

## **THE FUTURE:**

Thank you for joining me for today's State of the City address.

Typically, State of the City is about reviewing what we have accomplished in the past year & the current status of our projects and programs.

Today, instead of starting with the past, let's first take a look at our future.



**THIS** is our future -- A healthier, more walkable, bike-able community --

The City has developed this “**Medical Main Street**” concept, in collaboration with the Antelope Valley Healthcare District and Antelope Valley Hospital...

A 21<sup>st</sup> Century health district designed to provide easily accessible, state-of-the-art health care options to all Antelope Valley residents, in an environment that both encourages and facilitates active lifestyles and healthy living.

The vision is to create a district that will house a wide variety of health care facilities and specialists, with Antelope Valley Hospital as its centerpiece.

By capitalizing on the vacant land surrounding the existing hospital campus, this area will be infused with mixed-use facilities that integrate health care alongside supporting commercial establishments, such as health food stores, restaurants and gyms.

This project will create a number of high-paying jobs, while adding more health services to meet the many various needs of our community.



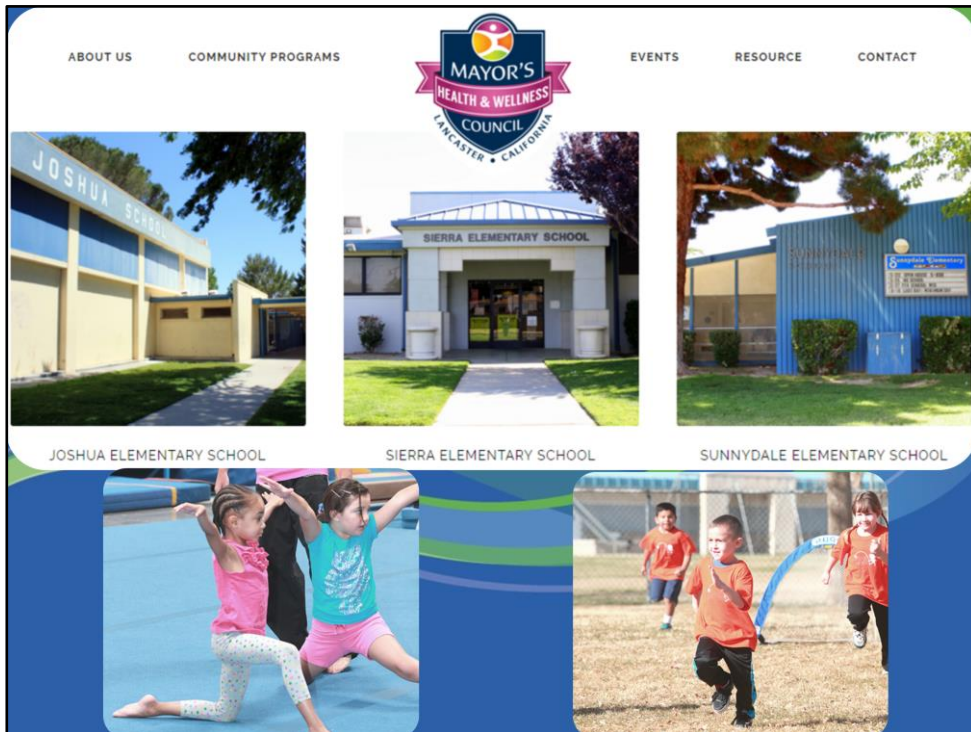
Positively influencing the **health of the entire community** has been a key pursuit of our City Council...

And... as we work together to plan and build a healthier community, we recognize that to truly thrive, we must also create **health initiatives aimed at personal wellness**.

As such... I am pleased to share that the City of Lancaster has been hard at work employing new avenues to improve the **availability of health & wellness programs** and opportunities throughout our city.



[Play AVPH “Wellness” Video]



This past year...

The City of Lancaster launched the **Mayor's Wellness Council**. This Council has already implemented the **Mayor's Health and Wellness Academy** at three of our elementary schools.

The Academy has reached more than **450 participants** and has raised over **\$60,000 in funding**.

And...plans are underway to incorporate the Health and Wellness Academy at additional elementary schools throughout the community.





In conjunction with Antelope Valley Partners for Health, the City also implemented a year-long **“You Only Live Once” Wellness Challenge**.

The YOLO Wellness Campaign is designed to encourage residents to get the most out of life by **making healthy choices and cultivating healthy habits** at every opportunity.



[Play Fitness Video]



Another means by which the City encourages community-wide health and wellness is through our **annual Corporate Challenge** events.

The Corporate Challenge **rallies community businesses** to join with the City in activities designed to get citizens moving via fun, competitive means.

