

August 8, 2014 - Regional News

AAMVA News

AAMVA Systems Training for AAMVA Members

AAMVA Systems Training aims to develop education, training and learning opportunities that meet the needs of AAMVA's membership in the use of all the systems and procedures to ensure commercial driver safety and compliance with Federal regulations. These web-delivered programs do not require travel and are learner-centered, interactive and guaranteed to produce results. All courses are free for AAMVA members. View the course catalogue and register or enroll in a session at <http://aamva.intevista.com>. If you experience trouble enrolling, or if you would like more information on any of the courses, please send an email to trainer@aamva.org.

Webinar: AAMVA Standing Committees Update

On August 6th at 2:00 (ET), Brian Ursino will be hosting a webinar to provide an overview of the current activities of AAMVA's three standing committees (Driver, Law Enforcement and Vehicle). Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions of AAMVA's subject matter experts and make suggestions on current and future priorities. Register for the AAMVA Standing Committee Update webinar at www.aamva.org/Webinar-Series/

Region I

Law Calls for Ignition Locks for All Drunk Drivers (Delaware)

Gov. Jack Markell is signing legislation that requires all people convicted of drunken driving in Delaware to have ignition interlock devices installed on vehicles they drive. The bill to be signed Wednesday cleared the General Assembly in June on the final day of this year's legislative session. Read more on NBC Philadelphia.

<http://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/New-Delaware-Law-Targets-Drunken-Drivers-270132101.html>

New Jersey Drivers May Be Able to Ignore Other States' Speed Cameras

New Jersey drivers who are caught speeding by traffic cameras in other states may be able to ignore the tickets. A pair of New Jersey state senators – including the head of the transportation committee – announced support for a bill that would shield drivers from speed traps outside state lines. A similar bill has already been introduced in the state House. Read the full story at WashingtonPost.com.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/govbeat/wp/2014/08/04/new-jersey-drivers-may-be-able-to-ignore-other-states-speed-cameras/>

NYC Bans the Sale of Used Cars with Unresolved Recalls (New York)

The New York City Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) announced last week that they are launching an investigation into all licensed used car dealerships in the metropolitan area regarding the sale of used vehicles with active safety recalls. Read the full story at NYDailyNews.com.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/autos/nyc-bans-sale-cars-open-recalls-article-1.1891074>

Governor Signs Vince's Law to Keep Repeat Drunk Drivers Off the Road (New York)

Three years ago, a Liverpool man was on his way to church when he was killed by a repeat drunk driver. Now, a law named in Vince Russo's memory has been created to keep repeat drunk drivers off the road. Read the full story at LocalSYR.com.

http://www.localsyr.com/story/d/story/gov-signs-vinces-law-to-keep-repeat-drunk-drivers/26681/IXinT684-EOy4uhOzKMX7g?utm_content=bufferd04e7&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

New Penalties for Vermont Drivers Who Leave their Cars Idling

Starting Monday Vermonters will face fines if they leave their cars idling longer than five minutes. The new law was passed a year ago, but just takes effect this month. It's aimed at reducing vehicle emissions. It limits the idling of vehicles to five minutes in any 60-minute period. Fines start at \$10 and rise to \$50 and \$100 for subsequent violations. Read the full story at WCAX.com.

<http://www.wcax.com/story/25413713/new-penalties-for-drivers-who-leave-their-cars-idling>

Region II

Florida Highway Patrol Graduates 63 New Troopers

Sixty-three new troopers join the ranks of the Florida Highway Patrol today after graduating from FHP's Training Academy. The graduates join the nearly 1,800 troopers who patrol the state's roads each day to provide protection and assistance to Florida residents and visitors. Read the DHSMV press release.

<http://www.flhsmv.gov/2014/08/06/florida-highway-patrol-graduates-63-new-troopers/>

School Bus Cameras Can be Used to Write Tickets (South Carolina)

A new law means drivers who illegally pass a stopped school bus in South Carolina are more likely to get hit in the wallet. The law, signed in June, allows law enforcement to write traffic tickets after reviewing video captured by cameras installed on school buses. Previously, an officer had to personally witness the illegal passing to prosecute — unless injuries resulted and boosted the charge to a felony. Read the full story at IslandPacket.com.

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/08/07/3245864/school-bus-cameras-can-be-used.html>

Confederate Flag on License Plates? (Texas)

A court of appeals in Louisiana recently ruled that the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Board violated a nonprofit organization's free speech rights when it denied the Sons of Confederate Veterans' application for a specialty license plate featuring the Confederate flag. Read the full story at KTUU.com.

