



Golden Triangle Planning & Development District, Inc.

Inside this issue:

WIOA	2-3
Staff Anniversaries	3
County News	4-5
Medicaid Waiver	6
Sr. Enrichment- Columbus	7
Medicare Information	8



Volume 21, Issue IV

October-December 2021

From the Director.



Rupert L. "Rudy" Johnson
Executive Director

Looking forward to the New Year.....

At the end of December, everyone is excited about the upcoming new year. Some see the new year as a "fresh" start and look forward to it with adoration, delight and joy. Wikipedia defines New Year's resolution as a tradition, most common in the Western Hemisphere in which a person resolves to change an undesired trait of behavior, to accomplish a personal goal or otherwise improve their life.

The following programs that GTPDD maintains will improve lives:

1. Respite Program—a client can have someone come into the home and relieve the 24-hours caregiver.
2. Home-Delivered Meal Program—a citizen may receive five (5) frozen meals each week in his/her home.
3. Pharmacy--individuals receive their medications monthly delivered to the home.

Looking toward the year 2022 is a time to set goals and to lend a hand to those in our community who have needs and struggles. This hand may just be a phone call away by contacting GTPDD and helping set up assistance for someone who has needs that aren't being met.

The GTPDD family wishes you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. We look forward to hearing from you this next year and allowing us to assist those in need.

Please call 662-324-7860 to be directed to the correct department for assistance.

LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN 2022

A new year has arrived! You've packed up the Christmas decorations and sent visiting family and friends back home! You've made your New Year's resolutions to exercise more, eat healthier, and lose those few extra pounds. You've settled back into your daily routine. Now what? What can we do to make a difference in our future workforce and in our communities?

Looking Back

During the past six months, forty-seven (47) in-school youth in Choctaw, Oktibbeha, Webster, and Clay counties completed Gateway Workforce Training and earned a paid internship in their respective communities. Youth were matched to job positions according to the skills and abilities needed to meet the employers' expectations. In return, the employers were asked to serve as mentors* to the youth, providing support, encouragement, and supervision to assure successful work experiences. This was a win-win situation: an employer received a free worker; the youth was provided an actual job experience with not only a salary, but a work reference for resumes.

What an economy boost this was for rural areas! Think about it. What happened to the money these youth earned? They spent it in their local areas on things they needed or wanted. Sure, some of it was saved to pay for a car, educational expenses, or future necessities, but the majority of it flowed directly back into the local economy. So, maybe this was actually a win-win-win situation.

Win #1: The youth gained workforce training and a paid work experience.

Win #2: The employer gained a free worker to mentor and encourage.

Win #3: The economy profited from monies earned.

*Mentoring: The most successful youth are those fortunate to have had a caring supervisor or coworker on his or her first job. The youth can only learn so much through job skills training in the classroom. On-the-job experience gives them a chance to apply what they have been taught to a real life situation. A trusted individual, who is willing to assist and counsel the student in the do's and don'ts of what is appropriate in the workplace, can be a positive influence on the worker, improving the youth's self-esteem and setting the stage for good future work habits.



Upcoming Opportunities

In January the WIOA staff will begin working with youth in Lowndes, Noxubee and Winston counties to fill available positions and will continue to work in Webster and Oktibbeha counties to fill a few remaining slots. In February the GTPDD staff will begin business recruitment in each area as training completers will begin paid internships around mid-March. If you are an in-school youth who would like to participate or a business who would like to mentor and help develop this area's future workforce, contact Mitzi Lawrence 662-324-5007 for more information.

Together We Can Make A Difference!

OCTOBER

Dave Alexander	13 years
Melody Browning	23 years
Stacey Elkins	10 years
Martie Gibson	22 years
Willer Glenn	16 years
Yolanda Hudgins	07 years
Charlene Jones	16 years
Joanne Peterson	28 years
Diana Prince	10 years
Annie Sanders	23 years
Lauren Smith	21 years
Lisa Woods	05 years

NOVEMBER

Beverly Baker	18 years
Alicia Barry	10 years
Glenda Fason	14 years
Jessica Foxx	21 years
Lindsay Marsh	09 years
Cynthia Reese	09 years

