



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: September 18, 2026

City Manager's Weekly Highlights

Utility Services & Housing

- **NPUA Publishes October 1 Utility Rate Update**, detailing the new **\$0.0958 per kWh over-hydro electric rate—the lowest since 2020**—along with hydro rates, basic charges, and customer assistance resources.
- **Needles Care Community Wellness Check Program Launches September 21**, expanding community partnerships to help residents remain connected and supported through regular wellness check-ins.

Economic Development & Infrastructure

- **Needles Showcased at ICSC@WESTERN**, with Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell and City Manager Patrick Martinez staffing a dedicated City booth and promoting Needles directly to retailers, developers, brokers, and investors.
- **Lillyhill Drive Storm Recovery Advances**, with sidewalk repairs restoring an important pedestrian connection serving neighborhoods, students, families, and seniors traveling to the school area and Senior Center.
- **Clean California Revive the Desert Project Underway**, with crews removing illegally dumped debris from impacted desert areas through the City's \$169,355 cleanup and community stewardship grant.

Community & Regional Engagement

- **Free Transit Rides Offered for World Car-Free Day**, with Needles Transit Services, in partnership with the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA), providing free rides on September 22 across Needles Area Transit, Dial-a-Ride, and the Fort Mohave/Bullhead shuttle.
- **Needles Sunday Market Opens Second Season**, bringing vendors, residents, visitors, and community leaders together at Santa Fe Park while supporting local small businesses.
- **Good Morning Needles Draws Regional Participation**, with stakeholders from across the Colorado River Tri-State region gathering to learn about behavioral health resources and the TEST program.
- **Needles Hosts Mustang Stampede for Second Consecutive Year**, bringing student-athletes, coaches, and families to Rivers Edge Golf Course and supporting the City's growing sports-tourism efforts.

1. **NPUA Releases Detailed Utility Rate Update** — The Needles Public Utility Authority has issued a detailed press release explaining utility rate changes taking effect October 1, 2026. The release outlines the new **\$0.0958 per kWh over-hydro electric rate**, the lowest since 2020, along with changes to the basic monthly charge and hydro rates. The release also explains the **Power Cost Adjustment**, previously approved **3% water and 6% wastewater rate adjustments**, how to understand the City's consolidated utility bill, and available customer assistance programs. **Residents are encouraged to review the press release for a complete explanation of the October 1 utility rate changes.**
2. **Economic Development & Retail Recruitment – ICSC@WESTERN:** Vice Mayor **Ellen Campbell** and City Manager **Patrick Martinez** represented the City of Needles at **ICSC@WESTERN in San Diego, September 15–16**, where the City maintained a **dedicated booth showcasing Needles** to retailers, developers, brokers, and investors. The City promoted its **economic development opportunities, Historic Route 66, outdoor recreation, Colorado River tourism, and strategic Interstate 40 location** as part of its continued effort to attract **new retail, restaurants, lodging, and commercial investment** to the community.
3. **Lillyhill Drive Storm Recovery – Sidewalk Repairs:** This week, the City continued its storm recovery efforts with the completion of sidewalk repairs along **Lillyhill Drive**, addressing one of the remaining areas damaged during this summer's storms. Restoring this corridor improves **pedestrian safety, accessibility, and neighborhood connectivity** for students, families, seniors, and other residents traveling between nearby neighborhoods, the school area, and the **Senior Center**. The work also reflects the City's continued focus on **repairing critical infrastructure, improving walkability, and strengthening community resilience following severe weather events**. The City thanks **Phillips Construction** for its efforts in completing the repairs and helping return this important pedestrian route to full use.
4. **Clean California CCEP – Revive the Desert Project Update:** Implementation of the City's **\$169,355 Revive the Desert – Illegal Dumping Cleanup & Community Stewardship grant project** is underway. Crews recently conducted cleanup in a heavily impacted desert wash, removing illegally dumped household debris, discarded bedding and other accumulated waste. **Attached photos show the cleanup in progress and the visible improvement following the work.** Additional cleanup activities will continue as the grant program moves forward.
5. **Needles Sunday Market Celebrates Successful Season Two Opening:** The **Needles Sunday Market** launched its **second season on September 13 at Santa Fe Park**, bringing together local vendors, residents, visitors, and community leaders. The market featured **food, produce, handmade goods, art, and other locally offered products**, while supporting **small businesses, local entrepreneurship, and continued activity at Santa Fe Park**. The **Mayor and members of the City Council** joined the celebration, reflecting continued

community support for the market. **Interested vendors may contact Market Manager Patrick Lauterio at (760) 848-8289 or needlesfarmers@gmail.com.**

