

May 16, 2014 - Regional News

AAMVA News

2014 Annual International Conference Registration Now Open

Online registration for AAMVA's 2014 Annual International Conference (AIC) is open. Join Chair of the Board Jennifer Cohan at the Dover Downs Casino and Hotel for a unique networking and educational event. (Check out the promo video.) (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-rbjQmvEk4&list=UUrW3jQf3p_25zeK9EQbCrAA&feature=share&index=3) AAMVA will provide jurisdiction travel assistance. Check out the 2014 Annual International Conference Web site for more details and to register today! <http://www.aamva.org/2014-AIC-Landing-Page/>

Attending the Region IV Conference in Vancouver? Avoid Cellphone Roaming Charges!

Those traveling to Canada for a Region IV Conference in Vancouver may want to contact their cellular phone provider to request Canadian coverage. Doing so will reduce phone expenses while at the conference by avoiding roaming costs.

Region I

Traffic Fatalities Drop to 52-Year Low (Maryland)

Traffic fatalities in Maryland have dropped to a 52-year low. Gov. Martin O'Malley made the announcement Friday. Preliminary figures for 2013 indicate there were 466 traffic deaths in the state. That's the lowest since 1961 when there were 461. Read the full story at WashingtonPost.com.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/maryland-traffic-fatalities-drop-to-52-year-low/2014/05/09/1f02947c-d7a7-11e3-8f7d-7786660fff7c_story.html

Immigrant License Bill Likely DOA (Massachusetts)

A bill that would extend drivers licenses to undocumented immigrants is likely to be killed before coming to the House floor, according to the co-chair of the Joint Transportation Committee. Read the full story at SouthCoastToday.com.

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20140514/NEWS/405140375/-1/NEWS>

New Jersey Teens -- and Their Parents -- Could Face More Training for Driver's License

Teens who want to get their drivers licenses might be spending some quality time with their parents in a classroom under a legislation advancing in the state Assembly. The Assembly Transportation Committee today approved a bill (A1699) that would require all learner's permit holders who are under 18 to take a

teen driver orientation program approved by state authorities. Read the full story at [LehighValleyLive.com](http://www.lehighvalleylive.com).

http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/breaking-news/index.ssf/2014/05/new_jersey_teens_driving.html#incart_river

NYC Council Advances ID Cards for Undocumented New Yorkers

The New York City Council is scheduled to introduce legislation to create municipal ID cards for undocumented New Yorkers. The New York City Identity Card would allow users access to city services where identification is required, regardless of immigration status, the council said in a statement released Tuesday night. Users could also find it easier to report crimes, lease an apartment, open a bank account or check out a library book, said Crains New York. Read more in the New York Post.

<http://nypost.com/2014/04/09/council-to-introduce-bill-for-id-cards-for-undocumented-nyers/>

Region II

Louisiana Senate Committee Approves REAL ID Regulations for Driver's Licenses

A Louisiana Senate Committee has approved legislation to allow state citizens to access a driver's license that complies with the federal regulations known as REAL ID, allaying fears that Louisiana residents might have difficulties boarding a plane in a couple of years with the current state identification offered. The legislation will now head to the full Senate for consideration. Read the full story at NOLA.com.

http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/05/louisiana_senate_committee_con.html

Action 9: Rolling Back Odometers (North Carolina)

New research shows odometer fraud is a major problem, especially in North Carolina. A Carfax study shows North Carolina had the seventh most cases confirmed last year; 11th most, proportionally. Read the full story at WSOCTV.com.

<http://www.wsocvtv.com/news/news/special-reports/action-9-9-investigates-rolling-back-odometers/nftdt/>

TxDMV Puts Brakes on Title Fraud (Texas)

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) is using a national title database system under the U.S. Department of Justice to help stop title fraud while urging consumers to learn how to protect themselves when buying a used vehicle. Read the full story at KGNS.TV.

<http://www.kgns.tv/home/headlines/TxDmv-puts-brakes-on-title-fraud-258939091.html>

Virginia Woman Sentenced for Embezzling from West Virginia DMV

A Virginia woman convicted of embezzling from the West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles has received a suspended sentence and probation. Media outlets report that 47-year-old Rhonda Ann Thomas of Bluefield, Virginia, was sentenced Wednesday in Mercer County Circuit Court. Read the full story at WJHL.com.

