



CONNECTION

Looking Forward to Another Uplifting School Year

It is scary how quickly the summer holidays pass by.

It will soon be Labor Day and all the schools will be back in session.

I love seeing the stories on social media as well as hearing them, about kids going back to school and the excitement they have for the new school year.

I know not every kid is happy going back to school, but I was definitely one of them who was. When I grew up, I was a cross between a jock, a geek and tomboy, and looked forward to the new year. It meant learning new things and the field hockey season starting.

Last year, with COVID, it was one of the toughest years



we have ever faced. I know this year will likely start off just as tough.

I am amazed how everyone pulled together as a team and I have no doubt we can repeat that this year. It is the people that make Beacon what it is and reminds me of one of my favorite quotes, "People can lift you higher than you can jump on your own."

Thank you all in advance for everything you will do each and every day, taking kids to school safely and on time.

Hudith

Mask requirement returns for new school year

Per the commissioner of elementary and secondary education in Massachusetts, or DESE, Jeffrey C. Riley, "By federal public health order, all students and staff are required to wear masks on school



buses at this time." Riley released the statement on July 30. Drivers and monitors are required to wear masks when students are onboard. In addition, windows should be cracked to increase air circulation.



Mark your calendar! The next Town Hall meeting is Friday, September 17 at 10 a.m. An email with Zoom details will be sent out the week before.



SAFETY MESSAGE

The single most important thing we do, is ensuring the safety and well-being of the students and passengers we transport each and every day. We want to ensure that no child is left behind or left unattended on a bus or van. We know how important the child check process is and how dangerous it can be, when a child is left unattended. The consequences can be emotionally upsetting to the child, parent or caregiver, but also to the driver and monitor. In the most severe circumstances, it can be life altering. Yet for some reason, around the country, such incidents continue to occur at a rather alarming rate. To reduce the the risk of a child being left unattended on a bus or van, we've invested heavily in safety technology.



**Child Checks
Save Lives**



VAN POOL





Each month, we strive to recognize leaders within the Beacon family, in Operations and Administration, for their outstanding contributions to the organization.

We seek to highlight how their work ethic, positive attitude and helpfulness exemplify the values that hold our company together. They are truly ...

The Glue That Binds

August Nominees

SUPPORT

Brendan Binette (corporate)
Kim Graham (Bedford)

OPS

Cheri Govoni (Duxbury) [2 nominations]
Teresa Caton (Fitchburg)
Dan Cross (Dracut)
Jenifer Donahue (Methuen)
Jimmy Houle (Hudson)
Fredery Martinez (Dracut)
Tamayra Martinez (Fitchburg)
Ian McGrath (Chelmsford)
Sarah Mielnicki (Gardner)
Monica Puetthoff (Wrentham)
Javier Ramos (Wakefield)
Holly Samataro (Methuen)

The Glue that Binds

Award for Excellence



August 2021 Winners



Stephan Lindgren - *Staff Support (Fitchburg)*

- ★ Stephan has risen to the occasion and met the challenge of developing critical training materials for our organization over the past few months. Examples include updating of driver training, development of the startup meeting decks, and transforming harassment/discrimination prevention training into an e-learning module that can be delivered on demand.

- ★ Stephan continually looks for ways to improve the training content and learning experience for his customers. He's efficient, thorough and a great collaborator. In addition to all of this, he does it with a smile on his face.



Christine Vrees - *Ops Leadership (Methuen)*



- ★ Christine is an amazing leader, she leads with a purpose, and heart, she isn't title driven but teamwork driven. Christine has a teamwork culture within her office and no one gets left behind or left out of the loop when it comes to information that is relevant to the daily operation.

- ★ Christine truly cares about all her staff from the TCs she works alongside in her office every day with, to the drivers and monitors coming in and out. Christine sits with her team on the dispatch

floor working right alongside of them, jumping in without hesitation.

- ★ Christine has created a positive environment for each and every employee and has made it a wonderful experience to come into her office. Seeing and hearing how engaged she and all her office staff are with the drivers and monitors is amazing, from offering bottled water while they wait to consistently checking in with employees who may have waited a little longer than anticipated inside the building.

- ★ Christine understands the challenges each of her staff members encounter and is able to respond to all challenges with their best interests in mind.

Congratulations!



