

HOUSING AUTHORITY

City of Laurel, MS

"It's Our Housing Pleasure"

HOUSE TALK

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 13

WINTER EDITION 2021



FROM THE

LAUREL HOUSING AUTHORITY

ROSS CONDUCTS CANNED FOOD DRIVE

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LHA's ROSS Programs conducted their annual Canned Food Drive on Saturday, November 20, 2021 at the Townley Center. Residents from all sites were invited to come get canned items.

Executive Director Speaks.....



Mr. Ailrick D. Young
LHA Executive Director

Greetings,

The Holidays Season is upon us and the mood is festive. This should be a time of joy and opportunities to spend time with family and friends. Please take

advantage of this opportunity to have some time with your family and friends. While doing so, you must also be reminded that we still have some challenges with COVID. Continue to follow all recommended protocols to keep your family and friends safe. Let us all enjoy the holidays and safely return to work or school.

We look forward to the coming year of more opportunities to serve you and your family.

Happy Holidays!!

BROWN CIRCLE TURKEY GIVEAWAY



Gobble! Gobble!

Boys Scout Pack #440 at Brown Circle and parents received turkeys for Thanksgiving. The items were donated from Janine Harges with Ambetter Magnolia Health Services.

Property Manager

Charlotte Williams coordinated the event.



LHA PROVIDES THANKSGIVING MEALS FOR SENIORS



Senior residents at the various Laurel Housing Authority sites were excited to receive hot Thanksgiving Meals on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 from the Housing Authority. The meals are a part of the Housing Authority's annual outreach.



Partner Highlight

L-JC COUNCIL ON AGING HAS HEALTHY LIVING EVENT

The Laurel-Jones County Council on Aging conducted a Healthy Living Event on October 6, 2021, where every resident received a bag with some fresh fruit, a frozen healthy-choice dinner and some personal care items.

Gift bags were given to 54 residents.

Laurel Jones Council on Aging (COA) is a nonprofit organization.

The group's mission is to encourage, promote, and aid in the function of local programs which serves for the enhancing of healthy living and better lifestyles of the Aging in our community.

In addition to the fruits and frozen meals, COA Volunteer Service Coordinator Margaret Jones said residents received a five-pack of ace masks, hand sanitizer, information on breast cancer, crossword puzzles and more.

Jones said these types of events are only a few ways in which COA serves its' Arco Lane aging community.

"Council on Aging's part-



**PROMOTING HEALTH
AND SAFETY WHILE
WORKING TO EDUCATE
OUR SENIORS !!**

nership with Laurel Housing is historical because it has lasted for well over fifty years," Jones said. "COA appreciates Laurel Housing and it is our pleasure to aid your residents."

Jones said the activity is a way to encourage residents to think about their health and to eat healthier foods.



HOUSE TALK



BEACON ROSS TAKES PART IN CITY'S NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME



LHA PARTICIPATE IN LAUREL'S CHRISTMAS PARADE



Laurel Housing Authority's entry was among the many community and business agencies that were showcased in the Laurel Sertoma Club Annual Christmas Parade in downtown Laurel on Friday, December 3, 2021. The LHA float was designed by Mr. Malik Davis.

Highlighting ; **OUR PARTNERS****"CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF GIVING"****Thanks for the generosity of our partners and supporters****"CHRISTMAS DONATIONS"**

- Ignite Church
- Sanderson Farms
- J's Building and Designs
- Mac's Heating and Air
- Dr. George Smith
- Community Bank
- Clark's Janitorial
- C. E. Johnson and Supply
- Elkins Wholesale
- Reginald Evans and Tracy Hall
- Sharonda Keys
- Stephen Jackson
- Wash Family & Friends
- Bathsheba Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star
- Jones Chapter 421A Order of Easter Star
- West Jones College and Career Readiness Students
- Serteens of Northeast Jones High School
- Laurel Mayor Johnny Magee
- LPD Police Chief & Mrs. Tommie Cox
- Nellie Satcher
- MLK Community Development Corp.
- Mr. & Mrs. Vernon & Barbara Graves
- Laquita George, Nail Divas
- Greta Holden
- Katrina Robinson
- Shambrika Odems
- South Central Regional Medical Center
- Friends of Children of MS
- Humana— Jason Caire
- Staff of LHA



News from LHA Safety Officer

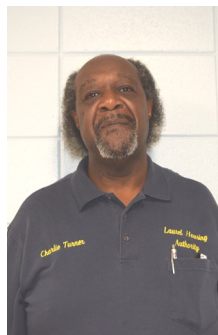
The time of the year has changed.

