



Golden Triangle Planning & Development District, Inc.

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MML/PDD

Annual Meeting
August 18th
11:30 a.m.
Golden Triangle
PDD
Boardroom

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From the Director.



Rupert L. "Rudy" Johnson
Executive Director

4th of July.....Independence Day.....

This holiday began in 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence.

There are many ways people celebrate our upcoming holiday. Some people celebrate by having barbeques, others celebrate by setting off fireworks and yet others participate in parades or concerts.

However, you and your family celebrate this wonderful holiday, remember those who have served and are serving to keep this wonderful Country safe and free. Remember that we as Americans have our "freedom" at the costs of others. "Freedom isn't Free."





CONTINUING TO SERVE!!!

Golden Triangle Planning & Development has been awarded funding to continue the Gateway Workforce Training program for in-school youth in Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster, and Winston counties for the PY 21 program year! Career and Technology Center youth will be offered the opportunity to learn job-preparation skills, job-seeking skills, and job-performance skills as well as receive a paid internship. Seniors scheduled to graduate in May 2022 will receive first opportunity for participation, but applications from all students will be considered. Applications for participation will be available in the Career Center Counselor's or Special Population

Coordinator's office in each center when school resumes.

The PY 20 program year ended June 30th and once again proved to be a big success. Eighty – three (83) students were accepted into the Gateway Program. Eighty-one of those participants completed training and were offered a paid internship in their local communities where salary and workers comp insurance were paid through WIOA funds. Seventy – four (74) participants accepted the internship, six declined due to obtaining a job, and three opted not to work. Many of these students proved themselves in their internship sites and were offered full-time positions upon completion of paid WIOA hours. Others were not hired but were given excellent recommendations for other job application purposes.

In addition to a paid internship, participants were offered the WorkKeys assessment and opportunity to earn a Career Readiness Certificate (CRC) which is now being required by many places of employment as well as by community colleges in order to enroll for advanced training. The cost of the assessment was paid through WIOA funds and remediation was offered to participants desiring to work toward a higher level CRC. WIOA staff will continue to work with these youth for a minimum of twelve months as they seek employment or continue their education.

The Gateway Program has proved rewarding for the youth, as well as local businesses who took advantage of Gateway services. Participants are offered workforce training, a paid internship, and Career Readiness Certificate while the employer receives the opportunity to mold and train a potential future employee at no cost to his/her business

Now, other Area Youth need YOUR help! If you know a youth who will be enrolled in a local career and technical program in the fall who would benefit from essential job skills training and desires employment, tell them about the Gateway Program. They too can learn skills for employment success, earn money for their future, and receive support and services to reach future goals.

For information on the WIOA Gateway Program, call Mitzi Lawrence at 662-324-5007.



Home and Community Based Elderly & Disabled Waiver Program

Through participation with the State of MS Division of Medicaid, GTPDD provides home and community-based services to individuals who are at risk or would require the level of care found in a nursing facility called the Elderly & Disabled Medicaid Waiver Program.

To qualify for this service, the following components are required:

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.



Services under this program include: case management, personal care services, in-home respite and/or institutional respite services, adult day care, expanded home health visits, transitional care, and home-delivered meals. All costs for services are reimbursable to an approved provider and all services must be approved by the Division of Medicaid.

This program includes the following counties: Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston. A registered nurse and a licensed social worker visit the client on a monthly basis. The registered nurse and licensed social worker, working together as a professional team, must conduct the initial, then yearly assessment to assure that the client qualifies for the program.

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

Choctaw

Tina Gill, RN
Rachel Embry, 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
Jessie Lewis Taylor, LSW

Webster

Sydney 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 662-320-2000, option #3.

Brooksville, Mississippi News

The Town of Brooksville is completing a street improvements program that was funded by the Mississippi Development Authority through the Small Municipality Limited Population County Grant Program. The project was able to overlay the Main Street of Brooksville and complete the loop around Post Office and Depot Streets to serve all of the main commercial areas of the Town. Mayor David Boswell commented that "this project was a long time coming and had been needed for many years". The SMLPC Grant was for \$150,000.00 and the Town of Brooksville matched this amount with \$15,000.00. The Golden Triangle Planning and Development District served as the Project Administrator and Calvert-Spradling Engineers of West Point, Mississippi was the project engineer. Falcon Contracting of Columbus, Mississippi was the contractor.



