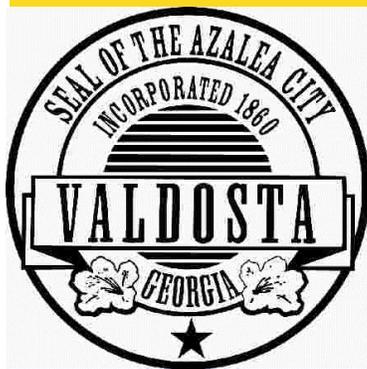


Planners Post

Planning Tomorrow's Future Today

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CITY OF VALDOSTA
Planning and Zoning Division
300 N. Lee Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31601
229.259.3563
www.valdostacity.com

Historic Preservation Month and Awards

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has designated May of each year as National Historic Preservation Month all across the United States. In years past, the Trust has suggested a theme to be used by local governments and preservation organizations to promote the event, however, this year they did not propose one. Each community was responsible for choosing their own and Valdosta decided to use the theme “Refine,



Restore and Re-use – Valdosta’s Precious Historic Places.” One way Valdosta celebrates Historic Preservation Month is the annual Brown Bag concert series—a week of lunchtime concerts celebrating Historic Downtown Valdosta by welcoming citizens to take their lunch breaks in the shade of the old oak trees on the lawn of the historic Lowndes County Courthouse. Another way Valdosta Celebrates Historic Preservation Month year are the Valdosta Historic Preservation Awards. The City of Valdosta and the Valdosta Historic Preservation Commission sponsor the “Awards” each year to celebrate citizens in the community who have saved, preserved and re-used or re-purposed historic buildings. 2015 marked the seventh year of the Valdosta Historic Preservation Awards with three very special projects receiving honors. IDP Housing was given an award for “Outstanding Achievement” for the rehabilitation of the historic Ashley Apartment Building in Downtown Valdosta. Also in Downtown Valdosta is King’s Grill, owned by Pat Yeomans, which received a “Stewardship” award for maintaining the building and business for



over 40 years. Also receiving a “Stewardship” award is The Garden Center, Inc. for its rescue and preservation of The Crescent for over 64 years. All of these projects are very important to Valdosta’s History and very worthy of the awards they received. Next year marks the Eighth Annual Valdosta Historic Preservation Awards and nomination forms will be available in January 2015 at the Planning and Zoning Office.

Signs— A form of expression or information?

Signs help us navigate streets, tell us what business is at a particular location, tell us of sales, what the temperature is, or what the lunch special might be that day. Which signs in the City need a permit? Which signs are prohibited in the City?

Permanent signs like wall signs, freestanding signs on poles and monument signs all need permits. The process can take up to 5 business days, and permits can be obtained either online or by contacting the Planning & Zoning office. Temporary signs such as banners, portable signs, and dancing inflatable men all need permits as well. Typical real estate signs advertising a property for sale or lease do not require a permit, but there are



size restrictions for different zoning districts. All signs are required to be placed on private property — NOT in the public right-of-way. Signs placed in the right-of-way are illegal and are subject to removal by City staff.

Which signs are prohibited? Pennants (pictured on the left) and balloons are among those signs prohibited within the city limits as attention getting devices.

If you have questions regarding signage in the City of Valdosta, please call the Planning & Zoning office at 259-3563, or email Tracy Tolley, Zoning Coordinator, at ttolley@valdostacity.com.

Fire Safety tips

It is summer time! Now, more than ever, swimming parties & cookouts are a staple of entertainment. Here are some safety tips from our Fire Department :

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- Grills should be placed a mini-mum of 10 feet away from homes, deck railings and out from under eaves and over-hanging branches.
- Never leave gills unattended and always keep children and pets away from grilling areas.

The Valdosta Fire Department is committed to keeping the businesses and residential communities safe. If you have a fire safety question , please contact Sergeant Chris Staples at 229-333-1835.



Art Walk

DOWNTOWN VALDOSTA
August 21
5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Combining the love of art and Historic Downtown Valdosta, it is our pleasure to invite you to Art Walk. We will also be featuring a wine tasting experience at participating Art Walk locations. Wrist bands for the wine experience are available at each location for \$20 per person with all proceeds going to Downtown beautification projects.

Come Downtown and experience art in the most specialized, eclectic shops Valdosta has to offer!

Sponsored by:




MPO-2040 Transportation Vision Plan

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission is seeking public comments on the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan for the Valdosta-Lowndes County Metropolitan Planning Organization (VLMPO). This document outlines the vision for transportation investment in Valdosta, Lowndes County and surrounding areas for the next 25 years. It is available for public comment running from July 7, 2015 through August 7, 2015.

