



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: June 26, 2026

Major Accomplishments This Week

Economic Development

- Officially launched California's first Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Pilot Program connecting downtown to Bureau of Land Management trail systems.
- Released the first installment of the City's Live • Work • Play economic development campaign.

Federal & State Partnerships

- Hosted a federal partnership visit with the Office of U.S. Senator Adam Schiff to discuss infrastructure, healthcare, housing, and economic development priorities.
- Received legislative recognition from Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez highlighting the OHMV Pilot Program and AB 1756.

Tourism & Community Branding

- Featured in the official Visit California Passport to California Route 66 Centennial publication.
- Advanced improvements to the City's Route 66 gateway signage and branding.
- Received regional and national media recognition promoting Needles as a premier outdoor recreation and tourism destination.

Community & Quality of Life

- Continued expanding recreation programming through the Morning Water Exercise program.
- Strengthened community partnerships, including the Chamber of Commerce Fireworks Fundraiser, Summer Meal Program, and Fourth of July community events.

1. **OHMV Pilot Program Ribbon Cutting:** This week, the City of Needles officially launched its Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Pilot Program with a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by City officials, project partners, community members, and local businesses. The event marked the culmination of years of planning, public outreach, partner coordination, and implementation. The event also celebrated Needles as the only city in California with a designated OHMV route network connecting riders directly to surrounding Bureau of Land Management trail systems. The program supports the City Council's goals of promoting economic development, expanding recreational opportunities, strengthening tourism, and enhancing partnerships that benefit the community.
2. **Legislative Update:** Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez featured the City of Needles' OHMV Pilot Program in this week's official legislative newsletter. The newsletter highlights the City's launch of the pilot program and notes Assemblymember Gonzalez's AB 1756, which would extend the pilot program. This is another example of the positive regional and statewide recognition the City is receiving for its economic development and recreation initiatives.
3. **OHMV Program Media Recognition:** The launch of the City's Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Pilot Program generated regional and national media coverage. Following the ribbon cutting, Mayor Janet Jernigan participated in an interview with **FOX26 News** discussing the program's anticipated economic impact and benefits to the community. The story is scheduled to air during the station's **Sunday 10:00 p.m.** newscast and will be published earlier that day on the FOX26 News [website](#). In addition, the program was featured by **UTV Guide**, a national off-road industry publication, which recognized Needles as the **first city in California** to establish a designated OHMV route network connecting the community directly to surrounding Bureau of Land Management trail systems. This earned media coverage advances the City Council's strategic goals of promoting economic development, strengthening tourism, and increasing statewide and national awareness of Needles as a premier outdoor recreation destination.
4. **Federal Partnership Visit:** On June 26, the City of Needles welcomed **James DeLoera, Jr., from the Office of U.S. Senator Adam Schiff** for a federal partnership briefing and community tour. City staff highlighted recent accomplishments, strategic priorities, and federal funding opportunities while showcasing key community assets, including Colorado River Medical Center, the Housing Authority, Historic Route 66, the Colorado River waterfront, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Pilot Program, and major economic development sites. Discussions focused on rural healthcare, workforce housing, infrastructure investment, water reliability, tourism, and strengthening federal partnerships. The visit reinforced the City's commitment to building relationships that support long-term investment and economic growth.
5. **Live • Work • Play Campaign:** The City has launched the first installment of its Live • Work • Play economic development campaign, developed in partnership with Tripepi Smith. The inaugural ["Play" video](#) highlights Needles' outdoor recreation, the Colorado River, Historic Route 66, and the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Pilot Program, reinforcing the City Council's commitment to

tourism and economic development. The three-part campaign is designed to promote Needles as a destination to play, live, and work, supporting tourism, attracting new residents, and encouraging private investment. The City appreciates the employees and community partners who helped showcase Needles and its many opportunities.

