



(ACT) ACTION NEEDED
(INF) INFORMATION ONLY
(DIS) DISCRETIONARY

AGENDA

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
CITY OF NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA
EL GARCES- 950 FRONT STREET, NEEDLES**

MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2025 - 4:00 PM

THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TEAMS AND MAY SUBMIT ANY COMMENTS IN WRITING PRIOR TO NOON ON THE DAY OF THE MEETING BY EMAILING jvalenzuela@cityofneedles.com

TO JOIN THE LIVE TEAMS MEETING: log into the City of Needles website at www.cityofneedles.com to access the agenda and [Click here to join the meeting](#)

If asked, enter the following: Meeting ID: 357 364 433#

**OR listen in and participate by calling Teams: 1-323-488-2227 - Meeting ID: 357 364 433#
The meetings are being recorded.**

**CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL
CORRESPONDENCE
INTRODUCTIONS**

City Clerk Clark will administer the Oath of Office for new commissioners Manuel Calderon, JR and Maria McAndrews

PUBLIC APPEARANCE: Persons wishing to address the Commission on subjects other than those scheduled are requested to do so at this time. When called by the Chairman, please announce your name and address for the record. In order to conduct a timely meeting, a three-minute time limit per person has been established by Municipal Code Section 2-18. Amendments to California Government Code Sec. 54950 prohibits the Commission from taking action on a specific item until it appears on the agenda.

REGULAR ITEMS

(A three minute time limit per person has been established per Municipal Code Section 2-18)

1. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair for the ensuing year 2025 (ACT)
2. Review and Approve changes to the Youth Sports Handbook (ACT)
3. Adjourn the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission on 2-17-25 (ACT)
4. Ordinances 669-AC and 670-AC establishing regulations for Duke Watkins Park Pump Track and Splash Pad (INF)

COMMISSION REQUESTS

MANAGER'S REPORT

[City](#) Manager Reports for the weeks of January 3 and January 10, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

INTERNET ACCESS TO BOARD AGENDA AND STAFF REPORT MATERIAL IS AVAILABLE PRIOR TO THE MEETING AT: <http://www.cityofneedles.com>

Posted: January 17, 2025

SB 343-DOCUMENTS RELATED TO OPEN SESSION AGENDAS -- Any public record, relating to an open session agenda item, that is distributed within 72 hours prior to the meeting is available for public inspection at the City Clerk's Office, 817 Third Street, Needles, CA 92363.

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office, at (760) 326-2113. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28 CFR 35.102-104 ADA Title II).



City of Needles, California Staff Report

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☐ CITY COUNCIL ☒ PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION Regular X Special

Meeting Date: January 20, 2025

Title: Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair for ensuing year of 2025

Background: Current Chair is Casey Pletcher and Vice Chair is Lorie Long

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Critical Timeline: N/A

Environmental: N/A

Recommendation: Commission to appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair for the ensuing year of 2025

Submitted By: Jennifer Valenzuela, Recreation Service Manager

City Management Review: _____ Date: _____

Approved: <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Approved: <input type="checkbox"/>	Tabled: <input type="checkbox"/>	Other: <input type="checkbox"/>
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City of Needles, California Request for Commission Action

☐ CITY COUNCIL ☒ PARKS AND RECREATION

☒ Regular ☐ Special

Meeting Date: January 20, 2025

Title: Review and approve an addition to the Youth Sport Handbook

Background: The 11th Bullet was added in 2024 to the handbook

Page 1:

Addition to 11th bullet – 6th graders that play on a school sports team will be required to play in the 'A' Division **for League play** (A Division Basketball schedule is designed to accommodate the NMS games allowing players playing in both leagues to make games in each league.) **6th graders will be moved back down to the B Division (5th & 6th) for All-Star Tournament play.**

Fiscal Impact: Costs minimal. Handbooks printed in-house

Critical Timeline: All-Star ballots to be handed out 1st week of February.

Environmental: N/A

Recommendation: Approve recommended addition to the Youth Sports Handbook and give direction to send to City Council for approval.

Submitted By: Jennifer Valenzuela, Recreation Service Manager

City Management Review: Patrick J. Martinez Date: 1/17/2025

Approved: <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Approved: <input type="checkbox"/>	Tabled: <input type="checkbox"/>	Other: <input type="checkbox"/>
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City of Needles, California Request for Commission Action

☐ CITY COUNCIL ☒ PARKS AND RECREATION

☒ Regular ☐ Special

Meeting Date: January 20, 2025

Title: Adjourning the February 17, 2025, regular meeting

Background: The regular meeting on February 17, 2025, is President's Day holiday so need to adjourn to the next available meeting date.

Fiscal Impact: None

Recommended Action: Staff recommends adjourning the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission on Monday February 17, 2025 to Wednesday, February 19, 2025.

