



City of Needles
817 Third Street, Needles, California 92363
(760) 326-2113 • FAX (760) 326-6765
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*

MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICK J. MARTINEZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 2, 2024

1. On Tuesday January 30, 2024, the City Council the City Council took decisive action by formally adopting Resolution No. 2024-7, thereby officially declaring a Local Emergency in response to the closure of the sole California pharmacy in Needles. This resolution empowers the City Manager to actively pursue essential goods, services, and mutual aid from neighboring local agencies, as well as the County of San Bernardino and the State of California. This strategic initiative is designed to ensure the swift acquisition of ample resources to address the immediate emergency, facilitating the procurement of aid and services. This guarantees that residents of Needles maintain uninterrupted access to critical medications and essential goods and services. Refer to attached emergency declaration.
2. Today, City Staff issued a press release regarding the Rite Aid Pharmacy Closure Update #1. In response to the Rite Aid Pharmacy closure, effective February 5, 2024, all prescriptions will be seamlessly transferred to CVS Fort Mohave, located at 4744 S. Highway 95, AZ 86426. Contact CVS Fort Mohave directly at (928) 763-6822 for inquiries. Alternative pharmacies include CVS 24-hour in Bullhead City, Safeway, and Riverside Pharmacy. Ensure availability and operating hours by calling ahead. As of 2/2/2024, Medi-Cal enrollment is confirmed for Safeway, CVS, and Riverside Pharmacy. Dial-a-Ride (DAR) Medical Transport and DAR Shopper Shuttle are available with reservation and prepayment for transportation options from Needles to Arizona pharmacies. Details and reservations can be made by calling the Senior Center at (760) 326-4789—additional resources, including Medi-Cal Rx, IEHP Dual Choice, and IEHP Covered, are outlined in the press release. For further updates, download the Needles Connect app or visit www.cityofneedles.com. Please refer to the attached document for more details.

3. The City of Needles is delighted to introduce Chanler Hartwick as the newest Recreation Coordinator within our Parks & Recreation Services Department. In her capacity, Ms. Hartwick will collaborate with the city's Recreation Services Manager to expertly plan, facilitate, instruct, and oversee a diverse range of recreation activities, including arts and crafts, games, team sports, and informal gatherings at various locations, such as parks, playgrounds, and the recreation center.
4. Today, City Staff participated in the severe weather briefing at the San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services (OES). Anticipating a second storm front from Monday to Friday, with peak intensity on Tuesday and Wednesday, City Staff urged OES to oversee flood monitoring, especially along Needles Highway. Rigorous preparations for potential flooding are underway, and our electric crew is primed to address any storm-induced power outages. On Monday, City Staff will compile a roster of standby employees ready to respond in an emergency. The San Bernardino County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is on standby, poised for activation in the event of damages. The City's proactive measures ensure a swift and coordinated response to any challenges the impending storm poses.
5. On January 20, 2024, City Staff actively engaged in the Colorado River Medical Center (CRMC) Community Health Needs Assessment, contributing to improving community health. Through this involvement, City Staff gained valuable insights into the community's health challenges, empowering CRMC to align services and resources more effectively to cater to the needs of the Needles population. Additionally, City Staff played a pivotal role in identifying and addressing these crucial health needs during the assessment process.

1. EMERGENCY DECLARATION

Item 1.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION 2024-7

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY THREATENING PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE WITHIN THE NEEDLES COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, the City Manager described in great detail a local emergency that occurred due to the imminent closure of the only California pharmacy within the City of Needles, which the Needles' community relies upon to purchase and obtain critical and sometimes life sustaining medications, goods and services. The closure of the sole existing pharmacy within the City will result in local residents lacking access to a California pharmacy within the City to provide needed and sometimes life sustaining medication, goods and services; and

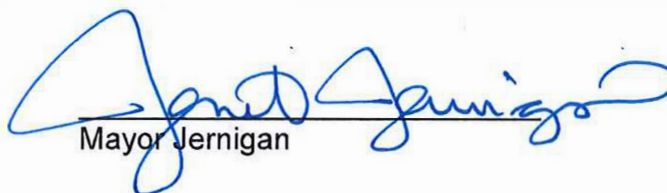
WHEREAS, in light of the emergency situation, there is an immediate threat to the public health, safety and welfare of residents of the City of Needles.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED AND DECLARED that a local emergency now exists throughout the City of Needles pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, Government Code, § 8558, et. seq.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND DECLARED that the City Manager is authorized to take all actions to protect the interests of the city and protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents as a result of the closure of the sole pharmacy within the City. During the existence of said local emergency, the City Manager is directed and authorized to seek any needed goods, services and mutual aid from surrounding local agencies, as well as the County of San Bernardino and State of California to ensure that the City has access to adequate resources to address the immediate emergency and to procure aid and services to ensure that residents of Needles have access to critical medications and related goods and services.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED at a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Needles, California, held on the 30th day of January 2024, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council Members Campbell, Merritt, Pogue and Belt
NOES: None
ABSENT: Council Members Longbrake and McCorkle
ABSTAIN: None


Mayor Vernigan

(Seal)

Attest:


City Clerk

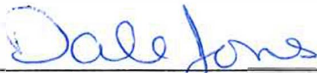
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CERTIFICATION

I, Dale Jones, City Clerk of the City of Needles, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2024-7



Dale Jones, CMC
City Clerk

(SEAL)

Date: January 31, 2024



2. PRESS RELEASE

City of Needles

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 2, 2024

Contact: Rainie Torrance
Emergency Response Coordinator
(760) 326-5700 Ext. 140
torrance@cityofneedles.com

Rite Aid Pharmacy Closure Update #1

Needles Community – Last October, Rite Aid faced financial challenges and sought Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, allowing for a structured evaluation of its operations. This process aimed to streamline its footprint by closing underperforming stores while addressing litigation claims fairly. Unfortunately, the City of Needles has received disheartening news regarding its only pharmacy, Rite Aid, which will cease operations on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, as part of the ongoing bankruptcy and restructuring efforts.

