

Regional News – March 22, 2013

Tidbits

Deadline Approaching! 2013 PACE Awards

AAMVA's PACE Awards Program recognizes public relations, public affairs and consumer education excellence among the motor vehicle, law enforcement and traffic safety agencies across North America. They recognize creativity, cost effectiveness and the ability to reach consumers with a well crafted, measured and executed message. [Take a look at the full list of categories and complete the 2013 PACE Awards Application form, available here.](#) To apply, complete the first page of the document, the questionnaire on the second page, and include any supporting documentation or materials. Please limit your entries to no more than six submissions to allow us to properly evaluate all the entries we receive. Entries must be submitted (postmarked) by **March 25, 2013**. For more information, contact Claire O'Brien at cobrien@aamva.org. And take a look at some of last year's winners at <http://www.aamva.org/PACE-Award-Winners/>

2013 Standing Committee Vacancies

Each of AAMVA's three standing committees have vacancies beginning September 2013. If you are interested in applying for membership, please download the Committee Member Application.

- The Driver Standing Committee is seeking an information technology representative and a public affairs and consumer education (PACE) representative from any of AAMVA's four regions.
- The Enforcement Standing Committee is seeking two law enforcement representatives - one from Region I and one from Region III. These applicants must be sworn law enforcement officers.
- The Vehicle Standing Committee is seeking an information technology representative and a public affairs and consumer education (PACE) representative from any of AAMVA's four regions. The Vehicle Standing Committee is also seeking a vehicle representative from Region III.

All terms are for two years beginning September 2013 and ending August 2015. Download the [Committee Member Application](#). Applications must be received by **August 1, 2013**. If you have questions, please contact Dianne Graham, director, Member & Conference Services via email dgraham@aamva.org or phone (703) 908-8267. For more information, see <http://www.aamva.org/Committees-and-Working-Groups/>.

Region I News

MVA Issues New Temporary Tags (Maryland)

The new plates are secure, weatherproof, tamper resistant printed on rigid polycon paper with an ordinary laser print. The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration is making a new temporary license plate with a reflective tag to help make it easier to identify the plate and for law enforcement to see. The new plates are secure, weatherproof, tamper resistant printed on rigid polycon paper with an ordinary laser print. They were introduced on March 1, 2013 and will be fully implemented across the state by July 1, 2013. Maryland becomes one of the first states to use a temporary reflective tag. [Read the full article at wfmd.com.](#)

MVA Now Allows Apostrophes, Hyphens on Licenses, ID Cards (Maryland)

After many decades of not allowing apostrophes or hyphens on MVA-issued driver licenses or identification cards due to computer compatibility issues, the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration modified their computer systems in 2010 to allow customers to have their names corrected and spelled with an apostrophe or hyphen. MVA Administrator John Kuo said the agency is again publicizing the change because they heard that many of their customers were not aware that their information could

be changed. For customers who wish to have their names corrected and spelled with an apostrophe or hyphen at the time of their next renewal, MVA will make the correction with the proper documentation, such as a birth certificate, Social Security Card or valid passport. [Read the full article in Southern Maryland Online.](#)

[License Plate Re-Design Bill Proposed \(Massachusetts\)](#)

State lawmakers have re-filed a bill that proposes to make license plates easier to read.

Gloucester Senator Bruce Tarr says he's hopeful the Massachusetts Legislature will pass a study to re-design state license plates this year. The EZID license plate contains five short characters, including four letter or numbers and one symbol such as a diamond or heart. The license plate is designed to be easier to remember, especially in cases of child abductions when time is of the essence. State lawmakers say the bill has received approval from several police departments. [Read the full article on wwlp.com.](#)

[Senate Passes Bill Backed by New Hampshire Dealers, Opposed by Automakers](#)

The state Senate overwhelmingly passed legislation yesterday that is supported by New Hampshire's auto dealers and opposed by automakers. On a 21-2 vote, the Senate approved a revision to the existing Dealer Bill of Rights, adding broad new protections for local dealers including a rule that manufacturers can only require their affiliated dealers to renovate facilities every 15 years. Senate President Peter Bragdon of Milford and Sen. John Reagan of Deerfield, both Republicans, voted against the bill. Sen. Andrew Hosmer, a Laconia Democrat and the general manager of the AutoServ chain of dealerships, didn't vote to avoid any potential conflict of interest. [Read the full article in the Concord Monitor.](#)

