City of Indian Wells
Monthly Newsletter



Courtesy of Epson Tour: Ladies Professional Golf Association

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Indian Wells by the Numbers

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

Riverside County Department of Animal Services 2024 Roundup

20,688 animals saved in Riverside County

71.6% live release rate (currently 77.98% in 2025) for Riverside County

14,075 dogs and cats spayed or neutered in Riverside County

40,073 calls answered for Riverside County

31 animal intake in Indian Wells

155 responses in Indian Wells

Letter From The City Manager

Dear Indian Wells Residents,

As we round out the first quarter of the fiscal year, I'd like to reflect on and acknowledge the progress our City has made toward achieving the goals set in the 2025-26 Strategic Plan. This plan, developed collaboratively with the City Council, our dedicated staff and the community, continues to serve as our roadmap for advancing key priorities and strengthening the exceptional quality of life that defines Indian Wells.

Over the past quarter, we've made significant progress across all eight strategic goal areas, including completing nearly 28% of the goals set for year one, as of October 2025.

- **Safeguarding the Community:** We enhanced emergency preparedness by expanding partnerships for disaster response, improved the police deployment model with the introduction of an additional motorcycle traffic officer and introduced new measures to strengthen community safety.
- **Fiscal Responsibility and Sustainability:** To ensure stability and sustainability, the City adopted new reserve policies, pursued grant funding opportunities, partnered with the City of Palm Desert and Rancho Mirage on projects to expand fiscal efficiency and maintained disciplined long-term financial planning.
- **Indian Wells Golf Resort:** The Golf Resort is continually evolving into a premier destination. Upcoming improvements include the reopening of the Players Course, enhancements to the Shots in the Night experience, the addition of public art in Kestrel and discussions with the LPGA about hosting a major tournament.
- **Investing in Infrastructure and Amenities:** Major progress was made on infrastructure projects, such as the repaving of Miles Avenue, traffic circulation improvements along Washington Street, nearly completed designs to improve the Whitewater Channel and the Safer Streets initiative.
- **Encourage Development and Tourism:** Landmark projects, like the Cocun Wellness Resort and continued implementation of the City's General Plan, are shaping the future of responsible growth and economic vitality.
- **Housing Authority:** We advanced multiple housing initiatives, including the implementation of the sixth Cycle Housing Element, initiated a comprehensive zoning code update and developed strategies to extend affordability covenants at the Indian Wells Villas and Mountain View Villas, preserving low rents at our Housing Authority properties.
- **Enhancing Quality of Life:** From expanding community events and resident benefits to launching new holiday decorations and branding initiatives, we remain focused on enriching our residents' daily experiences.
- **Various Other City Strategies and Initiatives:** The City Council continues to work with local, state and federal leaders to find solutions to improve the region's air quality (dust) and pursue proactive legislative advocacy efforts.

The full Quarterly Goal Update is available at CityofIndianWells.org/StrategicPlanUpdate. Thirty-two of the remaining 39 priorities are currently in various stages of progress, with the majority of those anticipated to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2026. This quarter's results reflect not just progress, but purpose. Strategic planning ensures that every initiative — large or small — aligns with our long-term vision and community values. It allows the City Council and staff to make thoughtful, data-driven decisions that build on our success and prepare for future opportunities.

In addition to our strategic planning goals, we are enhancing our community by introducing a vision statement and a new City seal logo. These initiatives refine the vision for the future of Indian Wells. By incorporating a vision statement alongside our existing mission statement, City leadership is demonstrating a stronger commitment to supporting our residents, visitors and businesses. Both the new vision statement and upcoming reimagined seal symbolize our dedication to evolving over time, ensuring our City aligns with the desires and needs of the community.

Vision Statement

"Indian Wells will continue to be a famed Southern California destination where we thrive amidst desert beauty, luxury living, globally renowned sports, fine cuisine and world class events."

As we look ahead, we will begin the next round of strategic planning in early 2026. This process will once again invite discussion, collaboration and innovation as we set our course for the coming years.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support as we work together to preserve what makes Indian Wells truly exceptional while embracing new opportunities.

If you have questions, feel free to call (760) 346-2489 or visit us at City Hall.



Best Wishes,

Dr. Chris Freeland

Dr. Chris Freeland
City Manager



IW Fast Fact

Year-to-date hotel occupancy in Indian Wells reached 61.5%, a notable increase from 54.9% in 2024.

Council Meeting Highlights: October 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 authorized staff to develop and execute a cost-sharing agreement between the City of Indian Wells and the City of Palm Desert for the rehabilitation of Fred Waring Drive.
- The Council approved a supplemental appropriation of $30,000 in Public Art Funds to add a fully ADA-compliant seating area at Fairway Park.
- The Council approved $125,000 each to support the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, Martha's Village & Kitchen and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) Housing First, as part of its commitment to addressing homelessness and poverty in the region. This is in addition to the $125,000 provided to CVAG Housing First at the previous meeting to support coordinated efforts to homelessness response initiatives.
- The Council approved the implementation of a virtual option for Resident Benefit Cards, while continuing to provide residents with the option of a physical card consistent with existing practices.
- The Council approved the implementation of a new commercial kitchen fire compliance assessment program.
- The Council approved the IW Autism Certification Reimbursement Program, which will support local businesses with a reimbursement of up to $2,500 for achieving the "Certified Autism Center" designation through the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards, and allocated $10,000 from the Economic Development program budget to support the program.

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

Indian Wells Golf Resort News

Last month, the Indian Wells Golf Resort hosted the Epson Tour Championship on the Celebrity Course. The Resort experienced a great turnout for the event. Congratulations to the 15 women who earned their spots on the LPGA Tour for next year!

