September means Fall is right around the corner and that means our annual Oliver Hardy Festival is a month away! That’s right, on October 2nd we will host the largest festival in Columbia County! Last year, Covid prevented us from having this festival and also prevented us from celebrating Harlem’s 150 birthday! This year, we are making up for that! The Festival will have a parade, the look-a-likes, entertainment and plenty of vendors. If you are interested in participating in the parade or reserving a vendor’s spot, please contact Andrew McMahon or go to the City’s website and fill out a form. This year, we’ve added a concert to end the evening and help us celebrate the jolly old man himself, Oliver Hardy, as well as our belated 150th birthday. Ed Turner and Number 9 will be in concert in our Plaza. This group sells out venues like the Bell Auditorium every time they perform. This concert is free thanks to several of our businesses and I hope you make plans to come celebrate with us!

A few reminders, school is in session. It is your responsibility to ensure you obey all the reduced speed limits and those blinking lights from our buses. If you have questions about the speed zones or when you have to stop for those lights, call the Public Safety Office and they can educate you on those laws before you get a ticket. We also have students waiting for buses to pick them up on the sides of the road. Please drive safely. We want a great school year for all our students!

I am so excited to announce the opening of Fishes and Loaves, a food bank located in Harlem. They will open Tuesday September 7th and will be located in the Head Start Building located at the City Park. Their hours will be Tuesdays and Fridays from 10-2 for those in need of food. Fishes and Loaves is also accepting food and monetary donations along with volunteers to assist with stocking and distribution. This Mission is being made possible by Attic Treasures. Thank you to those who had a vision and a passion to serve our families in need. Lastly, I urge you to be safe. I continue to pray for our City and community and hope you do the same. God bless you all!

Harlem’s Mayor
Roxanne Whitaker
We are happy to announce the opening of the Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry of Harlem (in partnership with Attic Treasures) on September 7th! Operating hours are from 10-2 on Tuesday and Friday each week, with evening hours from 5-7 on the third Tuesday of each month. We are located behind the Head Start building at the City Park. If you are experience food insecurity, we are here to help!

In accordance with Federal and civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

These Women Were Awesome!

The Harlem Woman’s Club is 100 years old! To celebrate our centennial, from September 30th through October 30th, we are hosting a very special exhibit at the Laurel and Hardy Museum. Take a step or two back in time and see how HWC has evolved over the past 100 years. Read the stories, look at the pictures (you might see someone that you know!) and share in some memories. After hearing and reading about all that HWC has accomplished over the years, you’ll agree that these women were awesome!

Health Screening

Impact Church will be hosting a free health screening on September 25th from 10-12 at North Harlem Elementary 360 West Trippe Street

Garbage Payments

Garbage payments may be made in person at City Hall, online, auto draft, or dropped in the night drop on the wall right past the drive-thru window. We ask that you place money orders or checks ONLY in the night drop.

Columbia County Water Utility has placed a drop box past the drive-thru for your water/sewer payments. Please be sure to use their box ONLY for your water/sewer payments. If payments are dropped in the incorrect depository this could delay your accounts being posted. If you have any questions regarding GARBAGE payments, please call City Hall at (706) 556-3448.