AAMVA Awards 2018 - Call for Entries!
The AAMVA Awards Program recognizes members of the motor vehicle and law enforcement community by honoring individuals, teams, and organizations who have committed their time and resources to the following categories: Safety, Service, Security, and Public Affairs & Consumer Education. The submission deadline for all entries (including Martha Irwin Award nominations) is December 22, 2017. Visit the AAMVA Awards Program online for more details about the awards program, and to download the submission and nomination packet. For more information, please contact Jessica Hill at awards@aamva.org.

Getting There: Real ID Act May Hinder Air Travel (Connecticut)
Something like 1.73 million Americans board airplanes every day. Each of them must go through a very necessary screening by the Transportation Security Agency. But beginning in late January, a lot of passengers will be denied boarding because they don’t have the right kind of identification. Read the article at stamfordadvocate.com.

Maryland Issued Hundreds of Fraudulent Drivers Licenses Based On Counterfeit Documents, Audit Says
The state issued hundreds of fraudulent driver’s licenses designed for immigrants in the country without legal documentation, a recent audit found. Two Motor Vehicle Administration Workers were fired as a result. Read more at baltimoresun.com.

New Jersey Bill Aims To Crack Down On Driving While High
As the push to legalize marijuana gains steam in New Jersey, one Morris County lawmaker wants to make it easier to catch drivers suspected of driving while high. Assemblyman Anthony M. Bucco (R-Morris) introduced a bill in the Assembly that would require police officers to take blood samples from anyone arrested for drug-impaired driving. Read the article at patch.com.

Lawmaker Wants 'Dreamers' To Keep Driver's Licenses After Program Ends (New York)
Proposed legislation would allow undocumented immigrants protected under the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program to keep their driver's licenses after the program ends in March. Read the article at timesunion.com.

Pennsylvania DOT Secretary is On Board with Autonomous Vehicles
PennDOT Secretary Leslie Richards recently testified at a Pa. House Transportation Committee on autonomous vehicles. Richards says she supports
DECEMBER
11 | 1:30-3:30 PM ET | SPEXS Overview (basic)
12 | 1:30-3:30 PM ET | SPEXS Batch Transactions (intermediate)
12 | 2-4 PM ET | CDLIS Reports Timeliness (intermediate)
13 | 1:30-3:30 PM ET | SPEXS Transactions AMIE (intermediate)
13 | 2-4 PM ET | CDLIS Reports Data Quality (intermediate)
14 | 1:30-3:30 PM ET | SPEXS Transactions NIEM (intermediate)
14 | 2-4 PM ET | CD90.4.1 Out-of-State Transaction as SOR Reports (advanced)
15 | 1:30-3:30 PM ET | SPEXS Bulk Load (intermediate)
19 | 1:30-3:30 PM ET | SPEXS Web UI & Reports (intermediate)
20 | 1:30-3:30 PM ET | SPEXS State Procedures Manual (intermediate)

REGISTER ONLINE!

DECEMBER
12 | Vehicle Importing & Exporting Challenges: Law Enforcement and Motor Vehicle Agency Resources
12 | NMVTIS State Web Interface – How to Correct Title and Brand Data on the Central Site
13 | NMVTIS Suspense Resolution for Online States (AMIE Version) - Part 2
14 | NMVTIS Suspense Resolution for Online States (AMIE Version) - Part 1
19 | NMVTIS State Web Interface (SWI) – Instant Title Verification Using the VIN Search Feature
21 | NMVTIS Suspense Resolution for Online States (AMIE Version) - Part 1
27 | NMVTIS Suspense Resolution for Online States (AMIE Version) - Part 2

Pennsylvania DOT Announces REAL ID Preparations
The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is reminding customers that there are proactive steps that they can take now to help prepare for when REAL ID-compliant driver’s licenses and ID cards are available to customers who want them in spring of 2019. Read the article at therecordherald.com.

