

HOME MATTERS

Winter, 2017



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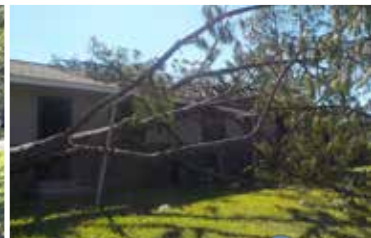
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From the Desk of the Property Managers

As of late, we have been experiencing children cutting off main breakers at the rear of units. This is extremely dangerous and illegal; children could be charged with tampering with public utility and the parent would be held responsible for any fines or charges for damages. Please talk to your children as to the seriousness of this dangerous practice and how they could be harmed by tampering with these breakers.



From the Desk of the Executive Director

It is unfortunate that on October 8, 2016, the coast of South Carolina suffered another major natural disaster: Hurricane Matthew. Many families in our area were just beginning to recover from the catastrophic floods of October 2015. What a year this has been, but we are very fortunate that none of our residents were displaced from their home either time.

I want to thank all of our residents for their patience after the storm, as staff worked tirelessly to evaluate damages to the property while dealing with their own issues at their homes. Now recovery begins. It will take time to complete all of the work, but we will persevere until all properties are restored.

HUD/REAC Inspections in 1st Quarter of 2017

HUD/REAC (Real Estate Assessment Center) inspections will be performed sometime during the first quarter of 2017. This HUD inspection will only be for Westside apartment residents. The notice will be different from the usual notice received from GHA for pest control and inspections. Please be sure that you read this notice carefully. Any questions, please contact Christina Woodruff, Executive Director, extension 227.

As always, please be sure to call in any maintenance issues in or outside your unit. It is important that we all work together to maintain safe, decent, and sanitary housing for all residents.

The following is a short list of potential problems that could be found in your unit by the inspector:

- Trip hazards such as electrical, telephone cords, or cable cords running across walkways, or excessive clutter
- Windows that will not open or stay up
- Furniture blocking windows
- Plumbing that is clogged or not working
- Smoke detectors that are chirping, not working, or missing (reminder, it is illegal to take down, remove the battery, disarm, or destroy a smoke detector)
- Appliances that are not kept clean and free of grease (can potentially cause a fire)

The housing authority regular pest control/inspections are scheduled for February 13 to February 28, 2017. Please have all units prepared for the regular inspections. If you have questions regarding the regular inspections, please contact your Public Housing manager: Johanna Jefferson, AMP 1, extension 230, or Alissa Collington, AMP 2, extension 222.



January is National Blood and Staying Healthy Month

Give a pint – save a life

Roll up a sleeve this holiday season – The Red Cross will take care of the wrapping and delivery to a patient in need. Call your local Red Cross 1-800-733-2767 to schedule an appointment.

Stay Healthy

Following are some simple steps you can take to help keep yourself and your family health this flu season:

- **Get vaccinated.** Influenza vaccination is a safe and effective way to help protect you and your family from the flu each year.
- **Wash your hands.** Frequent hand washing keeps a lot of germs out of our bodies, if soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer.
- **Stay home if you don't feel well.** Keep the germs from spreading.
- **Do the elbow cough.** Cough into elbows, not hands where it's more likely to spread bacteria and viruses through touch.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.** Germs spread this way.
- **Clean and disinfect surfaces or objects.** Clean and disinfect frequently touch surfaces, especially when someone is ill.



March is National Reading Month



Each year at the beginning of March, school children kick off National Reading Month by celebrating the birthday of the beloved Dr. Seuss with other reading activities. Your little ones can enjoy National Reading Month as well. Some skills to help your child be a success in reading and writing are as follows:

Alphabet Knowledge

- Sing the Alphabet Song with different tempos or silly voices like monster, robot, and animal voices.
- Hunt for environmental print – Start a game of I-spy and have your child search for letters displayed on signs, posters, billboards, and even cereal boxes.
- Teach your child to write his or her name. You can have him or her draw the letters in the sand.

Sounds of Language Knowledge

- Introduce nursery rhymes and sing-along games by reciting popular ones. Check the sing-along CD's at your local library.
- Enjoy rhyming books. Read aloud and at times, have your child join in.
- Tune your child's ears to the rhythm of music. Tap or dance to the beat with your child.
- Read the story again and again. Maybe your child can, with her memory skills, read the story back to you.
- Go on a treasure hunt. Have your child search for items in your home that rhyme or start with the same sound.

