

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: March 14, 2025

1. The Needles Pride Program continues to inspire residents to take pride in their neighborhoods and strengthen our community. The City of Needles remains committed to infrastructure improvements that enhance service reliability and overall quality of life. Mark your calendars! Councilmember Longacre has scheduled the next community cleanup for Saturday, March 29th, at 9:00 a.m. along San Clemente. Join us in keeping Needles clean and beautiful! This week, Public Works crews worked to improve roadway safety, continuing pothole repairs along Lillyhill Drive, refreshing red curb markings at Duke Watkins Park, and repainting the skatepark railings. As time and resources allow, they will continue citywide maintenance to keep our streets and public spaces in top shape. See the attached image of the freshly painted infrastructure and repaired potholes!

Crews have started clearing overgrown vegetation at the J Street Spillway near the Aquatics Center as part of ongoing fire abatement efforts. This work is essential in reducing wildfire risks and enhancing emergency access in the area. The city is taking proactive measures to improve safety for residents and first responders by removing excess vegetation. **Check out the attached photos** to see their hard work in action! Residents can report road or vegetation concerns by calling **760-326-2115** (press #9) or using the **Needles Connect app** on Google Play Store (Android) and Apple Store (iOS). Together, we're building a safer, stronger Needles!

2. This week, a significant milestone was reached in the \$3.96 million Duke Watkins Park Improvement Project—the chemical storage tank for the Duke Watkins Splash Pad was successfully installed (refer to the attached image for a look)! This final key component brings us closer to fully operationalizing the splash pad. As one of the most anticipated features of the park renovation, the splash pad will provide a fun, family-friendly recreational space for residents and visitors. With this final installation complete, the project is now in its final stages before opening to the public. The next step is to work with the San

Bernardino County Public Health Department to inspect the unit before it can go online, which is anticipated in the first week of April. This investment reflects the City Council's commitment to enhancing public spaces, promoting outdoor recreation, and improving amenities for families in Needles. More updates, including the official opening date, will be shared soon. Take a look at the attached images and take a peek of the improvements!

3. On **Wednesday, March 19, 2025**, the City of Needles will host two key community events, reinforcing the **City Council's goals** of fostering a **business-friendly environment**, enhancing **community engagement**, and expanding **resources for residents**.

The 3rd Annual Job & Resource Fair, hosted by San Bernardino County Supervisor Dawn Rowe, will take place at the El Garces Historic Train Depot (950 Front Street) from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. This event connects residents with employment opportunities and essential services, including document recording, property assessments, expungement assistance, and veteran support. Organizations such as IEHP and Tri-State Community Health Center will also be on-site to provide additional resources.

Later in the day, Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez's Mobile Office will be available at the Needles Tourism Office (920 W Broadway) from 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM. His team will assist residents with state programs, resources, and other legislative matters. This is a great opportunity for community members to voice concerns, seek guidance, and engage directly with their state representatives.

These events highlight the City's commitment to **economic growth**, **workforce development**, **and direct community engagement**. Residents, city staff, and public officials are encouraged to attend and take advantage of these valuable opportunities. Additional details are available in the attached flyer.

4. On Friday, March 14, 2025, City Code Enforcement, in collaboration with law enforcement personnel from the Colorado River Sheriff's Station/Needles Police, Animal Control, the Utilities Department, and the San Bernardino County Fire Department, conducted a coordinated operation at a residence in the 400 Block of D Street. An inspection warrant and a search warrant were executed as part of the operation. The property owner had previously received multiple stop-work orders for conducting construction without the required permits. These unauthorized modifications posed serious health and safety hazards, particularly for future tenants or occupants, as unpermitted work can result in structural instability, electrical hazards, and non-compliance with fire and building codes. The San Bernardino County Fire Department conducted a fire safety inspection, identifying fire hazards, illegal modifications, or code violations that could endanger occupants, first responders, or neighboring properties. Additionally, Animal Control ensured that any neglected or endangered animals were handled correctly; however,

none were found. The **Utilities Department** assessed the property for **hazardous utility conditions** that could pose further risks to public safety. This coordinated effort reflects the City's ongoing commitment to **enforcing safety regulations**, **protecting residents**, **and ensuring compliance with local and state laws**.

