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From the Director..



Rupert L. "Rudy" Johnson
Executive Director



Whether a citizen is voting for or against Zoo funding, the Governor, School Board appointments, the State Flag, the Definition of Marriage or any other variety of ballot initiatives – elections have a significant impact on daily living. Many elections are won or lost by a few hundred votes, and voting helps citizens voice opinions. Voting is not a requirement, but it is a responsibility.

Be sure to vote November 3, 2015!



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

✓ Vote

Aging...



The Golden Triangle Planning & Development District, Inc. hosted a hamburger/hotdog fundraiser for Alzheimer awareness on August 31st. Surrounding businesses participated in the fundraiser by purchasing \$5.00 plates. The total for the day was \$1,075 raised by all businesses with \$555.00 (including plates & t-shirts) from the GT Team.



WALK TO END ALZHEIMERS

October 31, 2015

Registration at 9:00 a.m. - Walk begins at 10:00 a.m.

Downtown Starkville

(Begins at New City Hall Building)

If interested in purchasing an Alzheimer Awareness t-shirt, please contact Cindy Brown at 662-324-7860, ext. 1107.

Aging cont' . . .

Commodity Supplemental Food Program

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) was established to provide nutritious commodities to help state and local agencies supplement food resources to low-income seniors. Through local agencies, each participant receives a monthly package of commodities, based on food package guide rates developed by the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services (FNS). Food packages include items such as milk, cereal, juices, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meat/non-meat protein items, and grain products such as pasta or rice. Participants also receive nutritional education. CSFP is designed to serve individuals whose income and circumstances make them especially vulnerable to malnutrition.

The Mississippi Food Network (MFN) administers the CSFP under an agreement with the State Department of Health/WIC Program to receive, re-package and distribute the donated USDA supplemental foods through local charitable/non-profit agencies in the authorized counties.

Golden Triangle Planning and Development District is the local site in Oktibbeha County to distribute Commodity Supplemental Food Boxes (CSFP). At the present 200 boxes are distributed each month to low-income seniors age 60 and older. Currently, 7 individuals are on the Waiting List.

All participants must be 60 years of age and older, meet the CSFP household income eligibility guidelines and reside in the selected CSFP county. Income guidelines are updated yearly by USDA and are based on the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

For more information on the CSFP program or to speak to someone about an application for a Commodity Supplemental Food Box, please call (662)320-2001 and speak with Melody, Ext – 1113, Sharon, Ext - 1117 or Amy, Ext – 1183.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

OPEN ENROLLMENT

October 15, 2015 – December 7, 2015

EARLY ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE BEGINNING OCTOBER 1

For a **FREE** evaluation of coverage and
enrollment assistance for 2015

call for an appointment **662-324-7860, Ext. 1124.**

For phone assistance Ext. 1117,

or visit the GTPDD office at **106 Miley Drive, Starkville, MS**

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

MUST BRING Medicare card and list of prescription medications.

**GOLDEN TRIANGLE PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.
SENIOR ENRICHMENT CENTER**

JEWELRY, KNITTING, CROCHET & CRAFT GROUPS

INVITE YOU TO

THE 3rd ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2015

10:00 am-6:30 pm

**1522 GARDNER BLVD.
COLUMBUS, MS 39702**

AMAZING ONE-OF-A-KIND CREATIONS

**BRING A FRIEND OR TWO AND GET SOME GREAT GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS, BIRTHDAYS,
SECRET PALS, TEACHERS OR EVEN YOURSELF!!!**

REGISTER FOR DOOR PRIZES!!!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT

CARLA GUYTON: (662) 386-0001
or cguyton@gtpdd.com

Sr. Enrichment-Columbus

Some of the crafts to be sold at
the 3rd Annual Show & Sale



Sr. Enrichment-Starkville

Thinking About Growing Old

Years ago people lived 'til they died and then died
with nothing to hide.

Surviving to a ripe old age was mostly a rarity;
Nowadays, however, most folks' longevity survives
the years,

But likely with some degree of suspect clarity.

We old people do have redeeming qualities, like
patriotism and respect.

We value reverence, honor, and hard work, as the
lives we've lived reflect.

And although we're slower than ordinary and we
often seem quite contrary,

We still can do stuff, even if it's with a huff and a
puff!

We have to try real hard to concentrate,
Our memory sometimes doesn't cooperate;

Our thinker doesn't always seem clear,
And much of what's said we can't even hear!

We don't exercise much,
'Rather sit and watch TV and such,

So our balance is poor,
Which makes us fall and hurt ourselves for sure.

