



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: August 2, 2024

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1. On **July 29, 2024**, City staff, the San Bernardino County Fire Department, and the Colorado River Station/Needles Police Department responded to a boat fire at the Jack Smith Park boat launch facility. The river current moved the boat from the launch facility to the Arizona side. Fortunately, the Mohave County Fire Department was able to extinguish the fire before it escalated.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our public safety team for their swift response, which prevented the fire from spreading. Please refer to the attached images for a reference.

2. Thank you, Los Angeles Times and Arizona State University Climatology Office, for sharing the news! On **August 1, 2024**, the City of Needles officially dethroned Phoenix as the hottest U.S. city in July, with an average temperature of 103.2 degrees. Despite the heat, our community stays cool with local events, tourism, and the refreshing Colorado River. Join us for some fun in the sun! Click on this [link](#) for the article or refer to the attachment.
3. The City of Needles and Minagar and Associates will be holding our second community meeting at **4 PM on August 14, 2024**, at the El Garces to discuss the development of an off-highway vehicle route map for an Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Pilot Program. This program aims to allow off-highway vehicles to travel on specific city streets.

In March, the City Council created an Ad-Hoc Committee to research the implementation of this program and appointed Councilmembers Campbell, McCorkle, and Longbrake to serve. This will be the second meeting following the foundational meeting held on March 28, 2024. The Needles City Council's OHMV Subcommittee orchestrated the initial meeting in collaboration with city personnel, Minagar and Associates, and law enforcement representatives from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, the Bureau of Land Management, and the

California Highway Patrol. The public's input will be invaluable as the city goes through this process. We look forward to seeing you attend, but if you cannot participate, public members can provide feedback by emailing minagarf@minagarinc.com or calling 949-707-1199 ext. 2#.

4. The City of Needles is committed to enhancing its aging street infrastructure through a 15-year Pavement Management Plan funded by the City's cannabis tax revenues. City staff will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the **first two weeks of September** to celebrate the paving implementation of Phase 4A. The City has allocated \$2.2 million for the ongoing fiscal year to fund critical waterline and street improvements, as outlined in the attached exhibit, Phase 4A.

In June, the city completed the \$1 million Water Service Lateral Replacement Project, the first step in repairing our aging infrastructure. To ensure the timely progress of critical projects, the City actively seeks grants and alternative funding for identified priority initiatives. The City of Needles remains dedicated to innovative, strategic investments in its infrastructure to enhance the community's overall well-being. If you have any questions regarding the Pavement Management Project, please contact Patrick Martinez, the City Manager, at 760-326-2115 ext. 113 or by email at pmartinez@cityofneedles.com.

5. City crews have been actively working to maintain and improve our parks, ensuring they remain beautiful and accessible for all residents. Recently, our team focused on the dog park, enhancing its condition and usability. Please look at the attached photos showcasing the impressive transformation, with before and after shots highlighting the improvements made. Our staff's dedication to maintaining our parks is evident in the quality and care of these enhancements. We appreciate their hard work and commitment to making our community spaces enjoyable for everyone.
6. Needles youth are heading back to school in the next few weeks, and the Colorado River Station is hosting a backpack and school supply drive to help children in our community prepare for the new school year. Please bring your donated items to the Needles Sheriff's Station by **August 14, 2024**. The station is located at 1401 Bailey Avenue. For additional information, please contact Community Officer M. Hunt at 760-326-9200 or mhunt@sbcasd.org. Refer to the attached flyer for more details.

Additionally, the City of Needles Recreation Center's After School Program begins on the first day of school, **August 14, 2024**. The program offers homework help, STEM activities, physical education, and snacks. For more information see the attached flyer and contact the Needles Recreation Center at 1705 J Street, Needles, or call 760-326-2814.

7. This week, City crews continue to complete 80 hours of training for a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). The city remains committed to providing professional development opportunities for our staff, and they have been enrolled in a certified training program. Our public works staff receive training in virtual and onsite sessions. Please refer to the attached images for a glimpse into the training process.

8. The City of Needles extends a heartfelt thanks to the Needles Rodeo/Colorado River Round-Up for hosting a free open swim on **August 1, 2024**. The event was a fun-filled day of swimming for all ages. The attached images highlight the evening festivities. We would also like to thank the Needles Elks Lodge and the Eagles for hosting open swim events this year. If you are interested in hosting open swim events next year, please contact us for more information at (760) 326-2599.

1. JSP BOAT FIRE



2. LA TIMES ARTICLE

CALIFORNIA

That's hot: Needles dethrones Phoenix as hottest U.S. city in July



An early morning kayaker paddles on the Colorado River in Needles, separating California from Arizona. The city became the hottest city in the nation in July. (Irfan Khan / Los Angeles Times)

By Sandra McDonald

Aug. 1, 2024 4:10 PM PT

A town of 5,200 just inside the California border along Route 66 now boasts a scorching new record — the hottest monthly average temperature in the country.

