

MERIDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY



2007

Resident Calendar

November 2006



Dear Resident:

It is my honor to present our first MHA Resident Calendar for 2007. This calendar has so much valuable information from paying rent, fire safety to decorating, and vehicle information.

Each month there will be meetings held for Resident Council members. Also, there will be training for the Council Advisory each Wednesday of the month.

Have your calendar in a suitable location, and refer to it often during 2007. Best wishes for the New Year!

Executive Director

Derwin Jackson

November 2006

What are Resident Councils?

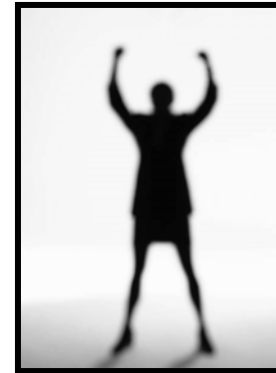
All adult residents of each MHA public housing complex are automatically members of the Resident Council for the complex where they live. There are no dues. The Councils meet monthly and sponsor a number of activities and programs.

MHA supports the Resident Councils and provides limited funding, meeting space, and staff assistance as needed. Each week MHA hold training sessions to help enhance the Resident Advisory Board to take skills back to each site to have a productive association.



Do you want to set up a business?

MHA has helped several residents set up their own businesses. Training, no-interest loans, and other special assistance are available.



Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency

MHA offers many tools to help residents reach their goals. The Family Self-Sufficient Grant for public housing and Section 8 provides financial assistance to pay for GED and Workforce training through our Neighborhood Network Center.

The FSS Program helps assist elderly and disabled senior citizens to referral services. We also provide Case Management and basic computer literacy classes. Contact 693-2800 extension 230.



☾ January 2007 ☽

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day Observed MHA Offices closed	2	3 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	4	5 Mt. View Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	6
7	8	9 George Reece Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	10 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m. Magnolia 3:30 p.m.	11 Western Gardens Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	12 Oakland Heights Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	13
14	15 MLK Birthday Observed MHA Offices closed	16	17 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	18 Eastern Gardens Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	19	20
21	22 Hwy Village 2:00 p.m. Sowashee 3:30 p.m.	23	24 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	25	26	27
28	29	30 Frank Berry Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	31 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	Check your Smoke detectors		Maintenance Work Orders 483-3328 Non-emergency Police 484-6845/6846

What is counted as income?

Annual income is anticipated total income from all sources received by the family head and spouse (even if temporarily absent) and by each additional member of the family over 18 and not a full-time student. This includes all income derived from assets for the 12-month period following the effective date of certification of income.



When a family member goes to work, some income may be excluded from the rent calculation if the family meets one of the following criteria:

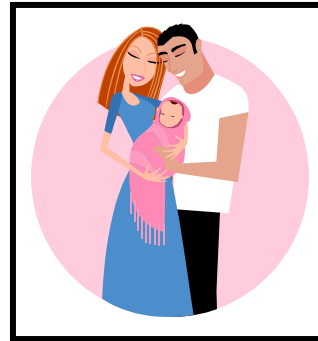
- ✓ has received at least \$500 in TANF within the last 6 months.
- ✓ has worked less than 10 hours per week at minimum wage in the last 50 weeks.
- ✓ has been unemployed for at least one year.
- ✓ have increased earnings from participating in an economic self-sufficiency or other job training program.

See your manager if you think you might qualify for one of these exclusions.

Income

What deductions are allowed?

- ✓ \$480 for each member of the family residing in the household who is under 18 years of age, or who is older and disabled/ handicapped or a full-time student (other than the head of the household or spouse).
- ✓ \$400 for any elderly family.
- ✓ Medical expenses in excess of three percent of annual family income of any elderly family.
- ✓ Reasonable child care expenses necessary to enable another member of the family to be employed or to further his or her education.



Is income verified?

All income is verified by a 3rd party (W-2, pay stubs, etc.). In addition, MHA periodically reviews the records of all residents with the Mississippi Employment Security Division. If unreported income is found, this can result in eviction from your assisted unit.

What is total tenant payment?

Except for residents or either residents may choose a flat rent, total resident payment is the **highest** of the following (rounded to the nearest dollar):

- ✓ 30 percent of monthly adjusted income

- ✓ 10 percent of gross monthly income
- ✓ \$25 minimum rent

What is adjusted income?

Adjusted income is annual income less deductions according to HUD instructions.

Do I have to report all changes in my family's income?

Yes, unless you have chosen a flat rent. For everyone else, rent is based on adjusted family income.

Residents who are not on a flat rent must report changes in the source of their income (such as from TANF to employment, part-time hours to full-time, or occasional to regular overtime).

All residents are required to let management staff know when there is a change in the number of people in their family.



Depending on the change, your rent may go up or down. If you do not report these changes within **10 days**, you may lose your housing.

February 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Mt. View Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	3
4	5	6 George Reece Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	7 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	8 Western Gardens Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	9 Oakland Heights Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	10
11	12	13	14 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m. Magnolia 3:30 p.m.	15 Eastern Gardens Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	16	17
18	19	20	21 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	22	23	24
25	26 Hwy Village 2:00 p.m. Sowashee 3:30 p.m.	27 Frank Berry Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	28 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	Check your smoke detectors		Maintenance Work Orders 483-3328 Non-emergency Police 484-6845/6846

Paying Rent

How is rent calculated?

