



City of Needles

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Mayor, Janet Jernigan
Vice Mayor Kirsten Merritt
Councilmember Tona Belt
Councilmember Ellen Campbell
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: October 11, 2024

1. The circus is in town! For the first time, the Ventura Circus has arrived in Needles! Opening night took place last night, but there's still time to experience the enchantment of "The Dream," a traditional American family circus featuring everything from juggling and clowns to breathtaking aerial acrobatics. Performances will run through **October 21, 2024**, at 100 G Street in Downtown Needles. Don't miss this magical event—bring your family and friends for an unforgettable experience under the big top. **Check out the attached images for a sneak peek into the circus, and secure your tickets by clicking this [link](#).**
2. Since **September 19, 2024**, the City has broken ground on two significant street improvement projects totaling **\$3.2 million**. The **\$1.4 million Obernolte Street Improvement Project**, funded by federal and local resources, focuses on critical streets near schools, including L Street, 4th Street, and Highland Street. Meanwhile, the **\$1.8 million Phase IV-A Street Improvement Project** will enhance roads like Desoto St., F St., and G St. These projects aim to improve safety, reduce maintenance costs, and upgrade critical infrastructure. **Refer to the attached images for a look at our new roads.**
3. Needles High School (NHS) proudly hosts its **69th annual Homecoming celebration tonight**. The NHS Mustangs will take on White Pine, with the JV game kicking off at 4:00 PM and the Varsity game at 7:00 PM. This week has been filled with exciting festivities, starting with the Mustang Drive, followed by a lively Community Pep Rally, and capped off yesterday with the Senior Class Bonfire. Earlier today, the Homecoming Parade brought even more excitement, showcasing our school spirit and community pride. Congratulations to Jennifer Valenzuela, the 2024 Homecoming Grand Marshal—be sure to cheer her on during the halftime, showcasing and supporting the Mustangs for what promises to be a fantastic evening. **Refer to the attached image for look at the parade and the bonfire.**

4. The City Council has implemented goals that promote clean-up initiatives and beautification efforts to maintain and enhance the city's appeal and livability for our residents. This past week, our City crews came together to clean up City-owned numerous city owned properties including the vacant land behind the Lillyhill apartments and the Senior Center. As a city, we are responsible for maintaining our own properties, and I want to thank our electric, water, wastewater, and public works crews for their collaborative effort in making this happen. We encourage residents to report any public nuisances by contacting the City of Needles Code Enforcement at 760-326-2115 (ext. 123) or through the Needles Connect app, available on both the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us maintain and improve our community's appeal and livability. Please don't hesitate to reach out with concerns or to report issues—your involvement is key to our community's continued progress. **Refer to the attached image for a snapshot of their hard work.**

5. On **October 10, 2024**, the City of Needles proudly marked the 51st anniversary of its Double Ten Day flag-raising ceremony at the historic Needles Courthouse. The event, which celebrates the National Day of the Republic of China, drew a distinguished assembly, including the Republic of China Air Force Veterans Color Guard, the Needles High School Band, and dignitaries from the City, County, and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles. Among those in attendance were City of Needles officials, including Mayor Jan Jernigan, Councilmembers Tona Belt and Henry Longbrake, and other city staff. This long-standing tradition, initiated in 1972, reflects Needles' strong commitment to cultural heritage and international relations, with only one interruption following 9/11. **Please refer to the attached images for further details.**

6. **On October 9, 2024**, the American Red Cross Southern California Region hosted a community stakeholder meeting in Needles, bringing together City Officials, City Staff, and local stakeholders. The American Red Cross plays a vital role in providing disaster relief and support, and in the event of an emergency, they can be reached at 951-656-4218, Option 2. They are also actively seeking local volunteers to join their team. If you're interested in becoming a Red Cross volunteer, please get in touch with Juana Zapata via email at juana.zapata@redcross.org or by calling or texting 951-205-6689. Volunteers are urgently needed to assist with disaster response in Needles. **For further details, please refer to the attached flyer.**

7. The San Bernardino County Fire Protection District (SBCFPD) remains committed to providing safe and effective hazardous waste management services to protect the health and environment of Needles residents. City staff is pleased to report the success of last October's Household Hazardous Waste Collection event, where numerous community members participated, and a total of **960 pounds** of household hazardous waste and E-waste was collected.