5. The City of Needles is pleased to announce a \$5,000 Edible Food Recovery Grant available to a local non-profit in 2025. Funded by the Mojave Desert and Mountain Recycling Authority, this grant supports efforts to collect and distribute edible food to those in need. Since 2022, the City has distributed over \$30,000 in edible food recovery funds, ensuring every available grant directly benefits the community. Proposals are due by Monday, March 17, 2025 (Refer to the attached application), with the City Council reviewing submissions at the second meeting in March and funds distributed in April. This initiative directly supports the City Council's goals by enhancing public infrastructure through investments in sustainable food recovery programs, fostering economic growth by reducing waste disposal costs for local businesses, promoting community engagement by strengthening partnerships with non-profits and **supporting families** by improving access to nutritious food for residents in need. The City is advancing its commitment to sustainability, resource conservation, and public well-being by funding local food recovery efforts.

Food recovery is crucial in reducing waste and ensuring residents have access to nutritious meals. SB 1383, signed into law in 2016, mandates a 75% reduction in organic waste disposal by 2025, requiring certain food businesses to donate surplus edible food to recovery organizations.

Needles is home to three key food recovery organizations—St. Vincent De Paul, Fire House Ministries, and Set Free provide essential services to the community. Unlike neighboring cities with larger budgets, Needles lacks dedicated funding to cover operational costs like insurance, fuel, and utilities. However, the City continues to seek external funding to support these efforts. Strengthening food recovery benefits the entire community, and the City remains committed to supporting local non-profits in this mission. More information is available at CalRecycle. Contact Rainie Torrance at rtorrance@cityofneedles.com with any questions.

6. On Friday, March 14, 2025, the Housing Authority of the City of Needles (HACN) staff met with the Resident Advisory Board (RAB) to refine the Five-Year and Annual Agency Plan. This meeting was part of an ongoing collaborative effort, with RAB members providing valuable insights and recommendations to ensure the plan reflects the needs and priorities of the residents. Public housing residents were also allowed to provide input through the comment process, with RAB voting members submitting feedback. The amended Five-Year and Annual Agency Plan will be formally presented during a public hearing at the Housing Commission meeting on March 26, 2025, at 4:00 PM at El Garces, 950 Front Street, Needles, California. Following the Housing Commission's recommendation, a public hearing

before the HACN Board of Commissioners will be held at the City Council meeting on April 8, 2025, at 6:00 PM, also at El Garces. HACN will consider all public comments at this meeting before finalizing the agency plan for submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by April 17, 2025. This process underscores the commitment of HACN to transparency, resident engagement, and strategic planning to improve housing opportunities in Needles.

- The 2nd Annual Needles Craft Show & Art in the Park will take place April 10-12, 2025, at El Garces and Santa Fe Park. It will support local artists, crafters, and vendors while fostering community engagement and economic activity.
 - Art in the Park (April 10-12, El Garces, 950 Front St.) Features Best in Show and People's Choice competitions, plus a cocktail party on April 11 (6:00–8:00 PM).
 - Craft Show (April 12, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM, Santa Fe Park) Vendor spaces are available for \$20.

These events align with the City Council's goals of enhancing community engagement, supporting local businesses, and promoting Needles as a cultural hub. These events encourage tourism, stimulate economic activity, and showcase Needles' vibrant arts community by providing a platform for local artists and vendors. Participation from local businesses, organizations, and residents will help strengthen community ties and create a lively, welcoming atmosphere for visitors. For more details, including registration information, refer to the attached flyer.

