

con't from page 1

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)

In This Issue

From the Director

Medicaid Waiver

GTPDD Anniversaries

Business Loan Programs

Aging News

Childcare News

DDAA Conference

*Community Development
Block Grants*

Housing News

Workforce Investment Act

In Memoriam

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



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