Merry Christmas to each and every one of you!

It's the most wonderful time of the year! We have so many activities planned to celebrate Christmas and I do hope you all take the opportunity to participate and patronize our small businesses. On Saturday, November 28th, the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce has selected our city to help kick off Small Business Saturday. On December 12th, we will be kicking off our holiday festivities starting with a Christmas Market from 12 noon - 6 p.m. At 6:00 we will have our twilight Christmas Parade, followed by the Christmas tree lighting and a movie in the plaza. We will have music by some local bands and artists throughout the day. I even hear the jolly old elf himself will make a special trip to Harlem, masked of course. If you, your church, civic group or even your neighborhood would like to participate in the Christmas Market or parade, please contact Andrew McMahon at the museum or download an application from our city's website. Last year's parade was spectacular! I hope you also enjoy the few extra decorations we have invested in to give Harlem that Christmassy feeling. Thank you to Andrew McMahon, Debbie Moore, and Alison Couch for helping get Harlem Christmas ready.

This Christmas is the perfect opportunity to show love for those that are less fortunate than we are. Many of our citizens have been affected by the turbulent times our nation has felt over the past nine months and may need help not only at Christmas but until they get back on their feet. Your acts of kindness will go a long way. We have red Blessing Boxes throughout our town filled with food, school supplies, personal hygiene items and other items. Red Oak is accepting donations for Toys for Tots. Thank you for taking care of those in need.

“Peace on Earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day” - Helen Steiner Rice

“God Bless us everyone” - Tiny Tim from “A Christmas Carol”

Roxanne Whitaker, your Mayor
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.