

HOME MATTERS

Spring, 2016



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Children & Parenting Summer Programming

Spring is finally here! Soon the children will be out of school and ready for a fun filled summer with the GHA Summer Camp program. The Georgetown Housing Authority 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 843-546-9621 ext. 226.

4K Program/Parenting Class

In December, the 4K Program and Parenting Class sponsored by the First Steps Program combined their Christmas Party. Both programs have been very successful.

Parenting Class: Parents and children meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month. Children are making strides in their reading; parents are better understanding their children's behavior. GHA residents receive community service hours for each class they attend.

The 4K program: A full day preschool program with wrap around services to accommodate parent's work and school schedules. With the collaboration of First Steps and Small Minds of Tomorrow (whose owner and director is Lunda Green, phone number 843-318-1852), this program has made a huge impact in our community.

After School Program

The After School Program wrapped up their successful first semester with their annual Christmas Party, held December 15th. The children received presents, had their picture taken with Santa, and refreshments were served. Gifts were donated by an area church and delivered by the Georgetown Police Department.



Children are like flowers. We plant the seeds. We water them, nourish them, and set them in the sunshine. We protect them from the elements as best as we can.

One day they bud and when the bud finally opens, we see that one is a rose, one a tulip, one an iris, each bringing its own beauty to the landscape. As parents, our job is to nourish and protect, but most important, it is to appreciate the beauty in every child.

Nurture your little flowers by reading!

Free children and adult books are available in the GHA lobby.



In Your Neighborhood - Resource Showcase

Friendship Place

Georgetown Lives: In collaboration with the Georgetown Housing Authority and Low Country Veterans Group, Friendship Place manages a five-bedroom house that is used as transitional housing for veterans in crisis. After an extensive application process and if in possession of a HUD-VASH voucher, a veteran and their family may live rent-free for a period of 30 days. Friendship Place is able to provide housing (utilities included) and the supplies needed to house qualifying veterans. The Low Country Veterans Group provides the one-on-one day-to-day case management that the veteran needs to find permanent, stable housing.

Georgetown Works: This is a new program to help neighbors get to work, stay at work, and advance at work. It

offers job training and placement with area business partners for those clients who are willing. Throughout the process, staff is constantly coaching, modeling and empowering its candidates to keep moving down the path to self-sufficiency.

Georgetown Eats: The hot meal program provides meals to the poor and needy of the community six days a week. Lunch is served from 11:00 a.m. until noon, Monday to Friday, and from 11:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. on Saturdays. Meals are prepared on-site at Friendship Place and served by volunteers from area churches, youth groups, other non-profits and organizations.

Friendship Place is located at 1905 Front Street, Georgetown; phone 843-545-1115; hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Helping Hands of Georgetown, Inc.

Compassionate Care Programs: Provides financial assistance for utilities, food pantry, and clothing. Emergency Dental Clinic is open on Thursday afternoons and evenings to provide examinations, cleanings, and extractions. To utilize the service, you must be uninsured, meet income requirements, and be a resident of Georgetown County. To make an appointment, call 843-527-3424 at 10:00 a.m. on clinic day. (Do not leave a voice message, call back until you are able to speak with a volunteer manager).

Jobs and Time to Change Programs:

Georgetown Jobs Connection is a one stop jobs program for Georgetown County residents. It gives those in poverty (specifically the unemployed and underemployed) a "hand up" toward achieving independent, productive lives. The four step process includes recruitment, job preparation, job placement, and job advancement.

Time to Change Program is a year-long program of support and training for those who are able and willing to become self-sufficient. This program supports participants in their personal, professional, and spiritual growth.

Helping Hands is located at 1813 Highmarket Street, Georgetown. Call 843-527-3424 for more information.

Miss Ruby's Kids

The programs offered by Miss Ruby's Kids are designed to stimulate verbal interaction between the parent and child and build parents' confidence as their child's first, best teacher. Programs are limited to children at risk of school failure and are offered free to families and care providers.

Parent-Child Home Program: Miss Ruby's Kids replicates this research-based, home-visitation program to prepare some of the estimated 300 children born at risk of school failure each year in Georgetown County for success in school.

Education Mentor Program: This newly initiated program provides trained volunteer mentors for graduates of Miss Ruby's Kids. This program mentors will help to insure our graduates' success throughout their school years by working with school administrators and parents to ensure their support, as well as with the children.

Family Child Care Homes Program: Experienced staff models provide proven methods to stimulate verbal interaction with client's children over nine months of twice-weekly visits.

Miss Ruby's Kids is located at 2018 Church Street, Georgetown. Call 843-436-7197 for more information.

Finders Keepers, Hoarders Weepers

Quick Clutter Control - Ten Tips for a Tidier Home, by Colleen Moulding

1. **Whenever you have a few minutes to spare, put away five or ten items that are not in their correct place.** These could be toys that the kids have left somewhere, letters that need filing away, or odd socks that need putting in a drawer.
2. **Dump junk mail the moment you receive it.** Deal with other mail at least once a week, filing away what you need to keep in an indexed concertina file, card or plastic file wallets, or even large brown envelopes.



