

Forbes Says "Hail, Rome!"

Forbes Magazine featured Rome in its April 23 issue, highlighting the community's manufacturing, educational and cultural assets. The issue featured what Forbes called America's "Best Cities" and included feature articles about Rome; Spokane, Wash.; and Santa Cruz, Calif.

The article titled "Hail, Rome!" spotlighted the city's unique features that draw international manufacturers to Rome and Floyd County, quoting **Suzuki Manufacturing of America Corporation Vice President Akira Kyuji** and **Pirelli North America President and CEO Guy Mannino**. Both executives told Forbes that the efforts of **Coosa Valley Technical College** to mold courses to fit their respective companies' needs played a major role in their desire to locate in Rome. A new Floyd County School District charter high school career academy will also play a major part in the building of Rome's skilled workforce, according to the article.


The community's culture also impressed Forbes, as the magazine mentioned the musical prowess of the **Rome Symphony Orchestra** and **Shorter College Opera** graduates, the **Rome Braves**, the extensive wine collection at **La Scala Restaurant** and the atmosphere of **Old Havana Cigar Company**. **Darlington School**, whose current enrollment includes students from 16 countries, adds to the educational and cultural flavor of the community.

The article can be read in its entirety on the internet. The website address is: http://www.forbes.com/free_forbes/2007/0423/082.html.

Also in April, Rome was listed on *Inc. Magazine's* list of America's Boomtowns and among America's top 100 cities in which to live by Relocate-America.com. 



Upcoming Seminar – Drugs Don't Work

The Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a **Drugs Don't Work** seminar on Friday, May 18th from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Chamber, 1 Riverside Parkway, Rome. **Chuck Wade**, *State Director* of the Drugs Don't Work Program, will be presenting information on drugs in the workplace and how you can help to prevent it from happening in your workplace. He will also be sharing ways that you can save seven-and-one-half percent on your Workers' Compensation Insurance as well as how to save productivity and time in your business. Please RSVP to **Alison Smith (LR, '04)** at 706.291.7663 or asmith@romega.com. 

AMBASSADOR of the QUARTER

Congratulations to **Gail Johnson (LR, '03)**, *Coosa Valley Technical College*, the Ambassador of the Quarter for the 2007 first quarter. Ambassadors serve as liaisons between Chamber members and the Chamber. They are active in various Chamber events including ribbon cuttings, groundbreakings, and recruiting new members.



Gail Johnson

Gail has been employed by Coosa Valley Technical College for three and a half years as the Continuing Education Coordinator. Prior to her employment at the college, Gail worked in finance for **General Electric** for 20 years and at **Berry College** in the Continuing Education Department. She is married to Max Johnson and they have one "furry feline child" – Tessa. Gail is an active member of the **American Cancer Society**, **Exchange Club of Rome**, **Second Avenue Baptist Church** and the **Rome Runners Club**. Gail serves on the Board of Directors for the **Exchange Club Family Resource Center for Prevention of Child Abuse** and the **Coosa Valley Fair**. She is also the current *Chairperson* for the **Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce Business EXPO**, and is involved in the Chamber's current membership campaign.

Gail was recognized at a recent Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meeting, where she received an award for her hard work and commitment.

Congratulations, Gail, and thank you for all of your support with the Chamber and the community! 