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



A Note from Chamber Board of Directors Chair Jon Pannell

Friends,

As a member of the Savannah business community, our hearts are with you and your teams as the world continues to battle the COVID-19 virus. We are in unprecedented times, and now more than ever, Savannah needs to stand united as we support the actions taken by our local, state and federal governments to keep our families and our businesses safe. Today, Governor Kemp announced a ban on gatherings of 10 people or more and issued a shelter-in-place order for the medically fragile, meaning the elderly and immunocompromised. He is also requiring the state-wide closing of businesses that cannot provide at least six feet of distance between patrons at all times, and gave the Department of Public Health the

authority to close businesses and assemblies, including churches, that can't or don't comply with the rules.

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.

We have compiled a list of resources you can find [here](#) with information to help ease financial burdens and help prepare businesses for recovery.

Some of those include:

SAFECITY OFFERING FREE CCTV SECURITY DURING COVID-19 CRISIS

Local Security Company, scDataCom, is providing its video surveillance systems free to local businesses during health crisis shutdowns. [Click here for details.](#)

C CORP TAX EXTENDED

For C Corporations, income tax payment deadlines are being automatically extended by the IRS until July 15, 2020, for up to \$10 million of their 2019 tax due. This relief also includes estimated tax payments for tax year 2020 that are due on April 15, 2020. [Click here for details.](#)

INSURANCE

The Georgia Insurance Commission issued a directive making additional Business Interruption Insurance available, specifically tailored toward potential losses due to COVID-19. [Click here for details.](#)

EMERGENCY COVID-19 LEGISLATION

What realtors need to know about the federal emergency measures passed last week. [Click here for details.](#)

COMCAST

Comcast is offering free access to its Xfinity WiFi hot spots for everyone, including non-subscribers, for 60 days and providing unlimited data to its customers for no extra charge. [Click here for details.](#)

While most of us are sheltering in place and waiting for the all-clear from the CDC, community leaders are making great efforts to bring the community together remotely and in spirit by organizing uplifting and meaningful campaigns and digital concerts. We hope you'll join us to hear

[Jeremy Davis and the Fabulous Equinox Orchestra stream a live show tonight at 8 p.m.](#), sharing some brightness to begin our week.

There are rough times ahead for us in Savannah and Chatham County; however, we have every confidence that the tourism sector and small business will recover. The Chamber will continue our regular operations but within the guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control. In the meantime, let's remember that we're all part of a larger business community and know your Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce is working diligently keep our members informed.

Thank you for your membership,
Jon Pannell
2020 Board Chair

HAPPENINGS

[Local/State, Federal Resources Available on Chamber Website](#)



As health and government officials are working to maintain the safety, security, and health of our communities, Savannah area small businesses are encouraged to do their part to keep their employees, customers, and themselves healthy. All Savannah area employers need to consider how best to decrease the spread COVID-19 in their workplace in the event of an outbreak in Chatham and surrounding counties. Click below to explore what resources are available for individuals and businesses at this time.

[Read more >](#)

[Chamber Events Suspended Through June 1](#)



As a member of Savannah's business community, we know COVID-19's disruption to your business has been both confusing and costly. The CDC has recommended that all social gatherings be postponed for the next eight weeks as a precaution against the spread of COVID-19.

To align with this and the other recommended precautions, the Chamber has decided to suspend all of its scheduled events through June 1.

We are staying informed and hopeful as we look for future potential dates going forward to reschedule some of our signature events. For right now, we are carefully monitoring the changing situation, and will let you know once gatherings are scheduled to resume.

[Read more >](#)

[What Do the Coronavirus Response Acts Mean for Me?](#)



Last week, Congress and President Trump instituted measures intended to provide relief to individuals and families experiencing hardships during the declared national COVID-19 emergency. These relief measures will roll out in three phases. Click below for a breakdown of these measures written by the Chamber's director of governmental affairs Jared Downs.

[Read more >](#)

[City and County Emergency Declarations](#)



Over the course of the last week, both Savannah Mayor Van Johnson and Chair of the Chatham County Commission Al Scott declared a state of health emergency in the city and county. The details on how each of these declarations will affect local business are below.

[Read more >](#)

[Be Counted: Make Sure to Complete Your Census 2020](#)



Even during this stressful and confusing time, it's important to look ahead to the future, and to prepare for the time when we can return to business as usual and continue our work to repair the local economy. That's why it's crucial that every household complete the Census 2020 form they receive in the mail, which has been going out since March 12, and count every individual residing in that household.

[Read more >](#)

MORE HAPPENINGS ON OUR WEBSITE:

[CHAMBER](#) | [VISIT SAVANNAH](#) | [VISIT TYBEE](#) | [SPORTS COUNCIL](#)

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 >



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