



City of Needles

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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 12, 2026

- 1. OHMV Pilot Program Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Signage Installation:** The City of Needles will officially launch the Needles Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Pilot Program with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on **Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at 100 G Street**. This milestone represents the culmination of years of planning, public outreach, coordination, and collaboration among the City, community stakeholders, public safety partners, and federal land management agencies. In preparation for the official launch, the City has begun implementing the adopted OHMV Wayfinding and Signage Master Plan, including the installation of route markers, directional signage, staging area signs, and educational signs throughout the designated route network. The signage system is designed to improve rider safety, assist visitors in navigating the approved routes, and provide easy access to program information through QR codes. Residents and visitors are encouraged to attend the ceremony and learn more about the program. Additional information, route maps, safety requirements, FAQs, and program updates are available through the City's OHMV webpage and QR codes located on program signage.
- 2. Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez Town Hall:** Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez will host a Town Hall meeting in Needles on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at El Garces. The event will provide residents and community stakeholders with an opportunity 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 and participate in the discussion. RSVP information is available on the attached flyer or by clicking on this [registration link](#).
- 3. Sandbag Availability and Storm Preparedness:** With monsoon season officially beginning on June 15 and continuing through September 30, residents are encouraged to prepare in advance for potential storm activity. San Bernardino County Fire Protection District has identified Needles Fire Station No. 32, located at 1113 E. Broadway Street, as a sandbag distribution location. Sandbags are available at no cost to residents on a first-come, first-served basis.

while supplies last. Residents should not rely solely on emergency supplies and are encouraged to obtain sandbags and other preparedness materials before storm events occur. Additional information regarding sandbag availability and storm preparedness is available through the [San Bernardino County Fire Protection District website](#).

4. **Needles High School Graduation:** Needles High School recently celebrated its 120th Commencement Ceremony, recognizing approximately 60 graduates from the Class of 2026. The ceremony marked an important milestone for students, families, educators, and the broader community as graduates prepare to pursue higher education, workforce opportunities, military service, and other career pathways. In addition to earning their diplomas, members of the graduating class received approximately **\$1.262 million** in scholarships, grants, and educational assistance, reflecting a significant investment in the future of Needles' youth. The City of Needles congratulates the Class of 2026 on this remarkable achievement and wishes each graduate continued success in their future endeavors.
5. **Route 66 Centennial Caravan:** The City of Needles welcomed the **Route 66 Centennial Caravan on June 8, 2026**, as travelers from across the United States and around the world visited the community in celebration of the upcoming 100th anniversary of Historic Route 66. The event included the Big Texan 72-Ounce Steak Challenge and provided an opportunity to showcase Needles' hospitality, local businesses, and Route 66 heritage to visitors from across the nation and around the world. Staff appreciates the efforts of the California Historic Route 66 Association, The Big Texan Steak Ranch & Brewery, public safety partners, volunteers, local businesses, and community members who helped make the event a success. The event highlighted the important role heritage tourism plays in supporting local businesses and promoting Needles as a destination along Historic Route 66.
6. **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. This community event will provide local youth and families with an opportunity to enjoy an afternoon of summer recreation and community engagement. Through the generosity of Needles Eagles Aerie 2599, admission for children will be provided at no cost. The City appreciates the organization's continued commitment to supporting local families and partnering with the City to provide positive recreational opportunities for the community. Residents are encouraged to attend and participate in this family-friendly event.
7. **Coalition to Protect Community Services:** As previously directed by the City Council, the City of Needles has joined the Coalition to Protect Community Services, a statewide effort led by the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (CJPIA). The coalition is advocating for reforms to California's liability laws to ensure public agencies are responsible only for their proportionate share of damages and to address the rapidly increasing costs of public agency liability claims and litigation. Coalition members contend that escalating liability costs are diverting resources away from essential local services, including public

safety, infrastructure maintenance, parks, recreation, and other community programs. Staff will continue to monitor legislative developments and provide updates as they become available.

