


Steeplechase ... (continued from page 1)

The Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce hosted economic developers from across the State of Georgia, local industry and businesses that have expanded in the past two years, new investors, the Ambassador of the Year, and elected representatives of city, county and state governments at its hospitality tent at the *Atlanta Steeplechase* at *Kingston Downs* April 12.

Several of Rome and Floyd County elected officials, as well as the Director of the Georgia Economic Development Association, were present at the Chamber's tent. The Chamber was able to thank existing industries for their support and expansions. There were guests present from such companies, but not limited to, *F & P* and *Scott Logistics*. Also in attendance were state-wide project managers, as well as regional project managers from the Georgia Department of Economic Development in departments such as aviation, trade, international relations, and workforce development.

Special thanks to *La Scala Restaurant, Piero* and *Leigh Barba; Flowers by Jacki, Jacki Keith-Lansdell;* and *Sticks Bartending, Victoria Cornett.* 



Pictured left to right: Shani Sumner, Small Business of the Year Winner Greg Sumner, Professional Screening & Information (PSI), and Renee Rosenheck, Georgia Department of Economic Development.

Economic Development Highlights

- The Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce is taking every opportunity to generate leads to create business in Rome and Floyd County whether in Atlanta or as far away as Brussels.
- Al Hodge and Heather Seckmann briefed international economic development professionals who are with the Georgia Department of Economic Development from Brazil to Beechingstoke, Wiltshire*, from Mexico City to Munich and from Toronto to Tokyo.
- All of the Economic Development promotion is paying off because we are having a spike in prospective employers interested in the area.

* **Editor's Note:** For those of you who do not know (not you Andrew Kearton) Beechingstoke, Wiltshire is in England.

Young Professionals of Rome (YPRome)SM

Tuesday, May 6th, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Berry College, Oak Hill Museum

Focuses on professionals in their 20s and 30s, but all employees of Chamber member businesses are welcome. Please encourage your employees in their 20s and 30s to attend.

Cost: \$10.00 per person

You may register online at www.romeга.com

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Entrepreneur Friendly ... (continued from page 1)

The *Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce* has been reviewed by the *Georgia Department of Economic Development's Small Business and Innovation Division* established by Governor **Sonny Perdue**, and has been designated as an "**Entrepreneur Friendly**" community. Georgia's "Entrepreneur Friendly" Initiative assists the state's counties in cultivating business environments that develop and encourage entrepreneurs and small businesses.

The Chamber interviewed small businesses in the community to ensure that they are offering the assistance small businesses need. Governor Sonny Perdue has stated, "Over 95 percent of all Georgia businesses have fewer than 50 employees and most of Georgia's job growth is a product of their success. Simply put, Georgia's economy is only as strong as our small businesses."

"We are pleased that Rome and Floyd County have been designated as an "Entrepreneur Friendly" community. For us, 'Entrepreneur Friendly' is an important step toward building capacity for economic development. This exactly fits with the Rome/Floyd 20/20 Part II Economic and Community Development strategic plan and the Partners in Prosperity program," said *Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce Chairman of the Board Randy Quick (LR,'00), South 107, Q102, WRGA, WGJK*. Mr. Quick also added, "Small business is and always has been important to the community and the Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce. We look forward to implementing even more strategies and programs to further strengthen small business in our community."

Special thanks go to **Dawn Townsend, Georgia Department of Economic Development; Chairman of the Entrepreneur Friendly Committee Ansley Rice, Howse & Rice, CPAs;** and *Chairman of the Small Business Action Council Rob Harbison, Peachtree Planning*. Also thanks to **Heather Seckman, Economic Development Director; Alison Smith, Membership Director;** and **Caroline McWhorter, Economic Development Assistant,** of the Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce professional staff. 