

the desert flow

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025



A Message from the Mayor

Dear Desert Hot Springs Residents,

Welcome to the first edition of our community newsletter! We're excited to keep you informed and connected with all the great things happening in Desert Hot Springs this March.

This month, don't miss the Little League Opening Day Ceremony on March 15th to cheer on our young athletes. The Youth Volleyball League is also in full swing—come support our talented players!

March is Women's History Month, a time to honor the incredible achievements of women locally and nationally. Let's celebrate those who have shaped our world and continue to inspire us.

From soaking in our renowned hot springs to supporting local businesses and attending community events, there's always something happening in Desert Hot Springs.

For more updates, visit our website or follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Thank you for being a vital part of our thriving community! We look forward to sharing more with you in the months ahead!



SCOTT MATAS

CITY DIRECTORY

- City Hall
(760) 329-6411
- DHS Police Dept.
(760) 329-2904
- Code Compliance
(760) 288-0608
- Graffiti Hotline
(888) 562-3822
- Senior Center
(760) 329-0222
- Recreation Center
(760) 329-6510



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@cityofdhs



CityofDHS.org



(760) 329-6411

Welcoming Chief Steve Shaw!

We are honored to welcome Chief Steve Shaw as the new leader of the Desert Hot Springs Police Department. With 35 years of law enforcement experience, including 32 years with the San Diego Police Department, he joined Desert Hot Springs in 2020 as Deputy Chief.

Chief Shaw serves on the Board of Directors for the California Police Chiefs Association (CPCA) as the Southern California Associate Member Representative and Co-Chair of the CPCA Traffic Safety Committee. His leadership and expertise will be instrumental in strengthening our department and enhancing public safety.



New Leadership Announcement

We are pleased to announce Doria Wilms as our newly appointed Interim City Manager. A lifelong resident of Desert Hot Springs, Doria brings a wealth of institutional knowledge and a strong passion for our community.

Doria began her career with the city in 2016 as Deputy City Clerk, quickly advancing through the ranks, culminating in her appointment as Deputy City Manager in 2021. Doria also served as Interim City Manager in 2023, where she demonstrated her ability to lead effectively during transitional periods. Her leadership is characterized by thoughtful decision-making and strong relationships with community members and stakeholders, ensuring continuity and progress as we move forward.



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UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

CITY HALL



UPCOMING MEETING

City Council Meeting

Date: March 18, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: City Hall, City Council Chambers

11999 Palm Drive, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240



How to Participate in City Council Meetings

Meeting Schedule:

First & third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM.

Location:

*City Council Chambers,
11999 Palm Drive, Desert
Hot Springs, CA 92240*

Public Comments:

*In-Person: Fill out a Speaker
Card before speaking.*

*Time Limit: 3 minutes per
speaker.*

Written Comments:

*Email the City Clerk before
the meeting with your
name and concerns.*

Conduct & Rules:

*Be respectful, avoid
personal attacks, and direct
comments to the Council.*

Agendas & More Info:

*Visit Cityofdhs.org
for agendas, minutes, and
updates.*

2025 City of Desert Hot Springs Senior Inspiration Award Recipient:

Sally Hedberg is a dedicated volunteer and advocate for Desert Hot Springs. For over two years, she has led efforts to support the unhoused, coordinating volunteers to distribute nearly 120 lunches weekly. Her commitment earned recognition from the H.N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation, which awarded a grant in her honor to support the Street Life Project.



Beyond her volunteer work, Sally is also a talented writer. As a freelance contributor to publications such as The Desert Sun, she has covered a range of topics, from local events to cultural initiatives, helping to highlight the vibrant stories within our community.

Her dedication and service continue to make a meaningful impact in Desert Hot Springs, inspiring others to get involved and give back.



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PROJECT UPDATES

Aventura Palms

Home Development by GHA



Construction is in full swing for 34 brand-new single-family homes at the Aventura Palms Residential Development, perfectly situated at Palm Drive and Camino Aventura. Fresh, vibrant housing options coming to the area!

