



## **AA Transportation Co., Inc.**

605 HARTFORD TURNPIKE  
SHREWSBURY, MA 01545

508-791-9100 - 508-845-7215 FAX  
On the Web at: [www.aatransportation.com](http://www.aatransportation.com)

# **FEBRUARY 2010**

# **NEWSLETTER**

### ***A MESSAGE FROM THE TOP***

# ***SPRING IS ALMOST HERE***

The weatherman says, "Meteorological Spring starts March 1st." I hope he is right. We've made it through January, surviving snow and cold. But, the groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, saw his shadow, which means six more weeks of winter. Tough for a lot of people. So, I'm not sure what to expect. All I know is I cannot wait for the warm weather. It's already Winter Break time. Next comes Spring Break. We are past the halfway point of this school year.

The Biggest Loser Challenge has started. I wish all participants lose many pounds, and all will be a winner. At the end of the Biggest Loser Challenge, I will again pay \$2.00 to every participant for every pound they lose. Good luck and good health to everyone.

We are seeing more and more laws, rules and regulations regarding the use of cell phones and texting while driving a vehicle. The USDOT has recently issued rules for drivers of trucks and buses with criminal or civil penalties for texting while operating a motor vehicle. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is preparing to ban use of cell phones, two-way radios, anything that distracts from driving safely. The risk to drivers using cell phones is great. Some of our drivers have been removed from school routes for using cell phones. The risk to our company is also great. We are taking a strong position on these situations and a 'zero tolerance' when any driver fails to follow our policy. I am confident all of our employees will continue to comply with these requirements. Our

Company policy on the Use of Cell Phones is stated below in this Newsletter.

The safe operation of all our company vehicles and the safe transportation of all our passengers is always our first priority.

Remember to send me your comments and ideas about our Company and what we can do for our customers. Your views are important to me, and I will respond to every comment and idea I receive.

Be sure to check out the February Specials at our new company, Route 140 Wholesale Auto Sales, which are listed below. Contact me directly if you are interested.

*Ron Ernenwein, President*

# THE WINNERS

**OF 'LASTLY' - FIND  
THE EXACT WORDS  
"AA FAMILY" AND THE  
NUMBER OF TIMES  
THEY APPEARED IN  
THE JANUARY  
NEWSLETTER ARE:**

**LEAH NOEL**

**LAKE STREET**

**by email 10:00am**

**KAREN ROBINSON**

**WEBSTER**

**by telephone 10:00am**

**MARY ANTALEK**

## ***AA Transportation Family***

# ***TID-BITS***

## **OF INFORMATION**

**Did you know ...**

**"If you laugh 100 times a day it burns off as many calories as walking 15 minutes on a treadmill!"**

### **TIME SHEETS**

- MUST contain the actual time you return your customers back to their pick up location.

- MUST contain your NAME, ROUTE ID, BUS ID and MILEAGE in order to be valid.

- MUST be in no later than NOON (12:00pm) on Tuesday of each week for payroll, to get paid the following Monday.

**AUBURN**

**by telephone  
10:00:30am**

**EACH WON A \$25**

**WAL-MART  
GIFT CARD**

**PLAY AGAIN - READ  
'LASTLY' AT THE END  
OF THIS NEWSLETTER**

**INSPIRE  
OF  
NOT  
BECAUSE  
OF**

**CONGRATS  
MIDALLI  
BETANCOURT**

**ON THE BIRTH OF  
HER NEW BABY  
GIRL, 8LBS 9OZ ON  
FEBRUARY 4th**

**SAVE \$**

- MUST contain your name and location.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS AS TO HOW A TRIP IS PAID - Ask before the trip is completed, and you can also refer to your Employee Handbook.

### **FAST LANE TRANSPONDERS**

If you have a FAST LANE Transponder, either mounted on your company vehicle or a portable one attached to the windshield, please see Kim M. in the Main Office. Any Transponder not identified by March 1, 2010 will be cancelled. Travel charges will be the responsibility of the driver at the time of travel. At NO TIME should any bus pass through any Toll Station without a FAST LANE Transponder or the driver paying the toll and getting a receipt.

### **COMPANY TWO-WAY RADIO**

Let's remember that the COMPANY TWO-WAY RADIO is an important tool for drivers to communicate important issues, which may include emergencies that need to be dealt with immediately. Idle chatter, music playing and non-company related discussions should not be aired over the radio. Having a quiet radio is more efficient and non-distracting for all drivers. Please use courtesy and common sense when using the company radio.

