



# City of Needles

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

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICK J. MARTINEZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 9, 2025

1. The **35th Annual Run for the Wall** will occur next week on **Wednesday, May 14, 2025**, at **El Garces and Santa Fe Park (950 Front Street)**, proudly **presented by the City of Needles and community partners**. Riders are expected to arrive in **Needles around 12:35 PM**, with **over 300 participants** making this powerful stop along their cross-country journey. **Run for the Wall** is a national motorcycle ride that honors **Vietnam Veterans** and raises continued awareness for **POW/MIA accountability**. The ride begins in **Los Angeles** and grows as it travels east, culminating in **Washington, D.C.** Upon arrival, the riders will be served a community lunch, made possible through **generous donations from our local supporters**. Food donations are currently being accepted at **Deco Foodservices**, located at **700 W Broadway**. Residents are encouraged to line **Route 66** and help give these riders a **warm, patriotic welcome**. For questions or more information, please get in touch with Judy Thornton at **(760) 333-5255**.
2. The **City Council continues prioritizing beautification efforts** to ensure Needles remains welcoming for residents and visitors. This past weekend marked our best turnout, as Mayor Jernigan and the City hosted a neighborhood cleanup along Park Road and National Trails Highway. Over a dozen volunteers collected more than 20 trash bags—an inspiring show of community pride. This event is part of the growing **Needles Pride Program**, which empowers residents to take ownership of their neighborhoods and maintain clean, safe public spaces. In support, **Public Works, Parks, Electric, Water, and Wastewater** crews completed citywide fire abatement and vegetation removal, including work at Jack Smith Boat Launch Point and along Front Street. These efforts enhance both safety and visibility—**see the attached photos for a look at their impact**. Together, we're building a better Needles. Residents can report potholes, sidewalk damage, or overgrown vegetation by calling **760-326-2115 (press #9)** or using the **Needles Connect app** on [Google Play Store](#) and the [Apple Store](#).

3. The City of Needles proudly participated in the **2025 San Bernardino County City-County Conference**, held this week in **Lake Arrowhead**. The event convened **municipal and county leaders** to discuss **regional collaboration, infrastructure, economic development, and public safety** across the **nation's largest county**. **Mayor Jernigan, Vice Mayor Campbell, and Councilmember Pogue** represented Needles, engaging with top officials, including **County Supervisor Dawn Rowe, Sheriff Shannon Dicus, and Fire Chief Dan Munsey**. Notably, the **City of Needles** continues to strengthen its **standing within San Bernardino County**. As outlined in the [conference agenda](#), sessions addressed **emerging policy challenges and investment opportunities**, many of which align with the **City Council's goals for sustainable growth**. These **high-level discussions and direct engagement with legislative partners** reinforce Needles' **momentum and visibility** at the county level. Refer to the **attached images for conference highlights**.
4. The City of Needles is proud to support the **Mobile Dental Clinic at Colorado River Medical Center next week from May 12–15, 2025**. Run by the **San Bernardino County Department of Public Health**, the clinic will provide exams, cleanings, fillings, and other essential dental services for **Medi-Cal and uninsured patients**. Appointments are highly recommended and can be made by calling **1-800-722-4777**. This initiative supports the City Council's goal of improving residents' quality of life by expanding access to vital healthcare services. We thank **San Bernardino County** for their continued partnership and commitment to community wellness. **We encourage residents to take part in this critical effort. Refer to the attached flyer for more information.**
5. On **Thursday, May 8, 2025**, the **City of Needles Utility Department** swiftly responded to a **10-inch water main break** near the **Golf Maintenance Yard along River Road**, requiring a **temporary shutdown of water service** to residents and businesses along **Needles Highway and River Road**. The Utility team completed repairs and restored full service within a few hours, minimizing disruption, protecting public health, and preserving critical infrastructure. **Concurrently**, the Utility Department began the **scheduled inspection and cleaning of the City's 1.5-million-gallon water reservoirs**—a routine maintenance effort conducted **every five years** to ensure **water quality**, strengthen **system reliability**, and reduce long-term infrastructure costs. Together, these concurrent efforts demonstrate the City's readiness and commitment to protecting public infrastructure while planning for long-term system reliability. City is committed to **delivering essential services**, enhancing **community resilience**, and achieving the **City Council's goals** for long-term infrastructure performance and quality of life. The City extends its appreciation to the Utility Department for their professionalism and dedication. Residents are encouraged to report water leaks by calling **760-326-2115 (press #9)** or using the **Needles Connect app** on [Google Play Store](#) and the [Apple Store](#). Refer to the attached image for a look at the emergency response in action and the progress of the maintenance work.