AZ State Climate ✓
@AZStateClimate · [Follow](#)

X

Phoenix is happy to relinquish the record to Needles, now the hottest monthly U.S. city with 103.2°F (preliminary avg July temp).

Arizona welcomes a few new members to the 100°F+ monthly temp club: Palm Springs (100.0°F) and Blythe (100.7°F). Welcome?

This is the 2nd time... [Show more](#)

6:21 AM · Aug 1, 2024

♥ 72 💬 Reply ↗ Share

[Read 13 replies](#)

It also referenced two other cities, Palm Springs and Blythe, and welcomed the club of cities with average temperatures of at least three digits for a month.

“Welcome?” the post said.

Jan Jernigan, the mayor of Needles, was not surprised by her town’s achievement, saying: “We probably did [beat the record], quite easily.”

The heat is a part of the town’s culture. When the City Council hosts meetings, it offers guests a basket of Red Hots candy with a sign that reads, “Needles is Red Hot,” Jernigan said.

Needles has learned to hold city events early in the morning to avoid the worst of the heat, Jernigan said. A food distribution event this morning started around 5 a.m. and lasted only until 8 a.m., she said, before temperatures became oppressive.

The town, also known for references in the [“Peanuts” comics](#) as the home of Snoopy’s brother Spike, still draws tourists and residents alike to its three beaches on the Colorado River where they can try to beat the summer heat, said City Manager Patrick Martinez. The city has spent \$8.4 million in grants to improve infrastructure, including updating parks, he said.



The heat is ingrained in Needles’ culture. City officials offer Red Hots candy at public meetings, with a sign reading “Needles is Red Hot.” (Jan Jernigan)

“You’ve [got to] be waist-deep in the Colorado River” to stay cool in Needles, he said.



CALIFORNIA

These California counties endured the nation’s longest streaks of excessive heat

July 19, 2024

In late June, the region's intense heat was partly to blame for [an unusual brush fire that broke out](#) near Needles, burning 70 acres and destroying one structure. It crossed into Arizona and burned 143 acres there. Martinez said the infrastructure upgrades included beach cleanups that will help reduce the risk of future wildfires, especially during a [wildfire-prone summer](#). This year's hot weather has contributed to fires burning 30 times as many acres statewide as last year.

To fight the heat, the town operates a [senior center](#) that provides water and a cool place for people to gather. It is equipped with a generator and can be opened during an emergency if power outages put residents in danger of overheating, Martinez said.

Jernigan said the most recent improvements to Needles' infrastructure aren't the end of the story. "We still have a long way to go," she said.

More to Read

'Long-duration' heat wave again cooking California, raising health and wildfire concerns