6. **Sports Tourism – Needles Mustang Stampede Cross Country Meet:** For the **second consecutive year**, Needles hosted the **NHS & NMS Mustang Stampede Cross Country Meet** on **September 12 at Rivers Edge Golf Course**. The event brought student-athletes, coaches, and families to Needles and continues to demonstrate the community's ability to host regional youth sporting events while showcasing local facilities. The City appreciates the coordination of Needles Unified School District, Rivers Edge Golf Course, and City staff in supporting the event.
7. **Good Morning Needles – Behavioral Health Resources:** The **Needles Area Chamber of Commerce** hosted a well-attended **Good Morning Needles** on **September 17**, featuring **Kim Buckley and Emma Jo Busto** presenting on the **TEST program and behavioral health resources available to the Needles community**. Attendees included stakeholders from across the **Colorado River Tri-State region**, including representatives from the **Bullhead and Laughlin Chambers of Commerce**, highlighting strong regional collaboration.
8. **Needles Care Community Wellness Check Program – September 21:** The City of Needles, in partnership with **St. Vincent de Paul Society – St. Jude Conference** and the **San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department**, will launch the new **Needles Care Community Wellness Check Program** on **Monday, September 21, at 11:30 a.m. at the Needles Senior Center**. The free community program is designed to help residents stay connected and supported through regular wellness check-ins. **If you or someone you know may benefit, please contact St. Vincent de Paul at (760) 326-4420 or svdpneedles@frontier.com to learn more or sign up.**
9. **Free Transit Rides for World Car-Free Day – September 22:** Needles Transit Services will offer free rides all day Tuesday, September 22, in recognition of World Car-Free Day. Participating services include Needles Area Transit, Needles Dial-a-Ride, and the Needles Shuttle serving Fort Mohave/Bullhead. Residents are encouraged to try local transit for work, shopping, and errands. Routes, schedules, and service information are available at needlestransit.com. Please refer to the attached flyer for additional information.
10. **Needles Pride – Bulky Item Pick-Up Reminder:** Keeping Needles clean and beautified is something we all play a role in. Through the Needles Pride Program, residents are reminded that they can schedule **up to three free bulky item pick-ups each year** through Republic Services by calling **928-758-9135**. This service provides residents with a convenient way to properly dispose of furniture, appliances, electronics, and other large household items rather than leaving them along sidewalks, streets, or outside properties. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of this free service and help keep neighborhoods throughout Needles clean and attractive. Additional information is available through the [Republic Services Bulk Waste webpage](#). Public nuisances may also be reported through the [Needles Connect app](#) or by contacting City of Needles Code Enforcement at **760-326-2115**. **A cleaner Needles takes all of**

us, and these resources give every resident an opportunity to play a part in keeping our community looking its best.

11. **Needles Connect – Updated Community Outreach Materials:** The City has received updated promotional materials for the **Needles Connect** app to support continued community outreach and resident engagement. The app provides access to City information, community updates, notifications, service requests, meeting information, job openings, recreation resources, utility payment links, and other quick links. Residents are encouraged to download the [Needles Connect app](#) and enable notifications to stay informed.
12. **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 Spay & Neuter Clinic – September 24–25:** The Needles Animal Shelter's **Fall Spay & Neuter Clinic will take place September 24–25, 2026**, in partnership with **Dr. Angelina Beeks of Angel's Touch Veterinary Services**. The clinic supports responsible pet ownership and animal welfare by providing affordable spay and neuter services to pet owners throughout the tri-state area. **Registration is now closed**, and staff are preparing for the two-day clinic following strong community interest and outreach through Needles Connect.
- **State of the City – October 7:** The City of Needles and the Needles Chamber of Commerce invite the community to the **2026 State of the City Address on Wednesday, October 7, at 6:00 p.m. at El Garces, 950 Front Street**. Mayor Janet Jernigan will highlight the City's accomplishments, major investments, and priorities for the future. **The community is encouraged to attend.**
- **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 event from **4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Needles Recreation Center parking lot**. Please refer to the attached flyer for **additional** details.
- **Route 66 Centennial Community Fall Festival – November 7:** The Third Annual Community Fall Festival and Route 66 Centennial Celebration will be held **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 – November 12 Deadline:** 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. UTILITY RATES — OCTOBER UPDATE RELEASED



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NPUA Over-Hydro Electric Rate Drops to Lowest Level Since 2020

New \$0.0958 per kWh over-hydro rate takes effect October 1, 2026

NEEDLES, CA - The Needles Public Utility Authority (NPUA) is lowering its over-hydro electric rate from \$0.1159 to \$0.0958 per kWh, effective October 1, 2026.

