



Bird Supper 2018

Final Days to Purchase Tickets

Tickets are on sale for the 2018 Bird Supper, scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018 at the historic Georgia Railroad Depot in Atlanta, beginning at 5 p.m. The traditional event, sponsored by the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners and the City of Valdosta, brings together hundreds of state officials and local business, professional and government personnel for a dinner of quail and important conversations.

Since the 1950s, the Bird Supper has been providing a venue for local professionals to be a catalyst for impacting legislative issues by keeping Valdosta and Lowndes County in the minds of the state officials during a half-way point of the legislative session.

For more information, contact Lowndes County Public Information Officer Paige Dukes at 229-671-2400 or City of Valdosta Public Information Officer Sementha Mathews at 229-259-3548. Information can also be found at the Lowndes County Bird Supper Facebook page, and ticket requests may be sent to BirdSupper@lowndescounty.com.

Six opportunities to serve

Residents who seek a rewarding public service role in the community are encouraged to apply for the six positions currently vacant on the city's boards and commissions.

These volunteer positions, requiring only a few hours each month, are designed to give residents a voice in their local government and allow them to influence decisions that shape the quality of life for others in

the community. Anyone who has been a resident of Lowndes County for at least six months prior to the nomination is eligible to apply.

View [positions](#), or contact City Clerk Teresa Bolden at 229-259-3503 for more information and to obtain the required forms. The closing date for submitting the General Board Application and Code of Ethics form is Jan. 31, by 5 p.m.

Save the date

Feb. 16: Georgia Arbor Day event. The celebration of trees will be held at 10 a.m., location TBA.

Feb. 18-24: National Engineering Week. The City of Valdosta will recognize all staff members in its Engineering Department, as well as professional engineers and engineering firms in our community. Visit <http://www.valdostacity.com> for calendar of events or call 229-259-3530.

April 6: Spring Electronics Recycling event. Bring your unwanted electronics to Mathis Auditorium, 2300 Ashley St., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

April 21: Great American Cleanup. Participate in this community clean-up event, from 8:30 a.m.- 11:30 a.m. Volunteers will meet at the Valdosta City Hall Annex, Lee Street Parking Lot. Call 229-671-3617.

April 21-28: Georgia Cities Week. The City of Valdosta will celebrate Georgia Cities Week, April 22-28, with a variety of events throughout the week. The theme this year is "Georgia Cities in the Spotlight." The week also provides opportunities to show appreciation to our residents, volunteers and city employees who serve the community year-round. For schedule of events, visit www.valdostacity.com.

For more events in the City of Valdosta, view the [city calendar](#).



Did you Know?

City Focus airs six times a day on Metro Valdosta Channel 17, at 4 a.m., 7 a.m., noon, 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. The news show can also be enjoyed on demand at the [City's Youtube site](#) along with other informative programs.

Citizens may also sign up for E-News at www.valdostacity.com/publicinformation to stay in tune weekly with the news and events happening within our city. For more information, call the Public Information Office at 229-259-3548.

City Booth at Azalea Festival

The City's Public Information will once again have a booth at the annual Azalea Festival. The festival will be held at Drexel Park, which will open Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with activities for citizens of all ages.

Visit the city booth for some valuable information about our community and to meet with city staff. The park is located at 1401 N. Patterson Street. For information about the event, contact K.L.V.B. Executive Director Aaron Strickland at 229-671-3698 or visit www.azaleafestival.com.

"If I Were Mayor" Essay Contest Begins

Local sixth grade students can dream about being the city's top elected official by participating in the "If I Were Mayor, I Would..." essay contest, sponsored by the Valdosta Youth Council. The contest gives sixth grade students—from public, private or homeschools—a chance to express, in 350 words or less, how they would make a difference in the city if they were Mayor.

Every essay must begin with the sentence, "If I were mayor, I would," it may be either typed or neatly handwritten, and it must clearly display the student's name, teacher and school at the top of the page(s).

Last year, Kailin Willoughby, a 2017 essay contest winner, wrote in her essay that she would help the homeless, stop bullying and create clean-up events around the City of Valdosta.

The entries may be mailed or hand-delivered by Friday, March 1, 2018 to: Public Information Office, Attention: Essay Con-



Pictured above are the 2017 essay contest winners. From left to right are Nile Monds, Isabel McLoughlin, and Kailin Willoughby.

test, 300 N. Lee Street, #102, Valdosta, GA 31601.

For more information, contact Public

Information Officer Sementha Mathews at 229-259-3548 or visit www.Facebook.com/ValdostaYouthCouncil.



