City of Indian Wells
Monthly Newsletter



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Indian Wells by the Numbers

304 pounds of debris picked up by maintenance staff throughout the City (May 1, 2025 to May 31, 2025)

422 calls for service to the Fire Department (January 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025)

856 calls for service to Sheriff's Department (January 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025)

Letter From The City Manager

Dear Residents,

As we enter a new fiscal year, the City of Indian Wells is standing in a position of strength. At our most recent City Council meeting, the Council adopted the biennial budget for fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27, a great accomplishment for our City Council and staff.

Indian Wells continues to rank among California's most affluent and fiscally well-managed cities, with a projected $6.7 million surplus for FY 2024-25, and a forecasted $5 million annual surplus for the next several years. This distinction is achieved through the Council's adherence to conservative fiscal policies, strong oversight by the Finance Committee and the City's robust local tourism economy, anchored by luxury resorts, a world-class tennis facility and the Indian Wells Golf Resort (IWGR).

The budget reflects responsible planning, a significant surplus and a continued commitment to preserving the exceptional quality of life we all value. From expanded resident amenities to increased investment in public engagement and infrastructure, this budget represents a forward-thinking vision for Indian Wells.

Highlights include

- **Improved Transparency:** We have enhanced the level of detail in our budget documents to ensure greater clarity and accountability.
- **Fiscal Stability:** Indian Wells is one of the few cities in California that maintains a fully funded pension plan, saving taxpayers over $6.0 million in future costs. Additionally, the City's current capital reserves, totaling $26.6 million, are a vital part of its overall cash reserves, which amount to nearly $68.9 million. Over the next decade, the Council has committed nearly $55.0 million in new funding to boost capital reserves, allocate reserves within the golf program and support new capital investments.
- **Indian Wells Golf Resort:** During the year, we were busy! Another year of operational profitability at the Golf Resort, which is currently projected at $343,000. This remarkable turnaround in recent years underscores the City's commitment to enhancing financial performance, profitability and proactive oversight. The Golf Resort also proudly introduced Kestrel, a Richard Blais Kitchen + Lounge, offering an elevated dining experience inspired by celebrity chef Richard Blais. After years of discussion and countless hours of community input, the City Council approved the remodel of the Players Course, reaffirming our commitment to maintaining the highest standards at the IWGR. The project remains on time and within budget, and it is set to open in November 2025 for residents and guests alike.
- **Investments in Infrastructure:** The City is investing in Roadway Maintenance by advancing 3-years' worth of paving projects into the 2024-25 budget. As a result of this investment, the City of Indian Wells has one of the highest quality roadway ratings in the State. There is still work to be done, the City Council directed Staff to move forward with the scheduled evaluation and paving of three major streets: Miles Avenue (scheduled for paving Summer 2025); Cook Street – Fairway to Highway 111; and Fairway Drive – Eldorado Drive to Cook Street. After some project delays, the solar installation portion of the energy efficiency project is completed and each of the three locations (City Corporation Yard, Golf Resort Maintenance Yard and the Golf Resort driving range and parking area are all activated). Staff are working with property owners on both sides of Miles Avenue south of the Miles Avenue Bridge/Whitewater River and the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) to secure approved plans for the armoring of the Whitewater River channel bank. Work allows the property to expand into the channel, making it more developable without impacting the functionality of the channel itself.

- **Expanded Resident Programs:** We've increased funding to expand the City's offering of community events, including a new wellness and yoga program, and resident bus tours and visits to the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens, Joshua Tree and the Palm Springs Air Museum.
- **Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness:** In the wake of the LA fires, emergency preparedness is at the forefront of everyone's mind. The City Council has included a focus on emergency preparedness efforts within the community as one of their ongoing priorities for the upcoming Fiscal Year, increasing our contract with County Emergency Services for greater access, expanding upon the successful emergency backpack program and continuing to provide emergency preparedness training to the community. Continuing to ensure public safety excellence, the Council has also approved the implementation of an emergency access sensor ("Opticom") rebate program, which will improve response times for our sheriff and fire personnel in our gated communities. CalFIRE's recent announcement of the improved ISO rating from a 3 to a 2 is currently under review and the City is working with our Public Safety partners to become a 1 – the highest rating a community can receive. The City continues to respond to community feedback regarding a focus on traffic enforcement and is continuously working with the Sheriff's Department to ensure patrol coverage addresses these concerns efficiently. As always, public safety remains top of mind and our highest priority.



