



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: September 12, 2025

1. **Making History: OHMV Master Plan Adopted**

This past week, the City Council adopted Resolution 2025-38, approving the OHMV Master Plan and Routes – Pilot Project Technical Memorandum (July 21, 2025). The City of Needles is the only municipality among California's 482 cities authorized under AB 2152 (2022) to implement this program. The plan establishes 9.20 miles of combined-use routes connecting city streets with BLM trailheads, lodging, and service areas, while meeting state requirements on route length, speed limits, licensing, helmets, and insurance. The program is currently under review by the CHP Commissioner and is **not yet in effect**—off-highway vehicles cannot legally operate on city streets until approval is granted and the City completes implementation. An education and outreach campaign will accompany rollout, including signage, maps, FAQs, and community meetings, to ensure residents and visitors are fully informed and engaged. The pilot project is expected to expand recreational access, strengthen tourism, reduce private land trespass, and serve as a model for rural California. It also represents a major **economic development opportunity**, positioning the City of Needles as a premier hub for OHMV recreation and visitor spending. Refer to the attached map for reference.

2. **Assemblymember Gonzalez Hosting Town Hall – October 3**

Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez will be hosting a Community Town Hall in Needles on Friday, October 3, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at El Garces, 950 Front Street. This event is an opportunity for residents to engage directly with their State Assemblymember, share perspectives, and learn about legislative initiatives that impact our community. We encourage all residents to attend and take part in this important conversation. For more information and to RSVP, please see the attached flyer or click on this [link](#).

3. **NPUA Keeping Power Costs Low**

This past week, the City Council approved a 2.7% cost-of-living adjustment to the basic service charge, effective October 1, 2025, along with a reduction in the

over-hydro rate from \$0.1423 to \$0.1159 and the elimination of the \$0.0300 Power Cost Adjustment. This outcome reflects outstanding work by the Utility Manager in keeping power costs low through proactive planning, competitive procurement, and strategic load forecasting. The result is a well-executed purchase strategy that balances increased demand with favorable pricing and fiscal responsibility—delivering direct benefits to Needles residents and businesses.

4. Honoring First Responders – LEARN THE BEAT Event

Western Arizona Regional Medical Center (WARMC) hosted the LEARN THE BEAT event at local schools, providing 75 eighth-grade students with hands-on CPR training. The event also recognized and honored First Responders—firefighters, law enforcement, and emergency medical crews—who place themselves in harm’s way to protect lives and keep the community safe. Through this initiative, the local emergency medicine community is ensuring that every eighth grader from Laughlin to Needles has the opportunity to learn CPR. This effort spans public schools, charter schools, private schools, parochial schools, and homeschool programs, giving all students in the region the chance to gain lifesaving skills. Refer to the attached image for a glimpse of the event.

5. Utilities and Public Works Coming Together for Downtown Pride

As part of the City’s downtown beautification efforts, Public Works and Utility crews have been preparing the heart of Needles for upcoming Route 66 Centennial activities and the Doors Open California Tour. Crews completed a full cleanup of the historic El Garces Harvey House grounds, while the Water Department painted 20 fire hydrants from Front Street to L Street, enhancing visibility and appearance along the downtown corridor. Military Moms banners were also installed by the Electric Department throughout downtown to honor local service members and add vibrancy to Route 66. In addition, sidewalk repair and replacement work improved pedestrian safety and accessibility in adjacent neighborhoods. These projects reflect a coordinated effort across departments to showcase Needles’ historic landmarks, strengthen community pride, and create a welcoming environment for residents and visitors.

6. Medical Office Assistant Program

Staff partnered with First Institute Training & Management (FITM) to share information about the Medical Office Assistant Program, which is designed to prepare residents for employment in today’s fast-paced healthcare environment. The program provides training in medical terminology, electronic health records, insurance billing and coding, HIPAA compliance, and patient coordination, while also developing administrative and communication skills. This initiative creates an accessible pathway for young adults and career-seekers in our community to enter the medical field without the need for lengthy higher-education programs. It directly supports the Council’s goal to attract families and enhance supportive amenities by expanding healthcare career opportunities within the region. Staff will continue to promote this program to ensure maximum community participation and benefit.

