City of Indian Wells
Monthly Newsletter
June 2026



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IW Fast Fact

As part of the mid-cycle budget review, the City Council identified that approximately $21 million in revenues, or 70% of our revenue budget, comes from tourism. The majority of this revenue comes from world-class recreation and lodging, which generates millions in state and local taxes, effectively offsetting the tax burden for local residents.

Letter From the City Manager

Dear Indian Wells Residents,

The first day of summer is just a few weeks away! While many of you prepare to be away on vacation, our staff use this slower period to reset and prioritize tasks that require extra attention. Notably, we have many exciting projects that will begin construction soon, including:

- **Phase 5 of Local Roads Paving:** The City will pave select neighborhood streets south of Highway 111.
- **The Eisenhower Walk of Honor Extension & Enhancement:** The City will add another stone to the monument to honor additional service members living in Indian Wells.
- **Fairway Park Shade Tree Installation:** The City will plant additional shade trees throughout the park to enhance its beauty and create cool, comfortable spaces for everyone to enjoy.
- **Community Garden Enhancements:** City staff will rename the garden after Jan Oliphant, founder of the Indian Wells Garden Club, and increase plot space.
- **Fire Station Commemoration:** The City will rename the Indian Wells fire station in honor of former Mayor and the City's first Fire Chief, Richard (Dick) Oliphant. An event in the fall will commemorate the naming of the station as part of Indian Wells' 60th anniversary celebration.

In addition to these projects, City staff are also working to finalize design work for the following projects:

- **Celebrity Course Rehabilitation:** The City will upgrade the almost 20-year-old course to improve irrigation, turf and course features, maintaining playability and revenue.
- **Indian Wells Golf Resort Pavilion Kitchen:** The City will add a special event kitchen at the Pavilion to increase opportunities for weddings and other special events year-round.
- **Whitewater Channel Lining Reinforcement:** The City is strengthening the channel to reduce erosion and improve flood protection.
- **Safer Streets Indian Wells:** This project will incorporate traffic-calming features to promote safer travel for all on Eldorado Drive, Fairway Drive, Rancho Palmeras Drive and Cook Street.
- **Shots in the Night Putting Course Redesign:** The City will upgrade to an artificial turf putting course, increasing opportunities for play for all ages.

Thank you for your continued patience and engagement as we work to improve the quality of life for all in Indian Wells. Learn more about current projects.

Now through June 7, Indian Wells and the other Greater Palm Springs cities are celebrating Restaurant Week! Enjoy exclusive menus and offers at our best dining spots. See participating restaurants and make a reservation today. For every reservation booked through the Greater Palm Springs Restaurant Week page, $1 will be donated to FIND Food Bank.

Looking for other spots to dine locally? Make sure to check out our interactive restaurant map to find your next bite.

If you have any questions, please visit us at City Hall or call (760) 346-2489. I hope you have an enjoyable and relaxing season, and we look forward to seeing you soon!



Dr. Chris Freeland

Dr. Chris Freeland
City Manager

Council Meeting Highlights: May 2026



Dr. Toper Taylor
Mayor



Brian M. Penna
Mayor Pro Tem



Bruce Whitman
Council Member



Greg Sanders
Council Member



Dana Reed
Council Member

- The City Council welcomed Michelle Molina, the new Senior Executive Assistant to the City Manager, and Julie Mignogna, the new Public Works Manager.
- The City Council recognized the Indian Wells Public Works Department in celebration of National Public Works Week.
- The City Council approved a supplemental appropriation of $150,000 for the City's cost share with the City of La Quinta for the Washington Street Bridge Maintenance Project via the Caltrans Bridge Preventive Maintenance Program.
- The City Council and Indian Wells staff continue advocacy efforts to address the flight path changes into Palm Springs Airport. The City has hired Law firm DLA Piper to assist in discussions with the FAA.
- The City Council approved easement and exchange agreements with the Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa. With these agreements, the City will receive $3 million in cash and ownership of the 8.6 acres of land that house the Indian Wells Golf Resort Club House, the Golf Resort parking lots and the driving range. The one-acre parcel on the former hole 18 will be used for a new parking lot to support the Golf Resort. Additionally, the City will also gain ownership of Indian Wells Lane entering the Golf Resort and a one-acre parcel from the former hole 18. In exchange, the Renaissance Esmeralda will build out 6.9 acres to expand resort facilities, including its pool and recreation area for guests, in order to accommodate sold-out occupancy.



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

Indian Wells Golf Resort News

Please note the following summer hours for the Indian Wells Golf Resort, starting June 15.*

*Hours subject to change

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.

