



## ***Western Gardens Recovers From Arson Fire Through Community Support***

On July 11, 2014 an arson fire occurred in the Western Garden's affordable housing community. One dwelling structure occupied by eight families was totally demolished and displaced approximately (32) Meridian Housing Authority residents.



*(Lft to Rt\_ George Reese Court resident President Marshall McKey and MHA Commissioner Kathy Price remain pleased with progress at Western Gardens.*

A special fire victims' account was immediately established by MHA to receive much needed monetary donations. All proceeds collected during the devastating event were distributed equally amongst the fire victim families.

MHA's Resident Advisory Board organized a "Fund Raising Fish-Fry" event which garnered participation from all segments of the community. The agency's support staff organized a clothes closet and also collected household essentials for the families.

Community churches and organizations contributing to the victim fund included: Agape Storehouse Apostolic Church, New Era Missionary Baptist Church, West Mt.

Moriah Baptist Church, Mt. Olive MBC, Oakland Heights PTO, New Hope Blackwater Baptist Church, Lamorris Richardson Ministries, Meridian First Ladies Civitan Club, Grace and Covenant Church, The alumni chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Incorporated and numerous individual Meridian citizens.

Fortunately, no injuries were reported during the incident and all families were successfully relocated and are now fully recovered from the tragedy.

Contractors released the newly constructed apartments to MHA in January 2016 and the units are now fully occupied.

Special thanks to the Meridian Community for assisting MHA in continuing its mission to provide affordable and safe housing opportunities to deserving citizens.



*Western Garden Resident President Brenda Griffin (center) leads tour of the newly released building. Resident Advisory Board leaders Rosalind Lynch, Renata Green and Pasty Griggs along with MHA Commissioner Jeanelle Kidd joins the tour.*



*City Fire Chief, Anthony Clayton approved smoke detectors and sprinkler system for new Western Garden apartment.*



*Mt. View resident President Patsy Griggs inspects new cabinets and appliances at Western Garden's renovated apartment.*



## Executive Director's Message



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

The Meridian Housing Authority remains dedicated to its motto, “Committed to Excellence”.

During MHA’s January 2016, quarterly mass staff meeting, over forty-five employees were commended by Board Chairman Wilbert Jones for achieving the agency’s motto.

As we embark upon the new year, our staff remains equally

committed to performing all responsibilities with the highest degree of professionalism in order to provide quality service to our residents.

We are committed to providing adequate, safe and affordable housing opportunities for all families participation in both our public housing and housing choice voucher programs.

Revitalization efforts remain a top priority as MHA and its architect finalize the construc-



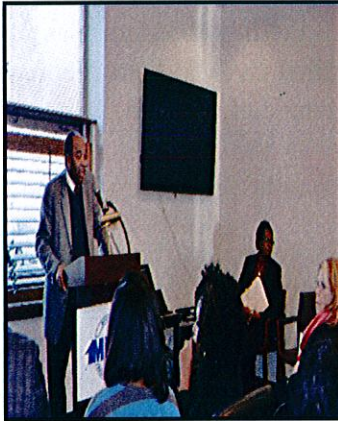
*MHA staffers listen attentively during Commissioner's Jones message.*

tion of two single family homes which will become vital components in the agency’s Housing Transition Program ( HTP).

We are looking forward with eager anticipation to forging new community partnerships which will ensure that MHA will remain “Committed to Excellence” throughout the year.

For more information regarding our programs, please visit our website at [www.meridianhousing.net](http://www.meridianhousing.net).

Ronald J. Turner Sr., PHM  
Executive Director



*MHA Board Chairman , Wilbert Jones commends staff for remaining “Committed to Excellence”.*

## Meridian Housing Authority's Resident of the Month

Meridian Housing Authority is proud to recognize the first “Resident of the Month” in 2016, Mr. Gregory Hall. Mr. Hall resides in Mountain View Village. He has been a resident for the past two years and takes great pride in his community. He also provides ground maintenance for Mountain View, Mt. Barton and scattered sites 4-11, 4-11AB. He is a kind-hearted and devoted resident who is committed to keeping MHA grounds free of trash and debris.