[New Hampshire House Panel Pares Proposed Gas Tax Increase to 12 Cents over 3 Years](#)

House Democrats yesterday pared down a proposed increase in the state's gas tax, to 12 cents per gallon from 15 cents per gallon, though the proposal still faces loud opposition from Republicans. The House Ways and Means Committee voted, 11-7, to endorse a modified version of a bill that passed the full House earlier this month. Instead of a 15 cent hike in the fuel tax, the bill now proposes a 12 cent hike, phased in over three years for gasoline and six years for diesel fuel. "It doesn't get us everywhere that we need to be, but it gets us a lot closer," said Rep. Patricia Lovejoy, a Stratham Democrat and the tax-writing panel's vice chairwoman, during a committee work session earlier in the day. [Read the full article in the Concord Monitor.](#)

[Two Defendants Sentenced in Driver's License Scheme at Edison DMV \(New Jersey\)](#)

Two defendants were sentenced Thursday for acting as brokers in a scheme involving a former clerk at the Edison Motor Vehicle Agency to illegally sell New Jersey digital driver's licenses to unauthorized persons, Attorney General Jeffrey S. Chiesa said. The clerk and a third broker, a Bound Brook resident, have pleaded guilty and are awaiting sentencing. Gustavo Valencia, 70, of Morris, was sentenced to six years in state prison, including two years of parole ineligibility, by Superior Court Judge Salem Vincent Ahto in Morris County, Chiesa said. Valencia was about to go on trial on Feb. 25, when he pleaded guilty to both indictments against him, including multiple counts of second-degree conspiracy, official misconduct and computer criminal activity, as well as third-degree tampering with public records or information. [Read the full article on mycentraljersey.com](#)

[Legislation to Crack Down on Cell Phone Use, Texting While Driving Clears Assembly \(New Jersey\)](#)

The General Assembly on Thursday approved a bipartisan measure sponsored on the Democratic side by Assembly members Annette Quijano, L. Grace Spencer, Wayne DeAngelo, Angel Fuentes and Paul Moriarty to crack down on the dangerous use of cell phones while driving. The bill (S-69/A-1080) would

stiffen penalties for motorists who get caught driving while talking on a hand-held device or texting, particularly repeat offenders. [Read the full article on politickernj.com.](#)

Black and White and Wallet-Size, Unfit for Faking (New York)

Over the years, the authorities across the nation have tried all manner of tactics to combat fake drivers' licenses. Holograms. Water marks. Even blunt red letters reading "UNDER 21." Beginning in July, the state's drivers who are seeking new licenses will be issued hard polycarbonate cards with photos that appear black and white, replacing the bendable color version, a move toward the monochromatic that is also being tried in several other states. Officials in New York describe the new licenses as an important step in thwarting a thriving and sophisticated counterfeit market, often based online, that caters to underage drinkers. But the fakes can potentially be used for more serious crimes, including terrorism, the officials said. [Read the full article in the New York Times.](#)

Some DMV Offices Would Be Open Evenings, Saturdays Under Proposal (New York)

New York is test driving a proposal to keep some Department of Motor Vehicles offices open in the evenings and on Saturdays, which could reduce hectic lunch hours spent waiting in a DMV line. The state's tentative budget would amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law to allow the DMV to open on Saturdays as a convenience for New Yorkers. The Cuomo administration plans to choose some DMV offices for the pilot program. If it works in selected counties, the longer hours could be extended to other offices statewide. [Read the full article in the Daily Gazette.](#)

Online Voter Registration Bill Advances in Pennsylvania

A bill to allow Pennsylvanians to register online to vote has the unanimous approval of a key legislative committee. The Senate State Government Committee approved the bill Tuesday and sent it to the full chamber. The Pennsylvania Department of State, which oversees elections, had begun setting up an online voter registration system last year. But a spokesman said it was dropped amid complaints from county officials that they were swamped with the demands of Pennsylvania's new voter identification law. [Read the full article on nbcphiladelphia.com](#)

Rhode Island DMV Unveils New, Improved Website

The state Division of Motor Vehicles has a new web site, the Chafee administration announced, saying that the agency's new internet presence will give better customer service through improved navigation, increased efficiency and ease of use. "The DMV is the place where most Rhode Islanders interact with their government," Chafee said. "That experience should be a positive one." He said the improved web site is one of a number of steps the administration is making to make it easier to deal with the DMV, which handles drivers' licenses, vehicle registrations and similar matters. [Read the full article in the Providence Journal.](#)

