

# Home Matters

Winter 2023

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## DID YOU KNOW?

Did You Know?

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New Year is the time or day when a new calendar year begins, and many cultures celebrate the event in some manner.

New GHA Resident Advisory Board Members

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New Year's Day occurs on January 1st in the Gregorian calendar, in the original Julian calendar, and the Roman calendar (after 153 BC).

Children's Winter Books

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## Congratulations to our new GHA Resident Advisory Board Members

President: **Rashea Kinloch** Secretary: **Libby Geathers**

Public Housing Flat Rent Changes

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Vice President: **Victoria Johnson** Treasurer: **Eric Brown**

SC Housing Plus Program

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## Fun Children's Books to Read for Winter!

**Sneezy the Snowman**  
- Maureen Wright

**The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter's Wonder**  
- Mark Cassino

**The Twelve Days Of Winter: A School Counting Book**  
- Deborah Lee Rose

**Winter Dance**  
- Marion Dane Bauer

**A Loud Winter's Nap**  
- Katy Hudson

**The Shortest Day: Celebrate the Winter Solstice**  
- Wendy Pfeffer

GHA Afterschool

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**There Was a Cold Lady Who Swallowed Some Snow!**  
- Lucille Colandro

**The First Day Of Winter**  
- Denise Fleming

**Snowmen at Night**  
- Caralyn Buehner

Winter Foods

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**Snow**  
- Cynthia Rylant

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## Important Information and Reminders

### Public Housing Flat Rent Change

Effective January 1, 2023

	1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR	Old Scattered Site	New Scattered Site
2023 Fair Market Rent	709	933	1326	1337	1326	1326
80% of Fair Market Rent	567	746	1060	1069	1060	1060
Utility Allowance (2023)	146	166	192	239	222	201
Flat Rent	421	580	868	830	838	859



**IMPORTANT**

### SC Housing Stay Plus Program

SC Housing Stay Plus Program is officially closed to new applicants.



SC Stay Plus has provided approximately 90,000 South Carolinians with more than \$267 million in rent and utility assistance across the 39 counties the program serves.

**Due to the program's success, we must stop accepting new applications.**

### GHA Afterschool Program

Mark your calendars! The GHA Afterschool Program will resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 2:45 pm.

The Afterschool Program children had a festive time decorating for the season!



## Winter Foods: How to eat Seasonally

Eating seasonally just means you are eating what is harvested in season in the area of the world you live in. Northern hemisphere countries will have different seasonal foods to southern hemisphere. Seasonal foods are usually the freshest and that means the most possible nutrients in every bite.

Beetroot

Bramley Apple

Brussel Sprouts

Cabbage

Pomegranate

Turnip

Cranberry

Kale

Sweet Potato

Pear



## Winter Life Hacks!

Winter is here and is a tough time of year for many. The days are long and cold, and weather extremes can not only strike at a moment's notice, but they can bring treacherous and dangerous conditions. Here is a list of winter life hacks and advice to help you get through the toughest (and longest) season of the year.

- Socks on the Go!**  
Pack an extra pair of socks in your car's glove compartment. Then if you need to get out and shovel, or if you step into a puddle, you'll have dry socks to change into. And put those orphaned or mismatched socks to use them as wiper blade covers!
- Enlist the Help of Your Ceiling Fan**  
Ceiling fans are not just for summer! Flip the switch to reverse the spin of the fan and turn on the lowest speed to blow warm air down from the ceiling.
- Use Energy from the Sun**  
During the day, open drapes and blinds to allow sunlight to help warm the house, and then close at night to hold the heat in.
- Dress in Layers!**  
Find the blankets, wool sweaters, long johns, and socks. If you can dress in layers while watching TV or working from home, you may be able to keep the heat at a minimum during certain times of the day.
- Use a Fertilizer Spreader**  
Use it in winter to scatter sand on icy walkways.
- Keep a Bag of Clay Kitty Litter in Your Trunk**  
If your car gets stuck in deep snow or slick ice, sprinkling kitty litter (non-clumping) at the base of your tires can be just the thing to add some traction and get things moving again. The extra weight in your trunk will also create added pressure on your tires, ensuring greater contact between your tread and the ground.
- Gas Up!**  
During cold weather months, it's a good practice to keep at least a half a tank of gasoline in your vehicle at all times. Not only does it prevent you from being stranded, but it prevents any water in the tank from freezing, which can damage the fuel pump.
- Keep Side Mirrors Frost-Free**  
Place plastic bags over your car mirrors at night and they'll be frost-free in the morning. Reuse them over and over.

## Snowflake Cocoa

This is an easy and delicious cocoa you can make in your slow cooker. It is great for gatherings with friends and family!

