

# Home Matters

Winter 2024

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Happy 2024!

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Welcoming a new year with reflection and celebration is something humans

Smoke Free Notice

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have been doing for thousands of years. The first New Year's festivities go back 4,000 years, to ancient Babylon. At that time, the new year was celebrated during the spring equinox, a time of year symbolizing rebirth. This celebration lasted 11 days and honored the Babylonian mythological god Marduk.

Black History Month

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### Family-Friendly Ways to Celebrate New Year's Eve & Day

Welcome Back Kiara Logan!

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1. Do a New Year's Eve countdown... only earlier!
2. Have a kid-friendly New Year's Eve or Day party.
3. Try a balloon drop!
4. Create New Year's resolutions as a family.
5. Share a photo slideshow to reflect on the past year.
6. Have a family slumber party.

Winter Children's Books

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Public Housing & Housing Choice Voucher Updates

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### Notice to those entering the GHA Office Building

This is a **SMOKE FREE** building. This also means the **SMELL OF SMOKE** is prohibited.

All GHA properties are smoke-free.



New Year's Resolutions

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This office is open to a variety of people. Our staff, tenants, and potential tenants should not be subjected to **smoke inhalation** and its **lingering smell**.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

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If you are a smoker and have recently smoked, respectfully rethink trying to enter this office.

**If any of our staff deems your smell to be overwhelming, you will be asked to leave and return at a later date.**

## IN EVERY ISSUE

Upcoming Events & General Information

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This notice is to ensure that our office remains professional, comfortable, and safe for all who enter.

Please abide,  
Management

# FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## 2024: African Americans and the Arts

The theme for Black History Month 2024 focuses on "African Americans and the Arts". This theme is infused with African, Caribbean, and Black American lived experiences. In the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression the African-American influence has been paramount. African-American artists have used art to preserve history and community memory as well as for empowerment. Artistic and cultural movements such as the New Negro, Black Arts, Black Renaissance, hip-hop, and Afrofuturism, have been led by people of African descent and set the standard for popular trends around the world. In 2024, we examine the varied history and life of African-American arts and artisans.

### Welcome Back Kiara Logan!

We would like to welcome Kiara Logan back to our GHA Family. Kiara worked for GHA for 6 years when she decided to leave to pursue other career options. She is now happy to return to run our HCV Program. She has a total of 12 years' experience in the housing industry. Kiara resides in Georgetown with her 3 children. She lives by the quote:

**"I am stronger than my challenges, and my challenges are making me stronger."**

~ Karen Salmansohn



## Winter Children's Books!

<b>The Snow Monster</b> - Jodi Dee	<b>Ten Ways to hear Snow</b> - Cathy Camper	<b>A Coyote Solstice Tale</b> - Thomas King
<b>Pick a Pine Tree</b> - Patricia Toht	<b>Cold and Hot</b> - Jacqueline Sweeney	<b>Barn in Winter: Safe and Warm on the Farm</b> - Chambræe Griffith
<b>Dream Snow</b> - Eric Carle	<b>Snowballs</b> - Lois Ehlert	<b>Snow Song</b> - A.K. Riley
	<b>Soup Day</b> - Melissa Iwai	



## Public Housing Flat Rent

Effective January 1, 2024

	1 BR	1 BR	3 BR	4 BR	Old Scattered Site	New Scattered Site
<b>2024 Fair Market Rent</b>	848	1114	1478	1582	1478	1478
<b>80% of Fair Market Rent</b>	678	891	1182	1265	1182	1182
<b>Utility Allowance (2024)</b>	173	196	237	281	246	247
<b>Flat Rent</b>	505	695	945	984	936	935

## Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Payment Standard

Effective January 1, 2024

	0 BR	1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR
<b>2024 FMR</b>	842	848	1114	1478	1582
<b>PAYMENT STANDARD</b>	926	932	1169	1551	1661
<b>VETERANS (110%)</b>		932			
<b>DISABLED VETERANS (120%)</b>		1017			

*New Year's Resolutions:*

- Learn how to say "No".
- Take a break from social media.
- Rather than making resolutions, set goals.
- Start your day with positive affirmations.
- Join a gym.
- Keep a daily check on your bank account.
- Take on a new skill you've always wanted to learn.
- Spend time with family and friends. ☆





## UPCOMING EVENTS

# Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 1.15.24

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.

Celebrating Martin Luther King Day can be done in various meaningful ways that honor Dr. King's legacy and promote his ideals. Here are some ways to celebrate:

- **Attend Commemorative Events:** Many communities organize parades, lectures, and other events that celebrate Dr. King's life and message.
- **Engage in Community Service:** Participate in volunteer activities or service projects that benefit your community, aligning with Dr. King's commitment to social justice.
- **Educational Activities:** Learn more about the civil rights movement and Dr. King's work through books, documentaries, or visits to relevant museums and historical sites.
- **Reflect on Social Justice:** Take time to reflect on the progress made in the fight for civil rights and consider how you can contribute to a more just society.
- **Spread Awareness:** Share Dr. King's messages of equality, love, and nonviolence on social media to inspire others.



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❖ Winter 2024 Home Matters

### JANUARY

- 1 – RENT, RETRORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE  
New Year Holiday, GHA Office closed
- 6 – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
- 9 – Board of Commissioners meeting 6:00 pm
- 15 – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)  
Martin Luther King Day, GHA Office closed
- 18 – Resident Council Meeting 5:30 pm
- 25 – GHA office closed to the public

### FEBRUARY

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

### MARCH

- 1 – RENT, RETRORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
- 6 – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
- 12 – Board of Commissioners meeting 6:00 pm
- 15 – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 19 - 22 – GHA office closed to the public
- 21 – Resident Council Meeting 5:30 pm
- 28 – Good Friday, GHA Office closed

### APRIL

- 1 – RENT, RETRORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
- 6 – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
- 9 – Board of Commissioners meeting 6:00 pm
- 15 – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 18 – Resident Council Meeting 5:30 pm
- 25 – 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 McCray, Resident Services Coordinator	ext. 226
Johanna Jefferson, Public Housing Manager - AMP 1 & 2	ext. 230
Kiara Logan, HCV / Section 8 Coordinator	ext. 223
Essence Greene, Office Manager	ext. 227
Reggie Brown, Maintenance Director	ext. 228
Lois Parsons, Housing Specialist	ext. 237
B Kisner, Bookkeeper	ext. 224
Front Desk / Work Orders	ext. 221
After hours emergency work orders	(843) 946-0908
TTY / TDD	(843) 461-3910

### 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

