

AAMVA Regional News

November 21, 2012

Tidbits

Like many jurisdictions, Minnesota is working Towards Zero Deaths. Check out their short TZD video which includes interviews with people on the streets about highway deaths. It is interesting to see how far from reality people are about the number of actual highway deaths in the state and their opinion that 30 to several thousand should be a goal for the state, while their the goal for their own family is zero. Check out the video by [clicking here](#).

Congratulations and good luck to Kathy Thomson, Director of Provincial Licensing for the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia. After 35 years, she is retiring as of November 23, 2012. Thanks for everything!

Region I News

Gigantic Crash Test Dummy Reminds Drivers to Buckle Up *(Maryland)*

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration decided not to take one crash dummy for a test drive. Instead, the MVA permanently placed a gigantic, 30 foot life-saving one on the front lawn of its head quarters in Glen Burnie. The dummy is posed buckling a seatbelt, reminding drivers of the importance of wearing a seat belt. Federal funds for the July 2012 Baltimore Artscape were used to purchase the gigantic, 30 foot life saving figure. The dummy is part of Maryland's Toward Zero Deaths campaign. The campaign highlights the need for drivers to buckle up, decrease speed on the roadways, and to always driver sober. "If seatbelts were used by everyone on Maryland's roads, close to 100 lives could be saved each year," MVA Administrator John Kuo said. "Seat belts reduce the risk of death and critical injuries by as much as 50%." November is considered the third deadliest month of the year for traffic crashes. In fact, in November of last year, there were 50 traffic-related fatalities throughout Maryland. [Read the full story at WBAL.com](#).



MVC Launches Next-of-Kin Registry *(New Jersey)*

The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission has launched an emergency next-of-kin registry to help law enforcement quickly track down the family members of non-responsive car crash victims. In April 2011, Gov. Christie signed the legislation now known as "Sara's Law" in memory of Sara Elizabeth Dubinin. Miss Dubinin became unresponsive following a motor vehicle crash in September 2007 and lapsed into a coma before her parents could be notified and eventually passed away. The next-of-kin registry is an online resource that gives individuals with either a driver's license or a non-driver identification card the opportunity to voluntarily enter up to two emergency contacts and their phone numbers through a protected database. In the unfortunate event the individual is involved in a motor vehicle crash that renders him or her unable to communicate, law enforcement officials will be able to access the registry and notify designated emergency contacts in a timely manner. To further broaden the usefulness of the registry, the MVC has lowered from 17 to 14 the age at which someone can obtain a

non-driver identification card so that they may also utilize the registry for emergency contact information. Non-driver identification cards may be obtained at any MVC agency at a cost of \$24. Six points of identification (6 Pt ID) will still be required for every non-driver identification applicant. In addition, if the applicant is under 18 years-of-age, a parent/guardian must grant permission for the document to be issued. The information entered into the registry is not public and will only be used by law enforcement. Participants can and should log back into the database any time information needs to be changed or updated. Similar registries have been implemented in Florida, Ohio, Indiana, Colorado, Delaware and Illinois. [Read the MVC press release.](#)

DMV: New Licenses Will Protect Against Identity Theft (New York)

An approved contract between the DMV and a Canadian company, to make future New York State driver licenses, would protect New Yorker's identities, said DMV officials Friday. Despite a new contract costing New York State more money to produce drivers licenses the newer ID would be more secure, said David Sampson. Executive Deputy Commissioner of the DMV. "We think this provides the most secure card and that is in our mind the most important facet," Sampson said. When asked if the current licenses are secure, Sampson said yes but added counterfeiters are catching up with the way they are made. Owen McShane, Director of Field Investigation for the DMV said Friday the current New York State licenses were among the most secure in 2005 when they were unveiled. However, that is not the case now, McShane said. "Over the years as technology improved people are coming closer and closer to reproducing the documents," said McShane. "Making documents that will pass muster getting on a plane or getting into a bar, making purchases or identity theft." The tentative agreement between the DMV and the Canadian company still needs approval from the state Comptroller's office. [Read the story on-line at CBS6Albany.com.](#)

Region II News

Floridians Asked to Choose Favorite License Plate

Floridians will get a chance to pick their favorite license plate design in an upcoming Web vote from Nov. 26 through Dec. 14. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles wants to upgrade the basic Florida plate to a design that increases readability and features a seven-character configuration. A committee of more than 20 stakeholders, including state agency personnel, law enforcement, tax collectors and affiliated associations, participated in the development of the final license plate designs. DHSMV's in-house graphics artist created the designs. The four finalists have a citrus flair, with lime green fringe and a leafy Florida orange. Starting Nov. 26, residents can vote www.Vote4FloridaTag.com. The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles has designed four new license tags, with sleek, smooth surfaces, better readability, and seven characters instead of the traditional six. As for the plates' additional details, state officials want you to decide. This is the state's first major step toward a redesign since elected officials, in October, protested a proposal by Highway Safety Chief Julie Jones to outsource some of the tags' distribution. Jones was poised to ask the state for \$24 million to jumpstart the project, but the unexpected opposition prompted her to delay. Release of the new plates is not expected until at least 2014. There are now so many plates on the road, Florida is in danger of running out of character combinations. The new tags will be more modern, with characters that are flat, rather than raised, so that cameras at toll booths and intersections can read them more easily. [Read the full story in the New Tampa Patch.](#)

