Georgia Main Street Startup Program Graduation
The City of Cairo was recognized at the recent Georgia Main Street awards luncheon as one of 17 communities to graduate from the Georgia Main Street Startup Program. This accomplishment is the direct result of the Grady County Archway Partnership Downtown Issue Work Group collaboration with the UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government in developing the Renaissance Strategic Vision & Plan in 2013. Over 100 community stakeholders came together and identified numerous short and long term action items which are now being implemented. “This designation is a tremendous step forward and solidifies our commitment in helping main street businesses and property owners succeed. Over the past 14 months, we have diligently committed to this process, and it is exciting to see our efforts pay off. The vision of a healthy attractive downtown has been a common goal for many decades,” said Cairo Main Street Director Celeste Tyler.

Barber Park Renovations
Through the Grady County Archway Partnership Community Health and Wellness Issue Work Group and the UGA College of Environment and Design (CED), the Grady County Parks & Recreation Department has planted over 60 trees and installed new lighting at the softball complex in Barber Park. These are just a few of the desired amenities and improvements identified by community members and then incorporated into park renovation plans drawn up by UGA CED students in the summer of 2013 and 2014. Becky Bracewell, Director of Grady County’s Recreation Department, said “it is amazing to see this community visioning process, facilitated by the Archway Partnership, where citizens create goals of improving health and wellness through outdoor parks and recreation and then have it become a reality at Barber Park. This is such an opportunity for our kids in this community.”

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Work Group
The new Teen Pregnancy Prevention Issue Work Group has been collecting pregnancy and health related data and community resources, as well as identifying stakeholders to be invited into the initiative. This work group addresses the community goal of both prevention and improving pre-natal access to services and care.

City of Cairo Train Depot Re-Design
Progress continues in the interior re-design of the City of Cairo Train Depot. This project is a collaboration between the City of Cairo, Archway Partnership Downtown Issue Work Group and the Lamar Dodd School of Art and is an action item in the downtown renaissance plan.

Connecting Cairo High School College and Career Academy to Industry Partners
The Education/Business & Industry Issue Work Group continue to focus on the Cairo High School College and Career Academy. The major activity this month was identifying business and industry partners who could actively participate in the 17 CCA curriculum pathways through site visits, provide content expertise, on-the-job training, internships for students, externships for instructors, job-shadowing,
material donations and/or other resources. This initiative enhances student learning opportunities and local work-force development.

**College of Engineering and Grady County Partnership**
The UGA College of Engineering has provided 12 students and two faculty members to partner with both the City of Cairo and Grady County. The City requested assistance with a landfill relocation analysis as the site will be completely full within five years. The students will provide several disposal options for the City’s municipal solid waste thereby assisting City Commission with policy direction and cost-effective disposal methods. They will also measure the quantity and quality of the methane gas to determine resale possibilities or on-site generation potential thereby creating a potential revenue stream or cost-saving measures for the City. Grady County also requested a study for the installation of solar panels at the jail and at the courthouse. Key questions that are being examined include design, configuration, efficiencies, generation, and a cost benefit analysis. This project has the potential to provide both revenue and cost savings for Grady County government.

**Downtown Development Authority Training**
The City of Cairo Downtown Development Authority (DDA) will host a regional training for DDA members needing the state required training.

**Third Annual Youth FitFest**
The Archway Partnership Community Health and Wellness Issue Work Group will host the third annual Youth FitFest as a strategy to address childhood obesity.