8. **Rivers Edge Golf Course Aeration:** Staff recently completed annual aeration activities at Rivers Edge Golf Course as part of the City's ongoing commitment to maintaining high-quality playing conditions. Aeration is a critical maintenance practice that improves soil health, enhances water infiltration, promotes stronger root development, and supports long-term turf quality. While the process may temporarily impact course conditions, it plays an essential role in ensuring the course remains healthy, resilient, and well-prepared for overseeding activities later this year. Attached photos highlight the hard work and dedication of the Rivers Edge Golf Course staff during this important maintenance activity.
9. **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. **Rivers Edge Golf Course Summer Golf Camp:** The Rivers Edge Golf Course Summer Golf Camp began on June 10, 2026, with strong attendance and enthusiastic participation from local youth. The eight-week program, led by Golf Instructor JJ DeLeon, provides golf instruction, skill development, and positive recreational opportunities for participants ages 5–17. Staff appreciates the efforts of the Rivers Edge Golf Course team in making this program a success.
- II. **CITY HALL CLOSED:** City Hall will be closed on Friday, June 19, 2026, in observance of Juneteenth National Independence Day, a federally recognized holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in the United States. Regular business hours will resume on Monday, June 22, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. For urgent matters during the closure, residents may call 760-326-5700, where our after-hours answering service will route calls to the appropriate City personnel. A notice has been posted at the entrance of City Hall to inform the public.

1. OHMV RIBBON CUTTING



You're Invited!

CITY OF NEEDLES

OHMV

PILOT PROGRAM

RIBBON CUTTING Ceremony



Join us as we celebrate the official launch of the

Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Pilot Program!

Experience one of California's most unique OHMV destinations, where riders can connect directly from the community to the trail system while enjoying scenic desert vistas, spectacular Colorado River views, and world-class outdoor recreation.



DATE

**WEDNESDAY,
JUNE 24, 2026**



TIME

10:00 A.M.



LOCATION

**100 G STREET
NEEDLES, CA 92363**

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



OFFICIAL RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY



REMARKS FROM CITY OFFICIALS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS



OVERVIEW OF THE OHMV PILOT PROGRAM



CELEBRATION OF A MAJOR COMMUNITY MILESTONE



PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Needles is one of the few communities in California with a designated OHMV route network connecting riders from town to trail. From breathtaking desert landscapes to spectacular views of the Colorado River, the Needles OHMV experience offers a unique opportunity to explore the outdoors while supporting local businesses, recreation, tourism, and economic development.

SCAN HERE
for more
INFORMATION!



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
760-326-2115 ext. 145



info@cityofneedles.com

1. OHMV EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE



CITY OF NEEDLES OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE (OHMV) PILOT PROGRAM



— RIDE LEGAL • RIDE SAFE • STAY ON DESIGNATED ROUTES —

BEFORE YOU RIDE

- VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE
- OHMV REGISTRATION & IDENTIFICATION
- PROOF OF INSURANCE
- HELMET & SAFETY GEAR
REQUIRED AS APPLICABLE BY LAW
- FOLLOW POSTED ROUTE SIGNS
OBEY ALL TRAFFIC LAWS

MAX SPEED: 35 MPH
(LOWER SPEEDS MAY APPLY)
OBEY POSTED SPEED LIMITS AND DRIVE SAFELY FOR CONDITIONS

- YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS
- REDUCE DUST, NOISE & IMPACTS
- RESPECT OUR COMMUNITY

WHERE YOU CAN RIDE

- DESIGNATED OHMV ROUTES
- APPROVED STAGING AREAS
- BLM TRAIL CONNECTIONS

PROHIBITED

- RESIDENTIAL STREETS
Off Corridor
- OFF-ROUTE TRAVEL
- RECKLESS RIDING
- RIDING AFTER DARK
- NO ALCOHOL OR
DRUG IMPAIRMENT

APPROVED STAGING AREAS

- JACK SMITH PARK & RIVER ROAD**
Trailer Parking
Loading Zone
Restrooms
- CLARY DRIVE & LILLYHILL DRIVE**
Trailhead Access
Signage

SCAN FOR:



- Official Route Map
- Staging Areas
- OHMV Rules
- Safety Information
- FAQ
- Program Updates

cityofneedles.com



IF IT ISN'T SIGNED — DON'T RIDE IT.

AUTHORIZED UNDER CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE §38026.2 (AB 2152)

ENFORCED BY SBCSD, CHP & PARTNER AGENCIES

The City of Needles OHMV Pilot Program connects riders to recreation, lodging, fuel, dining and local businesses while protecting residents and our environment.

2. ASSEMBLYMAN GONZALEZ VISIT

Please join Assemblyman
JEFF GONZALEZ
FOR A

Needles **TOWN HALL**



Wednesday,

JULY 15

5:30PM – 6:30PM

EL GARCES

950 FRONT ST., NEEDLES, CA 92363



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

3. ARMY CORPS SANDBAG GUIDANCE

SAND BAG TIPS

PROTECT YOUR HOME AND PROPERTY

PREPARE BEFORE THE STORM ARRIVES



Properly placed sandbags can help redirect water, mud and debris away from your home.

