



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:

# October 2019

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
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27	28	29	30	31		

**RESIDENT MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2019**

10/8	George Reece Courts	@ 3:30 p.m.	Community Center
10/9	Magnolia Courts	@ 3:30 p.m.	Community Center
10/10	Oakland Heights	@ 10:00 a.m.	Community Center
10/11	Western Gardens	@ 3:30 p.m.	Community Center
10/15	Highway Village	@ 2:00 p.m.	Community Center
10/17	Eastern Gardens	@ 3: 30 p.m.	Community Center
10/21	Sowashee Courts	@3:30 p.m.	Community Center
10/23	Mt. Barton	@ 3:30 p.m.	Community Center
10/24	Mountain View	@ 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  
Social Services Department, Attn. Newsletter  
2305 D. Street, Meridian , MS 39301  
OR

E-mail to: [gluvene@meridianhousing.net](mailto:gluvene@meridianhousing.net)

Home Life \* October 2019\*



# HOME LIFE MERIDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY



Monthly newsletter of housing and community activities published for MHA residents

October 2019

## Meridian Housing Authority 2019 Resident Advisory Board Members

Meridian Housing Authority would like to congratulate the 2019 Resident Advisory Board Council for their service, dedication , and commitment to their housing community. Once elected, Resident Advisory Members serve a term of three years representing the residents in their housing community. The Advisory Board consist of residents who provide input on key issues and planning and leadership within their community. Within the past months, the Advisory Board have been meeting with numerous MHA Community Partners in order to discuss issues surrounding health care, education, nutrition, voting, transportation , and safety as such topics impact the lives of residents. All residents are strongly encouraged to attend their resident meetings and work cooperatively with their Resident Advisor. Pictured below are the Resident Advisory Board Members: **Row 1**, pictured from left to right is: Marshall McKey, Resident President of George Reece Courts, Brenda Griffin, President of the Resident Advisory Board and Resident President for Western Gardens, Patricia Shamburger, Resident President for Highway Village.

**Row 2:** From left to right: Renata Green, Resident President for Eastern Gardens, Patsy Griggs, Resident President for Mt. View Apartment and Latoya Phillips, Resident President for Mt. Barton.

**Row 3:** From left to right: Gloria Cole, Resident President for Oakland Heights, Raven Lott, Resident President for Sowashee Court and LaToria Brown, Resident President for Magnolia Apartments.





# “Committed to Excellence”

## Executive Director’s Message



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

As we approach our annual strategic planning process, the MHA Board of Commissioners, staff, community stakeholders in conjunction with our valued residents, remain focused on enhancing new and innovative programs at the Meridian Housing Authority. Our Family Self-Sufficiency programs are geared towards providing affordable housing opportunities and improving the quality of life for all of our residents.

Whether it’s through the expansion of our Housing Transition Program or partnering with local and state officials to create communities of choice, MHA strives to provide over **1,214** families with stability and promising futures. Our programs remain more vital than ever for our city’s low income and working class families seeking decent, safe, and affordable housing opportunities. I look forward to working with each of our **fifty-five (55)** community partners to ensure that MHA remains a “high performer” in the affordable housing industry.

We will continue to foster relationships which will ensure that we are meeting the critical demands for HUD resources necessary to improve the quality of our housing stock and the revitalization of our neighborhoods. Our ultimate goal is to remain on the cutting edge of affordable housing innovation as we strive to provide struggling families with the support they need to realize their full potential. MHA’s Annual Public Hearing will be held **November 12, 2019 at 5:00p.m.** in the agency’s training room.

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

Ronald J. Turner, Sr., PHM

Executive Director

## East End Temple Lodge #476 Host Community Fun Day



East End Temple Lodge #476 hosted a **Community Fun Day at Sowashee Courts**. Residents of Sowashee Court enjoyed food, fun, basketball games, bouncy house and family fellowship. Thomas Adams, planner and organizer for the event, stated that the lodge take pride in partnering with Meridian Housing Authority. Along with the festivities of the event, Eva Darden, was the recipient of a 10 speed bike donated by the Lodge. Council Woman Kim Houston also attended the event.

## Caring Heart, Caring Community



Jacquelyn Leggett, a resident of Western Garden Housing Community, has been a faithful bus monitor in her community for over 20 years. Although she has three adult children and three grandchildren of her own, she is constantly providing school supplies, support, and encouragement to the children in her community. Jacquelyn fully understands the importance of education. She loves her children and she wants them to be successful at home and at school. Kudos to Ms. Leggett.

## MHA Welcomes HUD Officials to the Future Envision Center Site



Denise Cleveland-Leggett, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Region IV Director, along with Jerri McGruder and Ziva James, HUD Staff Officials, made a site visit on Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup> to Frank Berry Court Community Center to tour the prospective center for the future MHA HUD Envision Center. The future center will be a centralized hub for Economic empowerment, Education, Health and Wellness, and Character and Leadership all which are aimed to assist residents to foster self-sufficiency.

## Resident Advisory Board President’s Message

Greetings! I would like to first congratulate the newly re-elected Resident Advisory Board Members. As new residents move into your community, make an effort to welcome them and promote all of the wonderful programs and services that are available within Meridian Housing Authority. There is still a tremendous amount of work that has to be done as a board. We are constantly meeting with vendors and community partners concerning medical needs, employment, education and other issues that impact all residents living in public housing. Residents are strongly encouraged to attend resident monthly meetings on their site. If you are not aware of the time and date in which meetings are held on your site, please speak with your property manager. As we enter into the fall season, take this time to embrace your surroundings by being the change you want to see in your community.

For more information regarding the programs at MHA go to [www.meridianhousing.net](http://www.meridianhousing.net).

Brenda Griffin, President

Resident Advisory Board



*Brenda Griffin*

## Jerry Thigpen, Home Ownership Transition Program Recipient, Dream Come True



Jerry Thigpen, a Homeownership Transition Program Participant (HTP), successfully completed the program by becoming a first time homeowner. Mr. Thigpen, a single father of three, has had to overcome a lot of obstacles. He lost his wife in September of 2016. His family first home was in Western Gardens Apartments. In 2013, The Meridian Housing Authority Homeownership Transition Program begin. There Mr. Thigpen began his journey from renting to becoming a homeowner. The HTP Program is offered to residents who currently live in public housing.

Shelia Austin, Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator, worked with Mr. Thigpen for a period of three years in order to assist him in devising a stable financial plan to become a homeowner. Although aware of the many challenges faced as a homeowner, Mr. Thigpen is looking forward to a brighter and successful future as a new homeowner. The Meridian Housing

## Message from the Asset Manager

Trevelle McGlothin,  
Asset Management Coordinator  
**Trevelle's Corner**



**Trevelle McGlothin, PHM**

Greetings from the Meridian Housing Operations Department:

Although the calendar states that Autumn begins on August 23rd, it still feels like summer time right now. As temperatures continue to reach record breaking levels, please remember to drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration. Residents with central air and heating systems, a steady temperature of 75 degrees will not only keep your unit cool, but will also deter increasing utility cost. For the safety of everyone, we urge residents to supervise and be aware of your child's location at all times. On the maintenance front, please avoid overstocking your refrigerators and freezers. This causes a non-cooling issue in the lower level of your appliance.

Please keep in mind that October is the last month that residents will be charged air conditioner fees for the year. Air conditioner fees will resume in May of 2020.

Stay cool and have a great fall season.

Housing Operations Department