

HOME MATTERS

Fall 2020



INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Rock Your Vote 2020

P1



Tickets to Success

P2



Trick-or-Treat During the Pandemic

P2



Hurricane Season Preparedness

P3



Cocoa Krispies Reindeer

P3



Help Your Local Veteran

P4



School & COVID-19

P4



Georgetown Works

P4



Available Assistance

P4

IN EVERY ISSUE

Upcoming Events & General Information

P4



ROCK YOUR VOTE 2020

Don't forget to register to vote. Then go rock your vote on election day!

ELECTION DAY: NOV 3

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

By mail: **October 5th**

Online: **October 4th**

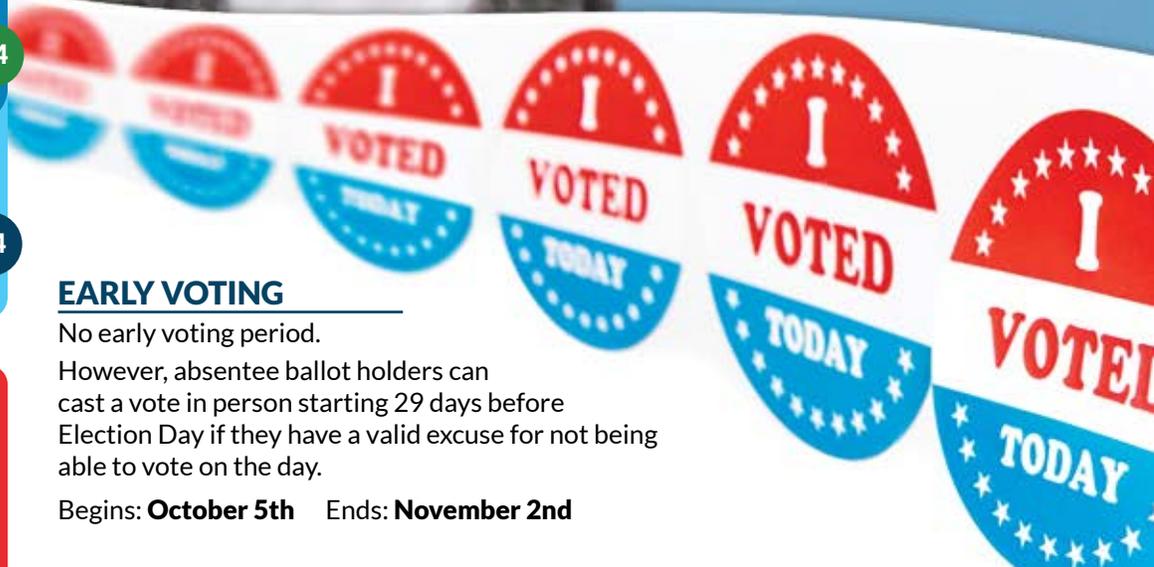
In person: **October 2nd**

VOTING DEADLINES

Application by mail: **October 30th**

Submission by mail: **November 3rd**

Submission in person: **November 3rd**



EARLY VOTING

No early voting period.

However, absentee ballot holders can cast a vote in person starting 29 days before Election Day if they have a valid excuse for not being able to vote on the day.

Begins: **October 5th** Ends: **November 2nd**



READY,

The Ready, Set, Success program has been a great success! Every public housing resident has been given the opportunity to earn tickets for awesome prizes. Throughout the year, names are drawn at the end of each month to reveal a winner. The winner will be contacted to pick up their prize within 5 business days of the drawing.

How to Earn Tickets for Success

- Pay rent and charges on time.
- Make repayment agreements when they are due.
- Keep your yard free of trash and unsightly items.
- Pass inspections.
- Be on time for scheduled appointments.
- Attend resident council monthly meeting and other activities.

Congratulations to all of our **READY, SET, SUCCESS** winners! →

Is It Safe to Trick-or-Treat During the COVID-19 Pandemic?

In an area where there's still ongoing community spread [and things] haven't gotten to the point where things are opening up again, I don't think trick-or-treating is a great idea," explains Sandra Kesh, M.D., an infectious disease specialist and the deputy medical director at New York's Westmed Medical Group. "In areas where the community prevalence is lower, I think it's okay to plan to trick-or-treat, but it's going to be a different experience than it was last year."

The main risks when it comes to trick-or-treating are:

1. Joining a big group of trick-or-treaters: Planning to team up with a group of friends to trick-or-treat this Halloween? Know that visiting people from another household or staying close together for hours on end brings with it a risk of transmission, especially in tight quarters where kids can't keep their masks on (no haunted houses this year!).
2. Face-to-face exposure: Hopefully, your "trick or treat?" interaction at any given doorway or front porch is very brief, which means there's less risk here. But the more households you visit, the greater the chance that germs may be spread and linger — especially as others head from door to door, too.
3. Touching candy, toys, doors and other surfaces: It's the least concerning risk for parents, as washing your hands frequently (or using hand sanitizer) can prevent little ones from carrying germs home. Parents should be concerned if their child is likely to rub their eyes, pick their nose, or put their fingers in their mouth while out and about with dirty hands.

