

ON THE ROAD TO HOMEOWNERSHIP



Mayor Percy Bland III congratulates MHA's Housing Transition Participants (lt to rt) are: Tangela Mosley-Johnson, Bridiga Brooks Shar King and daughter, Gwinetta Foster, Hope Alexander, Angela McShan, Valerie Compton, Elbony Henderson, and LaTanya Jordan

On August 5, 2004, the Department of Housing Urban Development (HUD) awarded the Meridian Housing Authorities \$17.2 million dollars in HOPE VI Revitalization funding to transform the old Victory Village Housing Community.

The new community is now known as the Carousel Place Apartments. MHA received HUD's replacement housing factor funds (RHF) to rebuild a selective number of public housing units which were demolished during the redevelopment process.

The RHF funding opportunities made it possible for MHA to construct 10 three bedroom single family homes. These homes will be used specifically for MHA's innovative Housing Transition Program (HTP). Seventeen families have qualified to participate in the HTP and now they must (1) maintain compliant with all Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) obligations (2) include homeownership as a primary goal during their tenure in the FSS program and (3) complete all HTP program requirements within the designated 24 month program period. Finally, MHA's goal is to ensure a successful path to permanent homeownership for all program participants.

MHA exists to provide decent, safe, and affordable housing opportunities with reasonable accommodations for eligible citizens of Meridian, Mississippi. Additionally, the agency conducts several social programs that promote self-sufficiency, empowerment and respect. MHA currently owns and operates 1,222 viable housing units and administers 215 housing choice vouchers throughout the City of Meridian.

Contact Shelia Austin, FSS Coordinator at (601) 693-2800, ext. 228 for more information.

Wishing everyone a safe and wonderful Easter!!!!



CFO Mike McGrevey (center) and Community Development Director John McClure (rt) tour new Carousel View Homes

"Committed"

Executive Director's Message



Ronald J. Turner, Sr. PHM

City, state and local leaders including Meridian Mayor, Percy Bland III, joined the Meridian Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners, staff, and residents to celebrate the grand opening of MHA's newest neighborhood, Carousel View Homes.

This event marked the dramatic construction of a housing transition community specifically developed to ensure a successful path to permanent homeownership for eligible residents who currently participate in MHA's Public Housing Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS).

The New Carousel Homes are located at 4610 Vally Street, directly across the street from the Carousel Place Community Center. The newly constructed Carousel View Homes community is breathing new hope and new opportunities into the lives of eligible Meridian Housing Authority families. Last year, the MHA received approval from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to use 1.8 million dollars in Replacement Housing Factor (RHF) to construct a transitional housing community for residents who participated in MHA's Public Housing Self-Sufficiency Program.

The (RHF) funding opportunity made it possible for the agency to construct ten (10) three-bedroom single family homes which will be useful specifically for the agency's housing transition program. Residents who participate in MHA's housing transition program must meet the following requirements: (1) Participants must remain complaint with current Family-Self Sufficiency (FSS) contractual obligations (2) Participants must include homeownership as a primary goal during their tenure in the FSS Program. (3) Participants will be limited to a minimum of 24 months in the Housing Transition Program.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all MHA community partners who are working diligently to ensure that all participants remain on the road to homeownership.

Homeownership Seminar Successful

Meridian Housing Authority held a successful homeownership seminar.

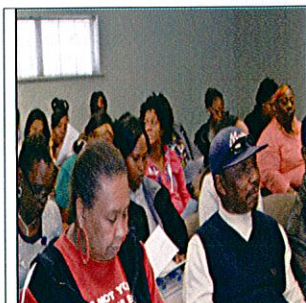
The seminar was available to all residents of public housing. Many of the residents showed an interested in homeownership by coming to the seminar to receive information that will enable them to become future homeowners.

Meridian Housing Authority partnered with First State Bank with the sole purpose and intent to provide guidelines and information on a home purchase.