6. **Route 66 Centennial Passport Feature:** The City of Needles has been featured in the official Visit California *Passport to California Route 66*, a statewide visitor guide developed to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Mother Road. The guide highlights Needles as a gateway community along Historic Route 66 and showcases local lodging and tourism assets for travelers exploring California's Route 66 corridor. This statewide recognition supports the City Council's ongoing efforts to promote tourism, celebrate the Route 66 Centennial, and position Needles as a premier destination for visitors traveling the historic Mother Road.
7. **Gateway Signage Improvements:** Staff is advancing enhancements to the City's gateway signage as part of the City Council's ongoing commitment to community branding, tourism, and economic development. The proposed improvements will strengthen the City's identity as the Gateway to California while creating a more welcoming first impression for residents and visitors traveling along Historic Route 66. These enhancements complement the Council's broader investments in Route 66 Centennial initiatives, community beautification, and destination marketing.
8. **Needles Featured for Quality of Life and Homeownership:** The City of Needles was recently featured in an online travel and lifestyle publication highlighting the community's unique combination of outdoor recreation, historic character, and attainable homeownership opportunities. The article recognized Needles for its median home sale price of approximately \$156,000 and showcased many of the community's signature assets, including the Colorado River, Historic Route 66, El Garces, the Needles Regional Museum, Rivers Edge Golf Course, and access to surrounding public lands. This positive third-party recognition supports the City Council's ongoing economic development, tourism, and community branding efforts by increasing awareness of Needles as an attractive place to **live, work, play, and invest**.
9. **Tourism Promotion Initiative:** As the City Council continues to prioritize tourism and economic development, the City appreciates the collaborative efforts of **Mayor Janet Jernigan** and **Wagon Wheel Restaurant** in developing an updated visitor brochure showcasing Needles' lodging, restaurants, recreational opportunities, attractions, and community amenities. The brochure serves as a valuable resource for visitors while encouraging them to explore the community, extend their stay, and support local businesses. This collaborative effort reflects the strong partnership between the City and the local business community to promote Needles as a premier destination along Historic Route 66 and the Colorado River.

10. **Recreation Feature of the Week – Morning Water Exercise:** The Needles Municipal Aquatics Center's Morning Water Exercise program is a popular recreational offering, providing residents with a low-impact workout that promotes cardiovascular health, strength, flexibility, and overall wellness. Classes are offered Monday through Friday from **8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.** The program is designed for participants of all fitness levels. Morning Water Exercise reflects the City's ongoing commitment to providing quality recreational opportunities that enhance the health and well-being of the community.
11. **Chamber of Commerce Fireworks Fundraiser:** The Needles Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center has launched its annual TNT Fireworks fundraiser, with the stand operating June 28 through July 6 at the Shell Gas Station. **The fundraiser will officially open with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, June 29, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., marking the beginning of the Independence Day season and another year of community partnership.** Proceeds from the fundraiser support the Chamber's year-round business advocacy, tourism promotion, visitor services, and community events. The City appreciates the Chamber's continued partnership and the many volunteers whose dedication helps make this longstanding community tradition a success.
12. **Summer Meal Program:** Needles Unified School District has launched its **Summer Meal Program**, providing free weekly meal distributions every Wednesday through **July 29, 2026**. Parents, guardians, and children may pick up meal bags containing five breakfasts and five lunches at seven locations throughout the community. Staff is sharing this information to help connect residents with available community resources, consistent with the City Council's goal of supporting community partnerships and enhancing quality of life for Needles families.
13. **Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness:** As summer temperatures increase, the City is reminding residents to take proactive steps to reduce mosquito breeding by eliminating standing water around their homes, maintaining swimming pools and ornamental ponds, and properly storing containers that can collect water. Residents who observe neglected green pools or other mosquito concerns are encouraged to contact the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health's Mosquito and Vector Control Program for courtesy inspections and assistance. The program also provides free mosquito fish for ornamental ponds and conducts disease surveillance to help protect public health. The informational brochure is available on the City's website and social media channels.
14. **Community Events Calendar Now Live:** The City's new website now features a [**Community Events Calendar**](#)—a centralized location for community events, civic meetings, and community 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 and engaged.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & RECOGNITION

