



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: September 11, 2026

City Manager's Weekly Highlights

Utility Services & Housing

- Council Approves Lower Over-Hydro Electric Rate, reducing the rate approximately 17% to \$0.0958 per kWh effective October 1—the lowest over-hydro rate since 2020.
- Resident Advisory Board Reviews Housing Policy Updates, with residents providing input on proposed HOTMA changes ahead of the September 23 Housing Commission public hearing.

Economic Development & Organizational Leadership

- Needles Featured in ULI Regional Resilience Report, highlighting housing, economic development, and extreme-heat strategies, with recognition of Kathy Raasch and Irene Romero for their participation.
- City Manager Earns ICMA Credentialed Manager Designation, recognizing local government management experience and a commitment to ethical leadership and continued professional development.
- Needles Sunday Market Returns September 13, bringing local vendors, food, produce, and handmade goods to Santa Fe Park from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Public Safety & Community Engagement

- Labor Day Marine Enforcement Results Reported, with regional operations resulting in 107 enforcement stops, approximately 60 citations, and eight boating-under-the-influence arrests.
- Fall Community Programs Advance, including the September 14 youth-sports registration deadline, September 21 Needles Care kickoff, and September 24–25 Spay & Neuter Clinic.
- Upcoming Community Events Highlighted, including the October 28 Trunk or Treat, November 7 Route 66 Centennial Fall Festival, and November 21 Pirates Gold Off-Road Poker Run.

1. **Electric Over-Hydro Rate Drops to Lowest Level Since 2020** — The City Council approved the Board of Public Utilities' recommendation establishing a new **\$0.0958 per kWh over-hydro electric rate**, effective October 1, 2026. The new rate represents an approximately **17% reduction from the current \$0.1159 per kWh rate** and will be NPUA's lowest over-hydro rate since 2020. **The reduction includes a \$0.01 per kWh Power Cost Adjustment, using a portion of the accumulated PCA balance to provide additional rate relief directly to customers.**
2. **Resident Advisory Board – HOTMA Policy Updates:** On Friday, September 11, the **Housing Authority of the City of Needles (HACN)** held a Resident Advisory Board (RAB) meeting to review and receive resident input on proposed **Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2016 (HOTMA)** updates to the Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP), Section 8 Administrative Plan, and Public Housing Lease Agreement. The meeting provided residents an opportunity to participate in the policy-development process and provide feedback through the RAB. The proposed updates will next be considered at a **Housing Commission public hearing on September 23 at 4:00 p.m.**, followed, if recommended for approval, by a **HACN Board of Commissioners public hearing on October 27 at 6:00 p.m.**
3. **Urban Land Institute Features Needles in Regional Resilience Report:** The **Urban Land Institute (ULI)** has released *Building Resilience Across the Region: Lessons from California and Nevada Communities*, featuring Needles as one of **seven participating public agencies**. The City is highlighted in the report's "**Heat and Housing**" case study, which examines strategies for expanding attainable and middle-market housing, strengthening economic development and placemaking, and addressing extreme heat and community resilience. The City appreciates **Development Services Director Kathy Raasch and City Planner Irene Romero** for their participation in the ULI Technical Assistance process and their work representing Needles. The publication provides **regional recognition for Needles and practical strategies to help guide future housing, economic development, and resilience initiatives.**
4. **City Manager Earns ICMA Credentialed Manager Designation:** City Manager Patrick J. Martinez has earned the Credentialed Manager (ICMA-CM) designation from the International City/County Management Association. The designation recognizes experience in local government management and a commitment to ethical leadership, professional development, and lifelong learning. Martinez expressed appreciation to the Mayor and City Council, City staff, and community and regional partners for their continued collaboration in serving Needles. The designation reflects an ongoing commitment to professional local government management and effective public service.
5. **Needles Sunday Market – Season Two Begins This Sunday:** The **Needles Sunday Market** returns for its second season this Sunday, **September 13, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Santa Fe Park**. The market will feature **local vendors, handmade goods, food, art, produce, and more**, providing an opportunity for residents and visitors to support local businesses and members

of the community. **The returning market continues to provide a community gathering place at Santa Fe Park while creating opportunities for local vendors and small businesses to showcase and sell their products.**

