BEST ICE CREAM
LEOPOLD’S ICE CREAM

OUR READERS HAVE SPOKEN.
AND THE 2012 BEST OF SAVANNAH AWARDS GO TO...

Compiled by Margaret Harney, Allison Hersh, Colleen McNally, Eric Ramirez and Alison Wyland
Photography by Beau Kester, Katie McGee and Tim Willoughby
Walnut and bourbon chutney, cake sandwich and apple, B. Matthew’s
BRUNCH
www.jchristophers.com
egg whites and instant coffee.

street, there’s no going back to roasted potato skillets or fresh, after eating one of the oven- for a morning that’s sunny-side- up. after eating one of the oven- for a morning that’s sunny-side- up. after eating one of the oven-
up.

run. Period.

B. Matthew’s

eggs. Period.

as part of the area’s largest news organization, we strictly limit our role to tallying

The Olde Pink House

for play. Period.

J. Christopher’s

The Olde Pink House

business at this bustling Liberty Street luncheon-

Business meets pleasure at this bustling Liberty Street luncheon-
eat. Where Savannah Magazine

Roasted Southern sides in this retired

B. Matthew’s

sausage and fresh, after eating one of the oven- for a morning that’s sunny-side-

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KID-FRIENDLY DINING
Cancun
We all know what picky eaters our little ones can be. When vegetables are a no-go or there’s a boycott on any dish with “things” in it, Cancun’s Americanized Mexican menu has been known to win over even the tiniest taste buds. Celebrate this victory with a cold cerveza or two.
Runner-up: Jalapenos Mexican Grill

MEXICAN
Jalapeños Mexican Grill
When you can hear your fajitas sizzling all the way to your table, you know you’ve found a filéxican restaurant worth its margarita salt. A Best of Savannah winner for five consecutive years, Arnold Castellanos’ bustling local chain is known for fact, consistent service and tasty (but hard-to-pronounce) chilaquiles.
www.jalapenosinc.com
Runner-up: Cancun

NEW RESTAURANT
A.LURE Lowcountry Cuisine
Fans of Kasey’s Gourmet Grille were thrilled when restaurateur Daniel Berman brought his flair for culinary creativity downtown to Congress Street. True to its playful name, A.Lure brings fresh, local seafood to the table, along with landlubber favorites such as lamb Carpaccio in savory Sweetgrass Dary bleu cheese ice cream.
www.a-lure-savannah.com
Runner-up: Sage

ORGANIC/VEGETARIAN
Cha-Bella
At Cha-Bella, it’s nice to know that every last bite of your salad was grown without harmful pesticides and prepared with care. Say goodbye to antibiotic-infused mystery meat and genetically modified corn. This vegetarian-friendly East Broad Street dining destination also encourages diners to eat local.
www.cha-bella.com
Runner-up, Organic: Green Truck Pub and Thrive Café
Runner-up, Vegetarian: Goose Feathers

OUTDOOR/WATERFRONT DINING
Bonna Bella Waterfront Grille
This four-time Best of Savannah winner’s stunning waterfront views provide the perfect backdrop for a memorable dining experience. The menu offers fresh seafood and steaks along with sandwiches and fish tacos, plus plenty of options for kids. But, with a great selection of wine and cocktails, a babysitter might not be a bad idea after all.
www.bonnabellayachtclub.com
Runners-up, Outdoor Dining: Blowin Smoke BBQ and The Crab Shack
Runner-up, Waterfront Dining: Vic’s on the River

PIZZA
Vinnie Van Go Gr’s
Prepare to fold and devour these oversized, New York City-style slices in seconds. Fresh mozzarella cheese, made-daily dough and prime outdoor seating overlooking City Market set this local favorite apart from the competition. Being cash-only hasn’t tarnished Vinnie’s ability to dominate this category since 2002.
www.vinniesavannah.com
Runner-up: Mellow Mushroom

SEAFOOD
The Crab Shack
When The Crab Shack first opened, this six-time Best of Savannah winner had a half-dozen tables and a menu drawn on a sheet of plywood. Now, owners Jack and Belinda Flanigan attract locals and visitors from across the country with heaping platters of fresh local shrimp, briny oysters, tangy BBQ and, of course, an impressive selection of crab offerings. BYOB: Bring your own bib.
www.thecrabshack.com
Runner-up: Love’s Seafood and Steaks

