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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

SPRING 2017

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF INDIAN WELLS, CALIFORNIA

BULLETIN No. 417

Strategic Planning Workshop Generates Strong Attendance, Constructive Discussion

On February 1 & 2, 2017, the Indian Wells City Council convened for its annual Strategic Planning session, where it reviewed recent progress made toward existing City goals. Discussion of upcoming issues was an added highlight of the workshop. A large audience attended the February 1 session focused on the Indian Wells Golf Resort, and the second day dedicated to City planning.

On day one, City Council, staff and Troon worked together to continue the strategic golf planning that has occurred throughout 2016, with the group presenting revenue-generating ideas as well as cost reductions.

The City Council approved to increase the current resident golf rate of \$35 to \$50 for the months of January through April, specifically for tee-times booked before noon. Otherwise, the current \$35 golf rate for other tee times and other months of the year will be maintained.

On day two, City Council concentrated on three topics: 1) striving for continued improvement of the City's fiscal position, 2) expanding economic development, and 3) retrofitting a seismic upgrade and conducting barracks renovations for Fire Station 55. Available capital funds would be used to upgrade and improve this critical fire-fighting and safety hub for the City, and further discussion of the proposed enhancement will take place on May 4, 2017.

Residents can view the 2016-17 City Strategic Planning sessions daily on IWTv. Day one airs at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., and day two airs daily at 1:00 p.m.

Indian Wells Golf Resort Wins Prestigious Honor from Greenskeeper



The prestigious *Greenskeeper.org* has presented its greater Palm Springs “Best Playing Conditions” award to the Indian Wells Golf Resort for the second year in a row. The coveted accolade recognizes course excellence for all of 2016 and was derived by analyzing the last 12 months of online ratings and reviews submitted by site users of *Greenskeeper.org*. *Greenskeeper.org* is the West’s most credible and longstanding golf course review platform and consists of 70,000+ members.

Indian Wells Golf Resort has also been selected for a Platinum Award by the Association of Golf Merchandisers. AGM’s members include golf professionals, buyers, merchandisers, students, club managers, owners, and suppliers to the golf industry, and their 2017 Platinum Awards honor the most creative and successful golf retailing entities in the U.S. Congratulations to the #1 team at the Indian Wells Golf Resort for garnering these well-deserved accolades!

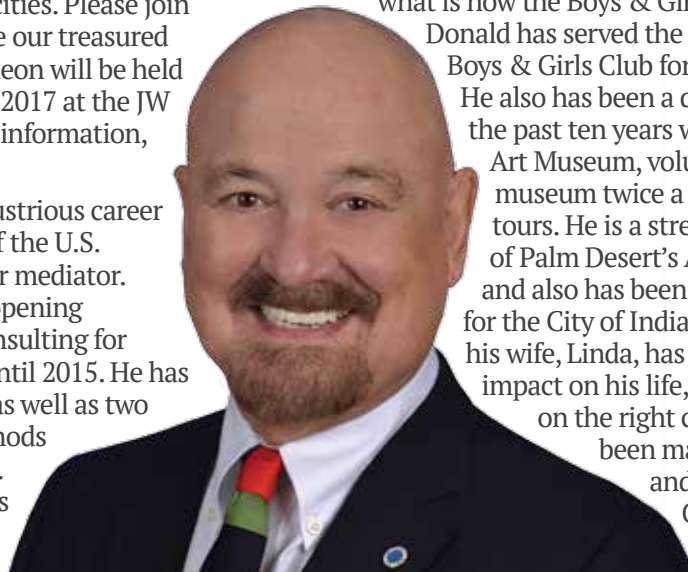
Spotlight on Indian Wells SIA Award Winner Donald Pelegrino

Congratulations to Indian Wells resident Donald Pelegrino, who is among 11 Riverside County senior citizens to be honored at the 25th Annual Senior Inspiration Awards Luncheon on Friday, March 24. The Awards recognize seniors 65 years of age and above whose active community contributions inspire desert residents of all ages, and who otherwise would not receive recognition for their ongoing active dedication. The final list is selected by the County of Riverside and the Coachella Valley’s nine cities. Please join the City of Indian Wells as we congratulate our treasured neighbor Donald Pelegrino. The SIA luncheon will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on March 24, 2017 at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa. For information, visit www.seniorinspirationawards.org.

