City of Indian Wells
Monthly Newsletter
August 2026



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There were no regular City Council Meetings in July 2026. During the Special City Council Meeting on July 2, the City Council unanimously adopted a resolution to place a ballot measure before Indian Wells voters at the General Municipal Election on Nov. 3, 2026. The proposed measure would update and clarify the language in the City's Admissions Tax ordinance regarding which organizations qualify for an exemption. More information is available at CityOfIndianWells.org/MeasureH.

Council Meeting Agendas

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



IW by the Numbers

In FY 25/26, Indian Wells secured **$6.5 million** in approved grant funding and has submitted for another **$14.9 million** to help fund the community's capital improvement projects.

Letter From the City Manager

Dear Indian Wells Residents,

I hope you are enjoying your summer! With the high temperatures, make sure to:

- Stay inside during the hottest part of the day.
- Wear light, breathable clothing, sunscreen and a hat if you go outside.
- Drink plenty of water.

If you need a place to cool down with free air conditioning and water available, please visit a Riverside County Cooling Center.

In other news, it is my pleasure to announce that the Indian Wells Tennis Garden will be hosting the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Finals from Nov. 8-15. This prestigious championship is a highly competitive, popular tennis event that will welcome tennis fans from around the world to our slice of paradise. The top eight singles players and doubles teams will compete in Indian Wells for one of the largest prize pools in women's sports. We are proud to continue our tennis legacy, now hosting two major tournaments, including the BNP Paribas Open. Stay tuned for more information on event details and ticket sales!

Looking ahead, the City of Indian Wells is preparing to celebrate its 60th anniversary. As we approach this significant milestone, we will be commemorating six decades of community, innovation and excellence that have shaped Indian Wells into the special place it is today. Residents can look forward to a variety of exciting events, programs and opportunities to celebrate throughout the coming year. Keep an eye out for more details as we mark this historic occasion together.

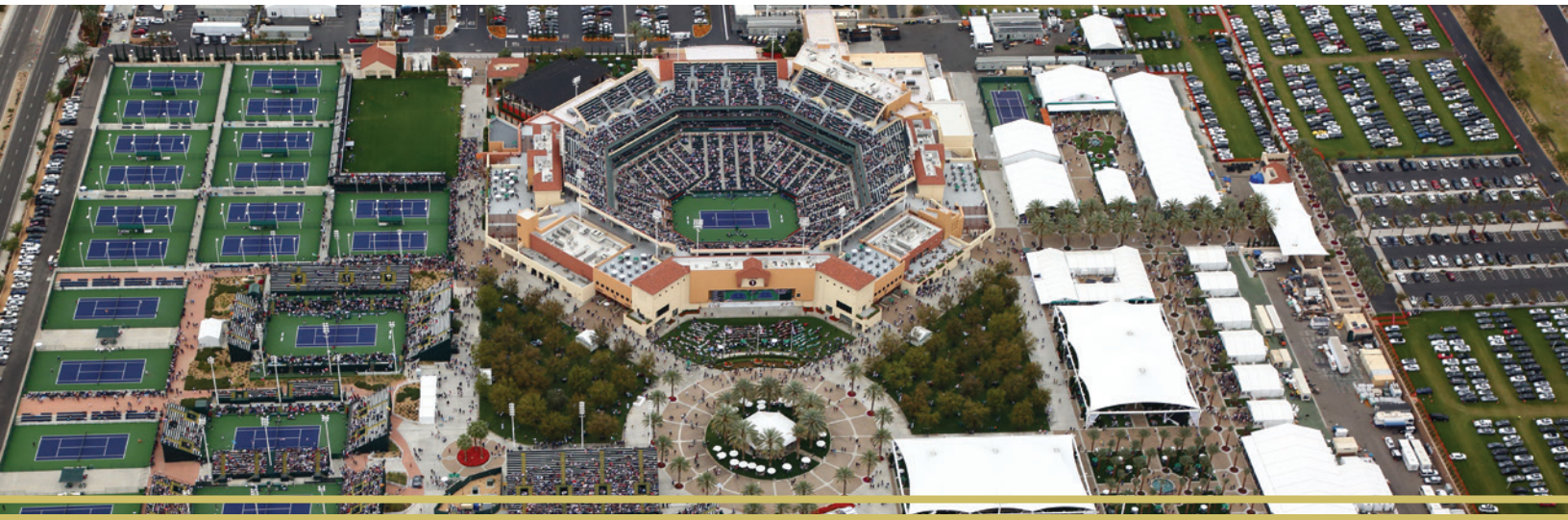
If you need anything, feel free to visit us at City Hall or call (760) 346-2489.