Submitted By: Jennifer Valenzuela, Recreation Manager

City Manager Approval: Patrick J. Martinez

Date: 1/17/2025

Other Department Approval (when required): _____

Date: _____

Approved: ☐

Not Approved: ☐

Tabled: ☐

Other: ☐



City of Needles, California Request for Commission Action

☐ CITY COUNCIL ☒ PARKS AND RECREATION

☒ Regular ☐ Special

Meeting Date: January 22, 2025

Title: Ordinance 669-AC and 670-AC

Background: On December 10, 2024, City Council adopted Ordinance 669-AC establishing regulations for the new Duke Watkins Pump Track; and Ordinance 670-AC establishing regulations for the new Duke Watkins Splash Pad Area. Complete executed Ordinances are attached.

Fiscal Impact: None

Recommended Action: Information Only

Submitted By: Jennifer Valenzuela, Recreation Manager

City Manager Approval: Patrick J. Martinez

Date: 1/17/2025

Other Department Approval (when required): _____

Date: _____

Approved: <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Approved: <input type="checkbox"/>	Tabled: <input type="checkbox"/>	Other: <input type="checkbox"/>
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ORDINANCE NO. 669-AC

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 15A, RECREATION AREA USE, OF THE NEEDLES MUNICIPAL CODE TO MODIFY SECTION 15A-3 TO UPDATE RECREATION AREA CLOSING HOURS AND ADD SECTION 15A-7.1, ENTITLED PUMP TRACK REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Needles, California reviewed the proposed section 15A-7.2 of the Needles Municipal Code, entitled Splash Pad Area Regulations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEEDLES DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council HEREBY FINDS AND DETERMINES that this activity is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Section § 15060 (c)(2), the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

SECTION 2. The City Council HEREBY FINDS AND DETERMINES that facts do exist to approve an amendment to the Needles Municipal Code ("Needles Code").

SECTION 3. The City Council HEREBY APPROVE Ordinance 669-AC amending the Needles Code as follows:

Chapter 15A of the Needles Municipal Code is hereby amended to modify section 15A-3 as follows:

Sec. 15A-3 Closing Hours of Certain Recreation Areas is hereby modified as follows:

In the following recreation areas, it shall be unlawful to enter or remain on the premises between the hours of ~~12:00-midnight~~ **10:00 PM** of one day and 5:00 A.M. of the following day:

1. Franz Flowers Field;
2. Ed Parry Park Field;
3. Grace Henderson Field;
4. Duke Watkins Park (except by permit);
5. Santa Fe Park;
6. Nikki Bunch Memorial Field;
7. Old Trails Monument Park;
8. Needles Municipal Aquatics Center;
9. Manny Morris Beachside Park (except by permit).

Sec. 15A-7.1 Pump Track Regulations is hereby added to Chapter 15A as follows:

- a. The following regulations shall apply within the Pump Track:
 1. Pump Track hours are 5:00 am – 10:00 pm
 2. The Pump Track is for use by Children 5-12 years of age. Children under 7 years of age must be accompanied by an adult (18 or older).
 3. Track is for bicycle use only. NO MOTORIZED BIKES, SKATEBOARDS, OR SCOOTERS ALLOWED. RIDE AT YOUR OWN RISK.
 4. Please respect others space. Don't ride too close.
 5. Helmets are required by law, for riders, at all times. Protective gear such as elbow and knee pads, gloves and closed toe shoes are always recommended.
 6. No more than six (6) riders on the track at a time.
 7. Ride within your limits. Start small and work your way up.
 8. RIDE THE SAME DIRECTION AS OTHERS.
 9. Riders must always ride with caution and yield the Right of Way to younger or less skilled riders.
 10. Visitors / Spectators not riding are required to remain outside the riding area.
 11. Do your part to help keep YOUR Park clean. Always pick up after yourself and encourage others to do the same.
- b. Any person who damages the pump track may be subject to civil or criminal citations and penalties.
- c. Any violation of any section herein shall be deemed to be an infraction and is punishable as such according to the provisions of the Needles Municipal Code and state or federal law.

SECTION 4. If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase added by this Ordinance, or any part thereof, is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid or ineffective by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or any part thereof. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, subdivision, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or phrases are declared unconstitutional, invalid or ineffective.

SECTION 5. This action shall become final and effective thirty (30) days after this decision by the City Council as provided by the Needles City Code.

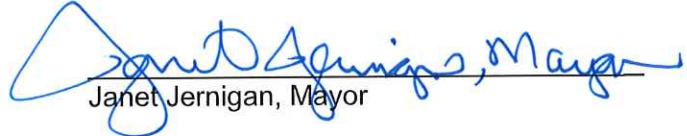
SECTION 6. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the City Council of the City of Needles,

California, approve an amendment to the City Code.

INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time and ordered posted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Needles, California, held on the 12th day of November 2024 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council Members Campbell, McCorkle, Merritt, Pogue, Belt, Longbrake
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None


Janet Jernigan, Mayor

(Seal)

ATTEST: 
Candace Clark, Interim City Clerk

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Needles, California, held on the 10th day of December 2024 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council Members Campbell, McCorkle, Merritt, Pogue, Belt, Longbrake
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None


Janet Jernigan, Mayor

(Seal)

ATTEST: 
Candace Clark, Interim City Clerk

Approved as to form:


City Attorney John Pinkney

ORDINANCE NO. 670-AC

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA,
AMENDING CHAPTER 15A OF THE NEEDLES MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADD SECTION 15A-
7.2 ENTITLED SPLASH PAD AREA REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Needles, California reviewed the proposed section 15A-7.2 of the Needles Municipal Code, entitled Splash Pad Area Regulations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEEDLES DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council HEREBY FINDS AND DETERMINES that this activity is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Section § 15060 (c)(2), the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

SECTION 2. The City Council HEREBY FINDS AND DETERMINES that facts do exist to approve an amendment to the Needles Municipal Code ("Needles Code").

SECTION 3. The City Council HEREBY APPROVE Ordinance 670-AC amending the Needles Code as follows:

Chapter 15A of the Needles Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 15A-7.2 Splash Pad Area Regulations

- a. A splash pad and associated water features are located at Duke Watkins Park. The City may install or place splash pads or water features at other City parks as authorized by the City Council. The splash pad days and hours of operation shall be posted on a sign at the park, along with applicable rules and regulations. The splash pad and water features shall generally be open and operational daily from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily. Notwithstanding the foregoing or the posted days and hours of operation, the splash pad and water features may be closed or rendered nonoperational due to weather, maintenance or operation concerns, or as otherwise determined by the City Manager or his/her designee. The City reserves the right to modify the splash pad regulations by ordinance or resolution. The most current adopted regulations shall be posted by the City at the park. It shall be unlawful for any person to not abide by the adopted and posted splash pad area regulations, including the following:
 1. Splash Pad hours are 5:00 am – 10:00 pm daily. Splash Pad is unsupervised. USE AT YOUR OWN RISK.
 2. Splash Pad is for ages 12 years and younger only. Children ages 7 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.
 3. Clean and proper swim attire must be worn while using the splash pad. Children who are not "toilet trained" must wear a swim diaper or plastic pants.
 4. Surfaces may be hot. Water shoes or proper footwear is strongly recommended.

5. No Climbing, hanging, swinging or sitting on the spray features.
 6. The following is NOT ALLOWED: Alcohol, Inline Skates, Running, Rough Play, Bicycles, Scooters, Glass, Pets, Water Balloons & Soaps.
 7. Splash Pad water is not suitable for drinking. DO NOT DRINK THE WATER.
 8. Prohibited use of the Splash Pad, if you have any infection condition or open wounds.
 9. Splash Pad may be closed at any time due to weather or maintenance.
- b. Any person who damages the splash pad or water features may be subject to civil or criminal citations and penalties.
- c. Any violation of any section herein shall be deemed to be an infraction and is punishable as such according to the provisions of the Needles Municipal Code and state or federal law.

SECTION 4. If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase added by this Ordinance, or any part thereof, is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid or ineffective by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or any part thereof. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, subdivision, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or phrases are declared unconstitutional, invalid or ineffective.

SECTION 5. This action shall become final and effective thirty (30) days after this decision by the City Council as provided by the Needles City Code.

SECTION 6. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the City Council of the City of Needles, California, approve an amendment to the City Code.

INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time and ordered posted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Needles, California, held on the 12th day of November 2024 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council Members Campbell, McCorkle, Merritt, Pogue, Belt, Longbrake
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None


Janet Jernigan, Mayor
(Seal)

ATTEST: 
Candace Clark, Interim City Clerk

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Needles, California, held on the 10th day of December 2024 by the following roll call vote:

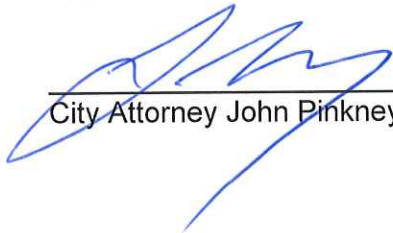
AYES: Council Members Campbell, McCorkle, Merritt, Pogue, Belt, Longbrake
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None


Janet Jernigan, Mayor

(Seal)

ATTEST: 
Candace Clark, Interim City Clerk

Approved as to form:


