



City of Needles

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

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

City Manager Patrick J. Martinez

MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICK J. MARTINEZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 9, 2026

1. **Needles Pride Program – Community Cleanup Day**

As part of the City's ongoing Needles Pride Program, staff is coordinating a community cleanup at Duke Watkins Park to support neighborhood pride, cleanliness, and shared stewardship of public spaces. The cleanup will take place on **Saturday, January 17, 2026**, from **8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.** at Duke Watkins Park, located near Flip Mendez Parkway and J Street. Residents are invited to join friends and neighbors in helping beautify the area; no registration is required. The City will provide cleanup supplies, including bags, pickers, and gloves. This effort reinforces the City's commitment to visible, grassroots improvements that encourage community engagement and complement recent investments in park infrastructure.

2. **Water Main and Manifold Improvements Project – Construction Update**

The City of Needles' Water Main and Manifold Improvements Project has resumed, with the contractor back in town to complete remaining phases of this critical infrastructure investment. Work is currently underway along River Road, with crews also returning to complete improvements in the area of Monterey Avenue and Arizona Avenue. This project represents a \$1.3 million investment authorized by the NPUA to replace deteriorated water distribution mains, service laterals, and key system components to improve reliability and long-term system performance. The upcoming scope includes replacement of the 6-inch distribution main on River Road near Park Drive and upgrades to the pipe manifold at the golf course maintenance yard. Photos of current construction activity are attached for Council's reference. This project is funded through emergency grant assistance from the State of California's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, and the City appreciates the continued partnership of the State Water Resources Control Board in strengthening Needles' water infrastructure.

3. Well No. 11 Treatment Plant Upgrade – System Reliability Enhancement

As part of the Well No. 11 Treatment Plant Upgrade Project, contractor Layne Christensen has completed a motor replacement at Well No. 11, significantly improving system reliability and operational redundancy. The replaced motor allows the City to retain the existing motor as a backup, ensuring both wells now have dedicated backup motors available if needed. This upgrade strengthens the City's ability to maintain uninterrupted water service and respond quickly to mechanical issues. The Well No. 11 Treatment Plant Project, which broke ground on **May 31, 2023**, represents an \$8.9 million investment in modernizing Needles' water infrastructure and is now in its final stages of system calibration for startup. The facility will treat Well No. 11 and support Wells No. 12 and No. 15, improving water quality by addressing long-standing iron and manganese contamination. This project supports the City Council's goal of investing in critical infrastructure to ensure long-term system reliability, public health, and service continuity for the community.

4. Public Works – Crack Seal Program and Street Maintenance Update

This week, Public Works crews continued implementation of the City's crack seal program as part of ongoing preventative maintenance efforts to extend the life of local streets. Crews completed crack sealing north of River Road and North K Street, as well as along Civic Center Drive adjacent to the Recreation Center. In addition, pothole repairs were completed on National Old Trails Road and Airport Road to address localized pavement failures and improve driving conditions. This work builds on the City's recent investment in crack seal equipment and reflects a proactive maintenance approach that protects prior roadway investments and reduces long-term repair costs. These visible improvements demonstrate the City's continued commitment to reinvesting in its streets, enhancing safety, and maintaining community pride. Refer to the attached images for a snapshot of work in progress. Residents can report concerns by calling 760-326-5700 (press 9) or using the Needles Connect app on [Google Play Store](#) (Android) and [Apple Store](#) (iOS). Together, we continue to make Needles a brighter and more vibrant place to live.

5. Flood Control Coordination – Graffiti Abatement near D Street Bridge

Following recent community complaints regarding graffiti on Flood Control facilities near the D Street Bridge—highly visible from D Street and Interstate 40—City staff coordinated with Flood Control to address vandalism within multiple culvert and channel areas in the vicinity. Flood Control crews responded and completed graffiti abatement efforts, improving the appearance of these highly visible structures and addressing community concerns. The City of Needles appreciates Flood Control's prompt response and continued

collaboration in maintaining shared infrastructure and public-facing areas. This coordination supports City Council goals related to community pride, public safety, and effective inter-agency partnerships. Refer to the attached photos for a snapshot of the completed work.

6. Duke Watkins Park – Small Dog Park Lighting Improvement

This week, City electric crews successfully installed a new solar light at the Duke Watkins Park small dog park to improve visibility and enhance safety for park users. The lighting was added in response to recent vandalism in the nearby restroom facilities and to better illuminate access to the dog park. This targeted improvement builds on the City's recent investment in Duke Watkins Park and reflects a continued focus on maintaining public amenities following major capital improvements. The installation supports safer use of the park during early morning and evening hours while helping deter vandalism. This effort aligns with City Council goals related to public safety, park maintenance, and community pride. Refer to the attached image for a glimpse of the new infrastructure.

