



# City of Needles

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

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICK J. MARTINEZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 29, 2024

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1. The Needles City Council is dedicated to fostering community pride through clean-up initiatives and beautification efforts. By enhancing our city's appeal and creating a family-friendly environment, we ensure Needles remains a safe, healthy, and welcoming place for everyone.

With **\$7 million in grants secured**, the City has made significant improvements to essential recreational areas, including:

- Jack Smith Walking Trail
- Bob Belts Beach Park
- Duke Watkins Park

These projects are vital to our shared vision of a sustainable and vibrant community, paving the way for a brighter future for Needles.

However, vandalism—including graffiti and damage to public property—undermines these efforts, costing the City thousands of dollars annually. Recent incidents, such as damage to facilities at Duke Watkins Park, including restrooms and children's play areas, have required the Public Works team to divert valuable resources toward repairs instead of future enhancements. **Refer to the attached images** for examples of vandalism in restrooms and the toll it takes on our shared spaces.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our **Public Works team** for their hard work and dedication in fixing the damage caused by vandalism. Their efforts help restore our community spaces and ensure they remain usable and enjoyable for everyone.

**Why It Matters:** Graffiti and vandalism harm the beauty and safety of our community. Beyond the financial burden, these acts impact our sense of pride and

community. Together, we can protect and preserve the amenities that make Needles a great place to live, work, and play.

**How You Can Help**

- 1. Report Graffiti and Vandalism** If you witness graffiti or vandalism, report it immediately to the **San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office**: Call **(909) 387-8313** to notify law enforcement and support efforts to hold offenders accountable.
- 2. Request Graffiti Removal** The City will remove graffiti and restore public spaces promptly. **Call the City**: Contact us at **(760) 326-2115** to report graffiti and request removal. **Use the Needles Connect App**: Download the Needles Connect app from the [Google Play Store](#) for Android or the [Apple Store](#) for iOS devices to easily submit removal requests.

**A Call to Action:** Let's work together to keep Needles clean, safe, and inviting. By taking pride in our community and standing against vandalism, we can create a brighter and more welcoming environment for residents and visitors alike. Let's build a Needles we can all be proud of! Thank you for your support and commitment to our city.

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2. We extend our heartfelt thanks to **Tri-State Community Healthcare**, in partnership with **IEHP** and **Redmond Construction**, for their unwavering dedication and collaboration in serving our community. This week alone, they hosted **two successful fresh produce giveaways**, and over the course of this year, they have conducted **more than a dozen events** that provided vital resources to households across Needles. Their commitment to ensuring access to nutritious food is a testament to their profound care for the health and well-being of every resident in our vibrant city. These efforts went beyond delivering wholesome sustenance—they cultivated a strong sense of community, unity, and support that truly reflects the spirit of Needles. Thank you for your continued investment in the health and vitality of our community. Your contributions make a meaningful difference, and we are deeply grateful for all you do!
3. The City of Needles Recreation Center, in partnership with **Arrowhead Credit Union**, is thrilled to invite you to this year's **Santa's Workshop**—a cherished holiday tradition that celebrates the season of giving and community spirit. Join us on **Saturday, December 14, 2024**, from **11:00 AM to 3:00 PM** at the Recreation Center at **1705 J Street** for a day filled with holiday cheer! This special event is designed for children ages **5-13**, who can create their own Christmas gifts, wrap them, and take them home to share with their loved ones. Participation is limited to the **first 40 registered children**, and there is a **\$25 registration fee** to cover the cost of materials and supplies. This fun and meaningful event will bring joy and create lasting memories for all who attend. For **more information or to register**, **please get in touch** with Jennifer Valenzuela, Recreation Manager, at [jvalenzuela@cityofneedles.com](mailto:jvalenzuela@cityofneedles.com) or call 760-326-2814. Don't miss this fantastic opportunity—sign up today! We can't wait to see you there!