SMOOTHIES
Smoothie King
The answer to the liquid lunch, these super-sized smoothies claim to be function-based, meaning that some promote weight loss while others give you a boost of energy or assist with muscle gain. Whatever your aim, the Broughton Street stop can refill your tank and get you back on the retail road in no time.
www.smoothieking.com
Runner-up: The Sentient Bean

STEAK
Ruth’s Chris Steakhouse
The New York Strip never seemed so “New York.” This cityified line-dining chain and four-time Best of Savannah winner is still the reigning steakhouse king—or, queen—delighting carnivores across the Coastal Empire.
www.ruthschris.com
Runner-up: Outback Steakhouse

SUSHI
Eli fine Fusion
Regardless of how you roll, the sushi chef at Eli fine Fusion is likely to have a fresh fish fix—even for the tartare tenderfoot. Diners looking for a show sizzle up to the sushi bar—and witness the fastest way to slice and dice an avocado.
www.elifinefusion.com
Runner-up: Sushi Zen

TAKEOUT
Zunzi’s
Owners Gabriella and Johnny DeBeer offer quick, tasty and inexpensive meals served cafeteria-style and with a South African flair, including the best-selling Conquistador chicken sandwich, which recently earned raves on the Travel Channel. You can recognize the tiny York Street location by the workweek lunch line that extends down the block.
www.zunzis.com
Runner-up: Carey Hilliard’s

YOGURT
Lovin’ Spoons
This funky little fro-yo place has plenty of moxie, from the groovy 70s-style décor to the saucy, Georgia peach-flavored yogurt. Create your own masterpiece with self-serve toppings ranging from fresh fruit to candy bars to breakfast cereal. With so many stir-in options, you’ll never go back to plain ol’ vanilla again—unless, of course, that’s what you want.
www.lovinspoons.com
Runner-up: La’ Berry

BEST NEW RESTAURANT
A.LURE Lowcountry Cuisine

EDITORS’ PICK
TWO-FER: Two Smart Cookies
I may be 35, but when these ladies hand me a cookie cut in the shape of a butterfly and topped with pink icing, I regress to a pigtailed preteen. But I also get to indulge my grown-up taste with an over-sized pair of brightly colored earnings to liven up the cocktail hour (and distract from my cookie-infused waistline). Smart? Genius.
Runner Up: Pedi and back scratch at Golden Nails
Sure, the happy ending to any pedicure is 10 sandal-ready toes. But at Golden Nails, you get the surprise bonus of an aggressive, dollar-per-minute backrub while your toesies dry.
—Andrea Goto

www.savannahmagazine.com
APPETIZERS

Bar Food

Neighborhood hangout and metropolitan chic merge as easily as the French-Asian fusion cuisine at this Haberham Village haunt. Tasty appetizers include roasted red chaps, Thai curry mussels, BBQ wanton and baked brie with strawberry cognac sauce. It’s no wonder our readers keep saying “je t’aime”—and the parking doesn’t hurt, either.

www.barfoodsavannah.com
Runner-up: Jazz’d Tapas Bar

BEER SELECTION

The Distillery

Thanks to general manager and beer guru Ben Volen, The Distillery boasts a menu of more than 100 hand-selected craft brews, including nearly two dozen on tap. From North Coast Old Rasputin to New Belgium Somersault, this beer lover’s paradise has our readers lifting their glasses.

www.distillerysavannah.com
Runner-up: Moon River Brewing Company

COCKTAILS/HAPPY HOUR/LATE NIGHT

Spot and Place to Meet Singles

Perch has given Savannahians a bird’s-eye view of the riverfront and its bustling nightlife. Consequently, rocks on the Roof has become our readers’ favorite place to sip inventive cocktails, celebrate happy hour, hang out into the wee hours—and maybe even meet Mr. or Ms. Right.

www.bohemianhotelsavannah.com
Runner-up: Cocktails, Late Night Spot and Place to Meet Singles: Jazz’d Tapas Bar
Runner-up: Happy Hour: Jen’s and Friends

