

May 2, 2014 - Regional News

AAMVA News

AAMVA Region IV Early Bird Registration Ends TODAY!

The Early Bird registration rate for the AAMVA Region IV Annual Conference ends today (May 2nd). If you haven't registered for this event yet, now would be a good time to do it.

Get the details on ALL of these upcoming events:

- 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/>
- Region I Conference (July 27-30) <http://www.aamva.org/2014-Region-I-Landing-Page/>

Make your hotel and travel arrangements and register online today!

Region I

D.C. Starts Issuing Driver's Licenses To Undocumented Immigrants

Today (5/1) the District starts issuing driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants who have lived in the city for at least six months, joining only 10 states and Puerto Rico that currently do so. Read the full story at WAMU.org.

http://wamu.org/news/14/05/01/dc_starts_issuing_drivers_licenses_to_undocumented_residents

Pennsylvania Court Gives Green Light to Warrantless Vehicle Searches

Pennsylvania's highest court says police don't necessarily need a warrant to search a vehicle, but can do it based on reasonable probable cause. Read the full story at NYDailyNews.com.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/crime/pennsylvania-high-court-green-light-warrantless-vehicle-searches-article-1.1775519>

New CDL Requirements Could Pull Drivers Off the Road (Pennsylvania)

If you have a commercial driver's license, a CDL, some big changes are on the way that could take some drivers off the road. Department Of Transportation passed new regulations that significantly increases medical requirements for commercial drivers. Read the full article in www.yourerie.com.

http://www.yourerie.com/news/news-article/d/story/new-cdl-requirements-could-pull-drivers-off-the-ro/13694/l7_KfVW050-6O5jXlaI1kQ

Region II

Alabama is 21st State to Pass Ignition Interlock Law

Alabama Governor Robert Bentley has signed into a law that a measure that seeks to make Alabama roads safer. The law takes another stance against drunk driving. Read the full story at WSFA.com.

<http://www.wsfa.com/story/25272674/alabama-is-21st-state-to-pass-ignition-interlock-law>

Drunken Drivers in Florida May Face Daily Breath Tests

Judges may soon have another way to force drunken drivers to get clean and sober by making them have their breath tested twice a day instead of blowing into machines that keep their cars from starting. Read the full story at OrlandoSentinel.com.

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/politics/state/os-dui-breath-tests-20140417,0,1693712.story>

Governor McCrory Applauds Improved DMV Customer Service (North Carolina)

Governor Pat McCrory formally opened the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles' new flagship state-of-the-art office today in Huntersville and highlighted improved DMV customer service across the state. As part of those changes the governor also announced that, starting today, most newcomers to the state will no longer have to take a written test to obtain a North Carolina driver license. Read the DOT press release.

<https://apps.ncdot.gov/newsreleases/default.aspx?c=7>

Virginia Dem. Promises more Tea Party License Plate Pics Despite Announced DMV Probe

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles has said it will be looking into allegations that Mike Dickinson, the Virginia Democrat who seeks the House seat held by Eric Cantor even though he is not on the ballot, may have violated the law regarding privacy of license plate information. Read the full story at Examiner.com.

<http://www.examiner.com/article/va-dem-promises-more-tea-party-license-plate-pics-despite-announced-dmv-probe>

Region III

Suspected NC Fugitive from 1970s Caught in Waterloo (Iowa)

Police believe a North Carolina fugitive who has been on the run for 40 years has been living in Waterloo. He was caught this week when the Iowa Department of Transportation's biometric recognition system flagged his driver's license photo, according to officials. Read the full story at WFCCourier.com.

http://wfcourier.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/suspected-nc-fugitive-from-s-caught-in-waterloo/article_cb4c10ba-e84c-5e5d-9395-ccfec0f78d83.html

Court: License Plates Must Show County Name (Iowa)

The Iowa Supreme Court says police officers can legally stop any vehicle that has a frame covering the county name on its license plate. The court ruled 5-2 on Friday that obscuring the county violates a law that requires motorists to "permit full view of all numerals and letters" on the plate. Read the full story at Press-Citizen.com.

<http://www.press-citizen.com/story/news/2014/05/02/iowa-license-plates-must-show-county-name/8605749/>

Region IV

ADOT to Launch New Driver License Process, Design (Arizona)

Coming soon to your wallet or handbag: a newly designed Arizona driver license – and a new process to get it. Beginning June 16, the Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division is expanding central credential issuance to all offices statewide, meaning that customers visiting a Motor Vehicle Division office to obtain a new driver license or identification card will leave with a temporary credential. The permanent license or identification card will be mailed to the customer, and received within 15 days. Read the ADOT press release.

