“Get Healthy Habersham” Website
Following Habersham Archway’s Health Work Group meeting on Dec. 12, 2014, over 30 additions and changes were identified and submitted to graduate assistant Cassandra Thurson. Some of the additions to the website include adding area recreational venue links, updating the farmers market and locally grown sections of the site, adding a new section that will feature upcoming community events, adding a family section, adding links to sites such as Farm to School, Nickelodeon and Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, as well as possibly adding options for recreational geo-catching. The Health Work Group has also been selected as one of 21 honorees to be recognized at the Celebrate Healthy North Georgia Awards Conference on January 29.

Habersham Advertising and Public Relations Campaign Project
The four advertising and public relations campaign proposals were resubmitted to the Habersham Executive Committee on Jan. 7. The Executive Committee members were given hard copies of each proposal for review and committee members will select which plan or portions of each plan they like best. Additionally, Habersham Archway’s Planning and Visioning Work Group will be given copies of the four plans, and will be tasked with specifically examining, selecting and recommending a logo design to the Executive Committee as well as the and will submit their suggestions back to the Executive Committee as well as the Habersham County Commission.

“State of Habersham Archway” Update
Habersham Archway Chairman Mike Mixon presented a “State of Archway” report at the beginning of the Executive Committee meeting on Jan. 7. The report highlighted Archway accomplishments in 2014 and addressed future endeavors. Chairman Mixon reminded committee members that work has continued based on the four items highlighted in Archway’s initial work plan, including economic development along with tourism and marketing, education and workforce development, planning and visioning and healthcare. Pursuant to these initiatives, the chairman likewise reported that to date, 30 project initiatives have been completed, 11 are currently in progress and three projects are currently pending. In conclusion, Chairman Mixon cited figures from a recent UGA publication entitled, “The Economic Impact of The University of Georgia’s Public Service and Outreach Programs,” noting that, as of August 2013, the direct economic impact of the Archway program on the state economy equals approximately $6.5 million. Chairman Mixon further noted that when divided among Georgia’s eight Archway communities that figure translates into approximately $812,500 worth of economic impact per community.

Habersham Archway Drug Prevention and Treatment Work Group
Though this group represents one of Archway’s newest initiatives, the group has already facilitated discussion that will allow Piedmont College nursing students to participate in accountability court initiatives and work with actual community members in 2015. This new community partnership will enable Piedmont students to gain academic credit for work, as well as gaining the highly valued “real world” experiences, often not available in traditional academic settings. In turn, the students are also offering the accountability court much needed resources which were previously unavailable. This new partnership began in January when school reconvened, and shows a lot of promise in generating community synergy moving forward.
**Countywide Water Study Project**
During the Jan. 7, 2015 meeting, Habersham Archway’s Executive Committee voted to move forward in requesting assistance from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) in conducting a water and sewer infrastructure inventory study. The study will focus on cataloguing an inventory of existing infrastructure as well as identifying system shortfalls. The information provided by this study should be very helpful in identifying planning needs as well as serving as a means for countywide collaboration among various Habersham municipalities.

**Cornelia Projects**
The Habersham Archway approved two new project requests submitted by the city of Cornelia. First, the city asked for Archway assistance in having the downtown Cornelia central business district listed as a historic downtown on the state and national historic registries. Cornelia officials noted that this is a very involved process and usually requires an inventory of potential historic structures in the area. Cornelia requested Archway assistance because the city is unable to complete the effort on its own and Archway is already in the process of a countywide historical inventory. The second request from Cornelia was for assistance determining the best use of the city owned Cornelia Bank Building. The structure was gutted and had the roof replaced in 2014 and the Cornelia City Commission has requested Archway assistance in creating suggestions for use of the space. The city would like the building to retain its historical significance and has historical photos for reference. Suggestions for this project include a cultural arts center, a city parking lot or a mix of retail shops and loft apartments. The Habersham Executive Committee has approved this project request and work will begin once a resource is identified. These two projects should both serve as a catalyst to jump start a revitalization effort for downtown Cornelia.