City Attorney John Pinkney



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: January 3, 2025

1. The City of Needles met with the **San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department (SBCSD)** this week to strengthen efforts to combat graffiti and vandalism in our community. Graffiti is a serious concern for Needles, impacting the City's image and safety. We are committed to taking collaborative action to prevent and address this issue. Recently, graffiti incidents, including vandalism at the skate park, resulted in an individual's swift arrest and citation, thanks to SBCSD's prompt response. The estimated damages from these incidents exceed **\$10,000**, including staff time and materials costs. Restitution will be pursued by those responsible. The City is forming a **multi-agency task force** with SBCSD, the Needles Unified School District, and Caltrans to tackle this challenge. This initiative includes enhanced documentation of graffiti incidents, encouraging residents to report graffiti to SBCSD's non-emergency line at **909-387-8313**, and installing additional security cameras at **Duke Watkins Park** to deter future vandalism. As part of these efforts, the City has introduced a **cash reward** for information leading to identifying and prosecuting those responsible for graffiti. In a personal show of support, the **City Manager** has generously offered to contribute the reward from his own pocket, reflecting a unified commitment to safeguarding Needles and upholding the community's integrity. These measures, combined with partnerships, enhanced surveillance, and strict enforcement, highlight the City's dedication to keeping our community clean, safe, and welcoming. We thank SBCSD, the school district, Caltrans, and our residents for their continued support in combating graffiti. Together, we can preserve the pride and vibrancy of Needles.
2. The City of Needles invites you to a special ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the launch of the **Veterans Housing Program** on **Tuesday, January 7, 2024, at 11:00 AM PST**, at **1624 W Broadway St, Needles, CA**. This vital program addresses the housing needs of homeless veterans, combining HUD rental assistance with VA case management services. Since May 2024, nine HUD-VASH vouchers have been issued, providing critical housing and support. This initiative is the result of collaboration between the Housing Authority of the City

of Needles and community partners dedicated to supporting our veterans. Representatives from **Senator Padilla's Office, Congressman Ruiz's Office, and VA Loma Linda** will join us to commemorate this milestone. We encourage everyone to come out, show their support for our veterans, and celebrate this transformative step toward ensuring they receive the resources and care they deserve. We look forward to seeing you there!

3. The annual **Run for the Wall (RFTW)** procession, honoring Vietnam Veterans and advocating for POW/MIA accountability, will stop in Needles on **May 15, 2025**, at noon. This cross-country motorcycle journey, starting in Los Angeles and ending in Washington, D.C., gathers hundreds of thousands of participants. Last year, over 300 motorcyclists were welcomed at **El Garces in Downtown Needles**, and this year promises another strong turnout. In past years, participants have been supported by community members, city officials, and local organizations like the Needles High School Band, Fort Mojave Tribal Band, VFW Honor Guard, **Needles Military Moms**, and the **Daughters of the American Revolution**, who served lunch and ice cream. More details will follow as the event approaches. Here is a [link](#) to the official RFTW website for further information about the event.
4. Palo Verde College's Spring 2024 classes begin next week on **January 13, 2025**, at the **Needles Center**, located at 725 W. Broadway. With affordable tuition—just **\$46 per unit** for California residents and **\$69 per unit** for Arizona and Nevada residents—the college offers a variety of resources to help students succeed. The **Financial Aid Department** provides access to state, federal, and local grants, scholarships, and tuition waivers through FAFSA or the California Dream Act. Additionally, **Veteran Services** assists veterans and their dependents in applying for and certifying educational benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Students can also benefit from numerous scholarships and grants offered annually through the **Palo Verde College Foundation**, helping to reduce financial barriers. Support programs such as **Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)** aid students with physical, psychological, or learning challenges, while the **EOPS and CARE Programs** provide educational and financial assistance to disadvantaged students, including single parents. The **CalWORKs Program** further supports eligible students in achieving self-sufficiency through education and career training. These resources empower students to achieve their educational and career goals. For more information, call **760-326-5033** or visit the [Palo Verde College Schedule of Classes online](#). Don't miss this opportunity to start or continue your journey—classes begin next week!
5. A second community cleanup event is scheduled for Saturday, January 18th, at 10:00 a.m., on Third Street, near the former Center for Change at **300 H St, Needles, CA 92363**. We seek volunteers to join us in this effort to beautify our city and address illegal dumping and littering. Together, we can make a significant difference and keep Needles clean and welcoming. The first cleanup event, held a couple of weeks ago, was a tremendous success. Over two dozen volunteers removed approximately 1.5 tons of litter, including 50 trash bags,

mattresses, tires, and branches. Organized by Councilmember Longacre and supported by Mayor Jernigan, city staff, and community members, the event demonstrated our community's commitment to maintaining a clean and inviting city. Let's build on this success and make the upcoming event more impactful! Building on these efforts, the **Needles Pride Program** promotes clean, attractive neighborhoods through property upkeep, code compliance, and organized cleanups. The program encourages well-maintained landscapes, removal of outside storage and abandoned vehicles, proper trash container placement, and enforcement of parking standards. Residents can schedule up to **three free bulky item pick-ups annually** by calling **1-800-364-3754**. To stay informed about future cleanups and other community updates, download the **Needles Connect app** from the [Google Play Store](#) for Android or the [Apple Store](#) for iOS devices. With support from our Public Works and Code Enforcement teams, this initiative fosters community pride and collaboration to create cleaner, safer Needles. Together, we can make a difference!