As a benefit of living in Indian Wells, residents enjoyed discounted tickets to the championship golf play with access to a luxurious resident-only section on Hole 18.

In other news from the Indian Wells Golf Resort, staff installed a new four-faced clock between the golf cart bridge and the Pavilion, helping players keep their rounds moving efficiently. Additionally, the Fairway Grill reopened last month, Kestrel numbers are improving as residents return for fall and staff are putting the final touches on the Players Course.



Save the Date

The Indian Wells Golf Resort will host a formal Grand Opening Celebration for the Players Course on **December 2.** Stay tuned for more details.



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

Epson Tour Championship 2025 Recap

For the second consecutive year, the Epson Tour graduated its top 15 players to the LPGA for next season. The 2026 LPGA Tour Cards were awarded during a ceremony at the Indian Wells Golf Resort.

The 2025 Epson Tour Championship Winner Anne Chen secured the title after a 5-hole playoff following the final round. She secured her LPGA Tour Card for next season with the win.

Melanie Green became the first player in 10 years to win both the Epson Tour Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year Awards. She also earned an Epson Tour record of $186,986 for the season.

For the first time ever in Epson Tour history, 10 players eclipsed $100,000 in season earnings in 2025.







Courtesy of Epson Tour: Ladies Professional Golf Association

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.

Desi Arnaz Western Hills Hotel, 2016 | 76-661 Highway 111

Founded and built in 1957 by Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz as the Desi Arnaz Western Hills Hotel, it was reimagined and rebuilt in 1987 as the Indian Wells Resort Hotel by architect John Walling, AIA, Walling & McCallum, whose long-standing architectural firm was just across the street on Club Drive. Walling retired in 2022 and closed the firm.





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.

Safer Streets Design Work is Underway!

The design work for the City's Safer Streets project is now officially underway. This initiative is a crucial step toward enhancing safety and mobility within our community.

During the first phase of the project, Indian Wells conducted detailed surveys across the City, utilizing both ground teams and drones to collect data. These surveys, which took place south of Highway 111 along Eldorado Drive, Fairway Drive, Cook Street and Rancho Palmeras Drive, are vital for gathering accurate information that will guide the design and planning process.

We appreciate your awareness and patience during this initial phase of the project.

Stay tuned for more updates as the Safer Streets project progresses!



Get Your Free Battery Recycling Bag

The City of Indian Wells is pleased to offer residents compostable battery recycling baggies to make safe disposal easier and more environmentally friendly. Each resident may pick up two baggies per household at City Hall by showing their Resident Benefit Card.

Each baggie comes with a two-sided insert from Burrtec:

- One side provides important safety tips for handling and recycling batteries.
- The other side includes Burrtec's contact information for pick-up services.

Burrtec provides this pickup service on behalf of the City, and all requests for service and questions should be directed to (760) 340-2113 or CustomerService@BurrtecDesert.com

By choosing compostable bags, the City ensures that once discarded, the material will break down into non-toxic, natural elements — supporting our commitment to sustainability.



The City of Indian Wells Invests $375,000 in Regional Homelessness Services

The City of Indian Wells has approved a $375,000 funding allocation to support three leading homelessness organizations in the Coachella Valley — Martha's Village & Kitchen, The Coachella Valley Rescue Mission (CVRM) and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) Housing First — as part of its ongoing commitment to addressing homelessness and poverty in the region.

"Martha's Village & Kitchen and CVRM are pillars of compassion and resilience in our region," said Indian Wells Mayor Bruce Whitman. "By investing in their work, we're not just funding services – we're supporting hope, dignity and opportunity for people to rebuild their lives. Indian Wells is proud to stand with regional partners in creating a more inclusive and stable Coachella Valley."

At the September 4, 2025, City Council meeting, the City Council reaffirmed Indian Wells' commitment and contributed $125,000 to CVAG Housing First to support coordinated efforts to homelessness response initiatives. Later on at the October 16, 2025, City Council meeting, council awarded each organization an additional $125,000 to expand shelter and wraparound services for individuals and families in need.

The funding will help Martha's Village & Kitchen expand shelter and supportive services. CVRM will continue its mission of providing meals, shelter, medical care and recovery programs for those in crisis. CVAG's Housing First program will continue to support permanent housing and family reunification.

This investment is part of a broader initiative by the City of Indian Wells, which has committed over $500,000 in FY 2025-26 to support nonprofit organizations delivering essential services throughout the Coachella Valley.

Upcoming Events

November 4
Coffee with the Indian Wells Golf Resort General Manager
8-9 a.m.
Kestrel: Kitchen + Lounge

November 11
Veterans Day Ceremony
10-11 a.m.
Indian Wells City Hall

November 20
Movie on the Green
Time TBD
Indian Wells Golf Resort

December 2
Players Course Grand Opening Celebration
9 a.m.
Indian Wells Golf Resort

Tree Lighting
5 p.m.
Indian Wells City Hall

Upcoming Meetings

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

November 5
Community Activities Committee Meeting

November 6
Indian Wells Housing Authority Meeting

City Council Meeting

November 20
Planning Commission Meeting

November 25
Indian Wells Golf Resort Committee Meeting



Capture Indian Wells Your Way!

Whether it's a scenic trail, a stunning sunset or a hidden gem around town, send us your best photos of Indian Wells for a chance to be featured on the City's official social media platforms or in the 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're giving the City permission to use your photo in promotional materials such as social media, videos, newsletters, the City website and IW-TV.

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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