Donald Pelegrino, 81, has enjoyed an illustrious career as a university faculty member, member of the U.S. Army, trained facilitator and certified labor mediator. At 61 he became a small business owner, opening Pelegrino & Associates, specializing in consulting for non-profit organizations, and operating until 2015. He has written 27 articles related to non-profits, as well as two textbooks, including one on research methods that continues to be used in schools today. Donald reflects fondly on the Chicago Boys

Club summer camp, which he and his brother were sent to as young children. During his time there, he asked a camp counselor how he qualified to work at the summer camp and was told that you need to be a college graduate. That inspired 8-year-old Donald to go to college and graduate so that he could return to the camp as a counselor. He became a camp counselor and later the camp director. Because of that experience, he has been motivated to stay involved in what is now the Boys & Girls Club organization.

Donald has served the Coachella Valley Boys & Girls Club for the past six years. He also has been a docent specialist for the past ten years with the Palm Springs Art Museum, volunteering at the museum twice a week and providing tours. He is a street guide for the City of Palm Desert’s Art in Public Places and also has been a volunteer curator for the City of Indian Wells. Donald says his wife, Linda, has made the biggest impact on his life, always setting him on the right course. They have been married for 47 years and are foster parents for Cavalier Rescue USA.



Fireworks Alerts:

There will be private fireworks displays at the following venues:
Eldorado Country Club the evening of Saturday, March 25, 2017.
The Vintage Club the evening of Saturday, April 1, 2017.

These events are not open to the public. Please remember to bring pets indoors. Thank you.

Interested in Becoming a Civil Grand Juror?

The Riverside Superior Court is seeking qualified citizens to serve as civil grand jurors for the 2017/2018 term. Those interested in serving as a grand juror must have the following qualifications:

- ☞ Be a citizen of the United States
- ☞ Be 18 years of age or older
- ☞ Be a resident of Riverside County for at least one year prior to July 1, 2017
- ☞ Be of sound judgment and fair character
- ☞ Possess sufficient knowledge of the English language
- ☞ Be able to attend hearings and meetings three to five days a week.

Additionally, applicants cannot:

- ☞ Currently be serving as a trial juror in any court in California
- ☞ Have been discharged as a grand juror within the previous year
- ☞ Be serving as an elected public official
- ☞ Have been convicted of malfeasance in office, or any felony or high crime.



Duties include, but are not limited to investigating the operations of county government, researching matters of civic concern, and inquiring into public offenses. A per diem fee, plus mileage, is paid to defray expenses. A fillable application can be located on the court's website at www.riverside.courts.ca.gov by selecting 'Grand Jury' under the 'Divisions' tab. An application may also be requested by sending a self-addressed, stamped, business-sized envelope to the Riverside Superior Court Jury Services Division at the following address:

**Superior Court of California –
County of Riverside Jury Services Division
P.O. Box 400
Riverside, CA 92502**

Applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2017, and should also be submitted to the above address. If you have any questions, please call 951-777-3644.

Fight the Bite 5K Announced for April 15

Running, walking and strutting will all be part of the experience on Saturday, April 15, as the second annual Fight the Bite 5K begins at 8:00 a.m. in the Palm Desert Civic Center Park. This fun event is open to runners and walkers of all ages and abilities — and families, friends, and colleagues are all encouraged to participate. Organized by the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District, Fight the Bite is designed to raise awareness about mosquito threats in the desert. At the end of the 5K, a community resource fair in the park will feature music, face painting and booths with information on local community services. To register online, go to <http://bit.ly/2kJjnU>.



