Archway Hosts Successful Community Literacy Celebration
On Thursday, July 19th, the Dalton-Whitfield Archway Partnership hosted a fun festival at the Gaston Community Center to celebrate community leaders’ recent commitment to literacy. Over 2,000 members of the Dalton-Whitfield community participated in the event, which was planned by Archway Partnership volunteer Pam Partain and many other dedicated volunteers. The Archway Partnership’s goal was to ignite a passion for reading within the community.

The crowd enjoying the festivities of the Community Literacy Celebration.

At the event, the new “Readers to Leaders” logo that will mark future literacy efforts was unveiled on t-shirts provided by Mohawk Industries.
Children participated in a variety of activities at the event. Volunteers read books to eager listeners in reading circles. Inflatables were also an enjoyable activity for all who participated.

Craft tables were set up where children could make their own bookmarks and hand fans. After every craft, participants were rewarded with colorful stickers, pencils, and “I love to read” wristbands.
A young Readers to Leaders participant making her own bookmark.

The event featured healthy snacks and refreshments. Information booths designed to inform residents of the many literacy opportunities available in the community lined the Community Center’s lobby. The Northwest Georgia Regional Library and Big Red Reads gave away free books to everyone.

Two children enjoying the books they received at the Readers to Leaders Celebration.
Thanks to the hard work of many volunteers, Archway’s Community Literacy Celebration was a huge success. For more on this event please view the following coverage by the Dalton Daily Citizen:

The following organizations and volunteers made the event possible:

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**Archway on the Greater Dalton Today TV Show**

On Tuesday, July 24, Dalton Whitfield Archway Partnership volunteers Rick Hooper, John Schwenn, Pam Partain and Brian Cooksey joined Brian Anderson on the Greater Dalton Chamber of Commerce TV show. On the show the topic of interest was the Archway Partnership and its progress in the Dalton-Whitfield community. Each guest discussed initiatives and accomplishments Archway has made throughout this past year. To watch this episode of the Greater Dalton Today TV Show, view the following link: http://www.wdnntv.com/?page_id=5850.
**Future Plans for Lakeshore Park**

On June 20, University of Georgia Masters in Landscape Architecture student Rachel Johnson met with citizens interested in the revitalization of Lakeshore Park in Dalton, Georgia. Rachel’s visit was a follow-up to a charrette she and a fellow Archway student hosted in December under the direction of former City-County Planner Kevin Herritt.
At the meeting, the group reviewed comments made by citizens about designs presented at the December 2011 charrette. Rachel presented a concept board summarizing these comments and led a discussion about each element. Key concepts discussed included: expanding the community garden area; adding six more tennis courts to the park; creating an area for multi-sport play; relocating and enlarging the existing children’s play area; creating a picnic pavilion; re-turfing and adding lighting to the track; and improving the existing lake and wetland area.

Rachel and Mike Brown from the Dalton Parks and Recreation Department discuss plans for Lakeshore Park.

Rachel will incorporate the citizens’ comments and concerns into an updated visual concept that she will share with group leaders. Once the plan is finalized, community members will present the plan with cost estimates to elected leadership.
Storm Water Project at Threadmill Lake
On Friday, July 27, University of Georgia Masters in Landscape Architecture student Rachel Johnson met with Dalton Utilities Senior Vice President of Watershed Services, Mark Marlowe to discuss plans for the revitalization of Threadmill Lake. The dam sustaining Threadmill Lake, which is located within the Brookwood subdivision, was breached in 2004. The lake and dam need to be restored as a part of the proper management of stormwater in the City of Dalton. This stormwater management project is one of two legacy projects that Dalton Utilities inherited when the utility agreed to take over stormwater management responsibilities for the City of Dalton. As a part of the transfer of responsibility for stormwater management to Dalton Utilities, the City agreed to fund the necessary capital for this project and one other legacy project. Having the benefit of a Landscape Architect for preliminary planning of the project is keeping with Dalton Utilities’ goals of making stormwater infrastructure not only functional but aesthetically pleasing and useful to the public for recreation and an enhanced quality of life.
At the meeting, Johnson and Marlowe discussed the possibility of creating a trail around Threadmill Lake that connects it to Lakeshore Park, Brookwood Park, Brookwood Elementary, and the Al Rollins Baseball Complex. The two also discussed the feasibility of locating boardwalks, benches, and fishing piers along the lake.

Over the next several weeks, Johnson will make revisions to the proposal. Those revisions will then be circulated and discussed locally.