

AUGUST 2025

TOWN OF VALDESE

UPDATES | EVENTS



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

50TH ANNUAL WALDENSIAN FESTIVAL

Dear Valdese Citizens,

I am writing to express my heartfelt excitement and support for the upcoming 50th Annual Waldensian Festival — a milestone celebration that marks half a century of tradition, culture, community, and joy!

Reaching the 50-year mark is a truly remarkable achievement, and it is a testament to the hard work, vision, and dedication of everyone who has contributed to this event over the years. This golden anniversary is not only a celebration of the past but also a vibrant promise for the future.

The festival has long served as a cherished gathering for people of all ages — bringing together families, friends, artists, and community members in a spirit of unity and festivity. Whether it's the music, the food, the art, the performances, or simply the joy of being together, there's something for everyone to celebrate and remember.

As someone who has worked, attended, and enjoyed this festival, I can't wait to see the magic that the 50th year will bring. I am excited to witness the energy, creativity, and community spirit that always makes this festival such a highlight of the year.

Congratulations to all those involved in organizing this historic event. Here's to an unforgettable celebration and many more successful festivals to come!

Warm regards,

Charles Watts

Mayor, Charles Watts

EVENTS CALENDAR

VALDESE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 4 | 6PM | TOWN HALL

WALDENSIAN FESTIVAL

AUGUST 8 & 9 | VISITVALDESE.COM

BOCCE TOURNAMENT

AUGUST 9 | 8AM | LPDA

WALDENSIAN FOOTRACE

AUGUST 9 | 8AM | REC CENTER

OUTDOOR DRAMA

"FROM THIS DAY FORWARD"

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS 8PM

OLDCOLONYPLAYERS.COM

FFN SUMMER CONCERTS

FRIDAYS | 7PM | TEMPLE FIELD

VALDESE ABC BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 18 | 3:30PM | ABC STORE

VALDESE PLANNING BOARD

AUGUST 18 | 4PM | TOWN HALL

VALDESE TOWN COUNCIL

PRE-AGENDA MEETING

AUGUST 25 | 6PM | TOWN HALL

POOL CLOSED FOR CONSTRUCTION

AUGUST 25 | VALDESE REC

DRUG & HOMELESS TASK FORCE

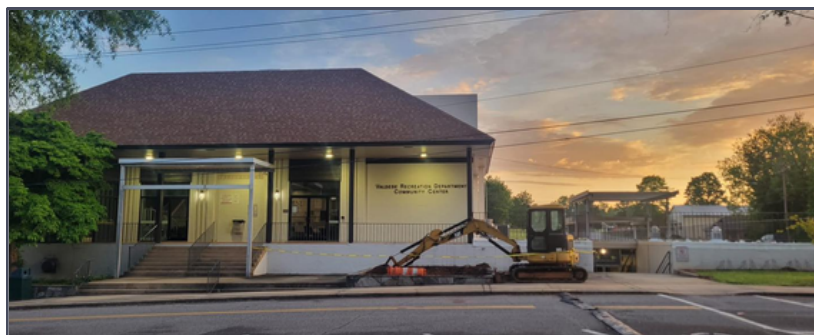
AUGUST 26 | 6PM

VALDESE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

TOWN OFFICES CLOSED LABOR DAY

SEPTEMBER 1

VALDESE
NORTH CAROLINA



PARKS & REC UPDATE

Community Center Accessibility Upgrades

The Parks and Recreation Department is excited to have so much going on to improve our patron experience. There is a new automatic door into the Wayne Owens Gymnasium to make it easier for all to access, and we anticipate the new ramp to the office and gym level to be completed by Festival Weekend. The ramp to the tennis court will be completed at the same time. We will be closing the pool August 25 so construction on the pool deck can commence for the new Bubble anchoring system. We anticipate roughly 8 weeks of closure at the pool before we reopen with the new Bubble installed, and any members with active aquatics memberships will have their membership paused so they aren't paying for a closed amenity. We will also be undergoing some work in the bowling alley at this time, and Tiger Gym will have guttering installed, as well as painting completed in the lobby and restrooms and a new lobby floor will be installed. We are also working on stream and playground solutions for Children's Park, and McGalliard Falls Park will have some small updates, as well. This project is funded largely through a NC State Parks Accessibility in Parks grant.

