



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: July 3, 2026

City Manager's Weekly Highlights

Economic Development & Tourism

- Received statewide media recognition as **FOX26 News** featured California's first Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Pilot Program.
- Continued statewide momentum for the City's OHMV Pilot Program as AB 1756 advanced in the California Senate.
- Strengthened Needles' position as California's leader in outdoor recreation and OHMV tourism.

Public Safety

- Participated in the regional **Operation Dry Water** National Media Kickoff promoting safe and responsible boating during the Fourth of July holiday.
- Issued the City's annual Fourth of July fireworks safety reminder, encouraging safe and legal celebrations while highlighting reporting options for illegal fireworks.
- Continued promoting the **WeTip Anonymous Reporting Program** to encourage residents to report crime, graffiti, vandalism, fraud, drug activity, and other public safety concerns.

Community Services & Quality of Life

- Reopened the **Duke Watkins Park Splash Pad** in time for the summer season.
- Reminded families that **K-12 and Palo Verde College students ride Needles Area Transit (NAT) free year-round**, including throughout the summer.
- Launched the City's new **Community Events Calendar** to improve public awareness of community events and civic activities.

Community Engagement

- Opened recruitment for vacancies on the **Needles Housing Commission** and **Parks and Recreation Commission**.
- Promoted upcoming Fourth of July celebrations, Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez's Town Hall, and other community events.

1. **OHMV Pilot Program – Statewide Recognition:** FOX26 News has aired a feature highlighting the City's groundbreaking Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Pilot Program. The [FOX26 news segment showcases](#) Needles' leadership as the first city in California to establish a designated OHMV route network connecting riders directly to surrounding Bureau of Land Management trail systems. The story features Mayor Janet Jernigan discussing the City Council's vision of leveraging outdoor recreation as an economic development strategy while highlighting the anticipated benefits to local businesses and tourism. The segment also includes Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez discussing the program's significance and its potential to serve as a model for communities throughout California. Additionally, members of the off-road community expressed interest in implementing similar programs in other regions of the state. The statewide coverage reinforces Needles' position as California's leader in municipal OHMV route connectivity and further establishes the City's first-in-California pilot program as a model for other communities exploring similar opportunities. Links to the FOX26 [news segment](#) and accompanying [news article](#) are provided for the Council's review.
2. **AB 1756 – OHMV Pilot Program Extension:** Assembly Bill 1756, authored by Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez, continues to advance through the California Legislature. The bill was approved by the Senate Transportation Committee earlier last month and was subsequently approved on July 1 by the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee, advancing on consent without opposition. The legislation extends the City of Needles' Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Pilot Program through January 1, 2033, providing long-term certainty for the City's designated combined-use route network and continued connectivity between the community, local businesses, and surrounding Bureau of Land Management trail systems. The bill now advances to the Senate Appropriations Committee for consideration. The City appreciates Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez's leadership and continued partnership in advancing legislation that supports recreation, tourism, economic development, and Needles' continued leadership as California's first city to establish a designated OHMV combined-use route network.
3. **Operation Dry Water – Regional Fourth of July Safety Initiative:** The City of Needles participated in the 2026 Operation Dry Water National Media Kickoff in Lake Havasu City, a regional event marking the kickoff of a national boating safety campaign promoting sober and responsible recreation on the Colorado River during the Independence Day holiday. The event brought together law enforcement, public safety agencies, and regional partners from across the tri-state area to coordinate boating safety and boating-under-the-influence prevention efforts during the nationwide July Fourth enforcement period. The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, including the Colorado River Station led by Captain Gault and Sheriff Shannon Dicus, participated alongside Supervisor Dawn Rowe, Mayor Janet Jernigan, and Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell, highlighting strong regional collaboration along the Colorado River corridor. The national campaign emphasizes education, enforcement, and prevention during the highest-risk boating period of the year. With the Fourth of July holiday occurring this weekend, boaters are reminded to operate safely and responsibly on the waterways.