Our skin is all dry,
We don't see too well,

Our sense of smell has diminished.
We start one thing, then start another
And often forget that we need to finish!

So what's the solution to our assemblage of woes?
Is our world supposed to constrict and shrink?
Who knows?

There are some folks at the Senior Center
Who appear to have the answer though.

They seem to be happy and able
As they play their fun games at the tables....

They care for each other as friends.
They're aware of newfangled trends.
They are gentle and cheerful and forgiving.
They're tolerant of each other's way of living.

Their ambitions are right there all the while it seems,
They honor commitment to 'matterful' things
While they purposefully play and laugh and chatter
and beam!

Looks like we better sign-up with their team.
Author: Unknown

Staff Anniversaries

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

JULY

Lucille Booth	07 years
Tammy Castle	15 years
Kim Mills	15 years
Mitzi Phelps	16 years
Regina Rambus	08 years
Shanda Rupert	06 years

AUGUST

Mary Boatman	05 years
Spencer Brooks	12 years
Latasha Carr	05 years
Angel Coggins	11 years
Queen Kidd	13 years
Mitzi Lawrence	15 years
Angela Reed	07 years

SEPTEMBER

Ruthie Colter	13 years
Tim Heard	22 years
Paula Key	06 years
Janice Miller	10 years
Lisa Stallings	15 years
Santreena Trinlett	12 years

GIS...



Customer

Golden Triangle Planning and Development District (GTPDD) is a nonprofit organization formed in June 1970 to improve and enlarge economic development and civic improvement in the Appalachian counties of Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston within the state of Mississippi. The goal of the organization is to assist local units of government and small businesses with highly specialized areas that fall outside of the customer's range of expertise. This includes assistance in applying for and managing grant monies, technical support for local government and small businesses, administrative functions and support for local utilities, and geographic information system (GIS) data and mapping that is needed for county management. GTPDD is an affiliate of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) created in 1965 by an act of Congress. ARC's objective is to provide additional grant funding and support infrastructure growth to create a competitive economic environment within the 13 Appalachian states in the U.S.

Challenge

GIS mapping and data is a time-consuming and expensive process but is necessary for providing key information relating to parcel mapping, road management and census reporting. This type of information is used to define political jurisdictions at state and local levels and manage tax rolls. It is also used for comprehensive community planning. None of the GTPDD counties has a budget or manpower to support such an extensive project. However, as part of its support, GTPDD provides this service and manages the data. Winston County actually qualified for grant funding to help support this project with the grant covering 80 percent of cost. The community is responsible for the other 20 percent. Over an eight-month period in 2012, GIS data and mapping had been completed for the entire county. This included information for structures within city limits, as well as items found outside of the community, such as cell towers, water towers and barns.

On April 28, 2014, Mississippi had nine tornadoes touch down with an F4 storm passing through Louisville, MS, located in Winston County. There were 10 deaths attributed to this particular storm within a 36-mile path. The event was so devastating that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) immediately qualified the region as a National Disaster Area. After the initial cleanup and first-responder needs, the process of applying for federal disaster loans had to begin. However, property owners had to prove what structures were in place prior to the storm and send information validating the current status of their properties. This could take months and delay any relief money. GTPDD had all of the mapping information and images verifying structures before the storm, but it needed to assist the storm victims

Solution

Toby Sanford is the GIS Manager and Senior Analyst for the GIS program at GTPDD. Several years earlier, Toby reviewed the GE MapSight™ solution and remembered it. Following the storm, he reached out to a contact at Landmark Spatial Solutions, which he knew both used and sold the equipment. Landmark Spatial Solutions agreed to loan him the device to capture data and images along the path of the storm. MapSight is a complete solution that integrates a digital camera with a laser-range finder, sub-meter GPS and a compass to capture calibrated images that can define location and structure measurements. It was a quick process to move from location to location and use the device to take images of the carnage and destruction left behind by the tornado. Using the MapSight solution, Toby and his team mapped 646 points in 1 ½ days.

Result

Based on the expedited GIS data collected through MapSight, Winston County management assessed the cost of the storm and the direct impact to county budgets within 24 hours. In addition, the necessary recovery information for Winston County was presented in full to both FEMA and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) within 48 hours, and it was processed completely by the agencies within 28 days of the storm. This is currently the fastest storm-recovery response in history within the state of Mississippi. In April 2015, one year later, other counties affected by this series of storms were still compiling the needed paperwork delayed by their lack of GIS documentation.

Since this event, GTPDD has invested in its own GE MapSight device and uses it exclusively to manage its GIS data within its jurisdiction.