- 8. Eight new decorative light poles were installed on Broadway, enhancing Needles' **historic charm** and revitalizing the downtown streetscape. Initially introduced in the mid-1990s, these iconic fixtures have long contributed to the city's character but have deteriorated over time due to aging infrastructure and vehicle damage. The new light poles improve visibility, safety, and aesthetics. creating a more welcoming atmosphere for residents and visitors. Designed to preserve the vintage appeal that defines Needles, the updated fixtures offer modern durability and longevity. These enhancements improve the downtown experience for businesses and pedestrians and support community events, making the area more inviting for gatherings, tourism, and local commerce. City staff will continue evaluating the condition of the remaining light poles and implementing **phased replacements** to maintain the downtown district's **distinctive identity**. The **remaining missing light poles** have been ordered and are scheduled for **delivery and installation in May**. Additional poles have also been ordered as backups to ensure ongoing maintenance and future replacements.
- The Pancakes in the Park event, organized by Billet Health, will take place on March 29, 2025, from 9 AM to 12 PM at Santa Fe Park (950 Front Street, Needles, CA) to honor Vietnam Veterans. The program includes a JROTC opening ceremony, rifle spinning performance, Welcome Home Vietnam

Veterans presentation by George DeLeon (Commander of Post 404), POW-MIA remembrance ceremony, and a 13-Folds Flag Ceremony. A complimentary pancake breakfast will be provided for all veterans and community members. This event aligns with the City Council's Community Engagement and Family Support goals by strengthening Needles' identity through public celebrations that honor veterans and unite the community. It also supports the Council's mission to foster a vibrant, connected city and enhance engagement by promoting activities that encourage participation and civic pride. Additional details are available on the attached event flyer or through the event organizers (Maria Bower, 928-444-7401).

