

# The Savannah Area Chamber News



January 7, 2019



**Joseph "Rusty" Ross**  
2019 Chamber Board Chair

## Chamber Members:

Happy New Year! In 2019, the Chamber will continue to represent our 2,200+ members to develop and enhance their businesses with legislative advocacy, business networking, infrastructure planning and representation on local, regional, state and national issues. We work with all our members within the various sectors of our economy such as manufacturing/port-related, small business, tourism, banking, insurance, health care, military, education, and others, providing a positive and innovative platform for interaction and progress for their businesses.

Possibly more important than any one factor in our future economic success is development of our workforce. Our public education system has been making positive steps over than last number of years, but our great business environment needs more. Most agree that pre-K and pre-pre-K are THE most important place to assure our children enter school prepared rather than already behind. We at the Chamber want to be a part of the solution as we work together to improve our workforce.

The City's (pending) new zoning ordinance will be impactful for years to come as we set forth smart zoning for our growth and look to limit any unintended consequences.

2019 will conclude with City elections, a set of decisions important for years to come.

It is also likely Chatham County will face the decision to continue SPLOST (the Special Local Option Sales Tax). We must have a balanced investment in infrastructure that anticipates future needs and prepares us to be the most attractive business environment possible, especially in today's highly competitive world of job and company growth. We need to assist in developing a priority list that reflects the balanced needs of our business community with a positive message that Savannah is a great place to *live, work and play*. We also need to provide appropriate encouragement to our Community leaders to complete existing projects in a timely manner and on budget.

Any SPLOST decision may impact future ESPLOST and potential TSPLOST prospects. We have invested a substantial amount in public education facilities in the past decade through favorable ESPLOST community support. We also face an increasing need to proactively invest in transportation infrastructure to provide our residents and business community necessary mobility in the future.

Certainly, this is just a sampling of what we all will face in Coastal Georgia, and we at the Chamber will stay focused on business needs balanced with maintaining the quality of life we enjoy in our fine communities. Stay tuned, stay aware and stay involved!

Thank you for your membership,

Rusty Ross

## EVENTS

### [The Chamber Power Hour | January 8](#)

Join the Chamber's Small Business Council at The Grand Lake Club at Southbridge for a lunch-and-learn and networking opportunity.

### [20th Anniversary Enmarket Savannah Hockey Classic | January 18-19](#)

The Enmarket Savannah Hockey Classic tournament is back for its 20th anniversary!

### [2019 Savannah-Chatham Day in Atlanta | January 24](#)

Join us at Savannah-Chatham Day in Atlanta in 2019! Savannah's business professionals will meet and mingle with local and state elected officials at this event, which includes legislative meetings beginning at 2 p.m. and a seafood reception immediately following.

### [January at The Jepson Business Connection | January 30](#)

You're invited to join the Chamber for January at The Jepson, a special business connection including tours of the "Monet to Matisse: Masterworks of French Impressionism" exhibit at The Jepson Center for the Arts.

### [2019 Economic Outlook Luncheon | February 4](#)

Join the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce for the 2018 Economic Outlook Luncheon at the Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort & Spa, Monday, February 4, 2019.

## CHAMBER & VISIT SAVANNAH NEWS

### [Savannah Featured on TODAY Show as a "Best Place to Travel in 2019"](#)

Savannah was recently featured on The TODAY Show as one of the "Best Places to Travel in 2019," thanks to its inclusion on a list of the same name in top travel publication *Travel + Leisure* magazine.

### [Vote for Savannah in Travel + Leisure's World's Best Awards 2019](#)

*Travel + Leisure*, one of the world's premier travel publications, has opened its 2018 World's Best survey to readers. When you take the survey, you'll be entered for the chance to win one of four incredible prizes.

### [Lacrosse Nationals Move to Savannah](#)

The NAIA Men's and Women's Lacrosse Invationals will find a new home in Georgia as the Savannah Sports Council and SCAD will partner as the event's new hosts for the 2020 and 2021 events at Memorial Stadium.

### [Traffic at VisitSavannah.com Breaks its Own Records](#)

This week, Visit Savannah released their 2018 VisitSavannah.com performance data. In its first year, the new and improved VisitSavannah.com crushed previous records.

### [Visit Savannah Attends GSAE Holiday Luncheon](#)

Members of Visit Savannah's meetings and conventions sales and services team and area partners enjoyed seeing their customers at the annual GSAE holiday luncheon last month.

### [National Sales Manager Attends Holiday Showcase](#)

Kellie Linder, national sales manager for Visit Savannah, and five partners attended the 2018 Association Forum Holiday Showcase event in Chicago on December 13.

### [Mindy Shea Appointed to GSIA Board](#)

Visit Savannah's Mindy Shea, director of tour, travel and international sales, was recently appointed by the Savannah City Council to the board of the Greater Savannah International Alliance. The GSIA's mission is to advance the city's position as a global community by fostering international relationships and initiatives that benefit the region through commerce, culture, tourism and education.

### [Visit Savannah and Savannah Sports Council Welcome New Coordinator](#)

The Savannah Sports Council and Visit Savannah are pleased to announce that Sports Council intern Kasey Ricketts has been hired to a permanent, full-time position as sports and services coordinator.

### [Roller Coaster Engineer Loves Savannah](#)

Ed's one of those interesting folks we're likely to meet at the Savannah Visitor Center. You see, life really has its ups and downs for Ed. But that's not such a bad thing: he designs roller coasters.

### [Get Your Brand on Visit Savannah TV!](#)

Introducing Visit Savannah TV, a video program running in visitor information centers, to highlight what to do, where to go, and where to eat and grab a drink. Previously, advertising opportunities were only available in the Main Visitor Center on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, and space was limited. With this exciting new opportunity, you can have dynamic content in all four visitor information centers.

## TYBEE NEWS

### [Visit Tybee Welcomes New Communications Coordinator](#)

Visit Tybee welcomes Ansley Connor to the team as the new communications coordinator. Connor is a Savannah native and a graduate of Georgia College and State University.

## MEMBER NEWS

### [New Members for the Week of 1/7/19](#)

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!

### [Grand Openings, Congratulations & Member Discounts for the Week of 1/7/19](#)

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!

### [SCORE Business Advisers Workshop January 14](#)

Based on the enthusiastic reception of SCORE's initial "Tools to Grow your Business" workshop program, SCORE is offering this six-session fall/winter series. The next workshop is scheduled for January 14, entitled "Human Resource Management: Bridges to a Successful Business."



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