

Chamber Newsletter [View in your browser.](#)



May 19, 2020

[Area Business Pledge to Keep Savannah Safe](#)



Mayor Van Johnson, the Savannah Area Chamber and other community partners introduced the Savannah Safe pledge initiative last week to rave reviews. To date, more than 515 Savannah area businesses have taken the pledge.

Savannah Safe pledge initiative is a voluntary program challenging area business to commit to following the CDC and FDA COVID-19 sanitation and safety guidelines. Businesses are asked to log onto SavannahSafe.com to take the “Savannah Safe” pledge, where they will be categorized by business type - like restaurants, accommodations, retail, professional, etc.

Participating organizations will then be e-mailed posters for display in their physical locations and on their digital platforms pledging that they are “Savannah Safe.” Consumers and visitors will be able to check SavannahSafe.com for listings of businesses that have made the commitment to keep our community healthy and protected from the spread of COVID-19. For a list of Savannah Area Chamber members who can help in the printing of Savannah Safe materials like posters, pull-up banners and decals, [click here](#).

This partnership is in conjunction with: City of Savannah, Savannah Area Chamber, Visit Savannah, Visit Tybee, the Tourism Leadership Council, the Metropolitan Savannah Hispanic Chamber, the Greater Savannah Black Chamber of Commerce, the Savannah Downtown Business Association, City Market and Buy Local Savannah and others.

To take the Savannah Safe Pledge today, [click here](#).

[Post-Crisis Planning Underway: Visit Savannah Prepares “Rediscover Our City” Campaign to Jump-Start Local Economy.](#)



Before the mayor or the Governor issued orders to shelter in place and avoid contact outside of the home, the Visit Savannah and Visit Tybee's communications team have been planning ahead for the time when restrictions are lifted and the first signs of recovery are apparent. Those times are now, and the 'Rediscover Our City' marketing campaign has begun.

The first phase of the marketing campaign is directed at locals, encouraging them to "Rediscover Our City" as soon restrictions are lifted by health and government officials and individuals feel safe to do so.

The campaign will include creative spots and social media assets with bucket list items for Savannah-area residents to check-off including ideas like "say hi to old friends at favorite restaurants," and "grab a to-go lunch to enjoy in a square."

Visit Savannah president Joseph Marinelli says Visit Savannah has three objectives for the campaign. First, to provide a boost to the lagging area economy and to get locals out around town to support area businesses and attractions. Second, to unify the message among local media outlets and channels so one message, "Rediscover Our City," resonates in a strong way to support the economy. And finally, to leverage Visit Savannah's leadership in the local marketplace as a strong marketing organization with the ability to drive traffic to local businesses that the community knows it to be. Visit Savannah's mission is to inspire overnight visitation, meaning its advertising and communications efforts take place out-of-market, so Savannah-area residents don't typically see them. Thanks to partnerships with local radio, TV, newspaper, magazine and billboard companies, residents and visitors should see creative around town next week.

For a sneak peek at the new "Rediscover Our City" campaign creative, [click here](#).

**Chamber Offers Members Flexible Dues Renewal Plans**

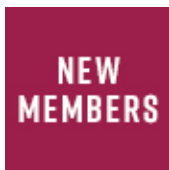


As the business community begins the process of “re-entry” into a more normal business routine, the Savannah Area Chamber is cognizant of the disruption and economic loss endured during COVID-19. We are thankful for your continued membership, as it is essential for us to execute our role of business advocacy, guidance, marketing and business-to-business networking. We know how critical this is, especially as we all try to recover. During this time, we would like to offer dues flexibility.

Dues flexibility is our commitment to retaining you as a member. Please contact our member services team if you need more time. We understand, and we are here to help.

To contact the Savannah Area Chamber Member Services team, [click here](#).

### Welcome New Chamber Members for April and May



Even in these tough economic times, the Chamber welcomed. We are excited to welcome the newest members of the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce. Please remember to do business with your fellow Chamber members.

[Click here](#) to view a list of our new members!

### Destinations Analysts Update on American Travel in the Period of Coronavirus



Source: [Destinations Analysts](#)

As Americans gradually open back up to travel, they are making plans for their trips—the likes of which include beaches, parks, social distancing, and hand sanitizer.

#### Key Findings to Know:

- American travelers are demonstrating increased comfort with (or despite) their concerns surrounding COVID-19.
- Feelings about the virus and travel are not uniform—geographically, demographically or psychographically.
- American travelers are opening back up to attending conferences and conventions.
- Travel planning is happening.
- Marketing could be effective in swaying travelers to choose a specific destination.
- Travelers need destination-level information on safety.
- Rural residents are the least comfortable with tourists presently, setting up potential tensions with travelers desiring the types of assets found in these places.
- Travel remains recognized for its positive emotional benefits for families.

