

Home Matters

Summer 2024

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GHA Shining Stars: Chef Key

Akeyba is a single mother of four, living from paycheck to paycheck. One day she got on her knees, prayed to God to order her steps and guide her feet. Akeyba loved to cook and she desired to go to school to become a chef. Upon completion of college, she wants to open a business where she could share her passion for food and cooking with the world. After two years of hard work, she's graduated with an associate in Culinary Arts from Horry Georgetown Technical College. You can now call her "Chef Key". Akeyba decided not to stop at just an associate, but she's currently continuing on to complete her associate degree in bakery and pastry.

Akeyba's motto is: "I'm not saying it is going to be easy, but what I am saying is, I will never give up!"



Afterschool News

GHA's afterschool program has several openings for the 2024-25 school year. Complete an application at the GHA office, spaces are limited. Contact: Nicole McCray – Resident Services Coordinator, (843) 546-9621 x2226.



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.

New to GHA: WIC Services on Wheels



Help WIC (Women, Infants & Children) Services on Wheels stay with GHA. They will be in the front parking lot of GHA every 3rd Thursday from 3 to 6pm the same day as our monthly Resident Council Meeting. Everything you can do at the WIC office can be done on the van. Contact: Nicole McCray – Resident Services Coordinator, (843) 546-9621 x2226.



GHA Recognizes:



Employee of the Month
January & 1st Quarter

Reggie Brown



Employee of the Month
February

Jennifer Douglas



Employee of the Month
March

Wally Gibson

Rent Information:

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.

Lease Violations:

- No swimming pools or anything like a pool, is permitted.
- All approved animals must be on a leash while outside, if not approved it is a violation for the animal to be on GHA property.

Resident Responsibilities:

- Follow all the rules detailed in your lease.
- Promptly report any damages inside and outside of your unit.
- Keep your house clean and free of clutter, pests, and other safety hazards.
- Meet any community service requirements.
- Be respectful to your neighbors.
- Don't get into trouble with the law.
- Check your mail at least once a week.



Grandparents' Day - August 8th

Grandparents mean so much in our children's lives. They are the second parents, the date night babysitters, the extreme huggers, the school form emergency contacts, the ice cream, and candy distributors, and so much more. On Grandparents' Day, we get to pause and show our appreciation for how awesome they are, and share how much they mean to our families.

National Grandparents' Day was officially proclaimed by President Jimmy Carter in 1978 and legislated by congress. It's a beautiful opportunity to celebrate these angels on earth who not only bring the fun, but also give us relief by taking over when the weight of parenting gets heavy and we need a breather.

Grandparents Are Special People

Grandparents are special people
With wisdom and pride.
They are always offering love and kindness
And are always there to guide.

They often make you feel so confident
And strong.

Their arms are always open
No matter what you did wrong.

They try to help out in every way
That they can.

They love all their grandchildren the same
Whether you're a child, woman or man.

They are always there to listen
And to lend a helping hand.

They show you respect
And they try to understand.

They give their love, devotion and so much more,
That's easy to see.

Grandparents, what perfect examples
Of the kind of person that we should be.



~Stacy Smith

Community Center Computers

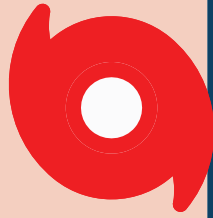


Computers in the GHA Community Center are available with an appointment (between the hours of 9 – 11:30am) for residents to pull up and print documents needed by GHA staff, do searches, etc. Contact: Nicole McCray – Resident Services Coordinator, (843) 546-9621 x226.

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.
- 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.
- 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.



Family Reads!

3-5	All That I Can Be - Mercer Mayer
	Dog vs. Strawberry - Nelly Buchet
6-8	The Secret Elephant - ELLAN RANKIN
	InvestiGators: Agents of S.U.I.T.: From Badger to Worse - John Patrick Green
9-12	The Eyes and the Impossible - Dave Eggers
	Free Period - Ali Terese
13-16	Salt the Water - Candice Iloh
	Nigeria Jones - Ibi Zoboi
17-20	Money Skills for Teens - Ferne Bowe
ADULTS	Who Asked You? - Terry McMillan
	The Tears That Taught Me - Morgan Richard Olivier





Every vote matters.
Every vote counts.

Vote in 2024!

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

Congratulations to all the Graduates of 2024!

It truly took perseverance and determination to make the grade. Hats off to you all and many blessings to your future!



How you think can affect your health

All the providers at St. James Health and Wellness are there to assist you! Treating the mind is just as important as treating the body. Stop in if you want to see one of our mental health team members.

Remember, you are not alone. Our mental health team, Ms. Barbara Womble, Ms. Tina Okenfuss, and Ms. Shanava Simmons, want to help with these and other issues. They are looking forward to seeing you soon. We have several locations available:



McClellanville 1189 Tibwin Rd. (843) 887-3274	Andrews 675 N. Morgan Ave. (843) 264-2680	Sampit 2482 Powell Rd. (843) 527-7533
Georgetown 422 N. Fraser St. (843) 436-1333	Choppee 8189 Choppee Rd. (843) 545-8723	

Home Matters is published quarterly by the Georgetown Housing Authority. Please send articles by 09/01/24 to: PO Box 209, Georgetown, SC 29442 or email / fax Nicole McCray: residentservices@gtownhousing.org (843) 546-9621 ext. 226 Material is subject to approval.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

- 1 – RENT, RETRORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
- 1 - 5 – GHA Carolina Kids Summer Camp closed
- 4 – July 4th, 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)
- 18 – GHA Carolina Kids Summer Camp last day
Resident Council Meeting 5:00 pm

AUGUST

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

SEPTEMBER

- 1 – RENT, RETRORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
- 2 – Labor Day, GHA Office closed
- 6 – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
- 11 – Board of Commissioners meeting 6:00 pm
- 15 – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 19 – Resident Council Meeting 5:00 pm
- 23 - 26 – GHA office closed to the public

OCTOBER

- 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)
- 17 – Resident Council Meeting 5:00 pm
- 24 – 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

