



Golden Triangle Planning & Development District, Inc.

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Rupert L. "Rudy" Johnson
Executive Director

From the Director.

It's for everyone!!!!

ANYONE residing in our 7-County service area is eligible for our prescription delivery service. This service is available to any age group. The "closed door" pharmacy is set up to fill prescriptions and deliver them to your home every 28 days. Medication may be contained in cellophane strips (as seen below), one strip for each day's dosage.

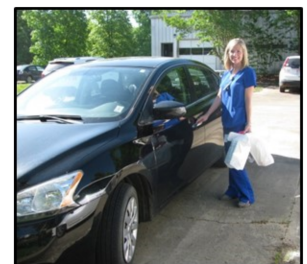


To begin this 28-day rotation, a Technician will need to discuss with you (at your home) a list of your medications, doctors, other health professionals and insurance providers.

After your initial interview, the Technician will confer with your doctors and then will leave a week's supply of medication for you in a pill-box. The remainder of the prescription will be prepackaged in daily doses for delivery on the 28-day schedule.

Co-pays are accepted in the form of cash, personal check, money order, or most credit cards; payment is due at the time of delivery.

Currently the GT Pharmacy is serving close to 500 clients within the GTPDD 7-County area. For more information about the Pharmacy, you may call 662-320-2011, or email at pharmhit@gtpdd.com.



GOLDEN TRIANGLE Planning and Development District, Inc.

HOW TO SUCCEED

..... "succeed"
means "to accomplish what is attempted; to come next or to follow."



Jessica



Cartavis

According to Webster's Dictionary, "succeed" means "to accomplish what is attempted; to come next or to follow." Succeeding is not always easy. To some it seems to happen effortlessly, but to others it is a long, enduring process preceded by a few failed attempts. The key is to stay focused, work toward that desired goal, find a support system to push forward, and never give up on dreams.

The Counseling to Career Workforce Training Program shows that individuals often succeed at different rates and on different levels. They succeed if they accomplish what **they** attempted. Individuals have different desires. Some want to continue their education, while some want to find gainful employment to support themselves or their families. Some want a combination of the two, while some focus on a military career. The job of Career Counselors is to help each individual find that pathway that will lead to a personal path to succeed.

Here are some examples for you to ponder:

Jessica came to the Counseling to Career Program as a 22 year old high school graduate from out-of-state who had moved to the area for her husband to attend college. While he focused on college studies, she was trying to support the family. She had found local employment at a fast food restaurant making minimum wage, which made financial life still a bit of a struggle. When PDD staff met Jessica at a local job fair and shared with her about the Counseling to Career Program she was immediately interested. Through work ethics training and WorkKeys testing, it was apparent that Jessica should

have a bright future. Jessica completed an effective internship as an office assistant. Upon completion of the internship, she interviewed for a part-time position at Golden Triangle Planning & Development District in Starkville. In the process of finalizing the hire, an unexpected full-time position opened at the Golden Triangle office and Jessica was immediately chosen for that position. She continues to impress those who supervise her on a daily basis as she works a full-time job and continues her part-time fast food job at night and on weekends. All of those acquainted with Jessica predict that she will continue to succeed in the years to come.

Cartavis is a young man that brings a smile to the face of those who meet him. Cartavis is twenty years old, a graduate of East Oktibbeha High School, and as of June 1st a full-time employee for the City of Starkville. Cartavis enrolled in C2C with a smile on his face and a desire to work---a desire to succeed; he did not have a job. He worked in Verona for three months, but living in Starkville and driving to Verona, 120 miles round trip, for a part-time job was not paying off. So, he decided to seek local employment. That proved to be harder than expected. He finished sheet rock off-and-on, but he could not find gainful, dependable employment. He learned about the Counseling to Career program through a friend; that's when his pathway to succeed started. Cartavis proved to be a dependable, positive-thinking, mature, focused young man. He desired to work outside, so his internship was with the City of Starkville Landscaping Department. Not long into his internship, his supervisor shared what a good worker he was. When asked about his

job, Cartavis always had a smile and always said, "I love it!" For thirty-nine days, he never missed a day; for thirty-nine days he mowed grass, operated a weed-eater, and fulfilled other landscaping duties. For thirty-nine days he proved himself as an asset to the work group. Upon completion of his internship he was offered a full-time position with the City of Starkville. He now has increased hours, increased wages, and full benefits. Yes, Cartavis succeeded.

These are only two of so many stories that could be shared, but they serve as a reminder of what can be accomplished with hard work, training, and an opportunity like the Counseling to Career Program.

Who will be the next youths to find a path to succeed? Where are they now? How can they connect to this valuable opportunity? Simply call Mitzi Lawrence at 662-324-7860 ext. 1128 and get that path to succeed under construction.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE COLUMBUS SENIOR CENTER?



