

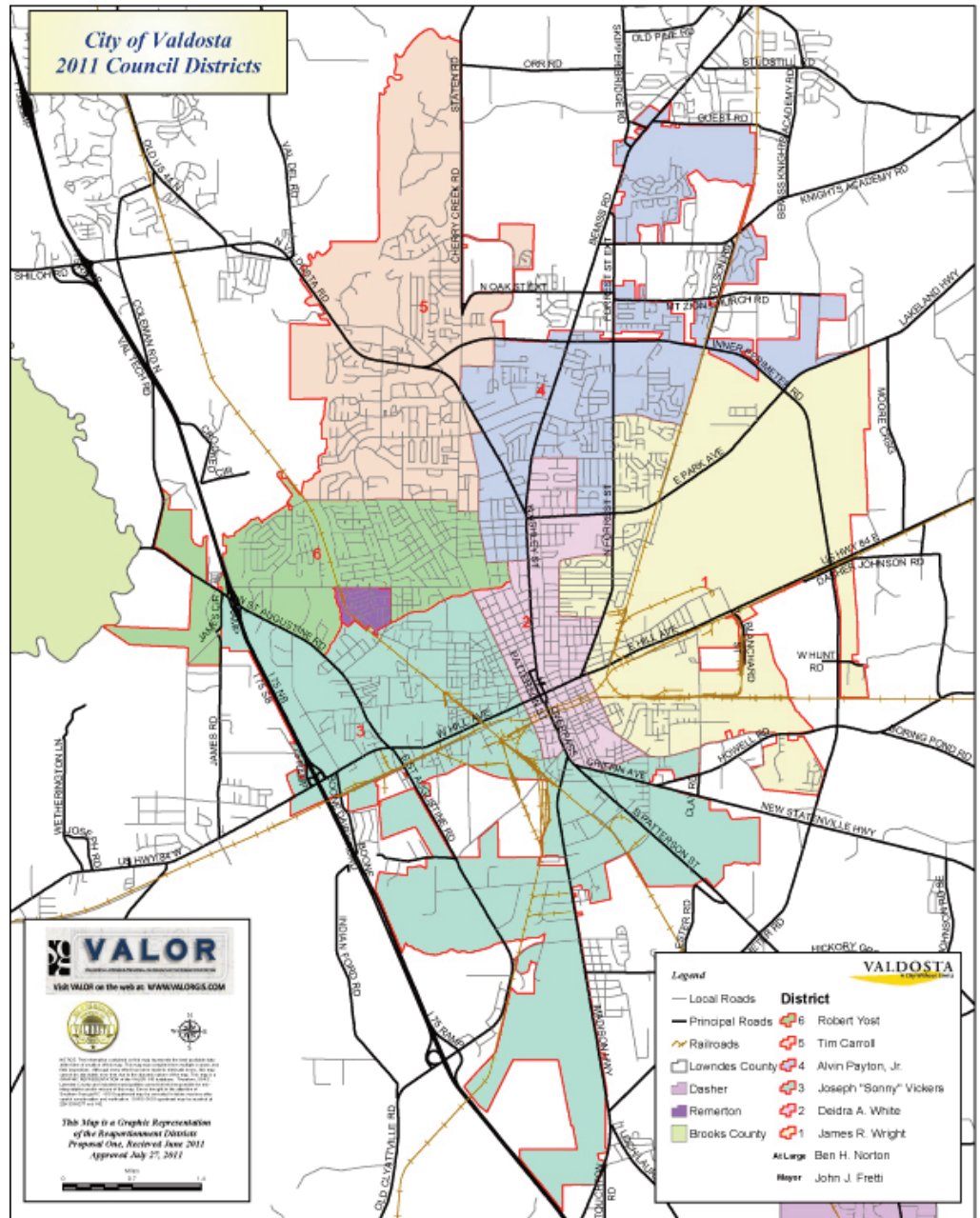
City Beat

New Valdosta City Council Districts Map Approved by USDOJ

The City of Valdosta received approval from the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, for the 2011 redistricting plan for its city council districts.

