

The Sparta Ishmaelite

Wednesday September 16, 2026

City of Sparta Invites Community to “Walk, Roll & Stroll” and Help Shape Downtown’s Future

By :Leanne Ruff
Grants Coordinator

What should it feel like to walk through downtown Sparta?

The City of Sparta invites residents and community members to help answer that question during its second Sparta Walk, Roll & Stroll event, a Downtown Walk Audit scheduled for Tuesday, September 22, 2026. Participants will meet at 8:00 a.m. at Sparta City Hall, with the walk beginning at 8:30 a.m.

This is more than a community walk. It is an opportunity for residents to see downtown from a pedestrian’s perspective and provide firsthand feedback about their walking experience that can help shape future improvements. Participants will walk a designated route beginning at City Hall, continuing toward Elm Street, then Hamilton Street and Spring Street, then returning to City Hall.

Along the way, walkers will be asked to observe and share their thoughts about sidewalks, crossings, accessibility, safety, comfort, connectivity and other conditions that affect the downtown walking experience.

The Walk Audit is part of a larger vision for downtown Sparta.

The City is working toward the revitalization, which includes the a new pocket park in downtown Sparta, creating a welcoming gathering space that can be enjoyed by residents and visitors of all ages and abilities. As that vision moves forward, the sidewalks and pedestrian routes surrounding the park will play an important role in connecting people to the space.

The information gathered during the Walk Audit can help the City better understand where improvements may be needed to create safer, more accessible and more connected routes throughout downtown. Over time, the observations collected from residents can help inform planning, prioritize improvements, strengthen future grant applications and support efforts to revitalize downtown Sparta.

“We want to make sure that as we invest in downtown Sparta, we are listening to the people who live here and use these streets every day,” said Mayor R. Allen Haywood.

“The Walk Audit gives our residents an opportunity to show us what works, what doesn’t, and what we need to improve.

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SPARTA WALK, ROLL, & STROLL

SEE IT, SHARE IT, IMPROVE IT.

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF SPARTA!

Join us for a community walk and share your ideas for a new ADA-accessible pocket park in our community.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

- Adults 55+ are especially encouraged to participate!
- Please dress comfortably and wear walking shoes.
- Those who attend and provide feedback will receive a \$10 gift card, while supplies last!

WALKING ROUTE:

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026
8:00 AM

START POINT:
SPARTA CITY HALL
12912 BROAD ST, SPARTA, GA

INTERESTED IN ATTENDING?
SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE OR
CONTACT THE CITY OF SPARTA AT
(706) 444-5753 (OPTION 1)

Heidelberg Materials

A Long Discussion

By Karen West,
News Reporter

PART I

The August 26 meeting of the Hancock County Board of Commissioners ran a record three hours and 44 minutes long. Although there were several items on the agenda, the topic that took the lion's share of the time, comments, and discussion was the vote on the special permit for the expansion and relocation of the Heidelberg Materials Quarry .

Both groups - Pro and Con - on the subject are vocal and opinions run strong with comments often impassioned and emotional. But like most questions put before us, there are at least two sides to every story and especially in questions that affect the entire community, it behooves us to look at the question with open minds and to listen carefully - to the main groups involved, to experts, to environmental and governing agencies, to the economic and environmental impact studies, as well as many other factors.

Basically, Heidelberg Materials is seeking a special use permit to do an approximately 500 acre expansion to its existing Sparta Quarry near the Shoals Road community and the Shoals Road residents are opposing the expansion with concerns about air quality, noise, and vibration damage.

Heidelberg Materials is a global (#4 in the United States) essential construction materials provider based in Heidelberg, Germany. They have mined the Sparta Quarry aggregate for approximately 40 years. During that time they have done a number of upgrades to their facility in order to keep the operation as productive, unintrusive, and EPA compliant as possible

Heidelberg is asking to upgrade their facility even further, moving the initial mining pit further north and approximately a mile further from the Shoals Road neighborhood, while creating a natural buffer of trees and building a large berm, twice the required size (twenty feet high and over 100 feet long) to help shield the neighborhood from potential noise and vibrations; while planning to make an approximate \$40million investment in the expansion and the community.

"We are prepared to make that kind of investment that equates to longevity in the community, continuing to produce primary and secondary jobs, product, and sales, and to stay a productive member of the community for the next 100 years, which is wonderful, and we are very excited about that", explained Brett Miller, Director of Environmental, Land, and Sustainability for the Southeast Region of Heidelberg Materials during the August 26 meeting.

The Shoals Road group is presently fighting the Sandersville Railroad in an eminent domain case that has captured national attention. It needs to be noted that Heidelberg Materials is in no way responsible for that railroad spur or its ownership, except for the possibility of being a future customer to haul aggregate along the 4 1/2 mile route to avoid trucking it over local roads.