House Gives First Approval to Gas Tax in Transportation Bill (Vermont)

Vermonters in unprecedented numbers have pleaded this year to please not raise the gas tax, Rep. Tom Koch, R-Barre Town, told fellow House members Wednesday. More than 13,000 signed petitions at gas station counters urge not to raise the tax, said Rep. Ronald Hubert, R-Milton, who owns a convenience store. But the state must raise the money and change the way it collects revenues to make much-needed road repairs, implored Rep. Patrick Brennan, R-Colchester, chairman of the House Transportation Committee that proposed a sales tax on gas that will be phased in over two years. [Read the full article in the Burlington Free Press.](#)

Region II News

Driver's License, Auto Tag Fees May Roll Back (Florida)

Florida lawmakers may roll back sharp increases in fees for driver's licenses and auto tags that the state adopted three years ago to close a large budget gap. A top Senate Republican said Thursday that he will unveil a bill next week that would cut in half the fees now charged to motorists. Sen. Joe Negron, R-Stuart and Senate budget chief, said he will propose wiping out an existing tax break for insurers doing business in the state in order to cover the cost. That tax break is worth \$237 million, according to state economists. [Read the full article on cfnews13.com.](#)

State Comm. on Teen Driving Issues Recommendations (Georgia)

An all-teen board appointed by Gov. Nathan Deal has recommended major changes to teen driver education strategies and asked for harsher penalties for teens who break Georgia's law banning motorists from sending text messages and using smartphones while on the road. Members of the Governor's Commission on Teen Driving have also asked lawmakers to ban handheld phone use for all Georgia drivers. Commission members presented the recommendations to Georgia lawmakers, advocates for highway safety and public safety leaders Monday at Lake Lanier Islands. The 22-member commission, comprised of all teenagers, is administered through the Governor's Office of Highway Safety and is the first of its kind in the country. [Read the full article on accessnorthga.com.](#)

North Carolina Scraps Proposed Pink-Striped License for Some

North Carolina said Thursday it is abandoning its plan to issue pink-striped driver's licenses to certain illegal immigrants, beset by mounting criticism of the specially designed IDs. The state learned that such licenses are easier and more efficient to produce if they're similar to the traditional licenses issued to other drivers, said spokesman Mike Charbonneau at the state Transportation Department. "My understanding is that when we're looking at that design, at the end of the day, we had to make sure we were following the letter of the law in the most efficient way possible," Charbonneau said. In place of the proposed pink-striped design, the license is to look like the regular license issued to citizens save for words added in bold red letters: "LEGAL PRESENCE / NO LAWFUL STATUS" and "LIMITED TERM." [Read the full article on utsandiego.com.](#)

Tennessee Highway Patrol Using Semi Trucks to Hunt Down Texters on the Interstate

Trooper Gordon Roberts sat behind a pair of Ray-Bans, a steering wheel and about 15 different gauges as he merged onto Interstate 75. He looked out the driver's side window and scanned across the three lanes in front of him, left to right, looking for his first catch of the day. "We should be able to nab some people here," he said in an accent forged through a childhood in Rhea County. From the cab of a Tennessee Highway Patrol-owned tractor-trailer, he looked down into cars and minivans and smaller trucks, searching for seat belts that rested unbuckled, fingers that tapped text messages and beer can tabs that popped open. Roberts snaked his way up and down the Chattanooga highways, picked out lawbreakers and relayed the information to other troopers, who chased the drivers down in patrol cars and passed out tickets. Lt. John Harmon asked Roberts to drive the semi as part of "Stay Alive on 75," a THP promotion to raise awareness about crashes on the highway. The promotion ends this week. "The Tennessee Highway Patrol will be utilizing every resource available in the Chattanooga district to make our highways safer," Harmon said in a statement. [Read the full article in the Times Free Press.](#)

DMV Driving Virginia's Next-Gen Identity System

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) is crushing every cliché ever uttered about a DMV by quietly becoming one of the most cutting-edge and strategic government agencies in the state, and

perhaps the country. The DMV has entered the implementation stage of a multi-year identity management plan that starts with sharing authentication data across agencies so that citizens can log in once and access services across many agencies. The system allows those users to gain qualifying attributes along the way, such as validation of enrollment, depending on the agencies they visit and the services they are seeking. The goal is to improve service, reduce fraud, and save enough money to cover the cost of the improvements and more. [Read the full article on zdnet.com.](#)

