City of Indian Wells

Monthly Newsletter

April 2026



SUSTAINABILITY EDITION

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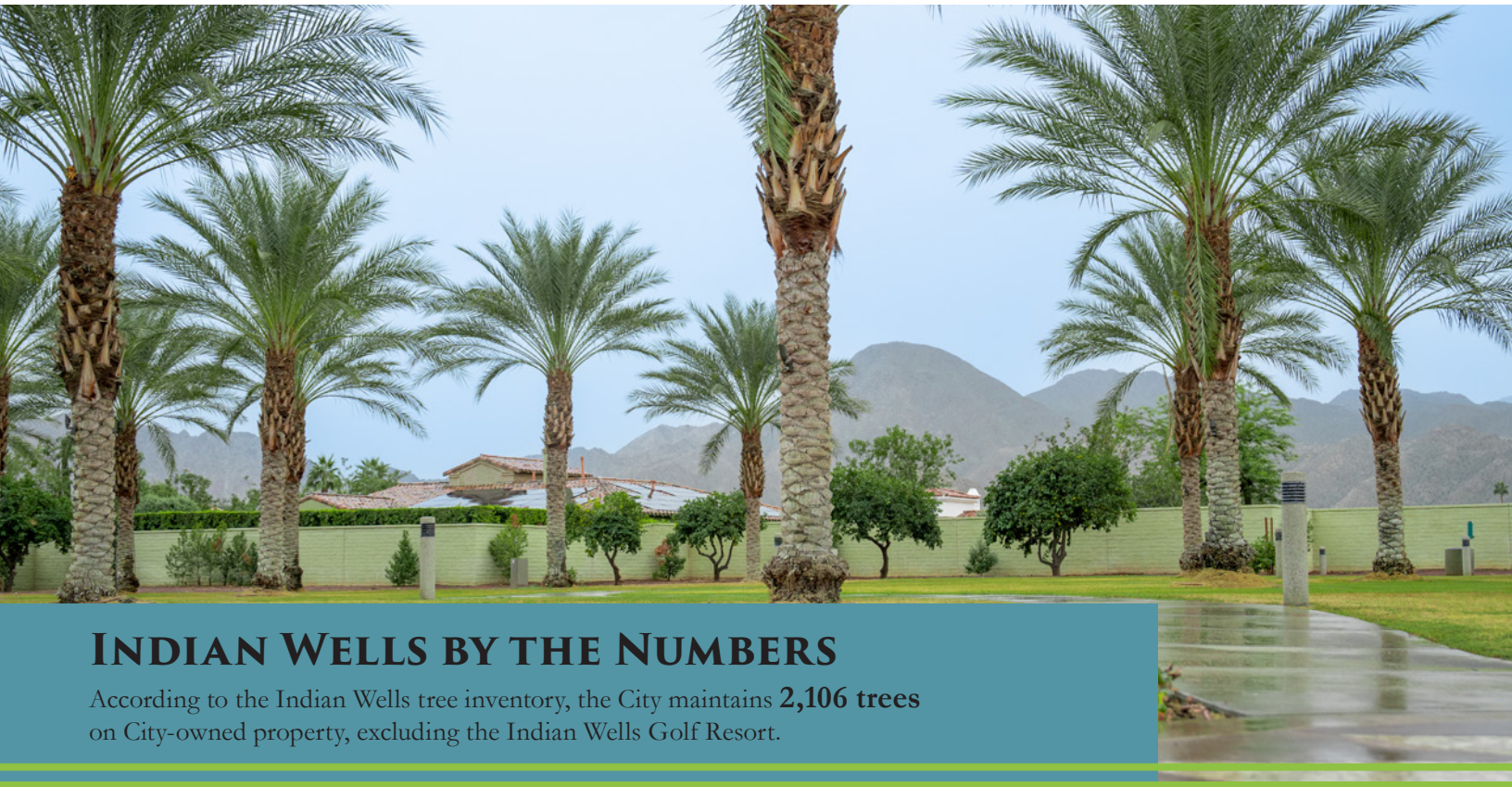
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Indian Wells by the Numbers

According to the Indian Wells tree inventory, the City maintains **2,106 trees** on City-owned property, excluding the Indian Wells Golf Resort.