The Shoals Road group is voicing concerns about air quality, noise, and potential vibration damage from the expanded mining operation. (see July 22, 2026 Sparta Ishmaelite article by Janet Smith, co-leader of the Shoals Road group).

The deciding vote on the special permit has been tabled by the Hancock County Board of Commissioners for the last three meetings - August 12, August 26, and September 9, 2026.

During the ongoing discussions, the Shoals Road group has made a number of demands of Heidelberg like cessation of work on holidays like MLK Day, and Juneteenth, to which Heidelberg has readily complied.

Heidelberg has made a number additional concessions for the community including blast advance notice and well surveys for those within 3000 feet. The complaint process was questioned and explained in some detail, while answering various questions from citizens. A great many questions on how to get restitution were asked. It should be noted that although there was alot of concern voiced about vibration damage, there has only been one official complaint made (August 29, 2022) involving the quarry in question. A full investigation was made, structural engineers called in for evaluations, and findings of no negative impact.

Twenty years and just one complaint.

In the 40 years that Heidelberg has been mining aggregate in Hancock



Striding Toward a Healthier Hancock

"Walk to be happy, walk to be healthy."
-Charles Dickens

Want to start walking for better health, build stamina, or just to get outside to enjoy the day? Your answer just may be Sparta Strides, a free community walking group that meets every Saturday morning at the Hancock County Courthouse at 8 a.m then makes a loop around historic Downtown Sparta, enjoying the views, sights and sounds, conversation, and just being around other people who want to get healthier, one step at a time.

The brainchild of Emperial Lewis, the group is fluid, changes weekly and welcomes anyone who wants to take a morning walk around town - no matter what your fitness level, age, or pace - everyone is welcome.

Ashley Clark Hargrove, a first time walker, was pleasantly impressed, and said she would definitely be back -"From warm up to the final stretch, we stayed moving, stayed motivated, and stayed committed. The energy was strong, the pace was steady, and the accountability was real."

Emperial's idea is simple but strong in it's message - "It's about showing up, encouraging one an-



other, and choosing better for yourself and our community".

So meet up with the folks of Sparta Strides Saturday at 8 a.m. in front of the Courthouse and be ready to move, chat, observe, encourage, be inspired, and make a step in the right direction. Bring a

friend, a family member, a neighbor, a bottle of water, wear comfortable clothes and be ready to have fun!

Striding toward a Healthier Hancock - One step at a time!

(* Thanks Sparta Strides and Emperial Lewis for sharing your fun pictures!)

LOCAL MATTERS

Continued to page 4..



CHURCH NEWS



Hickory Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Inc
4933 Hickory Grove Church Road/Post Office Box 402 Sparta, Georgia 31087
www.hickorygrovembc.org Reverend Michael Curry, Pastor

Frank T. Edwards Publicity Chair (706)-444-3286 Twin922@yahoo.com
Annual Spirit Say on Saturday September 26,2026 at 3:00 p.m.
Pastor Michael Curry will deliver an inspirational message. All are invited to join us for food, fun, fellowship and finances.
Team Jersey Day will be observed during our regular service on Sunday September 27, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Michael Curry will deliver the message All are invited to attend and to wear your favorite team jersey .

ZEBULON COMMUNITY CHURCH
7266 BROWN CHAPEL RD. 31087
PASTOR BRO. BILLY CARROLL PHONE 706-829-4403
SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY 11:00-----SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00

WHY WE NEED TO WITNESS TO THE LOST

By: EDWARD WILLIAMS - DEACON & Gideon

SEPTEMBER 20-2027 WILL BE HOMECOMING AND FIRST DAY OF REVIVAL WITH PASTOR FRANK HUTCHINSON BRINGING THE MESSAGE ON SUNDAY MORNING

REV. TIM PENDREY WILL BE BRINGING THE REVIVAL MESSAGE ON SEPTEMBER 21, 22, AND 23. EVERYONE IS INVITED WE WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO ATTEND

Sept. 16 will start our revival with Pastor Frank Hutchinson 11:00 AM Sept 20 Bring the SUNDAY MORNING MESSAGE, with a covered dish dinner for Homecoming – after the service ----With Pastor Tim Pendrey bring the night messages On Sept. 21-22-23-at 7:00-PM , everyone is welcome Please come and get a blessing

WHY WE NEED TO WITNESS TO THE LOST---“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.”—(Matthew 23:19) -----One of the greatest responsibilities of every Christians is to share the message of Jesus Christ with those who are lost. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He commanded His followers to go into the world and tell others about the good news of salvation This was not only a command for pastors, missionaries, or church leaders—and Gideon sit is a calling for every believer. The world is filled with people searching for hope, peace, and purpose. Many are hurting, confused, and spiritually empty. Some try to fill that emptiness with money, success, pleasure, or relationship, but nothing can satisfy the human heart but Jesus Christ. Without Him, people remain separated with God without the assurance of eternal life. That is why witness matters. When we share the Gospel, we are offering others the greatest gift they could ever receive—the opportunity to know Jesus and experience His love, forgiveness, and salvation. We may never fully realize a impact of a simple conversation, testimony, or a simple act of kindness can have on someone’s life. God can use the smallest seed to change a heart forever.

