

THE HR NEWSLETTER

CITY OF VALDOSTA

SPRING IS HERE!



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March Birthdays



- Freddie Broome, April 1
- Glenda Carter, April 1
- Thurston Lamb, April 2
- Mary Newbern, April 2
- Bennie Kennedy, April 3
- Henry Cisneros Jr, April 4
- Berna Hepburn, April 5
- Carloas Jones, April 5
- Michael Knighton Jr, April 5
- Joe McKinnon Jr, April 6
- Elmore Cowins, April 7
- Thomas Welch, April 7
- Brandon Matheny, April 8
- Heather Turner, April 8
- Chuck Dinkins, April 9
- Daniel Dutton, April 10
- Corinne Kelly, April 10
- Henry Maxwell, April 10
- Lennis Battles, April 11
- Monti Bryant, April 11
- Ann Kasun, April 11
- Steven Patelski, April 13
- Caleb Wright, April 13
- Sharon McKinnon, April 14
- Anthony Musgrove, April 14
- Danny Rickman, April 14
- Carl Brooks, April 15
- Kenneth Lowe, April 15
- Steven Parrish, April 15
- Derrick Thompson, April 15
- Benjamin Wainright, April 16
- Margaret Torres, April 17
- Vincent Scruggs, April 18
- Theodore Butler, April 19
- Patrick Barrett, April 20
- Roger Roundtree, April 21
- William Smith, April 21
- Dock Wade Jr, April 21
- Lukenzie Absolu, April 23
- Caleb Clark, April 23
- Vincent Houston, April 23
- Darell Carter Sr, April 24
- Kevin Jenkins, April 24
- Niesha Ferguson, April 25
- Cindy Hasty, April 25
- Alexander Merritt, April 25
- Scot Miesbauer, April 25
- Ryan Willis, April 26
- Steven Bristow, April 27
- Douglas Stevenson II, April 27
- Ricky Weeks, April 27
- Robert Burkhalter, April 29
- Patrick Collins, April 29
- Cathy Cribb, April 29
- Taylor Marzell, April 29
- Steven Webb, April 29
- Anthony Williams, April 29
- Scott Fowler, April 30
- Jeffrey Jennings, April 30



Employee Anniversaries

• Nancy Robinson, 34	• Winston Williams, 8
• Benjamin Brinson, 32	• Bryan Recinos-Mendez, 8
• Lonnie Robinson, 32	• Wanda Rose, 7
• Willie Graham, 26	• Robert Gaines Jr, 7
• Katherine Chavez, 26	• Michael McIrvin, 7
• Kenneth Hadley, 26	• Brian Brazill, 7
• Richard Burkhart, 25	• William Carter, 6
• Jason Barnes, 24	• Roger Chastain, 6
• Kari Williams, 24	• Aaron Lyons, 6
• Bennie Kennedy, 23	• Steven Patelski, 6
• Gloria White, 22	• Tangela Rowe, 6
• Raymond Gaines Jr, 19	• Lonnie Leadbetter, 5
• Johnny Henry Jr, 17	• Darell Carter Sr, 4
• Jordan Washington, 17	• Michael Fos, 4
• Sharon McKinnon, 17	• Ben Johnson Jr, 3
• Richard Alderman, 17	• Franklin Kier, 3
• John Herpin, 13	• Victoria Schenk, 2
• Thomas Meyer, 12	• Andre Winston, 1
• Stephen Turnmeyer, 12	• Dylan Welch, 1
• Joe McKinnon Jr, 11	• Glenda Carter, 1
• Scott Garren, 10	• Shuntel Ward, 1
• Tyshon Reed, 10	
• Matthew Martin, 8	

March Employee of the Month

Valdosta Mayor John Gayle honored Larry Ogden as the March 2019 Employee of the Month at the March 7, City Council meeting. Ogden received a framed certificate, a check for \$200, and his name will appear on a plaque displayed in City Hall.

Larry Ogden began his employment with the City of Valdosta Engineering Department, November 1997, and currently holds the position of Traffic Manager in the Traffic and Street Management Division of the Engineering Department. Traffic and Street Managers are responsible for managing the operations of the Traffic and Street Maintenance Divisions with the Engineering Department. They oversee 14 other positions, coordinate activities of the Traffic Division Staff, and prepares and issues employee work assignments.



Traffic and Streets Managers also coordinate wireless and fiber projects, ensures that all traffic systems are operational, oversees the daily operations of the wireless, fiber optic and CCTV network systems, and investigates all matters and complaints related to traffic control systems, fiber optics, signage, marks, potholes, street curbs, and driveway aprons and sidewalk repairs.

Mr. Ogden started his career in the Sign Shop and worked his way up to be promoted to Traffic and Sign Manager. He sets high standards of competence and performance of himself. This past year, Mr. Ogden's efforts have been outstanding from carefully overseeing and managing the installation of new equipment for all 128 signaled intersections City-wide to the installation of new-operation-system software and equipment within the TMC.

Due to Larry's action, the City of Valdosta is the first in Georgia to employ a completely wireless SMART system City-wide. Larry monitored and recommended system adjustments to ensure AM and PM peak traffic flow at the new Valdosta High School. Since assuming his role as Traffic and Street Manager, traffic and signal complaints have significantly dropped. Larry has significantly improved internal operations by choosing and promoting outstanding individuals to fill vital positions.