7. City Website – Route 66 Centennial and Railcam Features

The City's redesigned website, launched in June 2025 in collaboration with Tripepi Smith, continues to serve as a key resource for residents, businesses, and visitors by improving access to City services, community information, and economic development materials. As a reminder to Council, the website is also being actively used as a tourism and outreach platform through two featured highlights now prominently available online. First, the Route 66 Centennial page supports the City's strategy to position Needles as a must-stop destination at the gateway to California ahead of the 100th anniversary in 2026, while providing a central hub for Centennial updates and local programming. Second, the site highlights the City's Railcam initiative, including the new PTZ camera donated by SouthWest RailCams, expanding real-time visibility of Needles to a national and international audience and strengthening digital tourism exposure. These features reinforce the City's ability to convert online interest into visitation and community engagement. This work supports City Council goals focused on promoting tourism, improving public relations, and strengthening the City's business-friendly image through modern communication tools.

8. Community Events Calendar Now Live

The City's new website now features a [Community Events Calendar](#)—a single source for community events, civic meetings, and community programs. Local organizations are invited to submit or update events through the City Clerk's Office to keep the calendar current and inclusive. Contact **Candace Clark at cclark@cityofneedles.com** to participate. Residents can subscribe and sync

the calendar to mobile devices for real-time updates, making it easier to stay informed and engaged.

9. Assemblymember Gonzalez Mobile Office Hours

As a reminder, Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez will host Mobile Office Hours at El Garces on **Thursday, January 15 from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.** This provides residents with convenient local access to state legislative assistance and resources without needing to travel outside the community. Constituents will have the opportunity to meet directly with the Assemblymember's office for support on state-related matters and services. The City of Needles appreciates Assemblymember Gonzalez's continued engagement and responsiveness to the needs of rural communities and extends its gratitude to him and his staff for their ongoing support.

10. Needles Branch Library – Winter Programs and Community Activities

The Needles Branch Library has launched its winter programming schedule, offering a range of educational and enrichment activities for youth, adults, and families throughout January and February. Programs include weekly Craft Corner and Storytime for children ages 6–11, a Basic Computer Class for adults, and special events such as a Family Paint Night on **Tuesday, February 17, at 5:30 p.m.**, and the nationwide "Read for the Record" storytime event on **Thursday, February 26, at 3:00 p.m.** The Library will observe a brief off-session period from **February 15–28**, with limited programming during that time. These offerings provide accessible learning opportunities, promote literacy, and support family engagement within the community. This programming aligns with City Council goals focused on enhancing community amenities, supporting youth and families, and improving overall quality of life.

11. Spring Youth Sports Registration Now Open

Spring youth sports registration is now underway, with sign-ups opening for Needles Little League Baseball and Colorado River Area Girls Softball (CRAGS) (see attached flyers for full details). Both programs will offer in-person registration assistance at the Needles Recreation Center beginning **January 12**. CRAGS will complete sign-ups in person, while Needles Little League Baseball registration is required to be completed online, with staff available onsite to assist families in completing the online registration form. These spring programs provide a positive opportunity for local youth to stay active, build skills, and develop teamwork while strengthening community pride. This effort supports the City Council's goal of promoting sports and recreational activities that enhance quality of life and attract visitors to the community. The City appreciates the volunteers, coaches, and board members who help make youth sports possible and encourages families to register early. Additional Needles Little League updates are available through the "Needles Little League" Facebook group.

12. Youth Fundraiser Supporting Needles Recreation Center

Needles Eagles Aerie 2599 will host its annual youth fundraiser featuring a baked potato, soup, and salad bar to support the Needles Recreation Center and help purchase new All-Star basketball uniforms. The fundraiser will take place on **January 16, 2026** from **5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** at 729 Front Street, Needles, CA 92363. The event is open to members and guests only and will also include a 50/50 raffle. This effort reflects strong community partnership and directly supports the City Council's goal of promoting youth sports and recreational opportunities that enhance quality of life for Needles families. The City appreciates Needles Eagles Aerie 2599 for its continued support of local youth programs.