Letter From the City Manager

Dear Indian Wells Residents,

March was a busy month for our serene desert community! We successfully hosted the BNP Paribas Open for the 40th consecutive year, crowning new tennis champions in front of over 527,000 fans from around the world. Walking the Tennis Garden grounds, I saw many Indian Wells residents enjoying two weeks of amazing tennis. Thank you for shopping, dining and supporting the tennis tournament, joining us for Resident's Day and for your patience during our peak visitor event.

On March 17, the City Council held its annual Strategic Planning Session, where residents participated in goal-setting for the upcoming year. This session was highly productive, with numerous projects and programs being supported to further Indian Wells' quality of life for our residents and guests. The City Council decided to continue with the following priorities with newly adjusted goals for each:


Safeguarding the Community


Fiscal Responsibility & Sustainability


Encourage Development & Tourism


Investing in Infrastructure & Amenities


Enhancing the Quality of Life


Various Other City Goals

The City will continue to provide regular bi-annual status updates on each of these goals, highlighting how we plan to achieve them through specific initiatives and projects.

To conclude our busy spring season, Indian Wells hosted our State of the City and Hospitality Awards in partnership with the Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce. Please join me in congratulating all of this year's honorees from our local hotels and the Golf Resort who make Indian Wells the premier tourist destination in the Coachella Valley. Special thanks to Ron Sugar, current Chairman of the Board of Uber Technologies and Chairman Emeritus for Northrop Grumman Corporation, who shared his insight on Artificial Intelligence and technology's role in furthering innovation and economic development. To watch the highlight videos featured at the event, please visit our City YouTube page.

This month, we are pleased to present a sustainability-themed newsletter in observance of Earth Day and Indian Wells Arbor Day on April 22. Each year, Indian Wells reaches new milestones in sustainability. We remain dedicated to reducing our carbon footprint, advancing water conservation and caring for our urban forest. Read the full newsletter to learn more about our environmental initiatives and how to get involved.

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

Best wishes,



Dr. Chris Freeland

Dr. Chris Freeland
City Manager

Council Meeting Highlights: March 2026



Dr. Toper Taylor
Mayor



Brian M. Penna
Mayor Pro Tem



Bruce Whitman
Council Member



Greg Sanders
Council Member



Dana Reed
Council Member

- City Council adopted a resolution approving the annual levy of the Special Fire Tax Standby and Availability Charges for the Fiscal Year 2026-27. This voter-approved levy supports fire suppression and paramedic services in our community.
- City Council approved a resolution authorizing the annual levy of the Special Parcel Tax for Fire Access Maintenance District No. 1 for the Fiscal Year 2026-27. This Special Parcel Tax primarily serves the Indian Wells Country Club and funds security services and roadway improvements within District No. 1.
- The City Council approved a $1 million funding request from Eisenhower Health to support the hospital's effort to elevate its trauma center designation from a Level III trauma center to a Level II. These funds will be directed specifically toward having 24/7 trauma surgeon availability, expanded surgical capabilities, a new CT scanner with advanced diagnostic capabilities and enhanced coordination with EMS to reduce the need for patient transfers.
- The City Council welcomed and introduced Riverside County Fire Chief Robert Fish and Battalion Chief Cody Wright to the community.



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

Indian Wells Golf Resort Energy News

The Indian Wells Golf Resort shares the City's commitment to energy efficiency and sustainability. This mission ensures we provide a world-class facility for golfers while carefully preserving our beautiful desert landscape for future generations.

Over the years, the Resort has made essential energy upgrades, including building solar shade structures, replacing 32 HVAC units with more energy-efficient models, introducing a backup generator for power outages, installing multiple electric vehicle charging stations, upgrading lighting to LED bulbs and adding battery storage to collect unused energy generated by the solar panels.