There are two different ways to calculate your monthly rent to MHA. One is generally based on 30 percent of a resident's adjusted overall income. The other is a flat or fixed rent that is based on market rentals in the community.

In order to rent a unit, you must sign a lease. It shows the amount of rent you must pay, what management will provide, and what you are expected to do.



When do I have to pay rent?

Your rent is due on the first day of the month. If you do not pay it promptly, you will have a late charge added to your account; and MHA may begin legal proceedings to collect the money you owe and / or regain possession of your apartment.

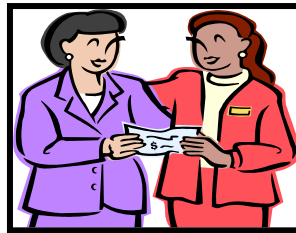
It is always best to pay on time to avoid greater problems. If you are late paying your rent three times in any 12-month period, you may lose your housing.

How and where do I pay rent?

MHA does not accept cash.
You are urged to make your rent payment by **MAILING a CHECK or MONEY ORDER** to:

**Meridian Housing Authority
P.O. Box 870
Meridian, MS 39302**

Be sure to include the return portion of your billing statement and write your correct address and account number on the check or money order.



What if I have a good reason for not paying rent on time?

In certain cases of hardship beyond a family's control, management can refer a family to agencies that may be able to provide emergency financial help. If you believe this is your situation, you must tell MHA about it before your rent is due.

Will my rent be changed every year?

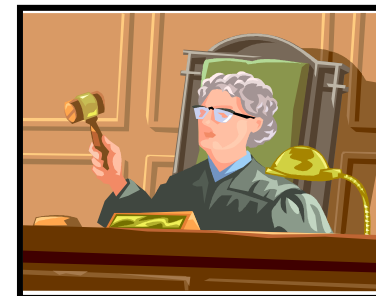
Unless you are on a flat rent, your rent may be changed **any** time your income or family size changes. In a few situations, earned income will not result in an increase in your rent. All residents must review their status with MHA staff at least once a year, even if there are no changes. The details are explained in your lease and in MHA's admissions and occupancy policy.

What is a flat rent?

MHA residents have a choice of and income-based rent or a flat rent based on market rental rates. Residents who choose the flat rent for their complex and bedroom size will not normally have their rent changed for three years.



What happens if I give false or incomplete information?



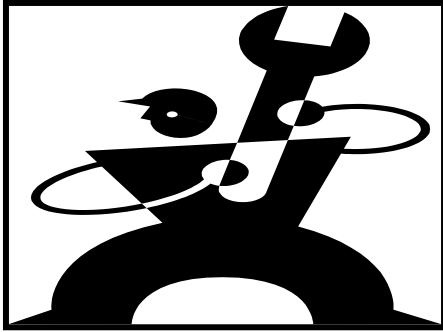
If you knowingly give false or incomplete answers to questions about your income, family size, or similar matters, MHA will seek eviction, back charges, and possibly criminal prosecution.

Information you provide must be truthful, accurate, and up-to-date at all times. MHA verifies all income with employers. Be sure to report all changes in income or family size to management staff as soon as they happen.

☞ March 2007 ☞

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Maintenance Work Orders 483-3328 Non-emergency Police 484-6845/6846				1	2 Mt. View Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	3
4	5	6	7 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	8 Western Gardens Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	9 Oakland Heights Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	10
11	12	13 George Reece Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	14 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m. Magnolia 3:30 p.m.	15 Eastern Gardens Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	16	17
18	19	20	21 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	22	23	24
25	26 Hwy Village 2:00 p.m. Sowashee 3:30 p.m.	27 Frank Berry Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	28 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	29	30	31 Check your smoke detectors

Maintenance



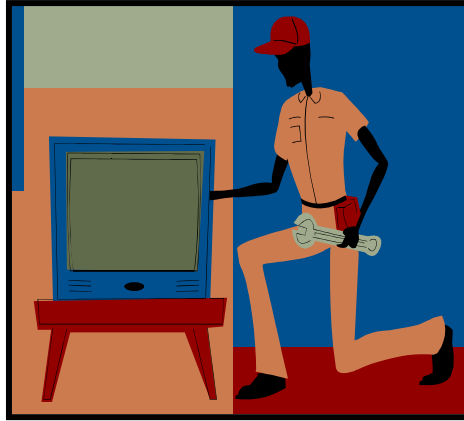
Who should I call for repairs?

If something needs to be fixed, don't wait. Report the problem by calling the work order **24-hour call line at 483-3328**.



Will I be charged to get something fixed in my home?

You will not be charged for repairs due to normal wear and tear. You will be charged when you cause damage to your unit or appliances.



When will my repairs be done?

Your request will be written up and sent to maintenance by the next business day if it is not an emergency. Your repairs will be made as soon as possible. Your request for repairs is for authorization maintenance to enter your unit and make necessary repairs.

Maintenance will leave a copy of the work order in the unit to inform you of the status of the work.

What should I do about a maintenance emergency?

During regular business hours, MHA will send workers immediately in case of an emergency maintenance problem. After hours, MHA has an answering service that will send contract workers to deal with the problem.

