City of Indian Wells
Monthly Newsletter
October 2026



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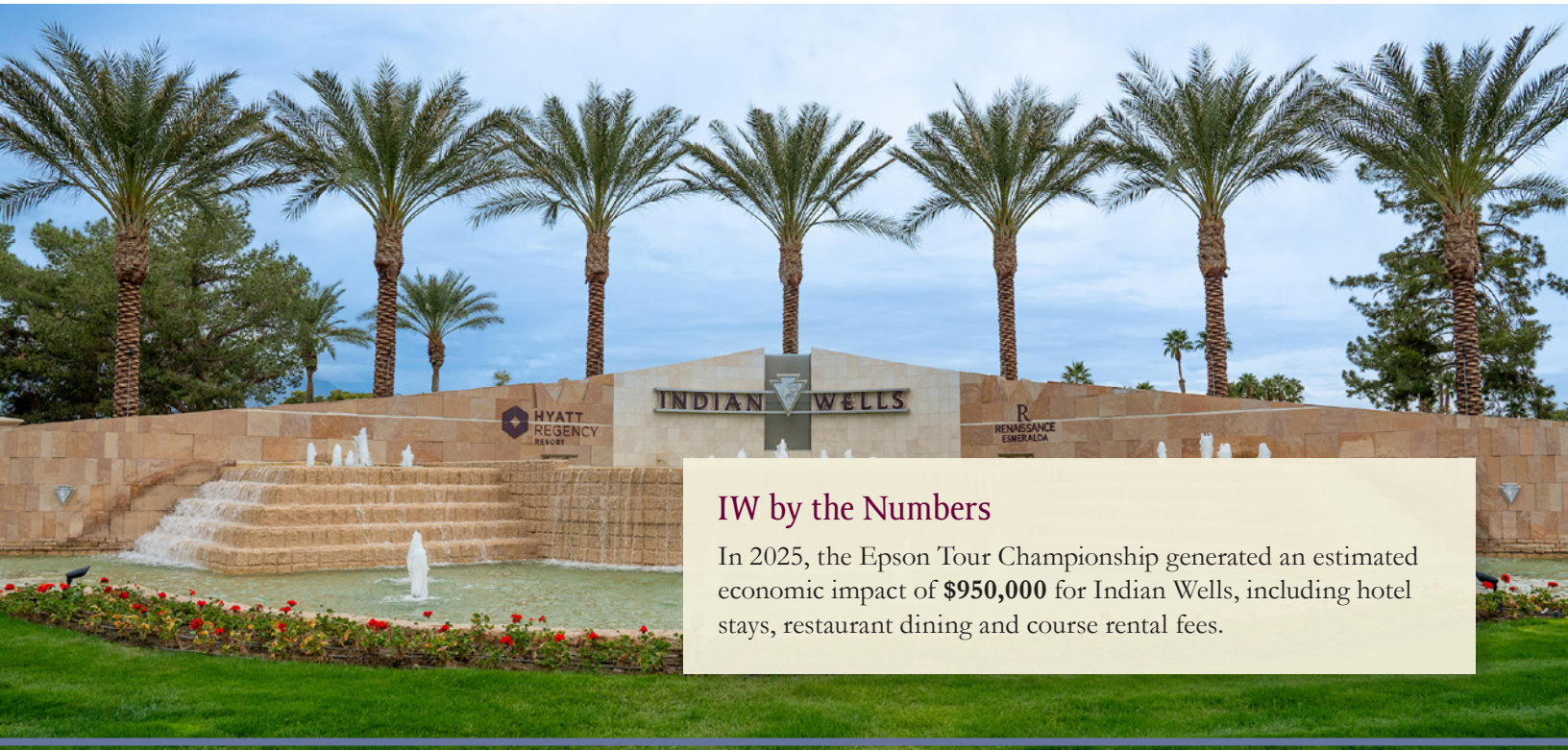
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IW by the Numbers

In 2025, the Epson Tour Championship generated an estimated economic impact of **$950,000** for Indian Wells, including hotel stays, restaurant dining and course rental fees.

Letter From the City Manager

Dear Indian Wells Residents,

As we start to get our first glimpses of fall with cooler weather on the horizon, we welcome back our neighbors from their summer travels and look ahead to another exciting season as a community.

At the beginning of next month, Indian Wells will host a local election. On Nov. 3, Indian Wells residents will elect two new City Council Members and consider a ballot measure to update and clarify the language in the City's Admissions Tax ordinance regarding which organizations qualify for an exemption.

In 2005, Indian Wells voters approved "Measure H," which established a general admissions tax at a maximum rate of 10% of the admission charge for an event held in the City. Measure H currently provides tax exemptions for certain non-profit organizations and event sponsors. In July 2026, the City Council unanimously determined that the current exemptions merited an update to clarify their terms.

The proposed new "Measure H" will update the municipal code to specifically identify qualifying exempt organizations by their federal tax classifications, such as Section 501(c)(3) for charitable, religious and educational groups, and Section 527 for political organizations. It also requires organizations seeking an exemption to demonstrate that they are in good standing and maintain their federal tax-exempt status.

