AAMVA Joins Donate Life to Celebrate National DMV Appreciation Week

AAMVA joins Donate Life America and Donate Life State Teams in celebrating National DMV Appreciation Week, September 24-28, 2018. The Donate Life Community will spend this week saying thank you to Departments of Motor Vehicles for their commitment to asking the donor registration question to DMV customers every day. The vast majority of donor registrations in the US come through DMV and driver's license partners. Donate Life America will be celebrating by recognizing the regional and national winners of the 2018 DLA DMV Awards to recognize statewide DMV and individual efforts to successfully increase donor registration. Through their dedication to the Donate Life mission, DMV leaders and staff help save and heal lives. Read more here.

AAMVA Visits Nebraska, Tours Omaha Service Center

On Friday, September 21, AAMVA's Julie Knittle and Brian Ursino met with Nebraska DMV Administrator and Chair of the AAMVA International Board Rhonda Lahm, and Nebraska State Patrol Colonel John Bolduc in their respective offices in Lincoln, Nebraska. In addition to the meetings to discuss current issues and collaboration opportunities, Rhonda and her Deputy Julie Maaske provided a tour of the recently opened Omaha service center.

AAMVA at the EID Forum

AAMVA was in attendance and presented at the recently held EID Forum Conference in Tallinn, Estonia. This was the 10th year for the sold-out event, which showcases eID programs and projects, both governmental and private from all over the World. Estonia's Information System Authority (RIA) played host. RIA coordinates the development and administration of the country's information system, organizes activities related to
Regional News - September 28, 2018

*Register for the following training sessions [HERE](#).

**OCTOBER**

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**REGISTER ONLINE!**

**OUR WEBINARS**

**OCTOBER**

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**REGION 1 NEWS**

**Passport Requests Up as REAL ID Deadline Nears (Maine)**

With the REAL ID extension for Mainers set to expire Oct. 10, Lincoln County Registry of Probate has had a significant increase in U.S. passport applications. The demand has been increasing as the October deadline nears. In May, the registry received 17 applications. By August, the number more than doubled to 38. Register of Probate Catherine Moore said that at one point late summer, 26 applications were received in two weeks. Three quarters of those were from people concerned about REAL ID, according to Deputy Register of Probate Jeannine Clark. [Read the article at wiscassetnewspaper.com.](#)

**New Jersey Senate President Steve Sweeney Backs Driver's Licenses for Undocumented Immigrants**

Proponents of allowing unauthorized immigrants to apply for driver's licenses received a boost this week when state Senate President Stephen Sweeney endorsed the idea, increasing the chances that New Jersey will become the 13th state to allow immigrants without legal status to drive. [Read the article at northjersey.com.](#)

**Road Safety Blitz (Ontario)**

Peel Police along with OPP and York Police laid 471 charges in a two-day road safety blitz. The goal of the campaign was to reduce incidents on Highway 50 and raise awareness of it. The Highway is used heavily by commuter and commercial traffic, especially by residents of Bolton. [Read the article at bayshorebroadcasting.ca.](#)

**REGION 2 NEWS**

**Kentucky Unveils New License, ID Designs**

The new look for Kentucky's driver's licenses, permits, and personal IDs was unveiled by the state transportation cabinet on Monday morning. Kentucky’s new issuance system and updated identity credentials, known as Confident Kentucky, offer increased counterfeit protection and showcase a new, modern look that gives a nod to the state’s iconic images, the state said. 'We’re taking a holistic approach to enhance the security of the state’s most trusted identity credentials,’ said Department of Vehicle Regulation Commissioner Matt Henderson. 'By moving production to a secure facility, improving the identity verification process and upgrading card features, our entire system is more secure against fraudulent use and the reproduction of credentials.' [Read the article at rcnky.com.](#)

**MDOT Launches New Mobile App (Mississippi)**

As football season kicks off, the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) has relaunched a free mobile app with new and updated features to help fans get their game on. MDOT Traffic gives users real-time access to tools that show road information security, and handles the security incidents that have occurred in Estonian computer networks. RIA also advises the providers of public services on how to manage their information systems as per requirements and monitors them. AAMVA’s Director of Identity Management, Geoff Slagle, provided a speech and participated in a mobile driver license (mDL) panel, as well as moderated a mind-the-gap session around the topic of acceptability of the DL as an identification credential globally. While in the area, Geoff also had the chance to visit with the DMV of Sweden in the city of Orebro. There was good conversation around driver licensing activities with a concentration on research into the electronic frontier, the mDL standardization, and pilot work that continues to grow in prominence.
Oklomans Facing October Real ID Deadline

The State of Oklahoma is less than two weeks away from the deadline to have government issued Real IDs. Oklahoma requested an extension last month, but so far, that request still hasn't been approved. The Oklahoma Department of Public Safety says it expects to hear back from the federal government any day now and believes the year-long extension will be granted. October 10, 2018 is the deadline and that has a lot of travelers anxious. Read the article at newson6.com.

