

December 4, 2015 - Regional News

AAMVA News

AAMVA Leadership Academy: Get Your Application In, Before It's Too Late!

You've got a little over a week to submit your application for the 2016 AAMVA Leadership Academy. The Leadership Academy (set to take place May 9-12, 2016) is an exciting opportunity for jurisdiction employees who have demonstrated leadership potential within the AAMVA community. **Applications are due by December 14, 2015.** Visit the Leadership Academy Web site for complete details.

<http://www.aamva.org/2016-AAMVA-Leadership-Academy/>

AAMVA Awards Program Call For Entries

The AAMVA Awards Program <http://www.aamva.org/AAMVA-Awards/> recognizes individuals, teams, and organizations in the motor vehicle and law enforcement community who have committed their time and resources to improving day-to-day business, reaching out to the community, and saving lives. Visit the AAMVA Awards Program online <http://www.aamva.org/AAMVA-Awards/> to learn more about the awards and to download the 2016 Submission and Nomination Packet <http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=7457&libID=7432> and Entry Form <http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=7458&libID=7433>.



Region I

Arrests Made in Connecticut Driver's License Ring

Two teens from Connecticut are facing attempted forgery charges in connection with an international forgery ring that produced and sold fake licenses to students attending colleges in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Read the full story at Patch.com.

<http://patch.com/connecticut/stamford/arrests-made-ct-fake-drivers-license-ring-0>

Split in Trenton on Issuing Driver's Licenses to Illegal Immigrants (New Jersey)

A bill to allow illegal immigrants in New Jersey to apply for driver's licenses is fueling impassioned reactions in both parties as state lawmakers consider whether the goal of improving road safety outweighs concerns about national security. Read the full story at WSJ.com.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/split-in-trenton-on-issuing-drivers-licenses-to-illegal-immigrants-1448244310>

New York Judge Upholds DMV's Permanent License Revocation Rule

A New York judge has ruled that the DMV's "persistently dangerous driver" license ban is constitutional, according to a decision filed in February. State Supreme Court Justice George B. Ceresia, Jr. issued a decision on one of several pending cases challenging the DMV's lifetime ban on dangerous drivers. According to recent changes to DMV regulations, certain drivers may be denied driver's licenses permanently if those drivers are deemed "persistently dangerous." Read the full story at AnelliXavier.com.

<http://www.anellixavier.com/ny-judge-upholds-dmvs-lifetime-license-ban/>

Region II

Georgia DDS Slashes Customer Service Record

Department of Driver Services (DDS) Commissioner Rob Mikell announced today that customers are waiting less when they visit one of the 66 driver licensing centers statewide. Although DDS is serving record-breaking numbers of customers, the state average wait time for October was ten minutes and twenty-two seconds. In addition, driver examiners completed over 100,000 more transactions that month than in October 2011 when the statewide average wait was eighteen minutes. Read the press release.

<http://www.dds.ga.gov/>

Driver's License Amnesty Program to Begin Today (Kansas)

The city of Wichita is partnering with the Kansas Division of Motor Vehicles, Workforce Alliance, and Sunflower Community Action to help about 8,000 drivers get back on the road legally. The driver's license amnesty program is being offered for the first time in the state and this is the pilot program. Read the full article on ksn.com.

<http://ksn.com/2015/12/04/drivers-license-amnesty-program-to-begin-today/>

Proposed Bill in Tennessee to Require Vision Tests for Older Drivers

It can be a touchy subject, but how do you begin the conversation with an elderly loved one about their ability to drive? A new law, if passed, could take the guessing game out of it, according to WSMV. Read the full story at Fox8.com.

<http://fox8.com/2015/11/27/proposed-bill-in-tennessee-to-require-vision-tests-for-older-drivers/>

Region III

Illinois Pushing Forward on Digital Driver's Licenses

Illinois motorists could soon add driver's licenses to the growing list of apps on their smart phones. In an announcement issued this week, the state's license plate czar is seeking to hire a company to help

officials determine whether it makes sense for the state to allow cellphone-based driver's licenses. Read the full story at NWITimes.com.

http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/illinois-pushing-forward-on-digital-driver-s-licenses/article_a56c8c41-d0d4-516b-9c23-df601254aeda.html

State Fails to Send Out License Plate Expiration Warnings Due to Budget Impasse (Illinois)

You might want to double-check the status of your vehicle's Illinois license plates. "Well, I didn't get nothing. So I looked at it yesterday. And I noticed it was expired," Al Cone told FOX 32 News. The wife of disabled retiree Wayne Leonhardt also noticed by chance the other day that their plates were about to expire. Read the full story at Fox32Chicago.com.

