



# City of Needles

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

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

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICK J. MARTINEZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 14, 2025

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1. The **City of Needles** remains committed to enhancing our community's cleanliness, safety, and overall appeal. The **City Council has prioritized clean-up and beautification efforts**, ensuring Needles remains a welcoming place for residents and visitors. Through coordinated efforts with city staff, volunteers, and partner agencies, we continue to improve public spaces and maintain a high quality of life. Recently, **Public Works, Parks, Electric, Water, and Wastewater teams** worked together on citywide maintenance, including **removing dead vegetation at the cemetery, trimming trees downtown, and maintaining palm trees as part of proactive fire prevention and beautification efforts**. These initiatives help keep our city clean, safe, and visually appealing.

Community involvement plays a crucial role in these efforts. The **Needles Pride Program** inspires residents to take an active role in keeping their neighborhoods clean. The most recent **Pop-Up Clean-Up Event**, hosted by **Military Moms**, was a great success. Volunteers gathered at **Broadway Street and G Street (The Needles Sign)** to clean Broadway Street, removing **over 20 bags of trash, brush, and debris**. This collective effort demonstrates the power of community engagement and civic pride. **Refer to the attached images for a glimpse of their transformative efforts.**

The **City of Needles** also recognizes and appreciates the ongoing support from **Caltrans** in keeping our roadways clean and safe. Last week, Caltrans conducted **landscaping and vegetation removal along Interstate 40**, including clearing trees and enhancing roadside aesthetics. Their work, which extended from **O Street Market to Bush Street**, supports regional beautification and ensures a well-maintained **I-40 corridor**. The **next community clean-up event** is scheduled for **Saturday, February 22, 2025, at 9:00 AM**, focusing on **J Street Hill, near Dollar General (1500 Hospitality Lane, Needles, CA 92363)**. We encourage all residents to participate and help **beautify our city while addressing littering concerns**. Residents are also encouraged to report

maintenance concerns or issues through the appropriate channels. Reports related to **California State Highway System concerns** can be submitted directly to **Caltrans** at <https://csr.dot.ca.gov/>. For matters **within the City of Needles**, please contact **(760) 326-2115** or use the **Needles Connect app**, on the [Apple App Store](#) and [Google Play Store](#). Thank you to our residents, volunteers, and city staff for their dedication and hard work. **Together, we can ensure Needles remains a clean, safe, and vibrant community for all.**

2. City staff is pleased to share a recent **code enforcement success story** regarding **404 D Street**. Nearly a year ago, the **City Attorney's Office**, in collaboration with the courts, successfully appointed a **receiver** to address longstanding **code violations** at the property. Through this process, the property transitioned into **responsible ownership**, and the new owner has since been actively rehabilitating the home. This achievement not only resolves a significant **code enforcement issue** but also aligns with the City Council's goal of **enhancing infrastructure, improving neighborhood conditions, and addressing the housing shortage**. By bringing a revitalized home back onto the market, this effort directly contributes to Needles' ongoing commitment to **community development and responsible property management**.

These successes require **time, persistence, and collaboration**, but they demonstrate the **positive outcomes achieved** when the City, legal resources, and property owners work together. Special appreciation is extended to **city staff, the City Attorney's Office, and all involved partners** for their dedication to ensuring properties are **maintained to a high standard** and neighborhoods continue to **thrive**. The City remains committed to **proactively addressing code violations, improving livability, and supporting responsible property ownership** to enhance all residents' overall quality of life.

