



# City of Needles

817 Third Street, Needles, California 92363  
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[www.cityofneedles.com](http://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

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICK J. MARTINEZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 14, 2025

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### 1. Utility Rate Adjustments & Customer Savings Update

This week, the Board of Public Utility and the City Council/Needles Public Utility Authority held a joint meeting to approve water and wastewater revenue adjustments based on the City's independent cost-of-service study. The study supports a 3% annual revenue adjustment for water and a 6% annual adjustment for wastewater over the next five years, ensuring rates reflect the true cost of operating, maintaining, and upgrading the systems. More than \$15 million in secured grant funding continues to offset capital costs and reduce the burden on ratepayers. Earlier this year, electric rates were reduced from approximately 14 cents to 11 cents per kilowatt-hour—the lowest over-hydro rate since 2021—lowering the average household's utility bill by over \$36 per month. These savings help balance the impact of the proposed water and wastewater changes, which are the smallest rate adjustments in a decade. The updated plan funds critical projects, including construction of a 1.5-million-gallon reservoir, pipeline and hydrant replacements, pump and sewer line upsizing, manhole rehabilitation, and systemwide treatment and storage improvements. These upgrades are essential to maintain reliability, address rising operational costs, and prevent utility reserves from falling below policy levels. The new rates will take effect February 1, 2025, supporting long-term system stability while keeping total utility costs as manageable as possible for Needles residents.

### 2. Needles Pride Program & Infrastructure Improvements

The City of Needles continued to advance key infrastructure initiatives this week that strengthen safety, reliability, and long-term community pride. Public Works began implementing the new crack-seal maintenance program following the arrival of the Crafcro EZ 1500 Crack Seal Trailer and Sullair 375 Compressor, part of a \$184,972 Council-approved investment. Staff is completing equipment training to allow crews to proactively seal pavement cracks, extend roadway life, and reduce future repair costs. The City also progressed the next phase of the Electric Circuit Reliability Program, which includes replacing aging and inaccessible poles on Lilly Hill Drive, upgrading poles and transformers in

targeted areas, and completing pole replacements in the Bailey Drive alley and at Valley and D Street. This \$507,198 phase, funded through the Electric System Improvement Fund, supports Council goals to modernize critical infrastructure and reduce long-term outage risks, with Petrelli Electric continuing as a strong project partner. Residents may report concerns by calling 760-326-5700 (press 9) or using the Needles Connect app as the City works to maintain a safe, clean, and reliable community.

**3. Roof Replacement – City Council Chambers & Colorado River Station**

This week, the contractor completed the full roof replacement and interior repairs at both the City Council Chambers and the Colorado River Station, marking the conclusion of the entire project. The new roofing system, including upgraded insulation and flashing, was completed for **\$259,486**, with an additional **\$7,360** in drywall repairs addressing prior water damage. These improvements strengthen one of the City's most important civic facilities and support the Council's goal of maintaining reliable and resilient public infrastructure. The need for these upgrades was identified during the City's collaboration with San Bernardino County on the Colorado River Station Remodel Project, which is now fully complete. The City extends its appreciation to the Sheriff's Department for their continued investment in the shared facility improvements. With all work finished, the City Council Chambers is secure, protected, and ready for ongoing community use.

**4. Needles Housing Authority – Security Fencing Project**

As previously reported, the Housing Authority's Security Fencing Project is nearing completion. The contractor has a small number of final corrections remaining, but major components are now fully installed. A new push gate has been added at Balboa and J Street, with an additional gate placed on Bailey. The existing walls have also been reinforced with concrete-filled posts to enhance stability and security. This project supports the City Council's goals of strengthening neighborhood safety and investing in essential community infrastructure. Final punch-list work is in progress, with completion expected by mid-December.

**5. Storm Preparedness & Weekend Weather Response**

The City is fully prepared for this weekend's storm, with forecasts calling for roughly three-quarters of an inch of rain and the possibility of localized flooding. All departments have been directed to ensure vehicles and equipment are fueled, inspected, and ready for rapid deployment, and standby crews will be available throughout the weekend. This level of preparedness directly supports the City Council's goals of protecting public safety, maintaining reliable infrastructure, and ensuring consistent delivery of essential services. Periods of steady rain are expected Saturday, with clearing overnight, and staff will continue monitoring conditions closely to safeguard residents and respond immediately to any weather-related issues.