Celebrate History and Hear Fascinating Tales from Dr. Priscilla Porter

The Indian Wells Historic Preservation Foundation will hold its 14th Annual Spring Luncheon on Tuesday, April 18 at Desert Horizons Country Club. The social begins at 11:30 a.m., to be followed by lunch at 12 noon. This year's event program will feature a special presentation by Dr. Priscilla Porter, local historian and Director of the Porter History-Social Science Room at Cal State San Bernardino, Palm Desert Campus. Dr. Porter will share stories of the Coachella Valley, addressing the celebrated "movers and shakers" who brought life to what the valley has become today. A special part of her program will emphasize significant persons within the Indian Wells area itself, making the afternoon another occasion for celebrating the 50th anniversary of the City. All members and friends of historic preservation are welcome to attend. Cost is \$45 per person. Reservations are due by April 12. For information and reservations, contact Adele Ruxton, (760) 346-8420, ARxtn@aol.com.

Enjoy a Safe Grilling Season



Backyard barbecue grills are a popular sight in the region, and a few key safety practices can add to their enjoyment. Here are a few tips, as recommended by the National Fire Protection Association and Underwriters Laboratories/UL.

—DO:

1 Keep your grill at least 10 feet away from your house. Farther is even better, and this includes portions attached to your house like carports, garages and porches. Grills should not be used underneath wooden overhangs, as fire could flare up into the structure above. This guidance applies to both charcoal and gas grills. Additionally, be sure to keep children and pets at least three feet from the grill area.

2 Clean your grill regularly. If you allow grease and fat to build, they can provide more fuel for a fire. Grease is a major source of flare ups.

3 Check for gas leaks. To ensure no gas is leaking from your gas grill, make a solution of half liquid dish soap and half water and rub it on the grill's hoses and connections. Then, turn the gas on (with the grill lid open.) If the soap forms large bubbles, that's a sign that the hoses have tiny holes or that the connections are not tight enough.

4 Keep decorations away from your grill. Decorations like hanging baskets, pillows and umbrellas look pretty AND provide fuel for a fire. To make matters worse, today's decor is mostly made of artificial fibers that burn fast and hot, making this tip even more important.

5 Keep a spray bottle of water handy.

In this way, if you have a minor flare-up you can spray it with the water to instantly calm it. The bonus of this tip is that water won't harm your food.

6 Keep a fire extinguisher within a couple steps of your grill, and know how to use it.

If you are unsure how to use the extinguisher, don't waste time before calling 911. Firefighters say many fire deaths occur when people try to fight a fire themselves instead of calling for expert help and letting the fire department do its job.

—DON'T:

7 Don't turn on the gas while your grill lid is closed.

Never do this, as it causes gas to build up inside your grill. When you do light it and open it, the result can be a fireball that explodes.

8 Do not leave a grill unattended. Fires double in size every minute. Plan ahead so that all of your other food prep chores are done and you can focus on grilling.

9 Don't overload your grill with food. This applies especially to fatty meats. The basic reason for this tip is that if too much fat drips on the flames at once, it can cause a large flare-up that could light nearby things on fire.

10 Never use a grill indoors. People often think it will be safe to use a grill, especially a small one, indoors. This is not true. In addition to the fire hazard, grills release carbon monoxide – a deadly colorless, odorless gas. That gas needs to vent in fresh air or it can kill.



Charcoal Grills

- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids directly to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container



Propane Grills

- If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.
- If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill. If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least five minutes before re-lighting it.

DON'T FORGET: Our Palm Tree Trimming Deadline

Indian Wells is known for its magnificent palm trees, including the date palm, fan palm, and other ornamental species which thrive in the desert. Our stately palm trees have a defined life span, and when they reach their later stages – often at heights from 50 to 70 feet representing 70-90 years in age – the trees can become susceptible to disease and insect infestation. These ailments can lead to a significant increase in browning and loss of palm fronds and/or loss of the crown at the top of the tree altogether – or even toppling of a tree. A high wind event may also worsen damage in a weakened tree, while falling fronds, crowns and trees can result in major property damage or harm to people if struck by debris.

Strong consideration should be given to removing trees in serious states of decline. Additionally, the City of Indian

Wells implements a regular program to inspect palm trees in public rights-of-way and on public property. The City strongly urges homeowners, property owners, HOAs, and business owners to regularly check the health and stability of palm trees located on their private property and private common areas by seeking professional advice from a landscape maintenance specialist and/or an ISA Certified Arborist.

