

GOLDEN TRIANGLE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.

In this issue:

Farewell

*Community
Development
Block Grant
Applications*

*Fair Housing
Month*

WIOA

*Senior
Enrichment
Centers*

*Medicaid
Waiver*

*Staff
Anniversaries*

*Contacts &
Social Media*

Director's Message

For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

1 Thessalonians 4:14

This year, we celebrated Easter in March, which doesn't happen often. Easter, a celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, is one of the most important Christian holidays. Three days after his crucifixion, death and burial, Jesus rose from the grave, conquering death and redeeming us all from sin.

We hope you had a wonderful weekend celebrating our Lord and Savior with friends and family!



*Executive
Director
Rupert L.
"Rudy"
Johnson*



A FAREWELL



*Spencer
Brooks*

On March 8, the GTPDD said farewell to CFO Spencer Brooks. An employee for 20 years, he will be dearly missed by the entire staff. On his last day, numerous posters were placed around the office as part of the bittersweet day.

One poster, pictured to the left, said:

LEAVING [lee-ving], v.

"an incredible act of selfishness; the malicious abandoning of loyal friends and colleagues; escaping from a never-ending nightmare"

SEE ALSO: TRAITOR



Though he may have committed an act of “betrayal,” we wish him the absolute best in his new endeavors. We know he will continue to do great things because of how great he is!

FY2024 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATIONS

Local units of government should plan immediately for the upcoming FY24 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application process. CDBG Public Facilities applications will be accepted by the Mississippi Development Authority from May 15-19, 2024.

The FY2024 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Final Statement outlining the application process for this year has been released by the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA). The minimum threshold requirements are that at least 51% of the project beneficiaries be of low and moderate income; and applicants must have no open Public Facility (Regular or Small Government) grants and no unresolved audit or monitoring findings. This year's allocation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is projected to be \$24,335,000.

It is important for governmental entities to remember that the Community Services Division of MDA must receive an audit-reporting package within nine (9) months following the end of the fiscal year. The Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133 require a single audit for state and local governments, which expend \$750,000 or more in federal awards for that year. Entities, which expend less than \$750,000 a year in federal awards, are exempt from federal audit requirements for that year, but an acceptable Funding Certification Form must be submitted to MDA. Failure to provide this information to the Mississippi Development Authority in a timely manner will disqualify an applicant from submitting a CDBG application during the fiscal year. Any governmental entity needing assistance with this matter should contact the GTPDD.

FAIR HOUSING MONTH

On April 11, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which was meant as a follow-up to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The 1968 act expanded on previous acts and prohibited discrimination concerning the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on race, religion, national origin, sex, (and as amended) handicap and family status. Title VIII of the Act is also known as the Fair Housing Act (1968).

The enactment of the federal Fair Housing Act on April 11, 1968, came only after a long and difficult journey. From 1966-1967, Congress regularly considered the fair housing bill, but failed to garner a strong enough majority for its passage. However, when the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson utilized this national tragedy to urge for the bill's speedy Congressional approval. Since the 1966 open housing marches in Chicago, Dr. King's name had been closely associated with the fair housing legislation. President Johnson viewed the Act as a fitting memorial to the man's life work and wished to have the Act passed prior to Dr. King's funeral in Atlanta.

Another significant issue during this time period was the growing casualty list from Vietnam. The deaths in Vietnam fell heaviest upon young, poor African American and Hispanic infantrymen. However, on the home front, these men's families could not purchase or rent homes in certain residential developments on account of their race or national origin. Specialized organizations like the NAACP, the GI Forum and the National Committee Against Discrimination In Housing lobbied hard for the Senate to pass the Fair Housing Act and remedy this inequality. Senators Edward Brooke and Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts argued deeply for the passage of this legislation. In particular, Senator Brooke, the first African American ever to be elected to the Senate by popular vote, spoke personally of his return from World War II and inability to provide a home of his choice for his new family because of his race.



FAIR HOUSING MONTH



With the cities rioting after Dr. King's assassination, and destruction mounting in every part of the United States, the words of President Johnson and Congressional leaders rang the Bell of Reason for the House of Representatives, who subsequently passed the Fair Housing Act. Without debate, the Senate followed the House in its passage of the Act, which President Johnson then signed into law.

