Sumter County
Monthly Key Accomplishments – January 2016

Accomplishments

Public Health Leadership Academy

Sumter County completed the first Public Health Leadership Academy (PHLA) in November. Sumter County was selected as one of six communities to participate in the PHLA, a partnership between the UGA J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development and the UGA College of Public Health.

The Americus-Times Recorder published an article of Sumter’s PHLA graduates on Dec. 29. Sumter’s three person team, collectively represented the public school system, new charter school, Georgia Southwestern State University, and Southwest Georgia Children’s Alliance. The Public Health Leadership Academy aims to create a collaborative approach to public health issues by expanding beyond the community organizations and individuals typically tasked with tackling these issues. Graduates from Sumter County were Gavin Bernstein, Adrienne Davis, Latoya Ross, and Whitney Kimbrough. The Sumter team’s participation was facilitated and funded by the Archway Partnership.

Ongoing Efforts

Sumter: Education Destination

The Sumter County Executive Committee requested information on best practices of marketing educational assets in Sumter County. Archway Partnership is utilizing a master’s and doctoral student from the Grady College of Journalism specializing in public relations for this project. Brittney Cain, a master’s student and Archway graduate assistant, is collecting press kits from Sumter schools and colleges, as well as, other institutions. She is in the process of compiling “best practices” by comparing kits and making a list of commonly used educational promotional words, images that convey academic mission/vision and values and other background research.

Rosanna Cruz, a doctoral student and Archway graduate assistant, has created a 100-mile media list for future use in distributing press releases, media advisories, special articles, editorials, letters to the editor, and calendar announcements. A public relations class in the UGA Grady College of Journalism will work on this project in the spring 2016 semester, looking at each of the county’s public schools to work on an education destination plan.

Airport Passenger Transportation Services Survey

Sumter Archway has been asked to research transportation services to connect Sumter County with the Columbus Airport, Albany Regional Airport, and Atlanta Hartsfield Airport as the need develops. UGA students working on this project may survey the community to determine if there is enough demand from citizens for leisure and professional travel. They may ask CEOs and managers what their business travel requires. This study may also explore how other communities have responded in order to determine how Sumter can feasibly meet this transportation need.

Two students from the Terry College of Business completed a report in November on transportation options for residents and businesses in Sumter County. This study built upon the prior student project of collecting basic airport data. Community leaders have put further activity on hold for this project.
CHNA Assistance for Phoebe Sumter Medical Center
Phoebe Sumter Medical Center (PSMC), in preparation for the 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment, is seeking interview assistance, data analysis, and implementation plan development. Archway graduate assistant Sabrina Cherry from the UGA College of Public Health is assisting with this project. She has transcribed and compiled personal interviews to identify health and wellness trends and themes and reported back to PSMC. She also compiled health surveys of Rotary Club members.

Mary Alice Applegate, the Sumter Archway Professional is recruiting a large group of stakeholders (87) to form a Community Health and Wellness Issue Work Group. The kick-off activity for the stakeholders will be to participate in facilitated community health and wellness needs assessment sessions.

Mulcoa Mill Dust Engineering Project
The Americus - Sumter Payroll Development Authority has requested assistance for the Mulcoa / CE Milling Plant in Andersonville. Mulcoa has a waste product called "TA dust" or thermal airway dust that is generated during the calcining phase of their bauxite mining process. Approximately 5,000 tons per year of TA dust is generated at the entrance of each kiln. They currently stockpile the material and use only a fraction of it in various applications. TA dust holds value in that it has high aluminum concentrations and it has been through the entire mining and milling process. It potentially could be used as a thermal refractory in some capacity with these unique qualities. The UGA College of Engineering has a student team working to research possible uses for the TA dust that could be profitable for the company. Any application identified must be economical with potential for profitable return. If a new use or a purpose for the TA dust can be identified it will diversify Mulcoa’s operation and result in job creation. The Archway Partnership Executive Committee recommended this project for consideration. The Sumter Archway Operations Coordinator Sharon Liggett delivered sample TA dust to UGA for research to begin spring 2016 semester.

Advancing Sumter Leadership Development Program
Mary Alice Applegate, the Sumter County Archway Professional, is providing facilitation and programmatic assistance for Advancing Sumter, a community-based leadership development program. The program is focused on equipping citizens with skills to enable them to be future leaders in the community through their churches, homes, jobs, civic organizations, appointed board positions, and more. The twelve week program will begin on Jan. 19, 2016. Planning efforts are underway in marketing, participant recruitment, fundraising, and logistics.

Looking forward
Wayfinding Education
The Sumter County Archway Partnership will facilitate with key stakeholders an education/information workshop on the values and principles of community-wide “Way-Finding Signage Planning,” prior to the CED design and planning charrette. Due to staffing vacancies at the Chamber and Downtown Development/Tourism Sumter stakeholders asked if this project could be postponed until spring 2016. The College of Environment and Design is working with local partners to identify project dates.

Wayfinding Plan
The City of Americus, Sumter County, Sumter County Archway Partnership and the Georgia DOT would like to adopt and implement a new community-wide “Way-Finding Signage Plan.” The idea with the request is how one can find prominent sites in the county ranging from roadside signage all the way down to sidewalk signage in pedestrian areas. They would like a cohesive plan, using consistent coloring and format so there is always subtle recognition. Local stakeholders would implement the plan and
require others to adhere – as much as law allows. They want something that is recognizable, clean, and fresh in design. Moreover, the community would like designs for historic markers and a beautification plan for the nine major ingress / egress points in Sumter County and the City of Americus.

Due to local staffing vacancies at the Chamber and Downtown Development/Tourism Sumter stakeholders asked if this project could be postponed until spring 2016. The College of Environment and Design has agreed to assist with this project. Archway is coordinating the schedule.

**Sumter Leadership Program Graduates Dashboard**
Building on the work of Mark Huber’s MIS 2014-2015 class for the Sumter County SOWEGA CASA Community Resource Guide, a new MIS class will use the same infrastructure to build a searchable database of Advancing Sumter Leadership Program Graduates. This database can be used for a variety of purposes including: tracking leadership activities and engagement post-training, recruiting graduates for local nonprofit boards, promoting leadership development training, and fostering civic engagement. Huber has assigned one student team to this project and work will begin in spring 2016. Archway will be facilitating the gathering of local data from previous leadership graduates.