



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: November 1, 2024

1. **This past week**, City staff was deeply saddened to learn of the unexpected passing of Dale Jones, City Clerk of Needles. Appointed on **September 13, 2005**, Dale served with unwavering dedication as the official custodian of city records, ensuring the integrity and accessibility of City Council actions. Her meticulous work in codifying ordinances into the Municipal, Zoning, and Subdivision Codes made them readily accessible to the public and city staff, significantly impacting our community. Over her 19 years as City Clerk, Dale was a diligent civil servant, a beacon of commitment, and a tremendous asset to the City Council. Her dedication and invaluable contributions to our City will be remembered with deep gratitude and respect. Details of Dale's services will be shared with the community at a later date, as her family has requested privacy while making arrangements. We invite you to join us in honoring Dale at a future council meeting, where we will commemorate her significant contributions to the City. Your presence will be a testament to the impact she had on our community.
2. The City of Needles is excited to host its inaugural Community Fall Festival tomorrow, **November 2, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at Santa Fe Park** (950 Front Street). Our Public Works team has prepared the grounds and refreshed the Santa Fe Park sign for the event (**see attached photo**). Enjoy a day filled with food, friends, and entertainment at minimal city expense, thanks to vendor support. With over 38 vendors selling items from candles to artwork, kids' activities, an obstacle course, and a dog parade and costume contest at noon (leashes and costumes required), there's something for everyone! A prize will be awarded for the best fall-themed vendor booth. This festival reflects the Council's commitment to community engagement, a pro-business environment, and sustainable growth. Check out the attached flyer for details and feel free to share. For questions, contact Recreation Manager Jennifer Valenzuela at jvalenzuela@cityofneedles.com or 760-326-2814.

3. On **Saturday, October 26, 2024**, a power outage impacted the Gates and Lillyhill areas around 7 PM. The Needles electric crew quickly traced the issue to a faulty underground conduit near Larchwood and Casa Linda. They implemented a temporary fix to restore power over the weekend, and by Wednesday, October 30, a new conduit was installed, with final touches completed that day. This project was a genuine team effort, with Utilities and Public Works working together in an all-hands-on-deck approach to resolve the issue as quickly as possible. Thanks to everyone involved, including Philips Construction, for their assistance. **Refer to the attached images for a look at the repair efforts.**
4. Thank you to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department for hosting the **5th Annual Trunk or Treat on October 30, 2024**, and to Misty Hunt for her outstanding organization. Congratulations to all the winners—the judges had "a monster of a time" choosing among many fantastic trunks (**refer to the attached images of the winners**)! We were truly amazed by the creativity and effort put into each trunk. Special congratulations to the Needles Recreation Center for bringing home the prize for the most interactive trunk. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the event sponsors Tri-State Community Healthcare, ArrowHeart Foundation, and Republic Services. Your support was instrumental in making this year's event howlingly extraordinary!
5. The Needles City Manager recently joined city managers from Bullhead, Lake Havasu, and Kingman to discuss collaborative opportunities for the region. These communities face similar challenges, so they focused on building a cooperative approach to shared concerns. During the meeting, Needles shared updates on grant resources and highlighted current developments, including the new Bob Belt Beach Park and the ongoing splash pad construction at Duke Watkins Park, showcasing the city's growth and regional strength (**see attached images**). The city managers aim to leverage shared resources and best practices to promote sustainable growth, improve infrastructure, and address regional issues like economic development and environmental sustainability. This united effort strives to enhance the quality of life for residents across the region.
6. The City Council's vision celebrates Needles' unique charm and prime location along the beautiful Colorado River, aiming to enhance quality of life and attract visitors and new families to the area. Aligned with this vision, the dedicated Public Works staff are focused on improving and maintaining public spaces and amenities, ensuring that Needles is a welcoming, enjoyable place for everyone. This week, the Public Works Department demonstrated this commitment through important efforts to improve infrastructure and beautify community spaces. Crews worked on road repairs along Eagle Pass Road to enhance safety for drivers and pedestrians, restored the new sign at the Public Housing Authority to refresh the 1950's sign, installed a second water fountain at Jack Smith Park to provide convenient access to drinking water for park-goers, and removed graffiti from the California Avenue Tunnel, preserving the area's appeal. We appreciate the community's partnership in keeping Needles' public spaces safe, clean, and well-maintained. Residents'

feedback is vital to these ongoing efforts, and we encourage everyone to stay involved as we work together to build a brighter future for Needles. To report any street issues or concerns, please contact the City of Needles billing office at 760-326-2115 (press #9) or available on the [Apple App](#) or [Google Play Store](#).

