

THE MERIDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY ACHIEVES "HIGH PERFORMER DESIGNATION"

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has completed its annual Public Housing Assessment of administrative operations at the Meridian Housing Authority for fiscal year end 2012. HUD evaluates the management of all Housing Authorities in the following categories: (1) Finance (2) Management (3) Facilities and (4) Capital Funding. After the completion of the HUD review, the Meridian Housing Authority has been designated as a "High Performer" scoring 92 out of a possible 100 points. Because of this distinction, MHA will receive an additional 20% funding allocation which will be used to make much needed capital repairs throughout the agency. MHA will also remain eligible to apply for certain HUD grants only offered to high performing agencies.



MHA celebrating "High Performer" designation

MHA's Housing Choice Voucher program also received a national "High Performance" rating after scoring a perfect score of 100. For additional information regarding MHA's performance rating, please contact Dewauna Cooper at 601-693-4285.

MERIDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY AFFECTED BY SEQUESTRATION ORDER

Due to Congress's inability to pass legislation on a balanced deficit reduction plan, the President was required by law to issue mandatory budget cuts known as "sequestration". Because of this order, approximately \$85 billion in budgetary resources were automatically cut across the federal government including the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the remainder of the fiscal year.

HUD has experienced a very dramatic reduction in funding which has in turn caused a very dramatic reduction in funding to the Meridian Housing Authority's operating budget. In order to avoid the potential de-stabilization of MHA's critical housing programs due to the high level of decreased funding, MHA's administrative staff has carefully examined its operations to determine the programs, initiatives, contracts and staffing which must be eliminated or reduced.

Unfortunately, due to measures beyond MHA's reasonable control, the Authority will not have the necessary funds to maintain its current operating budget level and will be forced to resort to agency-wide employee furloughs, contract reductions and elimination of special resident initiatives.

Beginning May 6, 2013, all MHA employees will be furloughed one day per pay period through September 22, 2013, for a total of 10 furlough days.

During the ten (10) designated furlough days, MHA will close all operations with the exception of addressing emergency matters. The ten (10) designated furlough days are as follows:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1.) May 17, 2013 | 4.) June 21, 2013 | 7.) August 2, 2013 | 10.) September 13, 2013 |
| 2.) May 24, 2013 | 5.) July 5, 2013 | 8.) August 16, 2013 | |
| 3.) June 10, 2013 | 6.) July 19, 2013 | 9.) August 30, 2013 | |

Despite huge cuts suffered due to sequestration, MHA remains committed to providing decent, safe and affordable housing opportunities to all eligible Meridian citizens.



Asset Management Coordinator Trevelle McGlothlin addresses budget concerns

“Committed

MERIDIAN ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC. SPONSORS “EMERGING YOUNG LEADERS” TEA AT WESTERN GARDENS

Meridian Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. has taken the initiative in promoting leadership development with the young girls of Western Gardens.

The program entitled; “Emerging Young Leaders” is a signature program of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. The program’s objective is to cultivate talents and to develop skills in four areas:

- LEADERSHIP
- EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT
- CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
- CHARACTER BUILDING



AKA along with program participants



Emerging Young Leaders speak at “Leadership Tea”.

For the past four months, the Omicron Beta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority have met with emerging Western Gardens Leaders immediately afterschool twice a month on Wednesdays. The AKA leaders spend an hour supporting, developing, and exposing the girls to opportunities that will enhance a strong foundation and personal success. Research has reported that middle school is a crucial period as impressionable young girls deal with issues of becoming a teenager, peer pressure/relationships, hormone changes, and negative body development from the media and society. To celebrate the young ladies’ accomplishments thus far, a formal tea was held Wednesday, April 24, 2013, to allow the participants to showcase their etiquette. MHA would like to thank the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for their “Commitment to Excellence” in the Meridian Community!

TOBACCO FREE COALITION ADDRESSES NON SMOKING BENEFITS

The Meridian Housing Authority has implemented a “smoke free” policy in all of its facilities and residential units. As of April 1, 2013, smoking is prohibited within 25 feet of any MHA building.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, “for every **1** person who dies from tobacco, **20** will suffer from one or more serious smoking related illness.”

MHA’s Executive Director, Ron Turner, Sr. introduced the non-smoking policy to staff and residents in October 2012. Concerned residents were assured that the policy’s intent is to provide a safe and healthy environment for all MHA residents. Increased insurance and maintenance costs due to smoking lead MHA’s Board to expedite the implementation of the new policy.

Sabrina Wilson of the Tobacco Free Coalition spoke at several MHA resident meetings to provide information on the dangers of second hand smoke. A toll free number was given to residents who needed assistance to quit smoking. Residents were also informed of MHA’s intent to fully enforce the non-smoking policy.

