



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: February 20, 2026

1. Needles “Grub with a Cop” – Community Engagement Event

The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department Colorado River Station will host “Grub with a Cop” on **February 25, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.** at River City Pizza Co., located at 1901 Needles Highway. This community engagement event provides residents the opportunity to enjoy lunch and casual conversation with the Captain and his team in an informal setting. Events such as this strengthen relationships between law enforcement and the community, foster open dialogue, and reinforce public trust. The City appreciates the Sheriff’s Department for their continued commitment to community involvement and partnership. This effort aligns with the City Council’s goal of promoting public safety, collaboration, and positive community engagement throughout Needles.

2. Utility Response – Pole Fire on River Road

Earlier this week, the City’s Electric Department responded to a reported pole fire on River Road. Utility crews arrived promptly, secured the area, and extinguished the fire to prevent further damage and ensure public safety. Thanks to the diligent efforts of City staff, the incident resulted in only a limited and temporary power outage. Power was restored safely and efficiently following inspection and necessary repairs. The City extends its appreciation to the Utility team for their swift response, professionalism, and continued commitment to maintaining reliable service when unexpected incidents occur.

3. 19th Hole Bar & Grill Remodel – ADA Improvements

Work continues on the 19th Hole Bar & Grill kitchen remodel at River’s Edge Golf Course, with ADA-related upgrades now complete, including installation of a new accessible ramp system serving the restaurant and clubhouse. These improvements are part of the broader \$500,039 project to modernize the kitchen and bring the facility into compliance with current accessibility, health, and building standards. The accessibility upgrades align with the City’s ongoing ADA Transition Plan update, and the City is actively seeking community input as outlined in the attached public notice and flyer. Residents are encouraged to provide feedback through the ADA Transition Plan survey by [clicking here](#). This investment supports the City Council’s goals of strengthening public

infrastructure, enhancing economic activity, and ensuring inclusive access for residents and visitors alike.

4. **Active Transportation Plan – Community Feedback Needed**

The City continues advancing development of its Active Transportation Plan; however, additional community input is needed to ensure the plan reflects neighborhood priorities and real mobility needs. The plan will guide future investments in pedestrian walking paths, sidewalks, curb and gutter, bike lanes, and overall safety improvements throughout Needles. Participation to date has been limited, and broader feedback will strengthen project prioritization and improve the City's competitiveness for state and federal infrastructure funding. Residents, business owners, and stakeholders are strongly encouraged to provide input through the interactive mapping platform at <https://www.needlesatp.com/provide-input>. Community engagement at this stage is critical to shaping future infrastructure investments.

5. **Spring Cleanup & Community Partnership Initiatives**

Over the next several weeks, the City, in collaboration with San Bernardino County and community partners, will advance coordinated spring cleanup efforts throughout Needles. The Community Cleanup Day will take place **February 28, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.** at Third Street and J Street. The City will provide bags, pickers, and gloves, and residents of all ages are encouraged to participate in this one-hour volunteer effort to beautify the corridor. The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event, previously announced, will occur on **March 7, 2026, from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** at the Needles City Yard, 112 Robuffa Street, providing safe disposal of household hazardous materials. The City will also host a Bulky Waste Drop-Off Event on **March 21, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (or until containers are full)** at multiple neighborhood locations to reduce illegal dumping and neighborhood blight. Collectively, these initiatives reflect a proactive and collaborative approach to beautification, public safety, and community pride as we prepare for Route 66 Centennial activities and increased visitor traffic.

6. **Needles Pride – Vegetation Management Reminder**

With the recent rains, staff has observed increased overgrown vegetation throughout portions of the community. Property owners are responsible for maintaining their properties, including vegetation management, to ensure compliance with City standards and preserve overall neighborhood appearance. The Needles Pride Program continues to encourage residents and businesses to take pride in their properties through regular landscaping maintenance, proper storage, and code compliance. Keeping vegetation trimmed and removing weeds enhances curb appeal, supports public safety, and strengthens neighborhood resilience. This effort reflects the City Council's commitment to maintaining clean, safe, and well-maintained neighborhoods through shared responsibility and community partnership. Residents may report concerns by calling 760-326-2115 (press #9) or by using the Needles Connect app, available on the [Google Play Store \(Android\)](#) and [Apple Store \(iOS\)](#). The 2026 Needles Pride informational flyer will be included with upcoming utility billing statements to expand community awareness and encourage participation. Together, we are building a cleaner, safer, and stronger Needles.

