City of Indian Wells
Monthly Newsletter



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Indian Wells by the Numbers: March 2025

11,760
Total social media followers on resident pages

634
pounds of debris picked up by maintenance staff throughout the City

17
emails distributed

Letter From The City Manager

Dear Indian Wells Residents,

Season is coming to an end, and it seems spring is upon us. There is much to celebrate in Indian Wells!

First, the Indian Wells Tennis Garden just concluded the **BNP Paribas Open**, with a record-breaking attendance of over 504,000 spectators. While this is a very busy time for our community, the tournament generated over $5.5 million in revenue to the City of Indian Wells to fund various projects and programs for the City. This equates with the City collecting about 20% of its annual General Fund revenue in just two weeks.

The City of Indian Wells has received a development application from Summit Development for a new project — the Cocun Wellness Resort. This luxurious resort is being proposed for the vacant 15-acre site at the northwest corner of Highway 111 and Miles Avenue. This new resort will include a wellness facility with a wide range of six-star accommodations including hotel rooms, condos, bungalows and villas, for both residents and visitors to enjoy.

At Summit Development's next community meeting, they will provide details about this exciting new resort and answer any questions you might have. I strongly encourage everyone to attend this meeting.

Cocun Wellness Resort Community Meeting:
April 28 at 4 p.m. at the IWGR's Celebrity Ballroom
(44500 Indian Wells Lane)

This is a great opportunity for residents to give their input into this project. If you are unable to attend this meeting, be sure to look for future meetings over the next couple of months. We look forward to your participation!

Additionally, the Indian Wells Golf Resort continues to be successful. The current Players Course renovation is on schedule, on budget and is going very well. The Course is set to reopen in November 2025.

If you have any questions, please visit us at City Hall or call (760) 346-2489.



Best Wishes,

Chris Freeland

Chris Freeland
City Manager



Council Meeting Highlights: March 2025



Bruce Whitman
Mayor



Dana Reed
Mayor Pro Tem



Dr. Toper Taylor
Council Member



Brian M Penna
Council Member



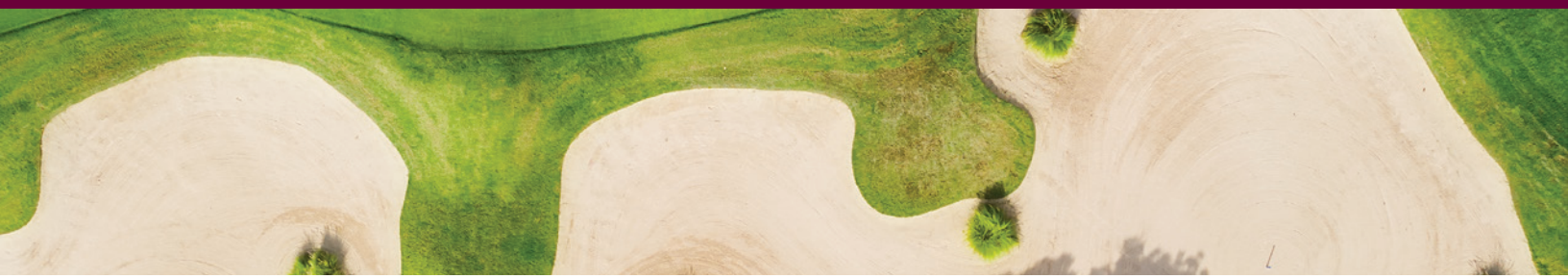
Greg Sanders
Council Member

- The City Council introduces new Public Works Permit Technician I, Stephanie Swanstrom.
- The official City of Indian Wells Zoning Map (ZMA 2025-01) was amended by rezoning certain parcels of land to be consistent with the Resort Commercial Land Use Designation adopted through the recent General Plan Update.
- The Whitewater Channel West Drop Structure Repair project is marked as complete.
- The City Council authorizes and directs the City Attorney and City Manager to prepare and execute a 180-day extension to the exclusive negotiation agreements with Abode Communities and Summit Development regarding the potential development of an affordable housing project in the City of Indian Wells.
- A resolution revising the Annual Citywide Records Retention and Destruction Schedule was adopted.
- The City's 2025-2026 Legislative Platform was adopted.



Council Meeting Agendas
CityofIndianWells.org/City-Hall/Current-Future-Agendas

Indian Wells Golf Resort News



A Hole In One: Improvements To Enjoy At The Indian Wells Golf Resort

The Indian Wells Golf Resort (IWGR) is teed up for success this spring and summer. From the Players Course renovations to seasonal offerings at Kestrel: a Richard Blais Kitchen + Lounge, we're bringing fresh, new energy to the Golf Resort with exciting upgrades and unforgettable experiences.