Winners of the First Double Elimination Hand and Foot Card Tournament! Left to right: 3rd place- Barbara Ibarra and Shelby Stratton, 2nd place- Frances Thompson and Jeanette Smith, and 1st place – Janie Rhoades and Roma Williamson. This was an all day tournament played on two separate days... intensive and fun!



Pictured to the left: Meet the 2017 National Senior Championship Games (70 and over) Women's Basketball Bronze Medal winners. Three ladies on this team are friends of the Columbus Sr. Enrichment Center... Shelby Stratton, Sherryl Dickerson, and Barbara Ibarra. Congratulations ladies! So proud of your bronze medal in the NATIONALS! You are truly an inspiration to all of us and an asset to your community and surrounding areas.



Pictured above from left to right: Allyson Jones, Betty Burnett, Laurie Chilcutt, Kay Box, Jo Shumake, and Fran Laws, members of PEO. PEO stands for Philanthropic Educational Organization and its mission is "Women Helping Women Reach for the Stars." They appeared at the Sr. Center one day with this brand new wheelchair and a First Aid Kit. They saw a need to have a wheelchair on hand, so they graciously fulfilled that need! So thankful for this group and what they do for this community and beyond! Learn more at www.peointernational.org.

Pictured right: This group of people from North Mississippi Rural Legal Services come to the Columbus Senior Enrichment Center three or four times a year as part of the Elder Law Project. They prepare and provide Simple Wills, Advance Directives, and Powers of Attorney for those who are 60 and over AT NO CHARGE!!! Alfred Cutturini and Catherine (Jenny) Kilgore bring a team of law students and a Notary Public and spend the day making sure all documents are correct, signed, notarized, and delivered! For more on this go to www.nmrls.com.



Busy, busy, busy!!! Knitting, Crochet, and Jewelry Making classes have fun working on projects, creating, sharing ideas, helping each other, talking, talking and talking!!! So many close friendships are made and shared!

2nd Annual Baby Boomer-Sr. Expo

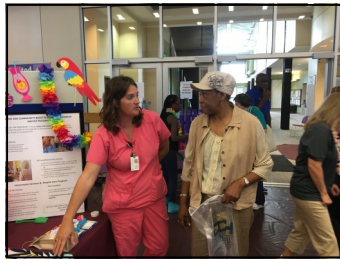
On Monday, June 5, the 2nd Annual Baby Boomer-Senior Expo was held at the Starkville Sportsplex from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The rainy day did not deter a good turnout from the community. Attendees were lined up by 9:30 at the front door, waiting to get in!

Herman Peters, Director of Starkville Parks and Recreation, again hosted the function, which was sponsored by the Alzheimer Association, as well as other community businesses and agencies. Approximately 50 vendors presented information about the services available from their organizations. Many vendors followed the Hawaiian decor approach in advertising their presence.

As explained by Kim Smith, Executive Director for the Mississippi chapter of the national Alzheimer Association, "... the idea behind the event was to build awareness and serve elderly people in the community."

The Golden Triangle Planning and Development District—Area Agency on Aging was a sponsor and vendor at the expo. GTPDD—AAA provided data on its services that are available to senior adults in the 7-county area (Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster, and Winston counties). The GTPDD pharmacy, the most recent addition to elderly services, was described to attendees by GTPDD staff

pharmacist, Anna Lancaster (pictured below). Essentially, the inhouse pharmacy: 1. provides specialty packaging to allow the client to keep better



track of medications; 2. delivers prescriptions to the client in order to alleviate the need for arranging transportation; and 3. can communicate if necessary with physicians on behalf of the client.

Sharon Duke, coordinator for the SHIP (State Health Insurance Program) service, answered questions regarding Medicare, Medicaid, Medigap, and other insurance coverages for senior adults.

Denise Kellum, GTPDD Outreach Coordinator, was available to answer questions concerning other AAA programs: Homemaker, PCA,



Respite, Transportation, Information and Referral, Legal Services, Home-Delivered and Congregate Meals, and Case Management.

The Starkville Fire Depart-

ment offered to provide free smoke detectors for anyone who needed them. SFD also volunteered to install them in the proper location in the home. A registry was available for anyone wishing to order one.

Cindy Brown, Alzheimer Association staff partner, coordinated Bingo during the event. Winners received prizes donated by individuals and businesses from the community.

A special thanks to all you generous businesses donating door prizes: Aspen Bay, Bookmart and Café, East Mississippi Lumber Company, Flowers by the Bunch, Lowe's, Sports Center, Tractor Supply, and Walmart Eye Clinic.

GTPDD plans to participate in next year's EXPO. In the meantime, for further information on the GTPDD-AAA services, call 662-320-2001.



