

MERIDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY BEGINS ITS ANNUAL PLANNING PROCESS

The Meridian Housing Authority is currently in the process of starting its comprehensive planning efforts for the upcoming fiscal year. This strategic planning process is designed to inform MHA residents, HUD officials and the general public of the organization's intent to effectively serve the immediate needs of over 3,600 eligible residents. There are approximately 1215 public housing apartments scattered throughout the City of Meridian. Several strategies are currently being evaluated including the total revitalization of Meridian's East End. The major thrust of this effort is to submit a Choice Neighborhood Implementation application to HUD to redevelop the George Reese Court development and segments of the surrounding community.



MHA Employees Participate Planning Process

Increased criminal activity throughout the City and other pertinent factors have caused MHA officials to introduce various plans to increase security measures throughout the agency. A HUD approved "Police Officer Next Door" program is currently being considered for the Western Gardens neighborhood.

MHA will continue to take advantage of grant opportunities to revitalize its aging housing stock. The agency is also planning to acquire various parcels throughout the City to increase homeownership options for its residents. For more information regarding MHA's annual planning process, contact MHA's Executive Assistant, Irma Alexander at (601) 693-4285 or log on the MHA website at: www.meridianhousing.net.

HATS OFF TO MHA HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PARTICIPANTS



Meridian Housing Authority **Family Self Sufficiency Program** is designed to assist families in public housing to attain self sufficiency. Our goals at MHA are to empower our residents to become homeowners. One of MHA Housing Choice Voucher participants, Dorothy Blanks recently graduated from the program. With hard work and dedication Ms. Blanks completed the program within a 5 year period. We will like to Congratulate Ms. Dorothy Blanks in obtaining her goal of becoming a proud Homeowner.

If you would like more information regarding the MHA Family Self Sufficiency Programs please contact Elaine Maurissey, HCV Coordinator @ 601 693-2800 ext 230 or Sheila Austin, PH Coordinator @ 601 693-2800 ext 228.

**Housing transition Units under construction
at Carousel View**



Executive Director's Message

The Meridian Housing Authority and the Meridian Police Department want to make affordable housing neighborhoods safer and remain committed to strengthening all of Meridian's public housing communities. National statistics show that public safety is enhanced tremendously when police officers live within the neighborhood.

Therefore, MHA and MPD have partnered to implement the HUD approved "Officer Next Door" program. The program is designed to create safer neighborhoods by allowing MHA to lease units to Meridian Police Officers.

This collaborative effort is scheduled to begin in Western Gardens. Police officers will be permitted to lease an apartment for a twelve month period at no cost to the certified police officer. The MPD will ensure that the officers involved in the "Officer Next Door" program will maintain a high visibility level through active participation in resident association meetings, daily MPD vehicle patrolling and the utilization of other community policing measures authorized by the MPD Police Chief.

MHA will ensure that all participants of the "OND" program are familiar with the lease agreement. The officer must also reside in the apartment as their primary source of residency during the twelve month leasing period. For more information regarding the "OND" program, contact Asset Management Coordinator, Trevelle McGlothlin at (601) 693-4285.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR ANNUAL PLAN

The proposed 5 year Annual Plan of the Meridian Housing Authority of the City of Meridian will officially be made available for public review and comments beginning Monday, October 14, 2013 and will remain on public display through December 6, 2013. The plan can be reviewed in the lobby of the Meridian Housing Authority's Central office at 2425 E Street between the hours of 9:00a.m. and 4:30p.m. Mon-Fri.

An important public hearing will be held to discuss the plan on Monday, December 9, 2013, at 5:00p.m. in the Meridian Housing Authority's Professional Development Training Room located at 2425 E Street.

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-

Halloween Safety Tips

Halloween is one time of the year where children of all ages are most excited. They look forward to dressing up in imaginary characters as well as characters from TV shows, movies, and storybooks. Parents also find Halloween fun and exciting. They anticipate every year the joy of helping their children find the right costume for this special event.

Many of the parents also get in on the fun as they share in dressing up in character. We want everyone to have lots of fun this Halloween night, so here are some practical Halloween safety tips to ensure your family's Trick or Treat Safety.