13. Needles Elks Junior Golf League

Needles Elks Lodge #1608, in partnership with River Edge, Los Lagos, and Huukan Golf Courses, is offering a Junior Golf League for students in 6th through 9th grade at no cost to participants. The program provides local youth with an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of golf while gaining playing experience on multiple regional courses. The league will begin on **January 24, 2026**, and run through **March 2026**, concluding with a hosted luncheon for participating students and their immediate families. Course play will rotate among River Edge, Los Lagos, and Huukan Golf Courses, subject to availability. Families interested in participating may text registration information to 917-797-1205 or contact League Coordinator Brian Dooley at 917-882-9711. For River's Edge course-related questions, residents may contact Golf Professional JJ DeLeon at (760) 326-3931. This program supports the City Council's goal of promoting youth recreation, healthy activities, and strong community partnerships.

14. Needles Sunday Farmers Market at Santa Fe Park

The Needles Sunday Farmers Market continues each week at Santa Fe Park, providing residents and visitors with an opportunity to shop local and support small businesses. Hosted by Tumbleweed Markets Inc., the market features a rotating mix of vendors offering fresh produce, baked goods, coffee, handmade items, flowers, and other local goods. The market is held every Sunday through **March 31, 2026** from **8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** at Santa Fe Park. The market is also welcoming new vendors, further expanding opportunities for local entrepreneurs and artisans. This effort supports the City Council's goal of promoting community engagement while strengthening local economic activity. Additional vendor information is available by contacting Market Manager Patrick Lauterio at (760) 848-8289 or needlesfarmers@gmail.com.

15. Needles Women's Club Fundraiser – Turkey Soup Luncheon

The Needles Women's Club will host its monthly fundraising luncheon on **Tuesday, January 13**, supporting programs that promote women's empowerment, youth activities, scholarships, and civic engagement. This month's menu features turkey soup, salad, cornbread, and dessert for \$10. Orders may be placed online, with options for pickup or delivery within Needles. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the Women's Club relies on community participation to continue its charitable and civic work. Residents are encouraged to enjoy a meal while supporting the positive impact the Women's Club continues to make in the community. Order information is available at <https://bit.ly/TurkeyWC>.

16. Needles Animal Shelter – “Adopt a Pet, Don't Shop” Program Success

The Needles Animal Shelter's “Adopt a Pet, Don't Shop” adoption campaign concluded successfully, resulting in **10 pets** being adopted into permanent homes and helping reduce shelter crowding during the holiday season. The campaign encouraged families to consider adoption as a meaningful way to support local animal welfare while providing animals the opportunity for a safe and caring home. Although the promotional period has ended, the Shelter remains at capacity and continues to encourage adoptions to support ongoing operations and animal care. The Shelter is open Monday–Friday from **8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**, and residents may call 760-326-4952 to schedule a visit or request adoption information. This effort supports the City Council's goal of strengthening community services and enhancing quality of life through responsible public stewardship. The City appreciates the community's support and compassion in helping animals find permanent homes.

17. Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Open House & Pantry Dedication

The City of Needles is pleased to share that the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will host an open house and dedication of its newly improved pantry, providing the community an opportunity to view recent facility upgrades and learn more about its services. The event will take place on **January 12, 2026**, from **5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**, at 839 Front Street, with refreshments available. This event reflects continued investment in community-based services that support individuals and families in need. The City appreciates St. Vincent de Paul's ongoing commitment to serving Needles residents and strengthening the local social safety net. RSVP information is available at george.deleon78@yahoo.com or (928) 299-9872.

1. NEEDLES PRIDE

SPRING INTO ACTION

Community Cleanup Day

**Duke Watkins Park
Flip Mendez Pkwy/J Street
Saturday, January 17, 2026
8 AM - 9 AM**

Join your friends and neighbors as we work together to clean our community. No registration required. The City will provide bags, pickers and gloves!



cityofneedles.com

3. WATERMAIN INFRASTRUCTURE



3. WELL NO. 11 INFRASTRUCTURE



4. CRACK SEAL PROGRAM



5. FLOOD CONTROL COORDINATION



1/7/26, 12:27 PM
+34.832271,-114.604823
CA, Needles, Lillyhill Dr

5. FLOOD CONTROL COORDINATION



1/7/26, 12:09 PM
+34.832174,-114.604558
CA, Needles, Lillyhill Dr

6. DUKE WATKINS LIGHTING



7. CITY WEBSITE FEATURES



City of
NEEDLES
California

GOVERNMENT ▾

DEPARTMENTS ▾

COMMUNITY ▾

BUSINESS/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ▾

Download the Needles Connect App



Needles Route 66 100 Year Anniversary

Dan • January 5, 2026

2026 marks the 100th anniversary of historic Route 66, and the City of...

[Read More](#)



Needles Rail Cam

Dan • January 5, 2026

<https://youtube.com/live/sg3kp4pn9fU?feature=share>

[Read More](#)

Load More News

9. ASSEMBLYMEMBER OFFICE HOURS



JEFF GONZALEZ
36TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



Mobile Office **HOURS**

Thursday, JANUARY 15, 2026

12:00PM - 3:00PM

EL GARCES | 950 FRONT STREET, NEEDLES, CA 92363

10. NEEDLES LIBRARY PROGRAMS

NEEDLES Branch Library

1111 Bailey Ave, Needles, CA 92363 • 760-326-9255

All County Library branches will be closed on Jan 19 & Feb 16

SESSION 1 (January 4–February 14)

Kid Zone (6-11 years)

Craft Corner

Create wonderful themed projects and learn new skills using all sorts of artistic supplies.

Tuesdays

3:00 PM

Storytime

The whole family can be part of the reading adventure at this wonderfully fun and engaging storytime with great stories, songs, rhymes, a craft, and more.

Wednesdays

1:30 PM

Adult Programs (18+ years)

Basic Computer Class

Adults are invited to an introduction to common computer tasks, from how to use a mouse and keyboard, to basic typing, internet, and email functions.

Mondays

4:00 PM

OFF SESSION (February 15–February 28)

Kid Zone (6-11 years)

Storytime

The whole family can be part of the reading adventure at this wonderfully fun and engaging storytime with great stories, songs, rhymes, a craft, and more.

Wednesdays

1:30 PM

Special Events/Meetings

Family Paint Event

Encourage your inner artist at this step-by-step painting lesson and leave with a masterpiece of your own

Tuesday,
Feb 17

5:30 PM

Read For the Record

Join us for a special storytime as we try to set a new record high for this year's Jumpstart Read for the Record! We're joining millions of readers across the country to celebrate the importance of literacy! Stop on by and let library staff engage you with "See Marcus Grow" by Marcus Bridgewater!

Thursday,
Feb 26

3:00 PM

11. SPRING YOUTH SPORTS



CRAGS SOFTBALL SIGN-UPS

Needles Recreation Center

Sign-Up Dates: 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM

- January 12 • January 14
- January 21 • January 22
- January 27 • January 28

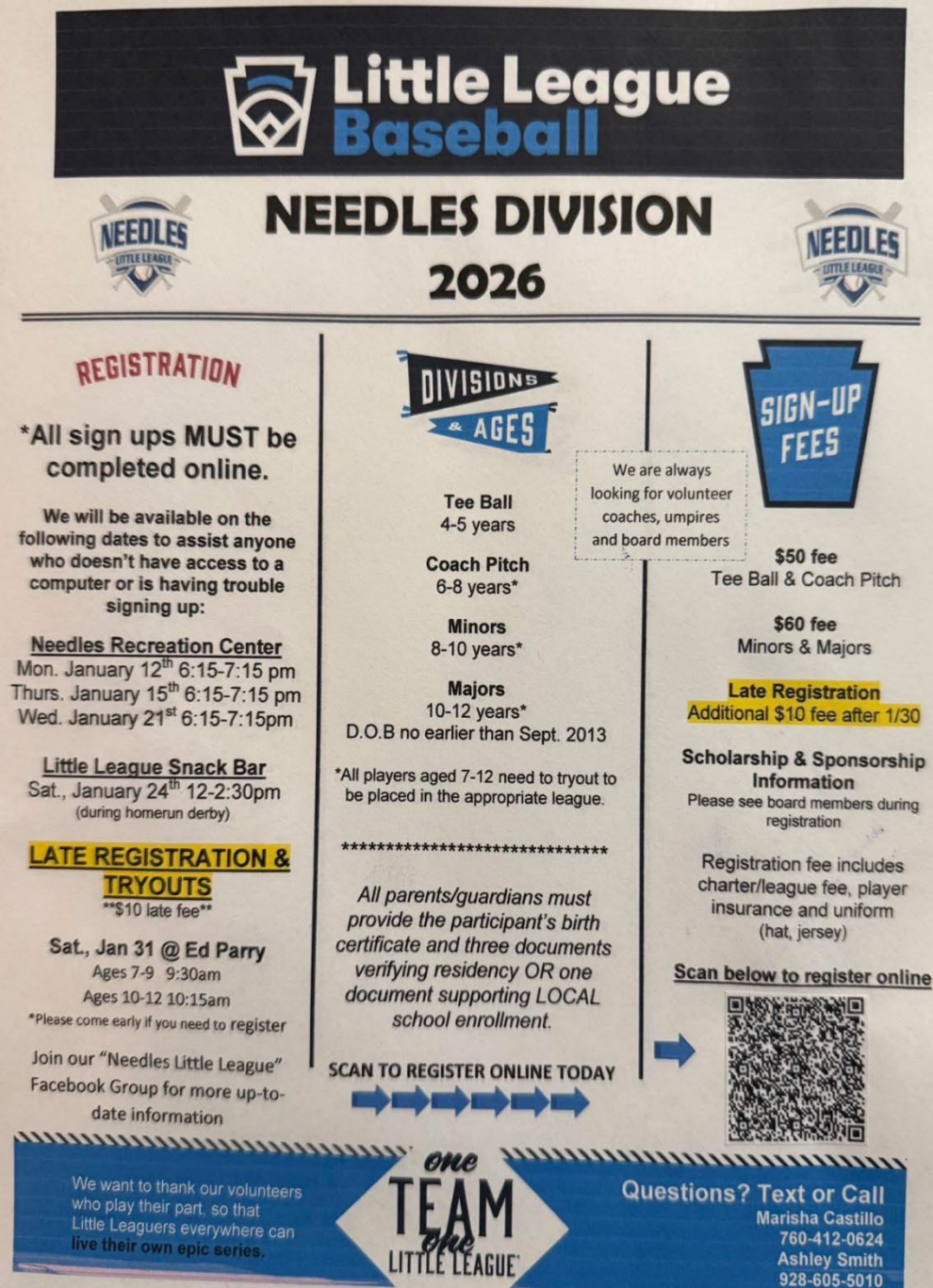
Registration Fees:
8U: \$60 • 10U: \$65 • 12U / 14U: \$70