North Carolina Names Interim DMV Commissioner

Eric Boyette has been appointed Interim Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. With more than 17 years of experience at DOT, Boyette received a B.S. degree from Barton College in 1994. He has worked in various positions within the department, including systems accountant and deputy chief information officer. Most recently, he served as the department's inspector general. As commissioner, Boyette oversees the daily operations of the NC DMV, including issuance of 11,000 driver licenses daily across the state, the registration of over 8 million vehicles annually, safety and emissions inspections at 6,000 stations nationwide, and activates to halt vehicle theft and identity fraud. [Read the DOT press release.](#)



Region III News

Illinois Law Would Allow Undocumented Immigrants to Get Driver's Licenses

Lawmakers in Illinois are proposing a new law that would allow undocumented immigrants to get state driver's licenses. Top officials from both parties are pushing the plan as a way to make roads safer and one that could have political implications for lawmakers seeking to court Hispanic voters. Governor Pat Quinn said he will sign it if it passes the House and makes it to his desk. According to the Chicago Sun-Times, no legislation has been written yet. What is known is that the license would not be the same one given to legal Illinois residents. Talks about the new licenses revolve around an expansion of the temporary licenses for foreign visitors program run by the Illinois Secretary of State. That plan allows undocumented immigrants with proof of residency and a passport to get a three-year license that allows them to drive but is not a valid form of ID. They have to pass, written and road tests, as well as obtain auto insurance. Allowing undocumented immigrants to obtain a license would mean more of those drivers would have to pass road and written driving tests and vision tests, supporters say. Also, uninsured, unlicensed immigrant drivers are responsible for \$64 million in insurance claims each year -- costs that are picked up by people with insurance. Quinn called the bill "the continuation of a movement" to support immigrants in Illinois that also has included passing the DREAM Act. [Read the full story at CBS News.](#)

Motorcycle Plates Honouring Manitoba Veterans to Hit Streets In 2013

A special series of motorcycle plates for veterans will be rolled out next year. Veterans who are motorcycle enthusiasts are now able to participate in this very special program. Several years ago, MPI introduced veteran plates for passenger vehicles; the program is now being enhanced. The special plates will be available prior to the 2013 motorcycle riding season and will display the red poppy image. Manitoba Public Insurance is administering the program. Applicants need to provide documentation showing they meet the qualifications for a veteran licence plate. [Read the full story in the Winnipeg City and Press.](#)



Patrol Arrests Three in Fake ID Raid (Ohio)

State troopers are having difficulty identifying three illegal immigrants suspected of operating a false-identification ring in Columbus that sold good-quality fake documents for \$400 each. Problem is, the three men, all believed to be from Mexico, were their own best customers. "We can't positively ID them. They were running around with all kinds of IDs and identities," said a Highway Patrol spokesman. Troopers used a search warrant to raid a house at 1165 Norton Rd. on Friday, detaining the three men and seizing items used to produce "very believable" fake state and federal IDs. Confiscated were computers, digital cameras, computers, printers, blank ID cards and fake state and federal ID card holograms, along with cash, vehicle titles, birth certificates and lists of hundreds of stolen

identities. The ring sold the fake documents to illegal immigrants looking to secure IDs, including permanent-resident cards, that allowed them to register vehicles, obtain Social Security cards and open utility and bank accounts. The suspects have been turned over to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials pending the filing of possible charges and deportation proceedings. [Read the full story in The Dispatch.](#)

Region IV News

More Californians Driving High than Drunk on Weekends, Study Says

California officials are warning against "drugged driving" after a statewide survey found drugs that can affect driving in one of every seven weekend nighttime motorists -- nearly twice the number of those with alcohol in their system. The survey results, announced by the California Office of Traffic Safety, found that 14% of drivers surveyed tested positive for driving under the influence of impairing drugs -- both illegal and prescription -- while 7.3% of drivers tested positive for driving with alcohol in their system. "These results reinforce our belief that driving after consuming potentially impairing drugs is a serious and growing problem," Christopher J. Murphy, director of the Office of Traffic Safety, said in a statement. [Read the full blog in the LA Times.](#)

DMV Headquarters Makeover Finishes after 14 Years (California)

