

CITY OF VALDOSTA

# THE HR NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021



**VALDOSTA**  
A City Without Limits

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# Who is Who in HR

## YOUR GO-TO TEAM "Whom do I call for...?"

It can be confusing to determine who in HR to call with your specific questions.  
Use the information below to point you in the right direction.

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**Catherine Ammons**

Deputy City Manager of Administration/  
Director of Human Resources  
cammons@valdostacity.com  
(229) 259-3544 ext. 4745

EEO Claims, lawsuits, related issues.  
Employee grievances and appeals.  
Position management, workflow,  
reorganization.

Policy interpretation/challenges.

Any issue, problem, or question for which  
you are unable to get a timely answer.

Sick Leave Donation.

Staff handbook updates/changes.



**Ryien Bonner**

Human Resources Coordinator  
rbonner@valdostacity.com  
(229) 259-3544 ext. 4318

Employment Verification  
Employment On-boarding  
Training  
Job Postings  
I-9 Verifications



**Jennie Boyer**

Senior Human Resources  
Manager  
jboyer@valdostacity.com  
(229) 259-3544 ext. 4747

Payroll  
Health Benefits  
Unemployment benefits  
Retirement point of contact



**Azhia Smothers**

Human Resources Coordinator  
asmothers@valdostacity.com  
(229) 259-3544 ext. 4746

Worker's Compensation claims  
Property insurance  
FMLA

# Welcome to HR Jennie!

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## Jennie Boyer

Senior Human Resources Manager

jboyer@valdostacity.com

(229) 259-3544 ext. 4747

I came to Valdosta in May of 2009 by way of Richmond, Virginia. In contemplating a move further South, I remember thinking, “it’s going to be even more hot and humid than Richmond – sure you want to do this?”

Once I arrived, I learned that, while it is hotter and more humid than Richmond, that’s not the biggest challenge. No one told me about love bugs, fire ants, palmetto bugs, or gnats. Those were a whole new learning curve. And I still haven’t mastered the gnats.

Once settled in Valdosta, I discovered some other things no one told me. Valdosta is the biggest small town I know. We have “big city” amenities of a college, military base, airport, theme park, and local brewery while maintaining a “small town” look and feel.

We have a quaint downtown area with robust food and cultural events. And we have some of the best people in the South. I arrived in town with just me, my two dogs, and all of my belongings. I didn’t know a soul, and I lived away from my family and friends for the first time ever. But I was quickly embraced by co-workers, neighbors, and strangers. I quickly realized how true “it’s a small world” is when I discovered a relative I didn’t know I had and that my new vet went to school with my old vet. I learned that “Miss Jennie” is what I was going to be, and I quickly gave up trying to change it to “just Jennie.” As I settled in, I also learned that not eating grits (it’s a texture thing) was almost my undoing, but I redeemed myself by drinking sweet tea that was nearly as much sugar as water!

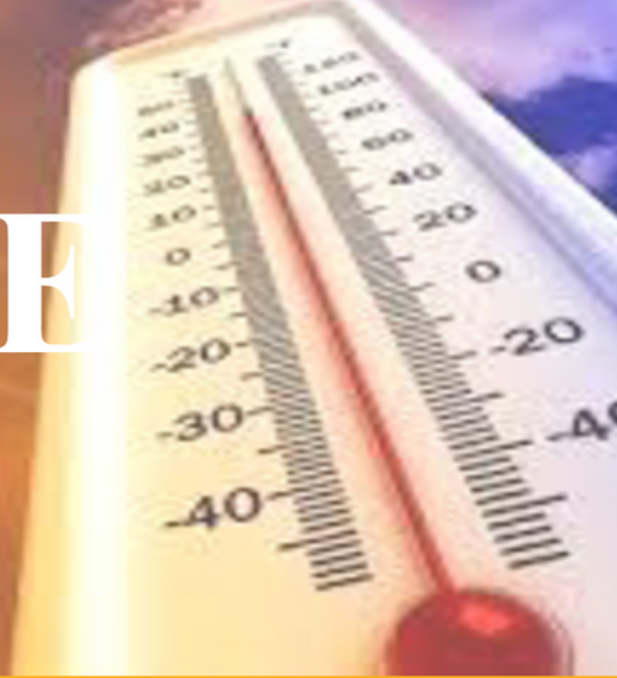
Back to the best people in the South – I quickly began to feel at home, and, over the last twelve years, Valdosta has indeed become my home. While I miss my family in Virginia (including my mom, sister and brother-in-law, and niece and nephew), I am so grateful to have made the move and be given the opportunity to serve the City of Valdosta. I’ve spent the last twelve years in the hospitality business, proud to be part of the fabric of what makes this town so unique.

