



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: July 17, 2026

City Manager's Weekly Highlights

Public Safety & Emergency Response

- Coordinated the City's response to a significant monsoonal storm, including flood monitoring, roadway safety measures, debris removal, public notifications, and restoration efforts following localized flooding and power outages.

Economic Development & Strategic Partnerships

- Hosted the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), the San Bernardino County Economic Development Department, and the California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA) for an economic development briefing and community tour highlighting Needles' investment-ready opportunities.
- Celebrated the ribbon cutting of Custom Decal's & Designs, a new veteran-owned business on Historic Route 66, alongside state, regional, and local partners.

Intergovernmental Affairs

- Participated in Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez's Community Town Hall, strengthening collaboration between state, regional, and local partners while discussing issues important to the Needles community.

Community Investment & Quality of Life

- Recognized America's 250th Anniversary through the City's America 250 Community Celebration in partnership with the Needles Elks Lodge #1608 and celebrated another successful Rivers Edge Junior Golf Camp through strong community partnerships.

Capital Improvements

- Continued progress on the City Hall Awning Project and the redevelopment of the former vacant commercial property at 1611 Needles Highway, reflecting continued public and private investment in the community.

1. **Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) Visit:** Wednesday, July 15, 2026, the City of Needles welcomed Melissa Howlett of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), Ryan Niesen of the San Bernardino County Economic Development Department, and Stephanie Garcia of the California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA) for an economic development visit and community tour. The delegation met with City leadership to discuss Needles' economic development priorities, including housing production, business attraction, industrial and logistics development, infrastructure investment, downtown revitalization, and workforce development. The visit included tours of key development opportunity sites throughout the community and provided an opportunity to highlight Needles' strategic location, recent accomplishments, and investment-ready projects. The City extends its sincere appreciation to Melissa Howlett, GO-Biz, San Bernardino County Economic Development, and CalOSBA for visiting Needles and looks forward to continuing to strengthen these partnerships to support job creation, private investment, housing opportunities, and long-term economic growth in California's eastern gateway.
2. **Storm Response:** A significant monsoonal storm impacted the City on the evening of July 17, 2026, causing localized flooding, roadway debris, temporary road closures, and power outages. City crews responded immediately to protect public safety by monitoring conditions, placing flood warning signs, clearing debris, and restoring safe access throughout the community. The City also issued public safety notifications advising residents to avoid unnecessary travel during the storm. Power has since been fully restored, and Public Works continues cleanup operations in affected areas. Residents can report storm-related damage by calling **760-326-5700** or by using the **Needles Connect** app, available on the [Google Play Store for Android](#) and the [Apple App Store for iOS](#). These reporting tools help City staff identify and respond to issues more quickly.
3. **Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez Town Hall:** On **Wednesday, July 15, 2026**, Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez hosted a community Town Hall at the historic El Garces. The event brought together residents, business owners, members of the City Council, City staff, members of the Needles Public Utility Authority Board of Directors, representatives of Colorado River Medical Center, the Needles Chamber of Commerce, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, the California Highway Patrol, and other community stakeholders. During the Town Hall, Assemblymember Gonzalez provided updates on legislative activities in Sacramento, listened to local concerns, and engaged in meaningful dialogue with attendees. The event provided an important opportunity to strengthen communication and collaboration between state and local partners while providing residents and stakeholders with a forum to discuss issues affecting the Needles community. The City extends its sincere appreciation to Assemblymember Gonzalez for visiting Needles and thanks everyone who participated in the discussion.
4. **Economic Development – Custom Decal's & Designs Ribbon Cutting:** On **July 15, 2026**, the Needles Chamber of Commerce hosted the ribbon-cutting ceremony for **Custom Decal's & Designs**, a new veteran-owned business

located on Historic Route 66. The event brought together residents, local leaders, and state and regional partners to celebrate the grand opening and continued investment in Needles' downtown business community. The City extends its sincere appreciation to the **Needles Chamber of Commerce** for organizing the event and for its continued leadership in supporting local businesses and fostering economic growth. Special thanks to

Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez, who attended and presented a legislative commendation recognizing this important milestone, and to representatives from the **California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz)** and the **California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA)** for their participation and support. The City also thanks the many residents and community partners who attended to celebrate this new veteran-owned business. Strong community support for local entrepreneurs strengthens our local economy, encourages private investment, and reinforces the collaborative partnerships that continue to move Needles forward.

