



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: March 14, 2025

1. The **Needles Pride Program** continues to inspire residents to take pride in their neighborhoods and strengthen our community. The **City of Needles remains committed to infrastructure improvements** that enhance service reliability and overall quality of life. **Mark your calendars! Councilmember Longacre** has scheduled the next **community cleanup** for **Saturday, March 29th, at 9:00 a.m. along San Clemente**. Join us in keeping Needles clean and beautiful! This week, **Public Works crews worked to improve roadway safety**, continuing **pothole repairs along Lillyhill Drive**, **refreshing red curb markings at Duke Watkins Park**, and **repainting the skatepark railings**. As time and resources allow, they will continue citywide maintenance to keep our streets and public spaces in top shape. **See the attached image of the freshly painted infrastructure and repaired potholes!**

Crews have started clearing overgrown vegetation at the J Street Spillway near the Aquatics Center as part of ongoing fire abatement efforts. This work is essential in reducing wildfire risks and enhancing emergency access in the area. The city is taking proactive measures to improve safety for residents and first responders by removing excess vegetation. **Check out the attached photos** to see their hard work in action! Residents can report road or vegetation 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!**

2. This week, a **significant milestone** was reached in the **\$3.96 million Duke Watkins Park Improvement Project**—the **chemical storage tank** for the **Duke Watkins Splash Pad** was successfully installed (refer to the attached image for a look)! This **final key component** brings us closer to fully operationalizing the splash pad. As one of the **most anticipated features** of the park renovation, the **splash pad** will provide a **fun, family-friendly recreational space** for residents and visitors. With this **final installation complete**, the project is now in its **final stages** before opening to the public. The **next step** is to work with the **San**

Bernardino County Public Health Department to inspect the unit before it can go online, which is anticipated in the first week of April. This investment reflects the City Council's commitment to enhancing public spaces, promoting outdoor recreation, and improving amenities for families in Needles. More updates, including the official opening date, will be shared soon. Take a look at the attached images and take a peek of the improvements!

3. On **Friday, March 14, 2025**, **City Code Enforcement**, in collaboration with **law enforcement personnel from the Colorado River Sheriff's Station/Needles Police, Animal Control, the Utilities Department, and the San Bernardino County Fire Department**, conducted a **coordinated operation** at a residence in the **400 Block of D Street**. An **inspection warrant** and a **search warrant** were executed as part of the operation. The **property owner had previously received multiple stop-work orders** for conducting **construction without the required permits**. These **unauthorized modifications** posed **serious health and safety hazards**, particularly for **future tenants or occupants**, as unpermitted work can result in **structural instability, electrical hazards, and non-compliance with fire and building codes**. The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** conducted a **fire safety inspection**, identifying **fire hazards, illegal modifications, or code violations** that could endanger occupants, first responders, or neighboring properties. Additionally, **Animal Control** ensured that any **neglected or endangered animals** were handled correctly; however, none were found. The **Utilities Department** assessed the property for **hazardous utility conditions** that could pose further risks to public safety. This coordinated effort reflects the City's ongoing commitment to **enforcing safety regulations, protecting residents, and ensuring compliance with local and state laws**.
4. The **City of Needles** is pleased to announce a **\$5,000 Edible Food Recovery Grant** available to a **local non-profit** in 2025. **Funded by the Mojave Desert and Mountain Recycling Authority**, this grant supports efforts to **collect and distribute edible food** to those in need. Since **2022**, the City has distributed over **\$30,000 in edible food recovery funds**, ensuring every available grant directly benefits the community. **Proposals are due by Monday, March 17, 2025 (Refer to the attached application)**, with the **City Council reviewing submissions at the second meeting in March and funds distributed in April**. This initiative directly supports the **City Council's goals** by **enhancing public infrastructure** through investments in sustainable food recovery programs, **fostering economic growth** by reducing waste disposal costs for local businesses, **promoting community engagement** by strengthening partnerships with non-profits and **supporting families** by improving access to nutritious food for residents in need. The City is advancing its commitment to **sustainability, resource conservation, and public well-being** by funding local food recovery efforts.