The Players Course redesign kicked off with a groundbreaking ceremony on March 5, and by fall, the course will be completely transformed with a smoother, safer and more enjoyable golfing experience that takes your game to the next level.

And for our foodies, Celebrity Chef Richard Blais and his team are turning up the heat at Kestrel: a Richard Blais Kitchen + Lounge. With bold new menu additions, elevated happy hour specials and top-tier hospitality, every visit is a treat.

The Golf Resort continues to make waves, earning recognition from top-tier publications like GolfPass, GolfWeek, FORE Magazine, Palm Springs Life Magazine, TravelZoo, Iconic Life Magazine and Inside Golf Newspaper. These outlets have highlighted our top-tier golfing facilities, luxurious accommodations and spectacular dining options:

- GolfPass' Best Nuggets of Golf Travel Advice
- Golfweek's Best of 2025: Top 200 resort golf courses in the U.S.
- GolfPass' 16 Notable Golf Course Renovation Projects
- GolfPass' Top 25 Public Golf Courses
- Golfweek's Ultimate Guide
- Palm Springs Life Magazine's Kestrel Spotlight
- TravelZoo's Greater Palm Springs Travel Guide
- FORE Magazine's Kestrel Spotlight
- Iconic Life Magazine's Travel Guide
- Inside Golf Newspaper's Travel Guide



Stay up-to-date with the Indian Wells Golf Resort by reading the Indian Wells Insider.



Annual Progress Report for City's Housing Element

The City Council recently approved the City's Annual Progress Report (APR) for the Housing Element. The APR identifies the number of housing applications and permits processed during the year, including the progress made on the various programs, policies and Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation for the 2021-29 planning period (6th Housing Cycle). During the 2024 reporting year, the City has processed 25 housing applications and issued 18 building permits and 58 certificates of occupancies (C of O's) for new residential homes. Seven of these homes were permitted as Assessory Dwelling Units (ADU), 6 of which are allowed to be counted toward the City's RHNA as moderate or lower-income level units. Out of the total 382 RHNA units allocated to the City for the 6th Housing Cycle, the City has now reported the completion of 107 RHNA units since 2021, which is approximately 28% of the City's RHNA allocation for the planning period.

Landscape Ordinance Requirements

The City's updated landscape ordinance, which took effect last year, required property owners found to be out of compliance (and not grandfathered in by an existing landscape permit) to submit plans for approval and install landscaping in accordance with the new standards by March 16, 2025. The City remains dedicated to ensuring all properties comply with the updated landscaping standards and will continue to monitor and enforce these requirements. Review the landscape standards.

Indian Wells Prepares to Set Goals for 2025-26

As Fiscal Year 2025-26 approaches, the City Council prepares to launch its Joint Strategic Planning process where they will outline the goals for the City. The first and most important step is to engage with residents.

On April 17 at 9 a.m. at the Indian Wells Golf Resort, the City Council and Housing Authority will host a community meeting where you can share your visions and priorities for the future of Indian Wells.

We look forward to seeing you at the community meeting! Your input is crucial to ensuring that our community evolves in a way that is aligned with the priorities that matter most to residents.



Did You Know?

The 1959 Ryder Cup was held at the Eldorado Country Club. The United States team defeated Great Britain and Ireland in this prestigious global men's golf competition.



Be Ready, Be Prepared: Steps You Can Take Now to Plan for Emergencies

In light of recent wildfires and power outages throughout Southern California, the City of Indian Wells encourages residents to take the following steps toward emergency preparedness:

1. **Sign up for Nixle:** Nixle provides localized alerts for severe weather updates and emergency notifications. Text 92210 to 888777 to join.
2. **Pack an Emergency Bag:** Include essentials like food, water, a first aid kit, a flashlight, pet supplies, important documents and cash.
3. **Make a Plan:** Create alternative plans for different scenarios and keep a written copy in your emergency kit. Share your plan with family and friends.

Visit the City's emergency preparedness webpage.





Our 2025 Senior Inspiration Awards Honoree, Ilene Heller

On March 27, Ilene Heller was recognized as the Indian Wells recipient of the Senior Inspiration Award! The ceremony shines a light on the unsung heroes who give back to the Coachella Valley communities.

Ilene has lived in the Coachella Valley since 2003 and has been a dedicated volunteer at the McCallum Theatre in Palm Desert for an impressive 17 years. Ilene believes that regular community service is the key to a vibrant and healthy community. We celebrate her commitment to serving others and recognize the positive difference her selfless actions have made.

