

November 8, 2013 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Notice Something Different? You're Right! "Regional News" Gets a Facelift

AAMVA's e-newsletter, *Regional News*, is sent weekly to all membership categories to keep you abreast of the latest news and information in the community from around the regions. You may be a new recipient of the newsletter or a long-time recipient, but if you take a look around the new Regional News, you'll see we've made quite a few improvements. This new look is not just easier on the eyes, but is also organized to make it even easier to find important information. Scroll to the bottom of the email and you'll notice that readers can also manage their subscriptions by clicking "unsubscribe" to opt out of the newsletter. Click on the "manage all your AAMVA subscriptions" link and it will take you to your "My AAMVA" account, where members can manage all their AAMVA subscriptions. Simply click "subscribe" or "unsubscribe" to any specific AAMVA communication at any time. **If you have any questions or concerns or you have feedback about Regional News, please let us know by reaching us at RegionalNews@aamva.org.**

Best Practices for Regulation of Three-Wheel Vehicles Released

AAMVA is pleased to announce the release of our newest best practice guide, Best Practices for the Regulation of Three-Wheel Vehicles. The document provides guidance on many issues surrounding three-wheel vehicles including registration, proper driver testing, and more. Visit www.aamva.org to download the best practice document (<http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=4629&libID=4606>), and get an overview of the guide in this video. (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-R8w9b8TGQ>)

Webinar Announcement: National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration will be presenting a webinar on the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners. Learn about the new safety regulation that requires any healthcare provider performing a physical exam for interstate truck and bus drivers to be listed on the National Registry by May 21, 2014. After that date, all commercial motor vehicle drivers must have a physical performed by a medical examiner listed on the National Registry. Find more details and register for the Webinar online at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/798821017>

Lisa Kaspar Takes the Reins in Kansas as New Director of Vehicles

The Kansas Department of Revenue announced Lisa Kaspar as the new director of vehicles. Kaspar, who has worked with the Kansas Department of Revenue in multiple divisions, including tax, communications and vehicles, most recently, she led the department's organization development and training team. Congratulations, Lisa!

Open RFPs/RFIs Posted on AAMVA Web Site

AAMVA has posted the following RFI and RFP from Oregon and Colorado:

- Oregon DOT DMV Services - Systems Modernization - RFI
- Colorado Dept. of Revenue - Consultant for Colorado DRIVES Procurement - RFP

Visit <http://www.aamva.org/Open-RFPs/> for more details.

Region I

Are Connecticut DMV Employees 'Dressed Appropriately?' In Survey Of Agency Workers, 51 Percent Say No

Managers at the state Department of Motor Vehicles say in a new internal survey that they think employees at branches who deal with the public should dress more appropriately. "Too many jeans," one manager wrote. But it was a two-way street for critiques... Read the full story at Courant.com.

<http://www.courant.com/news/politics/hc-lender-dmv-attire-survey-1103-20131102,0,5420943.column>

D.C. Council Backs Away from Issuing Regular Driver's Licenses to Illegal Immigrants

Illegal immigrants could begin applying for driver's licenses next year in the District, but their IDs would be stamped as "not valid for official federal purposes," creating a two-tier system of identification to comply with federal homeland security rules. The plan marks a significant backtrack from legislation that a D.C. Council committee approved this year. Read the full story in the Washington Post.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-politics/dc-council-to-back-down-on-issuing-regular-licenses-to-undocumented-immigrants/2013/11/03/6db96a66-424f-11e3-a751-f032898f2dbc_story.html

Immigrants in Country Illegally Start Applying for Maryland Driver's Licenses

Immigrants in the country illegally can begin the process to get a Maryland driver's license beginning Monday, according to Philip Dacey, a spokesman for the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration. The first step is to schedule an appointment to get a driver's license in January. Read the full story in the Capital Gazette.

http://www.capitalgazette.com/maryland_gazette/hot/immigrants-in-country-illegally-start-applying-for-driver-s-licenses/article_11225ca0-b108-52c3-9bec-7e921245dbf8.html

Drunk Driving With Conditional License Now A Felony In New York State

Governor Cuomo announced today that New Yorkers who drive drunk with a conditional license will face felony charges instead of a more minor traffic infraction. . . The tough new law now puts drunk driving with a conditional license on the same par as driving drunk with a revoked license, which is punishable by a mandatory fine of \$500-\$5000 and up to four years in prison or on probation.

