



*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 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: March 8, 2024

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1. The Duke Watkins Park Improvement Project, with a budget of \$3,965,400, is making notable strides forward. This Thursday marked the arrival and installation of the prefabricated restroom, complemented by the new central sewer line installation. Furthermore, the fields show signs of rejuvenation, with the grass visibly turning green. For a closer look at this week's advancements, please refer to the attached image, which vividly captures the ongoing progress.
2. The Needles Aquatic Center was drained in October for evaluations and repairs. Off-season improvements include slide maintenance, equipment updates, lighting fixes, and swimming feature repairs. City Staff utilized the funding recently allocated by the City Council to replace damaged tiles, fill cracks, and repaint the main pool, with new lighting installations underway. The decking is also prepped for non-slip painting, ensuring the Needles Aquatics Center is ready and safe for the opening on June 1, 2024. Residents can enjoy lap swimming, water aerobics, swim lessons, and open swimming at the Needles Aquatics Center. The Needles Aquatics Center is located at 1101 Civic Center Dr, Needles, CA 92363. For the pool schedule and pricing, visit the City of Needles [website](http://www.cityofneedles.com).
3. City Staff is thrilled to share an update on the Water Service Lateral Replacement Project, which Phillips Excavating kicked off on March 4, 2024. This \$1 million initiative commenced on Erin Drive and is expected to progress until mid-May. Now in its fourth year, the city has dedicated \$2.2 million for the current fiscal year to support essential waterline and street upgrades, as detailed in Exhibit 3, Phase 4A of the project plan.
4. The City Staff is excited to announce a Community Cleanup event on April 20, 2024, at 7 am, in honor of Earth Day. Owing to its success over the years, we've expanded the initiative to include two cleanup sites this year: Jack Smith Park and J Street/Nikki Bunch Fields. There's no need to register; everyone is invited to join

the effort. The City will supply bags, pickers, and gloves for participants. We encourage all community organizations and members to take part. For more details, please refer to the attached flyer or stay updated via our Needles Connect app.

5. On August 8, 2023, the Housing Authority of the City of Needles (HACN) was informed by both the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) of its eligibility to receive 30 HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers. The HUD-VASH program integrates HUD's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance with the VA's case management and clinical services to support homeless veterans. On March 27, 2024, HACN will hold its inaugural meeting to discuss program updates and engage landlords interested in offering housing through this initiative. For more information, please refer to the attached flyer.
6. On Thursday, March 7, 2024, the Colorado River Station/Needles Police Department, assisted by the Sheriff's Inter-Regional Narcotics Enforcement Team and San Bernardino County Probation, conducted a joint operation in the City of Needles. The operation consisted of 33 team members, with three teams executing ten search warrants in the City of Needles. The warrants led to the arrest of 20 subjects. These subjects were arrested for various crimes, including maintaining a residence for the use of narcotics, possession of narcotics, possession of stolen property, active felony warrants, and possession of manufacturing equipment to make fraudulent credit cards.  
This operation was conducted to combat the ongoing battle of violent crimes occurring in the city, coupled with the sales, distribution, and use of Fentanyl, which is a known narcotic that is consuming lives daily in our community. For press releases, news, and information, follow the Colorado River Station on Twitter/X @CORiverStation or Facebook and Instagram at SBCSDColoradoRiverStation. Refer to the attached SBCSO press release for further information.
7. On Friday, March 8, 2024, a meeting occurred between the Housing Authority of the City of Needles (HACN) staff and the Resident Advisory Board (RAB) to refine HACN's Draft Annual Plan. This meeting enabled engaging discussions, with RAB members actively contributing their insights and recommendations, effectively voicing their interests and concerns. This collaborative effort was vital in shaping the strategic direction and focus of the Annual Plan, ensuring it accurately embodies the needs and ambitions of the residents. The Annual Plan will be presented to the Housing Commission on March 27, 2024, followed by a public hearing on April 9, 2024, at the City Council Chambers, 1111 Bailey Avenue, starting at 6 PM. This presentation will occur before the HACN Board of Commissioners, further advancing the plan to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for final approval.

