

CITY OF VALDOSTA

# THE HR NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021

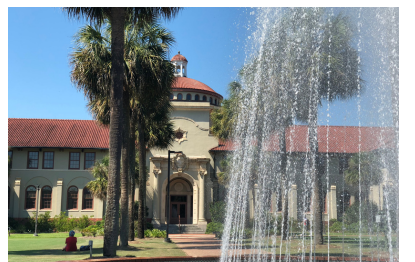
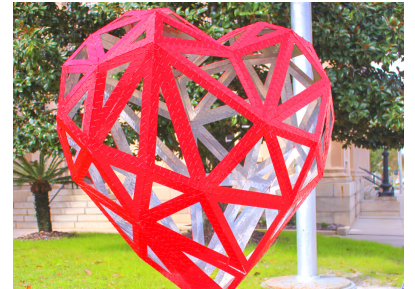


**VALDOSTA**  
A City Without Limits



# CONTENTS

- 02 Who's Who in HR
- 03 Welcome to HR Azhia
- 04 Employee's Birthdays
- 05 Employee's Anniversaries
- 06 Mandatory Employee Cultural Awareness Training
- 07 Upcoming Events
- 08 Photos from Past Events
- 09 Director's Message



HELLO  
Spring



# Who is Who in HR

## YOUR GO-TO TEAM "Whom do I call for...?"

It can be confusing to determine who in HR to call with your specific questions.  
Use the information below to point you in the right direction.

---



**Catherine Ammons**

Deputy City Manager of Administration/  
Director of Human Resources  
cammons@valdostacity.com  
(229) 259-3544 ext. 4745

EEO Claims, lawsuits, related issues.

Employee grievances and appeals.

Position management, workflow,  
reorganization.

Policy interpretation/challenges.

Any issue, problem, or question for which  
you are unable to get a timely answer.

Sick Leave Donation.

Staff handbook updates/changes.



**Ryien Bonner**

Human Resources Coordinator  
rbonner@valdostacity.com  
(229) 259-3544 ext. 4318

Employment Verification  
Employment On-boarding  
Training  
Job Postings  
I-9 Verifications



**Amanda Hendricks**

Sr. Human Resources Manager  
ahendricks@valdostacity.com  
(229) 259-3544 ext. 4747

Payroll  
Health Benefits  
Unemployment benefits  
Retirement point of contact



**Azhia Smothers**

Human Resources Coordinator  
asmothers@valdostacity.com  
(229) 259-3544 ext. 4746

Worker's Compensation claims  
Property insurance  
FMLA



# Welcome to HR Azhia!

*Human Resources Coordinator*



Azhia Smothers was born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi, and attended Jackson State University, where she met her husband, Darrian. In 2017, after serving in the military for four years, Darrian relocated to Moody Air Force Base. In the summer of 2018, Azhia began her career working as the Public Information Officer with the City of Valdosta. After a year and a half, she transferred to the Utilities Department, where she was the Customer Service Assistant. Currently, Azhia is pursuing a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership/Public Administration, which led her to the Human Resources field.

In her spare time, Azhia enjoys traveling with her husband and two-year-old daughter. Azhia is also a self-proclaimed foodie and loves to cook. When she is not traveling or cooking, she loves learning and trying new things, which inspired her to start her own small business.

Azhia is eager to learn all there is about Human Resources and looks forward to the experience and relationships that she will gain in this new role.



# EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS



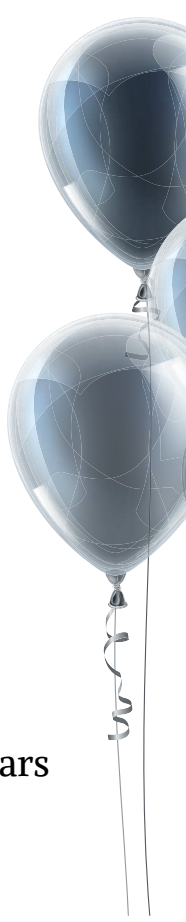
- THURSTON LAMB, 04/02
- MARY L NEWBERN, 04/02
- BARRY LEE VIRGIL, 04/03
- ENDREA LATRICE CARTER, 04/04
- HENRY TONYCISNEROS JR, 04/04
- CARLOAS ANTHONY JONES, 04/05
- MICHAEL ZANE KNIGHTONJR , 04/05
- BRADLEY D COLLINS, 04/06
- CHRISTINA COOLEY, 04/06
- JOE L MCKINNON JR, 04/06
- ELMORE JAMES COWINS 04/07
- THOMAS B WELCH, 04/07
- BRANDON ONEAL MATHENY, 04/08
- HEATHER PERRY TURNER, 04/08
- NICHOLAS K BAUGH, 04/09
- L. CHARLES DINKINS JR, 04/09
- DANIEL F DUTTON, 04/10
- CORINEE KELLY, 04/10
- HENRY MAXWELL, 04/10
- LENNIS M. BATTLES, 04/11
- MONTI MONTEAL BRYANT, 04/11
- ANN LIVEY KASUN, 04/11
- ISAAC W AVRETT, 04/12
- ALBERTO M CASTELLANOS, 04/12
- STEVEN JOHN PATELSKI, 04/13
- SHARON D MCKINNON, 04/14
- ANTHONY W MUSGROVE, 04/14
- DANNY E RICKMAN, 04/14
- KENNETH HERMAN LOWE, 04/15
- STEVEN C PARRISH, 04/15
- BENJAMIN C WAINRIGHT, 04/16
- MARGARET ANNE TORRES, 04/17
- VINCENT R SCRUGGS, 04/18
- PATRICK BRANNON BARRETT, 04/20
- ROGER J ROUNDTREE, 04/21
- DOCK WADE JR, 04/21
- LUKENZIE ANDREW ABSOLU, 04/23
- CALEB J CLARK, 04/23
- VINCENT RICARDO HOUSTON, 04/23
- KEVIN D JENKINS, 04/24
- NIESHA L FERGUSON, 04/25
- CINDY G HASTY, 04/25
- ALEXANDER B MERRITT, 04/25
- STEVEN D BRISTOW, 04/27
- LAUREN ASHLEY HURLEY, 04/27
- DOUGLAS J STEVENSON II, 04/27
- ROBERT W BURKHALTER, 04/29
- PATRICK S COLLINS, 04/29
- CATHY J CRIBB, 04/29
- TAYLOR A MARZELL, 04/29
- STEVEN MARCUS WEBB, 04/29
- ANTHONY D WILLIAMS, 04/29
- SCOTTIE LEE FOWLER, 04/30
- RICHARD K PETERSON, 04/30





# EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES



- NANCY DENISE ROBINSON, 04/03/21, 36 Years
  - LONNIE B ROBINSON, 04/06/21, 34 Years
  - KATHERINE L CHAVEZ, 04/13/21, 28 Years
  - KENNETH B HADLEY, 04/13/21, 28 Years
  - RICHARD M BURKHART, 04/11/21, 27 Years
  - JASON W BARNES, 04/10/21, 26 Years
  - KARI ANN WILLIAMS, 04/24/21, 26 Years
  - GLORIA ANN WHITE, 04/09/21, 24 Years
  - JOHNNY HENRY JR, 04/08/21, 19 Years
  - JORDAN V WASHINGTON, 04/08/21, 19 Years
  - SHARON D MCKINNON, 04/15/21, 19 Years
  - RICHARD A ALDERMAN, 04/29/21, 19 Years
  - JOHN LYLE HERPIN, 04/17/21, 17 Years
  - THOMAS EDWARD MEYER, 04/11/21, 14 Years
  - STEPHEN JON TURNMEYER, 04/16/21, 14 Years
  - JOE L MCKINNON JR, 04/07/21, 13 Years
  - SCOTT CHRISTOPHER GARREN, 04/20/21, 12 Years
  - TYSHON SAMUEL REED, 04/20/21, 12 Years
  - MATTHEW LOWRY MARTIN, 04/04/21, 10 Years
  - WINSTON MACK WILLIAMS, 04/01/21, 10 Years
  - BRYAN ESTUARDO RECINOS-MENDEZ, 04/18/21, 10 Years
  - WANDA LOUISE ROSE, 04/02/21, 9 Years
  - ROBERT I GAINES JR, 04/16/21, 9 Years
  - MICHAEL MCIRVIN, 04/16/21, 9 Years
  - BRIAN SIELEE BRAZILL, 04/23/21, 9 Years
  - ROGER THOMAS CHASTAIN, 04/29/21, 8 Years
  - STEVEN JOHN PATELSKI, 04/29/21, 8 Years
  - LONNIE R LEADBETTER, 04/14/21, 7 Years
  - BEN T JOHNSON JR, 04/11/21, 5 Years
  - FRANKLIN L KIER, 04/28/21, 5 Years
  - ANDRE M WINSTON JR, 04/09/21, 3 Years
  - DYLAN THOMAS WELCH, 04/16/21, 3 Years
  - SHUNTEL DEON WARD, 04/23/21, 3 Years
- 





# **MANDATORY EMPLOYEE CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING**

Mandatory Employee Cultural Awareness training starts April 7th and will run through the entire month of April. Please make sure to register if you haven't already done so.

