

MHA Resident Advisory Board Members Receive Recognition



Rosland Lynch, Trevelle McGlothlin, Marshall McKey, Marilyn Davis, Latoria Brown, MHA Board Chairman Wilbert Jones, Brenda Griffin, Renata Green, Pasty Griggs, Johnnie McGlothlin, and MHA Director Ronald Turner, Sr. at MHA RAB Appreciation Luncheon

The Meridian Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners recently recognized the MHA Resident Advisory Board Members (RAB) during an appreciation luncheon. They were acknowledged for their leadership and commitment to excellence in making a positive impact on the lives of those they serve in their communities.

Over the past twelve months these selfless leaders stepped their game up at a time when no one else would. Because of their volunteer services, they now have a positive impact on the lives of over 3500 residents who live in the nine communities they represent throughout the City of Meridian.

The RAB Presidents meet monthly with residents in their communities to encourage participation in: neighborhood watch meetings; scholarship opportunities for both adults and children; homeownership opportunities and other empowerment opportunities made available through MHA's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) programs.

The Resident Advisory Board also received WTOK-TV "TEAM OF THE WEEK" honors for their leadership and dedicated service in their communities.

For more information regarding resident participation opportunities contact the FSS Coordinators at 601-693-2800.

HOMEBUYER'S WORKSHOP OFFERED TO RESIDENTS

MHA is hosting a homebuyer's workshop on Thursday, February 27, 2014 at 12 noon at the Eugene F. Young III Community Service Building located at 2305 D Street.

Representatives from First State Bank, who currently partners with MHA, will facilitate the workshop. This workshop will provide valuable information on what to expect during your home buying experience.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

For more information regarding this workshop, contact Elaine Maurissey at (601) 693-2800.



Carousel Place

"Committed"

Executive Director's Message

In the effort to further its commitment to expand the supply of viable assisted housing options throughout the MHA portfolio, we take pride in announcing the following plan and accomplishments: The agency received a 9% tax credit allocation from the Mississippi Home Corporation for the redevelopment of its distressed Queen City Apartments.

MHA has also submitted a Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) application to receive funding to further im-

prove the quality of housing in the Frank Berry Courts and J.T. Davis housing communities.

The agency has built a total of ten (10) single family homes under HUD's replacement housing factor plan. Efforts are currently being devised to either, renovate, demolish or sell one of the agency's oldest housing developments.

MHA and its development partners plan to apply for a HUD Choice Neighborhood Implementation grant upon issuance of the notice of funding availability from HUD.

Resident participation in the agency's ESTEEM training program has contributed tremendously in reducing vacancies at MHA. Training participants assisted the agency in the renovation of 87 units. As of January 30, 2014, over 218 applicants remain on the agency's housing choice voucher waiting list.

We plan to continue in our quest to develop affordable quality housing opportunities for eligible Meridian citizens.

"New You" Focus at Carousel and J.T. Davis

Periodically in 2014, the Carousel Place and J.T. Davis Court residents will feature a "New You" focus article.

The year was kicked off with Drug Free Awareness activities. The youth at each location participated in a Drug Awareness Poster Contest. Children ages 5-7 were invited to brainstorm and decorate posters. Posters were judged and award based on originality and content.

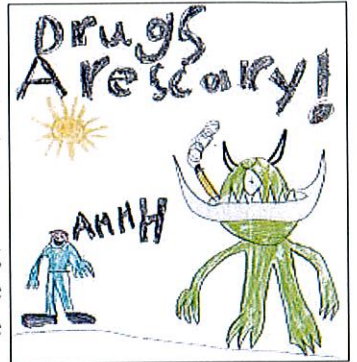
While participating in this contest, we hope that more youth are encouraged to make positive decisions and acknowledge risks involved in drug usage and activity.

The focus for February is "Healthy Hearts, Happy Hearts".

All activities will be centered around heart health.

We highly encourage Carousel Place and J.T. Davis resident to participate.

For more information, contact Kimmea Spears at 601-482-0085, ext. 12.



MERIDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY RESIDENT OF THE MONTH

Tarsha Edwards of the George Reese Courts community is Meridian Housing Authority's "*Resident of the Month*".

