City of Indian Wells
Monthly Newsletter
September 2026



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There were no regular City Council Meetings in August 2026.

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



Letter From the City Manager

Dear Indian Wells Residents,

This September, Indian Wells joins communities across the nation in recognizing National Preparedness Month. Recently, our City Council adopted community emergency preparedness as one of our official strategic goals, further demonstrating our commitment to year-round preparedness. Here are a few ways Indian Wells is ready to support our residents and surrounding communities in potential emergencies:

1. Indian Wells has recently developed and adopted an Emergency Operations Plan. This plan is activated when an incident requires structured support, cross-departmental collaboration or a clear decision-making framework.
2. The City also has an adopted Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. This document aims to reduce or eliminate long-term risks and protect people and property from natural disasters and emergencies.
3. Indian Wells has an Emergency Operations Center that serves as a centralized hub for decision-making in our community's emergency response efforts.
4. Indian Wells partners with the Cities of Rancho Mirage and Palm Desert as part of the **Cove Communities Partnership**. This collaboration enhances our ability to prepare for and respond to emergencies.
5. As part of the Cove Communities Partnership, Indian Wells collaborates with Rancho Mirage and Palm Desert to provide free **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainings**. This program teaches residents how to be better prepared for hazards that may affect our community.
6. Every September, Indian Wells hosts an annual **Emergency Preparedness Backpack sale**. Each backpack includes a first aid kit, CPR mouthpiece, light sticks, flashlight, dynamic radio and more to help residents be prepared with the essentials in case of an emergency.

We encourage residents to explore our Emergency Preparedness webpage and sign up for Nixle, an alert notification service that informs community members of timely information, including severe weather, traffic, missing persons and community events.

As we continue to experience high temperatures, I urge everyone to stay safe and cool. Riverside County Cooling Centers are open and offer free air conditioning and water to help the community escape the heat.
Find a cooling center near you.

In other news, we are excited to welcome the Epson Tour Championship back to Indian Wells from Oct. 1-4. During this time, we anticipate elevated traffic as tournament attendees travel to and from Indian Wells, local restaurants and entertainment venues. Thank you in advance for your patience as we share our City with the golf community.

We're looking forward to welcoming you back to Indian Wells as we enter the fall season.
If you have any questions, please visit us at City Hall.

Best wishes,



Dr. Chris Freeland

Dr. Chris Freeland
City Manager

Indian Wells Golf Resort News





Save the Date

EPSON TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP | INDIAN WELLS

The 2026 Epson Tour is right around the corner! Be sure to mark your calendars from Oct. 1-4 for one of our favorite events of the year at the Indian Wells Golf Resort.

During this time, the Players Course will be closed as it hosts the tournament and the Celebrity Course will be closed for maintenance. Please see the schedule below for full closure details.

Be on the lookout for emails from the City to get your exclusive resident discounts on General Admission and Hospitality tickets. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to watch the top women golfers compete in the season finale of the Epson Tour!

Learn More

Please note the following hours for the Indian Wells Golf Resort.*

Starting Wednesday, Sept. 9, Kestrel will resume the following hours of operation:

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.

Starting Sept. 27,
Kocktail Hour will
be served from 2-5 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.

Course Closures

Aug. 17-Sept. 4: Players Course

Sept. 28-Oct. 22: Celebrity Course

Oct. 5-15: Wedding Lawns

Oct. 8-25: Driving Range

Oct. 25-Nov. 12: Players Course

**Hours subject to change*

September is National Preparedness Month
Stay Informed and Ready

Delivering exceptional public safety is our priority. It's evident in our mission statement and is prioritized in our annual strategic goals, which guide where we spend our dollars in the biennial budget. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our staff, diligent law enforcement and fire and paramedic professionals, Indian Wells enjoys one of the lowest crime rates and quickest public safety response times in the Coachella Valley. Here's how you can be prepared and informed for future emergencies.