If you would like to contribute to "AA Transportation Family Tid-Bits of Information" write out your comments, thoughts or questions and bring them to the Main Office, or give them to your Manager to send on to us. Your name and work location would be helpful. All submissions will be reviewed for appropriateness before placing in our Newsletter.

**THE BIGGEST  
LOSER**

AT & T Wireless is offering an 8% Monthly Discount on any NEW or EXISTING Personal AT&T Wireless Lines to ALL AA Transportation Employees.

Take your pay stub into any AT & T Corporate Store, and ask to be signed up for the 8% discount.

For more information, contact Kim M. in the Main Office, 508-791-9100.

**2009-2010 IN-SERVICE TRAINING & SAFETY MEETING SCHEDULE**

**MONTHLY FOR CDL DRIVERS**

***ALL MEETINGS ARE ON TUESDAY***

# **CHALLENGE**

***We are underway. Initial weigh-ins have been logged in.***

The TEAMS are set: CHERRY STREET has 17 Team Members; LAKE STREET has 19 Team Members; WEBSTER has 7 Team Members; CORPORATE has 10 Team Members.

We will again provide monthly updates through this Newsletter. We looked at texting updates but found not all of us are able to get text messages.

The next weigh-in is the week of March 1st to the 5th.

Any questions, contact the Human Resources Director.

FOR MORE DETAILS OR A COPY OF THE RULES FOR THE TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL CHALLENGE, SEE YOUR MANAGER OR CONTACT HUMAN RESOURCES AT THE MAIN OFFICE.

**PERFECT ATTENDANCE for JANUARY**

1st TUESDAY EACH  
MONTH AT MAIN OFFICE  
2nd FLOOR - 8 :30 AM, 9:45  
AM, AND 6:00 PM

2nd TUESDAY EACH  
MONTH AT MAIN OFFICE  
2nd FLOOR - 9:30 AM

3rd TUESDAY EACH  
MONTH AT WEBSTER,  
BARTLETT HIGH SCHOOL  
AUDITORIUM - 9:15 AM

4th TUESDAY EACH  
MONTH AT SOUTHBRIDGE  
TOWN HALL 2nd FLOOR -  
9:30 AM

**2009-2010**  
**QUARTERLY**  
**FOR 7D SPED**  
**DRIVERS**

**ALL MEETINGS  
ARE ON  
THURSDAY**

***September 17th***

***December 17th***

***March 18th***

***June 10th***

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD

**THANK YOU FOR BEING  
HERE EVERYDAY!**

**215**

**THAT'S THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES  
WITH PERFECT ATTENDANCE IN  
DECEMBER.**

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE  
OCTOBER DRAWING WINNERS FOR  
THE TWO \$250.00 WAL-MART GIFT  
CARDS:**

**JUDY BRICAULT  
CHERRY STREET**

**ANNA MARIE DASILVA  
LAKE STREET**

IN ADDITION TO THE DRAWING, ALL EMPLOYEES  
WITH PERFECT ATTENDANCE FOR THE MONTH  
RECEIVE A GIFT CARD VALUED AT \$1 per DAY  
FOR THE NUMBER OF WORK DAYS IN THE  
MONTH.

**AA COUNTRY  
LINE DANCERS**

AT THE MAIN OFFICE, 2ND  
FLOOR, STARTING AT  
4:30PM

TEXTING WHILE DRIVING  
IS UNSAFE.

## **LICENSE RENEWAL REMINDER**

**THE FOLLOWING CDL  
DRIVERS ARE DUE FOR  
LICENSE RENEWAL**

### **MARCH RENEWALS**

#### **Lake Street**

Patricia Cook,  
Gail Flynn,  
Peter McCabe,  
Suzanne Panarelli

#### **Cherry Street**

Judy Bricault,  
David LaFleur,  
Frederick Lewis,  
Ana Lopez,  
Alice Weagle,  
Ronald White,

### **APRIL RENEWALS**

#### **Auburn, Southbridge & Webster**

Margaret Chenevert,  
Laura Corriveau,  
Sherry Jovan,  
Marcel Langlois,  
Roland Pahlus

**STILL TIME TO JOIN AND HAVE SOME FUN  
COME OUT AND LEARN SOMETHING  
NEW, AND MEET PEOPLE**

Time: 6:30pm - 8:00pm EVERY Thursday

**CLASS MEETS EVERY THURSDAY  
FOR 10 WEEKS:**

JANUARY 7, 14, 21, 28

FEBRUARY 4, 11, 18, 25

MARCH 4, 11

**AT THE AA TRANSPORTATION  
DANCE HALL, 2nd FLOOR  
605 HARTFORD TURNPIKE  
SHREWSBURY, MA 01545**

**All are welcome, so bring your friends, family,  
children, husbands, wives, boyfriends,  
girlfriends.**

Some of the dances you will learn are:

The Electric Slide, Canadian Stomp,  
Kick It, The Cotton Eyed Joe, Red  
Neck Stomp, Goodtimes, The Bus  
Stop, Badankadonk, Boot Scoot &  
Boogle, Waltz Across Texas,  
Watermelon Crawl, Cowboy  
Charleston

**Contact Rita in the Main Office  
508-791-9100 ext 2 for more information and cost**

**Lake Street**

Annamarie DaSilva,  
Roberto De Jesus,  
Paul Moisan

**Cherry Street**

Roy Blanchard,  
Monique Desrosiers,  
Cynthia Fish,  
Martha Langley,  
Blanca Lugo,  
Pancianita Robles

**MAY**

**RENEWALS**

**Auburn, Southbridge**

**& Webster**

Virginia Christianson,  
Gregory Kontoes,  
David Milosh,  
William Milosh,  
Renata Sudyka

**Lake Street**

Robin Ellsworth,  
Kenneth Gordon,  
Tara Preble,  
Edward Peluyera,  
Debra Waite

**Cherry Street**

Lori Boisvert,  
Linda Brigham,  
Edward Bourgault,  
Kimberlie Hamm,  
Jodie Johnson,  
Marcia LeBlanc,  
Lewis Tucker,  
Albert Walver

**Contact your Manager  
with your renewal  
information at least 60  
days prior to your  
renewal date, to avoid  
losing your driving**

# FEBRUARY SPECIALS



<http://www.route140auto.com>

- 2006 TOYOTA Highlander  
Retail \$18,350 OUR PRICE \$14,495
- 2004 VW Beetle  
Retail \$7,420 OUR PRICE \$5,695
- 2001 VOLVO V70AWD Wagon  
Retail \$9,970 OUR PRICE \$5,999
- 2001 CHEVY S10 4x4 Pickup  
Retail \$8,985 OUR PRICE \$6,499
- 2002 FORD F350 Dump Truck  
Retail \$18,066 OUR PRICE \$16,000
- 2000 FORD Taurus  
Retail \$2,705 OUR PRICE 2,595
- 1997 FORD Expedition  
Retail \$5,590 OUR PRICE \$3,499

**GOOD CREDIT? WE CAN GET 4.5% APR. BLEMISHED  
CREDIT? NO PROBLEM! WE CAN FINANCE MOST  
PEOPLE WITH OUR CREDIT REBUILDING CAR LOANS.  
CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

**IF YOU HAVE A SPECIAL VEHICLE YOU ARE LOOKING  
FOR, WE CAN HELP FIND IT AND AT A GREAT PRICE.**

**Contact Ron in the Main Office**

privileges while waiting for your renewal license.

508-791-9100 ext 5

**FLEET  
MAINTENANCE**

**John Hartman,  
Manager**

**508-845-7216**

**WE'RE DOING RMV  
INSPECTIONS AGAIN.  
MAKE SURE ALL YOU  
LIGHTS ARE WORKING  
AND YOUR BUS IS  
CLEAN INSIDE.**

**DON'T FORGET TO  
KEEP YOUR PRE-TRIP  
BOOK UP-TO-DATE.**

**PARK-OUTS - START  
YOUR BUS EARLY  
FOR YOUR SCHOOL  
ROUTE. IF THERE IS A  
PROBLEM, CALL  
THE OFFICE FOR  
HELP.**

**If you need any repairs  
call the Garage and let  
me know the  
problem. DO NOT  
TALK WITH ANY  
OTHER MECHANIC,  
TALK WITH ME. We  
will set you up to bring  
your bus in for repairs.**

**The direct telephone**

**HUMAN RESOURCES, TRAINING & SAFETY**

**Julie D'Ambra, Director**

**508-791-9100 ext 4**

**Memo to all drivers regarding the  
USE OF CELL PHONES**

Company Policy

The use of Cell Phones, iPods, MP3 Players, Bluetooth Devices, and any other device that uses Ear Buds or similar ear devices are NOT allowed while driving any Company vehicle.

Receiving or sending TEXT messages while driving any Company vehicle is strictly forbidden and NOT allowed.

Per USDOT - Truck and bus drivers who are texting while driving commercial vehicles may be subject to civil or criminal penalties of up to \$2,750. The employee is responsible for paying this fine.

Some drivers are required to carry a company provided cell phone when working, as a condition of employment for AA Transportation.