3. The **City of Needles** and the **San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department - Colorado River Station** are pleased to invite the community to attend **Coffee with a Cop on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 11:00 AM at The 19th Hole, 144 Marina Drive, Needles, CA**. This event allows residents to engage in **informal conversations with local deputies**, fostering positive relationships, promoting transparency, and encouraging open dialogue. This initiative aligns with the **City Council's goal of strengthening community engagement** by creating meaningful connections between law enforcement and the public. There is **no set agenda**—just an opportunity for residents to **meet, ask questions, and discuss community concerns in a welcoming environment**. Events like these build trust, enhance **public safety, and ensure a well-informed and engaged community**. We encourage all community members to attend. **For more details, please refer to the attached flyer.**
4. This past week, **Assistant Chief Bill Villarino, Division 4 of the San Bernardino County Fire District (SBCFD)**, updated the **City Council** on fire safety efforts in Needles. His presentation emphasized the **importance of proactive fire prevention, emergency preparedness, and maintaining fire response resources**. The **Residential Assessment Program (RAP)** was a

**key topic** that offers **free home wildfire risk assessments** for properties in high-risk areas. SBCFD conducts these evaluations to help homeowners **identify hazards, improve defensible space, and enhance fire resilience**. Residents are encouraged to participate by visiting [www.sbcfire.org](http://www.sbcfire.org) or calling **(909) 386-8400**. The City of Needles has also taken **proactive steps** in collaboration with SBCFD to **enhance fire preparedness, ensure hydrant functionality, and mitigate fire risks**. As part of these efforts, residents are urged to take responsibility for fire prevention by **removing dry vegetation, clearing access routes for emergency responders, and maintaining defensible space around their homes**. These fire safety initiatives align with the **City Council's goals of improving infrastructure, fostering community engagement, and ensuring a safe and resilient city**. We appreciate **Assistant Chief Villarino and SBCFD's** continued partnership and encourage the community to utilize available fire prevention resources.

5. The Rivers Edge Golf Course continues to be the **go-to destination for competitive tournaments, community events, and top-tier golf experiences**. With a **challenging yet player-friendly layout**, the course attracts golfers of all skill levels looking for a great time on the links. Last weekend, the **Women's Club of Needles** kicked off its **inaugural tournament**, drawing **30 competitors** for a successful day of golf, camaraderie, and competition. Next is the **Wilson Birthday Bash Tournament on February 22, 2025**, followed by the **Needles Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor's Center Second Annual Lucky Greens Tournament on March 15, 2025**. **Twilight League play returns in March**, giving players another shot at the weekly competition. For those looking to sharpen their game, **golf lessons resume tomorrow, February 15, 2025**, providing an opportunity to refine skills and gain an edge on the course. Rivers Edge Golf Course also offers **event hosting for tournaments and group outings**, complete with professional coordination to ensure an unforgettable experience. For more details or to lock in your next round, contact **JJ DeLeon at (760) 326-3931**. **Step up, tee off, and experience the best of Rivers Edge Golf Course!**
6. **The Well No. 11 Treatment Plant Project** ribbon-cutting ceremony, originally scheduled for **March 4, 2025**, will be rescheduled to accommodate representatives from key agencies who funded the project. This **\$8.9 million project** is a major step in strengthening Needles' water infrastructure, ensuring a long-term, reliable supply of high-quality drinking water. Final system calibration is underway, marking the near completion of this critical investment in our community. **Once a new date is confirmed, we will share updated details.**
7. This week, city staff met with representatives from the **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)** to develop a coordinated plan for the safe relocation of the four burros roaming on the **Rivers Edge Golf Course**. The **Burro Extraction Team** worked closely with staff to establish a designated feeding area, a critical first step in preparing a humane trapping method for their safe relocation. The burros have not been observed in the area recently, possibly due to recent

rainfall, which may have influenced their mobility patterns. While their absence suggests they may have moved on naturally, the city remains vigilant and prepared to proceed with relocation efforts if they return. Public safety remains a top priority, particularly as we approach the start of **boating season and the opening of the Jack Smith Boat Launch next month with weekend use**. The city will continue monitoring the situation to mitigate any potential hazards for drivers and visitors. **Refer to the attached images for a visual update on the extraction efforts**. We appreciate the collaboration with BLM and will provide further updates as needed.