6. The **Friday before Memorial Day, May 23, 2025**, has been designated **“Decoration Day”** at the **Needles Riverview Cemetery**, marking the **14th annual community observance**. This long-standing tradition invites residents to care for the gravesites of loved ones and honor our nation’s veterans by placing **white crosses and American flags** at their resting places. Volunteers are encouraged to arrive by **7:00 a.m.** and are asked to bring their **hand tools** (such as shovels, clippers, and gas-powered weed eaters), along with **garbage bags** and **water**. Trash receptacles will be available on-site. The **annual Memorial Day Ceremony** will be held on **Monday, May 26, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.**, also at Riverview Cemetery. A second volunteer effort will occur at **4:00 p.m.** the same day to assist with **flag and cross removal**. Community participation remains essential to the continued success of this meaningful event. The **Needles Riverview Cemetery** also welcomes **tax-deductible donations** to support **maintenance efforts at Riverview and Old Pioneer Cemeteries**. Donations are especially needed to help **replace the American flags** that once lined the cemetery roads. For more information or to contribute, please get in touch with Cheryl Sallis at **(760) 326-2113, ext. 115**.
  
7. The **City of Needles** continues to make significant progress in advancing the **City Council’s vision** for a **cleaner, safer, and more vibrant community**. At the **May 7 administrative hearing**, four properties were formally declared **public nuisances** due to ongoing violations of the **Municipal Code**, including **unsafe structures, accumulated debris, and uncorrected septic hazards**. These actions authorize the City to pursue **abatement, demolitions, liens, or receivership** to restore **public safety and compliance**. In addition, **Animal Control** addressed a serious **public safety concern** involving an **aggressive dog**, which was also declared a **public nuisance**. The City is now empowered to take **immediate action** should future violations occur. Through these continued efforts, **Code Enforcement** and **Animal Control** are improving **property conditions**, reinforcing **community standards**, and delivering on the Council’s goals for long-term **neighborhood revitalization and public health**.
  
8. The **Phase IV-B Street Improvement Project** continued this week with substantial progress in the **Vistas neighborhood**, advancing critical **street reconstruction and waterline upgrades**. Crews completed work on **Desoto Street, El Monte Street, and Carty Way**—key residential streets prioritized for long-overdue improvements. We sincerely appreciate the community’s **patience and support** as we invest in infrastructure that enhances the **quality of life** in Needles and supports our vision to make the city an even better place to **live, work, and visit**. For more information about the **Pavement Management Plan**, contact **Development Services Director Kathy Raasch** at **(760) 326-2115 ext. 126** or [kraasch@cityofneedles.com](mailto:kraasch@cityofneedles.com). It is part of the City’s 15-year Pavement Management Plan and contributes to the over **\$11 million invested in street and infrastructure upgrades since 2020**. We are proud to deliver on the Council’s vision of **public safety, enhanced quality of life, and long-term community resilience**. Thank you to City staff, residents, and all partners involved in making this progress possible—Needles continues to move forward. **Refer to the attached images for a glimpse at the progress.**

