allow the City to provide down payment assistance to low income families to purchase existing houses throughout the City of West Point.

New applications for 2008 HOME grant funds will be accepted by MDA on May 1, 2008. District staff members are working with 10 potential grant applicants for these housing funds. Public hearings for new grant applications will be scheduled during the month of April.

Update on existing HOME grants: Clay County is finishing the 5th (final) house; Webster County has started the final 2 houses; Lowndes County has started the 5th (final) house; and the Town of Maben is completing the final 2 houses.

## 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.

Loan program funding may be provided in amounts ranging from \$2,000.00 up to \$250,000.00 depending on the eligibility of a project. As of March 15, 2008, the interest rate on GTPDD loan programs was as low as 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 project 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 these revolving loan programs is that the project must create and/or retain jobs within the seven-county district.

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

## Business Machines PLUS, Inc. +

1424 Gardner Blvd.  
Columbus, Mississippi 39702

Business Machines Plus, Inc. is an existing business that was located at 1540 Gardner Blvd. in Columbus, Mississippi. Mr. Tim L. Wallace, owner, liked the area so much that he purchased a lot from Jim Thompson of Z Best Realty for the location of his newly constructed building at 1424 Gardner Blvd. The new commercial building with showroom, office space and warehouse space will allow Mr. Wallace a continued growth of his business.

Mr. Wallace can be reached at 662-328-6011 to answer any questions pertaining to office equipment, printing, and business products that you might need for your home or business. You may also browse the many different products that are available and place orders online at [www.bmpinc.biz](http://www.bmpinc.biz).

Contact Tim L. Wallace at Business Machines Plus, Inc. and let the PLUS work for you.



