

## Happy Thanksgiving!

### MERIDIAN CELEBRATES REVITALIZATION OF FRANK BERRY COURTS



On October 5<sup>th</sup> the City of Meridian celebrated in grand style including a parade led by Mayor Cheri Barry to mark the grand reopening of Frank Berry Courts. The out-

dated and obsolete public housing project has been dramatically transformed into a beautiful, modern, sustainable affordable housing community.



Trevelle McGlothlin;  
Brenda Griffin

“Frank Berry Courts has a rich legacy of serving Meridian’s low- and moderate-income families, and this redevelopment effort ensures that it will also have a future as quality affordable housing for years to come,” said Ron Turner, Sr., Executive Director of the Meridian Housing Authority, which led the revitalization effort along with

its private-sector partner, The Michaels Development Company.

“The revitalized Frank Berry is breathing new life into the whole neighborhood, and we are very grateful for the tremendous support of the city, county, state, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development of this effort,” Turner said.



“We are so grateful for this investment,” said Mayor Barry. “We at the City of Meridian would like to thank the Meridian Housing Authority and The Michaels Development Company for the hard work that went into making this day possible. This is exactly the kind of public-private partnership we need in the “Queen City.”

The redevelopment of Frank Barry was made possible when the Meridian Housing Authority was awarded an \$8.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Additional funding for the \$12 million redevelopment effort came from the sale of tax-exempt bonds and federal low income housing tax credits.

### MHA Resident Advisory Board Partners with Meridian Public School District

The Meridian Public School District under the leadership of Dr. Alvin Taylor, has created a new initiative to move the public school system in a positive direction. This initiative requires the partnership efforts of local businesses, civic organizations, churches, and concerned parents in order for it to



be as effective as it can possibly be. Dr. Taylor organized a special community rally to unveil his plans of getting the school system back on the right track. He stated that there are three different areas in which partnerships from the community participants can take

be most effective as a part of this initiative. Those areas are tutoring, mentoring, and parental involvement. The Meridian Housing Authority Resident Advisory Board has chosen to participate in the area of parental involvement. There has been a challenge given to our parents in public housing by the Resident Advisory Board President Brenda Griffin, to volunteer to get more involved in the educational process of the children.



MHA residents signing up to take part in the initiative.

She emphasized that the children need the support of the parents in order to maintain a sense of motivation to stay focused and to achieve the best



quality education possible. The RAB is excited about the their partnership with the Meridian Public School district as we continue our efforts in making this a better school system for the children in our community. President Griffin is encouraging any resident who needs to satisfy

community service requirements, to consider volunteering with the Meridian Public School District.

## Executive Director’s Message



As we embark upon the 2011 Thanksgiving season, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to MHA staff, residents, board and the many collaborative partnerships forged over the past year.


Many of us have suffered personal losses and our local government is currently enduring hardships due to the declining state of the economy. It is challenges such as these that provide the perfect opportunity to pause and reflect on what is really important to us. We must stop and realize how precious the gift of life really is.

As we count our blessings during this season, let us also remember the gift of family and friends and meaningful relationships that have enriched our lives. While we plan those grand turkey dinners and elaborate celebrations, let us not forget those who are not quite as fortunate as we are.

Hats off to the MHA Resident Advisory Board for constantly reminding us to be good neighbors by checking on our elderly residents and others who may be suffering daily hardships.

Finally, let us not forget our courageous men and women on foreign soil who are rendering undying services to this country. Because of their sacrifice and dedication to us, they will not be able to be surrounded by loved ones during this special time of the year. Let us keep them in our prayers.

Again, I wish you and your family the best during this Season of Thanksgiving.

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

## Care Lodge Displays Appreciation to Former ROSS Participants

The Care Lodge was presented with some pillows that were made by MHA ROSS participants as a part of giving back to the community. One element of the ROSS program is to motivate residents to help those you can and in return we will have a better community. Dianne Mills from Care Lodge attended the



ROSS session to show her appreciation to the group for all the hard work they put into making those pillows. This is a true testament of how the residents understand that making a difference in someone else’s life is also a good way to make a difference in their own life.

## Property Manager’s Corner

MHA is excited about the new playground equipment in our communities. In order for the children to enjoy the playgrounds to the fullest, it is important to keep the areas clean and graffiti free.



There will be strict penalties imposed on anyone caught defacing playground equipment or any MHA property. Take pride in your community by working together to keep it beautiful. We also want

to re-emphasize the importance of supervising children at all times. No child under age thirteen should be home alone, and small children are and **NEVER** to be left unattended for **ANY** period of time. If children will open the door for an MHA employee, it is also possible for them to open the door for a stranger. MHA has concern for each family in our communities and we strive to ensure that everyone’s safety is maintained at the highest level possible. We hope you have enjoyed your summer. Now let’s start the new school year off with even more enthusiasm!