Residents attending the seminar were able to gain knowledge on how to rebuild /repair credit, the advantages and disadvantages in mortgage lending products, and important steps you will need to become a homeowner.

The FSS coordinators are hopeful the residents will take advantage of the information they received at the seminar and begin to target areas that "need improvement" and increase self-sufficiency and homeownership.

For more information on homeownership, please contact Elaine Mauriscey or Shelia Austin at (601) 693-2800, ext. 230 or 228.



MHA residents attend homeownership seminar

MERIDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY RESIDENT OF THE MONTH

When it comes to dedication and commitment MHA will like to recognize Patricia Jackson. Patricia has been chosen by her property Manager Justin Monette to become, "MHA Resident of the Month". Patricia resides in Highway Village Apartment complex where she holds the title of being, Property Groundskeeper. Ms. Jackson takes pride in what she does by keeping her apartment complex clean.

MHA applauds Ms. Jackson for a job well done!



Patricia Johnson

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.



GED PROGRAM GRADUATE

The Carousel Place Management team would like to applaud Ms. Tracey Hudson on the recent completion of the GED program at Meridian Community College.

She is self-motivated and dedicated to improving her quality of life. Ms. Hudson is ambitious about reaching her educational and career goals. Since completing the program, she has enrolled in classes at MCC with plans to obtain her truck driving license. She is also applying for cosmetology school.



Tracey Hudson of Carousel Place Apartment obtains her GED certificate

In her spare time, Ms. Hudson takes advantage of MCC's continuing education program by perfecting her talents in the art of cupcake baking and making wreaths.

MCC offers GED graduates one college course free of charge. In addition, the college is currently offering a two class for the price of one special.. Obtaining a GED certificate allows one the opportunity to apply for better paying jobs and also increases self-esteem!

Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the GED program offered at the Neighborhood Network Center located at the Carousel Place or on site at MCC.

For more information, feel free to contact the Carousel Case Manager Kimmea Spears at (601) 482-0085, ext. 12 or MCC department of Adult Education at (601) 484-8796.

For additional college courses offered during the Summer and Fall semester at Meridian Community College, please contact Adrian Cross, College Recruiter at (601) 581-3553.

Congratulations to Ms. Tracey Hudson and we wish you well on your future endeavors!

Resident Advisory Board President's Message

Celebrating the Easter Season

Spring is in the air and Easter is around the corner.

Easter is one of the most important religious holidays of the year and the 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.



Brenda Griffin

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 included great food and family fellowship.



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

Spring is in the air and it comes with bright warm sunshine, the beauty of flowers blooming, activities and games for the kids.



The old proverb says no matter the length of winter spring is sure to follow. During this time of year we also engage in



Trevelle McGlothlin, Asset Manager Coordinator

spring cleaning; MHA lease states the residents shall maintain the dwelling unit and such other areas including but not limited to, yard, porch and sidewalks in a clean, sanitary and safe condition. Be mindful that as you enjoy the warm weather, you are responsible for the cleanliness of your yard. If your residence is cited for this violation, you may be penalized.

In effort to ensure all parking lots remain clean and safe, vehicles should never be parked on any lawn area, playground or property other than a paved street or parking area. The resident shall not keep or maintain near the dwelling unit, streets or development site any inoperable motor vehicle which does not bear a current and valid license plate and inspection sticker. Any vehicle in violation will be towed. Please see your property manager if you have any questions.



Trevelle McGlothlin, Asset Manager



"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:

APRIL 2014

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
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| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Good Friday | 19 |
| 20 Easter | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |



RESIDENT MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

4/8 George Reese Courts @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center
4/9 Magnolia Courts @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center
4/10 Oakland Heights @ 10:00 a.m. Community Center
4/11 Western Garden @ 3:30 Community Center
4/21 Highway Village @ 2:00 Community Center
4/21 Sowashee Court @ 3:30 Community Center
4/17 Eastern Garden @ 3:30 Community Center
4/24 Mt. View Village @ 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
emaursicey@meridianhousing.net