

January 17, 2014 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Webinar: Best Practices for Reconstructed & Replica Vehicles

Register now for the upcoming AAMVA webinar, Best Practices for Reconstructed and Replica Vehicles, Wednesday, January 22nd from 2:00 - 3:00 pm (EST). The discussion will be hosted by Cathie Curtis (AAMVA) and presented by Mark Francis (British Columbia), Paul Nilsen (Wisconsin), and Douglas Hooper (Georgia). Reconstructed and replica vehicles are presenting unique challenges for DMV policy makers and program managers. This webinar will provide an explanation of the recently developed best practices (<http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=4752&libID=4729>) by AAMVA's Unconventional Vehicles Working Group. Register now (<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/351807296>) to join the discussion and get an overview of the issue in this video (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cldLfDxpkT8&list=UUrW3jQf3p_25zeK9EQbCrAA&feature=share&index=2).

Region I

Massachusetts House OKs "Boston Strong" License Plate

The Massachusetts House has unanimously approved a bill that would let motorists buy a "Boston Strong" license plate with proceeds helping victims of last year's marathon bombing. The proposed Massachusetts license plate would include the words "Boston Strong" - a phrase that became popular after the attack that killed three people and injured more than 260 others. Read the full story in the Sun Chronicle.

http://www.thesunchronicle.com/news/state/mass-house-oks-boston-strong-license-plate/article_6738248d-3895-5ee3-9557-928e6febffbe.html

Bill Would Help Medical Professionals Report Unfit Drivers (New Hampshire)

Medical professionals could refer individuals they consider unfit drivers to the state for a test under a bill going before the House this month. The legislation would protect medical professionals from legal action if they reported a patient to the state Division of Motor Vehicles. Read the full story in the Concord Monitor.

<http://www.concordmonitor.com/home/10140565-95/bill-would-help-medical-professionals-report-unfit-drivers>

New Hampshire House Kills License Plate Scanner Bill

The New Hampshire House voted Wednesday against letting police use license plate scanners, siding with those who contend that the surveillance infringes on people's privacy. The House voted 214 to 135 to bar reconsidering the issue this year. Supporters say that police could use the scanners during Amber alerts or to recover stolen license plates and vehicles or to find people who have outstanding warrants. Read the full story in the Boston Globe.

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/01/16/house-kills-license-plate-scanner-bill/eoY6DLsB7SDBzAKPaqFaBI/story.html>

Lawmaker Proposes Banning Google Glass for Drivers in New York

The father of the original law banning cellphone use while driving now has a new target: Google Glass. Before the eyeglass-wearing smartphone hits the retail market sometime this year, Assemblyman Felix Ortiz, a Brooklyn Democrat, says the devices should be just as illegal for drivers as cellphones. Read the full story at BuffaloNews.com.

<http://www.buffalonews.com/city-region/state/lawmaker-proposes-banning-google-glass-for-drivers-in-new-york-20140114>

Police: Auto Tag Employee Collected Own Tax (Pennsylvania)

An auto tag agency employee is facing criminal charges after she allegedly filed fraudulent paperwork during a title transfer in order to collect \$60 in state sales tax. According to state police, Cari Ann Krawchuk was arrested Monday in connection with paperwork she filed on Aug. 9 while working at the PA Tags and Notary agency in the 1100 block of West Lincoln Highway in Valley. Police said Krawchuk forged the signature of a notary and improperly completed other PennDOT forms while completing paperwork for a vehicle title transfer. Read the full story at DailyLocal.com.

<http://www.dailylocal.com/general-news/20140114/police-auto-tag-employee-collected-own-tax>

Vermont REAL ID Driver's Licenses Now Available, Required by End of Year for Some

A new kind of driver's license and non-driver's identification is now available at offices of the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles. Starting Thursday, Jan. 2, Vermonters will be able to obtain REAL ID compliant identification in person at all motor vehicles offices. Read the full story in The Mountain Times.

