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***TOWN OF ALAPAHA***

***NEWS CORNER***

***JANUARY 8, 2026***

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***Major Accomplishments in 2025***





### **Audit Completion**

In 2025, the Town of Alapaha achieved a notable milestone by successfully completing the audit for the fiscal year 2023/2024. The audit process was thorough and conducted with meticulous care, ensuring full compliance with all relevant regulations and standards. Upon completion, the audit received official approval from the state of Georgia. This accomplishment underscores the Town's unwavering dedication to transparency and financial accountability, highlighting the diligence and integrity that guided every step of the audit process.



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### **LMIG Grant Achievement**

Throughout 2025, the Town proactively pursued funding opportunities to support local improvement projects by applying for the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) through the Department of Transportation. These efforts resulted in the award of a \$13,000 grant designated for paving projects, as well as an additional \$9,000 grant that required no matching funds. The successful acquisition of these grants represents significant progress in bolstering the Town's infrastructure and demonstrates effective management and utilization of available grant resources.



### **Infrastructure Funding for Railroad Streets**

During the year, the Town secured approximately \$125,000 to pave both East and West Railroad Streets. This funding was made possible through a combination of Department of Transportation and LMIG grants. The allocation of these resources will be crucial in upgrading these essential transportation routes, ensuring safer and more efficient travel for both residents and visitors.

### **Drainage Pipe Installation on HWY 129 South**

To address ongoing flooding issues on HWY 129 South, the Department of Transportation, in partnership with Berrien County, installed new culvert pipes. The previously installed pipes had deteriorated and become clogged, impeding water flow during periods of heavy rain and increasing the risk of flooding. The installation of new drainage pipes marks a significant step toward reducing flood risks and maintaining safe roadway conditions in the area.

### **Street Paving Projects**

The Town awarded paving contracts for Sawmill and Henry Streets, as well as for repairs to Watson Street. These vital paving and repair projects are scheduled for completion in 2026. Funding for these initiatives will be provided through a combination of SPLOST and LMIG resources, further supporting the ongoing improvement and sustainability of the Town's street infrastructure.

### **Sewer Project Completion**

The Town of Alapaha successfully completed its sewer project, made possible by a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). This grant allowed the Town to replace ageing, leaking clay pipes and make significant improvements to the oxidation pond. The completion of this project addresses longstanding infrastructure needs within the community and stands as a major achievement for the Town.





### **FEMA Reporting and Recovery Efforts**

The Town submitted comprehensive reports to FEMA for the replacement and repair of municipal structures and essential cleanup activities. The process was lengthy and complex, involving extensive restoration and cleaning throughout the city. As of this report, only about four stumps remain to be removed, with the county actively working to finalize the task. Special recognition is extended to Jarrett for his leadership in guiding the Town's FEMA-related efforts.

### **Water and Sewer Rate Adjustment**

In 2025, the Town found it necessary to increase water and sewer rates for the first time in four years. While rates had previously remained unchanged, the costs of providing these essential services continued to rise. The Town appreciates the understanding and support of its citizens, emphasizing that this adjustment is crucial to ensuring the long-term sustainability of local utilities.



### **Change in Sanitation Service**

The Town initiated a competitive bidding process for sanitation services, prompted by annual 3% rate increases for fuel adjustments by the previous provider, Waste Management. Without intervention, these ongoing increases would have resulted in additional costs for sanitation users. By opening sanitation services to competitive bids, the Town was able to keep rates stable and avoid imposing extra costs on residents.

### **Retired Note for FEMA Expenses**



During the storm, the city was required to rent generators to power the sewer lift station and water pump. This necessary expenditure was challenging due to budget constraints and insufficient funds at the time. To cover the expense, a 12-month note was signed with the Bank of Alapaha. The Town is pleased to announce that this note has now been paid in full, demonstrating fiscal responsibility and a commitment to resolving emergency expenditures.

### **Zoning Project**

The Town is currently progressing on a zoning project that began two years ago. It was decided that no elected official should serve on the zoning board, leading to the selection of board members from within the community. Several individuals initially selected have since stepped down from the board. For the 2026 budget, the Town is working to incorporate the costs of zoning into its financial planning.

### **Town of Alapaha Web Page**

The Town of Alapaha has launched a new website, which is in the process of being updated with information. This online resource is an important tool for citizens, providing a means of communication and valuable information for both residents and others interested in the community. Special thanks are extended to City Clerk Tina Baldree for her efforts in making this resource available. You may visit us at [www.townofalapaha.org](http://www.townofalapaha.org). Here you may pay your utility bills online with your debit cards as well.

### **Acknowledgment of the City Clerk**



The Town of Alapaha offers sincere appreciation to City Clerk Tina Baldree for her dedication and service. Her attention to detail and commitment have been invaluable in supporting the Town's operations and ensuring the success of various projects and initiatives. Her enhancements to the Town's QuickBooks system have enabled timely financial reports, which are essential for informed project funding decisions. Additionally, she implemented an online payment system, making it easier for citizens and businesses to pay city bills. The Town is grateful for her ongoing contributions and the important role she plays in maintaining efficient municipal administration.



### **Special Thanks to Anthony Powell**

The Town also extends its gratitude to Anthony Powell for his essential support during critical times. With more than 40 years of experience, Anthony has made significant contributions to the Town's water, sewer, and public works departments, as well as other areas as needed. His efforts have resulted in substantial cost savings for the Town, and the community appreciates his dedication and service.

### **Special Thanks to Several Organizations**

The Town of Alapaha wants to thank the Ad Hoc Committee, the Exodus Committee, and the Citizen Watch Committee for their ongoing contributions. The Town appreciates all that these organizations do and encourages them to reach out if assistance is needed.

