Part I Crime Rate Finishes at a Decades Low 175

The City and Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (LASD) Palmdale have announced a crime rate of 175 crimes per 10,000 population for 2021. It marks the lowest crime rate in Palmdale in nearly a quarter of a century.

Overall, there were a total of 2,974 Part 1 crimes in 2021. When compared to the numbers of 2020, crime fell in several categories. Homicides dropped from 10 to 8, robberies from 153 to 143, burglaries from 427 to 344, and auto thefts from 543 to 525. Areas with increases included larceny theft from 1,164 to 1,304, and arson from 25 to 32, aggravated assault from 530 to 555, violent crime from 744 to 769, and rape from 51 to 63.

In 1996, the crime rate peaked at 467.71. The City then set a goal to push the crime rate below 300 by 2009, which proved to be successful. The goal was reset to drive the rate below 200, which was accomplished in 2018.

“This is the lowest rate that we’ve seen since we’ve been tracking the numbers,” said Mayor Steve Hofbauer. “It’s great news for our community. Once again, the partnerships we’ve developed with City staff, law enforcement, and our residents continue to make our community safer for everyone. Community oriented policing is truly an effective approach to engaging with the community to lower crime. There’s still work to do, and we will continue to work hard to keep crime going down.”

“I am so proud of the accomplishments of the Palmdale community in the crime reduction numbers this past year,” said Palmdale Sheriff’s Station Captain Ron Shaffer. “Our Palmdale Station personnel are committed to public safety and have had to endure incredible challenges these past couple of years. The City of Palmdale is an amazing partner in the public safety mission, and the members of our community that work and live in Palmdale have been the best resource in improving our efforts.”

“Public safety is a top priority of our City Council and these new numbers are further proof that their vision for a safer Palmdale is on track,” said Acting City Manager Ronda Perez. “Public safety is their number one budget commitment, and the results are playing out in the community. We’re not going to rest on our laurels, but instead we’ll keep moving forward in unison with our partners to build the kind of City that our residents and businesses feel safe living and working in.”

How is the Part 1 crime rate calculated?
To determine a City’s crime rate, take the number of Part 1 crimes and divide it by the total population.

For Palmdale, the total number of Part 1 crimes for 2021 was 2,974. Divide that by 169,450 equals .0175 (rounded). Now multiply .0175 times 10,000 and you get 175.
Introducing Park Connect

Park Connect is an exciting new component of Park Watch where special mini events will be held throughout the year at local parks to help connect residents to City resources, personnel, and the Sheriff’s Department. You bring your family, and we’ll provide the music, games, and snacks for fun, interaction, and learning. The goal is to help keep your neighborhood parks safe and beautiful.

Upcoming Park Connect events will be held at 6 p.m.:

- March 16 @ Yellen Park, 5100 East Avenue S
- April 13 @ Domenic Massari Park, 37716 55th St. East
- May 18 @ Desert Sands Park, 39117 3rd St. East
- June 15 @ McAdam Park, 38115 30th St. East

Cracking Down on Speeders

A speed enforcement operation held on Jan. 26 by the Palmdale and Lancaster Sheriff’s stations in conjunction with California Highway Patrol netted more than 130 citations at two locations.

Avenue S/32nd Street East and Fort Tejon Road/Goldenview Way intersections were selected due to numerous complaints of speeding. Several vehicles had been caught traveling over 100 mph by sheriff patrols, and there was a recent fatal collision nearby.

The purpose of the speed enforcement operations is to help prevent traffic collisions from occurring, especially those that cause injuries or fatalities.

Free E-Waste Disposal Events

Free e-waste disposal events will take place on Saturday, March 5 and 19, and Saturday, April 2 and 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center (AVECC), located 1200 West City Ranch Road in Palmdale.

Residents will be able to safely dispose of their household hazardous waste and electronic equipment at no cost. Items accepted at the event include household batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, microwaves, computers, tablets, printers, televisions, VCR’s, telephones, fax machines, stereos, speakers, and electronic games.

