

# May 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, along with a brief summary. If you're interested, simply click the link to read the full article.

- [Sharon Kwan Becomes Arcadia's First Asian Female Mayor](#)
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## Sharon Kwan Becomes Arcadia's First Asian Female Mayor

Sharon Kwan of the Arcadia City Council was sworn in as the Mayor on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, succeeding Mayor Michael Cao, who most recently served as Arcadia's Mayor since July 2024. Council Member Eileen Wang will now serve as Mayor Pro Tem.

In a historic milestone for Arcadia, Sharon Kwan is the first female Asian American to hold the role of mayor.

Mayor Kwan was elected to the Arcadia City Council in November 2022, representing District 2. Prior to her election to the City Council, Mayor Kwan served for a decade as President of Arcadia's Rancho Santa Anita Property Owners Association. Her commitment to civic engagement extends to being a board member for both the USC Arcadia Hospital Foundation and the Downtown Arcadia Improvement Association.

Fluent in English, Mandarin and Cantonese, Mayor Kwan is committed to bridging cultures and fostering unity. With deep roots in the community and a profound appreciation for its diversity, she is uniquely positioned to build connections across all walks of life, from longtime residents to high school students eager to get involved and make a difference. As a woman of color and successful small business owner, Mayor Kwan has long been an advocate for women in leadership.

A proud mother of four, Mayor Kwan has instilled the value of education in her own family and with Arcadia's youth, regularly supporting students from the Arcadia Unified School District. In her remarks at her oath of office ceremony, Mayor Kwan reiterated her focus on public safety, transparency and fiscal stewardship for her upcoming term.

The offices of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem are filled automatically by rotation among the Council Members with each serving a term of approximately nine and one-half months.



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## Santa Anita Park to Host LA28 Equestrian Events

Arcadia is honored to welcome the return of Olympic equestrian events to the historic Santa Anita Park. Set against the backdrop of the foothills, the events will feature jumping, dressage, and eventing, with both individual and team competitions in each discipline. Arcadia buzzed with excitement when Santa Anita Park hosted the equestrian events of the 1984 Summer Olympics. Now, more than 40 years later, Arcadia is once again ready, and even better positioned, to welcome the world.

In Arcadia, equestrian culture has been deeply woven into the community's identity since Santa Anita Park first opened in 1934. Located in Los Angeles County, Santa Anita Park has long been an ideal venue for LA28, as it's perfectly positioned to complement the activities taking place throughout the broader region. With additional Olympic venues announced across the San Gabriel Valley, hosting the equestrian events in Arcadia offers fans even more opportunities to engage in the Games.

For decades, Arcadia has demonstrated its ability to host international-scale events by welcoming the Breeders' Cup World Championships 11 times. Most recently, in November 2023, the event attracted 80,000 visitors, who enjoyed a seamless and memorable experience. With convenient access to the Metro light rail and the Arcadia Transit shuttle service, transportation was easily accessible for all.

Additionally, to support this next era of tourism, two new hotel developments are underway in Arcadia. The Hilton Hotel will open its doors in 2025, followed by the groundbreaking of Hotel Tempo, together adding 266 new guest rooms and a rooftop bar. These additions will join the acclaimed Le Méridien, a four-star hotel known for luxurious accommodations and breathtaking mountain views, all just steps from Santa Anita Park.

As the Olympic spotlight returns, so does the opportunity for tremendous economic growth. This global event is expected to bring an influx of jobs and spending to Arcadia's hotels, restaurants, shops and attractions, benefiting local businesses and fueling long-term prosperity for the entire community.

For updated information on the LA28 Olympic Games, visit [la28.org](http://la28.org).

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## **Fire Hazard Severity Zone**

In March 2025, CAL FIRE released updated maps identifying areas at greater risk of wildfires due to terrain, vegetation, and weather conditions.

The Fire Hazard Severity Zone map evaluates "hazard," not "risk". The map is like flood zone maps, where lands are described in terms of the probability level of a particular area being inundated by floodwaters, and not specifically prescriptive of impacts. "Hazard" is based on the physical conditions that create a likelihood and expected fire behavior over a 30 to 50-year period without considering mitigation measures such as home hardening, recent wildfire, or fuel reduction efforts. "Risk" is the potential damage a fire can do to the area under existing conditions, accounting for any modifications such as fuel reduction projects, defensible space, and ignition resistant building construction.