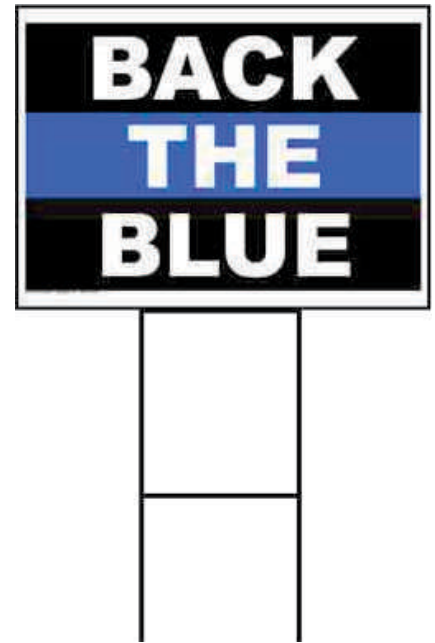
Report Stormwater Pollution

Only stormwater is allowed to enter into a storm drain. The discharge of any polluted water, sewage, oil, paint, etc., is strictly prohibited. Help protect our community's waterways by reporting stormwater pollution when you see it.

When to make a report:

- When you see someone illegally dumping anything into a storm drain, ditch or waterway.
- When you find disposed waste in or near any storm drain, ditch or waterway.
- When you notice unusual odors in or near the storm drain.
- When you see sediment coming off a construction site.
- When the drainage system has unusually large flows during a dry period.
- When you are aware of suspected stormwater pollution that may impact public health or the environment.

Any person observing such discharge should report the occurrence to the Stormwater Division at 229-259-3530 or email akbray@valdostacity.com.



Back the Blue at Annual Appreciation Dinner

Thank you for the community's support of our local law enforcement officers demonstrated on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, which was held Jan. 9. The encouraging cards, letters, emails, social media posts and other sentiments in support of our local law enforcement officers was overwhelming.

Here's another way citizens can "Back the Blue." Make plans to attend the 11th annual Valdosta Rotary Club Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner on Thursday, Feb. 15. at the Rainwater Conference Center. Tickets can be obtained by calling event organizer James Dominey at 229-251-3799. All proceeds from LEAD events provide local law enforcement with financial support during emergencies such as child medical expenses, a flooded home, etc.

In 2017, this program helped six Valdosta Police Officers during emergencies. Let's continue to show the men and women on the front lines that we appreciate the work they do on our behalf.



Congratulations to Valdosta Crime Lab!

Congratulations to the staff of the Valdosta/Lowndes Regional Crime Laboratory, who were inspected in January 2018 by the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board or ANAB for Crime Laboratory Accreditation and were found in compliance with all applicable laboratory and crime scene investigation standards.

The accreditation process is voluntary but one that Chief of Police Brian Childress said sets our local crime lab above the

rest. "We have said from day one that our local crime laboratory would be accredited to ensure we comply with professional crime laboratory standards," said Police Chief Childress. "I applaud Director Becky Parker-Hall, Quality Manager Julie Grantham, and all laboratory staff for being the best in the business."

Congratulations, Valdosta/Lowndes Regional Crime Laboratory for a job well done.



Valdosta: Caring for the Environment

The City of Valdosta is the recipient of the 2017 Outstanding Community Grand Award, which was presented by the Georgia Urban Forest Council (GUFC) on Nov. 8 in recognition of the city's commitment to the overall health of the community and building a strong urban forestry program. From left to right: Derrick Catlett, President of the Georgia Urban Forest Council; Emily Davenport, Assistant Director, Engineering Department, City of Valdosta; and Paula Randler, Urban and Community Program Manager, Southern Region, U.S. Forest Service.

Historic Snowfall

Valdosta-Lowndes Regional Crime Laboratory staff enjoyed the recent snow fall in the parking lot of their Ashley Street facility. Records say the Jan. 3 event was the first time in nearly 30 that snow fell in Valdosta in large enough volumes to stay on the ground for locals to enjoy.



Valdosta Begins Homeless Count Locally

The Valdosta Neighborhood Development Division coordinated the 2018 Georgia Homeless Count for Valdosta and Lowndes County, part of a statewide effort through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to determine the number of homeless families and individuals in Georgia.

"It is important for our community to

count our homeless annually. Our local continuum of care, which is made up of city and county organizations, cannot provide the needed services because of a lack of resources," said Neighborhood Development Director Vanassa Flucas. "An accurate count will allow our local community organizations, who provide these services, to apply for competitive

grant funding with the larger communities across our state who are applying for the same federal and state dollars."

The data for the 2018 Georgia Homeless Count will specifically focus on people's housing status on the night Jan. 22, and data collection will continue through Jan. 29. The results of the count will be available in late Spring 2018.



REGISTRATION FORM

Valdosta Government 101 Citizens Orientation

April 2 – May 14, 2018

Applications are now being accepted for the 9th Annual Valdosta Government 101 Citizens Orientation. Twenty-five participants will meet for seven consecutive Mondays, from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., beginning April 2, 2018. Valdosta 101 is designed to give Valdostans and other local citizens a deeper understanding and appreciation of their local government by exposing them to all city departments and other community leaders. The program, an initiative of the Valdosta Mayor and City Council, also includes the participation of up to five high school seniors who have a parent or legal guardian also enrolled in the program.

