City of Indian Wells
Monthly Newsletter



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Indian Wells by the Numbers

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



Letter From The City Manager

Dear Indian Wells Residents,



Happy holidays from the Indian Wells team! As we welcome home those who left for the summer, it's time to enjoy the season and spend time with our family, friends and loved ones.

Just like Santa's Workshop, our Public Works team has been hard at work bringing festive cheer to our community. With sparkling decorations throughout town and a beautiful tree in front of City Hall, it truly feels like a winter wonderland in our corner of paradise.

There's a lot to be joyful about in Indian Wells, and we kicked things off this month with the grand opening of the Players Course. We are eager to welcome residents and visitors to our newly reimagined golf course. Reinvented by the original designer of the course, Architect John Fought, our nationally renowned Indian Wells Golf Resort now features a new layout and upgraded landscaping — set to improve both playability and the enjoyment of each hole along the course. I hope to see you out there, either playing one of our nationally ranked courses or dining at our award-winning restaurant.

Indian Wells also rang in the holiday season with our tree lighting ceremony. This event inspired unity and joy with festive refreshments and delightful decor.

We are grateful for your continued support and engagement, and we look forward to carrying the momentum we built in 2025 over to the new year. Thank you for being a part of our Indian Wells family!



Best wishes and happy holidays,

Dr. Chris Freeland

Dr. Chris Freeland
City Manager

IW Fast Fact

Last holiday season, during Indian Wells' Little Marines and Sailors Toy Drive, the City collected 12 boxes of toys worth an estimated value of $8,000 for the children at the 29 Palms Marine Base.

Council Meeting Highlights: December 2025



Dr. Toper Taylor
Mayor



Brian M. Penna
Mayor Pro Tem



Bruce Whitman
Council Member



Greg Sanders
Council Member



Dana Reed
Council Member

- I.1 The City Council reorganized as per Municipal Code Section 2.08.160 and welcomed the 2026 Indian Wells City Council: Mayor Dr. Toper Taylor, Mayor Pro Tem Brian Penna, Council Member Greg Sanders, Council Member Dana Reed and Council Member Bruce Whitman.
- K.1 The Council discussed the results of the Speed and Volume Study conducted on four streets identified in the Safer Streets Initiative. The study ranked the streets in order from most speeding to least: 1. Eldorado Dr. 2. Fairway Dr. 3. Cook St. 4. Rancho Palmeras Dr. This research will be used to guide future discussions on Safer Streets in early 2026 to add traffic-calming infrastructure to reduce speeding and improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists.
- K.2 The Council approved the 2026 City Council Committee Assignments and added two additional Council Ad Hoc Comittees, including one to plan Indian Wells' 60th Anniversary in 2027 and one to help the Indian Wells Golf Resort seek out professional golf tournaments.
- K.5 The Council adopted Governance Ad Hoc Committee recommendations, which included a Resident Benefit Card (RBC) Code of Conduct Policy. The policy prohibits transferring, selling or loaning the RBC or associated benefits to non-eligible individuals, including selling BNP Paribas Open tickets or falsely naming guests as residents for discounts. Misrepresentation of residents, falsifying documents, commercial resale of benefits or misuse of partner privileges is forbidden. Violations may also include exceeding guest limits or engaging in any conduct that reflects poorly on the City.
- K.6 The Council authorized Troon to gather proposals to reimagine the Indian Wells Golf Resort Shots in the Night Putting Course into a new concept geared for year-round family fun. This new putting course will replace the existing one and will feature signature California golf course holes, including the Indian Wells Golf Resort.

