

# August 2025

This newsletter shares important updates, stories, and events happening right here in our community. Below, you'll find a table of contents featuring the top stories of the month. If you're interested, simply click the link to read the full article.

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## The GOATs of Fire Prevention Reporting for Duty

As part of its ongoing wildfire prevention efforts, the Arcadia Fire Department deployed goats and sheep to graze on dry brush and vegetation that can serve as fire fuel in the hillsides.

In mid-July, a herd of 400 goats and sheep began grazing through overgrown brush and dry vegetation in the hillsides within Wilderness Park, gradually making their way west toward Santa Anita Canyon Road. In total, the animals will consume approximately 21 acres of dense vegetation known to serve as fuel in wildfire conditions. This approach has been shown to be an efficient tool for fire fuel reduction. Working in tandem, the goats and sheep will navigate steep, hard-to-reach terrain where people and equipment often face challenges.

Just over six months since the Eaton Fire, much of Arcadia's hillsides remain dry and bare. With vegetation burned away, the soil has hardened and crystallized, which increases the risk of runoff and debris flow during heavy rain. As the goats and sheep pass through, their hooves will naturally break up compacted soil, helping water penetrate the ground and reducing the potential for erosion and flooding in nearby residential areas. The animals will graze during the day and each evening return to their resting area, accompanied by their handlers, a herding dog, and a guard dog.

With fire season now a year-round concern in California, fire prevention remains a top priority for the City of Arcadia. In recent months, City staff have engaged residents through community meetings focused on wildfire mitigation, including updates to CAL FIRE's High Fire Severity Zone maps and firescaping workshops in partnership with the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments. The grazing project is an innovative approach to help protect Arcadia neighborhoods. To assist with the initiative, the Arcadia Fire Department secured a \$12,000 grant from the California Fire Foundation to help fund this unique fire prevention effort.

While the goats are doing their part to reduce brush and fire fuel, residents are encouraged to stay prepared by signing up for Alert Arcadia, the City's emergency notification system. To register or update your contact information, visit [www.ArcadiaCA.gov/Alert](http://www.ArcadiaCA.gov/Alert).



## Living with Wildlife

Part of Arcadia's beauty comes from its close proximity to the foothills, an area that's abundant with wildlife. It's important to be aware of how to interact with wildlife, especially bears, coyotes, and peafowl. Most wildlife poses little threat to humans as they have a natural fear of people and are not comfortable in unnatural surroundings. However, with a significant water shortage and the destruction of food sources by fire, animals are entering residential neighborhoods frequently.

### Important Phone Numbers

If your life is being threatened by a wild animal, call 911 or the Police Department at [\(626\) 574-5151](tel:(626)574-5151).

- Report injured or deceased peafowl to Pasadena Humane: [\(626\) 792-7151](tel:(626)792-7151)
- Report abnormal coyote encounters and incidents: [\(626\) 278-8039](tel:(626)278-8039) or [Coyotes@SGVCOG.org](mailto:Coyotes@SGVCOG.org)
- Learn more about [bear-resistant trash carts](#): [\(626\) 254-2720](tel:(626)254-2720)

### Secure Your Home

Wildlife often find the crawl space under homes and elevated decks an appealing resting spot. To prevent this, it's important to secure all ground-level access points and repair any ripped screens, holes, or missing boards. To minimize access to crawl spaces by bears, thick plywood should be cut so it's flush with the crawl space opening, screwing the wood into the stucco or surrounding materials and eliminating a 'lip' around the edge. Cinderblocks are heavy to humans but not to a bear, these barriers usually only last a short time and are not recommended.



Coyotes seek heavy brush and secluded spaces to den, so it's important to keep yard areas clear and secure any space under an outdoor deck with wire or fencing that goes a few inches underground. Coyotes also gravitate to areas with less human activity, so if you or a neighbor are away from home for extended periods of time, consider having landscapers provide routine maintenance to prevent yard areas from becoming overgrown. Properties with overgrown vegetation that are serving as coyote attractant should be reported to Code Services for further investigation at [\(626\) 574-5432](tel:(626)574-5432).

### Secure Your Trash & Deter Wildlife

- Put meat scraps in the freezer until trash day and wait until the day of pick-up to place them on the curb. Bear-resistant trash carts are available for purchase through Waste Management at a one-time cost of \$308, with no ongoing service fees. If selected, these carts would ultimately replace the green cart for residential properties. [Click here to sign up for a bear-resistant trash can.](#)
- Eliminate odors by double-bagging garbage and cleaning trash bins regularly with a strong-smelling disinfectant such as ammonia, bleach solutions, or a heavy-duty pine-scented cleaner.
- Soak sponges or rags in ammonia and place them inside your cans. Ammonia gives off a strong smell that animals do not like, helping to mask the odors that attract them.
- Keep barbecue grills clean and stored in a garage or shed when not in use, and promptly harvest or collect fallen fruit from trees.

## Safeguard Your Family & Pets from Coyotes

- If a coyote approaches you, do not turn your back and run – maintain eye contact and be as big and loud as you can. Make loud noises and throw objects in the animal's direction, especially if the coyotes advances or does not flee after initial hazing efforts have been used.
- If you see a coyote while walking with your small pet, pick them up and calmly leave the area. An airhorn can also be used to make a loud noise to startle the coyote and signal it's time for them to leave the area.
- Coyotes can jump up to eight feet in the air! Backyard fences that have a flat surface are the perfect place for rollers, which can prevent coyotes from getting their footing on your fence and accessing your yard.
- Do not leave small children or pets outside unattended.