The sun is closer to the Earth. Let's be alert, slow down and careful of our children's standing, walking or running to the bus stop and drop off.

A reminder of your valuables in your vehicles; don't leave your Christmas shopping lying on the back seat. Don't leave change (money) lying in arm rest/cup holder. If you decide to do these

things, leave the doors unlocked. Therefore, you won't have to buy a window. Try to keep your porch lights on during the night hours. Thieves don't like the light.

Let's be careful when trying to deep fry. If you haven't done it before, there are several experts in



Charlie Turner
LHA Safety Officer

the area who can help you.

Once again, see something, know something, hear something that's not legal, say something to authorities.

We are here to serve you to the best of our training.

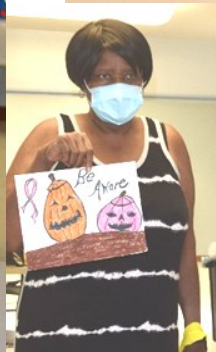
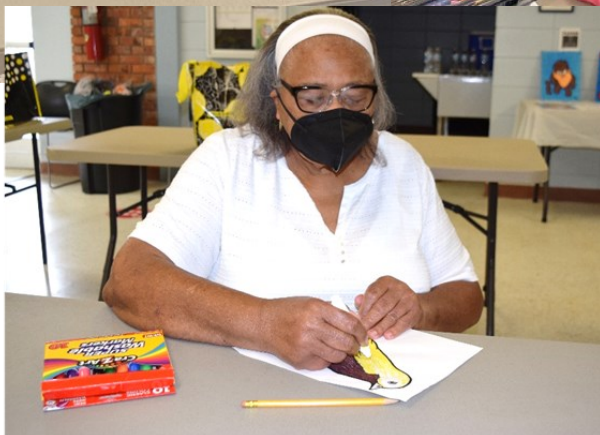
To all have a safe, happy and loving family gathering.

*** Remember in all you do, give thanks to your creator. Stay safe and free. Calls are welcome to the Laurel Police Department, the Jones County Sheriff's Department and the Laurel Housing Authority.



AGING IN PLACE: Mobility Activity

ARCO LANE ROSS: ART CLASS WITH FRANKLIN



LHA Participates in United Way's Prancer Path

The United Way of the Pine Belt's 2021 Prancer Path is now on display for viewing. The HA participated in the Christmas Tree Décor on Friday – November 19th. LHA placed 3rd place. Special thanks to Semeka Brown and Malik Davis for their wonderful decorating skills!!

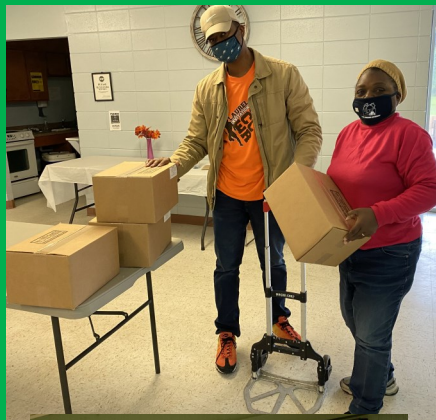


Soup Kitchen/MS Food Network donate boxes to seniors

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Brown Circle



Arco Lane



MCCOY'S DONATES ITEMS TO HOUSING AUTHORITY



Photo/submitted

Pictured on left: Stan Nelson, store manager of McCoy's Building Supply of Laurel, is shown with LHA Maintenance Supervisor Johnny Gardner.

McCoy's Building Supply of Laurel was able to donate numerous items to the Laurel Housing Authority. Officials said every so often McCoy's gets several items that have to be removed from stock for different reasons, such as the vendor changed the label or things like that and the store cannot sell the items at that point. "Instead of throwing away perfectly good inventory, they donated all the items to the Housing Authority because they knew it would be used and not wasted," Maintenance Supervisor Johnny Gardner said. "We were very happy to receive the items and appreciated the company thinking of the Housing Authority."