DANCING/GIRLS’ NIGHT OUT

Jazz’d Tapas Bar

With creative cocktails and five music six nights a week, Jazz’d lures locals underground to shake what their mamas gave them. This nightlife destination has also earned the Best of Savannah seal of approval as the preferred GNO headquarters since 2008.

www.jazzdsavannah.com
Runner-up: Dancing: Club 51 Degrees
Runner-up: Girls’ Night Out: Savannah Smiles Piano Bar

LIVE MUSIC/ENTERTAINMENT

LiveWire Music Hall

LiveWire Music Hall brings some serious noise to River Street’s often-overlooked west end. A favorite spot to catch critically acclaimed bands such as Trigger Hippy and Devon Allman’s Honeydrippers as well as rising local talent, the four-time Best of Savannah winner also offers three fully stocked bars. Just saying.

www.livewiresavannah.com
Runner-up: Jazz’d Tapas Bar

PUB

Six Pence Pub

With low ceilings, dim lights and a bar so packed you literally rub shoulders with your neighbor, this British pub makes drinking and eating a cozy affair. The downtown landmark serves up the perfect combination of beers on tap and homemade favorites from across the pond (think shepherd’s pie, Scotch eggs and bangers and mash), making it a four-time Best of Savannah fave.

www.sixpencesavannah.com
Runner-up: Kevin Barry’s

SPORTS BAR

Coach’s Corner

This Victory Drive sports bar has been cheering our favorite teams since 1991, serving as a Best of Savannah destination for watching football, basketball, baseball, soccer and more. With tasty wings, ice-cold beer and plenty of TV screens, it’s no wonder sports fans flock to Coach’s Corner, game after game, season after season.

www.coachs.net
Runner-up: Loco’s Grill & Pub

TRIVIA GAME NIGHT

Loco’s Grill & Pub

Trivia buffs and aspiring Mensa members put their heads together every Wednesday night for Team Trivia. For the past five years, quiz host Ben Bennett has served as Savannah’s own Alex Trebek, helping Loco’s earn this Best of Savannah nod.

www.locosgrill.com
Runner-up: Mellow Mushroom

WINES

Elizabeth on 37th

In the mood for a perfect Pinot? Feeling the urge for a zesty Zin? Look no further than this foodie paradise tucked in a well-worn Southern mansion on 37th Street. Our oenophiles trust Elizabeth’s expert wine captains to steer them toward the ideal vintage to complement any meal.

www.elizabethon37th.net
Runner-up: Garibaldi’s Cafe

WINE SELECTION

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EDITORS’ PICK

COVETED REAL ESTATE: A spot in “Iron Bodies”

If you’re lucky enough to secure a spot in the 9:15 a.m. “Iron Bodies” class at the Islands YMCA, you know not to mess with moms without makeup on the quest for fitness. Impede a patron’s view of herself as she lounges and curls her frustrations away and you risk getting slapped upside the head with a Marshpoint Elementary car magnet.

Runner-up: A high-noon table at Green Truck
Fresh Farm Truck salads and Allogash on top make this Savannah favorite a hot spot for lunch. What’s even hotter? Waiting outside in the full sun for a seat.

—Andrea Goto

NICKNAME: Slow-vannah

Seriously, what on earth is wrong with taking our time? Remember the tortoise and the hare? I, for one, chose Savannah because I wanted a relaxing change of pace—and most of the people I interview say the same thing. “Having all but worn out editorial epithets like “Hostess City,” “Coastal Empire” and “the people I interview say the same thing. Having all-but worn out editorial epithets like “Hostess City,” “Coastal Empire” and “the

