

HOME MATTERS

Summer 2021

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WATER SAFETY

Before going in, on, or around the water, every family member should become “water smart.” This starts with learning to be safe, making good choices, and learning to swim to achieve the skills of water competency. Everyone should be able to enter the water, get a breath, stay afloat, change position, swim a distance, and then get out of the water safely. A variety of water safety courses and resources are available to help. To help keep your family safe, the Red Cross offers these tips:

1. Prevent unsupervised access to water. Fence pools and spas with adequate barriers and keep a constant eye for any water dangers such as portable splash pools/slides, buckets, and bathtubs.
2. Adults should actively supervise children and stay within arm’s reach of young children and new swimmers. Kids should follow the rules. Designate a “water watcher” to keep a close eye and constant attention on children and weaker swimmers in and around the water until the next water watcher takes over.
3. Always wear a properly fitted U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket when on a boat and if in a situation beyond someone’s skill level.
4. Swim as a pair near a lifeguard’s chair — everyone, including experienced swimmers, should swim with a buddy even in areas supervised by lifeguards. Always maintain constant attention and actively supervise children even when lifeguards are present.
5. Download the Red Cross Swim app, sponsored by The ZAC Foundation, for safety tips, kid-friendly videos and activities, and take the free Water Safety for Parents and Caregivers online course.



GRILLING SAFETY

Grilling food is so popular that more than three-quarters of U.S. adults have used a grill — yet, grilling sparks more than 10,000 home fires on average each year. To avoid this, the Red Cross offers these grilling safety tips:

1. Always supervise a barbecue grill when in use. Don’t add charcoal starter fluid when coals have already been ignited.
2. Never grill indoors — not in the house, camper, tent or any enclosed area.
3. Make sure everyone, including pets, stays away from the grill.
4. Keep the grill out in the open, away from the house, deck, tree branches or anything that could catch fire.
5. Use the long-handled tools especially made for cooking on the grill to help keep the chef safe.

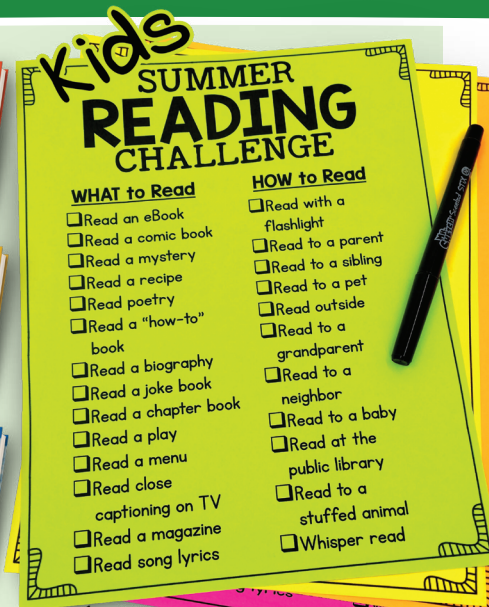


Happy Summer!

The kids are out of school- let the summer activities and fun begin! **Don't forget to read.** Don't let your brains go to mush this summer while enjoying the sun.

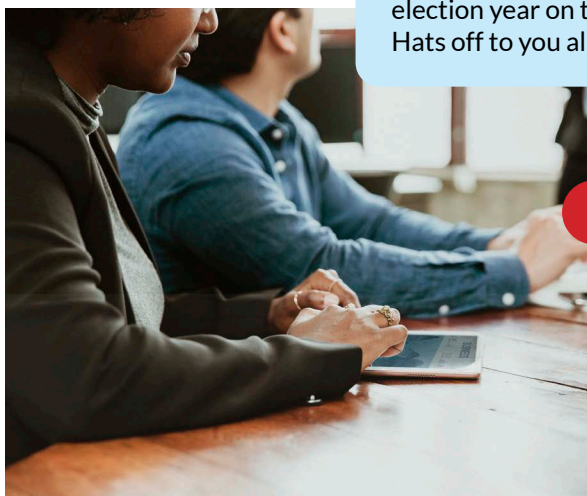
Here are some adult summer reading suggestions:

- **Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry** - Joya Goffney
- **Anna K Away** - Jenny Lee
- **People We Meet on Vacation** - Emily Henry
- **The Break Up Book Club** - Wendy Wax
- **The Guncle** - Steven Rowley
- **Mona at Sea** - Elizabeth Gonzalez James
- **Attachments** - Jeff Arch
- **The Summer Job** - Lizzy Dent
- **The Photographer** - Mary Dixie Carter
- **The Therapist** - B.A. Paris
- **The Husbands** - Chandler Baker
- **Under the Southern Sky** - Kristy Woodson Harvey



Congratulations to all the Graduates of 2021!

It truly took perseverance and determination to make the grade. With a pandemic, social unrest, and a controversial election year on top of any personal issues you had to face. Hats off to you all and many blessings to your future!