<http://www.azdot.gov/media/News>

Gov. Brewer Signs Golf-Cart Bill into Law (Arizona)

A new golf-cart law will allow residents of age-restricted communities to legally continue doing what they've illegally been doing for years. Gov. Jan Brewer this month signed into law House Bill 2027, which Rep. Debbie Lesko, R-Glendale, introduced in January. The legislation will legalize the operation of golf carts on the street shoulders of Sun City, Sun City West and Sun Lakes. Read the full story at AZCentral.com.

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/southwest-valley/2014/04/30/jan-brewer-golf-cart-bill-signed-law/8516435/>

IBM Signs \$5.5 M Contract to Modernize DMV Website (California)

In an effort to modernize the Department of Motor Vehicles website, IBM has signed a \$5.5 million contract with the state to migrate away from its aging infrastructure. The Department of Technology will serve as the system integrator, working directly with IBM on the contract that ends on Dec 31, 2015. Read the full story at Techwire.net.

<http://techwire.net/ibm-signs-5-5-m-contract-modernize-dmv-website/>

Bill Cleans Up Immigrant Driver's License Program (California)

Democratic lawmakers approved on Thursday tweaks to a program Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law last year to grant driver's licenses to immigrants in the country illegally, after businesses and advocates raised concerns. The Assembly on Thursday voted 47-to-15 on a party-line vote to clarify provisions of AB60. They come as the Department of Motor Vehicles plans to start issuing licenses in January 2015, with almost 1.5 million immigrants qualifying. Read the full story at SFGate.com.

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Bill-cleans-up-immigrant-driver-s-license-program-5446437.php>

HazMat Driver Licensing Becoming More Convenient in May (Washington)

Commercial drivers who haul hazardous materials (HazMat) will soon be able to more closely align their driver license renewal cycle to their federally required HazMat threat assessment. More information is available at www.dol.wa.gov.

Other News

IRS Tracking License Plates

The Internal Revenue Service and other federal agencies reportedly awarded contracts to a license plate-tracking company to provide access to license-plate recognition databases or technology used to collect plate information. View the article on www.myfoxaustin.com.

<http://www.myfoxaustin.com/story/25281797/irs-tracking-license-plates>

Wal-Mart to Offer Auto Insurance

The nation's largest retailer said Wednesday it is partnering with AutoInsurance.com to provide customers with "a one stop shop" for their auto insurance needs. Wal-Mart will not sell insurance, but its customers can click through a link on walmart.com, or go to autoinsurance.com directly to get competing quotes from several car insurance providers such as Progressive, Esurance and Safeco to choose the policy and price that best fit their needs. Wal-Mart will also promote the service via displays in its stores. Read the full story at Money.CNN.com.

<http://money.cnn.com/2014/04/30/pf/insurance/walmart-auto-insurance/>

Did You Know

May 1st—a.k.a., May Day

- May 1st, often called May Day, just might have more holidays than any other day of the year. It's a celebration of Spring. It's a day of political protests. It's a neopagan festival, a saint's feast day, and a day for organized labor. In many countries, it is a national holiday.

- The origins of May Day may go back to the Druids' tree worship or to the spring festivals of ancient Egypt and India.
- Another theory ties the holiday to the Roman festival of Floralia, a festival that honored Flora, the goddess of springtime. As Rome conquered other countries, the tradition spread.
- In Medieval England, May Day celebrations centered on the maypole, which is a pole made from a tree, decorated with flowers and streamers, which is held by dancers circling the pole.
- Puritans in the United States looked down on May Day. As a result, the holiday is not celebrated as extensively in the United States.
- In the late 19th century, leaders of the socialist Second International were fighting for an eight-hour work day and they called for a global day of protest to be held on May 1, 1890. It has lived on as an international workers' day, and has received renewed vigor in the United States with the rise of the Occupy movement.
- Persecution of May Day festivities began as early as the 1600s, and in 1640 the Church ruled against the debauchery when the British Parliament banned the traditions as immoral. A much tamer version was brought back in 1644 under the rule of Charles II.
- The international distress signal, "mayday," has nothing to do with the first of May. It derives from the French *venez m'aider*, meaning "come help me."

Find some more interesting facts about May Day:

- May Day, A cornucopia of holidays (Fact Monster) <http://www.factmonster.com/spot/mayday.html>
- May Day Fast Facts (CNN) <http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/03/world/may-day-fast-facts/>
- 10 Curious Facts About May Day (Mother Nature Network) <http://www.mnn.com/lifestyle/arts-culture/stories/10-curious-facts-about-may-day>