November - the month of Thanksgiving! As we are counting our many blessings, let’s remember those who are less fortunate than we are. You may have noticed that there are several red boxes located throughout our town. These Blessing Boxes, compliments of the Hawkinberry family, hold food for those who are in need. Please help support these boxes by filling them with non-perishable items. And thank you for your donation.

A huge shout-out to Attic Treasures for their generous donation to both our Fire Department and Police Department! For those of you who do not know, Attic Treasures is manned by a group of volunteers who manage a non-profit business that re-sells our gently used items. All the proceeds they receive are then returned to the community. They appreciate your donations and would love for more volunteers to help. Attic Treasures is located at 575 West Milledgeville. Stop by and browse around. You may find that treasure you’ve been looking for.

So what are you doing Saturday, November 28th? It is Small Business Saturday. Come downtown and shop for those unique gifts that cannot be found anywhere else except downtown Harlem. Grab a latte, a pizza, a sandwich or even a banana split and have a picnic in our plaza before catching a movie at the museum. There is something for everyone in downtown.

One reminder - according to the Georgia State Law, a vehicle must stop if a pedestrian is attempting to cross in a designated crosswalk. I have witnessed countless times the “near misses” because vehicles are not adhering to this law. Be safe and be courteous.

Lastly, Happy Thanksgiving! May God continue to bless each and every one of you.

Roxanne Whitaker, your Mayor
PEDDLING IN THE CITY OF HARLEM

The word Peddle, according to the Cambridge Dictionary, is a verb: to travel about selling one’s wares; to seek to disseminate; give out. But, is peddling - i.e. going door-to-door, soliciting - a legal act within the purview of Harlem’s city limits? According to the official code of the City of Harlem, Chapter 8, Article 2, Division 2, “Any person peddling, soliciting, or canvassing within the city shall be required to register and obtain an identification card as provided by [Sect. 8-71. Peddler’s registration required].” The Harlem Police Department has received many calls throughout the hot summer months regarding “strange people walking” perambulating from house-to-house, knocking on doors, approaching whomever attentive in attempt to sell items or services, offer immediate estimates and quotes, or to simply hand-out a pamphlet or flyer. More often than not, peddlers within our city’s limits are respectable, business-minded people who are courteous and genuinely seek to offer a “real” product or service. There are, however, some who will use peddling as a ruse - those who seek to profit illicitly. Harlem’s Police Chief, “Rob” Lewis, is immediately notified when administrators at City Hall issue an approved peddler’s license. Chief Lewis encourages all of Harlem’s citizenry to visit Harlemga.org and read the code section addressing Peddlers and Solicitors, to better understand what is legally required of persons soliciting business at your doorstep. Be vigilant, look out for your neighbors, and please do not hesitate to call the Harlem P.D. to question a peddler’s license or report suspicious persons and activities in or around your neighborhood. Questions and/or comments, should be directed to Police Chief R. Lewis and Deputy Chief M. Perkins at (706) 556-6262.

The 2021 Harlem Comprehensive Plan is the growth path for Harlem and the guiding document for the community’s projects for the next five years. A community survey is now available (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HarlemCP21) to gather citizens’ thoughts on the future of Harlem. With recent and projected growth due to downtown development and annexations, Harlem officials are facing important decisions. The City established a steering committee to guide this planning process and is working with the CSRA Regional Commission to develop the document. The final comprehensive plan will include community goals, a work program of activities, and information on economic development, broadband, housing, community facilities, cultural resources, and land use. Once the plan is drafted, there will be a second public hearing to receive final public comments.