Also, in order to comply with City ordinance provisions that ensure our neighborhoods remain healthy and clean, **date palms must be trimmed by June 30. Washingtonians, fan palms, and other palm trees must be trimmed by July 30.** You can avoid the unnecessary expense of repeat trimming by having your trees cut close to the deadlines after final bloom is assured.



Protect Your Mail This Vacation Season

Tips from Lt. Matt Martello, Indian Wells Police and Riverside County Sheriff's Department

Welcome to Lieutenant Matthew Martello, newest member of the Indian Wells Police Department. Lt. Martello began his career with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department in 1994 and has provided his valued services to Indio, Palm Desert, Thermal, Coachella and now Indian Wells. Recognized for his field and patrol experience, he was appointed several years ago to the Palm Desert Police Department's Special Enforcement Team, and he has also served as Assistant Chief of Police for the City of Coachella. Lieutenant Martello attended the College of Idaho and obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science. He and his wife, Wendy, have three children and have been residents in the valley for nearly 40 years.

Lt. Martello would like to help all residents to protect a very valuable asset — their mail, and he is pleased to share the following suggestions:

The holiday season is over and package deliveries and holiday mail have slowed down — but thieves continue preying on these items throughout the year. Some package thieves follow delivery trucks and then take the packages after the delivery is made. Others engage in crimes of opportunity, when thieves see packages in plain view of the street. The Indian Wells Police Department has steps you can take to reduce the chance that your deliveries will be stolen:

- ☒ Have your packages delivered to a location where someone can receive them in person, such as a neighbor or relative who is usually at home, or your workplace (if your employer allows it).
- ☒ Encourage your neighbors to watch for deliveries and agree to secure each other's packages. This includes being watchful for any person who is going onto porches for no apparent reason, or who is following delivery trucks around.
- ☒ Track deliveries online, or look

into receiving a text notification to your cell phone when a package has been delivered. Many companies offer these services.

- ☒ Request a signature confirmation of delivery and arrange to be there to sign for the package. This is especially useful to consider for expensive, desirable or irreplaceable items.
- ☒ Provide delivery instructions. If packages will be left while you are not at home, try to have them left out of sight from the street.



General mail theft tips:

- ☒ Don't send cash in the mail.

- ☒ Deposit mail in a mail slot in the post office, at a Postal Service mailbox, or hand it to your letter carrier. Don't leave outgoing mail unattended in your mailbox for pick up.
- ☒ Pick up mail promptly. Don't leave it in your mailbox overnight. If you are expecting checks, credit cards or other valuable items, ask a friend or neighbor to pick up your mail.
- ☒ If you change your address, tell the Post Office and anyone else you do business with by mail.
- ☒ When going out of town, tell the Post Office and they can hold your mail until you return.
- ☒ Consider getting a locking mailbox. Ask your local postmaster for the most up-to-date regulations on mailboxes.

Your police department is dedicated to assisting in keeping your Indian Wells quality of life extraordinary. If you see anyone acting suspiciously, call the police non-emergency number at 760.836.3215. Try and provide as much information as possible: vehicle descriptions, license plate numbers, individual descriptions, and the last direction of travel.

Indian Wells Arts Festival to Present Passport to the World, March 31 to April 2

A collection of fine art spanning 25 countries and five continents will be showcased at the 15th annual Indian Wells Arts Festival, March 31 through April 2, 2017. Artisans from Russia, France, Japan, Colombia, Italy, Nigeria, Peru and beyond will be featured alongside artists from more than a dozen U.S. states. In all, 28 mediums and categories exhibiting painting, sculpture, jewelry, wearable-art fashion, photography, ceramics and more will be presented for festival-goers and collectors to purchase directly from the artists.



The Indian Wells Arts Festival presents some of the most culturally exquisite traditions in art from around world and takes place each spring at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden. Along the artist-lined paths, enthusiasts will discover thousands of one-of-a-kind works and meet the artists in person. The event's popular Eggs + Champagne in the Garden brunch will also be offered until noon on both Saturday and Sunday, April 1 and 2. For tickets and details, please visit <http://indianwellsartsfestival.com>.