Rancho Descanso Home Development by Lennar



Rancho Descanso, a new community of single-family homes located near the intersection of Palm Drive is now selling!

Construction of 76 homes is underway, and model homes are now open for public tours.

Skyborne Village

Home Development by Lennar



Progress is happening! 286 brand-new single-family homes are rising at the Skyborne Residential Development Village 3, nestled at Pierson Boulevard and Karen Avenue.



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*Exciting developments are coming to Desert Hot Springs!
We'll keep you informed on ongoing projects and progress.
Thank you for your support!*



AMAZON WAREHOUSE UPDATE

Construction is underway for a new 700,000+ square foot industrial warehouse building located along 20th Avenue, east of Indian Canyon Drive.

The project is expected to be completed by September 2025. This new facility will play a key role in expanding Amazon's operations and support the growing demand in the region.





FIRE STATION #98 UPDATE

Construction is underway for the new 9,000+ square foot Fire Station 98, located at the corner of Hacienda Avenue and Long Canyon Drive. The project is progressing well and is expected to be completed by Summer 2025.

This new facility will enhance emergency response capabilities and improve services for the community.



PROJECTS FLOWING IN SOON !

Eagles Sports Park



Big things are happening at Eagles Sports Park!

Plans for a brand-new 7.5-acre park are moving forward, featuring a football field, baseball field, concession area, and plenty of onsite parking.

The project is currently in the plan check process, and we're thrilled to announce that construction is set to begin in Summer 2025!

This park is sure to be a fantastic addition to the community, offering more opportunities for sports and recreation.

Stay tuned for more updates as we get closer to breaking ground!



Exciting Community Improvement Projects Underway!

Our city is growing, and several key projects are set to enhance public safety, transportation, and infrastructure.

Here's a look at what's coming soon:

Police Department Annex Building Project

A new 6,000+ square-foot Police Department Annex will soon be under construction! This facility will support local law enforcement and enhance public safety. Construction begins in March 2025, with a groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for March 25th.

Hacienda Avenue Street Improvement Project (Phase 1)

Major upgrades coming to Hacienda Avenue! This project will bring 10,000 linear feet of sidewalk, ADA-accessible driveways, a new bike lane, parkway landscaping, 39 new streetlights, ADA ramps, and striped crosswalks. Construction is set to begin soon, with a groundbreaking ceremony on April 2nd.

Desert Gateway Project

The anticipated Desert Gateway project is set to begin! This 1 million square-foot industrial warehouse will be built on 20th Avenue, east of Indian Canyon Drive and west of the Amazon project. With permits issued, construction will begin soon, marking a major milestone in our city's growth.

Palm Drive Improvements (Camino Aventura to I-10)

Exciting changes are planned for Palm Drive! This project will introduce new sidewalks, bike lanes, and streetlights, improving safety and accessibility. Currently in the plan check process, construction is expected to start in Fall 2025.

New Traffic Signal at Palm Drive & 20th Avenue

A new traffic signal is coming to Palm Drive and 20th Avenue to improve traffic flow and safety. This project is in the plan check phase, with construction set to begin in Fall 2025.

Hacienda Avenue Street Improvements - Tamar Drive to Long Canyon Road (Phase 2)

Phase 2 of the Hacienda Avenue includes sidewalks with ADA-accessible driveways, bike lanes, landscaped medians, streetlights, and ADA ramps. Currently in the engineering design phase, construction is planned for 2026.

We're committed to enhancing our community with these vital projects. Stay connected for updates as construction gets underway!



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PROJECTS APPROVED WITH ENTITLEMENTS

EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS AHEAD!

Beyond Gas Station

A new gas station is coming to the northwest corner of Pierson Boulevard and Indian Canyon Drive! While construction hasn't started yet, entitlements are approved, and the project is moving forward.