Ask about sibling discounts!

Late Registration: After January 28th - \$80

- ✓ Youth Players Welcome
- ✓ Learn Skills & Teamwork
- ✓ Fun & Competitive!

Don't Miss Out - Register & Play Ball!



Little League Baseball

NEEDLES DIVISION 2026

REGISTRATION

***All sign ups MUST be completed online.**

We will be available on the following dates to assist anyone who doesn't have access to a computer or is having trouble signing up:

Needles Recreation Center
Mon. January 12th 6:15-7:15 pm
Thurs. January 15th 6:15-7:15 pm
Wed. January 21st 6:15-7:15 pm

Little League Snack Bar
Sat., January 24th 12-2:30pm
(during homerun derby)

LATE REGISTRATION & TRYOUTS
\$10 late fee

Sat., Jan 31 @ Ed Parry
Ages 7-9 9:30am
Ages 10-12 10:15am
*Please come early if you need to register

Join our "Needles Little League" Facebook Group for more up-to-date information

DIVISIONS & AGES

Tee Ball
4-5 years

Coach Pitch
6-8 years*

Minors
8-10 years*

Majors
10-12 years*

D.O.B no earlier than Sept. 2013

*All players aged 7-12 need to tryout to be placed in the appropriate league.

All parents/guardians must provide the participant's birth certificate and three documents verifying residency OR one document supporting LOCAL school enrollment.

SCAN TO REGISTER ONLINE TODAY

SIGN-UP FEES

We are always looking for volunteer coaches, umpires and board members

\$50 fee
Tee Ball & Coach Pitch

\$60 fee
Minors & Majors

Late Registration
Additional \$10 fee after 1/30

Scholarship & Sponsorship Information
Please see board members during registration

Registration fee includes charter/league fee, player insurance and uniform (hat, jersey)

Scan below to register online

one TEAM one LITTLE LEAGUE

We want to thank our volunteers who play their part, so that Little Leaguers everywhere can live their own epic series.

Questions? Text or Call
Marisha Castillo
760-412-0624
Ashley Smith
928-605-5010

12. FUNDRAISER EAGLES AERIE 2599

FOOD PRICES

POTATO, SOUP & SALAD
COMBO — \$15

POTATO & SOUP OR SALAD
— \$10

SOUP & SALAD — \$8

TRY ALL SOUPS — \$15

50/50 RAFFLE

TICKETS
\$6 FOR 5

\$20 FOR WING SPAN



**NEEDLES AERIE 2599
IS HOSTING OUR ANNUAL
YOUTH FUNDRAISER
BAKED POTATO, SOUP, AND
SALAD BAR TO HELP SUPPORT
THE CHARITY OF THE MONTH
“NEEDLES REC CENTER” BY HELPING
BUY NEW ALL-STARS BASKETBALL
UNIFORMS**