Whether voting by mail or in-person on Election Day, your voice matters. Voting gives you a direct say in how Indian Wells initiates neighborhood priorities, maintains City services and enhances our community's future.

Following Election Day, Indian Wells is proud to host the Women's Tennis Association finals at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden. This exciting culmination of the women's tennis season will take place from Nov. 8-15, bringing viewers from around the world to our desert paradise. We hope to see you at the finals!

This fall is shaping up to be an exciting time in Indian Wells, with many new experiences and fun activities planned. If you have questions, please feel free to call (760) 346-2489 or visit us at City Hall.

Best wishes,



Dr. Chris Freeland

Dr. Chris Freeland
City Manager



Council Meeting Highlights: September 2026



Dr. Toper Taylor
Mayor



Brian M. Penna
Mayor Pro Tem



Bruce Whitman
Council Member



Greg Sanders
Council Member



Dana Reed
Council Member

- Council approved the Indian Wells Preservation Foundation and the Community Activities Committee event calendars for Fiscal Year 2026-27.
- City Council approved the Children's Discovery Museum sponsorship, including a $37,500 credit for a tournament at the Indian Wells Golf Resort.
- Council approved the City of Indian Wells 60th Anniversary Celebration Program to support anniversary-related activities, commemorative projects, community events and community engagement efforts from July 2026 through July 2027.
- The City Council, acting as the Successor Agency, approved key offering documents to refinance its 2015A and 2016A redevelopment bonds for interest savings. The refinancing comes as S&P Global Ratings upgraded the agency's credit rating from A+ to AA-. This refinancing opportunity will save taxpayers an estimated $1.9 million.
- The City Council approved the recommendation to move forward with amendments to the City's telecommunications ordinance based on the Wireless Master Plan.
- The City Council approved several appointments to the following committees and boards:
  - **Community Activities Committee**
    - Joseph Cinquini (July 2026-June 2028)
    - Doug Gammon (July 2026-June 2027)
  - **Indian Wells Golf Resort Advisory Committee**
    - Conner McCall (July 2026-June 2028)
    - Patrick Truninger (July 2026-June 2028)
    - Jim Kent (July 2026-June 2028)
  - **Grants in Aid Committee**
    - Tricia Cole (July 2026-June 2028)
    - Michael J. Lee (July 2026-June 2027)
    - Hamilton Holmes (July 2026-June 2027)
    - Tyler Shigenaga (July 2026-June 2028)
  - **Joslyn Senior Center Board**
    - Susan Paresky (July 2026-June 2028)

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

Indian Wells Golf Resort News



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.
Kocktail Hour: 3-5 p.m.
Dinner: 5-9 p.m.

Sunday Brunch
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Hours subject to change*

Beverage Cart

Daily: 6:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Fairway Grille

Daily: 6 a.m.-3 p.m.

Golf Shop

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

Course Closures

Sept. 28-Oct. 22: Celebrity Course

Oct. 5-15: Wedding Lawns

Oct. 8-25: Driving Range

Oct. 25-Nov. 12: Players Course

Both the Celebrity Course and the Players Course are closed at this time due to the tournament and scheduled maintenance. Thank you for your patience.



City Manager Dr. Chris Freeland

Named President of Cal Cities Department

The City of Indian Wells congratulates City Manager Dr. Chris Freeland on his appointment as president of the City Manager's Department for the League of California Cities (Cal Cities).

This new role provides Dr. Freeland and Indian Wells with the opportunity to lead the conversation about how cities across California are managed. While continuing his City Manager duties for our community, he will guide strategic policy, support professional standards for local government and collaborate directly with municipal leaders across the state. This position gives Indian Wells a strong voice in policy conversations, bringing key insights, best practices and innovative solutions back to our community.

With over 25 years of experience in local government and a Ph.D. in political science, Dr. Freeland looks forward to pushing local government leadership forward both in our City and across California. Dr. Freeland's accomplishment also reflects Indian Wells' ongoing commitment to transparent, effective and resident-focused leadership.

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES



Everything You Need to Know for Election Day

Participating in local elections helps shape the future of Indian Wells. This year, Election Day will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 3. Whether you choose to vote by mail, drop off your ballot in person or visit a voting center, planning ahead ensures your voice is heard in the key decisions and in electing the leaders who guide our City.



Tips to make sure you are ready for election day:

- **Check Your Voter Registration**
  Verify that your address and voting status are up to date online through the California Secretary of State Voter Status Portal.

- **Voting by Mail**
  Every registered voter in Indian Wells will receive a ballot in the mail prior to Election Day. You can complete your ballot at home and return it by mail (postmarked on or before Election Day) or drop it off at an official secure drop box.

- **In-Person Vote Centers**
  If you prefer to vote in person, request a replacement ballot or access voting assistance tools, the Indian Wells City Hall Vote Center and other Riverside County Vote Centers will open leading up to and on Election Day.

To learn more about local elections and find vote center and ballot drop box locations near you, visit the California Secretary of State's polling place webpage.

To learn more about the upcoming election in Indian Wells, visit the City Elections webpage.



