Economic Development

Archway, Hawkinsville-Pulaski Chamber host UGA’s SBDC “Maximum Contact” classes
- Hosted by Archway and the Hawkinsville-Pulaski Chamber of Commerce, “Maximum Contact” classes presented by UGA’s Small Business Development Center (SBDC) began Tuesday, March 6, at the Pulaski County Board of Education. Speakers included Debbie Finney and Kyle Hensel from the UGA SBDC and Ruby Riesinger from the Valdosta State University SBDC. Participants include 20 local government and business people interested in economic development and building their online marketing capacity. This series of five workshops in March and April helps participants create an online marketing strategy and incorporate social media tactics to strengthen local business.

- UGA grad students presented their plan to the Fire House Museum Committee in January. This plan is part of a federal grant proposal to restore the old Fire House, and is being coordinated by the Regional Commission and Better Home Town.

- UGA Masters of Public Administration student are working with the Chamber of Commerce to improve their web presence and provide effective communication with citizens. The project is part of the “Communities of Opportunity” priority of improving community web presence.

- Through the Co-op initiative, a plan to improve community websites through improved communication is underway. Already, a portal site (www.hawkinsville.org), recommended by the website committee, has been created and a community web site update meeting has been held.

Community Health

- Archway is working with Taylor Regional Hospital to create a Rural Medical Scholars partnership with Mercer School of Medicine. The program would be the second in the state and is patterned after the successful pilot program in Sandersville that is coordinated by Archway Health professional Laura Gillman.

- The UGA College of Public Health has completed a needs assessment for the community at the request of the Archway Community Health Issue Work Group. Two of the focus groups have been completed. **If you are interested in participating in a community health focus group, please contact the Archway office.** The sessions will last about 90 minutes.
• UGA College of Public Health Archway Professional Laura Gillman spoke to the Hawkinsville Rotary Club on February 1.

• The second Communities of Opportunity (Co-Op) initiative for Hawkinsville-Pulaski County is the reduction of teenage pregnancy rates. Under the leadership of local champion, Vonnie Berryhill, the work group will implement a number of community initiatives to reduce teen pregnancy by 25% by the summer of 2013. Plans for the Teen Maze to be held March 22, 2012 are now underway. (check us out on Facebook: www.facebook.com/hhsteenmaze) If you would like to volunteer to help with the Maze, please contact the Archway office.

**Government Service Delivery**

• UGA Grad Student Mario Cambardella presented preliminary site plans to the Rec Department Committee on February 21 for the newly acquired property adjacent to the rec department.

**Housing**

• Since the community has graduated from the GiCH program, Archway will continue to support community housing initiatives through HURA. The last meeting was held on December 6, 2011 and it was reported that 5 locations are currently in the process of being cleared with the appropriated funds.

**Leadership Development**

• Recruitment is now underway for the 2012 Pulaski Tomorrow Class. Sixteen new facilitators attended a two day training session held in February and conducted by UGA’s Fanning Institute.

• UGA Graphic Design Student, Jennifer Taylor, has created a new logo for Pulaski Tomorrow that is suitable for a number of purposes.

**Public Education**

• The Executive Committee and Education issue work group have begun a long-term collaboration with the College of Education to continue education dialogue between the community, Archway and UGA.

• The Archway Education Committee will tour the Pulaski County Schools at their next meeting, Tuesday, March 6th at 8:00 AM.