Food recovery is crucial in reducing waste and ensuring residents have access to nutritious meals. SB 1383, signed into law in 2016, mandates a

75% reduction in organic waste disposal by 2025, requiring certain **food businesses** to **donate surplus edible food** to **recovery organizations**. Needles is home to three key **food recovery organizations**—**St. Vincent De Paul, Fire House Ministries, and Set Free** provide **essential services** to the community. Unlike **neighboring cities** with **larger budgets**, Needles **lacks dedicated funding** to cover **operational costs** like **insurance, fuel, and utilities**. However, the City **continues to seek external funding** to support these efforts. **Strengthening food recovery benefits the entire community**, and the City remains **committed to supporting local non-profits** in this mission. More information is available at [**CalRecycle**](https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/). **Contact Rainie Torrance at rtorrance@cityofneedles.com with any questions.**

5. On **Friday, March 14, 2025**, the **Housing Authority of the City of Needles (HACN)** staff met with the **Resident Advisory Board (RAB)** to refine the **Five-Year and Annual Agency Plan**. This meeting was part of an ongoing collaborative effort, with RAB members providing valuable insights and recommendations to ensure the plan reflects the needs and priorities of the residents. Public housing residents were also allowed to provide input through the comment process, with RAB voting members submitting feedback. The **amended Five-Year and Annual Agency Plan** will be formally presented during a **public hearing at the Housing Commission meeting on March 26, 2025, at 4:00 PM** at **El Garces, 950 Front Street, Needles, California**. Following the Housing Commission's recommendation, a **public hearing before the HACN Board of Commissioners** will be held at the **City Council meeting on April 8, 2025, at 6:00 PM**, also at **El Garces**. HACN will consider all public comments at this meeting before finalizing the agency plan for submission to the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** by **April 17, 2025**. This process underscores the commitment of HACN to **transparency, resident engagement, and strategic planning** to improve housing opportunities in Needles.
6. The **2nd Annual Needles Craft Show & Art in the Park** will take place **April 10-12, 2025**, at **El Garces and Santa Fe Park**. It will support local artists, crafters, and vendors while fostering community engagement and economic activity.
 - **Art in the Park (April 10-12, El Garces, 950 Front St.)** – Features **Best in Show and People's Choice competitions**, plus a **cocktail party on April 11 (6:00–8:00 PM)**.
 - **Craft Show (April 12, 9:00 AM–2:00 PM, Santa Fe Park)** – **Vendor spaces are available for \$20.**

These events align with the **City Council's goals of enhancing community engagement, supporting local businesses, and promoting Needles as a cultural hub**. These events encourage tourism, stimulate economic activity, and showcase Needles' vibrant arts community by providing a platform for local artists and vendors. Participation from local businesses, organizations, and residents will help strengthen community ties and create a lively, welcoming

atmosphere for visitors. For more details, including registration information, **refer to the attached flyer.**