6. **Labor Day Marine Enforcement Operation:** The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Marine Enforcement Unit conducted its Labor Day Holiday Enforcement Operation September 4–7, deploying patrol vessels, an OHV team, and Sheriff's helicopters across regional waterways. The operation resulted in **107 enforcement stops, approximately 60 citations, and eight boating-under-the-influence arrests**. Deputies also investigated two minor-injury boating accidents, with **no major-injury boating accidents reported**. The City appreciates the Colorado River Station and Marine Enforcement Unit for their continued partnership and commitment to keeping the Colorado River safe for residents and visitors. **Read the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department press release:** [Labor Day Holiday Marine Enforcement Operation](#).
7. **7th Annual Trunk or Treat – October 28:** The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Colorado River Station/Needles Police Department, in partnership with the City of Needles, will host the **7th Annual Trunk or Treat on Wednesday, October 28, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Needles Recreation Center parking lot**. This annual community tradition provides a **safe, family-friendly environment** for children and families to celebrate Halloween while connecting with local law enforcement and community partners. The City appreciates the Sheriff's Department and participating organizations for their continued commitment to **public safety, family engagement, and community pride**. **Please refer to the attached flyer for additional information.**
8. **Pirates Gold Off-Road Poker Run – November 21:** The **Pirates Gold Off-Road Poker Run** will be held **Saturday, November 21, at Pirate's Cove Resort in Needles**, with UTVs, quads, bikes, and cars welcome to participate. Event organizers are specifically promoting the ability for participants to **drive their SxS vehicles to the resort via the new OHV trail in Needles**, providing another opportunity to utilize the area's expanding OHV recreational connections. The event will benefit **River City Athletics**, a nonprofit youth sports organization, and will include a poker run, raffle, 50/50, games, and prizes. **Please refer to the attached flyer for additional event information.**
9. **Fall Spay & Neuter Clinic – September 24–25:** The Needles Animal Shelter will host its **Fall Spay & Neuter Clinic on September 24–25, 2026**, in partnership with **Dr. Angelina Beeks of Angel's Touch Veterinary Services**. The clinic provides affordable spay and neuter services to pet owners throughout the tri-state area and supports the City's commitment to responsible pet ownership and animal welfare. **Registration closed September 11**, following a final community reminder through Needles Connect.
10. **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 events or update existing listings through the City Clerk's Office to help keep the calendar current and inclusive. Residents can subscribe to and sync the

