

## Inside This Issue ...

<b>New Members/ Renewals</b>	<b>... 2</b>
<b>Operation Thank You</b>	<b>... 3</b>
<b>Spotlight on Small Business – The Back Yard/ Heavenly Hydrant</b>	<b>... 4</b>
<b>Business EXPO 2005</b>	<b>... 5</b>
<b>Leadership Rome</b>	<b>... 6</b>
<b>Ribbon Cuttings – HairStory, Scrap Happy and The Village at Maplewood</b>	<b>... 7</b>
<b>Calendar of Events</b>	
<b>Business After Hours – AmSouth Bank</b>	<b>... 8</b>

## U.S. 411 to I-75 Connector Lands \$21.8 Million

**p**resident **George Bush** signed a transportation bill giving the U.S. 411 to I-75 Connector \$21.8 million for completion. The connector, which will give commuters from Floyd County access to I-75, is on the Presidential Fast Track program, ensuring completion within a six year time frame. The recommended route has been selected and will be announced at a public hearing in the Fall of 2005. The purpose of the proposed U.S. 411 Connector is to provide a direct connection between U.S. 411, at its interchange on U.S. 41 west of Cartersville and I-75, and to relieve congestion along the existing U.S. 411-I-75 corridor. The project, which has been a major priority for the Chamber for years, has been ongoing since 1986.

The money has been secured and will be directly given to various projects. These projects include: **\$5 million for the Rome Bypass, \$21 million for the 411-75 Connector and \$2.5 million for purchase of rights of way.**



**Chamber Chairman of the Board Steve Kemp, United Community Bank, joins Senator Johnny Isakson at the Congressional Luncheon in Perry, Georgia.**



**Chamber Representative Sam Freeman, Coosa Valley Technical College, discusses transportation issues with Congressman Saxby Chambliss in Washington, D.C.**

"This is an example of how a focused effort of the Chamber has paid off. The perseverance of our members who have attended numerous meetings in Washington, D.C. and other governmental affairs has helped to make this number one priority a reality," said **Chamber Chairman of the Board Steve Kemp**.

Thanks to **Senator Johnny Isakson, Congressman Saxby Chambliss, Congressman Phil Gingrey, and Representative Paul Smith** and to the **Georgia Department of Transportation** and our legislative delegation. ■