

Valdosta Buries Time Capsule in celebration of the 150th *Community leaves message for future community of 2060*

The community is invited to *Valdosta Back to the Future 2060*, which will feature the burial of a time capsule to be reopened in 50 years by the Valdosta community of 2060. The sesquicentennial event—whose name was inspired by the 1985 American science fiction comedy—will take place at Drexel Park, on Friday, Aug. 27, at 6 p.m.

Valdosta City Schools students in grades kindergarten through 12th have been collecting a variety of items according to assigned themes reflecting the present day, such as transportation, technology, fads, fashion, foods and entertainment. The contributions from all city schools are being assembled into four themed scrapbooks that will be placed into the time capsule. Other items that paint a picture of our current community are being collected by the Valdosta Sesquicentennial Planning Committee, who is coordinating the event.

An engraved granite bench will mark the location of the time capsule and will be unveiled at the Aug. 27 event. Mayor John J. Fretti is expected to charge the Valdosta High School Class of 2010 student leadership with the responsibility of ensuring the time capsule is properly opened in 2060, during their 50th class reunion and during the city's 200th birthday.

"It is important for us as Valdostans to celebrate the role of history in our daily lives and to preserve the heritage that has shaped us," said Valdosta Mayor John J. Fretti. "It's exciting to know that by participating in this time capsule event, we are also participating in the bicentennial celebration of 2060. I encourage citizens to attend the Aug. 27 event and look forward to seeing the community well represented."

All citizens have the opportunity to contribute to the time capsule by signing a "Happy 200th Birthday" banner that will be on display at City Hall, from Aug. 16-20. It will also be taken to several civic group meetings in an effort to collect as many signatures as possible. The banner will be preserved in the time capsule for the community of 2060 to display in a public location during the city's bicentennial celebration.

Valdosta Back to the Future 2060—sponsored by the City of Valdosta, the Valdosta City Schools, and the Valdosta Sesquicentennial Planning Committee—will take place prior to the first Valdosta Wildcat home football game of the season against the Brooks County Trojans.

For more information, contact Public Information Officer Sementa Mathews at (229) 259-3548.