



City of Needles

817 Third Street, Needles, California 92363
(760) 326-2113 • FAX (760) 326-6765
www.cityofneedles.com

Mayor, Janet Jernigan
Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell
Councilmember Tona Belt
Councilmember Jamie McCorkle
Councilmember JoAnne Pogue
Councilmember Henry Longbrake
Councilmember Larry Ford

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: October 03, 2025

1. **Assemblymember Gonzalez Needles Visit**

The City of Needles was pleased to welcome Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez for the second time in as many weeks, as he returned to host community meetings at the historic El Garces. Assemblymember Gonzalez — who serves as Vice Chair of the Assembly Committees on Military and Veterans Affairs and on Water, Parks, and Wildlife — commended Needles for its positive progress and emphasized the importance of working together to build a stronger community for residents. City officials, staff, and community members gathered to discuss local priorities and hear updates on legislative initiatives impacting Needles. This visit directly supported the City Council's goal of fostering civic engagement and strengthening partnerships with state leaders. The City sincerely thanks Assemblymember Gonzalez for spending the day in Needles, engaging with local leaders, and meaningfully connecting with our community. A special thank you is also extended to the City staff — including Parks & Recreation, Public Works, and supporting departments — whose efforts ensured the success of these meetings.

2. **Supporting Housing & Healthcare: Assemblymember Gonzalez Site Visits**

Today, Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez toured key sites in Needles, including the Colorado River Medical Center, highlighting the vital role rural hospitals play in supporting community health and economic stability. He also visited the River Valley Inn, once a blighted motor inn and now transformed into 29 affordable micro-apartments through a partnership between the City, the State of California, and developer Armen Ghadimian, supported by \$410,000 in Prohousing Incentive Program state housing funds. This work advances the City Council's goals to expand quality housing, strengthen essential services, and build a resilient, healthy community for residents. During the visit, Assemblymember Gonzalez presented Mr. Ghadimian with a proclamation recognizing this milestone. A ribbon cutting is scheduled for next month, with more information to follow — see the attached photo for a glimpse of the event.

3. ICSC Western Conference – Palm Springs

This week, Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell, Councilmember Jamie McCorkle, and the City Manager represented Needles at the 2025 ICSC Western Conference in Palm Springs. With a regional population of 146,500, more than 23,000 vehicles traveling Interstate 40 daily, and a growing tourism and industrial base, Needles is well positioned for new investment. The delegation met with developers, retailers, and investors to market key properties, highlight riverfront recreation and hospitality opportunities, and attract growth that will help fill vacancies, bring new amenities, and strengthen Needles' standing as a pro-growth destination in the Southwest. While in the desert, City officials also met with Congressman Raul Ruiz and his staff to discuss ways to collaborate on improving the quality of life for Needles residents, including advancing behavioral health resources and veterans' services. These conversations and connections will help position the City for new partnerships and support future community needs.

4. Monster Truck Insanity – Next Level Tour

The Monster Truck Insanity Next Level Tour is coming to the Needles Rodeo Grounds on **November 7–8, 2025**, bringing high-energy motorsports and family-friendly entertainment to our community. Fans will experience monster truck freestyle competitions, the free pre-show Insanity Fest meet-and-greet, and rides in a real monster truck, with showtime at 7:00 PM. This event supports the City Council's goals to position Needles as a regional recreation and tourism destination and to drive local economic activity by attracting visitors who support area businesses. Residents and visitors are encouraged to purchase their tickets today by clicking on [this link](#) and enjoy an action-packed weekend in Needles. Refer to the attached Flyer for event details.

5. Urban Land Institute (ULI) Technical Assistance Program Presentation

The City of Needles was honored to be selected as one of only six cities in California and Nevada to participate in the Urban Land Institute (ULI) California–Nevada Technical Assistance Program (TAP), a fully grant-funded initiative led by ULI Orange County/Inland Empire (ULI OCIE). Over the past several days, a volunteer panel of real estate and land use experts has met with local stakeholders to craft actionable strategies for housing and economic growth, infrastructure improvements, climate resilience (extreme heat, drought, seismic risks), and community safety — all of which directly support the City Council's long-term goals for sustainable growth and resilience. The Mayor, City Council, and members of the public are invited to attend the panel's presentation of recommendations on **Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.** at the El Garces Hotel.

