



City of Needles

817 Third Street, Needles, California 92363
(760) 326-2113 • FAX (760) 326-6765
www.cityofneedles.com

Mayor, Janet Jernigan
Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell
Councilmember Tona Belt
Councilmember Jamie McCorkle
Councilmember JoAnne Pogue
Councilmember Henry Longbrake
Councilmember Zachery Longacre

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: April 18, 2025

1. **This Saturday, April 19, 2025**, Needles will host two exciting community events that align with the City Council's goals of civic engagement, family-friendly programming, and economic development. At **9:30 AM**, Tri-State Community Healthcare presents the **Third Annual Needles Easter Egg Hunt** at **Jack Smith Park (1000 River Rd)**, featuring over 5,000 eggs, prizes, gift baskets, face painting, and photos with the Easter Bunny—fun for all ages and a great way to bring families together. Also beginning at **10:00 AM**, the **1st Annual World-Famous Chili Cook-off and Car Show** will be held at **Santa Fe Park (950 Front Street)**. Sponsored by the River Community Coalition and Firehouse Ministries, the event includes chili tastings, live entertainment, K-9 demonstrations by the San Bernardino and Mohave County Sheriff's Offices, arts and crafts, and a classic car show. These events showcase the partnerships and community spirit that make Needles a great place to live, work, and visit. For chili cook-off inquiries, contact Wayne Colburn at **760-903-3939** or needlesrcc@gmail.com, and Holly Russo at **760-628-7331** or comecatchthefire@gmail.com. Special thanks to all organizers and volunteers for making these events possible.
2. **City of Needles** invites the community to attend the **Phase IV-B Street Improvement Project groundbreaking ceremony** on **Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 9:00 AM**, at the intersection of **"G" Street and Broadway Street**. In **2019**, the City adopted a **15-year Pavement Management Plan (PMP)** to guide the maintenance and rehabilitation of its **47-mile street network**, prioritizing projects based on pavement conditions, traffic volumes, and areas impacted by recurring water leaks. Now in **Year 4**, the City is proud to launch **Phase IV-B**, which includes street improvements on **Desoto Street, El Monte Street, Carty Way, Carty Circle, Carty Place, I Street, G Street, H Street, Crestview Drive, and La Mesa Way**. The **City Council** recently awarded a **\$1.15 million construction contract** to **S. Christensen Engineering, Inc.**, with work scheduled to begin **next week**, and wrap up by the end of May. This phase is funded through **cannabis tax revenues**, which have contributed over **\$10**

million to date toward revitalizing our streets and underground infrastructure. We encourage all residents to join us as we celebrate this important step in building a safer, stronger, and more connected Needles.

3. This week, the City of Needles held its first-ever **“Big Block of Cheese Day,”** a special **governance workshop** designed to strengthen **transparency**, reinforce the **Council-Manager form of government**, and connect the **City Council** with the **dedicated professionals** who carry out their vision. The day began with **AB 1234 Ethics Training**, underscoring our shared commitment to **ethical leadership** and **public accountability**. Thank you City Attorney SBEMP for coordinating this vital session. Following the training, each **department head** delivered a brief presentation outlining their team’s **core responsibilities**, **recent accomplishments**, and **key priorities**—giving Councilmembers a direct look at the **inner workings of City Hall** and the people behind the **services our community relies on**. These briefings showcased the **professionalism**, **pride**, and **purpose** driving our organization forward. They also served as a reminder that the City’s **strategic goals**—**economic development**, **infrastructure improvements**, **public safety**, **family-focused programming**, and **tourism**—are being advanced daily by a **committed team of public servants**. By bringing operations to life, the event helped bridge **policy and implementation**, reinforcing **budget decisions**, **staffing**, and **service delivery** all align with the **Council’s direction**. Thank you to our **staff** for their preparation and participation, and to our **residents** for your continued support as we work to deliver a more **responsive**, **transparent**, and **community-centered government**. Click on this [link](#) to view the Department slides.
4. The **Needles Pride Program** continues to make a positive impact across the community, thanks to the strong support of residents, business owners, and City employees. This citywide initiative remains focused on beautifying neighborhoods, promoting civic pride, and improving the overall appearance and safety of Needles. These efforts directly support the **City Council’s goals** to enhance community engagement, maintain reliable infrastructure, and strengthen quality of life for all who live and work here. **Thank you to Phillips Construction for removing the blighted building in our downtown.** This marks another important milestone in our city’s ongoing effort to eliminate visual blight and revitalize key corridors. The **City is actively working to remove blight from our community**, reinforcing the message that Needles is a place where pride and progress go hand in hand. Over the past week, **Public Works** completed pothole repairs along the Parkway and restriped **Jack Smith Park** to improve safety ahead of the busy holiday weekend. The **Needles Rodeo Arena** was also cleaned and prepared for upcoming events, and the street sweeper operated along both **Broadway and J Street** to maintain clean and accessible public roadways.