Resident excursion to Joshua Tree National Park

This budget also includes targeted updates like a citywide landscaping adjustment, a comprehensive municipal code review and dedicated funding to support Council priorities and community assistance. For residents who want to dive deeper into the numbers, I invite you to view the full operating budget online.

Thank you for your continued trust and engagement. This budget is more than just numbers — it's a roadmap to an even better Indian Wells, built with your values in mind.

Best Wishes,



Chris Freeland

Dr. Chris Freeland
City Manager

Council Meeting Highlights: May 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 approved the development of a Wireless Master Plan that will assess current coverage and gaps from the three major carriers (Verizon, AT&T and T-Mobile), as well as develop strategies for improving wireless connectivity.
- The Strategic Planning goals, strategies and initiatives were approved.
- The City Council approved hardscape improvements on the Pavilion Event Center at the Indian Wells Golf Resort.
- An ordinance to designate Moderate, High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) in the Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) was introduced, as recommended by the State Fire Marshal and required by state law.
- Council approved the Finance Committee's recommendations to amend the Sponsorship and Community Assistance Funding Policy.
- A $15,000 emergency access sensor rebate program and Municipal Code update to require sensors on all existing and future gates was approved.
- The Biennial Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan for FY 25-27 was approved.

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

Indian Wells Golf Resort News



Progress Update: Players Course Enhancements Continue

Over the past few weeks, crews have made great progress on the Players Course redesign. Rough grading on the chipping green and bunking area has happened. In addition, the practice putting green, hole 1 tee and fairway has been shaped, and drainage has been installed on both the practice putting green and hole 18. Work also continued on shaping hole 10, while major earthmoving began on hole 17 and the tees for holes 12 and 13. During this work, tribal monitors safely recovered Indian artifacts found at the site.

On holes 8 and 9, crews replaced the top layer of the greens and shaped the bunkers to get them ready for final design adjustments. Mass grading also began on holes 6 and 7. Around the pavilion, sections of the cart path were removed and replaced to allow for proper curing and testing. Drainage, irrigation and soil work continued on several holes, and final shaping began on the bunkers and greens for holes 1 through 4, as well as 8 and 9.

The project remains on track, with thoughtful improvements ensuring the course continues to meet high standards for both playability and community use.



Watch this construction progress video.



Watch the full interview

A Trip Down Memory Lane: A Behind-the-Scenes Look at the Making of the Golf Resort

Through exclusive interviews with original course architects John Fought (Players Course) and Clive Clark (Celebrity Course), this 13-minute video invites Indian Wells residents to discover the vision, strategy and design that shaped the world-class destination that is the Indian Wells Golf Resort.

The Indian Wells Golf Resort is more than a scenic backdrop — it's a driver of local tourism, a source of thousands in annual revenue and a point of community pride. Whether you're a longtime resident or new to the community, this video offers a fresh look at the care, creativity and planning behind one of Indian Wells' most valuable assets.

Strategic Planning Update

Indian Wells adopted its strategic planning goals, strategies and initiatives at the City Council meeting on May 15. Strategic planning serves as a foundational process that defines the City's long-term direction and outlines the approach for achieving its objectives over the coming years.