# 1. DUKE WATKINS PARK IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE



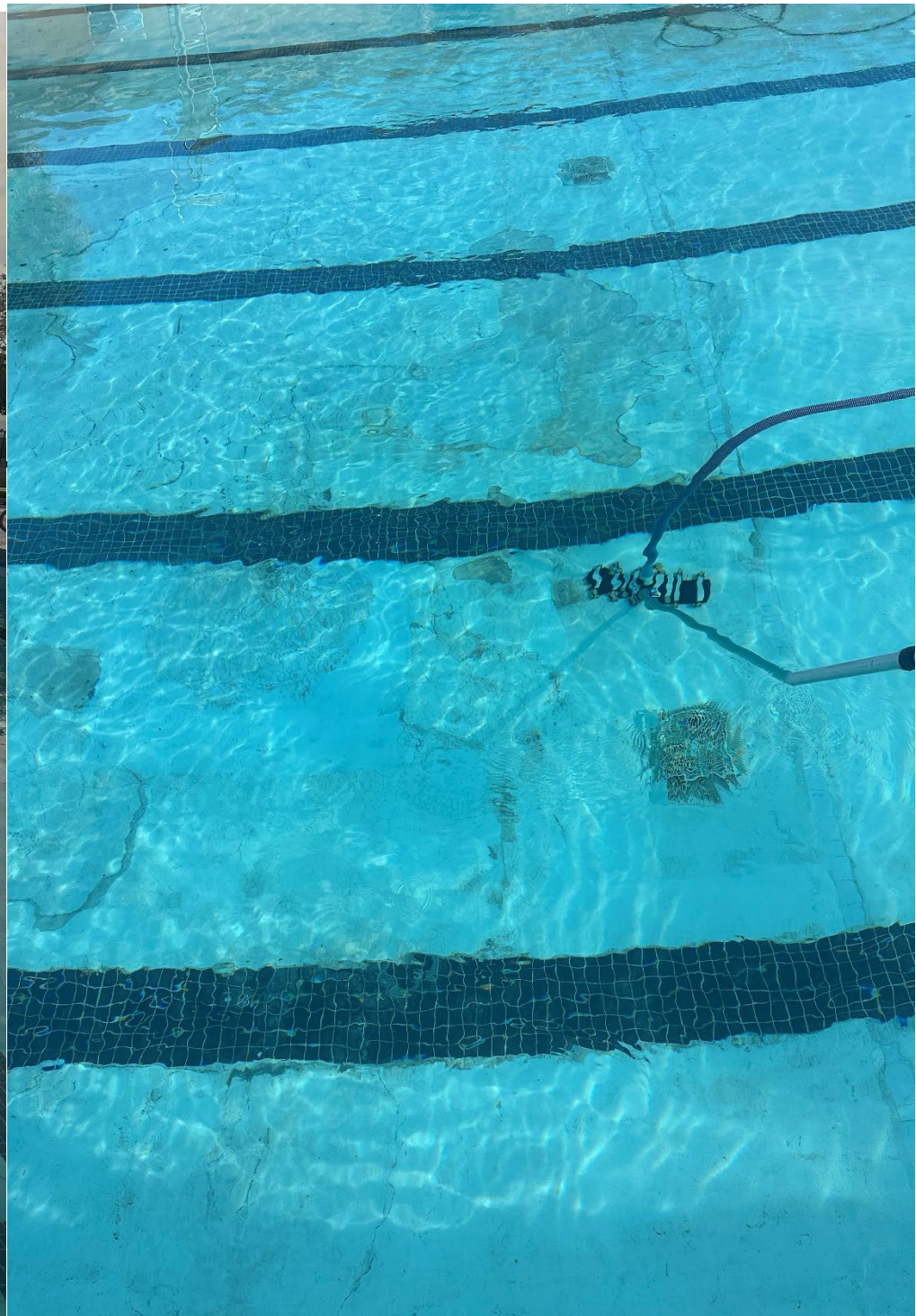


# **1. DUKE WATKINS PARK IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE**





## 2. AQUATIC CENTER UPDATE

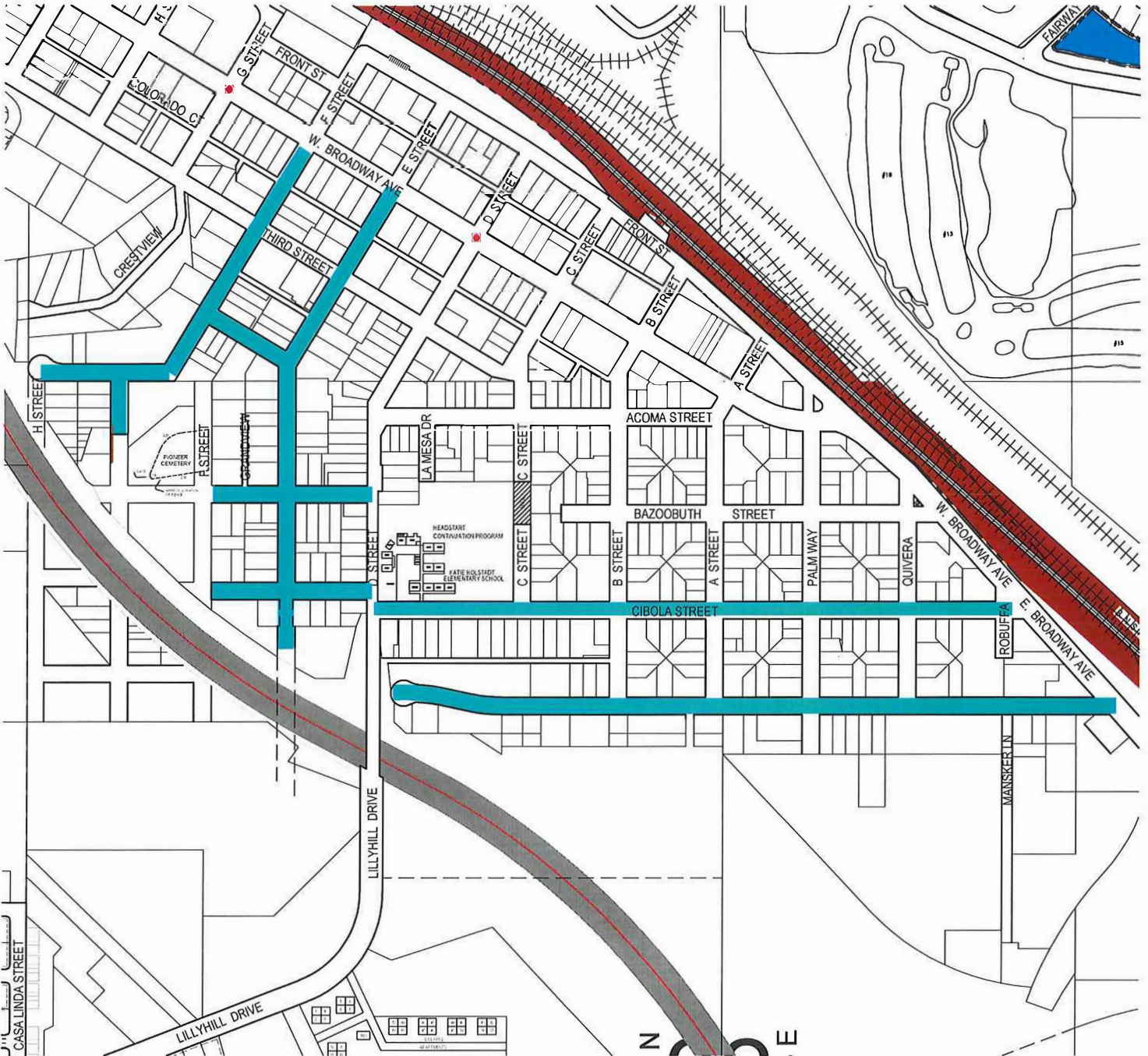






# 3. Street Improvements & Water Service Replacement

## 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



4. EARTH DAY COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

SPRING INTO ACTION

TWO LOCATIONS

# Community Cleanup Day

Jack Smith Park | 1001 River Rd.

&

J Street | Nikki Bunch Fields

**Saturday, April 20, 2024**

**7 AM - 8 AM**

Join your friends and neighbors as we work together to clean our community. No registration required.

The City will provide bags, pickers and gloves!



[cityofneedles.com](http://cityofneedles.com)



## 5. VETERANS HOUSING



*Housing Authority of the City of Needles*

COMMUNITY  
OPEN HOUSE #1



## You're Invited to Support our Local Homeless Veterans

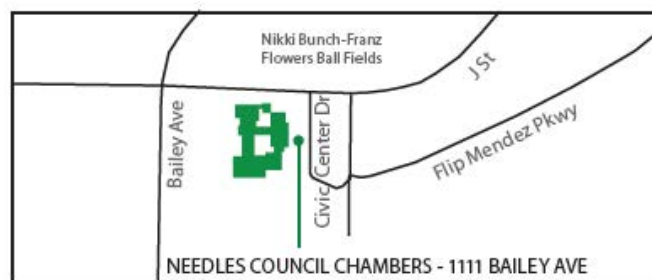
The Housing Authority is hosting its first meeting to provide updates and obtain your thoughts about options for Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) voucher program and Landlord outreach/retention for The Housing Authority City of Needles administrative team and surrounding community partners.