6. Needles Pride Program & Infrastructure Improvements

The Needles Pride Program continues to unite residents, property owners, and businesses in a shared effort to beautify neighborhoods, promote civic pride, and support property maintenance. Alongside these community-driven efforts, the City remains committed to investing in critical infrastructure, public safety,

and enhanced public spaces. This week, Public Works completed ADA sidewalk repairs and replacements near the southwest corner of Broadway and I Street, performed pothole maintenance along D Street, Larchwood, and in Chesney's, and removed weeds and cleaned Bob Belt Beach Park to maintain safe, welcoming riverfront access. City Parks staff also overseeded Manny Morris Park and Nikki Bunch Park in preparation for the cooler season; the new seed is expected to sprout in 7–10 days. Meanwhile, the Electric Department repaired streetlights at the Wagon Wheel near the Shell station and installed additional LED lighting at Jack Smith Park as part of its ongoing lighting improvement program, which will continue as supplies allow. Residents can report concerns by calling 760-326-2115 (press #9) or using the Needles Connect app on [Google Play Store](#) (Android) and [Apple Store](#) (iOS). Together, we're building a safer, stronger Needles!

7. Upcoming Event: Fall 2025 Vaccination & Licensing Clinic

This is a reminder that the City of Needles Animal Shelter will host its Fall 2025 Vaccination & Licensing Clinic on Saturday, November 15, 2025, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 1662 Flip Mendez Parkway. PetSmart Veterinary Services (Dr. Joseph Velasco) will provide rabies, DA2PP (dogs), FVRCP (cats), Bordetella, rattlesnake vaccinations, and microchipping. City pet licenses will be available at special event rates: \$15 (altered) / \$25 (unaltered). Please remind residents to keep cats in carriers and dogs on leashes. For questions, call (760) 326-4952. This clinic supports the City Council's priorities on public health, animal welfare, and responsible pet ownership. See the attached flyer for details.

8. Needles Housing Authority – Security Fencing Project Update

This week, the Needles Housing Authority (HACN) began construction on its Security Fencing Project, awarded to Golden West Fence for a total project cost of \$233,000 funded through HACN Capital Funds. The project will install approximately 1,500 linear feet of new wrought iron fencing along J Street, Balboa Street, and Bailey Avenue to enhance the security of Housing Authority property. During initial demolition, staff identified existing wall and sidewalk conditions that were not fully apparent until removal began. To remain within budget while maintaining the planned level of security, the project design was adjusted to incorporate the structurally sound existing wall, with areas in need of grout or repair to be addressed as part of the work. Construction is now actively underway and will continue over the coming weeks. Refer to the attached photos for current project progress

9. City Staff End-of-Summer Safety Celebration

City staff gathered this week for an End-of-Summer Safety BBQ to celebrate a successful summer season marked by limited workplace incidents and a strong commitment to safety. Maintaining a safe and prepared workforce is critical to the City Council's goals of providing reliable services, protecting public resources, and fostering a positive, high-performing work environment. This event recognized the dedication of employees across all departments who kept operations running smoothly and safely during one of the City's busiest times of

the year, ensuring essential services continued without disruption to the community. Refer to the attached image for a glimpse of the event.

10. Rivers Edge Golf Course — Season Reopening

The Rivers Edge Golf Course officially reopened for the season today, Friday, October 3. Building on last year's successful return, the course is once again welcoming golfers of all levels to enjoy Needles' premier riverfront fairways. Tee times are now available at regular seasonal rates, offering residents and visitors one of our community's most scenic recreational amenities. This reopening continues the City's efforts to revitalize local amenities and strengthen Needles' position as a destination for outdoor recreation and leisure.

