

Inside This Issue ...

New Members/
Renewals

... 2

Spotlight on Small
Business ...
Hanging Around
Rome

... 3

"Wonderful
Reception" for
WGFB Public Radio

Pre-Legislative
Breakfast at the
Chamber

... 4

The Ridge Takes Over
For Oldies 95.7

... 5

Berry College Breaks
Ground on Cage
Center

... 6

Ribbon Cuttings:
Massey's and
Tan-N-Station

Main Elementary
Named National
Blue Ribbon School

... 7

Calendar of Events

Business After Hours

... 8

Chamber Board Endorses SPLOST

Return on Investment Substantial Thanks to Visitors, DOT

The Board of Directors of the Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce has announced that it has endorsed the 2006 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax that Rome, Cave Spring and Floyd County citizens will vote on November 7th.

"The benefits of this SPLOST are countless, and the positive impact on the community will last for generations," *Board Chairman Willis Potts* said. "There is something for everyone in this package, and every person and area of Floyd County will benefit. With an estimated 40 percent of sales tax paid by visitors to Rome and Floyd County, the return on investment will be substantial."

Among the projects listed as a part of the SPLOST package are: improvement to roads and streets; parks and recreation facilities; facilities such as the South Rome Youth Center (operated by the Boys and Girls Club), the Waste Water Treatment Plant and the Cave Spring Senior and Community Center; and the construction and renovation of fire stations and a fire training facility.

In all, the proposal amounts to approximately \$52.9 million in improvements. In addition, former State Board of Transportation Chairman and current board member **David Doss** announced in October that if voters approve this SPLOST, the *Georgia Department of Transportation will match up to 75 percent of the nearly \$28 million earmarked for improvements to local*



Nearly 15 percent of the benefits associated with the 2006 SPLOST will go toward parks and recreation facilities.

roads and streets. However, if voters reject the SPLOST, the additional money would not be awarded by the DOT.

To put the financial aspect of the package into perspective, with non-residents paying up to an estimated 40 percent of the sales tax collected in Floyd County, residents will pay just \$31.7 million of the original \$52.9 million package. Once the DOT's contribution of \$20.8 million is added, *Floyd County taxpayers will pay just \$31.7 million for benefits adding up to approximately \$73.7 million in value.*

"I view this SPLOST as an opportunity for us to become a more vital and progressive community," *Chair-Elect Evie McNiece (LR'02)* said. "The projects included are varied with some aspect of the list positively affecting each citizen in our community."

Information on the SPLOST proposal is available at www.romea.com. ■



Total SPLOST Package	\$52,936,825
Non-Residents Pay	\$21,174,730*
DOT Match	\$20,816,250
Received From Non-Residents	\$41,990,980
Actual Cost to Local Taxpayers	\$31,762,095
Total Benefit to Community	\$73,753,075

*assuming non-residents pay up to 40% of collected sales tax

SPLOST Projects:

Roads and Streets	(\$27,755,000 or 52.43%)
Fire and Safety	(\$ 2,110,000 or 3.99%)
Facilities	(\$15,274,825 or 28.85%)
Recreation	(\$ 7,797,000 or 14.73%)