City of Indian Wells
Monthly Newsletter



Photo Courtesy of Gabo Garcia from G Social Now

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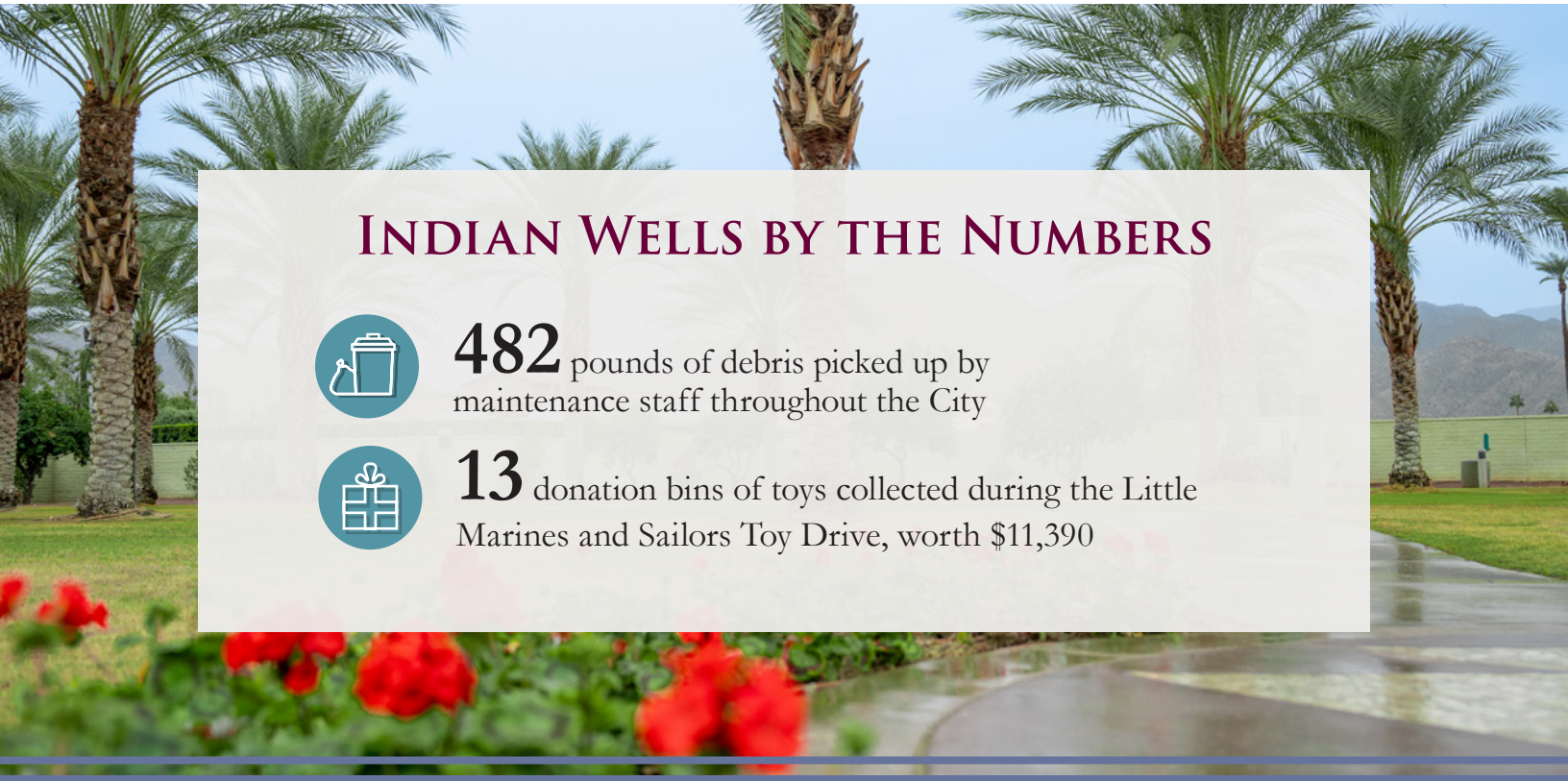
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Indian Wells by the Numbers

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

13 donation bins of toys collected during the Little Marines and Sailors Toy Drive, worth $11,390

Letter From The City Manager

Dear Indian Wells Residents,

Happy New Year! 2025 was a prosperous year for Indian Wells, with many momentous achievements and exciting events, both of which were supported by our Council's leadership and the City's solid financial footing. In 2025, the City again hosted the BNP Paribas Open and the Epson Tour Championship, events that drew visitors from all over the world. We also hosted exclusive resident events, including holiday celebrations, a wellness week and seasonal parties that reflect the City's commitment to providing an exceptional lifestyle for all who call Indian Wells home.

