

EASTER IS HERE!

Magnolia Middle School To Host Neighborhood Revitalization Meeting

Concerned citizens of the Meridian East End community will meet with city officials and Meridian Housing Authority’s revitalization planning team at the Magnolia Middle School Auditorium on Thursday, March 21, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.



Magnolia Middle School student leads the pledge during ribbon cutting

The City-wide community meeting will mark the continuation of a commitment made by MHA to keep the entire City of Meridian informed on all proposed revitalization efforts planned for a large segment of East Meridian.

MHA along with its revitalization task force will present a power point presentation to describe all comprehensive transformation efforts to date. This event will be the third and final community meeting scheduled before the plan is submitted to the Department of HUD in Washington, DC. If funded, MHA could receive up to \$30 million dollars in federal funding to assist in its comprehensive revitalization effort. The meeting will be held at:

Location: Magnolia Middle School Auditorium
(1350 24th Street, Meridian, MS)

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Date: Thursday, March 21, 2013

Special thanks to Magnolia Principal Angela McQuarley for hosting this vitally important meeting in the school’s auditorium. The Magnolia Court resident association will conduct a \$100 cash drawing at the meeting and refreshments will be served. Everyone is encouraged to come out and support MHA’s effort to provide adequate and affordable housing in addition to building strong and viable communities.



Principal Angela McQuarley and Magnolia Honor roll students participate in substation ribbon cutting.



MHA Offers Scholarships to Graduating Seniors

The Meridian Housing Authority is very supportive of the residents, youth, and education. The belief of MHA is that all youth should have an opportunity to pursue any career path they choose and for them to become productive citizens of society. The Meridian Housing Authority is leading the charge in this belief by awarding five scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each to graduating seniors who have the desire to move forward with their educational goals of obtaining a degree from an institution of higher learning. Any graduating senior interested in this scholarship should pick up an application from their guidance counselor at Meridian High School or come by the MHA Community Service Building to pick one up. The deadline for this scholarship is May 3rd. In addition to this opportunity, MAHRO (Mississippi Association of Housing Redevelopment Officials) is offering two scholarships to graduating seniors. The applicant must be a public housing resident that has evidence of being able to graduate this year. Specific requirements can be found in the application package in regards to all scholarships being granted. Please take advantage of these wonderful opportunities!

MHA Summer Internship Program

The Meridian Housing Authority was fortunate to be awarded a grant by the Riley Foundation in order to provide a summer internship opportunity to a college student who is seeking professional experience in the work place. We are now accepting resumes for interested students who are currently enrolled in college and who will be able to work during the summer at the Meridian Housing Authority. Applicants must be aware that you will be completing your internship in the Community & Supportive Services Department of MHA and your work experience will be focused on providing social services to the residents of MHA. For more information concerning this Summer Internship Program, please call Community & Supportive Services at 601-693-2800, ext.232

Executive Director’s Message



Over the past several months, many concerned MHA residents and employees have approached me along with members of my administrative staff regarding the potential impact that “sequestration implementation” could have on the day to day operations of the Meridian Housing Authority.

As the automatic federal budget cuts known as the “sequester” goes into effect, programs under the management of MHA could be hit particularly hard.

Both, the Housing Choice Voucher program and Public Housing program will be affected unless a deal is reached by Congress to change the course of the mandatory nationwide cuts totaling approximately \$85 billion dollars.

Ronald J. Turner, Sr.

Currently, MHA’s administrative staff along with its Board of Commissioners is in the process of deciding the most feasible means available to put the mandatory 5.1% budget cuts into effect by the end of September 2013.

MHA is working meticulously to continue to provide safe and affordable housing opportunities to all families who meet HUD program eligibility requirements.

We are also working diligently to ensure that no family currently participating in the Housing Choice Voucher or Public Housing programs will be displaced as a result of the looming cuts. However, plans to absorb the impending cuts to the operating budget could possibly involve deferring maintenance.

Public housing vacancies could suffer appropriate renovations as residents vacate the units, because the agency may not be able to complete “lease ups” in a timely manner.

The Housing Choice Voucher program will be affected in the same manner, as capacity to provide assistance to families may become restricted.

Additionally, the sequester could eventually lead to employee furloughs and possible staff reductions at the agency. Full implementation of the “Sequestration” will definitely result in fewer families receiving rental assistance over the next year.

As the budget battle rages on in Washington, DC, we will continue to keep the general public informed on the potential impact on the sequester will have on the agency’s overall operations.



Resident of Highway Village Wins Choice Neighborhood Drawing

Residents of the East End community had an opportunity to participate in a drawing for \$200 as part of an initiative by the RAB and Choice Neighborhood partnership. Residents were asked to fill out a survey for the purpose of gathering important information to include in the Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant as an incentive, for participating residents their names were placed in a drawing for \$200. Mary Crowell, a resident of Highway Village, announced as was the winner of the drawing. She was thrilled to have a chance to pay bills and do other things that would help her reach herself sufficiency goals. Congratulations Mary!



MHA Staff and George Reese President and winner, Mary Crowell

Spring Break Safety Tips for MHA Residents

Spring break is quickly approaching and you should always practice safety tips to remain safe while you are out of school for the break. Spring break should be fun in the sun but at the same time safe. We are emphasizing to our residents that safety includes; “No, Go, Yell, and Tell.” If a stranger approaches you and asks you to come here, you will politely say “NO”, and then you will GO, YELL, and TELL an adult about the stranger approaching you. Older kids should avoid advertising their whereabouts while on Spring Break through social media such as FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, and TWITTER for safety measures because there is no need to make you a vulnerable target. Remember to have a fun and safe SPRING BREAK!