7. Eight **new decorative light poles** were installed on **Broadway**, enhancing Needles' **historic charm** and revitalizing the downtown streetscape. Initially introduced in the **mid-1990s**, these iconic fixtures have long contributed to the city's character but have deteriorated over time due to aging infrastructure and vehicle damage. The new light poles improve **visibility, safety, and aesthetics**, creating a more welcoming atmosphere for residents and visitors. Designed to preserve the **vintage appeal** that defines Needles, the updated fixtures offer **modern durability and longevity**. These enhancements improve the **downtown experience for businesses and pedestrians** and support community events, making the area more inviting for gatherings, tourism, and local commerce. City staff will continue evaluating the condition of the remaining light poles and implementing **phased replacements** to maintain the downtown district's **distinctive identity**. The **remaining missing light poles** have been ordered and are scheduled for **delivery and installation in May**. Additional poles have also been ordered as backups to ensure ongoing maintenance and future replacements.
8. The **Pancakes in the Park** event, organized by **Billet Health**, will take place on **March 29, 2025, from 9 AM to 12 PM at Santa Fe Park (950 Front Street, Needles, CA)** to honor **Vietnam Veterans**. The program includes a **JROTC opening ceremony, rifle spinning performance, Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans presentation by George DeLeon (Commander of Post 404), POW-MIA remembrance ceremony, and a 13-Folds Flag Ceremony**. A **complimentary pancake breakfast** will be provided for all veterans and community members. This event aligns with the City Council's **Community Engagement** and **Family Support** goals by strengthening Needles' identity through public celebrations that honor veterans and unite the community. It also supports the Council's mission to **foster a vibrant, connected city** and enhance engagement by promoting activities that encourage participation and civic pride. **Additional details are available on the attached event flyer or through the event organizers (Maria Bower, 928-444-7401).**
9. As of **March 2025**, the **Jack Smith Park Boat Launch Facility** is now open for the season. The facility will be **open every weekend, with daily access available from April 1 through September 30, 2025**. Beginning in **October**, operations will return to **weekends only**. Boaters can access the launch by purchasing a **\$20 Day-Use Launch Pass** or a **\$180 Annual Launch Pass**, both available at the **kiosk at Jack Smith Park**. For any questions or assistance, please get in touch with Jennifer Valenzuela at **(760) 326-2814** or via email at jvalenzuela@cityofneedles.com. The City is excited to welcome residents and visitors back to the water and looks forward to another great season. For more details, visit the [**City of Needles Jack Smith Park & Launching Facility website.**](#)

10. [Needles Area Transit \(NAT\)](#) provides a **deviated fixed-route service**, operating **Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:55 p.m.** and on **Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:55 p.m.** **Deviation requests** can be accommodated as time allows by calling **1-866-669-6309**. In response to community needs, **NAT provides deviations, upon request, to the newly developed park behind Rivers Edge Golf Course**, extending service for those looking to enjoy river activities—**this will be the farthest point for deviation. Students ride for free on NAT**, making it an accessible transportation option for local youth. For **questions or comments**, residents can contact **Transportation Concepts at 1-866-669-6309** or the **City of Needles at 760-326-2113 ext. 115**. In addition to NAT's regular service, **curb-to-curb transportation is available for seniors and individuals with mobility disabilities, though registration is required**. The city also provides **Arizona medical and shopper transport services** for those traveling across state lines for essential appointments or errands. For more details on these **specialized services**, please call **760-326-4789**.
11. Rivers Edge Golf Course is having a standout year, featuring some of the finest greens in the Tri-State region. We're excited to host top-tier tournaments and events as we grow into a championship-caliber destination. Tomorrow, **March 15, 2025**, the **Needles Chamber of Commerce** presents the **Second Annual Lucky Greens Golf Tournament**, promising a day of fun and competition. **Twilight League play** returns this month for weekly matchups, and **JJ's golf clinic on March 22 (10 AM - 11 AM)** offers a chance to sharpen your skills. Whether you're booking a round, competing, or hosting an event, Rivers Edge delivers an unbeatable golf experience. **Call (760) 326-3931 to reserve your tee time** or contact **JJ DeLeon for tournament coordination**. For more information, visit the Rivers Edge Golf Course [website](#).
12. As directed by the City Council, staff has included a **coyote awareness flyer** in the **April utility bill** and displayed it in **City Hall** to educate residents on safe coexistence with wildlife. The flyer provides key tips, including **keeping pets supervised, removing outdoor food sources, securing trash bins, and eliminating standing water** to reduce coyote encounters. Staff is also working to share this information through the **city's website** and collaborating with **local organizations, schools, and animal control** to expand awareness. These efforts reinforce the city's commitment to **public safety, proactive communication, and environmental stewardship**. **Refer to the attached flyer for additional information**.
13. The **"Meat Eat" Fundraising BBQ** will take place on **Wednesday, March 26th, at 6 PM** in the **Needles High School Gym**. This event directly supports several **City Council goals** by fostering community engagement and strengthening local partnerships. It enhances **public relations** by bringing residents together for a family-friendly event and supports the **goal of attracting families** by promoting student involvement in music and culinary arts. Additionally, it reinforces the **City's partnership with Needles Unified School District**, demonstrating a shared commitment to youth development. By supporting

school programs like band and choir, this event contributes to the **cultural and social vibrancy** of the community, aligning with the City's broader goals of engagement and quality of life.

14. IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- City staff has **carefully curated a comprehensive community events calendar** to keep residents informed about **Needles' diverse activities and happenings**. Organizations are encouraged to **collaborate with the City Clerk's Office** to add or update events, ensuring a vibrant and inclusive calendar for all. For contributions or modifications, please **contact 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 that Needles has to offer!

1. NEEDLES PRIDE



1. NEEDLES PRIDE



1. CITY BEAUTIFICATION



1. CITY BEAUTIFICATION



1. CITY BEAUTIFICATION



2. DUKE WATKINS SPLASH PAD





4. NEEDLES PRIDE

Edible Food Recovery Proposal

2025

Organization:

Address:

Non-Profit Number:

Edible Food Recovery Proposed Project Scope:
Proposed Edible Food Generators which will support the project scope:
Proposed record keeping of edible food recovered:
Proposed use of funds:
How did you utilize the 2024 edible food recovery funds? (If applicable)

Authorized Signature

Printed Name

Date

6. ART IN THE PARK

2ND ANNUAL NEEDLES ART IN THE PARK

Hosted By
Friends of El Garces
& River Valley Artist Guild

APRIL 10TH - 12TH, 2025

El Garces
950 Front Street
Needles CA

Presenting
Best in Show and People's Choice

Thursday: April 10, 2025
10:00am - 6:00pm

Friday: April 11, 2025
Cocktail Party 6:00-8:00 PM

Saturday: April 12, 2025
10:00am - 5:00pm

For Registration Contact: Victoria Valdemar
Vmeyersvaldemar@yahoo.com
951.334.8454



2ND ANNUAL NEEDLES

CRAFT SHOW

Sponsored By
Friends of El Garces

APRIL 12TH, 2025

9:00AM - 2:00PM

\$20.00 per space

Santa Fe Park
950 Front Street, Needles CA

For Registration Contact: Jan Jernigan 760.221.3211





ART IN THE PARK AND CRAFT SHOW

Saturday April 12, 2025

9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION FORM

Antiques /Collectable Craft (circle one)

Company Name _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Phone# _____ Email Address _____

Description of Items _____

10 x 10 Space(s) _____ *Spaces will be Assigned *Set up Starts at 7:00am

Payment Amount \$ _____ Cash Check Other (circle one)

Notes _____

Signature _____

- **NO ELECTRIC**

Submit Form, including fee of \$20.00 per space to:

Jan Jernigan - 760-221-3211



7. DECORATIVE LIGHT REPLACEMENT



8. VETERAN'S BREAKFAST



SPONSORED BY



PANCAKES IN THE *Park*

Honoring Vietnam Veterans



29 MARCH 2025

9AM-12PM

Santa Fe Park

950 Front Street Needles, CA 92363



9am Mohave High School JROTC Opening
Ceremony

10am Rifle Spinning JROTC

10:30am Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans
Presented by George DeLeon Commander
Post 404 Commemorative Coin Presentation

11am POW-MIA Remembrance Ceremony

11:30am 13 Folds Flag Ceremony

WE WILL BE PROVIDING A PANCAKE
BREAKFAST FOR ALL VETERANS AND
THE COMMUNITY



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
MARIA BOWER (928)444-7401

12. COYOTE AWARENESS



COYOTES LIVE HERE



Coyotes are active year-round and become more visible during their breeding season in January through March. Pups are born from April to mid-May. Coyotes can be seen throughout the day, but are especially active at dawn and dusk. They may travel alone or in groups.

COYOTES ARE NATIVE WILDLIFE AND ARE FREE TO ROAM AS DETERMINED UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE; THEY ARE A NORMAL AND VALUABLE PART OF THE URBAN ECOSYSTEM. COYOTES KEEP RODENT POPULATIONS DOWN AND PROVIDE FREE CARRION REMOVAL, AMONG OTHER BENEFITS.

