



HARLEM NEWSLETTER

"Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider"
www.harlemga.org

December 2023

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 5

Planning Commission Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

December 9

Christmas Festival, Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting

December 13

Urban Redevelopment Agency Meeting at 9:00 a.m. City Hall

December 14

Historic Preservation Commission Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

December 21

City Council Work & Regular Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

December 22

City Offices closing at 12:00 p.m.— Employee Luncheon

December 25-26

City Offices Closed - Christmas Holiday

January 1

City Offices Closed - New Year's Day

***Meetings are held at the Public Safety Building unless otherwise noted**

***All meetings are subject to change**

December - the most wonderful time of the year! Our small little City is looking very festive for the Christmas season. Thank you to our Public Works Department. They work hard ensuring our City looks beautiful all year long.

This is also a busy time of year! Santa's mailbox, located next to the Museum, will be accepting letters to Santa through December 13th. Please make sure you include your return address so Santa can send a little note to your child. Red Oak Manor is accepting new toys for Toys for Tots. Our friends at Lights of the South, located at 633 Louisville Road, Grovetown, are open. Take a hayride through the largest Christmas light display in our area. Santa will be there for that perfect photo moment. On December 9th, Red Oak Manor will be hosting breakfast with Santa. Be sure to call and reserve your child's spot. December 9th is a big day in our City - our Christmas Festival. Starting at 11:00 a.m., we will have vendors, food trucks, a kids fun area and much more to celebrate Christmas in Harlem. At 6:00 p.m., our Twilight Christmas Parade will make its way through town. I will say, having a parade at twilight is beautiful! If you would like to be in the parade, please contact Meghan at the Museum. Following the parade, we will light our Christmas tree located in the Plaza. Brett Bavtschi will be performing from 5 p.m.- 8 p.m. inside Main Street Treats that evening as well. He will be singing Christmas songs along with some country music.

Wreaths Across America will hold its wreath ceremony at the Harlem Memorial Cemetery on December 16th at 12:00 p.m. This ceremony will be followed by placing of wreaths on the grave sites of our service men and women who are no longer with us.

This year, we have added a special treat - a Story Walk Through Downtown. On most of our businesses, you will find pages of the book 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. I hope you and your children will enjoy reading this cherished classic as you stroll through Downtown. Thank you to our Librarian, Amanda Ham, for her hard work in providing the pages for our businesses to display. And thank you to our businesses for participating. This will run thru December 25th.

From the Whitaker home to yours, may the gift of Christmas fill your home all year long.

Merry Christmas

Roxanne Whitaker

Harlem's Mayor

Form **1040** U.S. Individual Income Tax Return (99) Do not write or staple in this space.
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The City of Harlem Mayor, Council and Employees Would Like to Wish Everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*From my family to yours,
Merry Christmas!
Councilmember Al Reeves*



From the Harlem Museum and Welcome Center:

The Harlem Museum and Welcome Center has a new welcome area set up inside the Columbia Theatre. This welcome spot also includes a 'Kid Station' where kids can come in and draw on some coloring sheets.

We also have the Christmas Festival and Holiday Market coming up on December 9th from 11a.m. - 8p.m. (vendor market from 11a.m.- 5p.m.). Our annual Twilight Parade will begin promptly at 6 p.m. and the tree lighting ceremony will begin once the parade ends. We will have several special guests for the event, including Mickey and Minnie Mouse, and one of our favorite delivery men in a red suit! Voting for the movie is currently on Harlem Happenings on Facebook. The movie will begin after the Tree Lighting Ceremony.

From November 25th until December 13th, we will have a kids craft inside the museum at the Kids Station. Our young locals can drop in and fill out their letter to Santa and place it in the mailbox in front of the Museum. The Women's Club has set the mailbox out on Mr. and Mrs. Claus' behalf!

GARBAGE SCHEDULE

Coastal Waste will be closed Monday, December 25th for Christmas. Garbage and recycle pickup will be on a one day delay the week of December 25th.

Coastal Waste will be closed for New Year's Day, Monday, January 1st. There will be a one day delay for garbage and recycle service the week of January 1st.

**FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:
INSTALLING DRIVEWAYS**

Many homeowners eventually decide that their dirt driveway needs to be paved or that they need a second driveway to the back yard. Both can be expensive. In certain cases, there are development rules that need to be checked before beginning. Planning beforehand can give you a long-lived driveway that is safely designed. Guidelines include:

1. Outside a historic district, installing a concrete driveway does not need a building permit.
2. Connecting to a city street or state highway requires checking with the Public Works department for utility encroachment requirements.
3. Installation of a new driveway requires looking at a safety issue about the location
4. The city is concerned about how a new driveway will impact stormwater flow.

We would like to ask anyone who is thinking about a new driveway to contact the city to review the process. The turn-around time is small and working together early can prevent problems later.



REMEMBER the Fallen...**HONOR** those who Serve...**TEACH** our children the value of Freedom.

On December 16, 2023 at 12:00 pm (Wreath Placement Immediately Following Ceremony), Wreaths Across America will be at Harlem Cemetery to Remember and Honor our veterans through the laying of Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each and every veteran aloud. If you would like to Volunteer or Sponsor a wreath please contact Valerie Wingate at 706-832-1230 or go to the following link:

<https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/pages/170364/Overview/?relatedId=170340>

Please remember to check the City of Harlem's website, harlemga.org, and the City's Facebook page, City of Harlem, Georgia@harlemga, for updates on City office closures, essential services, etc.



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