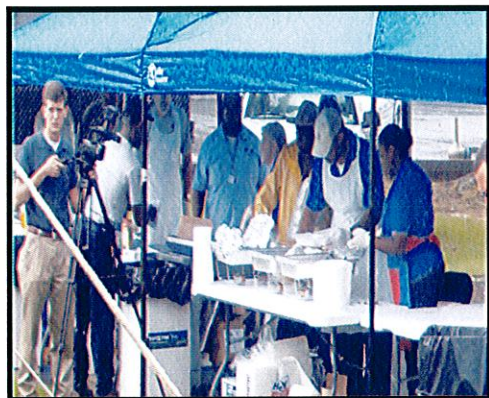


Fund Raiser for the Western Garden Fire Victims - A Huge Success

On Friday, July 11, 2014 at 1pm, an arson fire tragedy left eight Western Garden families including 35 individuals without a place to call home. One structure containing eight dwellings was totally destroyed. All families were devastated to learn that their family photos and other sentimental items of value could not be saved during the fire. The families were displaced for several weeks while MHA crews worked diligently to prepare vacant units for occupancy.

After extensive media coverage on the fire tragedy, MHA received an influx of calls from concern citizens, businesses, and community leaders offering to assist the victims in bringing their lives back to normal.

A "Fund-Raising Fish Fry" event sponsored by the MHA Resident Advisory Board (RAB) was held Friday, July 18, 2014 from 11:00am to 3:00pm at MHA Central Office. All proceeds collected at the fish fry event went to the Western Garden Fire Victims.



WTOK prepares news coverage while MHA staff and RAB President, Brenda Griffin prepare fish plates

A "Western Garden Fire Victims" account has been established at all Meridian Trustmark bank locations.

New and gently worn clothes and furniture and other household essentials were also collected at MHA Central Office and Maintenance building.

The fish fry fund raiser was a huge success. The rain did not stop the community from coming out in large numbers to support this event. The community came together on one accord to help meet the needs of these families who were victimized by a malicious act of violence.

The Meridian Housing Authority's Resident Advisory Board (RAB) and staff would like to say a special "thanks" to the Meridian Community, businesses, and MHA partners for helping Western Garden residents during their time of need and helping to bring these families back to their normal daily life. If you are interested in making a tax deductible monetary donation, please contact Irma Alexander at (601) 693-4285. Your support is deeply appreciated.



Supporters stand under a tent out of the rain waiting to support fundraiser



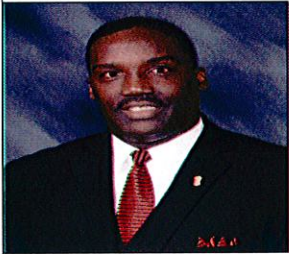
MHA's Edward Griffin, Sarah Johnson and Dewauna Lewis converse as event kicks off

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel"

~Maya Angelou~

"Committed"

Executive Director's Message



Ronald J. Turner, Sr. PHM

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincerest gratitude for the outpouring of love and support shown by the citizens of Meridian for the eight families from the Western Gardens housing community.

On July 11th, an arson fire occurred which displaced over thirty-five(35) residents. Although the fire disrupted the day-to-day operations at MHA, in addition to interrupting the routine life styles of the families involved, we are grateful that all residents escaped this tragedy without injury.

Hats off to MHA's Resident Advisory Board leadership for initiating swift actions to care for the immediate needs of families involved in this unfortunate event. Both the "Fish Fry Fundraiser" and the "Meridian Community Initiative" were highly successful events and provided resources necessary to get each family re-focused and moving in the right directions.

Special thanks to our local media outlets for keeping the public informed of the specific needs of each family. Thumbs up to the MHA Community and Supportive Services Department for visiting the families each day while they resided in hotel rooms across the city.

Although the response for clothing needs far exceeded our expectations, the need for items such as bunk beds, tables and chairs is still ongoing.

Your tax deductible monetary donation will be accepted at any local Trustmark Bank location. Contact Irma Alexander (601) 693-4285 if you would like to assist the families of the Western Garden arson fire. Please visit our website at www.meridianhousing.net for the latest updates involving activities at the Meridian Housing Authority.

Thanks again for your support,

Ronald J. Turner, Sr., PHM



Meridian Public Schools Open House Events

The 2014-2015 school year is around the corner. It is time to start preparing your child to return to school on



Wednesday, August 6, 2014. Parents are encouraged to take a more proactive role this year in attending your child's school parent/teacher association (PTA) meetings, parent /teacher conferences, and open houses held throughout the year.