7. **Route 66 100th Anniversary Kickoff Event**

More than 500 residents and visitors from across the region gathered at El Garces on **February 14, 2026**, for the Route 66 100th Anniversary Kickoff. The event was hosted and organized by the Friends of the El Garces and featured a Classic Car Show with 66 pre-1975 vehicles competing for awards including Best in Show and People’s Choice, activating the historic downtown corridor. This year’s Best in Show award was presented to a restored 1953 Buick Super Estate Wagon, highlighting the caliber of vehicles showcased during the celebration. Participants included the Needles Museum, Needles BLM Office, Official California Historic Route 66 Association, Supervisor Dawn Rowe’s Field Representative Steve Reyes, and the Pharaohs Car Club, whose members provided strong representation. The City supported and promoted the event as part of its broader Centennial recognition efforts. This milestone celebration advances the City Council’s goals of promoting tourism, enhancing community engagement, and strengthening economic activity within the downtown core.

8. **Route 66 Centennial Utility Box Art Unveiling**

Immediately following the Red Dog Saloon Ribbon Cutting on **February 28, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.**, the City will host a brief unveiling of the Route 66 Centennial Utility Box Art Project at 914 W Broadway Street. As authorized by the City Council, this public art initiative transforms multiple electrical utility boxes into vibrant works celebrating Needles’ historic role along Route 66. The project reflects the City’s continued commitment to beautification and enhancing the visitor experience in high-visibility downtown locations. By turning everyday infrastructure into artistic displays, the City is reinforcing community pride while supporting corridor activation. This unveiling highlights the partnership between public improvements and private reinvestment as we continue building momentum toward the Route 66 Centennial year.

9. **River Cruizers “Cruizin’ the Century” Car Show**

The Route 66 Centennial celebrations continue with the River Cruizers hosting the **“Cruizin’ the Century” Car Show on March 28, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** along Route 66 in front of the El Garces at 950 Front Street. The event is hosted by the Friends of the El Garces and welcomes all years, makes, and models of cars, trucks, and motorcycles. Vehicle registration is available at the show with a \$20 entry fee, and participants are encouraged to bring a completed entry form. For additional information, contact Dave Hasenwinkle at (206) 947-0997 or Danny Moran at (909) 226-7437. This car show will take place in addition to the River Valley Artists Guild’s Art in the Park Show & Sale, creating a full weekend of activity in the El Garces cultural corridor and further activating downtown during the Centennial year.

10. **Recreation Center Programming Reminder**

The City of Needles Recreation Center reminds residents that open gym hours are available to the public Monday through Thursday, including indoor pickleball from **9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** Equipment for pickleball is provided on-site, and children must be accompanied by an adult. Open gym basketball and pickleball share the same space, offering flexible indoor recreation options for residents of all ages. These programs support the City Council’s priorities of promoting health, community engagement, and active use of public facilities. Residents are

encouraged to participate and take advantage of these opportunities to stay active at the Recreation Center.

11. **Needles Sunday Farmers Market at Santa Fe Park**

The Needles Sunday Farmers Market continues to draw residents and visitors to Santa Fe Park each week, supporting local vendors and small businesses. Hosted by Tumbleweed Markets Inc., the market features a rotating selection of fresh produce, baked goods, coffee, flowers, handmade items, and other locally made products. The market is held every Sunday through **March 31, 2026**, from **8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** at Santa Fe Park. New vendors continue to join the lineup, expanding opportunities for local entrepreneurs and artisans. This ongoing event supports the City Council's goals for community engagement and local economic vitality. Vendor information is available by contacting Market Manager Patrick Lauterio at (760) 848-8289 or needlesfarmers@gmail.com.

