

## Game Changers Continuing To Better Community

By Catherine Dean

Since receiving recommendations from the Fall 2018 Young Gamechangers (YG) class last December, city and county officials have moved on the suggestion of improving the community's signage.

One portion of the YG proposal advised officials that the signs in place at major roadway entry points to the county and city were outdated and needed to be replaced. The group also added that wayfaring signs along roadways would be helpful in directing visitors to different attractions and landmarks in the community.

The City of Milledgeville applied for a grant from the Community Foundation of Central Georgia (CFCG) and was granted \$20,000 for the suggested wayfaring signage improvements.

“The CFCG wayfinding signage grant will provide Milledgeville-Baldwin County with some much-needed eye-catching, directional signs throughout the community,” said Angie Martin, president of the Milledgeville/Baldwin Chamber of Commerce.

Martin emphasized the community has so much to offer those visiting from out of town. She added: “Often they miss out on some of Milledgeville-Baldwin County's most prized hidden gems because they do not know they exist and there are no signs pointing them towards those areas.”

According to Martin, officials are currently in the planning, design, and identification of potential signage locations in addition to working on the gateway signage proposal with possible funding from some local civic organizations.

Another section of the YG proposal, regarding elevating the perception of Baldwin County Schools, is being acted upon by officials.

“The Chamber was heavily involved in the application process for the school district grant which focused on the Building A Better Baldwin recommendation that would include an AmeriCorps grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS),” said Martin.

Martin adds that although the grant application was not initially approved, the director of the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism did respond that the review board felt the school district demonstrated compelling needs for an AmeriCorps grant.

“The Commission would like to offer a planning grant that would provide the school district with funds necessary to develop a project, systems, and conduct assessments to support a stronger AmeriCorps application for the 2019-2020 program year,” said Martin.

Martin concludes that plans for such a grant are moving forward and support training is scheduled next week. The planning grants range from \$20,000 to \$75,000 depending on the assessed needs.