Recognition of A Job Well Done, with *Gratitude*

Lee + the Salter Team,

We wanted to send along a heartfelt thank you for all you did this past year to make our athletics seasons possible! We know it was not an easy feat and there were many additional challenges.

Much appreciated
SJP Athletics

Tara, Jansson + Colleen



With the 2020-21 school year having wound down, Maryann Kocur shared this to show how much St. John's Prepe appreciated the work by Salter over the past year. In addition, the school sent a box of T-shirts and polo shirts to say thanks. The note the school sent read: "Lee & the Salter Team, We wanted to send along a heartfelt thank you for all you did this past year to make our athletics seasons possible. We know it was not an easy feat and there were many additional challenges. Much appreciated, SJP Athletics, Tara, Jansson, Colleen"

Hello,

I would like you to know that we appreciate how great our experiences have been with SP&R. We live in Cambridge and I have made sure to let the head of out-of-district placement know how impressed we have been and how it just gets better and better. I wish all of my son's classmates had this kind of service.

More importantly though, our driver, Evelyne Beauvais, is out of this world extraordinary. She is always punctual. When she first started she was too early and she immediately adjusted the time to be just right. Seriously, she has never been late. She is kind. Our son has extreme anxiety and cannot handle the horn being honked. She was receptive and she believed us when I told her that we will be ready and watching, no need to honk. We are always ready and she is always watching. She is always calm. Evelyne always greets us with a smile and a warm hello. We know our child is safe and he trusts her.

Please recognize how wonderful Evelyne is and add her praise to her file (or whatever you do for employees). If possible we would love to have her again next year, but recognize that that might not happen as we are switching schools and I know that the other children's families feel as fortunate as we do.

And kindly, if I do not have the correct spelling of her name, could you let me know!

Thank you so much,

Mea Hilton (Mom of Finn Hilton who attends Community Therapeutic Day School)

In this note submitted by Martiza Baez from the Wake-field location, this letter highlights the level of care that was provided on a daily basis by Evelyne over the past year.



After 18 years with Van Pool, Calling It A *Career!*

Eighteen years.

How time has passed, beginning with Kevin Hinkamper first joining Van Pool in 2003 as Vice President.

Early in his career, Kevin spearheaded expansion by Van Pool into northern Massachusetts. Five years later, he took the reins as the company's President and Chief Executive.

During his tenure, Kevin worked tirelessly with expanding into new partnerships with school districts and ensuring that that no matter how prepared one might think they are for a particular proj-



Hinkamper

ect, being "all set" was a bar too far.

Among one of the more memorable stories relating to Kevin's tenure was detailed by Scott Sheridan, vice president of operations. When Scott attended his first Christmas party, he recalled hearing from fellow drivers and monitors about Kevin at the previous year's party. At that party, Kevin memorized each of the drivers' and monitors' names, while also recalling each of their spouse's names, with there being about 100 to 150 people attending that night. To Scott, that spelled out Kevin's persona, with his high attention to detail across all his work.

Following 18 years with Van Pool and having previously served as a Naval Aviator and an Executive Support Officer to the Secretary of Defense, Kevin is moving on to take on new challenges.

Van Pool Again Steps Up To Benefit Pan-Mass Challenge

For over 40 years, the Pan-Mass Challenge has worked toward raising funds for cancer research and treatment at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

For about seven of those years, Van Pool has stepped up as a partner, offering a helping hand with vehicles.

On Aug. 7-8, this year's Pan-Mass Challenge took off, with Van Pool donating 35 vehicles supporting the PMC Road Crew and Transport Teams.

"Every year, we tend to donate 35 to 45 vehicles for the Pan-Mass Challenge," noted Michael Frambach, Vice President of Operations.

This year's event, held after last year's event was cancelled because of the pandemic, still required modifications due to COVID-19.

"In the past, we've had volunteers work to shuttle the vans back to our sites, but not this year. (Van Pool teams) "worked to get the vans cleaned up and presentable, though, prior to the event, with teams from Wilbraham and Wrentham getting them in good shape," added Frambach.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY MICHAEL FRAMBACH



Adventures with Wally

One of our drivers out of our Lowell location continues to document the adventures of her drive-along companion, Wally.



Check back next month for additional Wally updates!

