Facilities Services Newsletter
December 2007

College Driver’s License – Who Needs It?

You do! If you plan to drive a College vehicle, or rent a vehicle from a commercial agency for College business, you must first obtain a Middlebury College driver’s license. This requirement applies to students, faculty, and staff.

Why does Middlebury require a College license in addition to my state license?
Middlebury College pays a greatly reduced premium on our insurance as a result of our driver training program. In fact, without the program, we might not be able to continue a rental program at all.

Why take the driver training workshop?
It is required to obtain a College license. The course was developed primarily to allow students to rent and drive College vehicles, but also serves as a refresher on safe driving practices for long-time drivers. In addition, the course deals specifically with the added challenges of driving an oversized vehicle – our 15-passenger vans. Many insurance carriers will not insure 15-passenger vans at all, but our carrier agrees to do so with the understanding that we provide a specific training program for our drivers. Finally, the course has proven to reduce our rate of accident thereby keeping our premium low.

How do people enroll in the training program and get the license?
You may sign up for the monthly workshop by contacting Ed Sullivan, Environmental Health and Safety Officer at 443-5726. Upon successful completion of the program, you will be issued an application for a College license, signed by Mr. Sullivan. If you are applying for a special license to drive 15-passenger vans, you will also be required to schedule a road orientation prior to receiving your license. Completed applications are submitted to the Department of Public Safety, who issues the license.

I have a College license and P-card. Why bother making commercial rental arrangements through the Office of Facilities Services?
You receive a better rate, delivery service to campus, and the convenience factor! Renting through our office ensures the vehicle is being used for College business and that the driver has had our driver safety training. It is also College policy, with the exception of airport or final destination rentals.

How are people insured when they rent out of state? Is it the same coverage?
College insurance covers any vehicle owned, rented, or leased by the College, with a College credit card, for College business only. The College P-Card (VISA) has an insurance entity so you can refuse rental co-insurance, UNLESS you are renting a 15-passenger van, which is not covered. If you have a College American Express card, the co-insurance does cover 15-passenger vans.

For more on the College’s license program, click on “Driver’s License Policy” at: http://www.middlebury.edu/administration/bsnsvcs/Safety/.

For information on the College vehicle rental program, click on “Vehicle Rentals” at: http://www.middlebury.edu/administration/fs/maintenance.htm.
Young Mr. Holmes returned to his dorm room after a long day of classes, looking forward to finishing the bag of chips he had left on his desk the night before. To his dismay, he found the bag empty – and this was not the first time. In recent weeks a variety of foodstuffs had gone missing, sometimes having been extracted through the smallest of openings made in the packaging…

When his roommate returned, Sherlock relayed his fear that they were being burgled. “No chips, Sherlock!? Sometimes leaves the wrappings you say? And no sign of forced entry? Hmmm… My good man, I think what we have here is a rodent problem. Field mice, I say! They’re cute little buggers, but they can eat like a horse and have an uncanny ability to squeeze through the smallest of openings. Amazing climbers too. Like to come in this time of year and winter over, you see; especially in the older buildings on campus. Dorms, office buildings… no matter. If they find a steady supply, they’ll keep coming back.

My advice to you dear sir, is to take greater care in storing your provisions. Get yourself some tins or tightly sealing plastic containers. And by all means, get these dirty dishes back to the dining hall! You’d do well to take your food waste to the main trash bins in the building as well. They’re emptied far more frequently. Yes, that’s the ticket.”

Sherlock pondered his friend’s words for a moment. “Brilliant, Watson!”

“Please sir, do call me Joseph.”

Deerstalker hats off to Joseph Watson of LIS, for suggesting this seasonal reminder. Mice are a particular concern for libraries, as books and paper make wonderful nesting material; but the primary draw is easy access to food. Please, let’s not give them a reason to visit.

Projects:

**Allen, Atwater, and Le Chateau** – Late in the week of December 17th, in order to perform steam main work in a nearby manhole, there will be a steam outage affecting these buildings,. An All-Campus notice will be sent as details are confirmed.

**Allen** – Replacing floor drains in two lower level bathrooms during the December break.

**Atwater Dining Hall** – Repair of steam line gaskets.

**Axinn Center** – Workers are installing glass in a section of the 1962 International Style Reading Room addition designed by Shepley Bulfinch. These bays, seen in the photo, became interior space when the 1979 Meredith Wing was added to the Library. Some may remember passing through these bays when traveling from the 1962 Reading Room into the Government Documents stacks of the Meredith Wing.

**Battell** – Replacing the attic sprinkler system during December break.
**Biomass** – During the week of December 17th, a four hour water outage will affect the Service Building only. It will be scheduled in the wee hours of the morning so that water will be restored by the time most employees get to work. When classes resume for J-Term, the building foundation will be visible.