Notably, the Indian Wells Golf Resort launched the Players Course redesign last March and completed construction this fall. In December, we proudly welcomed golfers, media and community members to a grand opening celebration for the course, showcasing its reimagined design and refreshed holes.

The City of Indian Wells upheld its standing as one of California's most fiscally healthy and well-managed cities in 2025, maintaining a steadfast commitment to long-term sustainability.

In line with this, the City projects approximately $29.4 million in revenue for the General Fund over the next two years. With budgeted expenditures around $24.6 million, Indian Wells anticipates a surplus of approximately $5 million to reinvest in the community.



For a more in-depth look at Indian Wells' budget and finances, we invite you to watch our new Budget at a Glance video or review the full Budget at a Glance document.

The City also made steady progress on all of our strategic goals in 2025, including:

SAFETY

Safeguarding the Community: Indian Wells introduced a new motorcycle officer to address traffic enforcement in the community, approved a new fire staffing model at our local fire station to ensure a dedicated Fire Captain is dispatched to each service call to increase patient evaluation, efficiency, operational oversight and safety and remains committed to providing resources to residents through emergency preparedness backpacks and other initiatives.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Fiscal Responsibility and Sustainability: To ensure fiscal stability, the City maintains transparency in our budget process while actively securing external grant funding to fuel our community's infrastructure and growth. The City was awarded over $8.2 million in grants in FY 2025-26.

DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

Encourage Development and Tourism: Indian Wells has welcomed new executive leadership across our resort partners, bringing fresh expertise to enhance our world-class offerings and drive local economic impact.

Investing in Infrastructure and Amenities: The City completed a multitude of infrastructure projects this year to increase resident safety and overall satisfaction, including improving the intersection at Miles Avenue and Washington Street by adding an extended right-turn lane and reshaping and enlarging the corner for the right turn from southbound Washington Street to westbound Miles Avenue, repaving local roads and more. For FY 2026-30, the City has set aside $69,010,876 for Capital Improvement Projects.

Enhancing Quality of Life: Recent upgrades include new offerings under the Residence Benefit Card program, which features a new virtual card system and physical card for purchase.

Housing Authority: The City remains dedicated to providing high-quality affordable and senior housing at Mountain View Villas and Indian Wells Villas. We collaborate closely with organizations such as Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), Housing First, FIND Food Bank, Coachella Valley Rescue Mission and Martha's Village & Kitchen to deliver a comprehensive network of services that enhance the well-being of our entire community. Indian Wells has committed over $500,000 in FY 2025-26 to support nonprofit organizations delivering essential services throughout the Coachella Valley.

Indian Wells Golf Resort: Following a nine-month renovation, the Players Course has reopened with enhanced playability and safety features. This investment, in addition to Kestrel Kitchen + Lounge, a local favorite that continues to receive accolades, elevates the golfer experience and is projected to drive significant revenue growth in the years ahead. 2026 is also set to bring the improved Shots in the Night putting course.

Various Other City Strategies and Initiatives: Indian Wells continues to work on other initiatives to benefit the community beyond the identified goals.

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



Best wishes and Happy New Year,

Dr. Chris Freeland

Dr. Chris Freeland
City Manager



Indian Wells Golf Resort News

The Indian Wells Golf Resort Players Course is now open for play!

