

October 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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Proposed Changes to Water & Sewer Rates

To keep pace with the rising costs of purchasing, purifying, and distributing water for Arcadia's more than 56,000 residents and businesses, a five-year adjustment to water and sewer rates is being proposed to start January 2026.

Five years ago, residents were presented with the last set of water and sewer rates, and since then, the cost to provide water and sewer service to 15,000 connections, 10 wells, 15 reservoirs, and 168 miles of water lines, has only grown.

In preparation for the proposed rate increases, a rate study was completed that identified water supply costs, capital reinvestment, inflationary pressures, and reserve balances, as the primary drivers for the increases proposed from 2026 to 2030. More than half of all the water revenues collected go to water production and water quality costs.

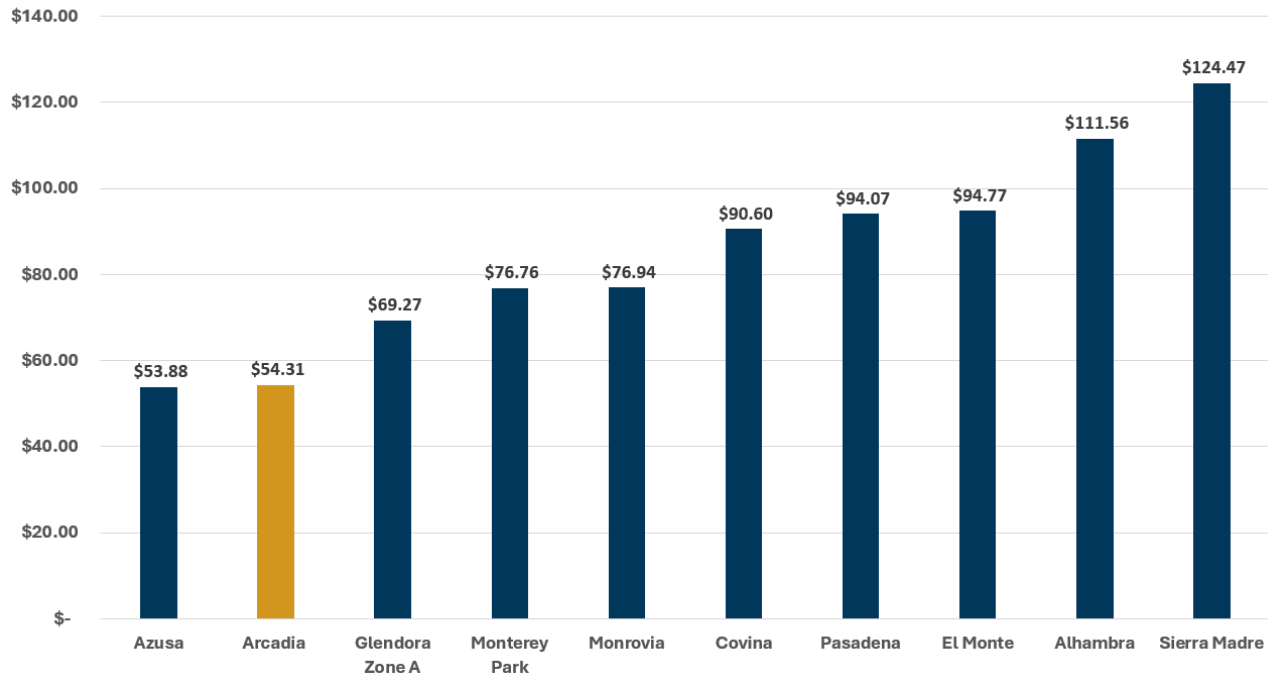
The Water Fund and Sewer Fund are exclusively supported by user-generated revenue, which means no other City services or programs are funded using these dollars. Unlike private utility companies, Arcadia does not profit from its collections - any surpluses are added to the funds' reserves to pay for unexpected repairs, maintenance, and future improvements to pipelines, wells, reservoirs, and water purchases.

Also changing in January, the bi-monthly bills customers receive will now be sent monthly. In response to customer feedback and industry standards, monthly billing can help even out utility expenses for most households. On average, the monthly bills for most residential customers with a 3/4-inch meter, the most common size - should only increase a few dollars a month. Water bill increases will range from as little as \$1.51 per month for low users, up to an increase of \$4.04 per month for high users.

Increases for multi-family and commercial customers mirror the gradual increases most single-family customers will experience. However, commercial customers with large meters and heavy use - think hotels, retail, entertainment venues - will see the largest of the planned increases.

Although increases of 6-12% over the next five years are noticeable, Arcadia will still remain among the lowest in costs compared to neighboring cities. When comparing rates across 10 other San Gabriel Valley cities, Arcadia ranks as the second most affordable, with monthly water bills expected to total \$54.31 - well below the average of \$84.66. Beginning this January, the proposed sewer rate increases for Arcadia's single-family customers would amount to an estimated \$9.05 per month, the lowest among the 10 cities measured.

SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL MONTHLY COMPARISON



The proposed plan will gradually raise rates over the next five years, starting with bills issued on or after January 1, 2026. Monthly sewer charges will increase by 6% each year, from 2026 through 2030. The monthly water charges will follow this schedule:

- 12% on January 1, 2026
- 12% on January 1, 2027
- 10% on January 1, 2028
- 6% on January 1, 2029
- 6% on January 1, 2030

Important Dates to Learn More & Participate

On October 7, the City Council approved the Water & Sewer Rate Cost of Service Study, initiated the Proposition 218 balloting process, and scheduled the Public Hearing for December 2. To learn more and participate, please note the following dates:

- OCTOBER 10 - Mailing of Prop 218 Notices to Water Customers
- OCTOBER 22, 7 P.M. - Community Information Session at Council Chambers
- NOVEMBER 6, 5 P.M. - Community Information Session at Arcadia Library
- DECEMBER 2 - Public Hearing at City Council Meeting

[View additional information and the Cost-of-Service Study](#)

Newcastle Park Grand Reopening

The newly renovated Newcastle Park is officially open and ready for the community to enjoy! Nestled against the backdrop of the foothills, this three-acre park has been completely transformed into a state-of-the-art neighborhood recreational space, featuring amenities that residents have long requested. The Arcadia City Council proudly cut the ribbon on October 7, inviting everyone to come out and explore the park's many new features.

Newcastle Park now has something for everyone! Active visitors can enjoy freshly renovated handball and tennis courts, along with brand new pickleball courts and exercise equipment. For those seeking a more relaxing experience, the park offers a walking trail, newly added picnic gazebos with barbeques, and a butterfly garden that was generously donated and planted with the help of the [Arcadia Parks Foundation](#)! Families will love the upgraded children's play area, which now includes shaded, Arcadia Transit Plaza themed playgrounds! In addition to these exciting upgrades, the park also features a brand-new restroom.

In total, the park has received approximately \$7 million in enhancements, including \$2.3 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant and \$213,000 from Prop 68. Additionally, the Arcadia Parks Foundation successfully raised \$8,500 through their [Commemorative Brick Campaign](#).

The revitalization began in 2017 with the adoption of the Recreation and Parks Master Plan by the Arcadia City Council. Since then, the City of Arcadia has worked closely with the community, incorporating their feedback to ensure the park meets the needs and desires of park goers.



Be Well, Arcadia! 2nd Annual Health Fair Success

Hundreds of community members gathered at the Arcadia Community Center for the second annual Citywide Health Fair. Attendees took advantage of free dental checkups, mammograms, flu shots, doctor consultations, and health screenings. In addition to these services, numerous information booths provided resources and support for community wellness.

Health Fair 2025



Thank you to our event sponsors: Keck Medicine of USC, USC Arcadia Hospital, Huntington Health, Kaiser Permanente, ISEGSTAR, American Chongqing General Chamber of Commerce, and Orlando Steel Framing. Arcadia is fortunate to have top-tier healthcare institutions like USC Arcadia Hospital, who play a significant role in supporting the community's health. If you're interested in learning more about USC Arcadia, their President & CEO, Ike Mmeje, delivered the [first-ever State of the Hospital Address, which is available for viewing.](#)

For those interested in expanding their health knowledge, the City of Arcadia, together with the Arcadia City Health Commission, one of the City's eight boards and commissions, proudly offer the [City-Wide Health Education Series](#). This free seminar program features monthly presentations by medical professionals on topics relevant to the community. The final seminar of the year will be held on October 22, covering the topic "Breast Cancer: What You Need to Know".

Safety Spotlight: Reduce Fire Risk with Safe Handling of Lithium-Ion Battery

Lithium-ion batteries are everywhere. Most of the electronics we use daily such as smartphones, tablets, power and lawn tools, laptops, e-cigarettes, headphones, and toys are all powered by lithium-ion batteries. In fact, most everything that's rechargeable uses this type of battery. But if they are not handled properly, they can overheat, start a fire, or even explode.

In July 2025, Arcadia firefighters responded to a fire caused by an electric car's battery malfunction. The battery overheated, sparking a fire that could have quickly spread to nearby buildings. Firefighters moved the vehicle away from structures and used a special fire blanket designed for electric vehicle fires to help contain the flames. Fortunately, no one was hurt.

Fire Prevention Week returns October 5–11, 2025, this year's theme is "**Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home.**" The Arcadia Fire Department is joining fire departments nationwide to raise awareness about the importance of buying, charging, and recycling lithium-ion batteries safely.

The Arcadia Fire Department provides the following key safety tips and guidelines for handling lithium-ion batteries:

Buy only listed products.

- When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery, take time to research it. Look for a stamp from a nationally recognized testing lab on the packaging and product, which means that it meets important safety standards.
- Many products sold online and in stores may not meet safety standards and could increase the risk of fire.

Charge devices safely.

- Always use the cords that came with the product to charge it. Follow the instructions from the manufacturer.
- If you need a new charger, buy one from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved.
- Charge your device on a hard surface. Don't charge it under a pillow, on a bed, or on a couch. This could cause a fire.

- Don't overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it's fully charged.

Recycle batteries responsibly.

- Don't throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could catch fire.
 - Recycling your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location is the best way to dispose of them. [Visit call2recycle.org](http://call2recycle.org) to find a recycling spot near you.
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