A total of **15 teams participated in 16 events** during last year's Challenge.





[Play Corporate Challenge Video]




Feeling good is about more than physical health.

We at the City understand how important it is to go the extra mile to **embrace our citizens and provide services** which simply make day-to-day life a little easier.

We're not a social services organization. But the Council and staff strive to make heartfelt, conscientious decisions regarding the resources and assistance made available to our community.

As such, in 2015...



The image is a promotional graphic for the Antelope Valley Transit Authority's Senior Annual Pass Program. It features two photographs at the top: on the left, a white and blue bus with the number 4345 and destination 'R.V. MALL' on its display; on the right, a smiling senior citizen in a blue striped polo shirt and white pants waving. Below the photos is a blue banner with the AVTA logo and the text: 'Senior Annual Pass Program Begins September 1st, 2015 All Antelope Valley residents 65+ qualify for a Free 12 month pass'.

**AVTA**  
Antelope Valley Transit Authority

**Senior Annual Pass Program**  
**Begins September 1st, 2015**  
All Antelope Valley residents 65+  
qualify for a **Free 12 month pass**

The City of Lancaster provided funds to ensure all Antelope Valley seniors continue to receive **free bus fare subsidies**.



We also began **accepting passport applications** at City Hall, providing assistance to more than **350 people** in the **first three months** alone.



And our new **online permitting system** has proven to be very successful.

In fact, **18% of all permits processed** since its launch have been completed online.





Last year, we also launched a **mobile credit card payment system at the Lancaster City Park Batting Cages** to provide convenient payment options to the facility's many patrons.



**Diversity Encourages Understanding,  
Respect, and Great New Friendships**

*Don't let bias or bigotry grow. Get to know  
your neighbors.*

The City is also very proud to announce its **Fair Housing outreach program**.

This outreach effort promotes fair and equal housing opportunities for all, and lets the general public know that the City encourages, supports and welcomes all citizens throughout our community.

Along this same vein, we have also implemented and are administering a Citywide **Down Payment Assistance Program**.

As well as, an **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Emergency Repair Grant Program**...which provides emergency repair and rehabilitation services to the homes of disabled citizens who are in the low to very low income brackets.



The City also strives to help our citizens and local organizations benefit from the concept of **volunteerism**.

Volunteer services benefit individuals by providing **opportunities for growth, experience and exposure...**

While also enabling establishments to accomplish more for less...and identify **potential future employees**.

One means by which the City supports volunteerism is via the **OneLINC Council**, a partnership of non-profit groups focused on improving the connection between volunteers and organizations throughout the Antelope Valley.

Another way is through the **City's Volunteer Service Program**, which **placed 100 citizens** in volunteer positions last year.



**Communication is key** to all successful relationships, but intimate, face-to-face conversation is not always achievable.

In order to maintain a successful relationship between the City and the community at-large, it is imperative that numerous methods for exchanging information are available.

To enhance citizen awareness and engagement, we recently **upgraded our online presence and social media platforms**, creating more user-friendly access to City news, events and information.



We launched a new and improved, **streamlined website**.



lancaster ca  
 all possibilities ahead

[f](#) [t](#) [v](#) [i](#) [t](#)

**Lancaster's All-Recycling Center**  
 The City of Lancaster's Recycling Center accepts e-waste, used oil, cooking oil, tires, jacket paint, and antifreeze. Located at 615 W. Avenue H, the center is open 24/7.

**Social Media**  
 MORE WATER

**September**  
 18-19. [SolarFair](#)  
 19. [ASAP Testing Opportunity](#)  
 19. [All-Investor Day](#)  
 19. [LAW Suburbal Firm](#)  
 22. [City Council Meeting](#)

NEWS | Community Happenings & Info | Did You Know? | Featured City Partner

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More Than  
**13,000**  
 Recipients

And ...implemented a **completely redesigned weekly E-newsletter**, which harmonizes with the new website.



In addition, the number of residents following our **social media platforms** continues to increase, as we post info on City events; updates on programs; helpful tips and resources; as well as, giveaways and contests.



We also installed a new television system in the City Council Chambers incorporating higher resolution cameras, as well as an improved visual presence for all meetings televised in the City Council Chambers.



Of course, traditional media outlets are still instrumental in getting the word out to our public.

To that end, last year alone the City distributed more than 300 press releases, and produced over 100 videos.



In addition, more than 30 media events were hosted, as well as numerous press conferences and media tours... which garnered local, regional, state, national and international media coverage.





Now, fighting crime is an ongoing battle that every city and state contends with.

All of us **want** to feel safe in our homes, neighborhoods, workplaces and the community at-large. The City of Lancaster works hard to employ the most effective services possible for addressing all levels of danger to our community.

