

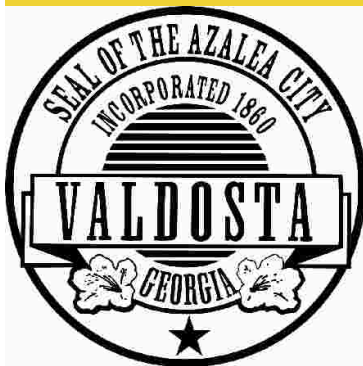
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CITY OF VALDOSTA
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Planners Post

Planning Tomorrow's Future Today

May is National Historic Preservation Month!

Established by the [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#) in 1973, National Historic Preservation Month celebrates the historic buildings and places that provide character and identity to our community. During this annual observance, many communities showcase historic places for the purposes of instilling community pride, promoting heritage tourism, and demonstrating the social and economic benefits of historic preservation.

Valdosta honors National Historic Preservation Month by holding two annual events: the Brown Bag Lunch Concert Series the first week in May, and the Valdosta Preservation Awards presentation at the second City Council meeting in May. In addition, this year a one-day Section 106 Training workshop will take place on June 5th, closely following Preservation Month (see page 3).



Our community is fortunate to have many historic buildings and neighborhoods in which we can appreciate local history. For instance, take a walk through downtown to experience buildings constructed during the boom era of Valdosta. While you're there, enjoy the unique shopping and eatery choices. Pick up the popular *Historic Driving Tour of Valdosta, Georgia* (available at the Planning & Zoning Division, Valdosta Main Street, and Public Information offices) and take a leisurely drive through the city's historic neighborhoods. Visit the Lowndes County Historic Society and Museum to view rare historical exhibits and learn interesting facts about our local heritage. Tour the Crescent and listen to a member of the Valdosta Garden Clubs share with you the unique story of this fascinating property. These, and many more historical experiences are available in our City for you to discover.



So, get out and enjoy the many historic treasures Valdosta has to offer! Don't forget to document your experiences on Facebook and Twitter—the official hashtag for Preservation Month is **#presmonth**.

For more information about historic preservation in Valdosta, please contact Emily Foster, Historic Preservation and Special Projects Planner at efoster@valdostacity.com or (229) 259-3563.

Farm Days Brings Back Market Fresh Goods to Downtown

The weather is warm, the local gardens are producing, and the Downtown Valdosta Farm Days farmer's market is in full swing in its fourth season selling fresh, local produce, food and garden items. Located at the historic Lowndes County Courthouse, the market will be open every first and third Saturday from May until October and every Saturday in June from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The City of Valdosta's Mayor and Council established a goal to hold a farmer's market in historic downtown Valdosta. After extensive research, planning, and strategizing, Downtown Valdosta Farm days is well on its way into its fourth season and is growing more than ever imagined. The Valdosta Main Street Office hosted and managed the 2011 season. The support from the community was overwhelming!

At the first market of the 2011 season, many vendors were sold out within the first hour of being open. It was a true testament that this was something our community longed for.

Through networking and community cooperation, the South Health District, Lowndes County Partnership for Health and the Partnership for Healthy Living have also volunteered to help manage the market. With assistance from these new partner agencies, additions to the market have included the Wholesome Waves nutrition incentive program whose mission is to increase access to healthy, locally grown food at farmers markets by creating financial incentives for low-income shoppers through doubling the value of assistance benefits at these markets. The program also allows SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) participants to use their EBT cards to purchase fresh food at the market.

Farmers markets have become an integral part of the urban/farm linkage across the state and nation and have continued to rise in popularity, mostly due to the growing consumer interest in obtaining fresh products. "Last year, we enjoyed a diverse selection of vendors at our inaugural farmers market, with the number growing as the season progressed," said Ellen Hill,

Valdosta Main Street Program Coordinator. "Customers can again expect to find farm fresh produce, baked goods, meats, eggs, honey, plants and other specialty items at this year's market."

This season introduces several new farmers and welcomes back more than 20 returning vendors to its market. Community members have found the market to be a great place to meet family and friends, and the market has created an environment where customers stay and enjoy in Downtown Valdosta. It seems like it's a win-win situation for the downtown district. "We are proud of what we have going here in Downtown Valdosta," said Hill. "We strive to be the best place to live, work, and play in the region."

For more information about Downtown Valdosta Farm Days contact 229-259-3577, email ehill@valdostacity.com or visit us on the web at <http://www.valdostamainstreet.com> or on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/DowntownValdostaFarmDays>.



City Represented at National APA Conference and Statewide HPC Training



Planning & Zoning Administrator Matt Martin attended the American Planning Association (APA) National Planning Conference held at the World Congress Center in Atlanta from April 26-30. This is an annual event that is hosted in a different major metropolitan city each year, and is the first time it has been held in Atlanta in more than 25 years. This year there were more than 5,000 urban planners in attendance representing all 50 states, as well as 30 foreign countries.

There were literally hundreds of different sessions on a wide variety of planning-related topics, including mobile workshops, policy forums, special luncheons with keynote speakers and a special awards ceremony where national Planning Awards were given out in a variety of categories. Overall, planners gathered together to share their knowledge and information with each other and learn about the latest innovations in urban planning thought and practice.

