Economic Development

- Archway participated as a community member in the Georgia Economic Development Agency’s “Tourism Assessment Team” July 25-27. The Chamber hosted this 10 person team representing seven state agencies. The team will evaluate the community’s tourism assets and present both short and long term plans to residents in a public session to be held in late September. The tourism team will be back in September for a public forum to make their recommendations.

- Working with the DDA and BHT, UGA students have been creating an inventory of existing downtown retail space. UGA grad student, David Tully has presented Karen Bailey with this inventory, trained her on its use and will provide ongoing support to resolve any issues.

- As a complement to the retail inventory, the Executive Committee approved an over/under retail study that was initiated in May by the Applied Research Division of UGA’s Small Business Development Center. This study will assist in economic development by comparing existing businesses to those in similar counties to identify over or under represented businesses in several categories.

- Archway participated in the Military Affairs Committee caravan to the Capital in August and attended the Robins regional briefing on the Base.

- Plans are currently underway, through the Co-op initiative, to improve community websites through improved communication. This one day event will bring together community partners to update forms and content, refresh design and educate those responsible for site management.

Community Health

- Archway coordinated the annual Mercer University School of Medicine Rural Health Experience in Pulaski County on August 9th. Archway Health Professional Laura Gillman spoke to the first year students and local health care professionals.
Currently, the College of Public Health is coordinating a needs assessment for the community at the request of the Archway Community Health Issue Work Group. These efforts will be coordinated through the College of Public Health with the assistance of Ms. Gillman.

The second Communities of Opportunity (Co-Op) initiative for Hawkinsville-Pulaski County is the reduction of teenage pregnancy rates. Under the leadership of local champion, Vonnie Berryhill, the work group will implement a number of community initiatives to reduce teen pregnancy by 25% by the summer of 2013. An introduction to the committee’s “Teen Maze” project will be held in conjunction with the Family Connection’s quarterly meeting on September 13th.

**Government Service Delivery**

- Recreation surveys produced by UGA students have been included in the new school packets of every student. Archway will also review and analyze the input from these surveys.

- Middle Georgia Regional Commission representatives continue to work with Archway on data-gathering for the Community Assessment portion of the Joint Comprehensive Plan.

- Harry Hayes, from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, spoke to the community about government consolidation on Monday, August 22nd in a public event sponsored by the Archway Executive Committee and Ocmulgee Order.

**Housing**

- Community members of the GICH team including the Archway Professional traveled to Athens to participate in the GICH conference in August.

**Leadership Development**

- The Pulaski Tomorrow leadership class for 2011 continues this month. There are 24 new members from the community taking part in this leadership program developed by UGA’s Fanning Institute. This five month course focuses on leadership, communication, group decision making and community building and has become a tremendous asset in developing new leadership in the community.

- Archway Professional Michelle Elliott is a participant of the 2011 class.
Plans are currently underway to have more local facilitators trained by UGA’s Fanning Institute.

Public Education

Pulaski County schools participated in the Office of School Engagement/Archway Partnership’s inaugural symposium *The Power and Promise of Public Schools*. In June, Archway and the Office of School Engagement facilitated an issue work group discussion. The Executive Committee and Education issue work group have begun a long-term collaboration with the College of Education to continue education dialogue between the community, Archway and UGA.

An organizational issue work group on education was held on Wednesday, July 20, 2011. The participants expressed their interest in future meeting topics and formats. Currently, Archway is working to schedule UGA resources to meet the needs of the group.

Pulaski County Schools will be attending the “State of Education” conference at UGA in September.