

HOME MATTERS

Spring, 2017



SPRINGTIME IS HERE!

Important Points to Remember

- Residents and their guests are **NOT ALLOWED** to park on the grass.
- Only outdoor furniture is allowed on porches.
- Porches are not for storage and must be kept neat and clean.
- All vehicles on GHA property must be registered, licensed, and operational. Those vehicles that do not meet these standards will be towed at the owner's expense.
- Don't send small children to dispose of trash in the dumpster. If they can't reach high enough to put it in the trash dumpster, it will end up on the ground. If we can identify the trash, you will be charged.
- Loud music is a nuisance. Please be considerate of others by keeping your music down in apartments and parking lots. If guests have loud music playing in their cars, remind them to turn the music down.

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Spring Cleaning

Yard Trash | Please be sure that you remind your children and guests to dispose of trash properly. If we find trash in your yard, you will be charged. Litter on property is not only a violation of your lease, but could cost you the following:

- \$50 for each occurrence.
- Termination of your lease for continued offenses.
- School will be out soon, so it is even more important to talk to your children about keeping their surroundings neat and clean and taking pride in their neighborhood.

Please be aware of your children's whereabouts. Bait stations for rodent control have been placed around all of the two-story buildings. We have noticed that children have been tampering with these bait stations. These stations contain poisonous material that can be extremely harmful to children and adults. If GHA determines someone in your household is responsible, you will be charged with the cost of replacing or refilling the bait station.



Clean up | Above all else, keep your apartment clean. Follow these tips:

- Don't wait until tomorrow to pack up or discard food you enjoyed today.
- Keep snack bags clipped shut or use Ziploc bags.
- Promptly wipe up messes and spills on countertops and floors.
- Keep garbage in sealed containers and dispose of your trash daily.
- Clean up promptly after a party – you'll go to sleep even happier.
- Clean out your fridge and freezer on a regular basis (once a week).
- Check for crumbs and wrappers that may get hidden under sofa cushions or bedspreads after snacking.

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Spring Cleaning (continued from page 1)

Declutter | You probably know that decluttering can do wonders for organizing your apartment and even getting a firm handle on your life. Removing unwanted and unnecessary items from your home means you have less to clean. It will cut your cleaning time and expenses drastically. It's also a useful tool for keeping pests away. Piles of papers and other objects strewn about your apartment can provide food or shelter for pests, such as cockroaches.

Keep it Dry | Many insects thrive in wet environments, so keeping your apartment dry helps keep these tiny pests away. Call your landlord to get leaky faucets or broken pipes fixed promptly. Also, make sure your bathroom has proper ventilation. If there's no exhaust fan in the upper wall or ceiling, open the window after showering and keep your bathroom door open to let the room air out.

Additional Housekeeping Tips

Here are more housekeeping tips that will help keep things clean and organized in your home:

- **Maintain the clean, daily:** Do a little bit of daily maintenance and this will reduce the need for tougher cleansers to clean your home. Most stains can be removed with water, dish soap, or laundry soap if they are treated quickly.
- **Store cleaning supplies properly:** Improperly stored cleaning supplies can turn into a mess. Make sure your supplies aren't exposed to extremes in temperature or light. Keeping supplies from spilling and mixing is also a major concern.
- **Choose reusable cloths and mops:** Disposable items are handy, but they can quickly eat up a household budget. To save money, pick items that can be reused. Microfiber cloths are a great choice for cleaning, dusting, and scrubbing. Instead of disposable mopping pads, pick a good reusable mop and take care of it. Choosing reusable items can save a lot of money.
- **When possible, use products that are natural and organic:** Not only do cleaning products put toxins in your home for you and your family to breathe, they are also not environmentally friendly.



