

The Arcadia Hot Sheet

January 2024

Highlighting News and Events from Around Town

ArcadiaCA.gov



See Something, Say Something – Help Stop Theft in Arcadia!

On Sunday, December 3, 2023, four suspects entered the Shops at Santa Anita armed with full-size sledgehammers and on a mission to steal luxury handbags. After receiving the call for help, Arcadia Police arrived on scene. Unfortunately, the call to Police was too late, with authorities arriving after the robbery occurred and the suspects had fled the scene with thousands in stolen merchandise.

In this recent incident, footage from security cameras show four suspects arriving at the mall at 12:52 p.m., walking brazenly through a major department store in ski masks, brandishing full-sized sledgehammers on their way to the store they ultimately targeted, all while passing numerous shoppers. The suspects then make their way out of the mall with the stolen items at 12:55 p.m. Despite the presence of ski masks and sledgehammers, shoppers proceeded without any apparent concerns.

The COVID-19 pandemic normalized medical facemasks and taught us the importance of physical distancing. Unfortunately, criminals have capitalized on this shift, using the uncertainty about who is protecting against illness and who may want to conceal their identity, to their advantage. The smash-and-grab at Arcadia's mall could have been thwarted if authorities were alerted at the first sighting of these individuals.

The Arcadia Police Department has long partnered with the Shops at Santa Anita on security and loss-prevention, but no cameras, locks, or theft deterrents can take the place of a good eyewitness. A quick call to alert authorities to people, behavior, or events that appear unusual is the most valuable form of assistance. Residents should remain alert and ready to contact Police if they see something suspicious – no need to intervene, just observe and take 30 seconds to report to law enforcement. Use your best judgement, when something doesn't look or feel right, let Police know, so they can properly investigate.

What to Expect When Calling 911

When dialing 911, a dispatcher is prepared to assist. Their first task is to dispatch uniformed officers to assess the situation, and the information you provide is crucial in ensuring a swift and effective response. Calling 911 might feel intimidating or an overreaction, but it's not! Here's what you can anticipate.

- Be ready with essential information to assist the dispatcher in sending the right resources promptly, whether for a medical emergency or a public safety concern.
- Allow the dispatcher to lead the conversation. They're trained to ask the right questions, ensuring efficient assistance.
- The dispatcher may ask for your name and address. Depending on the incident, investigating officers may reach out to you later for additional details. You may also choose to remain anonymous.

Become a Volunteer in Patrol Support

The Arcadia Police Department wants you to become a Volunteer in Patrol Support. Volunteers conduct vacation checks, assist with traffic control during major incidents, and help with community events. For more information, contact Jackie Hsu at (626) 574-5173 or jhsu@ArcadiaCA.gov.



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City of Arcadia



@DiscoverArcadia

@ProtectArcadia

@Enrich Arcadia

@Shape Arcadia

Paramedic Membership Program

For a nominal yearly fee, the Paramedic Membership Program is a voluntary program offered by the City of Arcadia that provides Arcadia residents and employees of businesses in Arcadia to protect against the high cost of emergency medical transport resulting from a 9-1-1 call (at least \$3,000 per Advanced Life Support ambulance transport).

This program is especially beneficial to anyone who has high deductibles, and/or co-payments, a chronic medical condition, or no insurance. Many find out afterwards that emergency medical transport is not fully covered by their existing insurance, including Medicare.

Residents

- \$51 per year for regular membership
- Discounted fee of \$24 per year for qualifying low-income residents, or \$27 per year for residents who are living at a retirement facility

Businesses

- Starting at \$54 per year (fees are based on total number of employees)



**Visit ArcadiaCA.gov/Paramedic
Call (626) 574-5126 or (626) 574-5104**



Compostpalooza!

Celebrate the grand opening of the Community Compost Bin, at the Arcadia Public Library, on

January 27, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Residents can drop off organic waste and collect compost to take home. Come learn about composting and organics recycling, receive giveaways, & more!



3D Printing

Beginning January 3, the Arcadia Public Library will offer a new 3D printer for public use. For more information send an email to Arcadiaplcmds@gmail.com or visit ArcadiaCA.gov/Library.

Tackling Your Finances in the New Year

Step into 2024 with confidence and discover free income tax assistance for seniors. Find essential tax forms at the Arcadia Public Library, and empower yourself with the knowledge needed to start investing.

A Smart Start to Investing

Start the New Year with all the knowledge you need for smart investing. Learn to invest wisely, navigate the financial landscape with confidence, and uncover the steps to file a complaint. Presented by Antonia Villaseñor, from the California Department of Financial Protection & Innovation and Carol Williams Lally, Supervisory Attorney at the Los Angeles Regional Office of the Securities & Exchange Commission.

Cay Mortenson Auditorium

Saturday, January 20, 11 a.m.

For more information, please call (626) 821-5569.

Tax Forms at the Arcadia Public Library

Select tax forms are available at the Arcadia Public Library, with more forms becoming available as they are released by the IRS.

Free Income Tax Assistance for Seniors

The Arcadia Community Center and AARP are partnering to offer free tax preparation services. Those who can receive these services must be low-income individuals who are 50 years and older. You must have received all of your tax paperwork before making an appointment.

February 8 - April 12

Thursdays & Fridays only

Appointment required. Call (626) 574-5130 to schedule your appointment.

**View the Community Calendar at
ArcadiaCA.gov/Calendar**