



HARLEM NEWSLETTER

"Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider"

www.harlemga.org

May 2020

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 13

Urban Redevelopment
Agency Meeting
9:30 a.m. at City Hall

May 21

City Council
Regular Meeting
7:00 p.m.

May 25

City Offices Closed -
Memorial Day

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

* All meetings are
subject to change

It is so hard to believe it is already May! I hope you have enjoyed seeing the faces of some of our Senior athletes from our Spring sports. Thank you to Harlem High for allowing us to celebrate them in this manner. I hope we were able to put a smile on at least one of those seniors' faces since they lost most of their senior year. Congratulations to each of these seniors and their classmates. Oh, and aren't the lighted crosses throughout our city beautiful! Thank you to all who have taken time to display their faith over fear.

As we prepare to cautiously return to "normal", whatever date that may be in the near future, I hope you will remember to shop locally - our small businesses will need us more than ever to survive once this virus has run its course. Until we get the "all clear", I urge you to remain sheltered in place. For essential businesses that have remained open with abbreviated hours, thank you. I know you and your staff have worked under some tough circumstances.

This is the month we celebrate our mothers - those that are with us, those who are watching us from Heaven, and those who may not have been our biological mother but was a mother just the same. My mother is a very special lady - one that has been my biggest supporter throughout my life. My goal in life is to be half the wife/mother/mayor/servant/lady that she is. My mother is my hero and I am sure many of you feel your mother has had a tremendously loving influence in your life. I want to challenge you to make Facebook shine on Sunday, May 10th - Mother's Day - by placing a photo of your mother on your Facebook page and write one thing that makes/made your mother special.

Don't forget to pray when you hear the train,

Roxanne Whitaker, your Mayor

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"Whatever The Weather, Whatever the Season"

Please remember to check the City of Harlem's website, harlemga.org, and the City's Facebook page, City of Harlem, Georgia @ [harlemga](https://www.facebook.com/harlemga), for updates on City office closures, essential services, etc.

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

With the City's growth and the attempt to mitigate potential issues arising from the growth of a small town to a more updated city with amenities (keeping the hometown feel), the City of Harlem added full time Code Enforcement personnel. Code Enforcement personnel are constantly working with property owners to clean up the community in an attempt to improve and maintain property aesthetics and value by enforcement of adopted codes and local ordinances. Code Enforcement's mission is to preserve and enhance livability, health, safety, and general welfare of the residents, property owners, business owners, and visitors of the City of Harlem. It is our policy to prioritize, investigate and attempt to resolve all reported and verified code violations. It is our goal to achieve *voluntary compliance* from violators.

The top five violations would include: public nuisance structures, obstruction of sidewalks & rights of way, unsheltered storage of non-operating vehicles, hazardous growth (weeds, grass) and refuse (trash, junk) maintained on property.

To report a Code Enforcement issue, you may stop by City Hall for a **Compliance Violation Form**, fill it out and leave it or email it to codeenforcement@harlemga.org or call City Hall and a form can be emailed to you. Complainant information is required of ALL complaints. Confidentiality is maintained unless necessary for successful prosecution and enforcement of the violation, however enforcement files are subject to the state statutes governing public records and disclosure.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Due to Covid-19 and the risks associated with it, Harlem's Public Works Department will be reducing the number of employees working together in order to keep them as safe as possible, and the community as well. This will limit our ability to remove all inert debris in a timely manner. We still would appreciate only placing a **"reasonable amount"** of debris out for pick up. This includes grass clippings, leaves, pruned limbs, etc. **Be advised, the city does not remove rock, dirt and the like.**

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. We also appreciate your patience and understanding during these trying times.

Friends, I hope that you and your family are doing well. As you know, small businesses throughout America have been hurt profoundly by the Covid-19 virus. Harlem's businesses are no exception. I ask that you please shop/dine out at our local open businesses, and when the closed ones re-open, I hope you will "flood" them with your love and support!

In these unprecedented times, it is a BLESSING to live in beautiful Harlem! Please stay safe!

Al Reeves, Councilman
(706) 466-1998

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