Habersham County
Monthly Key Accomplishments – July 2015

Accomplishments

Habersham Archway Retreat

Habersham Archway’s Executive Committee held a retreat at Tallulah Falls School on Tuesday, June 16, 2015. The retreat served as a brainstorming session where committee members evaluated the accomplishments of the current work plan, as well as discussed future project endeavors. The retreat was facilitated by Archway Operations Coordinators Angel Jackson and Sharon Liggett. The facilitated session included a “Continue, Stop, Start” exercise which encouraged participants to identify program strengths, weaknesses and opportunities. The group identified several new goals such as greater engagement with the local board of education, greater overall community engagement and the exploration of a workforce development curriculum.

“Top 10 List” and Revised Work Plan

During Habersham Archway’s Executive Committee retreat on June 16, was the desire to do a better job of celebrating Archway accomplishments and “telling the Habersham Archway story.” As a result of that consideration, a list of Habersham’s “Top 10” greatest accomplishments was composed for distribution. The list was shared with Habersham’s Executive Committee at the July monthly meeting on July 8, and the same list was also the topic of Rick Story’s monthly newspaper column. The top ten list will also be circulated throughout the community as a tool for greater civic engagement as well as for communicating program successes.

Old Cornelia Bank Redesign Plan

The city of Cornelia and Habersham Archway’s Executive Committee both received a special presentation from UGA student and Archway Partnership graduate assistant Sara Dusenberry on July 8. Dusenberry presented a redesign plan for the Old Cornelia Bank Building. The plan proposed
repurposing the facility to include allowances for commercial and retail space as well as space for residential space on the upper floor. The commercial and retail space proposals contained recommendations for a clothing store, bookstore and coffee shop; while the residential space included recommendations for one, two and three bedroom loft apartments. A second floor event space was also included with allowances for an open/flexible space with a small stage, and a small space with a more private or formal area.

**Ongoing Efforts**

**Recycling Work Group**

Archway’s Recycling Work Group is organized and will be chaired by Habersham Commissioner Natalie Crawford. Habersham Archway Professional Rick Story has worked jointly with Archway Operations Coordinator Sue Chapman and Hart County Archway Professional Ilka McConnell to organize the work group. Meeting discussion included that of planning, as well as defining work group goals and initiatives. Story held a follow-up meeting with County Manager Phil Sutton on Monday, June 29 and an initial meeting of the full work group was held on Friday, July 10.

**Economic Development Council Work Group**

Habersham’s Economic Development Council (EDC) work group met most recently on June 24, and a recap and report from that meeting was the main focus of discussion at the July Executive Committee meeting. Committee member Brian Horton conducted the presentation which outlined a basic explanation of the goals, organization and targets of the EDC. The Habersham Archway Partnership Executive Committee signed off on plans to form an economic development council (EDC), agreeing to officially name the new entity the “Habersham Partnership for Growth”. The work group will next present the idea to the Habersham Chamber of Commerce for approval and will continue to seek Archway assistance with facilitation as the group is formed.
Additional Ongoing Projects

- Habersham Archway will continue its work through the Drug Prevention and Treatment Work Group and will work with UGA’s College of Pharmacy to identify issues faced by local care providers and judicial advocates.
- Habersham Archway will continue working to better engage the local school system.
- Per Executive Committee instruction, Habersham Archway will reactivate its Planning and Visioning Work Group to consider branding and marketing options for the community.