Economic Development

- Archway participated in the follow up visit of the Georgia Economic Development Association’s “Tourism Assessment Team” in October. A review of the Tourism team’s recommendations was summarized and presented to local groups, including the Archway Steering Committee. The Archway “Hawkinsville DVD” was featured in the presentation. A Tourism plan is currently being created through the combined efforts of BHT, the Chamber, the Arts Council and Archway to coordinate and guide community tourism efforts. Archway continues to support the efforts of Pulaski Tomorrow, Ocmulgee Order, the Chamber of Commerce, Better Hometown, Rivers Alive, the Arts Council and others to promote tourism in Pulaski County.

- UGA grad students presented their plan to the Fire House Museum Committee in January. This plan is part of a federal grant proposal to restore the old Fire House, and is being coordinated by the Regional Commission and Better Home Town.

- UGA Masters of Public Administration student are working with the Chamber of Commerce to improve their web presence and provide effective communication with citizens. The project is part of the “Communities of Opportunity” priority of improving community web presence.

- Through the Co-op initiative, a plan to improve community websites through improved communication is underway. Already, a portal site (www.hawkinsville.org), recommended by the website committee, has been created and a community web site update meeting has been held. The UGA Small Business Development Center will host the “Maximum Contact” series of classes in Hawkinsville in March. These classes will support the “Communities of Opportunity” initiative to improve web presence. Please contact the Archway Office for more information.

Community Health

- Archway is working with Taylor Regional Hospital to create a Rural Medical Scholars partnership with Mercer School of Medicine. The program would be
the second in the state and is patterned after the successful pilot program in Sandersville that is coordinated by Archway Health professional Laura Gillman.

- The UGA College of Public Health has completed a needs assessment for the community at the request of the Archway Community Health Issue Work Group. Two of the focus groups have been completed. **If you are interested in participating in a community health focus group, please contact the Archway office.** The sessions will last about 90 minutes, and will be held at a variety of times in late January and February.

- UGA College of Public Health Archway Professional Laura Gillman spoke to the Hawkinsville Rotary Club on February 1.

- 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. Plans for the Teen Maze to be held **March 22, 2012** are now underway. (check us out on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/hhsteenmaze](http://www.facebook.com/hhsteenmaze) ) **If you would like to volunteer to help with the Maze, please contact the Archway office.**

**Government Service Delivery**

- Recreation surveys produced by UGA students were included in the new school packets of every student. At the request of the Archway Partnership, students from UGA’s Department of Public Administration and Policy Research will analyze this data and report the results of the survey.

- UGA students are working on a site development plan for the Recreation Department Expansion..

**Housing**

- Since the community has graduated from the GICH program, Archway will continue to support community housing initiatives through HURA. The last meeting was held on December 6, 2011 and it was reported that 5 locations are currently in the process of being cleared with the appropriated funds.

**Leadership Development**

- Training for UGA Fanning Institute certified facilitators will take place at the Sam Way Learning Center on February 7th and 14th. There are 16 participants registered for the class.
Members of Ocmulgee Order and Pulaski Tomorrow have joined the Archway Steering Committee. The Steering committee will begin a visioning process in February to help determine future work plans.

**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.

- The Archway Education Issue Work Group met in December to review a survey of Pulaski County parents that do not utilize the public school system in the County. The group of educators, parents and concerned citizens will begin to look at specific aspects of the educational system in 2012. The next Archway education meeting is Thursday, February 9th at 5:30 pm in the Annex.

- At the December education meeting, some great news was reported. Ninety-four (94) % of Hawkinsville High School Juniors passed the Georgia High School Writing Test as compared to 93% in the state and 91% in our 10 county region. Pulaski County Elementary School has made AYP for two years in a row and has been removed from *Needs Improvement* status.