

City Beat



See a problem?

CLICK 'N FIX!

The new Valdosta Click 'N Fix app makes it easier than ever before for citizens to report non-emergency issues to city staff. Dozens of citizens have already downloaded the user-friendly tool to request city departmental services and to report quality of life issues such as potholes, damaged street signs, ordinance violations, and other issues that need attention—conveniently from the city website or any mobile device.

The Valdosta Click 'N Fix app was introduced in conjunction with the launch of the city's new website. The easy-to-use app employs GPS to recognize a citizen's location, offers a menu of common conditions to select from, and allows the user to upload pictures or videos to accompany a non-emergency service request. The mobile app may be used for a variety of other commonly reported issues such as street

maintenance, broken street lights, damaged trees, overgrown lots and others.

Once an issue is reported, the user receives an email message acknowledging that the service request has been received by the appropriate city staff. Citizens may opt to track their reported concerns, comment on the issue, and view and comment on other issues submitted by others.

Citizens should note that Valdosta Click 'N Fix should NOT be used for emergencies. For urgent matters that require immediate attention or a police response, call 9-1-1.

The Valdosta Click 'N Fix app is available at www.valdostacity.com/report-a-concern and may also be downloaded from the Android and iPhone mobile app stores. For more information, call the Public Information Office at 229-259-3548.

City announces
changes to

Sanitation Services Schedule

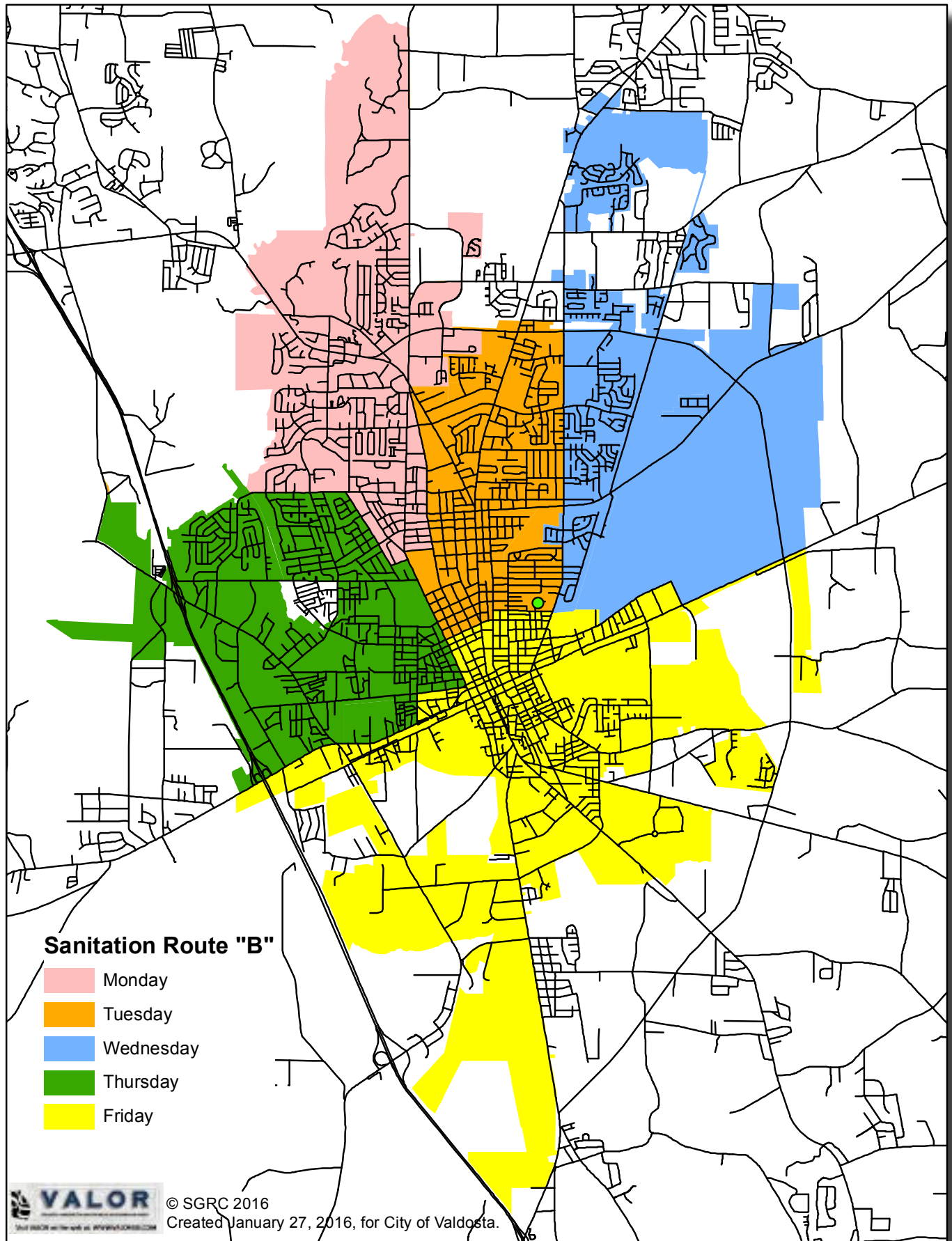
Beginning Monday, March 14, 2016, the city will implement a more efficient sanitation services schedule that will balance daily sanitation routes based on population and density. The schedule will change the sanitation services pickup dates for approximately one-third of city sanitation customers to a different designated day of the week. The much-needed change will improve the efficiency and customer service of the Sanitation Division, eliminate delays in sanitation pickups, and maximize the manpower and fuel resources of the department.

