



Laguna Woods WOOD WORKS

SUMMER

CITY OF LAGUNA WOODS

2008

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CITY OF LAGUNA WOODS



WOOD WORKS is published by the City of Laguna Woods and is distributed as a public service to the homes and businesses of the City. The City of Laguna Woods welcomes your comments, suggestions and questions regarding WOOD WORKS. Please call or write:

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Taxi Voucher Program Extended

The City has subsidized taxi service within Orange County since 2002, with fares reduced by 50% – 60% for residents who are sixty (60) years or older. Taxi bucks, that can be used anywhere in the county, are available to residents for \$40 for a book that contains \$100 worth of taxi bucks. Special discounted vouchers are available to such popular destinations as John Wayne Airport, Fashion Island, South Coast Plaza and the Orange County Performing Arts Center, the Irvine Transportation Center and the Irvine Spectrum. In addition, less expensive, non-emergency medical vouchers are provided to residents who need transportation for medical services.

Qualified residents can purchase up to four roundtrips annually to the John Wayne Airport (or the Performing Arts Center, South Coast Plaza, Fashion Island); there is a limit of four roundtrips per month for non-emergency medical trips. Taxi bucks and Irvine Transportation Center vouchers can be used without a trip limit restriction.

Including the new fiscal year, the City will have received a total of \$587,711 in senior mobility funds from the Orange County Transportation Authority to help provide these services. Use of the various services provided under the taxi voucher program has continued to grow, although demand fluctuates monthly. The following table reflects program use for the last two years.

Fiscal Year	John Wayne Airport	Irvine Transportation Center	Non-Emergency Medical	General Destinations	Total Trips
2006-2007	4,429	540	668	2,725	8,362
2007-2008 (est.)	4,920	832	815	2,324	8,891
% Increase	11.1%	54.1%	22.0%	-14.7	6.3%

Enrollment in the taxi voucher program has risen from 3,374 to 4,254 residents, a 26% increase since the program's inception in 2002 and more than 32,000 trips have been provided since the program began in that year.

The City Council voted in May to extend the taxi voucher program until June 30, 2009, for special destination vouchers and to June 30, 2010, for the medical transportation and taxi bucks programs.

Please turn to page 2

Taxi Program, continued from page 1

Costs for the medical and taxi bucks programs will remain the same:

- Within the Core Service Area: Residents pay \$4 each way and the City pays \$6 each way.
- Outside Core Service Area: The price is based on actual mileage. Residents pay 40% and the City pays the remaining 60% for each trip.
- Taxi bucks can be used only in Orange County.

Costs for special destination vouchers to the Irvine Transportation Center and Spectrum will also remain the same: Residents pay \$4 each way and the City pays \$12 each way.

However, the cost for special destination vouchers to John Wayne Airport, Fashion Island, South Coast Plaza and the Orange County Performing Arts Center will increase from \$15 to \$16 each way and the City will pay \$16 for each trip.

The cost for non-emergency medical transportation is based on the actual fare. Residents pay based on mileage from their home to the medical appointment:

- Trips up to 15 miles are \$4 each way.
- Trips more than 15 miles up to 20 miles are \$6.
- Trips more than 20 miles up to 25 miles are \$8.
- Trips more than 25 miles are \$12.

Medical transportation is available anywhere in Orange County and to the Long Beach Veterans Hospital.

The taxi voucher program is subsidized by grant funding and the City must comply with the regulations associated with the grant. To continue to offer this program, the City needs to guarantee that vouchers will only be purchased and used by qualified individuals—residents 60 years or older. Although individuals younger than 60 may ride in the taxi with a qualified resident, they cannot use the vouchers on their own. Failure to comply with this requirement threatens continued funding from OCTA and the overall viability of the program. Residents who are caught giving their vouchers to other people will no longer be able to participate in the program. 🌳

Are You Getting All of Your Senior Benefits?

Medicare, Medi-Cal, veterans' benefits, employment services, nutritional assistance, home-delivered meals, housing and in-home assistance?

If you are older than 55, you may be eligible for services and discounts from various government agencies or nonprofit organizations. The National Council on Aging has created the mechanics to determine what benefits you may receive based on your age, military service, income, medical expenses and assets.