7. San Bernardino County Workforce Development-Youth Forward

San Bernardino County Workforce Development recently launched the Youth Forward program, which connects eligible youth ages 16 to 24 with career training and support services. The program offers paid work experience, vocational training, individualized mentoring, career development, college enrollment assistance, and the opportunity to earn certifications in high-demand industries such as healthcare, IT, and technical trades. Youth Forward prioritizes services for participants who are low-income, homeless, foster or justice-involved, or facing basic-skills challenges. This program strengthens local workforce readiness and aligns with the City Council's family-friendly and economic development priorities by connecting young residents to career-sustaining employment opportunities and building a pipeline of trained workers to support employers in our region. Staff will continue to work with county partners to promote this program throughout the community.

8. Good Morning Needles – September Preview

The next *Good Morning Needles* coffee gathering is scheduled for next Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 7:30 a.m. at the Chamber and Visitor Center. The featured guest will be Sal Monica from the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Agency. Following the meeting, Mr. Monica will be available to meet directly with businesses employing five or more staff to discuss resources, training, and workforce solutions. These monthly gatherings continue to increase in attendance and provide a valuable forum for businesses, community members, and civic leaders to connect. Council is encouraged to share this opportunity with local employers who may benefit, and the Chamber will coordinate outreach to ensure participation.

9. Celebrating California's 175th Anniversary of Statehood

This week, the City of Needles joined communities across California in celebrating the 175th anniversary of statehood. During the City Council meeting, Mayor Jernigan read a proclamation in honor of this historic milestone. The proclamation recognized California's admission to the Union on September 9, 1850, and highlighted the State's enduring role in shaping the nation's economy, culture, and democratic values. The City Council emphasized the importance of reflecting on California's history while looking forward to its continued growth and resilience. As part of the broader *Celebrate California* initiative, the 175th anniversary highlights the Golden State's contributions in technology, agriculture, arts, entertainment, and innovation, while celebrating its diversity and resilience. The celebration also underscored the unique place of Needles in California's story—as the eastern gateway to the State and a community rich in heritage, shaped by the Colorado River, the railroad, and Route 66. By marking this anniversary, the City honored its contributions to California's past and reaffirmed its commitment to being part of the State's bright future.

10. Flag Football Final Sign-Ups

The Recreation Department will host a coach's sneak-peek for all registered flag football players on Tuesday, September 16th, on the grass lawn in front of the Recreation Center. For grades 2nd through 5th, the session will run from 6:00 –

6:45 p.m. In addition to the sneak-peek, the Department will also be accepting late sign-ups that evening, ensuring every interested player has a chance to participate.

11. Community Events Calendar Now Live

The City's new website now features a [Community Events Calendar](#)—your go-to source for what's happening in Needles. From festivals to meetings, it's designed to keep residents and visitors connected. Local organizations are invited to submit or update events through the City Clerk's Office to keep the calendar fresh and inclusive. Contact Candace Clark at cclark@cityofneedles.com to participate. Together, we can showcase the best of Needles, strengthen community spirit, and make it easier than ever to stay informed. The calendar can also be downloaded directly to your phone.

1. OHMV MASTER PLAN



OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE (OHMV) MASTER PLAN & ROUTES - Pilot Project
Final Technical Memo
CITY OF NEEDLES, CA