We are honest, aggressive and diligent in our efforts, ensuring that the public gets true information regarding the threats imposed on our City.



We have been very successful with our City teams and local law enforcement in preparing for... preventing... and responding to any and all identifiable endangerments to our citizens.

Our latest public safety accomplishments include...

Adopting new Chronic Nuisance and Social Host Ordinances

Establishing the Administrative Citation Process...which allows officers to issue administrative citations at the scene to those disturbing the peace (\$500 fine for first offense; \$1,000 for subsequent offences).

We also developed the “Antelope Valley Disaster Council” – a place where all entities in the Antelope Valley come together on a quarterly basis to strategize about local Emergency Preparedness efforts.

And, we ramped up a more fully structured Truancy Program through the Antelope Valley Education Alliance – a Pilot program which has reduced truancy by 70%.



Another area we have consistently been working on is our City's infrastructure.

By continuously improving the foundation and usability of our community assets... we continue to maintain and expand our formidable presence as a progressive municipality.



# SafeRoutes



Last year...

The City completed its Safe Routes to School Master Plan, which covers all 30 public schools within the City of Lancaster.

We also obtained more than \$14.7 million in grants to fund traffic safety and transportation improvements...

Including street rightsizing, bicycle facilities, traffic calming and pedestrian walkways and crossings.

And...we recently installed our first roundabout.

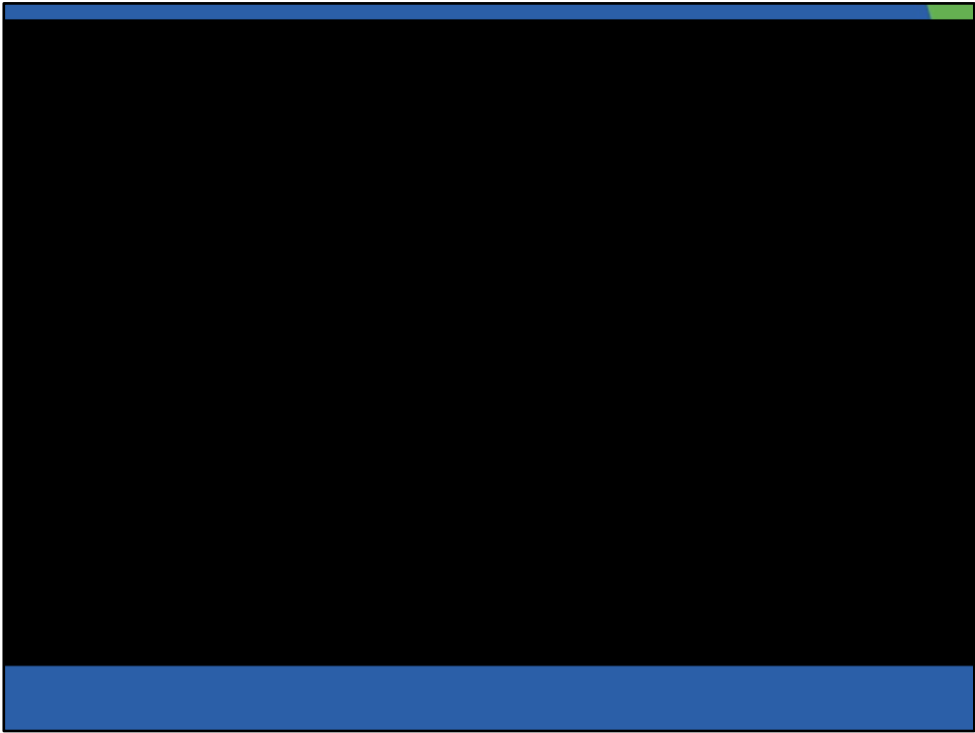


[Play Roundabout Video]





The City's Revive 25 program is also well on its way...