<http://www.wjhl.com/story/25523852/va-woman-sentenced-for-embezzling-from-wva-dmv>

Region III

Woman Sues Over Loss of License Because of Parking Tickets from '90s (Illinois)

A Chicago woman has sued the city and the Illinois Secretary of State office, claiming her driver's license is being suspended because of roughly \$9,000 in fines owed for tickets she apparently received roughly 18 years ago. Read the full story at ChicagoTribune.com.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/chi-chicago-parking-ticket-lawsuit-20140512,0,2001704.story>

Personalized License Plates on Hold After Ruling in Indiana

Thousands of Indiana residents who want to personalize their license plates must wait while officials decide whether to appeal a judge's ruling that the Bureau of Motor Vehicles arbitrarily granted or withheld permission for such tags. Read the full story at TheIndyChannel.com.

<http://www.theindychannel.com/news/local-news/personalized-license-plates-on-hold-after-ruling-in-indiana>

Manitoba Drivers Face Tougher Fines for Speeding in Construction Zones

Drivers caught speeding in construction zones in Manitoba will soon be stuck with a fine double the cost of a regular ticket, under tougher penalties to take effect Friday. New road signs will also be posted requiring drivers to slow down regardless if there are workers on the site or not. Read the full story at ILSTV.com.

<http://www.ilstv.com/manitoba-drivers-face-tougher-fines-for-speeding-in-construction-zones/>

You May Need to Swipe Your Driver's License to Pump Gas (Michigan)

Drivers across West Michigan who fill up their tanks at Family Fare gas stations may notice some pumps have new devices mounted on them. They are called Post-Pay. Customers now have three options when it comes to paying for their gas: pre-pay inside with cash, swipe a debit or credit card at the pump, or swipe your license, allowing you to pay in cash after you pump. Read the full story at Fox17Online.com.

<http://fox17online.com/2014/05/13/west-michigan-gas-stations-test-license-swipe-to-prevent-drive-offs/#axzz31hgoCHmo>

Motorcycle Ohio Presents Saved by the Helmet Award

Today, Motorcycle Ohio, part of the Ohio Department of Public Safety's (ODPS) Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) gathered together with state leaders, traffic safety partners, law enforcement, motorcycle advocates and enthusiasts to raise motorcycle safety awareness. Read the press release for more information.

<http://publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/MR2014/05-14-CJS-MO-Safety-Awareness-Event.pdf>

Region IV

Alaska DMV to Begin Issuing New, More Secure IDs in June

Some features of the new Alaska driver's license include a new design of Denali, fine line patterns like those on dollar bills, and a laminate with a hologram of snowflakes and the state seal. (Image from Division of Motor Vehicles) The state with the most counterfeited driver's license is doing something about it. Read the full story at KTOO.org.

<http://www.ktoo.org/2014/05/14/dmv-begin-issuing-new-secure-ids-june/>

Two Troopers Killed in the Line of Duty (Alaska)

Two Alaska State Troopers were killed in Tanana today, May 1, while conducting an investigation. The Troopers responded to Tanana to follow-up on a report from last night that a subject had brandished a firearm in the village. Read the Alaska State Troopers press release.

<http://www.dps.state.ak.us/PIO/press.aspx>

19 Members of Congress Urge Approval of Driver's License Design (California)

Nineteen Democratic members of Congress from California have signed a letter asking the Obama administration to rescind its rejection of a design for a driver's license to be issued to up 1.5 million people in the country illegally. Read the full story in the Los Angeles Times.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/political/la-me-pc-19-members-of-congress-call-on-feds-to-approve-drivers-license-design-20140512-story.html>

AB 60 Proposed Regulations Available for Public Comment (California)

The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) announced on Friday that the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) has published the proposed regulations for AB 60—the new law requiring DMV to issue a driver license to applicants who can prove identity and California residence and meet all

other licensing requirements, such as passing the written and behind-the-wheel driving exams. Read the DMV press release.

http://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/newsrel/newsrel14/2014_32.htm

Man Rolled Back Odometers to Sell Used Cars, Operated Without License, Detectives Say (California)

A Bakersfield man could be in hot water with the state after they say he was scamming used car buyers. According to court documents, the man was altering titles and selling cars to people without a license. Read the full story at TurnTo23.com.

