



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 Zachery Longacre

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: May 9, 2025

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1. The **35th Annual Run for the Wall** will occur next week on **Wednesday, May 14, 2025**, at **El Garces and Santa Fe Park (950 Front Street)**, proudly **presented by the City of Needles and community partners**. Riders are expected to arrive in **Needles around 12:35 PM**, with **over 300 participants** making this powerful stop along their cross-country journey. **Run for the Wall** is a national motorcycle ride that honors **Vietnam Veterans** and raises continued awareness for **POW/MIA accountability**. The ride begins in **Los Angeles** and grows as it travels east, culminating in **Washington, D.C.** Upon arrival, the riders will be served a community lunch, made possible through **generous donations from our local supporters**. Food donations are currently being accepted at **Deco Foodservices**, located at **700 W Broadway**. Residents are encouraged to line **Route 66** and help give these riders a **warm, patriotic welcome**. For questions or more information, please get in touch with Judy Thornton at **(760) 333-5255**.
 2. The **City Council continues prioritizing beautification efforts** to ensure Needles remains welcoming for residents and visitors. This past weekend marked our best turnout, as Mayor Jernigan and the City hosted a neighborhood cleanup along Park Road and National Trails Highway. Over a dozen volunteers collected more than 20 trash bags—an inspiring show of community pride. This event is part of the growing **Needles Pride Program**, which empowers residents to take ownership of their neighborhoods and maintain clean, safe public spaces. In support, **Public Works, Parks, Electric, Water, and Wastewater** crews completed citywide fire abatement and vegetation removal, including work at Jack Smith Boat Launch Point and along Front Street. These efforts enhance both safety and visibility—**see the attached photos for a look at their impact**. Together, we're building a better Needles. Residents can report potholes, sidewalk damage, or overgrown vegetation by calling **760-326-2115 (press #9)** or using the **Needles Connect app** on [Google Play Store](#) and the [Apple Store](#).

3. The City of Needles proudly participated in the **2025 San Bernardino County City-County Conference**, held this week in **Lake Arrowhead**. The event convened **municipal and county leaders** to discuss **regional collaboration, infrastructure, economic development, and public safety** across the **nation's largest county**. **Mayor Jernigan, Vice Mayor Campbell, and Councilmember Pogue** represented Needles, engaging with top officials, including **County Supervisor Dawn Rowe, Sheriff Shannon Dicus, and Fire Chief Dan Munsey**. Notably, the **City of Needles** continues to strengthen its **standing within San Bernardino County**. As outlined in the [conference agenda](#), sessions addressed **emerging policy challenges and investment opportunities**, many of which align with the **City Council's goals for sustainable growth**. These **high-level discussions and direct engagement with legislative partners** reinforce Needles' **momentum and visibility** at the county level. Refer to the **attached images** for **conference highlights**.
4. The City of Needles is proud to support the **Mobile Dental Clinic at Colorado River Medical Center next week from May 12–15, 2025**. Run by the **San Bernardino County Department of Public Health**, the clinic will provide exams, cleanings, fillings, and other essential dental services for **Medi-Cal and uninsured patients**. Appointments are highly recommended and can be made by calling **1-800-722-4777**. This initiative supports the City Council's goal of improving residents' quality of life by expanding access to vital healthcare services. We thank **San Bernardino County** for their continued partnership and commitment to community wellness. **We encourage residents to take part in this critical effort. Refer to the attached flyer** for more information.
5. On **Thursday, May 8, 2025**, the **City of Needles Utility Department** swiftly responded to a **10-inch water main break** near the **Golf Maintenance Yard along River Road**, requiring a **temporary shutdown of water service** to residents and businesses along **Needles Highway and River Road**. The Utility team completed repairs and restored full service within a few hours, minimizing disruption, protecting public health, and preserving critical infrastructure. **Concurrently**, the Utility Department began the **scheduled inspection and cleaning of the City's 1.5-million-gallon water reservoirs**—a routine maintenance effort conducted **every five years** to ensure **water quality**, strengthen **system reliability**, and reduce long-term infrastructure costs. Together, these concurrent efforts demonstrate the City's readiness and commitment to protecting public infrastructure while planning for long-term system reliability. City is committed to **delivering essential services**, enhancing **community resilience**, and achieving the **City Council's goals** for long-term infrastructure performance and quality of life. The City extends its appreciation to the Utility Department for their professionalism and dedication. Residents are encouraged to report water leaks by calling **760-326-2115 (press #9)** or using the **Needles Connect app** on [Google Play Store](#) and the [Apple Store](#). Refer to the attached image for a look at the emergency response in action and the progress of the maintenance work.