Sanitation customers are receiving information about the change via their utilities bills. Staff is also placing colored stickers on the green rollouts for every sanitation customer. These colored stickers have the designated pickup day printed on them to remind citizens in the coming weeks. The stickers are also color-coded with a map which also provides more information about the new sanitation schedule.

Citizens who do not receive a sticker attached to their trash bins by noon on March 11, 2016, or who would like more information may call Public Works at 229-259-3585. Additional information can be found at www.valdostacity.com/sanitation-schedule.

See Page 2 for a map of the new
Sanitation Services Schedule

New Sanitation Service Routes





To commemorate Arbor Day, three Trident Maples were planted near the American Legion Post 13. (In photo from left): Emily Davenport, City of Valdosta Assistant Engineering Director; Matt Mrizek, Georgia Forestry Commission; Bette Bechtel, Former City of Valdosta Councilmember and Past Tree Commission Member; John Gayle, Mayor; Larry Hanson, City Manager; Jason Manley, South Region Vice President of the Georgia Power Company; Amy Hall, Valdosta Tree Commission Chair; Monica Haynes, VSU Landscape & Grounds Superintendent; Kevin Jenkins, City of Valdosta Urban Forestry Supervisor.

City offers free Tree Pruning Class

The City of Valdosta Arbor Division partnered with the Lowndes County Extension Office on Feb. 25 to offer a free Tree Pruning Class to tree and landscape companies.

The class began indoors with a presentation from County Extension Agent/Coordinator Jake Price, and it ended with an outdoor demonstration by Urban Forestry Supervisor Kevin Jenkins who shared the proper pruning techniques and the equipment to use for the task. The class was well received, and the 33 attendees shared their interests in future training and suggested topics.

For more information, contact the Arbor Division at 229-259-3530 or visit the Arbor Division website at www.valdostacity.com/arbor to download the Tree Pruning Class information.



City Celebrates 30th Year as Tree City USA

The social, community, environmental and economic benefits of trees and our community's commitment to care for them was celebrated at the 2016 Arbor Day event, on Friday, Feb. 19. The event, hosted by the Valdosta Tree Commission, took place at the American Legion Post 13.

