City of Indian Wells
Monthly Newsletter

Indian Wells Preservation Foundation:
20 Years of Modernism: Impact on Indian Wells Lecture



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Indian Wells by the Numbers: April 2025

23 active Capital Improvement Projects

11,553 total social media followers on resident pages

75+ residents in attendance at the Cocun Development Community Meetings

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

Letter From The City Manager

Dear Residents,

As you may know, our City Council has begun its work on a major milestone: the annual strategic planning process. On April 17, the City Council gathered with the community to establish priorities and make plans for the future of our city. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who attended the meeting and/or submitted comments to help guide the Council in understanding residents' desires. It's always a joy to see residents, City staff and the Council collaborating for the betterment of our community. By setting goals, our Council and staff can lead a more focused and effective strategy for innovation.



Ultimately, the City has identified the following priorities:

- **Safeguarding our Community:** Provide enhanced public safety, prevention, preparedness and emergency response programs.
- **Ensuring Fiscal Responsibility and Sustainability:** Foster fiscal health through disciplined long-term planning, conservative budgeting practices, heightened efficiency, increased revenue and cost recovery.
- **Encouraging Development and Tourism:** Pursue economic development initiatives that attract and retain businesses, provide a strong, diverse local economy, address affordable housing needs and enhance Indian Wells as the premier tourism destination.
- **Investing in Infrastructure and Amenities:** Promote effective use of existing facilities through maintenance and repair and plan for future facilities, amenities and infrastructure to benefit the community. As is happening now with the Players Course redesign, the City will continue to invest in the Indian Wells Golf Resort to bring a memorable experience to all.
- **Enhancing the Quality of Life:** Actively seek opportunities to maintain and enrich Indian Wells' quality of life.
- **Various Other City Strategies and Initiatives:** Development of projects and programs that further the City's mission statement, improve City operations, etc., that do not clearly fit within other goals.

Discussions of these priorities spanned numerous projects and initiatives, especially **critical priorities like public safety**, where the City Council committed to expanding community emergency preparedness, using technology to improve fire and medical response times and conduct a study to identify recommendations to improve Indian Wells cellular coverage.

Other key initiatives focused on **enhancing residents' quality of life**. Notably, the City Council aims to increase the number of benefits available to residents who subscribe to our Resident Benefit Card Program, including additional community events and activities, and identifying new partnerships with our local businesses community to provide residents with discounts for their patronage. Furthermore, the City will continue to push forward on key Capital Improvement Projects, having secured over $6 million in federal and state grants for projects like the Whitewater Channel Lining Project, Miles Avenue Rehabilitation and Warner Trail Improvements Phase 2.

To support these ambitious projects and programs and invest funds back into Indian Wells, encouraging and developing new tourism attractions and resorts remains a priority. As part of this, the Council identified potential opportunities to bring more visitors to Indian Wells, whether it is an immersive experience at the Golf Resort, public art installations, an exhibit showcasing our city's rich history or the introduction of a tennis or golf museum near the Tennis Garden. The Council also recommended the completion of a new wellness resort at Miles and Highway 111 or the expansion of our existing resorts for both residents and visitors.

Strategic planning is essential to ensuring the success of Indian Wells for generations to come. We look forward to building a better future together. For more information on Strategic Planning, visit the **City website**. 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: April 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 and filed the General Plan Housing Element Annual Progress Report and Low-Moderate Income Housing Asset Fund Addendum for 2024.
- Council Member Taylor was appointed to the Ad Hoc Interview Committee for the Housing Authority. Mayor Pro Tem Reed was appointed to the Ad Hoc Interview Committee for the Palm Springs Airport Commission. The annual recruitment and interview schedule was also approved to fill resident appointments to vacant City committees.
- The Whitewater Low Flow Flood Channel Reconstruction project was approved to enter the bidding phase for emergency reconstruction work.
- The Treasurer's Report for January 2025 was filed.
- The City Council adopted resolutions approving the annual assessments of the Landscape and Lighting District No. 91-1, Street Lighting District No. 2000-1 and Drainage Maintenance Benefit Assessment District No. 1 and authorized their collection through the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Riverside County tax roll.



Council Meeting Agendas

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

Indian Wells Golf Resort News



Exciting Offerings at the Indian Wells Golf Resort and Beyond!