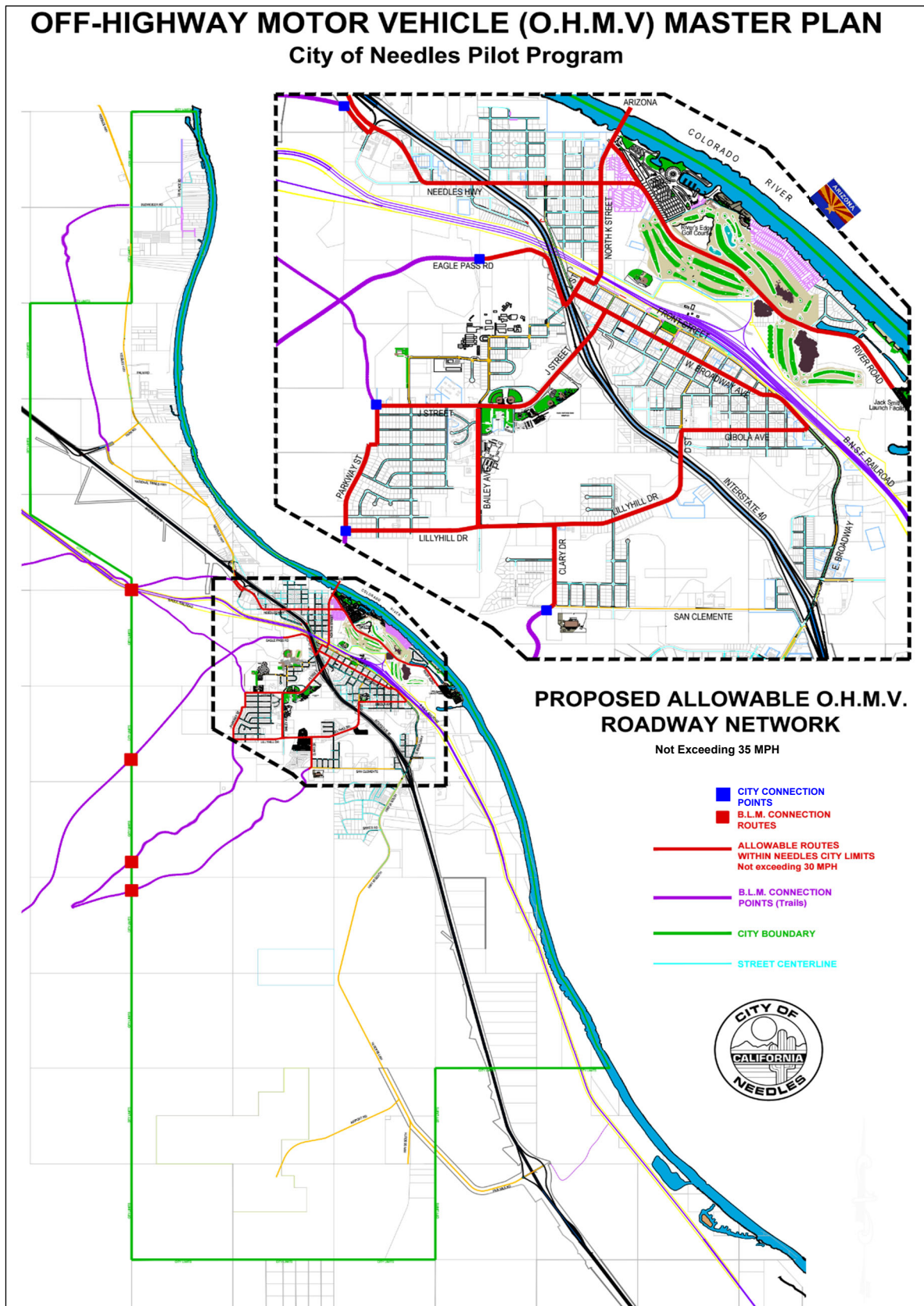


Figure 2: Proposed Allowable Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Routes Within the City of Needles & Connection to BLM Interface Point



2. ASSEMBLYMAN RSVP TOWNHALL

Please join Assemblyman
JEFF GONZALEZ
for a

COMMUNITY Town Hall



Friday
OCT. 3

6:00PM – 7:00PM

EL GARCES

950 FRONT ST, NEEDLES, CA 92363



**TO RSVP TO THIS EVENT, SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT:
[ASMRC.ORG/CF/RSVPTODAY](https://asmrc.org/cf/rsvp TODAY)**

4. LEARN THE BEAT- WARMC



5.CENTENNIAL ROUTE 66



Image: CaliforniaToChicago.com



DOORS OPEN CALIFORNIA ROUTE 66 CENTENNIAL TOUR September 13-14, 2025

Journey through the Mojave Desert's quirkiest preservation stories, from relit neon signs to formerly long-vacant Harvey Houses! This event will showcase multiple restored, reused, or preservation-in-progress sites along the California Historic Route 66 Needles to Barstow National Scenic Byway. Attendees can take a guided tour, visiting different properties each day, with speakers at each site. Register for one or both days' tours, leaving from Barstow. A hotel tour rate is available in Barstow. Details below.

