

SEPTEMBER 2025

# TOWN OF VALDESE

UPDATES | EVENTS



## FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

SUMMER COMES TO A CLOSE

Dear Valdese Citizens,

As August transitions into September and we bid farewell to another vibrant summer, I want to take a moment to reflect on everything we've experienced together and look ahead to the season to come.

Summer in our town is always a highlight— from our community festivals and concerts to the late evenings spent with neighbors, these moments remind me of the strength and warmth of our community spirit.

I also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all those who helped make this season memorable. Whether you volunteered at local events, supported our parks and recreation programs, or simply shared a friendly wave with someone on the street—you played a part in shaping a summer full of friendliness.

As summer ends, let's also remember that there is much to look forward to. Students have been welcomed back to school and as families settle into new routines, I encourage everyone—neighbors, educators, and drivers—to be especially mindful and kind to one another during this transition period.

I'm proud to share that our town remains committed to enhancing safety, supporting youth programs, and improving public spaces so every resident can thrive, no matter the season. Thank you for making this past season one to remember. Let's carry that energy forward as we embrace the promise and possibilities of the months ahead.

Warm regards,

  
Mayor, Charles Watts

## EVENTS CALENDAR

**TOWN OFFICES CLOSED LABOR DAY**  
SEPTEMBER 1

**VALDESE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
SEPTEMBER 2 | 6PM | TOWN HALL

**STATE BOCCE TOURNAMENT**  
SEPTEMBER 13 | 8AM | LPDA

**VALDESE PLANNING BOARD**  
SEPTEMBER 15 | 4PM | TOWN HALL

**PLEIN AIR ART FESTIVAL**  
ROCK SCHOOL ARTS FOUNDATION  
WET SALE & RECEPTION  
SEPTEMBER 21 | 2-4PM | ROCK SCHOOL

**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT**  
SHOWING TOY STORY  
SEPT. 27 | 7:30PM | TEMPLE FIELD

**VALDESE ABC BOARD MEETING**  
SEPTEMBER 29 | 3:30PM | ABC STORE

**VALDESE TOWN COUNCIL**  
PRE-AGENDA MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 29 | 6PM | TOWN HALL

**DRUG & HOMELESS TASK FORCE**  
SEPTEMBER 30 | 6PM  
VALDESE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



**EMPLOYEES YEARS OF SERVICE**  
**RECOGNITION**

Saul Pearson - Public Works – 5 Years  
Chris Gunter - Public Works – 1 Year

**NOW HIRING:**

PLANNING DIRECTOR, RESERVE PATROLMAN  
WW TRMT PLANT MECHANIC SUPERVISOR  
FIRE CAPTAIN, FIRE ENGINEER  
PARKS & REC ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST

# DOWNTOWN LOWDOWN

## WALDENSIAN FESTIVAL RECAP

The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Waldensian Festival was a great success! The event boasted cooler temperatures and welcomed approximately 13,500 visitors to downtown Valdese during the two day event.

The LPDA Regional Bocce Tournament had a record setting twenty teams participate and the Waldensian Footrace hosted over 170 runners including the Fun Run event.

The Waldensian Heritage Museum offered tastings of soutsisso - a Waldensian style sausage and over 190 visitors toured the numerous exhibits showcasing our town's unique heritage.

During the event visitors walked down Main Street viewing offerings from over 160 vendors and they were also greeted by the exciting activities at the Old Rock School. The venue hosted the kids zone, stocked with bouncy houses and waterslides. Once visitors entered the building they were invited to vote for the People's Choice Award with the Rock School Arts Foundation. Not only was the Open Art Competition going on upstairs but artist demonstrations were also going on downstairs. Visitors were also welcomed to tour the P&W Railroad Museum featuring their HO scale railway display which is a favorite of all ages.