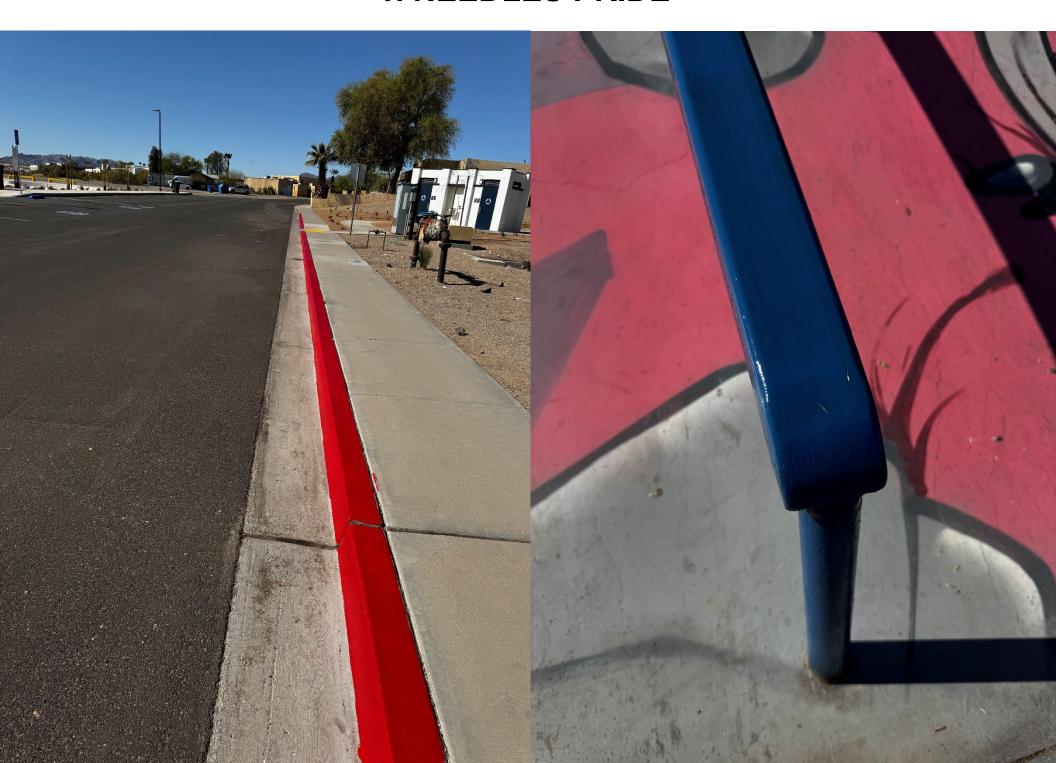
- 10. As of March 2025, the Jack Smith Park Boat Launch Facility is now open for the season. The facility will be open every weekend, with daily access available from April 1 through September 30, 2025. Beginning in October, operations will return to weekends only. Boaters can access the launch by purchasing a \$20 Day-Use Launch Pass or a \$180 Annual Launch Pass, both available at the kiosk at Jack Smith Park. For any questions or assistance, please get in touch with Jennifer Valenzuela at (760) 326-2814 or via email at ivalenzuela@cityofneedles.com. The City is excited to welcome residents and visitors back to the water and looks forward to another great season. For more details, visit the City of Needles Jack Smith Park & Launching Facility website.
- 11. Needles Area Transit (NAT) provides a deviated fixed-route service, operating Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:55 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:55 p.m. Deviation requests can be accommodated as time allows by calling 1-866-669-6309. In response to community needs, NAT provides deviations, upon request, to the newly developed park behind Rivers Edge Golf Course, extending service for those looking to enjoy river activities—this will be the farthest point for deviation. Students ride for free on NAT, making it an accessible transportation option for local youth. For questions or comments, residents can contact Transportation Concepts at 1-866-669-6309 or the City of Needles at 760-326-2113 ext. 115. In addition to NAT's regular service, curbto-curb transportation is available for seniors and individuals with mobility disabilities, though registration is required. The city also provides Arizona medical and shopper transport services for those traveling across state lines for essential appointments or errands. For more details on these **specialized** services, please call 760-326-4789.
- 12. Rivers Edge Golf Course is having a standout year, featuring some of the finest greens in the Tri-State region. We're excited to host top-tier tournaments and events as we grow into a championship-caliber destination. Tomorrow, March 15, 2025, the Needles Chamber of Commerce presents the Second Annual Lucky Greens Golf Tournament, promising a day of fun and competition. Twilight League play returns this month for weekly matchups, and JJ's golf clinic on March 22 (10 AM 11 AM) offers a chance to sharpen your skills. Whether you're booking a round, competing, or hosting an event, Rivers Edge

- delivers an unbeatable golf experience. Call (760) 326-3931 to reserve your tee time or contact JJ DeLeon for tournament coordination. For more information, visit the Rivers Edge Golf Course website.
- 13. As directed by the City Council, staff has included a coyote awareness flyer in the April utility bill and displayed it in City Hall to educate residents on safe coexistence with wildlife. The flyer provides key tips, including keeping pets supervised, removing outdoor food sources, securing trash bins, and eliminating standing water to reduce coyote encounters. Staff is also working to share this information through the city's website and collaborating with local organizations, schools, and animal control to expand awareness. These efforts reinforce the city's commitment to public safety, proactive communication, and environmental stewardship. Refer to the attached flyer for additional information.
- 14. The "Meat Eat" Fundraising BBQ will take place on Wednesday, March 26th, at 6 PM in the Needles High School Gym. This event directly supports several City Council goals by fostering community engagement and strengthening local partnerships. It enhances public relations by bringing residents together for a family-friendly event and supports the goal of attracting families by promoting student involvement in music and culinary arts. Additionally, it reinforces the City's partnership with Needles Unified School District, demonstrating a shared commitment to youth development. By supporting school programs like band and choir, this event contributes to the cultural and social vibrancy of the community, aligning with the City's broader goals of engagement and quality of life.

15. IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

City staff has carefully curated a comprehensive community events calendar to keep residents informed about Needles' diverse activities and happenings. Organizations are encouraged to collaborate with the City Clerk's Office to add or update events, ensuring a vibrant and inclusive calendar for all. For contributions or modifications, please contact 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 that Needles has to offer!