Where to look for assistance with prescription drug costs?

Many beneficiaries are reaching the “Donut Hole” or “Gap” period of Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage during this time of year. This is the period where an individual has exhausted the \$3,700 coverage for 2017 and now must pay 40% of the cost of brand name prescriptions and 51% of the cost of generic drugs. All plans have the same “gap” in coverage and there is no supplemental plan to help with drug plan co-pays.

If you find yourself in the coverage gap or need assistance with high drug costs, see below for some points to consider:

Be completely honest and upfront with your primary care physician about your ability to purchase your needed medications (the doctor cannot help you if he/she is not aware that you need help).

Discuss with your doctor a plan to make healthier lifestyle choices (e. g. diet and exercise).

Discuss with your pharmacist a medication management program (be sure no meds adversely interact with others and no duplications exist).

Explore changes in medications to lower cost (generics vs. brand).

And, ask yourself these questions:

Do I qualify for “Extra Help Assistance” through Social Security?

Do I qualify for the Medicare Savings Program or any Medicaid assistance Programs?

Can any medication on my list be purchased cheaper for cash than through my insurance program?

Are there any Manufacturer Assistance programs for my high cost medications?

Can my doctor provide me with samples to help with drug cost?

Medicare coverage changes each year. Any plan purchased will remain the same during the calendar year in which it was purchased. That plan, in the upcoming year, will normally increase in prices of the plan itself, deductible and co-pays. This is the reason everyone is given the opportunity to change coverage during “open enrollment” each year. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity during that time.

Open Enrollment this year starts October 15, 2017 and ends December 7, 2017.

Farmers Market Nutrition Program

Seniors, 60 years of age and older, with certain income qualifications, are eligible to receive a one-time benefit in the form of vouchers from the Golden Triangle Area Agency on Aging to shop at authorized local farmers markets. The vouchers are used to buy fresh fruits and vegetables grown by local farmers.

The purpose of the project is to increase the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetable by senior adults and increase the awareness of farmers markets. When buying local produce, you are supporting the local economy and your local farmer.

Local authorized farmers markets are located in Columbus, Starkville and West Point. Program participants will be able to redeem vouchers at an authorized farmers market through November.

For more information please call Bobby Gann at 662-320-2000, extension 1104. Vouchers will be available June 26th!



About the Medicaid Waiver Program

The Elderly and Disabled Waiver program provides home and community-based services to individuals over the age of 21 who, but for the provision of such services, would require the level of care provided in a nursing home facility. Beneficiaries of this waiver must qualify for Medicaid as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries or meet the income and resource eligibility requirements for income level up to 300% of the SSI Federal Benefit Rate, and meet medical criteria of the program, with a score of 50.

The Elderly and Disabled Waiver program is administered directly by the Home and Community Based Services Division (HCBS) of the Mississippi Division of Medicaid. Case Management services are provided by the Planning and Development Districts. The case management team is composed of a registered nurse and a licensed social worker who are responsible for identifying, screening and completing an assessment on individuals in need of at-home services. Upon approval of the HCBS, the case managers can refer qualified individuals to the following services: adult day care, home-delivered meals, personal care services, non-emergency escorted transportation, in-home respite, and extended home health visits.

The Golden Triangle Planning and Development District's Case Management Services are provided to all counties in the District: Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston.

Michelle Harris is the RN Supervisor for the Medicaid Waiver Program. Current Case Management team members are:

Choctaw

Tina Gill, RN
Rachel Embry, LSW

Clay

Mitzi Phelps, RN
Lesa Wilson, LSW

Lowndes #1

Brandy Clark, RN
Audie Strain, LSW

Lowndes #2

Cindy Reese, RN
Tennie Simpson, LSW

Lowndes #3

Lindsey Marsh, RN
Angelia Sansing, LSW

Lowndes #4

Blair Gerrish, RN
Lynn Herndon, LSW

Noxubee #1

Jana Peterson, RN
Jessica Spears, LSW

Noxubee #2

Tammy Castle, RN
Jennifer Bridges, LSW

Oktibbeha #1

Tina McWhorter, RN
Tonia Davis, LSW

Oktibbeha #2

Stacy Elkins, RN
Jennifer Grantham, LSW

Oktibbeha #3

Helen Smith, RN
Beverly Baker, LSW

Oktibbeha #4

Ella Pogue, RN
Susie Winstead, LSW

Webster

Lynette Hunt, RN
Lisa Woods, LSW

Winston

Kim Mills, RN
Lauren Smith, LSW

Anyone interested in this program, or simply needing additional information, should call the GTPDD Medicaid Waiver office at 662-324-7860, select **Option #3**.

