



*City of Needles*  
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[www.cityofneedles.com](http://www.cityofneedles.com)

*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*

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICK J. MARTINEZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 28, 2024

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1. City crews promptly responded to reports of a fire on the 900 block of Bush Street around 1:15 p.m. on **Saturday, June 22, 2024**. Upon arrival, they found a residential structure engulfed in flames. The fire then spread northwards along the Colorado River. The San Bernardino County Fire Department and several other fire departments from the region, including Mohave Valley Fire and Bullhead City Fire Departments, responded to offer assistance. The fire extended north to Needles Highway and led to mandatory evacuations at Fenders Resort.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department requested additional resources for support. Over 20 San Bernardino County Fire Department units, including San Bernardino County Sheriff Air Rescue, were deployed. Fire units from the Mohave Valley Fire Department and Bullhead City Fire Department also offered assistance. The fire crossed the Colorado River into Arizona, burning a total of more than 200 acres.

The efforts of the various agencies involved, including the San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services, Cal OES, Department of Public Health, National Weather Services, Red Cross, California Highway Patrol, Caltrans, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office, and the City of Needles Public Works, Electric, and Water Departments, are commendable for their dedication and hard work in providing emergency response. As per the [Cal Fire Incident Update](#), the incident has been concluded as of June 26, 2024. Seventy acres were burned in Needles, and the Needles fire has been completely contained.

Multiple organizations are actively supporting the resident who was displaced by the fire, providing a range of donations including clothing, tools, and hygiene products. All donations can be dropped off at the front desk at Budget Inn 2104 Needles Hwy Needles, CA 92363, demonstrating the community's solidarity in times of crisis.

2. On **Monday, June 24, 2024**, the City's Animal Shelter implemented the Trap, Neuter, and Release Program. The initial focus was on Bazoobuth, resulting in the neutering of 12 cats. The program will now extend its focus to the surrounding areas, including B Street, La Mesa Way, and D Street for the next month. The goal of this initiative is to improve our community by managing the population of roaming cats, reducing diseases, and increasing adoption rates, ultimately aiming to eliminate euthanasia at our shelter. Residents can report roaming cats to the Needles Animal Shelter by calling 760-326-4952 or using the Needles Connect app, available on the [Apple App](#) or [Google Play Store](#).
3. The Housing Authority of the City of Needles will be accepting applications! For a limited time, starting **July 1, 2024, until July 31, 2024**, the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program will be accepting placement applications, and the Public Housing waitlist is open year-round. Applications can be obtained and submitted to the Needles Housing Authority at 908 Sycamore Drive. For more information please call (760)326-3222 Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
4. **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:**
  - **Set Free Church in collaboration with TNT Fireworks**, will be selling safe and sane fireworks from noon on **June 28, 2024, through July 6, 2024**, at 1164 Needles Highway (formerly Miranda's Car Wash). For more information, call 760-326-2941.
  - **Needles Elks Lodge** is hosting the **Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Pool Party** from 12pm to 4pm at the City of Needles Aquatics Center. Free open swim for everyone.
  - **Palo Verde College** is hosting "Pirate Tuesday" on **July 26, 2024**, from 10am to 2pm at the Palo Verde Needles Education Center located at 725 W. Broadway (formerly Claypool's). This community outreach event will feature free food, snacks, and drinks. All are welcome to join! For more information, call 760-326-5033.