8. City officials attended the **2025 Laughlin Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) Annual Meeting on February 13, 2025**, at the Laughlin Bay Marina. This event provided valuable insights into regional economic development, infrastructure improvements, and collaborative opportunities that align with the City Council's goals for **business growth, infrastructure investment, and community engagement**. Key discussions focused on **regional economic collaboration, infrastructure funding, and tourism expansion**, reinforcing the importance of partnerships between Needles and neighboring communities like Laughlin. Strengthening these relationships supports the City's efforts to **enhance economic opportunities, attract businesses, and improve public spaces**. The meeting also highlighted state and federal funding opportunities for infrastructure projects, which aligns with Needles' commitment to securing grants and investments for **road improvements, public amenities, and essential services**. Participation in the **LEDC Annual Meeting** ensures Needles remains engaged in regional economic discussions and strengthens its position in **California-Nevada border commerce and tourism development**. The City looks forward to continuing collaboration with regional partners to **drive economic growth, expand business opportunities, and enhance community development**.

9. **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:**

- **February 20, 2025 – Needles Chamber "Good Morning Needles"**  
Hosted by **TriState WiFi**, this networking event will take place at **7:30 a.m.** at **950 Front St., Needles**. It provides an opportunity for local businesses and community members to connect and discuss ongoing initiatives. **RSVP by calling 760-326-2020**.
- **March 1, 2025 – Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event**  
The event will take place at the **Needles City Public Works Yard (112 Robuffa Street)** from **7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** Residents are encouraged to properly dispose of **used motor oil, batteries, paint products, and household cleaners**. For inquiries, contact the **Household Hazardous Waste Program at 909-382-5401 or 1-800-OILY-CAT**.
- **March 19, 2025 – 3rd Annual Job and Resource Fair**  
Hosted by **San Bernardino County Supervisor Dawn Rowe**, this event at the **El Garces Historic Train Depot (950 Front Street, Needles, CA)** from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** will provide **networking opportunities** for residents, city staff, and public officials to connect with agencies and organizations offering **job placement and essential services**.

- **April 10-12, 2025 – Art in the Park Save the date!** The **second annual Art in the Park** will showcase **art pieces from across the Tri-State region** in partnership with the **River Valley Artist Guild**. This event celebrates local creativity and community engagement. **More information to come.**
- **April 19, 2025 – Needles' 1st Annual World-Famous Chili Cookoff**  
Hosted by **The River Community Coalition & Firehouse Ministries**, this exciting new event will take place at **10:00 a.m.** Santa Fe Park (950 Front Street). Attendees can expect **delicious chili, friendly competition, and a celebration of community spirit.**
- **April 21-27, 2025 – Route 66 Bike Week**  
This **weeklong event** celebrates the **historic Route 66** with a **scenic ride from Needles to Seligman**, highlighting the spirit of the **open road and motorcycle culture.**
- **April 24, 2025 – Needles Animal Shelter Spay/Neuter Clinic**  
The **Needles Animal Shelter** will host a **spay/neuter clinic** to promote **responsible pet ownership**. Space is **limited**, and residents must **RSVP** by completing an application and providing proof of residency. A portion of the cost is **subsidized** to make the service more accessible. For more details or to schedule an appointment, call **(760) 326-4952.**
- **May 14, 2025 – Run for the Wall (RFTW)**  
This **annual tribute honoring Vietnam Veterans** will welcome over **300 motorcyclists** passing through Needles. The riders will **arrive at the historic El Garces at noon**, offering a meaningful opportunity to **honor their service.**
- **Community Calendar**  
Local organizations are encouraged to coordinate with the City Clerk's Office to add or update events, keeping the calendar accurate and beneficial for the community. To submit an event or request changes, contact Candace Clark at **cclark@cityofneedles.com.**



# 1. COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION





# 1. COMMUNITY CLEANUP





# 1. COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION





# 1. COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION





## 2. RECEIVERSHIP PROGRAM





### 3. SBCSD- COLORADO RIVER STATION



Join us for  
*Coffee with a  
Cop!*

*Wednesday  
Feb 19th  
11:00 a.m.*



~NO AGENDA~  
ENJOY COFFEE &  
CONVERSATION  
WITH LOCAL  
DEPUTIES!