11. Needles Holiday Fun Fair & Lighted Parade

The City of Needles, in partnership with the Needles Youth Development and Education Foundation, Needles Community Partners, and the Needles Chamber of Commerce, will host the annual Needles Holiday Fun Fair & Lighted Parade on Saturday, **December 6, 2025**. Festivities will take place on Broadway between D and F Street and inside the Palo Verde College Needles Center from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (CA Time), featuring vendors, crafts, music, games, Pee Wee Races, and a performance by Dance Trax 51. The celebration will conclude with the beloved Lighted Parade at 5:00 p.m. This year's theme is "It's a Snoopy Christmas on Rt. 66, Charlie Brown!" For additional details, please refer to the attached flyer or contact Gina McGee at 760-985-4050.

12. Celebrate 70 Years of Mustang Tradition: NHS Homecoming 2025

Next week, Needles High School will celebrate its 70th annual Homecoming beginning **Thursday, October 9, 2025**, with the Mustang Drive at 5:30 PM, followed by the Community Pep Rally at 6:00 PM and the Senior Class Bonfire at 7:00 PM. The celebration continues on Friday, October 10, with a Pep Rally at 11:30 AM, Coronation at 1:00 PM, the Homecoming Parade at 1:45 PM, and the Varsity Football Homecoming Game vs. Lincoln at 7:00 PM. For a full schedule of Homecoming Week activities — including student events and Saturday's Homecoming Dance — please refer to the attached flyer.

13. River Floats Show N' Shine – October 11, 2025

This Saturday, the Needles Marina Resort will host the 4th Annual River Floats Show N' Shine, running from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM with boat arrivals beginning at 7:00 AM. This popular event showcases race and custom-built boats, drawing boating enthusiasts, visitors, and local families to the Colorado River waterfront. At 12:45 PM, participants will "run and roar" their boats for spectators, creating an exciting experience for attendees. Events like this directly support the City Council's goals to enhance tourism, activate the riverfront, and foster a family-friendly community atmosphere while promoting local businesses and hospitality services. See attached flyer for event details.

14. Needles Branch Library – Book Club

The Needles Branch Library has launched its weekly Book Club, supporting the City Council's goal of enhancing quality of life by fostering literacy, cultural

enrichment, and community connection. The first program will take place on Monday, **October 20, 2025**, featuring *The Butcher and the Wren* by Alaina Urquhart. Meetings will continue every Monday from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m., providing residents a welcoming space to read, reflect, and engage in meaningful discussion. Upcoming titles and dates are listed on the attached flyer, inviting residents of all ages to participate and strengthen community ties through shared learning.

15. Community Events Calendar Now Live

The City's new website now features a [Community Events Calendar](#)—your go-to source for what's happening in Needles. From festivals to meetings, it's designed to keep residents and visitors connected. Local organizations are invited to submit or update events through the City Clerk's Office to keep the calendar fresh and inclusive. Contact Candace Clark at cclark@cityofneedles.com to participate. Together, we can showcase the best of Needles, strengthen community spirit, and make it easier than ever to stay informed. The calendar can also be downloaded directly to your phone.

1. ASSEMBLYMAN GONZALEZ COMMUNITY MEETING



STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0036
(916) 319-2036
FAX (916) 319-2136

DISTRICT OFFICE
81893 DR CARREON BOULEVARD, SUITE 5
INDIO, CA, 92201
(760) 347-2360

1101 AIRPORT ROAD, SUITE D
IMPERIAL, CA 92251
(760) 355-8656



COMMITTEES
VICE CHAIR, MILITARY AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS
VICE CHAIR, WATER, PARKS AND
WILDLIFE
AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE
AGRICULTURE
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS,
AND TOURISM
HIGHER EDUCATION

Assemblyman Jeff Gonzalez' 2025 Bill Update

AB 513: California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: scoping plan

SUMMARY: Would require the California Air Resources Board to include greenhouse gas emissions from wildland and forest fires in the state scoping plan. This would ensure that California is considering all major sources of emissions when developing solutions to our climate crisis.

STATUS: 2-Year Bill in Assembly Natural Resources

AB 634: Controlled substances: tianeptine.

SUMMARY: Would add Tianeptine (also known as "gas station heroin"), a dangerous and addictive substance currently available for retail sale, to the list of Schedule 1 Drugs.