Tarsha and her grand daughter Mar'Nisjha faithfully walk every Monday to the Meridian Community College Beep Program held every Monday at Magnolia Courts.

When needed, Ms. Edwards and her grand-daughter also assist property manager Robin Maxfield with distributing flyers and conducting community clean-up efforts. She is a true asset to her community. Keep up the good work Tarsha!



Tarsha Edwards

MHA IMPORTANT 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. 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 601-601-484-6845



to Excellence"

Workshop Held at East End Choice Neighborhood Planning Office

Poplar Springs Elementary School held its annual MCT2 workshop for George Reese Courts parents whose children attend Poplar Springs School. The workshop was held January 14, 2014, and facilitated by principal, Lavonda Germany. Ms. Germany explained the importance of MCT2 testing and encouraged parents to get involved in preparing their child(ren) for testing.

She provided tips that can help prepare students at home for the MCT2 testing.

The Mississippi Curriculum Test, Second Edition, (MCT2) is a measure of student achievement in reading, language arts and math framework. The MCT2 also serves as the standard for state accountability. The test is designed to meet federal testing requirements of the "No Child Left Behind" Act (NCLB), 2011.

The MCT2 testing will be given to students in Spring 2014. It contains test questions of various degrees of difficulty aligned to the content, skill and process represented by the state curriculum frameworks and academic performance level descriptors.

Students do not receive a pass or fail score on the MCT2, rather they are assigned a performance level based on student achievement. Performances levels are: Minimal, Basic, Proficient, or Advanced.

If you missed the workshop and would like to obtain information on MCT2 testing, you can visit your child's school counselor or contact Elaine Maurisey or Shelia Austin at (601) 693-2800, ext. 230 and 228, at MHA's Community and Supportive office



Poplar Springs principal, LaVonda Germany standing, explains importance of MCT 2 test

Resident Advisory Board President's Message

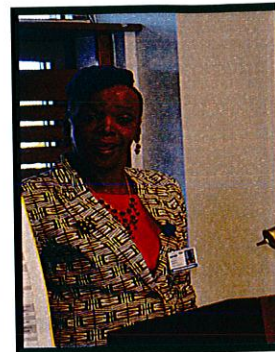
As President of the City Wide Advisory Board and resident president at Western Gardens, I am encouraging all residents to make an effort his year to attend your monthly meetings.

Resident meetings are held at the community center at your property manager's office. You will receive two community service hours for attending the meeting.

Resident meetings allow everyone the opportunity to share valuable information which will benefit their families and community.

You can address concerns, make suggestions, and provide solutions to improve your community. Come out and be a part of building a safe and viable community for you and your family.

Brenda Griffin, Resident Advisory Board President



Brenda Griffin

Message from the Asset Manager

The New Year has arrived and is on the move, may it be one of new heights and direction.

During this final month of the winter season, which has yielded some record low temperatures, make sure you stay warm. In addition, please check on your neighbors, both young and old.

Also during this winter season, thermostats should remain at a constant level of 68-70 degrees. Be sure to dress appropriately and for extremely low temperatures, allow your faucets to trickle just a little to prevent pip freezing. If your heater goes out, please contact the maintenance department @ 601-483-3328. Do not use your stove as a source of heat, this is not safe.

In the event you are issued a space heater as a temporary heat source, keep it at least 3 feet away from all furniture and drapes. Should the smoke alarm or carbon monoxide detector issue an alert signal, contact the maintenance department immediately.

Be safe and keep warm.



Asset Management Coordinator, Trevelle McGlothlin PHM



"Committed to Excellence"

Please visit the new MHA website: www.meridianhousing.net

**Meridian Housing Authority
Board of Commissioners**

Wilbert Jones Chairman
Donnie Smith Vice Chairman
Jeanelle Kidd Commissioner
Sylvia Autry Commissioner
Rob Arline Commissioner

Mail To:

February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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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	

2/11 George Reese Courts @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center	2/20 Eastern Garden @ 3:30 Community Center
2/12 Magnolia @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center	2/17 Hwy Village @ 2:00 Community Cen- ter
2/13 Oakland @ 10:00 a.m. Community Center	2/17 Sowashee @ 3:00 Community Center
2/14 Western Garden @ 3:30 Community Center	2/27 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