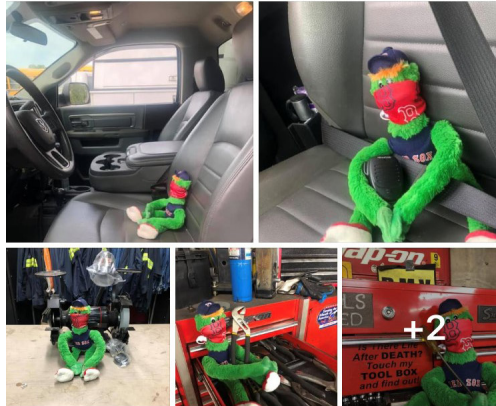
The adventures of Wally...

Wally had an ouchie last week. He finally went under the needle this morning and was stitched up with success, he was a real trooper. Wally is in recovery now, he says his favorite snack M&M's should help him feel better before his boys play ball tonight. Go RedSox!!! 🤔🏈



The adventures of Wally...

Wally had a great morning at NRT Bus Company today. He was awesome helping out in the Maintenance department. First he went on an important service call, and made his way around the garage, he knows where to find the tools 🔧 needed to get the job done. Most importantly he knows he has to return them, always put them back where you found them. Wally did such a great job, I let him take a coffee break. ☺️🚚



The adventures of Wally...

It been a slow day here at NRT Bus Company, but Wally found something to do, he made sure Skinner had enough gloves. Wally said skip on lunch today, he wasn't a fan of what he calls rabbit food. He said he hopes [John L Watts](#) is planning on cooking something better for dinner tonight. ☹️🍲



National Back to School Month Is Here!

As the 2021-22 school year has begun in some states across the country, the question is how will this year be different from last?

After so many schools were left to focus on remote learning for many months last year, the plan for most school districts this year is a wholesale return to in-person learning.

For parents who have yet seen their children off to school this year, there are still a vast number of things that need to be done prior to that first day of school. Among those items include purchasing school supplies and clothes for your children, to be best prepared once the year begins. Also make sure that your child has seen their doctor for required checkups, had their mandated vaccinations or completed things such as eye exams.

And, as was the case last year, parents should be well versed on any recent updates by their school district regarding its mask policy for the coming year, necessitated by the recent increases nationwide in COVID-19 cases among school-age children.



Scenes from the Field will be transitioning to the [Go Beacon! app](#). Download it today!

Scenes from the *Field*

Salter Cornhole Tournament

Takin' Aim in July



Mike Gursky, Jared Notargiacomo and Sue Poor during July's cornhole tourney.



Priscilla Saboo slings a bag during July's tourney, which was moved indoors as the rain began to fall.



Jared Notargiacomo tosses a sky high bag during July's cornhole tourney in Newbury.



Tina Vogell, and Priscilla Saboo pose with dogs, Ryder and Joseph.



Sylvia Leonard, a NRT Newbury employee, slings one for her team.



The cornhole tourney participants show of the results from the winning bracket.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY MARYANN KOCUR

END OF SCHOOL YEAR DUXBURY BOWLING BONANZ



On July 21, Duxbury's Van Pool staff, drivers and monitors got together for a bowling night. As noted by operations manager Michael Addams, it was "a wonderful time had by all!" There were numerous highlights from the evening, including:

- Highest score – Donna Roth, 83; Second highest score – Ellen Aretino, 80; Third highest score - Charlie Boulay, 78
- Highest overall cumulative score – Ellen Aretino, 160. You were on **FIRE** Ellen.
- Everyone who had at least one spare or more in no particular order – Nicole Tango, Nancy Godinho, Lisa Fahie, Lisa Ann Fernald, Charlie Boulay, Jack Doyle, Donna Roth, Ellen Aretino, Kevin McQuade. PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY MICHAEL ADDAMS

We want to share your location news! Send your photos to communications@gobeacon.com.