DECEMBER

Jackie Byas	14 years
George Edmonds	08 years
Maria McNutt	18 years

Staff Anniversaries

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

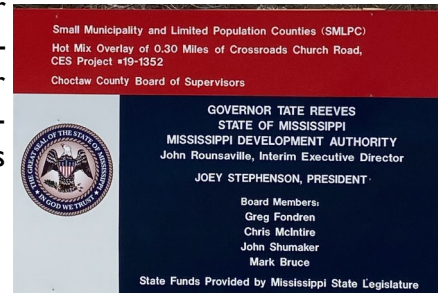


Crossroads Church Road Rehabilitation Project Complete



The Choctaw County Board of Supervisors has completed infrastructure improvements on Crossroads Church Road to support an expanding industry, Brown Wood Preserving Company and a new industry, Johnson Timber Company, LLC. These two (2) agrarian-based, timber-related industries are located within 0.3 miles of Mississippi Highway 15 along Crossroad Church Road. Both facilities receive and ship their raw materials and products by truck and the existing roadway has been in need of improvements to accommodate the heavily-loaded truck traffic. Utilizing a Mississippi Small Municipalities and Limited Population Counties Grant of \$150,000 and local funds, the Board of Supervisors was able to reconstruct Crossroads Church Road. This project is a great example of

working with existing employers to create jobs in Choctaw County. It will increase economic opportunities for loggers, landowners, fuel sales and more agrarian-related industries as Choctaw and adjacent Webster Counties have an abundance of yellow pine for harvest that enables them to compete with locations throughout the southeastern United States.



Town of Maben Sewer Project Underway



The Town of Maben, utilizing a \$450,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), has developed a plan to address a critical sewer deficiency by rehabilitating the primary treatment cell of the sewage lagoon to include installation of Rotating Biological Contact Units, a Floating Aerator and a Floating Baffle Curtain. It is anticipated that this design will alleviate the issues of meeting the ammonia limits that plagues the Town's sewer treatment system which serves 295 customers.



merry christmas

Town of Mantee Improves Safety and Enhances Appearance



The Town of Mantee has recently completed a Mississippi Small Municipalities and Limited Population Counties Grant which reconstructed Scott Street and purchased new street signage. The \$79,545 grant, which required a local match totaling \$5,455, was provided by the Mississippi Legislature and awarded to Mantee utilizing a competitive application process performed by the Mississippi Development Authority. With the administrative assistance of the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District staff, the Town has been able to increase safety by improving a main vehicular artery into the municipality and visually enhancing the appearance of downtown with the addition of street signage.



West Church Hill Road Rehabilitation Project Complete

The Clay County Board of Supervisors, along with the financial support of the City of West Point, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and a Mississippi Small Municipalities and Limited Population Counties Grant has implemented infrastructure improvements on West Church Hill Road to support a new industry, PECO Foods, in addition to six (6) existing industries. Reconstruction of the entire 1.6 miles of roadway will improve public infrastructure within Clay County; will greatly benefit local industrial businesses; will improve vehicular safety and will create a more liveable community with the retention of 500 jobs and creation of 300 jobs by PECO Foods. These improvements are necessary for continued economic development and future job development for the citizens of Clay County.





MEDICAID

WAIVER.....To celebrate this joyous time of year, GTPDD sponsors the provision of Christmas gifts to Medicaid Waiver clients.

Warm clothes, blankets, toiletries, food, and household items are among the gifts purchased and delivered to the clients. Many elderly do not have family or friends to share the holiday spirit and Medicaid Waiver staff like to make sure they are remembered.

Staff continue in their efforts to promote services of this program. Presently, there is the capacity to serve 1400 elderly and/or disabled clients in the Golden Triangle area. If you know anyone who might qualify please contact 662-320-2003.

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
Stephanie Cannon, LSW

Noxubee #1

Robin Prier, RN
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
Beverly Baker, LSW

Oktibbeha #4

Krystal Taylor, RN
Megan Aucoin, LSW

Webster

Sydney Thompson, RN
Lisa Woods, LSW

Winston

Kim Mills, RN
Lauren Smith, LSW

Merry Christmas

THE COLUMBUS SENIOR CENTER

The Jewelry, Knitting, and Crochet group worked on a project for the Christmas Holidays called The Christmas Spider. You will see the Legend in this article. It was so much fun, even the Knitting and Crochet group joined in. The spiders are so much fun to create, but a tiny bit tedious! They can be made out of beads that are already available to you which is an excellent way to utilize some of your one-of-a-kind beads. However, you can get creative and expensive and go with pearls and crystals or other gemstones.