<http://www.fox32chicago.com/news/local/54940426-story>

Transgender Michiganian's Sue on Driver's License Policy

It might be just an M or an F to most people, but for transgender individuals, an incorrect sex identification on a state driver's license is equivalent to outing themselves every day to perfect strangers. Read the full story at DetroitNews.com.

<http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/11/30/transgender-sue-drivers-license-policy-michigan/76548384/>

Officials Issue a Challenge to Motorists: A Fatality-free Year on Hwy. 12 (Minnesota)

Over the past five years, paramedics and police have responded to more than a dozen fatal crashes that left 16 people dead on Hwy. 12 in the west metro. They're hoping they won't be called to another one for the next 12 months. Read the full article in the Star Tribune.

<http://www.startribune.com/officials-issue-a-challenge-to-motorists-a-fatality-free-year-on-hwy-12/358933781/>

Keeping Ohio Safe: App Lets You Send Tip to Authorities if You See Something

Amid threats of terror attacks around the world, more states, including Ohio, are using cell phone apps to gather potentially critical tips from the public. Ohio's app, called "Safer Ohio," includes the "See Something, Send Something" feature which allows users to send authorities a text message or picture of something suspicious, such as an unattended bag. Read the full story at Fox8.com.

<http://fox8.com/2015/11/25/keeping-ohio-safe-app-lets-you-send-tip-to-authorities-if-you-see-something/>

Region IV

Uber Suspends Operation in Calgary After Court Imposes Temporary Injunction (Alberta)

Uber suspended its operation after a Court of Queen's Bench judge granted Friday the city's application for a temporary injunction to stop the company's drivers from operating on Calgary streets. Read the full story at Vancouverne.ws

<http://vancouverne.ws/?p=101029>

Bill Submitted to Standardize Arizona Specialty Plates

A state senator from Tucson submitted the first bill for the 2016 legislative session, and it addresses growing concerns over the state's specialty license plates. Read the full story at KPHO.com.

<http://www.kpho.com/story/30601188/bill-submitted-to-standardize-az-specialty-plates#ixzz3syrMTk1l>

ICBC Launches Phone Line for Cantonese and Mandarin-Speaking Customers (British Columbia)

Customers who speak Cantonese or Mandarin can now speak directly to ICBC in their language of choice, thanks to a new, dedicated phone line that launched today. Read the ICBC press release.

<http://www.icbc.com/about-icbc/newsroom/Pages/2015-Nov27.aspx>

Proposed Nevada License Plate Draws Controversy

The Nevada DMV is dealing with a controversy over a proposal for custom license plates. A faith-based charity organization has passed the initial approval stage for plates with an anti-abortion message. Read the full story at KTVN.com.

<http://www.ktvn.com/story/30634087/proposed-nv-license-plate-draws-controversy>

Udall Seeks Funding for Device to Help Stop Drunken Drivers (New Mexico)

Two days after a suspected drunken driver killed three people in Albuquerque, Sen. Tom Udall called for federal support of technology that he said could dramatically reduce fatalities and injuries from accidents involving drivers who have had too much to drink. Read the full story at ABQJournal.com.

<http://www.abqjournal.com/684343/news/udall-calls-for-device-to-help-stop-drunken-drivers.html>

Illegal Immigrants Sue Oregon Over Ballot Measure Denying Licenses

A group of illegal immigrants is suing the state of Oregon to overturn a voter-approved initiative that denied them driver's licenses. Read the full story at FoxNewx.com.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/11/30/illegal-immigrants-sue-oregon-over-ballot-measure-denying-licenses.html>

SGI Increases Penalties for Risky Drivers, Discounts for Safest Drivers (Saskatchewan)

Saskatchewan Government Insurance announced Tuesday several changes to its safe driver recognition program, which provides discounts to safe drivers and increases premiums for drivers with incidents or convictions. Read the full story at CanadianUnderwriter.ca.