Image/Mapping – August, 2013

Challenge

- Catastrophic tornado levels Winston County, MS in 2014. There is a need to submit documentation to governmental agencies to seek assistance for property damage/loss.

Solution

- Use of GE MapSight for visual confirmation of GIS records and images of damage.

Results

- Assessment of storm cost and impact to county budget defined within 24 hrs.

- Calibrated images documenting GIS information and structure status completed within 2.5 days and paperwork submitted to federal and state agencies.

- MapSight assists with the fastest storm recovery response within the state of Mississippi to date.



Apply for grant
money to
support GIS
mapping in
county

9/2011

GTPDD began
mapping
Winston
County

2/2012

Tornado hits
Winston
County, MS

4/28/2014

Visit to area to
document
damage using
MapSight

5/5-7/2014

Data & maps
turned over to
county and
MEMA/FEMA

5/8/2014

Loans...

Source: MapSight

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, not to replace, existing commercial financing that is available through your local bank.

Loan Programs	Targeted Businesses	Maximum Loan Amount	Terms/Interest Rate	Funds can be used for:	Portion of Project Financed
Appalachian Regional Commission	Small Business	\$100,000.00	Up to 15 years 4.00% fixed	Fixed Assets, Inventory, Working Capital	50%
Economic Development Administration	Small Business	\$225,000.00	Up to 15 years 4.00% fixed	Fixed Assets, Inventory, Working Capital	33%
Minority Business Enterprise	Minority Owned Small Business	\$ 35,000.00	Up to 5 years 7.00% fixed	Fixed Assets, Inventory, Working Capital	100%
Minority Business Enterprise	Minority Owned Small Business	\$250,000.00	Up to 15 years 3.25% fixed	Fixed Assets, Inventory, Working Capital	50%
Small Business Assistance	Small Business	\$250,000.00	Up to 15 years 4.75% fixed	Fixed Assets, Inventory, Working Capital	50%

NOTE: Interest rates are subject to change-----rates effective as of August 31, 2015

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, MS 39760-0828

Phone: (662) 320-2000

Extension: 1133

Medicaid Waiver . . .

Elderly and Disabled Waiver Program

What is the Elderly and Disabled Waiver?

It is a statewide program designed to offer assistance to qualified Medicaid beneficiaries. The program allows qualified individuals to remain in a home or community-based setting as an alternative to a nursing facility or other institutional care. All persons who are eligible to receive Home and Community-Based Services under this waiver must first be approved through the Division of Medicaid.

Who is qualified?

- Be 21 years of age or older.
- Qualify by either SSI or 300% of SSI.
- Score 50 or above on the Medicaid Long Term Care Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) instrument.
- Must require nursing facility level of care, if assistance is not provided.

What services are offered under this waiver?

- **Case Management** - Everyone who participates in the waiver is assigned to a local case management team. This team consists of a Registered Nurse and licensed Social Worker.
- **Personal Care Services** - These are supportive services provided in the home of the participant. They include assistance with light housekeeping, laundry, meal planning, marketing, food preparation, etc.
- **Adult Day Services** - This is a structured program that focuses on the strengths and abilities of the participants. This service allows participants to make connections with their community and/or use all of their retained skills. Depending on the specific facility, the following services are provided: supervision and/or assistance with ADLs, group activities, nutritious meals, and medication monitoring.
- **Expanded Home Health Services** - The participants of this program are eligible for extended home health services. Covered services include: nurse, aide, physical, and speech therapy.

- **Home Delivered Meals** - A well-balanced meal is delivered to the home of the person who is unable to leave his/her home without assistance and/or unable to prepare his/her own meals.
- **Institutional Respite and/or In-Home Respite** - This is provided to participants on a short-term basis because of the absence of or need for relief for the primary care giver. This can be provided in the home or licensed respite care centers.
- **Transition Assistance** - This is provided to a beneficiary currently residing in a nursing facility who wishes to transition from the nursing facility to the E & D Waiver in the home.

The Golden Triangle Planning and Development District serves clients in Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston counties. If you live in a county outside of GTPDD's service area you may contact the Division of Medicaid at 1-800-421-2408.

Apply or Refer Services:

To apply for services or to refer another individual to receive services, call this office at 662-324-7860, extension 1154, or the Division of Medicaid at 1-800-421-2408.

Planning...