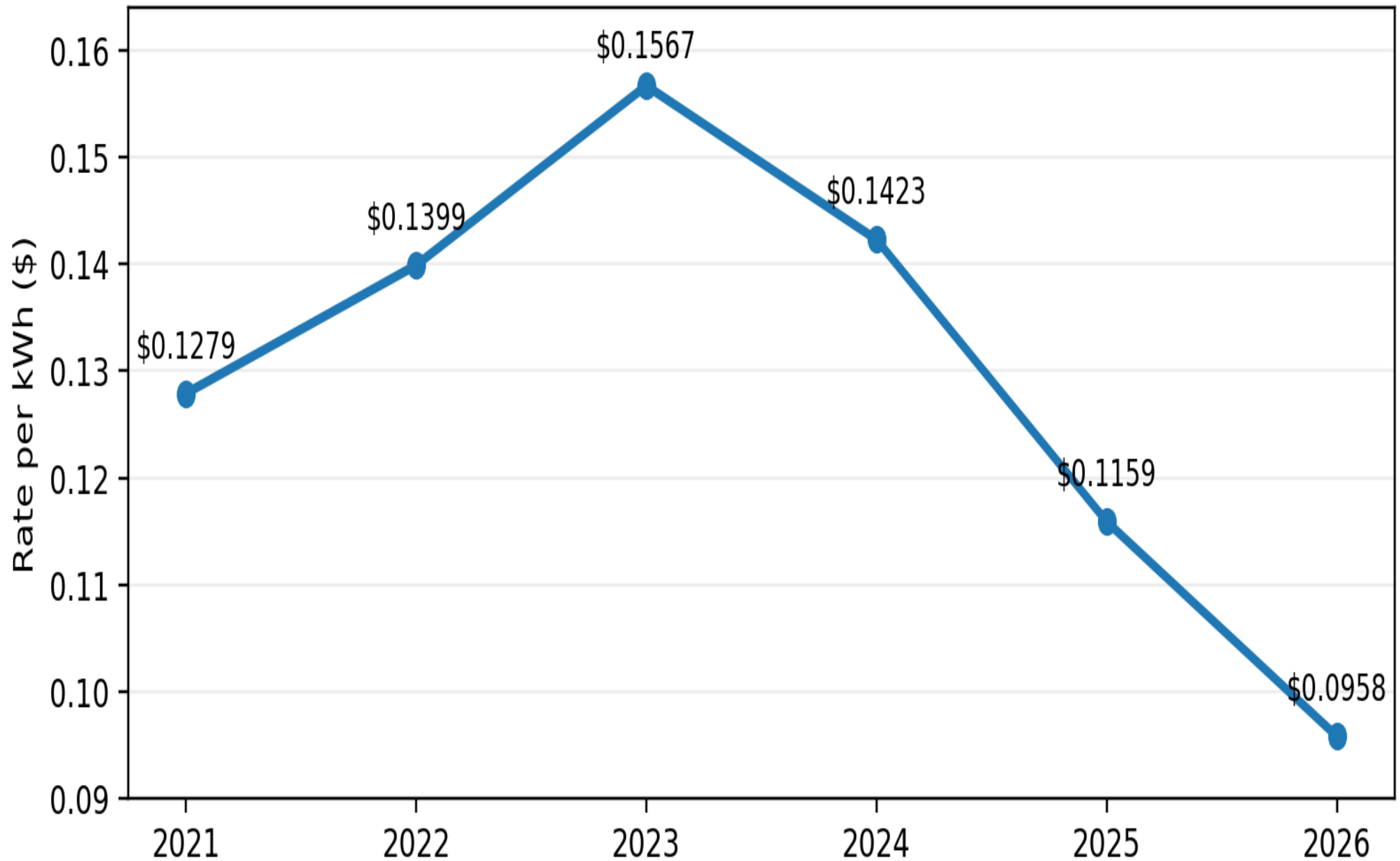
calendar with their mobile devices for real-time updates, making it easier to stay informed about local events and civic activities.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & RECOGNITION

- **Fall Youth Sports Registration Closing September 14:** Registration for the City of Needles Parks and Recreation Department's **2026 Fall Youth Sports season closes Monday, September 14.** Boys and girls throughout the Tri-State area can still register for **Peewee Soccer, Flag Football, and Volleyball.** Sibling discounts are available, and scholarships may be available. Families interested in participating are encouraged to register before the deadline. For information, contact Parks and Recreation at **(760) 326-2814** or **parksandrecreation@cityofneedles.com.**
- **Good Morning Needles – Behavioral Health Resources:** The Needles Area Chamber of Commerce will feature **Kim Buckley and Emma Jo Busto** at Good Morning Needles on **Thursday, September 17, at 7:30 a.m. at 950 Front Street.** The presentation will highlight the **Triage, Engagement, and Support Team (TEST)** program and behavioral health resources available to the Needles community.
- **Lynne's Little Ladies Tea Party:** The Needles Recreation Department will host **"A Sweet Day in Paris" Little Ladies Tea Party** on **Saturday, September 19, 2026, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** at the Needles Women's Club. The event is open to the first **40 girls ages 5–12** from throughout the Tri-State area. Registration is **\$25** and may be completed at the Needles Recreation Center. For more information, call **760-326-2814** or refer to the attached flyer.
- **Needles Care Community Wellness Check Program – September 21:** A community kick-off for **Needles Care**, the City's new wellness check partnership with St. Vincent de Paul Society – St. Jude Conference and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, will be held **Monday, September 21, at 11:30 a.m. at the Needles Senior Center.** The event is **free and open to the community**, with complimentary pizza provided by the Sheriff's Department.
- **Route 66 Centennial Community Fall Festival – Updated Flyer:** The City has released an **updated event flyer** for the Third Annual Community Fall Festival and Route 66 Centennial Celebration on **Saturday, November 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Santa Fe Park.** The celebration will feature live entertainment, family activities, an OHV "Show-Off," food trucks, El Garcés tours, vendors, and a **Centennial fireworks show.** **Vendor and sponsorship opportunities remain available.**
- **Route 66 Grant Opportunities:** Applications are now open for the Preserve Route 66 Grant Fund and Preserve Route 66 Legacy Business Grant Fund, with applications due November 12, 2026. City staff is evaluating potential City projects and conducting outreach to eligible Needles businesses and community organizations. **More information:** [Preserve Route 66 Grant Fund – Public Agencies & Nonprofits](#) | [Preserve Route 66 Legacy Business Grant Fund.](#)

