Ongoing Efforts

Cornelia History Project
Habersham Archway is working with both the city of Cornelia and Piedmont College to facilitate the creation of historic signs and placards in downtown Cornelia. With the help of Piedmont College and community residents, the city is collecting vintage photographs and historical information relevant to historic downtown venues. Once gathered, the city hopes to present this information using historic signage that will be mounted on the corners of buildings and strategically placed near specified areas of historical significance in downtown. Habersham Archway Professional Rick Story met with Cornelia Special Projects Manager, Mona Painter, and Piedmont College History student, Jalene Smith, and provided 2,000 vintage photos collected from local residents. Smith has already begun work on the project and plans to have it completed by the end of the year.

Clarkesville Engineering Project
Students from the UGA College of Engineering accompanied Engineering faculty member Dr. Jason Christian to Habersham on Monday, Sept. 28. The students met with Tim Durham from the city of Clarkesville before touring a project site on the Soque River. The students will be assisting the city of Clarkesville in providing a new structural design for existing pipes and infrastructure.

Cornelia Design Initiatives
Students from the UGA College of Environment and Design (CED) will be working with the city of Cornelia to create designs specific to improving the aesthetic appeal of downtown gateways. The students will make design suggestions for an area near Irvin and Hodges Streets, at the intersection of Level Grove Road, as well as the area near Old Highway 441 and Camp Creek Road. The designs are expected to feature native plantings that will enhance year-round curb appeal. The students visited Habersham in September to tour the project sites.

Georgia Food Oasis Presentation
Maggie Van Cantfort, the Northeast Georgia (NEGA) Farm to School Regional Coordinator, joined Habersham’s Archway Executive Committee on Oct. 7. Van Cantfort shared a presentation regarding collaboration between Georgia Organics and FoodHub to designate Habersham County and Northeast Georgia as a Georgia Food Oasis community. The process for becoming a "Food Oasis Community" involves Georgia Organics facilitating a community needs and buy-in assessment. Then, if buy-in is evident, the organization will facilitate the development of a community-led collaborative to improve healthy food access in the region. The first step is to invite community leaders to a focus group meeting to discuss the concept and receive their input. Many of the targeted community leaders serve on the Archway Executive Committee, so Habersham Archway will continue to partner on this endeavor and many members will attend an upcoming November focus group.
Healthcare Work Group
The Healthcare Work Group met on Friday, Sept. 25. The group reviewed the first draft of a new kid-friendly “Get Health Habersham” logo designed by UGA Graphic Design student Jake Green. The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 30 and will include more drafts of the kid-friendly logo and a presentation by Jennifer Stein, of Prevent Child Abuse Habersham. Dr. Henry Young, from the UGA College of Pharmacy will also attend the next meeting to provide additional support on the Habersham Archway’s health initiatives.

Drug Prevention and Treatment Work Group
The Drug Prevention and Treatment Work Group met on Friday, Sept. 25. Dr. Merrill Norton, from UGA’s College of Pharmacy, talked with the group regarding statewide research and best practices for treatment. Pursuant to this discussion, Dr. Norton has asked that the group gather data from the group regarding specific demographics for Habersham. To obtain this information the group will work with District Attorney Brian Rickman to obtain court data, as well as assemble other community data from local treatment providers. Once assembled, Dr. Norton will analyze the data to make recommendations for treatment options in Habersham.

Water Study Presentation
Harry Hayes and Scott Pippin, faculty members in the UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government, joined Habersham Archway’s Executive Committee meeting on Oct. 7 and presented an update regarding the progress of the Habersham Water Study Report, which is in its final draft and due for release soon. Pippin also collected final feedback from the Executive Committee, and will determine what, if any, additional information needs to be included in the report. The final report will be presented to Habersham’s county and municipal officials next month at a special called presentation.

Looking Forward
Recycling Work Group
Habersham Archway will continue to facilitate work with its Recycling Work Group and the work of Dr. Maria Len-Rios’ class from the UGA Grady College as they complete a public relations and education campaign for local and community recycling.

EDC Work Group
Habersham Archway will facilitate the upcoming November meeting of its Economic Development Council (EDC) Work Group, which may be the group’s final meeting as it prepares to formalize into an independent entity.

Workforce Development Work Group
Habersham Archway will facilitate a meeting of its Workforce Development Work Group on Oct. 20. The meeting will examine the introduction and implementation of the Junior Achievement curriculum in Habersham’s Middle Schools. Junior Achievement educates students about workforce readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs.