



MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICK J. MARTINEZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 22, 2024

1. On March 20, 2024, San Bernardino County celebrated its 2nd Annual Job and Resource Fair at El Garces, spearheaded by Supervisor Dawn Rowe. This significant event united City of Needles public officials, city staff, and residents to forge connections with various agencies offering essential services from multiple governmental levels and local non-profit organizations like IEHP and Tri-State Community Health Center. Attendees had access to vital resources, including necessary record issuance, document recording, property assessments, assistance with record-clearing and expungements, and specialized support for veterans regarding VA benefits and identification cards.

In a commendable move, the Public Defender's office has pledged to conduct a follow-up workshop in Needles to help community members navigate the complexities of clearing their records, focusing on crafting effective letters for court cases. Moreover, during the event, the County's Department of Public Health (DPH) took proactive steps to safeguard the well-being of Needles residents by administering vaccinations in a collaborative effort with the mayor's office. The overwhelming success of this initiative has paved the way for another vaccination drive, underscoring the power of unity and collective effort in achieving communal goals. The enthusiasm and positive outcomes from these collaborative endeavors are genuinely inspiring. Additional insights and information are provided in the accompanying photo.

2. City Staff was notified by Congressman Raul Ruiz's Office (25th District), the San Bernardino County Needles Behavioral Health Outpatient Clinic and Recovery Clubhouse Project received \$1 Mil. in Earmarks. This substantial financial endorsement is a landmark achievement for our community, signifying a leap towards substantial positive change and enhanced well-being for our residents. Outlined on [Congressman Ruiz's website](#), the project aims to transform the existing facility at 1600 Bailey Ave, Needles, CA 92363. The ambitious plan involves

expanding the clinic's footprint by 1,688 square feet, bringing the total area to 5,216 square feet. This expansion is critical, given the clinic's 20-plus years of operation in Needles and the doubling of its clientele from 205 to 395 annually over the last seven years. Despite this growth, the number of staff increasing from six to eleven, the facility's size has remained unchanged. The proposed renovations promise to elevate the quality of service provided, incorporating enhanced treatment spaces, advanced telehealth capabilities, dedicated areas for both individual and group therapy, medical examination rooms, additional office and cubicle spaces, and a specially designed waiting area for children and youth. The inclusion of restrooms, showers, laundry facilities, a commercial kitchen, a wellness room, and a resource room in the construction plans reflects our commitment to a holistic approach to health and recovery.

This initiative represents a significant victory for our community. I am eager to collaborate with Department of Behavioral Health Director Georgina Yoshioka and our local DBH team, offering any support necessary to ensure the seamless progress and realization of this pivotal project.

3. Needles Tourism, in partnership with the River Valley Artist Guild, is hosting the first-ever Needles Art in the Park event. This cultural showcase will occur at the El Garces Train Depot at 950 Front Street from 9 am to 4 pm on March 22nd and 23rd. To complement this vibrant artistic celebration, a Crafts Fair will also be held at Santa Fe Park on Saturday, March 23, offering various handmade items and unique finds. This weekend promises to be a feast for the senses and a testament to our community's rich, creative spirit.
4. Arrowhead Credit Union, in collaboration with the ArrowHeart Foundation, is proud to host the "Feeding Our Community" event dedicated to nourishing our neighbors. This heartwarming gathering will occur at the Needles Senior Center, 1699 Bailey Avenue. Complimentary hot meals will be available from 11 am to 2 pm, served on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. This initiative reflects our commitment to community support and giving back. For more details, please see the attached flyer.
5. In May, the Housing Authority of the City of Needles (HACN) eagerly anticipates the rollout of its HUD-VASH program, a synergistic partnership with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This initiative expertly combines HUD's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance with the VA's extensive case management and clinical services, which are dedicated to furnishing stable housing solutions for the homeless veteran population in Needles. As a precursor to this launch, an open house is scheduled for March 27, 2024, at 4 pm in the City Council Chambers. City staff will present the latest updates on the program and engage with landlords keen on participating in this virtuous endeavor by providing housing. The allocation of 30 HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers to HACN represents a notable advancement in our commitment to supporting our veterans. We encourage interested parties to review the attached flyer for more detailed information.

1. SB COUNTY RESOURCE FAIR



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Calling All Artists!

*Presented by:
Needles Tourism & River Valley Artist Guild*

Come and Display your Art Work - 950 Front Street
WHO WILL WIN THE - PEOPLE CHOICE AWARD?

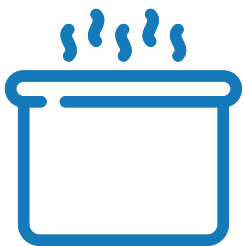
For Questions please call Chandler Hartwick 760-686-4924 | kchartwickconsulting@gmail.com

4.. ARROWHEART EVENT

Feeding Our
Community




Free Hot Meals



Saturday, March 23

11am–2pm

(first come, first served)

 Needles Senior Center
1699 Bailey Ave
Needles, CA 92363

In Partnership With:

ArrowHeart
foundation

The Details:



While
supplies Last



Easy Pickup



No ID
Required

Arrowhead
credit union



5. VETERANS HOUSING

Housing Authority of the City of Needles

COMMUNITY
OPEN HOUSE #1



You're Invited to Support our Local Homeless Veterans

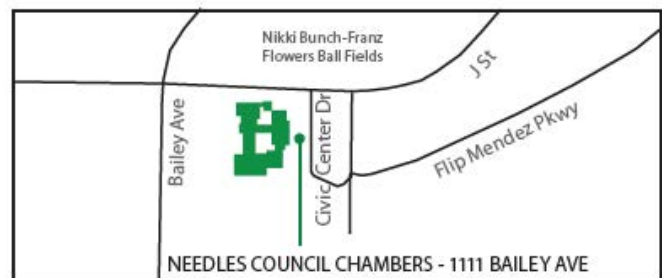
The Housing Authority is hosting its first meeting to provide updates and obtain your thoughts about options for Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) voucher program and Landlord outreach/retention for The Housing Authority City of Needles administrative team and surrounding community partners.

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 to take a survey after the event.