1. NEEDLES PRIDE



1. NEEDLES PRIDE



1. CITY BEAUTIFICATION



1. CITY BEAUTIFICATION



1. CITY BEAUTIFICATION



2. DUKE WATKINS SPLASH PAD





3. RESOURCES FAIR







Joband Resource Fair

March 19, 2025 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

EMPLOYERS & RESOURCES PROVIDERS

Join us for our upcoming Job Fair and take advantage of this excellent opportunity to connect with a diverse pool of talent.

Showcase your organization, meet prospective employees, and promote your resources to job seekers in a dynamic and engaging environment.

This WIOA Title-I financially assisted program and EDD, is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Requests for services, aids, and/or alternate formats need to be made prior to the event by calling 1-800-735-2922. TTY users, please call the California Relay Service 711. For federal funding disclosure information, visit Workforce.SBCounty.gov/about/ffd.

LOCATION

El Garces Historic Train Depot 950 Front Street Needles, CA 92363

SAVE THE DATE!



REGISTER HERE:

HDHE0319.eventbrite.com

America*sJobCenter
of California**

Workforce.SBCounty.gov

3. ASSEMBLY VISIT





Mobile Office IN NEEDLES

MOBILE OFFICE HOURS IN NEEDLES WITH ASSEMBLYMAN GONZALEZ'S FIELD REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, MARCH 19

10:00AM - 5:30PM

NEEDLES TOURISM OFFICE | 920 W BROADWAY ST, NEEDLES, CA 92363

5. CITY GRANT FUNDS



Edible Food Recovery Proposal

2025

Organization:	
Address:	
Non-Profit Number:	
Edible Food Recovery Proposed Project Scope:	
Proposed Edible Food Generators which will support t	he project scope:
Proposed record keeping of edible food recovered:	
Proposed use of funds: How did you utilize the 2024 edible food recovery fun	ds? (If applicable)
 Authorized Signature	Printed Name Date







CRAFT SHOW

Spasored By Friends of El Garces

APRIL 12TH, 2025 9:00AM - 2:00PM \$20.00 per space

Santa Fe Park 950 Front Street, Needles CA

For Registration Contact: Jan Jernigan 760.221.3211





ART IN THE PARK AND CRAFT SHOW

Saturday April 12, 2025 9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION FORM

Antiques /Collectable

Craft

(circle one)

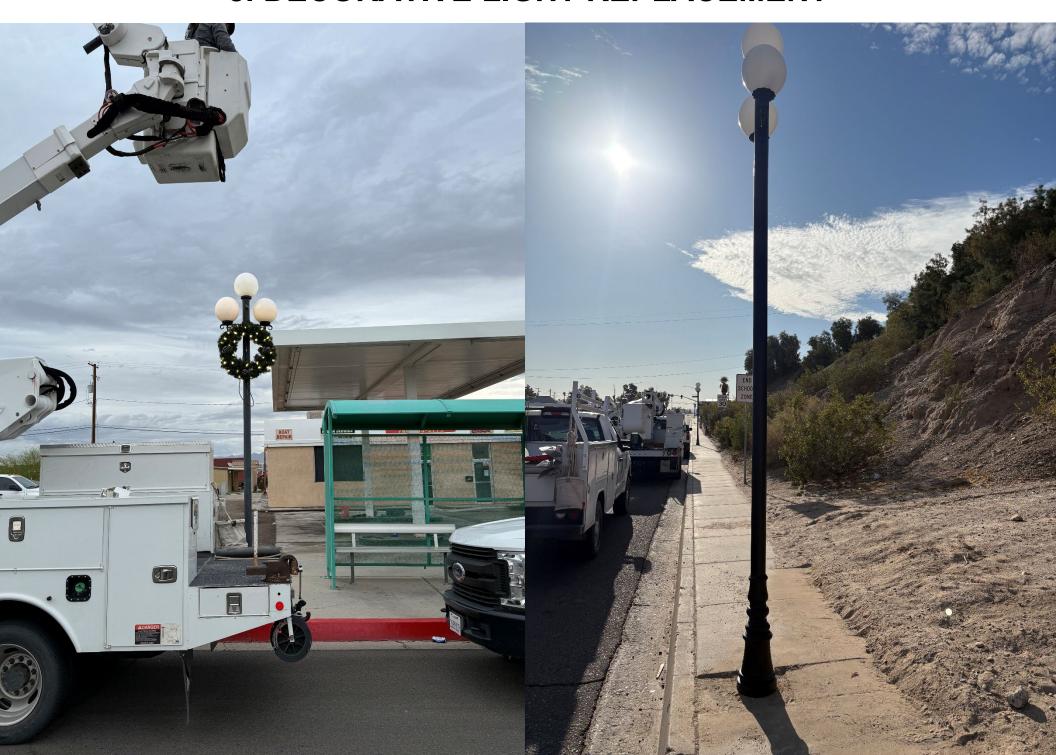
Company Name				
Contact Name				
Address			ton to a self to the self-self-self-self-self-self-self-self-	
City, State, Zip Code	e to the second			
Phone#	Email Address			
Description of Items				
10 x 10 Space(s)	*Spaces will be Assigned	*5	Set up Sta	rts at 7:00am
Payment Amount \$	Cash	Check	Other	(circle one)
Notes		30 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 -		
Signature				

