City of Indian Wells
Monthly Newsletter
November 2026



In this Edition

Get Rain Ready This Fall

Page 6

Indian Wells Receives ICMA's Strategic Leadership and Governance Award

Page 7

Indian Wells Partners with Local Business to Encourage Community Recycling

Page 9

In This Edition

Letter From the City Manager 3
Council Meeting Highlights: October 2026 4
Indian Wells Golf Resort News 5
It's Almost Election Day 6
Get Rain Ready This Fall 6
City of Indian Wells Recognized at the ICMA 2026 Local Government Excellence Awards 7
Indian Wells Promotes Jill Moon and Shane Hyduke 8
The WTA Finals are Coming to Indian Wells 8
City of Indian Wells Partners with Local Businesses to Encourage Community Recycling 9
October Resident Events Recap 10
Introducing the 2027 Desert Town Hall Speakers 10
Upcoming Events 11
Upcoming City Hall Closures 11
Upcoming Meetings 11



Letter From the City Manager

Dear Indian Wells Residents,

The air in Indian Wells is buzzing with excitement as we prepare for resident events and the Women's Tennis Association Finals to begin. In addition, we are continuing to celebrate the City of Indian Wells' 60th birthday! We kicked off the festivities last month with our Resident Welcome Back Party and the Janice Oliphant Community Gardens Dedication Ceremony.

To further celebrate our development, our Public Works team has been hard at work installing new historic neighborhood signs in the Desert Bel Air and Indian Wells Village areas. These new signs embrace our community's unique history and enhance community awareness, support heritage tourism and strengthen local historic preservation efforts. This is just the beginning of what's to come!

Our brand-new anniversary logo will be used throughout the community and on official City materials. For 60 years, Indian Wells has been built on strong neighbors, local pride and a deep sense of community, bringing us to this milestone today. I am filled with tremendous pride as we honor our City and I am looking forward to our bright future.

Keep an eye out for an email announcement about our new website that includes accessible features.

This is a remarkable time to be an Indian Wells resident, and there is lots to be thankful for this season. 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: October 2026



Dr. Toper Taylor
Mayor



Brian M. Penna
Mayor Pro Tem



Bruce Whitman
Council Member



Greg Sanders
Council Member



Dana Reed
Council Member

- City Council approved proclamations honoring Janice and Richard Oliphant for their longstanding service and contributions to the Indian Wells community and Indian Wells resident and United States Navy World War II Veteran Andrew Johnson for his military service to the nation.
- Council discussed the first quarter of progress on the 2026-27 Strategic Plan. Read the update.
- Council approved the addition of the 2027 City of Indian Wells Residents' Day at the Palm Springs POWER Baseball Game to the City's calendar of approved events.
- City Council discussed the Safer Streets Program Project, authorizing staff to complete designs and proceed with bid packages for Eldorado Drive and Cook Street Projects for a summer 2027 construction date and approving the City to proceed with the bid package for and construction of the Rancho Palmeras Drive Project during the upcoming season.
- Council discussed the strategic tourism and community partnership between the City and the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens and approved a supplemental appropriation of $200,000 for the annual sponsorship investment.
- City Council adopted the BNP Paribas Open Tickets Distribution Policy and Resolution establishing procedures for the allocation and use of tournament tickets, suites and hospitality opportunities.
- Council approved the City's participation in the Riverside County Sheriff's Office Real-Time Intelligence Center to be based out of the Palm Desert Sheriff's Station. Additionally, Council approved a supplemental appropriation of $382,915.58 from the Fire Fund and General Reserve to the Police Services Fund in support of the City's participation in this program intended to increase resident and visitor safety across the Cove Communities.

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

Indian Wells Golf Resort News



The Epson Tour Championship Wraps Up Third Annual Tournament in Indian Wells

For the third year in a row, the Indian Wells Golf Resort welcomed elite women's golf talent as host of the Epson Tour Championship. After an intense match, Reagan Zibilski came back and won the tournament by only one stroke.