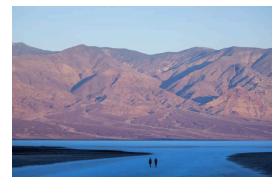
July 22, 2024



FOR SUBSCRIBERS

For these Death Valley residents, extreme heat is a way of life

July 21, 2024

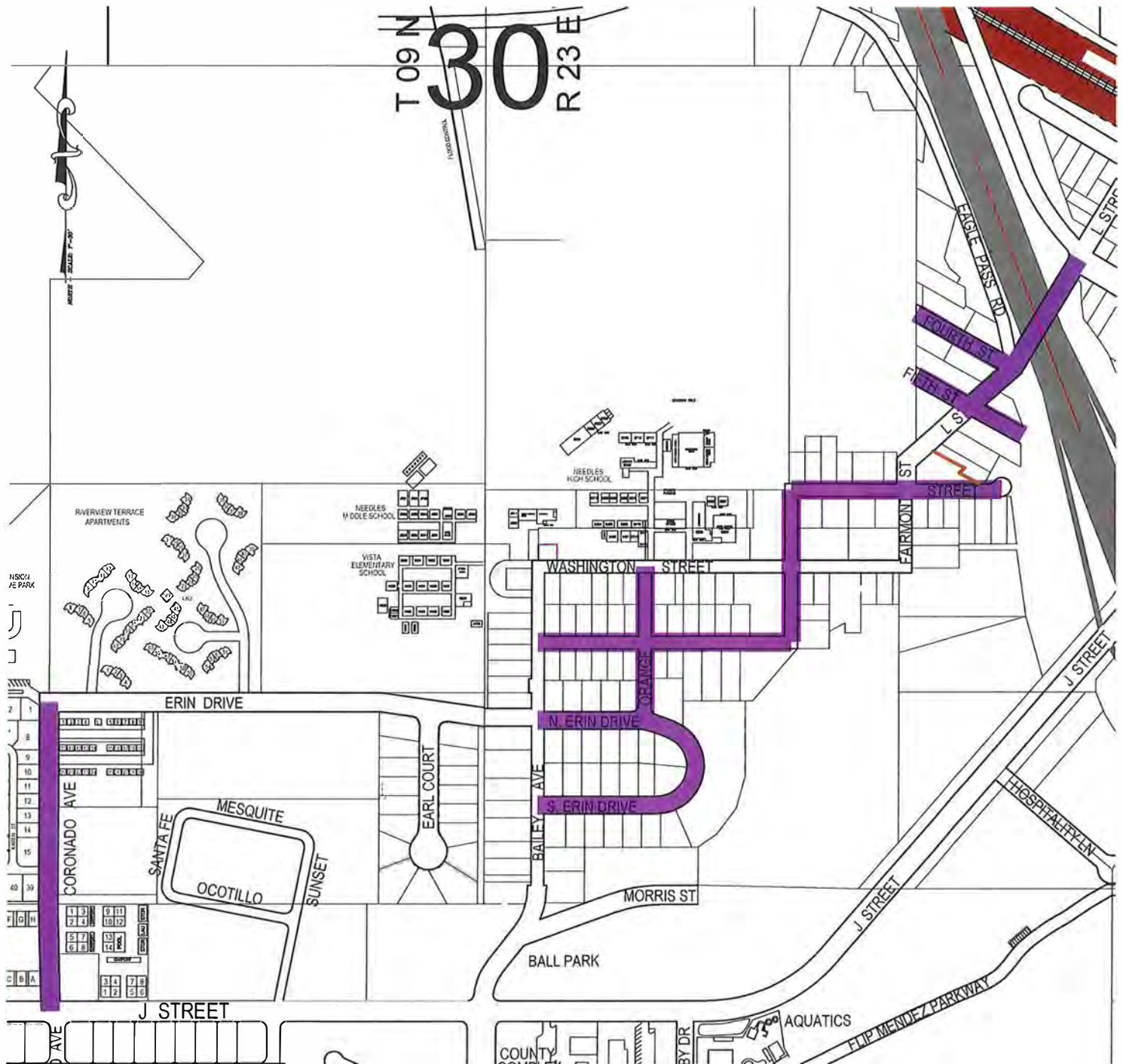


Temperature records shattered across the West as intense heat wave drags on

July 10, 2024



Sandra McDonald



HIGH SCHOOL HILL

L STREET	(5th Street to W. Broadway Ave)
4TH STREET	(L Street to End)
5TH STREET	(L Street to End)
HIGHLAND STREET	(Park Ave to End)
PARK AVE	(Highland Street to Collins Street)
ORANGE AVE	(Washington Ave to Erin Drive)
COLLINS STREET	((Bailey Ave to Park Ave)
ERIN DRIVE	(Bailey Ave - The Loop)
CORONADO STREET	(Erin Dr to J Street)

LEGEND

Obernolte Water Service Replacements & Street Improvements Project - Awarded by Rep. OBERNOLTE

4. Street Improvements & Water Service Replacement

PHASE 4 A



DOWNTOWN AREA

DESOTO STREET	(D Street to W. Broadway Ave)
CIBOLA STREET	(D Street to W. Broadway Ave)
F STREET / ARMY RD	(Broadway Ave to Interstate 40)
E STREET	(Broadway Ave to Interstate 40)
DOWNEY AVE	(D Street to F Street)
VALLEY AVE	(D Street to F Street)
FOURTH STREET	(F Street to E Street)
G STREET	(@ Army Rd)

LEGEND

 PHASE 4A - PAVING IMPROVEMENTS
Including Water Services

5. DOG PARK MAINTENANCE



6. BACKPACK DRIVE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM



Back to School

Backpack & School Supply Drive

The Colorado River Station is hosting a backpack and school supply drive to help children in our community get ready for the new school year.

PLEASE BRING YOUR
NEWLY DONATED ITEMS
TO THE NEEDLES
SHERIFF'S STATION BY
AUGUST 14, 2024



Contact Community Officer M. Hunt at (760)326-9200 or mhunt@sbcasd.org with any questions.

Needles Recreation Center

After School Program

MONDAY - FRIDAY

GRADES
K-8

WHAT
WE
PROVIDE

- Homework Help
- STEM Activities
- Physical Education
- Snacks

For more information &
to get registration form,
please visit Needles
Recreation Center



7. CDL TRAINING PROGRAM



8. RODEO OPEN SWIM