6. The **Friday before Memorial Day, May 23, 2025**, has been designated **“Decoration Day”** at the **Needles Riverview Cemetery**, marking the **14th annual community observance**. This long-standing tradition invites residents to care for the gravesites of loved ones and honor our nation’s veterans by placing **white crosses and American flags** at their resting places. Volunteers are encouraged to arrive by **7:00 a.m.** and are asked to bring their **hand tools** (such as shovels, clippers, and gas-powered weed eaters), along with **garbage bags** and **water**. Trash receptacles will be available on-site. The **annual Memorial Day Ceremony** will be held on **Monday, May 26, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.**, also at Riverview Cemetery. A second volunteer effort will occur at **4:00 p.m.** the same day to assist with **flag and cross removal**. Community participation remains essential to the continued success of this meaningful event. The **Needles Riverview Cemetery** also welcomes **tax-deductible donations** to support **maintenance efforts at Riverview and Old Pioneer Cemeteries**. Donations are especially needed to help **replace the American flags** that once lined the cemetery roads. For more information or to contribute, please get in touch with Cheryl Sallis at **(760) 326-2113, ext. 115**.
7. The **City of Needles** continues to make significant progress in advancing the **City Council’s vision** for a **cleaner, safer, and more vibrant community**. At the **May 7 administrative hearing**, four properties were formally declared **public nuisances** due to ongoing violations of the **Municipal Code**, including **unsafe structures, accumulated debris, and uncorrected septic hazards**. These actions authorize the City to pursue **abatement, demolitions, liens, or receivership** to restore **public safety and compliance**. In addition, **Animal Control** addressed a serious **public safety concern** involving an **aggressive dog**, which was also declared a **public nuisance**. The City is now empowered to take **immediate action** should future violations occur. Through these continued efforts, **Code Enforcement** and **Animal Control** are improving **property conditions**, reinforcing **community standards**, and delivering on the Council’s goals for long-term **neighborhood revitalization and public health**.
8. The **Phase IV-B Street Improvement Project** continued this week with substantial progress in the **Vistas neighborhood**, advancing critical **street reconstruction and waterline upgrades**. Crews completed work on **Desoto Street, El Monte Street, and Carty Way**—key residential streets prioritized for long-overdue improvements. We sincerely appreciate the community’s **patience and support** as we invest in infrastructure that enhances the **quality of life** in Needles and supports our vision to make the city an even better place to **live, work, and visit**. For more information about the **Pavement Management Plan**, contact **Development Services Director Kathy Raasch** at **(760) 326-2115 ext. 126** or kraasch@cityofneedles.com. It is part of the City’s 15-year Pavement Management Plan and contributes to the over **\$11 million invested in street and infrastructure upgrades since 2020**. We are proud to deliver on the Council’s vision of **public safety, enhanced quality of life, and long-term community resilience**. Thank you to City staff, residents, and all partners involved in making this progress possible—Needles continues to move forward. **Refer to the attached images for a glimpse at the progress.**