EMPLOYEES YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION

Adam Marlowe – 2 Years - Police
 Jonathan Parks – 10 Years - Public Works
 Harley Cheseck-Brown – 4 Years - Police
 Eric Wilson – 4 Years - Water
 Jody Price – 3 Years - Public Works
 Billy Hicks – 5 Years - Police
 Nicholas Tester – 1 Year - Public Works
 Jamie Buchanan – 26 Years - Police
 Landon Reed – 1 Year - Fire
 Jonathan Carter – 7 Years - Recreation
 William Beck – 12 Years - Police

NOW HIRING:

PLANNING DIRECTOR, RESERVE PATROLMAN
 WASTEWATER TRMT PLANT MECHANIC SUPERVISOR
 FIRE CAPTAIN, FIRE ENGINEER



DOWNTOWN LOWDOWN

WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES:

MILL TOWN SOCIAL HOUSE

118 MAIN STREET WEST | 828-368-0325

Restaurant & Taproom offering 12 local tap beers & wine. Full fresh to order food menu including chef inspired flatbreads, croissant sandwiches & jumbo fried shrimp.

BUCKLE & BREW

100 MAIN STREET WEST | 828-270-6613

Coffee Shop & Western Boutique offering Iced, Hot, & Blended Craft Coffees, Energy Drinks, Lemonade, and Refreshers



PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS

POLICE DEPARTMENT STATS (JUNE)

CALLS FOR SERVICE = 407 | VEHICLE STOPS = 101 | TRAFFIC CITATIONS = 102
 ARRESTS/WARRANT FOR ARRESTS/ORDER FOR ARRESTS = 11 | REPORTS FILED = 70
 The Town of Valdese Police Department is proud to announce the appointment of Sean Link as the new Code Enforcement / Animal Control Officer. Officer Link brings with him prior experience as a Patrol Officer with the Town of Valdese and completion of Animal Control I Certification. Link's dedication to the Town of Valdese and public service will strengthen our team and benefit our community. Link replaces former Code Enforcement / Animal Control Officer Michael Hicks who helped establish the program. Link will begin his new duties on May 26th, 2025 and start additional training with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments Code Enforcement.

FIRE DEPARTMENT STATS (JUNE 20 - JULY 20)

FIRE = 4 | HAZARDS = 3 | SERVICE = 3
 GOOD INTENT CALLS = 3 | FALSE ALARM & FALSE CALLS = 8
 TOTAL FIRE CALLS = 21 | TOTAL MEDICAL CALLS = 50



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION RECAP

The Valdese Independence Day Celebration was a tremendous success. The event welcomed over 16,400 visitors (placer.ai) to downtown Valdese with record holding years being in 2021 & 2023 with an attendance of approximately 18,000. The fireworks show boasted a wonderful grand finale that could be viewed all over downtown and the band Too Much Sylvia, a local favorite kept the crowd dancing all evening. Valdese was honored to have Valdese American Legion Post #234 present the colors as well as a Flag Retirement Ceremony hosted by Boy Scout Troop 192.

TOWN PROJECTS

SANITATION COLLECTION SERVICE CHANGES

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Public Works Department for their outstanding coordination and support during the recent transition from our previous sanitation provider to Simply Green.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our residents for their patience and understanding during the recent transition between sanitation service providers. We recognize that changes in essential services can sometimes cause inconvenience, and we truly appreciate your cooperation and flexibility throughout the process. Your support played a key role in helping ensure a successful transition, and we remain committed to providing you with reliable and efficient service moving forward.



PREVIOUS YEARS



Waldensian Festival

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!

AUG. 8&9 2025

IN 1689, AFTER ENDURING YEARS OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION, TORTURE, AND EXILE, 900 WALDENSIAN MEN BRAVELY FOUGHT TO RECLAIM THEIR HOMELAND IN THE COTTIAN ALPS OF ITALY. THIS VICTORIOUS ENDEAVOR IS RECOGNIZED AS THE "GLORIOUS RETURN" AND REMEMBERED IN WALDENSIAN COMMUNITIES ALL OVER THE WORLD, EVERY SECOND WEEKEND OF AUGUST.



COMMUNITY AFFAIRS & TOURISM STATISTICS JUNE 20-JULY 20, 2025

DOWNTOWN VALDESE VISITORS = 56,300 OUT OF MARKET
OLD ROCK SCHOOL VISITORS = 2,500
VISITORS TO VISITVALDESE.COM = 7,600 NEW USERS
*TOP PAGES: INDEPENDENCE DAY, EVENTS, MCGALLIARD FALLS
VISITORS TO TOWNOFVALDESE.COM = 4,500 NEW USERS
*TOP PAGES: SCHEDULES & FEES (REC), RECREATION, UTILITIES
SOCIAL MEDIA SUBSCRIBERS = 20,900 WITH AVG REACH 104,800

AUGUST AT THE
OLD ROCK SCHOOL

8/9: OPEN ART COMP
8/9: ART DEMO
8/9: P&W RR OPEN HOUSE

PUBLIC RENTALS AVAILABLE
*AUDITORIUM
*BANQUET ROOM
*MEETING ROOMS
*TEACHERS COTTAGE

CALL 828-879-2129
FOR AVAILABILITY

VISITVALDESE.COM