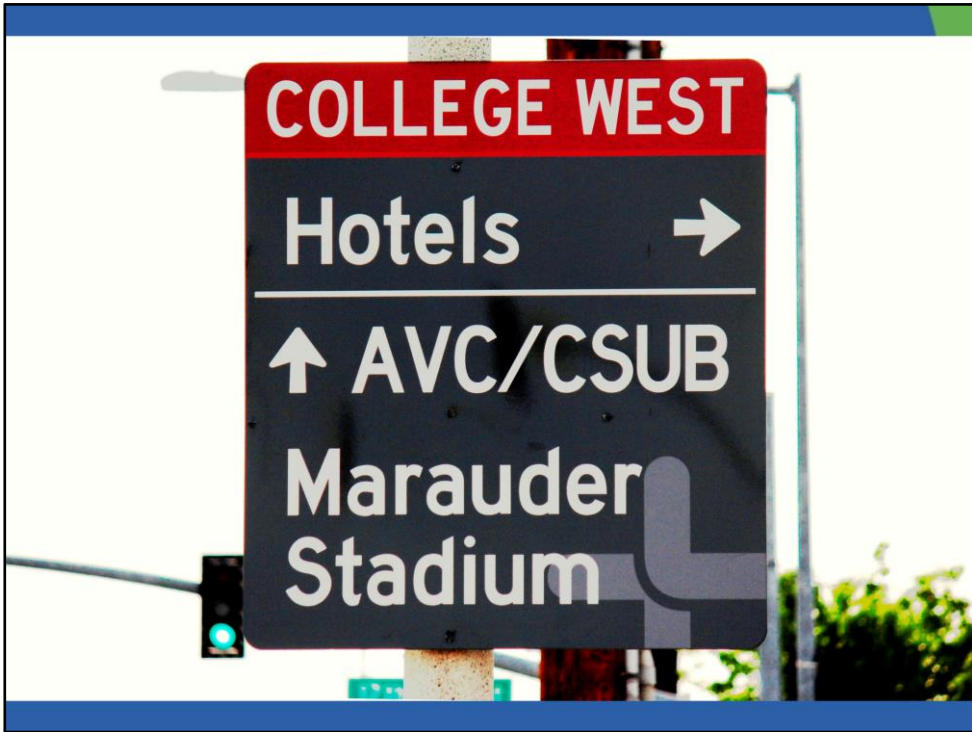
[Play Revive 25 Video]



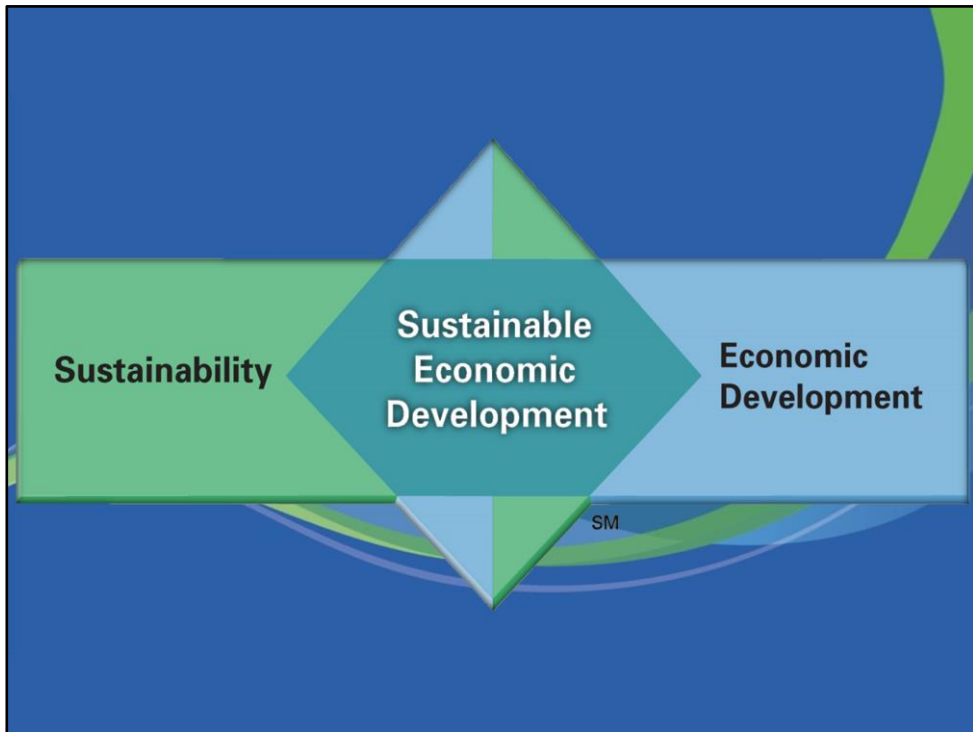
Our many infrastructure enhancements also included refurbishing the pre-school facilities at Jane Reynolds and El Dorado Park...

The construction and installation of new play and exercise equipment at Tierra Bonita Park...

And, the replacement of all entry signage to our parks and park & ride facilities.



We also added more wayfinding signs throughout the City.