Get Involved - Resident Advisory Board Meetings

As things begin to open back up and return to a semi-normal lifestyle, Georgetown Housing Authority (GHA) Resident Advisory Board will begin to meet again. We urge our tenants to get involved and become a part of the change. The Resident Advisory Board meetings are open to all GHA tenants. The next meeting will be July 15th at 4:00 PM.

Summer Camp

We would like to invite you to the GHA/CHR summer program! It will start June 21st and end July 29th. Students will engage in academic activities that will prepare them for the next school year. Students will also stay active and get at least 30-60 minutes daily. This program will run from 9-2:30 Monday-Thursday. Fridays will be for field trips. Most of our trips will be to the community garden in Pawleys Island. Transportation to and from the garden will be provided. Meals will be provided to all students as well. There is limited space available, so get your application in now! We look forward to hearing from you and serving your children!

Please, don't hesitate to reach out to me if you feel the need to do so.

Blessings,
Giany Guedjo, Executive Director
843-461-4305 | giany@chrsc.org



HVAC Units

- Do not use bleach to clean the cold air return.
- AC should NOT be lower than 70 degrees.
- Heat should not be higher than 75 degrees.
- Leave the fan on 'Auto'.
- Never use the 'emergency heat' setting.



Always leave the fan set to AUTO.



Damages can occur from setting the air conditioning too low:

- Can you afford a high utility bill?
- Leaving windows and doors open while unit is running.
- Clogged filters.
- Turning unit off and on.
- Remember: hot air rises and cool air falls.

If you do not follow these guidelines, you will run the risk of damaging the property.

Hurricane Season is Upon Us! Are You Ready?

Here are a few tips to help you get 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 A
 - For more information, call 843-545-3900.
- ☐ 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.

Friendly Reminders

- No pools allowed.
- No unauthorized vehicles allowed to park on property.
- No unauthorized people allowed to stay in units.
 - Persons NOT on the lease cannot stay with you for more than 14 days out of the year. (page 6 of your "Welcome Home" handbook).
- No unauthorized pets and/or pet sitting.
 - If you so desire to house a pet it must be pre-approved by GHA.
 - \$200 pet deposit per dog and/or cat is required.
 - All pets must have all their required shots and be spayed or neutered.
 - GHA makes reasonable accommodations for certified service animals in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- **NO SMOKING WITHIN 25 FEET OF BUILDINGS.**
- **ABSOLUTELY NO SMOKING IN UNITS.**

All GHA properties are smoke-free.



READY,



SET,



SUCCESS!

IT'S COMING BACK! Our resident incentive program will be starting back in July.

The Ready, Set, Success program has been a great success, and will be returning in July. Every public housing resident is 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.

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, Interim Executive Director at 843-546-9621, x222.

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

- 1st – **RENT, RETRORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE**
- 5th – Independence Day Observed, 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)
 - Resident Council Meeting 4:00 pm
- 22nd – GHA office closed to the public

AUGUST

- 1st – **RENT, RETRORENT & 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
- 26th – GHA office closed to the public

SEPTEMBER

- 1st – **RENT, RETRORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE**
- 6th – **LATE CHARGES ADDED** (morning)
 - Labor Day Observed, GHA office closed
- 14th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6:00 pm
- 15th – **MAGISTRATE** (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 16th – Resident Council Meeting 4:00 pm
- 20th - 23rd – GHA office closed to the public

OCTOBER

- 1st – **RENT, RETRORENT & 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
 - GHA office closed to the public

Celebrate Summer



PRACTICE SUMMER SAFETY

**PROTECT YOURSELF
FROM THE SUN'S
HARMFUL RAYS**



**PRACTICE SAFETY
AROUND WATER**



**DRINK LOTS
OF WATER**

DRINK RESPONSIBLY



**ALWAYS WEAR
YOUR HELMET**



**BEWARE OF
MOSQUITOS**

**BE SAFE WHEN
SHOOTING FIREWORKS**



GHA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Kalib Moyer, Board Chair
Mr. Tomas Langley, Vice Chair
Ms. Alissa Collington, Secretary

Ms. Betty Wilson
Ms. Taneka Deas
Mr. Nate Fata

GHA MAIN OFFICE HOURS

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

PHONE DIRECTORY: 843-546-9621

Johanna Jefferson, Public Housing Manager - AMP 1 & 2	ext. 230
Alissa Collington, Interim Executive Director	ext. 222
Victoria Taber-Santos, HCV Coordinator	ext. 223
Katisa Kersey, Administrative Assistant	ext. 237
Essence Greene, Office Manager	ext. 227
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 September 1st for the next issue. You may also fax or email Katisa Kersey: (843) 546-9621 ext. 237 / GHAadmin@gtownhousing.org. Material is subject to approval at editing.