**Madie Boykin**, Asset Management Coordinator

## MHA PHONE NUMBERS

Maintenance Department 483-3328; Social Services 693-2800; Frank Berry Courts 482-1880; Eastern Gardens 482-3312; Mountain View Village 481-3424; Western Gardens 483-8612; Oakland Heights 481-3421; Highway Village, 8th & 9th Ave. 483-1816; George Reese Courts/Magnolia Courts 693-4586; Mount Barton/Sowashee Courts 483-0202; Carousel Place 482-0085; J.T. Davis 482-0077; MHA Police Liaison Cell (601)527-0407; Meridian Police Dispatch 601-601-485-1893; Emergency 911



# to Excellence”

## MHA Security Meeting Held at George Reese Courts

Residents of George Reese Courts participated in a security meeting with MHA’s security consultant, Clyde Venson, in order to express some concerns regarding the recent incidents in the surrounding area. Preventive and proactive measures were discussed in order to learn how to better handle these situations as they occur. The residents were very attentive as they take advantage of the opportunity to learn more on how to



Doris Benoman, Clyde Venson, and William Myles

keep their community safe. Mr. Venson also visited other MHA sites to meet with residents regarding their security concerns. to the issues that were a concern.



Residents of George Reese Crts.

## Resident Advisory Board President’s Message



The start of the new school year has begun and the Resident Advisory Board wants to encourage all students to continue the 2011-2012 school year just as good as you did when you started it! Get at least eight hours of sleep every night and eat a healthy breakfast in the morning to start your day off right. Study hard and be on your best behavior at home **AND** at school. Parents support your children by asking them every evening what they learned in school and help with homework as much as possible. Get to know the teachers and staff and attend school events. Families and schools working together equals successful students. Lets make sure that all of our students have a success story!

The RAB would like to remind all the residents that elections for resident association officers have been completed and all resident associations should be represented with at a president. If you want to see a difference in your nation, state, county, or city, the change begins in your own back yard. Be the change that you want to see!

*Brenda Griffin*, Resident Advisory Board President

## MHA Welcomes Three New Faces



Stacey Hudnall is the temporary position as the Occupancy and Community and Supportive Services Receptionist through Manpower. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from the University of West Alabama and is currently pursuing a Master’s Degree in Education in anticipation of teaching high school biology with the Meridian Public School District. Stacey desires to ultimately become a School Counselor.

Krystal Bell is Meridian Housing Authority’s newest Housing Manager for Mountain View. Krystal is a native of Meridian and a graduate of Meridian High School. She is studying Business Administration at Meridian Community College and has big plans for improving the already outstanding Mountain View community. We wish her the best in her efforts.



Sheila Austin has assumed the role of Public Housing FSS( Family Self-Sufficiency) Coordinator for the Meridian Housing Authority. Sheila was the previous part-time case manager of Carousel Place and J.T. Davis. Mrs. Austin is a Cum Laude graduate of Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Social Work degree. Her goal is to attend the University of Southern Mississippi in the Spring of 2012 to pursue a Masters degree in Social Work.



The Board of Commissioners, Resident Advisory Board and the staff of MHA welcome Stacey, Krystal and Shelia aboard!

## Fun Day for the Kids in Eastern Gardens

The children had a great time as they were treated to a Halloween fun day by their resident association president, Cantea Brown. Cantea gave the children an opportunity to dress up in costumes as they paraded around the neighborhood receiving goodies from their community. These children had a fun, but most importantly, a safe environment to enjoy their Halloween. The costumes gave them an extra incentive to fully participate in the activity that was planned for them. Cantea decide to do something for the children in the neighborhood that would be safe, fun, and friendly for everyone. She took the necessary steps to make this activity happen and it truly paid off as these children were filled will laughter and excitement the entire time.





"Committed to Excellence"

"Committed to Excellence"

Meridian Housing Authority  
 2425 E Street  
 Meridian, MS 39301  
 601-693-4285

Mail To:

# November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <b>Rent Due</b>	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	29	30			

- 11/17-Mt. View/Mt. Barton Resident Association Meeting 3:30p.m.
- 11/17-Eastern Gardens Resident Association Meeting 3:30p.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: saustin@meridianhousing.net  
 wmyles@meridianhousing.net  
 emauriscey@meridianhousing.net

### Community Meetings & Events

- 11/09 George Reese Courts & Magnolia Courts Resident Association Meeting 3:30p.m. Community Center
- 11/10-Oakland Heights Resident Association Meeting, 10:00 a.m. Community Center.

- 11/11-Western Gardens Resident Association Meeting, 3:30 p.m., Community Center
- 11/21-Hwy. Village Resident Association Meeting 2:00p.m. Community Center
- 11/21-Sowashee Resident Association Meeting 3:30 p.m. Community Center