An applicant for Valdosta 101 must be a legal resident of the United States, complete a separate Criminal History Form and undergo a background investigation as part of the application process. Personal information given will be kept strictly confidential. All forms and additional information may be obtained from the Public Information Office located on the first floor of the City Hall Annex, 300 N. Lee Street, Room #102. For more information, visit <http://www.valdostacity.com/public-information> or call 229-259-3548.

PERSONAL INFORMATION (please print):

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____
E-mail: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Address: _____ City _____ State/Zip Code _____
Occupation: _____

Are you a City of Valdosta resident? Yes / No

Will you be able to attend all scheduled class times? Yes / No (If "No" you may not be able to graduate.)

How did you hear about Valdosta 101? (Circle all that apply)

- Metro Valdosta Channel 17
• Valdosta Daily Times
• City of Valdosta Publications
• Social Media
• Television _____
• Other _____
• www.valdostacity.com
• E-News
• Radio _____
• YouTube (Metro 17 Valdosta)

I understand that I am required to complete and submit this application form AND a VPD Criminal History Form, which may be picked up in the Public Information Office. By signing these forms, I give the VPD permission to obtain any criminal history record information pertaining to me, which may be in the files of any state or local criminal justice agency in Georgia. I understand that a felony conviction or recent serious misdemeanor conviction may result in my exclusion from participation. I also understand that the class is limited to 25 participants selected from all of the applicants.

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____
Signature of Parent, if participant is under age 18 _____

FORM DUE BY: March 16, 2018 to the Public Information Office, Valdosta City Hall Annex, 300 N. Lee St., Room #102, Valdosta, GA 31601.

Main Street Events



FLOCK TO DOWNTOWN VALDOSTA

	<p>Jan 26</p> <p>Paint Party: Winter Pine @ Cottonwood Market & Boutique 6:00 - 8:30 pm</p> <p>Miss Kate's Daytime Dining 10:45 am Samples & Sips 5:15 pm (also offered on Jan. 27)</p>	<p>Jan 30</p> <p>Paint Party @ Jessie's Restaurant & Catering 6 pm</p>
<p>Feb 2</p> <p>First Friday 6:30 - 9:30 pm</p> <p>Paint Party: Rooster @ Cottonwood Market & Boutique 6:00 - 8:30 pm</p>	<p>Feb 3</p> <p>Pop-Up Chef @ Jessie's Restaurant & Catering 5 pm</p> <p>Miss Kate's Daytime Dining 10:45 am Samples & Sips 5:15 pm (also offered on Feb. 4, 10, & 11)</p>	<p>Feb 8</p> <p>Death in Them Thar Hills @ The Dosta 7:30 pm</p> <p>GURKHA Cigar Party with Ken Mansfield @ Stogies Downtown 5 - 9 pm</p>
<p>Feb 9</p> <p>Special Father Daughter Dance Menu @ 306 North</p> <p>Father Daughter Dinner @ Jessie's Restaurant & Catering 5 - 9 pm</p> <p>Death in Them Thar Hills @ The Dosta 7:30 pm</p>	<p>Feb 10</p> <p>Special Father Daughter Dance Menu @ 306 North</p> <p>Father Daughter Dinner @ Jessie's Restaurant & Catering 5 - 9 pm</p> <p>Paint w/ a Partner @ Cottonwood Market & Boutique 5:00- 7:30 pm</p> <p>Death in Them Thar Hills @ The Dosta 7:30 pm</p>	<p>Feb 14</p> <p>Special Valentine's Day Menu @ 306 North</p>
<p>Feb 15</p> <p>Death in Them Thar Hills @ The Dosta 7:30 pm</p>	<p>Feb 16</p> <p>Bourbon Tasting @ Jessie's Restaurant & Catering 6 pm</p> <p>Death in Them Thar Hills @ The Dosta 7:30 pm</p>	<p>Feb 17</p> <p>Miss Kate's Daytime Dining 10:45 am Samples & Sips 5:15 pm (also offered on Feb. 18, 24 & 25)</p> <p>Death in Them Thar Hills @ The Dosta 7:30 pm</p>
<p>Feb 21</p> <p>Pub Theology @ Jessie's Restaurant & Catering 7 pm</p>	<p>Feb 22</p> <p>Miss Kate's Novel Foods Cooking Class: Gone with the Wind 6 - 9 pm</p> <p>Paint Party: Fuchsia Flower @ Cottonwood Market & Boutique 6:00 - 8:30 pm</p>	<p>Feb 23</p> <p>Happy Hour @ 306 North 5 - 7 pm</p> <p>Live Music from Luke Ferguson @ 306 North 7 pm</p>

Details at valdostamainstreet.com