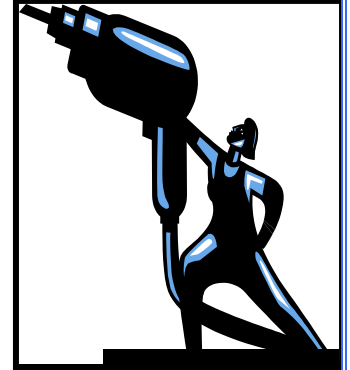
The emergency number to use after hours and on weekends is

483-3328

What is considered a maintenance emergency?

An Emergency Problem:

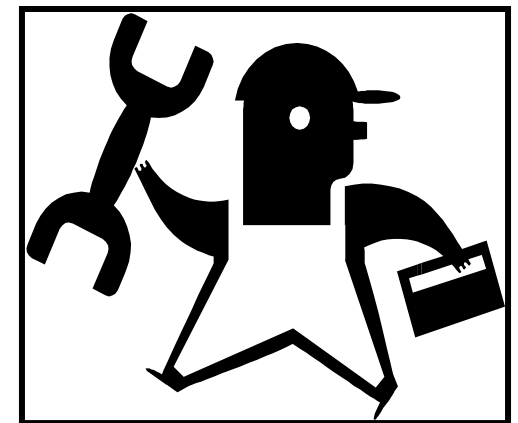
- ✓ threatens someone's health or safety immediately, or
- ✓ will cause a lot of property damage if not corrected right away.



Some examples of true emergencies are:

- ✓ leaking gas
- ✓ sewer backups
- ✓ fallen electrical lines
- ✓ flooding

If you see this type of problem, call for assistance anytime, day or night.



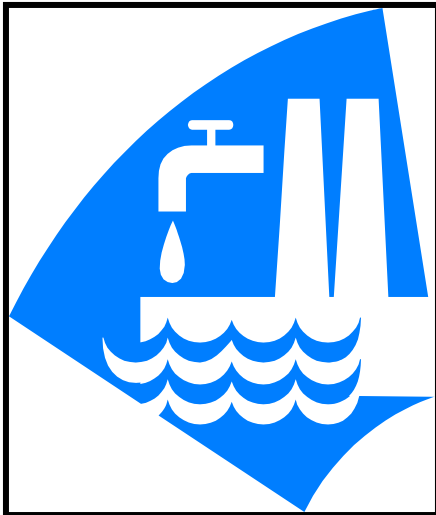
April 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	5	6 Mt. View Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	7
8	9	10 George Reece Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	11 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m. Magnolia 3:30 p.m.	12 Western Gardens Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	13 Oakland Heights Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	14
15	16	17	18 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	19 Eastern Gardens Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	20	21
22	23 Hwy Village 2:00 p.m. Sowashee 3:30 p.m.	24 Frank Berry Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	25 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	26	27	28
29	30	Check your smoke detectors				Maintenance Work Orders 483-3328 Non-emergency Police 484-6845/6846

Saving on Utilities

How can I save water?

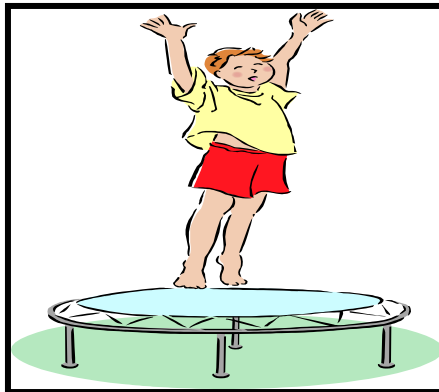
- ✓ Don't leave water running while brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing your face.
- ✓ Take short showers instead of baths.
- ✓ Fill the sink to wash dishes and fill to rinse instead of letting the water run. This will save about five gallons for an average dish load.
- ✓ Wash only full loads of laundry.
- ✓ Report leaking faucets and constantly running toilets to maintenance.
- ✓ Don't leave home when you are watering your lawn.
- ✓ Wash your car at a self-service carwash, which recycles water.



How can I save money on electricity and gas?

The most important thing is to use gas and electricity wisely:

- ✓ Turn off lights when they are not needed.
 - ✓ Keep light bulbs clean so they stay bright.
 - ✓ Don't leave your TV set, radio, or stereo turned on all day long when no one is paying attention.
- In cold weather you should:**
- ✓ Dress warmly in your home.
 - ✓ Open window coverings on the sunny side of your home during the day and let the sun give you "free heat."
 - ✓ Close window coverings on cloudy days or as soon as the sun sets.
 - ✓ Keep drapes, furniture, and floor coverings from blocking air vents.
 - ✓ Use several light blankets to trap more warm air, rather than one heavy blanket.
 - ✓ Washing machines: use cold water to wash full load.
 - ✓ Turn the thermostat down at night and during the day when you are gone.



What appliances can I purchase to help save on my utilities?

ENERGY STAR is a government-backed program helping businesses and individuals protect the environment through superior energy efficiency.

Products in more than 40 categories are eligible for the ENERGY STAR. They use less energy, save money, and help protect the environment. Ask for the ENERGY STAR. Some appliances include:

- ✓ Refrigerators
- ✓ Ceiling Fans
- ✓ VCRs and DVD players
- ✓ Computers
- ✓ Cordless phones

To find out more information call ENERGY STAR Hotline (888) STAR-YES (888) 782-7937.