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TO TAKE KIDS

126
hours of challenging play and across the Savannah River for green beckon plaid-clad locals. The lush acres of the Westin Golf Resort The Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Course Oatland Island Wildlife Center Runner-up, Fun Place to Take Kids: Tybee Island, S.C. Runner-up, Day Trip: Hilton Head www.tybeevisit.com camp near the lifeguard chair. parenting is as easy as setting up get a full day of fun for the price anything more? We've never sand, surf and sun—need we say Tybee Island Art and Design Runner-up: Savannah College of Art and Design www.gulfstream.com on a Monday morning. www.gulfstream.com Runner-up: Savannah College of Art and Design DAY TRIP/FUN PLACE TO TAKE KIDS Tybee Island Sand, surf and sun—need we say anything more? We've never met a kid who could stay bored at the beach. There's only one place where Savannahians can get a full day of fun for the price of parking—and where good parenting is as easy as setting up camp near the lifeguard chair. www.tybeevisit.com Runner-up, Day Trip: Hilton Head Island, S.C. Runner-up, Fun Place To Take Kids: Oatland Island Wildlife Center GOLF COURSE The Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort The lush acres of the Westin green beckon plaid-clad locals across the Savannah River for hours of challenging play and business deal-making. More than a reader favorite, this host to the PGA Tour’s Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf tournament, was named among the 100 best courses in America by Conde Nast Traveler. www.westin.savannah.com Runner-up: Southbridge Golf Club GROUP TO VOLUNTEER FOR Humane Society for Greater Savannah Love comes in many different packages—and most of them can be found at this Sallie Mood Boulevard shelter where locals love to volunteer as dog walkers, kennel cleaners, surgery assistants, event planners and thrift store operators. Of course, the work has its hazards; many helpers end up as pet ”parents” as well. www.humanssocietygsav.org Runner-up: Habitat for Humanity MUSEUM/HOUSE MUSEUM The Telfair Museums’ Telfair Academy Sculptures of Rubens, Michelangelo, Phidas, Raphael and Rembrandt stand guard at this Regency mansion, the birthplace and crown jewel of the South’s oldest art museum. Inside, prime examples of American Impressionism share the walls with the largest public collection of art by The Prophet author Khalil Gibran. www.telfair.org Runner-up: The Telfair Museums’ Jepson Center PRIVATE SCHOOL Savannah Country Day School With neurobiology courses and European study-abroad excursions, Country Day sounds more like college than preparatory school. But an average class size of 16 students allows for plenty of teacher supervision, from Pre-K all the way through senior prom. www.savcds.org Runner-up: Hancock Day School PUBLIC SCHOOL Savannah Arts Academy Future Dalls and Speilberg flocks to Savannah Arts Academy, named “best public high school in Georgia” by U.S. News and World Report. With strong SAT scores and creative concentrations such as graphic design and dance, this high school has a special place in the hearts of parents and alumni. www.sccpsd.org Runner-up: Idle of Hope Elementary RADIO STATION WRHQ 105.3 Quality Rock Quality Rock’s blend of classics by the likes of Clapton, Coldplay and Santana wins this year’s “best” by being virtually everywhere, thanks to mobile apps and online streaming. Worry may cause spontaneous air guitar solos. www.whq.com Runner-up: WYKZ-FM 98.7 The River SPECIAL EVENT FACILITY Charles H. Morris Center With well-appointed facilities and acoustics worthy of the Savannah Music Festival, this renovated Savannah Gas Company building on the bluff plays host to many of the city’s hottest events—including Savannah magazine’s 12th annual Best of Savannah party on September 5. www.charleshmorris.org Runner-up: Savannah Station TOURIST ATTRACTION River Street When their out-of-town guests out-stay the three-day rule, Savannah magazine readers send them down to the river to collect the obligatory palm-frond rose, pirate paraphernalia and pralines—and to witness the implausible view of giant ships cruising up the narrow waterway. www.rivertreetsavannah.com Runner-up: Forsyth Park TV STATION WSAV Tina Tyus-Shaw, Russ Reisinger and their team take home their first Best of Savannah award this year. It doesn’t hurt that the NBC affiliate just brought us the London Olympics and stirred public dialogue with a micro-phone mishap, proving once and for all that personality is much more important to Savannahians than propriety. www.wsav.com Runner-up: WTWQ
BURYED TREASURE: Peddler Jim’s Antiques

The iron bed on my back porch was hidden beneath a huge sign for boat motors, circa 1950. My green Depression glass flutes were tucked inside a dusty curio cabinet that I could get to only by climbing over a pile of old clothes and pillows. Chunky balusters for boat motors, circa 1950. My green Depression glass flutes...
salads in their cars, is all it takes to see that this gourmet grocery store has taken over our readers’ taste buds. Take-home fare includes exotic star fruits, sweet and snappy haricots verts and leafy, farm-fresh greens. www.thefreshmarket.com Runner-up, Fresh and Organic Produce: Forsyth Farmers’ Market Runner-up, Specialty Gourmet Foods: Byrd Cookie Company

INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORE
E. Shaver, Bookseller
This quintessential bibliophile’s haven boasts 12 rooms brimming with tresured tomes and a staff that prides itself on seeking out the answers to even the most arcane literary questions. Of course, the charming Historic District location is within walking distance of several perfect reading benches. www.eshaverbooks.com Runner-up: The Book Lady

INDEPENDENT PET SUPPLIER
Tailspin
Gourmet treats, plush toys and pampering pet supplies not-withstanding, Tailspin is much more than a store to our readers and their furry friends. Its Habersham Village and Pooler locations play host to health clinics, adoption events and an annual Halloween pet costume parade. www.tailspin.com Runner-up: Grateful Hound

JEWELRY
Levy Jewelers
For 112 years, this family dynasty has been helping Savannahians celebrate the milestones in their lives with silver, gold and precious stones. With a new flagship location opening on the corner of Broughton and Bull streets, we’ll see more marvelous mementos than ever before. www.levyjewelers.com Runner-up: Zia Boutique

LIQUOR
Habersham Beverage Warehouse
Walk into a Savannah party without a brown bag full of clinking bottles, and you risk having your future invitations lost in the mail. That’s why readers make their pit stops at this convenient Midtown “packy” for everything from carabiners and globe shoe has responded, and votes poured in for the seventh year in a row. make the Savannah icon a winner — Annabelle Carr

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
The Citizen Advocacy Covered Dish Supper
For a few hours on a spring evening, we get to experience Savannah’s best characteristics in concentrated, welcoming, tender, diverse and inclusive, Savannah-Chatham Citizen Advocacy builds protégé/advocate relationships across a wide cross-section of the city, bringing excluded individuals into the loving arms of community. The annual pot-luck gathering of more than 350 locals is part celebration, part fundraiser and part barn-raising—a harmonious, all-volunteer effort that doesn’t leave a dry eye or an empty stomach.

—Annabelle Carr

MEN’S CLOTHING
J. Parker Limited
With luxe labels like Ralph Lauren and Ike Behar along with the local “uniform” of Lacoste and Southern Proper, Jimmy Parker’s menswear boutique keeps our male readers dapper—and datable. www.jparkelltd.com Runner-up: J.B. Rourke

NEW CARS/USED CARS
Vaden Automotive Group
From the uber-Deutsch Volkswagen CC to the all-American Chevy Avalanche, Dan Vaden and his fleet of dealerships have the variety and service to satisfy our diverse, eccentric reader’s need for speed. www.danvaden.com Runner-up, New Cars: Critz Runner-up, Used Cars: Southern Motors

SEAFOOD MARKET
Russo’s Seafood
Since 1946, generations of the Russo family have been doling out succulent Georgia blue crab, boat-fresh shrimp and local grouper, flounder and trout. Everything is cut to order and the takeout, house-made cocktail and tartar sauces make entertaining easy. www.russoseafood.com Runner-up, Southside Shellfish

SHOES
Globe Shoe Company
If Sex and the City taught us anything, it’s that shoes make the outfit, and Globe Shoe has been turning heads since 1892. From Sam Edelman to Cole Haan, Globe’s selection and service make the Savannah icon a winner for the seventh year in a row. Runner-up: Copper Penny Shoos

SPORTS/OUTDOOR WEAR
Bass Pro Shop
Whether they’re deep-sea fishing in the Gulf Stream or departing for a spelunking odyssey, Savannah’s outdoor types make the drive to Bass Pro for everything from carabiners to kayaks. www.basspro.com Runner-up: Half-Moon Outfitters

STATIONERY
La Paperie
The handwritten note will never go out of style—particularly in the Hostess City. Debbie Lewis’ Downtown Design District go-to for Crane and Vera Wang stationery also boasts a collection of artisan papers, specialty seals, stamps and embossers. www.lapaperie.net Runner-up: Cottage Shop