Costume Safety:

- Plan costumes that are bright and reflective or add reflective striping tape to costumes and trick-or-trick bags for visibility, also purchase costumes with labels indicating flame resistant
- Consider non toxic make-up as an alternative to decorative hats or masks as a safer alternative

Trick-or -Treat Safety:

- Plan to have outdoor lights on if you plan to give out treats
- Teach your child to dial 9-1-1 in case of emergency or if they become lost, and make sure you or your child have a cell phone
- Check your children's candy before allowing them to eat it and remove any treat from toddlers that may cause a choke hazard or an allergic reaction.

Enjoy a Safe and Happy Halloween!



Committed to Excellence"

MHA ANNOUNCEMENT BOARD

All About Smiles Dental Center will be hosting FREE DENTAL screenings for the residents of the Meridian Housing Authority. We encourage families to come and learn about oral health. Ages 1 year to 20 years of age are welcome to attend.

There will be food, fun, games and door prizes for the parents. Every child participant will receive a toothbrush and toothpaste.



Eastern Garden	October 12th	10-12pm
Highway Village	October 12th	2-4pm
Magnolia Courts	October 19th	10-12pm
George Reese	October 19th	2-4pm
Western Gardens	November 2	10-12pm
Oakland Heights	November 2	2-4pm
Mountain View	November 9th	10-12pm
Sowashee Courts	November 9th	2-4pm

Message from the Asset Management Coordinator

MHA will continue to provide our best in customer service, as sequestration, government shutdowns and employee furloughs remain in effect. Residents should report all maintenance occurrences timely. The maintenance staff works diligently in servicing all problems that are reported, thus all residents should possess a copy of MHA's Sequestration Impact of After Hour Maintenance Calls list, if not please contact your property manager. Some helpful maintenance tips include: obtaining an ice chest, a plunger, and properly disposing all cooking grease into garbage cans and/or dumpsters. Remember depositing grease into the kitchen sink creates sever blockage in the drains.

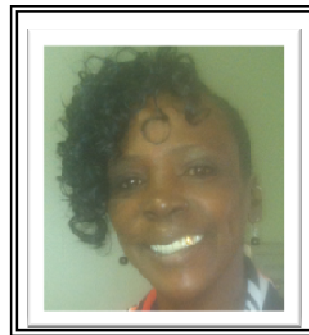
Lastly, as the flowers wither away and the fall leaves fall, the day shortens and the night expands its range. Be safe as you enjoy this harvest season.



Asset Management Coordinator, Trevelle McGlothlin

Resident Advisory Board President's Message

As community it is essential that we practice to maintain a safe environment. Practicing safe precautions starts at home. This will ensure a safer way of living for all our residents as well as the community. I would like to remind our residents about our youth curfew laws. The law indicates the following:



Brenda Griffin

"It shall be unlawful for any minor under eighteen (18) years of age to remain in or upon any public street, highway, park, vacant lot or other public place between 10:00p.m. and 6:00a.m, Sunday through Thursday.

During the school terms, It shall be unlawful for any compulsory school age child to remain in or upon any street, highway, park, vacant lot or other place within the city during the following period: 8:45a.m. until 2:45 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday and from 8:45 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday."

Brenda Griffin, *Resident Advisory Board President*

MHA Welcomes New Case Manager at JT. Davis and Carousel Place

MHA would like to welcome Kimmea Spears as the new Case Manager for Carousel Place and J.T. Davis. A native of Meridian, Kimmea is a graduate of Meridian High School. She received her



Kimmea Spears

Bachelor's of Social Work degree from Mississippi State University and is a Licensed Social Worker pursuing a Master's of Social Work from University of Alabama.

Mrs. Spears has worked in a medical setting for several years and now looks forward to partnering and serving from a community-based setting. As a Case Manager, Kimmea will be available to assist, inform, and link residents with the resource needed to ensure quality living.



"Committed to Excellence"

MHA website: : www.meridianhousing.net

"Committed to Excellence"

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

Mail To:

October 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 		



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

10/08 George Reese @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center

10/09 Magnolia @ 3:30 a.m. Community Center

10/10 Oakland Heights @ 10:00 Community Center

10/10 Western Gardens @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center

10/21 Hwy Village @ 2:00 Community Center

10/21 Sowashee @ 3:30 Community Center

10/17 Eastern Garden @ 3:30 Community Center

10/24 Mt. View @ 3:30 Community Center