May 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	3	4 Mt. View Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	5
6	7	8 George Reece Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	9 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m. Magnolia 3:30 p.m.	10 Western Gardens Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	11 Oakland Heights Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	12
13	14	15	16 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	17 Eastern Gardens Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	18	19
20	21 Hwy Village 2:00 p.m. Sowashee 3:30 p.m.	22	23 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	24	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day Observed MHA Offices closed	29 Frank Berry Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	30 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	31 Check your smoke detectors		Maintenance Work Orders 483-3328 Non-emergency Police 484-6845/6846



What is MHA doing?

Staff and residents are working together to eliminate drugs and violence in MHA's complexes. MHA provides positive role models, special activities, and training for resident youth. Youth are also encouraged to participate in educational and recreational community events as an alternative to drug use and violence involvement.

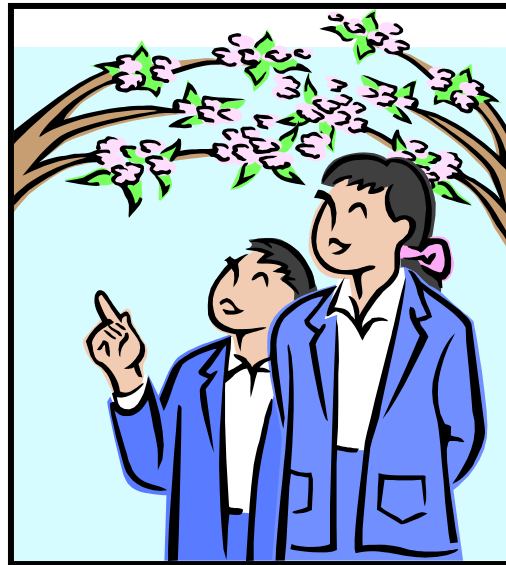


Youth Programs

How do I help?

Attend the monthly meetings of your Resident Council to find out what is going on and how you and your family can participate. You will hear firsthand about changes MHA is planning and be able to make comments and suggestions.

Meet your neighbors and find out what is happening in your neighborhood. Become involved in the activities and programs offered at your complex.



Where do I go if someone I know needs social service assistance?

There are many agencies in the area that can provide help. Call MHA's Resident Services Coordinator at 693-2800, extension 233, for confidential referrals or social service assistance. You can also look in the "Community Services" phone numbers section at the back of this calendar.



Are there activities for children?

MHA has partners that provide programs for children to become members and be active while in school and out. These are incentives to kids to do well in school and stay free from drugs.

Other educational, training, and recreational programs are available for our young residents. These include Youth Excitement Team (YET), 4-H Lauderdale County, Boys and Girls Scouts, and Boys & Girls Club.



☯ June 2007 ☯

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Maintenance Work Orders 483-3328 Non-emergency Police 484-6845/6846					1 Mt. View Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	2
3	4	5	6 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	7	8 Oakland Heights Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	9
10	11	12 George Reece Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	13 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m. Magnolia 3:30 p.m.	14 Western Gardens Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	15	16
17	18	19	20 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	21 Eastern Gardens Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	22	23
24	25 Hwy Village 2:00 p.m. Sowashee 3:30 p.m.	26 Frank Berry Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	27 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	28	29	30 Check your smoke detectors

Who is responsible for taking care of yards, sidewalks, and porches?

When you rent a housing unit, you also rent its yard area. It is yours to enjoy. You are expected to keep trash picked up, to sweep your sidewalks, porches and steps, and to keep common areas clean. Porches and yards must always be neat. They should not be used to store tires, appliances, car batteries, bicycle parts, indoor furniture, etc. Mondays and Tuesdays are Lawn Care Days so you should not hang clothes on the lines.



If the management or maintenance staff observes these items, you will be notified to remove them. You may be charged a fee if maintenance workers have to pick up debris or remove an appliance left in your yard. If you refuse to keep the outside of your apartment neat, MHA may issue a 30-day notice for violation of your lease.

Yard Care



Where do I take my household trash and garbage?

When you get rid of trash properly, less litter is scattered around the neighborhood. Each complex provides a method for disposing of household waste:

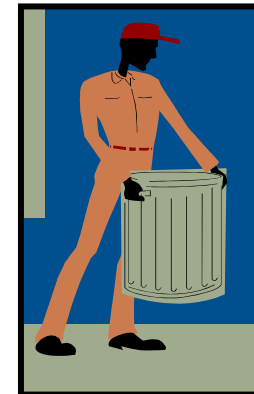


- ✓ If your complex provides individual containers, be sure to place your container at the curb on the day assigned to your address for disposal.
- ✓ If your complex provides dumpsters, place your trash in bags and deposit them in the dumpster, not on the ground.
- ✓ Don't send small children to empty trash in these dumpsters. They cannot reach dumpsters properly and may get hurt.



Why should I worry about trash in my neighborhood?

MHA works throughout the year to get rid of unhealthy insects, rodents, and ground squirrels. The treatments only work if you keep your neighborhood clean.

