

# The Savannah Area Chamber News



Rusty Ross  
2019 Chairman

April 22, 2019

## EVENTS

### [Coffee Chats at the Catholic Diocese | May 7](#)

Wake up and smell the coffee! At this first-thing-in-the-morning networking opportunity, participants will begin with 30 minutes of open networking, then spend 30 minutes listening to each attendee share a 10-15 second "elevator pitch" about who they are and what they do. After everyone has spoken, the group will spend another 30 minutes meeting and greeting their new acquaintances.

### [Savannah's Salute: Annual Military Appreciation Luncheon | May 15](#)

The Savannah Area Chamber's Military Affairs Council is proud to honor local service members at its annual Military Appreciation Luncheon Wednesday, May 15 from noon-1:30 p.m. at the Savannah Convention Center. We are also honored to receive remarks from Hunter Army Airfield Garrison Commander and Silver Star recipient Lieutenant Colonel Ken Dwyer. This will be one of LTC Dwyer's final addresses as Garrison Commander before bidding Savannah farewell.

### [18th Annual Taste of Downtown Business Connection | May 16](#)

It's our most-anticipated networking event of the year! Join the Chamber for its 18th annual Taste of Downtown Business Connection, presented by Bank of America, bringing more than 40 member restaurants to historic Johnson Square to share small bites and sips of menu item favorites. With around 2,000 expected attendees, Taste of Downtown is the Chamber's biggest (and most delicious) networking opportunity of the year!

### [2019 Chamber Business Awards Banquet | June 13](#)

Make plans to attend the 2019 Chamber Business Awards Banquet, to be held Thursday, June 13 at the Savannah Marriott Riverfront. This annual awards presentation and dinner will honor standout leaders from the Savannah area and recognize individuals and businesses that represent local economic drivers including hospitality, manufacturing and small business.

## CHAMBER & VISIT SAVANNAH NEWS

### [Vote for Savannah in the 2019 Condé Nast Traveler Readers Choice Awards!](#)

The world's longest-running travel awards program celebrates the best of the best in travel today. Winners are selected entirely by readers, and the best way to get the word out is by rallying Savannah's loyal fans!

### [Applications Open for 2019-2020 Leadership Savannah Class](#)

Applications for the 2019-2020 Leadership Savannah Class are currently being accepted for the one-year class, which will be limited to 42 people. The application period will be open through June 23.

### [Quebecois Visitors Stop at Main VIC](#)

In April, the Main Visitor Center on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard usually sees a lot of Quebecois (people who live in the Canadian province of Quebec). This group of Quebecois is returning from wintering in Florida.

### [Vendor Opportunities Available for Taste of Downtown!](#)

More than 40 member restaurants and caterers participate in one of the Savannah Area Chamber's largest annual business connection events: the Taste of Downtown Business Connection. This event attracts more than 3,000 Chamber members and guests. You must register by **Friday, May 1** to be included in marketing materials; the deadline to sign up for participation is Tuesday, May 7.

### [Sales Team Attends Xperience Design Project Show in D.C.](#)

Visit Savannah's senior vice president Jeff Hewitt and director of sales Larry Browder met with prospective customers recently at the ASAE's XDP, or Xperience Design Project in Washington, D.C. At XDP, the region's top meeting planners met with destinations in a two-day meetings/trade show format.

### [UK Travel Journalist Enjoys Visit to Savannah](#)

Last week, Visit Savannah hosted travel journalist Natalie Marsh of Travel Weekly UK and her friend David while they toured Savannah.

### [Visit Savannah & Visit Tybee Attend Coastal Georgia Tourism Conference](#)

Last week, members of the Visit Savannah and Visit Tybee teams were in attendance at the Coastal Georgia Tourism Conference at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens.

### [Destination Services Calls Upon Group Bringing Conference in October](#)

This week Laurie Humphries, Visit Savannah's destination services manager, and Kellie Linder, national sales manager, spent some time with the National Association of Neonatal Nurses contacts who will be bringing their annual conference to Savannah this upcoming October.

### [Digital Content Team Provides Expertise on Monthly Tourism Chat](#)

Last week, social media coordinators Shannon Lowery from Visit Savannah and Pam Knowles from Visit Tybee were guest hosts of Tourism Currents' monthly Tourism Chat. On the chat's Facebook page, the social media pros discussed the best ways to use Instagram for tourism and destination marketing organizations.

### [Time is Running Out to Purchase Ad Space in the Relocation Guide!](#)

The Relocation Guide provides readers with the essential information they need in an easy-to-follow format so that their move to Savannah goes smoothly. Our newest residents can access this quick reference to find statistics, maps and resources to access the people, places and agencies that can assist with relocating their homes and businesses.

### [Hotel/Motel Tax and Occupancy Update for February, 2019](#)

Visit Savannah compiles City of Savannah, Chatham County and Tybee Island hotel/motel tax collection data, Savannah area hotel occupancy and Savannah area ADR (average daily rate) each month. Click here for information on February, 2019.

## TYBEE NEWS

### [Visit Tybee Shows London Travel Journalist Around](#)

Last week, Visit Tybee in partnership with Visit Savannah hosted travel journalist Natalie Marsh of Travel Weekly UK and her friend David on Tybee Island for a day.

### [22nd Annual Tybee Tour of Homes to Be Held May 4](#)

Tickets are \$45 per person and include admission into eight homes, a parking pass and lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Lunch will be served at Tybee Island Maritime Academy and proceeds from this year's tour will benefit the school.

## MEMBER NEWS

### [Become a Summer 500 Employer](#)

Recruitment for the city of Savannah's annual Summer 500 student intern program is now underway! Local businesses have historically shown great support for the program and the city is once again seeking involvement from area businesses to provide hands-on summer work opportunities for high school students. The program will begin with a week of career skills training on June 3 followed by 8 weeks of employment.

### [SCORE Savannah Presents. "How to Find, Hire and Motivate Great Employees"](#)

This Thursday, April 25, join SCORE Savannah's business mentors will train workshop attendees on how to find great employee candidates, conduct effective job interviews, and hire and retain people who have the skills, values, and attitude you need to build a successful team.

### [The Creative Coast's Geekend is This Weekend!](#)

A two-day program of presentations, panels and workshops on April 26 and 27 showcases Savannah's achievements in business, technology and arts innovation, discusses emerging trends and addresses our toughest challenges.

### [State of Small Business in Chatham County May 8](#)

The 7th Annual State of Small Business in Chatham County, presented by Best Business Brokers and Wells Fargo & Company, will be held Wednesday, May 8, at the Eckburg Auditorium at Savannah Technical College.

### [Workforce Development Spotlight for April 22](#)

With Savannah's economy rapidly growing and evolving, there has never been a more imperative time to invest in our local workforce. Numerous local programs are further bolstering our talent pipeline and providing skills needed for our workforce to thrive in a competitive economy.

### [Grand Openings & Ribbon Cuttings for April 22](#)

Please support your fellow Chamber members by attending these upcoming ribbon cutting and grand opening events, and congratulate these recipients of awards, accolades and those celebrating milestones!

### [New Members for April 22](#)

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!

