



# City of Needles

817 Third Street, Needles, California 92363  
(760) 326-2113 • FAX (760) 326-6765  
[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 15, 2024

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1. This week, the City Manager met with the Mohave County Office of Economic Development and Tourism and participated in a Manufacturing Workforce Skills Strategy Roundtable. The discussion focused on fostering a skilled workforce to meet regional needs, aligning with the Council's goal of engaging regional partners to drive economic growth in Needles. The roundtable included representatives from various companies and educational institutions, including Mohave Community College, emphasizing a collaborative approach among government, education, and the private sector to prepare individuals for meaningful careers. This effort supports economic growth by equipping the workforce with the skills needed for future employment, strengthening local opportunities and the economy.
2. The City of Needles has begun preparing a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP), a five-year strategic initiative to enhance preparedness for hazard events and reduce the risks posed by natural and human-caused hazards. The plan's development is funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and is led by City staff, with support from key stakeholders and technical consultants. The LHMP will identify strategies to protect lives, property, and resources while making Needles eligible for FEMA grants and additional state disaster assistance. Community participation is a cornerstone of this process. The City encourages residents and businesses to share their input through surveys, public meetings, and feedback opportunities. Your involvement is essential to creating a plan that addresses local needs and priorities. **Click [here](#) to fill out a survey and [here](#) for more information.** Help us build safer and more resilient Needles! **Refer to the attached background information to learn more about the LHMP and how you can make a difference!**
3. The Chamber of Commerce has declared Saturday, November 30, 2024, as **Small Business Saturday**, a day to celebrate and support the small businesses that are vital to our community. Thriving communities depend on residents shopping locally,

helping small businesses succeed and flourish in Needles. The Chamber encourages local businesses to share their specials, events, or promotions by emailing [info@needleschamber.com](mailto:info@needleschamber.com) for promotion. Needles is also excited to welcome two new companies this month! **Smashed Burger**, located at 2205 Needles Highway, Suite A, offers a variety of delicious and affordable burgers and loaded French fry options, with a menu attached for more details. **Bless Your Heart Pies**, located at 1205 Broadway, is now ordering handmade pies—perfect for Thanksgiving! Orders can be placed by calling **760-553-3857**. Let's come together on Small Business Saturday to support and celebrate the businesses that make Needles thrive.

4. The City of Needles Animal Shelter is hosting its Fall 2024 Vaccination and Licensing Clinic **tomorrow, November 16, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM** at 1662 Flip Mended Parkway, Needles, CA. This clinic, provided by Petsmart Veterinary Service, offers pet vaccinations, including rabies, Bordetella, and DA2PP. According to Needles city ordinances, all dogs over six months must have a city license and a valid rabies vaccination. These clinics facilitate compliance by offering special rates on permits. Held bi-annually, these events have successfully promoted compliance and supported pet health in the community. **For more details, please see the attached flyer.**
5. In partnership with Needles Community Partners, the Needles Youth Development and Education Foundation invites you to join the festivities at the **Holiday Fun Fair and Lighted Parade on Saturday, December 7, 2024**. The Holiday Fun Fair, featuring a variety of vendors, will run from **10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**. A special tree-lighting ceremony, accompanied by a brief program, will take place at 4:00 PM on the corner of G Street and Broadway, adding a festive touch before the parade begins. **For details on participating as a vendor or entering a float in the parade, please refer to the attached flyer and applications.** We look forward to celebrating the season with you!
6. Needles High School's Varsity Football team proudly represents our community as the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) State Championship Semi-Finals host. The undefeated Mustangs are poised to advance to the prestigious NIAA State Finals, continuing their incredible season. Led by Head Coach Thomas DeLeon, a dedicated city staff member, the team is determined to secure their first state championship under his leadership. Join us tomorrow, **November 16, at 1 PM** as the Mustangs take on the Incline Highlanders in this pivotal home playoff game! **Refer to the attached flyer for details on how to purchase your tickets.** Let's rally behind the Mustangs and cheer them on to this historic achievement!
7. Rivers Edge Golf Course is in its best condition in years! Enjoy our championship-caliber course this fall and book your tee time today by calling 760-326-3931 or visiting our [website](#):  
**Holiday Hours:**
  - Open until **10 AM on Thanksgiving Day** for a quick morning round.