However, Massachusetts state law prohibits the use cell phones, I Pods, MP3 Players, Bluetooth devices, and any device that uses Ear Buds or similar ear

line to the Garage is:  
508-845-7216

# LIFE IS EASY IF YOU KEEP GOING IN CIRCLES

## AA LIMOUSINE SERVICE

**John Pond, Manager**  
**508-791-9100**  
ext 1

## 2010 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY 20  
& SUNDAY,  
FEBRUARY 21**

# SUPER BINGO

devices, by the driver when the vehicle is in motion.

In the event the driver receives a call while driving, the driver must stop the vehicle in a safe parking area to answer or return the call.

In the event of an emergency, to report an accident to the office, to call for police assistance, or to call for medical assistance for a passenger or employee who may be injured while riding on your vehicle, the driver must stop the vehicle in a safe parking area to make the emergency call.

Many customers feel unsafe while riding with a driver who is using a cell phone (hands free or not). Customers feel that the driver is not giving 100% of their attention to driving the vehicle, and "they are right".

This policy applies to all employees of each Company. If you need to make or receive a call stop, park and secure your vehicle in a safe location, then make or receive your call.

## CHERRY STREET YARD

Abby Kelley, Grafton, METCO, Sutton, AMSA, St. John's, SPM, Fay, Assabet, Charters

**Rita Ernenwein, Manager**

**508-791-9100 ext 2**

Great job this month on getting your mileage in. Please remember to keep your buses clean, nothing on the dash and no clutter.

I would also like to remind you that your attendance is

**Penobscot  
High Stakes  
Bingo, Indian  
Island, Old  
Town, Maine**

**\$25,000**

**CRAZY L**

**\$8,000**

**SPECIAL**

**\$5,000**

**JACKPOT**

**\$3,000**

**BONANZA**

**15 GAMES**

**OVER \$1,000**

**TICKETS \$179**

**Per Person**

**Includes:**

**Bus Transportation**

**One Night Lodging**

**(Double Occupancy)**

**All Regular**

**Bingo Games**

very important and we need to keep consistency on the routes. When you are out and a spare driver needs to cover your school route, they are not always familiar with the students or the stops. This sometimes causes unhappy customers. In today's economy, we do not want to have unhappy customers. Texting while driving is unsafe. Customer service is our top priority. So, please remember to do your best, to come to work every day and to put on a happy face to our customers.

If you have not signed up on the charter lists for January to March work, and would like to be added to the lists, please call or send me an email:  
[ritaernenwein@aatransportation.com](mailto:ritaernenwein@aatransportation.com)

*Great discoveries and achievements invariably involve the cooperation of many minds.*

*Alexander Graham Bell*

**CHERRY STREET OFFICE HOURS ARE 6:00 AM  
TO 5:00 PM, MONDAY THRU FRIDAY. THESE  
HOURS ARE EFFECTIVE UNTIL FURTHER  
NOTICE.**

**LAKE STREET YARD**

Shrewsbury, Elm Park, Rainbow, Webster Square

**Sean Lyonnais, Manager**

**508-753-6322**

Sean Lyonnais, Manager for Lake Street has been assigned to the Main Office temporarily for training and to management coverage during his pending time off due to the anticipated birth of his 2nd child. We all wish Sean and his wife all the happiness that comes with a new baby in their family.

**Special, Quickies &  
Warm Up Games  
Sold Separately**

**Bus Departs Route  
146 Park & Ride at  
5:00am Saturday,  
Returns about  
11:00pm Sunday**

**FOR TICKETS, CALL  
JOHN POND  
at 508-791-9100 ext 1**

**WATCH FOR  
MORE EVENTS  
IN 2010**

**ARE YOU  
LOOKING  
TO DO  
SOMETHING  
SPECIAL? LET  
US KNOW AND  
WE WILL TRY TO  
MAKE IT  
HAPPEN**

**CONTACT JOHN POND  
AT  
508-791-9100 ext 1, IF  
INTERESTED IN  
ANY EVENT, TRIP OR**

Cindy Fish, Manager from the Main Office SPED Operation will fill-in for Sean during this time and is available to assist Lake Street drivers and monitors, manage all school routes and be the Company's contact person for all contracts operated from Lake Street.

from Jim Pankonen

**Inspections** - Just a friendly reminder that bus inspections are taking place. Please make sure your buses are swept, dash boards cleaned off and nothing on the engine compartment. Either cover your broom with a plastic bag or remove it from the bus along with your trash bucket. Make sure your inspection books are filled out and if there are any major issues, please let the office know.