- I. **Needles** Eagles Aerie 2599 Sponsors Free Swim Admission for Children: Needles Eagles Aerie 2599 will host the Swim With an Eagle event on Saturday, June 27, 2026, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Needles City Aquatics Center. Through the generosity of Needles Eagles Aerie 2599, admission for children will be free. Residents are encouraged to attend this family-friendly community event.
- II. **City Hall Closed for Independence Day:** City Hall will be closed on **Friday, July 3, 2026**, in observance of the **Independence Day** holiday. Regular business hours will resume on **Monday, July 6, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.** During the closure, residents with urgent matters may call **760-326-5700**, where the City's after-hours answering service will route calls to the appropriate City personnel. A public notice has been posted at the entrance to City Hall informing residents of the holiday closure.
- III. **Fourth of July Community Celebration:** The City's Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with **Needles Elks Lodge #1608**, will host the annual **Celebrate Freedom 4th of July Pool Party** on **Saturday, July 4, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** at the Needles Aquatics Center. The free, family-friendly event will feature open swim, relay races, games, contests, food, the return of the **Miss Freedom** and **Mr. Firecracker** contests, and the annual treasure dive. Staff encourages residents and visitors to join the community in celebrating Independence Day. This event supports the City Council's goals of enhancing quality of life, fostering community engagement, and expanding recreational opportunities through strong community partnerships.
- IV. **RCC Community Rummage Sale Donations:** The River Communities Coalition (RCC) is currently accepting donations for its upcoming Community Rummage Sale, with proceeds supporting programs and services that benefit communities throughout the Colorado River region. RCC is seeking donations of furniture, household items, clothing, books, toys, electronics, tools, and medical equipment, with pickup and drop-off options available for community members. The City appreciates RCC's continued commitment to serving local residents and encourages those with gently used items to consider supporting this community initiative.

1. OHMV RIBBON CUTTING



2. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE DISTRICT?

Team Gonzalez joined the City of Needles to celebrate the kickoff of the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Pilot Program! Needles launched this initiative to create designated routes, signage and educational information for Off-Highway Vehicles to operate on city streets. Assemblyman Gonzalez's bill, [AB 1756](#) would extend this program for residents and visitors to enjoy the program for years to come!



3. OHMV MEDIA RECOGNITION

INDUSTRY NEWS LAND USE & ACCESS

NEEDLES BECOMES CALIFORNIA'S FIRST CITY TO CONNECT DOWNTOWN DIRECTLY TO BLM OHV TRAILS

Posted on June 25, 2026

NEEDLES MAKES HISTORY

California's First City to Connect
Downtown to BLM OHV Trails

The City of Needles has officially launched the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Pilot Program, creating a designated network of routes that connects riders to businesses and BLM trails — all without trailering.