During the summer months, while picking up litter from the grounds, Mr. Hall gives everyone who passes him a friendly, smile and hello. Even on rainy and cold days, you can find Mr. Hall on the property working diligently. The weather does not deter him from fulfilling his duties of maintaining clean grounds and preserving a pleasant attitude.

Doris Benoman, property manager speaks very highly of Mr. Hall’s work ethics. She says that he takes time to ensure that the grounds are free of trash, and that she can depend on him to show up for work on time each day. Mr. Hall is not afraid to get his hands dirty.



*Mr. Gregory Hall poses for a picture after completing his groundkeeper duties.*

We congratulate Mr. Gregory Hall for being chosen as the Meridian Housing Authority “Resident of the Month”.

## 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





## MHA Programs and Educational Classes

The Community and Supportive Service Department of the Meridian Housing Authority encourages all residents to take advantage of the programs and educational classes currently offered. The classes are available at no cost. Materials required for the classes are also readily available at no cost. You will not incur any out of pocket expense for deciding to attend any of these educational opportunities.

The Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS) is designed to assist participants to take charge of your future by achieving financial independence through employment, educational workshops, community resources and supportive services. Listed below are the programs and classes that are currently being offered at Carousel Place and MHA's Community and Supportive Service Department.

MHA Educational Classes Location:

Carousel Place

4610 Vally Street

(601)482-5995

Contact person: Kimmea Spears

- Computer Classes are taught on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00pm –3:00pm .
- Workforce Development Wellness Classes are held each day of the week for your convenience, however, you are required to make contact with Kimmea Spears.

If you interested in enrolling in the FSS program or would like to receive more information about the program, contact Elaine Maurissey at (601)693-2800, ext. 230 or Shelia Austin at (601) 693-2800, ext. 228.



*FSS participants attend Financial Workshop at CSS Building.*

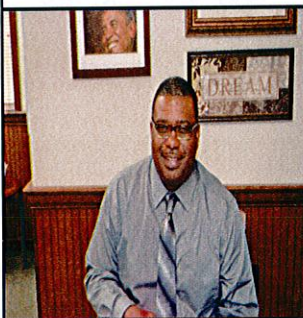
## Resident Advisory Board President's Message

I bring you greetings from the members of the Resident Advisory Board. As we move into the new year , we are reminding all residents to take advantage of Meridian Housing Authority's programs and educational classes that are being offered at no cost to you. It is time to take advantages of the opportunities that are available to improve your quality of life. Many federally assisted programs are being cut or revised. It's becoming difficult to qualify for much needed assistance. MHA has qualified and professional staff to assist you in developing goals and strategies to help you improve your quality of living. Do not let these opportunities pass you by. Improve your quality of life for your children and for a better tomorrow. Become an active member of your resident association.



**Brenda Griffin**

*Brenda Griffin, Resident Advisory Board President*



**Trevelle McGlothlin, PHM**

## Message from MHA Asset Manager

With the New Year off to a quick start, stay in tune by incorporating a checklist of health and rest. February is American Heart Month. Take control your goals in 2016 with proper diet and exercise. Ask your doctor what your blood pressure should be and have it checked often. A Healthy You makes A Happy You! Remember the affordable health care act is available for you if you are without healthcare insurance. Please contact Greater Meridian healthcare Clinic for additional information regarding your health care insurance needs.

Annual Inspections are fast approaching. Perform a check list of your unit's maintenance items that require immediate attention. For a list of these items, please contact your Property Manager. Also please be reminded of random housekeeping inspections . Your property manager and other authorized personnel can cite you for poor housekeeping practices noted during a home visit. Poor housekeeping is a violation of your lease and can be a safety and health hazard to you and your children as well as your neighbors.

*Trevelle McGlothlin, PHM-Asset Manager*





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:

## February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					



**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)  
[emauriscey@meridianhousing.net](mailto:emauriscey@meridianhousing.net)**

### RESIDENT MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

2/09 George Reese @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center  
2/10 Magnolia Court @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center  
2/11 Oakland Height @ 10a.m. Community Center  
2/12 Western Garden @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center  
2/15 Sowashee Court @ 3:30p.m. Community Center  
2/16 Highway Village @ 2:30p.m. Community Center  
2/18 Eastern Garden @3:30 p.m. Community Center  
2/25 Mt. View Village @ 3:30p.m. Community Center