9. The **City of Needles** proudly congratulates **Ronny Sommers** on earning his **Grade T1 Water Treatment Operator Certification**. This key professional milestone further strengthens our ability to provide **the community with safe and reliable water services**. This builds on Ronny's achievement last October when he earned his **Grade D1 Water Distribution Operator Certification**. After completing both certifications, Ronny will be promoted to a **Water Operator position** with the City of Needles. His continued professional growth reflects the City's investment in **workforce development** and our commitment to maintaining a **high standard of public service**.
10. Mayor Jernigan has officially awarded the **2025 Edible Food Recovery Grant**, approved by the City Council in March, to **Fire House Ministries, Set Free Church, and St. Vincent de Paul**. The three organizations will equally share the **\$6,000 grant**, which supports local edible food recovery efforts funded by the **Mojave Desert and Mountain Recycling Authority**. This initiative aligns with **SB 1383** by helping divert edible food from landfills to those in need, and each recipient will report annual food recovery tonnage for **CalRecycle compliance**. **Refer to the attached image for a glimpse of the event.**
11. The **26th Annual Flip Mendez Youth Fundraiser** was a **sold-out success**, drawing **53 teams and over 159 golfers**—an increase from last year's tournament. The event once again showcased the community's strong support for local youth programs and highlighted the growing popularity of **Rivers Edge Golf Course**. Thanks to the **expert management of Touchstone Golf**, Rivers Edge has been transformed into a **championship-caliber, par-71, 18-hole course**, offering a top-tier golfing experience in the heart of Needles. The City extends its appreciation to the **Flip Mendez Youth Foundation** for once again choosing Rivers Edge as their course of choice. To **book a tee time or RSVP for upcoming tournaments**, call **(760) 326-3931** or visit golfneedlesca.com for more information and event listings.
12. The **Needles Women's Club** will host a **Chicken Cordon Bleu Luncheon** on **Tuesday, May 13, 2025**, at their clubhouse located at **305 W. Broadway Street**. The fundraiser supports the club's ongoing efforts to promote **women's empowerment, youth programming, educational scholarships, and civic engagement**. For just **\$10**, each meal includes chicken cordon bleu, chips, and a cookie. **Delivery is available** for orders of three or more within Needles. Orders can be placed [online](#) and must be submitted by **5:30 PM on Monday, May 12**. For ordering assistance, residents may contact **Karrie at (928) 201-1836**. This annual effort highlights the valuable role of local service organizations in supporting Needles residents and strengthening community ties.
13. **Firehouse Ministries** will host an **enchilada plate lunch fundraiser** on **Friday, May 16, 2025**, to support their vital community programs, including **Isabel's Pantry** and **Ivan's House**. The fundraiser will take place at **807 Bush Street**, beginning at **11:00 a.m.** and continuing **until sold out**. Plates are available for

\$11.99 for pickup or \$14.99 with delivery. All proceeds will directly benefit Firehouse Ministries' ongoing efforts to serve those in need. To place an order, please contact **Holly Russo at (760) 628-7331.**

14. Tomorrow, **Saturday, May 10, 2025**, the **Needles High School baseball and softball teams** will compete in the **2025 NIAA Class 2A Southern League Championships**, hosted at **Laughlin High School**, starting at **10:00 AM**. Come out and **cheer on our Mustangs and Lady Stangs** as they proudly represent Needles on the regional stage. The **City of Needles** is proud to support **youth athletics** and events that celebrate achievement, strengthen community spirit, and position Needles as a growing **sports tourism destination**. These championships align with the **City Council's goals** of expanding recreational opportunities, fostering local engagement, and boosting economic vitality.

15. **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:**

City staff have **carefully curated a comprehensive community events calendar** to inform residents about **Needles' diverse activities and happenings**. The community events calendar can now **be found on the Needles Connect App!** Organizations are encouraged to **collaborate with the City Clerk's Office** to add or update events, ensuring a vibrant and inclusive calendar. For contributions or modifications, please get in touch with Candace Clark **at cclark@cityofneedles.com**. Your **active participation** helps strengthen our community and enrich local experiences. **Check the attached calendar for the remaining 2025 events**, and stay engaged with all Needles offers!