7. On **Monday, October 28, 2024**, a dedicated group from VFW Post 404, the San Bernardino County and Mohave County Fire Departments, Elks Club members, City of Needles staff, and community volunteers gathered for a work party at Santa Fe Park in preparation of the **November 9, 2024, Veterans Day Event** at Santa Fe Park. Together, they cleaned, painted, and restored the historic World War I Cannon Monument and its surrounding white fence, bringing new life to this cherished landmark. A special thank you to Mayor Jernigan for generously donating the paint for this project. This event was a true display of community spirit and teamwork—thank you to everyone involved! See the attached images for a glimpse of the day's hard work and camaraderie.

8. On **October 26, 2024**, the Needles community came together for its **annual "Trunk-or-Treat on Front Street,"** filling Santa Fe Park with families enjoying a safe, festive trick-or-treating experience. A heartfelt thank you to all who participated, including the City of Needles, BNSF Railroad, San Bernardino County Fire Department, Needles Branch Library, California Highway Patrol, Route 66 Broadband, and the many community members who contributed to the fun. **Check out the attached images for a look at this fantastic event!**

9. On **Thursday, October 31, 2024**, Needles High School teacher Danica Willis and her Government Class, in partnership with the Needles Chamber of Commerce, hosted an insightful educational event featuring one-on-one discussions with the Mayor and City Manager. Students gained a firsthand understanding of the roles of these city leaders and explored the city's goals for the future. This interactive session provided a unique opportunity to share both current and future initiatives while inspiring Needles youth to engage actively in their community. A pizza party added to the connection and camaraderie between students and local government. Thank you to everyone who made this event a success! **See the attached image for a look into the event.**

10. The City's Animal Shelter continues to make impressive strides with its Trap, Neuter, and Release (TNR) Program. As of **October 30, 2024, a total of 270** community cats have been spayed or neutered and returned to their areas up from 117 cats from last August. The Department has seen significant efforts across Needles, with the following breakdown of locations:
 - **A Street** - 6
 - **B Street** - 26
 - **C Street** - 1
 - **D Street** - 12
 - **E Street** - 2
 - **J Street** - 8
 - **L/Chestnut Street** - 9
 - **N Street** - 16

- **Front Street (1500 Block)** - 14
- **Front Street (1200 Block)** - 10
- **Desnok Street** - 2
- **Cibola Street** - 44
- **Bazoobuth Street** - 30
- **Valley Street** - 10
- **La Mesa Way** - 11
- **Acoma Street** - 5
- **Riverview Ln./Desert Drive** - 15
- **Rivers Edge Golf Course** - 3
- **Walnut Street** - 5
- **Spruce Street** - 22
- **California Avenue** - 4
- **Bailey Avenue** - 1
- **Tri-State Health Care** - 2
- **Desoto Street** - 1
- **Ferals at NAS** - 9

This initiative is essential for controlling the stray cat population, reducing disease spread, and promoting higher adoption rates, all while moving toward our goal of eliminating euthanasia at the shelter. If you're interested in adopting, the fee is only \$60, and we encourage you to view available pets in the attached images. For more details or to arrange a visit, please contact the Needles Animal Shelter at 760-326-4952. To report roaming cats, use the Needles Connect app, available on both the [Apple App](#) or [Google Play Store](#).

11. The Palo Verde Community College District invites you to join our PVC Community Forum at the Needles Center on **November 6, 2024, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm**. This event is a unique opportunity to share your voice on essential topics like student achievement, local workforce needs, and community support. As we develop our Comprehensive Educational Plan (2025-2033), your insights will help shape the next eight years of growth in academics and student services. We welcome everyone to participate in shaping the future of our college! For more information, visit <https://www.paloverde.edu/rpie/cep.aspx> or contact Diana Navarro at diana.navarro@paloverde.edu or (760) 921-5506. **Refer to the attached flyer for more information.**