- 6. Animal Shelter Vaccination & Licensing Clinic – Tomorrow**  
The City of Needles Animal Shelter, in partnership with PetSmart Veterinary Services and Dr. Joseph Velasco, will host a Vaccination and Licensing Clinic **tomorrow, Saturday, November 15**, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 1662 Flip Mendez Parkway. This one-day event offers low-cost vaccinations, microchipping, and reduced-fee City pet licenses to help residents keep their animals healthy and compliant with local requirements. Staff has pushed reminders through Needles Connect and is prepared for a strong turnout. This supports Council goals to enhance public safety, promote responsible pet ownership, and strengthen community engagement. Residents are encouraged to arrive early, and all questions may be directed to the Animal Shelter at (760) 326-4952.
- 7. Tri-State Community Healthcare Produce Distribution – Tomorrow**  
Tri-State Community Healthcare will host a free mixed-produce distribution this Saturday, November 15, beginning at 7:30 a.m. (CA time) at 820 W. Broadway in Needles. This ongoing partnership continues to support food security for local families and complements the City Council's goals around community health and resident support. I encourage residents to take advantage of this opportunity and appreciate the continued collaboration with Tri-State, IEHP, Make Bullhead Better, and Redmond Construction. Events like this strengthen community connections and help ensure our residents have access to essential resources.
- 8. Needles High School Mustangs – State Semifinals & Community Support**  
The Needles High School Mustangs will compete in the State Semifinals this Saturday, November 15, hosting Battle Mountain in a major home playoff matchup. Under the leadership of Head Coach Thomas DeLeon, the team continues to demonstrate the resilience, discipline, and pride that define our community. The City values its strong partnership with the Needles Unified School District and the Alumni Association as we work together to support the next generation of Mustangs and celebrate their achievements on and off the field. Residents are encouraged to pack the stands on Saturday and show their support during this important postseason game.
- 9. Pacific Clinics One-Year Anniversary**  
Pacific Clinics will celebrate the one-year anniversary of the Needles Clubhouse on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. at 1060 E. Broadway Street. Since opening its doors last year, the Clubhouse has provided vital behavioral health services, including wellness programs, resilience training, recovery resources, and support groups for adults 18 and older. The facility also offers Wi-Fi, computers, and activities that promote connection and positive coping skills. This partnership with Pacific Clinics and the San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health continues to support the City Council's goals of fostering a safe, healthy, and family-friendly community. Residents are encouraged to join the celebration, and questions may be directed to Sonia Vicario at 626-753-8725 or [sonia.vicario@pacificclinics.org](mailto:sonia.vicario@pacificclinics.org).

- 10. Monument Sign Unveiling – Bob Belt Beach Park & Manny Morris Park**  
We invite the community to join us on **December 12, 2025, at 3:00 PM** for the unveiling of new monument signs at Bob Belt Beach Park and Manny Morris Park. Each park will receive its own sign, generously donated by Arrowhead Credit Union, marking an important investment in two of Needles’ most celebrated public spaces. These signs help strengthen the identity of the award-winning Bob Belt Beach Park and the state-renowned Manny Morris Park, reinforcing their recognition as premier recreational destinations in our region. The Morris family has also graciously arranged for a small reception, offering an opportunity for the community to gather and celebrate these improvements together. Additional event details will be shared as the date approaches. We look forward to unveiling the final designs and celebrating this meaningful enhancement to our parks.
- 11. Battle of the Valley Golf Tournament Series**  
Rivers Edge Golf Course will kick off the regional **Battle of the Valley Tournament Series** on **December 13**, with an 8:00 a.m. registration and a 9:00 a.m. shotgun start. The series continues in January and February at El Rio, Huukan, and Los Lagos, offering two-person team play with both scramble and best-ball formats. Entry fees range from \$75 to \$100 depending on the course. This collaborative tournament strengthens regional recreation partnerships and supports the City Council’s goals of boosting tourism, expanding outdoor amenities, and highlighting Rivers Edge as a key community asset. The event is expected to draw golfers from across the tri-state area, bringing additional activity to Needles while showcasing the course’s ongoing improvements and growing visibility in the region. For more details or to lock in your next round, contact **JJ DeLeon at (760) 326-3931**.
- 12. Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell Receives High Regional Honor**  
Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell was recognized this week with the Desert Mountain Division’s Larry Chimbole Award, a major regional honor spanning cities across Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Mono, and San Bernardino counties. The Division—representing communities such as Needles, Lancaster, Palmdale, Victorville, Hesperia, Mammoth Lakes, and Barstow—serves as a key forum for collaboration, policy development, and statewide advocacy. Being selected from such a large and active region underscores the Vice Mayor’s decades of service, integrity, and consistent leadership on behalf of Needles. Her recognition elevates our city’s profile and strengthens our influence in regional and state-level discussions. This award reflects not only her commitment but also the progress and credibility Needles continues to build across California. We congratulate Vice Mayor Campbell and look forward to carrying this momentum into upcoming regional initiatives and Council priorities.
- 13. Mayor Jernigan Highlights Needles on KNTR’s “Speak Out”**  
On November 14, 2025, Mayor Janet Jernigan joined Larry Tunforss on KNTR’s *Speak Out 2.0* to showcase the momentum building across Needles. The conversation covered the State of the City, the upcoming Route 66 Centennial,

