Highlights:

**UGA College of Journalism graduate student filmed promotional video for Candler County Hospital**

In January, Damien Scott, Candler County Hospital Interim CEO, shared the recently filmed “Better in Metter” video with hospital authority members praising the Candler Archway Partnership saying, “I believe that this video will serve several purposes: 1. Internally increase the desire of our employees (new and old) to be part of this team of caring health professionals. 2. Encourage the community that we have skilled, caring professionals in OUR hospital. 3. Recruit physicians, nurses, and other skilled people to our area. 4. Be used by our economic development team as a recruitment tool.” T. O. Lawrence, Grady College of Journalism graduate student created the video and Mr. Scott had high praise for his work.

Video: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=05_WT7h1cjg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=05_WT7h1cjg)

**UGA and Candler County partner held Candler County Recreation Listening Sessions**

On February 6, the Candler County Archway Partnership Recreation Issue Work Group (IWG) hosted two community listening sessions to gain insight into community perceptions of the recreation department. The sessions were facilitated by Archway Partnership Staff faculty and staff, Elizabeth Gilmer (East Georgia State College), Connie Page (UGA Extension – Retired), and Walt Mason (East Georgia State College, Exercise Science Department). Once the feedback from the sessions is compiled, the Archway Recreation IWG members will begin working on a Strategic Master Plan for the Recreation Department.

![Image of people at a meeting](image1)

**Economic Development**

- On behalf of Candler County Industrial Authority, Betsy met with Dr. Fred Ritch, Geologist and Dr. Sue Moore, Archeologist at Georgia Southern in an effort to determine their ability to assist in completing the Cultural/Historical/Endangered Species identification portion of the GRAD certification. They do have the technical expertise to assist and are willing to do so.

- Jaime Riggs, Executive Director, Metter-Candler Chamber of Commerce, Carvy Snell, Candler County Industrial Authority Board Member, and Betsy McGriff met with MBA candidates for a tour of key economic development sites in Metter. The students are working to prepare a list of best practices for strategic economic development in Candler County.
Healthcare

- Damien Scott shared the recently filmed “Better in Metter” video with hospital authority members. “On behalf of Candler County Hospital, let me be the first to thank you for your service to our community. You helped me make my vision of a culture-building video a reality. I believe that this video will serve several purposes: 1. Internally increase the desire of our employees (new and old) to be part of this team of caring health professionals. 2. Encourage the community that we have skilled, caring professionals in OUR hospital. 3. Recruit physicians, nurses, and other skilled people to our area. 4. Be used by our economic development team as a recruitment tool”.

- Katie Wargo, a UGA MPH Candidate, has begun her survey of existing healthcare program partners in Candler County. Those she has interviewed are positive about the project and are looking forward to having a resource to build on.

Community Image & Branding

- Jaime Riggs, Executive Director, Metter-Candler Chamber of Commerce and Betsy McGriff presented a request for assistance with community web presence to two of Dr. Elizabeth Davis classes. The Technical Writing class will assist in tightening up the language and utilization of imagery on the Candler County Industrial Authority web-site and the Writing for the Web class will compile these recommendations into a report that can be utilized by CCIA’s web-master to achieve a better product.

- Metter Mayor Billy Trapnell and Candler County Commission Chairman Glyn Thrift, along with members of their staff met with Betsy McGriff and Jaime Riggs to outline a vision for the redesign of the current City website. Both Trapnell and Thrift agreed that it made sense to have one “government” portal off of everythingsbetterinmetter.com. A previous Archway report on “best of the web” for government sites was reviewed. Next steps for this project are to compile the working notes into a plan and present to a to-be-determined web developer.

- The recently filmed community wide economic development video debuted at the Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting. Chamber board members were pleased with the product and have requested it be used on their website.

Recreation

- The Candler County Recreation Issue Work Group hosted two community listening sessions to gain insight into community perceptions of the recreation department. The sessions were facilitated by Angel Jackson, Betsy McGriff, Susan Reinhardt, Michelle Wilder (Archway Partnership Staff), Elizabeth Gilmer (East Georgia State College), Connie Page (UGA Extension – Retired), and Walt Mason (East Georgia State College, Exercise Science Department). Once the feedback from the sessions is compiled, Candler County Administrator Bill Lindsey and IWG members will begin working on a Recreation Master Plan.

General

- On Monday, February 10th, Betsy McGriff, Candler County Archway Profession gave a presentation to the Pineland Bank Go Club on Archway focus areas and accomplishments. The Go Club is comprised of active seniors 65+.

- Archway accomplishments were featured in the Metter-Candler Chamber of Commerce annual report distributed at their annual meeting on January 30th.