Grady County

Monthly Key Accomplishments – March 2016

Accomplishments

Whigham Media Kit shared with community
On Feb 16, the media kit produced by the Grady College ADPR 5920 class was presented to the Whigham Community Committee. Archway Professional Betsy McGriff reviewed the SWOT Analysis, Social Media Strategy, and Second Saturday Event concept with the group. They also conducted a brainstorming session of potential downtown Second Saturday special event options and ideas for how to engage the Whigham School in their events.

Grady County Schools host Community Conversation on Educational Achievement
The Grady County Schools C.A.F.E. hosted a Community Conversation on Educational Achievement on Feb. 11. This Archway Partnership modeled charrette was designed as a listening session to garner feedback from parents on their engagement with the school system and identify potential areas for improvement. Archway Professional Betsy McGriff assisted with a table facilitation activity. The C.A.F.E. will compile the results of the Community Conversation to create a work plan and resultant committees.

Ongoing Efforts

Efforts to Reestablish the Grady County Employer Committee underway
Working through Vickie Henson, State Employer Committee Coordinator for the Georgia Department of Labor, local leaders, along with Archway are seeking to reestablish the Grady County Employer Committee. In the past, this group served as an HR round-table. Through the newly formed group, the goal is to complement efforts undertaken by the Archway Partnership Education, Business, & Industry Issue Work Group in support of “education for a quality workforce.”

UGA College of Environment + Design student assists Wolf Creek Trout Lily Preserve
College of Environment & Design student Rachel Haddon, along with representatives from the Tourism Division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development visited Wolf Creek Trout Lily Preserve this month. Wolf Creek has requested assistance with educational and promotional signage, as well as hiking trail development, which Rachel will work on this semester. Georgia Tourism officials are excited to learn about this “hidden gem” and are looking forward to being able to promote it through their visitor information centers. These designed projects will be part of a larger effort to brand and market outdoor recreation in Grady County.

Grady Archway Partnership creates Leadership Issue Work Group
Representatives from the Archway Partnership Leadership Grady Issue Work Group and participants from the 2014 program met to begin revamping the now dormant program. There was consensus that the curriculum should blend team building, leadership skill, and community awareness elements. Next steps are to expand the planning committee and brainstorm session content and potential presenters.
College and Career Academy promotion
The Education/Business & Industry Issue Work Group continues to focus on the Cairo High School College and Career Academy. Dr. Maria Len-Rios’ Grady College Class has selected Cairo High School for a project to develop a comprehensive media kit for use in promoting and branding the College and Career Academy and the new “Academy Concept” that will kick off with the formation of a 9th-grade academy at Cairo High School in 2016.

Engineering capstone projects
Students and faculty from the UGA College of Engineering continue their work with Senior Capstone Design Project sites in Grady County, including a) conceptual wastewater system for the City of Whigham, b) Heritage Industrial Complex Analysis for the Cairo-Grady County Joint Development Authority and c) conceptual Water distribution plan at Tired Creek Lake for the Grady County Commission. Final designs will be completed and presented to community clients in spring semester 2016.

Cairo Train Depot
Progress continues in the interior re-design of the City of Cairo Train Depot. This project is collaboration between the City of Cairo, Archway Partnership Downtown Issue Work Group and the UGA Lamar Dodd School of Art and is an action item in the downtown renaissance plan. Archway Operations Coordinator Sharon Liggett has met with Thom Houser a faculty member from LDSOA who is working on the designs.

Looking Forward
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. Tammy Harlow, Director of Nursing for Grady General Hospital, will serve as event chair. The event is tentatively planned for Saturday, April 30 at Davis Park in downtown Cairo.

Chamber of Commerce considers downtown development
New board members for the Cairo-Grady County Chamber of Commerce are interested in re-opening the discussion about downtown development. The Grady Archway Professional Betsy McGriff shared the Downtown Renaissance report produced by CVIOG in 2013 and offered to review the plan with interested parties. There is also interest in a mentoring program for young professionals. Topics mentioned included business development skills, leadership & community involvement.

Non-Archway Meetings Attended:
2/17 – Grady County Employer Committee
2/17 – GCAAP Grady County “Friend-Raiser” and Educational Session
2/22 – Chamber Board Orientation
2/23 – Plantation Trace Regional Tourism Association
2/23 – Cairo High School College & Career Academy Board of Directors