



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: October 31, 2025

1. **SNAP (CalFresh) Benefit Pause – Local Coordination**

The City issued a press release today regarding the temporary pause in SNAP (CalFresh) benefits scheduled for November 1, as announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The release provides residents with the latest information on the federal status of SNAP and highlights local food distribution partners offering immediate assistance. Earlier today, City staff met with St. Vincent De Paul, Set Free Church, St. Ann Catholic Church (Martha's Pantry), and Firehouse Ministries to coordinate service capacity and align community outreach efforts. Each organization confirmed readiness to meet increased demand through expanded food box distribution and meal services. The City will continue to provide updates through Needles Connect, the City website, and local media if federal or state funding is restored. This proactive coordination reinforces the City's commitment to ensuring that no resident goes without access to food during this temporary interruption. Refer to the attached press release.

2. **City of Needles Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Master Plan**

The City of Needles is pleased to announce that the California Highway Patrol has officially approved its Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Master Plan and Routes – Pilot Project. Needles is the only city in California authorized under Assembly Bill 2152 to designate combined-use highways within city limits, connecting Bureau of Land Management trails, recreation areas, and essential services. The Needles City Council adopted the Final OHMV Master Plan and Routes – Pilot Project Technical Memorandum on September 9, 2025. This milestone highlights strong collaboration to expand recreation access, promote tourism, and strengthen the regional economy. The approved plan establishes 9.20 miles of designated routes limited to 35 mph, requiring driver licensing, helmets, and insurance. With final CHP concurrence secured, the City is entering the implementation phase—launching community education efforts, including a public workshop and a dedicated website landing page to keep

residents informed. Needles continues to set the standard for safe, sustainable rural recreation.

3. Second Annual Community Fall Festival — Tomorrow, November 1, 2025

The City of Needles will host the Second Annual Community Fall Festival tomorrow, Saturday, November 1, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Santa Fe Park (950 Front Street). This free, family-focused event advances Council goals for community engagement, school partnerships, and a vibrant downtown. In collaboration with Vista Elementary School and the Needles Unified School District, the festival features games, a cake walk, bounce houses, crafts, food vendors, and live music by DJ Knoxx. Over 30 local vendors are participating, helping reduce City costs while maximizing community impact. Residents are encouraged to attend and enjoy a safe, high-energy event that showcases strong public-community partnerships. For questions, contact Jennifer Valenzuela at jvalenzuela@cityofneedles.com or (760) 326-2814.

4. Economic Development and Business Attraction Efforts

This week, the City's economic development consultant, Michael Bracken of Development Management Group, Inc., brought a prospective developer to Needles to meet with City officials and explore opportunities for new investment. Mr. Bracken continues to work collaboratively with the City Council and City staff to advance the City's Economic Investment Marketing and Branding Strategic Plan (2022–2025), which identifies four priority areas for growth: industrial development, hospitality and tourism, housing, and retail. Through targeted outreach, trade show participation, and direct engagement with regional brokers and investors, the City is strategically positioning Needles to attract businesses that meet community needs and expand local employment opportunities. These efforts are part of a broader strategy to strengthen the City's economic base, enhance services, and create a sustainable future for residents and visitors alike.

5. Needles Sunday Market Kicks Off

The Needles Sunday Market kicks off this weekend at Santa Fe Park from 8 a.m. – 12p.m. Organized by local vendors and community partners, the market will run every Sunday through March 31, 2026, featuring a variety of booths offering food, handmade crafts, and locally produced goods. The City proudly supports these community-led efforts that align with the City Council's goals to foster a business-friendly environment, strengthen community engagement, and enhance local quality of life. Residents are encouraged to stop by, shop local, and enjoy this vibrant new addition to Needles' weekend scene.

6. Needles Pride Program & Infrastructure Improvements

The City of Needles remains committed to enhancing community cleanliness, safety, and overall appeal. The City Council continues to prioritize beautification efforts to ensure Needles remains a welcoming destination for residents and visitors alike. This week, Public Works crews repainted curbs along J Street and prepared key community spaces for upcoming events, including improvements to the Recreation Center parking lot for *Trunk or Treat* and Santa Fe Park for the

Second Annual Community Fall Festival. These investments reflect the Council's focus on public space revitalization and community pride. Residents can report concerns by calling 760-326-5700 (press 9) or using the Needles Connect app on [Google Play Store](#) (Android) and [Apple Store](#) (iOS). Together, we continue to make Needles a brighter and more vibrant place to live.

