

Planners Post

Planning Tomorrow's Future Today

Inside...

<i>GATEway Grant Update</i>	2
<i>New Board Members</i>	2
<i>Valdosta Main Street Farm Days</i>	3
<i>Upcoming Meetings</i>	4

Welcome back James Horton!

Please welcome our new Historic Preservation & Special Projects Planner, James A. Horton to our Planning and Zoning Team. James has a Masters degree in Historic Preservation, and worked with the SGRDC (now known as the Southern Georgia Regional Commission) as a Historic Preservation Planner for several years before coming on board with the City as Main Street Manager. He has owned and operated his own restaurant, The Wiregrass, in historic downtown Quitman for the past 10 years before joining us.



We welcome James into this new position and know he will be a great fit for our team! If you have a questions about Historic Preservation or Overlay Districts, please contact James for more information at jhorton@valdostacity.com.

Submit Your Preservation Award Nominations Today!

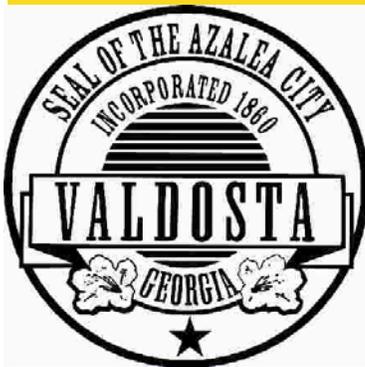
Nominations are being accepted for the 7th Annual Valdosta Preservation Awards. This program recognizes historic property owners who go "above and beyond" in their efforts to restore their historic buildings. Award winners are presented with a framed certificate signed by the Mayor and an award banner that can be displayed on their historic building.

Projects may be nominated for three categories: Outstanding Achievement (for major restoration projects) Distinguished Merit (for minor restoration projects), and Excellence in Compatible New Construction (for new buildings that are compatible with the historic district's character). There is also a Stewardship Award for owners of historic buildings who have consistently cared for and maintained their building. The Harold Bennett Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an amazing individual for their contributions to historic preservation in Valdosta.

Friday, **April 24th** is the deadline to submit a nomination. Nomination forms can be downloaded from www.valdostacity.com/planning or by visiting the Planning and Zoning Division office at 300 N. Lee Street, Room 111.

The 2015 Valdosta Preservation Awards will be presented on May 21st at the Valdosta City Council meeting.

For questions about this awards program, please contact James Horton at jhorton@valdostacity.com or 229-259-3563.



CITY OF VALDOSTA

Planning and Zoning Division
300 N. Lee Street

Valdosta, Georgia 31601
229.259.3563

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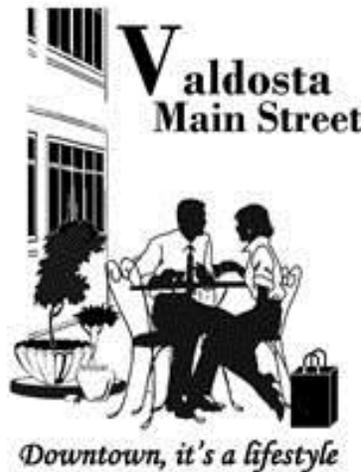
Welcome These New Board Members

Boards and commissions are an integral part of the government process in Lowndes County and the incorporated cities. The city and county have several boards that we encourage our citizens to participate in which help make our communities better. The city and county appoint their respective seats on the boards, and each have a staff liaison that contributes to organizing meetings, agendas and minutes, along with other duties.

Our Planning and Zoning staff help manage and maintain four boards and commissions. They are the Valdosta-Lowndes Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBOA), the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission (GLPC), the Valdosta Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), and the Central Valdosta Development Authority (CVDA).

We are happy to announce that the CVDA welcomes Ms. Angela Crance, who has just recently opened “Art & Soul” which is her family-owned furniture, art, & design company, in downtown Valdosta.

Also, the Historic Preservation Commission welcomes two new members: Mr. Alex Alvarez and Ms. Sandie Burkett. Alex works with the administration of the Valdosta City School system, and Sandie is a school teacher for Berrien County Schools. Both have an appreciation for Valdosta’s rich historic architecture and will be excellent members. Please check the City’s website to obtain a current listing of all our boards, commissions and authorities to which the City and County make appointments.