1 Build a Kit. Be Prepared.

In an emergency, all residents should be prepared to take care of themselves for three days. Ensure your emergency kit is in an easy-to-access location and is stocked with:

- Three to five days of food and water for each person and pet
- At least a week's supply of all necessary medications
- A first aid kit
- A battery-powered lantern and radio
- Extra batteries
- Any other items you may need

For more information on building a kit, visit the **Riverside County Emergency Management Department webpage.**

2 Be Informed.

Are you prepared in the event of an emergency? Sign up to receive alerts directly to your mobile phone, landline or email:

- Text your ZIP code to 888777 to join the Indian Wells Nixle.

  Watch the City's instructional video to learn more.
- **Register online for Riverside County's Alert RivCo.**



3 Make a Family Plan.

After building your emergency kit, ensure all family members know where it is located. Discuss multiple exit routes from your home and decide on a meeting location outside your house and neighborhood to reconvene.

4 Get CERT Training.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a nationally supported, locally implemented program that teaches people how to be better prepared for hazards that may affect their community, including basic skills, fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations.

The City of Indian Wells and fellow Cove Communities (Rancho Mirage and Palm Desert) provide free CERT training to residents.

To learn about upcoming classes, **sign up for email notifications from the City of Indian Wells.**

Need power at your house for life-saving medical equipment?

If you or someone in your household regularly uses electrically powered medical equipment or other qualifying medical devices, sign up for Southern California Edison's (SCE) **Medical Baseline Allowance Program.**

The Imperial Irrigation District (IID) operates the **Energy Assistance for Special Equipment (EASE) program,** which lowers electricity bills for households that rely on plug-in life-saving medical devices.

Indian Wells Police Department

Indian Wells' dedicated police deputies from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department patrol our community every day, responding to calls for service. The Indian Wells Police Department keeps our residents safe through:

- Service 24/7, 365 days per year
- Helicopter support when needed
- One full-time motor enforcement officer
- Two full-time Special Enforcement Team officers
- Emergency response SWAT team
- Investigative services
- Regional surge response capabilities during times of crisis



Indian Wells Fire Department

The Indian Wells Fire Department, staffed by the CAL FIRE Riverside County Fire Department, handles all fire and emergency medical services needs for our community. Additionally, emergency medical support is provided to residents through Advanced Life Support paramedics and transport units. Our Fire Department and paramedic support provide:

- 24/7 fire prevention & investigation, including a fire engine and a crew with a battalion chief, fire marshal and fire safety specialist
- All-hazards emergency response, including an ambulance and a hazmat team
- Rapid response times, with an average of 5 minutes or less
- Scalable emergency response with access to neighboring cities ready for times of crisis
- Complimentary ambulance services in the City

Indian Wells Emergency Plans

To keep residents safe in the event of an emergency, Indian Wells has developed an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP).

Emergency Operations Plan

A guiding document that outlines how the City organizes and manages its response to emergencies.

The EOP describes roles and responsibilities, identifies how resources are coordinated and details the procedures used to protect the community. It is activated when an incident requires structured support, cross-departmental collaboration or a clear decision-making framework to ensure an effective response and recovery. **Read our EOP.**

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

A plan that helps reduce or remove long-term risk and protect people and property from natural disasters and emergencies. **Learn more about our LHMP.**

Riverside County is currently updating the Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Similar to the City's LHMP, Riverside County's LHMP is a plan to protect the County from natural disasters. **Learn more about the 2028 County LHMP Update**

Rooted in Excellence:
Palm Tree Replacement to Enhance Community Beauty and Safety



The City of Indian Wells will replace 95 palm trees along Highway 111. This initiative aims to beautify our community and enhance safety for all who travel through Indian Wells. To maintain our luxurious landscaping and fulfill our mission to provide superior public safety, City staff are proactively addressing palm tree decay and the associated dangers.