Council approved the amendment to the City of Valdosta Charter at the May 19 Council Meeting to re-define City Council districts as required for re-apportionment based upon the 2010 U.S. Census. The recent Census revealed that the City of Valdosta grew by approximately 11,000 residents over the past decade, causing an uneven distribution of population among the city's six voting districts. The new population of 54,518 set an ideal district size of 9,086 per district. The amendments, as reflected in the new Valdosta City Council Districts map, reduced the population gap between the districts so that all districts are now within five percent of the ideal district size.

The new Valdosta City Council Districts map is effective for the 2011 municipal elections, as required by law. Citizens may view the new Valdosta City Council map on the city's website at www.valdostacity.com under the About Us and Mayor/Council tabs. For more information, contact the Public Information Office at (229) 259-3548.



Council Approves No Increase in Millage Rate

The Valdosta City Council approved the 2012 millage rate at their Aug. 11 council meeting. The city will again maintain the present millage rate of 4.11 for 2012 and will maintain the same level of services with a reduced

budget. Although the state mandated form used to determine the millage rate calculated an increase, the city declined to accept the state-authorized increase in order to assist Valdosta property owners during these

challenging times.

Property taxes paid to the city will decrease with the recently approved millage rate. In fact, the levy will generate approximately \$200,000 less in

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Be prepared.
Have a plan.
 Stay informed.



Hurricane season runs June 1-Nov. 30 each year. So far, our area has continued to dodge the big storms. However, NOAA recently updated the 2011 Atlantic hurricane season outlook, predicting another 9 to 14 tropical storms are likely to develop between now and Nov. 30--with 7 to 10 of those storms reaching hurricane strength and 3 to 5 gaining major hurricane status with winds in excess of 110 miles an hour.

When disaster strikes, time is not on your side. What can citizens do to prepare for the remainder of the 2011 hurricane season? For starters, get a Basic Ready Kit together with the suggestions below:

- Water—at least 3 gallons per person, for drinking and sanitation
- Food—at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable food
- Can opener
- Radio Battery-powered or hand crank NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle—to signal for help
- Face mask—to help filter contaminated air
- Duct tape
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties—for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers—to turn off utilities
- Local maps
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, plastic utensils, paper towels
- Personalize your basic kits with other items you and your family need, such as prescription medications, glasses, infant items, pet supplies, important family documents, cash, extra clothing, etc.



Citizens are also urged to sign up for local emergency alerts issued by the Lowndes County Emergency Management. Visit www.lowndescounty.com and click on the Code Red image to enter emergency contact information.

“Be ready. Have a plan. Stay informed.” That is the message of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for the safety and security of all citizens. For more information, visit www.ready.georgia.gov.



Mission

To be known by our customers and others for high quality municipal services.

Purpose

To provide public services that meet or exceed the expectations of citizens.

To improve the quality of life in the community by a sincere commitment to the ideals of public service.

To be creative and innovative in our approach to the needs of citizens, recognizing the trust and confidence that our citizens place in us as caretakers of governmental services.

To be efficient and effective and use wisely the public resources we are entrusted to manage.

Quality Service by Quality People

City Council

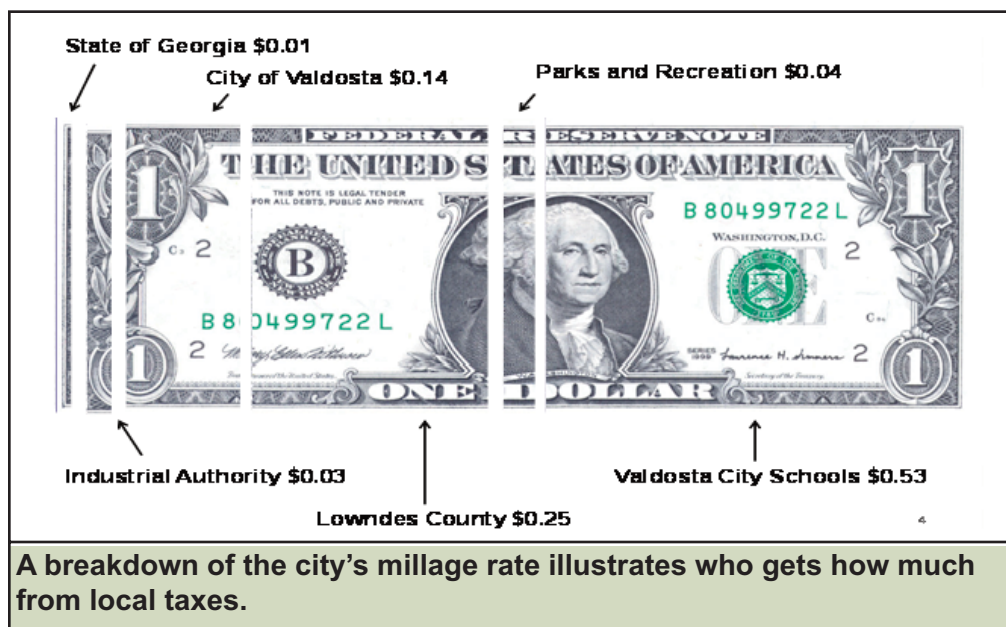
- John J. Fretti.....Mayor
- James R. Wright.....Councilman, District 1
- Deidra White.....Councilwoman, District 2
- Joseph Vickers.....Councilman, District 3
- Alvin Payton, Jr.....Councilman, District 4
- Mayor Pro Tem
- Tim Carroll.....Councilman, District 5
- Robert Yost.....Councilman, District 6
- Ben H. Norton.....Councilman, At Large

