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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO REBID FOR AIR SERVICE:

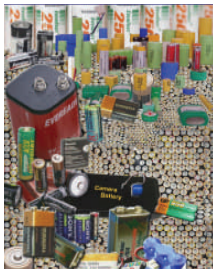
The Department of Transportation issued an expedited Request for Proposals on May 29 to allow air carriers, including Great Lakes Aviation, to submit bids for service in Visalia, Merced and Ely, Nev., which are representative of the actual costs in today's environment. As of Sunday, June 1, Visalia, Merced and Ely, Nev., lost air service with the withdrawal of Air Midwest from the communities. Recent discussions with Great Lakes Aviation revealed that if the carrier were able to commence service today, it would begin service operating at a loss even with a subsidy from the Department of Transportation and with airplanes flying at capacity. The May 29 order gives airlines until June 13 to submit proposals to the Department of Transportation. Companies may bid to provide air service to one or all of the cities with at least two round trips each day to Las Vegas, San Francisco, Los Angeles or any other large hub with connections to the national air transportation system. Visalia Municipal Airport Manager Mario Cifuentez said officials from the Department of Transportation, Great Lakes, Visalia and Merced all are in agreement that an expedited RFP process is the next best step to minimize further interruptions in air service. "The number one goal of our communities continues to be long-term, self-sustaining, viable air service," said Cifuentez. "This will ensure that the carrier will begin serving our communities on firm financial footing and allow us every opportunity to be successful in our efforts to ultimately provide subsidy free air service to the Central Valley." Great Lakes officials have assured Cifuentez they will submit a new bid package for the service.

COMMERCIAL PERMITS UP 32% FOR 2008: The number of new commercial permits filed in May continued a strong showing for 2008, with a 32% increase overall for the year. Continuing on this path, Assistant City Manager Mike Olmos said 2008 could have one of the top three strongest showings for new commercial projects in the last decade. New commercial permits totaled 49 year to date, compared to 37 for the same period in 2007. The valuation increased 16% - up from \$30,101,644 in 2007 to \$35,024,865 in 2008. While the number of permits for commercial additions, alterations and signs was down 4%, the valuation was up 78% - from \$16,990,987 in 2007 to \$30,314,248 in 2008. Declines continued in permits for new single family dwellings, multi family units, and residential additions and alterations.

APRIL TRANSIT RIDERSHIP NUMBERS SOAR: High gas prices have pumped up transit ridership numbers. In April, ridership numbers were up 17.6% over the same month in 2007. A total of 125,541 riders compared to 106,720 for April, 2007. "We've reached the threshold where a lot of people are finally deciding to drive less because of the high gas prices," said Transit Manager Monty Cox. "We've been pushing it for awhile, but we've reached the point where people are driving less." In order to provide an incentive for new transit riders, the Hop Pass program provides a 50% discount—or a saving of \$15—for monthly passes for new bus riders. For more information on the Hop Pass program, visit the city website at www.ci.visalia.ca.us.

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For more information, visit the City's website at www.ci.visalia.ca.us, email nloliva@ci.visalia.ca.us or call 713-4535



BATTERY RECYCLING MADE EASY: If you're wondering what to do with those dead batteries you just replaced in your smoke alarms or cell phones, there are 25 answers to your problem throughout Visalia. The following batteries can be turned in at any one of 25 locations throughout Visalia: AAA; AA; C Cell; D Cell; Button Cell; cell phone; telephone; rechargeable, and; 6-volt and 9-volt batteries. Protect the environment by recovering these resources. For the location of a battery recycling container near you, call 713-4532, or visit the city's website at www.ci.visalia.ca.us.

LOOKING FOR SUMMER FUN? Register now for swim lessons, day camps, youth and adult sports and special programs and events for the whole family. On-line registration is available for most programs and activities at www.ci.visalia.ca.us. The aquatics season officially kicks off on June 9th offering swim lessons for all ages and abilities, group and private lessons are offered. Specialty programs include youth and adult water polo leagues, diving classes, water aerobics, lap swim, youth and adult swim teams and a family swim and movie night held each Friday. Public swim begins June 9th and is offered Monday through Sunday from 12:30-3:30 p.m. at Redwood Community Pool. Call the Recreation Hotline at 713-4365 or email Recreation@ci.visalia.ca.us.