## Do Not Feed Peafowl

- Feeding peafowl on public and private property is prohibited in Arcadia. When residents feed peafowl, it creates an unnatural attractant, causing unusually large musters of peafowls in residential areas. The resulting overpopulation of peafowl further distresses their ecosystem, which causes the peafowl to seek out resources in nearby neighborhoods. In Arcadia, feeding peafowl on public or private property carry the same penalty. One violation is punishable by up to a \$1,000 fine, six months in jail, or both in accordance with AMC Section 1200.
- [See the list of plants and flowers they dislike to keep peafowl from your yard.](#) Bird spikes and spirals can be used on thick tree branches, ledges, and roofs to eliminate perching. Peafowl are also known to attack their reflection, so spraying them with a hose or using sprinklers can help keep them away from cars and other areas they should not be.

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## Military Banner Program - Now Accepting Applications!

The City of Arcadia is dedicated to supporting and honoring its veterans throughout the year by offering various programs, events, and resources, including referrals to veteran service providers. Those who would like to participate in the 2025 Military Banner Program can [visit www.ArcadiaCA.gov/Veterans](http://www.ArcadiaCA.gov/Veterans). These banners, proudly displayed along Huntington Drive and Baldwin Avenue throughout November, will honor hometown heroes who have served in the armed forces.

### Resources for Veterans

- To stay informed on upcoming events and veteran programs, join the City of Arcadia mailing list. Call [\(626\) 574-5130](tel:6265745130) or [visit www.ArcadiaCA.gov/Veteran](http://www.ArcadiaCA.gov/Veteran) to be added to the list.
- The Veteran Peer Access Network helps veterans navigate complicated systems to receive the services they deserve. Learn more by calling [\(661\) 405-6901](tel:6614056901) or visiting [dmh.lacounty.gov/veterans](http://dmh.lacounty.gov/veterans).
- The San Gabriel Valley Veterans Affairs Clinic is an outpatient clinic that provides primary care and specialty health services. Learn more by calling [\(818\) 672-2800](tel:8186722800) or visiting [VA.gov](http://VA.gov).
- Veterans services are available at the Office of Supervisor Barger, offering assistance with compensation and benefits claims, medical and mental health referrals, educational and vocational support, home loans, grant applications, and legal services. For more information, call [\(909\) 394-2264](tel:9093942264).
- Visit the Arcadia Veterans Local History Room, a permanent exhibit space located in the Gilb Museum of Arcadia Heritage, dedicated to veterans from the City of Arcadia.



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## Fall Events & Activities in Arcadia

The fall season in Arcadia is packed with family friendly events, adult and youth sports, and special events for those 50+. Registration for classes, programs, and events will begin online for Arcadia residents on Monday, August 11. Walk-in registration for all will begin on Monday, August 18. [Visit ArcadiaCA.gov/RecReg](http://ArcadiaCA.gov/RecReg) to register!

## Before the summer ends, be sure to stop by the Arcadia Public Library & Museum for fun activities!

Get ready for a RAWR-some time at the Gilb Museum! Join us on Saturday, August 23, for an exciting afternoon all about dinosaurs and fossils. Meet paleontologists from the Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology, explore prehistoric creatures with Cretaceous Kingdom, and even enjoy a meet-and-greet with "live dinosaurs"! This family-friendly drop-in program runs from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and no registration is required.

Middle schoolers (grades 6-8) are also invited to an Ice Cream Social at the Library on Wednesday, August 27, at 4 p.m. Join the Middle School Advisory Group and the Children's Librarian to learn about library programs, resources, and activities designed just for middle school students - all while enjoying a sweet treat!



**The Arcadia Performing Arts Center is excited to announce the 2025–2026 season lineup!** Kicking it off is ALL-4-ONE, the Grammy Award-winning group behind timeless hits like "I Swear," "So Much In Love," and "I Can Love You Like That." ALL-4-ONE will be taking the stage on September 20, 2025. Tickets are available now and can be purchased online at [www.arcadiapaf.org](http://www.arcadiapaf.org). Don't forget to use promo codes EARLY20 for early bird discounts and GROUP20 for groups of four or more to receive 20% off! Save the date! The Lettermen will bring holiday cheer to Arcadia with their Christmas Concert on December 14, 2025.

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## Safety Spotlight: Burglars Cutting Power to Disable Security Systems

Burglaries often follow similar patterns, such as ringing the doorbell to check if anyone is home before attempting a break-in. Recently, there have been instances where thieves have taken a more advanced approach by cutting power to the home through the electrical panel. This disables security cameras and alarm systems that rely on electrical power. Despite this tactic, surveillance cameras remain an effective deterrent against crime. To better protect your home, it is strongly recommended to have a battery backup in place for your alarm system to ensure it stays operational in the event of power loss.

### Additional Safety Tips:

- Use a window or door-stop/pin, or place something in the window/slider door track to prevent it from sliding open.
- Secure side gates with a heavy-duty lock.
- Install a safe to secure valuable items, and make sure it is properly secured to prevent thieves from taking the whole safe containing your valuables.
- Burglars often target the master bedroom first. Consider storing valuables in less obvious areas of your home to reduce the risk of theft.
- When you're away, make it look like you are home by leaving lights, a television, or radio on.
- Don't allow mail or newspapers to stack up. If you plan to be away for some time, arrange for a trusted person to collect these items, or have the services stopped until you return.
- Know your neighbors and their vehicles - report suspicious persons/vehicles to the Arcadia Police Department, non-emergency line at [\(626\) 574-5123](tel:6265745123).
- Security film can be applied to sliding glass doors and windows to hold the glass intact, making it harder for intruders to break through even if they attempt to shatter it.
- Report door to door solicitors to Arcadia Police. Regardless of looking official or not, solicitors are required to have a City business license, and the police department can verify that information.

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## Share Your Feedback

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