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| **Wednesday, November 28, 2012 121128-1**  **In this Issue:**  **Megabus.com Announces Start of Bus Service to Las Vegas and San Francisco from Union Station**  **Metro ExpressLanes Citations Issued**  **Metro Monthly Green Tips: November 2012** |
| **Megabus.com Announces Start of Bus Service to Las Vegas and San Francisco from Union Station**  Today, I participated in a Megabus.com press event to announce the return of their bus service to San Francisco and Las Vegas from Union Station. This partnership between our agency and Megabus is expected to increase our revenue and assist our patrons with affordable travel during this holiday season. Service will begin on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 with buses leaving from Patsaouras Plaza Bus Bay 1. Ticket sales begin today, with $1 tickets being offered for the entire first week of service (December 12-19, 2012). Megabus.com service provides new transportation connections for Metro, Metrolink and Amtrak riders. Multiple media outlets covered the event and stories are expected to run throughout the day. Please click [here](http://thesource.metro.net/2012/11/28/megabus-com-to-start-service-from-union-station-on-dec-12-tickets-go-on-sale-today/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=megabus-com-to-start-service-from-union-station-on-dec-12-tickets-go-on-sale-today) to view the complete story posted on The Source and to view pictures from the event.  **Metro ExpressLanes Citations Issued**  Today, reporters from KNX and KFI radio and the San Gabriel Valley Tribune inquired about the level of citations that have been mailed out to motorists since the Metro ExpressLanes opened along the Harbor Freeway on November 10, 2012. Media Relations staff reported that as of Monday, a total of 12,297 citations have been sent out to the registered owners of the vehicle license plates caught on camera without the required FasTrak transponder. The citations ask for the toll amount charged at the time of the incident to be paid and an application to open an ExpressLanes FasTrak account is also included to encourage motorists to sign up for the program to enable them to use the ExpressLanes. The fees being charged in the citations at this time only include the toll charge, no penalties or fines are included. Stories are expected to run later today.  **Metro Monthly Green Tips: November 2012**  Green tips are applicable both at work and at home, this month’s green tips focuses on what you can do as the temperatures continue to drop. Now that we are left the warm weather of summer and are well into the winter season there are new sustainable choices you can make as you get ready for these cooler temperatures and holiday season.  Going green all at once is too much for almost anyone to accomplish. Instead, try adding a few more ideas each month, or pick one from a past months green tips. You'll be surprised at how many changes you can make in just a year.   1. Facts about Fireplaces**:** When you light a fire on a cold winter day it looks and feels wonderful, but it can be an expensive and an inefficient endeavor. A fireplace sends most of the heat in your house straight up the chimney emitting as much as 24,000 cubic feet of air per hour to the outside. But there are ways you can limit the loss of heat when enjoying a quiet evening by the fire such as making sure the dampers in the bottom of the firebox are open (if provided) or open the nearest window slightly - only about an inch - and close doors leading into the room; installing tempered glass doors and a heat-air exchange system that blows warmed air back into the room; verify the seal on the flue damper is intact and make it as snug as possible and lastly, consider a gas fireplace if you are planning to install a new one. These provide the enjoyment of looking at flames but can be 70% more efficient than wood-burning fireplaces. 2. Greening Education**:** No matter what time of year, it seems students of all ages require stuff – lots of stuff. Books, paper, backpack, calculator, pencils, and pens are just a few of the items needed. When it is time to purchase, it is a good idea to restock with recycled and reusable products, to minimize the daily impact on our planet. Consider buying Banana, Hemp, or 100% recycled paper products. These raw materials are manufactured into notebooks, folders, and craft papers in a wide variety of bindings suitable for all ages. Think about Hand-me-downs. Yes, some of us remember the time when it was a matter of financial survival for clothes, shoes, and even school books to be handed down from one sibling to another. Depending on the condition of the items, these were either used for school if they were in good enough shape, or they were used for play clothes. Children like to have new things every year, so why not hand that book bag or lunch carrier to one of your other children, share it with a neighbor, or offer it at a recycling network like the recently popular local “Freecycle” email list. In addition to hand-me-downs, look at consignment stores and Goodwill.Many people donate gently used items to their local charity stores. Organizations like Goodwill, Habitat for Humanity, and no-kill shelter organizations have stores in your area. You will be supporting them, saving money for yourself, and helping to keep unwanted items out of landfills.   By implementing this month’s green tips into your office, your home and your everyday life you’ll help in building a more sustainable and future! | |
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