

## HOMEOWNERSHIP BECOMES A REALITY FOR MHA RESIDENTS

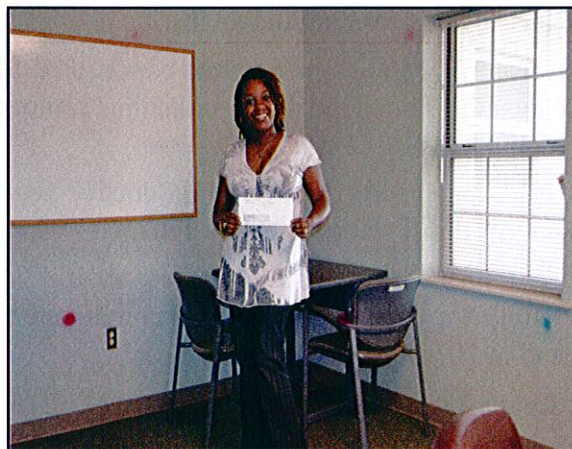
The Meridian Housing Authority's Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS) promotes self-sufficiency, empowerment and respect, while improving the quality of life for residents residing in MHA's nine affordable housing communities. The FSS program helps families achieve financial independence through workshops involving: repairing credit, increasing employment opportunities, completing educational endeavors and managing financial resources. Both Stephanie Parham and Brittney Rice are MHA residents who completed the requirements of the FSS program and are now proud homeowners.

Brittney's enrollment in the FSS program assisted in her successful completion of MHA's Housing Transition Program (HTP). Stephanie recently signed homeownership closing documents and plans to transition into her new home in the immediate future. Both participants attended several financial workshops and homeownership counseling sessions. They were both able to use funds from their FSS escrow accounts as down payment assistance to purchase their homes. MHA partners with local agencies such as: Meridian Community College, First State Bank, Win Job Center, Mississippi State Extension Services and others to ensure the success of the homeownership program. For more information regarding the FSS program, please contact either Elaine Maurissey or Shelia Austin at (601) 693-2800, Ext. 228. Valuable information regarding homeownership opportunities can also be obtained by visiting the MHA website at [www.meridianhousing.net](http://www.meridianhousing.net)

Congratulations to Brittney and Stephanie.



**Stephanie Parham proudly signs closing documents as Attorney, Bo Bailey and Executive Director, Ron Turner, Sr. witness the event.**



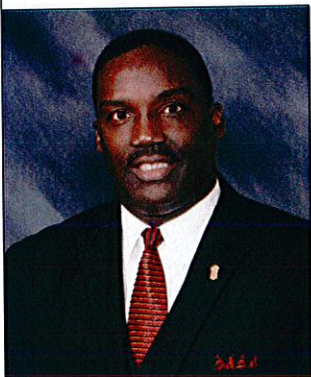
**Brittney Rice Holland earns down payment assistance to purchase her new home.**





# "Committed

## Executive Director's Message



**Ronald J. Turner, Sr.**

I really enjoy this festive time of the year as we reflect back on what has been accomplished over the course of the past twelve months. I am very appreciative of all the hard work and sacrifices made by both the MHA employees and resident advisory boards in an effort to improve the quality of life for all Meridian residents.

It is apparent that our overall team effort has been our greatest asset as an organization. We are truly privileged to work in an environment where we can make a difference in the lives of others on a daily basis. One of the most significant achievements this year has been the success of our Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) and Housing Transition Programs (HTP).

As a result of our on-going commitment to empower our residents to achieve home ownership status, our FSS program has enrolled over 125 participants. The number of resident escrow accounts is increasing as well as their monthly escrow balances. Several participants in our FSS program are now successful homeowners.

Success was also accomplished on the educational front as MHA awarded seven scholarships to deserving graduating seniors residing throughout our affordable housing communities.

Overall, it has been a very busy and productive year at MHA culminating with HUD's "High Performance Designation" which was awarded to the agency this past November.

Now it's time for us to renew our "Commitment to Excellence" for the work ahead in 2016.

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

Ronald J. Turner, Sr., PHM  
Executive Director



## Meridian Housing Authority Encourages Students to Read Over Winter Break

Believe it or not, winter break will be here before you know it. Your children could probably tell you the exact number of weeks and days until vacation begins. To them, winter break means no homework. But as a parent, it's a little less exciting. In fact, it can be stressful finding educational activities for kids and ways to keep them engaged and entertained 24 hours a day. When it comes to educational activities for kids during winter break, it's most important to make sure you do something other than watching television. Before you know it, the holidays will be over and it will be back to the bus stop. To prepare for a smooth re-entry and a successful second semester, don't let school skills like reading, writing, and math slide completely during winter vacation. Here are a few family-friendly activities to keep skills sharp:

- Read your favorite holiday books and talk about why you love it
- Make homemade gifts such as greeting cards and baked goods
- Parents and children can choose some of their favorite holiday recipes

## Meridian Public Schools Winter Break Schedule

All Meridian Public Schools will be closed:  
December 21, 2015-January 5, 2016

All students will return to school on  
January 6, 2016.