In addition, this permanent facility also accepts non-controlled pharmaceuticals, needles or syringes, antifreeze, car batteries, cleaning supplies, cosmetics, used motor oil, and pesticides.

AVECC is open on the first and third Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To learn more about what can and cannot be accepted at the permanent facility visit www.dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/perm_centers.

For more information, please call 267-5300.
Healing & Honor Field Returns; Flags on Sale Now

The Palmdale Healing & Honor Field, a colorful display of American flags honoring heroes, is returning to Pelona Vista Park, 37800 Tierra Subida Ave. in Palmdale from Sunday, May 22 through Monday, May 30.

Presented by the Palmdale Auto Mall Association and the City of Palmdale, the Palmdale Healing & Honor Field will feature 1,000 flags on 7½ foot tall poles in ordered rows. The flags are available for purchase to honor a veteran or member of the military, law enforcement, fire/EMS, or any medical personnel. A tag with the name of the person being honored will be placed on each flag. On May 30 at the conclusion of the Memorial Day Ceremony, flag purchasers may pick up their flag to keep or present to the person they honored.

Flags are $30 each and may be purchased online at www.CityofPalmdale.org/HealingField. All proceeds from the flag sales will benefit local veterans groups including American Legion 348, Antelope Valley Veterans Action Coalition, Coffee 4 Vets, Point Man AV, Vets 4 Veterans, VFW 3000, and VFW 3552.

The Palmdale Healing & Honor Field will be open 24 hours daily, concluding at 5 p.m. on May 30. An information booth will be staffed with volunteers and City personnel each day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Volunteer positions are available. To inquire about volunteering, please email parksrec@cityofpalmdale.org.
Free Oil Filters Available

The City will host a used oil filter exchange event on Saturday, March 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Auto Zone, located at 1138 E. Palmdale Boulevard.

Residents may bring a used oil filter to the store to receive a new FREE oil filter (not to exceed $15). Limited to two filters per household, filters carried by Auto Zone, and subject to stock on hand.

Another recycling event will take place on Saturday, April 16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Auto Zone at 5022 W. Ave. N.

This event is funded from the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle).

For a list of used oil and filter collection centers, call 1-800-CLEANUP, or download the Recycle Coach app. For more information, please call 267-5300.

AV Wellbeing Coalition Progressing Towards Certification and Positive Changes

The inaugural Antelope Valley (AV) Wellbeing Coalition, a training and coaching program that began in September to use wellbeing science as a strategy for local leaders to work together on robust solutions to health and economic challenges facing communities, is close to completing its Certification in Applied Positive Psychology (CAPP).

The group, led by Louis Alloro and Dr. Talma Schultz of The Wellbeing Lab, has created an alliance of organizations to work around a common goal of creating improved wellbeing in the community.

With monthly in-person and weekly virtual learning sessions with The Wellbeing Lab, students are coached to make positive changes in their own lives personally, professionally, and relationally among themselves as leaders, and strategically and structurally around the AV.

Some of the impact projects emerging from the cohort include local walks and talks with law enforcement and neighborhood residents to improve the relationships and health of participants; work with seniors, veterans, and youth to help them increase their mental, physical, social, and emotional wellbeing as a foundation for improving the quality of life in Antelope Valley.

“I have been through many workshops and there is something very special about this one with what we are learning and doing together,” said Lisa Sarno, retired from City of Los Angeles and current chairperson of the City of Palmdale’s Public Art Commission.

The AV Wellbeing Coalition is the first of its kind in California to bring applied positive psychology to human wellbeing at this scale.

“I lost my nephew recently and if I didn’t have this class teaching me the best of coping and resilience, I would be going down a rabbit hole right now. I am so grateful,” said Sylvia Garner, an author, life coach, motivational speaker and a mom.
Recreation Complex Community Meetings Set

You’re invited to join us at our next round of community meetings to help develop the new Palmdale Regional Recreational Complex (PRRC), a state-of-the-art facility that enhances the quality of life, provides economic development opportunities, and improves the health of residents.

