We Need Your Help to Redesign Our Website!
AAMVA is redesigning its website. As part of that initiative, we are gathering feedback from users so we can create an easy-to-navigate, mobile-friendly, and highly-searchable website. Whether you are a frequent visitor or have browsed the website only once, we want to hear from you. Please take our short survey. It only takes 10 minutes to complete, and your input will be invaluable to this important project.

FEATURED NEWS

DHS Announces Permission for States to Accept Customer Scanned Documents
DHS Acting Secretary Chad F. Wolf sent letters to states informing them that states may now add the pre-submission of identity and lawful status source documents, through a secure electronic process, prior to an applicant’s in-person DMV visit, and physical presentation of those same documents for authentication and verification by DMV personnel. The applicant is still required to physically present those same documents to DMV personnel for authentication and verification. Read the press release at dhs.gov.

National Coverage:
REAL ID Applications May Be Getting Faster in Effort to Meet October Deadline (USA Today)
DHS Says REAL ID Applicants Can Submit Electronic Documents (Forbes)
REAL ID Application Documents Can Be Submitted Online, DHS Says (Washington Post)

REGION 1 NEWS

Illegal Immigrants in Massachusetts City Won't Be Arrested If They Drive Without a License
Illegal immigrants in Cambridge, Massachusetts, won’t be arrested for driving without a license, thanks to a new law. Under a law passed by the city, police officers are advised not to arrest illegal immigrants found driving without a license. Instead, they are told to issue the drivers summonses...Police had already been advised to follow this protocol for some time, but the council voted unanimously to make it a law, according to the Tuesday report. The law doesn’t restrict police from arresting drivers if they have additional violations besides the lack of a driver’s license. It does, however, keep police from asking if a driver is a legal citizen. Read more at washingtonexaminer.com.

FEBRUARY

26-27 | 2020 February Foreign Reciprocity Resource Guide Working Group Meeting
Savannah, GA

MARCH

WORKSHOP & LAW INSTITUTE
ORLANDO, FL
MARCH 18-19

*Register for the following training sessions HERE.

FEBRUARY - CDLIS

25 | CDLIS 3-Yr Calc for Serious (advanced)
Months Away From REAL ID Law Going Into Effect, Experts Say ‘Get It Done Now’ (Massachusetts)

Later this year, everyone in the state who uses a driver's license to fly will have to get a Real ID..."I would advise anyone who needs a Real ID who has not gotten one to this point to certainly think about doing so because we expect to get busier as the deadline approaches October 1st," said Mary Maguire, a spokesperson for Triple A Northeast. A MassDOT spokesperson says wait times at DMV registries are likely to get worse in the summer. Read more at boston25news.com.

New Hampshire DMV Launches New Hotline Focused on REAL ID

Change can be confusing, especially when it comes to something as personal as your license and identification. That's why the New Hampshire Division of Motor Vehicles has launched a new hotline to answer questions about REAL ID, a new form of driver's license or identification card that includes a star inside a gold circle in the upper right-hand corner to show that it meets federal regulations. Read more at wmur.com.

NJ MVC Issuing Thousands of REAL ID Licenses a Week With Walk-In Hours (New Jersey)

Two weeks ago, the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission launched a "no appointment needed, walk right in" Real ID driver’s license program for drivers with licenses expiring within the next three months. The program, which runs from the 5th to the 20th of every month, is being hailed as a major success. MVC Chief Administrator Sue Fulton said while overall wait times have increased to get a Real ID at the MVC, "the response to the walk-in policy has been great and we’ve been able to manage and move people through pretty well." Read more at nj1015.com.

ICE Leader Says Green Light Law Hindering National Security (New York)

Matthew T. Albence, the acting director of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, lashed out at New York's Green Light Law during a news conference Thursday, saying it imperils public safety, endangers law enforcement officers and hinders federal agents from doing their jobs. Albence, who flew in from Washington, D.C., for the event at the Rensselaer County sheriff's office, was flanked by numerous federal, state and local law enforcement officials as he made an impassioned plea for Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo and state lawmakers to undo a new law that blocks federal immigration and border enforcement agencies from accessing the state's motor vehicle database. Read more at timesunion.com.