I am now looking forward to serving the citizens and employees of the City of Valdosta in my new role as Senior Human Resources Manager. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you.





# BEAT THE HEAT



*Presented by: Valdosta Safety Committee*

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has stated, “Workers who are exposed to extreme heat or work in hot environments may be at risk of heat stress.” Heat stress can cause incidents due to loss of focus or excessive fatigue on the job.

Most outdoor fatalities, 50% to 70%, occur in the first few days of working in warm or hot environments because the body needs to build a tolerance to the heat. This process is called heat acclimatization. Lack of acclimatization represents a major risk factor for fatal outcomes. It can take roughly two weeks for an individual to acclimate to a hot environment.

## **What are some of the symptoms of heat stress?**

- Heat cramps: An involuntary muscle spasms that occur during heavy exercise in hot environments.
- Muscle spasms: An involuntary movement in one or more muscles. Also known as a charley horse.
- Excessive thirst: A thirst in which cannot be quenched by drinking.
- Dizziness: A feeling of weakness or unsteadiness.

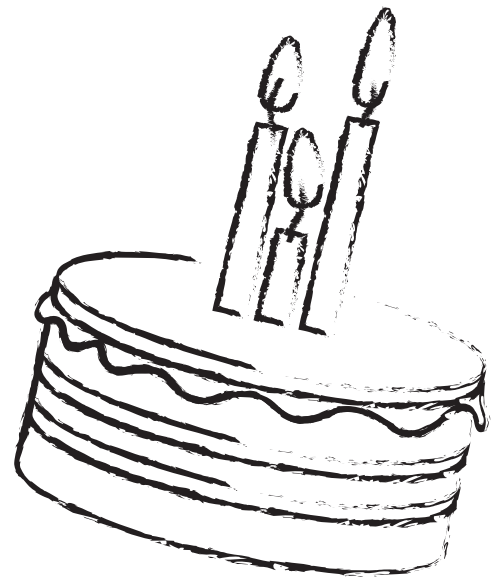
## **What are ways to prevent heat stress?**

- Wear loose-fitting, lightweight clothing;
- Stay hydrated;
- Pace yourself;
- Wear sunscreen; and
- Stay informed of heat alerts.

Take heat stress seriously! Know the signs and symptoms and be sure to have a plan to get proper attention for any individual displaying symptoms of heat stress.

