



Golden Triangle Planning & Development District, Inc.

Volume 22, Issue IV

October-December 2022

Inside this issue:

WIOA 2-3

Ship News 3

Commodity Food
Information 4

City of Eupora 5

Staff Anniversaries 5

Medicaid Waiver 6

City of Louisville 7

From the Director.



Rupert L. "Rudy" Johnson
Executive Director

Christmas Traditions...

1. Watch a Christmas Movie
2. Set Up A Christmas Tree
3. Set Up Decorations
4. Hang The Mistletoe
5. Host or Join Christmas Dinner(s)
6. Bake Christmas Cookies & Decorate Gingerbread Houses
7. Exchange Gifts
8. Send Christmas Cards
9. Hide An Elf On The Shelf
10. Listen To Christmas Songs & Go Caroling

When reading the above list, I can check-off many activities that my family enjoy. During the past couple of years through the pandemic, we have learned the importance of family as well as the importance of touch and interaction. I'm asking that each of you join with me during this time to reach out to shut-ins, nursing home residents and others that are not so fortunate to have family or loved ones nearby. Remember that a smile or spending time with someone is such a cherished gift.

Take time to remember **The Reason for The Season.**

Wishing you and your family a Wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year!





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-four (44) in-school youth in Choctaw, Lowndes, Oktibbeha, Webster, and Winston 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 Clay and Noxubee, counties to fill available positions and will continue to work in Webster, Lowndes 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!

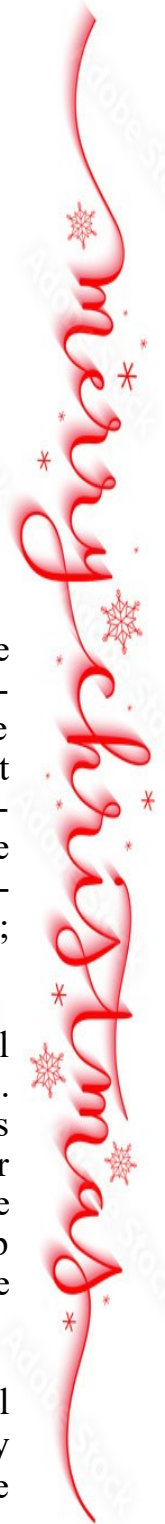
SHIP Program

January 1 – March 31, 2023 - Begins A New Time to Change!

Officially the period between January 1 and March 31 is called Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period. During this period, all Medicare Beneficiaries can enroll in a Medicare Advantage Plan which is an alternate way to receive Medicare benefits. When enrolling in this type plan, you opt out of traditional Medicare and agree to follow the rules set forth by the private company that you have enrolled. These companies are 100% in charge of providing your healthcare coverage while enrolled in Medicare Advantage. These plans are not in addition to Traditional Medicare benefits; they are instead of Traditional Medicare.

When enrolling in Healthcare Benefits be sure you know what the plan will provide and what concessions you will have to make for those services. What is most important to you? Do you need vision and dental services? Is it important to be able to see your chosen healthcare provider or go to your local hospital if you are sick or need services? All healthcare plans have pros and cons. Know exactly what you will get and what you will give up when you choose a plan. Be sure you know what providers accept the choice you make.

During this Enrollment Period, beneficiaries are also allowed to disenroll from Medicare Advantage plans and return to traditional Medicare if they are not satisfied with the terms of the plan. Most Advantage plans provide drug benefits so if you return to traditional Medicare, you must also choose a new drug plan to complete your coverage package.



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 of the low-income. 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 such nutritious foods as milk, cereal, juices, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meat and other non-meat protein items, and grain products such as pasta or rice. Participants also receive nutrition 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 and Lowndes County to distribute Commodity Supplemental Food Boxes (CSFP). At the present time, we are distributing 203 boxes in Oktibbeha County and 272 boxes in Lowndes County each month to low-income seniors age 60 years of age and older. We currently have 86 individuals on the Waiting List in both counties.

All participants must be 60 years of age and older, meet the CSFP household income eligibility guidelines and must 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 filling out an application for a Commodity Supplemental Food Box, please call (662)324-1173 and speak with Melody or Amy.

