It is so hard to believe school will be starting up on August 5th! Where did the summer go? I would like to remind you that there will be lots of traffic especially that first week of school. You may wish to leave home a little early since we will have school buses picking up children. We do have several areas in our City that have reduced speed limits due to school zones and we have several streets that are One-way during certain hours of the day. Please be ever mindful of children walking to and from school and those waiting on their buses. There will also be reduced speed limits in the areas of our High School and our Middle School. We want all our children to have a great and safe year at school!

I would like to announce that we will have our own Food Pantry opening soon. Fishes and Loaves will be located at our Head Start Building located at the City Park. I want to thank the volunteers and Attic Treasures for their creative thinking in getting this started. If you would like to donate food or your time please check with the ladies at our Attic Treasures. We also have several kindness boxes located throughout our City for anyone who needs a “blessing”. Your donations of non-perishable food, personal hygiene items or even school supplies are greatly appreciated.

Plans are in the works for our annual Oliver Hardy Festival which will be held October 2nd. If you wish to be a vendor or part of the parade, please contact Andrew McMahon at the Museum or fill out a form located on the City Webpage. We look forward to an exceptional festival since we missed last year’s festival. I hear we may have a band for a night time celebration. Look for more exciting events to be announced later on.

And as always, it is my honor to serve you, the great citizens of Harlem. God bless you all.

Your Mayor,

Roxanne Whitaker
2021 CITY ELECTIONS

The City of Harlem will be conducting an election Tuesday, November 2, 2021 for Office of Mayor and two Councilmembers. Qualifying will start Monday, August 16th and end on Wednesday, August 18th at 4:30 p.m. The Qualifying Fee for the Office of Mayor is $144.00 and for Councilmember is $108.00. The following is a listing of important information and dates in regard to this election:

**Early/Advance Voting**-Will be conducted at the former Euchee Creek Library located at 5907 Euchee Creek Drive, Grovetown. Early/Advance Voting will be available beginning Tuesday, October 12th thru October 29th; M-F from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday voting will be on October 16th and October 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Absentee Ballots by Mail**-Will be available October 11th through October 22nd. Send a written request to the Columbia County Board of Elections, P.O. Box 919, Evans, GA 30809 to receive a ballot by mail. Please contact them at 706-868-3355 if you have any questions. Absentee ballots must be received by 7:00 p.m. in the office of the Board of Elections on the night of the election, November 2, 2021 in order to be counted.

**Voter Registration Deadline**- October 4th is the registration deadline to be eligible to vote in the November 2, 2021 General Election.

To be eligible to vote in this election, you must be a resident within the city limits of Harlem and be registered to vote within the city limits of Harlem. If you need to verify your voter registration or polling place, please visit [https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov](https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov). If you are new to Harlem, please make sure to update your registration to reflect changes in your address. You can complete a change of address, register to vote (using your Georgia driver’s license/state ID), view sample ballots, access absentee application forms, and print your precinct card thru this same website. Updates should be completed by October 4th.

There are three polling places for the City of Harlem: the Columbia County Library Harlem Branch, the Harlem Senior Center and 2nd Mt. Moriah Church.