8. On behalf of the City of Needles, City Planner Irene Romero attended the 2024 APA California Conference on **September 30, 2024**, at the Riverside Convention Center. The event provided valuable insights into emerging trends, best practices, and innovative urban and regional planning solutions. Throughout the conference, Irene had the opportunity to network with fellow professionals, engage in discussions on critical issues, and gain fresh perspectives. Being part of a community of planning professionals was a highlight, enabling her to form meaningful connections with industry leaders. The City of Needles remains committed to offering ongoing professional development opportunities to ensure staff stay informed about the latest advancements in their fields. **Refer to the attached image for a glimpse.**

9. **Earlier this week**, Caltrans used **ten gallons** of paint to cover graffiti across critical locations in Needles, including the Park Moabi Bridge, L Street Bridge, High School Hill Overpass, and I-40 bridge supports between West Broadway and Five Mile Road. These areas, frequently used by off-highway vehicles (OHVs), were heavily targeted by graffiti, which is visible to the public as they enter and exit the City. For graffiti removal within the Caltrans focus area, residents can report it directly to Caltrans at <https://csr.dot.ca.gov/>. Vandalism, including graffiti, costs the City of Needles and Caltrans thousands of dollars annually. The City encourages those who witness vandalism to report it to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office at (909) 387-8313 or California Highway Patrol (760) 326-2000. For other areas within the City contact (760) 326-2115 or use the Needles Connect app, available on the [Apple App](#) or [Google Play Store](#). **Thank you to Caltrans** for their continued support in keeping our community clean.

10. IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:
 - **Annual Bridge to Bridge First Responders Appreciation Day on Saturday, October 12, 2024, from 11 am-2 pm** at the Mohave Valley Legacy Community Park at 9200 Aquarius, Mohave Valley.
 - **SBCSD/Needles Police 5th Annual Trunk or Treat Event on Wednesday, October 30, 2024, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM** at the Recreation Center parking lot at 1705 J Street. If you're interested in participating, please get in touch with Misty Hunt at 760-526-9200 or mhunt@sbcscd.org.
 - **Community Fall Festival: November 2, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM** at 950 Front Street. To participate vendors can contact Jennifer Valenzuela, Recreation Manager, via email at jvalenzuela@cityofneedles.com or directly at 760-326-2814.

1. CIRCUS IN TOWN



2. OBERNOLTE STREET PROJECT UPDATE



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3. NHS HOMECOMING



3. NHS HOMECOMING



4. COMMUNITY CLEAN INITIATIVE



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5. 51ST ANNIVERSARY OF DOUBLE TEN DAY



6. AMERICAN RED CROSS STAKEHOLDER

24/7 FIRE SEASON

**BECOME A
RED CROSS
VOLUNTEER TODAY**



Due to predictions for an active wildfire season and the complexities of COVID-19, the Red Cross will need thousands of local volunteers to care for people when disasters strike.

Volunteers Urgently Needed for the Following Positions:

DISASTER ACTION TEAM (DAT): Provide 24-hours immediate emergency response to local disasters, particular hours fires, ensuring that those affected have access to resources for basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing

MASS CARE: Provide services as feeding, sheltering, reunifications and distribution of emergency supplies.

LOGISTICS: Provides on vehicle tracking, acquisition of materials, facilities, and warehousing.

RECOVERY: Conduct client interviews, provide clients with information and referrals to community partners assess their qualifications for additional assistance.

DISASTER SERVICES TECHNOLOGY: Provide support to volunteers in the use of technology, inventory, install (e.g radios and antennas) and support computers, printers, and other IT equipment.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS: : Develop and maintain productive working relationship with government partners, other non-profits, community groups, faith-based, civic groups, and other community members.

INFORMATION & PLANNING: Research and gathering assessment and operational data information for the scope of the disaster.

SHELTER SERVICES: Support emergency shelters by staffing difference areas including receptions, registrations, feeding, dormitory, information collections and other vital tasks.

DISASTER MENTAL HEALTH: Support other disaster responders before, during and after response, using staff mental health. **Psychology, psychiatry counseling, LMSW, MFT or therapy License Required.*

DISASTER HEALTH SERVICES: Support to individuals and families who have been impacted by a disaster and staff health services. **MD, RN, LVN or EMT License Required.*

APPLY TODAY

Juana Zapata
Sr. Recruitment Specialist
For further information:
juana.zapata@redcross.org
Call or Text (951) 205-6689



American Red Cross
Southern California Region

8. APA CONFERENCE



9. CALTRANS GRAFFITI CLEAN-UP

