



Committed to Excellence

# HOME LIFE

Monthly newsletter of housing and community activities published for MHA residents

November 2013

## Job Opportunities Now Available for MHA Residents

The Meridian Housing Authority has endorsed the Workforce Alliance Partnership that has been formed to develop apprenticeship training programs and increased job opportunities for all residents of the City of Meridian. MHA residents are highly encouraged to attend a Workforce Development Job Fair to be held on:

Saturday, November 9, 2013

9:00am to 11:00am

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church (Family Life Center)

544 James Chaney Drive, Meridian, MS

The purpose of the Workforce Development Job Fair is to ensure that eligible MHA residents and other participants receive the assistance necessary to compete for high wage jobs in the construction workforce.

Participants selected for the apprenticeship program will be immediately connected to jobs where they learn while you learn.

Successful program participants will also receive full employee-paid benefits the first day of employment. The upcoming job fair presents a great opportunity for the entire City of Meridian.

For more information regarding this event, you may contact Rev. Eric Dickey at (228) 297-4400 or visit the MHA website at [www.meridianhousing.net](http://www.meridianhousing.net) and click on to "Latest News".

## MHA Announces Implementation of "Officer Next Door" Program

In a press conference held October 16, 2013, the Meridian Housing Authority announced its collaboration with the Meridian Police Department to implement the "Officer Next Door" program. This program is the first of its kind in the state of Mississippi, in which a certified police officer is permitted by HUD to lease an apartment for twelve months at no personal cost. In return, residents have the convenience of an officer who will maintain high visibility through active participation in resident association meetings, daily MPD vehicle patrolling, and the usage of other community policing measures authorized by the MPD Police Chief.

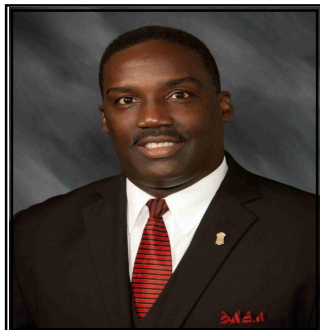
Mayor Percy Bland, MPD Chief James Lee, MHA Commissioner Wilbert Jones and Executive Director Ronald Turner, all agree that Western Gardens will be the first neighborhood to receive the program, but they look forward to placement of an "OND" in additional sites.

During the press release, members of the Resident Advisory Board were given the opportunity ask questions pertaining to the program. The members were assured that the "OND" program is not being implemented to intimidate residents, but to make them safe in their homes. With increased criminal activity throughout the city, MHA officials are positive that the "Officer Next Door" program will produce great outcomes.



**Mayor Percy Bland congratulates members of the RAB during "Officer Next Door" press conference. Left to Right: Marshall McKey, Marilyn Davis, Johnny McGlothlin, Latoria Brown, Brenda Griffin, Rosiland Lynch and Ranata Green.**

## Executive Director's Message



Ronald J. Turner, Sr.

MHA is pleased to endorse the Workforce Alliance Partnership, which is a collaborative effort with the Central Mississippi Building & Construction Trade Council, the Gulf Coast Building and Trade Council and the Mississippi Power Company. Apprenticeship-training programs are currently being developed in five counties including: Forest, Harrison, Jackson, Jones and Lauderdale.

The Trade Councils are umbrella organizations with membership of 14 building and construction trades. The mission of these various apprenticeship training programs

is to ensure that low income, low wage, unemployed and underemployed individuals receive the assistance needed to successfully complete the apprenticeship training and enable them to permanently compete for high wage jobs in the construction workforce.

Participants in the Workforce Development Program are connected immediately to living wage jobs and earn while they learn. Throughout their apprenticeship, participants work full-time jobs on site along with two nights of classroom training. While they are in training participants receive a salary that is calculated at 50% of the journeyman's wage. Starting salary is \$10.50 per hour with a 5% increase every 6 months until training is complete and journeyman status is achieved.

In addition, apprentice program participants receive full employee-paid benefits the first day of employment. Training remediation and support services will be provided to workers who successfully complete the initial training. This is a great opportunity for MHA residents and our community. Meridian Housing Authority Residents are encouraged to attend the Workforce Development Job Fair to be held Saturday, November 9, 2013, at 9:00am-11:00am at the Mt.Olive Missionary Baptist Church-Family Life Center located at 544 James Chaney Drive in Meridian, Mississippi.

If you need additional information, you may visit the MHA website at:

[www.meridianhousing.net](http://www.meridianhousing.net)

Have a blessed Thanks Giving Season!

## MHA ANNOUNCEMENT BOARD

Meridian Housing Residents are invited to participate in the Thanksgiving Day Word Game.

Please stop by and pick up a game entry form at your property manager office.

Game entry forms will be available starting Monday, November 18, 2013 to Friday, November 22, 2013.

Game rules and instructions are listed below.



### Instruction

Form as many words as possible using letters from the words, THANKSGIVING DAY.