Trump Targets New York Again, This Time Over Car Exports

As part of a raft of restrictions announced this month, the Department of Homeland Security said vehicles with New York State titles would face delays before they could be exported. The shift came at the same time as a change that got much wider attention: The federal government also began barring New York residents from trusted traveler programs, such as Global Entry. Officials tied their actions to the state’s passage of the Green Light Law, which allows undocumented immigrants to obtain driver’s licenses and blocks federal agencies from gaining access to the state’s motor vehicle databases. Customs officials said they needed that access to verify vehicles’ ownership. Read more at nytimes.com.

Ontario Government Looking Into Visibility Concerns Around New Licence Plates

The Ontario government says they are looking into concerns surrounding the new provincial licence plates after a number of complaints were raised around visibility.
Consumer Services Minister Lisa Thompson said the province is looking into complaints about the new plates, which were just introduced weeks ago, but stressed they passed government testing ahead of their release. “I can assure you that we have been exhaustive with our testing,” Thompson said on Tuesday. Read more at globalnews.ca.

**RI RMV: Tesla Plate Has G2G (Rhode Island)**

The Division of Motor Vehicles is recalling a vanity plate on a Tesla that says "FKGAS." Paul Grimaldi, a spokesman for the Department of Revenue, said Monday that the plate was issued by a DMV employee "who is new to the plate order process." DMV has now concluded that the plate involved “inappropriate language,” so it’s being recalled. The apparently vulgar reference to gasoline was on a car that is powered by electricity. Read more at southcoasttoday.com.

**REAL ID Rollout Picking up Speed Across State (Kentucky)**

Kentucky’s Real ID rollout is getting real, with six locations around the state churning out about 500 IDs per day, and perhaps no one is happier about that than Warren Circuit Court Clerk Brandi Duvall. Speaking at a Bowling Green Rotary Club meeting Wednesday, Duvall said she was giving “the very last Real ID speech I’ll ever give” now that production of the licenses that comply with the federal Real ID Act passed in 2005 has been switched from circuit court clerk’s offices like hers to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. Read more at bgdailynews.com.

**A Man Was Awarded Over $150k After He Was Denied a License Plate That Read 'IM GOD' (Kentucky)**

A judge has ordered the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to pay more than $150,000 for the attorneys' fees of a man who was denied of his request for a license plate that read "IM GOD." Hart, who says he is an atheist, told CNN affiliate WXIX that he drove around Ohio with "IM GOD" on his plate for more than a decade. So when he moved to Kenton County, Kentucky, in 2016, he put in a request to keep the same license plate. But instead, transportation officials sent him a letter denying his request, saying his request was “not in good taste and would create the potential of distraction to other drivers and possibly confrontations,” according to court documents. Read more at cnn.com.

**How Dickson County Clerk's Office Speeds up Driver License Renewals (Tennessee)**

Cindy Jenkins said when she arrived at the Dickson Driver Services Center earlier this year, people were lined up around the room and sitting on the floor. She heard talk of a nearly four-hour wait to get her driver’s license renewed...However, a man in line with her at the driver services center, located on West Christi Road in Dickson, told her about another option. Minutes later, Jenkins walked right up to the counter at Dickson County Clerk’s Office satellite location. She filled out a sheet of paper and a short time later, her drivers license was renewed. Read more at tennessean.com.

**Equipment for Issuing REAL ID Doubled Ahead of October 1 Deadline (Tennessee)**

This week the Hamilton County Clerk's Courthouse doubled the equipment needed to issue the REAL ID driver's license. Crunch time is coming, because adults will have to have a REAL ID by October 1, in order to fly, visit a nuclear facility or federal buildings. The Tennessee Department of Safety installed the new machines, and Senator Todd Gardenhire helped make it happen. He spoke with Channel 3 about the process. Read more at wrcbtv.com.
AAMVA's Regional News for February 21, 2020

Bill Banning Handheld Cellphone Use While Driving Clears House, Senate (Virginia)
The state Senate voted Tuesday in favor of a bill that would prohibit holding a phone while driving a motor vehicle on Virginia roadways and which implements a penalty for the traffic violation. House Bill 874 will head to the desk of Gov. Ralph Northam, who has voiced support for prohibiting the use of handheld cellphones while driving. The measure, sponsored by Del. Jeff Bourne, D-Richmond, would go into effect at the start of 2021. Read more at wtkr.com.