Strong Families



GLORY HOUSE PROVIDES THANKSGIVING MEAL BOXES

A local outreach ministry is making sure that a unique group of people in Jones County are having a Happy Thanksgiving.

The Glory House, an outreach Christian mission ministry based in Laurel, partnered with the Laurel Housing Authority's Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency (R.O.S.S.) Program at Arco Lane to ensure that the residents at that location will have food for the holidays. Grant and Hope Staples, founders of the ministry, along with a number of volunteers came to Arco Lane Homes Site and shared their love and food with the residents.

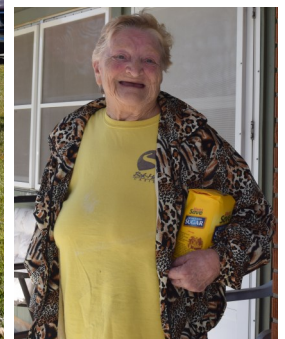
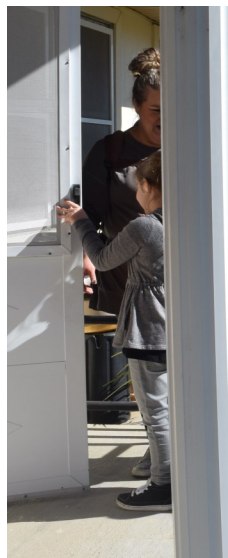
Organizers and volunteers were greeted with big smiles and phrases like "Thanks," "Awesome," and "May God Bless You," as they delivered food boxes filled with a turkey and all the fixings for a Thanksgiving Meal.

Hope Staples said the goal of the outreach was designed to reach as many people as possible.

The Glory House's mission is to share the love of Christ with our community and world by loving God and loving people. This is accomplished by serving others



through our food and personal care pantry, Bible studies, preaching, teaching, evangelism, worship, children's ministry and camps, mercy ministry, disaster/emergency response, men's and women's ministry events and activities."



Highlighting Employees

Seals Promoted



The Laurel Housing Authority announced in November Semeka Seals promotion to the position of Property Manager. LHA officials said they "look forward to her success and future achievements!"

BROWN CIRCLE ROSS CONDUCTS HOMEBUYERS WORKSHOP

Brown Circle ROSS conducted a homebuyers workshop on Saturday, December 4, 2021. Ariel Russell with The First Bank facilitated the workshop.



Russell gave each participant a Homebuyer's guide provided by the Mississippi Home Corporation outlining MHC Programs and How To Finance A Home.

MHC is a state's housing finance agency. For more information about housing finance visit mshomecorp.com to learn more.



Arco Lane's New Resident Council



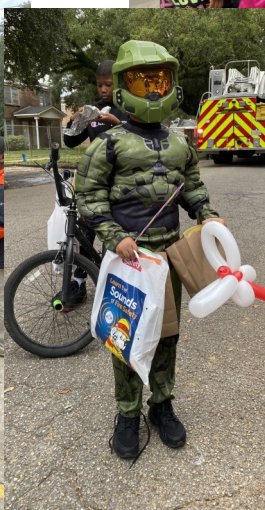
Arco Lane's newly-elected Resident Council held a Meet and Greet in the Arco Lane Community Center.

⇒ **President – Ruby Smith**
⇒ **Vice President – Betty Robertson**

⇒ **Secretary – Sylvia McNair**
⇒ **Treasurer – Curtis Hales**

SCENES FROM LHA ANNUAL BOOKTACULAR EVENT

The Laurel Housing Authority sponsored its annual Booktacular and Housing America Month Celebration in October.



LHA ANNUAL BOOKTACULAR SCENES

FAMILY FUN FOOD

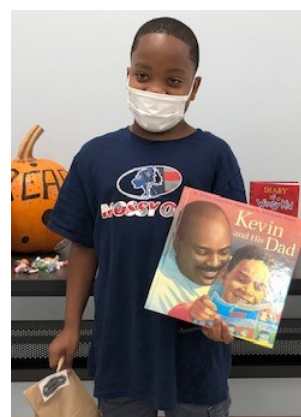


WINNERS FROM COSTUME CONTEST MAINTENANCE DEPT.