COUNCIL APPROVES RATES, FEES INCREASES: After the June 2 public hearing, City Council members voted to approve proposed biennial adjustments to amend the City's rates and fees for fiscal years 2008-09 and 2009-10. Adjustments to the fees include, but are not limited to services offered through Citywide Administrative, Community Development, Parks and Recreation, Public Safety, and Public Works. The adjustment process parallels the City's two-year budget process. With the exception of impact fees and business tax, all fees are being recommended for adjustment for the next two fiscal years. Increases are primarily based on established indexes, and the city uses the California Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers Index (CCPI-U) as the basis for most fees. New fees include a \$10 fee for providing a link on the city's website to Visalia businesses, a \$20 fee for rental of the conference room on the second floor of the Transit Center, and a 18% service fee on food and beverage purchased from the Convention Center which is typical in the hospitality industry and in line with private sector caterers.

TEA GRANTS BRING BIKE TRAILS TO PACKWOOD CREEK: Grant funding for two transportation enhancement projects in the amount of \$366,000 were recently awarded by Transportation Enhancement Activity (TEA). Using matching funds from Measure R totaling \$161,000, the projects will develop two important links to the City of Visalia waterway trail system. The two project sites are: Packwood Creek along County Center from Visalia Parkway to Cameron Avenue; and Packwood Creek in east Visalia, south of Highway 198. Combined, the two projects will add 1 mile of Class I bicycle and pedestrian trail along the Packwood Creek corridor and will provide alternative transportation access to schools, parks, neighborhoods, commercial districts and regional shopping centers. The County Center project will construct a .25-mile Class I bicycle from Visalia Parkway to Cameron Avenue, and also will install California native plants to create a Valley Oak riparian forest. The trail will provide connectivity to the new Green House Montessori School, a new City park site, and the busy Packwood Creek and Costco retail centers. The Packwood Creek College Avenue project encompasses a riparian trail that extends from College Avenue along Rio Vista to Tulare, following the creek to McAuliff, and continuing west along the back of the Diamond Creek Development where it connects to a future park site. The trail will eventually cross Lovers Lane and enter a proposed commercial retail center.



COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE: Mark your calendars. The Visalia City Council will hold a work session at 4 p.m., and a special session at 7 p.m. Monday, June 9, at the Visalia Convention Center, 303 E. Acequia Ave. The Council will hold its regular meeting, beginning with a work session at 4 p.m. Monday, June 16, at City Council Chambers. A joint meeting with the City Council and Kaweah Delta District Hospital Board will be held at 5:30 p.m. Monday, June 23, in the Blue Room at Kaweah Delta Hospital, 400 W. Mineral King Ave. The Council will hold a work session at 4 p.m., followed by a Special Session Monday, July 14, at the Visalia Convention Center, 303 E. Acequia Ave. For information on agendas for specific meetings, go to the City's website at www.ci.visalia.ca.us.



WORK BEGINS IN LINCOLN OVAL PARK: Work began May 30 on a two-week project to replace curbs, gutters and sidewalks pushed up by tree roots over the years in the Lincoln Oval park. The \$25,000 repair project includes the removal and replacement of three trees and the reconstruction of a ramp for the handicapped. This is the second repair project in the Lincoln Oval. Other project include hiring a traffic consultant, using a \$175,000 grant from the California Department of Transportation, to look at traffic/pedestrian issues in the area.



TEEN NIGHTS AT THE BALLPARK: Teens, ages 13 to 18, are invited to enjoy a free night of fun and baseball at the Recreation Park on Tuesday, June 10, Monday, July 14, and Tuesday, Aug. 5. A pre-game tailgate party starts at 6 p.m. at the Anthony Community Center, 345 N. Jacob St., where tickets to the game will be available on a first come-first serve basis. For more information, call 713-4365 or visit the City of Visalia's website at www.ci.visalia.ca.us. In addition to the City of Visalia Parks and Recreation Department, sponsors for the event are Visalia YMCA, California Water Service Co., Visalia P.A.L., and Community Services Employment Training.