This tour is organized by the nonprofit **California Historic Route 66 Association**. It is part of the nonprofit **California Preservation Foundation's** annual **Doors Open California** event, the largest statewide celebration of historic places in CA. Enthusiasts of historic architecture and cultural heritage can access over 75 sites statewide on weekends during September.

Tour registration is now open! Tour tickets must be purchased through the California Preservation Foundation website. Use the link below to purchase your tickets. You will receive an email confirmation and tour details as we get closer to the Doors Open events.

Tour Fee: \$20 per person

Ticket Website: californiapreservation.org/doca/
(Your computer security may not allow the ticket site to open. Copy and paste it into the URL search bar)

QUALITY INN ON ROUTE 66

1520 East Main Street, Barstow

The Quality Inn has discounted rates available for this special Centennial Route 66 program on September 12-13, 2025.

Reservations must be made by calling the Quality Inn directly at 760-256-6891 and asking for the Centennial Route 66 rate.

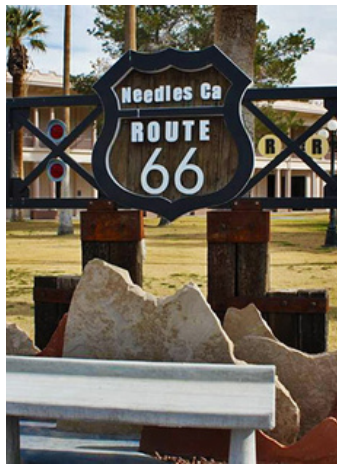
Room Rates: **\$68** single bed room and **\$70** double bed room. For comfort, these rooms are suited for one or two people. A \$10.00 charge is applicable for each additional person in the room.

NOTE: Rates **include** full complimentary breakfast and Wi-Fi. Required city tax and state tourism fee will be added at checkout. Online bookings are not eligible for the discount. Deadline to book at the discounted rate is September 5.

Amenities: Free Parking, Pool, Fitness Center, Restaurant, Bar



Amboy



Harvey House Needles El Garces



California Information Bureau Daggett



Newberry Springs



Harvey House Barstow Casa del Desierto

5. CITYWIDE BEAUTIFICATION



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6. FIRST INSTITUTE

Medical Office Assistant Program

Are you ready to start a career in the medical field without spending years in school? First Institute Training & Management (FITM) is opening doors for young adults/adults and career-seekers through fast-track, hands-on training programs—most notably the Medical Office Assistant (MOA) program.

The Medical Office Assistant program at FITM is designed to equip students with the skills necessary to work in today's fast-paced healthcare settings.

Students learn:

• Medical terminology	• Health insurance billing & coding
• Electronic Health Records (EHR)	• Front desk and patient coordination
• Basic administrative & communication skills	• HIPAA compliance & patient privacy



FIRST INSTITUTE
Training & Management, Inc.

Raelynn Rios
Workforce Development Specialist

305 D St., Needles, CA 92363
rrios@firstinstitute.com (657) 799-6388

Please scan the QR code or visit the website if interested!