7. League of California Cities Annual Conference – CCMF Panel Participation

City Manager Patrick Martinez represented the City of Needles as a featured panelist during the California City Management Foundation's session, *"Overcoming Organizational Challenges: Reframing Career Challenges as Leadership Milestones,"* held at the 2025 League of California Cities Annual Conference. The discussion focused on resilience, leadership growth, and reframing professional challenges as opportunities for advancement. Mr. Martinez joined fellow city managers from Rolling Hills Estates and Suisun City to share strategies for navigating organizational transitions with intention. His participation reflects Needles' increasing visibility and leadership within the statewide city management community. Additional details are provided in the attached CCMF article highlighting the panel and its focus on advancing excellence in local government leadership.

8. 6th Annual Trunk or Treat — October 30, 2025

The City of Needles extends its appreciation to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department for hosting the 6th Annual Trunk or Treat on October 30, 2025, at the Needles Recreation Center. The event drew an outstanding turnout and provided a safe, festive environment for families to celebrate Halloween. Creativity was on full display with decorated trunks, costumes, and themed activities that delighted children and families alike. Special recognition goes to Officer Misty Hunt for her exceptional leadership and coordination in organizing this community favorite. The City also thanks its many partners—county agencies, local businesses, schools, service organizations, and community volunteers—for their participation and support. Their efforts made this year's event a success and demonstrated the City Council's ongoing commitment to family engagement, safety, and community pride.

9. Spring 2026 Registration Now Open at Palo Verde College

Empower your future close to home — registration for Spring 2026 classes at Palo Verde College's Needles Educational Center opens **November 2, 2025**. Located at **725 W. Broadway Street**, the Center continues to expand opportunities for higher education, career training, and lifelong learning right here in Needles. This aligns with the City Council's commitment to building a family-friendly and education-driven community. Learn more and register today at www.paloverde.edu or scan the QR code featured on the attached flyer.

10. Needles Elks Lodge Membership Drive — November 2, 2025

The Needles Elks Lodge will host a Membership Drive on Sunday, November 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 1000 Lillyhill Drive. The event invites community members to learn more about the Elks' ongoing efforts to support youth programs, assist veterans, and enhance local quality of life. The City

encourages residents to attend, enjoy refreshments, and consider joining this long-standing organization dedicated to service and community improvement. Becoming an Elk is a great way to make a positive difference in Needles!

11. 49th Annual Fort Mojave Days Parade — October 2025

The City of Needles proudly participated in the 49th Annual Fort Mojave Days Parade with the City's historic 1923 American LaFrance Fire Truck, making its inaugural parade appearance. Mayor Janet Jernigan and Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell represented the City aboard the restored vehicle, joining the celebration of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe's rich heritage and enduring contributions to the region. This participation supports the City Council's goal of strengthening government-to-government relationships and honoring cultural traditions that unite the community. The parade served as a meaningful opportunity to celebrate the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe and its vital role in the tri-state area's history and future. A heartfelt thank-you goes to the Public Works Department and dedicated volunteer Tim Wahlstrand, whose craftsmanship and commitment brought the historic fire truck back to life—a symbol of shared pride, unity, and respect for the people and traditions of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe.

12. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event — October 4, 2025

The San Bernardino County Fire Protection District (SBCFPD) successfully conducted the semi-annual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection event on October 4, 2025, in Needles. A total of 3,313 pounds of hazardous and electronic waste were collected from 30 participants, marking a continued improvement in community engagement compared to prior years. The event provided residents with a safe and convenient way to dispose of items such as latex paint, motor oil, e-waste, and household batteries. The HHW Collection program, held twice annually in March and October, reflects the City's commitment to promoting environmental responsibility and public safety. Residents are encouraged to participate in the next event scheduled for **March 2026**. Full event data provided by SBCFPD is attached for reference.

13. Duke Watkins Park Splash Pad – Seasonal Closure and Maintenance

The splash pad at Duke Watkins Park will close for the winter season beginning Monday, November 3, and will reopen in Spring. This seasonal closure helps conserve water and allows staff to perform preventive maintenance and system checks ahead of the spring reopening. The City extends its appreciation to the Public Works Department and the Parks and Recreation team for their ongoing efforts to keep the facility well-maintained and accessible throughout the year. Their dedication ensures that families can continue to enjoy a safe and reliable recreational space during the warmer months.