12. **Welcome New Public Servants**

City staff is pleased to welcome J.R. Rodriguez and Allen Cox as the newest members of the City's advisory boards. J.R. Rodriguez has joined the Parks and Recreation Commission, which advises the City Council on parks, recreation programs, facility improvements, and community engagement initiatives. Allen Cox has joined the Planning Commission, which advises the City Council on land use, subdivisions, and zoning matters. The Commissions review matters within their respective jurisdictions, provide policy recommendations to the City Council, and play an important role in supporting responsible growth, community engagement, and overall quality of life throughout the City. We appreciate their willingness to serve and contribute their time and expertise to the continued progress of the City.

13. **Needles Elks Lodge #1608 See's Candy Fundraiser**

The Needles Elks Lodge #1608 is hosting a See's Candy fundraiser to benefit the Elks Junior Golf Program. Orders may be placed in person at the Elks Lodge, 1000 Lillyhill Drive, or online by clicking the link below. All orders must be submitted by **March 15, 2026**, and will ship no later than **March 20, 2026**, in time for Easter. Proceeds will directly support youth golf programming and development opportunities within the community. For additional information, please contact Brian Dooley at (917) 882-9711 or the Elks Lodge at (760) 326-1608. Online ordering is available at: [Click here to order See's Candy](#)

14. **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.

1. GRUB WITH A COP



NEEDLES COME

GRUB

WITH A COP

**WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 25
11:00 A.M.**



**ENJOY LUNCH & CASUAL CONVERSATION
WITH THE CAPTAIN & HIS TEAM**



**ORDER AHEAD
(760) 326-9191**

RIVER CITY PIZZA CO.

**1901 NEEDLES HWY
NEEDLES, CA**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MISTI HUNT (909) 326-9200

2. UTILITY RESPONSE POLE FIRE



3. ADA IMPROVEMENTS GOLF COURSE



3. ADA TRANSITION PLAN



Public Notice and Posting City of Needles



In keeping with its ongoing efforts to serve all members of the public, the City of Needles is updating its Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) self-evaluation and transition plan. The accessibility plan provides a comprehensive plan for accessibility for persons with disabilities to City facilities, programs, services, activities and events.

The City is seeking input from the community and organizations assisting persons with disabilities. Your feedback will assist in addressing and prioritizing current and future accessibility needs.

Your comments and opinions are important to us and will provide valuable information regarding how the City can better serve persons with disabilities.

Surveys for the public and for organizations are available from the City's ADA/504 Coordinator and on the City's website at

<https://www.cityofneedles.com/government/americans-with-disabilities-act/>

You can also send an email or call the ADA/504 Coordinator with your comments and suggestions without completing a survey.

Kathy Raasch, ADA/504 Coordinator
City of Needles
817 Third Street
Needles, CA 92363
Phone: (760) 326-2113 ext. 126
ada@cityofneedles.com
TTY through California Relay at: 7-1-1

Scan the code to take the survey from your mobile device!



Please contact Kathy Raasch, ADA/504 Coordinator, if you have questions or comments or would like to request a survey in an alternate format.

Information regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act can be obtained from the ADA/504 Coordinator.

The City of Needles complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Public Law 101-336, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability.

The City of Needles will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy.

4. ATP COMMUNITY OUTREACH

THE CITY OF NEEDLES IS DEVELOPING THEIR ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN, WE NEED YOUR INPUT!



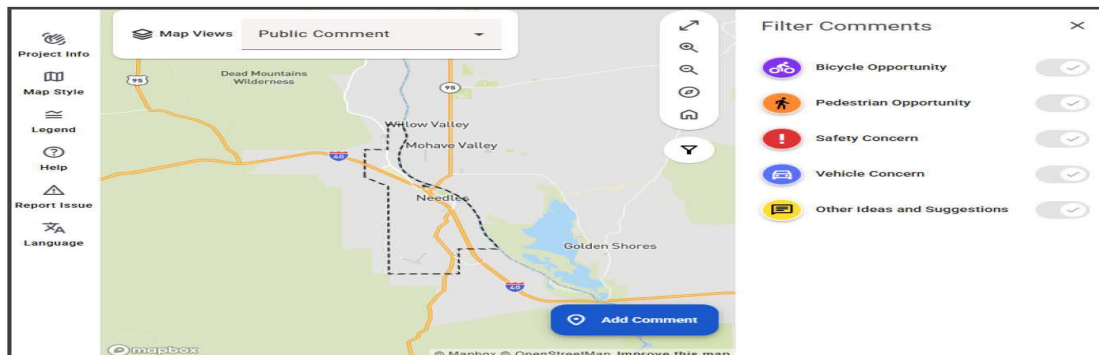
Active Transportation Plan

How will this impact me?

