

HOME MATTERS

Winter, 2016



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A Day of Remembrance & Celebration

The 3rd 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 Solo, performed

by Ms. Della Prioleau, the National Anthem sung by Miss Melissa Jefferson, and a Salute to Veterans by Andrews Chief of Police Capers. 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!



REAC Inspections Coming in February

The inspector is scheduled to perform his inspections for REAC (Real Estate Assessment Center) the week of February 8, 2016.

The residents who live in the **North Street, Maryville South** apartments and **Scattered Site** homes will receive a notice with their **January 2016** rent statement and a reminder notice in their February statement. This notice is different from the usual notice that you receive 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 inside 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 as they should
- Furniture blocking windows
- 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)
- Plumbing that is stopped up or not working properly

The housing authority's regular pest control/inspections are scheduled for February 15 to February 29, 2016. Please have **all units** prepared for the regular inspections. If you have questions regarding the regular inspections, please contact Johanna Jefferson, Public Housing Manager, extension 230.





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 843-546-9621 extension 223 or Christina Woodruff at extension 227.

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

Georgetown Library

Children's Activities

Wee Wiggles Storytime: Tuesdays, 10:00-11:00 a.m. (ages birth - 3)

Teen Tech Clubs at the Georgetown Library

Game Design Group: Mondays, 4:00 p.m.
Video Producers' Club: Tuesdays, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
MAG Club: Wednesdays, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Family

Game Night: Thursdays, 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Carvers Bay Library

Children's Activities

Storytime: Wednesdays & Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Family

Game Night: Tuesdays, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Andrews Library

Youth Activities

Storytime: Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. (ages 2-5)
Kid's Drawing Workshop: Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m. (ages 7+)
Kids Game Time: Tuesdays, 3:30 p.m. (ages 5-12)
Teen Game Time: Thursdays, 3:30 p.m. (ages 13-17)

Family

Game Night: Thursdays, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Waccamaw Library

Children's Activities

Children's Storytime: Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. (birth-preschool)

Family

Game Night: Tuesdays 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.



Have You Completed Your Community Service This Month?

If you are age 18 to 61, you may be required to do 8 hours of community service every month. Community Service is a federal requirement for all public housing residents of wage earning age who do not meet certain exemption criteria. Residents meeting one or more of the criteria below do not have to do community service:

- Elderly (age 62 or older)
- Blind or disabled (receiving a disability check)
- The primary caretaker of a blind or disabled person
- Working at least 30 hours per week
- Exempt from work activity by state welfare program
- Enrolled in state (DSS) welfare to work program
- Attending school or job training at least 8 hours per month

You can meet your monthly community service requirements by volunteering at a non-profit organization like the United Way, Salvation Army or Helping Hands. You can also volunteer at any of the Georgetown County schools, libraries or the state licensed Head Start programs. For a more complete list of suggested organizations, contact your public housing representative.

It is your responsibility to prove you volunteered. You do this by having the person in charge at the volunteer organization sign and complete the community service form, then turn the completed form in at the GHA main office. Blank forms can be found in the GHA main office lobby.

Not meeting your community service requirements will result in your lease not being renewed. If you have questions about community service, contact your public housing representative.

Get Your Taxes Prepared for FREE This Year!

AARP:

Income Limit: Low-moderate income (preference given to people age 50 or older)

Location: January-April, call 888-227-7669 for local site near you.

Georgetown Housing Authority:

GHA is looking again to host a **FREE** tax preparation services in the Drayton Community Center. In January, look for the dates and times to be posted in the GHA main lobby.

File From Home:

If you want to file your taxes from your home computer there are a number of 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.