TIPS TO KEEP THE PEACE :

- **KEEP YOUR CATS INSIDE AND SUPERVISE SMALL DOGS OUTDOORS OR KEEP THEM IN PREDATOR-PROOF CATIOS OR DOG RUNS**
- **REMOVE ANY OUTDOOR PET FOOD**
- **REMOVE ANY BIRD FEEDERS OR REGULARLY CLEAN UP ANY FALLEN SEED AND SECURE IT TO ENSURE OTHER WILDLIFE IS UNABLE TO ACCESS IT**
- **PICK UP FRUIT AS SOON AS IT FALLS TO THE GROUND**
- **KEEP BARBECUE GRILLS CLEAN**
- **ELIMINATE ACCESS TO WATER ON YOUR PROPERTY, LIKE STANDING WATER OR BIRD BATHS**

13. NUSD BAND FUNDRAISER

Needles High School Music/Culinary Department
Proudly Presents

The Meat Eat

A Fundraising BBQ



Come join us for performances by The Blue Notes, The Advanced Band and The Needles High School Choir and eat some wonderful BBQ

When: Wednesday, March 26th at 6 pm

Where: The Needles High School Gym

How Much: \$10 a plate

14. COMMUNITY CALENDAR


March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION CITY PUBLIC WORKS YARD 112 ROBUFFA 7AM - 11AM
2 16TH ANNUAL SPRING CLASSIC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT 3RD-8TH GRADES MAY 1 - 2	3	4	5 PLANNING COMMISSION 4pm	6	7	8 HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH GOLF TOURNAMENT
9	10	11 WOMEN'S CLUB LUNCHEON CITY COUNCIL 6pm	12	13	14	15 LUCKY GREENS ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT RIVER EDGE GOLF COURSE 
16	17 PARKS & RECREATION 4pm 	18 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4pm	19 JOB AND RESOURCE FAIR EL GARCES 10AM - 2PM ASSEMBLYMAN GONZALEZ'S REPS MOBILE OFFICE 10AM-5:30PM NEEDLES TOURISM OFFICE 920 W BROADWAY	20	21	22 JJ's GOLF CLINIC 10AM RIVERS EDGE GC
23	24	25 CITY COUNCIL 6pm	Needles High School Music/Culinary Department Proudly Presents The Meat Eat A Fundraising BBQ  performances by The Blue Notes, The Advanced Band & The Needles High School Choir NEEDLES HIGH SCHOOL GYM 6PM \$10 / PLATE	27	28	29  Billet Health HONORING VIETAM VETERANS PANCAKES IN THE PARK SANTA FE PARK 9AM COMMUNITY CLEANUP SAN CLEMENTE ST. 

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 TWILIGHT LEAGUE RIVERS EDGE GOLF COURSE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4 PM	2 PLANNING COMMISSION 4 PM	3 PALO VERDE COLLEGE 5K COLOR RUN & WALK 9AM SIGN IN 7:30AM	4 47th ANNUAL COLORADO RIVER ROUND UP	5 
6	7	8  WELL 11 TREATMENT PLANT 9AM WOMEN'S CLUB LUNCH CITY COUNCIL 6 PM	9	10 	12 	
13	14	15 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4 PM	16	17	18	19 
20 	21 PARKS & RECREATION 4 PM ROUTE 66 BIKE WEEK	22 CITY COUNCIL 6 PM ROUTE 66 BIKE WEEK	23 HOUSING COMMISSION 4 PM ROUTE 66 BIKE WEEK	24 	25 APRIL 21 - 27	26
27 ROUTE 66 BIKE WEEK	28	29	30			

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 	15	16	17 Rabies and Licensing Clinic Needles Animal Shelter 1662 Flip Mendez Pkwy Needles, CA 92363 May 17th 9:30-12:30 CASH ONLY
18	19 PARKS & RECREATION 4 PM	20 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4 PM	21	22	23	24
25	26	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	6	7
8	9	10 WOMEN'S CLUB LUNCH CITY COUNCIL 6 PM	11	12	13	14
15	16 PARKS & RECREATION 4 PM	17 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4 PM	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 CITY COUNCIL 6 PM	25 HOUSING COMMISSION 4 PM	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5