NO ELECTRIC

Submit Form, including fee of \$20.00 per space to:

Jan Jernigan - 760-221-3211

8. DECORATIVE LIGHT REPLACEMENT



9. VETERAN'S BREAKFAST



SPONSORED BY



PANCAKES IN



Honoring Vietnam Veterans



29 MARCH 2025

9AM-12PM

Santa Fe Park 950 Front Street Needles, CA 92363



9am Mohave High School JROTC Opening Ceremony

10am Rifle Spinning JROTC

10:30am Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Presented by George DeLeon Commander Post 404 Commemorative Coin Presentation

11am POW-MIA Remembrance Ceremony

11:30am 13 Folds Flag Ceremony

WE WILL BE PROVIDING A PANCAKE BREAKFAST FOR ALL VETERANS AND THE COMMUNITY



13. COYOTE AWARENESS



COYOTES LIVE HERE





Coyotes are active year-round and become more visible during their breeding season in January through March. Pups are born from April to mid-May. Coyotes can be seen throughout the day, but are especially active at dawn and dusk. They may travel alone or in groups.

COYOTES ARE NATIVE WILDLIFE AND ARE FREE TO ROAM AS DETERMINED UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE; THEY ARE A NORMAL AND VALUABLE PART OF THE URBAN ECOSYSTEM. COYOTES KEEP RODENT POPULATIONS DOWN AND PROVIDE FREE CARRION REMOVAL, AMONG OTHER BENEFITS.

TIPS TO KEEP THE PEACE:

- KEEP YOUR CATS INSIDE AND SUPERVISE SMALL DOGS OUTDOORS OR KEEP THEM IN PREDATOR-PROOF CATIOS OR DOG RUNS
- REMOVE ANY OUTDOOR PET FOOD
- REMOVE ANY BIRD FEEDERS OR REGULARLY CLEAN UP ANY FALLEN SEED AND SECURE IT TO ENSURE OTHER WILDLIFE IS UNABLE TO ACCESS IT
- PICK UP FRUIT AS SOON AS IT FALLS TO THE GROUND
- KEEP BARBECUE GRILLS CLEAN
- ELIMINATE ACCESS TO WATER ON YOUR PROPERTY, LIKE STANDING WATER OR BIRD BATHS



14. NUSD BAND FUNDRAISER

Needles High School Music/Culinary Department Proudly Presents

The Meat Eat

A Fundraising BBQ



Come join us for performances by The Blue Notes, The Advanced Band and The Needles High School Choir and eat some wonderful BBQ

