

March 7, 2014 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Upcoming AAMVA Events

Get all the details on these upcoming events:

- Workshop and Law Institute (March 11-13) <http://www.aamva.org/2014-Workshop-Home-Page/>
- Region IV Conference (June 2-5) <http://www.aamva.org/2014-Region-IV-Landing-Page/>
- Region II Conference (June 22-26) <http://www.aamva.org/2014-Region-II-Landing-Page/>

Make your hotel and travel arrangements and register online today!

Region I

Bill Would Require Drivers To Retake DMV Test (Connecticut)

A proposed bill before the legislature's transportation committee would require drivers who are renewing their licenses to retake a written test on the rules of the road. If the written test is failed, the applicant would have to take an on-the-road skills test followed by the written test. Read the full story at FoxCT.com.

<http://foxct.com/2014/03/05/bill-would-require-drivers-to-retake-dmv-test/#ixzz2v6Hoz3Pa>

Bill Would Make It Easier to Get Massachusetts Driver's License

The usually quiet halls of the Statehouse were filled with chants and cheers early Wednesday afternoon as advocates made their case for a bill that would make it easier for those without Social Security numbers to get Massachusetts drivers licenses. Gathering outside the House chamber, legislators, law enforcement officials and community organizers chanted "What do we want? Safe driving bill! When do we want it? Now!" Read the full story at SouthCostToday.com.

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20140306/NEWS/403060384>

Governor Wants Prosecutors to Have Access to Drivers' Records (New York)

Governor Cuomo has opened up the books and is allowing prosecutors across the state to see your driving history allowing them to go back as far as 10 years to see all tickets issued, even the ones that were plead down. A motorist's entire driving history will now be available to District Attorneys across the state when they appear before a judge in traffic court. Read the full story at CBS6Albany.com.

<http://www.cbs6albany.com/news/features/top-story/stories/gov-wants-prosecutors-have-access-driving-history-14420.shtml>

Judge Upholds New York State DMV's "Dangerous Driver" Restrictions

The Department of Motor Vehicles was within its authority in enacting tough new licensing requirements that kept a "persistently dangerous driver" off the road, a state judge ruled. The new requirements did not conflict with existing Vehicle and Traffic Law, step on legislative toes, or violate anyone's constitutional rights, state Supreme Court Justice George B. Ceresia Jr. wrote in a decision last month. Read the full story at DailyGazette.com.

<http://www.dailygazette.com/news/2014/mar/02/0303dmvruling/>

Distracted Driving Climbs to No. 1 Killer on Ontario Roads, Police Say

Ontario Provincial Police say distracted driving is becoming the No. 1 killer on the roads. Kicking off a campaign this month, OPP say distracted driving accounted for more deaths last year than impaired or speed-related incidents in crashes they investigated. Read the full story at Global News.

<http://globalnews.ca/news/1184389/opp-says-distracted-driving-no-1-killer-on-ontario-roads-in-2013/>

Governor Corbett Announces New Veterans Designation on Driver Licenses and Identification Cards (Pennsylvania)

Surrounded by veterans and members of the Pennsylvania National Guard, Governor Tom Corbett today kicked off the new Veteran's Designation for Pennsylvania driver's licenses and identification cards. The designation, an American flag with the word "Veteran" beneath it, will appear on the front of the license or identification card. Read the press release for more information.

<http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Internet/pdNews.nsf/8c5bc4e349ab4db6852576c800678468/b925e785f5d15d1385257c91005c4160?OpenDocument> More details about the new Veterans Designation including images and FAQs are available on the PennDOT Web site.

<http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/militaryCenter/veterans-designation.shtml>

Region II

GA Driver Services Commissioner Encourages Riders to Improve Skills with Experienced Motorcycle Training in Thomson, McDuffie County, GA

Department of Driver Services (DDS) Commissioner Rob Mikell announced today a training opportunity for experience motorcycle riders in Thomson. The Georgia Motorcycle Safety Program (GMSP), a part of DDS, is offering the Experience Rider Course on Saturday, March 15, 2014 at the DDS Customer Service Center (CSC) at 172 Bob Kirk Road in Thomson, Georgia from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. For additional course information, fees and online registration visit,

<http://www.dds.ga.gov/motorcycle/gmsp/expridercourse.aspx>

Louisiana Launching 'I'm a Cajun' Driver's Licenses for \$5 Extra

Want the world to know you're a Cajun? Louisiana drivers can proclaim "I'm a Cajun" on their driver's licenses, a new designation announced Monday that comes a few months after the state launched "I'm Cajun ... and Proud" specialty license plates. Read the full story at TheAdvocate.com.