House parties (or any event involving welcoming your neighbors into your home) aren't safe by any means, Dr. Kesh explains. But you can limit the COVID-19 risks associated with trick-or-treating outside your home by making sure your trick-or-treat group stays small. "I wouldn't have a big pack of 10 kids from school going out together; I would limit it to 3 or 4 kids at most, and choose those who you know have also been practicing social distancing," Dr. Kesh explains, adding that some families may choose to trick-or-treat alone simply because they have at-risk family members at home.

Other ways to keep your trick-or-treating session safe:

- Establish ground rules. "Your child shouldn't be digging around a candy bowl, touching multiple pieces. Ask them to choose one and stick with it," Dr. Kesh advises. "And while it's hard to ask kids not to run around the street, you should ask them to stay as far away from people outside of your household, to continue to do social distancing even outside."
- Don't share props, toys or bowls. Keep the swords, wands and tiaras from being passed around if you can. Ask each of your children to hold onto their own candy bags.
- And of course, wear a mask. Since Halloween already involves plenty of masks, it should be easy to incorporate a face covering into your child's costume, Dr. Kesh says. Nearly all parents should also be wearing a face mask, too, and if a costume involves a mask that doesn't sufficiently cover the face, add a proper cloth-based one beneath it.
- Bring hand sanitizer, and practice not touching your face. "It's always good to take a break, do a check in and give kids some hand sanitizer to clean their hands between multiple homes," Dr. Kesh adds. This is also an opportunity to give kids a break from wearing a mask if they need it, in a safe spot away from others where they can remove their mask with clean hands.
- If you're anxious about COVID-19, a candy bowl is a perfectly acceptable solution for trick-or-treaters and their hosts. "If you're at higher risk for severe coronavirus symptoms, I think a candy bowl is the way to go, especially if you live in a high transmission area," Dr. Kesh explains. As a courtesy to your neighbors, you might consider grouping candy in grab-and-go bags that each visitor can take — it reduces the need for kids to reach into a communal bowl. You can have a bit of fun creating Halloween goodie bags that can be simply left on your porch for visitors to take.

June



Jimmie Moultrie
Westside Apts.
Indoor Grill

July



Franshaska Shackelford
Westside Apts.
Bath & Spa Set

August



Shari Nelson
Westside Apts.
Chefman Air Fryer



Should I disinfect my child's candy?

- Don't freak out if your child rips open a chocolate bar and pops it into their mouth while trick-or-treating. "It isn't thought to be transmitted this way, but we always worry about the risk of touching something that's carrying infected matter," Dr. Kesh explains. "Try to really encourage your kids to hold off on eating candy until you get home, and make sure they wash their hands first."
- It's true that SARS-CoV-2 particles can last up to 72 hours on plastic surfaces, but this landmark discovery was made in a laboratory setting, and most Halloween candy holds less surface area to harbor germs. Disinfecting each candy wrapper may be a bit over the top, Dr. Kesh explains, especially since you can naturally allow any potentially infectious surface germs to die off with time. "Something that you can also do is to put most of the candy away for the first three days that it's in your home, and then the rest of the candy is safe to eat after the time has passed," she advises.

Article courtesy of Good Housekeeping - Zee Krstic - Sept 4, 2020



Hurricane Season is Here! Are You 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 AFor more info, call 843-545-3900.
- Keep a full tank of gas in your car.
- Keep your cell phone charged- if possible have a battery back-up or solar powered recharger on hand.
- Update your first aid box, replace expired medicines, and replenish bandages.
- 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.

BASIC DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT

- "South Carolina Hurricane Guide"
- Portable radio with extra batteries
- First Aid Kit (including prescription medications)
- NOAA Weather Radio
- Flashlight(s) with extra batteries
- Cash (enough to fill up a vehicle with gas)
- Mobile device chargers
- Bottled water (2 gallons per person per day)
- Plastic dishes, eating utensils
- Bedding and clothing for each family member
- Rain jackets, pants, boots
- Blankets, towels
- Baby supplies (food, diapers, medication)
- Hand sanitizer
- Non-perishable food (for at least 3 days)
- Pet supplies (food, leash, carrier, vaccinations records)
- Soap, shampoo, and other personal hygiene items
- Sunglasses, mosquito repellent, sunscreen
- Important Documents (driver's license, social security card, proof of residence, insurance policies, wills, deeds, birth and marriage certificates, tax records, medical records, family pictures, etc.)
- Toothbrush, toothpaste



Christmas Treats: Cocoa Krispies Reindeer

If you love Rice Krispies Treats, here's another fun variation for the holidays. These Christmas treats feature Santa's reindeer, and Cocoa Krispies instead of the regular Rice Krispies.