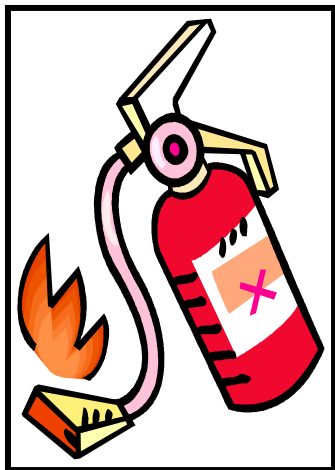


- ✓ Help MHA and the sanitation service company pick up trash on time by parking cars so they do not block access to the dumpsters.
- ✓ Please do not put food outside for pigeons and geese. Pigeons carry mites and their droppings can transmit a variety of diseases to people.
- ✓ If you are discarding cardboard boxes, break them down so they take up less room in the dumpster.

July 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Independence Day Observed MHA Offices closed	5	6 Mt. View Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	7
8	9	10 George Reece Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	11 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m. Magnolia 3:30 p.m.	12 Western Gardens Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	13 Oakland Heights Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	14
15	16	17	18 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	19 Eastern Gardens Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	20	21
22	23 Hwy Village 2:00 p.m. Sowashee 3:30 p.m.	24	25 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	26	27	28
29	30	31 Frank Berry Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	Check your smoke detectors			Maintenance Work Orders 483-3328 Non-emergency Police 484-6845/6846

Fire Safety



How can I protect my home and family from fire?

Most apartment fires are caused by grease on stoves, unsupervised children, or careless smoking. Tragedy can be prevented by practicing these home fire safety tips everyday:

- ✓ Clean grease off stove so it can't catch fire while you are cooking.
- ✓ Don't leave food cooking if you can't be there to watch it.
- ✓ Never store flammable or combustible products in your unit.
- ✓ Never use ovens or burners on gas stoves to heat your home.
- ✓ Never smoke in bed.
- ✓ Matches and lighters should be placed out of reach of children at **ALL** times.

How do I avoid hidden fire dangers around my home?

Fires can be prevented by identifying dangerous items around your apartment and taking action to make them safe. Here are a few suggestions about common hazards:

- ✓ Keep your TV set, stereo, kitchen appliances, switches, and electrical outlets in safe condition. Replace frayed or broken plugs and cords. Don't run electrical cords under your rugs or where people walk.
- ✓ Move rags, paper, trash, and other materials that burn easily away from stoves, room heaters, water heaters, TV sets, and other appliances that get hot.
- ✓ Avoid leaving children alone at home where they can start fires by playing with matches, lighters, and candles.
- ✓ Don't overload electrical outlets. Each outlet is designed to safely handle only one lamp or appliance at a time. Overloaded circuits often cause fires.
- ✓ Do not store **ANYTHING** in the water heater or furnace closets.
- ✓ Do not block access to the water heater or furnace closets.



How do I get out of my home in case of a fire?

All exits must be clear so you can get out in case of a fire. The bedroom windows must not be blocked by any furniture or obstructions that cannot be moved easily.

Smoke detectors help protect your family.

All apartments have smoke detector alarms that are inspected at least annually for fire hazards. The alarm sometimes makes a loud, annoying noise during cooking or other normal activities. If this happens, open your windows and doors to let in fresh air. **Do NOT disconnect the smoke detector since this is grounds for terminating your lease!!**

How do I take care of the smoke detector?

To alert your family during a real fire, be sure your smoke detector is working at all times.



If it has been damaged, disconnected, covered up, or had the battery removed, it will not work when you need it most. Make sure the warning horn sounds by pressing the test button once each month. False alarms may be

caused by heavy cigarette smoke, steam, grease smoke from cooking, high room temperature, or insects that crawl inside the detector. If you have repeated false alarms, call maintenance to check your detector. Never take it apart yourself, cover it up, or remove the batteries...even for a little while!

August 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Maintenance Work Orders 483-3328 Non-emergency Police 484-6845/6846			1 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	2	3 Mt. View Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	4
5	6	7	8 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m. Magnolia 3:30 p.m.	9 Western Gardens Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	10 Oakland Heights Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	11
12	13	14 George Reece Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	15 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	16 Eastern Gardens Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	17	18
19	20	21	22 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	23	24	25
26	27 Hwy Village 2:00 p.m. Sowashee 3:30 p.m.	28 Frank Berry Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	29 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	30	31 Check your smoke detectors	

Does MHA require vehicles to be registered?

Yes, all vehicles owned by residents must be registered with the management office. They must show a valid Mississippi license plate, a current MHA registration sticker, and be in operating condition.



How can I prevent traffic accidents in my complex?

Be sure to obey the posted speed limits. Be alert for children playing and for elderly or handicapped people who depend on your careful driving for their safety. You should especially observe speed zones posted within complexes where children often play.

Motor Vehicles



Where should I park my car, truck or motorcycle?

Streets and paved lots on MHA property can be used for free resident parking unless they are marked otherwise.

If you park your car, truck, or motorcycle on the grounds, on sidewalks, in front of dumpsters, blocking fire lanes, or in any other illegal place, it may be towed at your expense.

You will be charged for any damage to MHA property caused by careless driving or by parking on the grounds.



May I wash my vehicle on MHA Property?

MHA does not allow residents to wash your cars on the properties.

What about my guest's vehicles?

If you are going to have guests visiting your apartment, MHA residents will have first choice on parking at our sites. Visitors have to park where it is available and not interfering with the resident's choice to park.