5. **Parks & Recreation – America's 250th Anniversary Community**

Celebration: As part of the City's recognition of America's 250th Anniversary, the Parks and Recreation Department designated its annual Fourth of July Swim Party as the City's America 250 Community Celebration at the Needles Aquatics Center. Hosted in partnership with the Needles Elks Lodge #1608, the free event brought together families for an afternoon of swimming, patriotic games, relay races, contests, food, prizes, the annual Treasure Dive, and the crowning of Miss Freedom and Mr. Firecracker. The City extends its sincere appreciation to the **Needles Elks Lodge #1608** for its partnership and continued support, as well as to the Parks and Recreation staff, lifeguards, volunteers, and residents who helped make the event a success. Events such as these strengthen civic pride, provide meaningful recreational opportunities for families, and reflect the City's commitment to celebrating our nation's history while bringing people together.

6. **City Hall Awning Project – Construction Update:** Construction on the City Hall Awning Project began in March and is now nearing completion. The approximately **\$220,012** project modernizes the City's primary public building by enhancing the main entrance with a new architectural awning, improved lighting, and upgraded pedestrian access. The improvements provide greater weather protection, increase safety by improving visibility along the primary walkway during evening hours, and enhance accessibility for residents, visitors, and employees. In addition to these functional benefits, the project improves the overall appearance of City Hall, strengthens civic pride, and demonstrates the City's continued commitment to investing in safe, attractive, and well-maintained public facilities.

7. **Youth Golf Camp – Community Partnership:** The **2026 Rivers Edge Junior Golf Camp** concluded with another successful season of instruction and youth development at Rivers Edge Golf Course. Throughout the program, participants strengthened their golf skills while learning the values of sportsmanship, discipline, teamwork, and perseverance. A highlight of the camp was the annual **Putting Challenge** with deputies from the **San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department – Colorado River Station**, providing campers with a unique

opportunity to interact with local law enforcement through friendly competition and positive mentorship. The City extends its sincere appreciation to **Captain Jacob Gault** for his leadership and continued support of youth programs, as well as to the **San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department – Colorado River Station** and **River Daze** for their ongoing investment in the camp. The City also thanks Golf Professional **JJ DeLeon**, and the many volunteers whose dedication made this year's program a success. Programs such as the Rivers Edge Junior Golf Camp demonstrate the value of strong community partnerships and the positive impact they have on the lives of Needles' youth.

8. **Off The Charts Retail Development – Construction Update:** Renovations are nearing completion at **1611 Needles Highway**, where Off The Charts is preparing to open a new retail business following City approval of a Conditional Use Permit. The project transformed a long-vacant and deteriorated commercial building into a fully renovated, code-compliant facility through significant private investment. Improvements included comprehensive building rehabilitation, façade enhancements, ADA accessibility upgrades, new lighting, landscaping, parking lot improvements, and modern security features. The redevelopment eliminates a long-standing blighted property, enhances the appearance of the Needles Highway commercial corridor, supports local job creation, expands the City's retail tax base, and demonstrates continued private investment in the community.
9. **Community Events Calendar Now Live:** The City's new website now features a [Community Events Calendar](#)—a centralized location for community events, public meetings, and civic programs. Local organizations are invited to submit or update events through the City Clerk's Office to help keep the calendar current and inclusive. Residents can subscribe and sync the calendar to mobile devices for real-time updates, making it easier to stay informed about local events and civic activities.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & RECOGNITION

- I. **Community Partnership – Back-to-School Supply Drive:** Local business **Smashed Burgers** is hosting a Back-to-School Supply Drive this Saturday to benefit local students and families as they prepare for the upcoming school year. The event encourages community members to donate school supplies while providing a family-friendly opportunity to support a meaningful cause. The City appreciates local businesses that invest in the community and partner in efforts that help meet the needs of local students while strengthening community engagement.
- II. **Community Health – Sports Physicals:** Tri-State Community Healthcare is offering sports physicals on **Saturday, July 18, 2026, and Saturday, July 25, 2026**, at its Needles Clinic to help local students prepare for the upcoming school year and athletic season. The program is available to insured, uninsured, and underinsured patients, helping ensure students have access to the medical clearance needed to participate in school sports. This community partnership promotes student health and wellness, reduces barriers to participation, and reflects a shared commitment to supporting the success of Needles' youth.