The meetings will take place on Monday, March 7 at Palmdale Oasis Park Recreation Center, 3850 E. Ave. S, and Tuesday, March 8 at Marie Kerr Park Recreation Center, 2723 Rancho Vista Blvd. Both meetings start at 6:30 p.m.

Results of the initial community survey will be shared and discussed. For more information, visit www.CityofPalmdale.org/PRRC.

Kaiser Permanente Lab Opening

Palmdale Mayor Steve Hofbauer was on hand to celebrate the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new laboratory at Kaiser Permanente’s Palmdale Medical Office Building on Ave. S. The new lab is equipped with a state-of-the-art queuing system where members can freely and comfortably wait in other parts of the building or opt for text messaging when it’s their turn for blood collection. New blood draw stations have been added that have the necessary ergonomic and safety features for members and the staff. The new patient chairs can fully recline, tables are adjustable, and a separate station is dedicated to members that are in wheelchairs.

West Coast Classical’s “Spring Fling”

The Palmdale Playhouse will present a “Spring Fling” recital by the West Coast Classical Orchestras on Saturday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m.

“Come enjoy a concert of beautiful music ranging from jazz to light classical performed by the West Coast Classical Orchestras and Ensembles,” said Mayor Steve Hofbauer. “There will be something for everyone to make a memorable evening of music.”

Tickets are $12 and are available at www.PalmdalePlayhouse.com. Self-selection seating is available for all Playhouse events.

Tickets for all shows may be purchased online or at the box office two hours before each show. Please note that the Playhouse no longer accepts cash; Visa, MasterCard, and Discover are the only forms of payment accepted at the box office and concession stand.

For more information, please call 267-5684.
Based on the novel "Freaky Friday" by Mary Rodgers and the Disney Films

Fridays and Saturdays, March 11, 12, 18 & 19, 8 p.m.
Sunday, March 13 & 20, 2 p.m.

When an overworked mother and her teen daughter magically swap bodies, they have just one day to put things right again. "Freaky Friday" is a heartfelt, comedic, and unexpectedly emotional update on an American classic. By spending a day in each other's shoes, Katherine and Ellie come to appreciate one another's struggles, learn self-acceptance, and realize the immeasurable love and mutual respect that bond mother and daughter.

Tickets: $22/adults, $18/seniors, students, military, 12 & under
PalmdalePlayhouse.com

"Freaky Friday" is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com.

This performance is supported, in part, by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture.

Spring Break Fun at the Parks!

March 21-25, daily 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Domenic Massari and Marie Kerr Parks

School's out for spring break! Enjoy free recreational field games such as baseball, kickball, obstacle courses, relay races, and more. Pick up a park calendar for more activities at Domenic Massari Park. All ages welcome.

AV Gem and Mineral Club
Saturday, March 19, 1-4 pm
Domenic Massari Park
The City is partnering with the AV Gem and Mineral Club to present free educational and recreational fun that surrounds our everyday life. Gem and Mineral Club members will share their knowledge, experiences, and answer your questions. Families are encouraged to attend.

Cesar Chavez Day at Yellen Park
Saturday, March 26, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Yellen Park
Admission and parking free. The festivities will include entertainment, food trucks, educational opportunities, and vendors.

Happy Earth Day Celebration
Friday, April 22, 4-6 pm
Domenic Massari & Marie Kerr Parks
This Earth Day we want to give back to our planet! Visit your local park for Earth Day activities for you and the family. Plant a flower to take home, create art out of recyclables, go on a nature hike, and more. All ages welcome.

Family Field Day
Thursday, April 7, 1-3 pm
Legacy Park
Join recreation staff for a fun Family Field Day — enjoy fun board games, an obstacle course, carom boards, croquet, checkers, corn hole and bocce ball.

Children's SpringFest & Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 9, 10 am-2 pm
Palmdale Amphitheater
Free admission and open to kids ages 2 through 12. A free egg hunt, crafts and activities will all be part of the fun. A Kids Fun Zone wristband will be available for purchase. Food trucks will also be on site.