STATUS: 2-Year Bill in Public Safety

AB 641: Drug-Induced Movement Disorder Awareness Program.

SUMMARY: Drug-induced movement disorders are neurological conditions caused by antipsychotic medications that can be pervasive, debilitating, and irreversible. This Bill would require the State to establish a public awareness program.

STATUS: Held in Assembly Appropriations

AB 658: Vehicles: registration fees.

SUMMARY: Would require the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to complete an affordability impact analysis within six months of any vehicle registration fee increase. This analysis would enable California

to better track the impacts of registration fees throughout the state, which contribute to the overall affordability crisis plaguing California.

STATUS: 2-Year Bill in Assembly Transportation

AB 676: Medi-Cal: unrecovered payments: interest rate.

SUMMARY: Authorizes the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to waive the interest that would otherwise accrue when DHCS

seeks to recover an overpayment made to a Medi-Cal service provider.

STATUS: Held in Assembly Appropriations

AB 709: Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: groundwater sustainability plans.

SUMMARY: Provides local groundwater agencies with the flexibility, between official state assessments, to govern themselves and manage groundwater for long-term sustainability, without materially changing an approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

STATUS: Awaiting Governor's Signature

AB 764: Birds and mammals: nongame birds: mute swans.

SUMMARY: Adds mute swans, a highly invasive species, to the list of exotic nongame birds that can be legally taken, in order to reduce and better control their populations in California

STATUS: Awaiting Governor's Signature

AB 795: California Commission on the United States Semiquincentennial.

SUMMARY: Establishes the California Commission on the United States Semiquincentennial to plan and coordinate commemorations of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution.

STATUS: Held in Assembly Appropriations

AB 826: Veterans' benefits: protections.

SUMMARY: Prohibits individuals or businesses that are not accredited by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USVA) from charging a veteran a fee to assist them with filing a veterans' benefit claim with the USVA. Enacts a civil penalty per violation of \$2,000, half to be distributed to the Veterans Service Office Fund, and half to be distributed to the filing district attorney.

STATUS: 2-Year Bill in Assembly Judiciary

AB 1016: Power facility and site certifications: thermal powerplants: geothermal resources.

SUMMARY: Removes regulatory and permitting obstacles to get geothermal powerplants online faster, while retaining high environmental and labor standards.

STATUS: 2-Year Bill in Senate Energy

AB 1031: Hazardous waste control laws: exemption: geothermal resources.

SUMMARY: Caps the generation and handling fee rate for geothermal hazardous waste control laws to no more than \$10 per ton.

STATUS: Held in Assembly Appropriations

AB 1058: Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax Law: suspension of tax.

SUMMARY: Would suspend the Gas Tax for one year, and require all savings as a result to be passed on to the consumer.

STATUS: 2-Year Bill in Assembly Transportation

AB 1145: State highways: safety: State Highway Route 74: report.

SUMMARY: Would require CalTrans to conduct a highway safety study on State Highway Route 74.

STATUS: 2-Year Bill in Senate Transportation

AB 1169: Wildlife grants: Shared Habitat Alliance for Recreational Enhancement program.

SUMMARY: Would help to expand the number of outdoor recreation opportunities offered to the public through the Department of Fish and Wildlife's (DFW) Shared Habitat Alliance for Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Program.

STATUS: Held in Senate Appropriations

AB 1282: Personal Income Tax Law: credits: medical expenses.

SUMMARY: Would create an income tax deduction for out-of-pocket medical costs from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030,

STATUS: Held in Assembly Revenue & Taxation

AB 1335: Habilitation services.

SUMMARY: Removes the requirement that employment programs administered under the Department of Developmental Services obtain unnecessary accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities to be eligible as a Regional Center vendor.

STATUS: Held in Assembly Human Services

AB 1412: Special education: pupil transfers: residency requirements: records.

SUMMARY: Requires a local education agency receiving a transfer of a military child with special needs to promptly work with parents to obtain official records, and to implement the pupil's individual education plan (IEP) adopted in the previous school, or to craft a new IEP within 30 days.

