

HOME MATTERS

Summer, 2017



INSIDE THIS ISSUE



HVAC Unit Reminders

P1



From the Desk of the Executive Director

P1



Children & Parenting

P2



Total Eclipse

P3



Hurricane Season

P3



June: National Safety Month

P3



July: National Park & Recreation Month

P4



August: Traffic Awareness Month

P4



September: Self-Improvement Month

P4

IN EVERY ISSUE

Upcoming Events & General Information

P4

HELLO SUMMER!

HVAC Unit Reminders

- Do not use bleach to clean the cold air return – it will rust the metal.
- Maintain proper temperatures for heat and air (68-75 degrees).
- AC should not be lower than 72 degrees.
- Damages can occur from setting the air conditioning too low.
- Heat should not be higher than 75 degrees.
- Leave the fan on 'Auto' – this fan only keeps the system cool, not your house.
- Never use the 'emergency heat' setting – your bill will triple.

Contributing factors for a high utility bill:

- Remember: Hot air rises and cool air falls.
- Leaving windows and doors open while the unit is running.
- Clogged filters – filters are free, just call in a work order.
- Turning unit off and on – it makes the unit work twice as hard, costing more money.



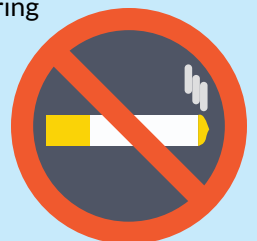
From the Desk of the Executive Director

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) final rule to restrict smoking in public housing has gone into effect. By July 30, 2018, all Public Housing Authorities must be in compliance by adopting a smoke-free policy.

What does this mean to Georgetown Housing Authority's residents? Effective July 1, 2018, GHA will prohibit the use of "prohibited tobacco products" in all public housing units, including scattered sites, and single-family properties. All outdoor areas within 25 feet of administration office buildings and housing properties will also be smoke-free.

GHA will implement a phase-in period to help residents adapt. During the upcoming months, more information will become available. Resident Council meetings are held every third Thursday at 5:00 p.m. at 1 Lincoln Street and will address these issues.

As always, we rely on your patience and understanding as this required change is implemented.





Children & Parenting

After School Awards Ceremony

The GHA After School program held their annual award ceremony on Thursday, June 1, 2017. As always, all the GHA star students shined! Each year GHA chooses two children from the class that have shown great improvement in academics, display good character and leadership skills, and a willingness to help others. This year the two star students received a gift card. Congratulations to Christian Linnen and Taquayshia Franklin for an outstanding year!

A special recognition was given to our volunteers Shamar Weathers, Neveah Sutton, and Naz'satha Juett.

A big thanks to our Program Coordinator, Helen Rudolph, and her assistant, Virginia Boyles-Gibbs, who provided the children with educational opportunities every day!



MISS RUBY'S KIDS

Miss Ruby's Kids enables identified families and caregivers to inspire a passion for learning in their children. We help prepare parents to be their child's first, best teacher and support both parents and child throughout the child's school career. Our vision is that all children in Georgetown County will enter school prepared to learn, supported by their families, and will graduate from high school as productive citizens of their community.

How does Miss Ruby's Kids Parent-Child Home Program work?

- Trained Early Literacy Coaches make two visits a week to the home.
- Parents or family members participate in the home visits and learn various ways to develop in their children an interest in learning through reading, playing, listening and talking.
- Once children enter school, volunteer mentors offer support and encouragement.
- Miss Ruby's Kids also supports early literacy instruction in home-based childcare facilities.

Miss Ruby's Kids was inspired by the passionate educator Ruby Forsythe, who in 1937 began teaching in a one-room school at Holy Cross Faith Memorial Episcopal Church in Pawleys Island, SC, the only educational facility available to black children in the area. For more than

50 years she devoted limitless energy and time to educating the children who attended her school, which still stands today. In 2003, Jo Fortuna & Betsy Marlow troubled by the high number of families living in poverty in Georgetown County, SC, and related poor school performance, set out to break that cycle. They formed Miss Ruby's Kids in, working with five families— now Miss Ruby's Kids serves more than 100 children and families.

For more information, please contact Miss Ruby's Kids at 843-436-7197, s.nance@missrubyskids.net, or visit them at J.B. Beck Administration Bldg., 2018 Church Street, Georgetown.



Total Solar Eclipse

Georgetown residents will see a total solar eclipse, a once-in-a-lifetime experience for many, on August 21, 2017. This is where the moon covers all but the outer edge of the sun, for about 2 minutes, starting at 2:46 p.m. Experts warn if you plan to directly look at the sun, you will need special protective glasses. If wearing the wrong gear, it can burn the retinas, causing irreparable damage to your eyes. Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce said there will soon be a website devoted to local events planned for the eclipse. For further information, one can contact the Chamber of Commerce located at 531 Front Street, Georgetown, phone 843-546-8436, website www.visitgeorge.com.



Hurricane Season Is Upon Us! Are You Ready?

