

HOME MATTERS

Winter 2022

Happy New Year!

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GHA Announces a New Executive Director!

The GHA Board of Commissioners has appointed Alissa Collington as the new Executive Director effective immediately.

Ms Collington started with GHA in the summer of 2016 as the Property Manager for Maryville South, North Street and our Scattered Sites homes (AMP2), and then became Client Services Coordinator in August 2019, managing both AMP 2 and HCV (Section 8). She assumed the Interim Executive Director position in November, 2020.

During her time here she has utilized her education in Business Administration and Healthcare Management working to expand services for our residents; her training in Software Management has also been extremely helpful in maintaining and developing computer/communications systems at the Main Office.

Alissa has lived in the Georgetown area most of her life, and in her spare time enjoys crafting and graphics.



10 New Year Resolutions for a Happier Family!

1. Eat healthy.
2. Exercise as a family.
3. Read more- books, periodicals, newspapers!
4. Make chores more enjoyable.
5. Practice good financial habits and goals.
6. Unplug your devices.
7. Sleep more.
8. Practice kindness.
9. Volunteer as a family.
10. Help save the environment.

Welcome to Winter!

Children's Books to Read for Winter:

Winter is Here

- by Kevin Henkes

Waiting for Winter

- by Sebastian Meschenmoser

When Winter Comes

- by Nancy Van Laan

The Snowy Day

- by Ezra Jack Keats

Goodbye Autumn, Hello Winter

- by Kenard Pak



Martin Luther King, Jr.

Day

A Day On, Not a Day Off.

Mark Your Calendars: Martin Luther King Jr. Day is Monday, January 17, 2022

A federal holiday in the United States, this day marks the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and is a day to promote equal rights for all Americans regardless of their background.

Join us for a day of conversation and action. Help us make the world a safer, better place, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

1.17.22



READY, SET, SUCCESS!

The Ready, Set, Success program has been a great success, and will be returning. 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.

March is National Reading Month

Each year at the beginning of March, school children kick off National Reading Month by celebrating the birthday of Dr. Seuss with reading activities. Your little ones can enjoy National Reading Month as well. Some skills to help your child be a success in reading and writing are as follows:

Alphabet Knowledge

- Sing the Alphabet Song with different tempos or silly voices like monster, robot, and animal voices.
- Hunt for environmental print – Start a game of I-spy and have your child search for letters displayed on signs, posters, billboards, and even cereal boxes.
- Teach your child to write his or her name. You can have him or her draw the letters in the sand.

Sounds of Language Knowledge

- Introduce nursery rhymes and sing-along games by reciting popular ones. Check the sing-along CD's at your local library.
- Enjoy rhyming books. Read aloud and, at times, have your child join in.
- Tune your child's ears to the rhythm of music. Tap or dance to the beat with your child.
- Read the story again and again. Maybe your child can, with her memory skills, read the story back to you.
- Go on a treasure hunt. Have your child search for items in your home that rhyme or start with the same sound.



Note to Residents Receiving Monthly Utility Checks:

Please cash the utility checks as soon as possible. **The utility checks are only good for 60 Days.** If you can't or don't want to cash your check, please bring it back to GHA office.



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.

Helping Hands of Georgetown

Monday - Thursday: 9 am - 2 pm
843-527-3424

St. Cyprian Outreach

(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

SC Stay Plus

Monday - Friday: 8 am - 2 pm
803-336-3420

New COVID-19 Variant: Omicron

As of November 2021, a new variant has been identified. Please be safe. Protect yourself while protecting others. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

COVID-19 Reminders

- ☐ Clean high touch surfaces daily.
- ☐ Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds.
- ☐ Visit a testing site if you have symptoms.
- ☐ Inform yourself daily of changes and updates.
- ☐ Distance between yourself and others by 6 feet.

Office Hours

Due to the rise in positive COVID-19 cases, the office is closed to the public. Admittance to the office is by appointment only. The phone lines are open for communication and we can be reached via email at info@gtownhousing.org.



2022: Black Health and Wellness

The theme for 2022 focuses on the importance of Black Health and Wellness. This theme acknowledges the legacy of not only Black scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine, but also other ways of knowing (e.g., birthworkers, doulas, midwives, naturopaths, herbalists, etc.) throughout the African Diaspora. The 2022 theme considers activities, rituals and initiatives that Black communities have done to be well.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month is an annual observance that originated in the United States, where it is also known as African American History Month.

It has received official recognition from governments in the United States and Canada, and more recently has been observed in Ireland and the United Kingdom. It began as a way of remembering important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. It is celebrated in February in the United States and Canada, while in Ireland, and the United Kingdom it is observed in October.

Conserving Energy in Your Home

- ☐ Turn off the 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 and oven door gaskets are not torn or loose.
- ☐ 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 / doors are closed when heating your home.



UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

1st – **RENT, RETIREMENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE**
6th – **LATE CHARGES ADDED** (morning)
11th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6:00 pm
15th – **MAGISTRATE** (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
17th – MLK Jr. Day, GHA office closed
20th – Resident Council Meeting 5:00 pm

FEBRUARY

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 5:00 pm

MARCH

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 5:00 pm

APRIL

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 5:00 pm

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!



GHA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Kalib Moyer, Board Chair	Ms. Betty Wilson
Mr. Tomas Langley, Vice Chair	Ms. Taneka Deas
Ms. Alissa Collington, Secretary	Mr. Nate Fata

GHA MAIN OFFICE HOURS

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

PHONE DIRECTORY: 843-546-9621

Alissa Collington, Executive Director	ext. 222
Nicole Johnson, Resident Services Coordinator	ext. 226
Johanna Jefferson, Public Housing Manager - AMP 1 & 2	ext. 230
Victoria Taber-Santos, HCV Coordinator	ext. 223
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

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