STATUS: Awaiting Governor's Signature

2. ASSEMBLYMAN GONZALEZ SITE VISITS



3. ICSC WESTERN CONFERENCE



3. ICSC WESTERN CONFERENCE



4. MONSTER TRUCK INSANITY TOUR



NEEDLES CALIFORNIA

November 7-8, 2025
Needles Rodeo Grounds

FRIDAY GATES 5:30, SHOWTIME 7PM
SATURDAY GATES 11:30, SHOWTIME 1PM
SATURDAY GATES 5:30, SHOWTIME 7PM



See Monster Truck Freestyle LIVE!



Enjoy the FREE Pre-Show Insanity Fest! Get up-close and personal with the stars of the Monster Truck Insanity Tour!



Ride in a REAL Monster Truck with our Monster Truck Ride Experience!

CA ticket holders can purchase ride truck tickets for an addtl. fee at the show

5. ULI CA-NV TA LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE



City of Needles: Technical Assistance Leadership Exchange



ULI OCIE is thrilled to announce the participation of the City of Needles in the ULI California-Nevada Technical Assistance Leadership Exchange!

The [ULI California-Nevada Technical Assistance Leadership Exchange](#) is a transformative year-long program designed to help local governments in California and Nevada become climate resilient and tackle land use challenges through expert guidance and collaboration with ULI's District Councils.

As part of the exchange, the participating communities will each host a ULI technical assistance panel (TAP) to address a local resilience challenge and receive expert advice around potential strategies and solutions. During the TAP, a panel of eight to ten volunteer ULI members will tour the community, interview stakeholders, and put forward a set of recommendations for addressing the land use issue identified by the agency.

The TAPs will explore a range of topics related to climate change and other environmental vulnerabilities, such as extreme heat, drought, and seismic resilience, along with the associated economic, social, and environmental impacts.

“

The City of Needles is already feeling the impacts of climate change, from more frequent extreme heat events to increased strain on our infrastructure. Participating in this program and hosting the technical assistance panel gives us a unique opportunity to explore strategies tailored to our local challenges. This collaboration will help us strengthen our community's resilience and plan for a more sustainable future.

IRENE ROMERO
CITY PLANNER - CITY OF NEEDLES

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ULI Orange County/Inland Empire is partnering with the City of Needles to identify strategic opportunities for sustainable growth and resilience. The project will focus on how Needles can grow by attracting businesses and housing, thrive by addressing community needs, and mitigate extreme heat, infrastructure challenges, and safety concerns. The team will deliver actionable recommendations to support the city's long-term prosperity. To learn more about the program, check out our [recent article](#)!

TAPs bring together experts to help tackle complex land use challenges and provide actionable recommendations for our communities.

Interested in being a panelist on a TAP? We'd love to hear from you!
Contact: kendra.chandler@uli.org

This program is generously supported by the
[ULI Randall Lewis Center for Sustainability in Real Estate](#).

Thank you to our Annual Sponsors!

6. NEEDLES BEAUTIFICATION



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7. ANIMAL SHELTER FALL EVENT

Vaccination & Licensing Clinic

Saturday, Nov 15, 2025

9:30-12:30 CA Time

Petsmart Veterinary Services
Dr. Joseph Velasco



Rabies DA2PP FVRCP

Bordetella Rattlesnake Microchips

Needles Animal Shelter
1662 Flip Mendez Pkwy
Needles, CA 92363
(760)326-4952

Cats must be in
carrier and dogs
on leashes.

Special Price for
City License
Altered \$15
Unaltered \$25



**PETSMART
VETERINARY
SERVICES**

8. HACN SECURITY WALL PROJECT



9. STAFF SAFETY MEETING



10. GOLF COURSE REOPENING



11. HOLIDAY FUN FAIR



"It's A Spike's Christmas, On Rt. 66, Charlie Brown"

The Needles Youth Development and Education Foundation,
Needles Community Partners, Needles Chamber of Commerce and The City of Needles