1. OVER-HYDRO RATE DROPS

NPUA Over-Hydro Rate Falls to Lowest Level Since 2020



2. HACN RESIDENT MEETING



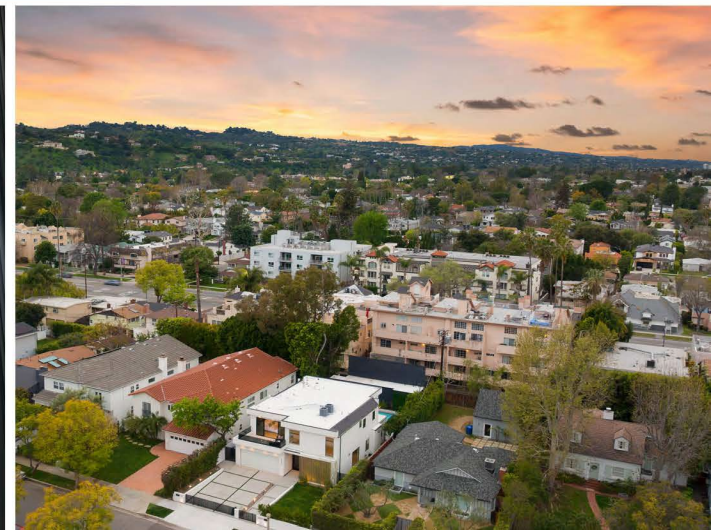
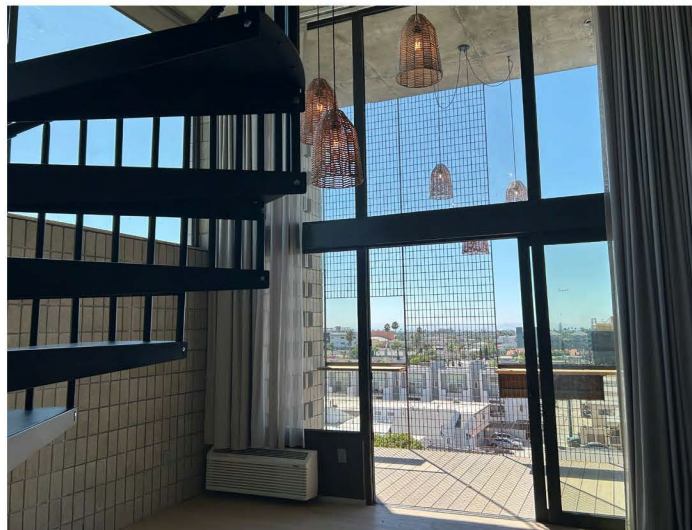
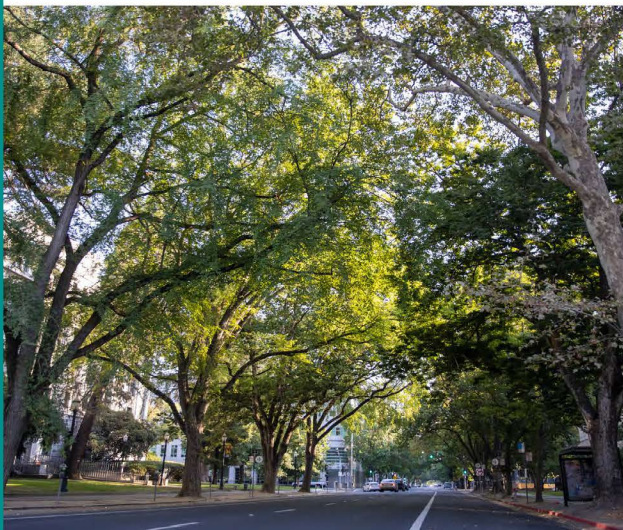
3. ULI REGIONAL RESILIENCE REPORT