- **Closed on Christmas Day** to allow our team to celebrate the holiday.

**Upcoming Event:**

- **December 7 – 4th Annual Jason Smith Memorial Golf Tournament:**

Support Needles High School and join the fun! [Register here](#).

Contact JJ DeLeon directly at 760-326-3931 for tournament bookings or RSVP online by clicking [here](#). **Check out the attached photo of our freshly painted course—experience Rivers Edge today!**

8. The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Colorado River Station, in collaboration with the Needles Police, proudly presented a \$500 donation to the Needles Military Moms at the **November 12, 2024, City Council** meeting. This generous contribution honors the profound sacrifices and invaluable support the Military Moms provide to military members and their families within the Needles community. The donation was made possible through the RiverDaze Fund, an initiative by the Colorado River Station and Needles Police dedicated to fostering charitable efforts that enhance the local community's well-being. **Please see the attached image and photo from the presentation for more details.**
9. **This week**, Caltrans conducted fire prevention and beautification efforts along Interstate 40, including removing trees, trimming shrubs, and enhancing the landscaping. We greatly appreciate their ongoing dedication to maintaining the entire I-40 corridor, including off-ramps within the city, ensuring safety and a welcoming appearance for residents and visitors. Residents can report concerns or maintenance needs for the California State Highway System directly to Caltrans at <https://csr.dot.ca.gov/>. For issues within the city, please contact (760) 326-2115 or use the Needles Connect app, available on the [Apple App](#) or [Google Play Store](#). **Thank you to Caltrans** for their continued support in keeping our community clean.
10. The City aims to build a connected and engaged community through open communication and active public participation. On **June 9, 2023**, the City of Needles launched the "Needles Connect" citizen engagement mobile app, which now has more than 500 users. City staff works diligently to keep the community informed with up-to-date city news, events, and essential information that will empower citizens. Citizens can also report streetlight outages, utility breaks, outages, graffiti, potholes, or cannabis odors. Download the citizen engagement mobile app from the [Apple App](#) or [Google Play Store](#) today. **Refer to the attached flyer and scan the QR code to download or for more details.**
11. The Second Annual Veterans Day Event in Needles, held last Saturday, **November 9, 2024**, at Santa Fe Park on Route 66, was a heartfelt tribute to veterans from all military branches. The ceremony featured a keynote address by retired U.S. Army Special Forces member and Needles native Noah Claypool, along with representatives from VFW Post 404, Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 2599, and Elks Lodge 1608. Veterans enjoyed a complimentary pancake breakfast made possible by community partners, including the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Needles

Military Moms, Hampton Inn, and Wagon Wheel Restaurant. The event brought the community together to honor and celebrate the service and sacrifices of local veterans. **Refer to the attached image for a glimpse into the event.**

**12. IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:**

- **November 20 – Pacific Clinics Needles Open House (11am to 3pm):** Join us at 1060 E. Broadway Street to celebrate the opening of the new Pacific Clinics location in Needles. **(Refer to the attached Flyer).**
- **December 3 – Duke Watkins Ribbon Cutting:** Join us at Duke Watkins Park (1500 Flip Mendez Pkwy) as we celebrate the completion of the Duke Watkins Park Improvement Project at **10am!**

# 2. LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN



## **LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

The City of Needles is preparing an update to its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). This plan will help create a safer community for residents, businesses, and visitors. The LHMP allows public safety officials and city staff, elected officials, and members of the public to understand the threats from natural and human-caused hazards in our community. The plan will also recommend specific actions to proactively decrease these threats before disasters occur.