Conditional licenses are given to drivers who lose their licenses after getting convicted of DWIs, but participate in a DMV-sponsored rehab program; drivers issued those licenses can only use them for necessary travel, like to work and school. Read the full story at Gothamist.com.

http://gothamist.com/2013/11/01/drunk_driving_with_conditional_lice.php

DMV Offers More Online Services for New Yorkers

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles has expanded its online services, making it easier for New York motorists to access important account information and renew or replace a driver license, permit or non-driver identification. Customers can check the number of points on their licenses, the address they have on file, any driving endorsements or restrictions and information about suspensions or revocations and the steps they can take to clear them. Read the full story at Fios1News.com.

<http://fios1news.com/longisland/node/46814#.UnpSp9LVDqE>

Region II

Man Pushes for 'Gay Rights' License Plate, Wins (Georgia)

The man who was behind getting the state law changed for vanity tags spoke exclusively with Channel 2 Action News about his victory. Cyrus Gilbert applied for a "gay rights" vanity plate. After being told the tag was unavailable, he did some digging and found gay advocacy tags were banned in Georgia. He sued and won his case. Read the full story at ActionNewsJax.com.

http://www.actionnewsjax.com/news/state/story/Man-pushes-for-gay-rights-license-plate-wins/zFZD5ybmdkO_Hn634hVX6w.csp

Mississippi Campaign will not Tolerate Distracted Driving

Putting on makeup, texting and eating are all activities that should not be done behind the wheel. That's why Mississippi Highway Patrol is beefing up its efforts to get cell phones out of drivers' hands and keep other distractions away from drivers. It's called "Pay Attention or Pay a Fine." It's an initiative that stemmed in Oxford earlier this week. Now, it's branching out on the Coast. Read the full story at WLOX.com.

<http://www.wlox.com/story/23864366/ms-campaign-does-not-tolerate-distracted-driving>

N.C. state government advocates for Choose Life license plates

The North Carolina state government is appealing a court decision that said North Carolinians have the right to choose—to choose what goes on the back of their cars. Last Wednesday, attorney Kathryne Hathcock argued in front of the 4th US Circuit Court of Appeals, advocating for a reversal of the 2012 decision that outlawed the government-sponsored selling of anti-abortion "Choose Life" license plates. Read the full story at DukeChronicle.com.

<http://www.dukechronicle.com/articles/2013/11/06/nc-state-government-advocates-choose-life-license-plates>

Court to Hear Texas Dispute Over Confederate Flag License Plate

A federal appeals court is scheduled to hear arguments Wednesday on whether a Texas state board violated the free-speech rights of a group that petitioned for a customized license plate featuring the Confederate battle flag. Read the full story at KHOU.com.

<http://www.khou.com/news/texas-news/Court-to-hear-Texas-dispute-over-Confederate-flag-230824781.html>

Region III

Iowa Report seeks to rein in secret license plates

Iowa will end its practice of withholding from police databases information about undercover government vehicles, a move that should allow them to be ticketed by traffic cameras as easily as ordinary cars, according to a state report released Thursday. Read the full article in the Sioux City Journal.

http://siouxcityjournal.com/ap/state/iowa-report-seeks-to-rein-in-secret-license-plates/article_1b4356f3-d329-57dd-8a30-b8ea851993b0.html

Snyder to Sign Law Giving Vehicle Buyers Tax Break with Trade-In (Michigan)

Gov. Rick Snyder will sign legislation Wednesday giving new vehicle buyers a tax break when they have a trade-in, his office announced. The law that's to take effect Dec. 15 will subtract part of the value of the trade-in from the purchase price for Michigan sales tax purposes. The state has a 6 percent sales tax. Read the full story at LSJ.com.

