

The Savannah Area Chamber News



Rusty Ross
2019 Chairman

May 13, 2019

EVENTS

[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!

[Business on the Move at The Cork House | June 11](#)

Business on the Move is a special networking opportunity offered several times a year to highlight local Chamber businesses. On Tuesday, June 11, The Cork House is inviting Chamber members and guests to an after-hours networking opportunity from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

[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

[Give to The Two Hundred Club of the Coastal Empire in Memory of Sgt. Kelvin Ansari](#)

Our community was saddened this past weekend by the tragic news that two officers with the Savannah Police Department, Sgt. Kelvin Ansari and Officer Douglas Thomas, were fired upon in the line of duty--brave actions that took the life of Sgt. Ansari. One way you can help the family of Sgt. Kelvin Ansari and the other brave families of first responders in our area is by supporting The Two Hundred Club of the Coastal Empire.

[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!

[2018 Longwoods Travel USA Study Reports Another Record-Breaking Year for Savannah Tourism](#)

Last week, Visit Savannah reported the 2018 results of the Longwoods Travel USA Study to its board of directors, showing a 3.2 percent increase over 2017 in visitor spending—to slightly more than \$3 billion—and an increase in the average length of stay from 2.4 to 2.6 nights.

[Visit Savannah Senior Leadership Supports TLC Golf Tournament](#)

Visit Savannah staff and board members formed a team to play at the 21st annual TLC Golf Tournament last week to benefit the TLC Scholarship Fund. The Visit Savannah team didn't win, but the players were pleased to have helped support a good cause while spending a beautiful day on the green at The Westin.

[Sports Council Honored with Marketing Award for Enmarket Savannah Bridge Run](#)

Last week, while the Savannah Sports Council team attended the National Association of Sports Commissions Symposium in Knoxville, Tennessee, they were honored with the Event Marketing Campaign of the Year award for their work on the Enmarket Savannah Bridge Run.

[Visit Savannah President Helps with Habitat for Humanity](#)

Visit Savannah president Joseph Marinelli, along with other local tourism and business leaders in the community, assisted in the renovations of a house for the Coastal Empire Habitat for Humanity last week.

[May Coffee Chat Draws Crowd to Sip and Share](#)

Wake up and smell the coffee! At this first-thing-in-the-morning networking opportunity, held at the Catholic Diocese's event venue this month, participants began with 30 minutes of open networking, then spent 30 minutes listening to each attendee share a 10-15 second "elevator pitch" about who they are and what they do. After everyone had spoken, the group spent another 30 minutes meeting and greeting their new acquaintances.

[The "New" Olde Pink House Impresses Prospective Meeting Guests](#)

Visit Savannah director of sales Larry Browder recently hosted a site visit for meeting planners with the National Institute of Safety who are considering Savannah for a January 2020 program.

[International Visitors Enjoy New Photo Opp Spot at VIC](#)

Some visitors from Argentina were among the first to use the new photo opp spot at the main Visitor Center on MLK last week. The backdrop showing Savannah's iconic Forsyth Fountain gives visitors who stop in at the Visitor Center their first taste of the beautiful National Historic Landmark District.

[Visit Savannah Hosts Journalists from New York and West Palm Beach](#)

Freelance journalist and digital space influencer Skye Sherman and her husband Aaron were visiting to learn about Savannah's food culture, and Jessen O'Brien, associate editor of Endless Vacation was checking out Savannah's quirky culture and welcoming vibe. Director of PR Erica Backus gathered everyone together at Leopold's Ice Cream to sample some of the shop's best flavors and learn about the brand's 100 years of delicious history.

TYBEE NEWS

[Visitor Center Managers Attend Regional VIC Conference](#)

Liz Hood and Mava Byrd of the Tybee and Savannah Visitor Centers attended the Georgia Regional Visitor Information Center Conference last week in Vidalia.

MEMBER NEWS

[City Offering Free Overnight Rides for Downtown Employees](#)

Encourage your overnight staff to download the new Downtowner app to get free nightly transportation from secure downtown parking to work and back. The service runs from 5 p.m. to 5 a.m. every night, and is available within the boundaries of MLK Boulevard, East Broad Street, Park Avenue and the Savannah River.

[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.

[Workforce Development Spotlight for May 13](#)

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 May 13](#)

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 May 13](#)

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!

SAVANNAH
AREA CHAMBER

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