### **WHY HAVE AN LHMP?**

An LHMP will help Needles better plan for future emergencies. Usually, after a disaster occurs, communities take steps to recover from the emergency and rebuild. An LHMP is a way for the City to better prepare in advance for these disasters so less damage occurs, and recovery is easier. Our community can use LHMP strategies to reduce instances of property damage, injury, and loss of life from disasters. Besides protecting public health and safety, this approach can save money. Studies estimate that every dollar spent on mitigation saves an average of four dollars on response and recovery costs. An LHMP can also help strengthen the mission of public safety officers, such as police and fire department staff, providing them with clear roles and responsibilities to build a safer community.

Besides helping protect Needles, our LHMP will make the City eligible for grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that can be used to further improve safety and preparedness in the community. Having an adopted LHMP can also provide eligibility to receive more financial assistance from the State when disasters occur.

### **WHAT IS IN OUR LHMP?**

The City of Needles LHMP includes four main sections:

- A summary of the natural and human-caused hazards that pose a risk to our community.
- An assessment of the threat to Needles, which will describe how our community is vulnerable to future disasters.
- A hazard mitigation strategy, which will lay out specific policy recommendations for Needles to carry out over the next five years.
- A section on maintaining the plan, which will help ensure that our LHMP is kept up-to-date.

### **WHAT HAZARDS WILL OUR LHMP HELP PROTECT AGAINST?**

The City plans to include the following natural hazards in our LHMP:

- Dam Failure
- Drought
- Earthquake
- Extreme Heat
- Flash Flooding
- Hazardous Materials Incident

Our LHMP will also examine how climate change may affect these hazards and include other hazards that threaten our community.



## HOW IS OUR LHMP BEING PREPARED?

The City has assembled a Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC), which includes representatives from City Departments and is supported by key stakeholders and technical consultants. Together, these participants form the project team responsible for guiding the overall development of our LHMP.

## WHEN WILL OUR LHMP BE DONE?

The project team plans to release a Public Review Draft LHMP in Fall 2024. After members of the public provide comments and feedback, the City will revise the plan and send it to the California Office of Emergency Services and FEMA for review and approval. Once approved by these agencies, the Needles City Council will adopt the final LHMP.

## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

You can get involved in preparing our LHMP in different ways.

- The City will have public engagement opportunities to share information about our LHMP and obtain community feedback. Stay tuned for these opportunities.
- The City will release an online survey to members of the public in the Spring of 2024, asking for information about past experience with natural hazards and how our LHMP can be the most useful. Take our survey when it comes out, and encourage your friends and family to do the same.
- The City will release a draft of the completed LHMP for public review. Please review and provide comments on this document, either at in-person meetings or in writing.
- Encourage members of the Needles City Council to adopt the plan and begin implementing it.
- Reach out to Kathy Raasch at [kraasch@cityofneedles.com](mailto:kraasch@cityofneedles.com) for more ways to stay involved.

## WHAT CAN I DO NOW TO BE BETTER PREPARED FOR DISASTERS?

- Know the hazards that may affect you at home, work, or school. You can find out more at <http://myhazards.caloes.ca.gov/>.
- Assemble an emergency kit for your home. In a disaster, you may have to rely on supplies in your emergency kit for at least three days. Be sure to include supplies for any pets and anyone in your home with special needs. Learn more at <https://www.ready.gov/kit>.
- Have a disaster plan for your household, including how people should contact each other if a disaster occurs and where you should meet.
- Learn about your neighbors and how to help them. In a disaster, emergency responders may not be able to reach your neighborhood for a while. Know if your neighbors have any special needs, and check on them as soon as possible.
- Make sure your homeowner's or renter's insurance covers you from disasters such as earthquakes and floods. If these disasters occur, having good insurance coverage will help you recover more easily.
- Volunteer with an emergency response or community service organization that does work on disaster education and preparation.