4. **Earlier this week**, a city vehicle assigned to our City employee was stolen while performing his duties at City Hall. Staff immediately contacted the Sheriff's Department, and thanks to their swift response and collaboration, the suspect was apprehended and arrested in Mesa, Arizona. The stolen vehicle, which prominently displays the City of Needles logo, helped limit the suspect's ability to evade detection. The City is moving forward with pressing charges to address this serious offense. We sincerely thank the **San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department** for their assistance and professionalism in resolving this matter. In response to the incident, we are implementing new protocols to enhance the safety of our employees and city assets, ensuring incidents like this are prevented in the future.
5. Don't miss the **Holiday Fun Fair, Festival of Trees, and Lighted Parade** on Saturday, **December 7, 2024**, hosted by Needles Youth Development, Palo Verde Needles Center, the Education Foundation, and Needles Community Partners. The day begins with the **Holiday Fun Fair from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**, featuring a variety of vendors and activities. At **725 W. Broadway**, the **Festival of Trees** will honor veterans, offering festive activities such as tree voting, free Santa pictures from **12:00 PM to 3:00 PM**, a toy giveaway by **IEHP from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM**, a bake sale by the Needles Women's Club, and Santa's Shop with more holiday fun. The festivities continue at **4:00 PM with a Tree-Lighting Ceremony** at the corner of G Street and Broadway, followed by the Lighted Parade. Don't forget to check out the **14th Annual Pee Wee Derby**—pre-registration is required by contacting Recreation Manager Jennifer Valenzuela at [jvalenzuela@cityofneedles.com](mailto:jvalenzuela@cityofneedles.com) or 760-326-2814. Join us for a day of celebration and holiday cheer!
6. Join us on **Tuesday, December 3rd, at 10:00 AM** at Duke Watkins Park (1500 Flip Mendez Pkwy) to celebrate the completion of the Duke Watkins Park Improvement Project! This exciting event will showcase the park's new features, including a bicycle pump track, splash pad, restroom, and small dog park, as well as upgrades to existing amenities such as a resurfaced basketball court, enhanced lighting, beautiful landscaping, new playground equipment, shade structures, and a vibrant expression wall. Be a part of this special day as we unveil these improvements designed to enhance recreation and enjoyment for the entire community! **Check out the attached photos for a sneak peek at the new shade structures at the skate park and upgraded trash cans at Duke Watkins Park!**
7. **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:**
  - **December 7 – 4th Annual Jason Smith Memorial Golf Tournament:** Support Needles High School and enjoy a day on the course.
  - **December 13 – Children's Angel Tree:** Select a tag at 1401 Bailey Ave. and fulfill a child's holiday wish. Return wrapped gifts with the Angel Tag by December 13. Contact Michelle Advocate at **(760) 326-9215** for details.
  - **December 16 – Senior Angel Tree:** Pick a name from the Angel Tree at City Hall (817 3rd Street) and provide a gift to a senior in need. Contact Misti Hunt at **(760) 326-9207** or [mhunt@sbcscd.org](mailto:mhunt@sbcscd.org) for assistance.

- **December 21 – Holiday Health Fair:** Visit Tri-State Community Healthcare Clinic from **9:00 AM to 12:00 PM** at 820 W. Broadway Street for their Holiday Health Fair.
- **December 21 – Fire House Ministries Community Christmas Toy Giveaway:** Join Fire House Ministries for a festive event at **El Garces, 950 Front Street, Needles, CA.**
- **Reminder – Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Survey:** Click [here](#) to fill out the survey and [here](#) for more information. Help make Needles safer and more resilient!
- **January 25 – Community Clean-Up:** Dispose of trash and bulky items for free from **8:00 AM to noon** at various city locations: Gates (Safari Drive), North K (near underpass and BNSF Road), Vista (Nikki Bunch Ball Field), and Cibola (Robuffa near Public Works Yard). Note: Hazardous waste and specific materials are not accepted.



# 1. VANDALISM





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## 6. DUKE WATKINS TRASH CANS





## 6. SKATE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