**THE FUEL MAN COMES EARLY EVERY TUESDAY AND  
FRIDAY MORNING!**

**Upcoming Dates to Remember:**

**Shrewsbury Public Schools**

February 15th - President's Day / NO School  
February 16th - 19th / Winter Vacation

**St. Mary's**

February 15th - 19th / Winter Break  
February 22nd - Religious Enrichment Day / NO School

**St. John's High School**

February 15th - President's Day / NO School  
February 16th - 19th / Winter Vacation

**Montessori**

February 15th - 19th / February Vacation

**Al-Hamra Academy**

February 15th - 19th / February Vacation

**WEBSTER**

Auburn, Southbridge, Webster

**Linda Perno, Manager**

**508-943-0482**

**PACKAGE.**

**Wow! February 2010 already!**

**SPED - Cherry Street**

**Cindy Fish,  
Manager**

**508-791-9100 ext 2**

Cindy Fish, the Main Office SPED Manager has been temporarily assigned to Lake Street to manager that operation during the absence of Sean Lyonnais. See Lake Street Section for more information.

Sean is available to assist SPED drivers and monitors and shall be the Company's contact person for SPED contracts operated from the Main Office.

**DO NOT MAKE ANY  
UNAUTHORIZED  
CHANGES TO YOUR  
ROUTE!**

**If a student or parents  
requests a different  
location;  
Refer them to your  
manager!**

**THE NO TEXTING**

We have a new bus yard in Auburn, at St, Joseph's Catholic Church, 189 Oxford Street in Auburn. Auburn buses will park behind the St. Joseph Rectory. Cherry Street school buses will park at the St. Joseph Church lot across the street. Please do not park in these lots unless authorized by your location Manager. Space is limited.

If you have a scheduled trip that may interfere with the schedule of masses at the parish, please retrieve your bus prior to the parking lot filling up with parishioners. This will avoid any timing issue with your charter trip and Customer.

The Webster Division would like to WELCOME Laurie Young, Jim Latour and Jacqueline Dussault to the Southbridge Contract; Jeffery Cotter to the Auburn Contract. We also have openings in the Southbridge contract, if anyone is interested please call the Webster office at 508.943.0482.

I would like to Thank ALL who have helped in the daily scheduling and covering routes in the Webster Divisions contract locations. Texting while driving is unsafe. I greatly appreciate the cooperation!

Good luck to all who are participating in the Biggest Loser Challenge!

I would like to invite anyone with questions and concerns to please contact me.

**Quote of the month:**

**Desire is the key to motivation, but it's the determination and commitment to unrelenting pursuit of your goal - a commitment to excellence - that will enable you to attain the success you**

**WHILE DRIVING  
COMPANY POLICY  
APPLIES TO ALL 7D  
DRIVERS TOO!**

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR - THE  
NEXT QUARTERLY 7D  
SPED DRIVER'S  
MEETING IS  
THURSDAY, MARCH  
18, 2010, 4:30PM, AT  
THE MAIN OFFICE.**

**Join the biggest loser  
group in the office and  
then online at**

<http://tbl.nbc.com/groups/aa-transportation>

**AA Transportation is  
the name of the group.  
We will add challenges  
every month.**

**HE WHO IS  
SHIPWRECKED  
THE SECOND  
TIME CANNOT  
LAY THE BLAME  
ON NEPTUNE.**

**seek. Mario Andretti**



**AA Transportation is on the Web**  
[www.aatransportation.com](http://www.aatransportation.com)

**YOU CAN FIND COPIES OF PAST NEWSLETTERS ON  
OUR WEBSITE**

**CALL or FAX US**  
**508-791-9100**  
**508-845-7215 FAX**

## **Lastly**

We had a great response to the start of our contest to promote reading our Newsletter. Many of you contacted me at 10:00am on Thursday, January 21st, and the three winners of a \$25 Gift Card are listed above. Now to be fair, and give others the opportunity to be in the top three to contact me, those employees who were winners must wait two months before being eligible to win again.

In this month's Newsletter the word 'texting' appears in various sections. The contest is: find the number of times and the sections in this Newsletter where this word appears. The payoff is: to the first three employees who contact me on Tuesday, February 23rd, starting at 10:00am, with the correct number of times and location (sections) where this word appears, each wins a \$25 Gift Card.

Let's have a little fun and find the secret word. Here's a hint, the secret word appears 1 time in the Lastly Section. Where else and how many more times?

Jim Pankonen, 508-791-9100 ext 5  
[james@aatransportation.com](mailto:james@aatransportation.com)