Crews also conducted **weed abatement** in several key areas, including **J Street**, **Duke Watkins Park**, the **Dog Parks**, and near **The Wagon**. To support the city’s landscaping investments, **new irrigation systems** were installed for trees at the **Recreation Center**, and **sprinkler repairs** were completed to

improve water efficiency ahead of rising summer temperatures. The **Water Department** completed important maintenance work at **Well 15**, including the installation of **insulation on the chlorine house structure** to help regulate interior temperatures and protect equipment from extreme heat. In addition, a **fresh coat of paint** was applied to help preserve the building and extend the life of this critical facility. These upgrades ensure continued **reliable service** to the community and help safeguard essential infrastructure. These upgrades will extend the life of the facility and ensure continued reliable service to the community. Looking ahead, the City is organizing a **Community Cleanup Day** on **Saturday, May 3, 2025**, and encourages residents to participate in this hands-on effort to remove debris and improve public spaces. These community-driven events are a visible example of civic pride in action and further demonstrate our shared commitment to maintaining a clean and welcoming city. Residents are reminded they can report issues such as potholes, damaged sidewalks, or overgrown vegetation by calling **760-326-2115 (press #9)** or use the **Needles Connect app** on [Google Play Store](#) and the [Apple Store](#). Refer to the attached images for a glimpse.

5. On **Thursday, April 17, 2025**, the **City Manager** attended the **Coachella Valley Business Conference and Economic Forecast**, gaining valuable insights into **current economic trends** and identifying potential growth opportunities that align with the **City Council's goals** to drive **economic development** and improve **quality of life** in Needles. While at the conference, **City staff** also met with representatives from **Assembly District 36** (Office of Assemblymember **Jeff Gonzalez**) and **Senate District 18** (Office of State Senator **Steve Padilla**), both of which maintain offices in the **Coachella Valley**. These meetings provided a critical opportunity to **advocate** for Council's priorities, including addressing the city's **housing shortage**, attracting a **full-service grocery store**, and securing **funding** to improve and **pave local roads**. Strengthening relationships with **state partners** supports the Council's broader objectives of building a **sustainable** and **livable community** through targeted investments and **strategic advocacy**.

In the **evening**, the City Manager also attended a **Town Hall** hosted by **Congressman Raul Ruiz** in **Indio**, part of a regional series focused on **constituent engagement**. Congressman Ruiz shared **legislative updates**, listened to community input, and reaffirmed his commitment to **supporting Needles residents**. He emphasized efforts to ensure continued access to **Medicaid**, protect families from rising **grocery costs**, and expressed his support for the **grant initiatives** the city is pursuing. This level of **direct federal engagement** reinforces the **City Council's commitment** to maintaining **strong intergovernmental relationships** and ensuring that the **needs of Needles residents** are represented and prioritized at **every level of government**. Refer to the attached images for a look at the various events.

6. Over the past several years, **City officials**, under the direction of the **Mayor and City Council**, have been working closely with **Freddy Bi of Discover Inland Empire** to explore and expand **tourism opportunities** in Needles. That

effort reached an **exciting milestone** this past week as **Mayor Jernigan** welcomed two **high-profile international delegations** from **Taiwan** and **Japan** through Discover IE's coordinated **Familiarization (FAM) tours**. These visits brought top travel executives from Asia and spotlighted Needles' **Route 66 heritage, El Garces, the Needles Area Chamber of Commerce And Visitor Center, the Regional Museum, and our iconic Welcome to California sign**. This initiative directly supports the **City Council's strategic priorities** to attract tourism, foster civic engagement, and promote Needles as a **vibrant destination for outdoor recreation and cultural experiences**. The proactive leadership of the **Mayor and Council** in strengthening **regional and international relationships** continues to elevate Needles' visibility and drive **new economic opportunities**. **Refer to the attached images for a glimpse of this milestone visit.**