At the close of business on Monday, February 5, 2024, **ALL** Rite Aid pharmacy prescriptions will seamlessly transfer to CVS Fort Mohave, situated at 4744 S. Highway 95, AZ 86426. For any inquiries, please contact CVS Fort Mohave directly at (928) 763-6822. We understand the impact this may have on the community, and we appreciate your understanding during this transition period.

Where can I fill my prescriptions?

CVS

4744 S Highway 95
Fort Mohave, AZ 86426
(928) 763-6822

Medi-Cal Enrolled

Safeway

4823 S Highway 95
Fort Mohave, AZ 86426
(928) 704-4433

Medi-Cal Enrolled

CVS 24-hour

2350 Miracle Mile
Bullhead City, AZ 86442
(928) 758-2212

Medi-Cal Enrolled

Riverside Pharmacy

2410 Highway 95
Bullhead City, AZ 86442
(928) 219-4700

Medi-Cal Enrolled

Be sure to call the pharmacy before going to pick up your prescriptions. The pharmacy will verify over the phone that they have your medication in stock, and your refills are available to be picked up. For residents with specific insurance requirements, Safeway, CVS, and Riverside Pharmacy are confirmed to be enrolled with Medi-Cal. Be sure to verify their operating hours and explore any additional services they may provide.

As more pharmacies get approved, we will furnish you with additional information to further assist you. Thank you for your understanding during this transitional period, and we are committed to keeping you informed about available healthcare options in the community.

What resources are available for transportation from Needles to a pharmacy in Arizona?

Dial-a-Ride (DAR) Medical Transport:

Fare: \$6.00 (round-trip) from Needles Senior Center up to Safeway/CVS/Smiths, Fort Mohave, AZ or \$12.00 (round-trip) up to Laughlin Bridge in Bullhead City, AZ

Days: Tuesday/Thursday

Reservation and prepayment are required no later than 11am the day prior to the scheduled trip and, as seats are limited, all trips are on a first come first served basis.

There are no discounted or free fares on this service, the fare applies to all passengers.

DAR Shopper Shuttle:

Fare: \$9.00 (round-trip) from El Garces (leaves the parking lot at 8:15am) to Walmart, CVS, Smiths, and Safeway in Fort Mohave, AZ

Day: Wednesday

Reservation and prepayment is required no later than 11am the day prior to the scheduled trip and, as seats are limited, all trips are on a first come first served basis.

There are no discounted or free fares on this service, the fare applies to all passengers.

Call the Senior Center at (760) 326-4789 to schedule your reservation for the Medical Transport or Shopper Shuttle.

Additional information can be found on the City of Needles website www.cityofneedles.com.

What resources are available?

Please call Medi-Cal Rx at 1 (800) 977-2273 (TTY 1-800-977-2273) for questions about your Medi-Cal pharmacy benefit. A Medi-Cal Pharmacy can be located on the [Medi-Cal Rx website](#).

- IEHP DualChoice (Medicare/Medi-Cal)
 - 1 (877) 273-IEHP (4347)
 - TTY: 1-800-718-IEHP (4347)
- IEHP Covered (Covered California)
 - 1 (877) 433-IEHP (4347)
 - TTY: 711

Mail order pharmacy services are also available for IEHP Dual Choice and IEHP Covered members. SortPak pharmacy is an IEHP network mail order pharmacy. Starting February 6, 2024, prescriptions can be transferred by contacting SortPak Pharmacy at (877) 570-7787 and ask them to contact the CVS Pharmacy in Fort Mohave at (928) 763-6822.

Department of Behavioral Health – www.sbcounty.gov/dbh/

- Access Unit (Behavioral Health Helpline) - (888) 743-1478 (24 hours/365 days)
- Screening Assessment and Referral Center (Substance Use Disorder Helpline) - (800) 968-2636 (24 hours/365 days)
- Crisis Contact Center - Community Crisis Response Teams - (800) 398-0018 or text (909) 420-0560 (24 hours/365 days)
- Needles Behavioral Health Clinic – (760) 326-9313

Department of Aging and Adult Services-Public Guardian – hss.sbcounty.gov/daas/

- Senior Information and Assistance - (800) 510-2020
(Non-emergency response, Monday-Friday 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
- Adult Protective Services - (877) 565-2020 (24-hour Hotline)
- Needles DAAS-PG Office - (760) 326-9328 (Monday-Friday 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.)

For press release information from the City of Needles, download the citizen engagement mobile app named Needles Connect in the [Apple App](#) or [Google Play Store](#) or visit www.cityofneedles.com