The positive impacts of parental involvement in a child's life are they are more likely to enter school excited, eager to learn, and more likely to reach their fullest academic potential. Please make an effort to attend the MPS 2014-2015 first open house event. The open house events are listed below.

You will be able to tour your child's school, meet your child's teacher, pick up class and bus schedules, and much more!

MPSD OPEN HOUSE EVENTS:

Meridian High School:

Sunday, August 3 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Middle Schools:

Monday, August 4 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm

Elementary Schools:

Tuesday, August 5-Various times

Visit www.mpsd.k12.ms.us, or call your child's school for Open House time.

DON'T MISS IT!

Welcome Back to school!

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



o Excellence"

MHA Poster Board Contest "What a Home Means to Me"

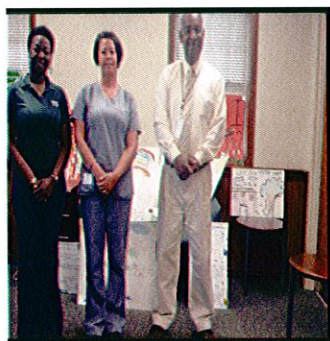
Several Meridian Housing Authority youth took advantage of the opportunity to enter the MAHRO poster board contest "What a Home Means to Me" during the month of July 2014. The contestants were able to express through art work, what a home means to them.

All the participants did a fantastic job. Local community partners came out to support this event and served as judges of the poster boards.

The National honorees will be selected from chapter/state-level winning entries. Winners at the state level will receive an award from MAHRO and the entries will be submitted for national competition. MHA would like to recognize and congratulate the winners from the Meridian housing community.



MHA participants are; Alexis Green, Tyrikus Walker, and Kentavious Walker



Poster Board Judges are from l to r: Adrian Cross, Amanda Chalk, and Police Chief Benny DuBose

Benny DuBose (Meridian Police Chief), Adrian Cross (Meridian Community College) and Amanda Chalk (Southern Care Hospice).

Meridian Housing Authority wishes the contestants good luck on their entries at the State level!!!

Resident Advisory Board President's Message

I bring you greetings from the Resident Advisory Board. On Friday, July 11, 2014, the Western Gardens community experienced an arson fire tragedy. We had eight (8) families to lose almost everything during the fire. I am glad to report that everyone was able to escape the apartment fire without any physical harm.



Brenda Griffin

As the resident president of Western Garden, I personally want to say "thank you" to the Western Garden community for your support in coming together to provide words of encouragement, cooking dinner during the evening of the fire, and especially your prayers.

The fire victim's loss was devastating. Their personal belongings were destroyed in the fire and many did not have adequate insurance to replace those items. Please purchase renter's insurance.

Many thanks to the Meridian community for all furniture, clothes, and monetary donations.

Brenda Griffin, Resident Advisory Board President

Message from the Asset Manager

Thanks to all MHA residents for your sincere show of support for the displaced families of Western Gardens. It has been said, there are times when "we do not shrink from our responsibility to bear a burden, but answer the call when the community needs assistance."



Trevelle McGlothlin

With every challenge there lies within a lesson of preparation for future events. Therefore, I encourage all residents to pursue protection of your household items by purchasing renters insurance. It is always good to have a backup plan.

Over the course of the next few months, various insurance representatives will be attending MHA tenant meetings with a more in depth scope of this protection plan.

As the summer break comes to a close, please be ever mindful of your responsibility regarding guest visitation, i.e. parking and your neighbors "peaceful enjoyment".

Also as the 2014-2015 school year approaches, hopefully this year will be a good year for the students, parents, and teachers working together for the good of every child.

Trevelle McGlothlin, Asset Manager Coordinator



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
Kathy Price Commissioner
Rob Arline Commissioner

Mail To:

August 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 <i>Back to School</i>	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						



RESIDENT MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST

8/12 George Reese Courts @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center
8/13 Magnolia Courts @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center
8/14 Oakland Heights @ 10:00 a.m. Community Center
8/08 Western Garden @ 3:30 Community Center
8/18 Highway Village @ 2:00 Community Center
8/18 Sowashee Court @ 3:30 Community Center
8/21 Eastern Garden @ 3:30 Community Center
8/28 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
emaaurissey@meridianhousing.net