February is National Black History Month

Georgetown was once a predominantly African American neighborhood, and it is the third oldest city in the U.S. In the early 1800's, Georgetown was an independent tobacco and shipping port. At that time, Georgetown and surrounding areas had a population of 5,120, which included 1,449 black slaves; South Carolina had 140,178 white residents and 108,895 black residents, which were mostly slaves. In 1860, with over 120 plantations, the population in South Carolina grew to 412,320 black residents, most of which worked the rice crops, and 291,300 white residents. Georgetown District produced one-half of the total rice crop of the United States. With the devastation and no one working the crops, Georgetown County suffered terribly during the Reconstruction Era after the Civil War. In 1905, Georgetown reached its peak as a lumber port with the great help of the

black community. With no work to be found, the Georgetown people suffered again during the Great Depression, and a strong religious faith would once again get them through these rough times. In 1944, the Southern Kraft Division of International Paper opened a mill which employed many locals. It was the largest in the world. Today, Georgetown with a population of approximately 9,163, of which 5,192 are black, heritage tourism has become a booming business. Approximately, 4,625,364 people now live in South Carolina, of which 1,290,684 are black. Each year, the whole month of February, our After-School Program participates in activities such as crafting items made by black/African Americans. They also study notable black/African Americans.



To name a few, some of these famous South Carolinians are as follows:

- **Kimberly Aiken**, Miss American 1994
- **Charles P. Austin, Sr.**, Columbia's first African-American Chief of Police
- **James Brown**, singer, Godfather of Soul
- **James E. Clyburn**, SC Congressman
- **Willis Crosby**, black radio legend
- **Viola Davis**, TV and film actress
- **Bobby Engram**, professional football player
- **Ernest Evans (Chubby Checker)**, singer
- **Matilda Evans**, first African American woman physician in SC
- **Joe Frazier**, professional heavyweight boxer
- **Kevin Garnett**, basketball player
- **Jumpy Geathers**, football player with 2 super bowl wins
- **John Birks Gillespie (Dizzy)**, famous trumpeter
- **Alberta Tucker Grimes**, organized first SC Head Start Program
- **Edwin A. Harleston**, artist
- **Charlayne Hunter-Gault**, journalist
- **Willie Jeffries**, football coach
- **Etta Jones**, jazz singer
- **Eartha Kitt**, singer, actress
- **Raphael C. Lee**, surgeon
- **Wes Mackey**, blues musician
- **Cassandra Maxwell**, first African American woman admitted to the SC bar
- **Ron McNair**, astronaut
- **Frieda Mitchell**, Director of United Communities for Child development
- **Reverend Newman**, State Senator
- **William "Refrigerator" Perry**, Chicago Bears defensive lineman, key player in Super bowl XX

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- **Bill Pinkney**, singer for the Drifters
- **Joseph Hayne Rainey**, US Congressman
- **Willie Larry Randolph**, baseball player and Manager of New York Mets
- **Sarah Reese**, opera singer
- **Eugene Robinson**, Pulitzer Prize winner
- **Chris Rock**, TV and film actor
- **Darius Rucker**, songwriter, singer
- **Tim Scott**, US Representative
- **Marlean Smalls**, Gospel singer
- **Harold A. Stevens**, Justice of the New York Supreme Court
- **Dr. Charles W. Swan**, presidential policy advisor
- **Irene Trowell-Harris**, first female African American General, National Guard
- **Wilfred Junius Walker**, educator
- **Armstrong Williams**, entrepreneur, Cecil J. Williams, photographer
- **William Hayward Mookie Wilson**, baseball player
- **Justice Wright**, SC Supreme Court justice

A Day of Remembrance & Celebration

The 4th annual Veteran's Day celebration was a huge success! Nearly 250 people came out to show their appreciation. Among the festivities was a Salute to Veterans, by Mr. Ernest Cole, the National Anthem sung by Pearlethia Canteen, a Salute to Veterans by Commander Rutledge, and performances by LCV Gospel Group, Georgetown Drumline, and the Small Minds 4-K of Tomorrow, Maryville South. A big thanks to the Mistress of Ceremony, Ms. Vergie J. Tennison, and honored guest, General Charlie Savage. A very special thanks to the Low Country Veteran's Group for all their hard work in organizing the event and helping us all remember the men and women who dedicate their lives to protecting our freedoms. GHA salutes you!



In Your Neighborhood Help Your Local Veteran

GHA has partnered with Myrtle Beach Housing Authority, Veteran Affairs of Myrtle Beach, ECHO (Eastern Carolina Homelessness Organization) and the Low Country Veterans Group to offer VASH vouchers to Georgetown County veterans. What is VASH? Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing is a program in which qualified Veterans receive Housing Choice Vouchers and Veteran case management. It represents a unique and collaborative partnership between Veteran Affairs and HUD in an effort to prevent and end veteran homelessness. If you are a veteran or know a veteran who is homeless or in danger of becoming homeless, let them know there is help!