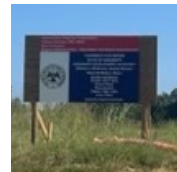




The City of Eupora has completed construction of approximately 500 linear feet of 16" water mains, 2,500 lf of water main extension and connection to existing 10 inch main and 3,200 lf of sewer mains through the industrial park and provide sewer service to the unserved 96 acres in the Eupora Industrial Park-West, that is located on the south side of U.S. 82 in Webster County, Mississippi. Total costs of the project were \$760,500.00 with the Appalachian regional Commission providing \$500,000.00 from SAWW funding and \$260,500.00 of matching funds from the Mississippi State Revolving Fund (SRF) as administered by the Mississippi State Department of Health.



The Golden Triangle Planning and Development District administered the project with engineering services provided by Calvert-Spradling engineers of West Point, Mississippi. 4-D Construction of Louisville, Mississippi was the contractor.



OCTOBER

Dave Alexander	14 years
Melody Browning	24 years
Stacey Elkins	11 years
Martie Gibson	23 years
Willer Glenn	17 years
Yolanda Hudgins	08 years
Charlene Jones	17 years
Joanne Peterson	29 years
Diana Prince	11 years
Annie Sanders	24 years
Lauren Smith	22 years
Lisa Woods	06 years

NOVEMBER

Alicia Barry	11 years
Glenda Fason	15 years
Jessica Foxx	22 years
Lindsay Marsh	10 years
Cynthia Reese	10 years

DECEMBER

Jackie Byas	15 years
George Edmonds	09 years
Maria McNutt	19 years

Staff Anniversaries

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



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.

Current team members are:

CHOCTAW

Kaylee Tisdale, LSW
Tina Gill, RN

CLAY

Lesa Wilson, LSW
Mitzi Phelps, RN

LOWNDES 1

Jessica Rodgers, LSW
Leah Agnew, RN

LOWNDES 2

Tennie Simpson, LSW
Cindy Reese, RN

LOWNDES 3

Angelia Sansing, LSW
Lindsey Livingston, RN

NOXUBEE 1

Jennifer Bridges, LSW
Rachel Unruh, RN

NOXUBEE 2

Kallie Hubbard, LSW
Tammy Castle, RN

OKTIBBEHA 1

Tina McWhorter, RN

OKTIBBEHA 2

Jennifer Grantham, LSW
Stacy Elkins, RN

OKTIBBEHA 3

Christina Bland, LSW

OKTIBBEHA 4

Megan Aucoin, LSW
Krystal Taylor, RN

WEBSTER

Lisa Woods, LSW
Sydney Thompson, RN

WINSTON

Lauren Smith, LSW
Kim Mills, RN

CM SUPERVISOR

Michelle Harris, RN

merry christmas

New Year Quotes

"It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are."-E.E. Cummings

"Life's not about expecting, hoping and wishing, it's about doing, being and becoming."-Mike Dooley

"Life is change. Growth is optional. Choose wisely."=Karen Kaiser Clark

"We must always change, renew, rejuvenate ourselves; otherwise we harden."-Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

"Take a leap of faith and begin this wondrous new year by believing."-Sarah Ban Breathnach

"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man."-Benjamin Franklin

"The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written."-Melody Beattie

"What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year."-Vern McLellan

"New year-a new chapter, new verse, or just the same old story? Ultimately we write it. The choice is ours."-Alex Morritt

"Don't live the same year 75 times and call it a life."-Robin Sharma

"Cheers to a new year and another change for us to get it right."-Oprah Winfrey



City of Louisville Completes First Phase of Louisville Rail Park



The City of Louisville received funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to make improvements to the Louisville Rail Park at the existing trans-load rail facility. The overall project will be completed in phases and includes re-routing Vance and Baremore streets out of the rail park and installing 875 linear feet of new rail line. The project will improve rail access and service for 11 businesses currently using the trans-load facility. ARC awarded the City \$2 million with a \$500,000 local match being provided by Winston County and the City of Louisville. Vance Street reconstruction is now complete.