

HOME MATTERS

Summer, 2016



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Who's Who at GHA

It is our pleasure to introduce **Alissa Collington**, our new **Property Manager** for Maryville South, North Street and Scattered Site Homes. Holding Bachelor Degrees in Business Administration and Healthcare Management and a Minor in Software Management, she will certainly be an asset to GHA. With her positive personality, she loves helping and working with others. Alissa has lived in the Georgetown area most of her life, and in her spare time, she enjoys graphics. **Welcome Alissa!**



Capital Fund Improvements 14,15,16 and Job Opportunities

I would like to take this opportunity to inform residents of improvements that will be made to your home. Work will begin in the next 30 days and I hope everyone will enjoy the upgrades to your unit. GHA and the contractor will notify you when work is going to take place in your unit.

The improvements include the following:

- **Westside:** New sidewalks, new energy efficient seals around all doors, new bathrooms in the 4&5 bedroom units, new benches in the one bedroom areas, new handicap accessible doors to the office and community center entrances.
- **North Street:** energy efficient seals around all doors.
- **Maryville South:** energy efficient seals around all doors, new siding.
- **Old Scattered Site Houses:** some units will get new bathrooms, new flooring based on need, and new energy efficient seals around all doors.



Bent Pines Construction Company will post their information on the job site on "how to apply" for employment. If you have questions, please feel free to contact: Christina S. Woodruff, Executive Director, Georgetown Housing Authority, 843-546-9621, ext. 227.

Housing Authority Reminder - HVAC unit

- Do not use bleach to clean the cold air return.
- Damages can occur from setting the air conditioning too low.
- Maintain proper temperatures for heat and air (68-75 degrees).
- Heat should not be higher than 75 degrees.
- AC should not be lower than 72 degrees.
- Leave the fan on 'Auto'.
- Never use the 'emergency heat' setting.

Contributing factors for a high utility bill.
(Remember: hot air rises and cool air falls)

- Leaving windows and doors open while unit is running.
- Clogged filters.
- Turning unit off and on.





Money Matters - Summertime - Vacation Time - Great Time - Dinnertime:

Where and how to eat out for less!

- Carry-out fast food:** Pick it up and bring it home – this includes pizza (special deal or with a coupon) and fried or rotisserie chicken from a grocery store deli counter.
- Fast food:** McDonald's, Taco Bell, Wendy's, Burger King, Chick-fil-A, Subway, etc. If you go to a fast food restaurant, try to order from the dollar menu (if they have one) and skip the drinks and fries, or use a discount coupon.
- Carry-out from a restaurant:** Chinese is a good option. Check local restaurants for other deals and coupons.
- Sit-down restaurants with a two-for-one-coupon:** Cuts the price a bit. There are places where kids eat free with an adult-purchased meal.
- Split a plate:** Some restaurants are known for serving large portions. If that is the case, order one meal and an extra plate. There may be an additional fee for the plate.
- Take savings in the bag:** Leftovers at restaurants, make sure you ask for a doggy bag.
- Double-check the check:** Mistakes are common in restaurants. Always review the bill and make sure that you were charged correctly.
- Find early-bird specials:** Many restaurants encourage dining off-peak hours by offering special discounts for early diners.
- Keep the drinks simple:** Having water with your meal with a lemon will not cost you any extra. Sodas, teas, and coffee with the caffeine can keep you up at night.

Resource Showcase

SC Works

Unemployed, Under-Employed or need a Skills Upgrade?

Contact your local SC Works and ask about the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA): tuition assistance, paid training, and supportive services which include transportation, childcare, and work related expenses. Call 843-546-8581 for more information or attend an orientation held at the Georgetown Office, 2704 High Market Street on Wednesdays at 8:45 a.m.

Carolina Human Reinvestment (CHR)

On March 29, 2016, Georgetown Housing Authority, in collaboration with Carolina Human Reinvestment (CHR), offered a teen health workshop. The event was held at the GHA Community/ After-School Center. The class was conducted by Giany Guedjo, CHR's Executive Director, and Allyson Ladd, CHR's Program Director, and the workshop was based on the curriculum, *Making Proud Choices!* An evidence-based health education program, *Making Proud Choices!*, incorporates cognitive-behavioral theories, focus groups, and the researchers' extensive experience working with youth.

Making Proud Choices! promotes abstinence, but also offers a safer-sex approach to teen pregnancy, and STDs/ HIV prevention. The curriculum is divided into eight-modules that provide youth with the knowledge, confidence, and skills necessary to reduce their risk of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV, and pregnancy. The target audience for this program is youth ages 11-13, who are attending middle school, and/or youth serving community-based programs.

Making Proud Choices! uses an unique approach that has been proven effective with youth.

This approach is based on the following themes:

- Protecting families and communities by avoiding disease and unintended pregnancies.
- Promoting sexual responsibility and accountability, including respecting themselves and others, and developing a positive self- image.
- Encouraging pride, self-confidence and self-respect through making proud choices.

Statistics indicate that 100% of participants say that they enjoyed the workshop and the \$20 gift card they received at the completion of the course. The youth participants encourage other teens to attend CHR's Teen Health workshops and other events.

The CHR Teen Health Project is funded by DHEC and monitored by the SC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. To learn more about CHR and their programs, you can contact, Carolina Human Reinvestment, 1011 Brick Chimney Road, Georgetown, SC, 843-461-4305.