Happy 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.



It's Time to Trim Your Palm Trees



In order to comply with the City's Municipal Code, residents must follow the guidelines below:

- **Date Palm Trees** must be trimmed by June 30.
- **Washingtonia Palms and Fan Palms** must be trimmed by July 30.

The City recommends trimming your palms closer to the deadlines after the final bloom is assured to avoid repeat trimming expenses.

For more details, **visit our palm tree guidelines webpage.**

Indian Wells Welcomes Sergeant Stan and Deputy Abrego





The City of Indian Wells is pleased to welcome Sergeant Stan and Deputy Abrego to the Indian Wells Sheriff's Station.

Sergeant Stan has been with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department for over 15 years. During that time, he was assigned to the Larry D. Smith Correction Facility and later transferred to the Palm Desert Sheriff's Station, where he served on various teams, including the Palm Desert Business District Team and the Palm Desert Special Enforcement Team.

In 2020, Sergeant Stan was promoted to Corporal and six months later to Sergeant. He was then transferred to the Thermal Sheriff's Station Patrol Operations before returning to the Palm Desert Station. Recently, he supervised the Indian Wells Traffic Enforcement and Reconstruction Team and has been assigned to the Indian Wells Special Enforcement Team.

Deputy Abrego has served the Riverside County Sheriff's Department for more than 20 years, assigned to a variety of teams, including the Indio Courthouse at the Larson Justice Center, the Indio Sheriff's Station and the Thermal Sheriff's Station, where he served as a patrol deputy for seven years. Deputy Abrego then served as a recruiter in the Personnel Bureau for five years and as a Transportation Deputy at the Indio Jail for three years. In 2022, Deputy Abrego was selected to serve as a Traffic Enforcement Motorcycle Deputy at the Palm Desert Sheriff's Station.

Both Sergeant Stan and Deputy Abrego look forward to serving our community and keeping our residents safe. If you see them around, be sure to say 'hi'!



IW Fast Fact

Indian Wells operates on a biennial budget system. This means that every two years, City staff and Councilmembers collaborate to create a budget for the next two fiscal years. Currently, Indian Wells is in the middle of our 2025-2027 Fiscal Year budget.

Welcome New Indian Wells Staff Members

This month, Indian Wells is proud to welcome two new staff members to City Hall.

Michelle Molina joins us as a Senior Executive Assistant to the City Manager. She brings a wealth of managerial experience, including spending the past four years as an Administrative Assistant for Cathedral City.

Julie Mignogna joins the City as our Public Works Manager. She has a broad range of experience, including being the Transportation Program Manager for the Coachella Valley Association of Governments for two years and a Management Analyst for the City of La Quinta for over six years.

We can't wait to see what's in store for both of them as they start their careers here at Indian Wells!



Michelle Molina (left) is sworn in as Senior Executive Assistant to the City Manager.



Julie Mignogna (left) is sworn in as Public Works Manager.

Indian Wells Honors Memorial Day

Last month, the City of Indian Wells hosted our annual Memorial Day Ceremony in honor of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of the United States Armed Forces.

Participants enjoyed special performances by the Palm Springs Air Museum Pipes and Drum Band, singer Patricia Morris and trumpet player Dennis Presley. Thank you to everyone who attended and this year's speaker, Master Sergeant Stephanie M. Bonilla. The Veterans of Foreign Wars were also in attendance for the special event.

Learn more about the City's Eisenhower Walk of Honor and Veterans' Memorial.



Pool Safety Tips

Summer is almost here! Here are some important safety tips to keep in mind as we spend more time in and around water to cool off:

The ABCs of Water Safety

A = Adult Supervision

Assign an adult water watcher to keep their eyes on the water at ALL times.

B = Barriers

Fences, self-closing and self-latching gates, pool motion sensors and window and door alarms add extra security around the water.

C = Classes

Parents and caregivers should take CPR, First Aid and swimming courses that are available for both children and adults.

Drowning is 100% preventable. Let's work together to save lives.

For more water safety tips, please visit the Riverside County Water Safety Coalition webpage.