The following goals, strategies and initiatives were identified:

Safeguarding the Community

- Review fire and police deployment models for improved efficiency
- Launch commercial kitchen fire suppression inspections
- Expand Opticom emergency gate access to gated communities
- Enhance emergency preparedness through education and partnerships
- Pursue funding to upgrade the Emergency Operations Center
- Develop a Wireless Master Plan to improve coverage and safety

Fiscal Responsibility and Sustainability

- Examine opportunities to expand and diversify City revenues
- Continue proactive pursuit of county, state and federal funding
- Adjust polices for more efficient use of City funds
- Expand Cove Communities Project partnerships to improve fiscal efficiencies
- Initiate a Government Efficiency and Organizational Improvement Study

Encourage Development and Tourism

- Prepare development agreement for Cocun Resort Development
- Process entitlements for the east side of Miles and Highway 111
- Continue expansion discussions with the Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa
- Evaluate relationships with economic development organizations
- Begin the multi-year implementation of the City's General Plan
- Explore locations for additional tourist attractions in the community
- Explore Sister City opportunities

Investing in Infrastructure and Amenities

- Advance various public infrastructure projects
- Rehabilitation/Redesign of the Indian Wells Lane Fountains
- Expand the Eisenhower Memorial
- Examine opportunities to expand non-potable water use in the community

Enhancing the Quality of Life

- Expand community activities programming and resident benefits
- Revisit the City's mission statement and branding for relevance
- Revisit the City's communication plan and implementation
- Create a plan to celebrate the City's 60th anniversary in 2027
- Develop new park sites
- Develop new public art installations in Indian Wells

Various Other City Strategies and Initiatives

- Advocate to regional, county, state and federal legislators and agencies to address public health and economic/tourism impacts of Coachella Valley Air Quality (Dust) resulting from Tropical Storm Hillary
- Continue proactive legislative advocacy efforts
- Complete a Municipal Code update
- Creation of a Governance Ad Hoc Committee



Did You Know?

To meet SB 1383 requirements, the City must procure **164 tons** of recovered organic waste products in 2025. So far, we've installed **118.5 tons** of mulch in landscaping, medians and along Highway 111 — where it not only supports the yellow bells, but also helps reduce dust and enhance air quality in the area.

Pool Safety

Drowning is 100% Preventable

FACT: Children drown without a sound. Drowning is a quiet event. There is no splashing, no screaming and no noise at all.

What can you do to prevent drowning incidents? ABC's of water safety:



A = Adult Supervision
Assign an adult water watcher to keep their eyes on the water at ALL times.

B = Barriers
Fences, self-closing and self-latching gates, pool motion sensors and window and door alarms add extra security around the water.

C = Classes
Parents and caregivers should take CPR, First Aid and swimming courses that are available for both children and adults.

Find more information here.

Stay Cool This Summer

With temperatures rising in the Coachella Valley, it is important to stay cool to avoid heat-related injuries. Do this by:

- Keeping hydrated and drinking plenty of fluids
- Limiting your outdoor activity
- Wearing loose and lightweight clothing
- Protecting your skin with sunscreen
- Taking cool showers or baths
- Staying indoors in air-conditioned environments
- If you are in need of an air-conditioned location to stay cool, please visit any of the cooling centers listed here.



Contacting the Police

There are different ways to contact the police depending on the type of request and urgency of the situation. Calls for service to the Sheriff's department are prioritized according to the information provided to dispatch at the time of the call.

Emergencies: Call 911

Use 9-1-1 for emergencies involving imminent danger to life and/or property. This is a 24-hour number.

Ways to call 911:

- Dial 9-1-1 on a landline or mobile device
- Text 9-1-1 in Riverside County
- Use your smart device
  - Say "Hey Siri/Google, call 911"
  - Ensure phone is unlocked and has service
- Medical Alert Devices: Safety devices and wearables (such as LifeAlerts or Smartwatches) are equipped to call 911 automatically in emergencies

Non-Emergencies: Call (760) 836-3215, ext. 5

This number will connect you to the Riverside County Sheriff Department Dispatch Center. Use this number to report a crime, suspicious activities, suspicious persons or suspicious vehicles. This is a 24-hour number. Please be patient as emergency calls are given priority.

