Dustin Durden and Steven Snell attended the inaugural Archway Partnership Summit in Athens on Feb. 18-19. The Summit was an opportunity for present Archway communities, along with communities that have graduated from the program, to come together and share challenges, victories and plans for making Archway stronger in the future.

The Candler County Archway Partnership is in its second year of the program and is working on Community Branding, Gateway Signage, renovations to the Jaycee Park and designing and developing a Community Website. The UGA Archway Partnership provides a way for local communities to achieve outlined goals and objectives using resources provided through the University of Georgia. The local partnership is funded in part by the City of Metter, Candler County, the Board of Education and Candler County Industrial Authority. Betsy McGriff serves as Candler County's Archway Professional.

Pictured are Candler Archway Co-Chair Steven Snell, Archway Partnership Director Dr. Mel Garber of UGA, Candler Archway Co-Chair Dustin Durden, and Grady County Archway Chairman Masha Wind.

Archway Summit

Berry is named Candler's Special Ed Teacher of Year

Christie Berry was honored as Candler County's Special Education Teacher of the Year in a ceremony held on Feb. 26 at Forreit Heights Country Club. The event is sponsored annually by Southeast GLRS District 14.

Berry was recognized by Metter Elementary School Principal Leah Brown, who outlined "10 Qualities of Christie Berry -- Candler County Special Education Teacher of the Year":

1. Organization: She is not only organized, but keeps the rest of us organized.
2. Creativity: Christie is so creative.
3. Highly Intuitive. She has a sixth sense. She can understand what the kids are trying to communicate even when they cannot communicate clearly.
4. Calming Nature: Berry is named Candler's Special Ed Teacher of Year

L-r: Carol Smith, Parent Liaison; honoree Christie Berry; and Lesa Brown, MES principal

SEWER

rector, cracks in the line caused an infiltration of ground water.

"With the amount of rain and the saturation of ground water, the line had deteriorated until there was no line, just a cavity," Hendrix said.

The flooding forced the church to cancel all services at the church itself, except for the Tuesday afternoon youth meeting in the family life center. Awana on Wednesday (today) has been postponed and worship services on Sunday were held at Hamstra Worship Center. According to the church's website, services at the building will not resume for at least two weeks. For more information about services at Cedar Street Baptist Church, visit the church's website, www.cedarstreet.org or call 912-685-5352.

The collapsed sewer was actually next in line to be rehabilitated, according to Hendrix. And, he said, had the rains not fallen throughout the first part of last week, the work would have already been started.

"That line has been in the ground for at least 70 years," said Hendrix. A sewer line rehabilitation priority list had been developed by the city, and work had already been done in several areas with Cedar Street being next on the priority list.

"The purpose of the sewer rehabilitation program was to identify areas and video lines so we could look at their conditions and prioritize which ones needed the most work," said Hendrix. What was not a top rehabilitation priority was the line adjacent to Bi-Lo behind Liberty Mart, which became stopped up on Friday and required immediate attention.

"When you have aging infrastructure, that happens," Hendrix said.

The location of the blockage was determined and crews began work Friday afternoon to repair the damage.