The 2040 Transportation Vision Plan is a federally required document for metropolitan areas that outlines how federal funds will be spent on transportation projects in this region. The Plan is the follow-up to an intensive public input and planning phase that started in 2013 with the development of the Common Community Vision (CCV) for Greater Lowndes County. More than 800 statements from the public and existing plans were compiled to create the CCV which outlines how organizations in Valdosta and Lowndes County can achieve a resilient community that fosters economic success for the region through various elements including: workforce, education, economic development, healthcare, recreations, public safety, and transportation among others.

The Plan outlines the challenges the community faces as a growing metropolitan region with needs for roadway connectivity, transit, bike lanes and sidewalks and funding for maintaining the existing transportation system. Using the CCV goals, the Transportation Vision Plan outlines strategies in how transportation can improve access for education, healthcare and economic development. The Plan meets many federal guidelines and requirements, including being written in a way that makes it 'performance-ready'.

Some highlights of the proposed roadway and bridge improvements proposed in the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan include: continuation of the reconstruction of the I-75 interchanges at Exits 2, 11, 18, 22, and 29; added lanes to Jerry Jones Drive., North Oak Street Ext., Lake Park-Bellville Road, Old Clyattville Road., Old US 41 North, and Country Club Drive. New roads to be constructed include extensions of Northside Drive and Lankford Drive. Other projects include bridge replacements on Old Quitman Road. and Howell Road, and various intersection improvements throughout Valdosta and Lowndes County.

The Public Comment period is open from July 7, 2015 to August 7, 2015. To view the entire document along with supporting documentation and reports visit www.sgrc.us and click on 'Transportation'. Comments will be accepted by email at chull@sgrc.us, by fax at 229-333-5312., or by sending them to SGRC/VLMPO, 327 W. Savannah Avenue., Valdosta, GA 31601. Members of the public will be able to look at the proposed plan and projects at three open houses to be held on July 15, 2015 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the South Georgia Regional Library; on July 22, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Southern Georgia Regional Commission; and on July 30, 2015 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at McMullen Southside Library.

Once comments are received and reviewed the VLMPO Policy Committee will consider the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan for adoption at their September 2, 105 meeting. All meetings of the VLMPO are open to the public. For more information about 2040 Transportation Vision Plan or other transportation planning initiatives in the region please contact Corey Hull at 229-333-5277.

**Contact the
Planning & Zoning Division at:
229.259.3563**

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**Contact the
Valdosta Main Street at
229.259.3577**

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Be Smart: Submit a Site Plan at the START!

The City of Valdosta *strongly encourages* Site Plan submittal **BEFORE** full plan submittal. This allows staff the opportunity to comment on major components of the development, which can affect all aspects of the site. Items on the Site Plan should include setbacks, parking, buffering, access, detention, and landscaping. Each of these items has a significant impact on the location and layout of a building, which can affect the architectural and building plans. Unfortunately, if items are shown incorrectly on the Site Plan and a full set of plans has already been created based on incorrect information, the result is often wasted time and money.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

Historic Preservation Commission

8/3 - 5:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

Zoning Board of Appeals

8/4 - 2:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

City Council

8/6 - 5:30pm | City Hall

First Friday

8/7 - 5:00pm | Downtown Valdosta

City Council

8/20 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Art Walk

8/21 - 5:00pm | Downtown Valdosta

Greater Lowndes Planning Commission

8/31 - 5:30pm | Lowndes County Health Dist. Admin. Office

Zoning Board of Appeals

9/1 - 2:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

First Friday

9/4 - 5:00pm | Downtown Valdosta

Farm Days

9/5 & 9/19 - 9-12:00pm | Downtown Valdosta

Historic Preservation Commission

9/8 - 5:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

City Council

9/10 - 5:30pm | City Hall

City Council

9/24 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Greater Lowndes Planning Commission

9/28 - 5:30pm | Lowndes County Health Dist. Admin. Office

First Friday

10/2 - 5:00pm | Downtown Valdosta

Historic Preservation Commission

10/5 - 5:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

Zoning Board of Appeals

10/6 - 2:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

City Council

10/8 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Greater Lowndes Planning Commission

10/26 - 5:30pm | Lowndes County Health Dist. Admin. Office



VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.VALDOSTACITY.COM/PLANNING

The CITY OF VALDOSTA...A City Without Limits, A Region of Opportunity!