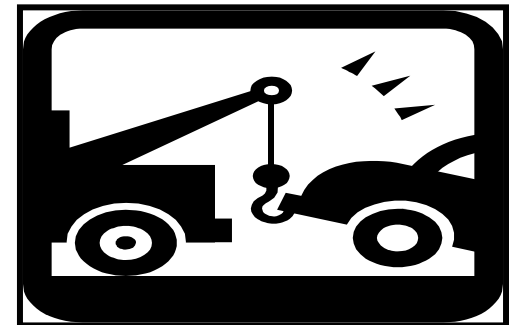


May I repair my vehicle on MHA Property?

No, you may not make major repairs to your motor vehicles on MHA property.

What about an inoperative vehicle near my home?

You should report abandoned or inoperative vehicles to management staff. A warning notice will be put on the vehicle and, if it is not moved, it may be towed at the owner's expense.



September 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Maintenance Work Orders 483-3328 Non-emergency Police 484-6845/6846						1
2	3 Labor Day Observed MHA Offices closed	4	5 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	6	7 Mt. View Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	8
9	10	11 George Reece Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	12 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m. Magnolia 3:30 p.m.	13 Western Gardens Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	14 Oakland Heights Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	15
16	17	18	19 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	20 Eastern Gardens Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	21	22
23	24 Hwy Village 2:00 p.m. Sowashee 3:30 p.m.	25 Frank Berry Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	26 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	27	28	29
30 Check your smoke detectors						

What is considered good housekeeping?

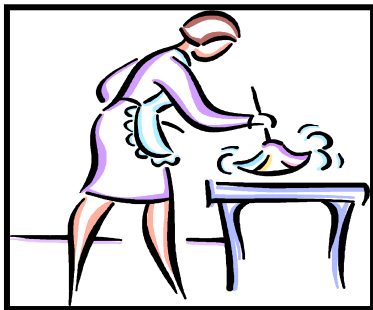
MHA expects you to keep a clean and orderly home. A clean house helps keep your family healthy, sets a good example for children, keeps household pest



away, makes it easier to find things, helps prevent fires, and increases overall home safety.

You are expected to:

- ✓ Clean grease and spilled food from your oven and stovetop after cooking.
- ✓ Clean your dishes and clothes regularly so they don't pile up in your apartment.
- ✓ Keep your floors, windows, counters and cabinets clean.
- ✓ Keep the inside and outside of your refrigerator clean by wiping it with a damp cloth regularly.
- ✓ Scrub your tub, shower, and toilet as needed to keep them clean.
- ✓ Throw away your kitchen garbage and household trash everyday.

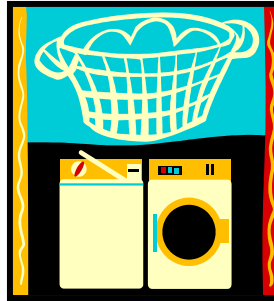


Housekeeping

Cleaning tips for residents

Your oven, stove, and range hood should be cleaned at least once a week. Wiping spills as they happen will make this much easier. If you are not sure how to clean your stove and oven, ask MHA staff.

Defrost your refrigerator (if it is not frost-free). Be careful not to damage it with knives or other sharp tools, and don't use an electric defroster, or you



may end up with a repair bill. Instead, turn it off before you go to bed and simply remove any ice and water in the morning.

Bathroom sinks, tubs, and toilets should also be cleaned regularly. Do not flush any objects such as hairbrushes, sanitary napkins, tampons, or diapers down the toilet. If articles have to be removed from your sewer line, you could be charged accordingly.

Is there a nearby laundry facility?

Mt. View is the only site that has a Laundromat on site for Mt. View residents **ONLY**. The hours are 8 am- 6 pm Monday-Friday and 8 am- 2pm Saturday and Sunday. Other guidelines are posted in the laundry room. Please don't send small children to do the laundry since they should not be in the laundry rooms without adult supervision.

What if I am a poor housekeeper?

If your home is dirty, cluttered, or otherwise shows poor housekeeping, you will be warned to correct the problems right away. You may also be required to go to special classes to learn better housekeeping habits.

If the problem is not corrected, you may be evicted under your lease agreement for failure to maintain your unit in a sanitary condition.

If your unit has been damaged or abused, you will be charged for repairs and may be evicted.



May I have a pet?

Certain types of pets are allowed, but this depends on the specific complex. A pet deposit and monthly fee will be charged for each pet. Persons with disabilities who require a service animal may be exempt from the pet deposit and monthly fee.

For the safety of all residents, there are strict rules regarding a pet's size, weight, and neutering or spaying. Each pet must also have all required shots.

October 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	4	5 Mt. View Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	6
7	8	9 George Reece Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	10 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m. Magnolia 3:30 p.m.	11 Western Gardens Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	12 Oakland Heights Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	13
14	15	16	17 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	18 Eastern Gardens Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	19	20
21	22 Hwy Village 2:00 p.m. Sowashee 3:30 p.m.	23	24 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	25	26	27
28	29	30 Frank Berry Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	31 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	Check your smoke detectors		Maintenance Work Orders 483-3328 Non-emergency Police 484-6845/6846

Why are some residents evicted?

The majority of residents follow the rules. However, when residents fail to pay rent, destroy property, or violate their lease, MHA must seek eviction to keep housing in decent conditions for the other residents.