Editorial Staff

- Larry H. Hanson.....City Manager
- Sementa Mathews.....Public Information Officer
- Noelani Mathews.....PIO Intern

The *City Beat* is a bimonthly newsletter for the citizens of Valdosta and is written and published by the City of Valdosta Public Information Office. For more information, contact Sementa Mathews at (229) 259-3548.

Millage Rate continued...



revenue than the adopted budget anticipated. Further reductions in government spending will continue to offset this loss of revenue.

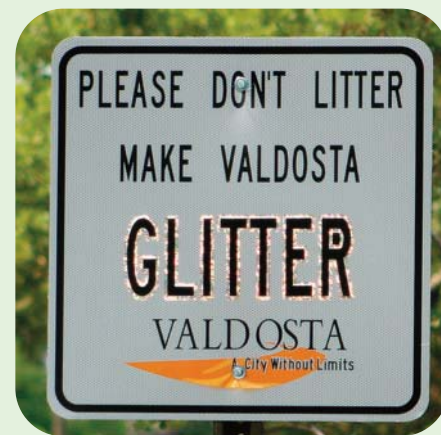
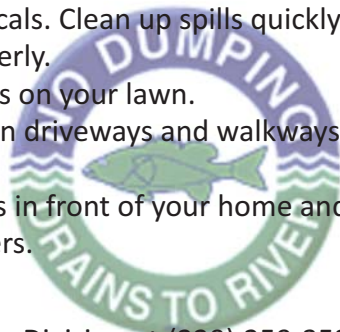
The City of Valdosta's millage rate remains the lowest it has been since 1989 and one of the lowest in the state of Georgia. For more information about the millage rate, visit www.valdostacity.com.

Stormwater Tip: Prevent Stormwater Pollution

Did you know that many of your daily activities have the potential to cause stormwater pollution? Here are some tips on how to prevent stormwater pollution:

- Divert roof drains and other runoff to vegetated areas on your property such as a rain gardens or use rain barrels.
- Keep your vehicles tuned up and repair fuel or fluid leaks quickly.
- Wash your car on the lawn instead of the driveway.
- Stop soil erosion by planting vegetation on bare areas.
- Never pour used oil, paint thinners, and other pollutants into storm drains, waterways or on the ground.
- Properly use and store all household chemicals. Clean up spills quickly by absorbing and disposing of the items properly.
- Minimize the use of fertilizers and pesticides on your lawn.
- Sweep and bag fertilizer or grass clippings on driveways and walkways instead of hosing the areas clean.
- Clean litter from the street and storm drains in front of your home and along stream banks to keep it out of our waters.
- Pick up your pet's waste.

For more information, contact the Stormwater Division at (229) 259-3530. Remember, only rain goes down the storm drain!



Make a Difference Day Oct. 22

On Saturday, Oct. 22, KLVB and the city's Community Development Department will host Make a Difference Day, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are needed to assist KLVB and city staff in picking up litter and cleaning up select neighborhoods bordered by Toombs Street, W. Hill Avenue, Fry Street, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive.

What is Litter? Litter consists of items—such as cigarette butts, food remnants, packaging, vehicle debris and beverage containers, to name a few—found in socially unacceptable locations on our streets, parks, neighborhoods, and work sites.