EUPORA RECEIVES ASSISTANCE FROM RURAL DEVELOPMENT/USDA IN THE PURCHASE OF NEW CITY VEHICLES



The Eupora Police Department was also able to purchase a new police SUV (pictured at left) through a Rural Development Community Facilities grant. The Rural Development assistance was for up to 75% of the cost of the project but within the funding limitations of the USDA grant program. The Golden Triangle Planning and Development District was responsible for grant application preparation for both projects, which were funded separately.

The City of Eupora recently received grant assistance from Rural Development/USDA for the purchase of new vehicles for two city departments. The Eupora Fire Department was able to purchase a new fire truck (pictured with fire chief) that had long been a top priority for the City of Eupora to maintain its fire insurance rating with the Mississippi Fire Marshall's office. The new truck was purchased with a combination of fire rebate money, local budgeted funds and the Rural Development Community Facilities Assistance Grant.

The Eupora Police Department was also able to purchase a new



Putting On The Final Touches

Utilizing a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), a \$333,000 Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant and a \$100,000 local cash contribution, the Town of Noxapater has replaced a failing elevated water storage tank with a new 200,000 gallon tank that will serve 328 households and 60 commercial customers.



WIOA
(Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) ...

URBAN YOUTH CORPS GRANT COMPLETED

As reported in the last Newsletter, the City of Starkville's URBAN YOUTH CORPS grant was met with overwhelming interest by local young people. There were 82 applicants to fill 16 slots!

The qualifiers worked June and July in "beautifying" the City of Starkville and in manning desks at City Hall. If you notice a formerly unpainted curb or recently cleaned ditch, you can attribute it to the work of these dedicated youth.

On August 4th the workers celebrated program completion with a luncheon at The Grill. Mayor Wiseman addressed the youth, and the youth were given an opportunity to share their experiences in the summer work program.

It is unknown at this point if future grants of this type will be available, but you can be sure GTPDD is here and ready to help if grants are awarded.

CAN I BECOME A PARTICIPANT IN THE COUNSELING TO CAREER PROGRAM?

Yes, if you.....

Meet program requirements:

- 16 – 24 years of age
- Out-of-school
- Seeking employment, continued education or military enlistment
- Reside in Choctaw, Oktibbeha, Webster or Winston counties

Call 662-324-7860, ext. 1128,

to see if the C2C program meets your personal needs.

Request an application and get YOUR success story started.

WIOA cont' . . .

Tribute to Sarah Stevenson

Each year the Golden Triangle Planning & Development staff has the opportunity of working with a multitude of youth. Many of these youth prove to be exceptional, eager-to-learn individuals, working and planning for their futures. However, one of the young people during the 2014-2015 program year really stood out in the crowd. She is Sarah Stevenson from the Panhandle Community in Choctaw County.

Sarah enrolled as a twenty-one year old participant in the WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) Counseling to Career (C2C) Program. Sarah graduated from Weir High School in May of 2012. Prior to C2C participation she had not pursued her goal of becoming a Registered Nurse. She spent a lot of time caring for her elderly grandparents with whom she lived. From day one of program involvement, Sarah showed leadership potential. Her confidence and determination spilled over into the classroom where her attitude, smile, and self-motivation were pronounced. Teresa Shumaker, Sarah's Career Counselor, stated, "Sarah was a fantastic, well rounded student. She was very humble and when she set her mind to achieve a goal, she made it happen. Sarah never used personal barriers as an excuse. She is an inspiration to the young and old alike."

Upon completion of work ethics training, youth are placed at worksites to practice the skills they have learned in the classroom. Sarah's WIOA placement was with Choctaw Regional Medical Center working as an ER Tech. There she proved to be such a valuable asset to the business that Jimmy Owens, Hospital Administrator, sent her a personal thank you note for the professionalism and compassion she showed to a trauma patient and his family during an ER visit. He shared with the WIOA staff that she had proved to be a tremendous asset to the hospital but in order to continue working in the ER after her C2C work experience Sarah needed to continue her education. This motivated Sarah to pursue her Certified Nursing Assistance certification at East Central Community College, Louisville Center. Sarah completed her C.N.A. classes in late May, passed her certification test and was hired at Choctaw Medical Center in July as an ER Tech. Sarah is very aware that the more she learns the better her job opportunities will be, so she is currently enrolled at Holmes Community College, Ridgeland Campus, pursuing a Nursing career. Sarah has accomplished a lot in the past year. She now has her own apartment in Ridgeland but comes home on weekends to check on her grandparents and to work her shift at Choctaw Medical Center.

The GTPDD WIOA staff congratulates Sarah on all her accomplishments and wishes her well in her future endeavors.



Golden Triangle Planning & Development District, Inc.

Post Office Box 828

Starkville, MS 39760