

Athens
LIFE UNLEASHED

Newsmakers // Opportunities // New Developments in Tourism

Happy New Year and Athens CVB News



NEWS & UPDATES

CVB Director Chuck Jones is promoted to Vice President of Sales, Marketing and Outreach

Athens CVB Director Chuck Jones has been promoted to Vice President of Sales, Marketing and Outreach of The Classic Center. Jones has been director of the Athens CVB, the city's official destination marketing organization, for over 23 years. Jones is the first director of the reorganized CVB, formerly a Chamber of Commerce division. Since 1996, the CVB has been a department of The Classic Center Authority.

To read the full press release, [click here.](#)

A search committee has been formed to search for a new CVB Director.

What's New in Athens, Georgia in 2020

The vibrant, energetic and music-infused town of Athens, Georgia, is bringing exciting new tourism products to the Classic City in 2020. The community is constantly striving to create a place where people want to live and visit. The city's mix of preservation and constant renewal allows visitors to revisit favorite spots and experience new restaurants and attractions, keeping every visit to Athens new and thrilling.

To learn more about the new exciting things happening in Athens, [click here](#).

HOSPITALITY NEWSMAKERS

Athens CVB says farewell to Joel VanDusen

The Athens CVB said farewell to Sales and Services Manager Joel Van Dusen on **December 27, 2019**. Van Dusen spent the last year managing the CVB's housing bureau, among other duties, and increasing the economic impact of the group market.



The CVB will miss him in the office, but wishes him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

The CVB is currently interviewing for a new Sales and Services Manager, and Joel's replacement is expected to be announced soon.

Welcome Center says farewell to Evelyn Reece; Michelle Nyugen named Interim Director



Evelyn Reece



Michelle Nyugen

The Athens Welcome Center said farewell to Director Evelyn Reece after 11 years of service. The Athens CVB is extremely thankful for the collaboration and partnership and wishes Evelyn all the best with her consulting firm and other future endeavors.

Historic Athens appointed Michelle Nyugen (MPA) as the Interim Director of the Athens Welcome Center, effective January 13, as Historic Athens begins the formal process of selecting a new permanent director. To learn more about this transition process and to see the job posting, [click here](#).

Congratulations, Marvin Nunnally



The Classic Center's Outside Sales Executive Marvin Nunnally will receive the 2020 President's Fulfilling the Dream Award **Friday, January 17**. This award is presented to individuals from the Athens-Clarke County and University of Georgia communities who have made a significant effort to build bridges of unity and understanding. Nunnally has been at The Classic Center for six years and holds various roles with groups such as the Athens Nurses Clinic, the Athens Area Human Relations Council, In Touch Management Group Youth Academy, and the Athens Masonic Association, among many others.

Athens Brewery added to top 35 Most Important Breweries of the Decade List

Creature Comforts Brewery was featured on the *Vine Pair* list of the 35 most important breweries of the decade. Creature is currently preparing to launch their Get Comfortable 2020 campaign in early February. This community-outreach campaign's purpose is to make serving simple: to align the business community to support those agencies doing the most to meet our city's greatest needs. The campaign will launch on **Wednesday, February 5**, in the tasting room. It will also launch for the first time in Atlanta area (specifically DeKalb County) on **Sunday, February 9** at the Kimball House. To view the list, [click here](#).



Congratulations on 25 Years, Maureen Baker

The Classic Center and Athens community had the privilege of celebrating Maureen Baker on January 6 during a reception for her 25 years of service. Over the past 25 years, Baker--former Director of Sales and now Account Executive--has made an extraordinary impact on the Athens community. Baker led the charge to reach unprecedented sales and bookings that are nearly double the industry standard as well as shaping The Classic Center's Sales Department to what it is today. At the reception, Baker was presented with a key to the city by former Mayor Doc Eldridge



and Mayor Kelly Girtz declared January 6, 2020, Maureen Baker Meyer day in Athens-Clarke County. To honor Maureen's service and her love of gardening, The Classic Center Executive Director Paul Cramer declared the intention to plant a dogwood tree in The Classic Center garden with a plaque memorializing the integral role Maureen has played in the growth of the building and the community as a whole.

Maureen Baker and Paul Cramer

DON'T MISS OUT: OPPORTUNITIES

Connect Your Instagram Account to CrowdRiff

Your business is part of what makes Athens so great, and we want to showcase you more often on our own social channels and website! There's a simple way to share your Instagram content with us. Simply connect your Instagram Business Account via CrowdRiff, the visual marketing platform we use to manage our photo library. All you need to do is authenticate your Instagram account with us. In order to do so, [click here](#) to learn how to authenticate your account. If you require technical assistance, email support@crowdriff.com. The team at CrowdRiff is very helpful.



Enter the Flavor of Georgia Contest



The University of Georgia's Flavor of Georgia is currently accepting applications for the food product contest. This contest will allow businesses to showcase their products and receive feedback from professionals in the industry. The deadline to apply for this contest is **Friday, January 31**. To learn more about the contest and to apply, [click here](#).



The CVB offers **Extranet Training** on the second Thursday of each month beginning at **2 p.m.** The next Partner Extranet Training will be **Thursday, February 13.**

RSVP TODAY



IN THE NEWS

"Athens, Georgia Just Snagged A Coveted Spot on Fodor's Travel Go List for 2020," OnlyinYourState.com, December 2019.

"Exploring the architectural gems along Georgia's Antebellum Trail," Atlanta.Curbed.com, December 2019.

"(Creature Comforts) 35 Most Important Breweries of the Decade (2010s)," Vinepair.com, December 2019.

"10 Ultimate Things to do in Georgia," Fodors.com, December 2019.

— INDUSTRY CALENDAR & EVENTS —

Tourism, Hospitality & Arts Day at the Capitol

January 21, 2020

Atlanta, Georgia

<https://www.georgia.org/>

Georgia Convention & Visitors Bureau (GACVB) Winter Conference

February 24 - 26, 2020

Valdosta, Georgia

<https://www.gacvb.com/gacvb-winter-meeting>



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