

December 13, 2013 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Apply to Join Ignition Interlock Working Group

AAMVA is forming an Ignition Interlock Working Group to:

- Review available Blood Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device (BAIID) scientific/evidence based research ;
- Review various BAIID programs administered by motor vehicle administrations and state police/highway patrol agencies;
- Extract and compile best and most promising practices focusing on areas of ignition interlock administration based upon scientific evidence based research, practices from various ignition interlock programs administered by motor vehicle administrations and state police that fall within the purview of our members;
- Conduct a gap analysis comparing AAMVA's and the Association of Ignition Interlock Program Administrators (AIIPA) recommendations to identify and develop model program aspects outside the mission scope of AIIPA;
- Review AIIPA program recommendations for potential inclusion in an AAMVA published national model program document.

AAMVA is seeking the following representatives to serve on the working group:

- Two law enforcement representatives from the AAMVA jurisdictions, one ignition interlock representative with program and/or policy experience from each AAMVA region,
- one program and/or policy representative from a Canadian AAMVA jurisdiction, and
- one representative from our legal services discipline.

If you are interested in serving on this working group, please complete the application

(http://www.aamva.org/uploadedFiles/MainSite/Content/MembersLeaders/CommitteesWorkingGroups/Enforcement/Ignition_Interlock_Working_Group/Ignition%20Interlock%20Working%20Group%20Application.doc) and return it to AAMVA by December 16, 2013.

For additional information about the working group, please contact Brian Ursino at (703) 350-5103.

2014 North American Conference on Elderly Mobility

Save the date for the 2014 North American Conference on Elderly Mobility in Detroit, Michigan. The conference will feature best practices in older adult mobility and highlight new developments since the conference was first held in 2004. The conference will highlight best practices during the last decade in Alternative Transportation, Mobility Management and Coordination, Infrastructure and Vehicles, Driver Education and Training, Driver Screening and Assessment, and Housing and Land Use. The conference

will be held in Detroit Michigan from May 11 to 14, 2014. Learn more at <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1322274>

Region I

Carlstadt Court Administrators Charged with Falsifying Parking Tickets, DMV Records (New Jersey)

Is the fix in? Prosecutors say the Carlstadt court administrator and her deputy went above and beyond to falsify records – allowing the deputy and other residents to have their driver's licenses restored and parking ticket fees waived. Read the full story at NJ.com.

http://www.nj.com/bergen/index.ssf/2013/12/carlstadt_court_administrators_charged_with_falsifying_parking_tickets_dmv_records.html

Bill Passes to Mount Officers With Cameras (Pennsylvania)

Legislators are working on a bill that would amend privacy laws and allow police to wear camera's mounted on their bodies. A lot of police departments already have dash cameras which operate very similarly, but Senator Stewart Greenleaf who sponsored the bill wants to see more surveillance. Read the full story at BRCTV13.com.

<http://www.brctv13.com/local-news>

Vanderbilt Man Charged with Accepting Bribes to Pass Driver's License Applicants (Pennsylvania)

Vanderbilt man is facing bribery and other charges after state police alleged he administered driver's license tests to foreign license applicants at the local licensing center and accepted between \$100 and \$700 to give them a passing grade — and a Pennsylvania driver's license. Read the full story in the Herald Standard.

http://www.heraldstandard.com/new_today/vanderbilt-man-charged-with-accepting-bribes-to-pass-driver-s/article_caba1f00-f593-5c81-89f3-7d80d46c2427.html

New, Non-Mandatory Vermont Driver's License Will Be Available In January

Starting in January, Vermonters will be able to get a new kind of driver's license. It's called the Real ID. Supporters say the new cards will protect federal courts, nuclear power plants and commercial aircraft against terrorism. Read the full story at Vermont Public Radio.

<http://digital.vpr.net/post/new-non-mandatory-vt-drivers-license-will-be-available-january>

Region II

Driver Services Commissioner Reminds Commercial Drivers of New Federal Certification Requirements (Georgia)

A new Federal highway safety initiative (Federal Medical Certification Requirements (§383.71(b)(1) Code of Federal Regulations 205) requires all Commercial Driver's License (CDL) holders to provide information to DDS regarding the type of commercial motor vehicle operation they drive, or expect to drive, with their CDL. Drivers operating in certain types of commerce will be required to submit a current DOT medical examiner's certificate/card to DDS to obtain a "certified" medical status as part of their driving record. CDL holders required to have a "certified" medical status who fail to provide and keep up-to-date their DOT medical information with DDS will become "not-certified" and may lose their commercial driving privileges. Read the press release for more information.