VINTAGE/CLOTHING AND CONSIGNMENT
Civils New & Recycled Clothing
Vintage and consignment shoppers can’t get enough of the on-trend style and wallet-friendly prices at this boutique above Broughton Street, where the top-label, leather handbag stash is rivaled only by the wall of cheap, chic sunglasses. www.civilsclothes.com Runner-up: Goodwill

WOMEN’S CLOTHING
Gaucho
Last fall, Gaucho partnered with local artist Marcus Kenney and knocked Savannah style off its feet with an Art of Great Fashion runway show that truly lived up to its name. Our readers responded, and votes poured in for Dee Sutlive’s fab formalwear and tailored sportswear. www.gauchosavannah.com Runner-up: Blushelle Boutique
join readers at the breakfast table—in print form—for years, spurring lively discussion.

www.savannahnow.com
Runner-up: Bill Dowers

LAWYER (TIE)
W. Brooks Stillwell
For decades, this hard-working Hunter/Maclelan partner has served as one of the city’s leading commercial real estate attorneys. He has played a critical role in many of the developments we now take for granted, including the redevelopment of Ellis Square. www.huntermaclelan.com

Catherine Bowman
This experienced attorney has represented major employers like International Paper, UPS and Wal-Mart. Though Catherine opened The Bowman Law Office in Savannah in 2007, she’s also of counsel to Boyd & Jenerette, a firm based in Jacksonville, Fla. www.boydjenerette.com
Runner-up: Joseph “Rusty” Ross of Boyd & Jenerette, a firm based in Jacksonville, Fla.

PARTY/EVENT PLANNER
Sebrell Smith
Her attention to detail and her signature sense of style have made Sebrell Smith a Best of Savannah favorite and a sought-after artisan of affairs. Whether the event is intimate or over-the-top, Sebrell aims to make it unforgettable.

www.sebrellsmith.com
Runner-up: Cora Dixon has a true gift for gab. A former member of the Georgia House of Representatives, Dixon has an impressive list of awards that includes an Emmy for Best Anchor in the Southeast.
www.wtoc.com
Runner-up: Sonny Dixon—Andrea Goto

TELEVISION PERSONALITY
Sonny Dixon
A winner in this category since 2002, longtime WTOC anchor Sonny Dixon has a true gift for gab. A former member of the Georgia House of Representatives, Dixon has an impressive list of awards that includes an Emmy for Best Anchor in the Southeast.
www.wtoc.com
Runner-up: Ruby Gaster—Andrea Goto

VETERINARIAN
Dr. Carla Case-McCorvey
It’s no day at the park when something’s wrong with your pet. Enter the owner of Case Veterinary Hospital, a fourth generation vet who proudly carries on her family’s century-old practice. She’s also the first expert in the region to offer rigid laparoscopy, a minimally invasive surgery for pets.
www.casevet.com
Runner-up: Dr. Stanley Lester

BAND
Bucky & Barry
Best friends since first grade, the musical duo of Bucky Bryant and Barry Johnson has been turning up the volume and laying down the groove all over town for more than 30 years. These good-time goers just might be the hardest-gigging group in town.

www.pauladeen.com
Runner-up: Ann McCoy at Jen’s and Friends

CATERER
Paul Kennedy
From elegant weddings to casual company picnics, locals rave about Paul Kennedy’s passion for artfully prepared cuisine, including shrimp ‘n’ grits, mac ‘n’ cheese and Southern fried chicken.

www.paulkennedycatering.com
Runner-up: Jen McEvoy at Jen’s and Friends

CHEF
Paula Deen
Even though Paula Deen has been cutting back on the butter, Savannah magazine readers still have a taste for her decadent, Southern-inspired recipes. Y’all, have a taste for her decadent, Southern-inspired recipes.

www.pauladeen.com
Runner-up: Nick Mueller

COLUMNIST
Tom Barton
This longtime Savannah Morning News editorial page editor opens on a wide range of topics, from politics to crime. Tom’s been
your workout program.
www.trainme247.com
Runner-up: David Howard

PET GROOMER
Glenda Nathaniel
A well-loved pet is a well-roofed pet. Our readers turn to Glenda at the Godley Station Animal Hospital for their pet grooming needs. With care and compassion, Glenda pampers pets—and saves their owners from a visit to the ER.