Veterans Will Lose Plates Honoring Service If They Have Electric Cars; Some Lawmakers Looking to Change That (Illinois)
Some veterans are getting snubbed in Illinois...Thanks to a new state law, electric cars can no longer have specialty plates – like Blackhawks or Cubs plates, or even veteran plates...The rule is one consequence of a sweeping change to electric vehicle registrations. Drivers used to have an option – pay $17.50 a year to register EL plates for electric cars, or pay extra for vanity or specialty plates. Now, all electric car owners have to pay $251 for registration and have a generic electric vehicle plate. There are no more specialty plates at all for electric cars, even those honoring the military. Read more at chicago.cbslocal.com.

Don’t Need a REAL ID? Reconsider Applying for One, Illinois Officials Say
While state of Illinois officials feel “cautiously optimistic” about making the Oct. 1 deadline for residents to get a Real ID, a Secretary of State's Office spokesman said the office encourages anyone who doesn’t need the ID to reconsider applying for it. "If you have a passport or a military ID, you don’t need a Real ID,” said Dave Drucker, Secretary of State press secretary. Druker said the state has issued more than 800,000 Real ID drivers licenses so far and continues to expand facility hours to meet the demand. Read more at nbcchicago.com.

REAL ID-Compliant Identification Required to Fly After Oct. 1, but No Need to Panic (Michigan)
Feb. 12 was a typical February day at the Michigan Secretary of State branch office in Pontiac – a little blustery with temperatures hovering around 25. People lined up outside waiting to get in for a variety of reasons...The Michigan Secretary of State’s Office attributes some of the long lines to people upgrading their driver's licenses and state ID cards so that they’ll be able to fly domestically when a federal deadline comes Oct. 1. Fewer than 50 percent of Michigan residents with driver's licenses or state IDs have upgraded to Real ID-compliant driver's licenses or state ID cards. But there’s no need to panic. Read more at macombdaily.com.

What Are the Biggest Mistakes People Are Making With REAL ID Applications? (Minnesota)
If you’re thinking about getting the REAL ID, you might have heard some horror stories...One man didn’t have a physical copy of a utility bill. Another man didn’t know he needed a passport, birth certificate or something confirming his identity. A third woman’s paystub didn’t have her company’s address and phone number. “I feel bad when I have to send them home for more documents," says License Center Specialist Valerie Gust, “I make sure they have what they need to come back with and make it as easy as possible. Read more at minnesota.cbslocal.com.

Two-Thirds of Highway Fatalities Due to Ejection Without
Seatbelt so Far in 2020 (South Dakota)
Since the beginning of 2020 there have been nine fatal accidents on South Dakota highways. Six of these fatalities resulted specifically from people not wearing their seatbelts, and being ejected out of their cars onto the road or surrounding terrain where they died...Report going back at least five years on the SDDPS website show often twice as many fatalities for people not wearing their seatbelts than from those wearing seatbelts. In 2013 there were 61 deaths without, 33 with. In 2014, 72 and 28. In 2015, 60 and 26. In 2016, 58 and 18; in 2017, 67 and 22; and in 2018, 61 and 28. Read more at capjournal.com.

Arizona Makes It Fast and Easy to Get New Travel ID
Seven months and counting. That's how long citizens have to obtain a new travel identification to get through security at airports starting October 1. Unfortunately, most Americans are not even aware of the deadline, according to the U.S. Travel Association...Arizona is doing better than many other states in issuing the new travel IDs. More than 65 percent of eligible Arizona drivers have obtained the REAL ID. While many people rarely or never travel, it's still something they should consider, said the director of the state's Motor Vehicle Division, Eric Jorgensen. Read more at azbigmedia.com.