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

Indian Wells Golf Resort News

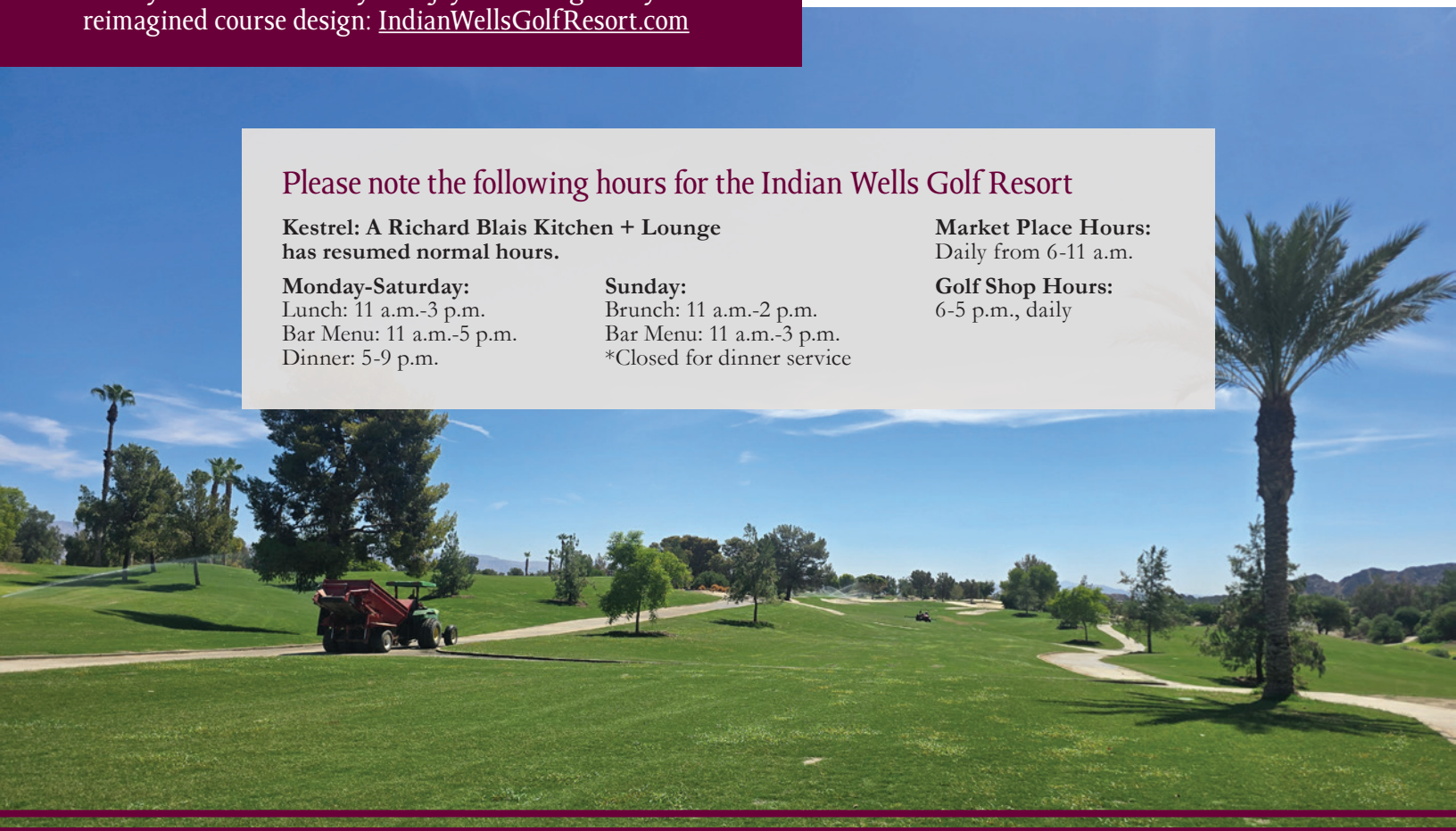
The City of Indian Wells' Indian Wells Golf Resort is thrilled to announce that the redesigned Players Course is now officially open to the public!

After nine months of renovations and countless hours reimagining the course, construction is finally complete! The transformed par-71 course, designed by its original architect, John Fought, features several rerouted holes and two brand-new finishing holes on the north side of the Golf Resort.

Even the holes that remained unchanged underwent a landscaping refresh, complete with new bunkers, tee boxes and greens to ensure consistency across the entire course. Fought's careful and deliberate designs are central to the new and exceptional playing experience.

The Players Course has consistently ranked among the best in the nation. With the recent redesign, the course is sure to improve playability, positioning it as a premier venue for elite professional golf championships. Indian Wells is proud to host this beautiful course, providing a luxurious amenity for our visitors and residents right in their backyards.

Book your tee times today to enjoy this thoughtfully reimagined course design: IndianWellsGolfResort.com



Please note the following hours for the Indian Wells Golf Resort

Kestrel: A Richard Blais Kitchen + Lounge has resumed normal hours.

Monday-Saturday:
Lunch: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Bar Menu: 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Dinner: 5-9 p.m.