<http://www.canadianunderwriter.ca/news/sgi-increases-penalties-for-risky-drivers-discounts-for-safest-drivers/1003913277/?er=NA>

Other News

Tesla is On A Hiring Spree for Engineers and is Revving Up Development of Its Self-Driving Car

Tesla CEO Elon Musk is putting the pieces in place to bring completely autonomous vehicles to the roads in the next three years. The Palo Alto-based carmaker is poised to leap ahead of competing major automakers, whose vehicles will likely evolve over the next 10 years by slowly adding self-driving features, according to Business Insider. Read the full story at BizJournals.com.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/sanjose/news/2015/11/30/software-engineers-wanted-tesla-wants-more-coders.html>

Tesla Recalls Every Model S Ever Made

Tesla Motors stock wavered on November 20 after the company issued a voluntary worldwide recall to inspect every one of the 90,000 Model S cars the company has ever built. Read the full story at Brietbart.com.

<http://www.breitbart.com/california/2015/11/21/tesla-recalls-every-model-s-ever-made/>

Upbeat Feds Revising Self-Driving Car Position

The U.S. Secretary of Transportation has directed his department to re-evaluate its guidance on self-driving cars, indicating he sees the potential for autonomous vehicles to ultimately transition into broader use as technology and safety advances permit. Read the full story at DetroitNews.com.

<http://www.detroitnews.com/story/business/autos/2015/11/24/self-driving-cars/76304240/>

Final Rule Prohibits Pressuring Truck, Bus Drivers to Violate Safety Regs

Commercial truck and bus drivers who feel pressured to violate safety regulations to keep their jobs now have added protections from the government. Read the full story at SafetyandHealthMagazine.com.

<http://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/13353-final-rule-prohibits-pressuring-truck-bus-drivers-to-violate-safety-regs>

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 “Twitter-town talk”. You may be surprised at what you’re missing! Follow @AAMVAConnection. (<http://twitter.com/#!/AAMVAConnection>)

- **Keeping IDs Safe @securelicense | View the Tweet**
<https://twitter.com/securelicense/status/672497209708044288>
.#Massachusetts Joint Committee on Transportation considering @MassGovernor legislation on #realid today <http://1.usa.gov/1HLRvSn> ...
- **National LEL Program @nlelp | View the Tweet**
<https://twitter.com/nlelp/status/672866425405591553>
State Hwy Safety Offices can apply for law enf drugged driving training grants, a program of @GHSAHQ and @goFAAR. <http://ow.ly/VveJ8>
- **TeensInTheDriverSeat @TeensDriverSeat | View the Tweet**
<https://twitter.com/TeensDriverSeat/status/672888374819217408>
JANUARY 22, 2016
DEADLINE TO ENTER!
Don't put it off any longer...
What/why should teens be cautious on our roads?
<http://www.t-driver.com/drivingthemessage/> ...
- **TDLR @tdlrlicense | View the Tweet**
<https://twitter.com/tdlrlicense/status/672885765748035584>
At least one person died on Texas roads every day since Nov. 7, 2000. Do your part to end the streak by driving safely. #EndTheStreakTX
- **TDLR @tdlrlicense | View the Tweet**
<https://twitter.com/tdlrlicense/status/672886176290738176>
[PIC] TDLR employees pose with the #EndTheStreakTX sign. Share your own #EndTheStreakTX pics & messages.
- **NYS Liquor Authority @NY_SLA | View the Tweet**
https://twitter.com/NY_SLA/status/672863314045747200
Joint operation w/ @nysdmv nets 50 sales to minors at Troy bar
<http://on.ny.gov/1QkMPUX>

- **VirginiaDMV @VirginiaDMV | View the Tweet**

<https://twitter.com/VirginiaDMV/status/672883922917834753>

Motorcyclists are harder to see on the road. Don't drink and ride and become a #drunkdriving statistic. Ride #sober. #motorcyclesafety