Howard Adult Center

Need your GED or High School Diploma? Need skills to enter the workforce or advance careers?

Howard Adult Center provides free educational services and WorkKeys assessments. Enrollment applications are taken throughout the year. Register by August to be guaranteed a spot for the next school year. They are located at 500 S. Kaminski Street. For more information, call 843-546-0219.



Summer Safety Tips

Tick and Mosquito Bites

- These insects are responsible for a variety of illnesses such as Lyme disease, West Nile, and Zika Virus. It is important to protect you and your family.
- Wearing protective clothing, such as long sleeves and long pants, when hiking in or around wooded areas.
- Using tick/bug repellent.
- Performing tick checks.
- Calling the doctor for any concerns and questions.
- Control mosquito populations by eliminating standing water as a mosquito breeding ground.



Helmet Safety

- An appropriate helmet must be worn whenever a child is on wheels. This means bicycles, scooters, skates, rollerblades, skateboards and more.
- The helmet must fit properly.
- Helmets can be lifesaving and can protect a child from serious injury.

Pedestrian Safety

- Teach children to walk, not run, across the street.
- Children should cross only with an adult or an older, responsible child.
- Teach children to avoid running out from between parked cars.
- Always hold your child's hand near any moving or parked vehicles.

Sun Protection

- Avoid sun exposure during peak hours.
- Sunscreen is a must, even on cloudy days, and should be applied liberally 30 minutes before going out in the sun.
- Look for shade whenever possible.
- Dress infants and children in loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing.

Water Safety

- Adult supervision is of paramount importance. Parents need to focus on their children 100% of the time.
- Remember, any child or adult can drown.
- Keep in mind that children can drown in many different water sources including: bathtubs, toilets, buckets, baby pools, backyard swimming pools, streams, creeks, lakes, rivers, oceans and other places.
- Enroll children in swimming lessons.
- Have children wear US Coast Guard approved life vests.

Dehydration and Heat-Related Illnesses

- Infants and children up to 4 years of age are at greatest risk for heat related illnesses. Prevention is the key for all ages.
- Never leave children alone in the car, not even for a minute. **Remember, it is against the law to leave your child unattended without an adult at any time in a running vehicle – you will be arrested.**

- Schedule outdoor activities carefully, for morning and evening hours.
- Children (and adults) must remember to drink. Do not wait until a child is thirsty to drink. Offer drinks frequently and provide plenty of fluids before going outside.
- Seek medical attention immediately for any signs of heat-related illness.

Poison Ivy, Oak, and Sumac

- When hiking near or around wooded areas, wear protective clothing.
- Learn how to recognize what poison ivy, oak and sumac look like, so it can be avoided.
- Avoid bushy, overgrown areas and places which may contain these plants.

Summer First Aid Kit

- Every family should have at least one first aid kit at home, which is well stocked and readily accessible.
- It is also helpful to keep a first aid kit in the car and one to bring on trips.
- Be sure to keep a list of emergency numbers where they are easy to find.



Children & Parenting

Positive Parenting

We want our children to be positive and learn from their mistakes. **Here are three key areas to focus on:**

- Fill the Attention Basket** – Kids need attention, plain and simple. If we don't keep that "attention basket" full with positive attention, kids will seek out any attention they can get – even negative attention. Take time each day to spend one-on-one with child, distraction-free, and doing something they want to do.
- Take time for Training** – The best way to discipline your child is to help him or her make better choices. When your child makes the right choice, encourage and give them lots of praise.
- Set Limits and Stick to Them** – Kids thrive when they have structure and know their boundaries. Focus on what is the most important for your family. Be clear about the ground rules and what happens when someone breaks the rules.

After School Awards Ceremony

The GHA After School program held their annual award ceremony on Wednesday, May 25, 2016. As always all of 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 Wal-mart gift certificate. Congratulations to Judah Matthews and Tameir Canteen for an outstanding year.



This year a special recognition went to Jason Brown. He also received a Wal-mart gift certificate. Throughout the year, Jason, with his positive character traits, has helped students with homework and to learn computer skills. He plays in the band and is an honor and all around outstanding student.

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

Summer Camp

Summer Camp kicks off this year on Monday, June 13th and ends July 30th, 2016. There will be loads of fun games and activities like arts, crafts, reading, cultural awareness, and science experiments. For more information about summer camp or enrolling your student into the After School program, contact the resident services coordinator, Helen Rudolph at 843-546-9621 ext. 226.

Hurricane Season is Upon Us! Are You Ready?

Here some tips and check lists to help you prepare:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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



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. 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 843-546-9621 x223 or Christina Woodruff at x227.

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

Georgetown County Library System Summer Activities include, but is not limited to:

- Free computer programming classes
- Movie Time (all ages)
- Storytime (all ages)
- Game Time (all ages)
- Lego Free Build (all ages)



For details - call Georgetown County Main Library at 843-545-3300 or visit online at georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

AUGUST

1st – RENT, RETIREMENT & 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 - 23rd – Pest Control/Housekeeping Inspections
18th – Resident Council meeting 5 p.m.
25th – GHA office closed to the public

SEPTEMBER

1st – RENT, RETIREMENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
5th – Labor Day, GHA office closed
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

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 - 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 |

Home Matters is published quarterly by the Georgetown Housing Authority. Please send articles to: PO Box 209, Georgetown, SC 29442 by September 3rd 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.