Alongside these energy upgrades, the Resort is reducing its carbon footprint and enhancing local ecology through natural desert landscaping. The greens function as both a challenging golf course and a natural habitat that filters our air, reduces the urban heat island effect, manages stormwater drainage and boosts local biodiversity.

The next time you visit, see if you can spot how sustainability plays a large role in guest comfort and player satisfaction!



Please note the following hours for the Indian Wells Golf Resort

Kestrel: A Richard Blais Kitchen + Lounge

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

Sunday
Brunch: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
No Dinner Service

Happy Hour
Monday-Saturday: 3-5 p.m.
Sunday: 2-5 p.m.

Fairway Grille Hours

Daily from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Golf Shop Hours

Daily from 6 a.m.-6 p.m.

Food Truck & Shots in the Night Hours

Friday & Saturday: Sunset-10 p.m.



Celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day with Indian Wells



IW Fast Fact

The City of Indian Wells has received the Tree City USA designation from the Arbor Day Foundation four times. From 2023 to 2025, the Foundation also awarded Indian Wells the Growth Award for our outstanding tree care and community engagement.

Celebrate Earth Day and Indian Wells Arbor Day on April 22!

Recognized as a Tree City USA, the City of Indian Wells supports our urban forest by planting and maintaining trees throughout the community. This prestigious designation underscores the City's commitment to green spaces and to improving the environment for future generations. It is a symbol of our leadership in sustainability and community well-being.

In honor of Indian Wells Arbor Day on April 22, the City, in partnership with the Community Activities Committee, is giving away 50 Royal Poinciana (Delonix Regal) trees through a random online lottery. These trees will need ample space to grow into beautiful shade providers that enhance our landscape, improve air quality and shield us from heat. **Please stay tuned for more details on the tree lottery.**

After the tree giveaway in the morning, Indian Wells will host a special Earth Day Celebration on Wednesday, April 22, at the Indian Wells Golf Resort from 2-4 p.m. Join Cameron Barrows, PhD, Emeritus, Conservation Ecologist at UC Riverside, and Mikah Curtis, RVT, Director of the new Desert Wildlife Center in Indio, for a presentation about the Coachella Valley sand dune ecosystem. Tickets are $10 and there is a maximum of two per household. You must have a valid 2026 Residence Benefit Card. Register today



New Limited-Time Residence Benefit Card Discounts:
Marmelad Beauty House

Marmelad Beauty House, a local boutique day spa, has recently partnered with the City of Indian Wells to offer our Residence Benefit Card (RBC) holders a limited-time discount on their spa treatments!

MARMELAD Beauty House





RBC Holder Discounts

20% off pedicures

15% off all face and body care products available at the salon*

***excluding medical-grade products**

You must present a valid RBC to receive these benefits.
Stay tuned for future RBC benefit spotlights!

If you own a local business in Indian Wells and would like to partner with the City to offer an RBC benefit, please contact Indian Wells City Hall at (760) 346-2489.

Upcoming Coachella Valley Association of Governments

Used Motor Oil Recycling Events

Got used motor oil or filters? Drop it off at a recycling event hosted by the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG)!

Upcoming Recycling Events

- Saturday, May 2, from 8-11 a.m. at AutoZone (50-700 Harrison St., Coachella)
- Sunday, May 3, from 8-11 a.m. at AutoZone (78792 Highway 111, La Quinta)

Coachella Valley residents can bring up to five gallons of used oil per vehicle per event and trade in two used oil filters for a free replacement filter (up to $15 value; limit two free filters per household).



Congratulations to Chief Cody Wright on His Promotion to West Desert Director Chief



The City of Indian Wells congratulates Chief Cody Wright and welcomes him as the new West Desert Director Chief for the Riverside County Fire Department!

Chief Wright began his career with CAL FIRE in 2008, assigned to the Riverside Unit as a Firefighter II Paramedic. Over the next 13 years, he was promoted to Engineer Paramedic, Fire Captain B, Administrative Captain and Battalion Chief, all due to his hard work and dedication to keeping the communities he served safe.