<http://www.mountaintimes.info/news/breaking-news/2014/01/vt-real-id-driver%E2%80%99s-licenses-now-available,-required-by-end-of-year-for-some/>

Region II

Proposed Bill Could Have Elderly Drivers Handing Over Their Keys Sooner (Virginia)

Changes could have some elderly drivers handing over their keys sooner if a new bill finds its way through the General Assembly. As it stands now, drivers 80-years-old and up must renew their license

every eight years. They must also pass a vision test. The new bill, proposed by State Senator Jeff McWaters, would lower the age to 75-years-old and up, and instead of every eight years to renew, they would have to do it every five years. The changes are based on recommendations from a recent DMV study. Read the full story at WVEC.com.

<http://www.wvec.com/news/Proposed-bill-could-have-elderly-drivers-handing-over-their-keys-sooner-240002871.html>

Region III

Iowa MVD Creates Bureau of Investigation and Identity Protection

Recently Mark Lowe, Director of the Motor Vehicle Division with the Iowa Department of Transportation announced the creation of a new office within the Motor Vehicle Division. This office is titled the Bureau of Investigation & Identity Protection and is the home of the investigative unit which was formally within the Motor Vehicle Enforcement Office. Paul Steier has been appointed Director of the Bureau and Mike Athey Deputy Director.

State's Facial Recognition Software Helps in ID Theft Crimes (Kansas)

She was just another face in the crowd. But when Luz Maria Amezcua-Valencia applied for a Kansas driver's license, it was her face, and the Kansas Department of Revenue's facial recognition software, that did her in. That software sorted through a database of millions of other photographs. It found a similar one previously submitted for a Kansas identification card issued under a different name. After analysts determined that the photographs showed the same person, investigators dug into the case. The result: a multiple-count federal identity fraud indictment against Amezcua-Valencia, who was arrested Tuesday in Texas. It was just the latest example of how the Revenue Department's use of facial recognition technology has helped uncover alleged criminal activity that otherwise might never have been detected. Read the full story in the Wichita Eagle.

<http://www.kansas.com/2014/01/12/3224955/kansas-revenue-departments-facial.html>

Bill Wouldn't Allow Driver's License For Truant Kids (Michigan)

As the new legislative session kicks off in Michigan, local state reps are working on a bill designed to keep high school students in class. Lansing State Rep Andy Schor is sponsoring a bill to ban teens who are absent from school more days than the district allows from getting their driver's licenses. Read the full story at WLNS.com.

<http://www.wlns.com/story/24419780/bill-wouldnt-allow-drivers-license-for-truant-kids>

AAMVA Joins Wisconsin in Mourning the Loss of Roger Cross

We are deeply saddened to hear the news of Roger Cross, former Administrator of the Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicles, who passed away unexpectedly on January 7 after a brief bout with

pancreatitis at age 66. Cross was a very active member of the AAMVA community, serving in many leadership roles including President of Region III and a member of the AAMVA Board of Directors. He was also a leader within the International Registration Plan (IRP). Roger Cross is survived by his wife, Linda and puppy, Seamus. He was preceded in death by his father, James and his mother, Virginia (Ginger) Cross. He will be missed by all of us at AAMVA. Learn more about his life here.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/postcrescent/obituary.aspx?pid=169011196>

Bill Would Ban Cellphone Usage in Construction Zones (Wisconsin)

Wisconsin is still quite a few weeks from spring but some legislators are already thinking of ways to make construction zones safer. State lawmakers are considering banning cellphones while driving through a construction zone. Read the full story at Channel3000.com.

<http://www.channel3000.com/news/bill-would-ban-cellphone-usage-in-construction-zones/-/1648/23913930/-/jvwvwc/-/index.html>

Region IV

Drivers Found Attempting to Bribe ICBC Employees (British Columbia)

Some B.C. drivers desperate to pass their road test are attempting to bribe test examiners, a CBC investigation has revealed. Documents obtained through a freedom-of-information request to ICBC show that there were at least five attempts in 2013 to bribe ICBC employees working at their driver licensing offices. Read the full story at CBC News.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/drivers-found-attempting-to-bribe-icbc-employees-1.2498308>

Bill Would Outlaw Sale of License-Plate Camera Data (California)

State Sen. Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo, has introduced a bill that would prevent law enforcement agencies from selling data gathered by license-plate-reading cameras to private parties, such as parking and car-repossession companies. The city of Menlo Park has bought license-plate readers but does not plan to use them until a privacy policy is approved, and one of the clauses of the policy is supposed to address the sale of data. Read the full story in AlmanacNews.com.