MHA’s mission is to provide decent, safe and affordable housing opportunities for eligible citizens of Meridian. Please contact your property manager for any questions you may have regarding the new non-smoking policy. For more information pertaining to local smoking cessation resources, please contact MHA’s Community & Supportive Services Department at (601) 693-2800.



Sabrina Wilson speaks to the residents of Eastern Gardens regarding the affects of smoking

MHA PHONE NUMBERS

Maintenance Department 601-483-3328; Social Services 601-693-2800; Frank Berry Courts 601-482-1880; Eastern Gardens 601-482-3312; Mountain View Village 601-481-3424; Western Gardens 601-483-8612; Oakland Heights 601-481-3421; Highway Village, 8th & 9th Ave. 601-483-1816; George Reese Courts/Magnolia Courts 601-693-4586; Mount Barton/Sowashee Courts 601-483-0202; Carousel Place 601-482-0085; J.T. Davis 601-482-0077; MHA Police Liaison Cell 601-527-0407; Meridian Police Dispatch 601-484-6845; Central Office 601-693-4285



to Excellence"

MHA HOST CREDIT REPORT WORKSHOP WITH PARTNERS

Meridian Housing Authority has partnered with Citizen's National Bank in an effort to bring awareness to our residents as consumers regarding "Building a Better Credit Report". This is the second section of the Financial Education Curriculum held by Citizens National Bank. It is a guide to presenting the Money Smart Curriculum.

Why is this workshop Important for you to attend?

First, a credit report details your financial behavior and identification information. In other words, it is a report full of information on where you live, how you pay your bills, bankruptcy. This information is used to evaluate your applications for credit, insurance, employment, lease, etc.

Secondly, Understanding your credit report information gives you an advantage to eliminate errors in reporting as well as inaccuracy. Note that your credit file changes constantly.

Thirdly and last, your credit report says a lot about who you are without getting to know you.

The Workshop will provide the basics of building good credit; these are just a few discussion topics at the workshop:

- Identify ways to build and repair your credit history
- Understand the purpose of a credit report and how it is used
- Find out how to get a copy of your credit report
- Get familiar with the difference between good and bad credit
- Learn how to read and understand your credit report

Please mark your calendars and join us!

The workshop will be held:

Date: Tuesday, May 15, 2013

Time: 11:00am-12:00pm

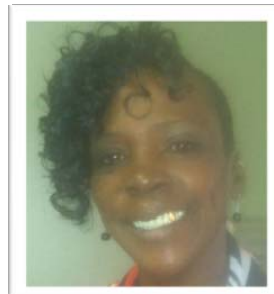
Where: 2503 D Street (MHA Eugene F. Young Community Service Building)

Light refreshments, free drawings, and prizes



Resident Advisory Board President's Message

With the end of the school year approaching, many teachers and students are getting ready to take the SATP and MCT2 tests. We are encouraging all parents to contact their children's counselors to obtain information concerning studying skills, practice tests and other additional items to help their child/children succeed. There are numerous websites such as Coolmath 4 kids, Brain Pop, Fun Brain, and others. You may also access the Meridian Public School website-<http://www.mpsd.k12.ms.us>. We want all our children to obtain an advanced status on their tests. And don't forget that if you have a senior attending Meridian High School and graduating this year, MHA is offering scholarships to deserving seniors. You may pick up your application at the MHA Social Service Building. To qualify, please contact your guidance counselor or contact the Community & Supportive Services Department at MHA. Education is the key to a successful life and MHA and the Resident Advisory Board would like to encourage all residents to get involved in their child/children's education. If you need extra help, there is also after-school programs that may be offered at your child/children's school. Another resource that is available is Parents for Public Schools. The organization improves the relationships between parents, administrators, teachers and helps parents improve student achievement. For more information about Parents for Public Schools, contact Becky Glover at 601-397-1599.



Brenda Griffin, Resident Advisory Board President

Message from the Asset Manager Coordinator

Effective May 6, 2013 MHA's after hour maintenance calls for service will be suspended, with the exception of extreme emergencies. As MHA continues to provide excellent customer service please report all emergencies in a timely manner. All resident's must contact your property manager immediately for a listing of these extreme emergencies. In addition, please be mindful of our upcoming REAC/UPCS inspections. If your unit has any deficiencies, please report them at once. Lastly, as the current school year comes to a close, connect with your friends, family and loved ones whether near or far.



*Asset Management Coordinator,
Trevelle McGlothlin*



"Committed to Excellence"

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

Mail To:

May 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	

5/10 Western Gardens @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center
5/14 George Reese @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center
5/15 Magnolia @ 3:30 a.m. Community Center
5/09 Oakland Garden @ 10:00 Community Center

5/16 Eastern Garden @ 3:30 Community Center
5/20 Hwy Village @ 2:00 Community Center
5/20 Sowashee @ 3:30 Community Center
5/23 Mt. View @ 3:30 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