the recent APWA award for Bob Belt Beach Park, and the continued rise in tourism throughout the Colorado River Valley. Mayor Jernigan emphasized how these achievements align with the City Council's goals of strengthening economic development, elevating community pride, and expanding recreational and tourism opportunities. The interview highlighted the city's growing visibility driven by smart partnerships, historic preservation, and a renewed focus on local excellence. [Click here to listen to the full interview.](#)

#### 14. **1923 American LaFrance Fire Truck Restoration**

This week, the restoration of the City's historic 1923 American LaFrance Fire Truck reached an important milestone with the completion of the original-style "NEEDLES FD" lettering on the engine hood. The artwork was carefully recreated using archived photos to mirror the firetruck's original appearance. Refer to the attached image for a glimpse of the restored detailing. Over the past year, major components—including the radiator, water pump, and clutch—were installed to return the vehicle to operational condition. With only a few final steps remaining, approximately \$15,000 is still needed to complete the project. The City of Needles is actively fundraising to help close the gap. This long-standing effort reflects years of community support and volunteer dedication to preserving a central piece of Needles' public safety history. To support the next phase of work and help bring the restoration across the finish line, the City is now seeking donations. Those interested in contributing may contact Jesse Fragoso at [jfragoso@cityofneedles.com](mailto:jfragoso@cityofneedles.com).

#### 15. **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](mailto: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. UTILITY RATES



## 2. NEEDLES PRIDE



## 2. NEEDLES PRIDE



### 3. COUNCIL CHAMBER ROOF REPLACEMENT



## 4. HOUSING AUTHORITY FENCING



## 6. ANIMAL SHELTER FALL EVENT

# Vaccination & Licensing Clinic

**Saturday, Nov 15, 2025**

**9:30-12:30 CA Time**

Petsmart Veterinary Services  
Dr. Joseph Velasco



Rabies DA2PP FVRCP

Bordetella Rattlesnake Microchips

Needles Animal Shelter  
1662 Flip Mendez Pkwy  
Needles, CA 92363  
(760)326-4952

Cats must be in  
carrier and dogs  
on leashes.

Special Price for  
City License  
Altered \$15  
Unaltered \$25



**PETSMART  
VETERINARY  
SERVICES**

## 7. FOOD DISTRIBUTION

# FREE

Mixed  
Produce

# TRI-STATE COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

## SATURDAY - NOV 15

7:30 AM  
(CA TIME)