Happenings & Events in and Around Indian Wells

MARCH 6-19:

BNP Paribas Open,
Indian Wells Tennis Garden

MARCH 9:

Residents' Day/Night,
BNP Paribas Open

MARCH 9:

Desert Town Hall Annual Lecture
Series: Tucker Carlson and Paul
Begala

MARCH 16:

Good Health Public Service
Presentation, Diseases of the Brain,
Indian Wells Country Club

MARCH 27:

Desert Town Hall Annual Lecture
Series: Michael Lewis

APRIL 13:

Good Health Public Service
Presentation, Eye Health,
Indian Wells Country Club

APRIL 21-23:

Desert Two Ball Challenge,
The Indian Wells Golf Resort

APRIL 1: **BREW AT THE ZOO**

The Seventh Annual Brew at the Zoo will take place on April 2 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at The Living Desert. Designed to help save wildlife "one beer at a time," the culinary adventure will include unlimited samplings of handcrafted beers, food and live entertainment.



APRIL 15: **EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA**



Eggstravaganza attendance is included with paid admission to the park, and parking is free.

MAY 29: **2017 MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY**

The City of Indian Wells annual Memorial Day Ceremony will be held on Monday, May 29 at 9 a.m. in the Indian Wells Golf Resort's Pavilion. This event is open to all, no RSVP is required, and light refreshments will be served. Please join us for this moving tribute to those who have given their lives in service to their country.



JUNE 2-11: **2017 RESTAURANT WEEK**



Get ready for ten days of enticing food and new dining experiences, as Palm Springs Desert Resorts Restaurant Week comes to town June 2 to 11. Restaurant Week provides the perfect opportunity to visit favorite local restaurants or try something new, as participating locations offer three-course meals priced at very reduced rates. This year, several dozen restaurants will participate, while area hotels and attractions are also presenting special offers. It is strongly recommended that diners make reservations in advance by contacting restaurants directly or visiting www.OpenTable.com. For all the epicurean details, go to <http://palmspringsrestaurantweek.com>.

A Look Back 50 Years

Sports Highlights of 1967

Jack Nicklaus, the most accomplished golfer to date in 1967, won the U.S. Open for the second time and his seventh major title. He's the PGA Tour money leader at \$188,998



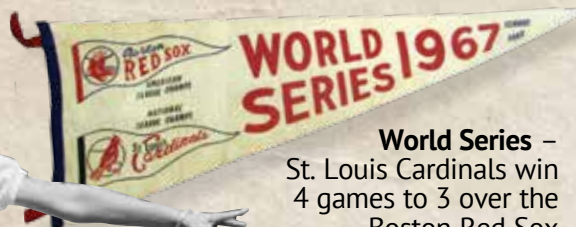
The **first Super Bowl** is played and NFL champion Green Bay Packers win 35-10 over AFL champion Kansas City Chiefs.



Super Bowl ad: **\$42,000**
Reserved seat: **\$10.00**



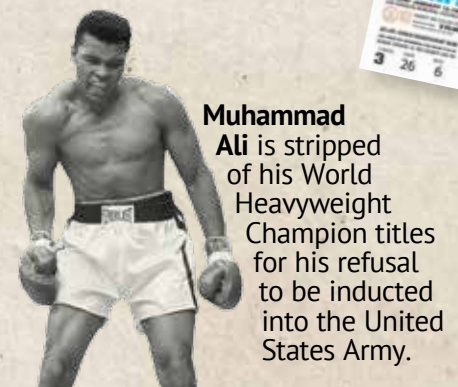
World Series – St. Louis Cardinals win 4 games to 3 over the Boston Red Sox



Wimbledon Women's Singles Championship – **Billie Jean King** defeats Great Britain's Ann Haydon-Jones.



Kathryn Switzer became the first woman to run the Boston Marathon.



Muhammad Ali is stripped of his World Heavyweight Champion titles for his refusal to be inducted into the United States Army.

Swimming Pool Safety Tips

With warm weather on its way, those involved in the supervision of children should be aware of the dangers associated with swimming pools and other bodies of water. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately one in five people who die from drowning are children 14 and younger — with children ages one to four having the highest drowning rates.