- Speak to your employer about creating a disaster recovery, workforce communication, and/or business continuity plan. If they already have one or more of these plans in place, make sure you and your co-workers know it.
- **Join San Bernardino County FIRE CORPS**, a volunteer opportunity to support the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, where you are trained in skills to help serve your community during a disaster. For more information: <https://sbcfire.org/firecorps/>



4. WINTER VACCINATION CLINIC

**FALL 2024 VACCINATION AND  
LICENSING CLINIC**

**PETSMART VETRINARY SERVICES**

**DR. JOSEPH VELASCO**

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16TH 2024**

**9:30-12:30 CA. TIME**

**NEEDLES ANIMAL SHELTER**

**1662 FLIP MENDEZ PKWY**

**NEEDLES, CA 92363**

**(760)326-4952**

**ALL DOG MUST BE ON LEASHES  
AND CATS IN CARRIERS**

**CASH ONLY**



**RABIES \$12**

**DA2PP (DOG) \$18**

**FVRCP (CAT) \$18**

**BORDETELLA \$18**

**MICROCHIPS \$30**

**NEEDLES ANIMAL**

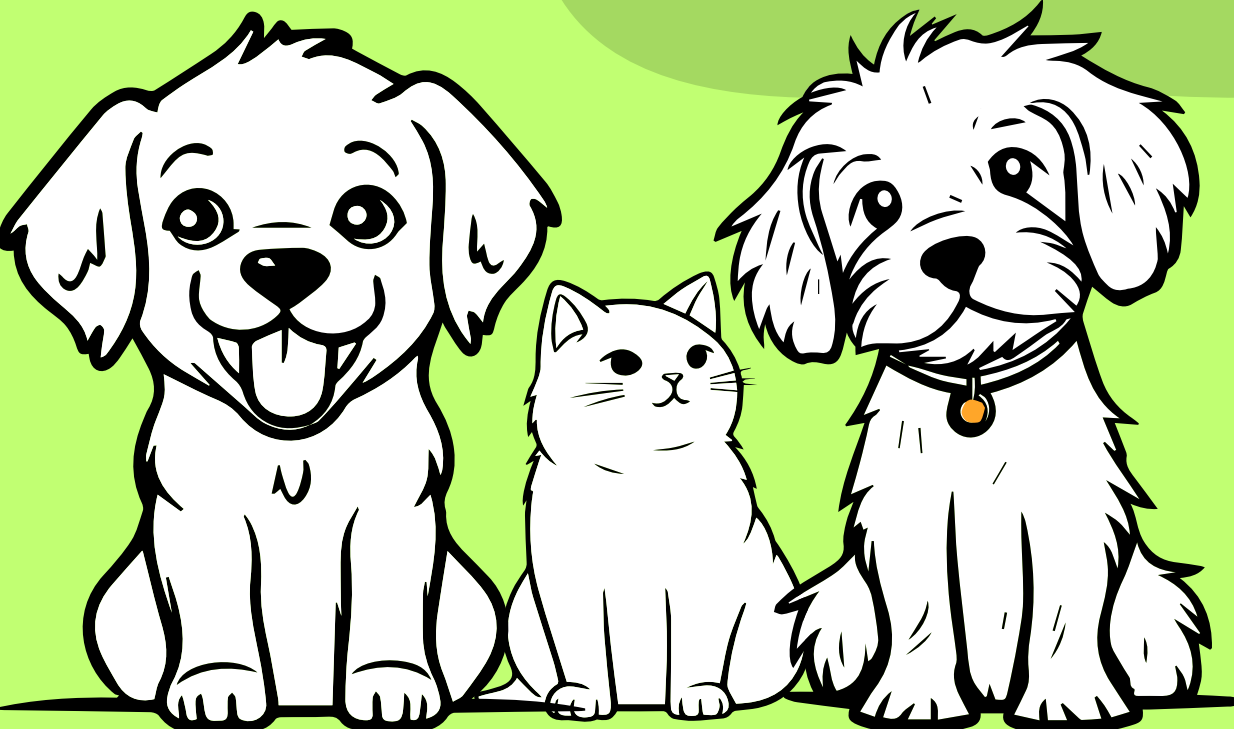
**SHELTER CITY**

**DOG LICENSE**

**SPECIAL PRICING**

**ALTERED \$10**

**UNALTERED \$20**



**NEEDLES CITY ORINANCE 447-AC, SECTION  
4-4, STATES DOGS OVER 6 MONTHS OF AGE  
MUST HAVE CITY LICENSE AND VALID  
RABIES VACCINE**