If you have a computer with Internet access, log on to www.benefitscheckup.org. If you do not have a computer, your local library or senior center can help you use theirs, or you may use a relative or friend's computer. You must be able to provide the following information:

- State and ZIP Code
- Type of residence (house, apartment or mobile home)
- Length of time at current residence
- Veteran's status for self or spouse
- Employment history (specifically, whether or not you ever worked for the state, federal or local government or the railroads) for self and spouse
- Names of prescription medications you are taking
- Current income and assets (including property value) from all sources for self, spouse and all household members
- Estimates of current monthly expense (mortgage/rent, utilities, out-of-pocket medical expense)

Allow at least 20 minutes to complete the checklist. After all information has been recorded, the website will provide a list of programs you may be interested in exploring. 🌳

Department of Motor Vehicles Identification Cards

If you no longer have a driver's license or think it's time to turn your license in, you will still need a legal form of identification to replace the driver's license. A Laguna Woods Village ID or other residential card may not be sufficient.

The California Department of Motor Vehicles issues ID cards to persons of any age. The ID card looks like a driver's license, but is used for identification purposes only. A regular ID card is valid for six years, and a senior citizen ID card is valid for 10 years. To qualify for a senior citizen ID card, you must be age 62 or older.

To apply for an ID card you will need to do the following:

- Visit a DMV office (there's one in Laguna Hills — make an appointment for faster service)
- Complete application form DL 44. (An original DL 44 form must be submitted. Copies will not be accepted.)
- Give a thumb print
- Have your picture taken
- Provide your Social Security number. It will be verified with the Social Security Administration while you are in the office.
- Verify your birth date and legal presence. (You may use your California driver's license)
- Pay the application fee. (No fee for a senior citizen ID card.)

Check your address before you leave DMV and tell the DMV representative if your address is incorrect. Your new ID will be mailed to you within 60 days. If you have not received your ID after 60 days, call 1-800-777-0133 to check the status. Have your receipt and/or old ID card with you to provide information when requested.

DMV will exchange a valid license for a no-fee ID card to drivers who are no longer able to drive safely because of a physical or mental condition. Please call your local DMV for additional information. 🌳

City Partners With Historical Society

In 2007, the City entered into a partnership with the Historical Society of Laguna Woods. The City provides a variety of support in furtherance of the City's and the Society's shared preservation goals. These shared goals include hosting educational programs, preserving artifacts, records and oral histories, and enhancing the Society's presence in Orange County's preservation community.

Among the projects the Historical Society is currently involved with is a digital storytelling project on the theme "California of the Past." This project is in collaboration with the City and Orange County Public Library and made possible by the participation of the Media Arts Center in San Diego and the California State Library. Digital storytelling is a cutting-edge method of collecting oral histories using computer technology. For this project, digital storytelling is being used to create a series of "mini-movies" that integrate both audio and visual material. Trained volunteers have spent several months interviewing a wide assortment of our most senior residents on unique and impactful experiences during their lives in California. Story topics include teaching in the 1940s, Japanese internment, recollections of 1950s Beverly Hills and the cowboy way of life. This summer, the stories will be available at various places within the City, online and via computer stations at all public libraries in the State of California.

For more information on the Historical Society, please contact their office at (949) 206-0150 or e-mail history@comline.com. The Society is located on Calle Aragon, inside Laguna Woods Village. Access for individuals who live outside of the Village is available by appointment. Normal office hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Friday, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 🌳

Do You Know?

One ream of 100% recycled paper saves about: 40,000 BTUs of energy, 5.3 pounds of greenhouse gases and 21.3 gallons of waste water. The City of Laguna Woods uses 100% recycled paper for all of its copying and printing. 🌳

Candidate Info Meeting

The City of Laguna Woods has scheduled a meeting at 10 a.m. on Friday, July 11, 2008, at City Hall for individuals interested in running for a seat on the City Council.

Information will be provided at the meeting about the election process, candidate requirements and petitions, fair political process requirements, the Brown Act, councilmember roles and responsibilities, the City budget and current City projects. Since this information may be of general interest, all City residents are invited to attend. The City Manager and City Clerk will be available to answer questions. Refreshments and handouts will be provided.

For information about the forum or the election process, call the City Clerk at (949) 639-0500. 🌳

How to Use Less Gasoline

By reducing gasoline consumption, you can save money and help make fuel more affordable for all. What's more, reduced fuel use will also result in cleaner air. Here are some actions you can take now to improve gasoline efficiency and reduce your consumption of gasoline.