The Indian Wells Golf Resort's Players Course renovations are underway, and it's shaping into a real hole-in-one! Construction crews are working tirelessly to introduce a whole new look for this luxury course. Over the past month, the crew has removed the top layer of grass and other design elements to work on the grounds beneath. This upgrade is all about improving structural integrity while giving the course a beautiful facelift that will impress both our loyal golfers and newcomers alike. As you stay tuned for more updates, check out the City's new video, where Indian Wells Golf Resort General Manager Robin Graf reflects on the course designs with architects John Fought and Clive Clark.

As we spruce things up at the Golf Resort, we've partnered with surrounding courses in the Coachella Valley to offer special resident discounts. Take advantage of the following discounts with your valid Indian Wells Resident Benefit Card (RBC):

- **Classic Club**: Enjoy a special rate for Coachella Valley residents of $125. Just apply for a resident card online and book your tee time online or via phone.
- **Sun City Shadow Hills:** Play the South Course for $45 and the North Course for $35. Call (760) 200-3375 and ask for Terry or Jason to make a reservation.
- **Shadow Mountain Resort:** Get 10% off the rack rate before 1 p.m., play for $80 from 1-3 p.m. and $60 after 3 p.m. Just book online and show your RBC at check-in.
- **Shadow Ridge Golf Resort:** Tee off for $139 until May 21. Don't forget, a summer pass is required after that date. Book online and show your RBC at check-in.
- **SilverRock:** Enjoy 10% off the rack rate! Just book online and use the promo code IWRES2025.
- **Terra Lago:** Play the North Course for $65 and the South Course for $55. Book online or call (760) 775-2000, let them know you're an Indian Wells Resident and bring your RBC to check in.



Visit Kestrel: A Richard Blais Kitchen + Lounge, the third-place winner in the 2025 Golden Fork Awards by Golf Inc.! This honor recognizes it as one of the best new and renovated dining spots at golf courses worldwide, thanks to its fantastic design, functionality and guest experience. With stunning views, delicious food and a friendly atmosphere, Kestrel is the ideal spot to relax after a round of golf this season. Swing by for a drink or a bite to eat, or make a reservation to enjoy Kestrel's award-winning menu!

You can also join in on an exclusive evening with celebrity Chef Richard Blais on May 21 at 5 p.m. Meet Chef Richard Blais, purchase a signed cookbook and indulge in smoked meats, hosted beer & wine and crafted cocktails.

Reserve your spot for Banter with Blais by clicking here or calling 760-346-4653.



Welcome Indian Wells' New Assistant City Manager Eric Ceja!

We're thrilled to welcome Eric Ceja as the new Indian Wells assistant city manager, effective March 24.

Ceja brings nearly 20 years of invaluable experience in local government and has a passion for economic and community development. He kicked off his local government career as an assistant planner in the City of La Quinta, where he did impactful work managing the community development block grant program and helped shape the City's General Plan and Zoning Code. He also played a critical role in getting projects approved with the Planning Commission and City Council.