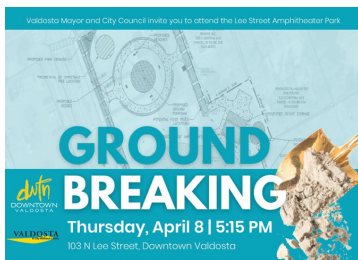
# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 1 CITY EXPO AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL



Day: Thursday, April 8, 2021  
Time: 5 pm – 7:30 pm  
Place: Lee St. Lot (103 N Lee St.)

## 2 AMPHITHEATER GROUNDBREAKING



Day: Thursday, April 8, 2021  
Time: 5:15 pm  
Place: Lee St. Lot (103 N Lee St.)

## 3 MAKER'S MARKET



Day: Saturday, April 10, 2021  
Time: 9 am  
Place: Downtown Valdosta

## 4 FREE SPRING E-RECYCLING EVENT



Day: Saturday, April 10, 2021  
Time: 9 am – 12 pm  
Place: Public Works (1017 Myrtle St)

## 5 SIDEWALK CHALK COMPETITION

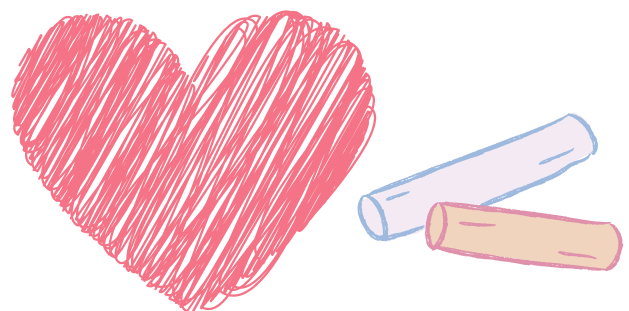


Day: Saturday, April 10, 2021  
Time: 10 am  
Place: Downtown Valdosta

## 6 SIDEWALK SALE

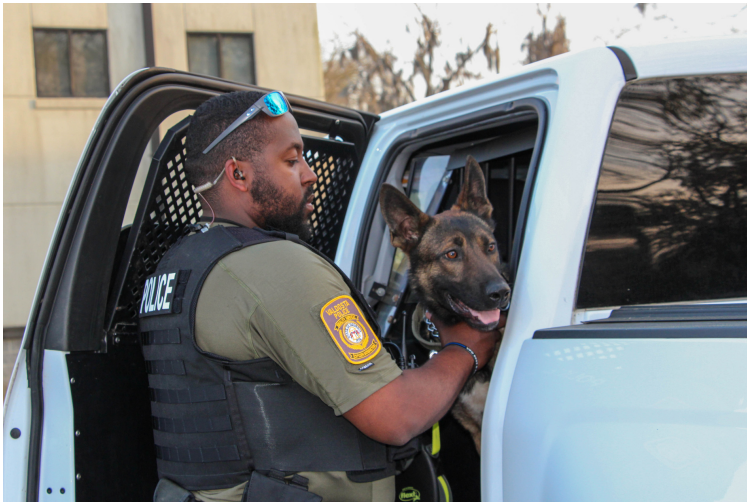


Day: Saturday, April 10, 2021  
Time: 10 am  
Place: Downtown Valdosta





# Photos From Past Events





# Director's Message



## Kindness Matters at Work and in Life

In our often crazy world, it's sometimes hard to see kindness. What if you could change that starting in your own workplace? As an interpersonal skill, kindness teaches us to be generous, warm, and selfless. By offering thoughtful gestures, it connects people in ways that can't be achieved any other way.

Kindness matters just as much in workplace relationships as it does in personal ones. Plus, it makes you happier and healthier overall by reducing stress effects and boosting immunity.

It's contagious. In a good way. I challenge everyone to consider doing a kindness challenge at work. It can be simple — smiling at everyone, opening the door for strangers, etc. for at least a week.