***“IF IT GETS  
HOTTER,  
DRINK SOME  
WATER”***

# EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS



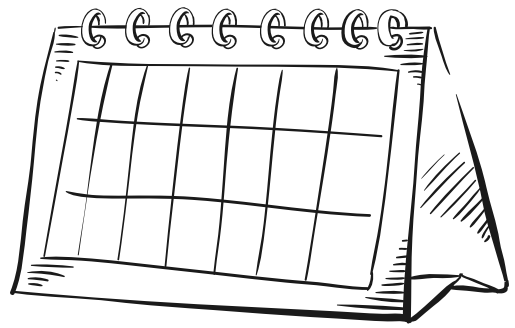
- FERETZ M. BERRIAN, 07/01
- SHARON D. BRINSON, 07/01
- JUNE M. GARTMAN, 07/01
- CHRISTOPHER ROBIN SUAREZ, 07/01
- CARLA JANE JONES, 07/02
- JOSEPH A. VICKERS, 07/02
- JOSEPH M. DUVALL, 07/03
- LESLIE A. WILLIAMS, 07/03
- AZHIA S. SMOTHERS, 07/04
- ARCHIE D III BARNER, 07/05
- LONNIE FRANKLIN MITCHELL III, 07/05
- TRENTON L. MARLETT, 07/05
- TIMOTHY J. QUIMBY, 07/06
- MORGAN JOSEPH COOPER, 07/06
- RICARDO PINEDA GARCIA, 07/07
- DARRELL A. LESTER, 07/07
- DONALD STOCKWELL, 07/07
- GENISE JACKSON, 07/08
- RANDALL H JONES, 07/09
- ELAINE M. PLUMMER, 07/09
- SELENA R. PHINNEY, 07/09
- JACQUAJAH T. WASHINGTON, 07/10
- JACQUES JEROME FRAZIER JR, 07/10
- AMY KATHERINE HALL, 07/11
- CHRISTOPHER HART, 07/11
- DAVID A. JONES, 07/11
- CLARENCE PARKS JR, 07/11
- DANTE DOMENGET, 07/11
- BILLY JOE WHEELER, 07/12
- GENETERIA K. ARMSTRONG, 07/12
- JULIAN CHANCE FOLSOM, 07/13
- WADE H. BRIGGS, 07/13
- PATRICIA ANN MCGRIFF, 07/14
- ANTHONY PAYNE, 07/14
- BRIAN D. BECTON, 07/14
- THOMAS M. HESS, 07/15
- KEVIN JERROD KNIGHT, 07/15
- TAMMIE R. HART, 07/15
- MARLINE HAYES, 07/16
- CHARLES DAVID KLINGEMANN, 07/19
- FREDRICK L. STEWART, 07/19
- JACOB POTTS, 07/19
- KATHERINE L. CHAVEZ, 07/20
- SHELDON E. IRVIN, 07/23
- LAVERN RILEY, 07/23
- BRETT M. BOYD, 07/23
- JAMES W. CULPEPPER, 07/24
- KELLY J. DEAS, 07/24
- ANTHONY MICHAEL MANNING, 07/24
- CALVIN DION MCFADDEN, 07/25
- TOM PIERCE JR, 07/25
- TANNER M. SMITH, 07/25
- VICTOR CHAYCE ANDERSON, 07/26
- JOY CLARK, 07/26
- BOBBI E. MCGRAW, 07/26
- CHARLES ALEXANDER TATCH, 07/26
- HEATHER BETH WILLIS, 07/26
- TIMOTHY SHAWN JEFFREY, 07/28
- JUSTIN C. PLY, 07/28
- CARLY MORGAN EAVES, 07/29
- BRIAN S. BOUTWELL, 07/30
- DEONNA DENE JAMES, 07/30