Sunday:
Brunch: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Bar Menu: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
*Closed for dinner service

Market Place Hours:
Daily from 6-11 a.m.

Golf Shop Hours:
6-5 p.m., daily

Welcome Hans Ritten
New General Manager for Tommy Bahama Miramonte Resort & Spa



The City of Indian Wells is pleased to announce the appointment of Hans Ritten as the new General Manager of the Tommy Bahama Miramonte Resort & Spa.

Ritten brings a wealth of hospitality experience to Indian Wells and is dedicated to upholding the exceptional service and luxury that defines the Tommy Bahama Miramonte Resort & Spa.

"It's an honor to become part of the Indian Wells community and lead such a distinguished property," said Ritten. "I look forward to welcoming both local residents and visitors from around the world to experience the warmth and relaxation the Resort offers."

With over 30 years of experience in hotel operations, Ritten has successfully led three hotel openings, completed numerous renovations and has a proven track record of improving guest satisfaction scores, optimizing staffing and implementing revenue enhancement programs.

As the new General Manager, Ritten aims to further elevate the 11-acre resort, ultimately increasing the number of visitors and guest satisfaction. He looks forward to serving the Indian Wells community.

Book your stay and experience luxury right here in Indian Wells: TommyBahamaMiramonte.com

The Indian Wells Historic Preservation Foundation Presents

Historic Landmarks in Indian Wells

Indian Wells is home to eight designated historic landmarks, each offering a unique glimpse into the City's rich and diverse past. The Indian Wells Historic Preservation Foundation (IWHPF) carefully selected these properties based on rigorous criteria, including architectural merit, cultural relevance and connections to prominent individuals or significant events.

Crank-Garland Residence, 1961, 75-900 Fairway Drive

Designed in 1961 by architect William Cody, FAIA, this residence was developed by Fillmore Crank and his wife, actress Beverly Garland, in partnership with Robert Higgens and Robert Champion. The home is located in the Desert Bel Air Estates neighborhood and is recognized for its architectural and cultural significance. In 2023, it received the City Cultural Resource designation, and it was nominated for the National Register of Historic Places in 2025.

Stay tuned as we continue to explore the legacy and stories behind the landmarks that help define the character and heritage of Indian Wells, thanks to the IWHPF.





Welcome Corporal Michael Scott to the Indian Wells Traffic Unit

The City of Indian Wells is excited to welcome Corporal Michael Scott to the Indian Wells Traffic Unit.

Scott has been with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department for over 17 years. After completing the Basic Academy at the Ben Clark Training Center in 2008, he was assigned to the Indio Sheriff's Station. He later transferred to the Thermal Sheriff's Station, where he served on several teams, including the La Quinta Traffic Unit, the La Quinta Special Enforcement Team and the Coachella Valley Narcotics Task Force.

In 2024, Scott was promoted to the rank of Corporal, showcasing his dedication to keeping the communities he serves safe. In May 2025, he transferred to the Palm Desert Sheriff's Station.

As Indian Wells' newest Traffic Unit officer, Corporal Scott is eager to ensure the safety of our residents through regular traffic enforcement. Be sure to say "hi" if you see him around!



Experience the Holidays in Indian Wells

Winter magic has arrived in Indian Wells! This month, the town is celebrating the holiday season with sparkling decorations and a stunning tree in front of City Hall.

At the Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 2, the City Council and City staff came together to illuminate the tree, welcoming a season of unity, peace and joy for the entire community.

As part of its commitment to giving back during this season, Indian Wells is once again hosting its annual Toys for Little Marines and Sailors Toy Drive. This initiative supports the children of active-duty service members stationed at the nearby Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms.

We look forward to seeing how many more service families we can support this year!

Desert Town Hall Tickets Now Available

The 2026 Season of The H.N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation Desert Town Hall, the Coachella Valley's premier speaker series, will include lectures from five renowned individuals:

- **January 18:** KT McFarland, Former Deputy National Security Advisor
- **February 12:** Bret Baier, Trusted Broadcast Journalist and Best-Selling Author
- **March 3:** Platon, Celebrated Portrait Artist and Human Rights Storyteller
- **March 26:** Ben Shapiro, Co-Founder of The Daily Wire and host of The Ben Shapiro Show, and Van Jones, CNN Host, Founder of DreamMachine.org and Founder of RAPPORT.co

Don't miss these four unforgettable evenings of lively dialogue and critical learning.

