

*Merry Christmas!*

## MHA HONORS COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS LEADER MRS. ANNIE F. COCKRELL



**Mrs. Annie F. Cockrell**

Last December, the Meridian Housing Authority received Capital Funds Program funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD to assist in repairing major damage caused by flooding during below freezing temperatures. After the completion of major repairs to the Magnolia Center, MHA's Board of Commissioners granted the community's request to re-dedicate the building in honor of long-standing community supporter and business woman, Annie F. Cockrell.

Mrs. Cockrell, a true friend of the Magnolia Community, has served the neighborhood faithfully for the past sixty(60) years through the services provided by the Cockrell Variety Store. In May 2014, Mrs. Cockrell fell victim to a violent criminal act as one of her patrons decided to rob her at gun point. She temporarily closed the store and contemplated shutting down her business. However, Annie's unwavering faith in God saw her through the traumatic event. Her community came to her rescue and encouraged the eighty-five (85) year old entrepreneur not to end her dream of helping people.



**Pictured: with Mrs. Annie Cockrell (center) It to rt: Waymon Newell, Supervisor of Lauderdale County, family members, Mayor Percy Bland, Councilman Kenneth Markham, Rev. AD Lewis, Mt. Olive MBC, and Ron Turner., MHA Executive Director**



**Rev. Christopher Cockrell, Mrs. Annie Cockrell, and Mr. Ronald Turner Sr., Executive Director of MHA happily stands next to the dedication sign named in her honor in the Magnolia Multi-Purpose Center**

The unveiling of the Annie F. Cockrell Multi-purpose Building sign brought tears to many of the Cockrell family members, friends, and the residents of that community.

City, state, and local officials, including Meridian Mayor Percy Bland and MHA Board members joined Executive Director Ron Turner, Sr. of the



**Mrs. Annie Cockrell (center) poses with RAB Presidents, It to rt: Brenda Griffin, Johnnie McGlothlin, Marshall McKey, Latoria Brown, Renata Green, and Rosiland Lynch**

Meridian Housing Authority (MHA) along with MHA Resident Advisory Board and staff to celebrate the grand re-opening and dedication of the Annie F. Cockrell Multi-Purpose Center.

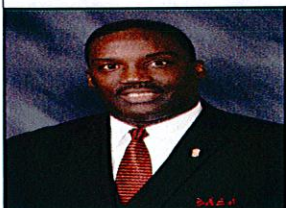
Annie F. Cockrell is truly an American Hero.





# "Committed"

## Executive Director's Message



Ronald J. Turner, Sr. PHM

As the joy of the Christmas season fills the frosty air, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the warm accomplishments at the Meridian Housing Authority over the past 12 months.

In January 2014, the implementation of the MHA Homeownership Transition Program (HTP) provided the agency the opportunity to assist seventeen families in becoming first time homeowners. During the following month, the submission of a successful 9% tax credit allocation application to the Mississippi Home Corporation allowed the organization to further its commitment to expand the supply of viable housing options throughout the MHA portfolio.

The month of April marked the dramatic construction of MHA's newest neighborhood, Carousel View Homes.

In June of 2014, eight (8) scholars received over \$60,000 in Hope VI Endowment Trust funding to continue their quest to pursue a college degree.

A valuable partnership was developed during the month of July as MHA partnered with the Meridian Public School District to ensure that all students residing in all affordable housing communities were properly registered during the school year. Also during the month of July, the agency experienced an outpouring of love for eight families from the Western Garden Community as they fell victims to an arson fire. We are grateful that all residents escaped this tragedy without injury.

In September, eight successful rallies were held throughout MHA managed communities to emphasize the importance of preparing our students for the school year.

October marked the second year of the Officer Next Door (OND) partnership with the Meridian Police department.

Now it is time to renew our "Commitment to Excellence" for the work ahead.

Finally, let us not forget the true meaning of this glorious season. May God richly bless you and your family.

Ronald Turner, Sr. Executive Director

## MHA Christmas Trivia

This year MHA Christmas trivia is fun and exciting! You must reside in Meridian housing authority affordable housing communities and over 21 years of age to participate. All MHA residents are invited and encouraged to participate. Below you will find the trivia questions. Once you know the answers to ALL the questions, contact Elaine Mauriscey(601) 693-2800, ext. 230 or Shelia Austin, at ext. 230.

Wishing you all GOOD LUCK! Please read the questions carefully before submitting your answers. You must have all three answers correct to be declared a WINNER!

### TRIVIA QUESTIONS:

I. What year did Brenda Griffin get elected as the president of the Resident Advisory Board (RAB)?

II. What year did Mr. Ronald Turner, Sr. become the Executive Director of Meridian Housing Authority?

III. Who was Meridian Housing Authority's first Executive Director?

The winner will receive a FAT JUICY TURKEY compliments of Meridian Housing Authority Resident Advisory Board.