<http://www.dds.ga.gov/news/newsdetail.aspx?id=318>

Department of Driver Services (DDS) Commissioner Announces Public Computer Security Upgrade (Georgia)

Department of Driver Services (DDS) Commissioner Rob Mikell recently announced a security upgrade for the Agency's public computer terminals available at select DDS locations. Google Chromebox computers have replaced the existing public computers provided for customers to access and securely print information mandated by new Federal homeland security (Real ID Act) requirements. This customer service initiative enables customers to eliminate a second visit to DDS for driver's license/ID Card issuance. For more information, go to www.dds.ga.gov.

Region III

Illinois Police Department to Tweet DUI Suspects

A suburban Chicago police chief said his department will begin tweeting out names of people arrested on suspicion of drunk driving. Riverside, Ill., Police Chief Tom Weitzel said he hopes the additional exposure will act as a deterrent for would-be drunk drivers to stay off the road. He said the department has seen an increase in drunk driving arrests of late, particularly among drivers 30 or younger, the Chicago Tribune reported. Read the full story at UPI.com.

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2013/12/10/Illinois-police-department-to-tweet-DUI-suspects/UPI-16711386702767/

Strict Rules on Placing Traffic Cameras Approved (Iowa)

Cities and counties would have to prove the need for traffic enforcement cameras on major highways under rules approved Tuesday by the Iowa Transportation Commission. The new rules — which could take effect as early as February — would force a re-evaluation of all speeding and red-light cameras now placed on interstate highways, U.S. highways and state highways and require any new cameras to first win the Department of Transportation's approval. Read the full story in the Des Moines Register.

http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20131211/NEWS/312110029/Strict-rules-on-placing-traffic-cameras-approved?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7Cfrontpage&nlick_check=1

Thieves Target License Plates in Kansas

Police are warning all car owners to keep a close eye on their license plates. In west Wichita alone, nearly 20 license plates have been reported stolen in just the past few months. Your car can be a sitting target when it's parked on the street or in the driveway but while missing valuables or a shattered window will grab your attention, how often do you really look at your license plate? Read the full story at Kake.com.

<http://www.kake.com/home/headlines/Thieves-Swapping-Out-License-Plates-With-Stolen-Ones-235340061.html>

State Pulls Plans to Comply with Federal ID Law (Ohio)

Privacy concerns have scuttled state plans to meet all federal "Real ID" standards, which could result in Ohio driver's licenses not being accepted as sufficient identification to board airplanes and enter federal buildings. The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles decided about five months ago to back off the Real ID compliance plan approved by the federal Department of Homeland Security, but it never made a public announcement about the change. Read the full story in the Columbus Dispatch.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2013/12/06/state-pulls-plans-to-comply-with-federal-id-law.html>

Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles Selects First Winner of "What's on Your Plate?" Contest

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) has selected its first "What's on Your Plate?" winner! As this quarter's winner, Kim Oxender, will be featured on the BMV's Web site, Facebook and Twitter pages. Kim will also receive a decorative license plate with the personalization of her choice. Read the BMV press release.

<http://publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/MR2013/12-12-WOYPWinnerRelease.pdf>

Older Drivers Would Have to Renew Licenses Every 4 Years (Wisconsin)

Legislation would have older drivers renew their driver's licenses twice as often. State Senator Fred Risser is proposing legislation that would require drivers 75 years of age and older to renew their driver's license every four years, rather than every eight years, which is current law. And, at each renewal, these drivers would have to pass an eyesight exam. Read the full story at WSAU.com.

<http://wsau.com/news/articles/2013/dec/10/older-drivers-would-have-to-renew-licenses-every-4-years/>

Region IV

Cupertino Couple Indicted in Scheme to Export Stolen Cars to Asia (California)

A federal indictment was unsealed Thursday charging Yujen Chen and Maria Chen, husband and wife, with twenty-four felony violations, including wire fraud, international money laundering, exportation of stolen vehicles, and identity theft, arising out of their ownership of 888 Auto Corporation, announced United States Attorney Melinda Haag. Read the full story in the Cupertino Patch.

<http://cupertino.patch.com/groups/police-and-fire/p/cupertino-couple-indicted-in-scheme-to-export-stolen-cars-to-asia>

New Customer Service Training for SGI (Saskatchewan)

Although you don't have a choice about dealing with SGI in this province, the crown corporation is hoping a new customer service training program will help interactions be more consistent. SGI recently put to tender a tailor-made training program for its staff, with the view of it being up and running next year. Read the full story in the Leader Post.