7. City staff is preparing for the **June 7, 2025** reopening of the **Needles Aquatics Center** with key facility upgrades to ensure a safe and enjoyable summer season. Improvements include **slide resurfacing, new LED pool lighting, and repairs to the men's restroom, including the ceiling, baseboards, and wall coverings**. These enhancements reflect the City's commitment to maintaining quality public amenities. The **Needles Sandsharks Swim Team** will host tryouts on **April 28 and 29 from 4:00–6:00 PM**, with returning swimmers reporting on **May 1**. Weekday tryouts continue at **5:00 PM** throughout the season. Public programming—**lap swimming, water aerobics, swim lessons, and open swim**—begins **June 9**. Full schedules and pricing will be posted on the **City of Needles website**. **Attached images** show progress on slide resurfacing, pool lighting, and restroom renovations. These efforts support the **City Council's goals** to enhance recreation, promote wellness, and invest in youth and family-friendly spaces.
8. The City Manager attended the **Contract City/Town Managers Meeting** on **Tuesday, April 15, 2025**, at the **San Bernardino County Sheriff's Headquarters**. During the meeting, the City Manager met with **Sheriff Shannon D. Dicus**, who shared updates on major technology investments being implemented across the department. These include **body-worn cameras, upgraded Tasers, and AI-assisted tools** designed to streamline the report writing process. Additionally, the **San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department (SBCSD)** has made further investments in the **City of Needles** by expanding the **Colorado River Station**. This expansion is intended to improve working conditions for deputies and support efforts to **attract and retain law enforcement personnel** serving our community. These improvements reflect the County's commitment to public safety and ensuring Needles has the resources it needs. **Refer to the attached image for a glimpse of the meeting**. Participation in this meeting supports the **City Council's priorities** of **interagency collaboration, public safety modernization, and strengthening regional partnerships**. **Come out and support our new Captain, Jake Gault, at his Swearing-In Ceremony on May 13, 2025, at 6:00 PM at El Garces.**

9. The **Needles Animal Shelter** is proud to share that the upcoming **Spay/Neuter Clinics** on **April 24–25** are **fully booked**. Special thanks to our staff for working diligently to fill all appointments and promote **animal welfare** and **responsible pet ownership** in Needles. Since launching our partnership with **Dr. Angelina Beeks** of **Angel's Touch Mobile Veterinary Clinic** in **April 2022**, these clinics have helped reduce stray animal populations and support healthier pets in our community. The City subsidizes a portion of the cost, making the service more affordable for residents. This effort aligns with the **City Council's goals** to enhance **community health, safety, and livability**. Clinics are held **twice a year**, so residents who missed this one are encouraged to watch for future dates. For more information, call **(760) 326-4952**. **Refer to the attached flyer for details.**
10. Last weekend, Needles came alive with **community spirit, wellness, and local talent** through three events that brought residents and visitors together. The **Palo Verde College Foundation 5K Color Run & Walk** drew over **90 participants**, including strong turnout from **Needles Unified School District** students, teachers, and staff. Congratulations to the 18 & Up winners: **Ryan Dunn** (1st), **Garry Cameron** (2nd), and **Stacey Martinez** (3rd). Special thanks to the **San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department** for keeping the course safe and encouraging runners. The weekend continued with the **Second Annual Needles Craft Show** at Santa Fe Park, featuring dozens of vendors and showcasing local small businesses. Meanwhile, **Art in the Park at El Garces**, hosted by the **River Valley Artists Guild**, celebrated our growing creative community through local exhibits and competitions. These events align with **City Council goals** to promote **healthy living**, support **small business development**, and celebrate the **arts** as part of building a vibrant, connected Needles.
11. **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:**
- City staff have **carefully curated a comprehensive community events calendar** to inform residents about **Needles' diverse activities and happenings**. The community events calendar can now **be found on the Needles Connect App!** Organizations are encouraged to **collaborate with the City Clerk's Office** to add or update events, ensuring a vibrant and inclusive calendar. For contributions or modifications, please get in touch with Candace Clark at **cclark@cityofneedles.com**. Your **active participation** helps strengthen our community and enrich local experiences. **Check the attached calendar for the remaining 2025 events**, and stay engaged with all Needles offers!

1. TRI-STATE EASTER EGG HUNT

5,000 Eggs
Gift Baskets & prizes

NEEDLES, CA

Easter

EGG HUNT

SATURDAY- APRIL 19

Hunt starts at 9:30

Jack Smith Park
1000 River Rd, Needles, CA

**FACE PAINTING & PHOTOS WITH
THE EASTER BUNNY**

This event is brought to you by:



(844) 444-1424 www.tristateclinics.org



1. CHILI COOK-OFF

NEEDLES 1ST ANNUAL WORLD FAMOUS CHILI COOK-OFF

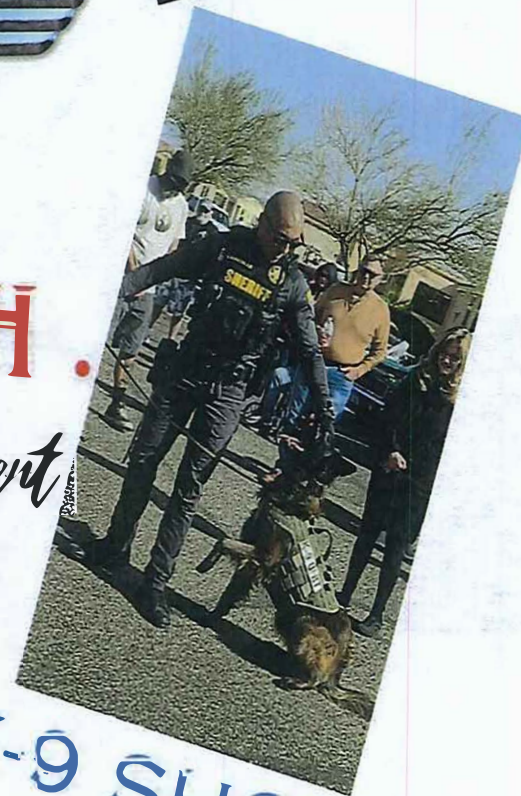
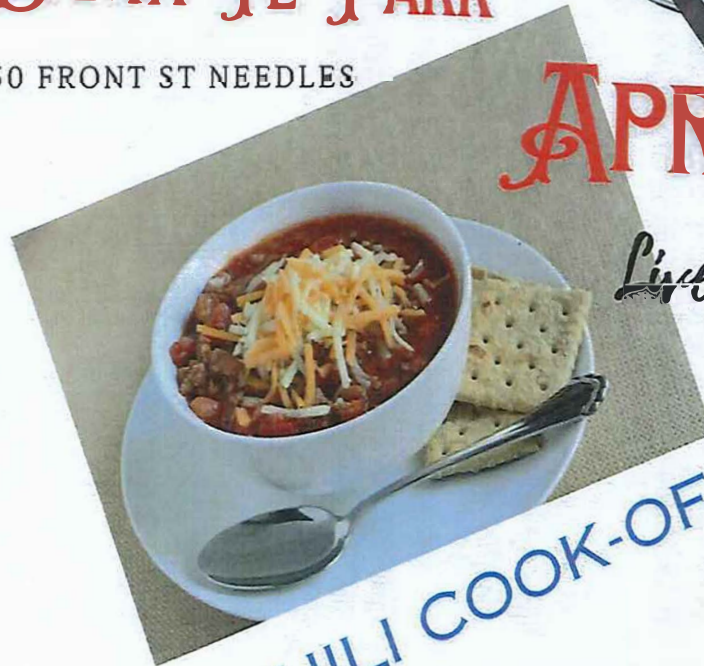


SANTA FE PARK

950 FRONT ST NEEDLES

APRIL 19TH.

Live Entertainment



CHILI COOK-OFF

K-9 SHOW

AND CAR SHOW

2. City of Needles Capital Projects

Street Improvements & Water Service Replacement

PHASE 4B



VISTA AREA

ELMONTE STREET (Parkway to Coronado St)
 CARTY WAY (El Monte to Coronado St),
 CARTY CIRCLE,
 CARTY PLACE
 DESOTO ST (Parkway to Balboa St)



DOWNTOWN AREA

I STREET (Third Street to Broadway Ave)
 H STREET (Third Street to Broadway Ave)
 G STREET (Third Street to Broadway Ave)
 CRESTVIEW (Third Street to End)

LEGEND

**PHASE 4B - PAVING IMPROVEMENTS
Including Water Services**

3. COUNCIL GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP



4. NEEDLES PRIDE



4. NEEDLES PRIDE



4. NEEDLES PRIDE



4. NEEDLES PRIDE



5. COACHELLA ECONOMIC FORECAST



5. CONGRESSMAN TOWN HALL



3. DISCOVER INLAND EMPIRE



7. AQUATICS CENTER



7. AQUATICS CENTER



7. SANDSHARKS SWIM TEAM

2025 NEEDLES SANDSHARKS SWIM TEAM

Swimmers will be required to swim the length
of the pool unassisted

SWIM TRY OUTS

MON. APRIL 28 & TUES. APRIL 29
4-6PM

Swimmers may tryout throughout the season
Monday-Friday @5pm

NEEDLES AQUATIC CENTER

We will see all RETURNING swimmers on Thurs. 5/1

8. CONTRACT CITY MANAGERS MEETING SBCSD



9. ANIMAL SHELTER CLINIC

SPRING SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC

THE NEEDLES ANIMAL SHELTER IS SPONSORING A SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC FOR NEEDLES RESIDENTS. PET OWNER PAYS DEPOSIT AND NEEDLES ANIMAL SHELTER PAYS REMAINING COST
MUST FILL OUT APPLICATION AND PROVIDE PROOF OF RESIDENCY

APRIL 24TH, 2025

SERVICES PROVIDED BY:

ANGEL'S TOUCH MOBILE VETERINARY CLINIC
DR. ANGELINA BEEKS DVM



NEEDLES ANIMAL SHELTER
1662 FLIP MENDEZ PKWY
(760)326-4952



BY APPOINTMENT ONLY



APPLICATIONS
AVAILABLE AT SHELTER



LIMITED AVAILABILITY



DOGS MUST HAVE VALID
RABIES AND CITY
LICENSE



10. PALO VERDE 5K



Source: Needles Desert Star

10. PALO VERDE 5K