This will be NPUA's lowest over-hydro rate since 2020.

The Board of Public Utilities approved the new electric rates on September 1, 2026, and the City Council approved the Board's recommendation on September 8, 2026.

What Is the "Over-Hydro" Rate?

NPUA customers receive a set amount of hydroelectric power each month. Electricity used above that monthly hydro amount is charged at the over-hydro rate.

Beginning October 1:

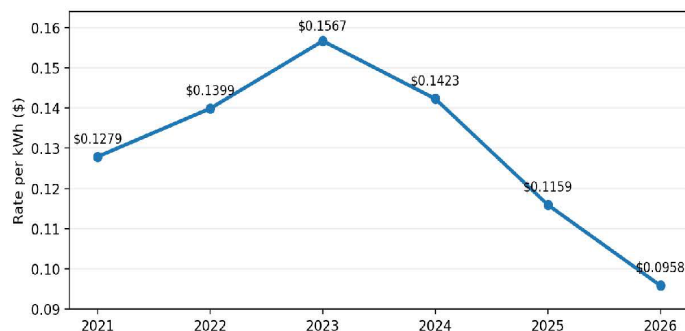
Electric Charge	Current	Effective October 1
Over-Hydro	\$0.1159/kWh	\$0.0958/kWh*
Basic Monthly Charge	\$37.20	\$38.28
Winter Hydro	\$0.0923/kWh	\$0.0981/kWh
Summer Hydro	\$0.0832/kWh	\$0.0874/kWh

**The calculated over-hydro rate is \$0.1058 per kWh. A \$0.01 per kWh Power Cost Adjustment lowers the rate customers will pay to \$0.0958 per kWh.*

The bottom line: The basic monthly charge and hydro rates are increasing, but the over-hydro rate is decreasing by about 17%—from \$0.1159 to \$0.0958 per kWh—the lowest over-hydro rate since 2020.

The 2.9% adjustment to the basic monthly charge is based on the June 2026 CPI and is below the City's 5% policy cap.

NPUA Over-Hydro Rate Falls to Lowest Level Since 2020



**Why
Over-Hydro Rate Going Down?**

Is the

NPUA uses a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) to account for changes in the cost of purchased electricity over time.

As of July 2026, the PCA had a positive balance of approximately \$946,310. NPUA is using a portion of that balance to provide customers with an additional \$0.01 per kWh reduction in the over-hydro rate.

Approximately \$182,427 is projected to be applied from the PCA balance from October through December.

The result: the calculated over-hydro rate of \$0.1058 per kWh is reduced to \$0.0958 per kWh for customers beginning October 1.

Understanding Your NPUA Utility Bill

A Needles utility bill includes more than electricity.

A customer's NPUA bill can include: Electric + Water + Wastewater + Sanitation + Other Applicable Charges

In many other communities, these services are billed separately by different providers.

That means comparing a total Needles utility bill with an electric-only bill from another provider is not an apples-to-apples comparison.

For example, a \$600 Needles utility bill should not automatically be called a "\$600 electric bill" if the total also includes water, wastewater, sanitation, taxes, and other applicable charges.

When comparing bills, make sure you are comparing the same services, the same amount of usage, and the applicable charges.

Will My Total NPUA Bill Go Down?

Not necessarily.

The over-hydro electric rate is going down, but other parts of the consolidated utility bill are changing.

Effective October 1, 2026, previously approved annual adjustments will increase water rates by 3% and wastewater rates by 6%, consistent with the 2025 Comprehensive Water and Wastewater Cost of Service Ratemaking Study prepared by Raftelis. The study found that existing revenues would not adequately cover projected operating costs, necessary infrastructure improvements, and financial reserves for these utilities.

The change in each customer's total monthly bill will depend on how much electricity and water they use and the other services and charges on their bill.

Need Help Paying Your Utility Bill?

Customers experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to contact NPUA about payment arrangements and available assistance.