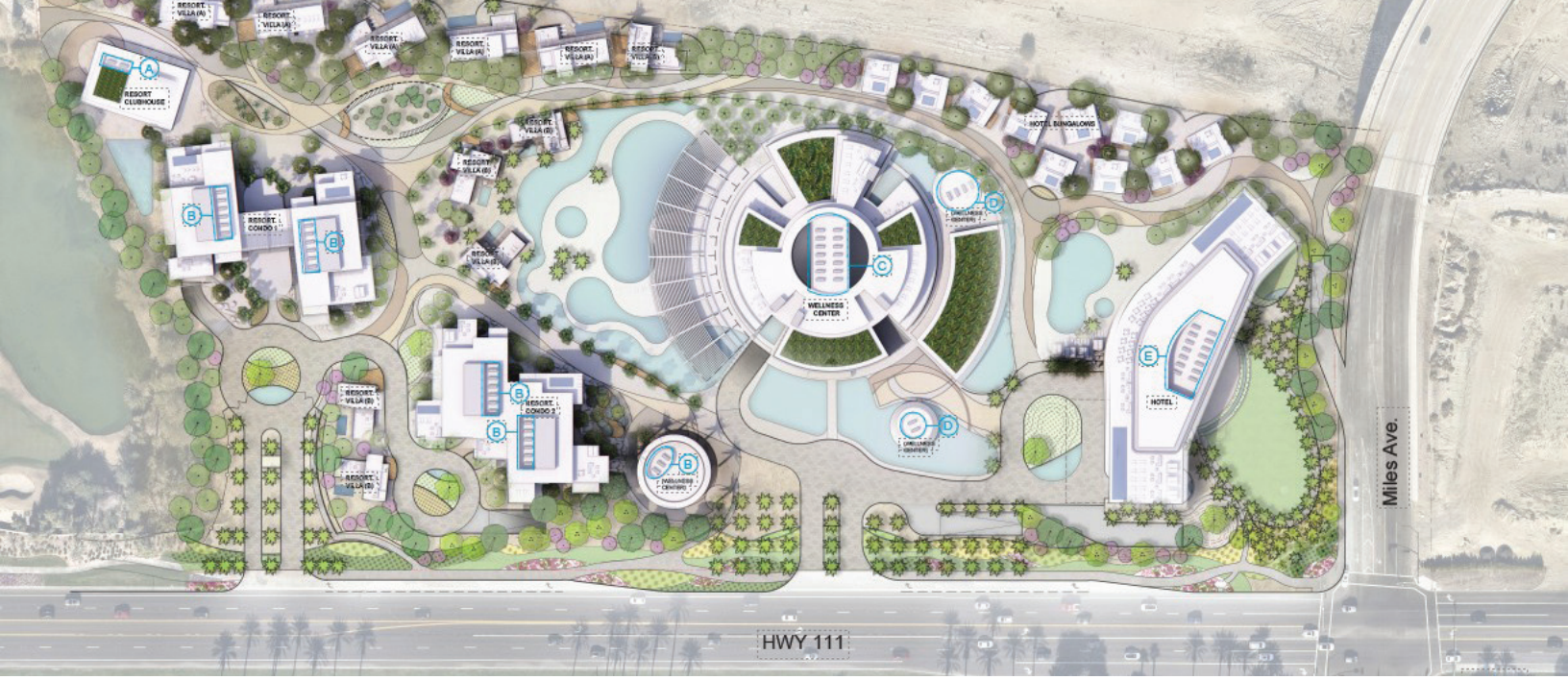
For the last 11+ years, Ceja has ventured through various positions in the City of Palm Desert, including associate planner, principal planner, deputy director of development services and economic development and the director of economic development. Throughout his time in these roles, Ceja has worked on some fantastic projects, focusing on business recruitment and retention, developing housing and retail spaces, fostering intergovernmental relations, negotiating development agreements and more!

Get to know more about Eric Ceja on the City's website.



Did You Know?

Indian Wells was incorporated in 1967 and was the 400th city in California. Today, there are 483 cities in the state.



Exciting Developments for the Cocun Resort & Wellness Sanctuary

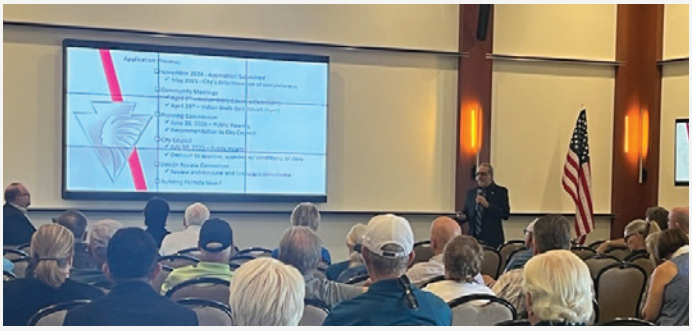
Indian Wells is entering the planning phases for the Cocun Resort & Wellness Sanctuary, a new luxury resort right here in our community! Located on the vacant 15-acre site at the northwest corner of Highway 111 and Miles Avenue, it will feature a variety of accommodations, including a resort hotel, a health and wellness center, luxury condominiums, rooftop penthouses, bungalows and resort villas. A 20,000-square-foot clubhouse will set the stage for entertainment and a 4-story wellness center will offer an escape for relaxation and healthy lifestyle treatments.

Residents and visitors will enjoy a range of amenities at Cocun, including a spa, lounge, meeting spaces, fitness center, diverse dining options and resort pools.

This project is currently with the Planning Department for review, so stay tuned for public hearing dates!