Best wishes,



Dr. Chris Freeland

Dr. Chris Freeland
City Manager



Summer at the Indian Wells Golf Resort

Please note the following summer hours for the Indian Wells Golf Resort:*

Kestrel: A Richard Blais Kitchen + Lounge

Monday & Tuesday
Closed

Wednesday & Thursday
Lunch: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Friday & Saturday
Lunch: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Kocktail Hour: 3-5 p.m.
Dinner: 5-9 p.m.

Sunday Brunch
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Beverage Cart

Daily: 7 a.m.-12 p.m.

Fairway Grille

Daily: 6 a.m.-12 p.m.

Golf Shop

Sunday-Thursday
6 a.m.-2 p.m.

Friday & Saturday
6 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Hours subject to change*

Upcoming events at Kestrel

Sinatra & Supper Night: Aug. 14
Brings a classic supper club atmosphere with steakhouse favorites and live music.

Luau Night: Sept. 11 at 5 p.m. Featuring Hawaiian-inspired cuisine, tropical cocktails and energetic island-themed atmosphere.

Summer is a great time to visit the Indian Wells Golf Resort! With plenty of tee times available and lower rates, golfers can enjoy the Resort's amenities without the lines.

After finishing a round, visit Kestrel: A Richard Blais Kitchen + Lounge for a quick bite and specialty cocktail to cool down. Enjoy new summer menu items that bring a creative culinary twist to light and fresh ingredients, including a flight of deviled eggs, three new salads, Baja fish tacos and a green goddess chicken sandwich.

Want to experience a specialty event at Kestrel? Now's your chance! The restaurant is hosting Sinatra & Supper Night on Aug. 14 and a Luau Night on Sept. 11. The Sinatra & Supper event will feature steakhouse favorites and live music, while the Luau Night will bring a variety of Hawaiian-inspired cuisine, tropical cocktails and a visit from Chef Richard Blais. Reserve your spot today!



Indian Wells Wins ICMA's Local Government Excellence Award



In recognition of its strategic planning process, the City of Indian Wells received the Strategic Leadership and Governance Award at the International City/County Management Association's (ICMA) 2026 Local Government Excellence Awards.

This designation celebrates outstanding and innovative local government programs and processes that have significantly affected the City's culture or strategic direction.

Since 2022, Indian Wells has fundamentally redefined its governance model through a rigorous, integrated annual strategic planning process. This initiative transitioned the organization to a high-performance framework that synchronizes the City Council's vision with departmental execution and fiscal discipline. It ensures that every capital project, grant application and budgetary allocation is a direct extension of Council-approved, resident-centered goals, creating a transparent and measurable roadmap for community excellence.

To learn more about Indian Wells' Strategic Planning process, visit the Strategic Planning webpage.



IW Fast Fact

Indian Wells is home to the Coachella Valley Scorpions, a professional pickleball team of players aged 40 and older at the Desert Horizons Country Club.

Indian Wells Police Department Staffing Updates

Over the summer, the Indian Wells Police Department evaluated its previous staffing model in coordination with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department and adjusted job roles as necessary. Notably, Deputy Ortiz-Aguilar and Deputy Andrade have transitioned from patrol operations in the community to the Indian Wells Special Enforcement Team (SET), while Deputy Cook has transferred to the Rancho Mirage Police Department.

With these staff adjustments, your local officers continue to patrol our community and respond to calls for service. The Indian Wells Police Department is committed to keeping our City safe, including offering some of the fastest response times in the Coachella Valley and reducing crime.





Apply Today for the Grants-in-Aid Program

Indian Wells' Grants-in-Aid program is now open for the 2026 season! The application is available online and is due on Thursday, Sept. 3, at 5 p.m.

The program gives tax-exempt, nonprofit organizations under section 501(c)(3) with at least five years in business the opportunity to apply for funding to assist with community services provided to the Coachella Valley.

Apply Today!

City of Indian Wells Announces Tree-Trimming Moratorium to Proactively Address Potential Impacts to Protected Wildlife Species

The City of Indian Wells announced a temporary moratorium on tree trimming enforcement, effective through the end of September. Residents and businesses in Indian Wells were not required to trim their palm trees by July 30. However, property owners are still responsible for cleaning up any fruit/dates that drop on the ground — which continue to be considered a nuisance per Section 8.08.060 (aa)(3) and will continue to be enforced as normal. The City Council will review and consider modifications to the City's tree trimming ordinance to incorporate Best Management Practices (BMPs) while ensuring compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and other applicable state and federal wildlife protections.

