



FRANKLY SPEAKING

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New and improved circulator service begins summer season June 13



By Frank Boyles,
City Manager

All aboard! The Local Laker Link rolls again!

Yes, our circulator transit service, which enjoyed a very successful launch last summer, is about to begin its second year. Buses will roll from Monday, June 13 through Friday, Aug. 19.

Here's why you, as a resident, should care:

With gas prices hovering around \$2 per gallon and our schedules seemingly busier than ever, you absolutely will not find a better bargain than the Local Laker Link.

Each circulator bus ride is just \$1.

Here's how it works.

So you and some close friends jump on the boat some fine day or evening. After awhile, you decide you want to eat at one of our fine downtown establishments.

Just moor your boat at the Watzl's Beach boat slips and take a stroll over to the pavilion. A Local Laker Link schedule is posted on the kiosk (by the amphitheater) and you can take the bus downtown.

After dinner, you can walk back to the park, or if you like the scenic route, jump back on Local Laker Link for a leisurely ride back. If that's the case, ask the merchant for a free ride card on us!

We are proud of the changes we have made from year one to year two to better accommodate our riders.

First and foremost, we have added a second bus this year and doubled the number of stops. In 2005, Local Laker Link buses will make nine stops each weekday at 26 locations – up from 13 last year.

Careful planning went into the selection of those sites, with the goal being to enhance our residents' connectivity to the beautiful natural and manmade amenities of Prior Lake and the surrounding area.

Some of the most popular stops include Lakefront Park, Sand Point Beach, Prior Lake High School, Hidden Oaks Middle School, Super Target, and, for the first time ever, our revitalized downtown area. This is one way we can link downtown, Lakefront Park and Prior Lake.

But that's not all. In year one, Valleyfair was one of our riders' most popular destinations. But to get there, riders took our bus to the Southbridge development, where they then boarded a Shakopee transit bus to take them the rest of the way to Valleyfair.

In 2005, thanks to our strong partnership with Scott County and its transit officials, we've eliminated the transfer. As a result, riders can board a shuttle bus at Prior Lake High School and be taken directly to Valleyfair. Five trips to and from this popular summertime destination will be made daily, with each ride to and from costing \$1.

All of the bus stops and arrival times appear in an ad published in this edition of the *Prior Lake American*. I encourage you to check it out and to consider the merits of the Local Laker Link when planning your trips around the city this summer.

For a schedule and route map for Local Laker Link, contact Assistant to the City Manager Kelly Meyer at (952) 447-9802, or visit www.cityofpriorlake.com.