The power to appoint the first officials administering the Act fell upon President Johnson's successor, Richard Nixon. President Nixon tapped then Governor of Michigan, George Romney, for the post of Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. While serving as Governor, Secretary Romney had successfully campaigned for ratification of a state constitutional provision that prohibited discrimination in housing. President Nixon also appointed Samuel Simmons as the first Assistant Secretary for Equal Housing Opportunity.

When April 1969 arrived, HUD could not wait to celebrate the Act's 1st Anniversary. Within that inaugural year, HUD completed the Title VIII Field Operations Handbook, and instituted a formalized complaint process. In truly festive fashion, HUD hosted a gala event in the Grand Ballroom of New York's Plaza Hotel. From across the nation, advocates and politicians shared in this marvelous evening, including one of the organizations that started it all -- the National Committee Against Discrimination In Housing.

In subsequent years, the tradition of celebrating Fair Housing Month grew larger and larger. Governors began to issue proclamations that designated April as "Fair Housing Month," and schools across the country sponsored poster and essay contests that focused upon fair housing issues. Regional winners from these contests often enjoyed trips to Washington, DC for events with HUD and their Congressional representatives.

Under former Secretaries James T. Lynn and Carla Hills, with the cooperation of the National Association of Homebuilders, National Association of Realtors, and the American Advertising Council these groups adopted fair housing as their theme and provided "free" billboard space throughout the nation. These large 20-foot by 14-foot billboards placed the fair housing message in neighborhoods, industrial centers, agrarian regions and urban cores. Every region also had its own celebrations, meetings, dinners, contests and radio-television shows that featured HUD, state and private fair housing experts and officials. These celebrations continue the spirit behind the original passage of the Act, and are remembered fondly by those who were there from the beginning. (Source: HUD)

WIOA GATEWAY PROGRAM: SUCCESS STORY

Christian Brown, a junior at Choctaw County Career and Technology Center, joined the Gateway Program in the fall semester of 2023. He is 18 years old and lives with his mother, brother and two sisters.

Brown has never worked outside the home. When asked why he wanted to be in the program, he said he wanted to join so that he could earn his own money. He was motivated and was an active participant in each of the Essential Job Skills Training classes.

Brown completed his job internship at SuperValu in Ackerman. When speaking to the manager about placing him there for his internship, he said he would be glad for Brown to get his 100 hours at the store, but he was not sure there would be a permanent position for him after the internship. However, Brown did such an outstanding job during his internship that the manager hired him at the end of his internship. Today, Brown's manager is still happy with his work.



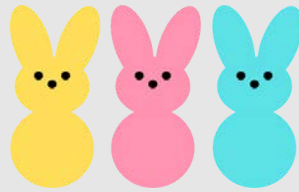
Students like Brown make employers want to take our students as interns. We are so proud of him!

The Gateway In-School Workforce Program is available to juniors and seniors enrolled in local high schools in Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston counties. To learn more and/or participate, contact WIOA Director Mitzi Lawrence at 662-324-5007.

FUN AT THE GTPPD SENIOR ENRICHMENT CENTER



The Grand Slam Bridge Group finished an intense game of bridge, and they are still smiling and still friends! They always have a great time and are quite experienced players.



These ladies are about half of the Hand & Foot Card Game group! If we had enough cards and could keep them shuffled, they would play every day! This is a game that keeps you on your toes and makes you think!



FUN AT THE GTPPD SENIOR ENRICHMENT CENTER



Twins! Everyone got a kick out of Mary Ann and Carla showing up in the same outfit on Jewelry Class Day! It is evident who is better at designing and making the jewelry!

With spring in the air, the Garden Clubs are ramping up with their programs, so be sure to check out the next newsletter for some pictures of those programs.

North Mississippi Rural Legal Services will be here in April to assist those 60+ with legal documents. They provide their services at no charge. The April date is already full, but they are willing to come any time we need them. If you need a will, power of attorney or Advance Health Care Directive, give them a call at 662-234-2918 (ext. 2119) or email apc@nmrls.com to set up an appointment in Starkville or Columbus.