Mommy & Me Fun

The Marie Kerr Park Recreation Center was decorated with a valentine themed balloon arch, balloon bouquets, and wall décor on Feb. 11 to the delight of all those who attended the Mommy & Me Dance. Participants enjoyed a valentines themed craft room, photo area, dance games, prizes, cupcakes and cookies, a to go treat bag and music by DJ Danny.
Winter Storytime is Back

Winter Storytime at the Palmdale City Library is underway and will run through March 23. Storytime takes place at the Chimoole Cultural Center, 38350 Sierra Hwy., located next to the library.

Bilingual Storytime for all ages will be held on Tuesdays from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Toddler Storytime for children ages 12 to 36 months will take place on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 10 a.m. Preschool Storytime for children ages 3 to 5 years will occur on Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Masks will be required for ages 2 and up.

Registration is required. To register online, visit www.eventbrite.com/cc/palmdale-city-library-storytime-37209. Online registration will open one week before each Storytime, and reminders may be set up in advance on the Library’s Eventbrite page.

“Join us for an enjoyable time of interactive reading, rhymes, music, and movement which will help your kids develop early literacy skills and the love of stories while having a whole lot of fun,” said Library Associate and Storytime Lead Fawn Kemble.

The Palmdale City Library is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

For more information, please call the Palmdale City Library at 267-5600 or TDD 267-5167 or visit www.cityofpalmdale.org/library.

Finnegan Blue

Sunday, March 27, 6 p.m.

Call them a family band: sibling duo Anna Lee and Willie Fleming, joined by their dad Bill, take Americana clear off the rails! The band (with Malcolm Jones on sax, Kevin Higuchi on percussion, and bassist Oskar Beckmann) leapfrogs through a mix of their own toe-tapping originals and traditional Irish and Bluegrass covers — all hot-wired by Finnegan Blue’s high-energy.

Tickets:
$15/adults, $10/seniors, students, military, 12 & under

PalmdalePlayhouse.com
HZI Waste-to-Hydrogen Firm Provides New Food Distribution Tent for SAVES

South Antelope Valley Emergency Services (SAVES) has received a second industrial-quality tent from Hitachi Zosen Inova (HZI), a multinational corporation that converts organic waste into renewable gas and hydrogen.

The new tent, along with one donated and built in 2020, offers SAVES staff much needed protection from harsh desert valley winds, sun, and occasional rain as they distribute food to needy families. The HZI tents also help protect the food stock as SAVES is also a food rescue organization that takes perfectly good food that for various reasons has been discarded by big box stores or grocery chains, and channels it directly to those facing food insecurity.

HZI will ultimately be able to convert the food that even SAVES cannot repurpose into clean hydrogen fuel. The company is developing an anaerobic digestion plant in Lancaster, a large project that diverts organic waste from Waste Management’s landfill and converts it into renewable natural gas and hydrogen.

To further help preserve perishable food, the CalRecycle grant will allow HZI to purchase a hydrogen-fueled refrigerated truck for SAVES to transport fresh produce from retailers as far away as downtown Los Angeles to distribution points in Palmdale — especially helpful during the hot summer months when local temperatures often exceed 110 degrees Fahrenheit.

The relationship between HZI and Palmdale began in the fall of 2020 with the pandemic raging and large numbers of disadvantaged community members losing jobs. SAVES was called upon to serve more families than ever, helping the needy throughout the Antelope Valley. Lines of cars waiting for food rescue packages on Tuesdays and Thursdays stretched for blocks. Federal aid meant supplies of fresh food like milk and produce streamed in and needed to be distributed quickly.
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Introducing a new way to skip a phone call and use your mobile phone’s text messaging service to quickly report issues and find information on the go.

24/7 Assistance
Smart texting technology searches keywords to provide assistance anytime, day or night.