For more information on the this study of American Travel by Destinations Analyst, [click here](#).

[Visit Savannah's Jeff Hewitt, CDME, Recognized as a "15 Over 50" by Connect](#)

The logo for Connect Association, featuring the word "Connect" in white text on a blue rectangular background.

Source: [Connect Meetings](#)

Jeff Hewitt, CDME, senior vice president at Visit Savannah and Visit Tybee Island, was recognized as a member of Connect Association magazine's "15 Over 50." The honor highlights the top professionals in the events industry. Connect Association is a national, B2B magazine that provides resources and ideas to professionals and planners in the meetings and events industry. Peers in the events world nominated Hewitt. Nominations were received from across the country, then reviewed and evaluated by the Connect staff based on references, industry involvement and other resources. For the full description of Hewitt's accomplishments, [click here](#).

The entire list of recognized honorees and individual profiles can be found [here](#).

## [US Coronavirus Map: Tracking the Outbreak](#)

Source: [USAToday](#)



The number of people diagnosed with COVID-19 each day has continued to increase as more tests have been administered across the country. Track coronavirus outbreaks across the US and in your state with daily updated maps from USA Today.

[Click here](#) for the latest data.

[Join Virtual Roundtable on the State of Film, TV & Digital Entertainment, Tomorrow May 20, at 12:30 p.m.](#)



Source: [Georgia Chamber](#)

The Georgia Chamber – in partnership with the Georgia Screen Entertainment Coalition (GSEC) – is hosting a Roundtable discussion featuring the film, TV & digital entertainment industry. Learn insights and information on today's industry issues and activity from leading giants of the big screen. Panelists include Laura Dames of WarnerMedia Studios, Ryan Millsap with Blackhall Studios, and Frank Patterson of Pinewood Atlanta Studios. Registration is FREE, but required in-advance, for this virtual roundtable.

To register, please [click here](#).

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

### Please Join the “100,000 Strong” Webinar Hosted by SBA’s Ashley D. Bell and Tip “T.I.” Harris



Source: [U.S. Small Business Administration](#)

On Wednesday, May 20 at 6p.m. Ashley D. Bell, SBA Regional Administrator and Entrepreneurship Policy Advisor for the White House Opportunity & Revitalization Council and Tip “T.I.” Harris, rapper, entertainer, and entrepreneur will kick off a call for minority entrepreneurs across the South. The 100,000 Strong call will highlight resources available to small business owners in the wake of COVID-19; protecting jobs and continuing economic growth.

Savannah Chamber members are invited to join the call by [clicking here](#).

### Georgia Chamber Call with Georgia DOT and Georgia Ports Authority, May 21



Source: [Georgia Chamber](#)

Members are invited to join the Georgia Chamber on Thursday, May 21 at 2 p.m. for a virtual town hall featuring Georgia Department of Transportation Commissioner Russell McMurtry and Georgia Ports Authority Executive Director Griff Lynch. The Georgia Chamber ask that questions be submitted in advance by tomorrow, May 20 at noon. To submit, use code #2957 and [click here](#). Learn more [here](#).

Please click [this link](#) to join the webinar.

Due to increased security measures, a password is now required to access these virtual conferences.

Please use password: 723763

Telephone - Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 646 558 8656

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or +1 253 215 8782

or +1 346 248 7799

Webinar ID: 883 0566 7720

Password: 723763

International numbers available, [click here](#).

[United Concordia Dental Signs on as Presenting Sponsor of Enmarket Savannah Bridge Run Corporate Challenge](#)





The Savannah Sports Council announced United Concordia Dental as the presenting sponsor of the 2020 Enmarket Savannah Bridge Run Corporate Challenge. The 30th Annual Enmarket Savannah Bridge will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2020. The Corporate Challenge division offers companies a chance to compete, while promoting the importance of team building, healthy living, and office camaraderie. Area CEOs are encouraged to join the United Concordia Corporate Challenge for their chance to be named the Fastest CEO in Savannah.

For more information about the Enmarket Savannah Bridge Run and the United Concordia Dental Corporate Challenge, [click here](#).

The Savannah Area Chamber is working hard to provide timely access to business resource information during the COVID-19 pandemic. The interpretation and recommendations of the information provided by the Chamber should not replace the consult of professional advisors familiar with your unique business situation. While it is believed that the content of external links is accurate and reliable, accuracy and completeness of information contained herein is not guaranteed. Users of this information accept all risks associated with the use of such information and agree that the Savannah Area Chamber has no liability to the user.



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