

Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce 96th Annual Meeting



TOP LEFT: 2007 Chairperson Evie McNiece (left) presented 2006 Chair Willis Potts with gifts to commemorate his year as Chairman of the Chamber's Board of Directors. Potts spoke of the success of the business community in Rome, Cave Spring and Floyd County in 2006, which included nearly \$62 million in investments and the addition and retention of nearly 900 primary jobs. McNiece's address included praise for the continuing partnerships between the City, the County and the Chamber, and the announcement of the 2007 Executive Committee, Board of Directors and new programs.



TOP RIGHT: Jim Schaefer, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Public Affairs, of the United States Department of Labor, delivered the keynote address in place of Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao, who was unable to leave Washington, D.C., due to inclement weather, at the 96th Annual Meeting. Schaefer spoke of the community's focus on an educated workforce and the willingness to adapt for change. He also praised its enhanced regional competitiveness, investment in its workforce and creation of jobs.



BOTTOM LEFT: Chick Harvey, Northwest Georgia Council of Boy Scouts, was named Ambassador of the Year at the 96th Annual Meeting. Ambassadors help celebrate the opening of small businesses, welcome members to various Chamber events and focus on recruitment and retention of members. Harvey seemed to be everywhere in 2006, from ribbon cuttings to Business After Hours to events at the Chamber.



BOTTOM RIGHT: Printworks, A Bulk Mail Plus Company was honored as the Small Business of the Year. The business opened nearly seven years ago with two employees in an 800 square foot garage behind Mike Robinson's (right with Chair-Elect Randy Quick) house and \$250,000 in annual sales. Now, it is housed in a 71,000 square foot building and employs 17 full-time and four part-time employees, and has annual sales of nearly \$3 million.

Photography by William T. Martin, Rome News-Tribune

SPECIAL NOTICE: The Chamber will begin sending statements electronically in April. All invoices will still be mailed but if any followup statements are needed, they will be sent to you via email. If you do not have an email address, both invoices and statements will continue to be sent to you through the U.S. Postal Service. In April, we will also have the capabilities to accept your payment with any major credit card online at www.romea.com.

F&P Georgia to Expand ... (continued from page 1)

F&P Georgia is a major investor in **Partners in Prosperity**, a five-year, \$1.8 million plan aimed at creating greater prosperity in Rome and Floyd Co. that kicked off in 2004.

Special thanks go out to the Georgia Dept. of Economic Development; U.S. Representative **Phil Gingrey**; Senator **Preston Smith**; Representatives **Barbara Massey Reece** and **Barry Loudermilk**; former Representatives **Bill Cummings** and **Paul Smith**, who were state Representatives at the time of the announcement; the **Floyd Co. Development Authority**; **Floyd County**; and the **City of Rome**. ■

Kellogg to Upgrade ... (continued from page 1)

According to one official, the impact of Kellogg Company's announcement reaches outside of Greater Rome and Floyd County.

"Kellogg has several locations around the state and is very familiar with Georgia's business assets," said **Craig Lesser**, former commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development. "We are pleased that the company is enhancing its presence in the state by making this significant investment to its facility in Rome."

The announcement comes near the midway point of the **Partners in Prosperity** plan, a five-year, \$1.8 million plan aimed at creating greater prosperity in Rome and Floyd Co. that kicked off in 2004.

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