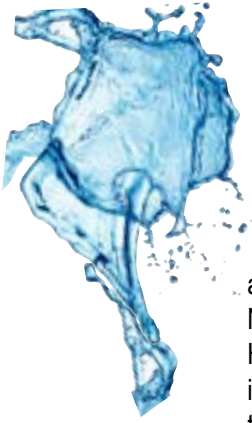
During the ceremony, the Georgia Forestry Commission honored the City of Valdosta as a Tree City USA community for its 30th consecutive year and for being one of only nine Georgia cities with this honor of 30 years or more.

Valdosta State University was also recognized for its fourth year as a Tree Campus USA, making it one of 12 colleges and universities in Georgia with this designation. Georgia Power was also recognized as the only utility company in the state as a Tree Line USA recipient for its eighth year.

Donald Davis, Director of the Lowndes County Historical Society and Museum, spoke at the event. Following his presentation, members of the Valdosta Tree Com-

mission announced the recipients of the Arbor Day awards: Annie Barbas—Tree Planting Award; First State Bank—Preservation Award; Kerry Watts, Environmental Horticulture Program Coordinator At Wiregrass Georgia Technical College—Legacy Award. To commemorate the event, three Trident Maples were planted.

The Tree City USA program was established in 1976 by the Arbor Day Foundation, the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service to improve community forestry. Since then, additional programs have been initiated such as Tree Campus USA and Tree Line USA to further promote healthy trees, community involvement and education. Today, there are more than 3,400 Tree City USA communities, 250 Tree Campus USA colleges/universities and nearly 150 utility companies that have been designated as Tree Line USA across the country.



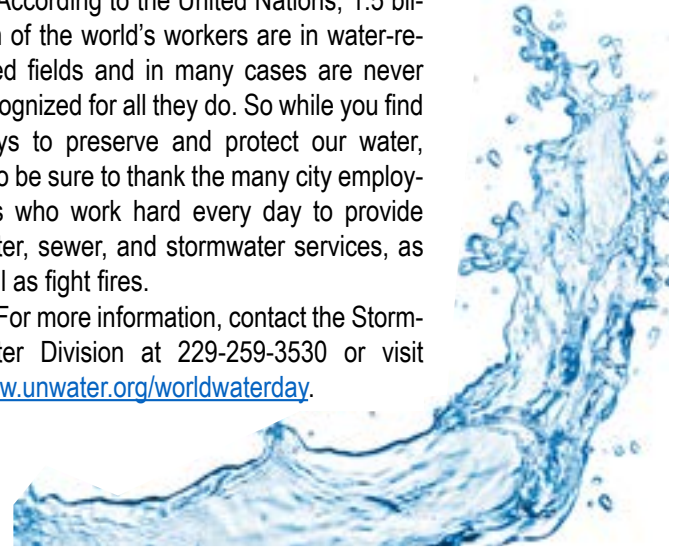
Celebrate

WORLD WATER DAY

New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day and Valentine's Day have come and gone. Now it's time to celebrate World Water Day! Held annually on March 22, this is a day of international observance and an opportunity to learn more about water-related issues and take action to make a difference. You drink it. You cook with it. How often do you stop to think about it? Water is something we can't live without, and the impacts we place on our water resources can change our lives and the livelihoods of others.

According to the United Nations, 1.5 billion of the world's workers are in water-related fields and in many cases are never recognized for all they do. So while you find ways to preserve and protect our water, also be sure to thank the many city employees who work hard every day to provide water, sewer, and stormwater services, as well as fight fires.

For more information, contact the Stormwater Division at 229-259-3530 or visit www.unwater.org/worldwaterday.



get rid of BIG TRASH at

BULK TRASH AMNESTY DAY



The City of Valdosta Neighborhood Development Division will host a city-wide Bulk Trash Amnesty Day at specific locations only, in conjunction with the nationally-recognized Great American Cleanup, on Saturday, April 23, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. This event, which is being provided through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, will allow Valdosta citizens to dispose of unwanted household items and other bulky trash items at no cost.