4. **Fireworks Safety – Fourth of July:** The San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, led by Fire Chief/Fire Warden Daniel R. Munsey, issued its annual Fourth of July fireworks safety advisory. The District reminds residents that illegal fireworks remain prohibited in most areas of San Bernardino County, with enforcement actions, fines up to \$1,250, and potential arrest for violations. Property owners may also be held liable for fireworks activity on their property. In Needles, "Safe and Sane" fireworks are permitted. State Fire Marshal-approved "Safe and Sane" fireworks can be purchased from the Needles Area Chamber of Commerce's annual fundraiser. Residents choosing to celebrate with fireworks are encouraged to use them safely by ensuring adult supervision, keeping water or extinguishing equipment nearby, and using fireworks only on non-combustible surfaces. Illegal fireworks activity may be reported through the WeTip hotline at 1-800-47-ARSON, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's non-emergency dispatch line at 909-387-8313, or by scanning the [QR code included](#) to [access the County's online](#) fireworks reporting portal.
5. **WeTip Anonymous Reporting Program:** The City continues to promote the WeTip Anonymous Reporting Program, a 24/7/365 anonymous reporting resource that enables residents to report crime, graffiti, vandalism, fraud, drug activity, bullying, arson, and other misconduct through phone, text, and online reporting options. The program supports law enforcement by directing information to the appropriate authorities while protecting the identity of those who report. As the City continues its proactive efforts to maintain a safe, clean, and attractive community, residents are encouraged to utilize WeTip as a valuable tool in helping deter illegal activity and improve neighborhood safety. A flyer containing reporting information, including a QR code for additional information, is attached for the Council's reference.
6. **Duke Watkins Park – Splash Pad Reopened:** The City of Needles Splash Pad at Duke Watkins Park has been officially reopened and is now available for public use just in time for the summer season. City staff completed necessary preparations to restore the facility and ensure it is safe, clean, and fully operational for community enjoyment. Visitors are reminded to follow all posted rules while using the splash pad, including that pets are not permitted within the splash pad area to maintain safety and sanitary conditions. The City remains committed to providing and maintaining high-quality recreational amenities that support resident wellbeing and enhance quality of life.
7. **Needles Area Transit – Students Ride Free:** Last month, Needles Area Transit (NAT) participated in the nationwide **Dump the Pump Day** campaign, reminding residents that as gas prices rise, the cost of getting around doesn't have to. The City also reminds the community that **K-12 and Palo Verde College students ride NAT free year-round, including throughout the summer**, with a valid student ID or class schedule. This program provides students with a safe, reliable, and air-conditioned transportation option while helping families save on transportation costs. A copy of the outreach flyer is attached for the Council's reference.

8. **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.
9. **City Commission Vacancies – Call for Applicants:** The City of Needles is seeking interested residents to fill vacancies on the Needles Housing Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission. Commissioners play an important role in advising the City Council and helping shape the future of the community. Interested residents are encouraged to submit an application to the City Clerk's Office by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 8, 2026. To apply or obtain additional information, please contact City Clerk Candace Clark at **cclark@cityofneedles.com** or **(760) 326-5700, ext. 133**. Appointments are scheduled for consideration by the City Council at its July 14, 2026, meeting.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & RECOGNITION

- I. **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 community event will include open swim, games, contests, food, and traditional Fourth of July activities. Residents and visitors are encouraged to attend and celebrate Independence Day with the community.
- II. **Chamber of Commerce Fireworks Fundraiser:** The Needles Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center has opened its annual TNT Fireworks stand with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, launching its Independence Day fundraiser through July 6. Proceeds support the Chamber's year-round business advocacy, tourism promotion, visitor services, and community events. The City appreciates the Chamber's continued partnership and support of this community tradition.
- III. **Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez Town Hall:** Residents are reminded that Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez will host a Town Hall on **Wednesday, July 15, 2026, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** at El Garces. The Town Hall provides an opportunity for community members to engage directly with their State Assembly representative, discuss legislative priorities, and share feedback on issues affecting the Needles community. Staff encourages interested residents to attend. Additional event information, including the RSVP link (<https://asmrc.org/cf/needlesrsvp>) and a QR code for registration, is attached for the Council's reference.
- IV. **Saint Vincent de Paul Society – 5th Annual Fundraiser:** The Saint Vincent de Paul Society of Needles will host its 5th Annual Fundraiser on October 3, 2026, at the Elks Lodge (1000 Lillyhill Dr., Needles, CA 92363). The event celebrates the 100-year anniversary of Route 66 and the 250-year anniversary of the United States and encourages a patriotic dress theme. The evening begins at 5:00 p.m. with a no-host bar and silent auction, followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. and announcements from 7:00–8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$600 for a table of eight and may be purchased at 839 Front Street, Needles, or by calling 760-326-4420. The organization is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and all proceeds support neighbors in need.

