

# 2005 Rome-Floyd County 20/20 Update

## PROGRESS OF GOALS

Since its inception in 1998, the Rome-Floyd 20/20 continues to make progress guiding the community's growth:

- to build a stronger economy.
- to build a more skilled workforce.
- to protect and improve our quality of life assets.
- to build a quality physical infrastructure for growth.
- to make more efficient use of government resources.

A five-year update was conducted by Market Street Services to analyze the progress of the 20/20 program. Just as the finding was then, we continue to succeed in productively building the quality of life in Rome and Floyd County.

As we enter the eighth year of implementation, our focus remains clear and steadfast to fulfill the needs and meet the challenges that were established as priority in those 20 goals.

## **SOME RECENT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

### BUILDING A MORE SKILLED WORKFORCE

**Goal 5:** Raise the high school completion rate to 80% in the Rome and Floyd County school systems without relaxing graduation standards, reduce teen pregnancy in Floyd County by 20% in the next 7 years, and target "at-risk" children for special instruction and counseling.

#### Accomplishments

- The Floyd County school system's latest available completion rates are 82.7%, while Rome continues to make progress toward reaching the 80% mark.
- Pepperell High School's science scores on the high school graduation test have been consistently well above the state average. Pepperell's percentage of students passing on their first attempt of the science test has been in the low 80's since 2002 while the state average has remained in the high 60's. The group will also be looking at Floyd County Schools' procedures and programs that are also available at the county's other high schools, Armuchee, Coosa and Model, that keep the system science scores well above the state average.
- The latest statistics on teen pregnancy reflect minimal change from 2001-2003.

**Goal 6:** Bring four-year public education to Floyd County and raise the percentage of adults with four-year college education to the statewide average.

#### Accomplishments

- Georgia Highlands College is offering four-year degrees in partnership with the State University of West Georgia.

**Goal 7:** Increase the effectiveness of workforce preparation efforts in Rome and Floyd County by enhancing the county's vocational-technical, adult education and retraining programs and forming a Workforce Development Consortium. Together with a high school completion rate of 80%, raise the percent of Floyd County's 24-year-olds with high school diplomas or equivalency certificates to 90%.

#### Accomplishments

- The Greater Rome Existing Industry Association industry partners in conjunction with the Floyd County School System developed the Industry Academy which provides enhanced training and work skills to high school juniors and seniors at Floyd Technical High School.
- Floyd County's 2005 enrollment through fall quarter for GED programs is 515 with an additional 210 in corrections facilities.

**Goal 8:** Raise the standardized test performance of Rome's and Floyd's public school students to 10% above the national average.

#### Accomplishments

- The Rome City School System announced the 2004 SAT test results. With a dramatic rise of 30 points to an average SAT score of 1058, Rome High School's results propelled the system ranking to fourth place in the state of Georgia.
- Floyd County Schools consistently average an SAT score of 1026 which is above state average and consistent with the national average. ■

*Note: "LR" beside names in some articles indicates Leadership Rome Alumni.*