West Virginia DMV Offering Some Services Online

West Virginia residents now can apply online for a duplicate vehicle registration card, duplicate license plate, duplicate registration decal and change of address. Through a partnership with West Virginia Interactive, a subsidiary of eGovernment firm NIC Inc., the state Division of Motor Vehicles is focusing on making more services available to the public from the convenience of their own home, according to a news release from the DMV. [Read the full article on wchstv.com](#)

Region III News

Iowa to Increase Fee to Replace Driver's License

Iowans who need to replace a lost or stolen driver's license or non-operator's identification card will pay a higher fee as of July 1 under legislation that passed the Iowa Senate on Tuesday. Currently, the fee to receive a duplicate license is \$3 while the voluntary replacement of an ID card is \$1. Senate File 224, which passed the Senate on a 37-11 vote, would establish a single replacement fee of \$10. In addition, the bill would amend a provision which allows honorably discharged veterans of the armed forces to have their veteran status noted on the face of their driver's licenses. Under the bill, a licensee may obtain a replacement license marked with the word "Veteran." [Read the full article in the Quad-City Times.](#)

New Online System At DMV Allows People To Save Time (Kansas)

An awesome new system started up Monday at the DMV which allows you to spend less time driving and waiting in line. Many Shawnee County drivers have spent hours in long lines to get vehicle tags and titles, but a new program should do away with what has been an irritating problem. A new online and mobile queue system is something Chris Perkins wishes Shawnee County had had a long time ago. "I could have stayed home with my sick kid but I didn't know I could get online and do that," said Perkins. The new online system is called, "Awesome Q", and the name suits itself. It allows residents to reserve their spot online without having to drive to the DMV office downtown or at 17th and Wanamaker. [Read the full article on wibw.com.](#)

Snyder OKs Michigan License Plate for Conservation

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder has signed legislation authorizing a fundraising license plate for a conservation group. The bills signed Wednesday will let drivers buy a "Ducks Unlimited" plate with proceeds going to the Michigan chapter of the wetlands and waterfowl conservation organization. The money can be used to restore and buy wetlands and pay for education regarding wetlands conservation. The \$15,000 startup cost to the state will be paid for by proceeds from the specialty plate. The state can stop issuing the plate if it doesn't issue at least 2,000 in year one and at least 500 in future years. The bills were sponsored by Republican Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville of Monroe and Republican Rep. Dale Zorn of Ida. [Read the full article at wwmt.com.](#)

In Michigan, GOP Governor Finds a Tax to Like

Michigan's venture capitalist-turned-governor, Rick Snyder, needed just five months in office to slash his state's business taxes. Elected on the downside of the recession, he was among a crop of new Republican leaders eager to show they could boost their states' ailing economies with lower taxes. But two years later, confronting one of the automobile-addicted state's most visible problems _ crumbling roads _ Snyder has roiled conservatives by calling for a major tax increase. He has proposed boosting the gasoline tax from 19 cents to 33 cents a gallon and hiking car license plate fees by 60 percent, firmly grabbing what many politicians consider a third rail for consumers _ gasoline prices. "This is common sense," he declared during his budget proposal, adding, "we need to make this investment." [Read the full article in the Gazette Times.](#)

Minnesota Senate Panel OKs Bill Granting Driver's Licenses to Illegal Immigrants

A Senate panel passed a bill on Monday that would let illegal immigrants get a Minnesota driver's license, the most recent development in a push at the Capitol to train and insure more drivers who aren't U.S. citizens. The Senate Transportation and Public Safety Committee endorsed the bill on a 10-7 vote -- with all Democrats in favor and all Republicans opposing the bill -- to ease the state's restrictions on driver's licenses. A House committee endorsed a similar bill last week. The Democrats pushing the measure say the change would make Minnesota roads safer: If the state starts to regulate illegal immigrants behind the wheel, they'll have to pass a test and could more easily buy automobile insurance. [Read the full article on twincities.com.](#)

Beware of Fake Auto Dealers (Minnesota)