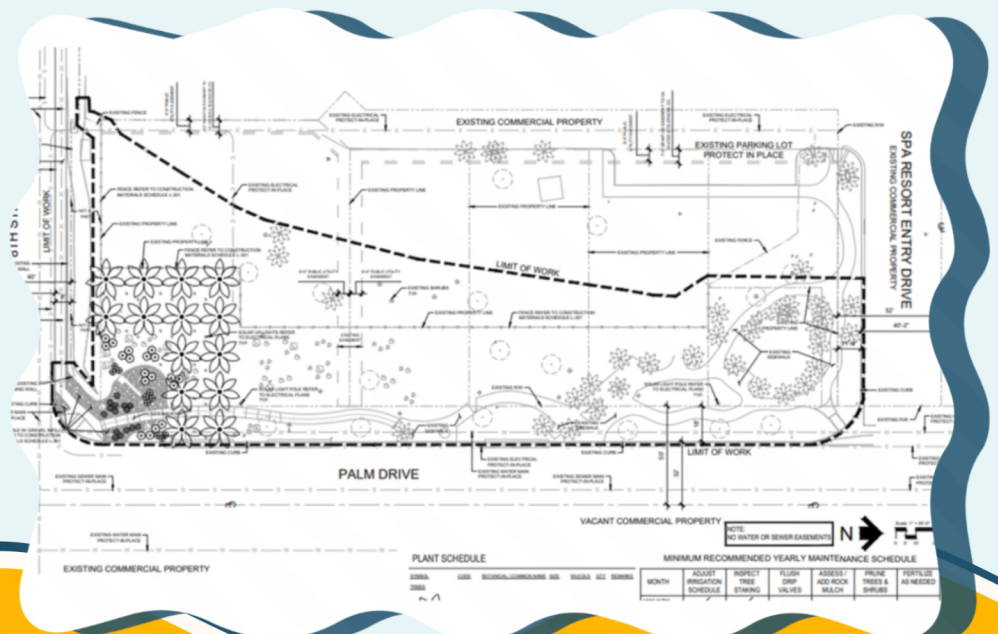
Soluna Hotel Renovation

The Soluna Hotel, a local landmark at Palm Drive and 8th Street, is set for a stunning renovation! While the project is still in the entitlement process, we're excited to see this historic hotel regain its shine. No construction schedule has been announced yet, but we'll keep you posted on the progress.

Reflection Park Update

The rehabilitation of Reflection Park, located at Palm Drive and 8th Street, is well underway! Plans are currently in the plan check process, with construction expected to begin in Summer 2025. These improvements will bring new life to the park for the entire community to enjoy.

Reflection park rendering:



CITY DEPARTMENTS

Highlights



PUBLIC WORKS

In the past month, Public Works has made significant progress in maintaining and improving our community:

- * 168 inspections were completed to ensure safety and compliance.
- * 45 work orders were successfully finished, addressing various public infrastructure needs.
- * 57 plan checks were approved, contributing to ongoing projects and development.

ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

Adopt, Donate, and Make a Difference!

At Animal Care and Control, we are proud to be a no-kill shelter providing love and care to:

- * 82 wonderful dogs 🐶
- * 18 lovable cats 🐱
- * 8 adorable foster animals 🐾

Our dedicated team works tirelessly to ensure each animal receives the attention they need as we work towards finding them their forever homes.

We're grateful for the ongoing support from our community.

Donations are appreciated as they help us continue to provide care and support for animals in need.

For more information on pet adoption, please visit our website at [Animal Care & Control](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)!

BUILDING DIVISION

The Building Division had a productive February, with the following key achievements:

- * 290 building permits were created, processed, and/or issued.
- * 840 building inspections were conducted to ensure compliance and safety. In addition, the division made significant progress in business licensing:
 - * 95 new and renewal business licenses were issued.





Desert Hot Springs

RECREATION AND HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

Highlights and Services

RECREATION CENTER

Currently, we have 113 kids that are signed up for the after-school program, and 104 of them get a ride straight from their schools to the Center, thanks to our transportation service.

