Proposed New Habersham Logo
Archway’s Planning and Visioning Work Group has made a final recommendation for a new logo design for Habersham County. The new design was selected from ideas presented by students from UGA’s Grady College in each of the four advertising and public relations plans presented in December 2014. A final draft of the proposed logo has been selected and will be officially presented to the Habersham County Commission on Feb. 16. If approved, the logo is expected to be included on Habersham’s newly revised website, county properties and vehicles.

“Celebrate Healthy North Georgia” Award
Habersham Archway was one of 21 honorees at the Georgia Department of Public Health’s District Two Health Fair on Jan. 29. Habersham Archway received an award for work on the “Get Health Habersham” initiative and website. At our Feb. 4 meeting, the board used at the health fair and awards presentation was displayed and photos from the health fair were shared. Habersham Archway Professional Rick Story accepted the award along with Habersham Commission Chair Andrea Harper and the Health Work Group Chairman Dr. Terry Greene. Story presented the award to the Archway Executive Committee at the February meeting.

Habersham Economic Development Council
Habersham’s Economic Development Council is moving forward with the most recent Habersham Archway EDC work group meeting taking place on Jan. 26. Archway is continuing to work with the UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) to schedule a facilitated follow-up meeting.

Habersham Advertising and Public Relations Campaign Project
The Habersham Archway’s Planning and Visioning Work Group met on Feb. 12 to further examine advertising and public relations campaign plans presented by UGA students in December. The group will make recommendations for marketing and branding Habersham based on suggestions from the four plans. Suggested ideas will be reported back to Archway’s Executive Committee in March.

Habersham Water and Sewer Study
Habersham Archway Partnership will soon begin working with UGA’s Carl Vinson Institute of Government in preparing a water and sewer assessment study for Habersham County. The study will be similar to a summary prepared for Rabun County in 2012 and will inventory countywide infrastructures.

Habersham Archway Approves Projects for Demorest and Baldwin
Habersham Archway’s Executive Committee approved three new project requests at the February meeting. The requests came from the cities of Baldwin and Demorest. Specifically, Demorest Mayor Rick Austin requested two new projects in the form of feasibility studies for Demorest’s downtown.
The first project request involves the possible relocation of Demorest’s city hall to the old Community Bank & Trust building downtown. Mayor Austin noted that Demorest officials are interested in moving out of the current city hall on Georgia Street so that the space can be made available for retail venues. The mayor also requested that the new feasibility study include renderings of a design resembling the old Butler Hall, a former Demorest downtown landmark. The mayor referenced historical photographs of downtown, adding that he hopes the redesign will incorporate a two-story structure. He added that the overall hope of the new project is to re-create Demorest’s old downtown look.

The second request included the feasibility options for starting a midweek farmers market in Demorest. The mayor said he hopes the study will provide ideas on how to work with other municipalities that have already implemented farmers markets, and will also include information on whether or not there will be enough produce and products available for a midweek market.

Likewise, Baldwin Mayor Jerry Neace asked for the approval of a project that will look at upgrading Wilbanks Park, located off Airport Road. The mayor noted the park has fallen into some degree of disrepair, and currently seems to be used only as a soccer field. Mayor Neace said he hopes the new park design will include restrooms and other amenities.

Work on these projects is expected to begin this spring and continue into the fall.