

The Arcadia Hot Sheet

January 2026

Highlighting News and Events from Around Town

ArcadiaCA.gov

Remembering Former Mayor Jim Helms



The City of Arcadia is deeply saddened by the passing of former Mayor James “Jim” Helms at the age of 100. A veteran, attorney, philanthropist, and beloved community leader, Jim leaves behind an extraordinary legacy of service in Arcadia and across the San Gabriel Valley.

Jim carried his devotion to public service throughout his life. He put his education on hold when he was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War II, serving honorably before continuing in the Army Reserve and ultimately retiring as a Major in 1985.

After the war, Jim earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Southern California. In 1951, he married Georgiana, his lifelong partner, and together they raised three daughters. Jim opened his law practice in Arcadia in 1953 and maintained a successful career for more than six decades, retiring at the age of 94.

Jim’s influence on Arcadia’s civic life was profound. Elected to the City Council in 1967, he served eight years, including a term as Mayor from 1971 to 1972. During his tenure, he guided some of the City’s most impactful decisions. Most notably, Jim was the first Council Member to vote in favor of the development that would become Santa Anita Fashion Park in 1971, now known as the Shops at Santa Anita. At a time when the community was divided over the project, he emphasized preserving Arcadia’s residential character while ensuring a source of revenue to relieve taxpayers.

Today, ten of Arcadia’s top 25 Sales Tax producers can be found in the Shops at Santa Anita, underscoring Jim’s foresight to bring a strong revenue source to Arcadia. Well beyond City Hall, Jim’s dedication extended to countless organizations. He was active in the Arcadia Elks Lodge, the Masonic Lodge, and the Arcadia Chamber of Commerce, serving as its president, and chairing major civic celebrations. He was also honored twice as Arcadia’s Citizen of the Year.

Jim’s generosity and volunteerism were felt far beyond local government. He devoted decades to Methodist Hospital, now USC Arcadia Hospital, serving on the Foundation Board for more than 25 years, including as board chair and later Director Emeritus. He also served as chairman of the Arcadia United Way, president of the San Gabriel Valley Legal Aid Society, and was a committed member of the Arcadia Rotary Club, Arcadia Episcopal Church, and many other organizations.

Jim is survived by his two daughters and an extended network of friends, colleagues, and community members whose lives he touched. His vision, integrity, and enduring commitment to Arcadia leave a legacy that will be remembered for generations.



Join Our Team

We’re hiring talented individuals like you.

Apply now at ArcadiaCA.gov/Employment and be part of our innovative journey. See a glimpse of what our city is all about on our LinkedIn page: www.linkedin.com/company/city-of-arcadia or scan the QR code.



City of Arcadia **January**
UPCOMING EVENTS

2026

HIKE TO RUNYON CANYON

HIKE TO RUNYON CANYON

Hike 3.5 miles through Runyon Canyon! Costs \$26 dollars, which includes roundtrip transportation from the Arcadia Community Center, a staff guided hike, and boxed lunch.

Arcadia Community Center 7:30am (626) 574-5113

HIKE TO WISDOM TREE

HIKE TO WISDOM TREE

Hike 1.8 miles to see the Wisdom Tree! Costs \$26 dollars, which includes roundtrip transportation from the Arcadia Community Center, a staff guided hike, and boxed lunch.

Arcadia Community Center 7:30am (626) 574-5113

WELLNESS WORKSHOP

WELLNESS WORKSHOP

Preserve your memory! Learn useful tips and brain exercises to sharpen your thinking and help keep moments of forgetfulness to a minimum.

Cay Mortenson Auditorium 10:15am (626) 821-5569

BOOKISH CLUB

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Discuss a new book every month at the library from January through October. The first meeting will discuss The Book Club for Troublesome Women by Marie Bostwick.

Arcadia Public Library Conference Room 10:00am (626) 821-5569



LA METRO KIDS WORKSHOP

LA METRO KIDS WORKSHOP

Families will team up to answer questions, explore real-life safety scenarios, and learn how to stay safe around trains and tracks.

Jerry Broadwell Children's Room Imagination Theater 2:30pm-4:00pm (626) 821-5566

SPRING EVENTS 2026



FEB 9 CA FRIENDLY & NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPE TRAINING

MAR 9 TRANSFORMING YOUR LAWN WORKSHOP

MAR 23 FOOD & OTHER ORGANIC WASTE RECYCLING SEMINAR

APR 10 ARCADIA GOES GREEN EARTH DAY EVENT

MAY 9 SHRED EVENT (PAPER RECYCLING DROP-OFF EVENT)

(626) 254-2720
 PublicWorks@ArcadiaCA.gov
 11800 Goldring Rd, Arcadia, CA

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT PUBLIC WORKS OR VISIT ARCADIACA.GOV

WATER CONSERVATION REBATE PROGRAMS

The City of Arcadia currently offers rebate programs to qualifying water customers!

Faucet

Apply for a rebate of up to \$45 per newly purchased WaterSense labeled faucet, up to four (4) faucets per household. Purchase must be made within the current year.

Pool/Spa Cover

Apply for a rebate on newly purchased pool or spa covers up to 50% of the price of a new cover a maximum of \$100 for a manual cover and \$500 for permanent mechanical covers.

Showerhead

Apply for a rebate of up to \$25 per newly purchased WaterSense labeled showerhead, up to four (4) showerheads per household. Purchase must be made within the current year.



To apply, visit: www.ArcadiaCA.gov/WaterConservation