You Can't Fly Without a Real ID. So Columbia Airport Will Help You Get One. (South Carolina)

Don't have your Real ID yet? The S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles will have a mobile office at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport next month so people can purchase one. Starting Oct. 1, 2020, a Real ID will be required to board a commercial flight, enter a military base or visit a secure federal building. Read the article at thestate.com.

Manding Hands-Free Phone Use While Driving May Not Be Much Safer (Texas)

It's a sunny day and you're behind the wheel, motoring down a street or a highway in the Rio Grande Valley. Your mobile phone rings, you answer it, and continue driving. From the moment you pick up that call, whether it's work, wife, husband, kids or friends, your brain switches from the area where the complex motor skills deployed in driving a vehicle are processed, to another part of the brain which processes speech. Your brain then toggles back and forth in milliseconds between those two sections, trying to master the visual and spatial input you're receiving from your eyes and balancing it with the needs of talking and listening. Read the article at valleymorningstar.com.

Safety Striving and Highway Driving (Minnesota)

Snaking its way along the west shore of Mille Lacs, U.S. Hwy. 169 is an indispensable component of the area community. Its four lanes carry traffic through the heart of the Twin Cities to and from the lake and areas north. But traveling any high volume, fast-paced highway is bound to have its share of risks. Tom Nixon, a regional coordinator with the Toward Zero Deaths traffic safety program, explained what work TZD was doing to make travel along roads like Hwy. 169 safer. Read the article at messagemedia.co.

Those Flashing Yellow Turn Signals 'Popping Up' in Omaha Improve Traffic Flow, Safety Officials Say (Nebraska)

Flashing yellow arrows are popping up at intersections around Omaha, and traffic safety officials say that's a good thing for motorists. 'Using these signal configurations moves traffic more efficiently in all directions,' said Fred Zwonechek, administrator of the Nebraska Highway Safety Office. 'It takes a little getting used to, but drivers just need to remember that a yellow flashing light or arrow means slow down, yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians, and proceed with caution.' Read the article at omaha.com.
Doubling of Motorcycle Deaths in British Columbia Alarms Safety Officials
A doubling of deaths in the province involving motorcycles this year has prompted the minister of public safety to issue an urgent warning — and in a break from past patterns, it’s young men that are dying the most. The first seven months of 2018 have seen 30 deaths from motorcycle incidents so far; by comparison, the same period last year saw 14. Read the article at thestar.com.

Pair of Police Forces in British Columbia Decides Against Using Federally Approved Pot-Screening Device
At least two police departments in B.C. have decided they won't be using a federally approved marijuana testing device once the drug is legalized next month. Police in Vancouver and Delta have confirmed they won't be using the Drager DrugTest 5000 in roadside screenings come Oct. 17. The Drager test was approved as the first saliva screening equipment to be used by law enforcement to test for THC, the main psychoactive agent in cannabis, on Aug. 27. Read the article at cbc.ca.

New DMV Handbook Will Remind Drivers of Civil Rights During Traffic Stops (California)
The DMV will now remind California drivers of their civil rights during traffic stops, including how to file a complaint against a peace officer, after Governor Jerry Brown signed AB 2918 over the weekend. The California Department of Motor Vehicles was already required to provide a driver's handbook with information regarding rail safety, abandoning or dumping an animal on a highway, and respecting the right-of-way of others. Now, the handbook must include a driver's rights if a peace officer pulls over a car. Read the article at losangeles.cbslocal.com.

Ground Breaking Event Held for New Reno DMV (Nevada)
The Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), in partnership with the Nevada Department of Administration, celebrated the ground breaking for the new Northern Nevada DMV Services Center Wednesday. 'It's no secret that the Reno-Sparks community has grown exponentially since the opening of the Galletti Way DMV Office,' Governor Brian Sandoval said. 'Once complete, this one-stop service facility will dramatically improve the customer experience. With more parking – for both customers and employees – as well as more service windows, we are aiming to reduce wait times and make visits to the Reno DMV as painless as possible.' Read the press release at dmvnv.com.

I-5 Through Pacific NW is Ideal for Self-Driving Semi Trucks, Report Says (Washington)
Interstate 5 through Washington and Oregon would be the best highway in the nation to test and deploy self-driving semi trucks, according to a newly released study. The report, by Kirland-based traffic data company Inrix, analyzed several high-volume freight corridors around the United States and identified the stretch of I-5 through the Pacific Northwest as an ideal place to test 'highly automated' commercial trucks that can drive themselves but have a human aboard to take over if needed. Read the article at katu.com.

Wyoming, Utah, and Idaho Team Up for Traffic Safety Operation
Law enforcement agencies in three states will be joining forces this weekend as part of an impaired driving enforcement operation in conjunction with the University of Wyoming and Boise State University football game on Saturday, Sept. 29. Read the article at sweetwaternow.com.
Amazon Launches Echo Auto Smart Device for Motor Vehicles
Not to be outdone by the other companies, such as Garmin with their Garmin Speak device, Amazon has finally released an Amazon Echo for your car. Appropriately called the Echo Auto, the compact device is barely larger than a small battery charger at 85 x 47 x 13.28mm. It can mount on your dash board or simply sit near there. As long as it can plug into the car adapter for power (via a micro-USB cable provided). It uses your existing smartphone plan and the Alexa app for connectivity. Inside, it has a Mediatek MT7697 and Intel Quark S1000 processor. There is also an eight-microphone array and it supports auxiliary audio output. So it can receive voice commands like a regular Echo device, even when you are playing music. Read the article at eteknix.com.

