

# Home Matters

Spring 2024

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Gone But Not Forgotten: B **1**
- Welcome Jennifer Douglas **1**
- Afterschool News **1**
- Smoking Notice **1**
- Medicaid Renewals **2**
- New Benefits Through Medicaid **2**
- Mother's Day May 12<sup>th</sup> **3**
- Family Reads! **3**
- Father's Day June 26<sup>th</sup> **3**
- Resident Responsibilities **3**
- Coast RTA Service Changes **4**
- VOTE! **4**
- Resident FYI **4**

### Gone But Not Forgotten: B

When B started at GHA in May 2018, she had a history of non-profit bookkeeping experience in Georgetown, having worked with the Sisters at St. Cyprian for 13 years.



During her years at GHA, she streamlined several bookkeeping processes. In recent months, she established a new banking relationship and moved into a new software that will radically improve the way GHA serves its residents. B is excited to be retired, spending more time with church activities, and enjoying long walks. We wish her all the best!

### Welcome: Jennifer Douglas



Jennifer Douglas is the new Bookkeeper for the Georgetown Housing Authority. With 20+ years of experience in the financial services industry, she has a strong knowledge of financial practices. With a passion for continued learning and growth, Jennifer will bring attention to detail, the ability to explain financial matters clearly, and problem-solving skills. From Virginia, when she is not working, you can find her either at the beach, boating, or golfing!

### Afterschool News

GHA's Afterschool Program has partnered with Freedom Readers Kight's for Knowledge. It is a weekly 60-90 minute meeting every Wednesday, September to November (not in session during the summer). The KforK tutors assist the scholars with achieving their academic goals in reading. The scholars receive literacy tutoring, a snack, and free books for their home library.

We have added cursive writing to our afterschool and summer camp curriculum. We realize that it is imperative for them to at least be able to sign their names. The children are enjoying this immensely.



## IN EVERY ISSUE

- Upcoming Events & General Information **4**

### 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.



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. If you are a smoker and have recently smoked, respectfully rethink trying to enter the office. This is to ensure that our office remains professional, comfortable, and safe for all who enter.

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

## Medicaid Must Be Renewed Every Year!

Here are the steps you'll need to take to complete the process when you receive your review form.

- 1. Make sure your contact info is up to date.** To make sure you don't miss important updates about your Medicaid coverage, make sure we have your correct address and contact info. You can change or add your address, email or phone number online at [apply.scdhhs.gov](http://apply.scdhhs.gov). You can also update it by calling (888) 549-0820 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Or, you can visit your local eligibility office.
- 2. Be on the lookout for your review form.** Annual review forms will be sent out monthly. Check your mail for important letters. You can also follow our social media for updates (@SCMedicaid on Facebook and Twitter) and visit this website. We will text (if we have your cell phone number) to let you know it is time to complete your form. We may be able to renew your Medicaid with information we have. If so, you will receive a "Continuation of Benefits" notice. This means you won't receive or need to complete the annual review form. You can also check your annual eligibility review status online at [apply.scdhhs.gov](http://apply.scdhhs.gov).
- 3. Complete and return your form (if you get one).** When you receive your form, complete it fully and clearly. Be sure to return it by the due date listed on the form. You can also complete our annual review form online at [apply.scdhhs.gov](http://apply.scdhhs.gov) when it's time to renew. If you don't have all the info, return your completed form anyway. We will follow up if we need anything. Once we receive your form, your Medicaid will continue while we assess you for the next year of coverage. When we complete the assessment, you will receive a notice with a decision. If you don't return the form by the deadline, we will send a notice to let you know the date when your Medicaid will end.

### Submit the form using one of the methods below.

- Complete your form online at [apply.scdhhs.gov](http://apply.scdhhs.gov)
- Upload your form online. Use the "Document Upload Tool" at [apply.scdhhs.gov](http://apply.scdhhs.gov)
- Mail it to SCDHHS-Central Mail, P.O. Box 100101, Columbia, SC 29202-3101
- Fax your form to 888-820-1204
- Email it to [8888201204@fax.scdhhs.gov](mailto:8888201204@fax.scdhhs.gov)
- Bring it in person to your local county Medicaid office

## New Benefits Through Medicaid

Healthy Connections Medicaid added new benefits to help improve health outcomes for members. These changes apply to Medicaid members enrolled in a managed care plan. They also affect those who are not in a plan.

### For full-benefit and family planning limited-benefit Healthy Connections Medicaid members:

- The Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) is now covered. This test can find bacterial vaginosis in one test instead of several.