- **My Free Taxes:** Free for individuals or families with a combined income of \$53,000
- **Tax Slayer:** Free if your federal adjusted gross income (AGI) is \$33,000 or less
- **Tax Act:** Free if your federal adjusted gross income (AGI) is \$58,000 or less AND you are age 52 or younger
- **H&R Block:** Free if your federal adjusted gross income (AGI) is \$52,000 or less AND you are age 52 or younger
- **Turbo Tax:** Free if your earned \$31,000 or less federal adjusted gross income (AGI), or earned \$58,000 or less federal adjusted gross income (AGI) and served active duty military (including Reservists and National Guard) or qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)



Tips for Conserving Energy in Your Home

- Turn off lights that you are not using.
- Do not place lamps near a thermostat. The thermostat senses the heat produced from the lamp which can change how often your heat or A/C runs.
- Have air filters changed regularly.
- Make sure draperies, furniture, or rugs do not block vents.
- Choose cold or warm cycles over hot cycles when washing clothes.
- Wash only full loads of clothes.
- Purchase toys that don't require batteries.
- Keep refrigerator clean.
- Make sure the fridge door gasket seals are tight.
- Refrigerators should read 38-40 degrees Fahrenheit and freezers should read 0-5 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Turn off the burner or oven before the food is completely cooked.
- Keep stove and oven clean, which includes all drip pans.
- Use the appropriate size burner on the range.
- Unplug all appliances, even TV's when not in use.
- Take short showers instead of baths.
- Make sure all windows and doors are closed when heating your home.



Parenting Class

Much fun was had in the parenting classes last quarter. Parents learned about healthy eating tips, health issues like diabetes and high blood pressure, and the importance of early literacy. Children were involved in activities which included counting, reading and getting along with others, and there was free child development screenings for children up to age three. FEMA information was available for families affected by the recent flooding.

Parenting classes start up again on January 19, 2016. Come join the fun this year while earning community service hours. Classes are held every third Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Drayton Community Center. Books and refreshments are provided by First Steps of Georgetown County. For more information, contact your housing representative. Check at the front desk for notices and sign up sheets.





Learn a Skill

Who knew learning could be so fun? Looking for a job? Free classes and activities are happening now at your local library. Classes include basic computing, resume building and interview skills, and more. Don't miss periodic job fairs featuring local hiring businesses. Online resources are available such as SC Works at scworks.org or Personal Pathways at scpathways.org. Any questions, visit your local library or call them for details at 843-545-3300.



Stay Healthy

Following are some simple steps you can take to help keep yourself and your family healthy 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.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention

A Teen Pregnancy Workshop entitled "Making Proud Choices" was held the week of November 9th at the Drayton Community Center. Focus topics included positive decision making and attitude, goal setting, self esteem building, and increasing knowledge about prevention and protection. Special thanks goes to the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) for making this successful workshop possible.



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

- 1st – RENT IS DUE
- 12th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6 p.m.
- 18th – MLK Holiday, GHA office closed
- 19th – Parenting class 10 a.m.
- 21st – Resident Council meeting 5:30 p.m.
- 28th – GHA office closed to the public

FEBRUARY

- 1st – RENT IS DUE
- 8th - 11th – HUD/REAC Inspections
(North Street, Maryville South, Scattered Sites)
- 9th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6 p.m.
- 15th - 29th – Pest Control/Housekeeping Inspections
- 16th – Parenting class 10 a.m.
- 18th – Resident Council meeting 5:30 p.m.
- 25th – GHA office closed to the public

MARCH

- 1st – RENT IS DUE
- 16th – Parenting class 10 a.m.
- 8th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6 p.m.
- 15th – Parenting class 10 a.m.
- 17th – Resident Council meeting 5:30 p.m.
- 24th – Holiday, GHA Office closed
- 28th – GHA office closed to the public

APRIL

- 1st – RENT IS DUE
- 12th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6 p.m.
- 19th – Parenting class 10 a.m.
- 21st – Resident Council meeting 5:30 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 – 6p.m.

PHONE DIRECTORY: (843) 546-9621

Christina S. Woodruff, Executive Director:	ext. 227
Johanna Jefferson, Public Housing Manager:	ext. 230
Kiara Logan, Section 8 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