7. As your City Manager, one of my key responsibilities is to keep the Mayor, City Council, and our community informed about significant developments and ongoing initiatives. I am pleased to share the [link to my 2024 Manager's Reports](#), which include the Council Weekly Updates prepared throughout the year. These reports highlight key achievements, updates on city projects, and opportunities where we can collaborate to address community needs. My goal in sharing this information is to promote transparency and provide valuable insights that support the City Council in making informed decisions to benefit Needles. These updates also serve as a resource for you, our residents, to stay engaged and informed about the progress we are making as a community.
8. City Hall will be closed on **Thursday, January 9, 2025**, in observance of a **National Day of Mourning**. Regular operations will resume on **Friday, January 10, 2025**, at 8:30 AM. For emergencies during the closure, residents can contact City Staff at **760-326-5700**, and our after-hours answering service will promptly make direct calls to the appropriate staff member. For public awareness, a flyer has been posted on the front door of City Hall detailing the closure.
9. **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:**
 - **January 25 – Community Clean-Up:** Dispose of trash and bulky items for free from **8:00 AM to noon** at various city locations: Gates (Safari Drive), North K (near underpass and BNSF Road), Vista (Nikki Bunch Ball Field), and Cibola (Robuffa near Public Works Yard). Note: Hazardous waste and specific materials are not accepted.
 - **February 15 – Route 66 Information Fair:** The 2025 Route 66 Information Fair, hosted by the Friends of El Garces, will feature Route 66 vendors, tours, and presenters. More information to follow.
 - **April 21-27–Route 66 Bike Week:** Experience the adventure of a lifetime by riding the historic stretch of **Route 66** from Needles to Seligman. This weeklong event celebrates the freedom of the open road and the vibrant culture of Route 66. More information, visit their [website](#).



City of Needles

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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: January 10, 2025

1. On **Tuesday, January 7, 2024**, the **Housing Authority of the City of Needles** proudly hosted a special ribbon-cutting ceremony to launch the **Veterans Housing Program**, marking a significant milestone in addressing the housing needs of homeless veterans. Despite **40 mph winds**, the community gathered at **1624 W Broadway**, the site of the newly repurposed **former Sage Motel**, to celebrate this transformative initiative. The event brought together **community members, city officials, city staff**, representatives from the **Chamber of Commerce**, the **Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 404**, Needles Unified School District, and staff from the offices of **State Senator Padilla** and **Assemblymember Gonzalez**. **Commendations** were presented from **Senator Padilla, Assemblymember Gonzalez**, and **Congressman Ruiz**. While **Congressman Ruiz's office** was not present, his commendation was delivered by **Senator Padilla's office**, recognizing the **City Council's dedication** to supporting veterans and ensuring they have access to the resources and care they deserve.
The **Veterans Housing Program** combines **HUD rental assistance** with **VA case management services**, offering a comprehensive solution to support homeless veterans. Since **May 2024**, nine **HUD-VASH vouchers** have been issued, providing critical housing and support services. This initiative reflects the successful collaboration between the **Housing Authority of the City of Needles** and dedicated **community partners**. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined us in celebrating this important achievement. Together, we are striving to ensure our **veterans** receive the **dignity, care, and stability** they have earned through their service. **Refer to the attached images.**
2. The City of Needles stands in solidarity with those impacted by the devastating fires in Southern California. These tragic events have upended lives and entire communities, and our hearts go out to everyone affected. We also commend the tireless efforts of city staff, public officials, and volunteers providing mutual aid to assist those in need during this difficult time. The wildfires in Los Angeles, now designated as a federal disaster, highlight the importance of fire prevention and

preparedness. The City of Needles is committed to learning from these events and implementing proactive measures to protect our community.

This week, the San Bernardino County Emergency Operations Center activated a January Red Flag Wind Event for our area. The City of Needles responded using the Needles Connect App to inform the community about the National Weather Service's Wind Advisory, with wind speeds reaching 50–60 mph. City staff advised residents to trim tree branches away from homes and power lines and secure outdoor objects such as furniture and trash cans. Thanks to the diligent efforts of city staff, no power outages occurred within the City of Needles. The power outage at Park Moabi was also resolved promptly, ensuring minimal disruption. In collaboration with the San Bernardino County Fire Department (SBCFD), city staff has initiated plans to enhance fire safety preparedness and provide the functionality of all hydrants. Fire prevention is a shared responsibility, and we urge residents to identify and address fire hazards on their properties.

JJ DeLeon, General Manager of the Rivers Edge Golf Course, led efforts to identify and remove dead overhanging trees, palm trees, and brush on the golf course to reduce fire risks. Residents are encouraged to follow suit by maintaining their properties and reporting fire hazards to the City of Needles Code Enforcement at 760-326-2115 (ext. 123) or through the Needles Connect App, available on the [Google Play Store](#) or the [Apple Store](#). The City of Needles has also been working on its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP), a five-year strategic initiative funded by FEMA. The LHMP aims to enhance preparation for natural and human-caused hazards, reduce risks, and make Needles eligible for FEMA grants and state disaster assistance. Community participation is critical to the plan's success. We invite residents and businesses to share input through surveys, public meetings, and feedback opportunities to help identify strategies to protect lives, property, and resources. [Click here](#) to complete a survey and learn more about the [LHMP](#). Together, we can build a safer and more resilient Needles.