Here are a few tips and check lists to help you get prepared:

- Put your hurricane kit together NOW to avoid crowded stores and low supermarket stock.
- Set up a room in your home as a designated "safe room" in the event of high winds.
- KNOW YOUR EVACUATION ZONE!**
 - Westside Apartments – **Zone B**
 - North Street Apartments – **Zone B**
 - Maryville South Apartments – **Zone A**
 - For more information, call 843-545-3900.
- Update your first aid box; replace expired medicines and replenish bandages.
- Keep your cell phone charged; if possible have a battery back-up or solar powered recharger on hand.
- Keep a full tank of gas in your car.
- Keep emergency contacts and phone numbers in your hurricane kit.
- Prepare 1-2 weeks supply of emergency items. These should include flashlights, batteries, bottled water, canned and dry foods, baby food and formula, blankets, cash, credit cards, diapers, change of clothes, toilet paper, soap and shampoo, insurance information, valuable papers, utensils and paper towels.



June is National Safety Month

Keeping Children Safe During Summer Months

Sun safety

- Children under 6 months of age should avoid direct sunlight altogether and be covered up or in the comfort of shade.
- When using sunscreen, it should contain zinc oxide and titanium dioxide with at least SPF 30 or greater. This should be applied 15-30 minutes prior to going outdoors and reapplied every 2-3 hours, especially when swimming.
- Limit sun exposure from the hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Stay hydrated

- Avoid intense activities/exercise during the midday hours.
- Drink water freely/often and you should never feel like you are thirsty. Prepare yourself by drinking plenty of water before an activity.
- Monitor for signs of heatstroke, such as becoming lightheaded, dizzy, nauseated or vomiting, or experiencing a rapid heart rate and breathing.
- Drinking breaks should be often as every 20 minutes during activities in the extreme heat.



Helmet safety

- Always wear an appropriate sized helmet during outdoor activities such as riding a bike, scooter, or skateboarding.
- Helmets should fit snugly to the head and be placed just above the eyebrows with very minimal movement from side to side.
- Look for a helmet with the CPSC safety standard.



Swim safety

- Never leave children alone in a pool or around water.
- Have younger children who are unable to swim wear appropriately sized life jackets that fit snugly when all the straps are buckled.
- Teach your children how to swim.
- Learn how to perform CPR in case of an emergency.



Bug safety

- Children under 2 months of age should avoid any insect repellent and should be covered up if outside to prevent any bug bites.
- Children over 2 months of age may use an insect repellent with at least 10-30 percent DEET.
- Avoid stagnant water or other areas that are known to be places where there is a large population of insects.



UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

- 1st – RENT, RETORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
- 6th – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
- 13th – Board of Commissioners meeting 5:30 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, RETORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
- 1st – Pest Control/Housekeeping Inspections
- 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.
- 24th to 27th – GHA office closed to the public

AUGUST

- 1st – RENT, RETORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
- 6th – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
- 8th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6 p.m.
- 15th – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 17th – Resident Council meeting 5 p.m.
- 24th – GHA office closed to the public
- 24th to 31st – Housekeeping/Pest Control Inspections

SEPTEMBER

- 1st – RENT, RETORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
- 4th – Labor Day/GHA office closed
- 6th – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
- 12th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6 p.m.
- 15th – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 21st – Resident Council meeting 5 p.m.
- 28th – 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.

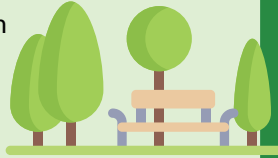
PHONE DIRECTORY: (843) 546-9621

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 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 |
| Elaine Adesso, Administrative Assistant | ext. 224 |
| Joe Geathers, Maintenance Director | ext. 228 |
| Lois Parsons, Front Desk | ext. 221 |
| After hours' emergency work orders | (843) 946-0908 |
| TTY / TDD | (843) 461-3910 |

July is National Park and Recreation Month

This July, discover the power of play and adventure. For children and adults, play is a vital part of our mental wellbeing, physical health, and personal interactions. Georgetown County is home to 20 community parks, 13 regional parks, 15.2 miles of bike path, 3 piers, 1 boardwalk, 68 beach accesses, 51 baseball and soft ball fields, 12 community and senior centers, and 5 regional recreation centers.

For listing of sites and additional information go to www.georgetowncountysc.org/parks_recreation or contact the Park and Recreation Department located at 2030 Church Street, Georgetown, phone 843-545-3275.



August is Traffic Awareness Month

Did you know that the National Safety Council reports that cell phone use while driving leads to 1.6 million crashes each year? Nearly 330,000 injuries occur each year from accidents caused by texting while driving. One out of every 4 car accidents in the United States is caused by texting and driving.

DO NOT TEXT OR USE CELL PHONES WHILE DRIVING.



September is Self-Improvement Month

Is there something in your life that you want to improve? What better time to start a change in your life than now. The following are some tips and ideas to kick-start your personal development this September.

- Get up an hour earlier and exercise.
- Write down five things you're grateful for.
- Compliment five people today.
- Tell your kids you love them.
- Tell your best friends that you love them.
- Start a journal.
- Practice listening more and talking less.
- Call someone you need to forgive, or be forgiven by, and settle accounts.
- Go for a half-hour walk or run.
- Set a goal of making five people smile today.
- Take 15 minutes to reflect on your life.
- Eat healthy.



Home Matters is published quarterly by the Georgetown Housing Authority. Please send articles to: PO Box 209, Georgetown, SC 29442 by September 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.