The Better Business Bureau of Minnesota and North Dakota (BBB) is urging consumers considering an online car purchase to be extra cautious following three recent incidents involving bogus auto dealer websites, each claiming to be located in North Dakota. This scheme was first brought to light by the BBB in our area in late 2011 - when another bogus online entity claimed to be operating an auto dealership in Southern Minnesota - and it appears to be spreading. "Buying a car online calls for a considerable amount of due diligence," said Steve Farr, Auto Industry Liaison for the BBB of Minnesota and North Dakota. "But even as consumers are doing their homework on a particular vehicle, they should research whether the 'dealer' itself is what it seems - particularly when purchasing from an unfamiliar dealership in another part of the country." In the three most recent cases investigated by the BBB, the 'hook' used to entice customers was similar - authentic-looking used auto dealer websites featuring high-end luxury cars such as Ferraris and Bentleys, often priced thousands of dollars below typical book value. Each site claimed a physical address in North Dakota, and provided one or more North Dakota phone numbers for people to contact. [Read the full article on kduz.com.](#)

Missouri Campaign Aims at Taking Drivers Licenses from 65-year-olds

Officials unveiled a public health campaign Wednesday aimed at helping get aging Missouri men and women off the roads when it's no longer safe for them to drive and at preparing them for life without a license. The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety's kicked off its "Arrive Alive After 65" effort with a Columbia news conference that featured two state residents who lost a family member in traffic fatalities caused by older drivers. The program aims to train doctors, nurses and peer educators to identify vulnerable seniors whose medical conditions may unknowingly pose safety threats. Organizers will start with a pilot project at University Hospital in Columbia and Mercy Hospital in Springfield and later look to take the effort statewide. [Read the full article at kmov.com.](#)

Lawmakers Agree: 70 mph OK Outside Cities (Ohio)

Ohioans would be able to legally drive 70 mph on rural stretches of interstates under a compromise approved yesterday by state legislators. The deal also would advance construction dates by years for

numerous highway projects, probably including the multimillion-dollar plan to revamp the I-70/71 corridor Downtown, which now could begin next year. The speed limit also would be increased to 60 mph on some two-lane highways as part of a House-Senate conference committee's version of a sweeping transportation bill, which is expected to win approval today in the Senate and Thursday in the House. [Read the full article in the Columbus Dispatch.](#)

Region IV News

Arizona Driver's License Battle Heads to Court

A request to block Gov. Jan Brewer's order denying driver's licenses for immigrants who have gotten work permits and avoided deportation under a new Obama administration policy is being debated in federal court. U.S. District Judge David Campbell is scheduled to hear arguments Friday in a lawsuit by immigrant rights advocates that say Brewer's policy is unconstitutional because it's trumped by federal law. The lawsuit alleges the policy makes it difficult or impossible for such young immigrants to go to school, grocery stores and keep a job. [Read the full article on abc15.com.](#)

Lawmakers Want Special License Plates for Teachers (Arizona)

Arizona lawmakers want to create a special license plate benefiting public school educators. The so-called "extraordinary educators" special plate would raise money for educators who oversee activities, projects or lessons for students in kindergarten and grades one through eight. County school superintendents would help oversee the distribution of the money. A Senate committee is slated to vote on a bill establishing the plate Tuesday. The House of Representatives already passed the measure in a 50-6 vote. [Read the full article on sfgate.com.](#)

Arizona Lawmakers to Discuss De-Cluttering Specialty Plates

A bill moving through the Arizona Legislature seeks to minimize the clutter on future Arizona specialty license plates. Law enforcement personnel claim they can't see the numbers on many of the 33 specialty plates currently on roads around the state because of the designs and sports logos. Instead of allowing the entire plate to be designed by a specialty sponsor, Senate Bill 1206 would require a standardized plate with a 3-inch-square area dedicated to showcasing the group's design and logo. [Read the full article in the Mohave Daily News.](#)

129,000-pound Truck Bill Passes House Committee (Idaho)

The House Transportation and Defense Committee had weighty issues to consider on Monday. After hours of testimony spanning two days, the committee passed a bill that would allow local highway jurisdictions the authority to allow overweight trucks on designated routes. Currently, the weight limit on Idaho roads is 105,500 pounds, though on Monday, the House passed a separate bill that would make permanent a pilot project that allowed 129,000 pound trucks on designated routes throughout southern Idaho. That bill passed the House 69-1 with no debate. A separate bill considered by the committee Monday was more controversial, as it would allow local highway districts to designate more 129,000 routes throughout the state. Much of the debate focused on the legal technicalities of the bill and how much control local jurisdictions would have over issuing permits for trucking companies after designating a route. Others brought up concerns about truck safety and road maintenance costs. [Read the full article on maqicvalley.com](#)