1. RUN FOR THE WALL



RUN FOR THE WALL

**50th Anniversary of Vietnam War
35th Anniversary of Run for the Wall**

MAY 14, 2025

**EL GARCES AND SANTA FE PARK
ON ROUTE 66 IN NEEDLES, CA**

**PRESENTED BY THE CITY OF NEEDLES
AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

**DONATIONS FOR FOOD ARE BEING ACCEPTED AT
DECO FOODSERVICES AT 700 W BROADWAY IN NEEDLES.**

**RIDERS ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT 12:35 PM
AND LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED
TO WELCOME THE RIDERS INTO TOWN.**

For more information, call 760-333-5255



2. BEAUTIFICATION



2. BEAUTIFICATION



2. BEAUTIFICATION



3. SB COUNTY CONFERENCE



4. MOBILE DENTAL CLINIC



Public Health

Mobile Dental Clinic *On-The-Go*

OPEN TO UNINSURED AND MEDI-CAL PATIENTS

We can help you get insurance!



Exams, Cleanings, Fillings, & More

APPOINTMENTS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

May 12, 2025, 1 - 5 p.m.

May 13-14, 2025, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

May 15, 2025, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Colorado River Medical Center
1401 Bailey Ave., Needles, CA
92363

To Schedule a Visit
Call 1 (800) 722-4777

***Visit Our Website for
More Information***

dph.sbcounty.gov/clinics

5. WATER MAIN BREAK



5. WATER MAIN BREAK



5. RESERVOIR MAINTENANCE



8. PHASE IV-B



8. PHASE IV-B



8. PHASE IV-B



10. EDIBLE FOOD GRANT AWARD




11. FLIP MENDEZ YOUTH FOUNDATION





15. COMMUNITY CALENDAR

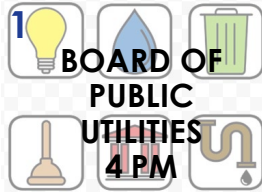

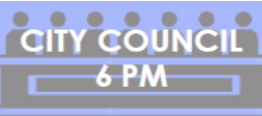
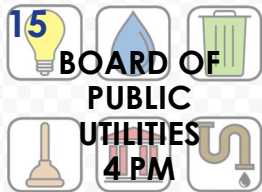
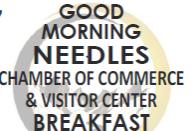

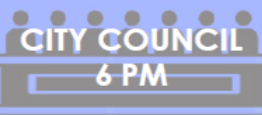

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6  BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4 PM	7  PLANNING COMMISSION 4 PM	8	9	10
11	12	13  WOMEN'S CLUB LUNCH CITY COUNCIL 6 PM	14  Run Wall WE RIDE FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T	15  GOOD MORNING NEEDLES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER BREAKFAST 7:30 AM EL GARCES 950 FRONT ST., STE A 9-11	16	17  RABIES & LICENSING CLINIC NEEDLES ANIMAL SHELTER 9:30AM-12:30PM
18	19  PARKS & RECREATION 4 PM	20  BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4 PM	21	22	23  DECORATION DAY RIVERVIEW CEMETERY	24
25	26  MEMORIAL DAY RIVERVIEW CEMETERY	27  CITY COUNCIL 6 PM	28  HOUSING COMMISSION 4 PM	29	30	31

June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 	3  BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4 PM	4  PLANNING COMMISSION 4 PM	5  HARASSMENT PREVENTION TRAINING 10AM-12PM & 1PM - 3PM EL GARCES	6	7  POOL OPENS 2PM - 6PM
8	9  AQUATIC CENTER SWIM LESSONS START	10  CITY COUNCIL 6 PM	11	12	13	14
15	16  PARKS & RECREATION 4 PM	17  BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4 PM	18	19  GOOD MORNING NEEDLES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER BREAKFAST 7:30AM EL GARCES 950 FRONT ST., STE A 9-11	20	21
22	23	24  CITY COUNCIL 6 PM	25  HOUSING COMMISSION 4 PM	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1  BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4 PM	2  PLANNING COMMISSION 4 PM	3	4	5
6	7	8 WOMEN'S CLUB LUNCH  CITY COUNCIL 6 PM	9	10	11	12
13	14	15  BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4 PM	16	17  GOOD MORNING NEEDLES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER BREAKFAST 7:30AM - EL GARCES 950 FRONT ST., STE A 9-11 CEMETERY COMM. - 3 PM	18	19
20	21  PARKS & RECREATION 4 PM	22  CITY COUNCIL 6 PM	23 HOUSING COMMISSION 4 PM 	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		