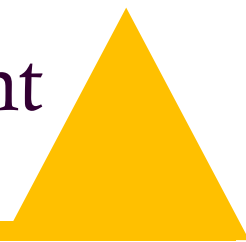


Golden Triangle Planning & Development District, Inc.



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From the Director.



Rupert L. "Rudy" Johnson
Executive Director

What is Easter? Without a doubt one of the most important celebrations in the Christian calendar, Easter is a holiday that celebrates the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. After His crucifixion, death and burial, three days later, He arose from the grave. By this, He conquered death and redeemed us from sin.

Take this time to celebrate our Lord and Savior with friends and family. Wishing you a safe and wonderful Easter weekend!



This Is What It's All About

Youth in the WIOA In-School Program, a Gateway Workforce Service, report that they are experiencing for the first time in their lives:

- \$ Exhilaration of being hired for a first job
- \$ Anticipation of first work day
- \$ Nervousness and excitement upon entering the work place door for the first time
- \$ Learning coworkers' and supervisors' names
- \$ Acceptance and encouragement by coworkers
- \$ Holding the first paycheck in hand
- \$ Calculating and recalculating amount of first paycheck
- \$ Surprise and horror at the deductions in the first paycheck
- \$ Buying something with "my own money"

During the fall 2021 semester forty-eight students from Choctaw, Clay, Oktibbeha, and Webster counties completed essential job skills training and were offered a paid internship. Forty-two of these students accepted the opportunity and several were hired for part-time positions at the end of the internship. Currently forty-six students in Oktibbeha, Noxubee, Webster, and Winston counties are completing job skills training, and all completers will be offered a paid internship in their local communities.

Through a partnering of businesses in the seven counties and GTPDD, each student is allowed to work a maximum of 80 hours. Beginning wage is \$7.50 per hour with the opportunity for wage increase up to \$9.00 per hour depending on job performance. Participating businesses gain the service of an employee whose salary and workers' comp are paid through the WIOA funds. In exchange, the youth is provided a real work experience with potential for unsubsidized employment.

If you know of a person, business supervisor or student who would like to participate in the Gateway In-School Program, contact Mitzi Lawrence at 662-324-5007.

What's Coming.....

April 1st	April Fools' Day	May 5th	Cinco de Mayo
April 10th	Palm Sunday	May 8th	Mother's Day
April 15th	Good Friday	May 21st	Armed Forces Day
April 15th	Passover	May 30th	Memorial Day
April 17th	Easter		
April 22nd	Earth Day	June 5th	Pentecost
April 24th	Robert Thomas' Bday	June 14th	Flag Day
April 29th	National Arbor Day	June 19th	Father's Day

JANUARY

Phylis Benson	28 years
Jennifer Bridges	10 years
Jessie Evans	23 years
Tricia Jones	28 years
Helen Smith	11 years

FEBRUARY

Lisa Coleman	12 years
George Crawford	44 years
Jenny Grantham	18 years
Sarah Harkins	11 years
Michelle Harris	19 years
Scott Stewart	14 years

MARCH

Shelby Beam	08 years
Christina Bland	07 years
Bobby Gann	48 years
Ethel Goss	19 years
Carla Guyton	13 years
Jennifer Odom	15 years

Staff Anniversaries

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

Noxapater Completes Wastewater Improvements With The Help of CDBG & USACE

The Town of Noxapater received financial support from a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) to rehabilitate its north wastewater treatment lagoon. Noxapater, located in Winston County, provides sewer service to approximately 192 customers - 166 households and 26 businesses.

Weather and age had caused Noxapater's north lagoon to become less effective over time. The town had received National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit violation letters from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) for over four years. Failure to address the problem would have caused the lagoon to fail and effectively treat wastewater resulting in harmful materials being released into the environment.

A \$373,500 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the Mississippi Development Authority along with a \$375,000 grant from the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers, enabled the Town to alleviate critical infrastructure deficiencies. Project improvements included dredging the lagoon and installing a nitrification unit, along with an aerator and baffles to direct flow to the new nitrification unit along with the repair of several sewer lines throughout Noxapater.. These improvements will help Noxapater comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements and will increase the system's capacity for future development and growth.

Medicaid Waiver

The Division of Medicaid is authorized by state legislation and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to administer the Elderly and Disabled waiver program.

The Medicaid Waiver Program provides home and community-based services that assist Medicaid participants to remain in their homes and avoid institutionalization. Eligibility is determined through an assessment including activities of daily living, sensory deficits, cognitive deficits, behaviors and medical conditions.

Fourteen teams currently serve the GTPDD. Each case management team consists of a registered nurse and a licensed social worker who visit the participant on a monthly basis to provide, monitor and coordinate the services that are offered through this program. These services may include: Home Delivered Meals, Personal Care Services, In-Home Respite, and Adult Day Care.

Personal Care Services are non-medical support services to assist the participant in meeting daily living needs and ensure optimal functioning at home and/or in the community. Services must be provided in accordance with the participant's plan of service. PCS includes assistance with eating, bathing, dressing, personal hygiene, and activities of daily living. Meal preparation may be provided, however, the cost of meals is not covered. Housekeeping chores may be provided if the care is essential to the health and welfare of the individual, rather than the individual's family. PCS may also involve hands-on assistance or cuing/prompting the participant to perform a task; accompanying and assisting the participant in accessing community resources and participating in community activities; supervision and monitoring in the participant's home, during transportation, and in the community setting. The PCS may accompany, when medically justified, participants during transport with transport provided by the Medicaid NET provider.

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

Choctaw

Tina Gill, RN
Kaylee Hunt, LSW

Clay

Mitzi Phelps, RN
Lesa Wilson, LSW

Lowndes #1

Leah Agnew, RN
Jessica Rodgers, LSW

Lowndes #2

Cindy Reese, RN
Tennie Simpson, LSW

Lowndes #3

Lindsey Marsh, RN
Angelia Sansing, LSW

Lowndes #4

Jami Hubbard, RN

Noxubee #1

Jennifer Bridges, LSW

Noxubee #2

Tammy Castle, RN
Kallie Hubbard, LSW

Oktibbeha #1

Tina McWhorter, RN
Alyssa Harris, LSW

Oktibbeha #2

Stacy Elkins, RN
Jennifer Grantham, LSW

Oktibbeha #3

Helen Smith, RN
Christina Bland, LSW

Oktibbeha #4

Krystal Taylor, RN
Megan Aucoin, LSW

Webster

Sidney Thompson, RN
Lisa Woods, LSW

Winston

Kim Mills, RN
Lauren Smith, LSW

Anyone interested in this program or would like additional information should contact the Medicaid Waiver office at 662-320-2003.



SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM

CELEBRATE • INNOVATE • EDUCATE

Since 1972, the national Senior Nutrition Program has supported nutrition services for older adults. Funded by the Older Americans Act, local senior nutrition programs serve older adults to access nutritious meals and other vital services that promote health and wellbeing.

In March, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Senior Nutrition Program with goodie bags sent to each meal participant in the seven-county area. We celebrate our seniors in our area and hope you will celebrate each senior and support your community food program.

