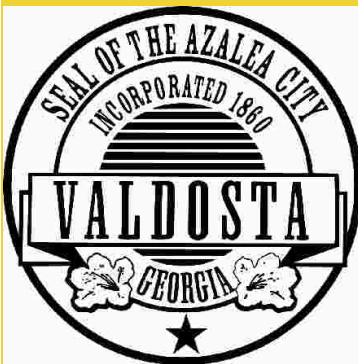
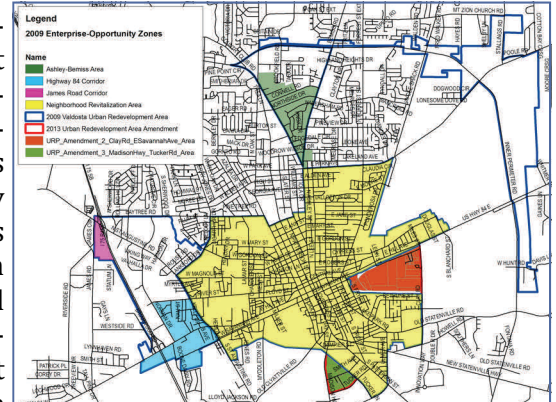


Inside...

LDR Update	2
Planning & Zoning Division Updates	2
Georgia Preservation Conference Held	3
Valdosta Preservation Award Presented	3

Urban Redevelopment Plan Amendments Adopted

As mentioned in our last issue, amendments to the Urban Redevelopment Plan expanding the Urban Redevelopment Area and Neighborhood Revitalization Area Enterprise Zone boundaries were adopted at the April 11, 2013 City Council meeting. These amendments expand the geographic area in which businesses can claim Enterprise and Opportunity Zone incentives—the Opportunity Zone employment tax credit of \$3,500 per new, full-time employee (minimum of 2 new positions) is particularly attractive to businesses wanting to expand or relocate in the amended areas. Planning staff has applied for Opportunity Zone designation for the two amendment areas with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, and expects this designation to be approved in June. For questions about the Urban Redevelopment Plan, Enterprise Zones, or Opportunity Zones, please contact Emily Foster at (229) 259-3563 or efoster@valdostacity.com.



Summer Stormwater Tips

Summer is nearly here! Our recent rains and warm weather conditions have established ideal growing conditions for residential and commercial landscaping. Here are a few ideas to consider when beautifying your property, while also managing our stormwater.

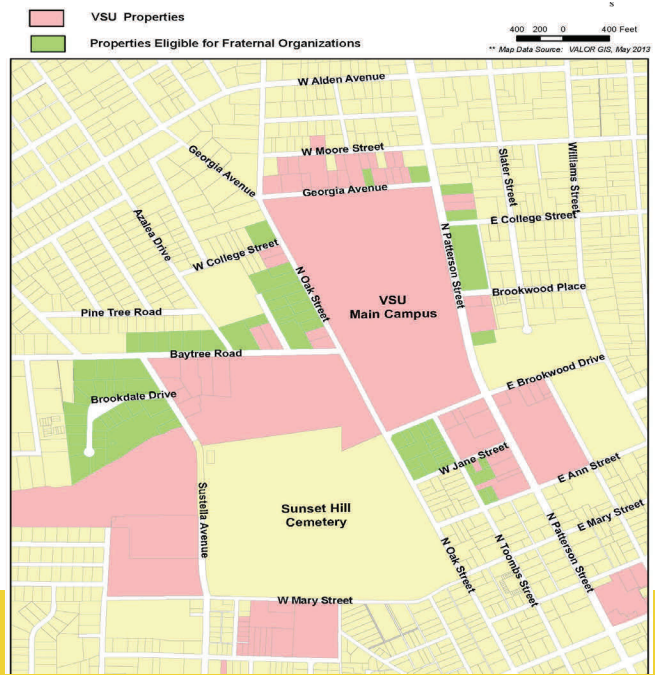
- * Position downspouts away from pavement and direct them toward grassy, planted or mulched areas.
- * Capture and reuse water from a downspout. For example, rain barrels are cost-effective ways to limit stormwater runoff near its source and to catch the “first flush” of stormwater from the roof; this can be used to water plants and gardens.
- * Use a broom or blower instead of a hose to remove plant debris and soil from your driveway.
- * Construct a residential rain garden. A rain garden is a shallow depression in the ground that captures run-off from your driveway or roof and allows it to soak into the ground.
- * As an alternative to piping stormwater to a roadside ditch, install bio-swales. Many bio-swales are wide, shallow, vegetated depressions that are gently sloped and directed toward areas that can easily stand an influx of water.
- * Reduce the amount of impervious paved walkways, driveways, parking areas and patios. As repairs are needed to impervious areas, consider using permeable paving, such as interlocking pavers or gravel.

For more information, please contact the Engineering Department, Stormwater Division at 229-259-3530.

CITY OF VALDOSTA
Planning and Zoning Division
300 N. Lee Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31601
229.259.3563
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LDR Update

At the request of Valdosta State University (VSU), the City is in the process of amending the Land Development Regulations (LDR) as it pertains to fraternities/sororities and similar facilities. The most significant of these amendments is the adoption of a new “eligibility map” to only allow these facilities in certain areas in close proximity to the main campus (see map inset to the right). Other amendments comprise the adding of a new definition for such facilities, and modifying their allowable zoning districts and supplemental standards. These amendments are the result of ongoing discussions between the City and VSU. They are scheduled for adoption by City Council on June 6th.