9. The **City of Needles** proudly congratulates **Ronny Sommers** on earning his **Grade T1 Water Treatment Operator Certification**. This key professional milestone further strengthens our ability to provide **the community with safe and reliable water services**. This builds on Ronny's achievement last October when he earned his **Grade D1 Water Distribution Operator Certification**. After completing both certifications, Ronny will be promoted to a **Water Operator position** with the City of Needles. His continued professional growth reflects the City's investment in **workforce development** and our commitment to maintaining a **high standard of public service**.
10. Mayor Jernigan has officially awarded the **2025 Edible Food Recovery Grant**, approved by the City Council in March, to **Fire House Ministries, Set Free Church, and St. Vincent de Paul**. The three organizations will equally share the **\$6,000 grant**, which supports local edible food recovery efforts funded by the **Mojave Desert and Mountain Recycling Authority**. This initiative aligns with **SB 1383** by helping divert edible food from landfills to those in need, and each recipient will report annual food recovery tonnage for **CalRecycle compliance**. **Refer to the attached image for a glimpse of the event.**
11. The **26th Annual Flip Mendez Youth Fundraiser** was a **sold-out success**, drawing **53 teams and over 159 golfers**—an increase from last year's tournament. The event once again showcased the community's strong support for local youth programs and highlighted the growing popularity of **Rivers Edge Golf Course**. Thanks to the **expert management of Touchstone Golf**, Rivers Edge has been transformed into a **championship-caliber, par-71, 18-hole course**, offering a top-tier golfing experience in the heart of Needles. The City extends its appreciation to the **Flip Mendez Youth Foundation** for once again choosing Rivers Edge as their course of choice. To **book a tee time or RSVP for upcoming tournaments**, call **(760) 326-3931** or visit [golfneedlesca.com](http://golfneedlesca.com) for more information and event listings.
12. The **Needles Women's Club** will host a **Chicken Cordon Bleu Luncheon** on **Tuesday, May 13, 2025**, at their clubhouse located at **305 W. Broadway Street**. The fundraiser supports the club's ongoing efforts to promote **women's empowerment, youth programming, educational scholarships, and civic engagement**. For just **\$10**, each meal includes chicken cordon bleu, chips, and a cookie. **Delivery is available** for orders of three or more within Needles. Orders can be placed [online](#) and must be submitted by **5:30 PM on Monday, May 12**. For ordering assistance, residents may contact **Karrie at (928) 201-1836**. This annual effort highlights the valuable role of local service organizations in supporting Needles residents and strengthening community ties.
13. **Firehouse Ministries** will host an **enchilada plate lunch fundraiser** on **Friday, May 16, 2025**, to support their vital community programs, including **Isabel's Pantry** and **Ivan's House**. The fundraiser will take place at **807 Bush Street**, beginning at **11:00 a.m.** and continuing **until sold out**. Plates are available for

**\$11.99 for pickup or \$14.99 with delivery.** All proceeds will directly benefit Firehouse Ministries' ongoing efforts to serve those in need. To place an order, please contact **Holly Russo at (760) 628-7331.**

14. Tomorrow, **Saturday, May 10, 2025**, the **Needles High School baseball and softball teams** will compete in the **2025 NIAA Class 2A Southern League Championships**, hosted at **Laughlin High School**, starting at **10:00 AM**. Come out and **cheer on our Mustangs and Lady Stangs** as they proudly represent Needles on the regional stage. The **City of Needles** is proud to support **youth athletics** and events that celebrate achievement, strengthen community spirit, and position Needles as a growing **sports tourism destination**. These championships align with the **City Council's goals** of expanding recreational opportunities, fostering local engagement, and boosting economic vitality.