Here are some key tips to prevent these needless tragedies:

- ◆ Never leave small children alone and unsupervised — even for a few seconds. Know how to swim, and always have a “designated child watcher” who can swim too.
- ◆ If a child is missing, check the pool first. Go to the edge of the pool and scan the entire pool, bottom and surface, as well as the pool area.
- ◆ Anyone watching children should learn CPR and be able to rescue a child if needed.
- ◆ Do not use flotation devices as a substitute for supervision.
- ◆ Even if young children have had swimming lessons, they must be watched closely while they are swimming.



- ◆ Use an approved barrier to separate the pool from the house.
- ◆ Have life-saving devices near the pool, such as a pole/hook or flotation device.
- ◆ Keep children away from pool filters, as the suction force may injure them or prevent them from surfacing.
- ◆ If you leave the pool area, take the children with you.
- ◆ Keep large objects such as tables, chairs, toys and ladders away from pool fences. Do not allow children to play around the pool, and store all toys outside the pool area.
- ◆ Never swim alone, or while under the influence of alcohol or medications.
- ◆ Never swim during storms with thunder and/or lightning.
- ◆ Check the pool area regularly for glass bottles, toys or other potential accident hazards.
- ◆ Keep CD players, radios, tablets, smartphones, laptops, and other electrical devices away from pools or nearby wet surfaces.
- ◆ For above-ground pools, steps and ladders to the pool should be secured and locked, or removed when the pool is not in use.
- ◆ Never dive into unfamiliar or shallow bodies of water.
- ◆ Don't swim if you're tired or have just finished eating.
- ◆ Post the 9-1-1 emergency number on all phones.

Spectrum Indian Wells Contemporary Art Show Returns March 16–19, 2017

Four days of art, entertainment and special events will dazzle residents from March 16 to 19, as Spectrum Indian Wells shares its 2017 slate of international art and artists with the public. This year's highlights will include innovative paintings and photography, mixed media, glassworks, and state-of-the-art illumination installations — along with a special emphasis on sculpture, all presented in a sleek, gallery-style exhibition space at Renaissance Indian Wells Resort & Spa. Introduced last year, this major, juried art event became an immediate favorite among local residents and tennis fans visiting the city. For ticket information, please visit www.spectrum-indianwells.com. Admission is free for anyone with a ticket to this year's BNP Paribas Open.





City Hall Schedule & Daylight Saving Time

March 12	Daylight Saving Time begins
March 16	City Council Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
April 13	City Council Meeting, 1:30 p.m.
May 4	City Council Meeting, time TBD
May 18	City Council Meeting, 1:30 p.m.
May 29	City Hall Holiday Closure, Memorial Day (City Memorial Day tribute will still take place)

For further information on commission and committee meetings, please see the monthly calendar at www.cityofindianwells.org. All City Council, Housing Authority, Special Meeting agendas and associated staff reports are available for download in PDF format at www.cityofindianwells.org no later than noon on the Monday prior to the meeting date. Printed versions may be obtained in the reception area at City Hall. City Council Meetings are broadcast live, and are also archived for later viewing in video and MP3 format at www.cityofindianwells.org. You can also watch Council Meetings on IWTv (Time Warner digital channel 122 and Frontier Fios channel 32).

Connect with Us!

Be sure to visit www.cityofindianwells.org for the latest updates throughout the spring! Register to receive the latest city news via e-mail by clicking on the "I WANT TO" section where you'll find "Email Sign Up" under "Apply for."

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A New Baby Jaguar Arrives

The Living Desert's first baby of 2017 is a jaguar cub born January 26 to mother, Magia, and father, Memo. The recent arrival can be viewed via a new behind-the-scenes "jag cam" at www.livingdesert.org/JagCam. Jaguars are the largest native cat to the Americas, and the only "roaring" cat in North America. Identified by their rosette style spots, jaguars are a solitary animal weighing between 100 to 250 pounds. The gestation period for jaguars lasts between 90-110 days, with the cubs staying with Mom for up to two years.



