Accomplishments

Wilbanks Park Redesign Plan

UGA College of Environment & Design student Susan Summers will present a design concept for Wilbanks Park in Baldwin during the Baldwin City Council’s August work session on Thursday, August 6. The design features a repurposing of the Wilbanks Park to include an improved playing field for soccer, a picnic area and pavilion. The design concept also incorporates the idea of the park being a central gathering place for the surrounding neighborhood, with amenities designed to attract local parents and children.
Advertising and Public Relations Campaign Implementations

Two proposed festivals were implemented from UGA students advertising and public relations campaign presentations made in December 2014 for Habersham Archway Partnership. The “Red, White and Tunes” and “Haber-Jam” festivals debuted the weekend of July 17-19. Both festivals featured music in the park, food, fun and water features for children and adults. The events were well received and will likely become annual summer events in the community. This month’s Archway column in The Northeast Georgian highlights the two events and specifically emphasizes the value of the partnership between the University of Georgia and the Habersham community.

Ongoing Efforts

Recycling Work Group

Archway’s Recycling Work Group convened on July 24 to discuss the possible implementation of a pilot recycling program in the city of Demorest. The inclusion of Piedmont College was also discussed as part of the effort. Additional discussion items included a potential public relations campaign, as well as the status of current landfill capacity.

Drug Prevention and Treatment Work Group

Archway’s meeting of the Drug Prevention and Treatment Work Group occurred on July 31. The meeting included a follow-up discussion with staff from UGA’s College of Pharmacy, as well as also including several community providers familiar with the requirements for Transitional Housing for Offender Reentry (THOR) certified facilities. Meeting discussion also included the establishment of a local treatment facility and funding options for such a facility.

Economic Development Council (EDC) Work Group

Archway’s EDC work group met on July 22, to receive a report from work group member Brian Horton. Horton outlined a basic explanation of the goals, organization and targets of the EDC, as well as providing an organizational chart and proposed budget for the organization. Horton noted that the Habersham Archway Partnership Executive Committee has signed off on plans to form an Economic Development Council (EDC), agreeing to officially name the new entity the “Habersham Partnership for Growth.” The concept has also been approved by the Habersham Chamber of Commerce.

Countywide Water Study

Habersham Archway will continue working with faculty from the UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) to supply the necessary community information required for completion of Habersham’s countywide water study, slated for completion in October.
Looking Forward

Work Group Updates

Habersham Archway will reconvene the Planning and Visioning Work Group, as well as its Health Work Group, to consider further branding and marketing options for the community, and to explore healthier community options respectively. The Health Work Group will focus around greater engagements of both the local system and the recreation department.

Habersham Archway will begin regular meeting facilitation of its Workforce Development Work Group once local school systems begin, and will focus on exploring available resources for the adoption of a possible workforce curriculum to be used in Habersham schools. The group will also seek input from non-school system members.

Piedmont College Engagement

Habersham Archway will initiate conversations with Piedmont College regarding partnering on a history project for the city of Cornelia, and will also work with Piedmont faculty to facilitate valued participation and experiential learning for students.