



City of Needles

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Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell
Councilmember Tona Belt
Councilmember Jamie McCorkle
Councilmember JoAnne Pogue
Councilmember Henry Longbrake

City Manager Patrick J. Martinez

MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICK J. MARTINEZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 3, 2025

1. **Council Chambers Reactivation and Sheriff's Station Remodel Completion**

Staff is pleased to report that, after more than a year of relocation, **all City Council, Board, and Commission meetings have officially returned to the Council Chambers at 1111 Bailey Avenue**, beginning this week with the Utility Board. The previous relocation was necessary due to the **San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department's \$10.3 million remodel of the Colorado River Station**, which shares space with the Chambers. As part of the remodel, **new heating and air conditioning systems** were installed, finally making the space viable for year-round public use. With these critical upgrades now complete, the City is proud to resume official business in a professional, fully functional setting that supports transparency, accessibility, and efficient governance.

2. **CAT 265 Loader Acquisition Enhances Citywide Maintenance Capabilities**

This week, the **City of Needles** reached another milestone in its ongoing commitment to infrastructure excellence with the arrival of the new **CAT 265 Compact Track Loader**, acquired at a cost of **\$107,829.94**. This equipment will significantly enhance the City's ability to maintain rights-of-way, clear overgrown vegetation, manage inventory at key facilities, and support the **maintenance of our city beaches**. Previously, these essential tasks were hindered by **outdated machinery** and dependence on **outside contractors**, leading to delays and increased costs. This acquisition **strengthens city operations**, supports the **City Council's goals to modernize infrastructure**, and improves the efficiency and responsiveness of public works across the community. Photos are attached for Council's reference.

3. **Fourth of July Marine and Fireworks Enforcement – July 4–7, 2025**

From July 4 through July 7, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department – Colorado River Station will conduct enhanced patrol operations on and around the Colorado River by land, water, and air. As part of **Operation Dry Water**, deputies will enforce laws against boating under the influence, require children under 13 to wear life jackets and inspect for required safety equipment.

Common violations such as transom riding and failure to slow for law enforcement vessels will be strictly enforced. All boat operators must carry a California Boater Card. Additionally, the Sheriff's Department will conduct **zero-tolerance fireworks enforcement** in Needles. Only "safe and sane" fireworks are permitted—anything that explodes or flies is illegal. Violators may face criminal charges and be held liable for damages caused by fire. Fireworks are a leading cause of fires, injuries, and fatalities each year. Residents are reminded **not to call 9-1-1** to report illegal fireworks unless for emergencies that need immediate attention from law enforcement, fire, or medical personnel. To report violations, contact **Sheriff's Dispatch at (909) 387-8313**. For press releases, news, and updates, follow the Colorado River Station on **Twitter @CORiverStation**, **Facebook: @SBCSDColoradoRiverStation**, and **Instagram: @SBCSDColoradoRiverStation**.

4. **Electric Yard Building Arrives — Enhancing Infrastructure Stability**

This week, the **City of Needles received delivery of the new steel Electric Yard Building**, marking a major step forward in protecting and extending the life of our public utility infrastructure. For years, essential fleet vehicles, equipment, and inventory were stored outdoors or in temporary containers—leaving critical assets exposed to extreme heat, weather damage, and accelerated wear. The arrival of this permanent facility underscores the City's recognition that **proper maintenance begins with proper storage**. By shielding high-value assets from the elements, the building will significantly reduce deterioration, extend equipment lifespan, and cut future replacement costs. This **\$673,552 investment** reflects the City Council's continued commitment to **infrastructure modernization, asset preservation, and operational efficiency**—foundational components of a more resilient and service-ready community. Photos of the building delivery and site progress are attached for Council's reference.

5. **Well 15 Yard Cleanup – City Beautification and Infrastructure Goals**

This week, city crews completed a cleanup of the **Well 15 yard**, reinforcing the City Council's priority to improve the **cleanliness, safety, and overall appeal** of public spaces. These efforts are part of a broader initiative to enhance **citywide beautification**, reduce blight, and ensure that vital infrastructure sites are maintained to the highest standard. By addressing these areas proactively, the City not only protects critical utilities but also supports the Council's goal of making Needles a **welcoming and well-maintained community** for both residents and visitors. This work reflects the City's commitment to preserving **quality of life** through coordinated cleanup and maintenance efforts.

6. **River Daze Donation Supports Summer Day Camp**

The **Colorado River Station's nonprofit organization, River Daze**, generously donated **\$500** this week to support the **City of Needles Summer Day Camp**—a meaningful contribution that directly benefits local youth. The funds, raised by department employees, families, and volunteers, will be used to enhance programming at the Needles Recreation Center and reflect a strong commitment to community partnership. **Thank you to the Colorado River Station and everyone involved in making this generous donation possible.**

The free camp runs through **July 31**, Monday through Thursday from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM, for children ages 5–12. Activities include games, pool time, crafts, and themed weeks. **Spots are still available**—families may call **(760) 326-3866** to register. This donation underscores the shared goal of creating safe, engaging, and enriching spaces for our youth.

7. **Jr. Lifeguard Program Launches at Needles Aquatic Center**

The City of Needles officially kicked off its Jr. Lifeguard Training Program on Monday, June 30, at the Aquatic Center. Open to youth ages 11 and up, the program is already off to a strong start, with participants shadowing certified lifeguards and actively engaging in emergency response drills, water safety instruction, and teamwork exercises. This volunteer-based initiative directly supports **City Council goals to enhance youth development, promote public safety awareness, and expand recreational programming**. The program not only builds lifeguarding skills but also instills responsibility and leadership in our community's next generation. Photos and flyer are attached for Council's reference.

8. **Reminder: 4th of July "Celebrate Freedom" Event – Tomorrow**

Join us **tomorrow, July 4**, from **12 PM to 4 PM** at the **Needles Aquatics Center** for the annual **Celebrate Freedom Pool Party**, hosted in partnership with the Needles Elks Lodge. Enjoy free swim, games, prizes, and the crowning of **Miss Freedom and Mr. Firecracker**. A great way to beat the heat and celebrate as a community—see you there!

9. **Independence Day Holiday – City Hall Closure and Operational Coverage**

City Hall will be closed **tomorrow, Friday, July 4, 2025**, in observance of Independence Day. Normal operations will resume on **Monday, July 7 at 8:30 AM**. For urgent matters during the closure, **residents may call 760-326-5700**, where our **after-hours answering service will route calls to the appropriate City personnel**. As part of our commitment to maintaining essential services, **holiday coverage has been fully coordinated**. Staff are scheduled throughout the weekend to ensure facilities are maintained, key areas are monitored, and public needs are met. We're well-prepared for the holiday period—please don't hesitate to reach out if anything is needed.

10. **Community Events Calendar Now Live on City Website**

As part of the City's newly launched website, we're excited to introduce a [comprehensive Community Events Calendar](#) designed to keep residents informed about the many activities and happenings across Needles. We invite **local organizations and event organizers** to collaborate with the **City Clerk's Office** to add or update events—helping ensure the calendar remains vibrant, inclusive, and reflective of our community's diverse offerings. To contribute or request modifications, please contact **Candace Clark** at cclark@cityofneedles.com. Your participation helps strengthen community spirit and enrich the local experience for residents and visitors alike.