<http://www.turnto23.com/news/local-news/man-rolled-back-odometers-to-sell-used-cars-operated-without-license-detectives-say-050714>

Bill More Than Doubles Fines for Texting While Driving (California)

California drivers would face tougher consequences for chatting and texting on their cellphones while driving under a bill that passed the California Assembly. Lawmakers voted 66-10 Thursday to approve AB1646 by Democratic Assemblyman Jim Frazier of Oakley. Read the full story at KCRA.com.

<http://www.kcra.com/news/local-news/news-sacramento/bill-more-than-doubles-fines-for-texting-while-driving/26005494#ixzz31tIsQn7t>

Registration Scams Targeting Car Owners (Idaho)

The Idaho Transportation Department is warning vehicle owners about registration scams targeting the region. Scammers are calling people telling them that their car registration needs to be renewed immediately by telephone. State officials say they only send out expiration notices through the mail, and that any registration would need to take place on their official website or at the local DMV. Anyone who may be a victim can contact the Idaho Attorney General's Office at 208-334-2424. Read the full story at EastIdahoNews.com.

<http://www.eastidahonews.com/2014/05/registration-scams-targeting-car-owners/>

Saskatchewan Drivers Challenged to Clean Up Their Act

It's illegal, but there are still plenty of drivers in Saskatchewan using their cellphones while behind the wheel. It's a mistake SGI Minister Donna Harpauer has seen for herself on the road. Read the full story at LeaderPost.com.

<http://www.leaderpost.com/news/Sask+drivers+challenged+clean+their/9821478/story.html>

Saskatchewan Police Getting 7 More Licence Plate Scanners; Total Number to Rise to 20 this Year

As it prepares to distribute more automatic licence plate scanners to police around the province, Saskatchewan Government Insurance says it's keeping people's privacy in mind. Read the full story at CBC.CA.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/sask-police-getting-7-more-licence-plate-scanners-1.2644099>

Tighter Cell Phone Restrictions and Higher Speeds Come on Tuesday (Utah)

A new law going into effect Tuesday will add tighter restrictions on what a person can and cannot do with their cellphone while driving their car. While it was already illegal in Utah to send a text message while driving, the new law will update Utah's code to also restrict practices such as playing games, checking a Facebook status, and reading or writing an email on a cellphone while driving. Read the full story in the Daily Herald.

http://www.heraldextra.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/legislature/tighter-cell-phone-restrictions-and-higher-speeds-come-to-utah/article_6f30fdf0-2e1b-5a4e-99c2-1539f88a331c.html

Other News

Active Shooter Response Report Issued

The Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) has published a Critical Issues in Policing report about the response of police agencies to “active shooter” events. PERF held a Summit on this topic in 2013 and has conducted research on the changes in police policies and practices that began in 1999 following the Columbine, Colorado High School shootings. The report can be found at

http://www.policeforum.org/assets/docs/Critical_Issues_Series/the%20police%20response%20to%20active%20shooter%20incidents%202014.pdf

Study: Pregnant Drivers May Have More Car Crashes

Pregnant women worry plenty, but maybe they should worry more about how they drive: A new study suggests women have more car crashes when they are expecting than they do in the years before or afterward. The extra risk is concentrated in the second trimester, a time when women are feeling most of the effects of pregnancy but may not drive as carefully as they do with a late-term pregnancy belly, say the authors of the first-of-its-kind study published Monday in the Canadian Medical Association Journal. Read the full story at News10.net.

<http://www.news10.net/story/news/health/2014/05/13/pregnant-drivers-may-have-more-car-crashes/9031445/>

Chinese Tesla Model S Buyers to Get Free License Plate... a \$15k Value

Tesla buyers in in Shanghai, China, are getting even more of an incentive to choose its electric sedans. Each purchase of a Model S in the city will come with a free license plate. That might not sound very important, but Shanghai operates under a government-organized auction system to distribute plates. Read the full story at AutoBlog.com.

<http://www.autoblog.com/2014/05/12/chinese-tesla-model-s-buyers-get-free-license-plate-15k/>

Car Crashes are Number 1 Killer of Teenagers

Many things have been done to try to protect our teens and make sure they are prepared to take the wheel. But this year, advocates will be keeping an eye on a new age group. The Graduated Licensing Program, or GDL, forces teens 16 and 17 to first get a learners permit, complete a driver training program, then get a restricted license before finally earning a full unrestricted seat behind the wheel. Read the full story at WFSB.com.