When: Wednesday, March 26th at 6 pm

Where: The Needles High School Gym

How Much: \$10 a plate

15. COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION CITY PUBLIC WORKS YARD 112 ROBUFFA 7AM - 11AM
2 16TH ANNUAL SPRING CLASSIC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT 3RD-8TH GRADES MAY 1 - 2	3	4	PLANNING COMMISSION 4pm	6	7	HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH GOLF TOURNAMENT
9	10	WOMEN'S CLUB LUNCHEON CITY COUNCIL 6pm	12	13	14	LUCKY GREENS ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT RIVER EDGE GOLF COURSE
16	PARKS & RECREATION 4pm	BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4pm	19 JOB AND RESOURCE FAIR EL GARCES 10AM - 2PM ASSEMBLYMAN GONZALEZ'S REPS MOBILE OFFICE 10AM-5:30PM NEEDLES TOURISM OFFICE 920 W BROADWAY	20	21	JJ's GOLF CLINIC 10AM RIVERS EDGE GC
23	24	25 CITY COUNCIL 6pm	Needles High School Music/Culinary Department Proudly Presents The Meat Eat A Fundraising BBQ performances by The Blue Notes, The Advanced Band & The Needles High School Choir NEEDLES HIGH SCHOOL GYM 6PM\$10 / PLATE	27	28	29 Billet Health HONORING VIETAM VETERANS PANCAKES IN THE PARK SANTA FE PARK 9AM COMMUNITY CLEANUP SAN CLEMENTE ST.

April 2025

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 TWILIGHT LEAGUE RIVERS EDGE GOLF COURSE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4 PM	PLANNING COMMISSION 4 PM	PALO VERDE COLLEGE 5K COLOR RUN & WALK 9AM SIGN IN 7:30AM	47th ANN COLORADO ROUND	RIVER
6	7	8 WELL 11 TREATMENT PLANT 9AM WOMEN'S CLUB LUNCH CITY COUNCIL 6 PM	9	ART IN APRIL 10T	ANNUAL EDLES THE PARK H • 12TH, 2025 FT SHOW 12TH, 2025 PARCES PARCES PARCES PARCES	12 Nefoles Centres SCHOLARSHEN COLOR RUNGE WALK
13	14	BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4 PM	16	17	18	EASTER EGG HUNT FACE PAINTING & PHOTOS WITH EASTER BUNNY JACK SMITH PARK 9:30 AM 1ST ANNUAL WORLD FAMOUS CHILI COOKOFF SANTA FE PARK 10AM
20	PARKS & RECREATION 4 PM	CITY COUNCIL 6 PM E 66 BIKE V	HOUSING COMMISSION 4 PM WEEK	SPRING 24-SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC THE NEEDES ANNUAL BULTUR IS FOONSORING A SPAY/NEUTER CLIN CONTROL OF THE STATE O	25 APRIL 2	26 21 - 27
ROUTE 66 BIKE WEEK	28	29	30			

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4 PM	7 PLANNING COMMISSION 4 PM	8	9	10
11	12	13 WOMEN'S CLUB LUNCH CITY COUNCIL 6 PM	RuneWall WE RIDE FOR THOSE WHO CRN'T	15	16	Rabies and Licensing Clinic Needles Animal Shelter 1662 Flip Mendez Pkwy Needles, CA 92363 May 17th 9:30-12:30 CASH ONLY
18	PARKS & RECREATION 4 PM	BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4 PM	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 CITY COUNCIL 6 PM	HOUSING COMMISSION 4 PM	29	30	31

June 2025

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Sunday	Monday	I	Wednesday		Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4 PM	PLANNING COMMISSION 4 PM			
8	9	10 WOMEN'S CLUB LUNCH	11	12	13	14
		CITY COUNCIL 6 PM				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	PARKS & RECREATION 4 PM	BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4 PM				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		CITY COUNCIL 6 PM	HOUSING COMMISSION 4 PM			
29	30	1	2	3	4	5