



"Committed to Excellence"

# HOME LIFE

## MERIDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY

"Committed to Excellence"

2018

Monthly newsletter of housing and community activities published for MHA residents

February 2018

### African-American History Month

The following story written by Senior Staff Writer Ida Brown was published in the Feb. 16, 1992, edition of *The Meridian Star*. Polly Glover Heidelberg, also known as "Miss Polly," was a local civil rights activist who befriended the three murdered civil rights workers James Earl Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael "Mickey" Schwerner.

"I'm going to keep on fighting for my people. I was in 'slavery' time. I don't have no need to let you stay there because I was there," said Polly Heidelberg, the woman who many affectionately call "Miss Polly" or "Mother".

In the early '60s, Mrs. Heidelberg joined the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO). Based in Atlanta, the organization was geared to registering blacks to vote.

According to the Rev. Charles Johnson, now pastor of the Church of the Nazarene who also was a COFO member, Andrew Young (former mayor of Atlanta and a right-hand man of King) and John Lewis (a Georgia congressman who was active in Mississippi's civil rights movement) came to Meridian when an office was established here. Mrs. Heidelberg later became involved in the civil rights movement through Mickey Schwerner, James Chaney and Andrew Goodman – the three civil rights workers slain in Philadelphia in 1964.

Mrs. Heidelberg's roots in the local civil rights movement are firmly planted. She is recognized not only locally, but also state-to-state and nationally. "I like to refer to her as a 'trailblazer,'" Clark said. "She went through the jungles of racial prejudice and was involved in the knocking down of barriers so that others could come through with less pain and effort ... Miss Heidelberg should have the same national recognition as Fannie Lou Hamer because she's of the same mold. But where Fannie Lou Hamer followed through on things she saw as wrong, Mrs. Heidelberg would put together a situation and turn it over to the local leaders. They, more or less, received and claimed more recognition than Miss Polly did. But she was one of the ones that got things started." She also is considered an invaluable resource. "I don't think you could put a value on the contributions Mrs. Heidelberg has made," said state Rep. Charles Young. "She played a very instrumental role in creating change. God has many different kinds of messengers who come in many different forms and fashions. Mrs. Heidelberg has delivered a very unique message.

"During the movement, your most highly educated people weren't the persons that created change. They were basically symbols of the status quo because they were afraid they would lose what they had ... When others thought they had too much to lose, she would step in and do whatever needed to be done."

MHA would like to celebrate Meridian's civil rights hero Ms. Polly Glover Heidelberg "Miss Polly".



### Notable African-Americans Contributions to Meridian Housing Authority



There are three prominent MHA properties J.T. Davis, George Reece Court and Frank Berry Courts. How many of you know that these properties were named after prominent African-Americans of Meridian? Reverend J.T. Davis was pastor of Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist church according to an article in *The Meridian Star*: Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church was organized in 1923 the original structure of the church, worship service was held in the Brush Harbour. During L.S. Lee's administration, the first piano was purchased. Other projects and goals were attained during Rev. A.R. Clayton (1931-1935), Rev. J.T. Davis and Rev. John Robertson's administrations. This article does not go into detail as to the many contributions Reverend J.T. Davis gave to Mt. Olive and to the City of Meridian but he will always be remembered with the naming of J.T. Davis Courts in his honor.



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## Executive Director's Message



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

EnVision Pillars of Self-Sufficiency HUD is inviting all housing authorities to submit proposals to institute the EnVision Center Demonstration program. This program will focus on developing families to become self-sufficient through the concept of the four foundational pillars of self-sufficiency. Economic Empowerment, Educational Advancement, Health and Wellness and Character and Leadership. MHA is positioned to take on this challenge and will be submitting a proposal soon; it should be kept in mind that this is a highly competitive program since only 10 housing authority throughout the United States will be selected to participate. The opportunity to provide MHA residents with a viable solution to move from government subsistence to a life of independent self-sufficiency is one of the greatest challenges we face.

I am encouraging all interested residents to take advantage of the FSS, ROSS and Homeownership programs and if MHA is selected for the EnVision Center Demonstration program you will be one step ahead in achieving your goal of self-sufficiency.

MHA remains committed to giving residents the greatest chance for success and fulfilling their goals. MHA wants to ensure that every resident desiring a home and a life not depending on government subsidies will have that opportunity.



## Outstanding Resident Association President of the Month



Ms. Jennie R. Alford

Many of you know Ms. Jennie Alford for all the activities she holds at Oakland Heights. She provides great food and uplifting socials to get together meetings with a spiritual focus. She is truly an angel and we would like to take this time to thank her for all she has done for the residents of Oakland Heights.