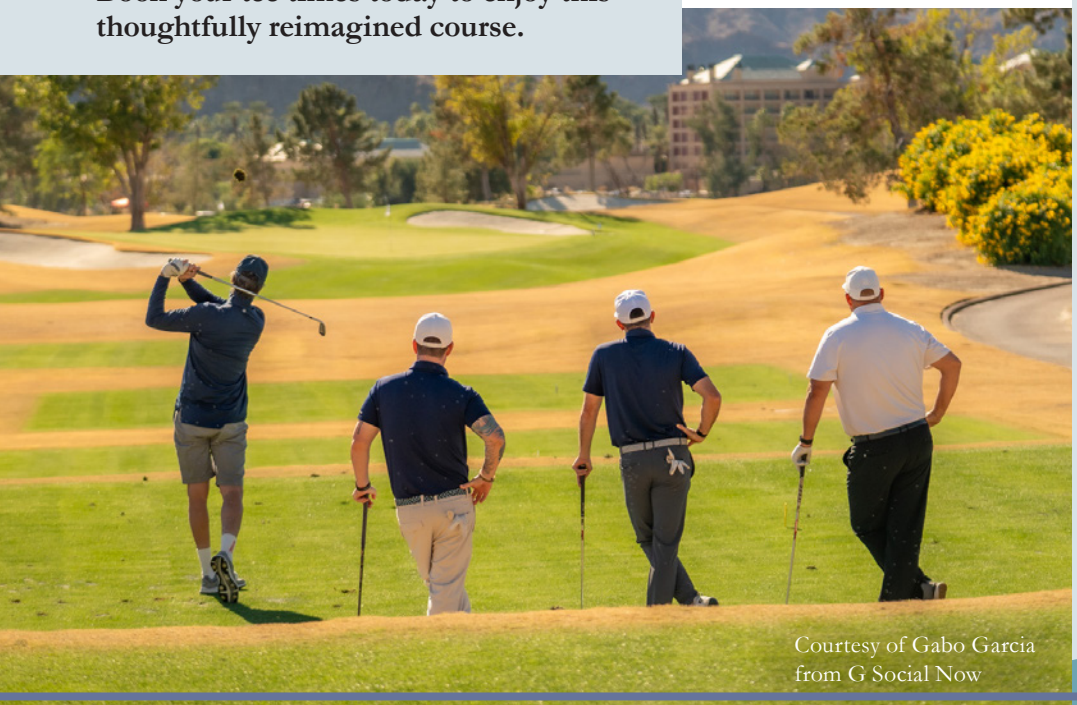
At the beginning of last month, course designer and architect John Fought, City staff, elected officials, Golf Resort staff, famed golfers and community members held a grand opening ceremony to commemorate the occasion.

After nine months of renovations, John Fought and then-Mayor Bruce Whitman opened the course for play by hitting off ceremonial first tee shots on the course. Following those first swings, special guests, including golf influencers and professional golfers, played an afternoon on the fairways of the newly reimagined course.

Indian Wells Golf Resort Players Course Renovation Stats

- 2 relocated holes
- 1 refreshed hole
- Shift from Par 72 to Par 71

Book your tee times today to enjoy this thoughtfully reimagined course.



Courtesy of Gabo Garcia from G Social Now

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.
- 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

Food Truck Hours

Daily from 6-9 a.m.

Fairway Grille Hours

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

Golf Shop Hours

Daily from 6 a.m.-5 p.m.



Welcome Dr. Toper Taylor and Brian M. Penna

as Indian Wells' 2026 Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem!

Congratulations to Dr. Toper Taylor and Brian M. Penna on their appointments as the new City of Indian Wells 2026 Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem!



Mayor Dr. Taylor was elected to the City Council in 2024. He is a successful entrepreneur, strategist, curiositist, Emmy award-winning producer, Doctor of Policy, Planning and Development and expert of intention and subtle energetic sciences. Mayor Dr. Taylor also serves on the board of councilors for the USC Roski School of Fine Arts & Design, the USC Cinematic Arts alumni association and is the recipient of the USC President's Volunteer Award.



Mayor Pro Tem Brian M. Penna was elected to the City Council in 2024. He is a passionate advocate for community development and environmental stewardship. Before his election to the council, he led successful fundraising efforts to restore the Santa Rosa Plateau following a devastating forest fire in Murrieta. His dedication to his local community is further reflected in his five years of volunteer service as Chair of the Architectural Committee at the Jack Nicklaus Bear Creek Country Club.