(continued on pg 3)

Finders Keepers, Hoarders Weepers (continued)

- The five boxes method.** This will clear clutter from any room or area of the house, but can look awful while in progress. Set aside a time when you won't be disturbed, put on a tape of upbeat music and have a treat in the fridge for lunch. First job is to label the boxes – Rubbish, Give Away/Sell, Keep, Sentimental, and Not Sure. You then go through everything in the area consigning each item to one of the boxes. Theoretically, by the time you have got rid of the Rubbish and Give Away/Sell boxes, you should have enough space to store in the basement or attic, and if not needed after six months or one year, given away unopened, so that you're not tempted to keep the contents all over again.
- Be ruthless.** If you haven't used an item in the last two years, you are not likely to need it again. Do you really want a clutter free, streamlined home or not?
- If you can't face an entire room, break the job down into manageable tasks** – the kitchen junk drawer, the letter pile, and the hats, coats and shoes area. That way you won't be put off decluttering as just too big a task.
- Treat yourself to items that make staying tidy easier.** Cardboard storage boxes are great for sewing and craft items, Christmas decorations, and treasures that your children have made. Plastic or fabric hanging shoe bags are perfect for storing small toys and dolls or for hair brushes, clips cosmetics and toiletries. Invest in some of those drawer dividers that separate drawers into a dozen little compartments – but don't fill them with junk!
- Clean and put away fifty per cent of your ornaments.** Not only will this give your home a more modern minimalist look, you will get your dusting done in half the time.
- Consider enlisting the help of a family member and/or friend to be your organizing buddy.** They help you with your house – you help with their clutter disposal. Hearing yourself try to explain why you need a whole kitchen cupboard full of plastic containers can help you get them into the Rubbish box.
- Don't keep buying things.** Stop and think, do I really need this and have I got somewhere to keep this? Some people work on a one in, one out system, i.e. if you buy a new sweater, toy for the children, etc. then one goes to the charity shop or is given to a friend.
- Don't give up.** It will take time. All the clutter didn't come into your home in one day and you won't get rid of it all in one day. Keep on sorting, dumping, tidying and labeling, cut back on bringing new clutter home and it is a battle that can be won. You will have more time, a neat home and less stress as a reward for your efforts.



Preventing Mice

Many people pay attention to mice, cockroaches, ants, and other pests only once they've become a problem. Pest control can be particularly challenging for people who live in apartment buildings, because there are so many kitchens, bathrooms, pantries, and other areas that pests find alluring.

Rather than handle pest problems each time they arise, the better strategy is prevention. By adopting clean lifestyle habits, you can help keep unwanted critters and rodents out of your apartment for good. Here's what you can do:

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.
- Check for crumbs and wrappers that may get hidden under sofa cushions or bedspreads after snacking.
- Clean out your fridge and freezer on a regular basis (once a week).
- Declutter!



You probably know that decluttering can do wonders for organizing your apartment and even getting a firm handle on your life. 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 folks 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.

As you can see, keeping pests away from your apartment doesn't require a certain expertise or even a serious time commitment.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

- 1st – RENT, RETIREMENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
- 6th – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
- 12th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6 p.m.
- 15th – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 19th – Parenting Class 10 a.m.
- 21st – Resident Council meeting 5 p.m.
- 28th – GHA office closed to the public

MAY

- 1st – RENT, RETIREMENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
- 6th – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
- 10th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6 p.m.
- 15th – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 16th - 23rd – Pest Control/Housekeeping Inspections
- 17th – Parenting class 10 a.m.
- 19th – Resident Council meeting 5 p.m.
- 23rd - 26th – GHA office closed to the public
- 30th – Memorial Day, GHA office closed

JUNE

- 1st – RENT, RETIREMENT & 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 p.m.
- 23rd – GHA office closed to the public

JULY

- 1st – RENT, RETIREMENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
- 4th – Independence 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 | Mrs. Jean Davis |

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: | ext. 230 |
| 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 |

Litter Hurts Everybody - Be A Good Neighbor; Take Pride In Your Community!

As part of the lease, residents of GHA has signed and agreed to the following:

“Not litter the grounds or common areas of the property, and the Resident is responsible for keeping their yard and parking space free of trash and debris.”

Litter on property is not only a violation but could cost you the following:

- \$50 for each occurrence.
- Termination of your lease for continued offenses.



HOUSING AUTHORITY POLICY REMINDER

- GHA does not accept cash or credit/debit cards.
- We stop taking payments at 4:30 p.m.
- Payments after 4:30 p.m. may be placed in the rent drop box.
- We accept: money orders, cashiers's checks, and personal checks.
- We do not accept partial payments.

No Cash Is Kept On Premises

MONEY TALKS Simple Ways to Reduce Debt

- Keep the car and car payment. After paying off the car, continue to drive it for several years, putting the car payment you would have had into a savings account.
- Cut down on utilities. Reduce electric bill by turning off lights when not in use and keeping thermostats set at 72 to 75 for heat and 75-78 for air. Save on water by laundering full wash loads and taking short showers instead of baths.
- Spend less on groceries. Look for coupons and specials like buying two for the price of one.
- Eliminate the small stuff. Limit visits to fast food restaurants and convenient stores where prices are marked higher. (Eliminating eating out 4 times a week is worth over \$17,000 per person every 10 years).
- Instead of buying books, movies and magazines, you can borrow them from the library. Also, GHA has a wide selection of adult and children books for free.
- Investigate car insurance options. By changing insurance companies, you could save \$400 or more a year.



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