Citizens who bring their trash for disposal must bring a copy of their City of Valdosta Utilities Statement and a photo ID as proof of Valdosta residency. Valdosta citizens with cars, trucks and standard-sized trailers will be allowed only one trip to one of the following drop-off locations, where city employees and volunteers will be available to help citizens unload.

Zone 1: Open Lot, at Gainer Street and Summerlin Street

Zone 2: Scott Park, at Old Statenville Road and Continental Drive

Zone 3: City Hall Annex Parking Lot, at Lee Street and Smithland Drive

Zone 4: Valdosta-Lowndes Parks and Recreation Authority, at 1901 N. Forrest Street

NOTE: Hazardous materials, yard waste and tires will NOT be accepted at the event. Unwanted electronics will also not be accepted at the event; however, citizens are encouraged to dispose of them properly at the Spring Electronics Recycling Event, on Saturday, April 9.

For more information about the City-Wide Bulk Trash Amnesty Day, contact Neighborhood Development at 229-671-3617.

Caring for our

Beautiful City

One of the civic responsibilities we all share is keeping our city attractive and well maintained. Personal property maintenance plays a significant role in building a stronger community, and there are a number of ways citizens can do their part:

1. In partnership with the city, Keep Lowndes-Valdosta Beautiful (KLVB) will host the local Great American Cleanup on Saturday, April 23, from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Volunteers and city employees will observe the national event by picking up garbage along city streets. Call 229-671-3698 for information.



2. Citizens are urged to participate in the city-wide Trash Amnesty Day, also on Saturday, April 23, as described on page 4. This event allows Valdosta citizens to dispose of unwanted household items and other bulky trash items at no cost. Call 229-671-3617.

3. Since unwanted electronics will not be accepted at the Trash Amnesty event, citizens are encouraged to plan ahead to dispose of them properly at the Spring Electronics Recycling Event, on Saturday, April 9. The event will be held in the Mathis Auditorium parking lot on Ashley Street, from 9 a.m. to noon. Call 229-671-3640.

4. Citizens should maintain the exterior and premises of their property in a clean and safe condition to help protect the value and longevity of their investment. As a reminder, the city's property maintenance ordinance requires that grass and weeds not exceed eight inches in height (Ordinance No. 2011-37).

5. All garbage, yard debris and recyclables must be placed at the curbside by 5 a.m. on the morning of the designation trash pickup day (see map on page 2). All garbage must be bagged and securely tied. Bins must be removed from curbside no later than noon on the day after designated collection day.

6. As an additional reminder, residential, commercial and industrial property owners in the city are required to maintain the right-of-ways adjacent to their properties all the way to the sidewalk, curb or street, according to city Ordinance No. 2011-37.

Attractive neighborhoods and clean city streets add value to our properties, encourages business investments, and have been proven to positively influence the behaviors of others. Visit www.valdostacity.com to view the calendar of events and more.

VFD Hosts

Public Safety Career Expo

The Valdosta Fire Department has partnered with the Georgia Department of Labor to host a Public Safety Career Expo, on Tuesday, April 12, from 12-3 p.m., at Valdosta Fire Station No. 1. The event preps citizens who are interested in learning more about careers in the Public Safety field.

The department hosted a successful Fire Services Career Expo in 2014; however, this year the department wanted to expand the event to include career opportunities for all public safety fields.

A few dozen local and state public safety agencies will be featured at the Expo. Public safety representatives from local and state fire and police departments, EMS, the 9-1-1 Emergency Call Center, the Georgia Department of Labor, as well as from local colleges and universities who have educational programs that provide training in these fields will be present. Expo attendees should bring copies of their resume, as several participating agencies will be accepting applications for jobs.

Attendees will have several first-hand opportunities to see what



the public safety career field entails through several static displays and work-related demonstrations. The Georgia Search and Rescue and VPD Mobile Command Unit will also be on site to demonstrate some tactics and rescue tools used in real-life scenarios.

This event is open to the public and is free of charge. To learn more information, call Administrative Battalion Chief [Johnny Henry](http://www.valdostacity.com) at 229-333-1837.