POLICE TRAIN FOR 'PROJECT LIFESAVER': The Visalia Police Department has partnered with Project Lifesaver, an national organization that utilizes electronic technology to assist in locating missing persons. This system is designed for individuals who suffer from various medical conditions such as Alzheimer patients who have the tendency to wander off from their residences. Individuals enrolled in the program will be supplied with a small transmitter approximately the size of a man's wristwatch. These transmitters have a unique radio frequency and emit an automatic tracking signal every second twenty-four hours a day. If the person wanders off and is reported missing officers will utilize specially designed radio receivers to track the missing person. This reduces the time to locate a missing person from hours or days to just minutes. The Visalia Police Department invested \$20,000 for the equipment, which included two receivers, and twenty transmitters. Fifteen members of the Visalia Police Department have attended training for this program. Members from our Volunteer group as well as Police Explorers will assist with the maintenance of the program, which includes monthly visits to the homes of participants to maintain their equipment.

PUBLIC WORKS ROAD PROJECTS: The following Public Works/Development Projects are being conducted during the week of June 2. For more information on Public Works projects, call the Public Works Customer Service Line at 713-4428.

- Install new underground electrical conduits on Mooney and Riggin Avenues from Ferguson to Corvina Avenues. Days and hours of work being done: Monday thru Friday 8am – 4 pm. Date of expected completion: June 28, 2008. Why work is being done: For the new Southern California Edison substation. Responsible Contractor/Contact: SCE, Don Theall at 805-494-7090.

- Replace water lines along Houston Avenue between Santa Fe and Ben Maddox Streets. Days and hours of work being done: Monday thru Friday 8am – 4 pm. Date of expected completion: August 1, 2008. Why work is being done: In preparation of a City street reconstruction project. Responsible Contractor/Contact: West Valley Const., Tim 732-7447.
- Performing work on the stadium lights at Mineral King Bowl at Mineral King and Giddings Streets. Days and hours of work being done: Monday thru Friday 8am – 4 pm. Date of expected completion: June 10, 2008. Why work is being done: For Visalia Unified School District. Responsible Contractor/Contact: Todd Plumbing, Tim 651-5820.



- Install new sanitary sewer and storm drain lines on Crowley and Neeley Streets west of Plaza Drive. Days and hours of work being done: Monday thru Friday 8am – 4 pm. Date of expected completion: June 26, 2008. Why work is being done: For the new Fresno Pacific University campus. Responsible Contractor/Contact: Todd Plumbing, Tim 651-5820.
 - Install new sanitary sewer and storm drain lines on Crowley and Neeley Streets west of Plaza Drive. Days and hours of work being done: Monday thru Friday 8am – 4 pm. Date of expected completion: June 26, 2008. Why work is being done: For the new Fresno Pacific University campus. Responsible Contractor/Contact: Todd Plumbing, Tim 651-5820.
- Install new telephone service conduits along Hurley 350' east of Shirk and along Shirk from Hurley to Highway 198. Days and hours of work being done: Monday thru Friday 7am – 5 pm. Date of expected completion: Aug 31, 2008. Why work is being done: AT&T new service for Oakwest #7. Responsible Contractor/Contact: Charlotte Dreco 739-6112.
- Slurry and overlay of County Center from Tulare to Packwood Street, and Court Street from Paradise Avenue to Walnut Avenue. Days and hours of work being done: Monday thru Friday 7am – 5 pm. Date of expected completion: June 16, 2008. Why work is being done: City of Visalia Street Management program. Responsible Contractor/Contact: Lee's Paving 651-1337.
- Install new gas line on Acequia between West and Locust Streets. (A significant traffic impact could occur through 6/6). Days and hours of work being done: Monday thru Friday 9am – 3 pm. Date of expected completion: July 30, 2008. Why work is being done: Upgrading service to the new hospital downtown. Responsible Contractor/Contact: Lyles Construction, Jessie at 799-7860.