Sometime Christians hesitate to witness because of fear. We may worry about rejection, not knowing what to say, or being misunderstood. Yet God never asks any of us to save people; only He can do that. Our responsibility is just to be faithful in sharing the truth and allowing the Holy Spirit to work in their heart. Jesus Himself showed compassion for the lost He reached out to sinners, the broken and forgotten. His heart was always moved by those who was wondering with hope, as followers of Christ our hearts should reflex His compassion. We are surrounded every day by day people who need encouragement, prayer, and the message of salvation. Time is precious, and life is uncertain. Everyday gives us opportunity to shine the light of Christ in a dark world. Witnessing is not only about speaking words, but also about living a life that reflex God’s word, love, forgiveness, humility, and compassion can open doors for others to see Jesus through us. Today ask God to give you boldness and wisdom to share your faith. Someone around you may be waiting to hear the very message that could lead them to Christ.,

PRAYER; -Father gives me a heart for those who do not know you, Help me not to be afraid or ashamed to share the Gospel. Use my words, actions, and life to point others to Jesus Christ. Fill me with compassion, boldness, and love for the lost. In Jesus name, Amen.

Explaining The Memory Verse

“Pray Humbly”

Background Scripture: Matthew 6:5-15

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

We don’t need to pray long prayers and keep saying the same things over and over. God wants us to be humble, honest, and talk to Him from our heart.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE

“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name” (Matthew 6:9).

Jesus gave us the Lord’s Prayer to show us how to pray. In the Lord’s prayer, Jesus tells us to praise God, ask for what we need, ask for forgiveness, forgive others, and worship God.

PRAYER

Let’s pray the Lord’s Prayer together:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Reference:

Min. Minnie Harmon-Boone Golden University Outreach Ministries
(MA’s: DIV. ECE. IT, COS, A, BBA) Email:goldenenterprises59@gmail.com
Phone #:706-833-8747
Jesus Is All Ministries/Author

Send your Community News/Events to :
KAREN WEST
westkaren286@gmail.com or to sandersvillep@gmail.com



Remember



Karen West,
News Reporter

This past week marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of 9/11. Just about every person alive that day can tell you exactly where they were and what they were doing during that 102 minutes that the world stood still.

But what were we doing just before and just after that faithful day and how did it change us - as people, as a nation? Let's remember-

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 10

September 10 was a day just like any other- "just another Manic Monday" - children went to school, eagerly talking about the new Harry Potter movie to be first in a series based on the magical best selling books that everyone was reading. Talk around the water cooler was about the bearish stock market but certain stocks were beginning to climb again - like the major airlines with the popularity of air travel that most of us took for granted. Cell phones were something of a novelty - getting smaller and smaller with push buttons and tiny nubs of an antennae. They had a few primitive games, no real cameras, texting was cumbersome, and some of them flipped open, but mainly they just functioned as, well, phones - and service was spotty.

On Monday, September 10, we woke up, went about our normal days, looking forward to better times coming, with a kind of nonchalance and naive security, focused on improving prosperity and the "American Dream".

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 11

Tuesday dawned just like the previous day, but in the time between 8:46 AM and 10:28 AM, the world literally stood still and held its collective breath for 102 minutes as the unthinkable happened.

America was attacked on our own soil - something that had not happened in almost 200 years.

The three major areas of strength that made America unique were the targets of the attack - Commerce, Military, and Government.

Two planes hit the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, one plane hit the Pentagon, and a fourth plane, thought to be aimed at either the White House or the U.S. Capital Building, having been hijacked and used to paralyze our nation were the world's main focus. But the fourth plane's mission was foiled by a group of brave pas-

sengers who refused to go quietly without a fight and wound up crashing in an empty field in Pennsylvania, saving hundreds, if not thousands, of lives.

The monumental South Tower of the World Trade Center, an icon to American industry and commerce had taken 4 and 1/2 years to build but only 12 seconds to come down, imploding within itself, just as it was designed to do - saving thousands of lives of people in the surrounding area.

