

“Wonderful Reception” For WGPB Public Radio

For the first time, Rome became home to a public broadcasting radio station when *WGPB 97.7 FM* went live this summer. *Georgia Public Broadcasting* purchased the former WKCX, known locally as K98, and began broadcasting on the frequency June 30th.



“It’s almost unheard of that a public broadcasting agency would buy a commercial station,” local radio veteran **Michael McDougald** said. “But it didn’t happen overnight. It took about six months of negotiating.”

McDougald, a member of the Georgia Broadcasting Hall of Fame, spent nearly 55 years in the day-to-day activities of the broadcasting business, and currently serves as the chairman of the Foundation for Public Broadcasting in Georgia, Inc., the official licensee with the FCC of the 97.7 frequency in Rome. Now he’s helping WGPB grow in a new market.

The station will soon have new digs in *Georgia Highlands College’s* Heritage Hall, which is undergoing a renovation project that includes new spaces for WGPB and what McDougald hopes will be an entire “communication station” that will house several offices with state-of-the-art radio equipment.

Once WGPB moves into its new location, more local programming will be added to its schedule to go alongside National Public Radio and GPB favorites such as *A Prairie Home Companion*, *Morning Edition*, and *All Things Considered*, as well as plenty of classical and jazz tunes.

Even though the local flavor is still in the future, WGPB has received its share of compliments from its new audience.

“It’s had a wonderful reception,” McDougald said. “I’ve not heard one single complaint.”

Welcome to the market, WGPB. ■

Business After Hours - Nov. 3rd EXPO - Nov. 4th

Don’t forget, EXPO 2006 will be held Saturday, November 4th from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at The Forum. Admission is \$3.00 and children under 12 years of age will be admitted free. On Friday, November 3rd, a Business After Hours will be held at The Forum from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Admission to the Business After Hours is \$5.00.

A CHAMBER MEMBER INVITATION PRE-LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST AT THE CHAMBER FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8th – 8:00 A.M.

Please join us for the Annual Pre-Legislative Breakfast on Friday, December 8th. State legislators from Floyd County have been invited to give the Chamber an overview of the General Assembly actions for the coming year. The Governmental Affairs Committee will present these legislators with position statements on issues that have been decided by the Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Contact **Diane Tracy** at 706-291-7663 or dtracy@romega.com by **Monday, December 4th** to make reservations for this event. The cost is \$6 per person to attend.

PINNACLE POINTS

- **Rome** has been labeled a “Signature Community” by the State **Department of Community Affairs**, one of seven Georgia cities to earn that distinction. The selection is given to cities that have demonstrated a track record of success the state can depend on to share knowledge and assist peer cities.
- **Floyd Medical Center** announced that its Surgical Prevention Medicine Team received a VHA Georgia Leadership Award for Clinical Excellence, and its Emergency Care Center Throughput Team earned a VHA Georgia Leadership Award for Operational Excellence in October. Earlier this year, FMC also earned “Best Practices” recognition from the Georgia Medical Care Foundation.
- **Redmond Regional Medical Center** announced that it has received five-star ratings for clinical excellence in orthopedics, gastrointestinal and prostate surgery, according to a comprehensive study released by HealthGrades, the nation’s leading healthcare ratings company.
- **Greg Hopkins, U.S. Biofuels** president and owner, was honored by Georgia Agricultural Commissioner Tommy Irvin for his work in producing biodiesel, a cleaner alternative to diesel fuel.
- **VAST Industrial Supply**, a supplier of industrial, electrical, and mill supplies, announced that it will be relocating to a new 18,000-square-foot distribution center in the Berry Corporate Center this January. The company currently employs 20 full-time employees.
- Did you see **State Mutual Insurance’s** and **Darlington’s David Corbin** with President Bush? *Time Magazine* did! David and the President were in a photograph together that appeared in *Time* in September.