Calling All Farm Day Vendors

Planning for Farm Days is starting up. The Main Street office has a few limited spaces left. If you are a farmer and want to sell your produce, or you are an artisan and want to sell your crafts, please contact the Main Street office or check out the website here: <http://valdostamainstreet.com/activities/farm-days/>

Gateway Project Update

Below is the final rendering for the new Gateway Corridor signage on North Valdosta Road. Due to rainy weather, the holidays, and a gas line needing to be moved, construction has been delayed. However, trees have been ordered and are ready to be delivered. Hopefully, staff will start planting trees on March 2nd. Once the trees are in place, stormwater staff will then construct the sign. The estimated date of completion is March 31, 2015. The City of Valdosta was awarded a \$19,490 GATEway Grant from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) — as part of \$1.9 million GDOT awarded to government entities across the state for community landscaping projects on state routes. For more information, please contact Emily Davenport at (229) 259-3530.



Farm Days 5th Season Bringing Market Fresh Goods to Downtown

As spring approaches, there are many activities to look forward to. Here at Valdosta Main Street, one of our favorite things about spring is the kick off to the farmer's market season.

Valdosta Farm Days is ramping up for a 5th season at the historic Lowndes County Courthouse square. The market kicks off on May 2nd, and will be open from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the first and third Saturdays of each month through September (with a few exceptions) and every Saturday in June. We will also have a special Holiday Market on December 5th. Find the full schedule at www.valdostamainstreet.com.

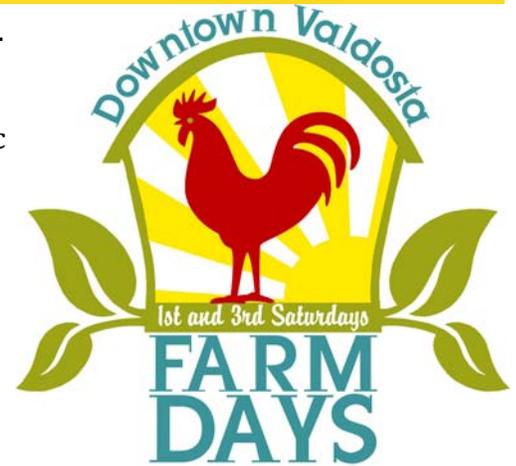
Customers can expect to find local fresh produce, baked goods, meats, eggs, honey, plants, and other specialty items. We want to make it easy for you to come and shop with us. If there's no cash in your wallet, no need to find an ATM – just stop by our Information Booth and use your debit card to receive Market tokens in exchange. Then, use your tokens to purchase anything at the Market. The tokens never expire and you receive cash change from vendors if your purchase is less than your token amount.

Have an EBT (food stamp) card? No problem! Your card is welcome at the market and thanks to the generous support of Wholesome Waves nutrition incentive program, Farm Days provides matching funds (up to \$50) to EBT shoppers. So, use your EBT card and double your money!

The farmer's market is just the beginning for spring events Downtown. Combining the love of art and Historic Downtown Valdosta, it is our pleasure to invite you to the summer Art Walks on First Fridays, May 1st and August 7th. We will also be featuring a wine and beer tasting experience at participating Art Walk locations. Wristbands for the wine and experience are available for \$20 per person with all proceeds going to the Public Art Advisory Committee. Participants of both the Art Walk and wine/beer experience will be given a Passport. These will be stamped at each Art Walk location. Turn in your completed Passport for a chance to win a fabulous gift.

Mark your calendars for May 11- 15. Downtown Valdosta fills with live music during lunchtime for the week-long Brown Bag Lunch Concert Series. The free concerts take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the Lowndes County Courthouse Lawn with lunches being sold by downtown restaurants. Bring your friends and family to this free community event and see what downtown Valdosta has to offer.

Come downtown and check out one of these events while enjoying Valdosta's extensive dining opportunities and amazing retail stores. The shops, restaurants, galleries, boutiques, services and entertainment in downtown Valdosta provide something for everyone! We hope to see you soon.



Contact the
Planning & Zoning Division at:
229.259.3563

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Missy Smith
Main Street Program Coordinator
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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

3/2 - 5:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

Zoning Board of Appeals

3/3 - 2:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

City Council

3/5 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Central Valdosta Development Authority

3/10- 2:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

City Council

3/19 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Greater Lowndes Planning Commission

3/30 - 5:30pm | Lowndes County Health Dist. Admin. Office

Historic Preservation Commission

4/6 - 5:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

Zoning Board of Appeals

4/7 - 2:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

City Council

4/9 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Central Valdosta Development Authority

4/14- 2:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

City Council

4/23 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Greater Lowndes Planning Commission

4/27 - 5:30pm | Lowndes County Health Dist. Admin. Office

Historic Preservation Commission

5/4 - 5:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

Zoning Board of Appeals

5/5- 2:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

City Council

5/7 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Central Valdosta Development Authority

5/12- 2:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

Greater Lowndes Planning Commission

5/26 - 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!