✓ DO:



Remove any debris from the areas where bags are to be placed.



Place the bags lengthwise and parallel to the direction of flow. Fill the low spots first before placing bags the full length of the area to be raised.



Place the sandbags to redirect water, mud or debris, not dam it.



Fold the open end of the bag under the filled portion. Place succeeding bags with the bottom of the bag tightly and partially overlapping the previous bag.



Offset adjacent rows or layers by one-half bag length to avoid continuous joints.



To eliminate voids and form a tight seal, compact and shape each bag by walking on it and continue the process as each layer is placed. This flattens the top of the bag and prevents slippage between succeeding layers.



Sandbags can best be used to help protect doorways if a waterproof layer like heavy plastic or waterproof canvas is placed behind them. If possible, tape it to the door frame. Stack the sandbags in a pyramid formation, following the above instructions, and wrap the plastic up and over the top. The waterproof protection is always essential for

✗ DO NOT:



Do NOT place sandbags directly against the outer wall of a building. Wet bags can create added pressure on the foundation.



Do NOT use sandbags to completely dam water flow.



Do NOT wait until a storm is approaching to prepare.

✓ CORRECT PLACEMENT

Staggered layers



Sandbags available at no cost to residents on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

Sandbags available while supplies last.

NEEDLES FIRE STATION NO. 32

📍 1113 E. Broadway Street
Needles, CA 92363

☎ 760-326-2833

5. ROUTE 66 CENTENNIAL CARAVAN



6. EAGLES POOL PARTY

SWIM WITH AN EAGLE

Join Us for a Unique and Fun Event!



**AT THE
NEEDLES
CITY POOL!**

**WHEN: Saturday, June 27, 2026
2:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.**

FREE FOR CHILDREN

7. JPIA COALITION

Establish Proportionate Liability for Local Governments

Under California's joint and several liability rule, a city found just 1% at fault can be forced to pay 100% of a plaintiff's economic damages—when the other responsible co-defendants can't pay. Every dollar consumed by disproportionate liability judgments and inflated settlements is a dollar unavailable for community services that our residents rely on: police and fire protection, roads and infrastructure maintenance, parks, libraries, senior services and youth sports programs.

Establishing proportionate liability means that local governments named in lawsuits would be required to pay only their actual share of fault, as determined by the court. Not only is this more fair, but it would help to solve a rapidly escalating problem—a fiscal crisis of runaway liability costs for cities and other local government agencies that have limited taxpayer funding to provide much needed public services.

June 12, 2026

To Members of the Legislature:

On behalf of the Coalition to Protect Community Services, we write to express our strong support for meaningful tort reform in civil actions against public entities, consistent with the priorities of other local government organizations statewide.

Specifically, we support:

- Proportionate (several) liability for economic damages in civil actions against public entities, so that taxpayers pay only for the share of harm attributable to the public agency.
- Caps on damages in civil actions against public entities, ensuring that injured parties are fairly compensated, while also preserving the capacity to deliver essential public services.

Local governments across California are facing a growing liability crisis. In many cases, it is not a result of agencies improperly delivering services or mismanaging risk—but because the current legal framework systematically exposes public entities to liability far beyond their actual share of responsibility.

For cities and special districts, rising settlements and liability costs pose an existential threat to the services we provide. **Multi-million dollar claims against local agencies—arising from public roadways, sidewalks, public property, and routine government services—have increased sharply, and the rising costs are unsustainable.** Insurance premiums paid by local agencies have grown 370%, climbing from \$115 million in 2016 to \$541 million in 2025. And since 2019, public entity liability costs have more than tripled, now exceeding \$7 billion in known exposure.

When a local government agency faces a liability judgment, the cost is borne collectively by liability risk pools—meaning it is ultimately funded by the taxpayers of every member community across California—or directly by the local agency if it is not a member of a risk pool. Dollars spent defending and paying out lawsuits are dollars diverted from public safety, road maintenance, parks, and the core local services these agencies exist to provide.

We stand ready to work with the Legislature, the Administration, and all involved stakeholders to craft a practical and meaningful solution to this growing problem.

Can we count on your support to help safeguard essential public services?

CALIFORNIA JOINT POWERS INSURANCE AUTHORITY

Providing Innovative Risk Management Solutions for Our Public Agency Partners

8081 Moody Street, La Palma, CA 90623 | (562) 467-8700 | cjpia.org



8. RIVERS EDGE AERATION



I. RIVERS EDGE GOLF CAMP