Recipe courtesy of Diana S. / allrecipes.com

Total: 2hr 35min | Prep: 5 min | Cook: 2hr 30min | Yield: 10 Servings

### Ingredients

- 2 cups whipping cream
- 6 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 (12 ounce) package white chocolate chips
- whipped cream
- candy canes

### Directions

1. Stir together the whipping cream, milk, vanilla, and white chocolate chips in a slow cooker.
2. Cover and cook on low for 2 to 2 ½ hours, stirring occasionally, until mixture is hot and chocolate chips are melted. Stir again before serving. Garnish with whipped cream and candy canes, as desired.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JANUARY

- 1 – RENT, RETRORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
- 2 – New Year observed, GHA Office closed
- 6 – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
- 10 – Board of Commissioners meeting 6:00 pm
- 15 – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 19 – Resident Council Meeting 5:30 pm
- 26 – GHA office closed to the public

### FEBRUARY

- 1 – RENT, RETRORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
- 6 – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
- 14 – Board of Commissioners meeting 6:00 pm
- 15 – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 16 – Resident Council Meeting 5:30 pm
- 23 – GHA office closed to the public

### MARCH

- 1 – RENT, RETRORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
- 6 – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
- 14 – Board of Commissioners meeting 6:00 pm
- 15 – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 16 – Resident Council Meeting 5:30 pm
- 20 - 23 – GHA office closed to the public

### APRIL

- 1 – RENT, RETRORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
- 6 – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
- Good Friday observed, GHA Office closed
- 11 – Board of Commissioners meeting 6:00 pm
- 15 – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 20 – Resident Council Meeting 5:30 pm
- 20 – GHA office closed to the public

### GHA Main Office Hours

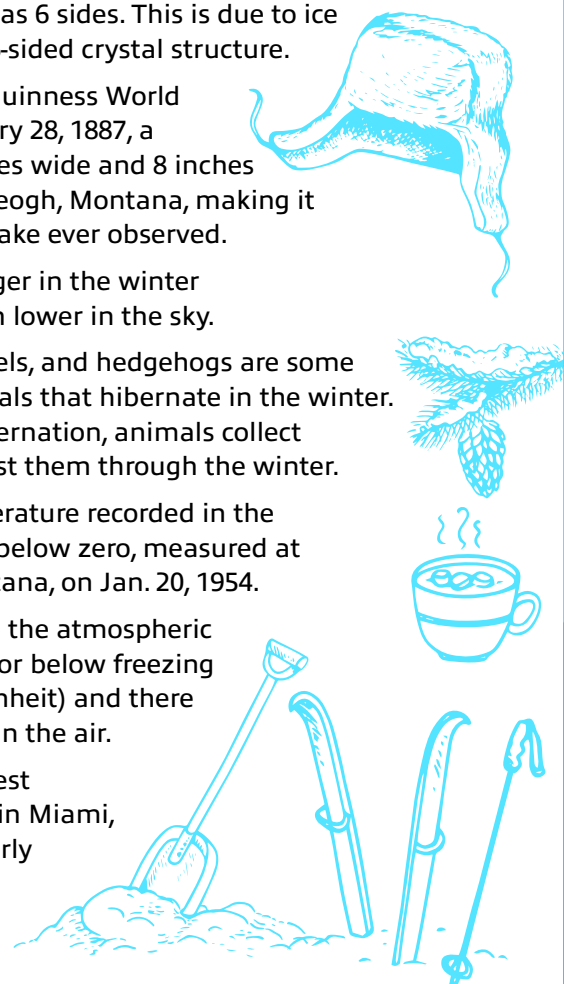
Monday – Thursday: 8 am – 12 pm & 1 – 6 pm

### Phone Directory: 843-546-9621

Alissa Collington, Executive Director	ext. 222
Nicole Johnson, Resident Services Coordinator	ext. 227
Johanna Jefferson, Public Housing Manager - AMP 1 & 2	ext. 230
Victoria Taber-Santos, HCV Coordinator	ext. 223
Essence Greene, Office Manager	ext. 221
Reggie Brown, Maintenance Director	ext. 228
Lois Parsons, Housing Specialist	ext. 237
B Kisner, Bookkeeper	ext. 224
After hours emergency work orders	(843) 946-0908
TTY / TDD	(843) 461-3910

## Winter Fun Facts

- ❑ Winter starts on December 21, 2022 and last through March 20, 2023. That's 90 days of winter!
- ❑ In the Northern Hemisphere, the shortest day of the year is in winter during the winter solstice which happened on December 21, 2022. It had the shortest number of daylight hours.
- ❑ If you live below the equator, winter solstice happens in June. This happens in countries including Australia, Brazil and South Africa where winter begins June 1st.
- ❑ Every snowflake has 6 sides. This is due to ice having a natural 6-sided crystal structure.
- ❑ According to the Guinness World Records, on January 28, 1887, a snowflake 15 inches wide and 8 inches thick fell in Fort Keogh, Montana, making it the largest snowflake ever observed.
- ❑ The sun looks bigger in the winter because it is much lower in the sky.
- ❑ Bears, bats, squirrels, and hedgehogs are some of the many animals that hibernate in the winter. To prepare for hibernation, animals collect enough food to last them through the winter.
- ❑ The coldest temperature recorded in the U.S. is 70 degrees below zero, measured at Rogers Pass, Montana, on Jan. 20, 1954.
- ❑ Snow forms when the atmospheric temperature is at or below freezing (32 degrees Fahrenheit) and there is some moisture in the air.
- ❑ The season's hottest temperatures are in Miami, Florida where nearly every winter day reaches at least 60 degrees.



Home Matters is published quarterly by the Georgetown Housing Authority. Please send articles by 3/1/23 to: PO Box 209, Georgetown, SC 29442 or fax / email Essence Greene: (843) 546-9621 ext. 221 customersvc2@gtownhousing.org.

Material is subject to approval.

### 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