Before joining CAL FIRE, Chief Wright was a Fire Explorer in the City of Monrovia and later became a cadet for the Alhambra Fire Department. He completed his EMT training, attended the fire academy and finished paramedic school at Mt. San Antonio College, earning an Associate of Science degree in Fire Technology and another degree in Emergency Medical Services.

Chief Wright has previously earned the State Fire Marshal Chief Officer designation and is currently completing the Executive Chief Officer designation. He serves as a Finance Section Chief on the RVC All-Hazards Type 3 Team and is also a qualified Division and Strike Team Leader.

As the new Fire Chief responsible for Indian Wells and the Coachella Valley, Chief Wright looks forward to serving our community and enhancing safety and health.

Indian Wells Participates in I-REN Energy Efficiency Initiative (Cash for Kilowatts)

As part of Indian Wells' conservation and sustainability efforts, the City is participating in the Inland Residential Energy Network's (I-REN) "Cash for Kilowatts" initiative.

This program provides technical support and financial incentives to help public agencies and businesses reduce utility costs and environmental impact.

Recent efficiency upgrades at the Public Works Yard/ Maintenance Building include:

- **Cool Roof Application:** A reflective coating that deflects sunlight and lowers indoor temperatures.
- **High-Efficiency HVAC:** A new air conditioning unit designed for regular climate control with less power.
- **Modern Ice Machine:** An energy-optimized unit that reduces daily electrical draw.

Once the Public Works Yard/Maintenance Building is completely upgraded, it is estimated that Indian Wells will save:

- **$9,210** in lifetime savings on electric utility bills
- **19.7 tons** CO_2 equivalent
- **34,165 kWh** of lifetime energy savings
- **326 tree seedlings** growing for 10 years
- **2.7 homes** of energy use for one year

Building on these upgrades, the City is currently working with I-REN to implement similar energy-saving enhancements at the Indian Wells Fire Station. These proactive upgrades ensure that essential facilities operate at peak efficiency while supporting our sustainability goals.

Shaping the Future:
Strategic Planning & State of the City Recap

Thank you to everyone who attended our annual Strategic Planning session and State of the City Address!

Strategic Planning

The Strategic Planning Session with City staff, City Council and Indian Wells Golf Resort staff was successful, resulting in six adopted goals that will guide our City for the next year.

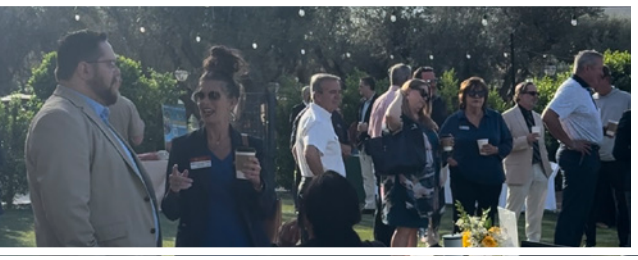
This annual meeting functions as a formal evaluation of current operations, infrastructure needs and community values. Goals are designed to ensure every project and budget decision aligns with the high standards for quality of life in Indian Wells.

During Strategic Planning, the City Council authorized City staff to advance housing and public safety initiatives by developing the Lissoy Opportunity Site and pursuing a Class 1 ISO fire safety rating. To ensure long-term fiscal sustainability and infrastructure quality, the City is conducting a government efficiency study while planning extensive road, sidewalk and fountain upgrades. Additionally, officials are enhancing resident quality of life through expanded Residence Benefit Card discounts and the pursuit of a major professional golf tournament for the Indian Wells Golf Resort.

Click to find out more.

