

Planners Post

Planning Tomorrow's Valdosta Today

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Emily,
Tracy,
Amanda, and
Ellen*

CITY OF VALDOSTA

Planning and Zoning Division

300 N. Lee Street

Valdosta, Georgia 31601

229.259.3563

www.valdostacity.com

Recognizing Our Commission and Board Members

The Planning and Zoning Division is privileged to work with three groups of dedicated citizens, each striving to strengthen our community's quality of life through consistent and well-founded decisions concerning planning, zoning, and historic preservation. In this issue of the *Planners Post*, we recognize these valuable groups and the important work they do.

Serving on the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals, or the Historic Preservation Commission takes time and commitment. Members dedicate several hours each month to visit properties, review staff reports, hear cases, and make recommendations and decisions on public requests concerning land use, zoning variances, and certificates of appropriateness. These members also are required to learn local ordinances, as well as how to apply and interpret them, and take time out of their busy schedules to attend regular work sessions and training opportunities. Their efforts are all for the sole purpose of making our community a better place to live, work, and play.

*We appreciate each of our Commission and Board members
and sincerely thank each of them for giving so freely of their time for the
benefit of our community.*

Historic Preservation Commission

Dr. Harry Hamm, Chairman
Dr. Dick Saeger, Vice-Chairman
Mary Bryant, Secretary
Randy Crews
Jed Douglas
Celine Gladwin
King Smith

Zoning Board of Appeals

Allan Strickland, Chairman
Scott Orenstein, Vice-Chairman
Paul Alvarado
Laverne Gaskins
Nancy Hobby
Dr. Willie Houseal
Mac McCall
Gretchen Quarterman

Greater Lowndes Planning Commission

Johnny Ball, Chairman
Franklin Bailey
Jody Hall
Ted Raker
Ryan Warren
Tommy Willis
Diondra Nichols, Vice-Chairman
Celine Gladwin
Lou McLendon
Ken Sherrill
Chip Wildes

For information on the City's other Boards and Commissions, and for service opportunities, please visit the City's website at www.valdostacity.com.

Williams Street Improvement Project Nearly Complete

The Williams Street Improvements Project, which began in early August 2013, is more than 70 percent complete and is projected to be completed before the Christmas holiday.

The project, which spans from Ashley Street to Park Avenue, includes the reconstruction of the Williams Street centerline, new curbs and gutters at various locations, minor storm drainage repairs, a new asphalt surface and sidewalks.

Williams Street will continue to be a two-way, two-lane road upon completion. The narrower lanes of this access road will reduce vehicular speed and therefore lessen accident rates which commonly occurred in this well-established and pedestrian-prevalent neighborhood. In addition, the slight realignment of Williams Street and the pruning of several large trees will increase visibility of travelers on this route making vehicular traffic safer.

On the portion of Williams Street between Brookwood Drive and Park Avenue, the contractor has completed the repairs and placement of the curb and gutter. Additional milling and road repairs will continue throughout this week to prepare for the first layer of the paving process, which will begin before Thanksgiving.

Similar work on the portion of Williams Street, between Brookwood Drive and Gordon Street, will begin in early December. The final layer of asphalt and temporary striping for two-way traffic will be completed on the entire length of the project thereafter and is expected to be completed before Christmas.



The Williams Street Improvements Project also features the construction of a 10-foot wide sidewalk that connects into the existing Azalea Trail, providing a safe route for recreation in our community. Most of the sidewalk has been installed from Brookwood Drive to Park Avenue with the exception of the area within Drexel Park, which will be accomplished this week.

“The City of Valdosta thanks its citizens for their patience throughout this project,” said City Engineer Pat Collins. “These types of projects are not pleasant while in the construction phase; however, we are confident that this will be another successful project that will add to the quality of life for our citizens, particularly the ones who live on or nearby Williams Street.”

Until the project is complete, motorists are urged to adhere to all traffic barricades and construction signs for their safety and the safety of workers. For more information, contact the city’s Engineering Department at (229) 259-3530.

Shop Small in Valdosta on November 30

Small Business Saturday is celebrated on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Established in 2010, this day supports the small businesses that make our community a great place to live. Last year, this event honoring our small businesses generated \$5.5 billion dollars in sales nationwide—showing that our small businesses can make a HUGE impact! Support our local, small stores and boutiques by getting out on November 30th and shopping at them. And don’t forget to log your shopping activity on Facebook and Twitter at [#shopsmall](https://www.facebook.com/shopsmall).



2013 Ornament Celebrates the History of the 'Dosta Theater

The Valdosta Main Street office has released its 21st edition in the series of the Downtown Valdosta Christmas ornaments. The 2013 ornament is green and features the Dosta Playhouse, home of the Theatre Guild Valdosta located at 122 N. Ashley Street. The ornament commemorates the 25th Anniversary Season for the Theatre Guild. Ryan Swains, Publicity Chair for the Theatre Guild, drew the rendition of the building that appears on this year's ornament.