Get Started
Text Hi or any of the other featured keywords to:
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Palmdale
Sign up to receive city notifications via text message. Opt-in to the following program:
✓ City notifications keyword: PALMDALE

Get Started:
Text the keyword above to: 91896

What
• After the initial keyword is sent, you will receive a confirmation message asking you to reply YES to verify opt-in.
• Message and data rates may apply. Check with your carrier for more details.

How to Opt
Text STOP at any time to remove yourself from the notification list.

Want to be a lifeguard?
Enroll in Lifeguard Academy! Our Lifeguard I positions begin at $16.38/hour.
To attend, you must register at www.PlayPalmdale.com prior to the beginning of class. Once registered, participants will be called to schedule a swim test date and time. The swim test will be held two days prior to class. The swim test is required and there are no make up dates.
Palmdale Comprehensive Zoning Code Update

Zoning Code Fact Sheet

What Is A Zoning Code?
The City’s Zoning Code (Title 17 of the Palmdale Municipal Code) regulates land uses within the boundaries of Palmdale. The Code establishes zoning districts (e.g., Residential, Commercial, and Industrial) that are applied to individual properties and are consistent with the General Plan land use designations. For each zone district, the Code identifies land uses that are permitted, conditionally permitted, and prohibited. It also establishes development standards such as minimum lot size, maximum building height, and the minimum distance a building must be set back from the street. Provisions for parking, landscaping, lighting, and other rules that guide the development of projects in the city are also included.

Zoning Code Overview
The City of Palmdale is undertaking a comprehensive update to its Zoning Code to help implement the vision for Palmdale 2045, the ongoing update of the City’s General Plan. This project will take about 12 months, with a Fall 2021 start date and expected adoption in Summer 2022.

The update of the Zoning Code is intended to support the city’s growth in an orderly manner and promote and protect public health, safety, peace, comfort, and the general welfare in conformance with the Palmdale 2045 General Plan. The following are objectives of the Code update:

• Comprehensively update the Zoning Code to implement the land use patterns and development framework established in the Palmdale 2045 General Plan update.
• Update the zoning map with zoning districts that implement and are consistent with the General Plan land use designations.
• Update the development regulations, processes, and procedures in the Zoning Code to be consistent with State law.
• Streamline the project approval processes to reduce the need for discretionary review.
• Incorporate and build upon significant ongoing and recently completed work on Specific Plans and multi-family design regulations.
• Create a highly illustrative Code that is easy to use and understand, is in line with best practices, and conveys the intent of the regulations.
• Re-structure the Code to be logically organized and in line with best practices.
¿Qué es un Código de Zonificación?

El Código de Zonificación de la Ciudad (Título 17 del Código Municipal de Palmdale) regula los usos de la tierra dentro de los límites de Palmdale. El Código establece distritos de zonificación (por ejemplo, residencial, comercial e industrial) que se aplican a propiedades individuales y son consistentes con las designaciones de uso de la tierra del Plan General. Para cada distrito de zona, el Código identifica los usos de la tierra que están permitidos, condicionalmente permitidos y prohibidos. También establece normas de desarrollo como el tamaño mínimo del lote, la altura máxima del edificio y la distancia mínima a la que un edificio debe alejarse de la calle. También se incluyen provisiones para estacionamiento, paisajismo, iluminación y otras reglas que guían el desarrollo de proyectos en la ciudad.

Resumen del Código de Zonificación

La Ciudad de Palmdale está llevando a cabo una actualización integral de su Código de Zonificación para ayudar a implementar la visión de Palmdale 2045, la actualización continua del Plan General de la Ciudad. Este proyecto tomará aproximadamente 12 meses, con una fecha de inicio de otoño de 2021 y una adopción anticipada para el verano de 2022.

La actualización del Código de Zonificación tiene como objetivo apoyar el crecimiento de la ciudad de manera ordenada y promover y proteger la salud pública, la seguridad, la paz, la comodidad y el bienestar general en conformidad con el Plan General de Palmdale 2045. Los siguientes son objetivos de la actualización del Código:

• Actualizar completamente el Código de Zonificación para implementar los patrones de uso de la tierra y el marco de desarrollo establecido en la actualización del Plan General de Palmdale 2045.

