



City of Needles

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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: April 10, 2026

1. **League of Cities – Desert Mountain Division Meeting**

Today, the City of Needles hosted the League of California Cities Desert Mountain Division meeting at the historic El Garces, welcoming representatives from across the region for collaboration and policy discussion. The City would like to thank Mayor Jernigan, Vice Mayor Campbell, Mike Thornton, and City staff for their efforts in making the event a success. The City Manager also provided an update on the City's Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Program and related legislation, highlighting Needles as the only city in California where OHVs are permitted to operate on Historic Route 66, supporting connectivity, tourism, and local economic activity. Hosting this meeting supports the City Council's goals of strengthening regional partnerships, promoting tourism, and enhancing Needles' role as the Gateway to California.

2. **PublicCEO Feature – T-Mobile Hometown Grant**

The City of Needles was recently featured in PublicCEO, a statewide publication reaching over 18,000 local government leaders, highlighting the City's receipt of a \$50,000 T-Mobile Hometown Grant for the Route 66 Arch Project. The article recognized Needles as one of only 25 communities nationwide selected from nearly 900 applications, underscoring the City's continued success in securing competitive funding. The grant will support development of a Route 66-themed gateway arch near Train Park, enhancing the downtown corridor and visitor experience. This recognition not only brings positive statewide visibility to Needles, but also reinforces the City's ongoing efforts to invest in economic development, tourism, and community revitalization aligned with City Council goals.

3. **NBC Palm Springs Feature – Route 66 Segment**

The City of Needles was recently featured in an upcoming segment of *The New Mindset of the Coachella Valley*, airing on NBC Palm Springs. As part of the program's focus on regional leaders and community stories, Mayor Janet Jernigan participated in an interview highlighting Needles' connection to Historic Route 66 and the City's role in the upcoming 100th Anniversary. The segment, facilitated by Jose Esparza, includes discussion on the City's history, community identity, and opportunities tied to the Route 66 Centennial. The feature is

scheduled to begin promotional airing on **May 16, 2026**, as part of a broader Route 66 special. This exposure supports the City Council's goals of promoting tourism, strengthening economic development, and enhancing Needles' visibility as a key destination along Historic Route 66.

4. River Cruizers Car Show Recognition

This week, the Mayor received a token of appreciation from the River Cruizers Car Club for the City's partnership and support of the "Cruisin' the Century" Car Show. The event drew strong participation, with 61 vehicles showcased, highlighting the success of Route 66-themed tourism and community events. The City's 1923 American LaFrance Fire Truck earned the Mayor's Pick Award, celebrating Needles' unique history and character. This event supports the City Council's goals of fostering economic growth and tourism while strengthening community engagement. River Cruizers has also announced a follow-up Route 66 Centennial Car Show on **November 14, 2026**, which the City plans to co-sponsor to extend visitation and maximize economic impact. This continued partnership reinforces Needles' identity as a premier Route 66 destination and supports ongoing efforts to activate downtown and promote local businesses.

5. Rivers Edge Golf Course Events & Tournament Update

The City continues to support recreational opportunities that enhance quality of life for residents. Rivers Edge Golf Course will host the Dwarf Car Nationals Golf Tournament in partnership with Mohave Valley Raceway on **April 17, 2026**, followed by the Spring Fling Golf Tournament on **April 23, 2026**. The Twilight League begins on **April 21, 2026**, offering weekly play with space still available for two additional teams. Looking ahead, the 27th Annual Flip Mendez Youth Fundraiser Golf Tournament on **May 2, 2026**, is officially sold out with 162 players and 54 teams—the largest turnout in the event's history. The City recognizes JJ DeLeon and the Rivers Edge Golf Course staff for their strong efforts in organizing these events, which support the City Council's goals of promoting recreation, strengthening community engagement, and supporting local economic activity.

6. Beach Preparation & Beautification Efforts

The City continues to take pride in maintaining clean, safe, and enjoyable public spaces for residents. This week, Public Works crews made strong progress preparing Bob Belt Beach Park and Jack Smith Park for the summer season, completing beach grooming, vegetation removal, and site cleanup to improve accessibility, safety, and overall usability along the Colorado River. Crews also completed installation of new restroom countertops at Ed Perry Park, further enhancing the quality, cleanliness, and durability of park facilities ahead of increased seasonal use. In addition, staff refreshed crosswalk striping at J Street and Bailey to improve pedestrian visibility and safety. These efforts preserve the natural beauty of our riverfront for everyday community use while also enhancing the visitor experience and supporting local businesses. This work supports the City Council's goals of enhancing public spaces, strengthening community pride, and promoting safe and accessible recreational opportunities throughout the City.

7. **Father-Daughter Dance – Cindi’s Kids**

Tomorrow, Cindi’s Kids will host their annual Father-Daughter Dance at the Needles Recreation Center for daughters ages 3–18. This longstanding event provides a meaningful opportunity for families to connect and create lasting memories in a safe and welcoming environment. The City would like to recognize Jennifer Valenzuela and Recreation Center staff for their continued efforts in activating City facilities and delivering quality programming for our residents. Their work ensures our community spaces are not only maintained, but actively used in ways that bring people together. Events like this strengthen community bonds and support family-focused activities. This effort supports the City Council’s goals of enhancing community engagement, promoting family-friendly opportunities, and fostering a connected and vibrant community.

