School’s out for Summer! Yes, if you do not know by now, all those children you missed during the day because they were in school are out for summer, running around our neighborhoods, enjoying being free. By now, some may be bored and to the point of complaining. And it’s only the first week of Summer break! Check out the Harlem Library and the Harlem Arts Council. They have exciting adventures happening all Summer. From Storytime to Grab and Go crafts and even Painting and Crocheting classes, there is a class waiting for you and your child. You can check out both these agencies’ websites or go to their social media pages for more information.

As many of you have heard, Harlem is planning a Golf Cart Trail to help access downtown without going on the State Highways. This is a “plan in progress” so we still have a way to go. We are diligently working to see what access can be given to the south side since there are no sidewalks on several stretches of this road. Please bear with us. Please also know that many of the requirements are State Law, and we are required to follow and enforce these requirements. “Rules of the Road” laws apply to golf carts just like they do vehicles. The driver must have a valid driver’s license. Our intentions are to keep all drivers and riders of any transportation mode safe.

Included in the upcoming November General Elections will be a SPLOST 2023-2028 referendum. This is for the continuance of the 1% sales tax that is collected and distributed to the County and Municipal Governments. We met with Columbia County and City of Grovetown officials to discuss the distribution of the funds. If the referendum passes in November we are expected to receive three percent (3%) of the SPLOST funds collected in Columbia County. These funds can be used for Capital Projects in the areas of Recreation, Transportation (roads/sidewalks), Vehicles/Equipment, Infrastructure and Buildings. We propose to use some of these funds for the enhancement of our parks and expand our quality of life offerings. We hope that you will come out and support this in November and then continue that support by shopping in Columbia County.

The walking trails—we are waiting on the punch list items to be completed and a few items to be delivered—benches and trash receptacles. Once we have been given the okay, we will announce the opening of our trail and all of you can enjoy the trail and the beauty of nature along Sandy Run Creek.

I am proud to announce that with the assistance of ARPA funds, our Fire Department has purchased a ladder truck. Our Chief and his men are very excited to show this truck off and as soon as the truck has been detailed and equipped, the Fire Department will be hosting an Open House to show off their new truck.

I’d like to close with a “big thank you” to all of our residents and to request another favor. Many times over the past few months, calls for help have been sent. Whether it was to help restock Fishes and Loaves, help a family in need, or tend to someone who has lost their home, you have stepped up and showed out. The Children’s Hospital of Augusta is in desperate need of blood—all types. We are hoping to have a Blood Drive announced soon in our City, but if you can, go to the CHOA and donate. I know three children in our city who require blood to help fight cancer. Without the proper blood levels, they cannot receive the chemotherapy. Thank you Harlem, for taking care of our neighbors.

Continuing to pray for all of you,
Roxanne Whitaker, your Mayor
TREE/LIMB REMOVAL FROM PROPERTY

Harlem’s Public Works Department strives to remove inert debris from residents inside the city in a timely manner. Over the past several months, we’ve noticed “More than a Reasonable Amount” being placed for pickup. Please see ordinance on “Collection of trees, limbs and debris”.

Sec. 26-36.—Collection of trees, limbs and debris.

The city shall not be responsible for the removal and collection of trees, limbs and all debris resulting from fallen and cut trees which weigh more than 50 pounds, are more than four feet long, or are more than four inches in diameter. Removal of the items shall be the responsibility of the tree surgeons, contractors and/or occupant.


CITY OF HARLEM GOLF CART PLAN:

Your Comments are Needed!

Harlem has been working on a golf cart plan to support the installation of golf cart crossings at Trippe St. and N. Louisville St., and also at Bell St. and W. Milledgeville Rd. The plan provides the evidence needed by Georgia DOT for the crossings.

The City would like your thoughts about golf carts operating on city streets. Comments may be sent to David Jenkins, City of Harlem, P.O. Box 99, Harlem, GA 30814 or at djenkins@harlemga.org.

A third Public Hearing will be held at the Harlem Planning Commission meeting on June 7, 2022 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Courtroom at the Public Safety Building at 110 W. Milledgeville Road.

A copy of the Golf Cart Plan is available for review at the Harlem City Hall located at 320 N. Louisville St., Harlem, GA 30814.