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20131105/NEWS04/311050039/Snyder-sign-law-giving-vehicle-buyers-tax-break-trade-in?gcheck=1>

Missouri Court says red-light camera laws like those in KC are invalid

Kansas City suspended enforcement of its red-light camera program Wednesday in the wake of a Missouri appeals court ruling that concluded most such ordinances violate state law. City Manager Troy Schulte and other city officials said this week's ruling caught them off guard because it contradicted an earlier ruling, from the same appeals court, upholding a law very similar to Kansas City's. Read the full story in the Kansas City Star.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2013/11/06/4602214/missouri-court-red-light-camera.html>

Ohio on Track for Record Low Traffic Fatalities

The Ohio Highway Patrol is on track to record the fewest numbers of traffic fatalities in the state since it began keeping track of them in 1936. And the law-enforcement agency has a theory that could account for this good news. Troopers aren't just making more enforcement stops — 526,060 statewide so far this year, up from 490,759 for the same period last year — but they're taking more time with their stops, as part of an initiative that began in January 2011. Read the full story in the Lancaster Eagle Gazette.

<http://www.lancastereagle.com/article/20131107/NEWS01/311060014/Ohio-pace-record-low-traffic-fatalities>

New Bills Aim to Sharpen Wisconsin Drunken Driving Laws

The state would whet the edge of its drunken driving laws by a few modest strokes, under legislation to be taken up by lawmakers Tuesday. One of the bills being considered by the state Assembly Tuesday would make a second-offense drunken driving offense a misdemeanor in all cases and make a fourth-time offense a felony in all cases. Read the full story at JSOn-Line.com.

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/new-bills-aim-to-sharpen-drunken-driving-laws-b99134549z1-230525021.html#ixzz2jmX2CmPx>

Region IV

Lawmaker Ready to Try Again for State Ban on Texting While Driving (Arizona)

Despite failing repeatedly since 2007, a state lawmaker said he is going to try again to have Arizona join 41 other states that have outlawed texting while driving. Read the full story at AZCentral.com.

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/politics/free/20131106arizona-texting-driving-ban-effort.html>

Nevada DMV Approves Final Rules for Driver Cards

People living in Nevada without legal residency can begin logging on to a state website for information about a driver authorization card program set to begin Jan. 2. Department of Motor Vehicles officials say a state Legislative Commission has approved final rules for documentation to prove identity and residency. Read the full story at InsuranceJournal.com.

<http://www.insurancejournal.com/magazines/features/2013/11/04/309649.htm>

Key Players Debate Need for Gas Tax in Washington Special Session

Washington lawmakers convene in special session Thursday in an effort to win production of the next Boeing 777. But there is already a dispute over whether one of the must-haves is a gas tax package for transportation improvements. Governor Jay Inslee insists the time is now. But some lawmakers say road funding can wait. Read the full story at NWPR.org.

<http://nwpr.org/post/key-players-debate-need-gas-tax-washington-special-session>

Other News

Experts Say Drowsy Driving Is Similar To Drunk Driving

Drowsy driving is dangerous driving, and according to a new report, more drivers are doing it. Read the full story at CBSLocal.com.

<http://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2013/11/05/experts-say-drowsy-driving-is-similar-to-drunk-driving/>

More booster seats grab top ratings for safety belt fit: 19 of 31 new models for 2013 earn BEST BET designation

Child restraint manufacturers continue to roll out new booster seats that do a good job of improving the way an adult safety belt fits a typical booster-age child. This year, 19 of 31 new models evaluated by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety earn the top rating of BEST BET, and one model is a GOOD BET. Learn more on the IIHS Web site.

<http://www.iihs.org/iihs/news/desktopnews/more-booster-seats-grab-top-ratings>

Why Google And Others See A Future With Driverless Cars

October had proven to be a busy month in the driverless car arena. While Nissan Motor Company unveiled its new Autonomous Drive Leaf electric car at CEATEC in Japan, Tesla Motors CEO Elon Musk announced his company is working on a self-driving vehicle that could be available within the next three years. While most analysts say it will take 10 to 15 years before self-driving cars become a mainstream reality, Nissan and Tesla already have plenty of competition. Daimler AG, among others, says it hopes to begin selling self-driving cars by the end of the decade, and Google's driverless cars not only exist, they've driven over half a million miles with no accidents. Read the full story at Forbes.com.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/ptc/2013/11/06/why-google-and-others-see-a-future-with-driverless-cars/>

DMV.us.org Launches Program To Delete Traffic Data That Is Not Legitimate

DMV.us.org is launching a program that will help people who have been a victim of identity theft purge bad information from their records so their driving history is legitimate, the company said yesterday. Read the full article on www.nbc4i.com.

<http://www.nbc4i.com/story/23913504/dmvusorg-launches-program-to-delete-traffic-data-that-is-not-legitimate>