Stay Cool This Summer

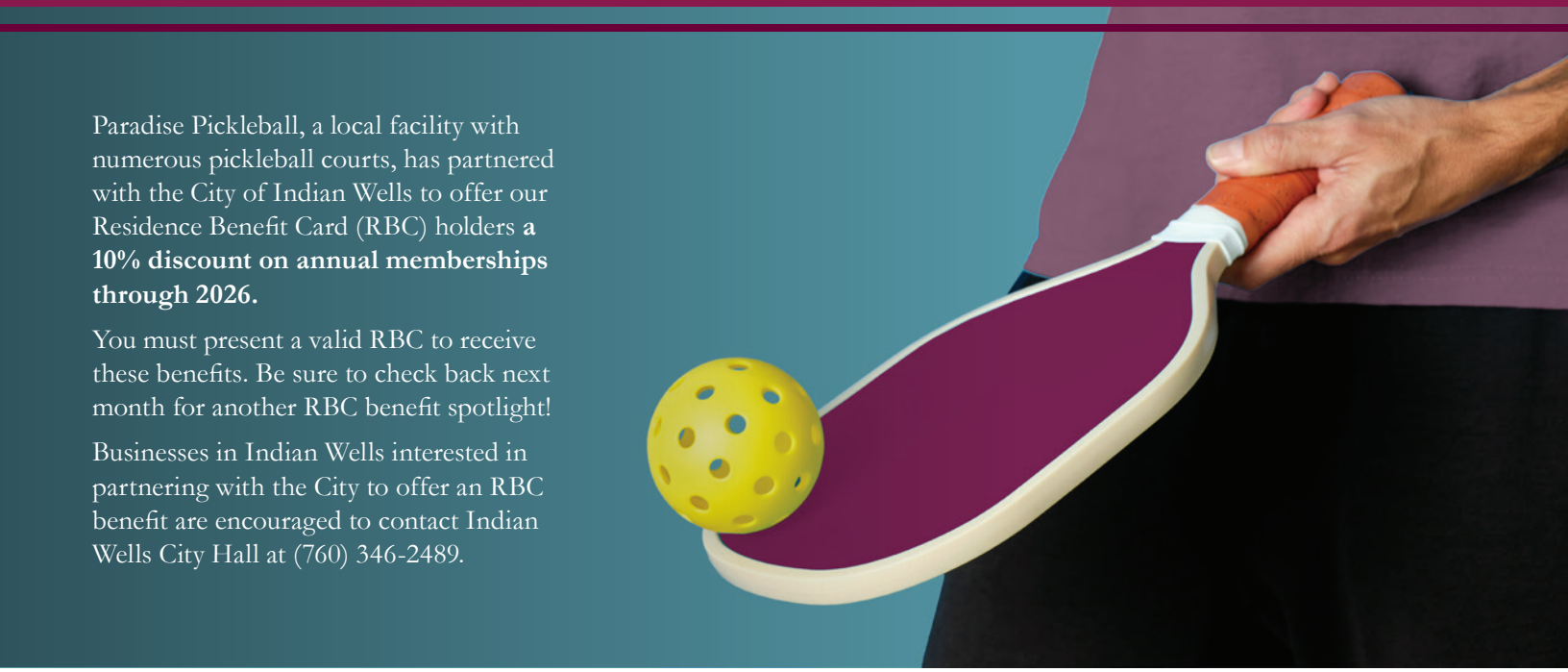
With temperatures rising in the Coachella Valley, it is important to stay cool to avoid heat-related injuries. Do this by:

- Keeping hydrated and drinking plenty of fluids
- Limiting your outdoor activity
- Wearing loose and lightweight clothing
- Protecting your skin with sunscreen
- Taking cool showers or baths
- Staying indoors in air-conditioned environments

If you need an air-conditioned place to stay cool, please visit a Riverside County cooling center.



New Residence Benefit Card Discounts: Paradise Pickleball



Paradise Pickleball, a local facility with numerous pickleball courts, has partnered with the City of Indian Wells to offer our Residence Benefit Card (RBC) holders **a 10% discount on annual memberships through 2026.**

You must present a valid RBC to receive these benefits. Be sure to check back next month for another RBC benefit spotlight!

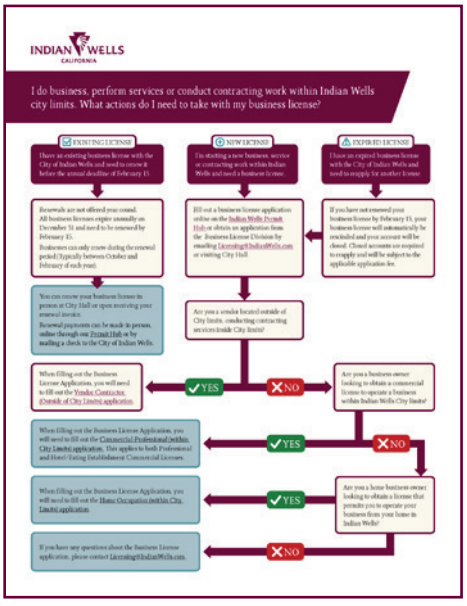
Businesses in Indian Wells interested in partnering with the City to offer an RBC benefit are encouraged to contact Indian Wells City Hall at (760) 346-2489.