Tales of courage, valor, and unequalled bravery are paramount for that day, as tragedy often brings out the very best in people. As a surreal silence overcame the world, people watched the nightmare unfold on televisions hastily set up in breakrooms, store windows, office buildings, and anyplace people could gather, Americans stared, trying to comprehend the sheer numbers.

2977 - number of people killed
2200 - number of steps in the Tower's stairs
343 - number of firefighters killed
110 stories x 2- floors of the Twin Towers
71 - law enforcement officers killed
55- military personnel killed
7 - buildings in World Trade Center Complex
4 planes used to try to destroy our collective heart and soul.

A day of ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

We now faced a decision - would this attack cause us to live in fear or would we come out of it fearless and resilient?

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 12

On September 12, America was wrapped in a blanket of eerie quiet, profound grief, deep shock, and an air of disbelief. But in a time before widespread internet news, people united around televisions and their 24 hour news updates, over and over we watched the Twin Towers fall, saw the Pentagon explode, and gasped

at the tangled wreckage in a remote Pennsylvania field - and people began rebounding with a sense of national unity, determination, and real patriotism that began to bind our country together.

"People began coming together in ways that transcended political, racial, and social differences" - Flags of Valor

There were long lines for giving blood donations, volunteers at Ground Zero handed out water and food to first responders without being asked, just showing up where they were needed, American flags began appearing on homes, in store windows, hanging on buildings, on t-shirts and hats in never before seen numbers. Although telephone systems continued to crash with the unprecedented number of calls to check on loved ones and get updates, Americans took it all in stride. Televisions were set up in public places running with non-stop updates, reflections, and unfolding reports. The U.S. Stock Market closed for the entire week. The focus was on recovery, unity, and coming together as a nation-

There was no other news.

And, we, as Americans, began displaying the kind of determined resilience we are known for the world over.

"Rallying around the Flag" and one another, taught us lessons we need to remember today, twenty five years later.

Let's take a look at the things that unite us-
- Shared Civic Values
democracy, freedom, and equal opportunity over regional, religious, or racial differences.

- Inclusive Leadership - expecting complete transparency in our leadership
- local, state, and federal- and not settling for anything less.

- Building a Collaborative Civil Society - building strong local organizations, community institutions, and volunteer networks where people from diverse backgrounds can interact and work together toward common goals.

- Common Challenges - rallying around shared non-violent goals of building up instead of small groups focused on tearing down others.

- Media and Communication Reform - encouraging media environments-including professional news outlets, digital platforms, and "influencers" on social media to work

Continued to page 4..

HANCOCK COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

H26-037
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA
HANCOCK COUNTY
ESTATE NUMBER: E-26-052

All debtors and creditors of the estate of Deborah DeLoach Rogers, deceased, late of Hancock County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands and payments to the Personal Representative(s) of the estate, according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the Personal Representative(s). This 31st day of August, 2026.

Dee Ann Burks
Personal Representative in the Estate of Deborah DeLoach Rogers c/o Christopher D. Huskins, Esq.
1141/2 West Marion Street
Eatonton, Georgia 31024
September 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

H26-037
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA
HANCOCK COUNTY
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Dee Ann Burks
Personal Representative in the Estate of Deborah DeLoach Rogers c/o Christopher D. Huskins, Esq.
1141/2 West Marion Street
Eatonton, Georgia 31024
September 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

PETITION FOR SUPPORT

H26-032
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF HANCOCK COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF ROBERT BRYWARD PRICE, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. E-26-054
NOTICE

To Whom It May Concern:

Edna L. Price has petitioned for a year's support from of the estate of Robert Bryward Price, deceased, of said County. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said Petition should not be granted by filing an objection.

All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before September 10, 2026. In addition, all objections

must be sworn to before a notary public or before a Probate Court Clerk. Filing fees must be tendered with your objection unless you qualify to file as an indigent party.

Contact Probate Court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the Petition may be granted without a hearing.

Sabrina M. Lamar
Judge of the Probate Court
Jasmine J. Stokes
Deputy Clerk of the Probate Court
12630 Broad Street, Sparta, GA 31087
706-444-5343
August 19, 26, September 2, 9, 2026

H26-033
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF HANCOCK COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF GLADYS LAMAR, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. E-26-004
NOTICE

To Whom It May Concern:

Calvin Lamar has petitioned for a year's support from of the estate of Gladys Lamar, deceased, of said County. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said Petition should not be granted by filing an objection.

All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before September 10, 2026. In addition, all objections must be sworn to before a notary public or before a Probate Court Clerk. Filing fees must be tendered with your objection unless you qualify to file as an indigent party.

Contact Probate Court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the Petition may be granted without a hearing.