1. **These three tips listed below can save you up to 15% in fuel consumption immediately!**

- Keep tires inflated to the recommended pressure.
- Use the car's air conditioner selectively.
- Observe the posted speed limits. It's safer and saves gas. Gas mileage decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph.

2. Accelerate smoothly and break gradually. It's safer, uses less gas and reduces brake wear. Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking) wastes gasoline. It can lower your gas mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by five percent around town.

3. **Properly maintain your vehicle.**

- Replace air and oil filters as recommended. A clogged air filter can reduce your car's gas mileage by as much as 10 percent.
- Keep your engine properly tuned. Fixing a car that is noticeably out of tune or has failed an emissions test can improve its gas mileage by an average of 4.1 percent.

4. Park your vehicle Instead of using "drive-up" windows. Idling gets 0 miles per gallon.

5. Use cruise control. Using cruise control on the highway helps you maintain a constant speed and, in most cases, will save gas.

6. Use the recommended grade of motor oil. You can improve your gas mileage by 1-2 percent by using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil. Also, look for motor oil that says "Energy Conserving" on the API performance symbol to be sure it contains friction-reducing additives.

7. Remove excess weight. Avoid keeping unnecessary items in your vehicle, especially heavy ones. An extra 100 pounds in your vehicle could reduce your MPG by up to 2%. Extra weight affects smaller vehicles more than larger ones.

8. **Other Gasoline & Money-Saving Options:**

- **Take public transportation.** Ride the bus, light rail or commuter train just once a week. According to the American Public Transportation Association, for every mile traveled, public transportation uses about one-half of the fuel consumed by automobiles, and about a third of that used by sport utility vehicles and light trucks.
- **Combine your errands into one trip.** Plan your routes carefully to drive fewer miles and use less fuel. Also, several short trips taken from a cold start can use twice as much fuel as a longer, multipurpose trip covering the same distance when the engine is warm.
- **If you own more than one vehicle, drive the one that gets better gas mileage whenever possible.**
- **Protect your health and your pocketbook by walking—or biking—to your destination whenever possible.**
- **Buy a fuel-efficient vehicle.** Gas mileage (MPG), greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution ratings and safety information for new and used cars and trucks. Find and compare cars. Sponsored by U.S. Dept. of Energy & U.S. Environmental Protection Agency <http://www.fueleconomy.gov> 🌳

CITY OF LAGUNA WOODS
24264 El Toro Road
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Postal Customer

Laguna Woods, CA 92637



CITY HALL

24264 El Toro Road
Laguna Woods, CA 92637
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Plan Counter Hours: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
O.C. Public Library: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 949-639-0500

Fax: 949-639-0591

Website and E-mail Links:
www.lagunawoodscity.org

CITY COUNCIL

Bert Hack, Mayor

Bob Ring, Mayor Pro Tem

Robert Bouer, Councilmember

Milt Robbins, Councilmember

Brenda Ross, Councilmember

Leslie A. Keane, City Manager

Susan M. Condon, City Clerk

Get Connected to City Services

Attend City Council Meeting



3rd Wednesday of each month,
2 p.m., Laguna Woods City Hall,
Council Chambers, 24264 El

Toro Road. Cablecast live on LW
Communications Channel 31.



Visit the City's Website

www.lagunawoodscity.org



Call us at (949) 639-0500

TTY phone at (949) 639-0535



Tune In

Channel 31



Write To Us

City of Laguna Woods
24264 El Toro Road
Laguna Woods, CA 92637



Send Us an E-mail

cityhall@lagunawoodscity.org
Share your thoughts and ideas.

Apply to Serve on a Committee
Call the City Clerk's office at (949) 639-0500.

City Meeting Schedules

- ◆ City CouncilThird Wednesday of month.....2 p.m.
- ◆ Community Services Committee (CSC)Fourth Wednesday of month9:30 a.m.
- ◆ Human Relations Committee (HR)Second Tuesday of month1:30 p.m.
- ◆ Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)First Thursday of month9 a.m.
- ◆ Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)Second Wednesday of month9:30 a.m.
- ◆ Water Quality Advisory Committee (WQAC)Second Monday bimonthly1:30 p.m.

Meetings are held at City Hall, 24264 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, CA (949) 639-0500.

Meeting schedules are subject to change.