

# HOME LIFE



Monthly newsletter of housing and community activities published for MHA residents

### MHA STRIVES TO STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS

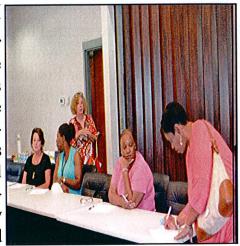


Community partners, Cindy Dyess, Win Shumate, Gretchen Luvene, Jennifer Whitlock, Debra Graham have conversation before the community partnership meeting begins.

The Meridian Housing Authority (MHA) remains committed to providing decent, safe, and affordable housing with reasonable accommodations to all eligible citizens in Meridian. We also provide opportunities that promote self-sufficiency and empowerment while maintaining the dignity and respect for all program participants.

MHA manages nine communities within its affordable

housing portfolio which included approximately 1,232 families. Over 211 participants take part in the agency's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program. Various services are made available to all



families including the elderly and disabled to assist them in obtaining economic independency and self-sufficiency. Strong community partnerships have resulted in increased mental health referrals and additional homeownership opportunities. Collaborative community Community partners sign in for 3 rd quarter partnership ventures remain vital for improving the quality of life community partnership meeting. for all MHA residents.



MHA employees, local community partners, and MHA Exec. Dir. Ronald Turner, Sr., poses for picture at quarterly community partnership meeting.

Supportive services developed through community alliances for hope for a better quality of life for residents who are experiencing temporary hardships. MHA's mission remains to improve lives through education and increased life skills in an effort to ensure a successful community.

For additional information on programs, services and partnership with MHA, please contact Shelia Austin or Elaine Mauriscey.

A special thanks goes out to all of our community partners

### "Committed

### **Executive Director's Message**



Ronald J. Turner, Sr.

The Meridian Housing Authority (MHA) and the Meridian Police Department are to make affordable housing striving neighborhoods safer and remain committed to strengthening all nine of Meridian's public housing communities. National statistics show that public safety is enhanced tremendously when police officers live within the neighborhoods. Therefore, the agency is pleased to report the success of the "Officer Next Door Program" and the

"Community Policing Liaison Program".

Both programs were created to provide safer neighborhoods by allowing MHA to partner with the Meridian Police Department. The "Officer Next Door Program" allows certified police officers to lease an apartment in a statistically recognized high volume crime area at no cost to the officer for a twelve month period. The Community Policing Liaison Program allows an officer to provide dedicated policing services over and above regular normal services to all MHA properties.

We are pleased to announce Officer Devie Freeman as the new liaison officer for MHA. He brings over 14 years of policing experience to the staff and residents of the Meridian Housing Authority.

For more information regarding programs and partnerships at MHA, please visit our website at www.meridianhousing.net.

Ronald J. Turner, Sr., PHM **Executive Director** 



MHA Police Liaison Officer Freeman addresses crime with MHA staff.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARFING **FOR 2015 ANNUAL PLAN**

The Meridian Housing Authority will conduct its 2015 Annual Plan Public Hearing on Monday, November 9, 2015, at 5:00 pm at 2425 E Street, Administrative Office Building. The

proposed annual plan has been on display in the lobby of the central office for review by residents and other interested parties since September 1, 2015.



Resident Advisory Board (RAB) members The Resident Advi- meet to discuss 2015 annual plans.

sory Board (RAB)

leadership received special training regarding the importance of resident participation needed prior to finalizing the Annual Plan.

Members of the RAB met with MHA Executive Director, Ronald Turner, Sr. and provided a "wish list" of specific projects to be included in the proposed 5 year annual plan



RAB members provide feedback to Executive Director, Ronald Turner, Sr. regarding future projects for each property.

Included in the plan are comments and suggestions from the RAB along with actions MHA might undertake in the upcoming year. The contains plan MHA's efforts to address issues to maintain and improve the quality of

life for all MHA residents.

Once the plan is adopted, it will be submitted to the US Department of Housing & Urban Development for approval. The public is invited to attend the hearing on the 9th.

#### 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 601 484-6845



## to Excellence"

### MHA Resident Community Service Requirement

HUD defines community service as the performance of voluntary work or duties that serve to improve the quality of life, enhance resident self-sufficiency, or increase resident self-responsibility in the community. Community service is not employment and may not include political activities.

Every adult living in public housing must complete eight hours of volunteer community service each month, except for adults who are exempt for one of the reasons listed below:

- •Adults who are employed or involved in work activity at least 10 hours per week
- Adults who participating in a qualified work/ training program and complying with all requirements of that program
- •Adults age 62 or older
- •Adults who are blind or disabled and unable to perform volunteer service
- •Adults who are primary caregiver for a blind or disabled family member or a family member under the age of six

As a reminder: Community service is designed to improve the residents quality of life, enhance tenant self-self-sufficiency, and or increase tenant self-responsibility in their prospective communities.

If you are in need of community service hours, you can receive 2 credit hours for attending your resident tenant meeting.

For a list of agencies and that welcome volunteer services, your community service status, and community service in which you can complete on your property site, please see your property manager. Residents may also contact Keondria Knox, Community Service Re-exam Specialist at (601) 693-4285 for additional requirement information.



### Resident Advisory Board President's Message

I bring you greetings from the Resident Advisory Board. A friendly reminder to all parents remains to ensure that your children are properly supervised. Lately, it has been reported that we are leaving our children unattended on the playground and in the community. We are also allowing them to be out of the home after 10p.m. The City of Meridian passed a curfew ordinance which requires all school age chil-



**Brenda** Griffin

dren to be at home by 10p.m. The city's curfew now runs from 10p.m. through 6a.m. during the week and from midnight to 6 a.m. Friday and Saturday nights. It has also been noted that school age children are not at school during school hours. The curfew also requires that during the school year, children ages 6-17 must be in school from 8:45a.m. until 2:45p.m. on Monday through Friday. Parents, please adhere to curfew guidelines for your children. Have a safe and Happy Halloween!!!!

Brenda Griffin, President, RAB Advisory Board

### Message from the Asset Manager



In accordance with MHA's dwelling lease all residents must ensure their household members and guests conduct themselves in a manner that does not disturb their neighbor's peaceful enjoyment.

Trevelle McGlothin Parents please know where your children are and what they are doing, also be mindful of the City of Meridian curfew policy, Sunday through Thursday 10p.m., Friday and Saturday, 12a.m.

Enjoy this Fall Season by helping others. One small act of kindness goes a long way for someone you know or don't know. Making someone else's day can make yours feel more rewarding and meaningful. Good neighbors always enjoy one another's company.

Have a safe and Happy Halloween!!!!

Trevelle McGlothin-Asset Manager



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

Mail To:

#### **Meridian Housing Authority Board of Commissioners**

Wilbert Jones

Chairman

Donnie Smith

Vice Chairman

Rob Arline

Commissioner

Jeanelle Kidd

Kathy Price

Commissioner Commissioner

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 National Boss Day	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween



### RESIDENT MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

10/09 Western Garden @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center

10/13 George Reese Courts @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center

10/14 Magnolia Courts @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center

10/15 Oakland Heights @ 10:00 a.m. Community Center

10/16 Eastern Garden @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center

10/19 Sowashee Court @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center

10/20 Highway Village @ 2:00 p.m. Community Center

10/29 Mt. View Village @ 3:30 p.m. 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 emauriscey@meridianhousing.net

Home Life \* October 2015 \* 4