There are two types of evictions:

- ✓ Serious or repeated lease violations
- ✓ Non-payment of rent



What about illegal drug use or alcohol abuse?



MHA will evict residents who engage in illegal drug usage or drug related criminal activity. Residents can also be evicted for alcohol abuse if it adversely affects their neighbors.

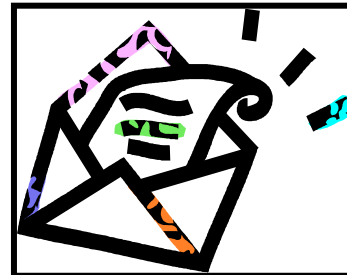
Residents who violate their lease in this manner will be notified of their violation in writing and will receive either a 30-day notice of lease termination or... in the most serious cases... a three-day notice of lease termination.

Lease Violations



What are serious lease violations?

Failure to report changes in income or family size accurately and /or timely, destruction of MHA property, keeping unauthorized pets, poor housekeeping habits, fighting, displaying weapons, or threatening the health and safety of other residents and staff are all serious lease violations that can result in eviction.



What about community service?

While most residents are exempted, community service may be required for some residents. Failure to meet the requirements could result in non-renewal of the lease.

What happens if I don't pay my rent?

Rent is due on the first of every month. If residents are going to be late paying their rent, then management will meet with them to discuss rent collection.

On the 8th of the month, the resident will be assessed a \$20 late charge.

On the 16th of the month evictions are turned into court on the resident who has not paid their rent in a timely manner. Court cost and attorney fees will be assessed to their account if taken to court.

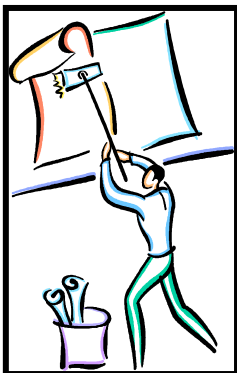


If management is given a judgment for possession of the housing unit, MHA has the right to have the Police remove the resident from the apartment. Don't let this happen to you! **Please pay all rent and charges promptly so that you do not have to go to court and pay extra charges.**

November 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Mt. View Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	3
4	5	6	7 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	8 Western Gardens Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	9 Oakland Heights Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	10
11	12	13 George Reece Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	14 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m. Magnolia 3:30 p.m.	15 Eastern Gardens Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	16	17
18	19	20	21 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	22 Thanksgiving Day MHA Offices closed	23 Family Day MHA Offices closed	24
25	26 Hwy Village 2:00 p.m. Sowashee 3:30 p.m.	27 Frank Berry Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	28 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	29	30 Check your smoke detectors	Maintenance Work Orders 483-3328 Non-emergency Police 484-6845/6846

Decorating



Why does MHA have to inspect my housing unit?

Federal regulations require management to inspect your home:

- ✓ When you move in
- ✓ At least once a year
- ✓ When you move out

MHA also has the right to inspect a unit and will conduct special inspections between regular annual inspections. You will normally be given notice at least two days before an inspector visits, unless an emergency exists.



What kinds of decorating are allowed in my home?

You are welcome to add personal touches to your home, but certain permanent or damaging changes cannot be allowed at all or must be restricted. Here are some basic guidelines:



- ✓ Items must not be placed on windows or window sills where they can be viewed from outside when the curtains are closed.
- ✓ Decorate with removable materials and fasteners which don't cause damage to walls, floors, doors, and appliances. (Don't attach plastic coverings to cabinets, refrigerators, or similar surfaces, for example.)
- ✓ Use removable strips to attach rugs and carpets to floors. No permanent types of carpet or floor coverings are allowed.
- ✓ You may lay telephone, television, or electric cords or cables only along the wall, preferably behind furniture. They may not run across doorways, hallways, or areas of the floor where someone could trip on them.
- ✓ You cannot change cabinets, counters, doors, floor covering, plumbing fixtures or appliances.

- ✓ Do not put permanent shelves on walls.
- ✓ Ceiling hooks are not allowed.
- ✓ Wallpaper is not allowed, and painting of walls can only be done with written permission from management.

Remember, you will be charged for all repairs required to fix the unit for the next resident, except for normal wear and tear.

May I install appliances and similar equipment?

You may install an air conditioner, clothes washer, dryer, or dishwasher **only** if suitable water supply fixtures, electrical service, exhaust vent, and drains already exist. **Please check with management before installing any major items.**



May I have a waterbed?

NO! Because of possible damage to the unit, waterbeds are not permitted in any MHA housing.

December 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	6	7 Mt. View Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	8
9	10	11 George Reece Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	12 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m. Magnolia 3:30 p.m.	13 Western Gardens Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	14 Oakland Heights Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	15
16	17 Hwy Village 2:00 p.m. Sowashee 3:30 p.m.	18 Frank Berry Resident Meeting 10:00 a.m.	19 Resident Training CSS Building 10:00 a.m.	20 Eastern Gardens Resident Meeting 3:30 p.m.	21	22
23	24 Christmas Eve MHA Offices closed	25 Christmas MHA Offices closed	26 Family Day MHA Offices closed	27	28	29
30	31 Check your smoke detectors					Maintenance Work Orders 483-3328 Non-emergency Police 484-6845/6846



Clothing

Hope for Children Store
 2716 8th Street 483-7009
 Open: 10-5 M-F Sat. 10-3

Salvation Army Thrift Store
 2739 6th Street 483-9570
 Open: 9-3:30 M-F

After-School Programs

Youth Excitement Team
 1801 26th Avenue 39301 693-9767
 Provides after-school tutorial services.