The City of Valdosta Engineering Department is elated by Larry's reliability, quality of work, innovative cost-saving ideas, and attitude during his 21 years with the City.

Upcoming Events

Georgia Cities Week & National Community Development Week is April 21-27. Mark your calendars, we will have events all week long!

Spring Employee Appreciation Luncheon will be held on April 25 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Saunders Park.



Metro 17 Valdosta Produces 'Next Gen Valdosta' Video Series

Series highlights the next generation workforce at the City of Valdosta

The City of Valdosta is working to engage the community with a new video series 'Next-Gen Valdosta'. The videos will be produced by the city's Metro 17 staff. The video series is aimed at educating citizens about the next generation workforce for the City of Valdosta.

"We wanted a platform to educate citizens about our younger workforce who is the future of the city. We have 600 employees and during seasonal times 650 employee. There are so many positions and careers with the city that citizens may not know about. We wanted another way to inform them of these opportunities," says Media Coordinator, Marcus McConico.



Save Lives: Don't Be a Distracted Driver



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nine people are killed and over 1,000 others are injured every day in accidents that involve a distracted driver in the United States. The National Safety Council observes April as **Distracted**

Driving Awareness Month to draw attention to this epidemic. Distracted driving is driving while doing another activity that takes your attention away from the road, and can greatly increase the chance of a motor vehicle crash.

While there is little you can do to control other people's driving, there is plenty you can do to reduce your own distractions.

There are three main types of distractions:

- 1. Visual: taking your eyes off the road**
- 2. Manual: taking your hands off the wheel**
- 3. Cognitive: taking your mind off of driving**

By practicing safe driving techniques, you can significantly reduce your chances of being involved in an auto accident. In addition to avoiding distractions, it's important to be aware of other drivers around you and make adjustments to your driving accordingly.

WHO'S WHO IN HR?

YOUR GO-TO TEAM "Who 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 Nita

Director of Human Resources

cnita@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



As I prepare to go on maternity leave I plan on delegating my tasks to Amanda, Sr. HR Manager. She will be able to answer any questions during my time off.

Amanda Hendricks

Sr. Human Resources Manager

ahendricks@valdostacity.com

(229) 259-3544 ext. 4747



- Payroll
- Health Benefits
- Unemployment benefits
- Retirement point of contact

LaToya Robinson

Human Resources Coordinator

lrobinson@valdostacity.com

(229) 259-3544 ext. 4318



- Employment verifications
- Employment Onboarding
 - Training
- Job Postings
- I-9 Verifications

Berna Hepburn

Human Resources Specialist

bhepburn@valdostacity.com

(229) 259-3544 ext. 4746



- Worker's Compensation claims
- Property insurance
- FMLA

Downtown Songwriter Showcase



**HURRY BEFORE
THEY SELL OUT!**

Downtown Valdosta
**SONGWRITER
SHOWCASE**

+Jim McBride
+ Mike Dekle
+Jarrod Brogdon

THE
John Jarrard
FOUNDATION

Tickets on Sale NOW
April 6th
Dosta Playhouse
Downtown Valdosta
8pm

Three small portrait photos of the featured musicians: Jim McBride, Mike Dekle, and Jarrod Brogdon.

Saturday April 6

★ ★ ★
**VALDOSTA
POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

IS NOW RECRUITING



**BECOME A
VALDOSTA
POLICE
OFFICER
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
EMPLOYER**

Open Entry-Level Testing Session:
THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019
5:00 P.M. - BRING ID & \$15 CASH
Location:

CITY HALL ANNEX
300 N LEE ST, VALDOSTA

Application Contact:
ABEMBRY@VALDOSTACITY.COM
229-293-3107

MORE INFO:

Minimum Requirements:

- At least 21 years of age
- A United States Citizen
- No felony convictions according to O.C.G.A. 35-8-8
- No family violence-related convictions according to O.C.G.A. 19-13-1
- At least a minimum of a High School Diploma or GED
- A valid Driver's License

- Starting Salary - \$38,099.25-\$40,099.25
- Partial (plus \$1,000.00) and Full College (plus \$2,000.00) Incentive Pay added to starting salary, if applicable
- Holiday time, Vacation, and Sick Leave
- Medical, Dental and Life Insurance:
- A free clinic is available to employees and their family members
- All uniforms, equipment, and take home car are provided.



11TH ANNUAL VALDOSTA
PEOPLES CHOICE

PHOTO CONTEST



Coleman | Talley

ATTORNEYS

\$700

IN CASH PRIZES WILL BE
AWARDED

**ENTRY DEADLINE:
MAY 15**

PHOTO CONTEST INFORMATION:

- All photos must be taken within Lowndes County
- All photos must be submitted with a contest application. Entry fee is \$12 for one photo or \$20 for two photos. Fees will be applied to having your photos printed on canvas wrap.
- Entry fee can be paid by cash or check to Valdosta Main Street or online (2.9%)
- Photos can be submitted digitally through the online application or to abecton@valdostacity.com
- Contest open to all ages, youth 16 and under are eligible for Youth Best In Show award



MORE INFO:
Ashlyn Becton, Public
Information Officer
(229)-259-3548