



# City of Needles

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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: October 4, 2024

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1. On **October 1, 2024**, city officials and staff came together to celebrate the groundbreaking of the **\$1.4 million Obernolte Street Improvement Project**. This initiative highlights the City Council's dedication to modernizing and enhancing our community's street and water infrastructure. Upon completion, it will finalize critical sections of the Pavement Management Plan (PMP) in the School District neighborhood, ensuring that these essential streets remain well-maintained and accessible for years to come. United Paving Company has already begun mobilizing equipment, with street grinding scheduled to commence next Monday, followed by paving in the weeks ahead. The project is being funded through a strategic combination of resources, a testament to the city's financial planning: \$757,000 from the Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending program, sponsored by Congressman Jay Obernolte, with the remainder sourced from the City's Cannabis Revenues and the NPUA's Water Asset Replacement Fund. The streets set for improvement include L Street, 4th Street, 5th Street, Highland Street, Park Avenue, Orange Avenue, Collins Street, Erin Drive, and Coronado Street—key routes near local schools that will significantly benefit from these upgrades. Refer to the attached image to for the spectacular event. **Refer the attached images for a glimpse of the groundbreaking event and updates on Phase IV-A Street Improvements, featuring a brand-new road.**
2. On **October 3, 2024**, city officials, staff, and community members came together for the Mayor's annual **State of the City address**, where key achievements and ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for Needles residents and businesses were highlighted. **2023** was a year of remarkable growth, with significant strides in economic development, infrastructure upgrades, and expanded recreational opportunities—all laying the groundwork for a sustainable future. The numerous "Groundbreakings and Ribbon Cuttings" this year reflect the city's ongoing progress and commitment to positive change. The presentation also featured videos from The [Weather Channel's America's Morning Headquarters](#), showcasing [Bob Belt](#)

[Beach Park](#), [Jack Smith Park's Marilyn Hohstadt Mathews Walking Trail](#), Congressman Ruiz's \$1 million appropriation for the [Needles Behavioral Health Clubhouse](#), and a highlight of Needles' unique [historical charm](#). **Click [here](#) to listen to the address or view the presentation slides [here](#). Refer to the attached image for a glimpse of the event.**

3. We're thrilled to announce the **reopening of Rivers Edge Golf Course** after a successful overseeding over the last month. Locals, snowbirds, and golf enthusiasts from the region are invited to experience our championship-caliber course. With an exciting fall schedule ahead, now is the perfect time to book your tee time—call 760-326-3931 or visit our [website](#). For tournament inquiries, please contact JJ DeLeon at the same number.
4. Next week, Needles High School will host its 69th annual Homecoming celebration, starting on **Thursday, October 10, 2024**, with the **Mustang Drive at 5:30 PM**, followed by a spirited **Community Pep Rally at 6:00 PM**, and wrapping up with the **Senior Class Bonfire at 7:00 PM**. The excitement continues **Friday, October 11, 2024**, with the **Homecoming Parade** in the early afternoon, showcasing vibrant school spirit and community pride. That evening, the NHS Mustangs will face off against White Pine, with the **JV game at 4:00 PM** and the **Varsity game at 7:00 PM**.
5. On **September 30, 2024**, city officials, Needles Chamber, and staff celebrated the groundbreaking of the Business Directional Sign Program, an exciting initiative to guide travelers to local landmarks and businesses in Needles. Led by the Chamber since last April, the first of 11 signs is being renovated thanks to a generous \$8,700 grant from Supervisor Dawn Rowe. Expected to be completed by year's end, this project is a shining example of a successful public-private partnership that supports local businesses, enhances tourism, and fosters intergovernmental cooperation for economic growth. Businesses interested in participating can contact the Chamber at [info@needleschamber.com](mailto:info@needleschamber.com). **Refer to the attached image for a glimpse of the groundbreaking.**
6. We are thrilled to congratulate **Ronny Sommers** on earning his **Water Distribution Operator Certification Grade 1 License**—a significant achievement that will help us continue delivering safe and reliable water services to our residents. The City is committed to providing ongoing professional development and ensuring our staff have the tools they need to improve the quality of life for everyone in the community. Additionally, the City Administration works hard to equip our team with the necessary resources to complete their tasks effectively. **Refer to the attached image highlighting our public works crew selecting new boots**—just one example of how we support our employees as they work to improve the community.
7. City staff are making significant progress on the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Route Map as part of the OHMV Pilot Program, which aims to designate specific city streets for off-highway vehicles. On **October 4, 2025**, staff held a

productive meeting with representatives from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lake Havasu Field Office, the agency overseeing local public lands. This collaborative effort, grounded in mutual respect and shared objectives, focused on identifying key connection points between BLM trails and city streets. The initiative aligns with the City Council's vision to enhance public amenities and promote tourism by providing unique recreational opportunities that attract visitors and boost the local economy.

8. On **October 10, 2024**, the City of Needles will proudly celebrate the 51st anniversary of its Double Ten-Day flag-raising ceremony in front of the Needles Courthouse. This long-standing tradition began in 1972 and has been held annually except for a pause after 9/11. Double Ten Day, celebrated as the National Day of the Republic of China, marks the start of the Wuchang Uprising, which led to the end of the Qing Dynasty and the establishment of the Chinese Republic. The event will feature the Republic of China Air Force Veterans Color Guard, the Needles High School Band, and dignitaries from the City, County, and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office of Los Angeles. Join us for this meaningful occasion at **1111 Bailey Avenue at 10:00 AM on October 10, 2024**.
9. IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:
  - **Ventura Circus** will be performing in town from **October 10 through October 21, 2024**, with the opening night set for **7:00 p.m. on October 10 at 100 G Street in Downtown Needles**. Don't miss out on this unforgettable event—tickets can be purchased by clicking this [link](#).
  - **Annual Bridge to Bridge First Responders Appreciation Day on Saturday, October 12, 2024, from 11 am-2 pm** at the Mohave Valley Legacy Community Park at 9200 Aquarius, Mohave Valley.
  - **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: The Well No. 11 Water Treatment Facility Project is anticipated for mid-October**. The date, time, and location are TBD.
  - **SBCSD/Needles Police 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Trunk or Treat Event on Wednesday, October 30, 2024, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM** at the Recreation Center parking lot at 1705 J Street. If you're interested in participating, please get in touch with Misty Hunt at 760-526-9200 or [mhunt@sbcscd.org](mailto:mhunt@sbcscd.org).
  - **Community Fall Festival: November 2, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM** at 950 Front Street. To participate vendors can contact Jennifer Valenzuela, Recreation Manager, via email at [jvalenzuela@cityofneedles.com](mailto:jvalenzuela@cityofneedles.com) or directly at 760-326-2814.

# 1. OBERNOLTE STREET PROJECT



# 1. PHASE IV-A STREET UPDATE



# 1. PHASE IV-A STREET UPDATE



## 2. STATE OF THE CITY 2024



## 5. NEEDLES CHAMBER UPDATE





## 6. PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