- HEAP - One-time financial assistance for eligible households. Applications are available at City Hall, 817 Third Street.
- The River Fund, Inc. - (702) 298-0961
- St. Vincent de Paul - (760) 326-4420

NPUA remains committed to managing electric costs responsibly while providing safe and reliable electric service to the Needles community.

For questions about your NPUA bill or electric rates, contact Rainie Torrance, Utility Manager, at rtorrance@cityofneedles.com or (760) 326-2115 ext. 140.

###

2. ICSC@WESTERN — NEEDLES PROMOTES

ICSC@WESTERN

SAN DIEGO, CA
SEPTEMBER 15 – 17, 2026
San Diego Convention Center

*Come
See Us!*



Needles
California

Shop. Play. Live – at the Point!

OHV

STAGING AREA 2
River Rd / Park Dr

Needles
California



CITY OF NEEDLES

CALIFORNIA'S GATEWAY TO THE COLORADO RIVER



BOOTH
237

*Shop. Play. Live
– at the Point!*



3. LILLYHILL DRIVE — STORM REPAIRS COMPLETE



4. REVIVE THE DESERT — CLEANUP UNDERWAY



5. SUNDAY MARKET — SEASON TWO LAUNCHES



5. SUNDAY MARKET — SEASON TWO LAUNCHES



6. SPORTS TOURISM — MUSTANG STAMPEDE RETURNS



7. GOOD MORNING NEEDLES — REGIONAL CONNECTIONS

Good Morning Needles

at the Chamber

Date: 3rd Thursday of Each Month

Time: 7:30 am - 9:00 am

Where:

Chamber of Commerce and
Visitors Center

950 Front St Suite A 9-11,
Needles, CA 92363



Please call the Chamber at 760-326-2050 if you plan
on attending or for more information!



8. NEEDLES CARE — WELLNESS 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.

9. WORLD CAR-FREE DAY — FREE TRANSIT RIDES

Car-Free Means Fare-Free!

World Car-Free Day is September 22.
Victor Valley Transit, Mountain Transit,
Basin Transit, and Needles Transit
Services are free all day.



powered by



10. NEEDLES PRIDE — BULKY PICKUP REMINDER



NEEDLES PRIDE

Needles residents care about their community and so should you! The Needles Pride initiative is a neighborhood focus program aimed at improving the community by working in partnership with property owners, area residents, and local businesses to clean up neighborhoods and maintain compliance with City Codes.

Please take the time to evaluate your property and correct any violations you may have.

How to Participate in the City-Wide Clean-Up



BEAUTIFICATION

Maintain Landscaping

Maintain landscape in healthy condition by proper irrigating, trimming, edging, and removing weeds, and dead plants

Clear Storage

Outside storage including but not limited to furniture, household items, yard equipment, building material, vehicle parts, and appliances must be kept out of public eye.

Park in Designated Areas

Vehicles are required to be parked on existing driveways or approved surfaces. Parking is not allowed on dirt, vacant lots, front yards, or decorative landscapes.

CODE VIOLATIONS

Inoperative Vehicles

Vehicles that are unlicensed, wrecked, damaged, or in disrepair may not be stored in public view.

Trash Containers

Trash containers shall not be stored in front yards or on sidewalks except when placed in areas of collection at the time permitted.

Bulky Items

Keep sidewalks clear of discarded household items such as furniture, appliances, electronics, and more. You may schedule up to three (3) bulky item pick ups per year by calling Republic Services at 928-758-9135.



Residential ▾ Business ▾ Environmental Solutions ▾ Sustainability ▾ About ▾

Q Log In

Bulk Waste Removal

Easy bulk waste pickup and disposal services means you have one less thing to worry about.

Home > Residential > Recycling & Waste > Bulk Waste



Bulk Waste

At Republic Services, we can make bulky item disposal easy by arranging a bulk trash pickup.

Enter your address below to find local bulk pickup service information for your area, or to find your customer service number.

[Schedule Bulk Online](#)

If you have questions about the Needles Pride initiative contact Code Enforcement Officer Bernie Hatz at (760) 326-5700, ext. 129. You can also conveniently reach out through the Needles Connect app, available for free on Android and Apple devices. Let's work together to make Needles shine!