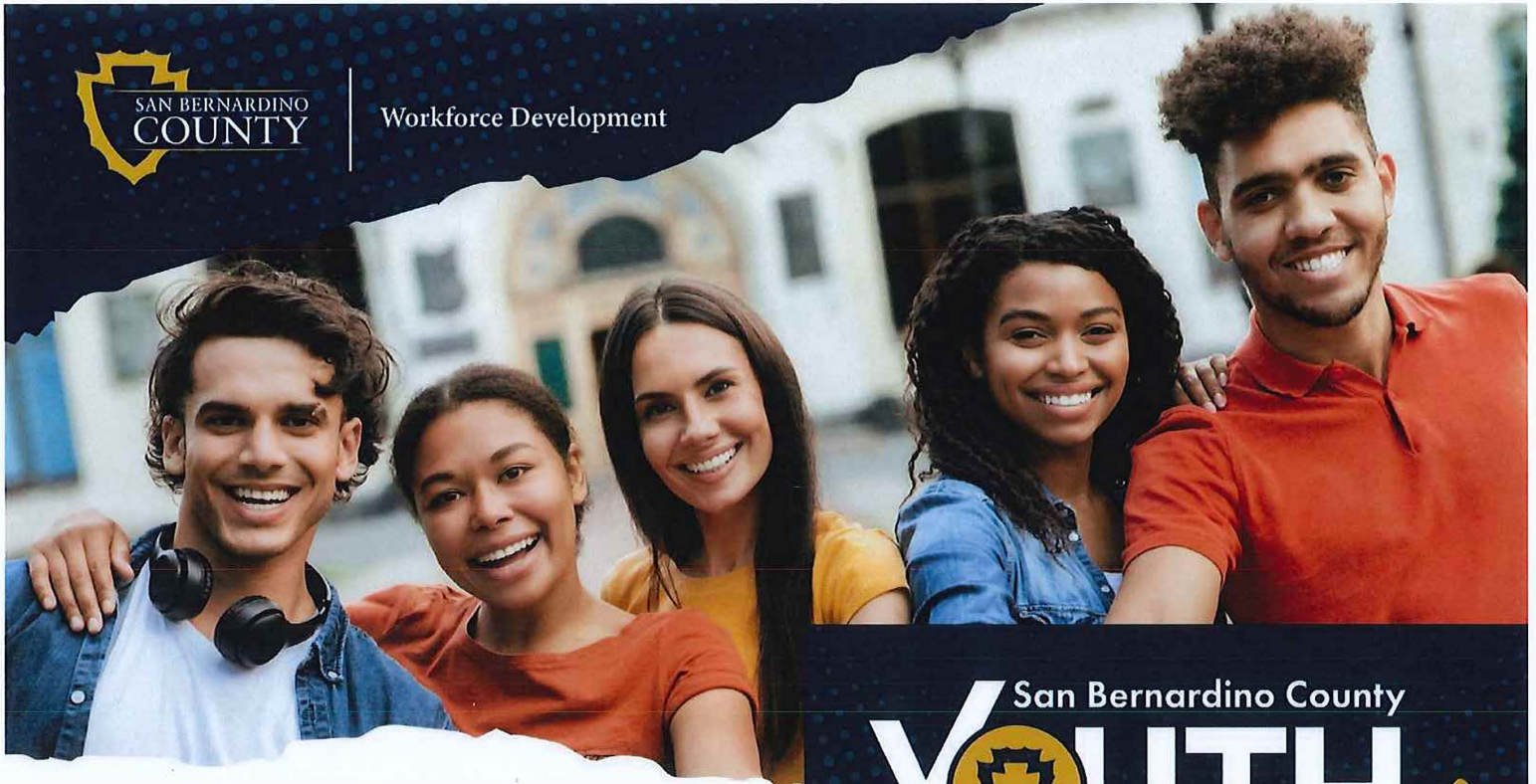
<https://forms.gle/Fn9ePY6nvaKA1gf48>



7. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Workforce Development



Youth Forward is San Bernardino County's exciting youth program. Through Youth Forward you may be eligible for free skills and career exploration, one-on-one mentoring, career training and education, paid work experience, and many other opportunities to prepare you for a sustainable career. Come join us!



PROGRAM SERVICES

- Paid Work Experience
- Vocational Schooling like Cosmetology, Barber School Certified Nursing Assistant, Forklift Operator EKG Technician, Security Enforcement Training Construction, Graphic Design Phlebotomy, Clinical Medical Assistant and more!
- Individualized Career Development Plan
- Financial Literacy
- College Enrollment Assistance
- Employment Assistance
- Occupational Training and Certificates
- Supportive Services and more!

REQUIREMENTS:

- 16-24 years of age
- Out-of-School AND meets one or more of the following barriers:
 - » No High School Diploma or GED
 - » Disability
 - » Low Income & Basic Skills Deficient
 - » Parenting Youth
 - » Foster Youth
 - » Justice Involved
 - » Homeless and more!

LOCATION:

First Institute Training & Management
305 D. St. Needles, CA 92363
www.fitmnow.com

CONTACT:

Workforce Development Specialists
Raelynn Rios & Cory Vale
O: (909) 829-1643
C: (657) 799-6388



Scan the QR Code
to visit to our Youth
Forward website

workforce.sbcounty.gov/youth/

Funding for this program is provided by San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board (WDB). This WIOA Title-1 financially assisted program or activity, the WDB, are Equal Opportunity Employers. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. For federal funding disclosure information, visit workforce.sbcounty.gov/about/ffd/.

9. CALIFORNIA STATEHOOD