The Active Transportation Plan aims to create safe, connected, and reliable active transportation for nearby residents and businesses in the area! Whether you walk, bike, or drive to your next destination, the focus is to meet the community need for a better, connected environment!



Interactive Map Preview



Goals for ATP

- Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Strengthening the Economy
- Improving Public Health & Environment

Get Involved

- Share an Idea on the Interactive map at www.NeedlesATP.com
- Sign up for alerts by scanning the QR code
- Call **760-326-2113** or email info@NeedlesATP.com



5. SPRING CLEANUP INITIATIVES

CITY OF NEEDLES RESIDENTS ONLY

BULKY WASTE DROP-OFF EVENT

FREE DISPOSAL OF TRASH & BULKY ITEMS

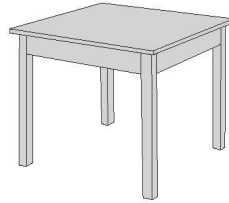
SEE LIST BELOW FOR WHAT IS NOT ACCEPTED



**Saturday, March 21st,
2025**

- 8 am to noon -

Event will end earlier
if container equipment is full



Locations: Gates (Safari Drive), North K (Near Underpass), Vista (Nikki Bunch Ball Field), & Cibola (Robuffa) Subdivisions

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Rainie Torrance, rtorrance@cityofneedles.com, 760-326-2115 ext 140

**NOT
ACCEPTED**

- Hazardous Waste of any kind
- Commercial Waste
- Industrial Waste from businesses
- Motor Oil/Used Filters
- Household Cleaners
- Sharp Objects/Needles
- Fluorescent Tubes
- Space Heaters
- Musical Cards
- Radioactive Wastes
- Non-Sharp Medical Waste
- Wastes from foreclosed properties
- Auto & Household Batteries
- Pesticides & Fertilizers
- TV's & Computer Monitors
- Microwave Ovens
- Stereos or Radios
- Clothes Irons
- Medical Waste
- Tire/Appliances
- Non-Sharp Medical Waste
- Antifreeze
- Medications
- CPU's & Printers
- Telephone/Cellphones
- VCRs/DVD Player
- Asbestos
- Air Conditioners

SPRING INTO ACTION

Community Cleanup Day

**Third St/J Street
Saturday, February 28, 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

5. SPRING CLEANUP INITIATIVES

Needles Residents:

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

March 07, 2026 | 7a.m. to 11a.m.

Needles City Yard, 112 Robuffa Street, Needles, CA 92363



Funded By
CalRecycle

We Accept...

- Antifreeze
- Auto & Household Batteries
- Computer Monitors, TVs
- CPUs, Printers
- Fluorescent Tubes
- Home-Generated Sharps/Needles in approved container
- Household Cleaners
- Medications – separate liquids from solids (excluding controlled substances)
- Microwave Ovens
- Motor Oil/Used Filters
- Musical Cards, Clothes Irons
- Paint Products
- Pesticides & Fertilizers
- Space Heaters, Stereos, Radios
- Telephones
- VCRs/DVD Players

We Do NOT Accept...

- Asbestos
- Business/Commercial Wastes
- Explosives
- Medical Wastes other than sharps
- Radioactive Wastes
- Reactives
- Tire, Appliances, Furniture, Air Conditioner, etc.
- Wastes from foreclosed properties & non-profit organizations

Take the last step! Recycle your USED MOTOR OIL and OIL FILTERS!

- Dumping used oil (or any chemical) is a crime – legally and environmentally
- Dumped oil contaminates ground water – our drinking water source
- Used oil is insoluble and can contain toxic chemicals
- Used oil kills plant and aquatic life
- One pint of used oil can create an acre-sized oil slick on surface waters



Remember when recycling oil to...

- Drain your oil from cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, recreational vehicles, lawnmowers, etc., into a reusable, sealable container.
- Do not dump oil on the ground, in the gutter or storm drain, or throw in the trash
- Do not mix anything with the oil (water, paint, pesticides, diesel, antifreeze or gasoline)

Before transporting, be sure that...