The following are 5 best cleaning solutions using baking soda and vinegar:

- **Clean a stainless steel kitchen sink:** Wet the sink, sprinkle baking soda over the surface and scrub, then rinse. Line the sink with paper towels that you have soaked in white vinegar. Leave them there for 20 minutes.
- **Make a non-toxic bathroom cleaner:** Mix 2/3 cups baking soda, 1/2 cup liquid soap, 1/2 cup of water, and 2 tablespoons white vinegar into 1 clean 16-ounce squirt bottle with closing cap. Shake well before using. Squirt on areas to be cleaned. Scrub with nylon-backed sponge. Rinse off with water.
- **Remove stains on carpet:** Rub light carpet stains with a mixture of 2 tablespoons salt dissolved in 1/2 cup white vinegar. Let the solution dry, then vacuum. For larger or darker stains, add 2 tablespoons borax to the mixture and use in the same way.
- **Boost laundry detergent:** Add 1/2 cup baking soda to your usual amount of laundry detergent. It will brighten your colors and give you whiter whites. It softens your water, so you can actually use less detergent.
- **Refresh the fridge:** Vinegar can be even more effective safe cleanser than baking soda. Use equal parts white vinegar and water to wash both the interior and exterior of your fridge. Place a box of baking soda inside your fridge to keep it smelling clean.

Resident Council Elections - Congratulations to the newly elected Resident Council Members!

Elections were held this past November. Elected officials took office in January and will serve a 2-year term.

President – Colette Drayton

Secretary – Travis Lewis

Vice President – Arsha Faison

Treasurer – Raven Grant

Maybe you are wondering, “What does the Resident Council do and why is it important to me?”

Your Resident Council acts as the voice of all GHA residents. They advocate your needs to GHA administration, Board of Commissioners, and the local government. They review the annual plan to ensure money is being spent on the most important upgrades to apartments and community centers. They plan social activities and events that benefit all GHA residents. They advise GHA administration on which programs would be beneficial to residents. Your Resident Council is **YOUR VOICE** to administrators and policymakers.



Resident Council meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, and all GHA residents are welcome to attend and participate. Come to the monthly meeting and Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Residents will be given community service hours for attending monthly meetings.

Children & Parenting

Summer Programming

Spring is finally here! Soon children will be out of school and ready for a fun filled summer with the **GHA Summer Camp** program. GHA will offer summer camp for children in grades 1 through 6. Sign up notices will go out in May, and summer camp will start in mid-June. If you have any questions contact the resident services coordinator, Helen Rudolph, at 546-9621, ext. 226.

The **Early Head Start (0-3)/ 4K Programs** are full day preschool programs with wrap around services to accommodate parent's work and school schedules. Residents do not have to be working to enroll their children. With the collaboration of First Steps and Small Minds of Tomorrow, whose owner and director is Lunda Green (phone number 843-318-1852), these programs have made a huge impact in our community.

Please contact Ms. Green if you are interested in enrolling your child for the upcoming year. It will be a first come, first serve basis at no cost to our residents in both public housing and Section 8. Transportation will be provided as needed.

Meet and Greet

BabyNet, the **Georgetown Housing Authority**, and **Georgetown First Steps** sponsored their first annual meet and greet, "Love Your Babies". It was held on Thursday, February 9, 2017, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Georgetown Housing Community Center. Residents had the opportunity to talk one on one with staff members about their concerns and questions of their child's development.



BabyNet is South Carolina's system of services for infants and toddlers birth to three years of age. They work with children of these ages who have developmental delays or conditions associated with developmental delays. Their services are provided at no cost to the family. BabyNet can be reached by calling 1-877-621-0865. GHA has opened their doors for BabyNet to meet with clients every Tuesday morning.

April: National Volunteer Month

Why volunteer? Adults can learn new skills or share acquired ones while helping their neighbors and communities. Students prepare for the work force by gaining valuable experience and skills.

Also, each adult resident of GHA (18 years and older) who does not meet one of the following exemptions is required by law to perform eight (8) hours per month of community service:

- Any individual who is 62 year or older.
- Any individual who is primary caretaker of a blind or disabled person.
- Any individual who is exempt from work activity by State Welfare Program .
- Any individual who is engaged in a work activity (at least 30 hours/weekly).
- Any individual who is blind or disabled.
- Any individual who is enrolled in a state (DSS) welfare to work program.
- Any individual who is attending school or job training at least 8 hours/month.
- Any individual who is enrolled and in compliance with an active SNAP program.



