

Connecting

NOVEMBER 2020

NEWS FOR MANAGERS & MECHANICS

Floodwood Garage Is Getting Creative With Recruiting

Many companies fight over the same narrow set of candidates who fit all their criteria. You can gain an edge in your local market by hunting for talent where others are not. We get locked into ideas of how to recruit new drivers but Jessica Larson has jumped outside of the box in her community.

Jessica and her drivers hosted a community garage sale on a weekend in October. Items were donated for the sale along with a local artist donating a “Welcome sign” and a drawing for shoppers. Congratulations to local residents, Courtney Romanek on being drawn for the custom cedar sign and Steve Bailey who was drawn for the Mainline gift certificate.



\$296.00 from the event was donated back to Floodwood’s Athletic Department for repairs to the Softball, Baseball, and Football fields.

What a great way to support your community and meet your next bus driver!

Turn Radius Awareness

As time goes by, drivers may start to make their turns too shallow, potentially endangering the bus or other vehicles if something goes wrong. Your drivers should always be swinging wide to make sure they can always make turns.

Also, encourage your drivers to avoid left turns against traffic whenever possible, even when under a protected turn signal. This is inherently more dangerous than right turns. In addition, often you can actually save on gas by making multiple right turns to avoid sitting in left-turn lanes.



3 Ways Reward Your School Bus Drivers

School bus drivers are heroes of school districts every day, and many of them truly have gone above and beyond since the COVID-19 outbreak. With schools struggling more than ever to find and retain bus drivers, this sort of public recognition seems like the perfect way to keep morale high among your drivers.

If you’re looking for a quick and easy way to make your district and your drivers look good, here are a few ideas.

Public Announcements

When was the last time you put an article in your local newspaper or other news sources about standout drivers in your district? Public announcements are also great from a PR standpoint. They remind the district’s residents how much their bus drivers do for the community. It brings a morale boost to everyone involved. If you need help writing an article for your newspaper, ask Liz. She’s willing to guide you through the article.

Awards

You don’t need corporate sponsorship to give awards to excellent bus drivers. Any district could create its own “hero driver” award to honor someone who goes above and beyond the call of duty. This could even become an annual or semi-annual event, honoring drivers after each semester or school year.

Prizes

No one ever turns down free stuff. While a prize on its own may feel a bit insubstantial, adding prizes to other activities will definitely create even more of an image boost; especially if one of the prizes is especially exciting. You could possibly turn it into a competition over the course of a year.

Remember, if an employee has a minor request which won’t be too much hassle to implement, let them have it. Maintaining morale is vital to a successful team.

Leave everyone and everything better than we found them—Mike Hennek

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FALL BUILDING CHECKLIST

- WINTERIZE AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM
- GET HEAT SYSTEM READY FOR WINTER
- TEST SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS. REPLACE BATTERIES
- POWER-WASH WINDOWS AND SIDING
- CHECK WATER SOFTENER, ADD SALT AS NEEDED
- FLUSH HOT WATER HEATER AND REMOVE SEDIMENT.
- INSPECT ROOF FOR LEAKS, MISSING SHINGLES OR FASTENERS
- TURN OFF & DRAIN OUTDOOR WATER FAUCETS
- CHANGE FURNACE FILTERS, VACUUM FILTER AREA IF NEEDED. VACUUM HEAT EXCHANGE RADITORS
- TEST SUMP PUMP
- REMOVE LEAVES AND DEBRIS FROM GUTTERS AND DOWNSPOUTS
- RUN WATER IN FLOOR DRAINS AND FLUSH TOILETS IN UNUSED SPACES (UNLESS FIXTURES HAVE BEEN WINTERIZED
- CLEAN & INSPECT EXHAUST VENTS
- CLEAN CARPETS
- OIL GARAGE DOOR TRACKS, ROLLERS, AND HINGES
- INSPECT HOSES/WATER LINES FOR LEAKS
- CHECK SINKS AND TOILETS FOR LEAKS
- CHECK ALL CORDING AND WIRING FOR DAMAGE
- PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO SNOW AND ICE BUILDUP IN DOORWAYS CAUSING AIR GAPS AND HEAT LOSS

What Are You Grateful For...

Singing along to my favorite music, even if it is out of tune

The sound of laughter
Warm coat on a cold day

Diversity and different opinions
Children and their innocence

The freedom to make choices

Knowing that disappointment and hardships never last

Comfortable shoes

Waking up and living another day

Traveling to new places

Simple words of encouragement

WARM SUNNY DAYS

Technology that allows me to stay in touch with others

MY FRIENDS

Good music

Positive people

Being able to laugh at myself

Going for a walk

Avoiding Winter Injuries To Keep Your Drivers Safe

Even if you'd rather not think about winter just yet, now is really the perfect time to figure out how you'll mitigate the safety risks that come along with snowy and icy weather.

Your incentive here is twofold: obviously, you want to keep everyone safe. But there's another reason to battle winter conditions—your loyal employees.

Are you ready for winter?

- Check your **Slip & Fall Checklist** daily once the cold weather arrives
- Shovel steps, sidewalks, parking lots, and paths in front of entrances and exits.
- Salt sidewalks and parking lots to melt ice.
- Ensure parking lots, entrances, and exits are well-lit so folks can see potential obstacles.
- Use runoff mats inside the entrances of your building to collect excess water and snow.
- Immediately mop up melted snow on hard walking surfaces.
- Use "wet floor" signs to warn employees and customers about possible slick spots indoors.
- Post notices on your doors to remind employees and customers to walk slowly when entering and exiting your building.
- Encourage employees and customers to use handrails when using steps.
- Advise employees to wear slip-resistant footwear during the winter months.



BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

- 8 – Mikaela Krannich
- 15 – Sara Ratliff
- 19 – Robby Faust
- 20 – Nicole McKee
- 22 – Travis Lewellin
- 26 – Bob Becker
- 30 – Brenda Gould

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE START OF DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Should we blame Ben? Benjamin Franklin's "An Economical Project," written in 1784, is the earliest known proposal to "save" daylight. It was whimsical in tone, advocating laws to compel citizens to rise at the crack of dawn to save the expense of candlelight.

REMINDER

Electronic copies of all routes, including the assigned driver, was due by October 15th. Copies should be sent to DAN...ASAP

Get Your 3rd Period Random Drug Tests Scheduled As Soon As Possible

DATES TO KNOW

- NOVEMBER 7TH—DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
- NOVEMBER 24TH—CHRISTMAS WISH NOMINATIONS DUE
- NOVEMBER 25-26—THANKSGIVING BREAK



NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 PAYROLL	5 PO LISTS DUE	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 SCHOOL DIST. BILLING	16	17	18	19 PAYROLL	20
21	22 PO LISTS DUE	23	24 <i>CHRISTMAS WISH NOMINEES DUE</i>	25 THANKSGIVING	26 4.0 HOLIDAY	27
28	29	30	31 DRIVERS LISTS DUE	 <p>HAPPY <i>Thanksgiving</i></p>		