www.godleystationvet.net
Runner-up: Barrie Bow Wow

PET SITTER
At Home Pet Sitters/Catnip and Biscuits
Experienced pet sitters can put both owners and their furry friends at ease. Your place or theirs? At Home Pet Sitters will come to your place and even scoop litter. With indoor and outdoor doggie play areas as well as cat condos, Catnip and Biscuits gives pets a memorable vacation of their own.

www.catnipsbiscuits.com
Runner-up: Carol’s Pompeter Pets

PHOTOGRAPHER
Christine Hall
A frequent Savannah magazine contributor, Christine Hall has a knack for capturing natural light and inner beauty with her camera. A repeat Best of Savannah winner, Crissy also has an impressive portfolio of stunning brides and adorable children.

www.christinehallphotography.com
Runner-up: Angela Hopper

REALTOR
Cora Bett Thomas
This Savannah native launched her company in 1995 and quickly established a reputation as the city’s leading real estate expert. Bouncing back from a brush with the West Nile virus, Cora moved her company to its original Jones Street location, where she still seals every deal with her signature smile.

www.corabetthomas.com
Runner-up: Angela Hopper

ORIGINAL JOKES:
Crosswalks
If you’ve ever had your toenails clipped by a speeding sedan with Chatham plates, you’ve already learned the “look-before-you-lunge” rule of crossing the streets in downtown Savannah. Your safest bet? Cross in front of a car with plates from a state with mandatory driving schools.

—Andrea Goto
The best ad is a memorable one, and our readers say no one’s better at getting products to stick than Longwater and Company. With cutting-edge visuals and attention-grabbing slogans, Elaine Longwater’s modern-day Mad Men and women bring attention to national and international accounts, including the Georgia Ports Authority. www.longwater.com Runner-up, Ad Agency: Clark Creative Runner-up, Design Firm: Nicasio Design & Development

ASSISTED LIVING
Buckingham South Gourmet meals, 24-hour staff, a library and billiards room, and onsite beauty and barber shops sound a lot like five-star accommodations at a swanky hotel, but for Buckingham South, it’s all business as usual. This assisted-living haven prides itself on giving residents a superior assisted-living haven. This level of convenience and longevity has made Wells Fargo our readers’ preferred alternative to the piggy bank. www.wellsfargo.com Runner-up: First Coastal Bank

CHILD CARE/ DAYCARE
The Sanctuary Child Learning Center looking for a cure to the daycare drop-off blues? A new Best of Savannah winner, this Landings-area facility combines the creative and Pinnacle curriculums to build kids’ confidence along with their knowledge. After-school programs are also available—along with a sibling discount. www.thesanctuarycldc.com Runner-up: Maggie’s Morning School

COMPUTER REPAIR
Geek Squad (Best Buy) The name says it all. When the ‘great American novel’ you’re writing vanishes from your hard drive or your Skype session freezes your beloved’s face into a permanent mask of horror, it’s the Geek Squad to the rescue. With perks like 24/7 help, this outpost in Best Buy promises the answers to all of your 3 a.m. questions. www.geekssquad.com Runner-up: Tenaks’ by Geeks

DRY CLEANER
David’s Dry Cleaners When you think green, your first thought is probably far away from dry cleaning. But, David’s Dry Cleaners has been looking out for the environment since 2006 by using energy-efficient steamers, eco-friendly solvents, an EPA-approved system and biodegradable bags. Plus, with four locations, you can cut down on your carbon footprint. www.davidsdrycleaners.com Runner-up: Curry’s Dry Cleaning

EXERCISE FACILITY/ GYM/KIDS’ SUMMER CAMP
YMCA The Village People may have helped make this community center a pop icon, but Olympic-size pools, first-rate (and affordable) kids’ camps, and a variety of top training and exercise programs keep us coming back for more. www.ymcaofcoastalga.org Runner-up: Gym; Drew and Shazi Edmonds, Train Me 24/7 Runner-up: Summer Camp: Boy Scouts of America