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. SNAP BENEFIT PAUSE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Needles Shares Local Food Resources Following Temporary Pause in SNAP Benefits

Needles, California – Friday, October 31, 2025 – The **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)**, which oversees the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**, has announced a temporary interruption in benefit distribution, with **no benefits scheduled to be issued on November 1st**.

In response, the **City of Needles** and its local food distribution partners are sharing the following community resources available to any residents affected by this pause in SNAP benefits:

- **St. Vincent De Paul** – 839 Front Street | (760) 326-4420
Open Tuesday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
No income restrictions; free food boxes available to all residents.
- **Set Free Church** – 404 F Street | (760) 326-2941 | Cell: (760) 877-3940
Serves three hot meals daily at 8 a.m., 12 p.m., and 5 p.m.
Provides snack lunches and free food boxes on request; delivery available for homebound residents.
- **St. Ann Catholic Church (Martha's Pantry)** – 218 D Street | (760) 326-2721
Provides bag lunches on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
- **Firehouse Ministries** – 809 Bush Street | (760) 443-4342
Weekly food distribution every Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Monthly event: **November 15** at F Street & Broadway.
Hot meals Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. and Sundays at 9:00 a.m.; snack lunches Mondays and Fridays.

The **City of Needles** is committed to ensuring that no resident goes hungry. Additional community food drives will be announced as they are organized.

Residents are encouraged to follow **Needles Connect** or contact **City Hall at (760) 326-2113** for updates.

If federal or state funding is restored, benefits may resume. The City will share updates as soon as more information is available.

##

Media Contact

Office of the City Manager – Patrick Martinez

City of Needles, California

Phone: (760) 326-2113

Email: pmartinez@cityofneedles.com

Website: www.cityofneedles.com



November CalFresh Benefits

Due to the **federal government shutdown**, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is not sending money to states for November CalFresh (SNAP) benefits.

This means **your county cannot add money to your EBT card** until federal funding is restored.

This impacts all CalFresh households and cannot be appealed.

You can **keep using your existing benefits as usual**.

If you need food now, visit cafoodbanks.org/find-food to find your local food bank.



QR Code Link: [CDSS CalFresh FAQs](#)

Visit cdss.ca.gov for the latest information.



Funded by USDA SNAP, an equal opportunity provider.