Many community members have asked how they can support those affected by the Los Angeles wildfires. Donations can be made to the Emergency Network Los Angeles by [clicking the provided link](#) or to the American Red Cross Response and Disaster Relief. Visit the [American Red Cross California Wildfires website](#) for information on open shelters and to donate. Thank you for your continued efforts to keep Needles safe and support those in need during this challenging time. Together, we can ensure a brighter and more prepared future for our community.

3. City staff met with an Assemblymember Gonzalez representative this week to discuss key **community needs** in Needles. The closure of the city's **only grocery store** in **2014** left residents without access to **healthy and affordable food**, earning the city a **"Food Desert" designation** in **2023**. Efforts are ongoing to attract a **grocery retailer**, leveraging available programs to address this critical issue.

Housing shortages remain another pressing concern, with **600 new jobs** created by the city's **\$50 million cannabis industry**. However, **90% of employees** live in

Arizona or Nevada due to limited local housing options. Recognized through the **Prohousing Designation program**, Needles is conducting a **housing study** supported by the **Gates Foundation** and advocating for **streamlined processes** to reduce construction costs and encourage housing development.

Infrastructure improvements are also a priority, with the city investing **\$8.5 million** since **2020** to treat **45% of its 45-mile road network** through the **15-year Pavement Management Plan**. Additional funding is being sought for projects like the **River Road & River Street Rehabilitation** to enhance **access and safety**. Similarly, protecting the city's **Colorado River water rights** remains critical as agreements governing the river's operation expire in **2026**. Efforts include applying for funding to **modernize irrigation systems** and reduce **water consumption**.

The **Needles Aquatic Center Renovation** is another top priority. While the city's recent **funding request** was not approved, efforts continue to secure the **\$5 million** needed for upgrades to enhance the center's role as a **cooling facility during extreme heat events**, bolstering **community resilience**. Additionally, the city's **Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Pilot Program**, set to run through **2028**, integrates OHMVs into the **transportation framework**, supporting **tourism** and **local businesses**. Continued **legislative support** will be crucial to extend the program's benefits.

Finally, Needles is pursuing a **\$60 million Vehicle Charging Hub** to advance **renewable energy** and **EV infrastructure**. This initiative aligns with **California's clean energy goals** and enhances local services, attracts visitors, and stimulates **economic growth**. The city appreciates **Assemblymember Gonzalez's support** and looks forward to continued collaboration to address these vital community needs.

Notable Video Highlights: Celebrating This Year's Achievements

- **Clean California Community Designation Program:**
Governor Gavin Newsom recognized the City of Needles as part of this statewide initiative to create **cleaner, safer, and more sustainable environments**. As a proud participant, the city received **\$2.4 million** to revitalize [Bob Belts Beach Park](#). This project earned the **2024 American Public Works Association Southern California Chapter BEST Project of the Year** award in the [Recreation & Athletic Facilities](#) category.
- **Weather Channel Feature:**
Needles was showcased on the [Weather Channel's America's Morning Headquarters](#), including a video highlighting [Jack Smith Park's Marilyn Hohstadt Mathews Walking Trail](#), a community favorite.
- **Behavioral Health Clubhouse Funding:**
Congressman Raul Ruiz secured a [\\$1 million appropriation for the Needles Behavioral Health Clubhouse](#), a vital resource that enhances community access to **behavioral health services**.
- **Celebration of Needles' History:**
The city's [unique history and historical charm](#) continue to attract visitors and foster **community pride**.

- **2024 State of the City Address:**

A link to the **2024 State of the City Address** by the **Mayor** is available, including both a [recording](#) and [presentation slides](#), offering a comprehensive overview of the city's **accomplishments and vision for the future**.

4. Save the date for the **3rd Annual Job and Resource Fair** on **March 19, 2025**, at the **El Garces Historic Train Depot**, located at 950 Front Street, Needles, CA. The event, hosted by **San Bernardino County Supervisor Dawn Rowe**, will take place from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** and promises to be an invaluable opportunity for residents, city staff, and public officials to connect with agencies and organizations providing essential services. This dynamic event will feature access to vital resources such as record issuance, document recording, property assessments, expungement assistance, and specialized support for veterans, including VA benefits and identification cards. Non-profits like **IEHP** and **Tri-State Community Health Center** will also be on-site to offer additional resources.