**Urban Land
Institute**

BUILDING RESILIENCE ACROSS THE REGION

Lessons from California and Nevada Communities



4. CITY MANAGER ICMA CREDENTIALLED MANAGER

CONGRATULATIONS



**PATRICK J.
MARTINEZ**
ICMA-CM

CITY MANAGER
CITY OF NEEDLES



INTERNATIONAL CITY/COUNTY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
660 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001-7416 | 202.962.3680 | icma.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Needles Contact

Patrick J. Martinez, City Manager
pmartinez@cityofneedles.com; 760-326-2115 ext. 113

ICMA Contact

Jenese Jackson, Program Manager
jjackson@icma.org; 202-962-3556

Needles City Manager Patrick Martinez Earns ICMA Credentialed Manager Designation

Needles City Manager joins more than 1,700 credentialed local government professionals

NEEDLES, Calif. (September 11, 2026) — Patrick J. Martinez, City Manager of the City of Needles, has earned the Credentialed Manager designation from ICMA, the International City/County Management Association. Martinez is one of more than 1,700 local government management professionals currently credentialed through the ICMA Voluntary Credentialing Program.

To receive the ICMA credential, a member must have significant experience as a senior management executive in local government, hold a degree—preferably in public administration or a related field—and demonstrate a commitment to high standards of integrity, lifelong learning, and professional development.

"Receiving the ICMA Credentialed Manager designation is a tremendous honor," Martinez said. "It reflects my commitment to ethical leadership, continued professional development, and effective local government. I am grateful to the Mayor and City Council, City staff, and our community partners for their work on behalf of Needles. I look forward to continuing to serve our community and advance the City's priorities."

In addition to serving as City Manager, Martinez serves as Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the City of Needles, the Needles Public Utility Authority, and the Needles Public Finance Authority. He works with the City Council and regional, state, federal, and tribal partners to advance the City's infrastructure, economic development, housing, public utility, and community-service priorities.

Martinez is an alumnus of the USC Price School of Public Policy and participated in Stanford University's 2023 Local Governance Summer Institute.

About ICMA

ICMA, the International City/County Management Association, advances professional local government through leadership, management, innovation, and ethics. The organization identifies leading practices and provides research, publications, data, technical assistance, training, and professional development to city, town, and county leaders worldwide. The management decisions made by ICMA members affect millions of people in communities ranging from small towns to large metropolitan areas.

About the City of Needles

Known as the Gateway to California, the City of Needles is located along the Colorado River and historic Route 66 in eastern San Bernardino County. Needles is also home to an innovative Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Master Plan and combined-use route network connecting the community with surrounding public lands. The City provides municipal services, public utilities, recreation, housing, infrastructure, and economic development programs for its residents, businesses, and visitors.

###

5. NEEDLES SUNDAY MARKET RETURNS

≡ Season Two ≡ RETURNS!



NEEDLES
SUNDAY
MARKET

STARTING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH!



EVERY SUNDAY

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM PST



SANTA FE PARK
NEEDLES, CA

Good Vibes. Local Finds. Community Strong. ♥

SHOP LOCAL
SUPPORT LOCAL
LOVE LOCAL

HANDMADE
GOODS
& MORE!

6. LABOR DAY MARINE ENFORCEMENT



Holiday STATISTICS *Labor Day Weekend 2026*



Total Enforcement Stops	107
Total Citations Written	60
Total BUI Arrests	8
Total DUI Arrests	0
Non Injury Boat Accidents	0
Minor Injury Boat Accidents	2
Major Injury Boat Accidents	0

7. SBCSD TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT

SAVE THE DATE!