• Actualizar el mapa de zonificación con los distritos de zonificación que implementan y son consistentes con las designaciones de uso de la tierra del Plan General.

• Actualizar las regulaciones, procesos y procedimientos de desarrollo en el Código de Zonificación para que sean consistentes con la ley estatal.

• Optimizar los procesos de aprobación de proyectos para reducir la necesidad de revisiones discrecional.

• Incorporar y continuar el trabajo significativo en curso y recientemente completado sobre Planes Específicos y regulaciones de diseño multifamiliar.

• Crear un Código altamente ilustrativo que sea fácil de usar y comprender, esté en línea con las mejores prácticas y que transmita la intención de las regulaciones.

• Reestructurar el Código para que esté organizado lógicamente y en línea con las mejores prácticas.

¿Preguntas? Contacte a:

Megan Taggart
Gerente de Planificación, Ciudad de Palmdale
teléfono: 661-267-5100
correo electrónico: zoningupdate@cityofpalmdale.org
www.Palmdale2045.org/zoning
ANTELOPE VALLEY WELLBEING COALITION PROJECT
presents

WELCOME HOME CEREMONY FOR
VIETNAM VETERANS

Saturday, March 19 ★ 10 AM-3 PM
PONCITLÁN SQUARE GAZEBO ★ 38315 9TH ST. EAST, PALMDALE

VIETNAM VET REGISTRY:
AVWelcomeHomeVets@gmail.com or 661-544-8281.
Be prepared with the following information:
Branch, Rank, Last Name, First Name, and Pickup Location.
Palmdale pickup location:
Palmdale Transportation Center, 39000 Clock Tower Plaza Drive
Lancaster pickup location:
Sgt. Steve Owen Memorial Park, 43063 10th St. West.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: THURSDAY, MARCH 7
MYTH #1:
Vaping is harmless.

FACT:
When someone vapes, it looks kind of like they’re smoking. That’s because electronic cigarettes — or e-cigarettes — heat a liquid into a mist that you inhale and exhale. Vaping delivers chemicals into the lungs that aren’t supposed to be there.

Even if vaping seems harmless, it’s not. Vaping products aren’t controlled by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). That means we don’t always know what they contain or how they are made.

MYTH #2:
Vaping just uses flavored water. That’s not dangerous.

FACT:
Vaping is not just inhaling water vapor. There isn’t even water in the cartridges people use. They are filled with liquids that contain chemicals, nicotine and flavorings.

MYTH #3:
Vaping can’t make you sick.

FACT:
If you or your friends vape, you could be gambling with your health. It can cause asthma issues, lung injuries, or even hospital visits.

MYTH #4:
Vaping is a safe way to stop smoking.

FACT:
At first, vaping was thought to be a safe way to help adults addicted to cigarettes to stop. But, it was not supposed to be a substitute for smoking. Now we know you can get addicted to vaping and there are other side effects.

MYTH #5:
Vaping isn’t as bad for you as smoking.

FACT:
The nicotine in one small vaping “pod” can be as much as a whole pack of cigarettes or more. That means vaping a single pod can cause a nicotine addiction and could be enough to make you sick.

Source: https://news.childrensmercy.org/vaping-myths-and-facts/
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FOR SUMMER PROGRAMS

Program Leader positions are ideal for those who are seeking to develop professional career skills.

Lifeguard positions are ideal for those seeking an energetic work environment and rewarding level of responsibility working with the public.

City of Palmdale
Parks & Recreation

View job descriptions and sign-up for job alerts @
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Los puestos de salvavidas son ideales para aquellos que buscan un ambiente de trabajo enérgico y un nivel de responsabilidad gratificante al trabajar con el público.

Los puestos de líder de programa son ideales para aquellos que buscan desarrollar habilidades de carrera profesional.

Vea las descripciones de los trabajos y registrese para recibir alertas de trabajo @ www.cityofpalmdale.org/jobs