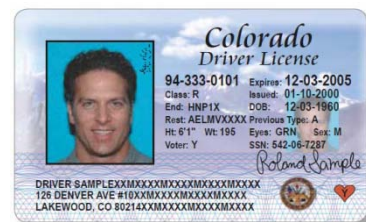


After 14 years and \$130 million, the largest remodeling project ever by the DMV is finished. The ambitious makeover of the agency's headquarters, certainly among the largest remodeling projects in state history, ended without fanfare. The renovation started on the second floor in 1998 and continued through the building, which was never vacated. The DMV said it was cheaper to renovate than to build anew; replacing the 1960s-vintage building would have cost twice as much. The design team used the same basic materials on all sides of the building, but scrambled them up a bit. The four major finish elements — glass, aluminum panels, insulated metal panels and composite phenolic panels — were applied differently on each elevation, thus giving a different appearance from any angle. The new skin of glass and insulated panels is significantly more insulated than the old one, which means reduced heating and cooling costs. The southwest corner has a second skin because it receives the most sunlight, and the design saves energy in winter and summer. The heating and air conditioning systems are more efficient and use outdoor air to cool the building when the temperature allows. A new central plant incorporates modern mechanical equipment to provide chilled water and steam to heat and cool the newly renovated building as well as other structures on campus. Nearly 3,000 solar panels cover the roof in a 479-kilowatt system that is thought to be one of the largest solar arrays on a single building in the Sacramento area. [Read the full story at BizJournals.com.](#)

Military Service Identifiers on Driver's Licenses (Colorado)

Beginning November 13, current and veteran military service members will have the option of including a military identifier on their Colorado driver's licenses and ID cards. The identifier will indicate branch of service of the card holder and can only be acquired after the applicant presents a valid military identification document. Proof of military service is required for the initial license or ID issuance. There will be six branch-of-service identifiers available: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and National Guard.

The card can only have one identifier on it and is available for an additional \$15 fee. The identifier will appear in



the lower right-hand corner of the card. State analysts estimate that there are about 425,000 service members and veterans in Colorado who would be eligible for a military identifier on their driver's license or ID cards.

Three in Custody in Fake Driver's License Scheme *(New Mexico)*

New Mexico state officials may have broken up another illegal driver's license ring. Three Eastern-European men are in custody. Authorities said the men admitted to coming to New Mexico because they heard undocumented immigrants could get a driver's license. The three men are from Poland. At least one allegedly told authorities he lives in Illinois and had no intention of living in New Mexico. The men are in jail facing felony charges, accused of doing what others have gotten away with in New Mexico: Getting a driver's license without living here. Kamil Cieszynski, Lukasz Tutak and Piotr Pietrusiak face charges for altered, forged or fictitious license, and for making false affidavit perjury. Court records show the men applied for a New Mexico drivers license in Albuquerque on November 16. The men each presented Polish passports, Bank of America accounts and an Albuquerque apartment lease. The criminal complaint said all three men went to the MVD on Central and San Mateo where undocumented foreign nationals are sent for license applications. All three men ended up getting a drivers license but raised red flags. MVD personnel became suspicious of the documents because of the similarities they're all going to have the same address, no activity. The men were approved for a license so as to not put clerks at risk; they only received temporary licenses. Agents with the Tax Fraud Unit then stepped in, detained and questioned the men. The three men are being held on a \$5,000 cash or surety bond. [Read the full story at KOB Eyewitness News 4.](#)

Did you know . . .

- *An estimated 46 million turkeys are eaten on Thanksgiving (the birds weigh, on average, 16 pounds). That is more than double the amount eaten on Christmas (22 million) and Easter (19 million). In 2010, more than 244 million turkeys were raised and about 226 million of those were consumed in the United States.*
- *Of the three utensils we use to eat, the fork was not used during the first Thanksgiving. They used a knife, spoon and their fingers. The fork was not brought by the pilgrims. Governor Winthrop of Massachusetts introduced it 10 years later, but it did not really catch on until the 18th century.*
- *Apparently, part of the reason that Swanson started creating T.V. dinners in 1953 was because it needed to find something to do with the massive amount of leftover frozen Thanksgiving turkeys.*
- *Green bean casserole came into being just 50 some years ago and was created by Campbell's soup. It came about when the company was making new recipes for its annual cookbook. Now, Campbell's sells about \$20 million worth of cream of mushroom soup, most likely for people to make the casserole.*
- *Turkey, stuffing and football have not always gone hand in hand. It all started in 1934, when the Detroit Lions was bought by G.A. Richards. Trying to build up the fan base for the team, he scheduled a game for Thanksgiving Day to play the Chicago Bears, who at the time were world champions. The game sold out and was broadcasted live on radio. And with that huge success, the tradition began. Since then, the Detroit Lions have played 67 Thanksgiving games!*
- *The first Thanksgiving most likely did not involve cranberry sauce. While there was a plethora of cranberries for the Pilgrims to feast on (being one of the few fruits native to North America), sugar was a luxury and was reportedly scarce at the time. Unrelated tidbit: The cranberry used to be called the Crane Berry, since it's flowering fruit bears resemblance to the bird.*