**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
COLORADO RIVER STATION / NEEDLES POLICE DEPARTMENT**

TRUNK OR TREAT



WEDNESDAY

OCTOBER 28TH, 2026



4:00 – 6:00 PM



REC CENTER PARKING LOT

CANDY • COSTUMES • FUN • COMMUNITY

STAY SAFE. HAVE FUN.

For more information, contact Colorado River Station at (760) 326-9200.

8. REGIONAL OFF-ROAD POKER RUN

PIRATES GOLD

OFF ROAD POKER RUN

NOV 21ST

GOOD
PEOPLE
DIRTY
TRAILS

Pirates Cove
RESORT
IN NEEDLES, CA

UTV
QUADS
BIKES
CARS
WELCOME!

DRIVE
YOUR SXS
TO THE
RESORT
VIA NEW OHV TRAIL
IN NEEDLES, CA



EXTRA HAND
\$30
LIMIT 3 EXTRA
HANDS PER CAR



DRIVERS
MEETING
10:30 AM



FIRST CAR
CAN LEAVE AT
11:00 AM



LAST CAR MUST
BE BACK BY
2:30 PM

RAFFLE, 50/50 AND GAMES AT PIRATE'S COVE RESTAURANT

PRIZES



1ST

\$1,300



2ND

\$1,000



3RD

\$800



4TH

\$500



5TH

\$300

SPONSORS WANTED

HELP SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE!



FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT

rivercityathletics26@gmail.com

COMMUNITY • OFF ROAD • OPPORTUNITY

BUILT ON DIRT
DRIVEN BY
COMMUNITY

9. FALL SPAY & NEUTER CLINIC

SPAY & NEUTER CLINIC!

SEPTEMBER
24TH & 25TH
2026



All of the tri-state area welcome.



Call the animal shelter with all questions.



NEEDLES ANIMAL SHELTER

1662 Flip Mendez Parkway
Needles, CA 92363
(760)326-4952

An application must be completed with a **non refundable** cash deposit to schedule appointment.

HELPING PETS. SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY.
HEALTHY PETS, HAPPY FAMILIES!



FALL YOUTH SPORTS — REGISTRATION CLOSING

OPEN REGISTRATION

City of Needles Recreation Fall Sports

PEEWEE SOCCER



AGES: JR PEE WEE 3YR~5YR OLDS
PEE WEE 6YR~7YR OLDS
GAMES: SATURDAYS

FLAG FOOT BALL

GRADES: 2ND ~ 5TH
GAMES: TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS



GRADES: 3RD ~ 6TH
GAMES: MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS



VOLLEY BALL

REGISTRATION DATES:
AUG. 3RD ~ SEPT. 14TH
SEASON: OCTOBER ~ NOVEMBER
COSTS: RESIDENTS \$45 NON \$50
PEE SPORTS RESIDENTS \$35 NON \$40

SIBLING DISCOUNTS GIVEN SCHOLARSHIPS MAY BE AVAILABLE

*All Recreation Sports are open to
Boys & Girls in the Tri~State area*

Questions call 760~326~2814 or email
parksandrecreation@cityofneedles.com

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESOURCES EXPAND



Needles Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center

950 Front Street Suite A9-11

Needles, CA 92363

760-326-2050

chamberofneedles@gmail.com

www.needleschamber.com

Enjoying Life on the Colorado River

Bring A Friend or Two

Thursday September 17, 2026

7:30 a.m.

950 Front Street.
Needles Ca 92363



Guest Speaker

Behavioral Health "TEST" Program
Kim Buckley & Emma Jo Busto

Coffee and Donuts Provided

For More Information Please Contact The Chamber At 760-326-2050

LITTLE LADIES TEA PARTY — SEPTEMBER 19

"A Sweet Day In Paris"

Ooh La La!