Ornaments from most previous years are also available for purchase while supplies last. Other ornaments in the Downtown Valdosta Christmas ornament series include:

- The Roberts Building (2012)
- Historic Liberty Theater (2011)
- Valdosta Sesquicentennial/City Hall (2010)
- Converse Building (2009)
- Wisnaker Building (2008)
- City Market (2007)
- First Presbyterian Church (2006)
- King's Grill (2005)
- McKey Building (2004)
- First Baptist Church (2003)
- First United Methodist Church (2002)
- Ashley House (2001)

- St. Paul A.M.E. (2000-sold out)
- Converse-Dalton-Ferrell House (1999-sold out)
- Chamber of Commerce (1998-sold out)
- Lowndes County Historical Museum (1997-sold out)
- C.C. Varnadoe (1996-sold out)
- Lowndes County Courthouse (1995-sold out)
- Valdosta City Hall (1994-sold out)
- Dosta Playhouse (1993-sold out)

Ornaments from years 2009 through 2013 are \$10 each, and all other ornaments are \$6 each. The Christmas ornaments may be purchased at the Valdosta Main Street Office, located on the first floor of the Valdosta City Hall Annex, at 300 N. Lee Street. Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays.

For more information, call the Valdosta Main Street office at (229) 259-3577.



Can You Name This Landmark?

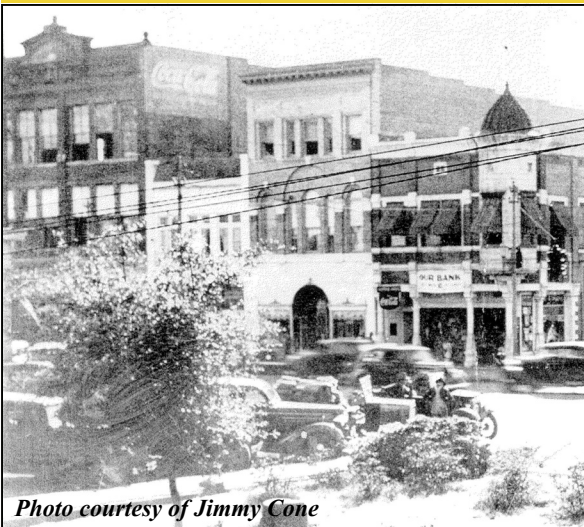


Photo courtesy of Jimmy Cone

If you can name the **four buildings** shown in this historic photograph, email your answer to Emily Foster at:

efoster@valdostacity.com

The first person to respond with the correct answer will be featured in the next *Can You Name This Landmark?* article. Good luck!

Congratulations to **David Bechler** for correctly guessing the First Methodist Church sanctuary as the Landmark in our August 2013 issue. Great job, David!!

Landmark from our April issue: First Methodist Church, located at the southwest corner of N. Patterson and W. Valley Streets in downtown Valdosta, is an impressive work of architecture. For over a century, this church sanctuary has been

home to the "mother church" of Methodism congregation, whose original members consisted of some of Valdosta's founders. For more information on this local landmark, please visit the Historic Preservation page at the City of Valdosta's Website: www.valdostacity.com/planning.

Contact the
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229.259.3563

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Amanda Peacock
Main Street Manager
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Ellen Hill
Main Street Program Coordinator
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**Downtown
HOLIDAY
Open House**

December 7 * 10 a.m. * Downtown Valdosta

- Breakfast with Santa at Bleu Café
- Carnival Show at 1st United Methodist Church
- Bezaar and Bake Sale at 1st Presbyterian Church
- Kids Play Area With Bounce Houses and Snow Zone
- Musical Entertainment
- Shopping in Downtown Shops
- Visits with Santa
- Cruise-In By the South Georgia Classic Car Club
- Pet Adoptions
- Christmas Parade and More!

CALL: 229-259-3577 EMAIL: ehill@valdostacity.com VISIT: valdostamainstreet.com

Upcoming Events:

Historic Preservation Commission

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

Zoning Board of Appeals

12/3 - 2:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

City Council

12/5 - 5:30pm | City Hall

City Council

12/19 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Greater Lowndes Planning Commission

No Meetings in December

Christmas Eve Half-Day Holiday

12/24 - City of Valdosta Offices Closed at Noon

Christmas Day Holiday

12/25 - City of Valdosta Offices Closed

New Year's Day Holiday

1/1 - City of Valdosta Offices Closed

Historic Preservation Commission

1/6 - 5:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

Zoning Board of Appeals

1/7 - 2:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

City Council

1/9 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

1/20 - City of Valdosta Offices Closed

Greater Lowndes Planning Commission Work Session

1/21 - 5:30pm | Lowndes County Health Dist. Admin. Office

City Council

1/23 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Greater Lowndes Planning Commission

1/27 - 5:30pm | Lowndes County Health Dist. Admin. Office

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.VALDOSTACITY.COM/PLANNING

Calling All Small Business Owners!

The Valdosta Small Emerging Business (V.S.E.B.) program is a unique and exciting opportunity for small, local businesses to effectively compete and bid in what is called the "procurement" process for City contracts. Every year the City puts out to bid various jobs from construction to providing office supplies. Do you have a small business located in the Valdosta area that provides construction, contractual, product or professional services? You may be eligible to join the Valdosta Small Emerging Business Program. To find out more information about this program, including certification requirements, please contact the V.S.E.B. program office at 229-671-3623.