DMV Looks to Ease the Way for REAL ID (California)
On Saturday, the Seaside DMV will join six other offices across the state in providing a one-day event dedicated to REAL ID visits. Residents must complete the online application for service...“More than 7 million Californians are REAL ID ready and don’t have to worry about not being able to fly come October,” DMV Director Steve Gordon said in a statement. “The DMV invites Californians to complete the online application, gather their documents and come to a DMV office now to get a REAL ID — no appointment is necessary.” Read more at montereyherald.com.

What's a Passport Card, and Can It Replace a REAL ID? (California)
Here's why I don't have a Real ID California Driver's license: long lines at the DMV. Now, just like you, I have been told for a couple years that I need a Real ID driver's license or I won't be able to fly domestically once the Real ID Program kicks in on October first. But is that really the case? Turns out you don't need a Real ID Driver's license if you have the right documentation, starting with a passport. "I am not personally recommending that people bring their passport to the TSA checkpoint for domestic flights," says TSA's Lorie Dankers. "The risk of losing or damaging your passport is too great." Read more at abc7news.com.

Nevada DMVs Offer Town Halls to Get Residents 'REAL ID' Compliant as Deadline Approaches
As the Oct. 1st deadline approaches for those seeking to board on domestic flights, the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles will be hosting several town halls to help residents learn how to meet the requirements of an updated ID or driver's license...The DMV says those who bring in all of their required documentation will be given a "boarding pass" providing them expedited service at the DMV. Read more at news3lv.com.

Oregon Wins Citizen Service Award
Granicus, the leading provider of cloud-based software solutions and digital engagement services for the public sector, today announced the recipients of the 2019 Granicus Digital Government Awards. The winners implemented transformational digital initiatives that demonstrate excellence in online service delivery, citizen experience, process efficiency, and program-driven
outcomes...Oregon Department of Transportation leveraged targeted and effective
digital communications to help manage Oregon’s transition to REAL ID and
proactively reduce lines and wait times at DMV locations supporting the
program. Read more at nrtoday.com.

**Utah Senate Passes Bill to Curb Offensive License Plates**
Utah vanity plates—those license plates with personalized messages—have made
headlines recently, including one that says “DEPORTM.” Sen. Luz Escamilla, a
Democrat from Salt Lake City, is sponsoring Senate Bill 97, which allows the state
motor vehicles division to refuse to issue license plates if they belittle groups of
people based on different characteristics, such as race, religion, gender identity and
citizenship status...Sen. Wayne Harper, a Republican from Taylorsville, suggested
replacing Escamilla’s bill with one that prohibits the issuing of vanity plates
altogether. Read more at kpcw.org.

**House Pass Wyoming Digital Driver’s License Bill on a
Vote of 49-11**
The Wyoming House of Representatives passed a bill on third reading which would
authorize the creation of new digital driver’s licenses in the state if signed into law.
The House passed the bill on a vote of 49-11 during their Friday, Feb. 21 floor
session. The bill will move to the Senate for consideration. House Bill 05 would allow
the implementation of digital driver’s licenses, but these would be optional. Read
more at oilcitynews.com.

**Depending on Where You Live, Your DMV May Be Selling
Your Personal Information**
A Spotlight on America investigation found a surprising source taking your personal
information and selling it: Departments of Motor Vehicles in states across the
country. Depending on where you live, the information may be released to various
government and law enforcement agencies involved in investigations or
manufacturing recalls. But we discovered your data may be sold to businesses,
private investigators and other entities you wouldn't expect...Schwartz, a senior staff
attorney at EFF, says a federal law passed in 1994 was designed to stop this type of
sale from happening without your consent. The Driver’s Privacy Protection Act, also
known as DPPA, was passed after the death of actress Rebecca Schaeffer, who
was killed by an obsessed fan who used motor vehicle records to figure out where
she lived. But Schwartz explained, the law hasn’t solved the problem. Read more at
wjla.com.

**Airports Warn of Chaos With Looming REAL ID License
Deadline**
The nation's airports are warning of chaos for passengers if the White House doesn't
postpone the looming Real ID deadline...But while states have already issued 95
million Real IDs, that represents just 34 percent of the total, leaving two-thirds of the
country with about seven months to get them if they hope to use a license to board a
plane...The Airports Council International-North America, which represents the
nation’s airports, warned that thousands of passengers could be denied boarding
and left stranded. Read more at nbcnews.com.