Other exciting programs:

- *Archery *Gymnastics *Dance *Paint Night *Early Childhood Play
- *Pickleball *Volleyball Leagues *Basketball Leagues *Plus more!

Spring Break Camp enrollment opens on March 17th—don't miss out!



SENIOR CENTER

The Senior Center is thriving with 491 members and 60 dedicated volunteers! In February, we served 1,590 lunches, fostering nourishment and connection. More than just a place, it's a vibrant hub for staying active and engaged.

Did you know we have a Thrift Store? All proceeds support senior services and activities—shop and give back to the community!

FITNESS CENTER

Desert Hot Springs residents can access state-of-the-art fitness equipment for just \$50 per year! Enjoy the gym, plus drop-in Basketball and Volleyball sessions—great ways to stay active and have fun! Whether you're looking to work out or enjoy a game with friends, there's something for everyone!



Public Announcement:

The track and tennis courts at Desert Hot Springs High School are open for public use on Saturdays and Sundays from 7 AM to 3 PM. Enjoy some outdoor fitness and fun!

CODE COMPLIANCE REPORT

Here's a snapshot of Code Compliance efforts for February 2025:

Service Requests: 110
Completed Inspections: 271
Notice of Violations: 94
Administrative Citations: 33
New Cases: 98
Closed Cases: 95
Total Open Cases: 286
Cases Opened in 2025: 278

Short-Term Vacation Statistics

Number of Complaints: 0
Notice of Violations: 0
Administrative Citations: 0

Case Highlight: Successful Case Closure

Compliance Officer Human successfully closed a long-standing case for a single-family home abandoned since 2014.

The property had become a hotspot for break-ins and dumping. Sold to an investment group in January 2025, the new owner has since made significant improvements, including new plumbing, electrical systems, a roof, landscaping, and more. City departments worked together to help bring the property back into compliance. The transformation, from 2022 to now, is impressive.

BEFORE



AFTER



CASE HIGHLIGHT

Officer Human's Successful Compliance Effort

In August 2021, Officer Human opened a case following a structure fire that caused significant damage to one of the units in a multi-family residential property. Despite her diligent enforcement efforts, the property owner remained unresponsive and uncommunicative. During this period, the owner decided to put the property up for sale.

As the property changed hands, the City began discussions with the new buyer, aiming to establish an agreement that would address the violations left unresolved by the previous owner. The new owner signed a buyer's agreement, and as a result, all violations were resolved.

The before-and-after photos showcase the ongoing efforts and hard work put in by Officer Human to bring this property back into compliance, ensuring a safer and well-maintained living environment for all residents. This case highlights Officer Human's persistence and dedication in restoring property standards, ultimately achieving a successful resolution.

BEFORE



AFTER



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For more information as construction continues see CityofDHS.org

CASE HIGHLIGHT

Supervisor Messer's Successful Resolution of Longstanding Code Compliance Issues

Supervisor Messer recently closed a longstanding Code Compliance case involving a single-family residential property that had posed ongoing challenges for the community and surrounding areas. Over the years, the property had been reported multiple times for illegal construction, the accumulation of trash and junk, and safety hazards resulting from a structural fire that compromised the building's integrity.

Despite the persistent issues, Supervisor Messer remained dedicated to enforcing compliance, sending numerous notices to the property owner over the years. After years of neglect, the property was eventually sold to a company specializing in repairing and rehabilitating distressed properties. The new owner took immediate action, obtaining all necessary building permits and addressing all outstanding violations.

The before-and-after photos highlight the significant transformation of the property, showcasing Supervisor Messer's persistence and the positive impact of diligent Code enforcement. This case underscores the importance of continued effort in improving the safety and quality of life for the community.



BEFORE



AFTER



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*Where life flows
and art tells a story.*



As we continue to grow and improve our community, your input is invaluable. Together, we can shape a brighter future for Desert Hot Springs. Stay involved, stay informed, and help us build the future we all want to see. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to hearing from you!

*Until next time the Desert Hot Springs
Communications Team*



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