Sabrina M. Lamar
Judge of the Probate Court
Jasmine J. Stokes
Deputy Clerk of the Probate Court
12630 Broad Street, Sparta, GA 31087
706-444-5343
September 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

PETITION TO BE APPOINTED

H26-036
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF HANCOCK COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF DOROTHY JEAN OSBORNE, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. E-26-056
NOTICE

To Whom It May Concern:

DOROTHY J. OSBORNE have petitioned to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of SHEILA

O. LEVERTT, deceased, of said County. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said Petition should not be granted by filing an objection.

All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before SEPTEMBER 25, 2026. In addition, all objections must be sworn to before a notary public or before a Probate Court Clerk. Filing fees must be tendered with your objection unless you qualify to file as an indigent party.

Contact Probate Court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the Petition may be granted without a hearing.

Sabrina M. Lamar
Judge of the Probate Court
Jasmine J. Stokes
Deputy Clerk of the Probate Court
12630 Broad Street, Sparta, GA 31087
706-444-5343
September 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

H26-034
Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held on Friday, September 25, 2026, at 10:00 am in City Council Chambers, located at 12912 Broad Street, Sparta, Georgia. The following application listed below will be considered by City Council: Lillie R. Tripp has filed an application (RZ-01-2026) for the division of 10.57 acres, located at 1042 Hamilton Street, 102nd GMD, Sparta, Hancock County, Georgia, Map and Parcel # S007-045, currently zoned as C2 Commercial, proposing 3.5 acres of said tract be rezoned as R2 Residential Housing.

All persons having interest should attend this public hearing to voice their interest. Call 706-444-5753 for more details if required. Interests/concerns may also be submitted by letter to: City of Sparta, PO Box H, Sparta, GA 31087 or via email to: vwebb@cityofsparta.org. A copy of the proposed Rezoning Application is available at City Hall, 12912 Broad Street, Sparta, GA. 31087 for review by the public during normal business hours.

City Council will consider the application at a called meeting Friday, September 18, 2026, at 10:30 am, in the City Council Chambers located at 12912 Broad Street, Sparta, Georgia.

September 9, 16, 2026

H26-040
PUBLIC NOTICE, CITY OF SPARTA
ALCOHOL BY THE DRINK LICENSE

The Mayor & Council will hold a called meeting on Friday, September 25, 2026, at 10:30 am in the

City Council Chambers, located at 12912 Broad Street, Sparta, GA 31087, to approve or deny "Alcohol by the Drink License" applied for by Sherard C. Kennedy, DBA Gracie Mae's Café for the calendar year (January 1, 2026-December 31, 2026).

September 16, 2026

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

H26-035
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER, HANCOCK COUNTY

Pursuant to the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Tyeka C McGuire to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Ameris Bank, its successors and assigns dated 9/25/2019 and recorded in Deed Book 538 Page 368 Hancock County, Georgia records; as last transferred to or acquired by PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$221,128.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Hancock County, Georgia (or such other area as designated by Order of the Superior Court of said county), within the legal hours of sale on October 6, 2026 (being the first Tuesday of said month unless said date falls on a Federal Holiday, in which case being the first Wednesday of said month), the following described property: All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the 115th GMD, Hancock County, Georgia, described as Lot Five (5), containing 1.250 acres, more or less, more particularly described by that certain plat of survey entitled "Plat of Survey For Omar Harrouck", prepared by Alfred D. Bellew, GRLS No. 2253, dated August 6, 2002, recorded in Plat Book 13, Pages 33, Hancock County Land Records. Said plat of survey and record thereof are by reference made a part hereof for a more accurate description of said property. This is the same property conveyed by warranty deed from Romarion M. Lamar to Tyeka McGuire, dated May 4, 2017, recorded in Deed Book 504, Page 304, said records. SUBJECT TO: 1) Easement in favor of Georgia Power Company recorded in Deed Book WW, Pages 213, said records. 2) Road Right of Way from James Morris Dunn to Hancock County, Georgia recorded in Deed Book 11, Page 254, said records. 3) All other easements, rights-of-way, surveys, protective covenants, limitations and restrictions affecting said property of record, said records The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure

to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). Said property is commonly known as 2060 Shoals Road, Sparta, GA 31087 together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property is (are): Estate/Heirs of Tyeka McGuire a/k/a Tyeka C McGuire or tenant or tenants. PennyMac Loan Services, LLC is the entity or individual designated, who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage. PennyMac Loan Services, LLC Loss Mitigation 3043 Townsgate Road #200, Westlake Village, CA 91361 1-866-549-3583 Note, however, that such entity or individual is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan. Said property will be sold subject to: (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) unpaid water or sewage bills that constitute a lien against the property whether due and payable or not yet due and payable and which may not be of record, (c) the right of redemption of any taxing authority, (d) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (e) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above. The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided immediately above. PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC as agent and Attorney in Fact for Tyeka C McGuire Aldridge Pite, LLP, Six Piedmont Center, 3525 Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite 700, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, (404) 994-7400. 1120-9057A THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OB-

TAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 1120-9057A
September 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

H26-039
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF HANCOCK
Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in that certain Deed to Secure Debt and Security Agreement from RRS Real Estate Holdings, LLC, a Georgia limited liability company ("Grantor"), to Gecon Leasing LLC ("Grantee"), dated August 30, 2024, and recorded September 4, 2024, in Deed Book 615, Pages 219-226, Hancock County, Georgia Real Estate Records (the "Security Deed"), said Security Deed securing that certain Promissory Note dated August 30, 2024, in the original principal amount of \$1,430,000.00, with the final maturity date having occurred and the indebtedness remaining unpaid, and the holder of the Security Deed having declared the indebtedness secured thereby immediately due and payable, there will be sold at public outcry before the courthouse door of Hancock County, Georgia, or at such other place as is customarily designated for public foreclosure sales in Hancock County, within the legal hours of sale on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., to the highest bidder for cash, the property described below:

Property 1:
ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE 112TH DISTRICT, G.M. OF HANCOCK COUNTY, GEORGIA, TOGETHER WITH ANY AND ALL IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, CONTAINING 150.40 ACRES, MORE OR LESS. SAID LANDS ARE FURTHER DESCRIBED AS TO SHAPE, COURSES, METES AND DISTANCES BY REFERENCE TO A PLAT THEREOF BY BYRON L. FARMER, R.L.S. NO. 1679, DATED APRIL 5, 2001, OF RECORD IN PLAT BOOK 12, PAGE 247, HANCOCK COUNTY, GEORGIA REAL ESTATE RECORDS, SAID PLAT AND THE RECORDED COPY THEREOF ARE INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE THERETO. LESS AND EXCEPT: ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE 112TH DISTRICT, G.M. OF HANCOCK COUNTY, GEORGIA, CONTAINING 2.651 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AND THE EASEMENT DESCRIBED IN PLAT OR SURVEY DELINEATED AS, "BOUNDARY SURVEY OF 2.651 ACRES FOR MACON SOLAR ENERGIES, LLC" DAT-

Continued to page 4..

“Walk, Roll & Stroll”

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Our goal is bigger than one walk or one project. We want to build a downtown that is connected, accessible and welcoming; one where people can safely walk to our businesses, community spaces and, ultimately, the new pocket park we have planned and are working toward completion.”

Residents of all ages are welcome to participate, with adults 50 and older especially encouraged to attend. Their firsthand experiences can provide valuable insight into how downtown streets and sidewalks work for people who may experience mobility or accessibility challenges. No special experience is required.

Participants simply need to be willing to walk the designated route, observe conditions and share their impressions.

sions.

Participants should dress comfortably for the weather and wear sturdy, comfortable walking shoes.

The City of Sparta encourages residents to come out, walk with their neighbors, share what they see and help shape the future of downtown.

See it. Share it. Improve it.

Remember

...continued from page 1

at destroying instead of building.

It's time for us to remember the feelings and emotions of September 12, to dig deep and put forth the very characteristics that truly make America great - kindness, courage, caring, empathy, compassion, and understanding; to grow the ability to listen to one another, hear and be

heard, and extend the hand of compromise. Let's get back to believing the best exists in one another, and in ourselves, and cultivate that goodness.

Let's remember and take to heart the words of the French newspaper "Le Monde" and their September 12 headline - "Today, we are all Americans. Now and forever.

A Long Discussion

...continued from page 1

County, improvements and changes have been monumental. The old time movie images of huge explosions with dirt and debris being blown high into the sky, raining down on the surrounding area, while buildings tremble and windows break, is as far removed from the sophisticated, precise, and scientific methods of today, as a movie set is to real life.

The Heidelberg facility was just upgraded and replanted (November 2025) after its previous replant following 25 years of service to make it more reliable and more sustainable.

Aggregate mining of today is light years away from from what it was 40 years ago when Heidelberg first opened the Sparta Quarry. It has transitioned from a heavily manual and highly disruptive business to a highly automated, data driven, and environmentally regulated sector of industry.

While before, mining relied heavily on pneumatic equipment that used compressed air to build high pressure to break

up rock, this 150 year old technique has been proven to be highly INEFFICIENT energy wise, loosing up to 80% of its energy in heat and friction. They have been replaced by much more precise electric hydraulic drilling rigs capable of outputting thousands of tons of rock per hour.

Science plays a much bigger role in today's mining quarries than ever before and environmental concerns like land reclamation are a key part of the progression. Returning previously mined land to produce lakes, ponds, and habitat for wildlife and usable land for the community is high priority.