Get your tickets now: DesertTownHall.org

NEW THIS YEAR: OPTIONAL VIRTUAL RESIDENT BENEFIT CARDS!

If you choose the virtual option, you will be able to access your Resident Benefit Card (RBC) anytime on your personal IOS or Android device! Indian Wells has partnered with identityONE to bring you this convenient new feature. Upon renewal verification, you will receive an email from identityONE (idmobile.support@unicard.com.au) containing an invitation link. This link will guide you to download the IdentityONE app, where your virtual ID will automatically be available.

First-time cardholders, new residents or those who have recently changed properties in Indian Wells must obtain an RBC in person at City Hall starting January 2026.

Do not add new residents or children to the online renewal form who have never had an RBC before as this will cause delays in processing your 2026 RBC.

Please be advised we expect a high volume of orders and thank you in advance for your patience while we complete our verification process in a timely manner. Renewals are handled in the order they are received and will be issued — either digitally or by mail — by late December.

Please note that downloading virtual cards is not required. If you prefer to continue using a printed card, you may do so by clicking the "Order a Printed Card" box on the renewal form.

For more information, visit IndianWellsResident.com





Capture the Magic of Indian Wells This Winter!

From twinkling holiday lights and cozy desert sunsets to sparkling winter landscapes, we want to see how you celebrate winter in Indian Wells! Share your best seasonal or holiday photos of Indian Wells scenery for a chance to be featured on the City's official social media platforms or in our monthly newsletter.

Email your snapshots to **Community@IndianWells.com.** Your photo could be showcased online for the community to enjoy!

Photos should highlight locations within the City and avoid showing identifiable people, including children. By submitting, you grant the City permission to use your photo in promotional materials such as social media, videos, newsletters, the City website and IW-TV.

Thank You, Linda Soto, and Welcome, Yessica Prieto, as Indian Wells' New Emergency Services Coordinator!

Congratulations to Linda Soto on her recent promotion to Alert and Warning Coordinator

The City of Indian Wells is grateful for Linda's dedication and leadership in emergency management over the past three years.

To recognize Linda's commitment to the City, she received the Excellence in Emergency Management Award at the 2025 Peace Officer and Public Safety Awards Ceremony. This honor highlights her tireless efforts to engage the community and enhance the City's preparedness and response capabilities.

Linda's lasting legacy on the Indian Wells community includes the establishment of the Emergency Preparedness Backpack Program. Under her leadership, over 600 backpacks have been distributed, equipping households with essential tools and information. This program not only improved physical preparedness but also sparked meaningful conversations about safety and resilience.

Thank you, Linda, for everything you have done for our community and for fostering a culture of readiness that extends beyond our City boundaries.

We are excited to welcome Yessica Prieto as Indian Wells' new Emergency Services Coordinator!

Yessica has been a resident of Coachella Valley for over fifteen years and joined Riverside County's Emergency Management Department (EMD) in 2022 through the Temporary Assignment Program, where she assisted various EMD teams. After two years, she was promoted to Emergency Services Coordinator, serving communities across the Coachella Valley.

In her new role with Indian Wells, Yessica will help our community prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters. Her daily responsibilities include coordinating training and outreach programs, collaborating with partner agencies, and supporting emergency response operations. Above all, Yessica ensures that residents have the resources and information they need to stay safe during critical events.

Yessica looks forward to strengthening Indian Wells' community resilience through collaboration, preparedness and compassionate service. Be sure to say 'hi!' if you see her around!



Upcoming Events

December 17 — Coffee with a Cop
8-10 a.m.
Indian Wells Golf Resort,
Players Room

January 24 — Shred Event
7-11 a.m.
City Hall



Upcoming Meetings

Dates and times are subject to change; please check the City Calendar.

December 9 — Special Community Activities Committee Meeting

December 18 — Special Planning Commission Meeting

December 23 — Indian Wells Golf Resort Advisory Committee Meeting

Tennis information for BNP Paribas Open will be released in January — stay tuned!

City Hall Closures

December 24 – Observed Christmas Eve

December 25 – Observed Christmas Day

December 26 – Observed Holiday

December 31 – New Year's Eve

January 1 – New Year's Day

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 Indian Wells
CityOfIndianWells.org/ContactUs

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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