15. **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. RUN FOR THE WALL



## **RUN FOR THE WALL**

**50th Anniversary of Vietnam War  
35th Anniversary of Run for the Wall**

**MAY 14, 2025**

**EL GARCES AND SANTA FE PARK  
ON ROUTE 66 IN NEEDLES, CA**

**PRESENTED BY THE CITY OF NEEDLES  
AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

**DONATIONS FOR FOOD ARE BEING ACCEPTED AT  
DECO FOODSERVICES AT 700 W BROADWAY IN NEEDLES.**

**RIDERS ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT 12:35 PM  
AND LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED  
TO WELCOME THE RIDERS INTO TOWN.**

**For more information, call 760-333-5255**



## 2. BEAUTIFICATION



## 2. BEAUTIFICATION



## 2. BEAUTIFICATION



### 3. SB COUNTY CONFERENCE



## 4. MOBILE DENTAL CLINIC



Public Health

# Mobile Dental Clinic *On-The-Go*

**OPEN TO UNINSURED AND MEDI-CAL PATIENTS**

*We can help you get insurance!*



***Exams, Cleanings, Fillings, & More***

**APPOINTMENTS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**

May 12, 2025, 1 - 5 p.m.

May 13-14, 2025, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

May 15, 2025, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**Colorado River Medical Center**  
1401 Bailey Ave., Needles, CA  
92363

**To Schedule a Visit**  
Call 1 (800) 722-4777

***Visit Our Website for  
More Information***

**dph.sbcounty.gov/clinics**

## 5. WATER MAIN BREAK



## 5. WATER MAIN BREAK



## 5. RESERVOIR MAINTENANCE



## 8. PHASE IV-B



## 8. PHASE IV-B



## 8. PHASE IV-B



# 10. EDIBLE FOOD GRANT AWARD



# 11. FLIP MENDEZ YOUTH FOUNDATION



# 15. COMMUNITY CALENDAR

# May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	 <p><b>6</b> BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4 PM</p>	 <p><b>7</b> PLANNING COMMISSION 4 PM</p>	8	9	10
11	12	 <p><b>13</b> WOMEN'S CLUB LUNCH CITY COUNCIL 6 PM</p>	 <p><b>14</b> Run Wall</p>	 <p><b>15</b> GOOD MORNING NEEDLES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE &amp; VISITOR CENTER BREAKFAST 7:30 AM EL GARCES 950 FRONT ST., STE A 9-11</p>	16	 <p><b>17</b> RABIES &amp; LICENSING CLINIC NEEDLES ANIMAL SHELTER 9:30AM-12:30PM</p>
18	 <p><b>19</b> PARKS &amp; RECREATION 4 PM</p>	 <p><b>20</b> BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4 PM</p>	21	22	 <p><b>23</b> DECORATION DAY RIVERVIEW CEMETERY</p>	24
25	 <p><b>26</b> MEMORIAL DAY RIVERVIEW CEMETERY</p>	 <p><b>27</b> CITY COUNCIL 6 PM</p>	 <p><b>28</b> HOUSING COMMISSION 4 PM</p>	29	30	31

# June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 	3  BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4 PM	4  PLANNING COMMISSION 4 PM	5  HARASSMENT PREVENTION TRAINING 10AM-12PM & 1PM - 3PM EL GARCES	6	7  POOL OPENS 2PM - 6PM
8	9  AQUATIC CENTER SWIM LESSONS START	10  CITY COUNCIL 6 PM	11	12	13	14
15	16  PARKS & RECREATION 4 PM	17  BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4 PM	18	19  GOOD MORNING NEEDLES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER BREAKFAST 7:30AM EL GARCES 950 FRONT ST., STE A 9-11	20	21
22	23	24  CITY COUNCIL 6 PM	25  HOUSING COMMISSION 4 PM	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

# July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>  BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4 PM	<b>2</b>  PLANNING COMMISSION 4 PM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> WOMEN'S CLUB LUNCH   CITY COUNCIL 6 PM	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4 PM	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  GOOD MORNING NEEDLES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER BREAKFAST 7:30AM - EL GARCES 950 FRONT ST., STE A 9-11 CEMETERY COMM. - 3 PM	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  PARKS & RECREATION 4 PM	<b>22</b>  CITY COUNCIL 6 PM	<b>23</b> HOUSING COMMISSION 4 PM 	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		