<http://www.wfsb.com/story/25506798/car-crashes-is-number-1-killer-of-teenagers>

Volvo Started Testing Its First Autonomous Street Car

Volvo introduced its first autonomous cars on Sweden's public roads. They are able to adapt to traffic flow to maintain the lane and allow other vehicles to enter traffic too. Read the full story at Auto-Types.com.

<http://www.auto-types.com/autonews/volvo-started-testing-its-first-autonomous-street-car-11586.html>

Study: Seniors Driving More Than Past Generations

Senior citizens are driving more than in previous generations, according to a new study. The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety released the report last month. The report titled "Understanding Older Drivers: An Examination of Medical Conditions, Medication Use and Travel Behaviors" said that 84 percent of Americans 65 and older were licensed to drive in 2010, compared to barely half in the early 1970s. Read the full story at Miami.CBSLocal.com.

<http://miami.cbslocal.com/2014/05/08/study-seniors-driving-more-than-past-generations/>

Study: College students are more likely to drive stoned than drunk

College freshmen could be much more likely to drive stoned than drunk. A new study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association found 31.3 percent of college-attending marijuana users drove shortly after using marijuana, compared to 6.8 percent of alcohol users who drove shortly after using alcohol. Men in particular were roughly five times more likely than women to drive after using either substance. Read the full story at VOX.com.

<http://www.vox.com/2014/5/12/5710258/study-college-students-are-five-times-more-likely-to-drive-stoned>

Vehicle License Plates Tangle with the First Amendment

Clearly, and appropriately, there are limits on our right to free speech. Shouting "fire" in a movie theater immediately comes to mind as one example of prohibited speech. States routinely determine that there are also limits on what we put on our car's license plates. Courts, however, often overturn states'

decisions as being unconstitutional on First Amendment grounds, or because the state's law is overly vague. Read the full story at CommdiginNews.

<http://www.commdiginews.com/business-2/first-amendment-and-vehicle-license-plates-17313/#qIURyhOyySShI1hk.99>

Did You Know

SUMMER VEHICLE MAINTENANCE TIPS

The thermometer may still be yo-yoing up and down, but the summer heat will soon be settling in to stay for a while. Unfortunately, the summer heat brings with it a whole new set of things you'll need to worry about in order to keep your vehicle in tip-top shape.

I've pulled up a few tips to get you started:

- Tires--an under-inflated, over-inflated, worn down or misaligned tire can be extremely dangerous, particularly in hot summer weather. Tire pressure changes with the rising temperatures--approximately one to two PSI for every 10-degree increase in outside air temperature. Ensure that your tires are inflated properly and check the tire treads to make sure they're good. Always carry a properly inflated spare with ample tread depth.
- Oil and Filter -- Be diligent about checking your oil. Most of us do a lot of heavy driving during the summer when an engine is more likely to overheat.
- Cooling System--The greatest cause of summer breakdowns is overheating. The cooling system should be completely flushed and refilled about every 24 months. The level, condition, and concentration of the coolant should be checked periodically. The tightness and condition of drive belts, clamps, and hoses should be checked by a pro.
- Windshield Wipers--Winter weather can be brutal to your windshield wipers, making them almost useless if you get caught in a summer rain shower. Replace them at the beginning of the summer and you won't have to worry.
- Clean out your car--The more you haul, the more fuel you burn. An extra 100 pounds in your vehicle could reduce your mpg by up to 2%.

You don't want to stop here...check out some of these online resources to make sure your vehicle is ready to take the heat this summer.

- Top 10 Car Summer Maintenance Tips (howstuffworks.com)
<http://auto.howstuffworks.com/car-driving-safety/accidents-hazardous-conditions/summer-car-maintenance.htm#page=1>
- Getting Your Vehicle Ready for Summer (ASE) <https://www.ase.com/News-Events/Publications/Glove-Box-Tips/Getting-Your-Vehicle-Ready-For-Summer.aspx>

- 5 Essential Summer Car-Care Tips (Kiplinger) <http://www.kiplinger.com/article/cars/T009-C004-S001-5-essential-summer-car-care-tips.html#C7p71s6Dc84mOY0P.99>
- Summer Auto Maintenance Checklist (Autorepair.about.com)
<http://autorepair.about.com/od/seasonal/a/summerize.htm>