Reagan License Plate Clears Senate Panel (Florida)
A Senate panel Tuesday approved a bill that would create a specialty license plate honoring the late President Ronald Reagan, with proceeds from sales of the plate going to Alzheimer's disease research and programs and the Florida National Guard Foundation. Read the article at news4jax.com.

Troubled Driver’s License Computer System Is On Track To Launch Next Month, Kansas Department Says
A driver’s license computer program rife with delays and complications is on track for launch in early 2018, a spokeswoman for the Kansas Department of Revenue said Thursday. Rachel Whitten said the second phase of KDOR’s computer system replacement should go live Jan. 2 and replace the second part of a 30-year old system used to issue driver’s licenses, identification cards and commercial licenses and process motor vehicle titles and registrations. Read the article at cjonline.com.

Fort Bragg To Begin Enforcing Stricter ID Requirements Next Month (North Carolina)
Some visitors to Fort Bragg will need additional identification to gain access to the post starting in January. Officials with the nation’s largest military installation said they would begin enforcing stricter ID requirements on Jan. 22. The requirements are part of the long-delayed enforcement of a federal law known as the REAL ID Act. Read the article at fayobserver.com.

Getting the Gold Star (Iowa)
When they look at their Iowa driver’s license, many Central Iowans will find a gold star in the upper right-hand corner, and that designation will become more significant in the coming years. “You don’t have to have that gold star quite yet,” said Iowa Department of Transportation Director of Strategic Communication Andrea Henry of the REAL ID, an identification designation which will be required to fly on commercial aircraft as of Oct. 1, 2020. Read the article at timesrepublican.com.

Rural Minnesota Towns Consider Driverless Car Technology
A transportation researcher says rural Minnesota residents could benefit from driverless cars. Frank Douma from the University of Minnesota created a task force last year to examine how to give residents across the state access to self-driving vehicles, Minnesota Public Radio News reported. While many think of driverless vehicles being a possibility in cities or suburbs, Douma said they could also benefit rural communities. Read the article at usnews.com.

When Do Minnesotans Need To Upgrade To REAL ID?
With the new year coming soon, WCCO has heard from viewers about the status of REAL ID. When does it go into effect? When will you need a new license? What does it mean if you already have an enhanced driver’s license? Good Questions. “Right now, you don’t need to do anything,” says Rep. Dennis Smith (R – Maple Grove), author of Minnesota’s REAL ID law. “Once the state is able to produce REAL IDs, then you need to go get a REAL ID between October of 2018 and October of 2020.” Read the article at minnesota.cbs.local.com.
With Driver’s License Suspensions Soaring, Lawmakers Seek Solutions (Ohio)
Ohio lawmakers seem ready to relax some restrictions on the driving privileges of those who have lost their licenses and have little means to pay the reinstatement fees. At least three bills related to license suspensions are pending in the Ohio legislature. Read the article at daytonadailynews.com.

British Columbia Seniors To Get New Driving Assessment
Starting next spring, at-risk seniors and other people with health problems will have a new system for determining if they are still allowed to drive. The new system will be an extended road test, using the driver’s own vehicle, with an ICBC driver examiner directing a series of driving tasks with increasing complexity. Read the article at columbiavalleypioneer.com.

British Columbia Sets Minimum Age of 19 To Consume Marijuana, Plans Mix of Retail Sales
British Columbia has become the latest province to lay out its plan for regulating recreational marijuana, announcing that pot sales will be allowed through both public and private stores to buyers who are at least 19 years old. Read the article at ctvnews.ca.

L.A. Lawmakers Back New Regulations On Marijuana Industry (California)
Los Angeles lawmakers backed a host of new regulations for the marijuana industry Wednesday, paving the way for the hotly anticipated business of recreational pot. The unanimous vote was a landmark step for the biggest city in California as the state prepares to start issuing permits to grow, sell, test and distribute recreational marijuana. Read the article at latimes.com.