MHA PHONE NUMBERS

Maintenance Department 483-3328; Social Services 693-2800; Frank Berry Courts 482-1880; Eastern Gardens 482-3312; Mountain View Village 481-3424; Western Gardens 483-8612; Oakland Heights 481-3421; Highway Village, 8th & 9th Ave. 483-1816; George Reese Courts/Magnolia Courts 693-4586; Mount Barton/Sowashee Courts 483-0202; Carousel Place 482-0085; J.T. Davis 482-0077; MHA Police Liaison Cell (601)527-0407; Meridian Police Dispatch 601-601-484-6845



to Excellence”

Mayor Cheri Barry Attends MHA Residents Meeting

The residents of Sowashee Courts held their monthly meeting with Mayor Cheri Barry as a special guest. This meeting gave the residents of Sowashee an opportunity to voice concerns that they have in regards to issues in the City and issues that will lead to a better quality of life for all residents. Mayor Barry shared her thoughts on how to make the community safe and how to report other issues that anyone may have.



Mayor Cheri Barry attends Resident Meeting as residents voice their concerns

Lighting, the increase in crime, and street paving were the topics of discussion for the majority of the meeting. The cooperation of the City and MHA is an avenue to help bring resolve to some of the concerns of the residents.

Public Housing/Housing Choice Voucher FSS Program

The PH/HCV FSS Program is designed to help families become financially independent and socially self-sufficient. MHA congratulates all of the current participants in the FSS program. Each participant works extremely hard in the program by staying focused on their goal of self sufficiency. Keep up the good work! If you are participating in public housing or in the voucher program with MHA and you are not currently enrolled in FSS, this is a great opportunity for you. For more information about the HCV FSS and the PH FSS program and how you can become a participant, contact HCV FSS Coordinator, Elaine Mauriscey at (601) 693-2800 ext. 230, or Shelia Austin, PH FSS Coordinator at (601) 693-2800, ext. 228.

BEEP Best Early Education Practices

The BEEP project is an early childhood education project that supports children, parents, and early childhood educators to best prepare for kindergarten success and advancement. This early childhood education initiative is sponsored by the Phil Hardin Foundation, the Stranahan Foundation, and Meridian Community College. The Housing Authority of the City of Meridian provides four sites for BEEP parent and child sessions. Parents and their children participate in weekly one hour sessions. Participants engage in activities that target age and developmentally appropriate pre-reading, math, and music/movement activities; parent/child sessions include books, educational toys, a snack, and guidance to make learning and skill building fun and exciting for both adults and children. The BEEP program is currently serving residents in Mountain View, Frank Berry Courts, Magnolia Courts, and Western Gardens. For more information, contact Community & Supportive Services at 601-693-2800, ext. 232.

Resident Advisory Board

President's Message Celebrating the Easter Season



Spring is in the air and the Easter season is soon approaching.

Easter is one of the most important religious holidays of the year and a tradition to many Christians who observe Easter as a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after his crucifixion at Calvary. The family picks their "Sunday Best" to wear to worship service to celebrate not only our savior's resurrection but the renewal of life. The day unfolds many traditions of Easter; eggs are painted in decorative designs and dyes of various colors, hidden, searched for and then eaten. The dinner feast includes great food and family fellowship.

Easter is more than a religious tradition to Christians, it also involves the custom of many people taking part in the fun and festive activities during the Easter season.

We decorate our home with spring lilies of different colors around our home. Rabbits, eggs, decorative baskets fill with all kinds of goodies and treats are most popular during the season.

Celebrating the Easter Season with family is always a good way to enjoy a great day!

HAPPY EASTER



Brenda Griffin, Resident Advisory Board President

Message from the Asset Manager Coordinator

Soon it will be time to rejoice and celebrate the season of Spring! As you plan your outdoor activities; be safe while enjoying this beautiful season. As a reminder, please report any maintenance issues to your property manager in a timely manner, for a list of these emergencies please contact your property manager.



Asset Management Coordinator,
Trevelle McGlothlin

May this season spring forth bountiful opportunities for each of you.





"Committed to Excellence"

"Committed to Excellence"

Meridian Housing Authority
 2425 E Street
 Meridian, MS 39301
 601-693-4285

Mail To:

March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

3/8 Western Gardens @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center	3/21 Eastern Garden @ 3:30 Community Center
3/12 George Reese @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center	3/18 Hwy Village @ 2:00 Community Center
3/13 Magnolia @ 3:30 a.m. Community Center	3/18Sowashee @ 3:30 Community Center
3/14 Oakland Garden @ 10:00 Community Center	3/21 Mt. View @ 11:00 Community Center



The MHA Home Life Newsletter For Residents

The MHA Home Life Newsletter For Residents is published monthly by the Resident Community & Supportive Services Department. We welcome submissions and we reserve the right to edit all materials used. Materials may be submitted to:

Meridian Housing Authority
 Resident Services Department, Attn. Newsletter
 2305 D. Street, Meridian, MS 39301

OR

E-mail to: saustin@meridianhousing.net