## 820 W BROADWAY, NEEDLES, CA

*tri-state*

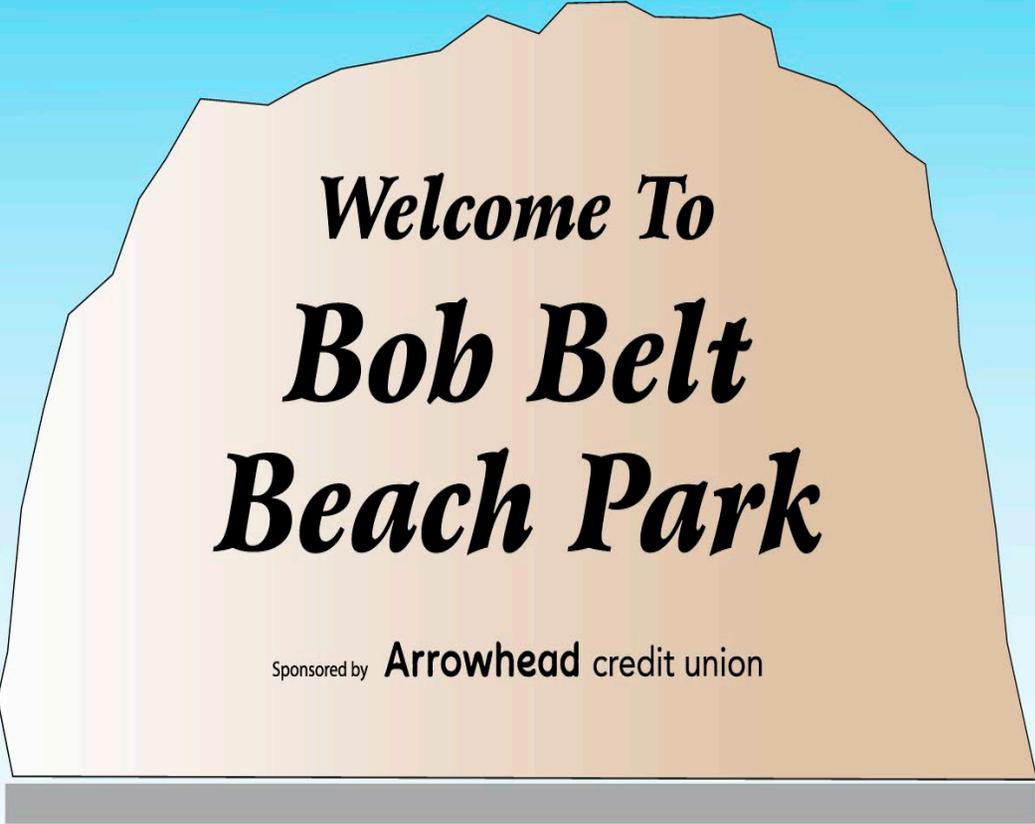
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