California Looks At Dumping Gas Tax For Per-Mile Fee As Cars Use Less Fuel
Weeks into a new gas tax hike, California transportation officials said Thursday they are studying ways to charge drivers based on how many miles they drove since their last fill-up rather than the amount of fuel they use. The problem? California drivers are choosing such fuel-efficient cars that the state fears it will be deprived of enough road construction revenues in the long run. Read the article at sacbee.com.

California Regulators Nix Rules Limiting Carmaker Liability
California regulators have nixed a plan to let self-driving car manufacturers evade liability for crashes if the vehicle hasn’t been maintained according to manufacturer specifications. The new rules released this week delete a provision that was suggested by General Motors, according to Consumer Watchdog, a non-profit advocacy group. Read the article at abcnews.go.com.

ITD Sets Up ‘War Room’ To Find Out Cause of Latest DMV Computer Outages (Idaho)
Idaho’s Department of Motor Vehicles has experienced dozens of systemwide computer outages this year, including 34 that lasted 25 minutes or longer, according to a department spokesman. The outages are actually slowdowns that prevent timely processing of information. Seven times this year they have lasted two hours or longer. Read the article at idahostatesman.com.

Truck Drivers Scheduled To Rally Against ELD Mandate
Truck drivers are scheduled to rally at the Capitol Building on Monday against the
ELD Mandate. The mandate allows electronic devices to automatically record the time a driver spends behind the wheel. Truck drivers are allowed a 14-hour work window and can drive no more than 11 hours. They are also required to take a break after driving for 8 hours. Read the article at fox43.com.

Proposed Recall Database Would Aid Notifications
Two trade associations representing major automakers are working to develop a unified industry database that would make it easier for states and other entities to collaborate on recalls. Read the article at autonews.com.

Driverless Car Bill Hits Senate Speed Bump
A driverless car bill that had been speeding through the Senate hit a speed bump in the upper chamber this week. The measure was set up under a fast-track process with the hopes of getting it over the finish line this year, but multiple senators are blocking the legislation from moving forward. Read the article at thehill.com.

Volkswagen Executive Faces Sentencing In U.S. Emissions Fraud Case
Volkswagen AG executive Oliver Schmidt will be sentenced in federal court in Detroit on Wednesday for his part in a diesel emissions scandal that has cost the German automaker as much as $30 billion. Read the article at reuters.com.

Self-Driving Cars May Help Seniors Who Face Driving Challenges
Robot cars, the ultimate Jetsons-style advance, might seem the province of early adopters, stereotypically young people who want to leap on the latest innovations. But in fact, driverless vehicles seem well-suited for the elderly, whose own driving skills may deteriorate if their vision dims and reflexes slow. Statistics from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety show that drivers over age 70 have a sharply higher incidence of fatal crashes. Read the article at sfchronicle.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

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!***

Ford Driving Skills @FordDSFL | View the Tweet

RT @goFAAR: Be careful and aware of the affect your medications have on your judgment & ability to drive! #EndImpairedDriving http://go-faar.org/2AJybXW
Responsibility.org

NASCIO @NASCIO| View the Tweet

BREAKING NEWS: State CIO Top Ten Priorities for 2018 are out NOW! #CIOTopTen http://NASCIO.org/topten

DRIVE SMART Virginia @DRIVESMARTVA | View the Tweet
Results of the 2017 “No 2 Distracted Driving” Video Contest: http://no2dd.com/

IIHS @IIHS_autosafety | View the Tweet

Headlights have long been more about style than the critical safety equipment that they are. Now they’re part of our safety ratings.

AAA @AAASafety | View the Tweet
AAA Retweeted AAA
Join us here all next week as we discuss new AAA Foundation research and Older Driver Safety Awareness Week with @AOTAIncPR! Get expert advice during Monday’s Twitter chat from 3-4 p.m. ET. Join at #ODSAW17

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