<http://www.leaderpost.com/news/regina/customer+service+training/9280136/story.html>

State and Yakama Nation Reach Agreement on Fuel Taxes (Washington)

The Department of Licensing and the Yakama Nation recently settled a long-standing dispute about how to collect fuel taxes on fuel sold at gas stations owned by members of the Yakama Nation. The agreement, signed on Nov. 18, was negotiated through a federal mediation service offered by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. This process, which started in July 2013, concluded with an agreement to terminate a Fuel Tax Consent Decree negotiated between the state and the Yakama Nation in federal court and replaces it with a standard state tribal fuel tax agreement. Read the DOL press release.

<http://www.dol.wa.gov/about/news/2013/201311YakamaFuelTaxAgreement.html>

Other News

Rolled-back Odometers Cost Americans \$760 Million Yearly

When Ryan Barber turned 16, his father went online and bought him a Honda Civic that showed 42,000 miles on its odometer. But they later found out through records that it really had 140,000 miles. Authorities say it's a growing problem. According to a new report from Carfax, 190,000 cars have their odometers rolled back every year, bilking Americans out of \$760 million in lost value and unexpected repairs. Criminals have been tricking customers for years by rolling back the mileage on the odometer, then selling the car for more money. But now the scam has gotten so profitable, investigators say it's become organized crime. Read the full story at Today.com.

<http://www.today.com/news/rolled-back-odometers-costs-americans-760-million-yearly-2D11691594>

Obama Administration Considers Changing Driver License Guidelines for Elderly

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) says it will work to change its strategic plan to ensure the safety of the U.S.'s growing population of older drivers and passengers. Read the full story at TopBreakingNews.

<http://topbreakingnews.info/obama-administration-considers-changing-driver-license-guidelines-for-elderly-state-column/>

Driving with a Hangover Could Be as Dangerous as Drunk Driving, Studies Show

Two new studies indicate that driving with a hangover could be just as dangerous as driving drunk, Medical Daily reported. In one study, researchers from Utrecht University in the Netherlands and the University of the West of England in the U.K. put study participants through a series of driving tests that mimicked highway driving. All of the individuals had consumed an average of 10 drinks the night before. Read the full story at MyFoxOrlando.com.

<http://www.myfoxorlando.com/story/24202253/driving-with-a-hangover-could-be-as-dangerous-as-drunk-driving-studies-show#ixzz2nGvA1HET>

Study: Americans' Drop In Driving Not Economic-Driven

A new report offers more evidence that people are driving less. The analysis of data from the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration and the Census Bureau shows that the decline in per-capita driving is occurring in a wide variety of regions. Read the full story at TheSpectrum.com

<http://www.thespectrum.com/usatoday/article/3861187>

States Pursue Limits on License Plate Readers

Guidelines are sought in statehouses around the country on the use of license plate readers by law enforcement. License plate readers, or LPRs, can be mounted on patrol cars or alongside roadsides and bridges. High-speed cameras and software are used to capture images of license plates. Plate numbers are scanned and cross-checked with numbers included on a "hotlist." If a plate "hits," officers are alerted and can pursue or pull over the vehicle. Read the full story at LandLineMag.com.

<http://www.landlinemag.com/Story.aspx?StoryID=26305#.Uqh522Uo5kw>

NHTSA chief David Strickland to step down

David Strickland, who since 2010 has played a key role in managing the federal agency with direct regulatory oversight of the automobile industry, will step down in the near future. Read the full article in the Detroit Free Press.

<http://www.freep.com/article/20131212/BUSINESS01/312120116/David-Strickland>

Did You Know

Let it Snow!

- There are many different types of snow storms. Some types of snow storms are Snow Squalls, Blowing Snow, Nor'easters, Blizzards, Ice Storms. Sleet and Freezing Rain.
- Snow Squalls are strong snow storms but they don't last for very long. Snow Squalls are often accompanied by gusty winds.
- Blowing Snow has high wind speeds and can make lighter snow on the ground float up which makes it hard to see.
- Nor'easters can occur at any time of the year. Nor'easters are not very big.
- Blizzards with winds up to and over 35 mph are the most dangerous of all. You can't see and staying in a safe location is recommended.
- The first blizzard to be declared a Federal Emergency was in 1977, affecting upstate New York and Southern Ohio. The storm's accumulation was only about 12 inches over 5 days, but the winds were deadly.
- Ice storms cause multiple deaths in many countries around the world. Ice Storms can take out power, glass and more.
- Sleet is rain drops that freeze before they hit the ground. Sleet does not stick to things but it does bounce.
- When freezing rain hits the ground it becomes ice. Many things like trees, cars and power lines get glazed with ice from freezing rain.
- The highest snowfall ever recorded in a one year period was 31.1 meters (1224 inches) in Mount Rainier, Washington State, United States, between February 19, 1971 and February 18, 1972.

Be prepared! For tips on getting ready for the next winter storm event to hit your area, visit

<http://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>