12. Arrowhead Credit Union and the ArrowHeart Foundation proudly hosted the **2nd Annual "Feeding Our Community" event on October 26, 2024**, at the Needles Senior Center, dedicated to nourishing neighbors and strengthening community bonds. Volunteers served over 350 meals, featuring a taco bar with ground beef, shredded chicken, beans, rice, and fresh toppings. The event welcomed people from all walks of life, offering a hot, complimentary meal to enjoy on-site or to take home for family members and others in need. Attendees expressed heartfelt gratitude, and many shared that they felt a renewed sense of care and connection. The smiles and warm responses throughout the day reflected the joy and comfort a shared meal can bring, underscoring the strength of community support in times of need. Heartfelt thanks go to the volunteers and everyone supporting the ArrowHeart Foundation's mission—**the attached photos in the newsletter give a glimpse of the event.**

13. IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- **Nov 6, 7:00 PM** – Women's [Club Game Night](#).
- **Nov 9, 8:00–11:00 AM** – Veterans Day Event at Santa Fe Park, Route 66.

- **Nov 12** – Women’s Club Spaghetti Lunch ([pre-order online](#)).
- **Nov 20 – Pacific Clinics Needles Open House:** Hosted at 1060 E. Broadway Street, celebrating the new Pacific Clinics location in Needles.
- **February 8, 2025 – The Women’s Club Golf Tournament** has been rescheduled from November 16, 2024, to February. Registration is open![\(registration open\)](#).

2. COMMUNITY FALL FESTIVAL



3. POWER OUTAGE



4. SBCSD TRUNK OR TREAT

SCARIEST TRUNK



Photo Source: SBCSD

COLORADO RIVER MEDICAL CENTER

4. SBCSD TRUNK OR TREAT

CUTEST TRUNK



Photo Source: SBCSD

NEEDLES SUPERIOR COURT

4. SBCSD TRUNK OR TREAT

MOST INTERACTIVE TRUNK



NEEDLES RECREATION CENTER

4. SBCSD TRUNK OR TREAT

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION!



Photo Source: SBCSD

WAYNE COLBURN – NEEDLES RIVER CITY COALITION (RCC)

4. SBCSD TRUNK OR TREAT



THANK YOU!!!