Safety regulations have revolutionized the industry as well. Advanced dust suppression systems and ventilation tracking strictly control potential respiratory hazards.

While the physical amount of rock that is broken up by blasting has risen exponentially to keep up with worldwide demand, "the frequency, precision, and efficiency of blasting has undergone a complete

revolution".(Pit & Quarry).

The industry has shifted away from relying on multiple brute force blasts toward highly engineered, tightly controlled "smart blasts". What may sound to the human ear like one blast, is actually a series of very controlled "zipper" blasts synchronized to the exact millisecond, creating a series of tiny cracks more effective in maximizing rock breakage and reducing wasted energy.

For a better understanding of modern mining and blasting techniques, research online and at our local library or check with Heidelberg about scheduling a local tour. Please be mindful that they are a working business, and although they are eager to interact and help educate the community, their time is very limited.

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HANCOCK COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

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ED APRIL 25, 2018 BY ANDREW C. TOMBERLIN, GRLS NO. 3160, OF HOFSTADTER & ASSOCIATES, AND RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 15, PAGE 268, HANCOCK COUNTY, GEORGIA REAL ESTATE RECORDS, SAID PLAT AND THE RECORDED COPY THEREOF ARE INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE THERETO.

Property 2: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE 1112TH DISTRICT, G.M. OF HANCOCK COUNTY, GEORGIA, TOGETHER WITH ANY AND ALL IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, CONTAINING 0.92 ACRES, MORE OR LESS. SAID LANDS ARE SHOWN AS PARCEL “A” ON, AND FURTHER DESCRIBED AS TO SHAPE, COURSES, METES AND DISTANCES BY REFERENCE TO, A PLAT OF SURVEY BY JOHN A MCGILL, GA. REG. LAND SURVEYOR NO. 1753, DATED FEBRUARY 23, 1981, A COPY OF WHICH IS OF RECORD IN PLAT BOOK 7, PAGE 130, HANCOCK COUNTY, GEORGIA REAL ESTATE RECORDS, SAID PLAT AND THE RECORDED COPY THEREOF ARE INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE THERETO.

Property 3: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE 1112TH DISTRICT, G.M. OF HANCOCK COUNTY, GEORGIA, TOGETHER WITH ANY AND ALL IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, CONTAINING 0.56 ACRES, MORE OR LESS. SAID LANDS ARE SHOWN AS PARCEL “B” ON, AND FURTHER DESCRIBED AS TO SHAPE, COURSES, METES AND DISTANCES BY REFERENCE TO, A PLAT OF SURVEY BY JOHN A MCGILL, GA. REG. LAND SURVEY-

OR NO. 1753, DATED FEBRUARY 23, 1981, A COPY OF WHICH IS OF RECORD IN PLAT BOOK 7, PAGE 130, HANCOCK COUNTY, GEORGIA REAL ESTATE RECORDS, SAID PLAT AND THE RECORDED COPY THEREOF ARE INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE THERETO. ALSO CONVEYED HEREIN IS THAT CERTAIN 20 FOOT WATER EASEMENT CONNECTING PARCEL “B” WITH PARCEL “A” AND WITH THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE MAYFIELD-POWELTON ROAD, SAME BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS TO SHAPE, COURSES, METES AND DISTANCES BY REFERENCE TO A PLAT OF SURVEY BY JOHN A. MCGILL, DATED NOVEMBER 23, 1981, OF RECORD IN PLAT BOOK 7, PAGE 130, HANCOCK COUNTY, GEORGIA REAL ESTATE RECORDS, SAID PLAT AND THE RECORDED COPY THEREOF ARE INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE THERETO.

The above-described property is identified for tax purposes as Hancock County Tax Parcels 237011, 238008A, and 238010. The debt secured by the Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, Grantor's failure to pay the indebtedness when due at maturity. The property will be sold subject to all unpaid ad valorem taxes, if any; matters that would be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property; all restrictions, covenants, easements, rights-of-way, and other matters of record superior to the Security Deed; and all other matters to which the Security Deed is subordinate, if any. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of

the property is RRS Real Estate Holdings, LLC, or tenants or other persons claiming by, through, or under it.

