Accomplishments

Wilbanks Park Redesign Plan

UGA student Susan Summers presented a design concept for Wilbanks Park in Baldwin during Habersham Archway’s Executive Committee meeting on September 2. During her presentation, Summers advised Habersham Archway Executive Committee members that she had already presented the design to the Baldwin City Council during an August 6 work session, and the design was well received. Susan went on to state that the design concept 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 a repurposing of the park with the idea of it being a central gathering place for the surrounding neighborhood, with amenities designed to attract area parents and children. The presentation and the design concept were well received by Archway’s Executive Committee.
Ongoing Efforts

Recycling Work Group

Archway’s Recycling Work Group convened most recently on August 13, to continue discussing ongoing community efforts related to planning, as well as, further defining the group’s goals and initiatives. The group also discussed the exploration of ordinances related to community recycling and continued a previous discussion regarding establishing a “pilot city” for recycling. The group also unanimously agreed to pursue the creation of a community-wide public relations and recycling education campaign through UGA. Archway Partnership Operations Coordinator Sue Chapman will be the guest lecturer in a class on September 4, and will provide details regarding the idea of developing a public relations and education campaign for local and community recycling. The class has already agreed to champion the Habersham recycling effort as a project, and Chapman will be giving the students the information they need to get this project started.

Economic Development Council (EDC) Work Group

The EDC work group met on Wednesday, August 26. Participants received a status update on funding procurement and were given a draft tri-fold flyer, conceptualized to attract potential Habersham investors. The group was also presented a proposal from UGA’s Carl Vinson Institute of Government for streamlining Habersham’s permitting process. The group approved the proposal, referring it back to Archway’s full Executive Committee for consideration. The work group plans to meet again on September 23 for additional follow-up on these items.

Cornelia History Project

Work has begun on a history project for the city of Cornelia that includes partnering with Piedmont College students and local Habersham residents. Habersham Archway Professional Rick Story has initiated conversation with Piedmont College Professors Steve Nimmo and Ryan Franklin regarding the project and Piedmont student Jalene Smith has been assigned. Story will next schedule and facilitate meetings between officials from the Cornelia and the student. Story has also involved local history buffs and has collected nearly 2,000 historic photos for use in this project. These photographs have been placed on a flash drive and will be provided to the student for work on the project.

Healthcare Work Group

Archway’s Healthcare Work Group met on August 28. Meeting discussion included a work group progress initiative review, work plan review and future strategy discussion. Group consensus included the desire to move forward with an effort to target elementary and middle school aged children. Specific discussion items included ways to partner with existing community efforts, and possibly tweaking the “Get Healthy Habersham” logo to produce a more kid-friendly version. Social marketing efforts specific to children were also discussed, as was the addition of several community partners to the work group.
**Habersham Countywide Water Study**

Habersham Archway is continuing to work 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. The most recent meeting between occurred on August 24, when Archway Professional Rick Story met with CVIOG faculty member Scott Pippin to discuss the acquisition of information related to intergovernmental agreements.

**Drug Prevention and Treatment Work Group**

Habersham Archway will continue to facilitate regular meetings of the Drug Prevention and Treatment Work Group, and continue its work with UGA’s College of Pharmacy in exploring the possibility of establishing a community care facility, and securing funding for the procurement thereof.

**Citizen Engagement**

Habersham Archway will continue reaching deeper into the community to secure greater citizen involvement in all work groups, and will specifically target procuring engagement from both the local system and the recreation department.

**Looking forward**

**Workforce Development Work Group**

Now that Habersham schools have reconvened for the 2015-2016 school year, Habersham Archway will begin regular meeting facilitation of its Workforce Development Work Group, 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.