Boys & Girls Club of East Mississippi
 1717 45th Avenue 482-2544
 Provides recreational and tutorial activities.

Community of Hope Tutoring Program
 812 28th Avenue 693-8073
 Assist students target problem areas with learning activities.

Energy Assistance

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
 P.O. Box 905 483-4838
 Meridian, MS 39302
 Open: 8-5 M-F
 Helps eligible households with home heating costs.

Residential Energy Assistance Challenge
 P.O. Box 905 483-4838
 Meridian, MS 39302
 Open: 8-5 M-F
 Help reduce energy usage.



Community Resources

Emergencies

Care Lodge 483-8436
 Temporary shelter for battered women and their children who are escaping from domestic violence.

Child/Adult Abuse Hotline 800-222-8000
 Prevention- child and adult abuse reporting.

South Harbor Homeless Shelter
 2700 St. Paul Street 483-4838
 Provides temporary shelter assistance.

Counseling

Pine Grove Outreach Center of Meridian
 2203 Hwy 39 N 485-7094
 Meridian, MS 39301
 Provides inpatient, outpatient, and residential programs serving anyone who suffers from chemical dependencies or psychiatric and emotional problems.

Weems Community Mental Health Center
 1415 College Drive, Meridian

Main Office 483-4821
Child & Youth Division 482-7377
Weems Lifecare 693-1001
 Provide counseling from adolescent to adults.

The Counselor's Cabin
 2100 9th Street 482-2246

MHA Youth Programs

(MHA public housing residents only)

FSS Coordinator 693-2800 ext. 230
 Educational, job training, leadership recreational opportunities for public housing resident youth and their families.

Child Care

East Central Planning
 1010 19th Avenue 482-2222
 Give vouchers to assist with child care.

Child Welfare Office
 5224 Valley Street 482-3337

Employment and Training

Meridian Community College Webb Center
 910 Hwy 19N 39307 482-7445
 Ask for Deborah Nettles on resume writing, job listings and career development.

Employment and Training
 1319 23rd Avenue 483-3337

Win Job Center
 2000 Hwy 19N 483-1406

Family Self-Sufficiency

FSS Program Coordinator 693-2800 ext.230
 Program to assist MHA tenants interested in economic independence, self-sufficiency, and possibly home ownership.

Resident Service Coordinator 693-2800 ext. 233
 Vocational, job training and employment opportunities for Public Housing residents.

Food

WIC Program 483-6558
 2701 Davis Street
 Supplemental food program for children and infants under age 5 and pregnant or breast-feeding women

Food Stamps Assistance
 5224 Valley St. 483-2225
 Provides monthly allowance for food.



Legal and Juvenile Services
Juvenile Crime Police Station
 485-1866

Health Services

Lauderdale County Health Department
 5224 Valley St. 693-2451
 Provides health care and past records.

Medicaid
 Information Line 1-800-421-2408
 Regional Office 483-9944
 2505 9th Street

Greater Meridian Health Clinic
 2701 Davis Street 39301 483-6558
 Provides health services for low-income families with medical needs.

School

Head Start MS Action for Progress
 2311 4th Street 483-2225

Meridian Public School District
 1019 25th Avenue 483-6271
 School Information 483-6271

Meridian Lauderdale County Library
 2517 7th Street 693-6771
 Access to computers and other resources viable for education.

Meridian Community College ABE/GED Program
 484-8796
 Provides the opportunity to open new doors in education, and pursue goals for personal and professional enrichment.

Senior Services

Meals-on-Wheels
 2900 Saint Paul Street 483-4838
 Provide personal contact and a hot meal daily.

Foster Grandparents
 4555 Highland Park Dr. 482-6186
 One-on-one companionship for physically and mentally challenged youth.

Weatherization
 2900 Saint Paul Street 483-4838
 Prevents the infiltration of cold air into homes by providing weather-stripping, etc.

Social Security
 4817 N. Park Drive 39305 693-5010
 TDD/Hearing Impaired 483-7328

Senior Citizens Center
 3300 32nd Avenue 485-1810
 Provides recreational activities for the seniors of the community.



Social and Human Services

The Friendship Center Inc.
 819 45th Avenue 483-7140
 Provides Case Management and Day Care
 Open: 7:30 a.m.-4:00p.m.

Rebuild MS 693-1211

Wesley House Community Center
 1520 8th Avenue 485-4736

United Way of Lauderdale County
 2003 23rd Avenue 39301 693-2732

Child Support Enforcement
 482-3368

Family and Child Services
 5224 Valley St. 484-5124
 Provides services to abused children and families.

Transportation

PMT Inc.
 22003 Hwy 39N 483-5505
 Provides medical and pharmacy stops.

Veteran's Services

Veteran's Affairs Center Benefits
 Information & Assistance 800-827-1000
 Wage & Hour Division 693-6566
Veteran's of Foreign Wars
 Old Hwy 80 W 485-4042
 Social club for past war Veterans.