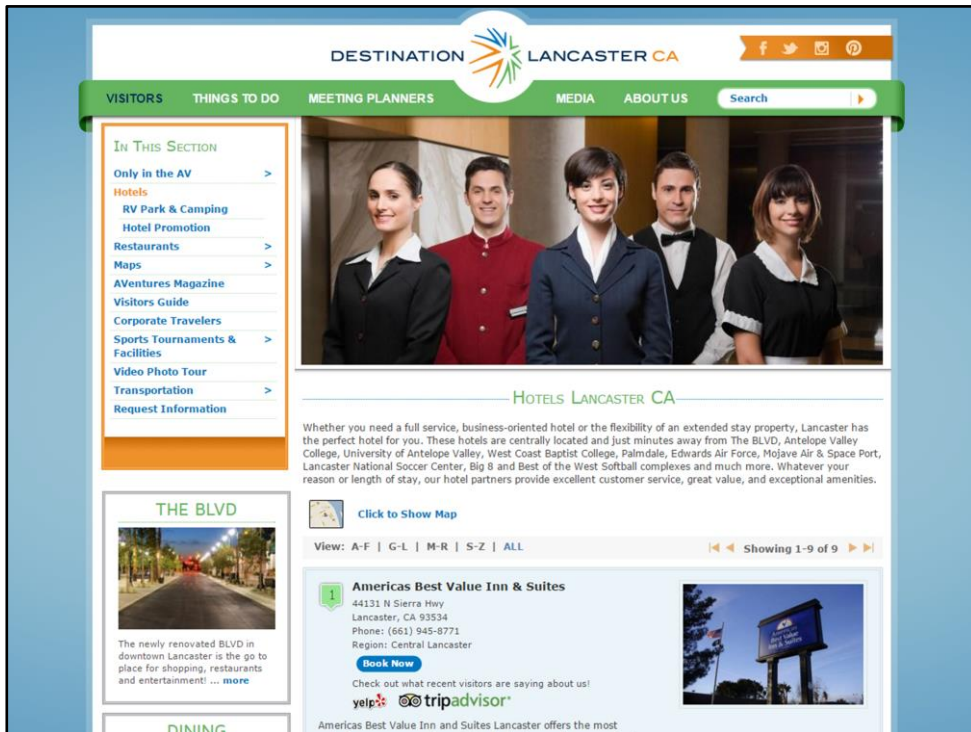


Successful Economic Development is vital to maintaining and growing our City.

There must always be an influx and sustainment of local businesses, investments, partnerships and tourism in order for our community to thrive.

The City has focused on multiple areas of development to ensure our Valley remains economically viable.





In 2015...The City, along with Destination Lancaster, attracted new tourism to our local economy.

As such, Lancaster's transient occupancy tax continues to rise, reaching 27% over the past five years.

The strong partnerships established and strengthened through Destination Lancaster have contributed to this dramatic increase.



Speaking of being a destination for your senses, for the third year in a row, Lancaster recently hosted the L.A. County Air Show...



[Play Air Show Video]



Meanwhile, Downtown Lancaster welcomed seven new businesses on The BLVD, including a Brazilian restaurant; a modern tea room; and an award-winning cupcake shop.

The Downtown Property-Based Improvement District should be credited in part for the growing success of The BLVD's presence.

Managed by the BLVD Association, the District continues to expand its services, which now include cleaning, maintenance and security.

In addition, the Association's marketing and promotions now include a comprehensive mix of traditional and digital advertising, alongside events that aim to attract patrons to the BLVD.

This activity has spurred increased engagement with Association members, both new and long-standing.

The City applauds the ingenuity and success of these efforts.

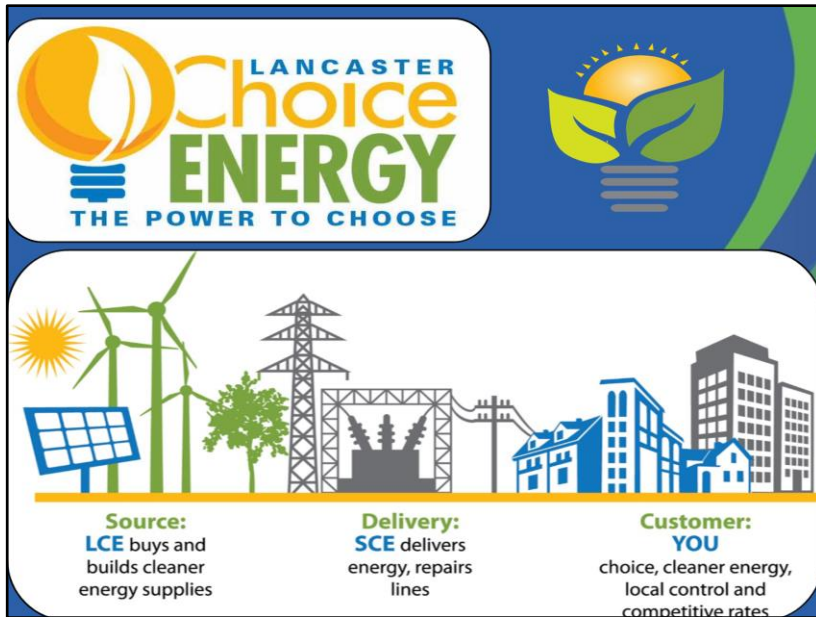


And... let us not forget our spectacular Lancaster Auto Mall, which has been constantly upgrading and expanding its presence.