HAIR SALON
Rob’s Salon An all-glass façade offers an insider’s view of Rob’s Salon in Drayton Tower, revealing an upscale atmosphere and chic styling techniques. Offering expert Brazilian blowouts and stylist Rob Horton’s eponymous product line, this salon takes the number one spot in our readers’ choice poll. www.robssalon.com Runner-up: 8 Street Salon

CO-PARENT: Woody’s Skate Park Thanks to owner Fabio da Silva, manager Bop Parries and the filled-in Windsor Park swimming pool that now houses a mad maze of ramps and rails, it only takes 25 and a Gatorade to make me the best mom in the world. I can even go shoe-shopping while my son practices his Fakey Bigspins and Nollie what-have-yous. Let’s face it, I can’t stand the stress of watching anyway. And the fact that my only child wants to grow up to be just like some guy named “Hydro”—well, that’s just collateral damage.

—Annabelle Carr
**HOTEL**
The Mansion on Forsyth Park
Complete with a lavish spa, pool, restaurant, lounge, bar and cooking school, this opulent Victorian Romanesque restoration has everything our readers look for in a Savannah staycation. With its prime park-side location, The Mansion is also a perfect place to pamper out-of-town guests.

www.mansiononforsythpark.com
Runner-up: The Bohemian

**INN/B&B**
Presidents' Quarters Inn
Owned by a bona fide Savannah bon vivant, these twin Federal-style mansions off Oglethorpe Square boast antique four-poster beds, hearty breakfasts, daily wine and hors d’oeuvre service and a nightly turndown with fresh pralines.

www.presidentsquarters.com
Runner-up: The Gastonian

**INSURANCE COMPANY**
Seacrest Partners
Savannah-based "boutique" broker Seacrest Partners has garnered our readers’ trust by building closely tailored client relationships and by giving back to the community—with contributions to local charities such as the 200 Club and Bethesda Academy.

www.seacrestpartners.com
Runner-up: Bernard Williams Insurance

**MANICURES/PEDICURES**
Nails by Laura
Like drinking beer from a bottle, it’s practically a Southern faux pas to put on a pair of sandals with unpolished toenails. Make sure your little piggies are up to society standards by indulging in the mani-pedi package at friendly, low-key Nails by Laura.

Runner-up: Spa Bleu

**MEDICAL SPA/MASSAGE/FACIAL**
Glow MedSpa
From no-nonsense Botox, fillers and eyelash extensions to the magical “Laser Eraser” and collagen facial, Glow is the go-to for serious beauty business. If relaxation is your goal, turn yourself over to the talented hands of these self-appointed “beauty gurus” for a tension-melting signature massage, available seven days a week.

www.glow.savannah.com
Runner-up: Medical Spa: Finger & Associates Plastic Surgery Center
Runner-up: Massage: The Heavenly Spa at The Westin
Runner-up: Facial: Spa Bleu

**RETIREE COMMUNITY**
The Marshes of Skidaway Island
Waterfront property is a hard set to come by these days. Couple that with all-inclusive maid service, a fitness center, health center and club lounge, and you’ve got The Marshes—a gated retirement community with some very happy customers.

www.marshesofskidaway.org
Runner-up: Summer Breeze Senior Living

**TOUR COMPANY**
Old Savannah Tours
If you’ve never trailed an Old Savannah trolley and heard the history of the Hostess City wafting from the open windows, you just can’t call yourself a Savannahian. But this Best of Savannah winner doesn’t just limit its services to tourists. Locals can commission private tours and corporate-style car service.

www.oldsavannah tours.com
Runner-up: Old Town Trolley

**TRAVEL AGENCY**
Four Seasons Travel
Gwen Dewalt and her team of consultants take travel personally, creating custom itineraries and serving as cultural advocates for many of the city’s frequent fliers. With alliances in more than 70 countries, their emphasis is on creating unforgettable experiences—and our readers keep coming back for more.

www.fourseasonstrvl.com
Runner-up: Excursions

**YOGA/PILATES STUDIO**
Savannah Yoga
If you look fly in black stretch-pants and live by mantras such as “find your heart center” and “balance your chakras,” chances are you already spend some time at Savannah Yoga, where seekers of core conditioning and higher consciousness alike assume the pose under the guidance of owner Kelley Boyd and her band of human bendaros.

www.savannahyoga.com
Runner-up: Savannah Power Yoga