

The Savannah Area Chamber News



Rusty Ross
2019 Chairman

May 6, 2019

EVENTS

[Coffee Chats at the Catholic Diocese | May 7](#)

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.

[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. **Please RSVP for this event by Friday, May 10.**

[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

[Governor Kemp Visits Savannah to Sign Convention Center Bill](#)

At the end of April, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp signed a bill into law that officially changes the convention center on Hutchinson Island to the Savannah Convention Center. The new name is the most visible change with House Bill 525 being signed into law, but it also creates a new authority to oversee operations.

[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!

[Media Relations Team Hosts Annual Media Luncheon in Atlanta](#)

Last week, Visit Savannah and Visit Tybee's media relations teams partnered with SEDA and several hospitality members to host their annual destination update luncheon for Atlanta-area media, where the partners gave an update on recent openings, Savannah's tourism economy, and upcoming events.

[Applications Open for 2019-2020 Leadership Savannah Class](#)

Applications for the 2019-2020 Leadership Savannah Class are currently being accepted for the one-year class, which will be limited to 42 people. The application period will be open through June 23.

[Visit Savannah VP Speaks at Destinations International Summit](#)

Visit Savannah Vice President of Communications and Marketing Jeremy Harvey spoke at Destinations International's CMO Summit on April 30 in Houston. Harvey appeared on a panel hosted by Brand USA's chief marketing officer Tom Garzilli on the topic of "The Element of Inspiration."

[Savannah Hosts UK Tour Operators](#)

Seven travel counselors from UK-based DialAFlight recently spent time in Savannah, learning about our city and all it has to offer their travelers.

[Senior National Sales Manager Meets with Incoming Conference Rep](#)

Last week, senior national sales manager at Visit Savannah Jennifer Thompson and Savannah partners met up with Janice Eidson of the Georgia Municipal Association to catch up with her before the GMA annual conference, set for June in Savannah.

[Publix Savannah Women's Half & 5K Results in \\$2.5M Direct Visitor Spend](#)

Publix Savannah Women's Half Marathon & 5K recently reported their 2019 event numbers, showing over 2,800 participants from 44 states and 6 different countries. The event generated a direct visitor spend of over \$2.5 million and was responsible for booking over 4,100 room nights.

[Entertainment Sales Manager Attends Film Travel Trade Show](#)

Visit Savannah group tour & entertainment sales manager Anjuli Derien attended Tour Connection, a film and entertainment travel trade show, held in New York City last week.

[Vendor Opportunities Available for Taste of Downtown!](#)

More than 40 member restaurants and caterers participate in one of the Savannah Area Chamber's largest annual business connection events: the Taste of Downtown Business Connection. This event attracts more than 3,000 Chamber members and guests. The final deadline to participate is **Tuesday, May 7.**

TYBEE NEWS

[Visit Tybee Communications Coordinator Addresses Atlanta Media at Luncheon](#)

At last week's annual destination update for the Atlanta media, Visit Tybee's communications coordinator Ansley Connor addressed the group to give an update on what's Tybee Island happenings. Connor has been the main media relations contact at Visit Tybee since January, and previously interned with both Visit Savannah and Abshire PR.

MEMBER NEWS

[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.

[State of Small Business in Chatham County May 8](#)

The 7th Annual State of Small Business in Chatham County, presented by Best Business Brokers and Wells Fargo & Company, will be held Wednesday, May 8, at the Eckburg Auditorium at Savannah Technical College.

[Savannah SCORE and Savannah Tech Host Quickbooks Workshop May 8](#)

In this workshop, Lisa Reavis, CPA from Sand Dollar Accounting Firm will walk attendees through how to set up their QB Online account, setting up their chart of accounts, entering deposits and expenses, creating a basic invoice, using reports and more.

[Workforce Development Spotlight for the Week of May 6](#)

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 the Week of May 6](#)

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 the Week of May 6](#)

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!