[Play Hunter Video]



Looking ahead, our Economic Development department is working closely with Lancaster Choice Energy to establish a new special energy rate which can be used to incentivize new businesses to come to Lancaster.



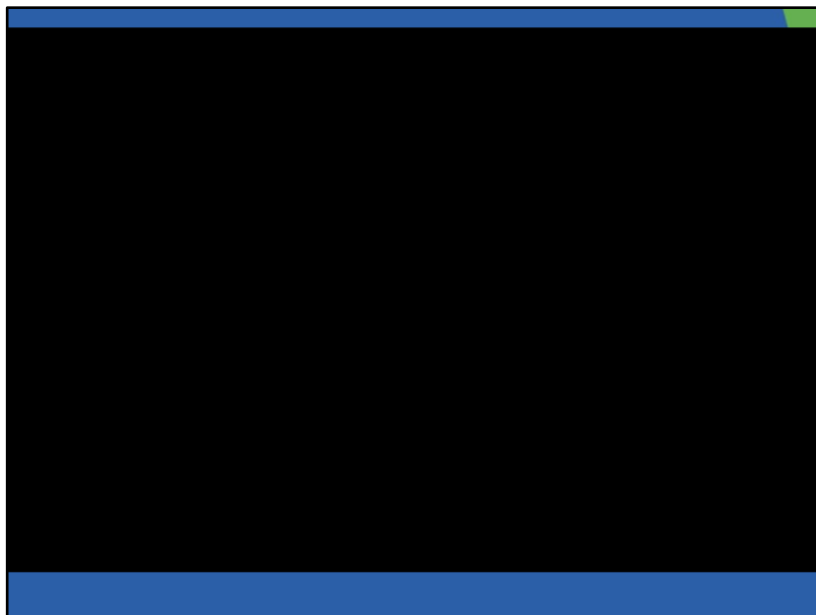
Arts, culture and plain old fun are what shape the fabric of a flourishing life.

We want our citizens... their families... their children... and their friends... to embrace this community for all it offers to enhance everyday living with...

Creativity, knowledge, laughter, excitement and a broadening of horizons.

Last year, the LPAC Foundation raised nearly \$100,000 to support the Foundation and LPAC's Arts for Youth programming.

In all, 15,000 local students attended more than 20 performing arts outreach programs, which is simply incredible.



[Play the Arts for Youth Video]

## 30 Years in the Making



This year, we will celebrate our Museum Of Art and History's 30th anniversary.

In its honor, we will host an enhanced High School Art Exhibition and Festival at the Cedar Center for the Arts.

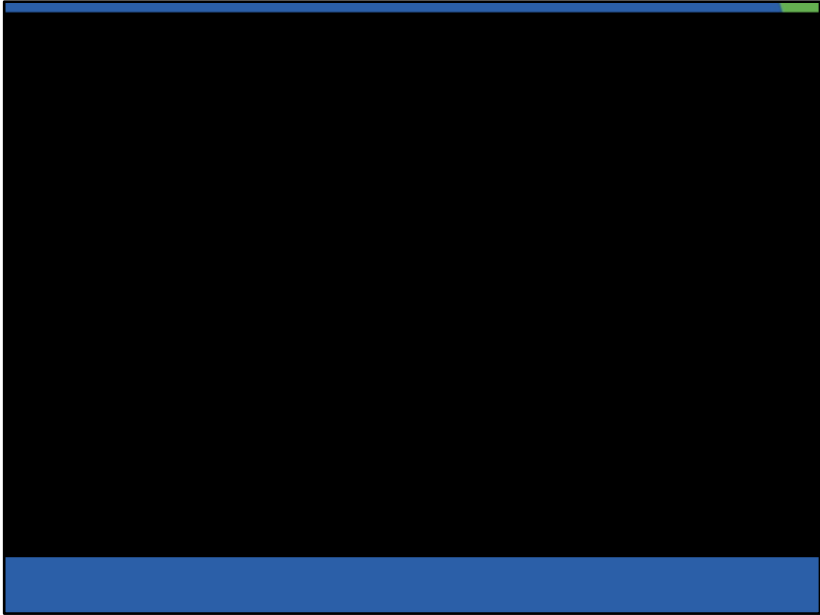




We will also host softball tournaments to benefit special causes, such as Toys 4 Tots, Wounded Warriors, and a number of other charities.