**Motor Vehicle Deaths Are Estimated to Have Dropped 2% in 2019**
For the second consecutive year, the U.S. experienced a small decline in roadway
deaths, according to preliminary estimates released today from the National Safety
Council. In 2019, an estimated 38,800 people lost their lives to car crashes – a 2%
decline from 2018 (39,404 deaths) and a 4% decline from 2017 (40,231 deaths).
Approximately 4.4 million people were seriously injured in crashes last year – also a 2% decrease over 2018 figures. Read more at prnewswire.com.

**Insurance Institute For Highway Safety Releases List of Safest Vehicles**

If you are in the market to buy a new set of wheels, there’s some important information you need to know. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety just released its list of the safest vehicles. To earn a top safety pick, vehicles must perform well in six different crash tests. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety also measures roof strength and evaluates whether headlights provide good vision. Read more at philadelphia.cbslocal.com.

**Driving Theory Test to Feature Video Clips Instead of Written Questions to Help Learners With Reading Difficulties and Disabilities (UK)**

Video clips are to replace written scenarios in UK driving theory tests to make them more accessible, it has been confirmed. The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency announced that, from 14 April, learners will be asked three questions after watching a driving clip of up to 30 seconds. Changes to the theory test were decided following the results of a study that found that learners with reading difficulties and disabilities felt more comfortable with video scenarios than written ones. Read more at thisismoney.co.uk.

**TWITTER NEWS**

@AAMVAConnection has been watching the twitter feed and decided to highlight some of the tweets here. Links are provided within most of the tweets, and we have also provided a link to each tweet as well. Note that you do not have to have an account or sign in to Twitter to view the message posts, images associated with the post, and the reach of the message (retweets, favorited, etc.).

Stay on top of the chatter in the MVA and LE community. You may be surprised at what you’re missing! Follow @AAMVAConnection.

Check out recent @AAMVAConnection Twitter action.

***Thank you for the @AAMVAConnection mentions!***

dc DMV Retweeted
Sherryl Newman @COS_Todd | View the Tweet

Great staff at @dcdmv
ICYMI: We were live earlier this afternoon with Administrator Nizer discussing #RealID: https://bit.ly/2P7Wjsu.

VIDEO: Colonel Chris Mason provides key points of the new #HandsFree law beginning on February 23rd.

“Nothing on your screen is worth your life, or the life of another”

Jamey Tesler, Acting Registrar: #DistractedDriving kills 9 people & injures
more than 1,000 every day in America. This new law recognizes the common goal of improving road safety in MA - that's at the core of our mission. @aaanortheast event. @Safe_Roads @EOPSS #EndDD @MassDOT

VermontDMV @VTDMV | View the Tweet

Thank you @WCAX_Scott for stopping by today and talking to Commissioner Minoli about some exciting new things happening at DMV. #SafeSelfie

WINK News @winknews | View the Tweet

WATCH LIVE: FHP hosting ‘Stay at the Scene’ press conference to warn about fleeing from accidents // https://wink.news/2T1avoc (FLHSMV)
Georgia DDS @GeorgiaDDS | View the Tweet

We want to welcome the February 2020 NEO (New Employee Orientation) Class to the DDS family! #ExceedExpectations #EveryCustomer #EveryTime

SCDMV @SC_DMV | View the Tweet

Representative J. David Weeks joined the #SCDMV mobile unit and @scvotes in Sumter at the Sumter County Library today. It’s a great day in South Carolina! #REALID #NoExcusesSC #2020Census

Arizona DOT @ArizonaDOT | View the Tweet
Newly-minted driver? Great! Just don't take a selfie with your paperwork. The Internet would love to gobble up your personal info. MVD offices have a Safe Selfie poster where you can show off you status. Be secure with Safe Selfie!
http://aztravelid.com

ITD @IdahoITD | View the Tweet

From our DMV partners in Minnesota: Prevent nightmare scenario of kids missing Disney by getting Real ID https://mprnews.org/story/2020/02/14/state-commissioner-prevent-nightmare-scenario-of-kids-missing-disney-by-getting-real-id via @mprnews