1. OHMV FOX26 FEATURE

» CITY OF NEEDLES

> OFF-ROAD VEHICLES ON PUBLIC ROADS

» FIRST PROGRAM OF ITS KIND IN CALIFORNIA

▶ 3:11

2. OPERATION DRY WATER NATIONAL AWARENESS



4. FIREWORK ADVISORY



**REPORT ILLEGAL
FIREWORKS**



SCAN THE QR CODE



Fireworks Safety Tips

When using Safe and Sane fireworks where allowed, SBCoFD offers some safety tips:

- ✓ Always use fireworks ("Safe and Sane" only) with an adult present. Even a "Safe and Sane" sparkler burns at a temperature that ignites clothing easily.
- ✓ Always read and follow label directions
- ✓ Always have water (garden hose/bucket) and a fire extinguisher within reach
- ✓ Always place fireworks on a firm, non-combustible surface, like a sidewalk or pavement
- ✓ Never alter fireworks
- ✓ Never re-light "dud" fireworks
- ✓ Homemade fireworks are often deadly; leave the making of fireworks to the experts
- ✓ Never point, throw or mishandle fireworks



**See Something
Say Something**



Report illegal fireworks

Call WeTip at (800) 47-ARSON
www.WeTip.com

For more information on fireworks safety,
call 909-386-8400.

5. WETIP ANONYMOUS REPORTING PROGRAM

REPORTING 24/7/365

WeTip provides a completely anonymous reporting solution that gives you a platform to help fight crime, bullying, and other forms of misconduct at your organization.

WeTip's dedicated solution gives you a safe route directly to the right people at your company so you can help uncover and correct any problems or misconduct quickly.

Our call center staff are available 24 hours per day, 365 days per year to help you through the reporting process. All operators are trained and skilled in listening and interviewing techniques in order to get the most accurate and complete information.

UP TO \$1000 REWARD

WeTip
Powered By CatapultK12

WeTip
Powered By CatapultK12

NATIONWIDE HOTLINES

In addition to your dedicated reporting options, WeTip is proud to offer our long-standing, national hotlines for any incidents that occur inside or outside your organization. If you see any instance of crime, vandalism, harassment, discrimination, arson, etc., trust WeTip to direct your report to the proper authorities.

REPORT FRAUD
800.87.FRAUD

REPORT DRUG ABUSE
800.47.DRUGS

REPORT ARSON
800.47.ARSON

REPORT CRIME
800.78.CRIME

REPORT TRIBAL INJUSTICE
855.4.THE.REZ

REPORT BULLYING
855.86.BULLY

SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

WeTip
Powered By CatapultK12

REPORT CRIME

ANONYMOUSLY

If you have any information regarding crime or misconduct in your city, contact WeTip Anonymously.

CALL OR TEXT **REPORT** TO
844.909.3096



7. STUDENTS RIDE FREE-NAT

Gas prices keep going up but the cost of your ride doesn't have to.

Public transportation gives you a smarter, more affordable way to get around town.

Visit needlestransit.com

Needles Area Transit (NAT) fare is \$1.35 per boarding and you can skip the exact change with a 30-Punch Pass available for just \$39 at Needles City Hall.

Students ride free.

K-12 and Palo Verde College students ride at no cost with a student ID or class schedule.



Three ways to ride:

- **Deviated Fixed Route (NAT).** Monday through Saturday around Needles.
- **Dial-A-Ride (DAR).** Curb-to-curb service for seniors and riders with disabilities.
- **Fort Mohave/Bullhead Shuttle.** Tuesdays and Thursdays by prepaid reservation.



powered by



I. AQUATIC CENTER JULY FOURTH EVENT

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!

SAURDAY, 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

II. 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

III. ASSEMBLYMEMBER TOWN HALL

Please join Assemblyman
JEFF GONZALEZ
FOR A

Needles **TOWN HALL**



Wednesday,

JULY 15

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

EL GARCES

950 FRONT ST., NEEDLES, CA 92363



**TO RSVP TO THIS EVENT, SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT:
ASMRC.ORG/CF/NEEDLESRSVP**

IV. ST. VICENT FUNDRAISER

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY NEEDLES CA 5TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Celebrating
100 year anniversary of Route 66
250 year anniversary of the USA
Patriotic Dress

Proceeds will go to helping our neighbors in need

Date: October 3, 2026

Where: Elks Lodge 1000 Lillyhill Dr. , Needles CA 92363

Hours: 5:00 no host bar and silent auction 6:00 dinner 7:00-8:00 announcements and close

Cost: \$75.00 per person or \$600.00 to reserve a table of 8

Tickets may be purchased at
839 Front Street, Needles
760-326-4420
501 (C)3 non profit