Keep Lowndes Valdosta Beautiful recently completed the annual litter index of our community, to measure litter from year to year, address the problems and measure our progress. Although the reported littering rate was small (Valdosta-Lowndes County received a 2 rating on a scale of 1-4; 1—no litter, 4—extremely littered), it continues to be a significant and important social and environmental issue.

To volunteer for the Make a Difference Day or for more information about other KLVB clean up events, call (229) 671-3698 or visit www.klvb.net.

Farm Days Exceeds All Expectations

In its first year, the Downtown Valdosta Farm Days has exceeded all expectations. Up to 29 vendors at each market have wrapped around the historic Lowndes County Courthouse every other Saturday since May selling a variety of items such as fresh produce, baked goods and handmade soaps.

Spearheaded by Mayor and Council and supported by the Valdosta Main Street Program/Central Valdosta Development Authority (CVDA) and the City of Valdosta, Farm Days began as an initiative to fight childhood obesity and instill healthy eating practices within the community. The market also serves to educate the citizens about eating local, and making smart nutrition and food choices, and has become a community event that citizens look forward to every other weekend with hundreds of people showing up each market day to buy fresh, local produce, and other items.

Farms Days is held every other Saturday, in the months of May through September. The remaining Farm Days for 2011 are: Aug. 20, Sept. 3 and Sept. 17.

Come for the freshness and stay for the fun at Downtown Valdosta Farm Days. For information, call the Valdosta Main Street office at (229) 259-3577.



City Observes Role of Community Planning



The City of Valdosta will observe National Community Planning Month in October. The annual observance, sponsored by the City of Valdosta's Planning and Zoning Division and the American Planning Association (www.planning.org), recognizes the efforts of professional and citizen planners committed to creating great places to live, work, and play.

This year's theme for Community Planning Month, "*New Ideas For America's Future*", recognizes the key role planners play in envisioning the future and addressing the needs of our communities. Sustainable communities strive to build a solid foundation for their future through environmentally and socially responsible decisions.

The City of Valdosta employs four full-time planners within the Planning and Zoning division. Together, this division is responsible for several aspects of community planning including historic preservation, long-term growth, current development and zoning. The division works closely with other city departments to ensure future infrastructure improvements are consistent with the city's Comprehensive Plan.

The month-long observance will include a variety of events for citizens, with a special emphasis on educating the youth about the importance of planning and various career opportunities in the field.

Citizens should call to arrange a tour for any of the events below, as space is limited. For more information, contact Alexandra Arzayus in the Planning and Zoning office at (229) 259-3563.

- Oct. 8:** Rivers Alive Clean Up, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Call KLVB at (229) 671-3698.
- Oct. 9-15:** Fire Prevention Week. Call to arrange tours of the Valdosta fire stations.
- Oct. 13:** Peter Kageyama's Workshop: "For the Love of Cities", from 1-4 p.m., Bas Bleu, Downtown Valdosta.
- Oct. 18:** Tour of the Valdosta Water Treatment Plant on Guest Road, at 5:30 p.m.
- Oct. 20:** Tour of the Traffic Management Center, at 5:30 p.m., at 310 E. Adair Street.
- Oct. 21:** Downtown Valdosta Tour, at 7 p.m., co-sponsored by Valdosta Main Street.
- Oct. 22:** Make a Difference Day, from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. Call KLVB at (229) 671-3698.
- Oct. 25:** Five Points Development Lunch & Learn, at noon, in the City Hall Annex Multi-Purpose Room.
- Oct. 29:** Valdosta history presentation, Lowndes County Museum, at 10:30 a.m.
- Oct. 31:** T-SPL0ST Lunch & Learn, at noon, at the Southern Ga Regional Commission, 327 W. Savannah Ave.
- Oct. 31:** Greater Lowndes Planning Commission meeting, at 5:30 p.m., at 325 W. Savannah Ave.

City Photo Contest Winners Announced

Congratulations to the winners in the 2011 Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest:

Best of Show

Sally Querin, "Burning Under the Pines"

A City at Work

Winner: Tiffany Christie, "The Man at Work"

Hon. Mention: Angela Marafino, "South Georgia Printing Press"

Go Green

Winner: Susan Davis, "Gotcha!"