<http://theadvocate.com/home/8529755-125/state-launching-im-a-cajun>

Suspended License? South Carolina DMV Offering Some Drivers a chance to Unsuspend It

Some South Carolina drivers with suspended licenses will get a chance later this month to have their driving privileges restored. From March 10 to 14, the Department of Motor Vehicles will reduce or clear certain suspensions if all fines are paid, certain insurance papers are filed, and any necessary tests are successfully completed. Read the full story at PostandCourier.com.

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140302/PC16/140309872/1006/suspended-license-south-carolina-dmv-offering-some-drivers-a-chance-to-unsuspend-it>

New Tennessee Arts License Plate Now for Sale

Tennessee's new license plate for art supporters is now for sale — a specialty plate that state officials say plays a crucial role in funding the arts. The Tennessean reported in January that sales of specialty license plates account for most of the public funding for the arts in Tennessee, and that leaders with the Tennessee Arts Commission hope the new design can reverse an otherwise downward trend in arts funding. Read the full story at WBIR.com.

<http://www.wbir.com/story/news/local/2014/03/05/new-tennessee-arts-license-plate-now-for-sale/6070877/>

Region III

Vehicle Renewal Sticker Receipt Legislation Approved by State Senate (Illinois)

Legislation proposed by Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White to allow a printed receipt from the Secretary of State to serve temporarily as the vehicle renewal sticker was approved by the State Senate. Read the SOS press release.

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/news/2014/march/140305d1.pdf>

Investigators Say License Plate Thefts Are On The Rise (Nebraska)

Crooks stealing license plates, Omaha police said it's been a problem for years, but now investigators said thieves are after something more specific, dealer plates. Police said some dealerships don't keep track of their plates and now they're ending up on stolen cars. Read the full story at KPTM.com.

<http://www.kptm.com/story/24865703/investigators-say-license-plate-thefts-are-on-the-rise>

Bill to Tighten Towing Regulations (Ohio)

Tow-truck operators would face new pricing restrictions and operating regulations under a proposed law that was approved by a House committee last week. For the first time, safety standards would be established for tow trucks, written contracts would be required between property owners and towing companies, signage would be more clear and towing companies would be required to accept credit cards. Read the full story in the Columbus Dispatch.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/03/02/bill-to-tighten-towing-regulations.html>

Region IV

Arizona House Bans Cell Phones for Young Drivers

The Arizona House on Wednesday approved a bill that would ban teen drivers from using cell phones on the road the first six months they hold their license, except for emergency situations. House Bill 2359 by Rep. Karen Fann of Prescott also applies to drivers who only have a learner's permit. Read the full story at KPHO.com.

<http://www.kpho.com/story/24897038/arizona-house-bans-cell-phones-for-young-drivers>

DMV Warns Against Odometer Fraud (California)

Alberto Navarro Zapata, a 27-year-old Stockton man, was arrested Thursday for odometer tampering, theft by false pretenses, and acting as an unlicensed car dealer. Zapata resisted arrest and was eventually apprehended by a Stockton Police K9 Unit. He is being held at the San Joaquin County jail on a warrant with a bail amount of \$55,000. Read the full story at SCVTV News.

<http://scvnews.com/2014/03/01/dmv-warns-against-odometer-fraud/>

Driver's License Program Hits an Unexpected Snag (California)

The auditorium was packed. There were single mothers, day laborers, grandparents pushing infants in strollers and teenagers interpreting for parents. All of them faced a potentially life-changing prospect: Within a year, California will start offering driver's licenses to immigrants who are living in the country illegally. But one person after another stepped to the microphone and expressed fear that the licenses, far from helping them, could instead be used to deport them. Read the full story at SantaFeNewMexican.com.

http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/driver-s-license-program-hits-an-unexpected-snag/article_12314aaf-479b-56e3-b78b-1f67742f3c62.html

DMV to Roll Out New Queuing System in Reno (Nevada)

On Monday, Nevada DMV will launch a pilot of a new queuing system called Dash Pass. The new system is designed to revolutionize the way Nevada residents wait in line for DMV services. The pilot will be conducted at the agency's Reno office located at 305 Galletti Way. DMV has entered into an agreement with QLess of Pasadena, CA to provide a queuing system that allows DMV customers to place

themselves in a virtual line via text, phone, online or with a traditional queue ticket. Read the DMV press release.