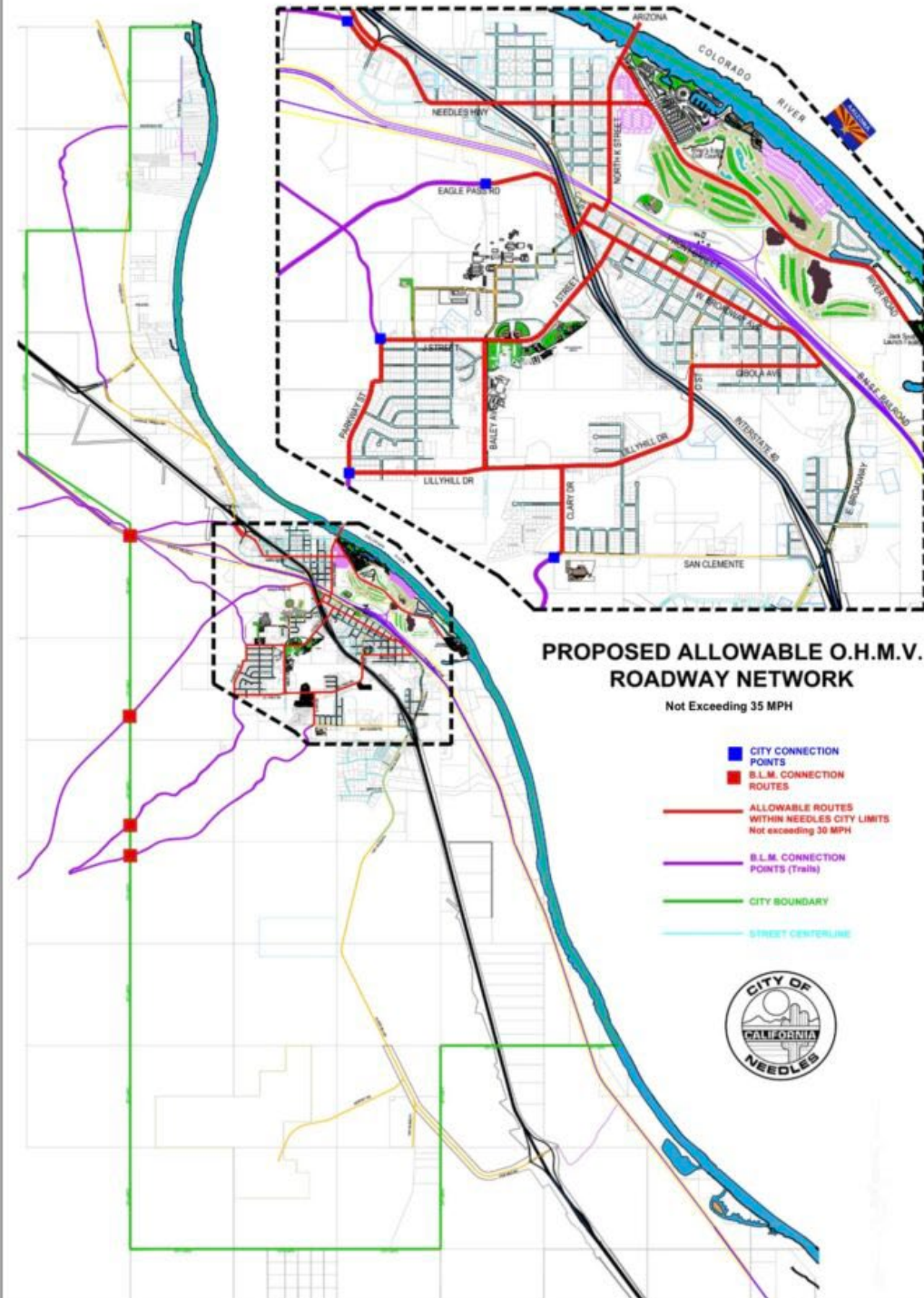
- FUEL, FOOD & LODGING WITHOUT THE TRAILER
- 9.2 MILES OF DESIGNATED OHV ROUTES
- SAFE, LEGAL, RESPONSIBLE. A NEW MODEL FOR CALIFORNIA
- SUPPORTING TOURISM & RURAL COMMUNITIES



- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| REQUIREMENTS APPLY PER CA LAW
Registration, insurance & licensed drivers required. | HELMET REQUIRED UNDER 1,000cc
Helmets required for all OHVs under 1,000cc. | 35 MPH SPEED LIMIT ON DESIGNATED ROUTES
Obey all posted signs and stay on the routes. | PILOT PROGRAM THROUGH 2033
AB 1756 seeks to extend the program to 1/1/2033. |
|--|--|---|---|

RIDE RESPONSIBLY. RESPECT OUR COMMUNITY. PROTECT OUR ACCESS.

OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE (O.H.M.V) MASTER PLAN City of Needles Pilot Program



Historic pilot program lets riders legally travel from town to surrounding public lands while lawmakers work to extend the program through 2033

4. FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP VISIT



6. CENTENNIAL PASSPORT FEATURE

➡ 1926-2026

YOUR PASSPORT TO



7. NEEDLES GATEWAY SIGNAGE



8. QUALITY OF LIFE



TRAVEL ▾

DINING ▾

EXPLORE STATES

ABOUT ▾

[home](#) / [california](#) /

This California River Town Feels Like The Last Affordable Escape With Homes Under \$200,000

By Isla Davenport • June 25, 2026



9. TOURISM PROMOTION

El Garces



Fred Harvey Hotel

950 Front St

Built in 1908 for Santa Fe Railroad.

Call For Tour • 760-799-2279

7 days a weeks at your convenience.