8. **Animal Shelter Spay & Neuter Clinic Update**

This week, the Needles Animal Shelter hosted a fully booked spay and neuter clinic, serving 46 animals. Led by Dr. Angelina Beeks of Angel’s Touch Mobile Veterinary Clinic, this biannual program—established in April 2022—continues to provide a critical local service, eliminating the need for residents to travel out of state. A deposit is required to secure appointments, with the majority of costs offset through Animal Shelter donations. As part of the clinic, all dogs are licensed prior to leaving, ensuring compliance with City requirements and promoting responsible pet ownership. The City extends its appreciation to Dr. Beeks and her team for their continued partnership. This effort supports the City Council’s goals of enhancing quality of life, strengthening community services, and promoting public safety.

9. **Tri-State Community Healthcare Easter Egg Hunt – Update**

The Fourth Annual Needles Easter Egg Hunt, hosted by Tri-State Community Healthcare at Jack Smith Park, was a great success, with strong attendance and families from across the community enjoying a fun-filled morning. With over 5,000 eggs, activities, and appearances by the Easter Bunny, the event created memorable experiences for children and families alike. The turnout and energy at the event reflect the strong sense of community in Needles. The City extends its appreciation to Tri-State Community Healthcare, event partners, volunteers, and community leaders, including Mayor Jernigan, for their efforts in making the event a success. Their continued commitment highlights the value of community partnerships and supports the City Council’s goals of enhancing community engagement and promoting family-friendly activities.

10. **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.

11. **Staff Recognition – Code Enforcement Certification**

The City of Needles proudly congratulates Ray Bernasconi on earning his California Association of Code Enforcement Officers (CACEO) Certification, officially recognizing him as a CACEO Certified Code Enforcement Officer. This professional achievement reflects Mr. Bernasconi's dedication to his field and commitment to serving the community. His continued growth supports the City's investment in workforce development and reinforces our commitment to maintaining a high standard of public service.

1. CAL CITIES DESERT MOUNTAIN DIVISION



2. PUBLICCEO FEATURE



Updating Our Readers With California's Local Government News



BBK
BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP

2026 California Election Law Toolkit
Now Available

A user-friendly manual that provides resources and forms for local elections officials to conduct California municipal elections.

[Click here for details and purchase.](#)



EP. 57: PEGGY FLYNN
A VIDEO & PODCAST SERIES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT NERDS

Hello Patrick,

In this edition:

- The City of Palmdale promotes four staff members to key leadership positions.
- The City of Needles receives \$50,000 in grant funding for the creation of a local drive-through gateway feature.

Read these headlines and more in today's newsletter.



Needles receives \$50,000 T-Mobile Hometown Grant for Route 66 Arch Project

The City was selected as one of just 25 communities nationwide as part of the grants program, which will support the development of the Route 66 Arch project, a drive-through gateway feature planned near Train Park along Front Street.

[Read More](#)

3. NBC PALM SPRINGS FEATURE – ROUTE 66



4. RIVERS CRUIZERS CAR CLUB



5. RIVERS EDGE GOLF COURSE



April 17 2026

3 Man Scramble
8:00 am Shotgun Start
Limited number of teams!
Hole in one \$100 to win
Longest Drive competition
CASH & PRIZES
Entry \$50.00 per player

Text team info to
928-234-6813

THE EDGE PRESENTS
2026 TWILIGHT LEAGUE

BEGINS APRIL 21st '26

- WEEKLY GAMES
- 5-PERSON TEAMS (1 ALTERNATE)
- DIFFERENT FORMATS EACH WEEK
- HANDICAPS TBD BY SCORES
- WEEKLY PAYOUTS
- LIMITED TO FIRST 8 TEAMS



NOW TAKING TEAM ENTRIES
\$25 EACH WEEK PER PLAYER
WEEKLY GAMES: SKINS/KP



MORE INFO AT WWW.GOLFNEEDLESCA.COM
TEL: 760 326-3931

6. CITY BEAUTIFICATION









OPERATED BY:
TRANSPORTATION CONCEPTS
CA 43399

STARCRRAFT



7. ANIMAL SHELTER CLINIC



8. CINDI'S KIDS DANCE

YOU'RE INVITED TO CINDI'S KIDS

Daddy. Daughter DISCO

APRIL 11, 2026

6:00-8:00 PM

NEEDLES REC CENTER

COUPLES \$15, ADDITIONAL
DAUGHTERS \$5
AGES 3-18

PICTURES AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE. SNACKS &
DRINKS PROVIDED!

*PLEASE REMEMBER
FATHER'S INCLUDE GRAND
FATHERS, UNCLES, BIG
BROTHERS, & PROXY DADS*

9. EASTER EGG HUNT