Find local information regarding bulk pickup service in your area

Submit

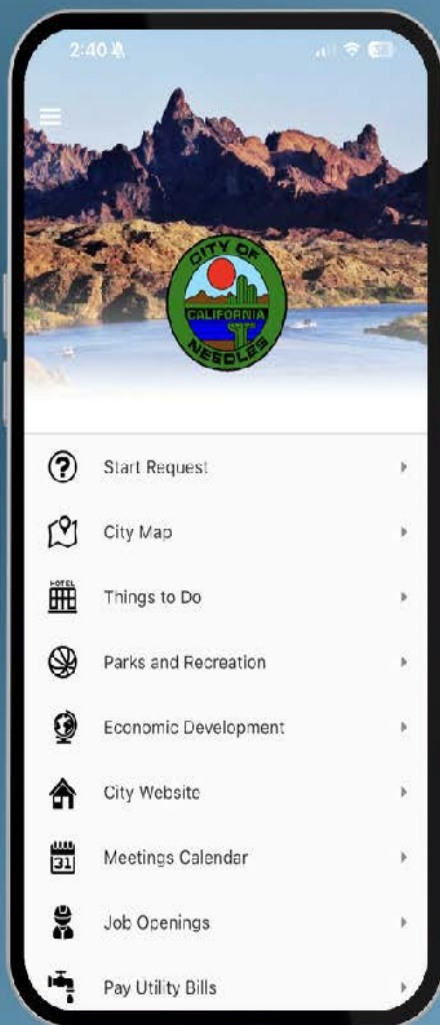
11. NEEDLES CONNECT — OUTREACH EXPANDS

Download *Needles Connect*

Easily view key information, receive notifications, stay informed with community updates, and access quick links when you need them.



Download the **Needles Connect** app from the iOS App Store or Android Play Store and **enable Notifications**.



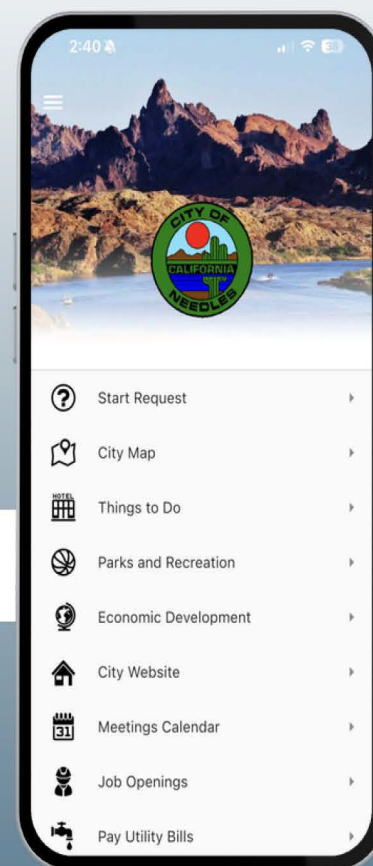
Stay Connected *with* **Needles**

View
Information

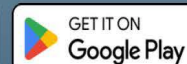
Receive
Notifications

Community
Updates

Access
Quick Links



Download the Needles Connect app from the iOS App Store or Android Play Store and enable Notifications.



SPAY & NEUTER CLINIC — SEPTEMBER 24–25

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!



STATE OF THE CITY — OCTOBER 7



2026

— ★ SAVE THE DATE ★ —

NEEDLES STATE OF THE CITY

PROGRESS ★ MOMENTUM ★ POSSIBILITY
Building Needles' Future Together



DELIVERED BY
Mayor Janet Jernigan



**WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 7, 2026**



6:00 PM



EL GARCES

950 FRONT STREET, NEEDLES, CA

PRESENTED BY



NEEDLES
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND VISITOR CENTER



TRUNK OR TREAT — OCTOBER 28

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



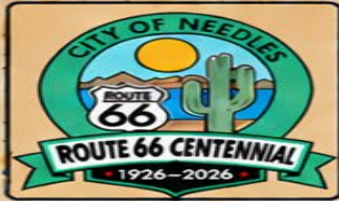
REC CENTER PARKING LOT

CANDY • COSTUMES • FUN • COMMUNITY

STAY SAFE. HAVE FUN.

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

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



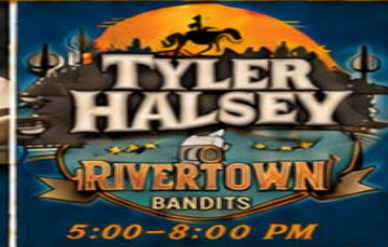
**FORT MOJAVE
INDIAN TRIBE
BIRD SINGERS**

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 — NOVEMBER 12 DEADLINE



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