In addition, we plan to reimagine the old golf center space.

As for the rest... this is what we do each and every year, and will continue to bring to our outstanding community...

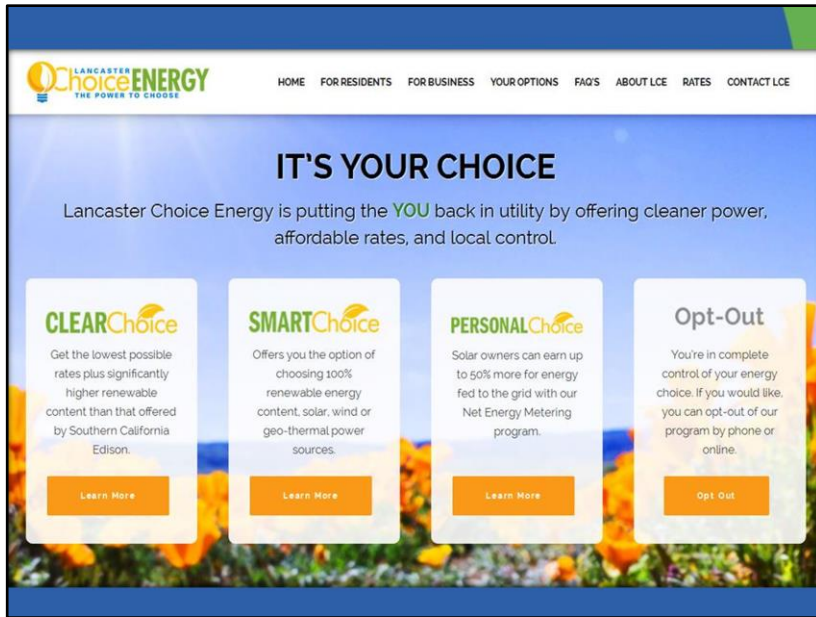


[Play Event Recap Video]



Everyone knows just how passionate this City is regarding sustainability and our community's ability to create longevity, while enhancing quality of life for our future generations.

Toward this end, we have...



Launched Lancaster Choice Energy – a greener, more affordable alternative for electric power...

Lancaster Choice Energy allows our citizens to use 100% renewable energy for their homes and businesses by enrolling in the Smart Choice option for just \$10 more per month.

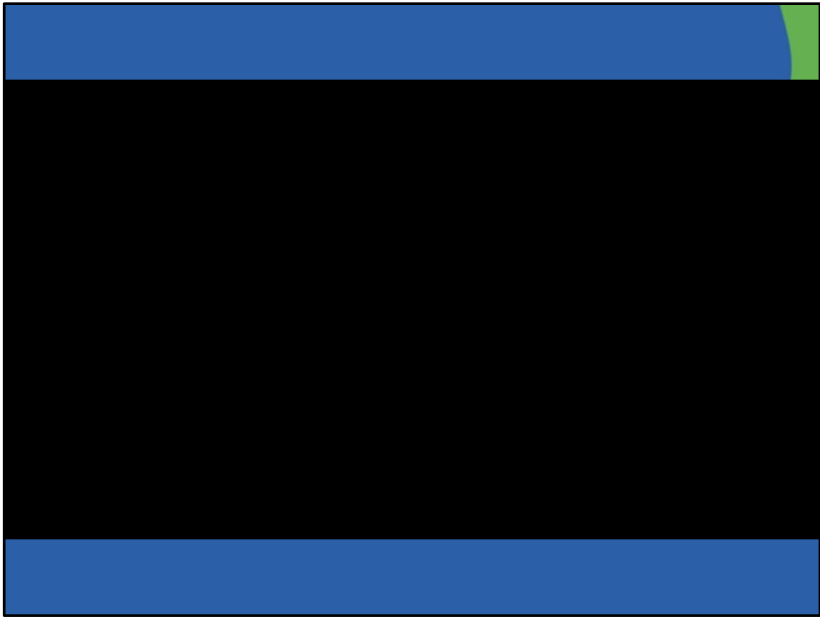


And LCE really does save its customers money...

Over a period of just five months, the Lancaster School District saved more than \$40,000 in energy costs, with only a fraction of its sites utilizing LCE's service.

LCE will continue to provide price stability and long-term electricity cost savings, with the ongoing goal of increasing locally-supplied renewable energy.





[Play AVTA/BYD Video]



The City's partnership with BYD has done so much for our community.