BEACON ROSS CONDUCTS READ AND TREAT

The Laurel Housing Authority youth were encouraged to read a book and treats were received thereafter.





Making Residents Aware of the Dangers of Breast Cancer

PINKING IT UP: LHA PARADES AROUND BROWN CIRCLE DEVELOPMENT AS PART OF ANNUAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS EVENT



LHA Residents & staff along with partners walk



Grand Marshals lead parade



ARCO LANE ROSS & MLK C.D.C . PARTNER FOR ACTIVITIES



BEACON ROSS HOSTS CURE AND CARE (BREAST CANCER) EVENT



Beacon ROSS conducted a breast cancer event at the James A Townley Center. Family Health Center and MS Shine (Southeast Mississippi Rural Health Initiative, INC) provided information on ways to detect breast cancer. They also provided bags of goodies and hand sanitizer. We had 5 residents to participate in today's event.



Charlie Turner is LHA's Safety Officer

Charlie Turner started working at the Laurel Housing Authority in September 1999 under Pendleton Security Company. Through employment with various security companies, Turner became a certified officer through the S.R.L.E.O.T.A. (Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act) with the Jones County Sheriff's Department. While working with Eagle Eye Security Company, in 2009, Turner became a part of the in-house investigators for the Laurel Housing Authority under the leadership of investigator, Curtis W. Pitts, who supervised two other officers. In 2010, Investigator Turner became chief investigator/safety officer for the Laurel Housing Authority. Taking on the full duties of solving residents' issues, conducting inspection of illegal and criminal activities, backgrounds of



housing and employment applicants, assisting residents, employees and other law enforcement.

Turner has worked to promote safety at LHA for more than 20 years. "Safety only works if you want it!" he said.

"Working with the Laurel Housing Authority staff and residents is a great experience."

Turner said he's also found loyalty with LHA.

"You have to stay firm, strict but fair with all," Turner said. "Treat and greet everyone the way you would want to be."

"My service for the past years I feel has been a blessing to the residents and the establishment of the Laurel Housing Authority with vigilance, respect and giving."

Turner said he's "seen great and not so great adventures," Turner said. "Laurel Housing Authority is

a safe and caring housing development to live.

"We work smart and help them who want to be helped," he added. "The Lord tells me (us) in I Corinthians 10:13; 'nothing should control you, which you cannot overcome!'"

Turner, a member of Hosanna Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Bishop W.E. Bridges Sr. At Hosanna, he serves as chairman of trustees, president of the brotherhood and male choir.

"I'm striving to be a gate keeper for the Lord," Turner said. "Come join us at the Housing Authority of Laurel, feel free to call, text or meet with me."

Turner said it's the goal of the Housing Authority to provide a safe environment to all.

"Mr. Charlie is here to help, direct, correct and keep you safe, if you listen to reason."

Maintenance:

The holiday season is here, and the LHA's Maintenance Department wants everyone to stay safe during the holidays. Maintenance Supervisor Johnny Gardner said it's important for people to exercise caution and help prevent home fires as they decorate their homes for the upcoming festivities. Trees, lights and candles are just some of the decorations that increase the risk of home fires during the holidays. The National Fire Protection Association reports that Christmas, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are the top three days for home candle fires. Additionally, Gardner said, residents are

Be Cautious During the Holidays

encouraged to follow these 10 simple safety tips as you put up lights and ornaments:

1. If are buying an artificial tree, look for the fire-resistant label. When putting it up, keep it away from fireplaces, radiators and other sources of heat.
2. If getting a live tree, make sure it's fresh and water it to keep it fresh. Bend the needles up and down to make sure no needles fall off.
3. Check all holiday light cords to make sure they aren't frayed or broken. Don't string too many

strands of lights together—no more than three per extension cord.

4. If using older decorations, check their labels. Some older tinsel is lead-based. If using angel hair, wear gloves to avoid irritation. Avoid breathing in artificial snow.
5. Don't use electric lights on metallic trees.
6. When decorating outside, make sure decorations are for outdoor use and fasten lights securely to your home or trees. If using hooks or nails outside, make sure they are insulated to avoid an electrocution or fire hazard.