Non-Emergencies, Toll-Free: Call (800) 950-2444

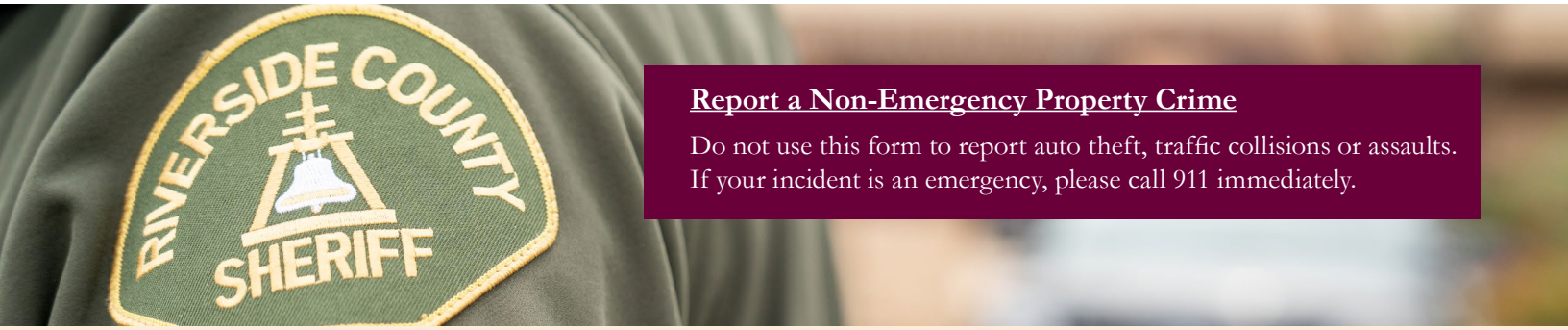
This non-emergency phone number is available toll-free to callers from all 50 states and will take callers to the Riverside Sheriff Dispatch Center.

Poison Control Center: Call (800) 876-4766

Call poison control if you suspect a poisoning has occurred. Verifying with a certified professional is better than guessing; swift action could save a life. Poison control assistance is available 24 hours a day, providing free expert guidance that can help with your poison emergency.

For General Questions and Records: Call (760) 836-1600

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department (Palm Desert Station) is available to answer your general questions and record requests. Use this number to receive information, copies of past reports, inquire about lost/found property or share public comments and/or information. General question assistance is available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. If your call constitutes an emergency, please dial 911.



Report a Non-Emergency Property Crime

Do not use this form to report auto theft, traffic collisions or assaults. If your incident is an emergency, please call 911 immediately.



It's Time to Trim Your Palm Trees!

In order to comply with the City's Municipal Code, residents must follow the below guidelines:

- Date Palm Trees must be trimmed **by June 30**
- Washingtonia Palms and Fan Palms must be trimmed **by July 30**

You can avoid the unnecessary expense of repeat trimming by having your trees cut close to the deadlines after final bloom is assured.

For more details, visit CityOfIndianWells.org/PalmTrees

Upcoming Events

JUNE 25

Cool to be Hot Resident Social

4-6:30 p.m.
Indian Wells Resort Hotel

JULY 26

Shred Event

7-11 a.m.
Burrtec Parking Lot

Upcoming Meetings

JUNE 12

Community Activities Committee Meeting

Indian Wells City Hall

JUNE 24

Indian Wells Golf Resort Advisory Committee Meeting

Indian Wells Golf Resort

JUNE 26

Planning Commission Meeting

Indian Wells City Hall

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

Indian Wells Golf Resort Summer Hours (Beginning June 22)

Golf Shop Hours:
Sunday-Thursday | 6 a.m.-2 p.m.
Friday and Saturday | 6 a.m.-5 p.m.

Celebrity Course Closures:
June 30-July 11
August 11-22

Golf Shop Hours during Celebrity Course Closure:
Daily from 7 a.m.-12 p.m.

Kestrel Summer Hours of Operation:
Lunch Daily | 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Bar Menu Daily | 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Happy Hour Daily | 3-5 p.m.
Dinner Service | Thursday-Saturday: 5-9 p.m.
Sunday Brunch | 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

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/Our-City/Residents/Contact-Us

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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