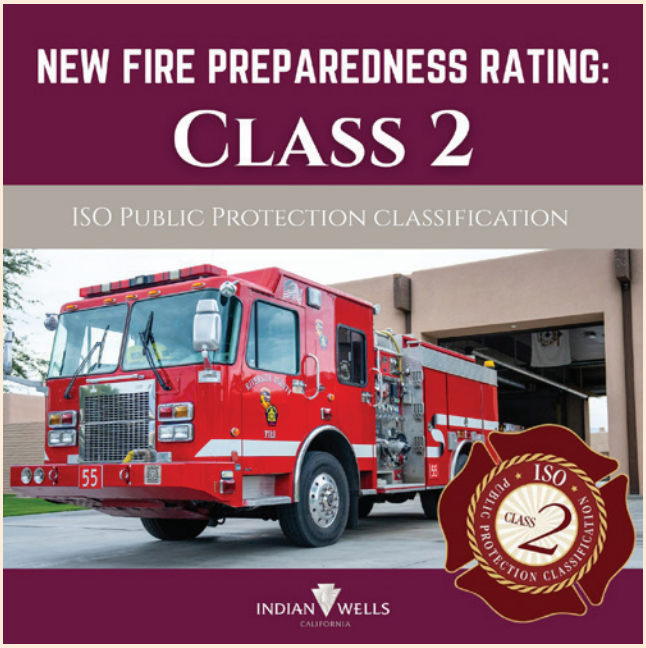
For more details, visit CityofIndianWells.org/WellnessCenter.

Community Rallies Around New Luxury Resort Development in Indian Wells



In April, Summit Development hosted two educational community meetings on the proposed Cocun Resort & Wellness Sanctuary.

More than 75 residents attended the April 7 and April 28 meetings to learn more about the resort. During both events, Summit Development shared details about their development plans and the amenities that will be available at the new facility. The City thanks everyone who participated in the meetings. For more information or to view the presentations, visit CityofIndianWells.org/WellnessCenter.



Indian Wells and Cove Communities Earn Prestigious Class 2 Fire Protection Rating

Indian Wells has been designated among the top 6.5% of cities most prepared for fires nationwide, according to the Insurance Services Office (ISO), which recently upgraded the City's Public Protection Classification (PPC) to Class 2. Insurance companies use PPC ratings to evaluate risk and determine premiums, making them critical for homeowners and businesses.

The PPC program provides essential information about fire protection services and rates communities in the United States based on their fire suppression capabilities. To achieve this designation, all three Cove Communities — Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert and Indian Wells — were jointly evaluated on their fire suppression delivery systems. As a result of the upgraded score, these communities may experience a decrease in insurance rates.

The new Class 2 PPC rating will take effect on June 1, 2025. To learn more, visit the City's website.

New Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map Available for Community Input

The City of Indian Wells seeks your feedback on the CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) Map!

The FHSZ map is developed using a field-tested model that assigns a hazard score based on factors influencing the likelihood and behavior of wildfires. The FHSZ was recently updated to more accurately represent the zones in California that are susceptible to wildfires.

This map is a long-term planning tool, not a real-time risk assessment, evacuation notice or emergency alert. It is meant to inform building codes and fire safety policies that contribute to making our community more resilient over time.

To submit a public comment, please email CityClerk@IndianWells.com or attend the public hearing at the regularly scheduled Council meeting on Thursday, May 15, to provide your feedback.

Please see this notice sent by Indian Wells for more information about the FHSZ Map and what it means for your home and insurance.

View the FHSZ Map





Submit your photos of Indian Wells for a chance to be featured on our channels!

Indian Wells wants to showcase your photos of our beautiful community on the City's social media channels! Submit pictures of your favorite spots around Indian Wells to Community@IndianWells.com for a chance to have your photo featured. Community members whose pictures are selected will also receive Indian Wells swag!

Photos should depict City locations and not feature any identifiable individuals, including children. By submitting your pictures, you grant Indian Wells permission to use them in marketing materials, including social media, IW-TV, the website, videos, emails or newsletters.

We can't wait to see Indian Wells from your perspective!

Upcoming Events

May 20
Weekly Yoga*
9-9:45 a.m.
Indian Wells Golf Resort

May 21
Banter with Blais
5-7 p.m.
Kestrel

May 26
Memorial Day Ceremony
9-10 a.m.
Indian Wells Golf Resort

May 27
Weekly Yoga*
9-9:45 a.m.
Indian Wells Golf Resort

June 4
Coffee with a Cop
8-10 a.m.
Indian Wells Golf Resort

There will be a private firework display on May 17.

* Please note that there is limited capacity at this event. A valid resident benefit card and $5 fee are required to participate. Register Here.

Upcoming Meetings

May 15
Housing Authority Meeting
1-1:30 p.m.
Indian Wells City Hall

May 15
City Council Meeting
1:30-3:30 p.m.
Indian Wells City Hall

May 29
Planning Commission Meeting
1:30-3:30 p.m.
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.

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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