**THE 19TH HOLE  
NEEDLES, CA**

144 Marina Drive







## 4. SBCFD

# Residential Assessment Program (RAP)

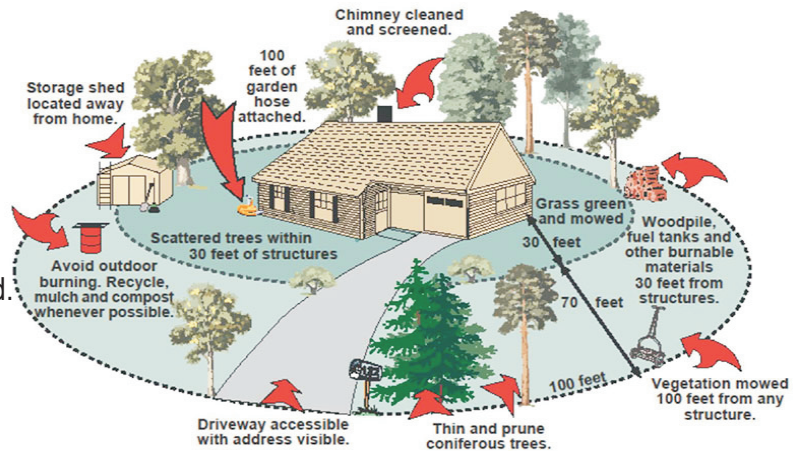
### *Together we can help make your home Fire Safe and Defensible*

In an effort to ensure the maximum level of wildfire preparedness, San Bernardino County Fire Department conducts **FREE** engine company residential assessments in rural areas that have high risk for wildfire.

### Step 1 Fire Safe Checklist

- ☐ Address clearly visible from street (4" tall min. on contrasting background).
- ☐ Weeds and grasses need to be cut to 4" or less, 100 ft around structures and 10 feet from roadsides.
- ☐ Within 100 ft (or property border) all trees over 12 ft have all foliage and limbs removed 6 ft above ground.
- ☐ Tree trimmings and brush (in piles) on the ground, branches less than 4" in diameter, and leaves or shrub trimmings must be removed.
- ☐ Combustible (flammable) debris must be completely removed from all areas of your property.
- ☐ Pine needles over 2" in depth must be removed from all areas of the property.
- ☐ Clear chimney area of vegetation within 10'. Spark arrestor of 1/2 inch mesh required.
- ☐ Remove dead trees completely.
- ☐ Prune and/or remove shrubs to provide separation from ground and each other.

### Step 2 Complete Defensible Space



### Step 3 Prepare Your Family

- Create a Family Disaster Plan that includes meeting locations and communication plans and rehearse it regularly. Include in your plan the evacuation of pets and large animals.
- Plan several different evacuation routes. Designate an emergency meeting location outside fire hazard area.
- Appoint an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact so you can communicate with family members who have relocated.
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers posted near your phone and in your emergency supply kit.
- Keep an extra emergency supply kit in your car in case you can't get to your home because of fire.



SBCFD Wildland  
Fire Safety

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For more information about making your home Fire Safe, call the Office of the Fire Marshal at (909) 386-8400. Visit our website at [www.sbcfire.org](http://www.sbcfire.org) and click on the Residential Assessment Program (RAP) link:



Additional information on wildfire prevention, legal outdoor fires and other helpful links are available at: **READY! SET! GO!**

Please email us at [countyfirerap@sbcfire.org](mailto:countyfirerap@sbcfire.org) to schedule an appointment and seek information about RAP.

**For more information:**  
(909) 386-8400 or visit  
[www.sbcfire.org](http://www.sbcfire.org)



## 7. BURRO ACTIVITY JACK SMITH PARK