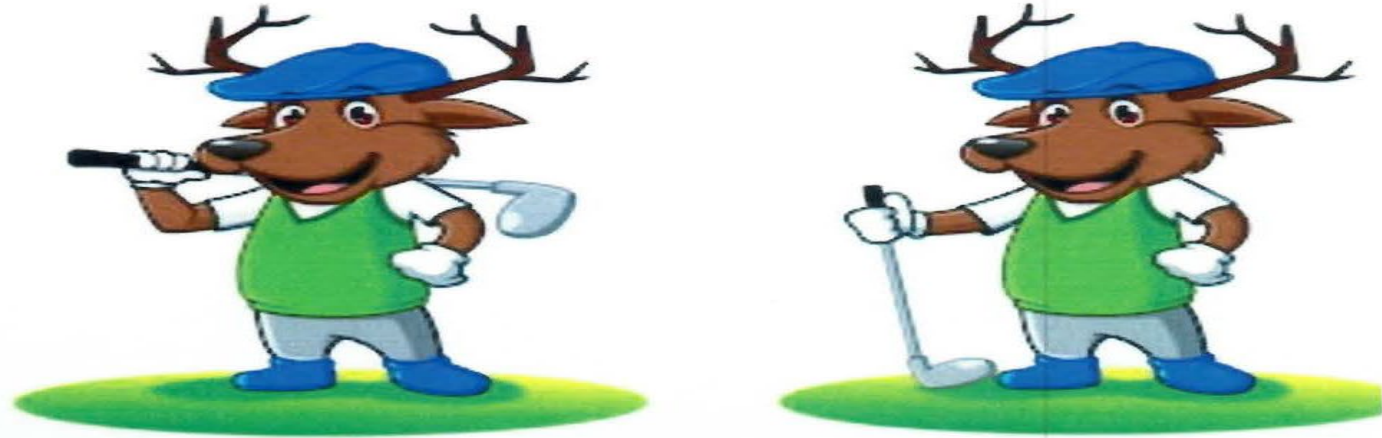


MEMBERS & GUESTS ONLY

WHEN: JANUARY 16TH 2026 5:00PM-8:00PM

WHERE: 729 FRONT ST NEEDLES CA 92363

13. ELKS JUNIOR GOLF LEAGUE



NEEDLES ELKS LODGE #1608 JUNIOR GOLF LEAGUE

Needles Elks Lodge #1608 in association with River Edge, Los Lagos and Huukan Golf Courses is proud to present a Junior Golf League for students in 6th grade thru 9th grade.

This is an opportunity for students to learn about golf and get time on three beautiful courses in our local area.

There is no cost to the students for the league!

The students will play at each course three times between January and March and on the final day of the league, the Elks will host a luncheon for the students and their immediate families at the Lodge located at 10000 Lillyhill Drive Needles Ca. 92363.

The League will start on January 24, 2026, at the Rivers Edge Golf Course at noon PST. All Arizona courses start at 1PM Arizona time and Rivers Edge are at noon PST.

1/31/26 Los Lagos
2/21/26 Rivers Edge
3/14/26 Huukan

2/7/26/26 Huukan
2/28/26 Huukan
3/21/26 Rivers Edge

2/14/26 Los Lagos
3/7/26 Los Lagos

Locations are subject to change based on availability of the golf course.

TO SIGN UP PLEASE TEXT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO 917-797-1205

Student Name
School Attending

Guardian(s) Name
Grade

Contact Number:
Age

For further information you may contact the League Coordinator:
Brian Dooley at 917-882-9711

15. NEEDLES WOMEN'S CLUB FUNDRAISER

TURKEY SOUP, SALAD, CORNBREAD & DESSERT

FUNDRAISER FOR NEEDLES WOMEN'S CLUB



\$10

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13
LUNCH & DESSERT ONLY \$10

Order for pick up or delivery
<https://bit.ly/TurkeyWC>

*Making a Difference
in Needles*



17. ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OPEN HOUSE



Open House



Before



After

* Come join us for the dedication of our new pantry and see the other improvements we have made to our facility.

Come and see behind the scenes.

We will be serving food and drinks to those that come.

January 12th, 2026, 5 to 6 p.m.

Saint Vincent De Paul

839 Front st. Needles CA 92363

RSVP to George.deleon78@yahoo.com

Cell 928-299-9872

www.svdpneedles.org