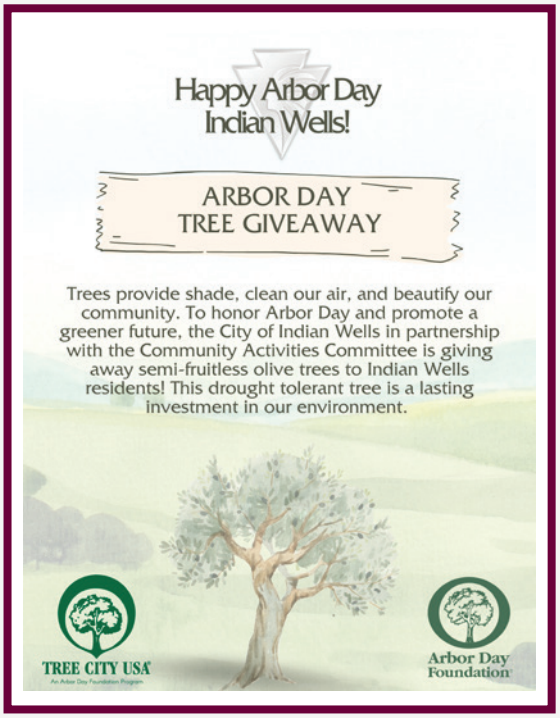
Learn more about Ilene on the City website.

Planting the Seed for Arbor Day

Celebrate Arbor Day with Indian Wells on April 15! This date was originally marked as Indian Wells Arbor Day at the unveiling of Fairway Park, the community's first park.

Recognized as a Tree City USA, the City of Indian Wells promotes our urban forest by planting and maintaining trees throughout the community. This prestigious designation highlights that the City values green spaces and is invested in improving the environment for future generations. It is a symbol of our leadership in sustainability and community well-being.

In honor of National Arbor Day on April 25, the City, in partnership with Community Activities Committee, is giving away 50 fruitless olive trees through a random online lottery. These trees will grow into beautiful shade providers that enhance our landscape, improve air quality and reduce local heat. Apply for the Arbor Day Tree Lottery by Thursday, April 10 on the City website.





Kestrel Takes the Trophy

Just three months after its grand opening, Kestrel: A Richard Blais Kitchen + Lounge earned the prestigious Diner's Choice Award from OpenTable in December 2024. This acclaim comes from rave reviews highlighting the restaurant's exceptional staff, fresh and innovative menu and inviting atmosphere. Kestrel has captured the hearts of both residents and visitors, establishing itself as a must-visit dining destination.

Make a reservation today.



Going Green in Indian Wells

The City of Indian Wells has made great strides in embracing environmental sustainability!

Solar Energy

The City has added solar panels at the Public Works Yard and the Indian Wells Golf Resort. These are not just great for the planet, but also for our finances as they'll save the City hundreds of thousands of dollars — money we can reinvest in important community projects.

Water Conservation

Our beautiful desert landscaping helps support our local groundwater. By choosing native, drought-tolerant plants and trees, we're minimizing water usage and utilizing non-potable water to keep our City's greenery flourishing.

Recycling and Waste Management

Thanks to our partnership with Burrtec, regular shred events are hosted for residents, who can bring up to four banker-sized boxes of documents to be shredded. This ensures sensitive materials are recycled properly.



Energy Efficiency Upgrades

The City is upgrading City-owned buildings with energy-efficient features, like upgraded HVAC systems, improved air ventilation, LED lighting and more.

Indian Wells Tennis Garden

With an emphasis on effective waste management, the Indian Wells Tennis Garden is launching various sustainability initiatives. The Tennis Garden has and continues to be a leader in sustainability.

Upcoming Events

April 14
Budget 101 Resident Training
4-5 p.m.
Indian Wells City Hall

April 26
Shred Event
7-11 a.m.
Burrtec Parking Lot

April 29
Resident Joshua Tree Excursion*
7 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Joshua Tree National Park

April 29
Author Event*
4-6 p.m.
Indian Wells Golf Resort

There will be private firework displays on April 26 and May 17.

* Events may sell out. Keep an eye out for event update emails from the City.

Upcoming Meetings

April 16 — Public Safety Committee Meeting
3-4 p.m.
Indian Wells City Hall

April 17 — Joint Strategic Planning Session
9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Indian Wells City Hall

April 24 — Planning Commission Meeting
1:30-3:30 p.m.
Indian Wells City Hall

April 28 — Finance Committee Meeting
12 p.m.
Indian Wells City Hall

April 28 — Cocun Wellness Resort Project Community Meeting
4-5 p.m.
Indian Wells Golf Resort

For more information, visit
CityOfIndianWells.org/Our-City/Residents/Calendar

Contact Indian Wells

Visit City Hall

44-950 Eldorado Drive
Indian Wells, CA 92210

Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
(Closed for lunch 12-1 p.m.)

Contact the City

City Hall .....(760) 346-2489
Indian Wells Golf Resort .....(760) 346-4653
For Emergencies 911
Police Department..... (760) 836-3215, ext. 5
Fire Department ..... (760) 568-5252
For General Inquiries, contact Community@IndianWells.com

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