SHRED EVENT SET FOR APRIL 29



The City of Indian Wells, in partnership with Burrtec Waste and Recycling, will hold a Document Shredding Event on Saturday, April 29 from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m., at Burrtec's facility in Palm Desert. Indian Wells residents are encouraged to bring obsolete documents as well as file folders and envelopes for secure shredding. It is not necessary to remove staples or paper clips. Please note that proof of current Indian Wells residency is required, and that a maximum of six banker-size boxes per vehicle will be accepted. No commercial businesses, please. Burrtec Waste and Recycling is located at 41575 Eclectic Street, one block west of Cook Street between 42nd and Hovley Lane. For more information, call City Hall at (760) 346-2489.

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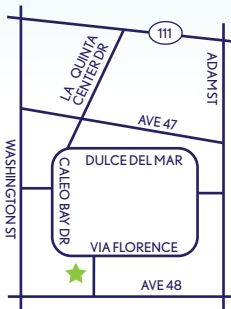
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INDIAN WELLS SPECIAL EDITION - MARCH 2017

SCE Implementing "High Usage Charge"

Majority of customers will see higher monthly energy bills

SCE recently sent out letters to most of their customers introducing their "High Usage Charge" program. Any customer that uses in excess of 400% of the baseline allotment (Tier 1) in a given month, will be charged a penalty. The penalty can be as much as double the normal rate of electricity.



SCE gets to set the baseline amount and can change it throughout the year and for various regions. Our region has a baseline as low as 240kwh per month. Virtually every average household with an air conditioner and/or a pool, will be a Super-user and will incur extra charges. The result is that the majority of SCE's customers will see their monthly energy bills increase dramatically.

The only exemption is solar energy users. Homes with solar energy systems that provide over 90 percent of a home's annual energy needs will not exceed the baseline most months. In addition, most solar system owners have changed to a Time of Use rate plan. The High Usage Charge program does not apply to TOU customers.

What can you do to mitigate being deemed a Super User? Any steps a homeowner can take to minimize their electricity usage will help. Examples are installation of a variable speed pool pump, changing to LED bulbs, increasing insulation, and upgrading to high efficiency appliances and air conditioners. And of course installation of a solar energy system eliminates virtually all SCE energy charges and locks in energy rates against future Utility increases!

To learn more about solar energy for your home, contact Planet Solar at 760-341-1413.

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SCE Making Changes to Net Metering

Decision will affect new solar system owners

Effective July 1, 2017 SCE and other California utility companies will reduce the amount of compensation for solar energy sent out to the grid. The result is less cost savings for solar energy system owners. "While the amount is quite small, it still alters the return-on-investment projections for homeowners looking at solar energy," commented Kirk Weiss, Planet Solar Vice President Sales. "And it continues electric companies efforts to discourage the installation of solar energy."

Net metering is an agreement between the utility company and the solar system owner. The owner receives credit for all excess power generated by their solar system and sent out to the grid. During non-producing hours, the owner pulls from their credits before incurring the cost of buying power from the utility. Net Metering 2.0 will change this.

Homeowners with a solar system installed prior to July 1, 2017 are grandfathered in at Net Metering 1.0 for the next 20 years. For more information, and to see if solar power is right for you, contact Planet Solar at 760-341-1413.

Tesla Powerwall Has Arrived in the Valley

Planet Solar has installed the first Tesla battery backup system in the Coachella Valley. Tesla is the industry leader in battery backup systems, which provide enough power to a home to operate small appliances and cell phones in outages and emergencies. In addition, the battery backup system assists solar power users in reducing the amount of energy sent out to the grid.



As the exclusive dealer for Tesla Powerwall in the Valley, Planet Solar is uniquely qualified to answer your questions on battery backup systems, which can be used in conjunction with a solar energy system or with a normal grid-tied electric system.

"Imagine never being power-less in your home again," said Ben Seibert, President & CEO of Planet Solar. "The Tesla Powerwall provides assurance of continuous energy to operate essential items such as cell phones and small fridges. We are very proud to partner with Tesla in the Coachella Valley and our other offices throughout California."

For information on a battery backup system for your home or business, contact Planet Solar at 760-341-1413.

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