<http://www.almanacnews.com/print/story/2014/01/15/bill-would-outlaw-sale-of-license-plate-camera-data>

Court Throws Out Case Against Driver Ticketed For Wearing Google Glass

The saga of the California driver ticketed for wearing a Google Glass device while behind the wheel has come to an end, with the court throwing out the controversial charge, but leaving open the door for police to issue Google Glass-related tickets in the future. Read the full story in the Consumerist.

<http://consumerist.com/2014/01/17/court-throws-out-case-against-driver-ticketed-for-wearing-google-glass/>

DOT Warns Against Impaired Driving after Marijuana Legalization (Colorado)

Colorado Department of Transportation officials recently stepped up efforts to educate the public on the dangers of driving under the influence in response to the state's recent legalization of marijuana for recreational use. Read the full story in AASHTOJournal.org.

<http://www.aashtojournal.org/Pages/011014CDOTimpaireddriving.aspx>

80-mph Speed Zones Could Spread to Freeways Statewide (Idaho)

Last year, Utah added 289 extra miles of 80-mph speed limits on selected rural freeway stretches. Now, new legislation could expand the high limits anywhere on the rest of Utah's interstate freeway system wherever studies find that it is safe and makes good engineering sense. Also, if officials feel speeds should not rise in urban sections all the way to 80, the bill would permit raising them from the current 65 mph to 70 mph or 75 mph instead. Read the full story in the Salt Lake Tribune.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/politics/57373823-90/mph-speed-dunnigan-limits.html.csp>

Legislation Would Limit How Long Oregon Police Can Keep License Plate Data

Police across the country use automatic license plate readers that gather data on you and where you go. The intent is to use the surveillance cameras to catch wanted criminals or find stolen cars. But the American Civil Liberties Union and other privacy advocates say it's a violation of your privacy rights. The ACLU of Oregon wants the state to consider limiting how long police can keep this data on file. Portland police, for example, keep the information on hand for four years. Other communities just use existing record retention laws. Read the full story at SayAnythingBlog.com.

<http://sayanythingblog.com/entry/legislation-would-limit-how-long-oregon-police-can-keep-license-plate-data/>

Did You Know

Things you didn't know about Social Security

There are currently 2.8 workers for each Social Security beneficiary. By 2033, there will be 2.1 workers for each beneficiary.

In 2013, almost 58 million Americans will receive \$816 billion in Social Security benefits.

In 1940, the life expectancy of a 65-year-old was almost 14 years; today it is more than 20 years.

By 2033, the number of older Americans will increase from 45.1 million today to 77.4 million.

An estimated 163 million workers are covered under Social Security.

The artist who designed the original Social Security card in 1936, Fred Happel of Albany, N.Y., also designed the famous “Flying Tigers” logo used by Gen. Chennault’s forces during World War II.

There are about one billion possible Social Security number combinations.

Officially, the first social security number issued was 055-09-0001 and it was assigned to John David Sweeney.

Social Security numbers are not reused after the card holder dies.

Even though numbers aren’t reused, the Social Security Administration says the current numbering system is capable of providing enough new numbers for “several generations into the future.” That means Social Security numbers will still be available well past 2030. Even if the benefit money won’t.

Find these and other interesting facts online at:

<http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/basicfact.htm>

<http://www.sharonherald.com/business/x1208358113/Fun-facts-about-Social-Security-number-card>

<http://lenpenzo.com/blog/id1510-18-fast-facts-you-didnt-know-about-social-security-numbers.html>