Churches

Calvary Church of Needles

1800 J Street • 760-326-2904

Faith Chapel Church of God

1510 Highland St • 760-590-1262

Firehouse Ministries

809 Bush St • 760-443-4342

Needles Assembly of God Church

610 E Broadway • 760-326-2751

Needles Christian Church

1409 Balboa Street • 760-326-2781

Needles Church of Christ

417 Market Street • 760-326-2441

Set Free Church of Needles

404 F Street • 760-326-2941

St. Ann's Catholic Church

218 D Street • 760-326-2721

St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church

2020 J Street • 760-326-3522

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

2001 El Monte St • 760-326-3363

Regional Museum Mural



Colorado River • Fishing • Boating

Scenic Desert Area • Off-Roading

Rivers Edge Golf Course

Jack Smith Park

Bob Belt Beach Park

Manny Morris Park

Needles Skate Park

Duke Watkins Park

Spike's Dog Park

Nikki Bunch Field

Jo Jo Garcia Sports Complex

Franz Flowers Field

Phillips Field of Dreams

Needles Rec Center

Needles Aquatic Center

Fort Mojave Indian Tribe

Needles Eagles Aerie #2599(members/guests)

Needles Elks lodge #1608 (members/guests)

Oatman, AZ • Laughlin, NV • Mystic Maze

Grapevine Canyon Petroglyphs

London Bridge at Lake Havasu City, AZ

Welcome To



ATTRACTIONS

El Garces

Santa Fe Park

Needles Regional Museum

Wayside Rest Stop

BNSF Train Park

Murals

Historic Buildings

Needles Visitor Center

CELEBRATING

100TH

ANNIVERSARY

1926-2026



10. MORNING WATER EXERCISE



11. CHAMBER FIREWORKS FUNDRAISER

NEEDLES AREA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER

NEEDLES AREA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER



**RIBBON
CUTTING**



JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE!

**MONDAY
JUNE 29**
2:00 PM



SHELL GAS STATION
2451 W Broadway St.,
Needles, CA



STAND

JUNE



28

12PM-8PM

29

10AM-8PM

30

10AM-8PM



JULY



1

10AM-9PM

2

10AM-9PM

3

10AM-10PM

4

10AM-10PM

5

10AM-6PM



**SHELL GAS
STATION**

2451 W Broadway St.,
Needles, CA

6

10AM-6PM

760.326.2050

JOIN



DEALS - COUPONS
www.tntfireworks.com

JOIN



DEALS - COUPONS
www.tntfireworks.com

12. SUMMER MEAL PROGRAM

SUMMER MEAL PROGRAM

Free Weekly Meal Distribution

June 24, 2026 – July 29, 2026

Every Wednesday,
a refrigerated
delivery van will visit
community locations.

Meals may be
picked up by:

- Parents
- Guardians
- Children

Each meal bag
includes:

- 5 Breakfasts
- 5 Lunches

DISTRIBUTION LOCATIONS & TIMES

1	Colorado River Market 2100 Needles Hwy.	9:00 AM – 9:15 AM
2	Needles Utility Office 817 Third St.	9:20 AM – 9:35 AM
3	Katie Hohstadt 600 Cibola	9:40 AM – 9:55 AM
4	Terrace View Apartments 1501 Lillyhill Dr.	10:00 AM – 10:15 AM
5	River Garden Apartments 1970 Clary Dr.	10:20 AM – 10:35 AM
6	Mormon Church 2001 El Monte St.	10:40 AM – 10:55 AM
7	Buy Rite 1932 J St.	11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

13. MOSQUITO AWARENESS

Disease Surveillance

We use traps to identify, test, and check for diseases that are:

- Mosquito-borne
- Rodent-borne
- Tick-borne

We place traps in our service areas that attract and trap mosquitoes. Once they are trapped, we send them for testing. If you see a trap in your neighborhood, don't worry! We will pick up the traps in the next few days.



Report Dead Birds

Reporting dead birds allows us to test them for West Nile virus. If you notice a dead bird, call the California West Nile Virus Hotline at (877) 968-2473 or scan the QR code.



Report Green Pools



Unmaintained pools often turn green and can become the ideal habitat for mosquito breeding. If you notice a green pool around your home give us a call or text!

Courtesy Inspections and Consultations for:

- Mosquitoes
- Rodents
- Bed Bugs
- Fleas
- Ticks
- Flies
- Cockroaches
- Bees/Wasps



Scan the QR code to submit a courtesy mosquito/vector inspection request, or to submit a complaint.