<http://www.dmvnv.com/news/14004-new-queuing-system-in-Reno.htm>

Older Drivers Being Assessed Following Crashes (Nevada)

Two separate accidents recently involving elderly drivers have many people wonder whether older, dangerous drivers are a growing problem in the Las Vegas Valley . . . Nevada has restrictions on elderly drivers. Under the various laws, a driver 65 years old and older can get a license that's good for four years. Drivers over 70 years old who would like to renew by mail must also submit a medical report. There are also certain medical conditions that can limit people from getting a license. An official with the Department of Motor Vehicles said there aren't any plans soon, though, to stop elderly drivers from driving. Read the full story at Fox5Vegas.com.

<http://www.fox5vegas.com/story/24885831/older-drivers-being-assessed-following-crashes>

Governor Martinez Signs Texting While Driving Ban Bill (New Mexico)

Governor Susana Martinez signed legislation prohibiting texting while driving in New Mexico. Senate Bill 19 bans texting while operating a motor vehicle, except when summoning medical or other emergency help. Read the full story at DemingHeadlight.com.

http://www.demingheadlight.com/deming-news/ci_25260250/gov-martinez-signs-texting-while-driving-ban-bill

Other News

How 'Synthetic' Identity Fraud Costs Canada \$1B a Year

Thousands of driver's licences with fake names are circulating in Ontario, with many being used in a new type of fraud that's plaguing the financial industry, growing exponentially and costing Canadians up to a billion dollars a year, experts say. These licences are an integral part of what's known as synthetic identity fraud — a scheme that procures new and genuine credit and identification cards using false names. Read the full story at CBC.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/how-synthetic-identity-fraud-costs-canada-1b-a-year-1.2554429>

Apple Dials Up Effort to Meld iPhone with Cars

Apple is accelerating the race to make smartphone applications easier and safer to use in cars. Ferrari, Mercedes-Benz and Volvo are previewing Apple's iPhone technology for cars this week at an auto show in Geneva. The partnerships give Apple an early lead over Google's loosely knit family of Android phones in a duel to make mobile applications more accessible while drivers are behind the wheel. Read the full story in the Sacramento Bee.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2014/03/03/6204920/apples-iphone-becoming-more-compatible.html>

Adults Text While Driving More Than Teens, Survey Finds

Teens have been unfairly bashed for texting while driving. Texting while driving is more of a problem for adults than for teens, a AA Foundation For Traffic Safety survey finds. The survey should prompt more states legislatures to toughen laws to include adults in banning cellphone and texting while driving along with stiffer penalties. Apparently adult drivers practice the dangerous and distracting habit more, a AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety survey reports. Adult drivers ages 25 to 39 are more prone to admit that they text and drive. Read the full story in The Kansas City Star.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2014/03/05/4867176/adults-text-while-driving-more.html#storylink=cpy>

Did You Know

CLOCKS 'SPRING FORWARD' THIS WEEKEND

- Sunday, March 9, 2014 - Daylight Saving Time begins at 2am. Set clocks ahead one hour.
- It is "Daylight Saving Time" (singular), not "Daylight Savings Time" (plural).
- Beginning in 2007, Daylight Saving Time starts in the United States on the second Sunday in March and ends on the first Sunday in November.
- People are safer drivers during daylight hours, and researchers have found that DST reduces lethal car crashes and pedestrian strikes. In fact, a study concluded that observing DST year-round would annually prevent about 195 deaths of motor vehicle occupants and about 171 pedestrian fatalities.
- There's a spike in heart attacks during the first week of daylight saving time, according to a study published in 2008. The loss of an hour's sleep may make people more susceptible to an attack, some experts say. When daylight saving time ends in the fall, heart attacks briefly become less frequent than usual.
- Two states—Arizona and Hawaii—and four U.S. territories—American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands—don't observe daylight saving time. Indiana adopted DST in 2006.

More quick facts

- CNN <http://www.cnn.com/2013/08/22/world/daylight-saving-time-fast-facts/>
- US News (Health) <http://health.usnews.com/health-news/living-well-usn/articles/2012/03/12/12-things-you-probably-didnt-know-about-daylight-saving-time>
- Factmonster.com <http://www.factmonster.com/spot/daylight1.html>
- Livescience <http://www.livescience.com/27775-daylight-saving-time-facts.html>