### Rules

- You are not allowed to use the word, thank, thanks, thanksgiving, or day.
- You are permitted to use each letter as many times as you like.
- You can only use a word only once and it must be a legitimate word that can be found in the dictionary.

The contestant who has the most correct spelled words will be declared the winner and will be contacted on Monday Nov.25, 2013.

If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Maurissey, HCV Coordinator @ 601-693-2800, ext. 230 or Shelia Austin @ 601-693-2800, ext. 228.

## MHA RESIDENT OF THE MONTH CANDIDATE

Meridian Housing Authority resident of the month is, Erica Windom of Sowashee Court. Ms. Windom recently graduated from Meridian Community College, receiving her AA in Medical Technology. After taking her state board test on August 20, 2013 she received a passing score. Ms. Windom future plans are to obtain a job in the clinical field and to further her education in medical technology in hopes of receiving her Bachelor's degree. Property Manager, Denise Malone stated that Erica is moving into the right direction to self sufficiency. MHA would like to congratulate Ms. Erica Windom on her accomplishments.



Erica Windom

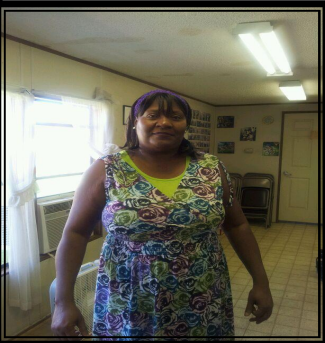
## MHA PHONE NUMBERS

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;



## MHA Non-Smoking Policy Saves Lives

When the Non Smoking Policy took place in April 2013, it was a major adjustment for the residents of Meridian Housing Authority. MHA Social Services department promoted workshops and seminars to educated the residents on how to make the adjustments. Reaching out to the residents of Oakland Heights, one of the residents, Jennie Alford, stated that the MHA non- smoking policy saved her life. Ms. Alford stated that she was on the road to self destruction smoking countless cigarettes daily not realizing how she was damaging her health as well as her lungs. Hearing the news that she can no longer smoke inside her apartment was depressing. Ms. Alford had been smoking since she was 11 years old, she has now reached the age of 54 and no longer craves or desires to smoke. Ms. Alford indicates that this did not happen overnight. It took determination, hard work and prayer. Jennie Alford has been smoke free for several months now and she says she owes it to the MHA non smoking policy.



**Jennie Alford, Resident of Oakland Heights**

## Resident Advisory Board President's Message

Happy Holidays from The Resident Advisory Board of Meridian Housing Authority. This is the time of year to reflect on the blessings in our life, such as health ,family, and friends, which keep us strong. Everything has become more dangerous in the world, so let's monitor our children to ensure their safety. This year has passed so fast that we need to start thinking on resolutions for the upcoming year.



**Brenda Griffin**

Be safe and have a blessed, prosperous holiday season. Happy Thanksgiving !!!!!

**Brenda Griffin, Resident Advisory Board President**

## Message from the Asset Management Coordinator

MHA is excited about its Officer Next Door [OND] program at the Western Gardens location. As the agency continues its mission of decent, safe and affordable housing for its residents, the OND program raises the bar in resident services. The officers will be formally introduced in November at Oakland Heights and Western Gardens scheduled resident meetings.



**Asset Management Coordinator, Trevelle McGlothlin**

As bed bug occurrences continue to increase, one of the biggest problems has been clutter. A cluttered unit is a breeding ground for these tiny vampires to spread their young insuring their survival. Therefore, getting rid of clutter can help prevent a bed bug infestation from getting out of control.

Be conscious of the upcoming day light savings time change, remain safe and report any out of the ordinary activity at once. Lastly, as you fall into this season of cool weather where the leaves fall as though they are in love with the earth, make time for family, friends and your neighbors.

## SAFETY CAUTION: MHA EMPLOYEES TO WEAR PICTURE ID BADGE AT ALL TIMES

MHA is committed to providing decent, SAFE, and sanitary housing with reasonable accommodations for eligible citizens.

As of October 2013, all Meridian Housing Authority employees are required to have a picture ID badge on them at all times so they can be readily identified as a Meridian Housing Authority employee.

Take precaution: We encourage you to ID individuals before permitting them to enter your apartment or home. As a tenant of the Meridian Public Housing, you are not required to let anyone in if you do not feel safe or without proper identification.

If you are suspicious regarding someone at your door, notify your property manager and/or police.

Please remember that you should never provide your personal identification to unknown callers or visitors.





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MHA website: : [www.meridianhousing.net](http://www.meridianhousing.net)

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

Mail To:

# November 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

11/12 George Reese @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center  
11/13 Magnolia @ 3:30 a.m. Community Center  
11/14 Oakland Heights @ 10:00 Community Center  
11/15 Western Gardens @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center

11/18 Hwy Village @ 2:00 Community Center  
11/18 Sowashee @ 3:30 Community Center  
11/21 Eastern Garden @ 3:30 Community Center  
11/26 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](mailto:saustin@meridianhousing.net)