Employers and resource providers are encouraged to showcase their organizations, meet potential employees, and promote their services in a vibrant, engaging environment. **For those interested in participating, registration is [available online](#) or refer to the attached flyer.** Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request for individuals with disabilities; please call **1-800-735-2922** before the event to arrange assistance. Don't miss this opportunity to engage with your community and take advantage of the valuable services and connections available at this event.

5. **Tomorrow, January 11, 2024**, the **Needles Unified School District (NUSD) Associated Student Body (ASB)** and **Interact Club** will come together to paint a new rendering on the **expression wall** at **Duke Watkins Park**. **Come join them as part of this exciting event** to support **creativity** and **community spirit**. This collaboration highlights the community's dedication to fostering **creativity** and celebrating the **vibrant additions** to the park. The **expression wall**, a key feature of the **\$3,965,400 Duke Watkins Park Improvement Project**, serves as a platform for **artistic expression** and **community engagement**. Designed to inspire **creativity**, this vibrant **graffiti art wall** has quickly become a symbol of **artistic collaboration** and **community pride**. This initiative not only fulfills a **requirement** of the park improvement project but also emphasizes the importance of nurturing the **arts** and bringing the **community** together to enhance this **dynamic new feature** of **Duke Watkins Park**.
6. The **City Council** has prioritized **fostering economic growth and business development** by enhancing public relations to position Needles as a business-friendly community. This includes **streamlining the permitting process to encourage** investment and maintaining proactive communication with current applicants to ensure their projects progress smoothly at the City and County levels. This week, City staff connected with the owners of West Side Chevron to provide updates on their permitting process, and we are thrilled to announce the opening of [Krispy Krunchy Chicken](#), which is anticipated for mid-February. This new business will expand dining options and contribute to the local economy.

Additionally, we are excited to highlight the success of recently opened businesses, such as **Needles Smash Burger**, located at 2205 Needles Highway. Now under new management, Needles Smash Burger offers a full menu of specialty burgers, salads, and fries, with [online orders available](#) or by phone at **760-983-7865**. These developments exemplify the City's commitment to supporting local entrepreneurs and creating a vibrant business ecosystem in Needles. We remain dedicated to working closely with current and prospective businesses to ensure our community remains a welcoming and thriving hub for growth and opportunity.

7. The **City Council** remains dedicated to enhancing **Needles' visual appeal** and **quality of life** through targeted **beautification** and **clean-up projects**. This week, the **Public Works team** initiated efforts to **refresh red curb markings** along **Needles Highway**, starting near **Carl's Jr.** and moving toward **R Street**. This **systematic approach** ensures that each section is completed thoroughly before transitioning to the next, ultimately covering **key thoroughfares** and eventually reaching the **East Side** of the city. These efforts are part of the City's broader commitment to maintaining **public spaces** and **infrastructure**, reflecting our shared goals of **stewardship**, **accountability**, and **community pride**. Residents are encouraged to play an **active role** in these initiatives by notifying **staff** by using the **Needles Connect App**, available on the [Google Play Store](#) and [Apple Store](#) or by calling **City Hall at 760-326-2115**. These ongoing projects highlight the **dedication of City staff** to creating a **clean, welcoming environment** for all. Attached are **images capturing the team's progress**, showcasing their **hard work** and **commitment** to keeping **Needles beautiful**. Together, we can ensure a **brighter** and **more inviting community** for residents and visitors alike.
8. Rivers Edge Golf Course continues to exceed expectations, with an impressive **8,445 rounds of golf played** through December, marking a remarkable performance halfway through the season. The course remains a hub for community engagement, and we're thrilled to host the **Needles Women's Club Fundraiser on January 20, 2025**. This event promises to bring the community together for a meaningful cause. Don't miss your chance to participate—**book your spot today** by calling **760-326-3931** or visiting our [website](#). JJ DeLeon is ready to assist those looking to host their tournaments. He can be reached at **760-326-3931** for inquiries and arrangements. We are proud of Rivers Edge's continued success and are committed to ensuring it remains a **valued asset** for our community. In addition to these achievements, the **\$8.9 million Well #11 Water Treatment Project** has introduced an essential enhancement to the course. **Protective fencing** was recently installed along **Hole #5**, adjacent to the water treatment facility. Completed by **Cal-Zone**, this addition significantly improves the safety and security of the project while preserving the quality of the golf course experience. We invite you to take a closer look at the new fencing through the **attached images**, highlighting our commitment to maintaining a safe and enjoyable environment at Rivers Edge.
9. On **January 14, 2024**, the Needles Women's Club will host a Barbecue Lunch Fundraiser to benefit women's empowerment, youth programs, scholarships, and civic initiatives. For just \$10, enjoy a delicious meal featuring a pork sandwich, coleslaw, chips, and cookies! Order your lunch today by [clicking this link](#). Meals can

be picked up at the Needles Women's Club, located at 305 W. Broadway Street, or delivered for orders of three or more. Don't miss the chance to support your local Women's Club! Place your order **by 5:30 p.m. on January 13, 2025.**

