



Best Town in College Football

Athens was recently chosen as the "Best Town in College Football" in the country by *Athlon Sports*. Ten sports journalists, who have traveled the nation for decades visiting various football sanctuaries, chose Athens as number one among other college football cities like Madison, WI, Austin, TX, and Oxford, MS. [View article](#)



Top 17 Most Affordable U.S. Cities of 2016

Athens was also featured as one of America's most affordable cities of 2016 by *MintLife*, Intuit's personal finance and budget blog. Athens made the list for having a low cost of living, enriched quality of life for its residents, and other economic indicators. The list is supported by data from average budgets, job markets, and housing values to determine today's most affordable cities in the country. [View article](#)

June Sales Activity Update

- 18 bookings
- 14,666 rooms booked
- 18,119 attendees
- 5,994,800.30 EEI

Please log into the [Partner Extranet](#) to view upcoming meeting & conventions calendar and leads.



Historic Landscape and Garden Grant Program

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., partners with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Division, the Southeast Regional Office of the National Park Service, the Cherokee Garden Library at the Atlanta History Center, and the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDecD) to provide this grant. Funding is provided in the form of 50/50 matching grants

Hospitality Newsmakers

New Accolade for **Five & Ten: Wine Enthusiast** names the restaurant on its list of [America's Best Wine Restaurants of 2016](#).

Creature Comforts wins big in *Southern Living's* 2016 Food Awards in the [summer beer](#) category.



Farewell to Ben

Please join us in thanking former CVB Sales Manager **Ben Ray** for his excellent service to not only the CVB, since March '15, but also to The Classic Center as an event planner and box office attendant before joining the CVB.

Ben has joined the management team at The Place. His focus will be on building their cocktail, beer, and wine programs.

While we bid Ben farewell, at the same time, we congratulate Ben on his new position and wish him much happiness and success. We are glad that he will remain in the Athens area, and we will continue to have the opportunity to work with him in his new capacity. We know Ben will be an outstanding partner to the CVB.

We are currently hiring a Jr. Sales & Convention Services Manager. This position is posted on our [website](#).



Welcome Baby Emma!

CVB Senior Sales Manager **Missy Brandt Wilson** gave birth to her little girl at the end of June. Emma Catherine Wilson was born on Friday, June 24, at 10:28 a.m. and was 7 lbs 7 oz. and 20 inches long. Missy, Will, Big Sister Georganna, and Big Brother Brantley are thrilled to bits. Missy will be out on maternity leave until September.

Industry Events

Georgia Restaurant Week
July 18-24
[more info](#)

Historic Heartland Travel Assn. Meeting
August 3
Perry, GA

Director of Sales Meeting
August 17
Location TBA

Governor's Tourism Conference
September 12-14
College Park, GA

