

Planners Post

Planning Tomorrow's Future Today

Inside...

<i>Common Sign Violations Seen Around Town</i>	2
<i>Another Successful Community Planning Month</i>	2
<i>Greater Lowndes Comprehensive Plan Update</i>	3
<i>Hahira Historic District Study Committee Formed</i>	3



Happy Holidays!

CITY OF VALDOSTA
Planning and Zoning Division
300 N. Lee Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31601
229.259.3563
www.valdostacity.com

Shop Small This Thanksgiving Weekend

Small Business Saturday is November 29th! While big-box retailers have Black Friday, Small Business Saturday is dedicated to showcasing and supporting local small businesses throughout the country. This annual observance began in 2010 and has become a national holiday campaign. Downtown Valdosta Main Street, as a regional center of locally owned businesses, supports and celebrates the importance behind shopping local. These businesses help to give Downtown a distinct personality that makes shopping and visiting here a unique and special experience. Celebrating shopping local is a good time to remember the economic impact locally owned businesses have; according to the American Booksellers Association over half of what you spend when you shop at a locally owned business will stay in your community, supporting local organizations and services. SHOP SMALL® with Downtown Valdosta's shops, restaurants, galleries, and boutiques on Small Business Saturday, November 29th, and make a big impact on our community. For more information, contact the Valdosta Main Street office at (229) 259-3577 or msmith@valdostacity.com.



Celebrate the Holidays with Valdosta Main Street

The Valdosta Main Street office has released its 22nd edition in the series of the **Downtown Valdosta Christmas ornaments**. The 2014 ornament, which was designed by the Main Street staff, is pearlescent white and features the Cranford Building located at 110-114 West Hill Avenue. Ornaments from most previous years are also available for purchase while supplies last. 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.



Valdosta Main Street's **Holiday Open House** on Dec. 6 will showcase the unique and magical fun and flare of Downtown Valdosta. Beginning at 8:30 a.m. with the first of three breakfast events with Santa. From 10:00 am to 4:00 pm join us for hands on activities for the kids, including Stuff Your Stockings, and entertainment on the courthouse lawn.

End your day with **The Greater Valdosta Community Christmas Parade**, one of Valdosta's most popular holiday traditions. The parade will begin at 5:00 p.m., at Woodrow Wilson Drive, proceed down N. Patterson Street, and end at the Bank of America Building. This year's parade theme is "*Candy Canes and Christmas Carols*." Creative holiday floats will be judged on overall appearance, special effects, creativity, workmanship and use of the theme.

Call the Valdosta Main Street office at (229) 259-3577 for more information.

Signs, Signs, Signs

When starting a new business, or rebranding an existing business, one of the most common items to look at is a sign. Are any changes going to be made to a freestanding sign? Does the business want a banner or a portable? How much will it cost? One of the questions that should be asked is, "Does it need a permit?"

Most sign contractors, and most business owners, know that freestanding signs and wall signs most generally will require a permit. If you'd like a new wall sign, or a bigger/smaller freestanding sign, you are responsible to get the signage permitted.

However, many people assume that because a sign is temporary (i.e. a banner, a portable, or pennant flags), it doesn't need a permit. However, both banners and portables DO need a permit. The cost is minimal, at \$35 for a banner permit or for a portable



permit, and you may display that banner or portable until December 31, 2015. However, portables are NOT permissible in the Valdosta Historic District. Additionally, pennant flags are considered attention getting devices and are prohibited within the City of Valdosta. One incidental sign (smaller signs, most commonly advertising properties for sale/rent/lease) per parcel is permitted; please call the Planning and Zoning to find out what size is permitted for your particular parcel. Also, incidental signs may not be placed in the City's Right of Way or on utility poles or trees.

If you have questions about signs, please give the Planning and Zoning office a call at 229-259-3563, or email Tracy Tolley, Zoning Coordinator, at ttolley@valdostacity.com.

Another Successful Community Planning Month

October was Community Planning Month and we had some eventful activities for others to check out how we celebrated APA's theme "Health and Prosperity". This year, we celebrated this theme through Farm Days, Rivers Alive, and other activities to show our planning activities. Thank you for joining us!

Hahira Historic District Study Committee Formed

The City of Hahira has formed a Study Committee to determine the boundaries of a local historic district, in an effort to protect the city's historic buildings. The Study Committee consists of Mayor Bruce Cain, City Councilman Mason Barfield, five members of the Hahira Historical Society, including Committee Chairman Tim Coombs, and ex-officio members City Manager Jonathan Sumner and City of Valdosta Historic Preservation Planner Emily Foster.

A historic preservation ordinance was adopted by the City in 1993 and the Hahira Historic Preservation Commission was established soon after to administer this ordinance. However, the boundaries of the historic district that were proposed never received approval from City Council; therefore, no property was ever designated for protection under the ordinance.

So far, the Committee has met twice in October to discuss the requirements of the historic preservation ordinance and lay the groundwork for determining a historic district. Once a proposed district has been mapped out, the Committee will hold a public meeting to gather input and share information. Ultimately, any proposed historic district will need to be approved by at least 50% of the property owners within the district as well as approved by the Hahira City Council.



Contact the
Planning & Zoning Division at:
229.259.3563

Matt Martin, AICP
Planning & Zoning Administrator
mattmartin@valdostacity.com

* {vacant position}
Historic Preservation & Special Projects Planner
@valdostacity.com

Tracy Tolley
Zoning Coordinator
ttolley@valdostacity.com

Alexandra Arzayus
Planning & Zoning Technician
aarzayus@valdostacity.com

Contact
Valdosta Main Street at
229.259.3577

Ellen Hill
Main Street Manager
ehill@valdostacity.com

Missy Smith
Main Street Program Coordinator
msmith@valdostacity.com

Winter Holidays

Please be aware that the City of Valdosta offices will be **closed** on the following dates for the observance of holidays:

Thanksgiving Day Holiday 11/27/14

Christmas Eve Half-Holiday 12/24/14
(Offices Closed at 12:00pm)

Christmas Day Holiday 12/25/14

New Year's Day Holiday 1/1/2015

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday 1/19/2015

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

Historic Preservation Commission

11/3 - 5:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

Zoning Board of Appeals

11/4 - 2:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

City Council

11/6 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Central Valdosta Development Authority

11/11- 2:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

City Council

11/20 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Greater Lowndes Planning Commission

11/24 - 5:30pm | Lowndes County Health Dist. Admin. Office

Historic Preservation Commission

12/1 - 5:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

Zoning Board of Appeals

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

Central Valdosta Development Authority

12/9- 2:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

City Council

12/11 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Greater Lowndes Planning Commission

No Meeting In December

Historic Preservation Commission

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

Zoning Board of Appeals

1/6- 2:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

City Council

1/8 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Central Valdosta Development Authority

1/13- 2:30pm | City Annex Multi-Purpose Room

City Council

1/22 - 5:30pm | City Hall

Greater Lowndes Planning Commission

1/26 - 5:30pm | Lowndes County Health Dist. Admin. Office



VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.VALDOSTACITY.COM/PLANNING

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