Sponsors



SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT TRUNK OR TREAT 2024

5. REGIONAL CM MEETING HIGHLIGHT



6. PUBLIC SPACES ENHANCED



6. PUBLIC SPACES ENHANCED



6. PUBLIC SPACES ENHANCED



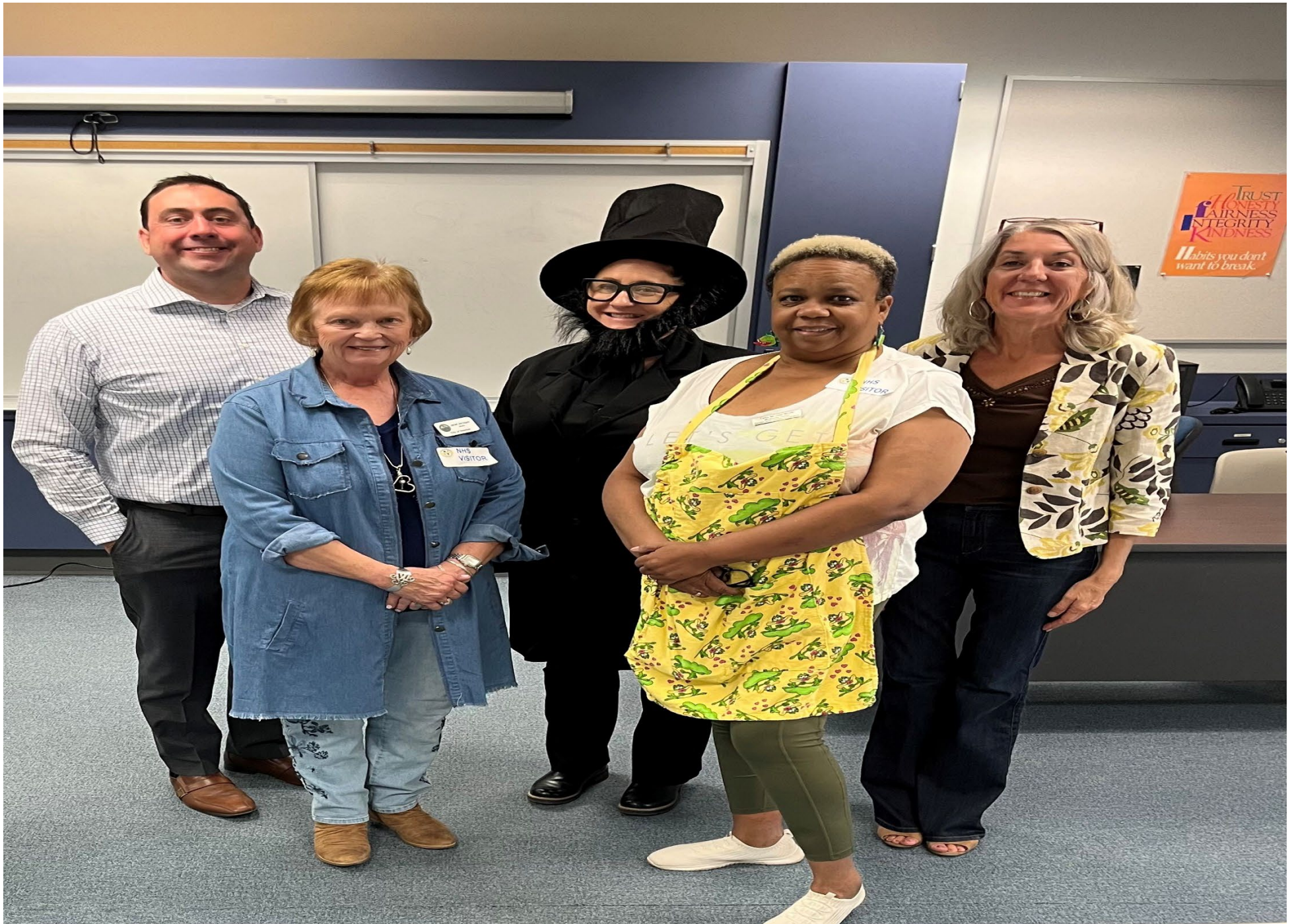
7. VFW POST 404 WORK PARTY



8. COMMUNITY TRUNK OR TREAT FRONT STREET



9. NUSD CHAMBER CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



11. PALO VERDE COMMUNITY FORUM



Join PALO VERDE COLLEGE

FOR OUR **PVC COMMUNITY FORUM!**

Palo Verde Community College District is developing its Comprehensive Educational Plan (2025-2033) to guide the next 8 years of academic and student services growth. We value your input and invite you to help shape the future of our college!

Community Forum Dates:

November 6, 2024 | 4:00pm - 6:00pm | Needles Center

Your Voice Matters!

Help us identify important priorities for:

Student Achievement

Meeting Local Employers' Needs

Supporting Our Diverse Community

SCAN ME!



For more info:

Visit: <https://www.paloverde.edu/rpie/cep.aspx>

Contact: Diana Navarro

Email: diana.navarro@paloverde.edu

Phone: (760) 921-5506

Clint Cowden

Assistant Superintendent / Vice President of Instruction & Student
Services

Palo Verde College

12. ARROWHEART FOUNDATION



Pictured: Brandon Smith, Christina Bennick, Courtney Thompson, Jaime Ikenburg, Jennifer Attah, Joshua Smith, Kayetlynn Covert, Penny Rodriguez, Sabrina Olander, Seth Squires, Stefanie Villalobos, Veronica Balderas, Victoria Carrasco

On Saturday, October 26th, ArrowHeart successfully hosted its 2nd hot meal distribution event in Needles. Together we prepared meals for more than 350 people!

Our volunteers showed off their cooking skills by preparing a taco bar, with ground beef, shredded chicken, beans, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, rice and more.

Meals were available to anyone that walked through the doors at the Needles Senior Center. We had people and families from all walks of life visiting the senior center to enjoy a free hot meal, many choosing to stay and enjoy the meal on-site with their friends.

Additionally, guests requested meals to deliver for friends, family and other members of the community in need of these items. The smiles on everyone's faces as we filled their plates with tacos and sides were a testament to joy and comfort that a shared meal can bring.

Many attendees expressed their heartfelt appreciation, with some sharing they had not had a sense of feeling cared for, or felt the sense of community, in a long time.

This event was a reminder of the strength of our community and the importance of coming together in times of need.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers and for your continued support of the ArrowHeart Foundation.

12. ARROWHEART FOUNDATION