### For full-benefit Healthy Connections Medicaid members:

- Nutritional counseling is covered to treat eating disorders and obesity. Members can even receive this service by telehealth. More hours of this counseling are now covered too.
- The placement, replacement and maintenance of cochlear implants are now covered for members 21 years and older who need them. These services are already covered for full-benefit Healthy Connections Medicaid members under 21 years of age.



### For full-benefit and family planning limited benefit Healthy Connections Medicaid members:

- Members 19 to 45 years old can now get the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. The vaccine was already covered for members between nine and 18 years old. Some types of cancer, like cervical cancer, and HPV infections are more preventable after receiving the HPV vaccine.
- Cologuard® is now covered. It is a preventive colorectal screening test. This test provides a way for you to check your colon health.

### For full-benefit Healthy Connections Medicaid members:

- Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) group treatment services are now covered. This group option increases access to ASD treatment.
- Members can now receive dialysis in end-stage renal disease clinics. This adds access for members by providing a new place to receive treatment.

Optometry services can now be delivered in mobile units at Title I public schools. This allows children on Medicaid another way to receive vision services, such as eye exams.

## Notice: Annual Eligibility Reviews have resumed!

In the past, you received an annual review form to keep your Medicaid. However, Medicaid has had special rules during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). We stopped mailing review forms during that time. We kept all members on Medicaid. This is true even if there were changes to your eligibility. Annual reviews resumed April 1, 2023. We will try to renew your Medicaid with info we have. If we can renew your Medicaid this way, you will receive a "Continuation of Benefits" notice and will not receive a review form. If we cannot renew it this way, we will let you know by mail or text (if we have your cell phone number) when your review date is near. The texts will come from (803) 879-4184. We will also mail you a form to complete and return by summer 2024.

## Mother's Day - May 12<sup>th</sup>

A Mother's love is something that no one can explain. It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain. It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may. For nothing can destroy it or take that love away.

### *Her Love is Like an Island*

Mother's love is like an island,  
In life's ocean vast and wide  
A peaceful, quiet shelter  
From the wind, the rain, the tide.  
'Tis bound on the north by Hope,  
By Patience on the west,  
By tender Counsel on the south  
And on the east by Rest.  
Above it like a beacon light  
Shine Faith, and Truth, and Prayer;  
And thro' the changing scenes of life  
I find a haven there.



~Helen Steiner Rice

## Father's Day June 26<sup>th</sup>

### *Only A Dad*

Only a dad with a tired face,  
Coming home from the daily race,  
Bringing little of gold or fame  
To show how well he has played the game;  
But glad in his heart that his own rejoice  
To see him come and to hear his voice.

Only a dad with a brood of four,  
One of ten million men or more  
Plodding along in the daily strife,  
Bearing the whips and the scorns of life,  
With never a whimper of pain or hate,  
For the sake of those who at home await.

Only a dad, neither rich nor proud,  
Merely one of the surging crowd  
Toiling, striving from day to day,  
Facing whatever may come his way,  
Silent whenever the harsh condemn,  
And bearing it all for the love of them.

Only a dad but he gives his all  
To smooth the way for his children small,  
Doing with courage stern and grim,  
The deeds that his father did for him.  
This is the line that for him I pen:  
Only a dad, but the best of men.

~Edgar Guest



## Family Reads!

3-7	<b>A Crocodile Should Never Skip Breakfast</b> - Jodi Dee
	<b>A Boy, a Budget, and a Dream</b> - Jasmine Paul
8-12	<b>A Planet Is a Poem</b> - Amanda West Lewis
	<b>This Child, Every Child</b> - David J. Smith
13-16	<b>Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants</b> - Ann Brashares
	<b>Boy 21</b> - Matthew Quick
17-20	<b>Investing for Young Adults</b> - Kris Pearson
	<b>Everything All At Once</b> - Ivy Cayden
ADULTS	<b>The Heaven &amp; Earth Grocery Store</b> - James McBride
	<b>The Covenant of Water</b> - Abraham Verghese



## Resident Responsibilities

**Promptly report to the landlord any of the following changes in household circumstances when they occur between annual rent re-certification:**

- A member has been added to the family through birth, adoption, or court-awarded custody.
- A household member is leaving, or has left the family unit.

**Residents paying 30% of their gross household income may report the following activities that occur between annual rent re-certifications:**

- A decrease or increase in household income.
- Childcare expenses for children under 13 that are necessary to enable the head of the household to be employed or go to school.
- Handicapped assistance expenses, which enable a family member to work.
- Medical expenses of the elderly, disabled, or handicapped headed households that are not covered by insurance.
- Other family changes that impact their adjusted gross income.