City Council Members Bruce Whitman, Dana Reed and Greg Sanders round out the 2026 City Council. Learn more at CityOfIndianWells.org/CityCouncil



Mark Your Calendars for the 2026 BNP Paribas Open

February 2 — General Ticket Form Opens (until sold out) 8:30 a.m.

February 9 — Residents' Day Sign Up Form Opens 8 a.m.

March 5 — Residents' Day



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.

Erawan Garden Hotel, 1963 | 76-477 Highway 111



The Erawan Garden Hotel was originally built in 1963. It was demolished in 1995 and rebuilt as a Tuscan-themed resort, which was later rebranded in 2024 as the Tommy Bahama Miramonte Resort & Spa. Before its demolition, the hotel was famous for its fire-breathing dragon sculpture, which occasionally brought out firefighters when the flames grew too large.

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.



Winter Storm Resources

For reliable, easy-to-follow guidance on staying safe during severe winter weather, be sure to visit the Storm Season Safety page at News.CalOES.CA.gov/StormSeason. This one-stop resource offers practical preparedness tips for snow and ice, heavy rain and flooding, debris flows and periods of extreme cold and high winds. Whether you're getting your home ready, planning your commute or looking for ways to protect your family during a storm, the page provides clear steps to help you stay informed and prepared all season long.

Discover Local Flavor at the Indian Wells Farmers Market

Join us every Thursday from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., through May 2026, at 44-175 Washington Street (the parking lot of Southwest Church) for a fresh and lively farmers market!

Each week, residents and visitors can browse a rotating mix of fresh produce, baked goods and handcrafted items from local growers and artisans. Whether you're stocking up on fruits and veggies or browsing handmade crafts, the market offers something for every taste.



Kick Off the New Year Clutter-Free
Bulky Item Reminders

As we welcome a new year, many residents take the opportunity to declutter, refresh their homes and dispose of old or broken items. Indian Wells would like to remind the community that bulky items, appliances, electronics and household hazardous waste should not be placed in your curbside waste or recycling bins.

Instead, residents are encouraged to schedule a convenient special item pick-up through Burrtec. This service helps ensure that large or hazardous items are collected safely and disposed of properly.

Residents may call Burrtec at (760) 340-2113 to schedule a pick-up for the following materials:

- Appliances
- Furniture
- Electronic Waste (including batteries)
- Household Hazardous Waste

Temporary Location Change: The January 24 Shred Event will take place at Indian Wells City Hall from 7-11 a.m.

Pet Etiquette Reminder
Keeping Indian Wells Safe & Clean

As we begin the new year, Indian Wells reminds all residents of the important rules outlined in the Riverside County Code, Title 6 (Animals) regarding responsible pet ownership. These regulations help ensure the safety, comfort and cleanliness of our community:

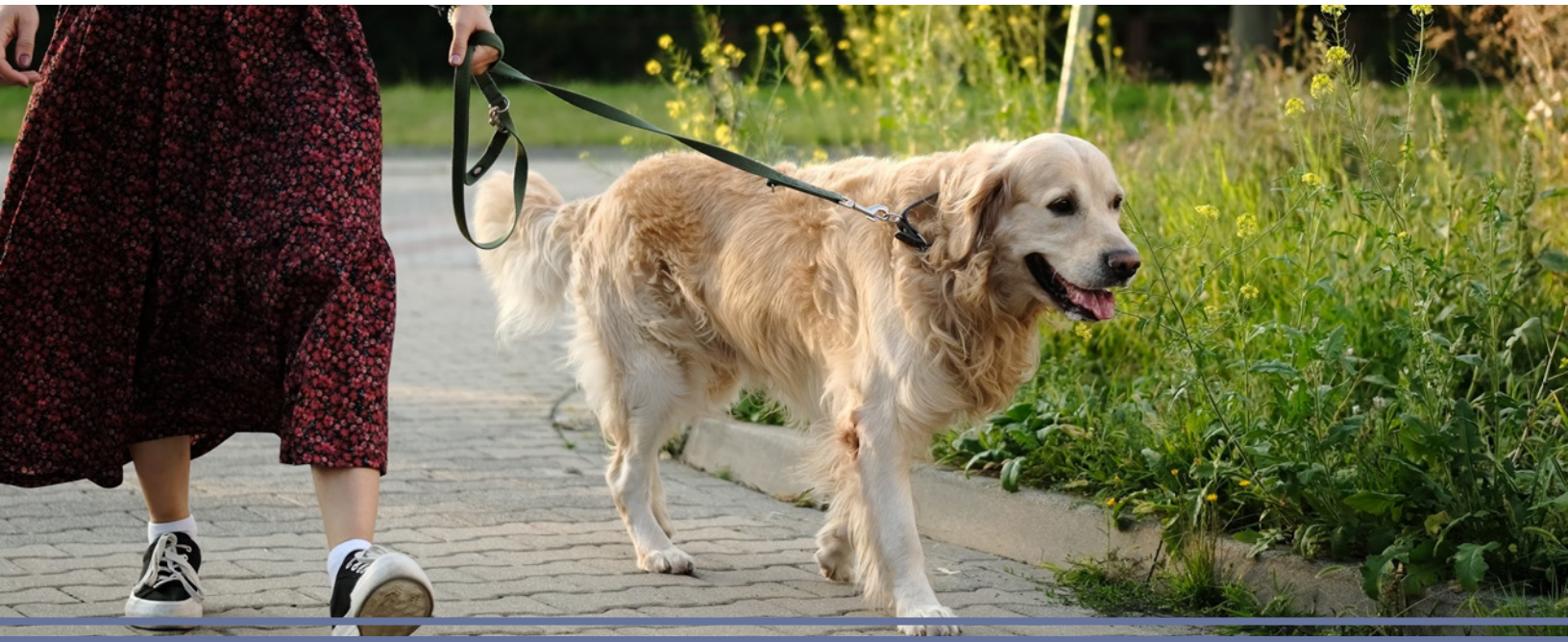
Dogs must remain on a leash.

Whenever you are walking your dog in public areas, including parks, sidewalks and common spaces, please ensure your pet is securely leashed and under your control at all times. This helps prevent unexpected encounters with wildlife, other pets or neighbors.

Please pick up after your pets.

Pet waste left on sidewalks, yards, trails or landscaped areas poses health risks and detracts from the beauty of our community. Always carry waste bags during walks and dispose of them properly.

Thank you for helping keep Indian Wells safe, clean and enjoyable for all.



Indian Wells Fire Station to Transition to Municipal Staffing



At the December City Council meeting, the Indian Wells City Council approved a transition from traditional staffing to municipal staffing for the Fire Station.

Under the current traditional staffing model, the fire engine is manned by one company officer (either a captain or an engineer), one firefighter and one firefighter paramedic. With the new municipal staffing model, the engine is required to be staffed by both a captain and an engineer, along with one firefighter paramedic.

This important change, being rolled out county-wide by Riverside County and CalFIRE, aims to increase efficiency, operational oversight and safety. Municipal staffing enables the fire captain to manage the incident scene, while the engineer focuses on operating the fire engine systems, thereby improving the overall effectiveness of the response.

The transition to municipal staffing is set to take place in July 2026. This change will help Indian Wells align with industry-standard staffing models, enhancing safety for both our community and our firefighters.



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

Winter brings a unique kind of beauty to Indian Wells, and we'd love to see it through your lens. Capture your favorite seasonal scenes from around the City and share them 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.

COVE COMMUNITIES SENIOR ASSOCIATION
THE JOSLYN CENTER

Joslyn Senior Center Activities & Programs

The Joslyn Center is committed to enriching the lives of senior adults through innovative health, recreational and social programs. Their diverse offerings include exercise classes, cards and games, performing arts, creative workshops, sports, cultural activities and wellness services, each designed to support connection, vitality and lifelong learning.

Learn more at JoslynCenter.org.



Upcoming Meetings

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

January 15 — City Council Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall

February 5 — City Council Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall

Upcoming Events

January 14 — Coffee and Conversation with the City Manager
8-9 a.m.
Indian Wells City Hall

January 19 — City Hall Closure
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 21 — Acrisure Arena Resident Night

January 24 — Shred Event
7-11 a.m.
Indian Wells City Hall

February 4 — Coffee with a Cop
8-10 a.m.
Indian Wells Golf Resort, Players Room

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