

Keeping it Clean at Guiding Light VBS



Wanda Woodard, litter coordinator with Mississippi Department of Transportation, spoke to students at Guiding Light Church of God in Christ's Vacation Bible School about keeping their community litter free. Woodard (pictured above top right) encouraged attendees to keep the environment clean and to make it an attractive place. (Photo by Zenobia Cockrell)

MDOT: Watch out for highway workers during summer travel

As motorists hit the road to summer travel destinations, the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) reminds drivers to be aware when highway workers are present.

Warmer temperatures and longer days bring more maintenance crews in work zones working to keep the state's highways safe.

"As Mississippi's transportation infrastructure continues to age, more MDOT crews are working between the lines than ever before," said Melinda McGrath, P.E., MDOT executive director. "MDOT crews put their lives on the line every day working inches from the traveling public."

Highway maintenance operations such as pot hole patching, resurfacing and guardrail repairs may require temporary lane closures. Temporary work zones are established to keep workers and the traveling public safe.

Advance warning signs are in place to notify drivers that workers are present. Shadow

vehicles or trailer-mounted attenuators create a buffer zone between vehicles and workers, but workers are not the only ones in danger of injury or death in work zones.

Data shows nearly 80 percent of the 765 work zone crash fatalities in the United States in 2016 were drivers or passengers. No safety gear or plastic cones will stop a vehicle barreling through a job site. Highway workers' safety is everyone's responsibility. These tips will help drivers protect themselves and highway workers.

- Allow enough time to arrive at the destination. To help prevent frustration while traveling through work zones, drivers should allow enough time to arrive at their destination. Road delays can be time consuming and lead to bad decisions which could endanger other motorists and workers.

- Pay attention to road signs. Road signs are posted in advance of work zones alerting drivers of an upcoming change in traffic pattern.

If there is a lane closure, it is posted well in advance of the project site. Drivers should merge as soon as possible.

- Slow down. Active construction projects can be unpredictable. MDOT crews are trained to be aware of the traveling public, but the unexpected can occur. By traveling at slower speeds, motorists can respond quickly to avoid disaster.

- Watch out for flaggers. If flaggers are present, drivers should follow instructions. They are there to keep everyone safe.

- Avoid distractions. When driving through work zones, drivers should watch the traffic around them and allow space between other vehicles. By avoiding distractions, drivers will be ready to react if road conditions change suddenly.

- Be patient. After the active work space, signs will indicate when the work zone ends. Drivers should be patient as traffic resumes its normal flow.

"Imagine if it were one of your loved ones on the highway," McGrath said. "How would you want drivers to travel through their work zone?"

For more information about work zone safety, visit GoMDOT.com/DriveSmart-MS.

For the most current travel and traffic information, visit MDOTtraffic.com, download the MDOTtraffic mobile app, and follow @MississippiDOT on Twitter.



Simpson County maintenance crews patch pot holes as traffic flows by. (Photo by MDOT)

DURANT News

by Rowena Hill

It was a treat to have our own Sandy Land lead the music for the Sunday services at First Baptist Church last Sunday. He is to return for the services this month. The Land family is very special to all who were here before their deaths or moving to various places to live. We still miss Pug and Virginia and their sons.

Vacation Bible School was well attended at First Baptist Church last week. Hebrews 13:8 was the Bible Verse Theme. Mrs. Betty Murphy was the leader. There were several good helpers.

The congregation at First Baptist Church were glad and very thankful to see and be with Frankie and Judy Bledsoe this past Sunday. They had been out of church several Sundays because of Judy undergoing major surgery and recovery.

We sure miss Mrs. Gale Sharp, formerly Gale Sheppard. She is a dear friend to so many from the area. May God bless her in her recent marriage. All wish for them much happiness.

Hearts are saddened because of the major illness of William Henry Hathcock and wife Betty as she sits by his side and attends to his needs. Many of our town are praying and wish for both, healing and happiness.

We were glad to see Eddie Ruth Boatman feeling better and back in Sunday School and church this past Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Ellis were missed last Sunday. We love and appreciate all they do at church.

All were thankful to see and be with David Truitt last Sunday. He is feeling much better after recent surgery in Jackson. We all missed him during his recovery.

Our concern is also for Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Martin. They

attend First Baptist on occasion but haven't been well

for several weeks. May God bless and give each complete healing. They also have lots of caring Durant friends here praying for them.

Funeral services for former resident Marion Brantley are to be held soon. He passed away shortly after the Durant School Reunion in April. Keep them in your prayers. His home was in Florida.

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