



CITY OF *Savannah*

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Monthly Newsletter, January 2017

Volume 1, Issue 1

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Newsletter Welcome

Happy New Year, Savannah Business Community!

The City of Savannah Economic Development Department would like to thank you for being such a vital part of our growing business community. As we move into the new year, we are looking forward to working with you to foster a strong local economy and to make Savannah an even better place to do business.

We would like to kick off 2017 by introducing you to our monthly newsletter. The newsletter will highlight local businesses, industry news and events, upcoming classes and workshops, and the various resources available through the City and its partners. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please contact us at: EconomicDevelopment@savannahga.gov.

Sending you best wishes for a happy and healthy new year!

With warm regards,

Economic Development Department

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Business Courses & Workshops
Savannah Entrepreneurial Center

Economic Outlook Luncheon
January 18, 2017, Noon-1:30pm
Savannah International Trade & Convention
Center

Geekend by The Creative Coast
January 27 - 28, 2017
The Guild Hall

Small Business Council SMART Luncheon
February 7, 2017, 11:30am-1:00pm
Savannah Morning News Auditorium

Small Business Chamber
Monthly Networking Breakfast
February 14, 2017, 7:45-9:15am
305 Fahm Street

Local Business Spotlight: Encryption Escape



Karin Johnson is the proprietress of Encryption Escape, a live-action escape game where players are challenged to complete a mission by locating clues, solving puzzles, and cracking codes. With her husband and son business team, Karin designed three elaborately themed rooms inspired by nefarious pirate kidnapers, a larcenous art heist, and a mysterious sorority thriller. The missions vary in difficulty but promise an enticing experience with a high production value. Encryption Escape launched in November, 2016, at 31 Montgomery Street in Savannah's Historic District.

When Karin was in the planning stages of Encryption Escape, she enrolled in the free Business Education Course at the Savannah Entrepreneurial Center (SEC). The SEC staff helped Karin develop a practical financial model and create future projections to approach investors with confidence. Through the SEC and the City of Savannah Economic Development Department, Karin learned about loans and incentives available through the City, local permitting regulations, business licensing, and the essential steps to follow for a successful business launch.

Business News



This is #MySavannah

Visit Savannah has launched a new marketing campaign, *My Savannah*, which features eight diverse experiences of Savannah through the eyes of locals. In addition to crafted itineraries based on varied interests, the My Savannah website shares an engaging video series to showcase local businesses, heritage, visual arts, brewery, culinary, music, outdoor, running, and architecture experiences.

(Visit Savannah)



VITA in Savannah

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people who generally make \$54,000 or less, persons with disabilities, and limited English-speaking tax payers. Starting January 18, 2017, the Savannah Entrepreneurial Center will be offering free VITA services with IRS-certified volunteers on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00am-2:00pm.

(Savannah Entrepreneurial Center)



\$1 Million for Small Business

The Small Business Assistance Corporation received a \$1 million federal award to promote small-business development through its lending programs. The award supports alternative lenders committed to making business capital available to underserved sectors. The SBAC will prioritize lending to qualified entrepreneurs unable to access traditional commercial lending products.

(Business in Savannah)

Featured Resource: Economic Development Department



The City of Savannah Economic Development Department aims to facilitate economic development activities that foster a strong local economy, spur business and job growth, and provide for a better quality of life in Savannah. The Department's programs and activities are geared toward improving economic opportunities and increasing financial well-being for individuals, families, and small businesses of Savannah.

Department services include:

- Business outreach, support and assistance
- Development and administration of small business incentives to encourage business development and retention
- Commercial corridor revitalization activities
- Asset and wealth building services for Savannah residents
- Entrepreneurial Center and Training
- Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises Program

City of Savannah

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