- SANDRA M WATLEY, 07/08, 36 Years.
- ROBIN E JACKSON, 07/03, 32 Years
- MYNOR E. RECINOS, 07/01, 30 Years
- TOMAS CHAVARRIA JR, 07/27, 29 Years
- GREGORY ALAN BROWN, 07/31, 26 Years
- AMY KATHERINE HALL, 07/07, 24 Years
- VICKY G. TAUNTON, 07/21, 24 Years
- JASON M. FIGAROLA, 07/17, 21 Years
- JOSHUA A. ELLWOOD, 07/31, 21 Years
- ALAN GIRSCH, 07/02, 20 Years
- CHARLES L. DINKINS JR, 07/23, 20 Years
- CARLA JANE JONES, 07/15, 19 Years
- DANA LEON FUDGE, 07/09, 14 Years
- TRACY LYNN TOLLEY, 07/09, 13 Years
- JARIUS W. BARRENTINE, 07/12, 11 Years
- ROGER J. ROUNDTREE, 07/02, 9 Years
- DANIEL JEROME JACOBS JR, 07/07, 7 Years
- TONYA M. KENNEDY, 07/14, 7 Years
- SHELIA E. WILLIAMS, 07/21, 7 Years
- KENNETH HERMAN LOWE, 07/06, 6 Years
- JOSEPH MELVIN THORNTON JR, 07/13 6 Years
- DOCK WADE JR, 07/13 6 Years
- MECEDES ELEXIS CASON, 07/20, 6 Years
- BRANDON L. MCDUFFIE, 07/21, 6 Years
- STEVEN C. PARRISH, 07/24, 6 Years
- AARON DWAYNE BROWN, 07/24, 4 Years
- DANIEL BLAKE H. CARDER, 07/24, 4 Years
- ADAM QUINTIN CASTO, 07/24, 4 Years
- RICARDO PINEDA GARCIA, 07/24, 4 Years
- BETTIE WATERS JACKSON, 07/31, 4 Years
- ALEXANDER B. MERRITT, 07/02, 3 Years
- NICHOLAS K. BAUGH, 07/01, 2 Years
- JOSHUA A. BOX, 07/01, 2 Years
- BRANDON D. CHADWICK, 07/01, 2 Years
- BERNARD CUMBIE II, 07/01, 2 Years
- STEPHEN B. GRINER, 07/01, 2 Years
- DOMINIC M. HENRY II, 07/01, 2 Years
- AUSTIN R. KEEN, 07/01, 2 Years
- BRENT S. NICHOLS, 07/01, 2 Years
- SLOAN D. PATTULLO, 07/01, 2 Years
- TIFFANY S.M. ROMANOWSKI, 07/01, 2 Years
- ALLIDEN B. HUGHES, 07/29, 2 Years
- KELIN MANNING, 07/13, 1 Year
- RYIEN D'SHAUN BONNER, 07/27, 1 Year

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## 1 FIRST FRIDAY



Day: Friday, July 2, 2021  
Time: 6 pm – 11:59 pm  
Place: Downtown Valdosta

## 2 MAKER'S MARKET



Day: Saturday, July 10, 2021  
Time: 9 am – 1 pm  
Place: Downtown Valdosta

## 3 FOOD TRUCK CRAWL



Day: Thursday, July 15, 2021  
Time: 5 pm – 8:30 pm  
Place: Downtown Valdosta

## 4 CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS



Day: Thursday, July 8, 2021  
Day: Thursday, July 22, 2021  
Time: 5:30 pm – TBD  
Place: Council Chambers

## 5 BATTLE OF THE BADGES BLOOD DRIVE



Day: Wednesday, July 28, 2021  
Time: 2 pm – 8 pm  
Place: City Hall Annex MPR





# DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

TUESDAY, JULY 20 – WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

Sign up for this course ended on  
Wednesday, June 30, but any employee  
still interested can contact Azhia  
Smothers at  
[asmothers@valdostacity.com](mailto:asmothers@valdostacity.com)

\*This course is optional for employees



# SAVE *the* DATE

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## UPCOMING TRAINING:

ONE DIGITAL - TUESDAY, AUGUST 3

BAS/ALAP - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4  
& THURSDAY, AUGUST 5

**More Details to Come**



# Photos From Past Events





# Photos From Past Events





# Photos From Past Events







# Valdosta On-Demand FAQ'S

**Q:** Why do the vehicles have a New York tag?

**A:** Via leases the vehicle through a company called Buggy based out of New York. All of the vehicles came inspected and registered.

**Q:** What accommodations are made for individuals with a disability or may be handicap?

**A:** Please let us know you need a WAV when you book your ride by tapping your profile picture or image at the top of the app menu and tapping the Wheelchair toggle to turn it on.

**Q:** When it says the ride is on the way does it tell you where to go to get picked up?

**A:** After you book a ride, the app will display your pickup spot — we'll either give you the address or business name at your pickup spot to help you find it. Either way, there will always be a dotted line to show you how to get there!

**Hours of Operations:**  
**6 AM - 9 PM**  
**Mondays through Fridays**

**Questions? Get in touch:**

☎ (229) 441-2940

✉ [support-valdosta@ridewithvia.com](mailto:support-valdosta@ridewithvia.com)