Most people like to hang them on their Christmas trees, as the Legend goes, but others like to hang them on lampshades and pictures, or place them on little raised stands. There is not a set way to display them. The main thing that makes the spiders so unique is the Legend behind them and the fun and fellowship of making them and the joy of sharing the creations with others!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Columbus!

Legend of the Christmas Spider

A long time ago in Germany, a mother was busily cleaning for Christmas. The spiders fled quickly to the attic to escape the broom. When the house was all quiet, the spiders slowly crept downstairs for a peek. Oh what a beautiful tree! In their excitement, they scurried up the trunk and out along each branch. They were filled with happiness as they climbed among the glittering beauty! But alas! By the time they were through climbing, the tree was completely shrouded in their dusty gray spider web. When Santa Claus came with gifts for the children and saw the tree covered with the spider webs, he smiled! He saw how happy the spiders were, but knew how heartbroken the mother would be if she saw the tree covered with the dusty webs, so he turned all the webs into silver and gold strands. The tree sparkled and shimmered and was even more beautiful than before.

That is why every tree should have a Christmas spider in its branches and tinsel sparkling from the limbs!

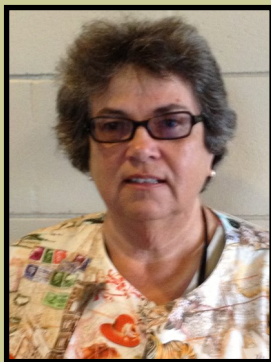




Golden Triangle
Planning & Development District
P. O. Box 828
106 Miley Drive
Starkville, MS 39760

Phone: 662-324-7860
Fax: 662-324-7328
E-mail: gtpdd.com

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



Beverly Baker, Social Worker with the Medicaid Waiver Department is retiring. Beverly has been with us for over 18 years.

GTPDD has been blessed to have such a wonderful employee who cared for clients, as well as was so dependable. Thank you, Beverly, for all your dedication, GTPDD will truly miss you!

Upcoming Medicare Events

December 7th marked the end of Medicare Part D enrollment. This was the last opportunity for all Medicare beneficiaries, who do not qualify for a special election period, to make changes to their prescription coverage. There are no more enrollment opportunities for Medicare beneficiaries until January 1. Open enrollment for Medicare Advantage begins January 1, 2022.

Medicare Advantage sales agents will be working hard to push their plans during this upcoming enrollment period, Jan. 1 – March 31, 2021. Be informed about what changes you can expect if you choose a Medicare Advantage Plan!

Know The Pros and Cons

Pros of Choosing Medicare Advantage

Medicare Advantage plans must offer at least the same level of coverage as Medicare Part A and Part B. These plans many times offer additional benefits not available with traditional Medicare.

If you choose Medicare Advantage, all of your insurance benefits will come from one carrier; hospital insurance, major medical coverage and prescription coverage (with most plans).

Medicare Advantage plans may cost less. Some have a \$0 premium.

Medicare Advantage plans coordinate care with your health care providers.

These plans may require you to choose a Primary Care Physician who helps coordinate your care and may also offer medication management services if your plan has prescription coverage.

Cons of Medicare Advantage

Medicare Advantage plans may limit your freedom of choice in health care providers.

With the federally administered Medicare program you can generally go to any doctor or facility that accepts Medicare and receive the same level of Medicare benefits for covered services. Medicare Advantage plans are more restrictive in terms of provider networks. If you go out of network, your plan may not cover your medical cost.

Medicare Advantage plans' coverage for some services and procedures may require a doctor's referral and plan authorization.

Medicare Advantage plans have specific service areas. To enroll you must live in the Medicare Advantage plan's service area at least 6 months of the year. If you divide your time between two locations, this requirement may be difficult to meet.

Medicare Advantage Plans are stand-alone plans. You may not have a medigap plan to cover cost not paid by the plan. Only your money pays the cost not covered by Medicare Advantage.

The life of the plan is no more than 12 months – January to December of the calendar year. After this period of time the plan's cost and benefits may change with the new plan year. If you cancel a Medigap plan to try a Medicare Advantage plan, you may not be able to re-enroll in this plan.