Bill Would Allow Immigrants Without Legal Residency to Get Insurance, Drive Legally (Nevada)

Nevada lawmakers on Monday took some ideas from their neighbors in Utah, with the introduction of a bill that would allow immigrants without legal residency to obtain driver's privilege cards. Senate

Majority Leader Mo Denis said the bill, which has bipartisan support, addressed a serious public safety issue and hopefully would reduce the number of uninsured and untested drivers on the roads. "We know there is an issue with hit-and-runs, people fleeing because they are not licensed, and there is the issue of insurance rates being higher because of uninsured motorists," Denis said. "From what we've seen in other states that have this, there are some public-safety benefits. It's a win-win for everybody. We know that people who are driving have at least taken the test." [Read the full article in the Las Vegas Sun.](#)

Oregon Lawmakers Propose Comemorative Whale License Plate

From Crater Lake and Cultural Trust to wine country and Willamette University, Oregon has a lineup of more than 30 different vanity-license plates. What's one more? The Oregonian (<http://is.gd/HPzU8v>) reports that coast lawmakers are supporting House Bill 2180, which would establish a new commemorative whale plate that drivers could buy for an extra \$30 per year. The fee would fund Oregon State University's Marine Mammal Institute, boosting gray whale research and tourism. Other bills introduced this session would allow plates commemorating professional sports teams, plates that raise money for wildlife conservation and plates featuring Smokey Bear. [Read the full article on king5.com.](#)

Proposed Law Would Automatically Register Voters via DMV (Oregon)

Oregon Secretary of state Kate Brown wants to increase the number of people registered to vote by signing them up automatically and electronically with information held by the Department of Motor Vehicles. Newly registered voters would be sent a post card asking if they wanted to join a party, stay independent or opt out of being registered. "The problem is, most folks who are interested in voting wake up about the time of the election. That's when ballots are out and because of our cutoff, they would not be eligible to register and participate at that point in time," said Brown. Oregon was one of the first state's in the country to adopt "vote by mail." [Read the full article at kgw.com.](#)

Predatory Towing Bill Awaiting Gov's Signature (Utah)

Governor Gary Herbert will now decide if towing companies should follow new rules. Late last week, House Bill 115, also known as 'Towing Amendments,' passed the Senate unanimously. The law requires towing companies to accept credit payments and the Utah Department of Transportation will decide this summer if the \$145 tow fee is fair. In light of additional overnight storage fees and other costs, it's common to pay well over \$200 to get your car back after it's been towed. That's a frequent complaint near Brigham Young University. "You can ask any student here and they'll tell you it's a problem," said BYU student Justin Terrance. "I think any kind of reform is good." [Read the full article on fox13now.com.](#)

Did You Know...

- *The first day of spring is also called the vernal equinox. "Vernal" and "equinox" are Latin terms meaning "spring" and "equal night" respectively. The idea is that on the first day of spring there are exactly 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness, but it rarely works out that way. There is always a time each spring, and again each fall, when the hours of light and darkness are equal, but it usually occurs before the vernal equinox and after the autumnal equinox.*
- *The vernal equinox, which occurs on March 20 or 21 each year and signals the start of spring in the Northern Hemisphere, is also the autumnal equinox-the first day of autumn-in the Southern Hemisphere. Conversely, the autumnal equinox in the north, which occurs in late September, is the first day of spring south of the equator.*

- *If you were standing on the equator during either the vernal or autumnal equinox, you would see the sun pass directly overhead, the only two times in the year when that is true.*
- *The two equinoxes are also the only times during the year when the sun rises due east and sets due west.*
- *Spring fever is real! Commonly occurring when a sudden warm spell follows a long cold period. When the temperature rises, there's a dilation or expansion of the blood vessels so that blood can be carried to the body surface where heat can be lost quickly. Some people experience an energetic feeling to this reaction.*
- *It has been suggested that spring cleaning dates back to the Persian New Year where they practice "Khoneh Tekouni" which means "Shaking the house". Another possibility of the origin can be traced to the ancient Jewish of cleansing the home in anticipation of Passover.*
- *Seasonal allergies in the spring are a problem for 30-60 million in the U.S. alone. The culprits are often pollen, including tree pollen, and mold.*