

JANUARY - MARCH 2026

# TOWN OF VALDESE

## UPDATES | EVENTS



### FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Dear Valdese Citizens,

As we welcome 2026, I'm filled with hope for our town's next chapter. In my new role as your Mayor, serving this wonderful community is an honor I do not take lightly. Together, we'll build on our strengths, tackle challenges with fresh energy, and welcome opportunities for growth and development.

Our community is growing. We have recently surpassed 5,000 residents. New businesses have arrived and more are on the way. New housing is on the increase. I believe we have a sustainable and manageable path forward for Valdese.

My focus for this year will center on three key priorities:

1. Funding for the new combined Public Safety Building...the most crucial and by far the most expensive undertaking this town has faced in more than 50 years. Providing safe and reliable emergency services is one of the most important responsibilities that we provide our town.
2. Restart of our street repaving: the aftermath of Hurricane Helene basically halted our ability to conduct street repaving on a meaningful scale. In an effort to jumpstart the process, we have identified and funded seven streets across our town that will be paved shortly. We will soon get to other streets identified when a larger repaving contract can be established.
3. Our employees: staffing shortages, training, and most importantly pay disparities have to be addressed to keep our town safe and infrastructure needs met. Competing municipalities continue to lure staff away with higher pay and benefits. We must remain competitive.

The journey ahead will require all of us to work together, as neighbors and colleagues. Let's unite to make Valdese a beacon of progress, opportunity, and exciting growth as we work hand-in-hand to achieve our shared goals for a prosperous Valdese.

Warm regards,

Mayor, Keith Huffman

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

JANUARY 5 \*SPECIAL AT 5PM

JANUARY 5 AT 6PM

FEBRUARY 2 AT 6PM

MARCH 2 AT 6PM

LOCATED AT VALDESE TOWN HALL

### COMMITTEE & BOARD MEETINGS

VALDESE PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS

JAN. 26 | FEB. 23 | MARCH 16 - 4PM

VALDESE ABC BOARD MEETINGS

JAN. 20 | FEB. 17 | MARCH 16

VALDESE ABC STORE AT 3:30PM

DRUG & HOMELESS TASK FORCE

JAN. 20 | FEB. 24 | MARCH 31N - 6PM

PARKS & REC COMMISSION

JAN. 12 - SPLASH PAD BLDG. 7PM

### OLD ROCK SCHOOL EVENTS:

CONCERTS:

JAN. 10 - THE MALPASS BROTHERS

FEB. 7 - DARIN & BROOKE ALDRIDGE

MARCH 7 - APPALACHIAN ROAD SHOW

PRODUCTIONS:

OCP: FINDING NEMO JR. (JAN. 29-FEB 1)

OCP: CINDERELLA (MAR. 12-15 & 19-22)

HICKORY BALLET: (MARCH 27 & 28)

-THE LIGHTENING THIEF

RSAF ART EXHIBITS:

JANUARY 18 RECEPTION FEATURING:

BEST | HUBBARD | SKELTON

MARCH 8 RECEPTION FEATURING:

KMONICEK | MALDONADO | THOMPSON

### DOWNTOWN EVENTS

FEB. 15: EDICT OF EMANCIPATION

@WALDENSIAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 17: LUCKY LEPRECHAUN HUNT

# VALDESE

NORTH CAROLINA

EVENTS: VISITVALDESE.COM  
MEETINGS: TOWNOFVALDESE.COM

# DOWNTOWN LOWDOWN

## VALDESE VISITOR STATS

163,700 OUT OF MARKET VISITORS TO DOWNTOWN = 12.8% INCREASE OVER 2024

387,500 OUT OF MARKET VISITORS TO VALDESE = 4.85% INCREASE OVER 2024

2.8 MILLION VISITS TO VALDESE IN 2025  
*\*DATA FROM PLACER.AI AS OF 12/17/25*



## VALDESE ELECTED OFFICIALS

MAYOR KEITH HUFFMAN

MAYOR PRO-TEM REXANNA LOWMAN

COUNCILWOMAN SHANNON RADABAUGH

COUNCILWOMAN MELINDA ZIMMERMAN

COUNCILMAN GARY OGLE

COUNCILWOMAN HEATHER WARD



## PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS

### POLICE STATS (YTD NOV. 2025)

CALLS FOR SERVICE = 4097

VEHICLE STOPS = 1511

TRAFFIC CITATIONS = 940

ARRESTS/WARRANT/ORDER FOR ARRESTS = 170

REPORTS FILED = 657

### FIRE STATS (YTD NOV. 2025)

FIRE = 35

RESCUE & EM. MEDICAL SERVICES = 556

HAZARDS = 39

SERVICE = 52

GOOD INTENT CALLS = 44

FALSE ALARM & FALSE CALLS = 60

TOTAL FIRE CALLS = 231

TOTAL MEDICAL CALLS = 556

### NOW HIRING:

WWTP MAINT. MECHANIC

RESERVE PATROLMAN

FIRE ENGINEER



## PARKS & REC UPDATE

### POOL COVER PROJECT

Work continues on the Jimmy C. Draughn Aquatic Center. Contractors are working on excavation and concrete to install the new anchoring system for the new Bubble this month, and we hope to be in the new Bubble by the end of January. To celebrate getting back in the pool, the Valdese Parks and Recreation Department will be offering a discount on year-long aquatics and aquatics and fitness memberships in January (50% Off) and February (25% Off). We are looking forward to seeing everyone back in the water!



## STREET PAVING PROJECT

### PLANNED FOR SPRING 2026

The Valdese Town Council has approved a street-paving project targeting several roads in critical need of improvements. These streets were selected based on their current condition and the Town's utility capital improvement plan, which coordinates paving with upcoming utility replacements and repairs. Residents in the affected areas will be notified prior to work beginning.

### STREETS INCLUDED:

Bass St NW (Tron Ave NW to Dixie Ave NW)

Bellview Ave NE (Laurel to Walnut)

Bellview to Clyde

Flora Lane NE (Gravel Portion)

Hickory Ave NW | Vinay Ave NW | Tarheel Ave NW | Berry Ave