Pictured above: Out-going Mayor David Boswell makes a final inspection of new street paving on Main Street of Brooksville.



Medicare Open Enrollment Appointments Coming Soon!!!

We have received many calls about appointments for Medicare part D open enrollment. Appointments will be taken beginning on **September 7th**. To make an appointment call 662-324-7860, and you will be directed to the appropriate person to schedule a time that is convenient for you. This year we will be conducting some face-to-face information sessions in September to inform you about Medicare Part D Open Enrollment. This will help you better understand the process in choosing a Medicare Part D plan. The information sessions are still in the planning stage so watch the local newspaper for dates, times and locations. This information will also be available on our website www.gtpdd.com.

COUNTY	DATE	TIME	PLACE
			BOS Boardroom-Courthouse
CLAY	July 8 th	10:30 a.m.	Courthouse Crtroom 2 nd floor
LOWNDES	July 7 th	11:00 a.m.	Gardner Blvd Bldg
NOXUBEE	July 7 th	9:00 a.m.	Civic Center
OKTIBBEHA	July 6 th	8:15 a.m.	Courthouse Sup. Bdroom
WINSTON	July 19 th	1:00 p.m.	1st floor OLD Crt-room in Crthouse

**Sr. Enrichment Centers
are OPEN!**
Please come and visit!
**We are having a succulent &
craft classes in July, please contact us if
you are interested.**
662-324-7860.



Did You Know?????

According to the U.S. Department of State, the names of the flag's official colors are "old glory red," "white," and "old glory blue."

RED stands for courage, hardiness and bloodshed. Courage because our country separated from what we once knew, we started over, we fought for our freedom. Hardiness because our founding fathers believed our country would outlast the land that we came from. And finally, bloodshed to honor all those who lost their lives for our freedom and our country.

WHITE stands for purity and vigilance, purity because our country is independent and not corrupted by any other country. Vigilance because our country needs to be alert and careful in the choices we make.

BLUE stands for justice and perseverance., justice because it is the basis of our country and perseverance because although our nation is young, we will stand firm against all opposition.

Farmers Market Nutrition Program

Seniors, 60 years of age and older, with certain income qualifications, are eligible to receive a one-time benefit in the form of vouchers from the Golden Triangle Area Agency on Aging to shop at authorized local farmers markets. The vouchers are used to buy fresh fruits and vegetables grown by local farmers.

The purpose of the project is to increase the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetable by senior adults and increase the awareness of farmers markets. When buying local produce, you are supporting the local economy and your local farmer.

Local authorized farmers markets are located in Columbus, Starkville and West Point. Program participants will be able to redeem vouchers at an authorized farmers market through November.

For more information please call at 662-324-1173. Vouchers are available now!



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

Water is our source of life; make it your beverage of choice. Get moving; adapt a purposeful exercise routine to improve or maintain health. Aim for 150 minutes or more of exercise per week or 30 minutes per day.



APRIL

Catherine Dyson	09 years
Rupert L. "Rudy" Johnson	31 Years
Janet Macon	19 Years
Wendy Murphree	16 Years
Keisha Warren	17 Years

MAY

Queenzella Gibson	16 Years
Earnestine Robinson	20 Years
Toby Sanford	17 Years
Latasha Tallie	09 Years
Teshia Taylor	14 Years
Clara Tippet	12 Years
Gertrude Weatherspoon	07 Years
Lesa Wilson	17 Years

JUNE

Lena Davis	15 Years
Dana Dawkins	07 Years
Sharon Duke	15 Years
Tina Gill	10 Years
Minnie Lindsay	17 Years
Tina McWhorter	21 Years
Kenny Orr	19 Years
Debra Prishmont	12 Years
Tennie Simpson	05 Years
Sheila Winters	10 Years

Staff Anniversaries

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