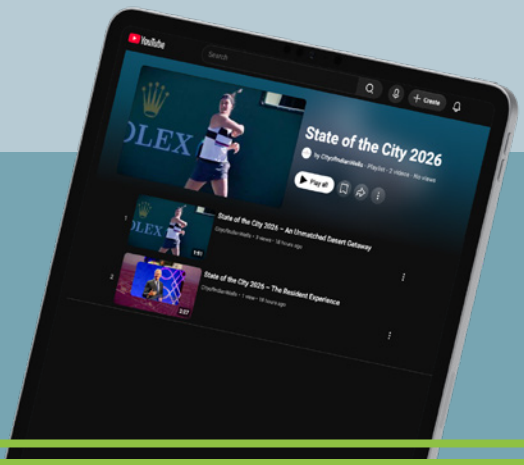






State of the City

Following the planning session, Indian Wells hosted our annual State of the City (SOTC) & Hospitality Awards in partnership with the Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce. By connecting past achievements with the newly adopted strategic goals for the year ahead, the City is well-positioned for a sustainable and prosperous future.



Missed the State of the City?

Don't worry! You can watch the highlight videos from the comfort of your home.

Watch the SOTC Videos

South Coast AQMD
Electric Lawn & Garden Equipment Rebate Program



Indian Wells residents and local business owners can now take advantage of incentive programs that encourage swapping gas-powered yard equipment for cleaner, quieter electric alternatives. These programs are offered through the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) to help improve regional air quality and reduce emissions.

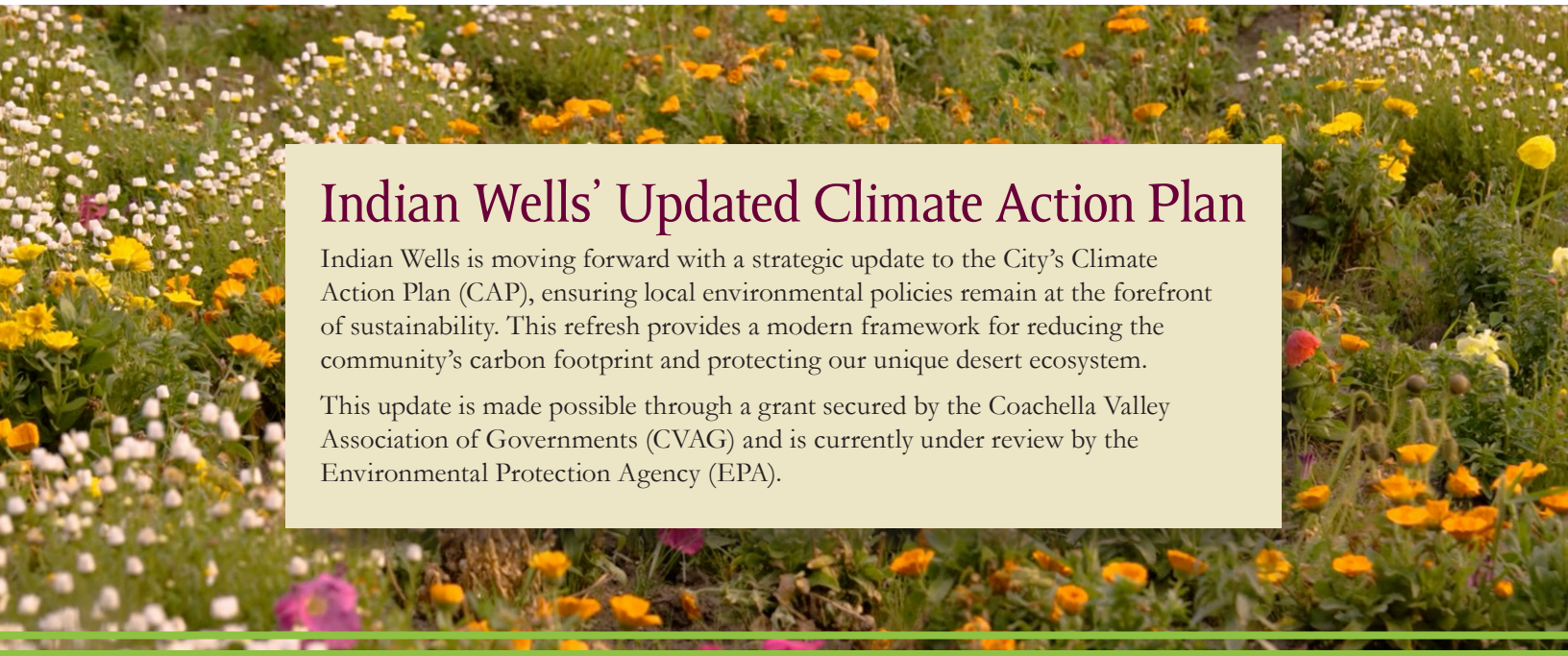
Up to **$250 rebate**
for eligible Indian Wells homeowners