In addition, as part of the conference Matt was one of 3 planners who represented the State of Georgia in APA's "National Delegate Assembly". Here, APA

members from all over the country were selected to gather and debate, and then vote on two important national policy guides being promulgated this year; (1) Aging in Community, and (2) Hazard Mitigation Policy. Each of these is a set of policy statements that are about 25 pages long that will be used in lobbying efforts with state and national leaders.



In addition, Historic Preservation Planner Emily Foster attended the Statewide HPC Training in Athens April 11-12. This training is provided twice a year by the Georgia Historic

Preservation Division, and is specifically focused on training Historic Preservation Commission members the basics in serving on an HPC, as well as relaying best practices for handling difficult cases. This 1.5 day workshop also provided an opportunity for the Georgia Alliance of Preservation Commission Board of Directors to officially meet, as Ms. Foster is the Region 5 representative for this organization.

Section 106 Training Comes to Valdosta

On June 5, 2014, Valdosta will host a Section 106 Training given by the Georgia Historic Preservation Division, and sponsored by the National Park Service and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Sessions will be presented by representatives from these agencies, as well as the Georgia Department of Transportation.

The process known as "Section 106" is a review process that assesses the impact of federally-funded construction projects upon historic resources. Often, local, state, and federal agencies undertake this review process to determine their federally-funded or permitted project does not adversely affect historic buildings, sites, or archaeological resources. If a negative effect is determined, a variety of steps can be taken to mitigate this effect. 'Section 106' itself refers to the actual provision within the National Historic Preservation Act, our federal law governing historic preservation activities.

This training is geared towards Historic Preservation Commission members and staff, preservation planners, historic preservation non-profit members and staff, environmental consultants, elected officials, historical society members and staff, and Main Street/downtown development board members and staff. It is also, of course, open to the general public.

Registration for this training can be found online at the Georgia Historic Preservation Division website: <http://www.georgiashpo.org/conferences>. Questions about this training may be directed to Emily Foster, Historic Preservation and Special Projects Planner at efoster@valdostacity.com or (229) 259-3563.

Heart & Soul Tour Visits Valdosta

Valdosta was the first stop of the 2014 Georgia Cities Foundation "Heart & Soul of Georgia" Bus Tour, which traveled to three southwest Georgia cities on May 14-15. The purpose of the tour, sponsored by the Georgia Municipal Association and the Georgia Cities Foundation, is to educate and inform local government leaders and downtown developers on the importance of successful downtown development and its role in supporting economic development efforts for regions and communities. This is the third time Valdosta has been a stop on the bus tour, since the Foundation began the tours in 2001.



City Manager Larry Hanson gives a presentation about downtown Valdosta to the tour participants at Steel Magnolias Restaurant.

The two-day tour brought approximately 40 state and community-building professionals downtown on May 14 to showcase the best practices in downtown development. City Manager Larry Hanson gave a lunch presentation at Steel Magnolias restaurant, and then Main Street and City staff led tours of three downtown development projects: the Ashley House redevelopment project, the CJB Industries/Cotton Corner Building, and the restaurants, living quarters and special occasion rentals at 306-310 North Patterson Street.

"We are proud that downtown Valdosta is once again showcased as an excellent example of successful public-private partnerships," said City Manager Larry Hanson. "Our downtown validates the principle that progress and preservation can take place simultaneously through proper planning, economic

sustainability and revitalization programs, culture and community emphasis, and with a focus on preserving the best of our community for future generations."

Each year, the Georgia Cities Foundation selects cities to participate based on their efforts to create vibrant and strong communities. In support of their mission to assist cities in their efforts to revitalize and enhance downtown areas, the foundation serves as a partner and facilitator in funding capital projects through a revolving loan fund which has provided nearly \$25 million to support downtown projects valued at more than \$100 million. The 2014 bus tour will also feature the downtown programs of the cities of Moultrie and Thomasville.

"It is an honor to host the Heart & Soul Bus Tour in Valdosta," said Howard Dasher, Chairman of the Central Valdosta Development Authority. "We are proud to welcome this influential group of people to our community and for the opportunity to highlight some of the key projects and success stories of our downtown."

Contact the Central Valdosta Development Authority and Valdosta Main Street office for more information at (229) 259-3577.



IDP Housing's CEO Rhett Holmes discusses details of the Ashley House renovation with the tour group.

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Vacant
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Upcoming Meetings/Events:

Historic Preservation Commission

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

Zoning Board of Appeals

5/6 - 2:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

City Council

5/8 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Central Valdosta Development Authority

5/13- 5:00pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

City Council—CANCELED

5/22 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Memorial Day Holiday

5/26 | City of Valdosta Offices Closed

Greater Lowndes Planning Commission

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

Historic Preservation Commission

6/2 - 5:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

Zoning Board of Appeals

6/3 - 2:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

City Council

6/5 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Central Valdosta Development Authority

6/10- 5:00pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

City Council

6/19 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Greater Lowndes Planning Commission

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

Zoning Board of Appeals

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

Independence Day Holiday

7/4 | City of Valdosta Offices Closed

Historic Preservation Commission

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

Central Valdosta Development Authority

7/8- 5:00pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

City Council

7/10 - 5:30pm | City Hall

City Council

7/24 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Greater Lowndes Planning Commission

7/28 - 5:30pm | Lowndes County Health Dist. Admin. Office

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.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.VALDOSTACITY.COM/PLANNING

The CITY OF VALDOSTA...A City Without Limits, A Region of Opportunity!