### **Rent Decreases, Increases & Renewals:**

- **Rent decreases** are processed by the landlord, **lowered rent amount** becomes effective on the **first day of the month** after resident reports the change in household circumstances to the Public Housing Manager (PHM).
- **Rent increases** are processed by the landlord, the resident is given **no less than 30 days advance written notice** of the amount due. The rent change may be retroactive if the resident has failed to notify the Public Housing Manager (PHM).
- **Lease renewals** will be at least 60 days prior to your anniversary date each year. You will be notified by mail and it is your responsibility to respond to the notice, fill out all forms and provide GHA with all requested documents.

## Coast RTA Service Changes

Coast RTA announces proposed service changes effective March 10, 2024, due to a shortage of CDL operators. Please contact a supervisor for further information by phone at 843-488-0865 or email at [info@coastra.com](mailto:info@coastra.com).

### Route 4 AM Trips Only

Currently:

- Arrival time at Andrews Piggly Wiggly at 7am.

Proposed:

- Arrival time at Andrews Piggly Wiggly at 6:30am.

### Route 7 & 7 Express-Outbound

Currently:

- 9:15am Express trip from Myrtle Beach to Conway.

Proposed:

- Eliminating the 9:15am Express trip from Myrtle Beach to Conway.
- Adding a 1:15pm Route 7 from Myrtle Beach to Conway.

### Route 14 AM Trips Only

Currently:

- Departure time at Andrews Piggly Wiggly at 7am.

Proposed:

- Departure time at Andrews Piggly Wiggly at 6:30am.

### Route 16 & 16 Limited AM & PM Trips

Currently:

- 3 Route 16 Limited trips in the AM from Georgetown to Myrtle Beach
- 2 buses operating daily

Proposed:

- 2 Route 16 Limited trips in the AM from Georgetown with eliminating the 7:30am trip.
- Eliminating the following trips: Georgetown to Myrtle Beach trips at 2:00pm, & 5:00pm  
Myrtle Beach to Georgetown trips 12:30pm, 3:30pm, & 6:30pm



## Resident FYI

Computers in the GHA Community Center are available with an appointment (between the hours of 9 – 11:30am) for residents to pull up and print documents needed by GHA staff, do searches, etc. Contact: Nicole McCray – Resident Services Coordinator (843) 546-9621 x226.



The best way for your voice to be heard, is to register to vote, then go out and vote in your local & presidential elections.

**Every vote matters. Every vote counts.**

**Vote in 2024!**

Home Matters is published quarterly by the Georgetown Housing Authority. Please send articles by 06/01/24 to: PO Box 209, Georgetown, SC 29442 or email / fax Nicole McCray: [residentservices@gtownhousing.org](mailto:residentservices@gtownhousing.org) (843) 546-9621 ext. 226  
Material is subject to approval.

4 Spring 2024 Home Matters

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 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

### MAY

- 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)  
Resident Council Meeting 5:30 pm
- 23 – GHA office closed to the public
- 27 – Memorial Day, GHA office closed

### JUNE

- 1 – RENT, RETRORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
- 3 – First day of GHA Carolina Kids Summer Camp
- 6 – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
- 11 – Board of Commissioners meeting 6:00 pm
- 15 – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)  
Resident Council Meeting 5:30 pm
- 19 – Juneteenth, GHA Office closed
- 24 - 27 – GHA office closed to the public

### JULY

- 1 – RENT, RETRORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
- 1 - 5 – GHA Carolina Kids Summer Camp closed
- 4 – July 4<sup>th</sup>, GHA Office closed
- 6 – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
- 8 – GHA Carolina Kids Summer Camp resumes
- 9 – Board of Commissioners meeting 6:00 pm
- 15 – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)  
Resident Council Meeting 5:30 pm
- 18 – GHA Carolina Kids Summer Camp last day
- 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

» To skip voice prompts, dial 2 then the extension. «

Alissa Collington, Executive Director	ext. 222
Nicole McCray, Resident Services Coordinator	ext. 226
Johanna Jefferson, Assistant Director / Compliance Officer	ext. 230
Kiara Logan, HCV / Section 8 Coordinator	ext. 223
Essence Greene, Public Housing Manager - AMP 1 & 2	ext. 227
Reggie Brown, Maintenance Director	ext. 228
Lois Parsons, Housing Specialist	ext. 237
Jennifer Douglas, 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

