

The Savannah Area Chamber News

May 20, 2019



Rusty Ross
2019 Chairman



I-16/I-95 Interchange Improvements Open House June 6

Later this year, the highly-anticipated improvements at the I-16/I-95 interchange are slated to begin. Part of the Major Mobility Investment Program, the 16@95 Improvement Projects will provide infrastructure enhancements to the interchange at I-16 and I-95 and the I-16 corridor. These projects are intended to **ease congestion, decrease travel times, and increase safety and operational efficiencies** for passenger and freight vehicles. 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** for the first session from **11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**, and/or the second session from **4 to 7 p.m.**

[Click here for more information on the Major Mobility Investment Program.](#)

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 Chat 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

[Georgia Secretary of State Visits Chamber Offices](#)

Last week, Georgia's Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger and his aide Will Hughes visited the Chamber offices while in Savannah.

[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!

[Chamber Honors Service Members at Military Appreciation Luncheon](#)

Last week, the Savannah Area Chamber's Military Affairs Council was proud to honor local service members at its annual Military Appreciation Luncheon at the Savannah Convention Center. The sacrifices made by all who have taken the oath to protect our nation were honored, and an outstanding service member from each military branch was recognized by the Council.

[Andrew Low House Hosts May Tour & Travel Meeting](#)

Members of Savannah's hospitality community who attended this month's Visit Savannah Tour & Travel meeting were treated to an off-site meeting at the famed Andrew Low House. Most attendees had never visited the home of Juliette Gordon Low's father-in-law and were excited to hear about the potential for group tours as well as events in the courtyard.

[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.

[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.

[Leadership Savannah Alumni: We're Trying to Get In Touch With You!](#)

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.

[Taste of Downtown Business Connection Makes for Delicious Networking](#)

Last week, the Chamber held its Taste of Downtown Business Connection, its largest (and tastiest!) networking event of the year. Around 40 member businesses set up tables in historic Johnson Square to provide bites and sips for nearly 2,500 attendees as they exchanged business cards and met up with colleagues and partners.

[Visit Savannah Participates in Georgia Grown Event](#)

Last week, Visit Savannah participated in a Georgia Grown familiarization tour with more than 100 participants, including journalists, Georgia farmers and other Georgia makers like Leopold's Ice Cream, Ghost Coast Distillery and B's Cracklin' Barbecue.

[Communications Team Hosts Luxury Travel Writer](#)

Recently, Visit Savannah hosted luxury travel writer Tara Povey for a few days of experiencing spring in Savannah and Tybee Island.

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.

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.

[Savannah SCORE and OnDeck to Host "Simple Steps to Choosing the Right Financing"](#)

The Savannah chapter of SCORE, the nation's largest provider of free business mentoring services and educational programs for small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs, in partnership with OnDeck, are pleased to present the "Simple Steps to Choosing the Right Financing" workshop May 23 at the Savannah SCORE offices at 111 East Liberty Street.

["Show Us Your Badge" Promotions Open Through May 24](#)

Get conference attendees to visit your place of business using the "Show Us Your Badge" program, available to hospitality members at no cost! Simply offer a discount or incentive and we will promote your business to conference attendees before and during their stay.

[Workforce Development Spotlight for the Week of May 20](#)

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 20](#)

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 20](#)

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!