Better Headlights Needed to Improve Pedestrian Safety After Spike in Deaths, NTSB Says
New cars and trucks need substantial improvements, including better headlights, to protect pedestrians following a spike in deaths on U.S. roads, federal safety oversight officials said Tuesday. The National Transportation Safety Board said the U.S. needs to update outdated regulations to allow for high-tech headlights and should include pedestrian safety on its new-car safety-rating system. Read the article at usatoday.com.

BMW Vision iNext Concept is an Electric, Autonomous Look to the Future
Modern concepts are some of the most radical ones designers have ever penned. While some, like Volvo, have taken the introduction of self-driving technology as an invitation to create cube-like vehicles that share very little with cars on the road today, others, like BMW have taken a more realistic approach to what the future may look like. Read the article at futurecar.com.

Most Drivers Don’t Understand Limitations of Car Safety Systems, AAA Finds
Most drivers don't understand the limitations of advanced safety technology installed on new vehicles, according to a new study by AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. The study indicates that drivers overestimate the capabilities of features such as blind-spot monitoring systems, automatic emergency braking and adaptive cruise control. Read the article at freep.com.

Recent Study Has Identified a Biomarker for Drowsiness: Can We Use It to Prevent Drowsy Driving?
Drowsy driving, also known as sleep-deprived driving, is a public health issue that places everyone at risk...To help address this ongoing public health issue, researchers from the Sleep Research Centre at the University of Surrey, Guildford, UK led by Professor Derk-Jan Dijk, embarked on a study to come up with a blood-based generic risk profile using mRNA sequences that help identify persons who were acutely sleep deprived. Read the article at forbes.com.

Study: Teens Aware of Driving Risks, but Still Frequently Take Them
A significant number of teen drivers admitted that they had engaged in unsafe driving behaviors despite being aware of the risks, according to a wide-ranging survey by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute. Read the article at theday.com.

This Company Says You Can Design Your Own
Autonomous Vehicle
PerceptIn, an autonomous vehicle (AV) startup with more than $9.6 million in funding from Matrix Partners and Samsung Ventures says their new $40,000 DragonFly pod, is a template that lets anyone create their own autonomous vehicle. However, the DragonFly Pod isn't intended to be driven on the road or a highway. It was specifically designed for use in a closed environment such as a college campus or industrial park. Read the article at forbes.com.

WaveSense Uses Ground-Penetrating Radar to Help Driverless Cars See
Those of us keeping tabs on the mobility industry have heard a lot about the development of sensors and other computer vision technologies to help autonomous vehicles “see” and interpret the landscape around them. WaveSense, a startup spun out of MIT, is adding ground-penetrating radar to the mix, which the company says could increase navigation precision and safety. Read the article at xconomy.com.

On Twitter
@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!***

NHTSA @NHTSAgov | View the Tweet
It’s Child Passenger Safety Week! This is a great time to make sure your child is in #TheRightSeat for their age and size, and to confirm that it’s installed correctly. For more information, including a guide to safety events in your area, visit http://NHTSA.gov/carseat

Michigan State Police @MichStatePolice | View the Tweet
Second train we’ve seen in this area today. Motorists sat on the tracks right before
AND after the train passed. Reminder that a train can take more than a mile to stop. Stay off the tracks! #StopTrackTagedies #RailSafetyWeek

Ride Safe Indiana @ridesafeindiana | View the Tweet
Up to 40 percent of a motor vehicle is a blind spot, and a motorcycle can be easily hidden in a vehicle’s blind spot because of its narrow profile. Learn more about motorcycle safety at http://ow.ly/PkUY30l6knP . #MotorcycleSafety #RideSafe #RideSafeIndiana

Motorcycle Safety
Motorcyclist deaths occurred 28 times more frequently than fatalities in other vehicles, based on 2016 fatal crash data. To keep motorcyclists safe, we urge everyone to share the road a...
hhsa.gov

10:01 AM - 27 Sep 2018

IDOT @IDOT_Illinois | View the Tweet
How confident are you that your child is in #TheRightSeat? Know for sure that your
child is buckled in safely and correctly – every trip, every time.

http://nhtsa.gov/carseat  #8Mistakes

RI State Police @RIStatePolice | View the Tweet
Even if you're just taking a trip around the corner, make sure everyone is buckled up. #TheRightSeat

Wisconsin DOT @WisconsinDOT | View the Tweet
Never race a train. Cars don’t win vs trains. #RailSafetyWeek #StopTrainTragedies
The Regional News e-newsletter is developed and distributed by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA). This message was intended for INSERT_EMAIL. If you would like to stop receiving this message, click here to unsubscribe.

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