**REDMOND**  
Construction  
GENERAL CONTRACTOR



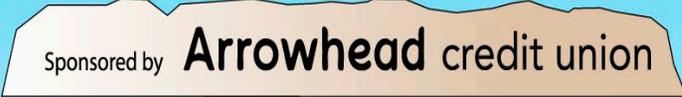
IE  HP

## 10. SIGN UNVEILING

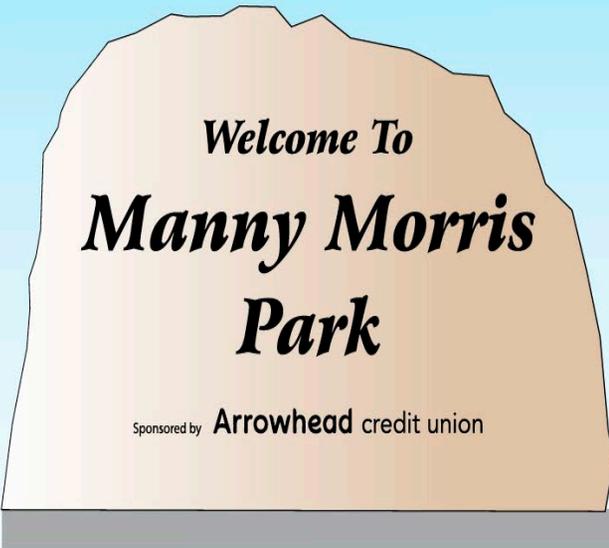


*Welcome To*  
***Bob Belt***  
***Beach Park***

Sponsored by **Arrowhead** credit union



Sponsored by **Arrowhead** credit union



*Welcome To*  
***Manny Morris***  
***Park***

Sponsored by **Arrowhead** credit union

# 11. RIVERS EDGE TOURNAMENT



**RIVERS EDGE**  
GOLF COURSE

# BATTLE OF THE VALLEY

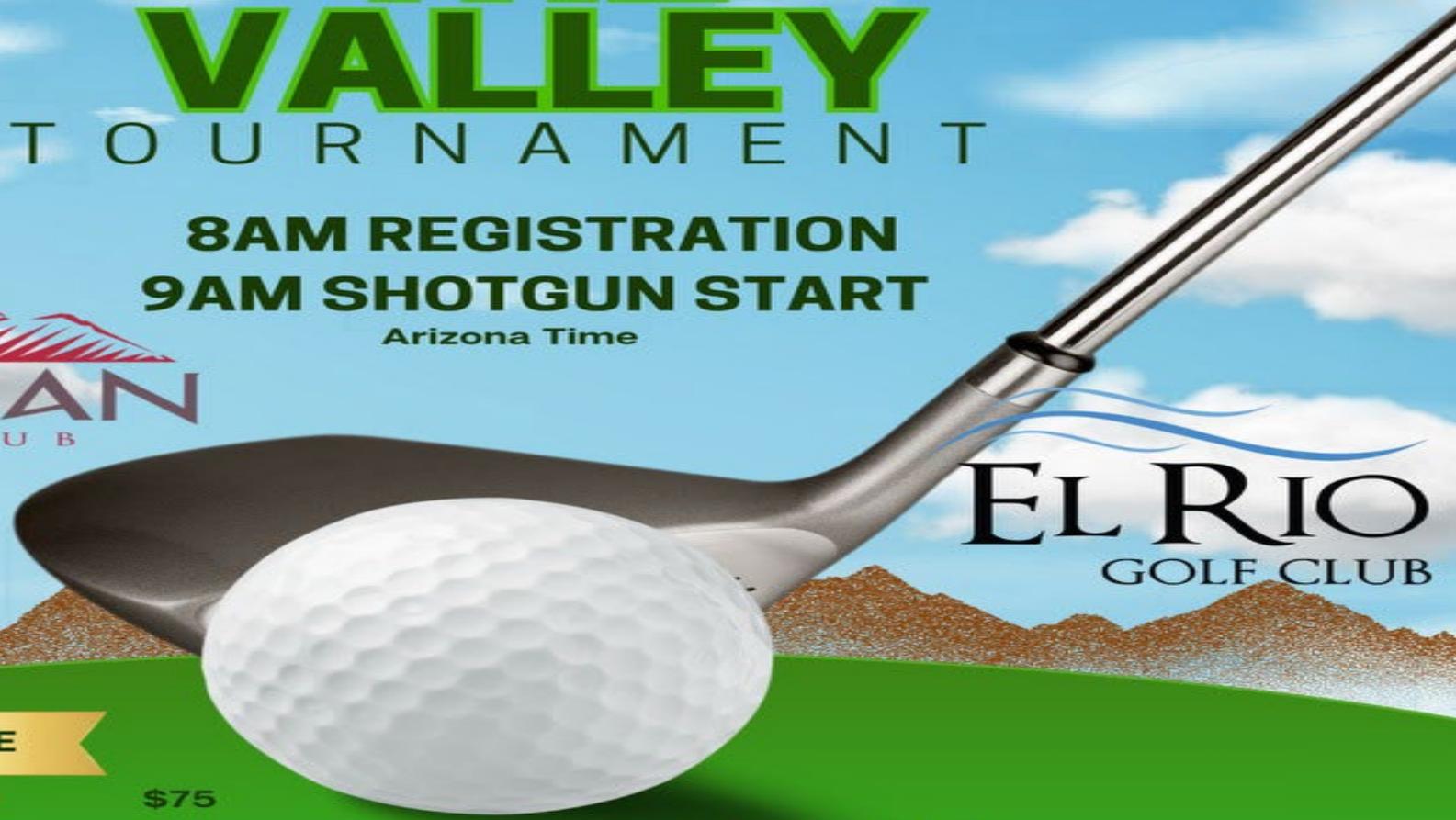
T O U R N A M E N T

**8AM REGISTRATION**  
**9AM SHOTGUN START**

Arizona Time



**EL RIO**  
GOLF CLUB



## WHEN & WHERE

- Rivers Edge Dec 13 \$75
- El Rio Jan 10 \$75
- Huukan Feb 21 \$75
- Los Lagos Feb 28th \$100 Lunch included

**2 PERSON TEAMS**  
**9 HOLES SCRAMBLE/ 9 HOLES BEST BALL**  
**GHIN HANDICAP REQUIRED (MAX 40)**

# 12. VICE MAYOR REGIONAL HONOR



# 14. NEEDLES FIRE TRUCK

