



*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: December 15, 2023

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1. In partnership with Arrowhead Credit Union, the City hosted Santa's Workshop—a heartwarming event for 47 children filled with joy and giving. As the children savored lunch, Santa's surprise appearance delighted them. Each participant chose new shoes and socks, capturing the moment with Santa in a photograph. Thoughtfully, jackets were provided for all attendees and their families, ensuring warmth and comfort during the festive season. It was a heartening display of generosity and holiday spirit for everyone involved (image attached).
2. Caltrans conducted a photo shoot on December 6, 2023, at the newly constructed Needles Gateway Monument sign, joined by City Councilmembers and City Staff. This shoot marked Caltrans' involvement in Governor Newsom's \$1.1 billion Clean California initiative, awarding a \$5.9-million beautification project in Needles. The project involves erecting a gateway monument wall featuring "California" lettering and a California Bear figure within the Caltrans right-of-way at 5 Mile Rd. Additionally, it includes enhancing existing on/off ramps at Needles Hwy, J Street, and E. Broadway with new landscaping materials like gravel, mulch, and rock blankets. Completion is slated for the first quarter of the upcoming year (image attached).
3. The new Duke Watkins pump track saw the completion of its concrete work on Thursday, December 14, 2023. This project was made possible through a \$3,965,400 grant from California's Proposition 68 Statewide Park Program (image attached).
4. Today, City staff underwent vital cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid training, equipping our teams with essential skills, including the operation of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to save lives during cardiac emergencies (image attached).

5. Last night, a power outage occurred in the vicinity spanning Clary Drive to Casa Linda Street, caused by an unfortunate incident involving an alleged drunk driver colliding with an NPUA transformer. Immediate responses from City Staff (including public works and the electric department), SB County Sheriffs, Fire Department, and Baker Ambulance swiftly followed. The combined efforts of public works and electric departments resulted in site cleanup and power restoration within just 2 hours of the incident (image attached).
6. On December 9, 2023, IEHP (Inland Empire Health Plan) organized a "Community Social and Job Fair" at Palo Verde Community College, offering crucial health service access to low-income and working-class individuals and families via the Medi-Cal program. Post-event, IEHP, and Tri-State Community Health conducted a productive dialogue with Needles' healthcare providers to assess the community's current needs and enhance resident services. Furthermore, both organizations plan to establish a recurring food bank at the Tri-State parking lot for ongoing community support.

# 1. SANTA'S WORKSHOP





## 2. NEEDLES GATEWAY MONUMENT SIGN





### 3. DUKE WATKINS PUMP TRACK





## 4. CPR AND AED TRAINING





## 5. LILLYHILL POWER OUTAGE