2. OHMV MASTERPLAN

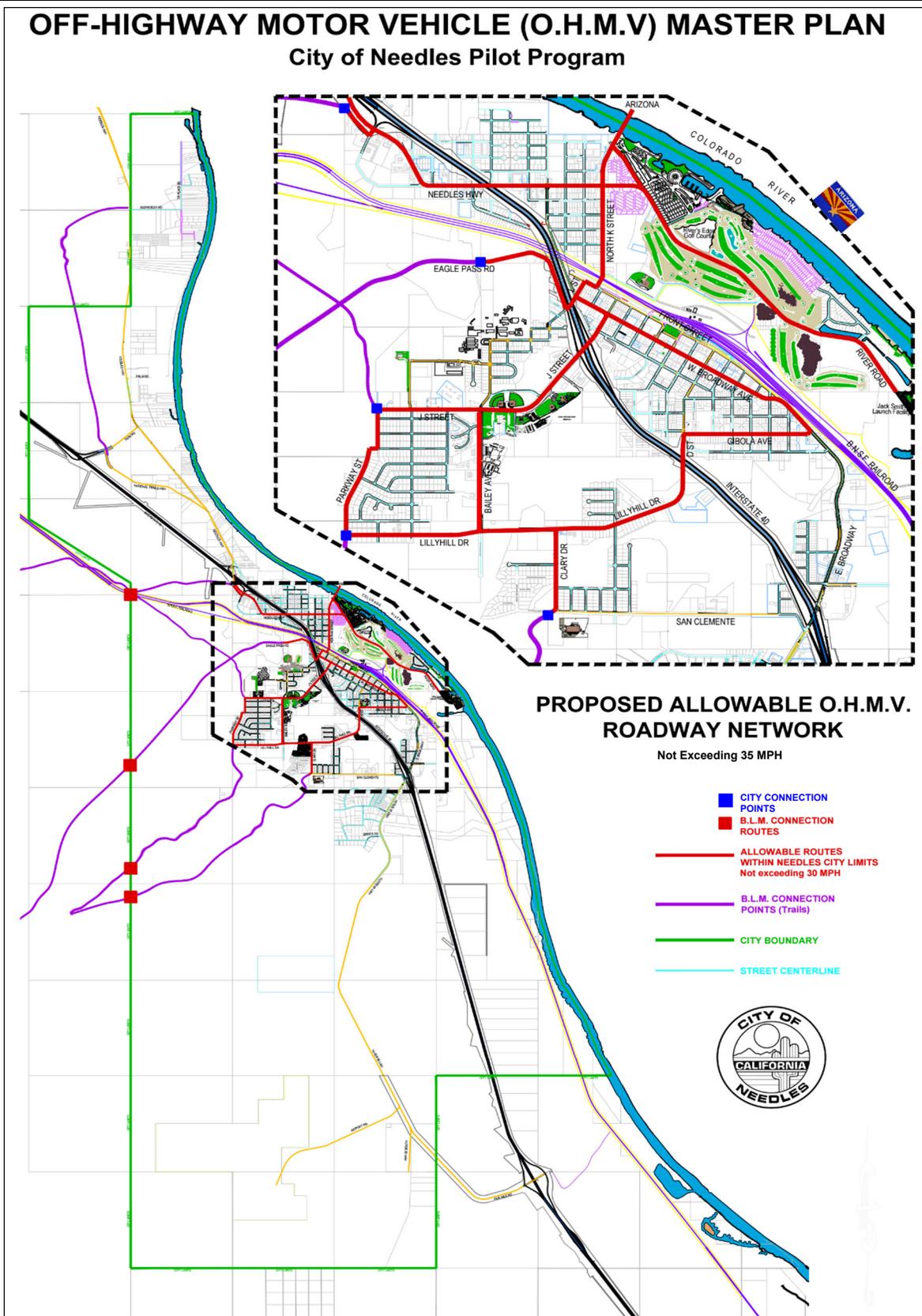


Figure 2: Proposed Allowable Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Routes Within the City of Needles & Connection to BLM Interface Point



Table 1: Proposed Allowable OHMV Routes Roadway Characteristics Summary

Street Name	From	To	Distance (mi)	Posted Speed Limit Sign	Designated Bike Lane	Street Lighting	Sight Distance	Other Roadway Characteristics
Eagle Pass Rd*	Slightly Past El Monte Dr.	S L St	1.88*	None	No	None	Good	- 1 Lane in each direction, Unpaved - No clear roadway markings/stripping or shoulder - Topography: Flat - Adjacent Infrastructure: Little to none
J St	Parkway St.	U.S. Rte 66/ W. Broadway	1.00	35 MPH	No	Yes	Good	- 1 Lane in each direction - Partial striping, sidewalks, and shoulder east of Balboa St - Clear striping, sidewalks, and shoulder west of Balboa St - Presence of driveways - Topography: Flat - Adjacent Infrastructure: residential, civic & institutional, park
Lillyhill Dr	Parkway St.	Cibola St	1.5	30 MPH	No	Yes	Good	- Partial striping and sidewalks, no shoulder - Wider roadway with on-street parking on both sides of the road between Bailey Ave and Clary Dr - Presence of driveways - Topography: moderate horizontal curves, occasional vertical dips - Adjacent Infrastructure: residential on Lillyhill
Clary Dr Clary Dr*	Lillyhill Dr. San Clemente	San Clemente St.	0.30 0.19*	None (within these limits)	No	Partial	Good	- 1 Lane in each direction - No clear striping, shoulder or sidewalks - Presence of a few driveways - Topography: flat, moderate horizontal curves - Adjacent Infrastructure: sparse residential & vacant lands
Columbus Dr.	Pashard St.	Columbus Dr. (End Pavement)	0.13	None	No	None	Good	- 1 Lane in each direction - No clear roadway markings/stripping or shoulder - Topography: Flat - Adjacent Infrastructure: Commercial
Bridge/ River Rd	N. K St.	Jack Smith Park	1.67	25 & 25 MPH	No	Partial	Fair - Poor	- 1 Lane in each direction - No Sidewalk/Shoulder - Topography: Mostly flat with occasional dip
N. & S. K St.	Front St.	Needles Bridge	0.69	30 MPH	No	Yes	Good	- Mostly 1 Lane in each direction - One to two sidewalks - Presence of Driveways & Businesses - Traverses under a 3-RR X-ing - Presence of two Traffic Signals along the way
Needles Hwy	N. K St.	WB I-40 Ramps	1.26	30 MPH	No	Partial	Good	- Generally 1-2 Lanes in each direction - With sidewalks on both sides - Presence of two Traffic Signals along the way - Mixed Land uses along the way
Parkway St.	Lillyhill Dr.	J St.	0.53	None (within these limits)	No	Partial	Good	- 1 Lane in each direction - No clear striping, shoulder or sidewalks - Presence of a few driveways - Topography: flat, moderate horizontal curve
Ciabola St.	E. Broadway	D St.	0.46	25 MPH	No	Yes	Good	- 1 Lane in each direction - Sidewalks - Presence of a driveways - Topography: flat, moderate horizontal curve
W. Broadway/ Hist. U.S./County Rte 66	Ciabola St.	L St.	1.02	30 MPH	No	Partial	Good	- Mostly 2 Lanes in each direction - Mixed land uses - Presence of Two Traffic Signals along the way - With and without sidewalks on both sides - Topography: flat, moderate horizontal curve
L St.	Front St.	Eagle Pass Rd.	0.13	None	No	None	Good	- 1 Lane in each direction - No clear roadway markings/stripping or shoulder - With sidewalks on both sides, presence of few driveways - Topography: Flat - Adjacent Infrastructure: Residential
Front St.	N. K St.	L St.	0.05	None	No	None	Good	- 1 Lane in each direction - With sidewalks on one side, presence of few driveways - Topography: Flat - Adjacent Infrastructure: Residential
Bailey Ave.	J St.	Lillyhill Dr.	0.46	35 MPH	No	Yes	Good	- 2 Lanes in each direction - Sidewalks on both sides till 1600 Bailey Ave. - Presence of a few driveways - Topography: flat