The event would not have been possible without the support of its sponsors, town employees, businesses and volunteers. Next year's event will be held on August 7 & 8, 2026. Sponsorship opportunities & vendor applications will be available in January. Information on the Waldensian Festival can be found at [visitvaldese.com](http://visitvaldese.com)



## PARKS & REC UPDATE

School is back in session after a busy summer at the Valdese Parks & Rec. From park and pool visitors, pickleballers, to Footrace runners and everything else in between, we had a great time this summer serving our community and those that came to Valdese to visit and see what there is to offer here. We had a great footrace this year, and we are looking forward to making it even better for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026. With school starting back, that means a lot of things are shifting as we head into September. Hours for various community center amenities are changing as many of our staff head back to school. We will be shutting the Splash Pad off on October 1, so come use it while you can!

The Valdese Tigers will be taking Temple Field this month, so come out on Saturdays in September and October to cheer on the football players and cheerleaders. Youth soccer will also be kicking off in September at Fletcher Fields.

Construction continues at the Community Center, as the new anchoring system for the new Bubble will be installed in September, and ramp construction to the tennis court and on the front of the building will be completed in mid-September, too. We anticipate re-opening the pool in mid-October in time for high school swimming and roughly six months of pool parties, winter open swim, and all kinds of aquatic activities and programming.

As the weather cools down, go out for a hike on the trails or fish at the fishing pier at Valdese Lakeside Park. If you are searching for a location for a fall party or gathering, consider Children's Park or McGalliard Falls Park. Shelter reservations can be made online, over the phone, or in-person during office hours. Come see what all we have for you at your Valdese Parks and Recreation Department!



## PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS

### POLICE DEPARTMENT STATS (July)

CALLS FOR SERVICE = 307

VEHICLE STOPS = 111

TRAFFIC CITATIONS = 78

ARRESTS/WARRANT/ORDER FOR ARRESTS = 6

REPORTS FILED = 33

### FIRE DEPARTMENT STATS (7/21-8/20)

FIRE = 0

RESCUE & EM. MEDICAL SERVICES = 50

HAZARDS = 4

SERVICE = 6

GOOD INTENT CALLS = 1

FALSE ALARM & FALSE CALLS = 7

**TOTAL FIRE CALLS = 18**

**TOTAL MEDICAL CALLS = 58**



## PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING UPDATE

### Contract Approved for Research, Planning & Evaluation

The Council approved DR Reynolds as the contractor for the Public Safety Facilities Project. This contract represents an essential step forward, allowing the Town of Valdese to begin the critical process of research, planning, and evaluation for its fire and police facilities. With this approval in place, DR Reynolds will initiate their work by conducting a thorough review of different properties and buildings currently owned by the Town. The purpose of this review is to assess which site or sites may best accommodate the needs of the project while remaining within the town's existing budget limitations.

Following this evaluation phase, DR Reynolds will return to present their findings and recommendations to the Council. These recommendations will include an analysis of whether it is most feasible to construct a new facility, renovate an existing building, or pursue a combination of both approaches. Once the Council has reviewed and agreed upon a path forward, DR Reynolds will proceed into the design phase of the project. This phase will include detailed planning and development of the selected option, ensuring that the proposed solutions align with both the functional requirements of our public safety departments and the financial constraints of the Town of Valdese. For further information call Valdese Town Manager, Todd Herms at 828-879-2116.

## YARD WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

The Town of Valdese offers year-round Brush, Leaf and Yard Waste Pick Up rotating bi-weekly on the North & South areas of Town. Brush may be up to eight feet long and up to seven inches in diameter. We do not however pick up stumps or brush generated from lot clearing and or contractor cuts/trimming. The contractor MUST haul off debris. Leaves and Yard Clippings are picked up weekly by Public Works. Please put those items at the curb, no farther than 5 feet from the edge of pavement, so they may be accessible with automated equipment. Be aware of pile location, please don't place under power lines or near fire hydrants. Do not mix sticks of other debris with leaves and yard clippings.

Leaves: Collected as needed, residents should place leaves within 6 feet of the roadside. Residents should try to keep leaves free of sticks, rocks, and dirt.