Hon. Mention: Joey Broadwater, "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle"

Live, Love, Laugh

Winner: Sally Querin, "My Husband's Best Friend"

Hon. Mention: Susan Davis, "Welcome Home, Daddy"

Night Life

Winner: Angela Marafino, "Downtown at Night"

Hon. Mention: Amber Painter Anderson, "Boys Night Out"

Hon. Mention: Daryn Beasley, "Broke End Stereo"

Hidden in Plain Sight

Winner: Marvin T. Smith, "Raccoons at Drexel Park"

Hon. Mention: Sally Querin, "South Georgia Sunsets"

To view all entries or for information about next year's contest, visit www.valdostacity.com or call (229) 259-3548.



Labor Day Sanitation Schedule

The City of Valdosta will be closed on Monday, Sept. 5, 2011, in observance of the Labor Day holiday. The Sanitation Division will collect residential garbage ONLY on Sept. 5. Citizens should place their green rollouts at the curbside by 6 a.m. on Monday to ensure their garbage is collected. Sanitation pick up services for recyclables and yard waste WILL NOT be available on Sept. 5, but will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 6, for both Monday and Tuesday routes.

Call the Public Works Department at (229) 259-3590 for information.

Trick-or-Treat Hours

The Valdosta Police Department has announced the hours for the city's annual trick-or-treat activity for Monday, Oct. 31, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Extra police patrols will be scheduled during this time to ensure the evening is both safe and enjoyable; however, parents should be sure their children wear reflective clothing, walk in pairs, and are accompanied by an adult if under the age of 12.

For information, contact VPD Commander Bernard Robinson at (229) 293-3104.

2011 Southern Hospitality Group Workcamp

Repairs 34 Homes in City in One Week



The City of Valdosta hosted nearly 400 campers and staff members for the 2011 Southern Hospitality Group Workcamp—one of 42 similar camps that took place all around the country. The camp was held from June 26-July 2, and campers worked by day and slept at Valdosta Middle School by night. As a result of their labor of love, 34 houses were repaired—placing the city closer to accomplishing the goal of eliminating all substandard housing by the year 2020.

In the six years that the city has hosted the Workcamp, 240 homes have been repaired—yielding a \$1.4 million economic investment in our community through capital improvements to housing stock, the value of volunteer housing, the spending in our community, and the value of their labor.

Mara Register, Assistant to the City Manager, said "It is truly a great team at the City of Valdosta and this effort is a shining testament to that spirit of cooperation. We were fortunate to have dedicated city staff, Lowe's Distribution Center staff, Habitat for Humanity staff, and local general contractors willing to give of their time and talents in providing expertise to the campers so they could successfully complete their projects." Workcamp partners that made the event a success were the Group Workcamp Foundation, Inc., Lowe's Distribution Center, Lowe's Retail Store, Wild Adventures Theme Park, Valdosta City Schools, Georgia Power Company, and the Valdosta Area Ministerial Alliance.

For more information about Workcamp, call the city's Neighborhood Development Division at (229) 671-3617.



Tenth Anniversary of

9/11

Remembrance Ceremony

A Community-Wide 9-11 Event

A community-wide Tenth Anniversary of 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony will be held on Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011, at 8:30 a.m., in front of the historic Lowndes County Courthouse, located at 108 E. Central Avenue in Downtown Valdosta. The event is sponsored by the City of Valdosta, Lowndes County and Moody Air Force Base.

The agenda features a special welcome from Moody Air Force Base leadership, as well as special performances from area choirs and participation from several community organizations to pay tribute to more than 3,000 people who lost their lives, including more than 340 public safety personnel who were killed during the rescue attempts of 9-11.

Col. Neil Robinson is the keynote speaker for the event. Col. Robinson is the 23rd Maintenance Group (MXG) Commander at Moody Air Force Base and was at the Pentagon in Washington D.C. at the time of the historic attack. Proclamations will also be read by Mayor John J. Fretti and Lowndes County Chairman Ashley Paulk declaring 9-11 a day that the citizens of Valdosta-Lowndes County will never forget. The event will conclude with a flyover, approved by the U.S. Air Force.

Event Parking is available in the N. Toombs Street lot, McKey Street lot, and in all city and county government parking lots.

For More Information

(229) 259-3548 or (229) 671-2400