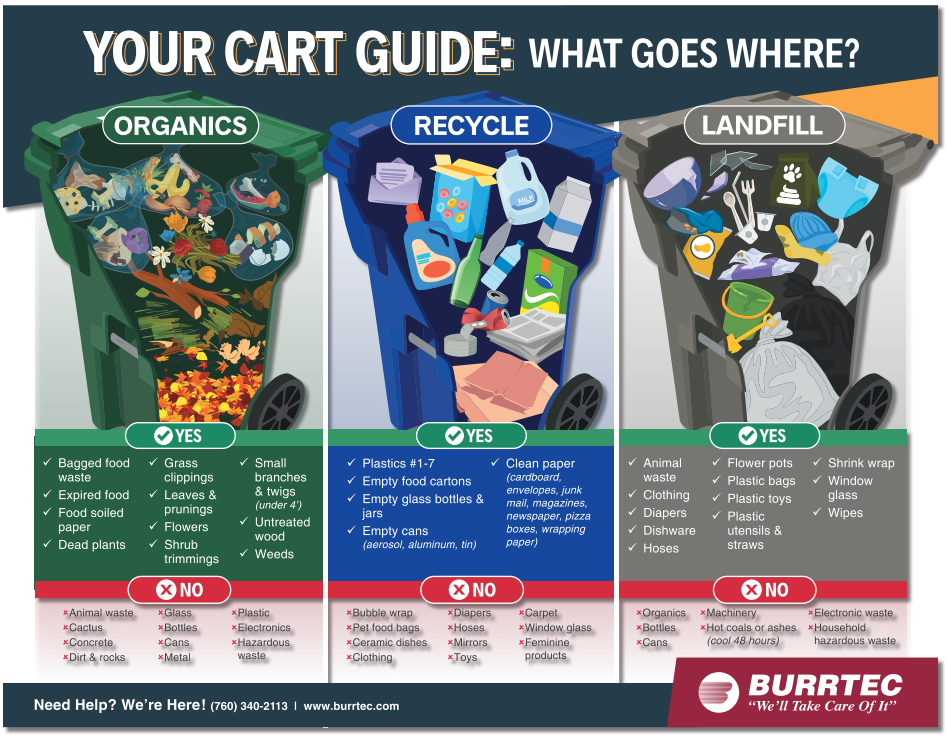
Indian Wells is committed to being a responsible steward of our unique desert environment and the wildlife that calls it home.

"This is an opportunity for Indian Wells to lead by example — being proactive to develop solutions that protect our local wildlife and the Valley's ecosystem while maintaining the high quality of life our residents and business owners expect," said City Manager Chris Freeland. "We look forward to working with wildlife experts, HOAs and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments toward a harmonious community for both local wildlife and residents."

If you have any concerns about palm trees on your property, please contact City Hall at (760) 346-2489 for assistance.

Trash, Green Waste and Recycling Disposal in Indian Wells

Burrtec provides each Indian Wells resident with three carts to help our community properly dispose of waste. Do you know what goes in each cart?



Help keep our community clean and properly dispose of your waste for a green future!

Green Cart: Organics

Organic material only, including yard clippings and food waste. Please do not put animal waste, cactus, dirt, rocks, glass, bottles, cans, metal, plastic, electronics, hazardous waste or other trash in the green bin.

Blue Cart: Recycle

Recyclable materials only, including certain plastics, empty glass bottles, jars, cans and food cartons and clean paper. Please do not put bubble wrap, pet food bags, ceramic dishes, clothing, diapers, hoses, mirrors, toys, carpet, window glass, feminine products or other waste in the blue bin.

Gray Cart: Landfill

Trash that cannot go in the green and blue carts. Please do not put organics, bottles, cans, machinery, hot coals or ashes, electronic waste or household hazardous products in your gray bin.



Protecting Our Rainwater

Rain Ready California

There may not be any rain in the forecast, but now is the perfect time to get Rain Ready in Indian Wells!

There are a variety of home improvements that can help our community collect stormwater and be more water-wise, including rain barrels, cisterns, gardens and permeable pavers.

Let's prepare for the future and protect our water!



Get CPR and First Aid Certified



The American Red Cross and Palm Desert Resuscitation Education, LLC, offer inclusive classes to better equip our community to respond in an emergency.

Emergencies can happen anytime, anywhere — and often when we least expect them. By getting certified in CPR and First Aid, residents gain the skills and confidence needed to respond quickly and effectively in critical situations.

Whether it's helping a neighbor during a medical crisis or providing care until professionals arrive, your training could mean the difference between life and death.

Get certified today:

- American Red Cross
- Palm Desert Resuscitation Education, LLC



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

From our striking desert landscapes to the everyday beauty of our neighborhoods, we want to see what you love about our City. 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 a chance to be featured.

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 IWTV.

Upcoming Events

AUG. 5 Coffee with a Cop
8-10 a.m.
Indian Wells Golf Resort Players Room

Upcoming City Hall Closures

AUG. 24 Annual City Hall File Clean-Up Day

SEPT. 7 Labor Day

Upcoming Meetings

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

AUG. 20 Special Community Activities Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall

AUG. 25 Indian Wells Golf Resort Advisory Committee Meeting
Indian Wells Golf Resort

AUG. 27 Planning Commission Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall

SEPT. 3 City Council Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall



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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Nixle: Text 92210 to 888777