The Senior Band & Line Dance Group are busy performing a rotation at all the Assisted Living and Nursing Facilities in town! They are a blessing to this segment of our community. Music and dance are sometimes the only things that get a response from them, and it is heartwarming when you see their reactions!



The puzzle masters... every once in a while, they get one that is a real challenge, and this one was it! It had many edges with lots of twists, turns and odd-shaped pieces.

HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED ELDERLY AND DISABLED WAIVER PROGRAM

What is it?

The Elderly and Disabled (E&D) Waiver 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 nursing facility care or other institutional care.

What are the qualifications?

1. Beneficiaries must be 21 years of age or older;
2. Medicaid eligible;
3. Require the same level of care as someone applying for admission to a nursing facility.

Contact our Medicaid Waiver Office:
662-320-2003.

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. They are responsible for managing and coordinating the services for each participant.
- **Personal Care Services (PCS):** These are supportive services provided in the home of the participant. They include assistance with light housekeeping, laundry, meal preparation, bathing, dressing, personal hygiene and activities of daily living.
- **Adult Day Services:** This is a structured program that focuses on the strengths and abilities of the participant. This service allows participants to contact 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.
- **Home Delivered Meals:** A well-balanced meal is delivered to the home of the person who is unable to leave their home without assistance and/or is unable to prepare their 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 other licensed respite care centers.

Medicaid Waiver RNs and LSWs:

Oktribbeha

- #1: Tina McWhorter, RN
Andrea Wright, LSW
- #2: Jennifer Grantham, LSW
- #3: Paige Winfield, RN
Christina Bland, LSW
- #4: Krystal Taylor, RN
Megan Aucoin, LSW

Lowndes

- #1: Angela Whitaker, RN
- #2: Cindy Reese, RN
Tennie Simpson, LSW
- #3: Lindsey Livingston, RN
Angelia Sansing, LSW

Noxubee

- #1: Rachael Unruh, RN
Jennifer Bridges, LSW
- #2: Tammy Castle, RN
Kallie Hubbard, LSW

Webster:

- Sydney Thompson, RN
Lauren Woods, LSW

Choctaw:

- Tina Gill, RN
Kaylee Hunt, LSW

Clay:

- Mitzi Phelps, RN
Lesa Wilson, LSW

Winston:

- Kim Mills, RN
Lauren Smith, LSW

Staff Anniversaries: 5+ Years

January

- Phylis Benson 30
- Jennifer Bridges 12
- Jessie Evans 25
- Tricia Jones 30

February

- Lisa Coleman 14
- George Crawford 45
- Jenny Grantham 20
- Sarah Harkins 13
- Michelle Harris 21
- Scott Stewart 16

March

- Shelby Beam 10
- Christina Bland 09
- Bobby Gann 50
- Ethel Goss 21
- Carla Guyton 14



CONTACTS AND SOCIAL MEDIA



Main Office: 662-324-7860

Pharmacy: 662-320-2011

Aging: 662-320-2001

Solid Waste: 1-800-217-6909



Main Office:

gtpdd@gtpdd.com

Pharmacy:

PharmHIT@gtpdd.com



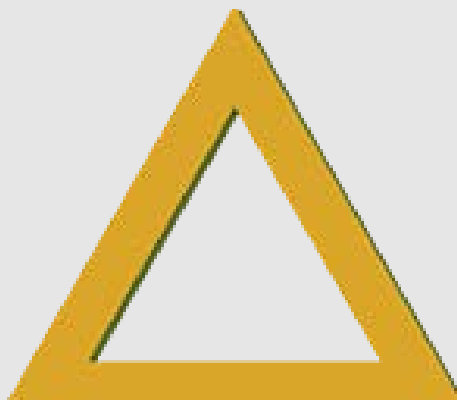
@GTrianglePDD



Main Office: 662-324-7328

Pharmacy: 662-320-2004

The GTPDD is online at www.gtpdd.com.



GOLDEN TRIANGLE

Planning and Development District, Inc.