This is my favorite time of year - Spring! New life unfolding right before our eyes with flowers blooming, birds chirping and the constant buzzing of the bees seeking the sweet nectar. Yes, then there is the “sprinkling” of that yellow “mist” known as pollen. Despite the pollen, Spring invites us out into nature to enjoy God’s creation. This first week of April, better known as Master’s Week, is a busy time around Harlem. Children are out of school and visitors from all over the world visit our town, seeking to explore what we have to offer. Please be extra careful as you are cruising the downtown area. We will have more than the normal weekday pedestrians out and about.

THE WALKING TRAIL IS OPEN! Finally! We have finally received the last approval from GDOT. We still have signage to place, but the trail is open for your enjoyment. The trail is 0.5 miles long and travels along the Sandy Run Creek where you may see a variety of wildlife and foliage you might not see elsewhere. Pedestrians and pedal bikes are welcome on the trail. No motorized vehicles, including tandem bikes, are allowed on the trail. We also ask for everyone to remain on the trail and not venture off as you may disturb some of the native creatures or worse - fall in the creek.

This time of year, our downtown area starts getting busy, especially on the weekends. On Saturday, April 8th from 11-2, Impact Church will be hosting the Harlem Hoppings at North Harlem Elementary. This fun-filled day will offer an Easter Egg hunt, food, give aways, inflatables, and face painting. That same night in the Plaza, starting at 7:00 p.m., the Swinging Medallions will be performing. Bring your chairs and enjoy a great night of music. There will be food trucks in the parking lot. Thank you to Impact Church, Coleman Industries, Defoor Realty, Main Street Treats and Whitaker Electric for sponsoring these events.

On May 6, the Harlem Merchant’s Association will be sponsoring Mimosas on Main. Thank you to our HMA who keep us busy with activities all year.

At the Regular Meeting of Council on March 27th, Council approved the Bid Award for the Oliver Hardy Court Paving Improvements. The tentative schedule is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advertise</td>
<td>February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bid</td>
<td>March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preconstruction Conference</td>
<td>March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notice to Proceed</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Construction</td>
<td>May</td>
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This schedule may be off by a couple of weeks due to having to extend the bid submission deadline. If there are any changes, we will provide updates when we know.

April 9th is Easter. There will be many eggs hidden and hunted, families will gather for feasts second only to Thanksgiving and Christmas. Churches of all denominations will celebrate the risen Savior. I hope we will all take time to reflect on that empty tomb and remember the Lamb that was slain for all our sins.

God bless you all,

Roxanne Whitaker
Harlem’s Mayor
Please remember to check the City of Harlem’s website, www.harlemga.org, and the City’s Facebook page, City of Harlem, Georgia@harlemga, for information and updates.

**Georgia Cities Week**

**April 23 - 29, 2023**

“Lighting the Way”

During the week of April 23 - 29, Harlem will join other cities across Georgia in celebrating Georgia Cities Week. This week has been set aside to recognize the many services city governments provide and their contribution to a better quality of life. Georgia Cities Week is an opportunity to recognize the important role played by city government in our lives. The Georgia Municipal Association and its member cities have joined together to teach students and other citizens about municipal government through a variety of different projects and information. Join the City of Harlem, city officials and employees to do everything possible to ensure this week is recognized and celebrated.

**FAMILY HISTORY NIGHT**

At the Harlem Branch Library
145 N. Louisville Street
1st Thursday of every month
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.