Heading into this year's tournament, the Epson Tour and the City of Indian Wells were thrilled to announce a three-year extension that will keep the tournament at the Indian Wells Golf Resort through 2029. This will result in the tournament being played in the desert for six consecutive years. Hosting the Epson Tour Championship demonstrates Indian Wells' dedication to women's golf, brings national exposure to the Golf Resort and drives significant revenue for our City. In 2025 alone, hotel stays, restaurant dining and course rental fees generated an estimated economic impact of $950,000 for Indian Wells.

EPSON TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP | INDIAN WELLS

We take immense pride in serving as the destination for the Epson Tour season finale, helping determine the top 15 players who advance to the LPGA Tour. Stay tuned for 2027 dates!

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: 2-5 p.m.
Dinner: 5-9 p.m.

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

Course Closures

Oct. 25-Nov. 12: Players Course

*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.



It's Almost Election Day!



Election Day is tomorrow, Nov. 3! Voting in local elections helps your voice be heard and shapes the future of Indian Wells.

Cast your vote or drop off your vote-by-mail ballot at Indian Wells City Hall at our official Riverside County Vote Center from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. on Nov. 3.

To learn more about what's on the Indian Wells ballot, visit the City's Election page.

Find Vote Center and Ballot Drop Box Locations Near You

Get Rain Ready This Fall

Did you know rainwater is one of our most valuable local resources? Rain Ready California is a statewide initiative run by the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) that shows residents and communities how to capture rainwater, prevent neighborhood flooding and keep storm drains pollution-free. As we head into a wet winter with El Niño storms on the way, taking a few easy steps around your home makes a huge difference. Here are four simple ways you can get Rain Ready this fall:

- **Make Rain-Ready Property Upgrades**
  Slow down runoff and naturally water your landscape by installing rain barrels, rain gardens or permeable pavers. Simple home updates like these reduce local flooding while collecting clean rainwater.
- **Reduce Pesticide Use**
  Choose less-toxic or non-toxic solutions for home and garden pests year-round to protect our water.
- **Reduce Single-Use Plastic**
  Over time, plastic degrades and releases tiny particles and toxic residue. Using reusable products can keep waterways clean and litter-free.
- **Don't Litter**
  Dispose of trash properly and pick up litter around your neighborhood.

Learn more about how you can be Rain Ready



City of Indian Wells Recognized at the ICMA 2026 Local Government Excellence Awards

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 into a high-performance framework that synchronizes City Council 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.

"Having a strong strategic planning process is fundamental to a thriving community," said City Manager Dr. Chris Freeland. "I'm incredibly proud of the City Council and staff who worked on the strategic plan to set the community up for success."

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

Indian Wells Promotes Jill Moon and Shane Hyduke

The City of Indian Wells is excited to announce the internal promotions of Jill Moon and Shane Hyduke!



Jill Moon, a dedicated City staff member of 24 years, has been promoted to Senior Management Analyst. First joining the City as an administrative assistant in 2002, Jill has risen through the ranks and demonstrated her strong commitment to Indian Wells and its residents. In her new role, she will focus on a multitude of tasks, including grant administration and pursuing grant opportunities across City departments.



Shane Hyduke has been promoted to Public Works Maintenance Superintendent. Shane's appointment is a well-earned recognition of his 10 years of exceptional service to our City. Throughout Shane's time with the City, he has demonstrated strong leadership and technical skills.

Congratulations to Jill and Shane!

The WTA Finals are Coming to Indian Wells!

Indian Wells is hosting the 2026 Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Finals from Nov. 8-15 at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden! Bringing the world's top female tennis talent to Indian Wells, the WTA Finals serves as the prestigious, season-ending championship for women's professional tennis.

Please allow extra travel time due to WTA traffic. Your safety is our top priority, so please drive carefully and follow all official signage and directions. Thank you!