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Scenes from the Field

Summer is Time for Training



Hudson trainers Petain Loor (top), along with Christy Hariskos, and Loida Delgado are busy training trainees during a hot summer day. Photos submitted by JACKIE D'ALIO



A Wilbraham driver/monitor for Van Pool visits a site in Cheyenne, Wyoming on vacation. Photo submitted by DAVID SIDFORD



A Salter bus parks in front of the USS Constitution recently in Boston. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MARYANN KOCUR



On the back roads of Barre, it's clear that one needs to get the cows moo-ing. Photo submitted by BILL LEGER



Lynn Operations Manager Kayla Cluney (left, with bags) and Wakefield Operations Manager Maritza Baez recently rode through the two communities on an ice cream truck, passing out flyers and NRT swag. Photo submitted by MARITZA BAEZ

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Scenes from the Field



NRT's John McCarthy, right, and his philanthropic group, Hamsters USA, raised over \$500,000 for LifeScape of Rapid City, South Dakota. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JOHN MCCARTHY



North Reading transportation co-ordinators Elizabeth Bova, left, and Johanny Liz, celebrate their birthday recently. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY BRIAN CRONIN



The office staff from the Lynn, Wakefield and North Reading locations had a blast during a recent team building paint night. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MARY-ANN KOCUR



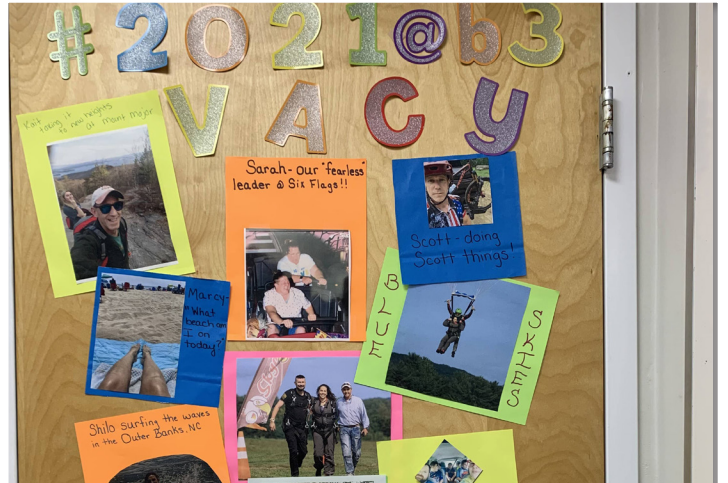
Rachel Pelletier, the director of finance for Salter, had her baby boy on July 30. Current Notar Pelletier, weighed in at 7 pounds, seven ounces. All are doing well. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MARYANN KOCUR



One of mechanics at the Hudson location, Ed Shenette, keeps cool on a 95 degree day. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JACKIE D'ALIO



Hank in Framingham shows off being all geared up for Falmouth Road Race Medical Team, with the race being held on Aug. 15. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY LEAH GOLDSTEIN



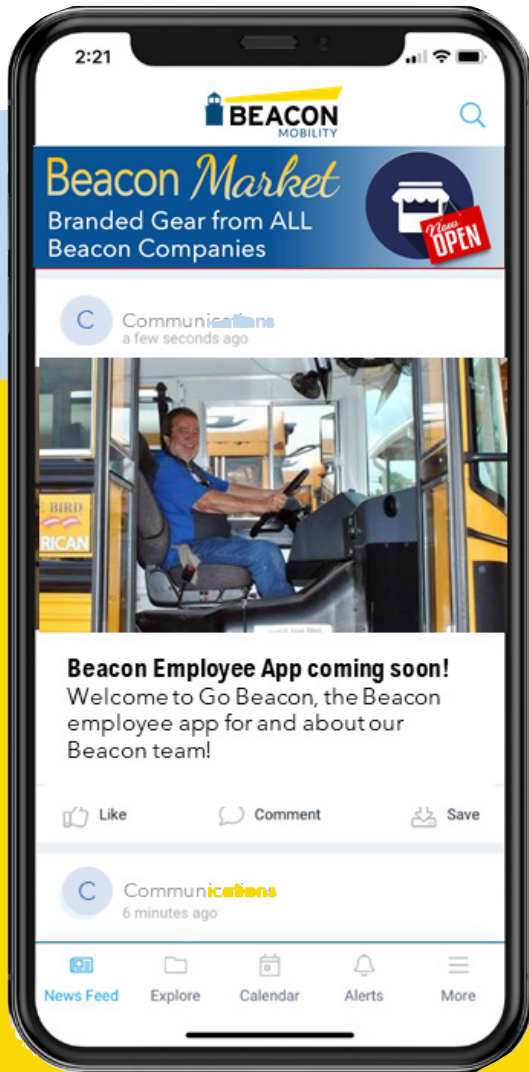
This door displays a variety of photos of Gardner full-time staff, and their fun times enjoyed while on recent vacations. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SARAH MIELNICKI



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