LEARN MORE

Significant discounts and rebates
for business owners in Indian Wells

LEARN MORE

Note: These incentive programs are administered exclusively by South Coast AQMD. Interested residents and business owners should contact South Coast AQMD with any questions.



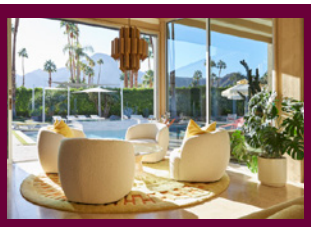
Indian Wells' Updated Climate Action Plan

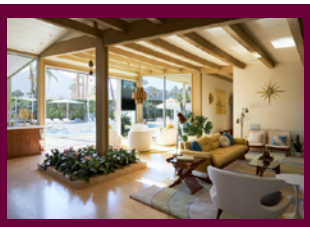
Indian Wells is moving forward with a strategic update to the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP), ensuring local environmental policies remain at the forefront of sustainability. This refresh provides a modern framework for reducing the community's carbon footprint and protecting our unique desert ecosystem.

This update is made possible through a grant secured by the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) and is currently under review by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Indian Wells 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 Preservation Foundation (IWPF) carefully selected these properties based on rigorous criteria, including architectural merit, cultural relevance and connections to prominent individuals or significant events.





Petrie House, 1963 | 45-755 Cielito Drive

Designed in 1963 by William F. Cody, this home, lovingly titled 'the Monterey,' was described as "an unusual Romantic Spanish type home." Cody designed several "spec" houses for the Desert Bel Air Estates, including this one, which departed from his typical design style, with its "Spanish Mission plaster" walls and roughhewn beams.

Thank you for tuning in as we explored the legacy and stories behind the landmarks that help define the character and heritage of Indian Wells, thanks to the IWPF.

Want to support Indian Wells' unique past while gaining access to exclusive events and updates about historic designations or conservations?

Register to be an IWPF member today!

Submit Pictures of Indian Wells for a Chance to be Featured!

Help us highlight the sustainable beauty of Indian Wells! From our protected desert vistas to our water-wise community spaces, we're looking for photos that showcase how our City thrives in harmony with nature. Submit your original photos for a chance to be featured on our official social media channels or in an upcoming newsletter.

Send your photos to Community@IndianWells.com for an opportunity to be highlighted and enjoyed by the community.

Please ensure photos showcase locations within Indian Wells and do not include identifiable people, including children. By submitting, you authorize the City to use your photo in promotional materials, including social media, videos, newsletters, the City website and IW-TV.



Upcoming Meetings

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

April 9 — Community Activities Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall

April 15 — Public Safety Committee Meeting
Indian Wells Golf Resort

April 16 — City Council Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall

April 28 — Indian Wells Golf Resort Advisory Committee Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall

April 30 — Planning Commission Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall

May 13 — Joint Budget Study Session
Indian Wells City Hall

Upcoming Events

April 18-19 — Inaugural Indian Wells Golf Championship
Indian Wells Golf Resort

April 20 — Resident Afternoon Paint Party
Indian Wells Golf Resort

April 22 — Indian Wells Arbor Day Tree Giveaway
Indian Wells City Hall

April 22 — Indian Wells Earth Day Celebration
2-4 p.m.
Indian Wells Golf Resort

April 25 — Shred Event
7-11 a.m.
Indian Wells City Hall

May 6 — Coffee with the Indian Wells Golf Resort General Manager
8-9:30 a.m.
Indian Wells Golf Resort

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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