Visit the WTA Finals website to purchase tickets and see the tournament schedules.



City of Indian Wells Partners with Local Businesses to Encourage Community Recycling



BURRTEC
"We'll Take Care Of It"

Indian Wells is taking another step toward a cleaner and more sustainable community. The City proudly celebrates the successful completion of its AB 827 front-of-house recycling and organics program.

Local businesses have received waste sorting bins, including:

- IW Coffee
- Deli Chick
- Tommy Bahama Miramonte Resort & Spa
- The Vintage Club
- Toscana Country Club
- Baby's Marché

Thank you to our commercial business community for your outstanding participation in SB 1383 efforts and for helping customers recycle and sort organics responsibly. Together, we keep businesses clean, support sustainability and enhance the quality of life Indian Wells is proud to model.



Residence Benefit Card (RBC) Renewals Update

The City is implementing a new system that makes renewing your 2027 RBC easier than ever!

Stay tuned for more information on these exciting changes.

Don't have an RBC? First-time cardholders will continue to visit City Hall in person starting in January 2027 to verify their eligibility.

October Resident Events Recap

Last month was full of exciting events for our community. We had a blast gathering to celebrate the new season.



Janice Oliphant Community Gardens Dedication Ceremony

Residents gathered at Fire Station 55 to celebrate the dedication of the Community Gardens in honor of Janice Oliphant. The dedication recognizes her lasting legacy and contributions to the Indian Wells community. With this ceremony, the City also unveiled the expanded space, allowing more community members to take part in gardening.



Welcome Back Resident Party

Indian Wells residents joined together at the Welcome Back Resident Party at the Indian Wells Golf Resort Pavilion. Attendees enjoyed an evening of great food, tiki-themed entertainment and community.



Movie Night on the Green

Indian Wells took advantage of the warm fall nights to watch "The Nightmare Before Christmas" under the stars at the Indian Wells Golf Resort greens. Hosted by the City's Community Activities Committee in partnership with the Desert Recreation District, residents got in the spirit of both Halloween and Christmas with this fan-favorite film.

Introducing the 2027 Desert Town Hall Speakers

The 2027 Desert Town Hall is right around the corner and the speaker lineup is officially here! This season features a wide range of expertise, experience and unique perspectives:

Sunday, Jan. 17
Jonathan Turley, a constitutional scholar, bestselling author and legal commentator, will discuss free speech, the Constitution and America today.

Saturday, Feb. 13
Bill O'Reilly, a bestselling author, political commentator and television host, alongside **Chris Cuomo**, an award-winning journalist, NewsNation host and bestselling author, will discuss the future of our country.

Tuesday, March 2
John McEnroe, tennis legend, Hall of Famer and award-winning broadcaster, will provide insights on competition, success and resilience.

Tuesday, March 30
General Jack Keane, a retired four-star general, Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient and national security analyst, will address America's security in a dangerous world.

Learn more at DesertTownHall.org
or purchase tickets by calling (760) 610-2852.

THE H.N. AND FRANCES C. BERGER FOUNDATION PRESENTS DESERT TOWN HALL



Upcoming Events

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

Dec. 2 Coffee with a Cop
8-10 a.m.
Indian Wells Golf Resort, Players Room

Upcoming City Hall Closures

Nov. 11 Veterans Day

Nov. 26-27 Thanksgiving

Upcoming Meetings

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

Nov. 5 City Council Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall

Nov. 5 Housing Authority Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall

Nov. 24 Indian Wells Golf Resort Advisory Committee Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall

Nov. 30 Planning Commission Meeting
Indian Wells City Hall

Dec. 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

Stay Connected

CityOfIndianWells.org

Facebook.com/CityOfIndianWells

X.com/Indian_Wells

YouTube.com/CityOfIndianWells

Nextdoor.com

@VisitIndianWells

Nixle: Text 92210 to 888777