- [CAL FIRE - Fire Hazard Severity Zones](#)
- [CAL FIRE - Fire Hazard Severity Zone Methods](#)
- [Fire Hazard Severity Zones Frequently Asked Questions](#)

## **Fire Hazard Severity Zone Community Input and Map Adoption**

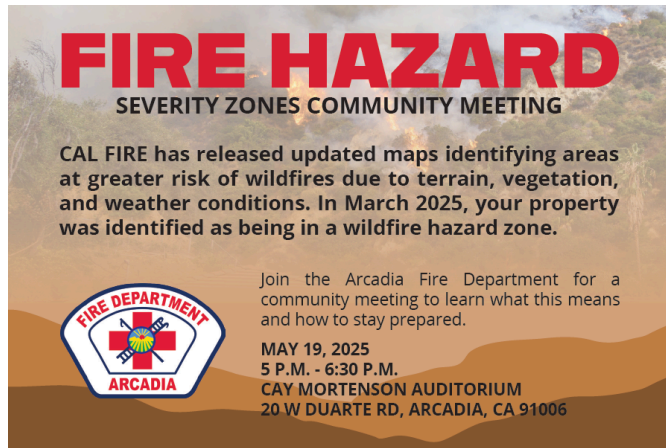
As required by State law, the City of Arcadia must adopt these maps. Before doing so, the community is invited to share their feedback. Join the Arcadia Fire Department for a community meeting to learn what this means and how to stay prepared.

### **May 19, 2025**

5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Cay Mortenson Auditorium at the Arcadia Public Library

20 W. Duarte Rd.




**FIRE HAZARD**  
SEVERITY ZONES COMMUNITY MEETING

CAL FIRE has released updated maps identifying areas at greater risk of wildfires due to terrain, vegetation, and weather conditions. In March 2025, your property was identified as being in a wildfire hazard zone.

Join the Arcadia Fire Department for a community meeting to learn what this means and how to stay prepared.

**MAY 19, 2025**  
5 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.  
CAY MORTENSON AUDITORIUM  
20 W DUARTE RD, ARCADIA, CA 91006



**Law Day**

Receive 20-minutes of free legal counseling from volunteer attorneys specializing in a variety of areas, including civil litigation, estates and trusts, family law, immigration, labor and employment, personal injury, real estate, and worker's compensation. This event is offered in collaboration with the Arcadia Chinese Association.

Saturday, May 17

Arcadia Community Center

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Mandarin, Cantonese, Spanish, and Farsi language assistance will be available.

Appointments are REQUIRED and can be made at [ArcadiaCA.gov/RecReg](http://ArcadiaCA.gov/RecReg).



**LAW DAY**  
2025

**SATURDAY, MAY 17**  
10am-1pm  
Arcadia Community Center  
365 Campus Drive

Appointment **REQUIRED**  
Free 20-minute legal counseling with attorney  
Bring all materials related to issue  
Legal expertise in a wide range of areas

To book an appointment, visit  
[ArcadiaCA.gov/RecReg](http://ArcadiaCA.gov/RecReg)




**Safety Spotlight: Arcadia Police Arrest Man for Home Invasion and Assault**

In the morning hours of April 2, a 29-year-old man unlawfully entered a home through an unlocked door and sexually assaulted a woman on the 300 block of East Haven Street. The victim immediately alerted Arcadia Police and was able to provide a detailed description of her assailant.

Arcadia Police quickly launched a coordinated and intensive search. Officers utilized multiple investigative tools, including surveillance footage from CCTV cameras, which helped identify a suspect matching the victim's description. The suspect had also left personal items at the scene, which were used to initiate a scent track. K-9 Kopper was deployed and played a crucial role in the investigation, successfully locating several items the suspect had attempted to discard in an effort to conceal his identity and movements. Through coordinated work, officers were able to track, locate, and arrest the suspect in the same day.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has charged the individual with attempted rape and sexual battery.

When at home, a resident's first line of defense is a locked door. Taking a few extra steps can make a big difference in protecting your home and loved ones. Make sure all exterior doors are solid, made of reinforced wood or metal, and secured with a quality deadbolt. For windows, consider installing safety guards or stops that prevent others from opening more than a few inches, especially on ground-level units. As always, see something, say something! Residents are encouraged to always remain alert and ready to contact Arcadia Police if they see something suspicious.

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## Share Your Feedback

Your feedback is valued! Share your thoughts on the news featured in this newsletter by filling out the form below.

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