**March 27, 2024**

**4:00 PM start time**

**Needles Council  
Chambers**

- ❖ Homeless Veterans Support Groups
- ❖ Homeless Veterans Resources
- ❖ Landlord Incentives
- ❖ VASH Voucher Program Process
- ❖ VASH Voucher Application Process



**Questions? Want more info?** Angelica Deerner | 760-326-2115, ext. 173 |

adeerner@cityofneedles.com **Can't make it?** Contact Angelica or visit [cityofneedles.com](http://cityofneedles.com) to take a survey after the event.



## 6. SBSD - Colorado River Sheriffs Department

Registered Subscribers: [Sign In Here](#)

Receive alerts from your local agencies

...or text your ZIP CODE to 888777 for mobile alerts

### Full Notification



### SBSD - Colorado River Sheriffs Department

Thursday March 7th, 2024 :: 06:33 p.m. PST

Advisory

### Deputies Conduct a Joint Operation to Combat Violent Crimes and Fentanyl Sales and Use

DATE: March 7, 2024

INCIDENT: OPERATION BLUE RIVER

LOCATION: Needles, CA

VICTIM(S): State of California

SUMMARY: On Thursday, March 7, 2024, the Colorado River Station/Needles Police Department, assisted by the Sheriff's Inter-Regional Narcotics Enforcement Team and San Bernardino County Probation, conducted a joint operation in the City of Needles. The operation consisted of 33 team members, with three teams executing ten search warrants in the City of Needles. The warrants led to the arrest of 20 subjects. These subjects were arrested for various crimes, including maintaining a residence for the use of narcotics, possession of narcotics, possession of stolen property, active felony warrants, and possession of manufacturing equipment to make fraudulent credit cards.

This operation was conducted to combat the ongoing battle of violent crimes occurring in the city, coupled with the sales, distribution, and use of Fentanyl, which is a known narcotic that is consuming lives daily in our community.

The following is a list of the subjects arrested during this operation and affiliated with the above-listed charges.

Nicholas Monk, 40-years old, Resident of Needles  
Guadalupe Lozano, 34-years old, Resident of Needles  
Johanna Baumgartner, 22-years old, Resident of Needles  
Juan Hernandez, 27-years old, Resident of Needles  
Crystal Munoz, 37-years old, Resident of Needles  
Edward Dock, 43-years old, Resident of Needles  
Rabecka Motz, 34-years old, Resident of Needles  
Theodore Muniz, 37-years old, Resident of Needles  
April Craig, 31-years old, Resident of Needles  
Mariah Mills, 31-years old, Resident of Needles  
Darrian Myatt, 31-years old, Resident of Needles  
Charles Brown, 29-years old, Resident of Needles  
Michael Fulmar, 33-years old, Resident of Needles  
Simon Garcia, 35-years old, Resident of Needles  
Aaron Hernandez, 30-years old, Resident of Needles  
Mark Franco, 46-years old, Resident of Needles  
Rachael Reyes, 43-years old, Resident of Needles  
Pete Jewell, 42-years old, Resident of Needles  
Heather Jewell, 48-years old, Resident of Needles  
Zabrina Longacre, 42-years old, Resident of Needles

Anyone with information regarding these cases is urged to contact Deputy E. Olmos or Sergeant C. Raynolds of the Colorado River Station / Needles Police Department



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Image 2 of 3

Next »

#### More Messages

[See more messages from Needles, California »](#)

#### Navigate & Discover

Enter a town, zip code or address



at (760) 326-9200. Those wishing to remain anonymous are urged to call the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME(27463) or you may leave information on line at [www.wetip.com](http://www.wetip.com).

For press releases, news and information, follow the Colorado River Station on Twitter/X @ CORiverStation or Facebook and Instagram at SBCSDColoradoRiverStation.

Refer: Deputy E. Olmos or Sergeant C. Raynolds

Station: Colorado River Station / Needles Police Department

Phone No. (760) 326-9200

SHANNON D. DICUS, Sheriff-Coroner  
San Bernardino County Sheriff-Coroner Department

**Address/Location**  
[SBSD - Colorado River Sheriffs Department](#)  
1111 Bailey Ave  
Needles, CA 92363

**Contact**  
Emergency: 9-1-1

Message and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. [Terms](#) and [privacy](#).