10. The **Needles Pride Program** is a community-driven initiative that enhances neighborhoods by fostering pride, improving property upkeep, and ensuring compliance with city codes. This program emphasizes well-maintained landscapes, eliminating visible outside storage, parking properly, removing inoperative or abandoned vehicles from public view, and appropriately placing trash containers. Residents can schedule up to **three free bulky item pick-ups annually** by calling **1-800-364-3754** to support these efforts. Additionally, we encourage residents to join these efforts by reporting public nuisances to the **City of Needles Code Enforcement** at **760-326-2115 (ext. 123)** or through the **Needles Connect app**, available on the [Google Play Store](#) for Android or the [Apple Store](#) for iOS devices. Your input is invaluable in helping us maintain and enhance the community. Through a combination of community engagement, organized clean-ups, and collaboration with the **Code Enforcement team**, the program aims to create a cleaner, safer, and more vibrant city. **Please refer to the attached updated flyer showcasing** the program's details to guide residents in participating in this impactful initiative.

7. **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:**

- **January 18—Community Clean-Up:** Join **Councilmember Longacre** for the second community clean-up effort, which will remove illegal dumping and litter from **Third Street** near the former **Center for Change** at **300 H Street, Needles, CA 92363**. The event begins at **10:00 AM**.
- **January 25—Community Clean-Up:** From 8:00 AM to noon, trash and bulky items can be disposed of for free at various city locations: Gates (Safari Drive), North K (near the underpass and BNSF Road), Vista (Nikki Bunch Ball Field), and Cibola (Robuffa near Public Works Yard). Note: Hazardous waste and specific materials are not accepted.
- **February 15—Route 66 Information Fair:** The 2025 Route 66 Information Fair, hosted by the Friends of El Garces, will feature Route 66 vendors, tours, and presenters. More information will follow.
- **April 21-27—Route 66 Bike Week:** Experience the adventure of a lifetime by riding the historic stretch of **Route 66** from Needles to Seligman. This weeklong event celebrates the freedom of the open road and the vibrant culture of Route 66. For more information, visit their [website](#).
- **May 15, 2024—Run for the Wall (RFTW):** This annual event honoring Vietnam Veterans will welcome over 300 motorcyclists as they journey across the country. This meaningful tribute will take place at the historic El Garces, with the riders expected to arrive at noon.

1. VETERANS HOUSING RIBBON CUTTING





Job and Resource Fair

**March 19, 2025
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

EMPLOYERS & RESOURCES PROVIDERS

Join us for our upcoming Job Fair and take advantage of this excellent opportunity to connect with a diverse pool of talent.

Showcase your organization, meet prospective employees, and promote your resources to job seekers in a dynamic and engaging environment.

This WIOA Title-I financially assisted program and EDD, is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Requests for services, aids, and/or alternate formats need to be made prior to the event by calling 1-800-735-2922. TTY users, please call the California Relay Service 711. For federal funding disclosure information, visit Workforce.SBCounty.gov/about/ffd.

Workforce.SBCounty.gov

LOCATION

El Garces Historic Train Depot
950 Front Street
Needles, CA 92363

SAVE THE DATE!



REGISTER HERE:

[HDHE0319.eventbrite.com](https://hdhe0319.eventbrite.com)

America's JobCenter
of CaliforniaSM

7. PUBLIC WORKS RED CURBS



8. GOLF COURSE FENCE



10. NEEDLES PRIDE



NEEDLES PRIDE

Needles residents care about their community and so should you! The Needles Pride initiative is a neighborhood focus program aimed at improving the community by working in partnership with property owners, area residents, and local businesses to clean up neighborhoods and maintain compliance with City Codes.

Please take the time to evaluate your property and correct any violations you may have.

How to Participate in the City-Wide Clean-Up



BEAUTIFICATION

Maintain Landscaping

Maintain landscape in healthy condition by proper irrigating, trimming, edging, and removing weeds, and dead plants



Clear Storage

Outside storage including but not limited to furniture, household items, yard equipment, building material, vehicle parts, and appliances must be kept out of public eye.



Park in Designated Areas

Vehicles are required to be parked on existing driveways or approved surfaces. Parking is not allowed on dirt, vacant lots, front yards, or decorative landscapes.



CODE VIOLATIONS

Inoperative Vehicles

Vehicles that are unlicensed, wrecked, damaged, or in disrepair may not be stored in public view.



Trash Containers

Trash containers shall not be stored in front yards or on sidewalks except when placed in areas of collection at the time permitted.



Bulky Items

Keep sidewalks clear of discarded household items such as furniture, appliances, electronics, and more. You may schedule up to three (3) bulky item pick ups per year by calling Republic Services at 928-758-9135.



If you have questions about the Needles Pride initiative contact Code Enforcement Officer Bernie Hatz at (760) 326-5700, ext. 129. You can also conveniently reach out through the Needles Connect app, available for free on Android and Apple devices. Let's work together to make Needles shine!