APRIL

Catherine Dyson	05 Years
Sherri Fowler	12 Years
Rupert L. "Rudy" Johnson	27 Years
Janet Macon	15 Years
Keisha Warren	13 Years
Wendy Mann	12 Years

MAY

Courtney Carr	06 Years
Queenzella Gibson	12 Years
Latoya Harris	05 Years
Earnestine Robinson	16 Years
Toby Sanford	13 Years
Kishina Shirley	08 Years
Latasha Tallie	05 Years
Teshia Taylor	10 Years
Clara Tippet	08 Years
Lesa Wilson	13 Years

JUNE

Lena Davis	11 Years
Sharon Duke	11 Years
Phyllis Flake	11 Years
Tina Gill	06 Years
Minnie Lindsey	13 Years
Tina McWhorter	17 Years
Kenny Orr	15 Years
Debra Prishmont	08 Years
Yvonne Weaver	06 Years
Sheila Winters	06 Years

Staff Anniversaries

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

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.

To date, GTPDD has approved funding of \$17,039,333.85 to 166 businesses located within its seven-county district. As a result of this funding, 1,856 new jobs were created and 1,319 existing employees were retained by the new or expanding businesses.

Loan program funding may be provided in amounts ranging from \$2,000 up to \$250,000 depending on the eligibility of a project. As of June 15, 2017, the interest rate on GTPDD loan programs was as low as 3.50% fixed for the entire term of the loan up to a maximum term of fifteen years.

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 Spencer Brooks, Loan Officer at (662) 320-2009.

COUNTY	NUMBER OF LOANS	JOB CREATED	JOB RETAINED	AMOUNT
CHOCTAW	08	252	016	\$2,010,000.00
CLAY	15	105	045	\$996,638.50
LOWNDES	59	451	621	\$6,035,840.00
NOXUBEE	16	132	154	\$1,183,500.00
OKTIBBEHA	40	629	184	\$4,078,563.75
WEBSTER	09	054	256	\$1,099,950.00
WINSTON	19	233	043	\$1,634,841.60
TOTALS	166	1856	1319	\$17,039,333.85

EPA Awards Golden Triangle Planning and Development District, Inc. \$600,000 Brownfields Grant

Golden Triangle
Planning & Development District
P. O. Box 828
106 Miley Drive
Starkville, MS 39760
Phone: 662-324-7860
Fax: 662-324-7328
E-mail: gtpdd.com

**We're on the
Web:
www.gtpdd.com**

It's not what happens or
challenges you—it's your
thoughts or attitude that
brings the outcome.

Steve Rizzo

The Golden Triangle Planning and Development District, Inc. (GTPDD) was one of eight Mississippi recipients, out of 172 nationwide, selected for grant funding for community-wide U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) brownfields assessment activities and cleanup planning in FY 2017. PM Environmental, Inc., a national environmental & engineering consulting firm, assisted GTPDD in the Brownfields assessment grant plan preparation.

GTPDD, by connecting with the Cities of Starkville and West Point, was awarded a \$600,000 Brownfields assessment coalition grant, \$400,000 for hazardous substances and \$200,000 for petroleum, which will focus on four census tracts, or neighborhoods generally encompassing a population between 2,500 to 8,000 people, within Choctaw, Clay, Noxubee and Oktibbeha Counties. The \$400,000 community-wide hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct 15 Phase I and 12 Phase II environmental site assessments. The \$200,000 community-wide petroleum grant funds will be used to conduct seven Phase I and six Phase II environmental site assessments. According to the Brownfields 2017 Grant Fact Sheet, funds from both grants will also be used to expand a brownfields inventory, conduct cleanup planning, and support community involvement activities.

Potential priority sites include the Belwood Plant in Choctaw County, which was a former manufacturing facility that has been underutilized for 20 years; the Artex Building in Clay County, a former textile manufacturer of linens that has been vacant since 2003; the Boral Brick Plant in Noxubee County, which is a former brick manufacturing property that has been vacant for seven years; and the former Coca-Cola Bottling Plant in Oktibbeha County which has been vacant since the 1990s. In addition to the four priority sites, there are approximately 21 other Brownfields sites located throughout the area that will be considered.

"Golden Triangle Planning and Development District is excited to have been awarded an EPA Brownfields Assessment grant. By partnering with local communities to form the Golden Triangle Brownfields Coalition, we will be able to focus on sites that have the most likely environmental concerns, and will ultimately have the greatest positive environmental, human health and sustainable economic impact. We look forward to the opportunity to work with EPA on this unique endeavor," said Executive Director Rudy Johnson.

GTPDD is a non-profit corporation that works towards the civic improvement and economic development in the Appalachian counties of Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster, and Winston. The PDD provides services and data to its member governments and their economic development partners and also connects participating agencies and offices to Federal and State resources.