7. If using a ladder, be extra careful. Make sure to have



Johnny Gardner

good, stable placement and wear shoes that allow for good traction.

8. Don't forget to turn off all holiday lights when going to bed or leaving the house.
9. If hanging stockings on the fireplace mantel, don't light the fireplace.
10. Keep children, pets and decorations away from candles. For after hour emergency maintenance, please call 601-422-8396.

LHA Basketball & Cheer to be in Southeastern Regional Conference (SERC) MLK Event



LHA Basketball and Cheer are gearing up for the 30th SERC MLK Basketball Tournament and Cheer Competition to be held in Opelika, Alabama—1-14-17.

BEACON IMPROVEMENT PROJECT MOVING FORWARD



Beacon Homes Improvement Project is moving forward. Several of the complex's current buildings are coming down.

The foundation work and structures of the new homes are currently under construction.



Highlighting Strong Family; **HEALTH**



ARCO LANE ROSS WALKING FOR CAUSES

DIABETES WALK



**MAKING RESIDENTS
AWARE**



Breast Cancer Walk



ARCO LANE RESIDENTS WALKS FOR CAUSES

OCTOBER—BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

NOVEMBER—DIABETES AWARENESS

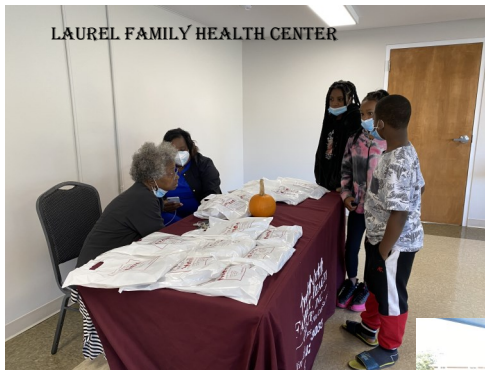
LHA GIRL SCOUTS TROOPS HAVE MEET AND GREET



The Laurel Housing Authority has established Girl Scouts Troops. The troops conducted a Meet and Greet in November at the James Townley Center.

BEACON HOMES HOST HARVEST FESTIVAL

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Beacon Home ROSS conducted a Harvest Festival at the James Townley Center in November. Residents were encouraged to learn their blood pressure information, vision checks were made by the Laurel High School Career and Technical students, and Humana was there to discuss services for senior citizens, representatives with the Laurel Family Health Center and a South Central Regional Medical Center representative were on hand to discuss a variety of health matters.

HOT TOPICS

- Re-Certification for all residents—January 4-31, 2022. Please contact Property Manager for more detailed information.
- On-line Security Shopping
Shop with reputable retailers, Beware of amazing deals, Report scammers, Track items, Keep an eye out for fraud, Check site security before you purchase, Don't fall for email scams, Guard your personal information, Don't browse on public Wi-Fi
- Take advantage of the opportunities at your site development (i.e. computer classes, tutoring, feeding program, job readiness programs, and many others). For more detailed information, please contact the Property Manager or ROSS Coordinator at the perspective development.
- The U.S. Post Office recently announced delivery of some first class mail will take longer as the postal service tries to cut costs and improve efficiency.

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THE GREATNESS OF A COMMUNITY IS MOST
ACCURATELY MEASURED BY THE
COMPASSIONATE ACTIONS OF ITS
MEMBERS... A HEART OF GRACE AND A
SOUL GENERATED BY LOVE.

- CORETTA SCOTT KING -

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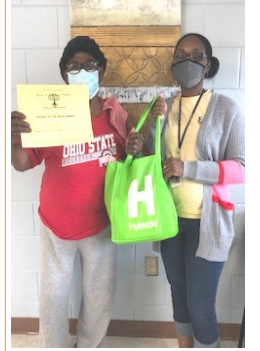
LIBQUOTES.COM

Brown Circle, Arco Lane ROSS: Residents of the Month

The ROSS Programs at Brown Circle and Arco Lane conducts monthly Residents of the Month in partnership with Jason Caire, a representative of Humana MarketPoint.