By identifying and replacing aging palms before they pose structural concerns, Indian Wells is minimizing the risks of breakage from high winds or pests and diseases that can compromise the trees' health and stability.



The palm trees slated for removal were planted in our community nearly 100 years ago, when the area was primarily composed of date farms. While some of these trees may appear healthy on the outside, the City has confirmed that they have reached the end of their expected lifespan, and they will not be relocated once removed.

As a designated Tree City USA, the City is committed to conserving our urban forest. This recognition emphasizes Indian Wells' ongoing efforts to support the environment by planting and maintaining trees throughout the community.

By removing aging palms and planting new date palms, Indian Wells is taking active steps to mitigate the heat island effect, in which asphalt and concrete raise local temperatures. Additionally, the new palm trees will enhance biodiversity and improve air quality.

To learn more about current capital improvement projects in Indian Wells, please visit the Projects webpage.





Emergency Preparedness Backpack Sales Start Sept. 21

Are you prepared with the necessary supplies for an emergency? Indian Wells has you covered with Emergency Preparedness Backpacks!

Starting Sept. 21, visit Indian Wells City Hall to get your kit filled with essential items designed to help you in emergency scenarios. Each backpack supports one person's needs and includes:

- First aid kit
- CPR mouthpiece
- Light sticks
- Flashlight
- Dynamic radio
- And more!







Kits are $50 each and there is no limit on the number of backpacks anyone can buy. Purchase does not require an Indian Wells Residence Benefit Card.

Supplies are limited, so be sure to grab your Emergency Preparedness Backpack before they sell out! The City will distribute a notice via email and on official social media channels once all bags have been sold.

Be prepared before emergency strikes!

Congratulations on 23 Years of Service, Mihai!

Indian Wells is proud to recognize Mihai Dan, Public Works Superintendent, as he enters retirement after dedicating 23 years of service to the City of Indian Wells. Since joining the City in 2003, Dan has left a lasting impact in public works and the Indian Wells community through his hard work and commitment to serving residents. Thank you for 23 amazing years, and we wish you the best of luck in this next chapter. Congratulations, Mihai!



Join a City Committee or Commission

The City is seeking community members to serve in several important volunteer roles. These positions provide residents with an opportunity to contribute their time, knowledge and talents to help shape and strengthen our community. Applications are now being accepted for:

- Community Activities Committee
- Coachella Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District
- Planning Commission

These volunteer opportunities provide residents with a meaningful way to participate in local government, represent community interests and contribute to decisions that impact the quality of life in our City. Whether your passion is community events, public health or planning for future growth and development, serving on a committee or commission is a rewarding way to make a difference.

Interested residents are encouraged to apply before the application period closes on Friday, Sept. 25, at 5 p.m.
For additional information regarding eligibility requirements and the application process, please contact City Hall.





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.

Get Your Free Battery Recycling Bag

Battery recycling baggies are back in stock at City Hall! Indian Wells is pleased to offer residents compostable battery recycling bags to make safe disposal of used batteries easier and more environmentally friendly. Each resident may pick up two baggies per household at City Hall by showing their Residence Benefit Card.

Each bag comes with a two-sided insert from Burrtec, providing:

- Important safety tips for handling and recycling batteries.
- Burrtec's contact information for pickup services.

Burrtec provides this pickup service on behalf of the City. All requests for service and questions should be directed to Burrtec customer service at (760) 340-2113 or CustomerService@BurrtecDesert.com.



By choosing compostable bags, Indian Wells ensures that once discarded, the material will break down into non-toxic, natural elements — supporting our commitment to sustainability.

Protecting Our Rainwater

Say 'No' to Single-Use Plastic

Did you know that as plastic degrades slowly over time, it releases tiny particles and toxic residue into the soil and waterways?

By reducing demand for single-use plastic and using reusable products, we can keep waterways clean and litter-free. Everyday actions, all year-round, help create a Rain Ready California.

