Accomplishments

New Water Work Group
The most recent meeting of the Habersham Archway Water Work Group took place on March 2. During this meeting, the group reviewed various emergency supply and intergovernmental agreements, discussed the necessity for finalizing and signing agreements, and discussed emergency readiness of various system infrastructures. The group also received an update on Habersham water quality from Soque River Watershed Director, Duncan Hughes, who is also a new member of the work group. Next steps entailed setting future meeting dates and reviewing further needed documentation. The group is scheduled to meet again on April 6.

Community Recycling Public Relations and Education Campaign
Habersham Archway's Recycling Work Group is scheduled to meet on March 10. Meeting discussion will include a review of a compiled booklet of media kits created by students from the UGA Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication. Additional discussion items will include the recycling agreement between the city of Baldwin and Chase Sanitation and the next steps of determining work group sustainability and viability, goals moving forward, identifying a community champion for the cause and whether or not the group supports the furtherance of a public awareness campaign for recycling in Habersham.

Habersham Permitting Streamlining Project
On Feb. 25, Scott Pippin, a faculty member, and Ashley Finch, a graduate assistant, of UGA's Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG), visited Habersham to meet with County Manager Phil Sutton and County Planner Mike Beecham. They also met with members of the EDC work group, as well as attending Habersham Rotary. Meeting discussions included that of the on-going permitting study, as well as ways to effectively streamline various procedures in the best interest of encouraging business and economic development. CVIOG will be contacting other members of the Habersham community as they move forward in preparing a document or central guide with regard to permitting and licensing.

Habersham Community Profile
The community profile booklet for Habersham was finalized in February, and 200 copies were printed and presented to Habersham County Manager, Phil Sutton, and County Planner, Mike Beecham. Both were pleased with the profile and thanked Archway for assistance in getting it produced.
Community Health Assessment
Habersham’s Community Health Assessment Survey is now underway and was kicked off on Feb. 19, when Dr. Marsha Davis, UGA College of Public Health Associate Dean for Outreach and Engagement, and two CPH graduate students conducted a focus group. The meeting was held in the board room at Habersham Medical Center. Additionally, a community survey was provided for distribution both electronically and in hard copy format throughout Habersham County. Survey drop-off locations include the front desk at the medical center and the Habersham Archway Partnership office. Habersham Archway Professional Rick Story emailed the survey link to members of the Executive Committee and encouraged members to complete the survey and share it with friends, family and co-workers, noting that high participation is needed to get a good representation of community responses from all groups.

Looking Forward
Economic Development Council Work Group
Habersham Archway will continue to facilitate meetings of its Economic Development Council (EDC) Work Group until the group formalizes into an independent entity. The next work group meeting is undetermined, but efforts are underway to schedule an update meeting to prevent the loss of community momentum.

Health and Drug Prevention and Treatment Work Groups
Habersham Archway will facilitate continued discussions regarding the futures of both the Drug Prevention and Treatment Work Group and the Health Work Group.

Revised work-plan to be shared in April
Habersham Archway will continue to facilitate discussions regarding Archway’s role and future in the upcoming year and moving forward, and will work diligently to ensure that the interests of all community entities and participants are represented. A revised work plan will be presented at the April Executive Committee meeting and will present a more focused roadmap for moving forward.