Planning & Zoning Division Updates

Things are always happening at the Planning and Division! Below are a few projects that we are, or will soon be, working on. If you have any questions or would like to provide input, please let us know by calling the Planning and Zoning Office at (229)259-3563 or sending an email to Alexandra Arzayus at aarzayus@valdostacity.com.

Hospitality Overlay District - As mentioned in our last issue, the draft regulations are nearly finished for this new Overlay district and will be presented for public input and possible revision this summer.

Sidewalk Café Ordinance - This new regulation for businesses operating sidewalk cafes or outdoor display of merchandise in the CVDA district has received public input and was subsequently revised. This ordinance is anticipated to be adopted by City Council later this year.

Consolidated Housing Plan - The P&Z Division will assist the Neighborhood Development Division in updating this important planning tool — scheduled for completion in early 2014.

MPO 2040 Transportation Plan - The process of updating our long-range transportation master plan is now beginning, and it will be completed early next year by the MPO. Both City and County staff will be assisting in this process, along with the other local governments of Greater Lowndes.

2040 Greater Lowndes Comprehensive Plan - Work will begin in late 2014 for the next full Plan Update which is required every 10 years. It will be due for completion in summer 2016.

LDR Updates and Revisions - The next revisions to the LDR will be a brand new Use Table and accompanying definitions. Preparation of these amendments is currently underway for adoption in early fall.

First Step Meeting Reminder: If you are starting a new business in the city, please schedule a First Step Meeting, so that we can help you easily navigate through the City's departments and get your business up and running fast. First Step Meetings take place every Thursday morning in 45-minute increments between 9:30 a.m. and noon. Call 229-259-3563 to schedule.

Statewide Preservation Conference Held

The State Historic Preservation Office and Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation held the annual Statewide Preservation Conference in Milledgeville April 26-27. Attending on behalf of the City of Valdosta was Historic Preservation Planner Emily Foster, Vice-Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) Dick Saeger, and Randy Crews, also of the HPC. This conference was beneficial for the HPC members as well as staff, as it provided training required for Valdosta to maintain its Certified Local Government (CLG) status. It also provided the opportunity to network with and learn from other communities throughout the state. Conference topics for CLG communities included sessions on preservation law, ways for HPCs to engage the public, ethics, and handling demolition in historic districts.

In addition to the educational benefit of this conference, attendees were invited to the Georgia Trust's Awards presentation, where Valdosta's own Clinton Beeland was presented with an Excellence in Rehabilitation Award. Mr. Beeland's building, the Smith Drug and Seed Co. Building located at 101 N. Ashley Street, was historically and sensitively rehabilitated in 2012, and serves as both the corporate offices of CJB Industries, Inc. and the Cotton Corner, a special events venue.

Also, the Georgia Alliance of Preservation Commissions, a co-sponsor of this conference, held its annual meeting at the end of the conference. Dr. Saeger resigned his term as a GAPC Region 5 Board representative, and nominated Emily Foster for the vacancy; Mrs. Foster was appointed to the GAPC Board of Directors to serve a 4-year term.

Valdosta Preservation Award Presented

The Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce was presented with a 2013 Stewardship Award during this year's Valdosta Preservation Awards. The Chamber was recognized with a Preservation Award due to their longstanding maintenance and careful oversight of the historic E. R. Barber house. Built in 1915 and designed by Lloyd B. Greer, the Barber House was home to one of Valdosta's early successful businessmen, E. R. Barber. His Neoclassical house was inherited by his daughter, Mrs. Ola Barber Pittman, and upon her death in 1977, the house was bequeathed to the "Citizens of Valdosta." The Chamber acquired it in 1979, and after much restoration work, the house became the Chamber's official office in 1981. The E.R. Barber House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.



For over three decades, the Chamber's Barber Trust Committee has ensured that this landmark building is properly maintained and preserved in its historic setting, and will continue to do so. The Chamber's use of and care for this landmark is a testament to its dedication to historic preservation. Accepting the 2013 Preservation Award for Stewardship is the Barber Trust Advisory Board Chairman Carla Penny, and 2013 Chamber of Commerce Chairman Jay Prince. The award was presented by Mayor John Gayle, HPC Chairman Harry Hamm, and Historic Preservation Planner Emily Foster. The Valdosta Preservation Awards are presented annually in May, which is also National Historic Preservation Month.

Contact the
Planning and Zoning office at
229.259.3563 or:

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Tracy Tolley,
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Alexandra Arzayus,
Planning and Zoning Technician
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Upcoming Events:

Historic Preservation Commission

6/3 - 5:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

Zoning Board of Appeals

6/4 - 2:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

City Council

6/6 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Greater Lowndes Planning Commission Work Session

6/17 - 5:30pm | Lowndes County Health Dist. Admin. Office

City Council

6/20 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Greater Lowndes Planning Commission

6/24 - 5:30pm | Lowndes County Health Dist. Admin. Office

Historic Preservation Commission

7/1 - 5:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

Independence Day Holiday

7/4 - City of Valdosta Offices Closed

Zoning Board of Appeals

7/9 - 2:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

City Council

7/11 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Greater Lowndes Planning Commission Work Session

7/22 - 5:30pm | Lowndes County Health Dist. Admin. Office

City Council

7/25 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Greater Lowndes Planning Commission

7/29 - 5:30pm | Lowndes County Health Dist. Admin. Office

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.VALDOSTACITY.COM/PLANNING

Be Smart: Submit a Site Plan at the START!

The City of Valdosta strongly *encourages* site plan submittal **BEFORE** full plan submittal. Submitting a Site Plan first allows staff the opportunity to comment on major components of the development which 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 the 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.

So, Be Smart, Submit a Site Plan at the START!