### 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"

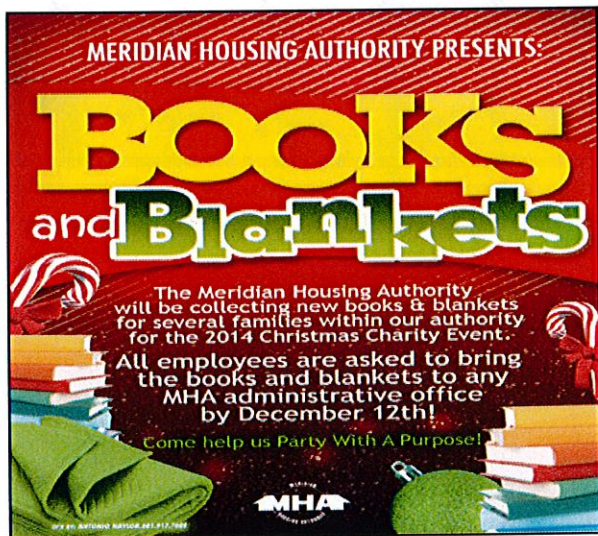


## MHA Books and Blankets Initiative

Each year around Christmas time, The Meridian Housing Authority Christmas Committee and staff is committed to spreading holiday cheer to needy families residing in our affordable housing communities. It is our way of showing these deserving families that we care about their quality of life.

This year, MPSD has fully implemented the Common Core standards for students attending elementary and middle schools. Due to the Mississippi Legislature passing of the 2013 Literacy Based Promotion Act, all 3rd grade students will take a test at the end of the year to determine promotion to the 4th grade. In other words, this act was passed to ensure that students exit the 3rd grade at or above reading level. If your child is reading below grade level at the end of the 3rd grade, the child will not be promoted to the 4th grade. Fortunately, the child will be given several opportunities to retest in April, and the summer.

MHA has adopted this year's special charity Christmas theme as, "Books and Blankets". The MHA staff will host a special event on Monday, December 15, 2014, to present the parents with the items that MHA have collected over the month.



From your MHA family

The Meridian Housing Authority staff wishes you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a safe holiday season!!!

## Resident Advisory Board President's Message

It's that time of year again, the season to be jolly! I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. The Christmas season is a time to celebrate and to give thanks for the birth of Jesus Christ. It is also a time to spread a little Christmas cheer during this holiday season to our friends, family, and neighbors by showing them love and kindness by simply giving a smile, hugs, or even sharing words of encouragement. Some people may be experiencing the Christmas blues because they may not have money to purchase gifts but this is a season to celebrate life. Let us remember the reason for the season. It is not about what we don't have but celebrating what we do have.

Have a happy and wonderful Merry Christmas!

**Brenda Griffin, Resident Advisory Board President**



**Brenda Griffin**



## Message from the Asset Manager

The housing Operations Department would like to thank the residents of MHA for being the ideal neighbors' keeper this year. Your outstanding community support for the fire victims of Western Gardens was beyond measure. Resident support of the "My Meridian I Care" event on the properties of Eastern



**Trevelle McGlothlin**

Gardens, George Reese Courts, Western Gardens, and Frank Berry Courts was a huge success.

With the holiday season upon us, some good safety tips include: when hanging Christmas lights, discard if light wires are cracked, frayed, or damaged. Do not plug more than three standard-size set of lights into a single extension cord. Turn lights off when leaving your residence to prevent access usage. Also when cooking, check your food regularly and do not leave your food on the stove unattended. Please report any emergencies to the Maintenance Department immediately at (601) 483-3328.

Lastly, supervise your household guests. Stay warm and may the beauty of the holiday season usher you a time of Hope, Wonder, Joy, Peace, and Blessings.

**Trevelle McGlothlin-Asset Coordinator Manager**





"Committed to Excellence"

Please visit the new MHA website: [www.meridianhousing.net](http://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:



## December 2014

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				

### RESIDENT MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

12/9 George Reese Courts @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center  
12/10 Magnolia Courts @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center  
12/11 Oakland Heights @ 10:00 a.m. Community Center  
12/12 Western Garden @ 3:30 Community Center  
12/15 Highway Village @ 2:00 Community Center  
12/15 Sowashee Court @ 3:30 Community Center  
12/18 Eastern Garden @ 3:30 Community Center  
12/18. 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](mailto:saustin@meridianhousing.net)  
[emaauriscey@meridianhousing.net](mailto:emaauriscey@meridianhousing.net)