



# CITY OF Savannah

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Monthly Newsletter, February 2017

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## Local Business Spotlight: Big Bon Wood Fire Pizza



(Left to right: Sunju Pitts, Anna Heritage, and Kay Heritage)

Kay Heritage and Sunju Pitts are the Co-Owners of [Big Bon](#), Savannah's first wood fire pizzeria on wheels. Big Bon's 12-inch Neapolitan style pizzas are made from locally sourced ingredients and inspire recipes like the Classic Margherita with fresh basil and mozzarella, and the creative Korean Mama Bon with homemade kimchi and pork bulgogi. With the popularity of food trucks on the rise in Savannah, Big Bon looks forward to expanding their catering operations to street side convenience.

Kay and Sunju enrolled in business classes at the [Savannah Entrepreneurial Center](#) (SEC). With the help of the SEC staff, the Big Bon team streamlined their business plan and learned about small business taxes before their launch on July 30, 2016. "Everything has been new to us during this first year of business. From accounting, marketing, branding, and everything else in between," writes Anna Heritage, Big Bon's Marketing Director. The Big Bon team learned from the Savannah business community and are grateful for their "tribe" of support.

Check out Big Bon on social media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

## Business News



### [The FAST Act](#)

The Georgia State Senate presented the FAST Act for Fairness, Accountability, Simplification, and Transparency. The act promises to boost Georgia's small businesses by streamlining the regulatory processes for licensing and permitting. The act would require state and local agencies that issue licenses or permits to establish a fee schedule that includes turnaround times.



### [Urban Savannah Chamber of Commerce](#)

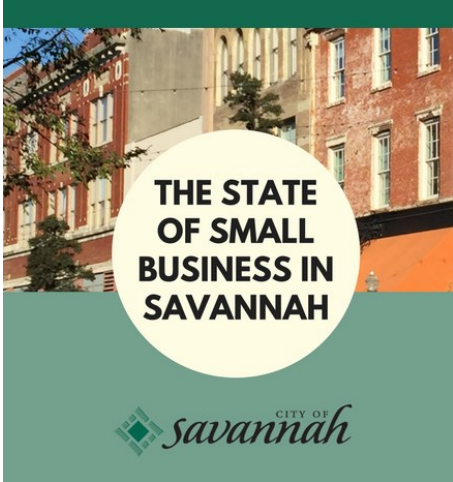
The Urban Savannah Chamber of Commerce celebrated its one year anniversary at their Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet on February 10, 2017. As the newest and one of the fastest growing chambers in the Savannah area supports African American, minority, and women business owners to foster a thriving and sustainable business environment.



### [Summer 500: Change and Engage](#)

The City of Savannah and area businesses will join forces to match 500 students with 500 paid internships this summer. The eight week program will run from June 5 to July 8, and aims to provide students with soft skills training, literacy and numeracy development, financial management, and career-path guidance. Businesses are encouraged to participate in the initiative. [Sign up now!](#)

## The Annual Business Climate Survey



The City of Savannah distributes an annual business climate survey to generate a comprehensive assessment of the state of local small business. A summary of the 2016 results is available on the City's [Economic Development](#) homepage.

A look at nearly 1,300 small businesses throughout Savannah in 2016 reinforces positive trends found in recent years. Quality of life, natural environment, and cultural diversity remain the top three reasons businesses are

drawn to Savannah. Additionally, over half of all respondents (58%) indicated that Savannah is a good or an excellent place to do business.

The 2017 Business Climate Survey was mailed with the business tax certificate renewal letter in December, 2016. If you haven't already completed the survey, please consider [participating online](#). Your input is valued and greatly appreciated. For additional information, please contact the Economic Development Department at (912) 651-3653.

## Upcoming Events

### [Upcoming Business Courses and Workshops](#)

Savannah Entrepreneurial Center

#### [Doing Business in Belgium](#)

February 23, 2017, 9-10am  
Savannah World Trade Center

#### [Buy Local Savannah February Lunch with Ansley Williams](#)

February 23, 2017, 11am-1pm  
The Pirate House

#### [Making the Connection: Speed Networking](#)

February 28, 2017, 8am  
Savannah Morning News Auditorium

#### [Savannah Downtown Business Association Luncheon](#)

March 8, 2017, 11am-1pm  
The Savannah Theatre

Have an upcoming event you would like to feature? [Let us know!](#)

## Featured Resource: Savannah Entrepreneurial Center



The [Savannah Entrepreneurial Center](#) (SEC) is a business training center focused on increasing local business creation and supporting the economic empowerment of Savannah residents. The Center provides a wealth of educational and support services to Savannah's micro and small business entrepreneurs including classes and one-on-one coaching.

Workshops are held in the Center's classrooms and computer labs, as well as off-campus at the [Moses Jackson Advancement Center](#). The SEC offers courses to cover the basics of starting and operating a business, marketing and promotion, website development, bidding with the City, Minority and Women Owned Enterprise certification, bonding education, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, credit counseling, and more. All classes and programs offered at the SEC are free and open to the public.

Savannah Entrepreneurial Center  
801 E. Gwinnett Street, Savannah, GA 31404  
Phone: (912) 652-3582

### City of Savannah

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*"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."*