## 5. HOLIDAY FUN FAIR

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

PRESENTS

*Needles Holiday*

*FunFair and Lighted Parade*

THEME

*"It's An American Holiday"*

*Honoring All Veterans & Service Members*

*Saturday ~ December 7, 2024*

*10:00am - 4:00pm*

*Parade To Follow ~ (Ca time)*

On Broadway between D and F Street

*Vendors Crafts Music Games*

**With Activities Inside  
Palo Verde Community College - Needles**

*Pee Wee Races*

*Dance Trax Performance*

***For More Information Contact Tena McGee @ 760.985.4050***



***The Needles Youth Development & Education Foundation,  
Needles Community Partners and The City of Needles***

Invites you to participate in this year's

***Holiday Fun Fair & Lighted Parade***

***Theme: It's an American Holiday - Honoring: Veterans and Service Members***

**Saturday December 7, 2024**

**PARADE ENTRY FORM**

Entry Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Classification: (Circle One)**

1. Float                      2. Band                      3. Decorated Vehicle                      4. Group  
5. Individual                      6. Equestrian                      Number of cars, people, wagons, etc. in entry \_\_\_\_\_

**Description and Script for Entry:**

*(Script will be used by the MC of the parade to announce your entry as you pass the judge's table)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I hereby enter the entry named above at my own risk and am subject to all parade rules. I further agree that if damages occur, from any cause to my entry, float, vehicle, or other article I may use or exhibit I will make no claim against the NYDEF, Needles Community Partners, Needles Area Chamber of Commerce, the City of Needles, or volunteers and/or employee' of any business establishment in the City. Alternatively, against any legal proceedings for personal injuries or property damage arising from an accident occasioned by a committee member or entry of mine.

**SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

**(If participant is under 18 years of age, parent or guardian must sign in addition to minor)**

**\*\*\*PLEASE RETURN ENTRY FORM WITH \$25 ENTRY FEE**

**Please Make Check Payable to NYDEF - C/O of The Needles Community Partners**

**NO LATER THAN MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024\*\*\***

Attn: Parade Chairperson:

Trinity Hendersen / Needles Community Partners  
P O BOX 47  
Needles, CA 92363



*The Needles Youth Development & Education Foundation,  
Needles Community Partners and the City of Needles*

Invites you to participate in this year's

**Needles Holiday Fun Fair**

**Saturday – December 7, 2024**

Hello Vendors,

We are happy to have you join us for the Needles Holiday Fun Fair on December 7, 2024! It will be a great opportunity for you to show off what you got!

You are only allowed to sell what you have put on your application. If you decide to add something, you must call and speak to Tena (760) 985-4050. Tena will be the only one who can give you that permission. No exceptions.

We encourage you to stay for the full event, 10am – 4pm pst. If you need to leave earlier, you must inform Tena (in advance) and please remember to park accordingly as you must walk out your booth contents. **No vehicles will be allowed to drive through crowds on the main thoroughfare.**

We are planning a wonderful daylong event for the whole family. Please tell all your friends and family to come down for the day! Part of the proceeds from this event go to compensate for the NYDEF administration fees.

We thank you for being a part of this exciting family event!

Tena McGee  
Event/Vendor Chair





**The Needles Youth Development & Education Foundation,  
Needles Community Partners and the City of Needles**

Invites you to participate in this year's

**Needles Holiday Fun Fair**

**Saturday – December 7, 2024**

**VENDOR APPLICATION**

Select type of booth (circle one):

Arts & Crafts

Activity

Business/Non-Profit

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE DISPLAY: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ CHECK HERE IF ELECTRIC NEEDED (on a first come, first served basis)

FEES: \$55 PER 10x10 SPACE (NO ELECTRIC)

\$65 PER 10x10 SPACE (WITH ELECTRIC)