Find Energy-Saving Programs for Your Business With New I-REN Commercial Incentive Finder

Explore energy rebates, incentives and assistance programs from federal, state, regional and local sources that apply to your business using the new I-REN Commercial Incentive Finder.

In just a few clicks, businesses can discover programs for:

- Heating, cooling and HVAC
- Lighting and energy efficiency upgrades
- Solar and clean energy
- Refrigeration and equipment
- Building and facility improvements

Programs are tailored to your business based on location and business type. No personally identifying information is required or stored.

The Incentive Finder is brought to you by the Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN), a collaborative of local governments in Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Access the I-REN Incentive Finder



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

From our striking desert landscapes to the everyday beauty of our residential streets, 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.



Photo from modernismweek.com/october-2026

Celebrate Midcentury Architecture During Modernism Week

modernism week

Modernism Week will host its annual fall festival from Oct. 15-18. This event features over 50 exclusive activities, including tours, talks and parties in unique locations that are typically not open to the public.

This event highlights mid-century modern architecture, art, interior design, landscape design and vintage style throughout the Greater Palm Springs community.

Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate local historical preservation and architecture.

Get Your Tickets Today!

Sign Up Today to Become A Member of the Indian Wells Preservation Foundation

Join the Indian Wells Preservation Foundation (IWPF)!
The IWPF is an organization that seeks to document, preserve and promote the unique character and rich history of Indian Wells.

By becoming a member, you can partner with the IWPF to protect our unique past while gaining access to exclusive events and updates on historic designations and conservation.

IWPF

Register Today





Photo from iwpf92210.org

Organics Recycling in Indian Wells

Proper disposal of organic waste plays a key role in keeping Indian Wells sustainable and fully aligned with state recycling mandates. By diverting green waste and food scraps away from landfills, residents can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions while keeping our desert community beautiful.

In honor of National Food Waste Prevention Week last week, Indian Wells encourages residents to join in the effort to reduce food waste in our community. Approximately 40% of all food grown and produced is never eaten. This excess is not only expensive, but could also go to people who don't have access to food and increase greenhouse gas emissions. Help reduce food waste with these useful tips:

Shop with a Plan
Check your fridge before buying groceries to avoid duplicate purchases.

Store Produce Properly
Keep fruits and vegetables fresh longer by using proper refrigeration and storage containers.

Utilize Your Freezer
Freeze extra portions, bread or produce before they spoil for later use.

To learn more about how you can prevent food waste and start recycling organics, visit the Food Waste Prevention Week website.





How to Recycle Organics in Indian Wells

Place all acceptable bagged food scraps, including fruit and vegetable peelings, coffee grounds, eggshells and uneaten leftovers, into your green organics cart along with yard trimmings. Avoid placing plastics or other trash items into the green bin to prevent contamination.
Watch the video to learn more.

Indian Wells Refinances Redevelopment Bonds to Save on Long-Term Debt

At its Sept. 3 meeting, the City Council, acting as the Successor Agency to the Indian Wells Redevelopment Agency, approved key disclosure and offering documents to move forward with refinancing nearly $33 million of its older 2015A and 2016A redevelopment bonds. This will allow Indian Wells to lower its annual debt and interest costs while saving taxpayers an estimated $1.9 million.

This refinancing effort is supported by strong financial momentum. On Sept. 2, S&P Global Ratings officially upgraded the Successor Agency's credit rating from A+ to AA-, driven by steady property value growth and enough tax revenue to comfortably cover the City's highest annual debt payments. The best achievable rating is AAA.

To move the refinancing forward, the Council's vote approved the Preliminary Official Statement and Notice of Sale for $32,775,000 in Consolidated Whitewater Redevelopment Project Area Tax Allocation Refunding Bonds, Series 2026A. These legal disclosures allow the City to sell these bonds, using its improved credit rating to secure lower interest rates and reduce overall financing costs.

Refinancing this debt directly benefits Indian Wells residents as fewer local tax dollars will be consumed by old debt. Any annual savings from the reduced debt payments will flow back into local tax distributions, helping support essential City services, public infrastructure and local schools without additional costs to taxpayers.



Sign Up for Emergency Alerts with Nixle

When seconds count, real-time information matters. Sign up for the City of Indian Wells' emergency notification service, Nixle, to get localized critical alerts and updates directly to your phone or inbox.

How to sign up: Text your ZIP code to 888777 to receive mobile alerts, or register online at Nixle.com to customize your notification preferences.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 13 Coffee with a Cop
8-10 a.m.
Indian Wells Golf Resort, Players Room

Oct. 16 Janice Oliphant Community Gardens Dedication Ceremony
9-10 a.m.
Fire Station 55

Oct. 24 Shred Event
7-11 a.m.
Burrtec Parking Lot

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

Upcoming City Hall Closures

Nov. 11 Veterans Day

Upcoming Meetings

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

Oct. 6 Finance Committee Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall

Oct. 8 Community Activities Committee Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall

Oct. 14 Public Safety Committee Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall

Oct. 15 City Council Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall

Oct. 27 Indian Wells Golf Resort Advisory Committee Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall

Oct. 29 Planning Commission Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall

Nov. 5 City Council Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall

Nov. 5 Housing Authority 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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