

The Savannah Area Chamber News

May 28, 2019



Rusty Ross
2019 Chairman



SCCPSS Beacon Shares Positive School System News with the Community

With workforce development being one of the Savannah Area Chamber's top priorities, we are committed to supporting and encouraging the success of our public school system, as this is where the foundation of a skilled talent pipeline and robust economy lies.

While there is always work to be done, the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System has a great deal of ongoing good news to share, like in the last year, the SCCPSS achieved a graduation rate of 86.6%, once again surpassing the state's graduation rate of 81.6%.

[Click here to find out more about the SCCPSS Beacon.](#)

EVENTS

[Courses & Conversation at The Grand Lake Club | June 4](#)

At this lunchtime networking opportunity, participants will begin their meal with an appetizer course and networking with the people at their table, then after 20 minutes, rotate to another table to enjoy their entree with another group of nine. Finally, a third rotation will bring them to a third group of nine to enjoy a final course of coffee and dessert while they talk about who they are and what they do.

[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.

[Coffee Chats at The Clyde Venue | July 2](#)

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. Sip on coffee while you pass out business cards and meet potential clients and partners.

CHAMBER & VISIT SAVANNAH NEWS

[Visit Savannah Brings Back the "Roaring '20s"](#)

Visit Savannah staffers, along with representatives from some hotel sales teams and the Savannah Convention Center, partnered with the American Prohibition Museum to recreate the "roaring '20s" for a special video and photo shoot. The theme was created to boost attendance for next year's Georgia Society of Association Executives annual convention.

[Visit Savannah Hosts Events in Chicago](#)

The Visit Savannah Meeting & Conventions team recently hosted a week of events in Chicago including a rooftop event at Wrigley Field, a lunch in the downtown district and a top golf event in Schaumburg.

[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!

[Calling All Leadership Savannah Alumni](#)

Calling all Leadership Savannah alumni: we want to communicate with you! Please help us to stay in touch by verifying your email address and encouraging your fellow graduates to do so as well.

[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.

[Visitor Center Sees Travelers from Wales](#)

All of Savannah's Visitor Centers see visitors from all over the world each day. Recently, this couple from Wales spent some time in Savannah and chatted with the first impression specialists at the Main Visitor Center on MLK. They browsed rack cards, collected area information, and taught the staff to say "good morning" in Welsh ("bora da").

[Hotel/Motel Tax and Occupancy Update for March, 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 March, 2019.

TYBEE NEWS

[Tybee Talk: Treat Visitors Like Family](#)

Join your fellow members for another Tybee Talk customer service training! Two sessions are available, and both are open to any and all businesses on Tybee Island. Following the class, a tour of the island will be offered that will update attendees on all that Tybee has to offer.

[Tybee Island and Savannah Represented at Georgia on My Mind Day](#)

Recently, Liz Hood from the Tybee Island Visitor Center represented the destination on Georgia On My Mind day at the Georgia Welcome Center in St. Mary's, along with Mary Mallory and Teresa Willard with Visit Savannah. The group greeted visitors, gave travel tips, handed out the 2019 Insider's Guide, and more. There are 11 official Georgia visitor information centers that welcome more than 13 million guests each year.

MEMBER NEWS

[Your Business Can Help Improve the Visitor Experience](#)

If you are interested in having one or more display racks with our Insider's Guides, please contact Jenny Dent at JDent@VisitSavannah.com. The Insider's Guide, formerly known as the visitor's guide, not only provides a tremendous amount of information to folks either planning their visit or actually in-destination, but they also increase the awareness and exposure of our many dedicated advertisers in the guide.

[Public Open House Scheduled for I-16/I-95 Interchange Improvements](#)

A Public Information Open House is planned in the project corridor to share the latest information regarding 16@95 Improvement Projects. This open house will provide an opportunity for the public to view Georgia DOT's Design-Build Team's innovative approach to reconstructing the I-16/I-95 Interchange and I-16 corridor widening. Join your neighbors and associates at the open house at the Garden City City Hall on June 6.

[Free Registration Available for Small Business Series: Atlanta](#)

On June 12, the U.S. Chamber and the Georgia Chamber, in collaboration with MetLife, will welcome business builders from across Georgia to our Small Business Series: Atlanta. For the second year in a row, the Georgia Chamber is co-hosting this terrific program alongside the U.S. Chamber, and extending a **NO COST** invitation to learn new tools to help business owners, members, and entrepreneurs thrive, grow, and network with their peers and other industry experts.

[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.

[Workforce Development Spotlight for the Week of May 27](#)

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.

[New Members for the Week of May 27](#)

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 & Ribbon Cuttings for the Week of May 27](#)

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!