Total Distance of Proposed Paved OHMV Routes: 9.20 Miles

*Unpaved City Roadway (not to be counted as a part of total OHMV Routes)

3. SECOND ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL



SAVE THE
DATE

*The City of Needles
Community
Fall Festival*

SATURDAY - NOVEMBER 1ST

**COME BE A PART OF THIS
COMMUNITY EVENT**



PARTNERING THIS YEAR
WITH VISTA ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL TO INCLUDE GAMES,
CAKE WALK, ANNUAL KIDDIE
PARADE, BOUNCE HOUSE AND
MORE!! THERE WILL ALSO BE A
VARIETY OF FOOD, CRAFT
BOOTHS AND DJ SOUTHWEST

**950 Front Street,
Needles, CA**

**FOR VENDER APPLICATION OR QUESTIONS EMAIL
PARKSANDRECREATION@CITYOFNEEDLES.COM**

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS



5. NEEDLES SUNDAY MARKET



Needles Sunday Market



**Fresh Produce
from DD Farms
November 2nd!**

Santa Fe Park

8AM - 12PM

EVERY SUNDAY THROUGH MARCH 31ST, 2026

6. NEEDLES PRIDE



7. LEAGUE OF CITIES CCMF



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CCMF October 2025 Panel Recaps: League of California Cities Annual Conference and ICMA Annual Conference

During the month of October, CCMF hosted two insightful panel discussions, one at the [2025 League of California Cities \(LOCC\) Annual Conference](#) and the other at the [2025 ICMA Annual Conference](#). These panels, "Overcoming Organizational Challenges: Reframing Career Challenges as Leadership Milestones" and "Mental Health and Well-Being in Turbulent Times: Tips and Best Practices for Facing Work Challenges & Personal Crises," brought together experienced leaders to share their expertise on two critical aspects of city management, career transitions and mental health.

Navigating Career Changes with Intention

The LOCC panel, "Overcoming Organizational Challenges: Reframing Career Challenges as Leadership Milestones," focused on how city leaders can transform unexpected obstacles into opportunities for growth, with insights on building resilience and reframing difficulties as valuable learning experiences. The discussion was moderated by CCMF Board Member and El Cerrito City Manager Karen Pinkos and featured panelists:

- **Patrick Martinez**, City Manager, City of Needles
- **Alexa Davis**, Assistant City Manager, City of Rollings Hills Estates
- **Bret Prebula**, City Manager, City of Suisun City

The conversation highlighted how embracing intentionality during career transitions can empower leaders to turn professional setbacks into stepping stones for purposeful leadership and long-term success.