If you have any questions, please stop by the GHA office, they can provide you with forms and a list of agencies that you may wish to contact about volunteering.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

- 1st – RENT, RETRORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
- 6th – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
- 11th – Board of Commissioners meeting 5:30 p.m.
- 15th – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 20th – Resident Council meeting 5 p.m.
- 27th – GHA office closed to the public

MAY

- 1st – RENT, RETRORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
- 6th – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
- 9th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6 p.m.
- 15th – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 15th - June 1st – Pest Control/Housekeeping Inspections
- 18th – Resident Council meeting 5 p.m.
- 25th – GHA office closed to the public
- 29th – Memorial Day, GHA office closed

JUNE

- 1st – RENT, RETRORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
Pest Control/Housekeeping Inspections
- 6th – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
- 13th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6 p.m.
- 15th – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 15th – Resident Council meeting 5 p.m.
- 29th – GHA office closed to the public

JULY

- 1st – RENT, RETRORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
- 4th – Independence Day, GHA office closed
- 6th – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
- 11th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6 p.m.
- 15th – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 20th – Resident Council meeting 5 p.m.
- 27th – GHA office closed to the public

GHA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Mr. Richard Smith, Board Chair | Mr. Kalib Moyer |
| Mr. Tomas Langley, Vice Chair | Ms. Betty Wilson |
| Mrs. Christina Woodruff, Secretary | Ms. Taneka Deas |

GHA MAIN OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 6 p.m.

PHONE DIRECTORY: (843) 546-9621

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| Christina S. Woodruff, Executive Director | ext. 227 |
| Johanna Jefferson, Public Housing Manager - AMP1 | ext. 230 |
| Alissa Collington, Public Housing Manager - AMP2 | ext. 222 |
| Kiara Logan, HCV Coordinator | ext. 223 |
| Joe Geathers, Maintenance Director | ext. 228 |
| Elaine Adesso, Administrative Assistant | ext. 224 |
| Lois Parsons, Front Desk | ext. 221 |
| After hours' emergency work orders | (843) 946-0908 |
| TTY / TDD | (843) 461-3910 |

May: National Mental Health Awareness Month

Depression can affect anyone – young and old, men and women, of all ethnic groups and all walks of life. It is important to recognize the symptoms and seek proper treatment.

Everyone can experience sadness, irritability, or low energy from time to time. But if these feelings have escalated to the point that you have lost interest in things you used to enjoy, you are avoiding being around people, you feel intensely sad, down on yourself or hopeless, you may be suffering from depression.

It is dangerous to your health and wellbeing to continuously feel this way. There is help out there. Waccamaw Center for Mental Health is an outpatient facility providing services to adults, adolescents, children, and their families of the Georgetown area. They are located at 525 Lafayette Circle, Georgetown and the phone number is 843-546-6107.

There are other places besides the Waccamaw Center for Mental Health that can help you and will accept Medicare and Medicaid. Start with your family physician, who can refer you to a private practitioner who can assist you.

If you feel suicidal, it is vital that you call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-898-8581, or go to the nearest Emergency Room.



June: National African-American Music Appreciation Month

The following are the benefits of music for our children:

- Music helps to develop language and reasoning.
- Music helps with mastering memorization.
- Students learn to improve their work.
- Music increases coordination, especially students who practice with musical instruments.
- Music gives a student a sense of achievement.
- Kids stay engaged in school.
- Music shapes abilities and character to succeed in society.
- Music helps with emotional development.
- Students learn pattern recognition
- Students can score higher on SAT's.
- Music helps fine tune auditory skills.
- Music builds imagination and intellectual curiosity.
- Music can be relaxing.
- Musical instruments can teach discipline.
- Children can become prepared for the creative workplace.
- Music develops creative thinking.
- Music develops spatial intelligence.
- Children learn teamwork.
- Music can build self-confidence.



As a parent, you can introduce more music in your households, encourage your child to participate in school activities involving music, visit the music section at your local library and find out what activities are available in your community.

Home Matters is published quarterly by the Georgetown Housing Authority. Please send articles to: PO Box 209, Georgetown, SC 29442 by June 1st for the next issue. You may also fax or email Elaine Adesso: (843) 527-7536 / customersvc1@gtownhousing.org. Material is subject to approval at editing.