



City of Needles

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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

MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICK J. MARTINEZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 7, 2025

1. This past weekend, **Needles** hosted a **successful series of sports tournaments**, reinforcing its reputation as a **premier destination for sports tourism**. **Fifty-six teams** participated in **three major events**, generating **significant tourism activity**, supporting **local businesses**, and enhancing **community engagement**. The **Colorado River Invitational Baseball & Softball Tournament** featured **16 baseball and 16 softball teams**, bringing in teams from across the region and increasing **visitor activity**. The **18th Annual Needles Spring Classic Basketball Tournament** showcased **24 teams**, providing a **competitive platform** for young athletes and further engaging visitors within the city. These tournaments contributed to the **city's economic vitality**, strengthened **community involvement**, and showcased **Needles' commitment to sports and recreation**. Looking ahead, our **Youth Basketball All-Stars** from **third through eighth grade** will showcase their skills in upcoming tournaments. They will compete in **Beaumont this weekend March, 7-9**, and in **Twentynine Palms on March 21-23**. The **City of Needles** takes pride in its status as a **sports tourism destination**, consistently hosting **various sporting events** throughout the year. Join us in **celebrating the spirit of sports** in our vibrant community. **Good luck to our team this weekend in Beaumont!**
2. The City Staff is excited to share some fantastic news! After months of dedicated effort to address the pharmacy shortage in our community, Needles will soon welcome **Route 66 Pharmacy**, which will open in the coming weeks. This new pharmacy will operate **Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM** and be closed on weekends, ensuring residents have reliable, local access to essential medications and healthcare services. As you may recall, the closure of Rite Aid in January left **3,000 Medi-Cal patients, including 2,300 IEHP members**, without a nearby pharmacy. In response, the City Council took swift action, declaring a **Local Emergency (Resolution No. 2024-7) on January 30, 2024**, and working with partners to establish alternative solutions. Thanks to these efforts, seven Arizona pharmacies stepped in to serve Medi-Cal patients,

with one even offering delivery to Needles. With the opening of Route 66 Pharmacy, our residents will once again have a **local, in-person option for their prescription needs**, strengthening healthcare access and supporting our local economy. This aligns with the City Council's goal of **fostering economic growth and business development** by creating a pro-business environment and attracting essential services to the community. This is a **significant win for Needles**, ensuring our residents have the necessary healthcare resources while contributing to a thriving local economy. We look forward to welcoming and supporting this new business as it begins serving our community. Stay tuned for more updates as we approach the grand opening! **Refer to the attached image for a glimpse of the sign they put up this week.**

3. The **Needles Pride Program** continues to **grow and make a lasting impact**, encouraging residents to actively care for **their neighborhoods**, uphold **community standards**, and foster a **strong sense of local pride**. As our community works together on these initiatives, the **City of Needles remains dedicated to investing in essential infrastructure improvements** that **enhance service reliability and overall quality of life** for all residents.

This week, **our dedicated Public Works crews** remained focused on **roadway maintenance**, working **diligently** to enhance **safety and accessibility**. Crews improved along **Lillyhill Drive**, **filling potholes** to ensure **smoother travel** and completing **red curb painting** on **J Street and Broadway**. They will continue **addressing citywide road maintenance needs** as time and resources allow. Their **hard work** is **essential** to keeping our **streets safe, functional, and well-maintained**, and we sincerely appreciate their **ongoing dedication**. **Refer to the attached image of the newly painted curb.**

We encourage the community to stay engaged and report any road issues by contacting the **City of Needles Billing Office** at **760-326-2115 (press #9)** or by downloading the **Needles Connect app** from the [Google Play Store](#) for Android or the [Apple Store](#) (iOS). Through **active participation and collaboration**, we are **building a stronger, safer, and more vibrant Needles** for all.

4. The **City of Needles** is pleased to announce that the **ribbon-cutting ceremony** for the **Well No. 11 Treatment Plant Project** has been **rescheduled for April 8, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.** This **\$8.9 million** project marks a **significant milestone** in strengthening Needles' **water infrastructure**, ensuring a **reliable supply of high-quality drinking water** for years. The event will occur **adjacent to the Needles Golf Course Maintenance Yard**, where we will celebrate this **critical investment in the city's future**. With **final system calibration underway**, the project is **nearly complete**. Representatives from **key agencies** will attend, and we invite the **community to commemorate this essential advancement** in Needles' water system.
5. The **Needles Animal Shelter** is home to many **affectionate, eager pets** looking for their **forever families**. We are committed to **enhancing the well-being** of animals in our community through our **adoption program**, ensuring

they find safe, loving homes. If you're ready to **welcome a furry companion**, the **adoption fee is just \$60**—a small price for a lifetime of love and companionship! To learn more about the adoption process or to schedule a visit, please get in touch with the Needles Animal Shelter at **760-326-4952**, available **Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 2 PM**. Check out the **adorable dogs currently available for adoption** in the attached flyer, and help us give these pets the second chance they deserve!

6. On March 11, 2025, the Needles Women's Club will host a **Turkey Bacon Wrap Luncheon** to benefit **women's empowerment, youth programs, scholarships, and civic initiatives**. For just \$10, enjoy a delicious meal featuring a **turkey bacon wrap, chips, and a cookie!** Order your lunch today by [clicking this link](#). Delivery is available for orders of **three or more** within Needles. Meals can be picked up at the **Needles Women's Club at 305 W. Broadway Street**. Don't miss the chance to support your local Women's Club! **Place your order by 5:30 p.m. on March 10, 2025. If you have trouble ordering, feel free to call/text Karrie at 928-201-1836.**
7. Tri-State Community Healthcare is excited to host the **Third Annual Needles Easter Egg Hunt**, bringing families and children together for a fun-filled celebration. On **Saturday, April 19, 2024, starting at 9:30 AM at Jack Smith Park (1000 River Road, Needles, CA)**, the event promises an exciting experience for kids of all ages. With **5,000 eggs hidden** throughout the park, children can discover prizes, gift baskets, and more. In addition to the egg hunt, families can enjoy **face painting and capture memorable moments with the Easter Bunny**. This beloved community event, organized by Tri-State Community Healthcare, is a perfect way to celebrate Easter with joy and excitement. Don't miss out on this special day filled with fun and laughter! **Refer to the attached flyer for more information.**
8. In celebration of **Read Across America Week** from **March 2-6**, a dedicated community member, in partnership with the **City of Needles**, has placed a **Little Free Library #181873** in front of the **Dance Trax Building**, located across from the **Recreation Center at 1299 Flip Mendez Pkwy, Needles, CA 92363**. This thoughtful initiative helps promote literacy and encourages a love of reading throughout the community. A **Little Free Library** is a "take a book, leave a book" free book exchange, fostering community sharing and lifelong learning. Anyone can stop by to **borrow or donate a book**, ensuring a continuous supply of reading material for all ages. This new addition to our city is an excellent way to connect with others through books and make reading more accessible to everyone. We encourage everyone to visit the **Little Free Library**, pick up a book, and share in the joy of reading. Whether you're looking for your next great read or have books to donate, this is a fantastic way to celebrate **Read Across America Week** and support literacy in our community. For more information about the **Little Free Library movement**, visit littlefreelibrary.org. **Refer to the attached image for a glimpse at the new library!**

9. **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:**

- City staff has **carefully curated a comprehensive community events calendar** to keep residents informed about **Needles' diverse activities and happenings**. Organizations are encouraged to **collaborate with the City Clerk's Office** to add or update events, ensuring a vibrant and inclusive calendar for all. For contributions or modifications, please **contact 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 that Needles has to offer!