This Notice of Sale Under Power is hereby given by Gecon Leasing LLC, as attorney-in-fact for RRS Real Estate Holdings, LLC, by and through such secured creditor's legal counsel, Christopher R. Stovall, Esq., Georgia Bar No. 621780, of Busby & Negin, Inc., 8200 Roberts Dr., Ste. 201, Atlanta, GA 30350, Tel: (470) 275-3051. September 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

PETITION FOR DISCHARGE

H26-041 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF HANCOCK COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF WILLIAM JORDAN, DECEASED ESTATE NO. E-25-011 NOTICE [For discharge from office and all liability] IN RE: Petition for Discharge of Personal Representative TO: All Interested Parties and (all and singular the heirs of said decedent,) (the beneficiaries under the will,) and to whom it may concern: This is to notify you to file an objection, if there is any, to the above-referenced petition, in this Court on or before September 18, 2026. BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. Sabrina Lamar Judge of the Probate Court Deputy Clerk of the Probate Court 12630 Broad Street Sparta, GA 31087 706-444-5343 September 16, 2026

Request for Military Assistance via the Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training Program

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice to medical providers, labor unions, veterinarians, and private individuals. The CSRA Regional Commission intends to solicit assistance from the Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training Program. The assistance will include medical, physical therapy, dental, optometry, and veterinary care related services to support the Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training Program. The proposed assistance will take place in one or more of the following communities: Burke, Glascock, Hancock, Jenkins, Jefferson, Lincoln, McDuffie, Taliaferro, Warren, Washington, and/or Wilkes Counties in Georgia in the summer of 2027 and/or 2028. Medical providers, labor unions, veterinarians, or private individuals who have questions or who wish to voice opposition to military assistance for this project may contact Andy Crosson, Executive Director of the CSRA Regional Commission at (706) 210-2000, acrosson@csrarc.ga.gov, or by mail at 3626 Walton Way Ext., Suite 1, Augusta, GA 30909 no later than 30 days after publication of this notice. Persons not filing comments within the time frame noted will be considered to have waived their objections to military assistance for this project. Info can be found at <http://irt.defense.gov>

NOTICE TO PUBLIC: IMPORTANT ZONING HEARINGS: October 01, 2026

Per O.C.G.A. §36-66-1, et seq., Public Hearing will be held by the Hancock County Board of Zoning Appeals at 6:00 PM on Thursday, October 01, 2026. The public hearing will be held in the Hancock County Youth Center located at 12560 Highway 16, Sparta, GA 31087. The following application listed below will be considered:

John and Charlotte Gordon filed an Application for a Variance (V-04-2026) from **Article 2 Definitions, Section 2.1 Use of Words: Yard, Front – The area on a lot lying between the principal building, extending the full width of the lot and located between the street right-of-way line and the front line of the building projected to the side lines of the lot**, of the Hancock County Zoning Ordinance dated May 01, 1989. The Variance is intended to document that the floor plan confirms the front of the home is at the narrow end of the structure, allowing the home to be installed vertically on the property. The property is located in the 104th G.M.D. of Hancock County and is known as 723 Gardenia Road, Lot #269.

Anyone who has an interest should attend this public hearing to voice their interest. Call 706-444-0978 for more details if required. Interest/concerns may also be submitted by letter to: Hancock County Planning and Zoning, Post Office Box 291, Sparta, Georgia 31087 or via email to: tandrews@hancockcountytga.gov.

A copy of the proposed Variance Application is available at the Planning and Zoning Office, 40 Courthouse Square, Sparta, Georgia 31087 for review and inspection by the public during normal business hours.

NOTICE TO PUBLIC: IMPORTANT ZONING HEARINGS: October 08, 2026, AND October 14, 2026

Per O.C.G.A. 36-66-1, et seq., A public hearing will be held by the Hancock County Planning Commission at 6:00 PM on Thursday, October 08, 2026. The public hearing will be held in the Hancock County Youth Center, located at 12560 Highway 16, Sparta, Georgia. The following applications listed below will be considered and a recommendation will be submitted to the Hancock County Board of Commissioners:

Applicant/Owner, Brittany Mathis, on behalf of Country Lots, LLC has filed a Plan Review Application for Final Plat Approval (FP-01-2026) of Residential Development, for compliance with the Hancock County Zoning Ordinance and the Development Regulations. Said property is bordered by HB Dixon Road and Justice Road. The property is zoned Agricultural-Residential (A-R) and contains 88.42 acres to be divided into five (5) lots.

The Hancock County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing to consider the Planning Commission's recommendation in the upstairs Board of Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Hancock County Courthouse at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, October 14, 2026. A decision will be made that night, or soon thereafter at an announced public meeting.

All Persons having an interest should attend both of these public hearings to voice their interest. Call 706-444-0978 for more details if required. Interests/concerns may also be submitted by letter to: Hancock County Planning & Zoning Office, P.O. Box 291, Sparta, GA. 31087 or via email to: tandrews@hancockcountytga.gov.

A copy of the proposed Rezoning Application is available at the Hancock County Planning & Zoning Office, 40 Courthouse Square, Sparta, GA. 31087 for review and inspection by the public during normal business hours.