Centering Mental Health and Well-Being in City Management

The ICMA panel, "Mental Health and Well-Being in Turbulent Times: Tips and Best

Practices for Facing Work Challenges & Personal Crises" highlighted strategies for supporting mental health in the workplace and beyond, with ICMA West Coast Regional Director Pat Martel, CCMF Board Director Ken Pulskamp and licensed psychotherapist Beverly Foo-Colon, LCSW, leading the discussion.

As awareness of burnout and stress grows in public administration, this panel emphasized the importance of proactive mental health support and accessible resources for city leaders.

CCMF is also proud to have sponsored the Annual Conference Reception at ICMA. The event, co-hosted with the Cal Cities City Manager's Department, Cal-ICMA, MMANC and MMASC, brought local government professionals together for an evening of networking and celebration.

CCMF thanks all who attended and contributed to these important conversations. The panels offered city managers an opportunity to reflect on their career journeys, exchange valuable insights and engage in thoughtful dialogue about the future of local government leadership.

October 28th, 2025

The mission of the California City Management Foundation is to promote and encourage excellence in city management in all of California's 480+ incorporated cities and towns.



Contact Us

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Parkway, D4#108
Ladera Ranch, CA 92694

 844-226-3411

 info@cacitymanagers.org

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8. SBCSD TRUNK OR TREAT



9. PALO VERDE SPRING 2026

**PALO VERDE
COLLEGE
NEEDLES
EDUCATIONAL
CENTER**

**REGISTER
FOR CLASSES!**

SPRING 2026

Registration opens Nov 2, 2025

**Empower your future with
excellence and growth in
every learning experience.**



**For More Information
www.paloverde.edu**

725 W. Broadway St., Needles, CA 92363



**APPLY
HERE**



10. ELKS LODGE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

A graphic for an Elks membership drive. It features a large blue and red shield shape on a background of a blue sky with white clouds. The word "ELKS" is in large yellow letters, "NEXT EXIT" is in white, and "MEMBERSHIP" is in large white letters on a blue background. A red banner at the bottom of the shield says "Membership Drive". A red cursive script says "Join us at the Lodge!". At the bottom of the graphic, a black bar contains the text "Community • Friendship • Charity" and "join.elks.org". The Elks USA logo is in the bottom right corner.

ELKS NEXT EXIT
Join us at the Lodge!
MEMBERSHIP
Membership Drive

Community • Friendship • Charity
join.elks.org



“Elks invest in their communities through programs that help children grow up healthy and drug-free, meet the needs of today's veterans, and improve the quality of life.”

NOVEMBER 2, 2025
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

11. ANNUAL FORT MOJAVE PARADE



12. HHWC

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



2824 East W Street • San Bernardino, CA 92415-0799 • (909) 382-5401 • Fax (909) 382-5413

Office of the Fire Marshal
Household Hazardous Waste Section
sbcfire.org

Daniel R. Munsey
Fire Chief/Fire Warden

Monica S. Ronchetti
Fire Marshal

October 31, 2025

Rainie Torrance
Utility Manager
City of Needles
817 Third Street
Needles, California 92363

Subject: *October 4, 2025 Household Hazardous Waste/E-waste Collection*

Dear Rainie,

The following waste was collected from 30 participants at the October 4, 2025 Needles HHW Collection:

Waste	Amounts (lbs.)	Waste	Amounts (lbs.)
Flammable Solid/Liquid	128	Antifreeze	0
Oil Based Paint	117	Motor Oil	283
Toxics	0	Used Oil Filters	0
Corrosive Acids	0	Fluorescent Tubes	19
Corrosive Bases	0	Household Batteries	30
Oxidizers	0	Lead Acid Batteries	57
Latex Paint	976	CRTs/Misc E-waste	1,582
Aerosols	48	Compressed Gas Cylinder	5
Pharmaceuticals	20	Sharps	18
Fertilizers	0	Materials Exchange	30
Fire Extinguishers	0	Cooking Oil	0
		Total	3,313

If you have any questions, please call or e-mail me at (909) 382-5401 mvangese@sbcfire.org

Sincerely,

Michael VanGese,
Environmental Specialist

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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