



The Savannah Chamber Weekly Digest
Everything You Need to Know From the Chamber



A Note from Chamber of Commerce President Bill Hubbard

Friends,

As a member of Savannah's business community, we know COVID-19's disruption to your business is both confusing and costly. Our hearts go out to you and to all who have been affected both directly and indirectly by this rapidly changing crisis.

Your Chamber knows you are facing questions about the immediate future, and we want you to know that we are still here to support you, your business and your staff. Our team is working diligently to continue serving our membership and partners, and we will continue communicating through our social media channels and our website during these uncertain times. Right now, we are reaching out to businesses so we can identify who is remaining open and share that information with the rest of the business community. Please click [THIS LINK](#) to fill out the form. We are also in close contact with local officials and are remaining engaged in conversations about policy options being considered relative to the current crisis.

The Chamber will continue our regular operations but within the guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control. The CDC announced last week that meetings of over 50 or more should be postponed for the next eight weeks, and the president suggested in his press conference today that people limit gatherings to ten people or fewer. Therefore, we are postponing our upcoming council meetings, as well as all networking events scheduled through June 1.

For the foreseeable future, the situation will be fluid. Right now, the best thing that all of us can do is support each other, our friends and neighbors. Here are some ways you can help:

- Support local businesses by shopping online, ordering takeout, buying gift cards to use later, leaving positive online reviews, etc.
- Make a donation at our local [American Red Cross](#)
- Make a donation to our local [food bank](#)
- See assistance options at the United Way of the Coastal Empire's [Rapid Response portal](#)

[Atlanta Gas Light](#) and [Georgia Power](#) may be able to work with you on paying your bill during a downturn in business. There are additional resources available at the [Office of the Governor](#), the [U.S. Chamber](#), our local [Tourism Leadership Council](#), the [CDC](#), the [Georgia Department of Public Health](#) and [USA TODAY](#).

For right now, like the rest of the country, we are carefully monitoring the changing situation. We are strategizing for many potentialities. Although it's likely there will be some rough times ahead, we have every confidence that the tourism sector and small business will recover, and we will eventually return to our pre-coronavirus traveler numbers. In the meantime, let's remember that we're all part of a larger business community and do our best to keep everyone informed.

Bill Hubbard

HAPPENINGS

Chamber Legislative Update for March 16



On Friday, March 13, The Georgia General Assembly suspended the 2020 legislative session indefinitely due to concerns about COVID-19. This doesn't end the legislative session, only postpones it. When they do reconvene, it will be for the thirtieth legislative day. Legislators had until March 12, "Crossover Day," to pass their bills out of their chamber and to the other chamber for consideration. There were a couple of bills that passed out of their respective chambers that have a directly related to the Chamber's Legislative Agenda.

[Read more >](#)

Southern Living Names Savannah a "South's Best" City Again in 2020



Southern Living's 2020 "South's Best" awards are out and Savannah has held onto its place at **No. 2 on the list of "South's Best Cities"**! Big applause to everyone in the community who makes Savannah one of the best places to live, work and visit in the country.

[Read more >](#)

Verify Your Business Information for the 2020-21 Relocation Guide



We are preparing to publish our 2020-21 Relocation Guide, in which non-hospitality members **receive a complimentary listing** (including your company name, phone number and website). To help us print the most accurate information, please log on to the **Member Extranet** to verify your listing.

[Read more >](#)

Visit Savannah and Convention Center Welcome ASPB Site Selection Committee



Visit Savannah staff along with hotel and convention center partners welcomed the site selection committee from the American Society of Plant Biologists last week. The ASPB was in Savannah to do a final site inspection before making their decision on which city will host their August, 2023 annual convention.

[Read more >](#)

Visit Savannah and Visit Tybee Represent at Georgia on My Mind Day



Mary Mallory from Visit Savannah and Liz Hood from Visit Tybee assisted visitors at the state Welcome Center on I-95 last week on Georgia on My Mind Day, where representatives from all over the state are invited to share information about their destination to visitors at the Welcome Center.

[Read more >](#)

Visit Tybee Welcomes New Social Media Coordinator



Visit Tybee is welcoming a new staff member to the team! Originally from Boyertown, Pennsylvania, Shaniya Shabrach-Ortiz is Visit Tybee's new social media coordinator. Shaniya received a BFA in Fashion Marketing Management and an MA in Luxury and Fashion Management from the Savannah College of Art and Design.

[Read more >](#)

MORE HAPPENINGS ON OUR WEBSITE:

CHAMBER | VISIT SAVANNAH | VISIT TYBEE | SPORTS COUNCIL



Ribbon Cuttings

Please support your fellow Chamber members by attending these upcoming ribbon cutting and grand opening events!

[READ MORE >>](#)



New Members

We are excited to welcome our newest members! Please do business with your fellow Chamber members!

[READ MORE >>](#)



Workforce

Each week we highlight a local program that bolsters our workforce and provides the skills needed to thrive in a competitive economy.

[READ MORE >>](#)

RECENTLY AT THE CHAMBER



Recent Events:

- Courses & Conversation at the Grand Lake Club, Mar 3 >
- A Night in Old Savannah Business Connection, Feb 20 >
- Speed Networking at Savannah Tech, Feb 19 >

