



# HARLEM NEWSLETTER

*"Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider"*

[www.harlemga.org](http://www.harlemga.org)

September 2023

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **September 4**

City Offices  
Closed  
- Labor Day

### **September 5**

Planning  
Commission  
Meeting at 6:00  
p.m.

### **September 13**

Urban  
Redevelopment  
Agency Board  
Meeting - City  
Hall at 9:00 a.m.

### **September 14**

Historic  
Preservation  
Commission  
Meeting at 6:30  
p.m.

### **September 21**

Council Work  
Session at 7:00  
p.m.

### **September 25**

City Council  
Regular Meeting  
at 7:00 p.m.

**\* Meetings are held at the Public Safety Building unless otherwise noted. All meetings are subject to change.**

We are just one month away from our 34th Annual Oliver Hardy Festival. Meghan, the Museum staff and committee have been busy planning what could be our best festival yet! There are some great vendors participating and food vendors are a plenty. The kids' coloring contest has ended and the participants will have their art displayed during the Festival. Each vendor has been asked to decorate their booth in their finest Laurel and Hardy décor. The day will also feature a Laurel and Hardy costume contest. There will also be raffle prizes from our various businesses throughout our City. Our parade will start at 10:00 a.m. and will assemble in the City Park. Please contact Meghan for more information. Thank you to Meghan, her staff and committee. Planning an event as large as this isn't easy. I do understand there will be a nighttime concert - more information coming. October 7th is going to be a "fine mess" for everyone to enjoy. Applications for our Christmas Festival and Parade will be available soon. This is scheduled for December 9th. October kicks off one of the busiest times in our City. Starting with the Oliver Hardy Festival, Ladies Night Out, Spooky to be Hungry and Trick or Treat on Main make living in this Small City exciting and busy! November and December will be just as busy. Hope to see you downtown. Stop and Shop in our small businesses. This is definitely the most wonderful, and busiest, time of the year.

Thank you to all the residents who came out to our informational meeting regarding upgrades for our City Park. This is an exciting time, and your input will definitely help us make decisions on what parents and children would like to see at this beautiful park. Our County Commissioners have completed some much-needed upgrades to the fields. Thank you to our commission representative, Alison Couch, for her leadership in this endeavor. If you were unable to attend but would still like to make a recommendation, please email your ideas to me at [rwhitaker@harlemga.org](mailto:rwhitaker@harlemga.org).

Harlem Middle School has been named a Great Future Academy site. This will enable the Boys and Girls Club to offer an innovative after-school program addressing the academic and social needs of our youth as well as teaching these youngsters skills they will need to succeed in life. The after-school hours are 2:30-5:30 pm, Monday-Friday. If you should have questions, you can call 762-218-1885 or 706-726-1816.

September 23rd, the Harlem High Wrestling team is sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast and Car Wash to benefit their program. The breakfast will be held at Applebee's in Evans from 8:00-10:00 and will cost \$10.00 per person. While you're dining on pancakes, you can get your car washed from 9:00-12:00.

How many of you have heard of "988"? This is the Suicide and Crisis Hotline and is available 24 hours for those experiencing a mental health emergency or someone with a family member having a mental health emergency. This could be suicidal thoughts or drug addiction. If you are struggling, please call. Serenity Behavioral Health Clinic, located in Augusta, has trained staff that will assist you and your family. Mental health issues not only affect the person, but the family and the community of those who care.

Did you know 64% of the 3rd grade children in Georgia cannot read on grade-level? That is sad! In a few weeks, you may hear about the Mayor's Literacy Council that I hope to start. This council will consist of individuals who are passionate about our children. This council will consist of school personnel, business owners and private citizens and we will need the community, as a whole, to help us launch this program. I have a few ideas that I hope we can implement to help and enhance the reading of our children. I will have more on this in next month's newsletter.

God has greatly blessed us, as a City, as families and as individuals. As I write this, I just noticed Christmas is four months away and with the holidays quickly approaching, I hope you will take time to assist those less fortunate if you are able. Fishes and Loaves is always accepting food for the needy. Toys For Tots will have bins for new toys at Red Oak and the Public Safety Office. We also have our Blessing Boxes around that could use a few donations. Attic Treasures can also use your gentle used treasures.

May God continue to bless Harlem and all her people! Your Mayor, Roxanne Whitaker



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*"Whatever The Weather, Whatever the Season"*



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

# Oliver Hardy Festival Harlem, Georgia



● *Shop Various Vendors*

Come shop through the different craft and food vendors at the festival!

● *Explore the Museum*

Come look through the exhibits at the Harlem Museum and Welcome Center. Learn about Harlem and the lives and careers of Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy.

● *Watch the Parade*

Watch the parade at 10 am and see Laurel & Hardy look-a-likes, antique vehicles, Harlem High School marching groups, and more!

FIRST SATURDAY  
IN OCTOBER

**FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT:**

**HISTORIC DISTRICTS:**

Over 20 years ago, the city established three historic districts and the Harlem Historic Preservation Commission. This was done to protect the unique look and feel of Harlem— which is what gives us our hometown feel. The city has over two hundred historic structures and some have special development and construction regulations. Before buying or working on an older home:

1. Check to see if the building/home is a historic structure.
2. Check to see if the building/structure is in a historic district.
3. If it is in a historic district, there will be special regulations to help keep the look and feel of the building/structure.
4. Almost all improvement projects can be done within the historic preservation guidelines.

Harlem has the most concentrated number of historic homes in Columbia County. By working together, we can keep Harlem Harlem. Please contact the city with questions you may have because once historic features are lost, they seldom can be regained.

**GARBAGE SCHEDULE  
FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 4**

**Garbage and Recycle service will be on a one day delay in observance of the Labor Day Holiday on Monday, September 4th.**

**HARLEM FAMILY FUN NIGHT  
SPONSORED BY HARLEM WOMAN'S CLUB**

Corn Hole and Karaoke, DJ  
Saturday, September 16, 2023  
Acorn Restaurant, Harlem  
5 pm to 10 pm  
\$10 Adults, \$5 kids, \$25 Family max  
Food and Drinks not included  
706-825-3148 for tickets



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[facebook.com/ATTICtreasuresofharlem](https://www.facebook.com/ATTICtreasuresofharlem)

Weekly Specials-Come Shop with Us!

Form **1040**

U.S. Individual Income Tax Return (99) Do not write or staple in this space.

**PLUS ONE ACCOUNTING & TAX SERVICE INC**

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