Everyone is encouraged to continue supporting Ms. Alford's efforts to keep Oakland Heights at the top of the MHA's High Achievers properties. You are asked to re-

member the meeting time for the Resident meetings and make every effort to attend. This month, there will be a door prize for a randomly selected resident attending the meeting! Again, congratulations to Ms. Alford and all the residents of Oakland Heights!

## Let's Keep MHA Looking Good!

These are some tips to help everyone in keeping the ground sand buildings at MHA in the best possible shape:

1. Let's keep our lawns in great shape by not parking on the grass in or around your unit. First offense is a fine of \$25.00.
2. When you are grilling outside, make sure to keep the grill at least 15 feet from the building to avoid any fire hazards.
3. When the temperature drops and presents need to utilize space heaters in your apartment make sure there is enough room around the heater to allow proper ventilation and to stay clear of all flammable objects (e.g., curtains, bed linen, toys, etc.).

**February is also Dental Hygiene Month so**

## 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





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## FEBRUARY MHA STARs OF THE MONTH

Ms. Jessica Emerson, of Western Garden is the February Resident of the Month. She is the proud mother of six wonderful and talented children. Ms. Emerson is enrolled at Meridian Community College, in the Final Touch Cosmetology School and plans to graduate later this year. She stated that, "doing hair has been my passion and dream since I was twelve years old." She plans to get her cosmetology license after graduation and opening her own beauty shop. She views her future as promising, hoping to earn enough money while operating her business to move out of Western Gardens and purchase her own home. Ms. Emerson stated that she is devoted and giving up on her dream is not an option. "My life now has a meaning behind it and I will continue to succeed and become successful in all that I do."

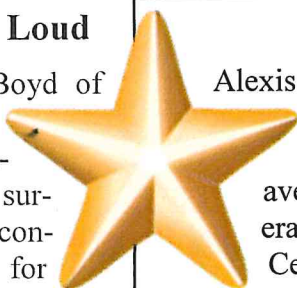
Congratulations to Ms. Emerson and her outstanding family! We wish her the best as she strives to make her dreams come true.



### Seniors Living Out Loud

This month Dorothy R. Boyd of Reece Court was chosen as the Living Out Loud Senior of the month. She has survived several major medical conditions and is now caring for her two precious granddaughters. Ms. Boyd is the type of grandmother that we read about. She is the grandmother that comforts you when you scrape your knee, will protect

you from the storm in the middle of the night, and always wears a smile on her face. Thank you Ms. Boyd, for being that great grandmother we all love and remember.



### Honor Roll Student

Alexis Green is an 8th grader attending Magnolia Middle School. She's a member of the 2017-2018 Magnolia Cheer Squad and maintains an A-B average. Alexis has won awards in reading and several science fairs. She hopes to one day attend East Central Community College and pursue a career in nursing; after which

she plans to attend Xavier University to earn an RN degree. Alexis enjoys attending College Park Church of Christ and spending time with friends and family. Alexis certainly is on the path to success and we hope that she achieves all of her future goals. She is a great role model for all children and we wish her all the best. Congratulations Alexis, you make us all proud!



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### Carousel Place Best Practice

Mrs. Evelyn Love wants all residents to know the computer lab is open and available to conduct job searches,GED prep, and homework for youth.

### Remember to Thank a Veteran

#### For Their Contribution to our Freedom.

Mr. James N. "Ping" Vinzant of Highway Village served in the US Army as a combat infantryman from 1965 to 1967. He fought in Vietnam, earning two Bronze Stars and a Silver Star for his heroic actions in battle. He has been a resident of Highway Village for six years. He spends most of his time watching westerns and looking out for his neighbors. He is most satisfied with all the assistance he has received from MHA staff and would like to become more involved with activities scheduled for seniors at Highway Village. It is truly an honor to have this hero as a resident of MHA and we thank him for his valiant service!







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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  
 Rob Arline Commissioner  
 Greg Lane Commissioner

Mail To:

## February 2018

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			

*February 19, Presidents Day MHA offices will be closed*

### RESIDENT MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

2/08	Oakland Heights	@10:00a.m.	Community Center
2/09	Western Garden	@ 3:30 p.m.	Community Center
2/13	George Reese	@ 3:30 p.m.	Community Center
2/14	Magnolia Court	@ 3:30 p.m.	Community Center
2/15	Eastern Garden	@ 3:30 p.m.	Community Center
2/19	Sowashee Court	@ 3:30 p.m.	Community Center
2/20	Highway Village	@3:30 p.m.	Community Center
2/21	Mt. Barton	@ 3:30 p.m.	Community Center
2/22	Mt. View Village	@ 3:30 p.m.	Community Center



Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church  
 Reverend J. T. Davis former Pastor

#### 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

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