Learn more about what you can do.

Rain Ready CALIFORNIA



Pick Up Your Free Dog Waste Bag Dispensers

We're giving away free dog waste bag dispensers (including 20 bags each) to residents as part of our work with the Riverside County Watershed Protection Program. Indian Wells residents can pick up their dispenser by showing their Residence Benefit Card at City Hall during regular business hours.

Did you know?
If not picked up and disposed of, dog waste can:

- Pollute local waterways.
- Trigger algae growth that threatens marine animals.
- Cause waterway closures.
- Compromise drinking water quality.
- Spread harmful diseases.

Picking up after our pets is a quick and easy way to prevent pollution and protect our Riverside County water systems, including the Whitewater River Watershed.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY WATERSHED PROTECTION

Save this Summer with the I-REN Incentive Finder

Find clean energy incentives that you are eligible for!

Beat the heat and high energy bills by using the I-REN Incentive Finder to discover rebates and ways to save. Explore which federal, state, regional and local programs may apply to your household.

In just a few clicks, you can identify programs for:

- Energy bill discounts and income-qualified assistance
- Home energy improvements, including solar, batteries and insulation
- Electrification upgrades, such as heat pump heating and cooling
- Clean transportation, including electric vehicles

INLAND REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK

No personally identifying information is required or stored to find energy savings with the Incentive Finder. 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



Go Green:
Get a Free Tree from IID and CVAG!

The City of Indian Wells, in partnership with the IID and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), is giving away free trees to Indian Wells residents.

Sign up today for the opportunity to receive one shade tree, plus professional delivery and installation on your personal property. Residents can choose from a variety of CAL FIRE-approved 15-gallon shade trees that have a history of successful growth in desert communities.

Trees will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, while supplies last, and will be delivered by IID and planted by a certified arborist at no cost. Limit one tree per household. Residents do not need to be an IID customer to be eligible to receive a tree.

Sign Up Today

This initiative is funded by the CAL FIRE USDA Urban and Community Forestry grant awarded to IID.

Indian Wells is a proud Tree City USA, a prestigious designation given by the Arbor Day Foundation in recognition of the City's dedication to planting and caring for trees in our community.

Relax this September during Spa Month

The greater Palm Springs area is celebrating health and wellness with Spa Month, including exclusive deals at luxury resorts, now through September 30. Treat yourself at participating locations offering limited-time specials:

Healthy Futures
- 3-month Comprehensive Wellness Program - $1,595
- MenlaScan Wellness Assessment - $199
- Functional Health Assessment Package - $398

Agua Serena Spa at Grand Hyatt Indian Wells Resort & Villas
- 50-Minute Flowing Swedish Massage - $185
- 25% Off 50-Minute Signature Codage Facial

Spa Rosa at Tommy Bahama Miramonte Resort & Spa:
- 25% Off Any Service

Renaissance Esmeralda Indian Wells Resort & Spa
- Spa Day Retreat - $25
- Desert Escape Duo | 50-Min Treatment + 30-Min Enhancement - $250
- Spa Garden Emerald Cabana - $350

Book Your Appointment Today





Free Bulky Item and Household Hazardous Waste Pickups

The City of Indian Wells partners with Burrtec to provide residents with unlimited free bulky item and household hazardous waste pickups to ensure proper disposal and recycling.

As we move into a new season, Burrtec is offering to pick up the following items:









Schedule your free pickup by calling (760) 340-2113 at least 48 hours prior to your regular trash collection day.



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.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 7 Coffee with a Cop
8-10 a.m.
Indian Wells Golf Resort, Players Room

Upcoming City Hall Closures

Sept. 7 Labor Day

Upcoming Meetings

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

Sept. 10 Community Activities Committee Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall

Sept. 22 Indian Wells Golf Resort Advisory Committee Meeting
Indian Wells Golf Resort

Sept. 24 Planning Commission Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall

Oct. 15 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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