- Waste is properly labeled or in its original container
- The container is no larger than 5 gallons. Transport no more than 15 gallons or 125 lbs.
- Containers are sound and not leaking
- Sharps/needles must be placed in approved containers. Sharps/needles will not be accepted in plastic bags, coffee cans, milk jugs, or soda cans
- Waste is securely placed in the back of the vehicle for safe transport

The following guidelines apply:

- Household Hazardous Waste ONLY. No Business-Generated Waste Accepted
- San Bernardino County Residents ONLY. Identification will be required
- No Early Birds (waste brought before 7:00a.m. will not be accepted)
- Waste must be accepted by County Fire Protection District personnel
- Remain in vehicle at all times

For questions or more information, contact:

San Bernardino County Fire Protection District,
Household Hazardous Waste Program

909-382-5401 or

1-800-OILY-CAT (1-800-645-9228)

Visit Sbcfire.org/hhw

Cosponsored by San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors,
City of Needles, and San Bernardino County Fire Protection District



6. 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.

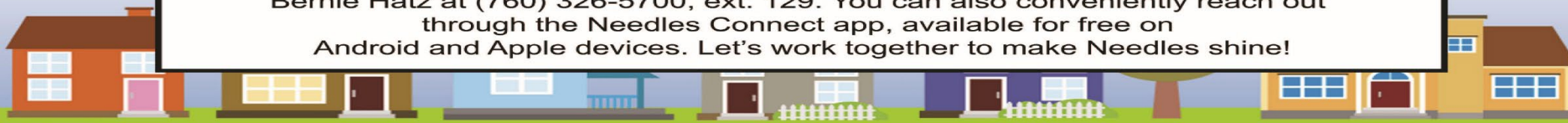


Bulky Items

Keep sidewalks clear of discarded households 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!



7. ROUTE 66 CENTENNIAL KICKOFF EVENT



7. ROUTE 66 CENTENNIAL KICKOFF EVENT



7. ROUTE 66 CENTENNIAL KICKOFF EVENT



8. ROUTE 66 UTILITY BOX ART UNVEILING



9. ROUTE 66 CENTENNIAL

Cruizin' the Century

Rt. 66 Centennial Car Show
On the street in front of El Garces Hotel • Needles, CA



Show your car \$20 • Register at the Show

Saturday
March 28, 2026
9am - 2pm CA Time

River Cruizers welcomes all makes & models
of cars, trucks, and motorcycles.

100th Anniversary
of Route 66
1926 2026

- Show Plaques
- 50/50 Drawing
- T-shirt Sales
- Food Trucks

For show info:
Dave Hasenwinkle cell (206) 947-0997
Danny Moran cell (909) 226-7437
Thank you for helping us support our community!

More events in the park: River Valley Art Guild • Friends of El Garces

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

THIRD ANNUAL

ART in the PARK

AT EL GARCES, NEEDLES, CA

River Valley Artists Guild, Inc.

Needles Art In The Park Show & Sale

Show dates: March 25-28, 2026
Applications: artguildRVAG.com/workshops
Application Deadline Monday, March 16

Submit Your Route 66 100th Anniversary Artwork



Questions Contact: Victoria 951-334-8454 or memberrvag@gmail.com

10. OPEN GYM HOURS



CITY OF NEEDLES

**EXCITING NEWS!!!
THE RECREATION
CENTER NOW HAS
INDOOR PICKLEBALL
AVAILABLE.**

Whether you are a seasoned athlete or new to the game, pickleball offers fun and excitement for players of all ages and skill levels.

Children must
be
accompanied
by an adult



Court availability during open gym hours 9:30am - 12:00pm
Monday - Thursday



Equipment Available

Call the Recreation Center
for more information

760-326-2814



13. NEEDLES ELKS FUNDRAISER

Help us reach our goal! Order by 03/20/2026.

See's CANDIES.

YUM-RAISING NEEDLES ELKS LODGE 1608 EASTER

Bag
(0)

Help Us Reach Our Fundraising Goal

Every item you purchase contributes to our cause.
Thanks for your support!