Have a Merry Christmas and a  
Prosperous New Year !!!



## 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"

## Christmas Budget Financial Workshop

It's that time of the year again, the season to be jolly! Christmas trees, Santa Claus, Christmas lights, the birth of Jesus, and unwrapped gifts have influenced most people to proclaim that it's their favorite holiday of the year. Often times many of us after the holiday season finds themselves financially overwhelmed in financial debt. This does not have to be you!

Meridian Housing Authority has partnered with Citizen National Bank to help you with Christmas budgeting tips for this year. Please remember the best gift you can give your child is a nice cozy warm place to call HOME.

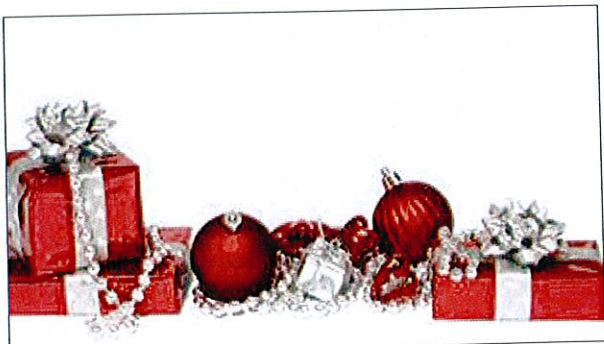
Please join us at MHA Community and Supportive Service building, Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 3:00pm to assist residents who resides in the affordable housing communities to have a financial budget in place for this holiday season and in the meantime, don't allow the holiday stressors to interrupt an opportunity to be thankful.

**REMEMBER:** Don't let stress take over your life during this festive and joyous season. Live in the moment and enjoy the holiday with optimistic thoughts.

See you at the Christmas Budget Workshop!

From your MHA family

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!!!!



## Resident Advisory Board President's Message

This is the time of year that many of us take time to look back and review the goals we set for ourselves when this year started and make plans for the new year about to start. The training we have experienced has allowed us to have meaningful input into the Annual Plan and to realize the monumental task the MHA board, administration and staff undertake daily to maintain safe and affordable resident housing. The RAB board looks forward to representing the residents' interest and concerns in 2016. Take time to read your monthly newsletter and attend your monthly meetings in 2016. Also, please visit MHA website at [www.meridianhousing.net](http://www.meridianhousing.net) for MHA latest updates.

Have a safe and blessed holiday Christmas season and may this coming year provide you with many good opportunities and blessings. Become an active member of your resident association.

**Brenda Griffin, President, RAB Advisory Board**



**Brenda Griffin**



## Message from the Asset Manager



**Trevell McGlothlin**

One important safety tip during the winter season is to never use a range or an oven as a supplemental heating device. Not only is it a safety hazard, it can be a source of potentially toxic fumes. Report all smoke alarm and carbon monoxide emergencies immediately to your property manager or the maintenance department at 601-483-3328.

Please ensure all Christmas lighting is unplugged when leaving your apartment for extended periods of time. During the Christmas break, parents ensure supervision of your household members and guest. Also do not hesitate to report any suspicious activity to your property manager or the Meridian Police Department.

The Housing Operations Department would like to take this opportunity to extend warm wishes, bountiful blessing and a prosperous new year to you and your family. Thank you for all that you do, and may the God of hope fill you with joy and peace in believing that higher ground is just over the horizon.

Merry Christmas and Be Safe.

The Housing Operations Department





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  
Rob Arline Commissioner  
Jeanelle Kidd Commissioner  
Kathy Price Commissioner

Mail To:

# DECEMBER 2015

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 Merry Christmas	26
27	28	29	30	31		



## RESIDENT MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

12/8 George Reese Courts @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center  
12/9 Magnolia Courts @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center  
12/10 Oakland Heights @ 10:00 a.m. Community Center  
12/11 Western Gardens @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center  
12/15 Highway Village @ 2:00 p.m. Community Center  
12/17 Mt. View Village @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center  
12/17 Eastern Gardens @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center  
12/21 Sowashee Courts @ 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: [saustln@meridianhousing.net](mailto:saustln@meridianhousing.net)  
[emauryseey@meridianhousing.net](mailto:emauryseey@meridianhousing.net)