Lynne's Little Ladies Tea Party



Saturday | September 19, 2026 | 1~3pm

THIS EVENT WILL BE HELD AT THE WOMEN'S CLUB
AND IS OPEN TO THE FIRST 40 GIRLS AGES 5YRS. ~
12 YRS. OLD IN THE TRI-STATE AREA TO REGISTER
AND PAY THEIR FEE. REGISTRATION IS \$25 AND
CAN BE PAID AT THE NEEDLES RECREATION
CENTER. ALL REGISTRATION FEES MUST BE PAID BY
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2026. PLEASE CALL
THE NEEDLES RECREATION CENTER @ 760-326-2814
WITH ANY QUESTIONS.



NEEDLES CARE — WELLNESS CHECK PROGRAM



NEEDLES CARE

COMMUNITY WELLNESS CHECK PROGRAM

Neighbors looking out for neighbors.



STAY
CONNECTED



GET
SUPPORT



PEACE
OF MIND

Needles Care is a new community wellness check program designed to help residents stay connected, supported, and safe through friendly, regular check-ins.



YOU'RE INVITED!



JOIN US FOR THE KICK-OFF OF NEEDLES CARE!



**MONDAY
SEPTEMBER
21, 2026**



**11:30
A.M.**



**NEEDLES
SENIOR CENTER**
1699 Bailey Avenue
Needles, CA 92363



OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

NO COST TO ATTEND



Operated by **St. Vincent de Paul Society – St. Jude Conference, Needles**
In partnership with the City of Needles and San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department



Needles Care is a community wellness program and is not an emergency or medical service.

In an emergency, call 911.

ROUTE 66 CENTENNIAL — FALL FESTIVAL PLANNING



★ THE CITY OF NEEDLES PRESENTS ★
THIRD ANNUAL

COMMUNITY FALL FESTIVAL

ROUTE 66 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



Cruisin' the Century in Needles

COME CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF ROUTE 66!

★ SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026 ★

9:00 AM — 8:00 PM

SANTA FE PARK • NEEDLES, CA

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT & ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE DAY



DJ LOKE

9:00 AM — 1:30 PM



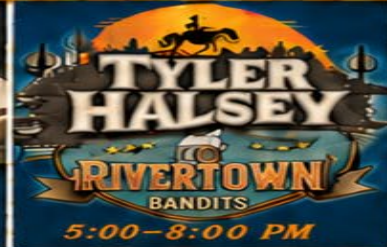
**FORT MOJAVE
INDIAN TRIBE
BIRD SINGERS**

2:00 — 2:30 PM



**FRANK RODRIGUEZ &
AIDEN MONTGOMERY**

3:00 — 4:30 PM



5:00 — 8:00 PM



**FIREWORKS
SHOW**

7:15 PM



OHV "SHOW-OFF" ★ FOOD TRUCKS ★ BEER GARDEN
KIDS' FUN ZONE ★ HISTORIC EL GARCES TOURS
ROUTE 66 HISTORIC PHOTO GALLERY ★ VENDORS & MORE!

VENDORS WANTED — THERE'S STILL TIME TO JOIN US!

Contact Jennifer Valenzuela

— parksandrecreation@cityofneedles.com • 760-326-2814 —

CITYOFNEEDLES.COM



SCAN FOR
EVENT INFO

ROUTE 66 GRANTS OPEN SEPTEMBER 1



GRANT PROGRAM

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has a Grant Program for legacy businesses, non-profits, and public agencies along Route 66. Grants will generally not exceed \$10k and can be used for a variety of projects, including capital improvements, planning, and marketing. Locations can be on or near Route 66, provided they can illustrate a connection to the road's history.



Is a match required?

No match is required for either the non-profit/public agency grant or the legacy business grant. However, please count any matched dollars or in-kind donations to make your application stronger!



What projects are eligible?

Previous funded projects include HVAC, window restoration, exterior and interior paint, signage, historic interpretation, lesson plans, multimedia and film projects, and structural repair.



What is a Legacy Business?

Small, independently owned businesses that have been operated for many years and contribute to Route 66's history and culture. New businesses helping to revitalize an underutilized Route 66 historic building are also eligible.

The next round will open for applications on **September 1**.
Check out our website for more information!



National Trust for
Historic Preservation*

preserveroute66.org