Call or Text MVCP
(800) 442-2283
ehs.sbcounty.gov



Public Health
Environmental Health Services

Mosquito and Vector Control Program (MVCP)



I. EAGLES POOL PARTY



II. CITYHALL CLOSURE



**THIS OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
FRIDAY JULY 3, 2026, FOR THE
FOURTH OF JULY.**

**WE WILL REOPEN ON
MONDAY JULY 6, 2026, AT 8:30 A.M.**

III. FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

CITY OF NEEDLES

WELCOMES YOU TO CELEBRATE WITH US FOR
AMERICA'S 250TH YEAR CELEBRATION

4TH OF JULY SWIM PARTY

GET READY FOR A DAY FULL OF
SWIMMING, RELAYS, CHERRY PIE &
WATERMELON EATING CONTESTS,
GAMES WITH PRIZES, YUMMY FOOD,
AND DON'T FORGET OUR ALL TIME
FAVORITE...PIE THE LIFEGUARDS!

SATURDAY, JULY 4TH 12:00PM ~ 4:00PM

BRING YOUR FRIENDS,
YOUR APPETITE, AND
YOUR PATRIOTIC SPIRIT!

- HOT DOGS & CHILI DOGS
- ICE CREAM & FLOATS
- COOL TREATS

MAKE SURE TO SIGN UP UPON ENTRY
FOR THE CROWNING OF OUR MISS
FREEDOM & MR FIRECRACKER AND
MAKE SURE TO STAY UNTIL 3:45PM
TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR ANNUAL
TREASURE DIVE \$\$\$\$ FOR COINS
AND THERE WILL BE ONE WINNER
PER DIVISION FOR A LARGER PRIZE!!!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

PARKSANDRECREATION@CITYOFNEEDLES.COM

CALL 760-326-3866(FUNN)

ADMISSION IS FREE
FOR ALL THANKS TO
OUR CO-SPONSOR
NEEDLES ELKS
LODGE #1608

IV. RUMMAGE SALE RCC



RIVER
COMMUNITIES
COALITION

*Neighbors
Helping
Neighbors* 

DONATIONS NEEDED!

Building a Stronger Community... One Donation at a Time

River Communities Coalition (RCC)

is collecting donations for our upcoming Community Rummage Sale!



Your donated items help fund community programs and services that benefit our **Colorado River communities**.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

-  Furniture
 -  Household Items
 -  Kitchen Items
 -  Clothing & Shoes
 -  Books
 -  Toys
 -  Electronics
 -  Home Décor
 -  Tools
 -  Holiday Decorations
- ...and much more!*



WE WELCOME MEDICAL EQUIPMENT!

We especially welcome donations of:

- Walkers
- Wheelchairs
- Canes
- Crutches
- Rollators
- Shower Chairs
- Lift Chairs
- Hospital Beds
- Bedside Commodes
- And other medical equipment



WE PICK UP BIG OR SMALL!

Whether it's a single item, a bag of clothing, or an entire household of furniture, we'll gladly arrange a pickup.

We'll pick up ANYTHING big or small!

All donated items should be clean and in good, usable condition.

SCHEDULE A PICKUP OR DROP-OFF

Call or Text Any of Our RCC Volunteers

-  Roxanne (928) 706-8323
-  Wayne (760) 903-3939
-  Nancy (562) 900-4808

..... Or Contact the RCC Office

-  RCC Office: 760-801-4076
-  NeedlesRCC@gmail.com

COMMUNITY RUMMAGE SALE



*July 31 &
August 1, 2025*



7:00 AM – 3:00 PM



Palo Verde College – Needles Center
(Historic Claypool Building)
Needles, California

DONATION RECIPIENT



All donations are gratefully accepted on behalf of the

RIVER COMMUNITIES COALITION (RCC)
a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

*Building a Stronger Community...
One Donation at a Time*



RECEIPTS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

A receipt will be provided for your tax records.

Thank You! 

Every donation makes a difference!
Thank you for helping RCC continue building a stronger community... one donation at a time.

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!



RIVER COMMUNITIES COALITION (RCC)
Building a Stronger Community... One Donation at a Time