Veterans interested in learning about the program should contact Kiara Logan, Section 8 Coordinator at 546-9621 x223, or Christina Woodruff at x227.

Let's give back to those men and women who served so courageously for our country!

Growing Up is a Journey

Some children just need a little extra help getting started.

BabyNet can help. BabyNet is South Carolina's system of services for infants and toddlers birth to three years of age, who have developmental delays or have conditions associated with developmental delays. BabyNet will provide services needed to help your child learn, develop, and grow at no cost to your family. If you have any concerns, talk with your child's doctor and call BabyNet at 1-877-621-0865. GHA has opened their doors for BabyNet to meet with clients every Tuesday morning. Use the following as a guide to your child's development.

From Birth to 6 months

- responds to own name
- responds to other people's emotions and often seems happy
- copies sounds
- likes to play with others, especially parents
- sit without support for a short time

From 9 months to 1 year (12 months)

- use simple gestures, like shaking head "no" or waving "by-bye"
- pull up to stand
- say "mama" and "dada" and exclamations like "uh'oh!"
- copies gestures
- respond to simple spoken requests

From 1 year to 1/1/2 years (18 months)

- play simple pretend, such as feeding a doll
- point to show others something interesting
- show a full range of emotions, such as happy, sad, angry

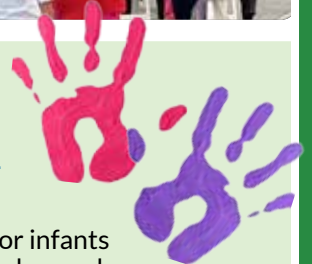
- walk without help
- say several single words
- look at something you point to and say, "look!"

From 1/1/2 years to 2 years (24 months)

- say phrases with 2 to 4 words
- follow simple instructions
- kick a ball
- get excited when with other children
- point to things or pictures when they are named

From 2 years to 3 years (36 months)

- show affection for friends without prompting
- use 4 to 5 word sentences
- copy adults and friends
- climb well
- play make-believe with dolls, animals, and people



UPCOMING EVENTS

FIRST QUARTER

HUD/REAC Inspections (Westside Apts.) – to be announced

JANUARY

1st – RENT, RETORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
2nd – New Year's Holiday, GHA Office closed
6th – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
10th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6 p.m.
15th – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
16th – MLK Holiday, GHA office closed
19th – Resident Council meeting 5:30 p.m.
26th – GHA office closed to the public

FEBRUARY

1st – RENT, RETORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
2nd - 4th – 2017 Tax Preparation
6th – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
13th - 28th – Pest Control/Housekeeping Inspections
14th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6 p.m.
15th – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
16th – Resident Council meeting 5:30 p.m.
23rd – GHA office closed to the public

MARCH

1st – RENT, RETORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
6th – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
14th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6 p.m.
15th – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
16th – Resident Council meeting 5:30 p.m.
23rd – GHA office closed to the public

APRIL

1st – RENT, RETORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
6th – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
11th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6 p.m.
13th – Holiday, GHA Office Closed
15th – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
20th – Resident Council meeting 5:30 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



Get Your Taxes Prepared for FREE!

AARP:

Income Limit: Low to Moderate income (preference given to people age 50 or older).
Location: January-April call 888-227-7669 for local site near you.

GHA:

GHA is looking again to host 2017 free tax preparation services in the Drayton Community Center. A representative from SC Thrive will be here on the following dates:

- Thursday, Feb. 2nd – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 3rd – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 4th – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

File from Home:

If you want to file your taxes from your home computer there are several free options to choose from. The South Carolina Department of Revenue will list offers from online filing providers who provide FREE electronic filing of both the federal and South Carolina returns to QUALIFIED South Carolina taxpayers. Each provider sets forth qualifications that South Carolina taxpayers must meet in order to qualify for FREE electronic filing of both the federal and South Carolina returns. It is very important that if you utilize a Free File offer for South Carolina...you must start your return by clicking on one of the Free File links on the SC DOR website, www.sctax.org.

Resident Council Elections

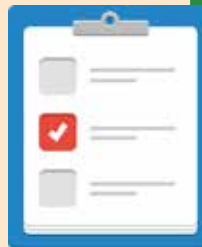
Congratulations to the newly elected Resident Council Members! In January, they will meet among themselves to elect officers for a 2-year term. They are as follows: Collette Drayton, Arsha Faison, Raven Grant, and Travis Lewis.

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.



Home Matters is published quarterly by the Georgetown Housing Authority. Please send articles to: PO Box 209, Georgetown, SC 29442 by March 9th 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.