Indian Wells Rolls Out New Business License Decision Tree

Do you have a business in Indian Wells? It's now easier than ever to figure out the next steps you need to take to either renew your business license, apply for a new business license or reapply for a business license!

The Business License Decision Tree walks users through the steps to obtain a valid business license to operate in Indian Wells.

Check out the Business License Decision Tree



Desert Bel Air Showcase House Inducted into the National Register of Historic Places

The City of Indian Wells is pleased to announce its first home on the National Register of Historic Places, the official list of America's historic locations! The Desert Bel Air Showcase House was inducted on April 7, 2026.

The home was designed in 1962 by modern architect William F. Cody and is part of the Desert Bel Air Estates community developed by Fillmore Crank and Robert Higgins. Cody was an influential architect who worked throughout California, Mexico and Cuba, incorporating regional materials into his modern designs and creating his own version of Desert Midcentury Modernism. Cody designed many other houses within the Desert Bel Air Estates.

The Desert Bel Air Showcase House highlights Cody's unique Desert Midcentury Modernism design throughout the 2,025-square-foot home, including stunning floor-to-ceiling windows showcasing panoramic views of Mount Eisenhower and the Santa Rosa Mountains, an open floor plan that caters effortlessly to indoor-outdoor living and a reflecting pond with a fountain. It features three bedrooms and three bathrooms, a spacious backyard with a pool and a glass passageway that connects the entertaining space and private living wings of the house for seamless indoor and outdoor living. The home also boasts numerous traditional midcentury modern features, such as wide roof overhangs, walnut wood paneling and a distinctive round kiva fireplace.

Indian Wells is proud to be home to the Desert Bel Air Showcase House and to be officially inducted into the National Register of Historic Places. Learn more about the National Register.









Want to support Indian Wells' unique past while gaining access to exclusive events and updates about historic preservation efforts?
Register to be an Indian Wells Preservation Foundation member today!

Protecting Our Rainwater

The summer dry season can lead to increased litter, pesticides, fertilizers and grime from cars in our waterways. Anything that settles on our streets, roads, sidewalks and driveways in the dry season will eventually be washed into storm drains with the first rains.

While Indian Wells may not see a lot, if any, rain in the coming months, our efforts now will help ensure that when rainwater does fall, it is collected and protected. Indian Wells is launching a Rain Ready initiative to encourage residents to protect our water.

Here are a few ways you can help:

1. Reduce pesticide use.
2. Decrease single-use plastic usage.
3. Always use garbage cans and pick up litter.

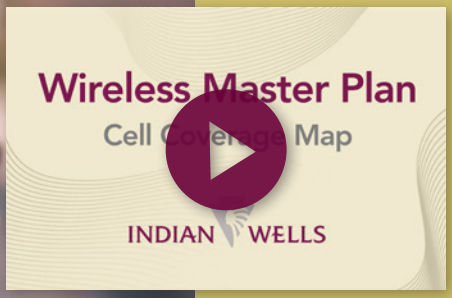


There are many more ways to protect our rainwater during the dry season.

Learn more about the Rain Ready California initiative.



Wireless Master Plan



The Indian Wells City Council reviewed the Wireless Master Plan at its May 21 City Council meeting. As part of the Plan, the City created an interactive cell phone coverage map, now available to residents: CityOfIndianWells.org/WirelessMasterPlan

Need help navigating the map? Check out our video explaining how to use the tool.

Upcoming Events

June 3 — Coffee with a Cop
8-10 a.m., Players Room
Indian Wells Golf Resort

June 16 — Coffee with the City Manager
8-9 a.m., Indian Wells City Hall

July 25 — Shred Event
7-11 a.m., Burrtec Parking Lot

July 17 — Nine Cities Blood Drive
Indian Wells Golf Resort

July 24 — Cool to be Hot Resident Summer Social
Indian Wells Resort Hotel

Upcoming Meetings

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

June 18 — Marketing Committee Meeting
8:30 a.m., Indian Wells City Hall

June 18 — City Council Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall

June 23 — Indian Wells Golf Resort Advisory Committee Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall

June 25 — Planning Commission Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall

July 2 — City Council Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall



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

Capture the golden glow of summer in Indian Wells and the vibrant spirit of the desert during our sunniest months. 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 shared with 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.

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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