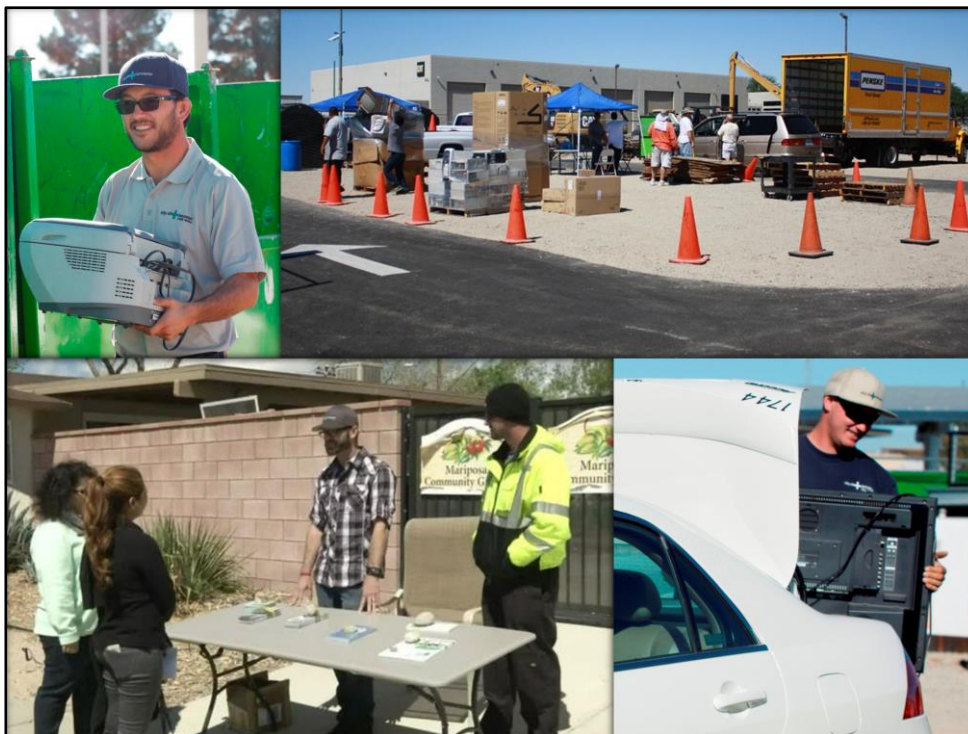
A few years ago, we welcomed BYD's first North American electric bus manufacturing plant, which is now the premier in-kind manufacturer in the world.

Now... the Antelope Valley Transit Authority's entire fleet of 85 public transportation vehicles is upgrading to zero emissions electric buses.



The City also secured a \$200,000 grant with the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District in support of the Mobile Emission Reduction Program.

With these funds, we are able to continue to sustain an environmentally suitable process while improving our streets utilizing Traction Seal.



Lancaster’s Recycling Program has taken off like wildfire, continuously expanding its services and capacity for our public.

Since the creation of our 24-Hr. Recycling Center in 2012, Lancaster has enjoyed a whopping 20-fold increase in recycling and has turned former recycling costs into new revenue streams...In just the past four years, our 24-Hour Recycling Center has collected: more than 1.9 Million pounds of e-waste, more than 100,000 pounds of paint, and over 37,000 gallons of oil...

We have installed a hazardous materials unit, which increases the range of materials citizens can drop off at our 24-Hour Recycling Center. And we **now** offer “curbside pickup” service for used oil and e-waste. We are taking City recycling a step further by creating “satellite” drop-off locations for our citizens’ added convenience.

The City has also kept our water needs in mind, consistently out-performing the state mandate regarding water use restrictions at City parks.



City staff and Council aren't the only ones hard at work to improve our City. Our City Commissioners bring a wealth of knowledge, unique perspectives, and professional experience to the table. Whether serving on the:

- Architectural & Design Commission
- Criminal Justice Commission
- Human Relations Tapestry Commission
- Neighborhood Vitalization Commission
- Planning Commission
- Or... the Mayor's Health & Wellness Council

These community stakeholders are adding value by contributing their knowledge of the community and various areas of expertise, helping the City to create Master Plans, develop programs, and launch initiatives to better our community.





2015 was indeed a very successful year for the City of Lancaster...and we are looking towards an even brighter future.

Our success all comes back to great minds, dedicated hearts, and incredible teamwork toward a greater end.





Because the bottom line is, we all want the best for our community... our families... friends... and neighbors.

We all want a bountiful life, with fulfilment for today and hope for tomorrow.

The great news is... it's never too late to become an influential part of the mix.

We hope more of you will engage in 2016, so that we can harvest even greater fruits of productivity for our community's future.