Needles Holiday Fun Fair and Lighted Parade

On Broadway between D and F Street

With Activities Inside - Palo Verde College Needles Center

Saturday ~ December 6, 2025

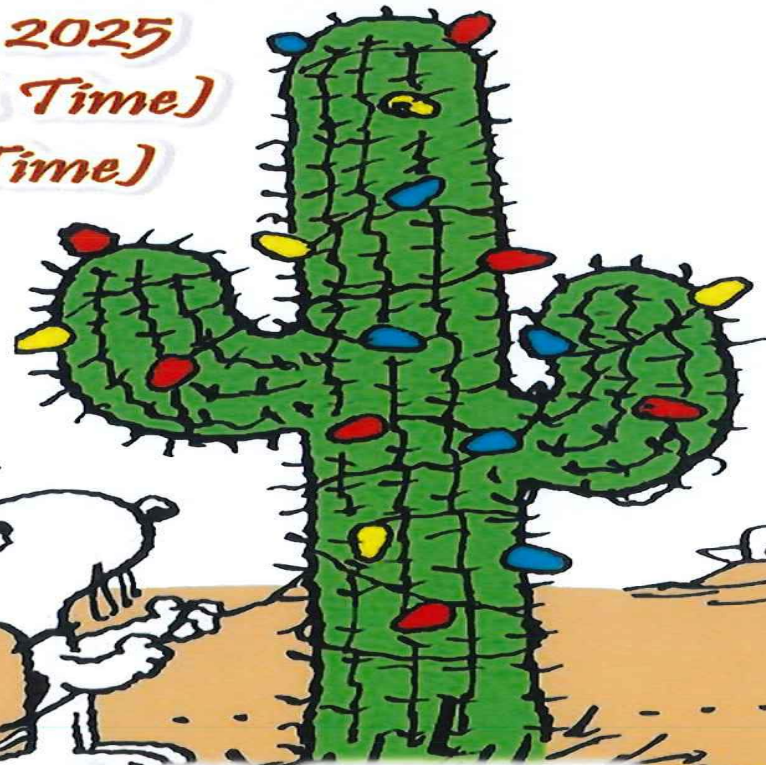
10:00am - 4:00pm ~ (CA Time)

Parade 5:00pm ~ (CA Time)

Pee Wee
Races

Dance Trax 51
Performance

Vendors
Crafts
Music
Games



For More Information Contact Tena McGee @ 760.985.4050

12. 2025 HOMECOMING



HOMECOMING WEEK

MONDAY
10/6

SENIOR SUNRISE
5:30/6AM

TUESDAY
10/7

POWDERPUFF
GAMES
BOYS VB @ 6
GIRLS FLAG FB @ 7

WEDNESDAY
10/8

SENIOR
APPRECIATION DAY
TALENT SHOW @ 11:30

THURSDAY
10/9

MUSTANG
DRIVE @ 5:30
COMMUNITY PEP RALLY @ 6
BONFIRE @ 7

FRIDAY
10/10

PEP RALLY @ 11:30
CORONATION @ 1
HOCO PARADE @ 1:45
JV VOLLEYBALL @ 3/4
V VOLLEYBALL @ 5/6
V FOOTBALL vs. LINCOLN @ 7PM

SATURDAY
10/11

HOMECOMING
DANCE
INTO IBIZA
AT THE AVI
GRAND BALLROOM
FROM 8-11PM



13. 4th ANNUAL RIVER FLOAT EVENT

4th ANNUAL **RIVER FLOATS**



Saturday October 11TH 2025
9:00AM – 2:00 PM
Boat Arrivals 7:00 – 8:30AM

Needles Marina Resort
100 Marina Dr. Needles, CA

\$20 Entry fee per boat

SHOW N' **SHINE**



Come see
Race & Custom-Built Boats!!

12:45 – Hear them Run, Hear them Roar



14. NEEDLES LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

**Needles Branch Library
Book Club
Every Monday 4pm - 5pm**

Dates and Titles

10/20/25 The Butcher and the Wren
By: Alaina Urquhart

10/27/25 Witch craft for Wayward Girls
By: Grady Hendrix

11/3/25 Death of the Author
By: Nnedi Okorafor

11/10/25 The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo
By: Taylor Jenkins Reid

11/17/25 The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue
By: V. E. Schwab

Stay Cool, Read, and Reflect!