Servings: 12 Treats

Ingredients

- 4 Tbsp. butter
- 1 bag miniature marshmallows
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 6 C. Cocoa Krispies
- 24 Pretzel Twists (more to allow for breaking)
- Red and brown M&M candies
- White icing

Directions

1. Melt the butter and marshmallows over medium heat.
2. Once melted, stir in vanilla.
3. Remove from heat and add Cocoa Krispies.
4. Stir until well coated with marshmallow mixture.
5. Pour onto wax paper.
6. Shape into 12 triangular-shaped reindeer heads.
7. Allow to cool.
8. Using white icing, add the eyes, nose, and antlers.

Courtesy of Mommysavers.com - mommysavers.com/christmas-treats-cocoa-krispies-reindeer



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 Alissa Collington, HCV Coordinator, at 843-546-9621, x222, or Christina Woodruff at x227.

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 1st – **RENT, RETIREMENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE**
– Happy New Year!, GHA office closed
- 6th – **LATE CHARGES ADDED** (morning)
- 13th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6:00 pm
- 15th – **MAGISTRATE** (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 15th – Resident Council Meeting 4:00 pm
- 22nd – GHA office closed to the public

NOVEMBER

- 1st – **RENT, RETIREMENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE**
- 6th – **LATE CHARGES ADDED** (morning)
- 10th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6:00 pm
- 15th – **MAGISTRATE** (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 19th – Resident Council Meeting 4:00 pm
- 23rd & 24th – GHA office closed to the public

DECEMBER

- 1st – **RENT, RETIREMENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE**
- 6th – **LATE CHARGES ADDED** (morning)
- 8th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6:00 pm
- 15th – **MAGISTRATE** (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 17th – Resident Council Meeting 4:00 pm
- 22nd – GHA office closed to the public
- 31st – New Years Day Observed, GHA office closed

JANUARY

- 1st – **RENT, RETIREMENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE**
- 6th – **LATE CHARGES ADDED** (morning)
- 12th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6:00 pm
- 15th – **MAGISTRATE** (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 21st – Resident Council Meeting 4:00 pm
- 21st – GHA office closed to the public

School is back in session.

This year is quite different from any other year. Most of our children will be virtually attending school from home or a designated safe social distancing environment. Parents, please be patient with your children and the teaching staff. This is a new and different style of learning for many. If your child is enrolled in the virtual or hybrid program at the GCSD, our partner, Carolina Human Reinvestment of SC, is hosting a virtual classroom for our residents. Students can bring their laptop and work. Classes open at 8:30 am and all students must check in at 9:00 am with their teachers. The goal is to provide a quiet environment for your children to do their work while social distancing and helping to keep them on task.

Please Contact Gianny Guejdo for more information at **843-461-4305** or email info@chrsc.org.



Ready to Change Your Life? GEORGETOWN WORKS

A Friendship Place Initiative

- Join the Georgetown County Career Connections GC3
- We will help you find a sustainable career.
 - Career training.
 - On-going career mentoring.
 - Monthly boot camps.

For more information, call (843) 527-3022.

Available Assistance

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused some difficult times. Please be aware that there is help and resources available. The following short list is just a few places you can call and inquire for help.

<u>Helping Hands of Georgetown</u>	<u>St. Cyprian Outreach</u>
Hours of Operation: Mon. - Thurs., 9 am-2 pm 843-527-3424	(Currently assistance is restricted to first time applicants only.) 843-546-1470

Waccamaw Economic Opportunity Council Inc. (WEOC)

Must call to make an appointment: **843-546-6161**



GHA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Mr. Kalib Moyer, Board Chair | Ms. Betty Wilson |
| Mr. Tomas Langley, Vice Chair | Ms. Taneka Deas |
| Mrs. Christina Woodruff, Secretary | Mr. Nate Fata |

GHA MAIN OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday: 8 am – 12 pm & 1 – 6 pm

PHONE DIRECTORY: 843-546-9621

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| Christina S. Woodruff, Executive Director | ext. 227 |
| Johanna Jefferson, Public Housing Manager - AMP1 | ext. 230 |
| Alissa Collington, Resident Service Coordinator/HCV Coordinator | ext. 222 |
| Victoria Taber-Santos, Data Entry Specialist | ext. 223 |
| Katissa Kersey, Administrative Assistant | ext. 237 |
| Joe Geathers, Maintenance Director | ext. 228 |
| Lois Parsons, Front Desk | ext. 221 |
| B Kisner, Bookkeeper | ext. 224 |
| After hours' emergency work orders | (843) 946-0908 |
| TTY / TDD | (843) 461-3910 |

Home Matters is published quarterly by the Georgetown Housing Authority. Please send articles to: PO Box 209, Georgetown, SC 29442 by December 1st for the next issue. You may also fax or email Chris Woodruff: (843) 546-9621 ext. 227 / chrisw45@townhousing.org. Material is subject to approval at editing.