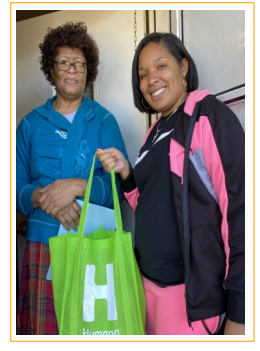
Curtis Hales
Arco Lane's
September winner



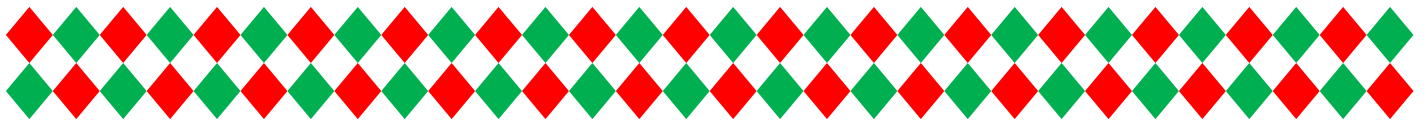
Easter McCray
Brown Circle's
October winner



Ruby Smith
Arco Lane's
October winner



(George and)Betty Craft
Arco Lane's
November's winners



ARCO LANE ROSS CONDUCTS NUTRITION EDUCATION



Arco Lane Residents and Meal Program Participants take part in the quarterly Nutrition Education Workshop offered by Arco Lane ROSS and South Mississippi Planning and Development District. This quarter's workshop was titled "Nourish Your Skin From Within," which promoted healthy eating as a part of November being National Healthy Skin Month.



ARCO LANE HOSTS COVID-19 VACCINATIONS EVENT

Staff members of the Laurel Family Health Center conducted a third COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic at the Arco Lane site.

The health center conducted its first clinic in March when numerous people received their first COVID vaccination shot. Then in April, the second shot was given.

Officials said this month's clinic was designed to give those who

had been vaccinated their booster shots while also providing the first/second dose shot to those needing them.

Several residents, as well as some community people, took part in the event.



WINDSOR COURT HOSTS FIRE SAFETY WORKSHOP



Windsor Court ROSS Program hosted a Fire Safety and Awareness Workshop conducted by retired Assistant Laurel Fire Department Battalion Chief Alfred Jordan. Residents were encouraged to become more aware of the dangers and their surroundings. Jordan told residents that they should be prepared to handle fire incidents if they occurred.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO LHA STAFF AND RESIDENTS WHO CELEBRATED THEIR BIRTHDAY DURING THE MONTHS OF **October — December**



HAPPENINGS!

Arco Lane Meals Program

During COVID-19—Frozen Meals are provided
Pickup on Mondays at 8:30 a.m.

30th SERC-MLK Basketball and Cheer Competition

January 14-17—Opelika, AL

OFFICE CLOSED

December 21—Staff Development

December 24-25—Christmas Holiday

December 31-January 3—New Year's Holiday

January 17 -Dr. MLK Holiday

February 21-President Day



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@LaurelHousingMS



TO CONTRIBUTE TO NEWSLETTER

- ◆ Anyone with information or photos can submit them to Eloria Newell James by email at ejames@laurelha.net or call 601-425-2611 for more information.

The Laurel Housing Authority's mission is to provide and create affordable housing opportunities that promote and provide safe housing, self-sufficiency and viable productive communities for individuals and families within Laurel and Jones County.

PROPERTY MANAGER'S OFFICES

- ◆ Beacon Street Homes—Tramel McMillan @ 601-425-3602
- ◆ Triangle Homes—Ruby Jones @ 601-426-3574
- ◆ Brown Circle Homes—Charlotte Williams @ 601-425-3903
- ◆ Arco Lane Homes—Semeka Brown @ 601-425-2611
- ◆ Windsor Court Homes—Semeka Brown @ 601-428-4042

ROSS COORDINATORS' OFFICES

- ◆ Beacon Street Homes —————Vacant
- ◆ Brown Circle Homes —————Latesa Phillips @ 601-425-5958
- ◆ Arco Lane Homes —————Eloria Newell James @ 601-425-2611
- ◆ Windsor Court —————LaTonya Watson @601-428-4042