**\$10 off**  
If paid before  
November 15, 2024

*Liability Waiver: The exhibitor assumes the entire responsibility and liability for losses, damages and claims arising out of injury or damage to exhibitor's displays, equipment and other property brought on the premises of the event and for all damages to property resulting from an act or omission of exhibitor. The exhibitor shall indemnify and hold harmless the NYDEF, Needles Community Partners and the City of Needles and their officers, directors, trustees, agents, volunteers from all such losses, damages and claims that may arise inside or outside the event area or otherwise result from exhibitors' use of property or any act or omission of exhibitor. The NYDEF, Needles Community Partners and the City of Needles, will not be liable to the exhibitor, his or her employees, agents or guests for any damages, loss, or injury resulting from fire, electricity, water, storm, riot, smoke, theft, accident, or any other cause. The exhibitor shall be liable for personal injury and property damage arising from accident, bodily injury, or other occurrences to any person, including the exhibitor, its agents, employees, and invitees which arise from exhibitor's occupancy and use of exhibition premises. The exhibitor agrees to provide insurance coverage for personal injury and property damage liability covering the exhibitor and his or her property. Insurance protection against fire, theft or damage to the exhibitor's materials must be carried at the exhibitor's expense.*

I have read and understand all the above on this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Check Payable to NYDEF / memo Holiday Fun Fair**  
C/O Tena McGee P O Box 47, Needles, CA 92363  
email: needlesfunfair@aol.com / (760) 985-4050

Date Payment Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Received: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cash ☐ Money Order ☐ # \_\_\_\_\_ Check ☐ # \_\_\_\_\_ Other ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

**NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 25, 2024**



*The Needles Youth Development & Education Foundation,  
Needles Community Partners and The City of Needles*

Invites you to participate in this year's

*Holiday Fun Fair & Lighted Parade*

*Theme: It's an American Holiday - Honoring: Veterans and Service Members*

**Saturday December 7, 2024**

For further information contact Trinity Hendersen @ 928.234.4304 or Tena McGee @ 760.985.4050

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTED PARADE - 5:00 p.m (ca Time)**

**(please note all times stated are Pacific Standard Time)**

**ENTRY:** Complete and return the entry form along with entry fee of \$25. Parade line-up will be given at check-in. Please check in at Needles Community Partner Booth for number assignment. Check in will begin at 12:00 noon (CA Time). Participant Line up is on Front Street between C Street and A Street.

Entries must be received no later than 2:30p.m.(CA Time) Monday, December 2, 2024

**JUDGING:** Pre-viewing of entries will take place prior to the parade. All judging will be done during the parade. Awards will be presented immediately after the judges make their decision, at the Judges Station.

Decision of the Judges is final.

**RULES: DUE TO APPROACHING DARKNESS PLEASE, AS MUCH FUN AS IT IS TO GIVE, AND TO RECEIVE, NO THROWING OF ANYTHING WILL BE PERMITTED. ENTRY PARTICIPANTS MAY WALK ALONGSIDE SIDEWALK TO PASS OUT ITEMS IF YOU SO DESIRE.**

All participants must be appropriately dressed.

At least one (1) string of lights must be visible on entry

Parade Chairperson accepts no responsibility for false statements made by the applicant or entrants.

Parade will start at 5:00 p.m. (CA Time) or Dusk

Violations subject participant to disqualification.

No alcoholic beverages will be permitted throughout the parade route.

All entrants must continually move forward.

Activities done by entry must not cause parade to come to a halt.

**THERE IS AN OFFICIAL SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS ON SITE NO IMPERSONATORS ALLOWED, PLEASE**

For further information contact Trinity Hendersen @ 928.234.4304 or Tena McGee @ 760.985.4050

(Monday thru Friday, 9:00am-5:30pm CA Time) Fill out entry form and send with \$25 check to:

**\*\*\*PLEASE RETURN ENTRY FORM WITH \$25 ENTRY FEE**

**Please Make Check Payable to NYDEF - C/O of the Needles Community Partners**

**NO LATER THAN MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024\*\*\***

Attn: Parade Chairperson:

Trinity Hendersen / Needles Community Partners  
P O BOX 47, Needles, CA 92363



6. NUSD SEMI-FINALS ADULTS \$12.00 STUDENTS \$5.00

[WWW.NIAA.COM/TICKETS](http://WWW.NIAA.COM/TICKETS)



# FOOTBALL

## SEMI FINAL



NEEDLES

VS

INCLINE



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16 | 1:00 PM**

NEEDLES HIGH SCHOOL





## 7. RIVERS EDGE GOLF COURSE





## 8. RIVER DAZE DONATION



Photo Source: SBCSD

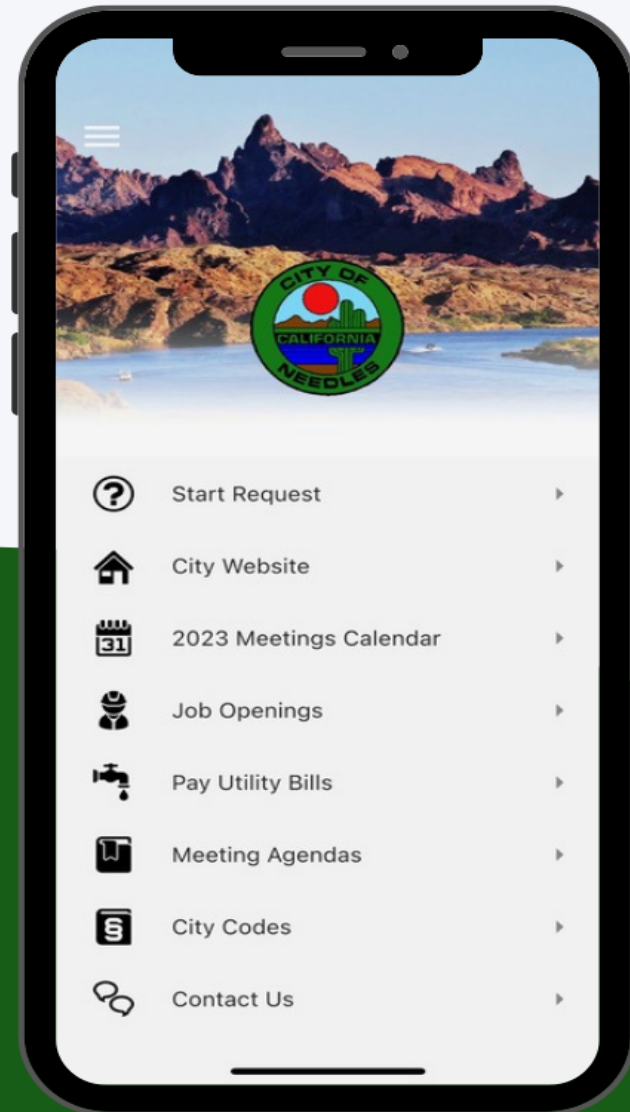
## 10. NEEDLES CONNECT APP

### Download **Needles Connect**

- Receive Notifications
- Access Information
- View Latest Updates
- And more...



Powered by GOGov





## **11. VETERANS DAY SECOND ANNUAL**





## 11. VETERANS DAY SECOND ANNUAL



## 12. PACIFIC CLINICS

*A new resource for Needles residents!*

JOIN US FOR OUR



# OPEN HOUSE

NOVEMBER 20, 2024 | 11 A.M. - 3 P.M.

COME CELEBRATE WITH PACIFIC CLINICS AT THE GRAND OPENING OF OUR NEW CLUBHOUSE IN NEEDLES!

HEAR ABOUT THE IMPACT THE CLUBHOUSE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE IN THE COMMUNITY.

BRING YOUR APPETITE AND ENJOY DELICIOUS FOOD AND TASTY REFRESHMENTS.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS AWESOME CELEBRATION!



RSVP BY CONTACTING SONIA VICARIO  
SONIA.VICARIO@PACIFICCLINICS.ORG  
626-753-8725



**SPEAKERS COMMENCE  
AT 12 P.M.**

**1060 EAST  
BROADWAY STREET  
NEEDLES, CA 92363**