- III. **Beat the Heat Night Pool Party:** Tri-State Community Healthcare, in partnership with Route 66 Pharmacy, will host a **FREE Beat the Heat Night Pool Party** on **Saturday, August 1, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** at the **Needles Pool (1661 J Street)**. The family-friendly community event will feature free swimming, inflatable water slides, music, complimentary hot dogs, chips, and drinks, and free admission for all attendees. Residents are encouraged to attend and enjoy an evening of family fun while connecting with friends and neighbors. The City extends its sincere appreciation to Tri-State Community Healthcare for its continued partnership and investment in the Needles community through its mission of **"Working in the Community for the Community."**
- IV. **Rivers Edge Golf Course – 4th Annual Night Golf Tournament:** Rivers Edge Golf Course will host its 4th Annual Night Golf Tournament on Saturday, August 1, 2026. This signature annual event continues to attract golfers from throughout the region for a unique evening of recreation and friendly competition. The tournament highlights the City's commitment to providing high-quality recreational opportunities while showcasing Rivers Edge Golf Course as a regional destination. Events such as these increase utilization of City facilities, support tourism and the local economy, and reinforce the golf course's role as an important community asset.
- V. **Putt for the Purple Pig Charity Golf Tournament:** The Needles Elks Lodge #1608 has announced its 3rd Annual "Putt for the Purple Pig" Charity Golf Tournament, scheduled for Saturday, October 10, 2026, at Rivers Edge Golf Course. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the California-Hawaii Elks Association Major Project, which provides services to children with disabilities at no cost to their families. The event will feature a three-person scramble, followed by awards and lunch at the Needles Elks Lodge. The Elks Lodge is currently seeking sponsors for the tournament.

I. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE VISIT (GO-BIZ)



2. STORM RESPONSE



2. STORM RESPONSE



3. ASSEMBLY MEMBER TOWN HALL



4. CUSTOM DECAL'S RIBBON CUTTING



5. AMERICA'S 250 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



6. CITY AWNING PROJECT



7. YOUTH GOLF CAMP PARTNERSHIP



8. COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE



COMMUNITY EVENTS I & II



COME TO
BACK to SCHOOL
ONE DAY EVENT!
THIS SATURDAY!

EXCEPTING SCHOOL DONATIONS!
Help local students start the school year with what they need!

WITH EVERY DONATION YOU COULD GET AN ICE CREAM SUNDAE!

ENJOY A BOUNCE HOUSE! FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

SPONSORED BY:
SMASHED BURGERS
NEEDLES, CA | PORT MONROVE, AZ
ESTABLISHED 2024

2205 NEEDLES HIGHWAY
★ **NEEDLES, CA** ★



tri-state
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

SPORTS PHYSICALS
=JOIN US ON THESE DATES=

SATURDAY 7/18 *And* **SATURDAY 7/25**

OR

Insured, Uninsured, and Underinsured Patients Are Welcome!!

Flat Rate FEE of \$25

NEEDLES CLINIC
820 W. BROADWAY ST.
NEEDLES, CA 92363

COMMUNITY EVENTS III & IV



4th ANNUAL NIGHT GOLF TOURNAMENT

SAT 2026
AUG 1ST

Rivers Edge
Golf Course
8:00PM Shotgun Start

\$60 PER PLAYER
2-Person Scramble

DEADLINE TO SIGNUP
JULY 29TH, 2026

CONTACT: PRO SHOP
(760) 326-3931

This event is
sponsored by

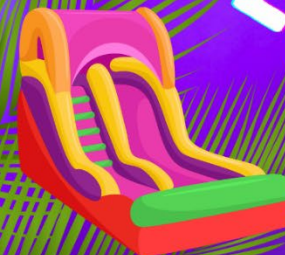
tri-state
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE



FREE
ENTRY

6:00-9:00 PM
SATURDAY - AUGUST 1
CITY POOL - 1661 J STREET

NIGHT POOL PARTY
NEEDLES, CA



Free hot dogs, drink & chips
Water Bouncy House Slides
Family Friendly Event