**Bread Loaf, Homer Noble Farm** – Roof and chimney repair throughout the winter.

**The Bubble** – Carpet replacement in the squash courts.

**The Business and Agricultural Center, Route 7 South** – Painting and minor renovations in offices.

**Center for the Arts** – Expansion of the ticket booth.

**252 Chipman Park** – Replacing a porch roof.

**30 College Street** – Campus data network will be extended to this building.

**Gifford Annex Basement** – Renovation for a Wonnacott Commons multi-use space continues.

**Golf Course Maintenance Building** – Improving structural support beams.

**McCardell Bicentennial Hall** – Refinishing hallway floors over December break. Two classrooms will be upgraded with “smart classroom” technology during J-Term.

**Memorial Field House** – Replacing epoxy floors in two shower rooms during the break.

**Organic Garden** – Constructing a 10’ wide gravel path from the intersection of Route 125 and Bicentennial Way to the organic garden, to provide safer access for gardeners and service vehicles.

**Pepin Gymnasium** – Planning for replacement of the basketball shot clocks.

**Sheep Farm Road Warehouse Facility** – Construction of an additional storage building is underway. The steel frame is up, and work on closing in the structure has begun.

**422 South Main Street** – The home of Alumni & Parent Programs has been receiving some cosmetic upgrades to create a more welcoming space for visiting alums, and a more functional space for the staff who work there. In January, the second floor offices will receive new furnishings.

**Sunderland** – Relocating two doorways to create private offices.

**Voter** – Carpet replacement in the east offices of Telephone Services, during December break.
Trivia*:
Not a single soul on campus ventured to guess at our last trivia question, so the $5.00 College Store gift certificate goes unclaimed. Does anyone remember last month’s puzzler? Scrap tin is baled for shipping in our Materials Recovery Facility. How much does a 5.5’ x 3.5’ x 3’ high bale of tin weigh? 1,200 pounds.

Perhaps seasonal affective disorder has kicked in, and we’re all feeling a bit lethargic. We’ll go easy on you this time. Atop which College building does this panther prowl?

Green Bits:

Custodial Services Goes Green
By Sylvia Manning

The Office of Facilities Services is excited to announce that green cleaning is being instituted on campus. We have chosen Betco’s Green Earth® Cleaning Program. It is a comprehensive process that includes cleaning chemicals, procedures, and equipment. Betco’s Green Earth® Cleaning Program is designed to have a reduced environmental impact while maintaining superior performance. This program is predicated on cleaning for health and the environment.

Every Green Earth® product meets the following criteria:

- No 2-butoxyethanol
- No alkaline builders
- Diluted concentrates have a pH less than or equal to 10
- Ingredients are non-carcinogenic
- Less than 0.5% total phosphorous
- Non-combustible
- No heavy metals
- Recyclable packaging
- Low skin, eye, and respiratory irritation potential

Middlebury College realizes the importance of green cleaning and truly is concerned with the health of its tenants and the health of the environment. Green cleaning contributes to a better work environment through improved indoor air quality. Studies have shown greater productivity, reduced absenteeism, and greater employee retention in green work environments.

One custodial team has already begun using the green products. Other teams will begin using them as we deplete our inventory of old products. By the end of January about 75% of our teams will be using green products. It is an ongoing process that we will continue to monitor and improve in the months and years ahead.

Ice Ban
By Tim Parsons

This winter, Facilities Services will be testing a new, more environmentally-friendly product for snow and ice removal that will also make our sidewalks and roadways considerably safer and clearer.
Our intent is, with time and practice, to drastically reduce our use of sand and salt for fighting winter storms on campus. Sand comes at a fairly high environmental cost, not just in the siltation of waterways, ditches, and lawns, but in air quality issues as the sand is ground into increasingly finer particles by traffic. Sand also requires heavy fuel use through the vehicles and equipment required for trucking, constant re-application during and after storms, and spring clean-up of walks, roadways and parking lots. Salt shares similar concerns, as well as being directly harmful to vegetation and soil structure, and has been implicated in contaminating groundwater. Salt is also very corrosive to both vehicles and our concrete sidewalks.

We will begin using a liquid deicer solution proactively before storms to keep snow and ice from freezing to the pavement. Ice Ban, as it is called, is a mixture of magnesium chloride, a popular ice melter, and Brewers Condensed Solids, a by-product from the beer making process. Smelling faintly of molasses and hops, this liquid, when sprayed prior to a storm, prevents a bond from forming between the snow and the pavement or sidewalk, making removal much faster and more effective.

We will not be using this for every storm. The mixture can only be applied when conditions are correct, as it can become slippery at temperatures above 35 degrees. Ice Ban is slightly sticky, so to prevent tracking into buildings we will not be using it around entryways. It is completely bio-degradable and water soluble, easily washing off surfaces and clothing. It is also considerably less corrosive than salt.

While not totally eliminating sand and salt, our use of Ice Ban will give us a safer and cleaner campus, and should help, in even a small way, to reduce our carbon footprint. For more information, or for any questions you may have, feel free to contact us at facmanag@middlebury.edu.

Happy Holidays from the Office of Facilities Services!

*Trivia contest winners receive a $5.00 gift certificate to the College Store. Facilities Services staff members are ineligible to participate in the trivia contest.

Questions about the information provided, and trivia submissions may be directed to hoyenski@middlebury.edu.

Read past issues of the Facilities Services newsletter at:
http://www.middlebury.edu/administration/fs/about/newsletters.htm