<http://www.ktuu.com/news/nation/cevallos-confederate-flag-on-license-plates/27312582>

Region III

Immigrant Driver License Issue Set for Clash in Nebraska Court and Legislature

An estimated 2000 Nebraska residents with a specific immigration status remain unable to get a driver's license and it's unlikely Gov. Dave Heineman will change the policy during his remaining months in office. Nebraska is the only state blocking some children of undocumented immigrants from getting their licenses. A 2012 change in federal immigration policy, known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), provided temporary work permits and Social Security cards to a group of immigrants brought to the country by their parents. Read the full story at KVNONews.

<http://www.kvnonews.com/2014/08/immigrant-driver-license-issue-set-clash-nebraska-court-legislature/>

How Ohio Enhanced its Public Safety Services with a Reduced Budget

In the world of decreasing budgets, Ohio has found a way to dramatically improve our public safety services through an investment in intelligence analysts while integrating existing resources in law enforcement, emergency management, homeland security and public safety. While many states have intelligence centers and some have 24-hour operations, Ohio merged its Emergency Management Agency (EMA) analysts, criminal intelligence analysts, homeland security analysts, school safety and threat analysts into one public safety mission. Read more in Emergency Management magazine.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/safety/Ohio-Enhanced-Public-Safety-Services.html>

Region IV

Montana MVD Director Named

Attorney General Tim Fox has announced that Sarah Garcia has been appointed administrator of the Motor Vehicle Division, effective August 11, 2014. A native of Helena and graduate of Carroll College, Sarah spent 20 years in the U.S. Army. Enlisting and later becoming an officer, Sarah retired at the rank of Major as the result of successfully accomplishing a series of progressively more challenging assignments. After leaving the army, Sarah and her family couldn't wait to get back to Helena. She

comes to the Department of Justice from the Montana Supreme Court, where she is the Director of Court Services. We send our congratulations and welcome to Sarah!

RFP: Driver License Issuance Replacement Project (Oregon)

The Oregon Department of Transportation is soliciting proposals for the Driver License Issuance Replacement (DLIR) project to replace the DMV Digital Photo License System and provide services that produce and distribute Oregon DL/ID. Find more information at <http://www.aamva.org/Open-RFPs/>

Photo Radar Expansion in Saskatchewan Delayed Till Fall

Saskatchewan drivers won't have to worry about expanded photo radar for another couple of months. New traffic laws first came into effect in late June. As part of that the radar was allowed to expand from just construction zones to three high-risk locations: Ring Road in Regina, Circle Drive in Saskatoon and Highway 1 and 9th Avenue in Moose Jaw. Read the full story at CJME.com.

<http://cjme.com/story/photo-radar-expansion-saskatchewan-delayed-till-fall/398474>

Cindy Gerber Leaving SD Department of Public Safety

Cindy Gerber, Director, Driver License Program for the South Dakota Department of Public Safety has resigned her position. She will start work for the local Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration office effective August 25. DPS is seeking a replacement and has posted the Director's job. Find the job post by clicking here.

https://scssdlmweb.agilera.net/ltm/CandidateSelfService/lm?_In=JobSearchResults&_r=0&bto=JobPosting&dataarea=ltm&name=PostingDisplay&service=form&webappname=CandidateSelfService&HROrganizaton=1&JobRequisition=3517&JobPosting=1

Utah's 80 mph Speed Limit has Actually Lowered Accident Rate

Rep. Joe Palmer, R-Meridian, chairman of the House Transportation Committee, says an 80 mph speed limit in some portions of the state makes sense. Rep. Joe Palmer, R-Meridian, chairman of the House Transportation Committee, says an 80 mph speed limit in some portions of the state makes sense. Read the full story at IdahoReporter.com.

<http://idahoreporter.com/utahs-80-mph-speed-limit-has-actually-lowered-accident-rate/>

Other News

Drivers in China Who Leave Their Brights On Will Be Forced to Stare At Them for 5 Minutes

Frontier town Shenzhen has long aspired to being at the leading edge of all things auto. The sprawling, made-from-scratch city just north of Hong Kong is home to the Warren Buffet-backed car company BYD, a pioneer of electric mobility, and electric taxis and buses plying the streets are a common sight. Now

the city's traffic police is introducing visionary new ways to curb bad driving habits among citizens. Read the full story at Blogs.WSJ.com.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/chinarealtime/2014/08/05/drivers-in-china-who-leave-their-brights-on-will-be-forced-to-stare-at-them-for-5-minutes/>

Teenagers Not Driving Safe Cars, Study Shows

Taking the driving test and earning a license is a cherished rite of passage for teenagers across the country. With their license in hand, they view the road as their gateway to independence and they eagerly look forward to what's around the next curve. In order to do this, however, a teen must have access to a car. Read the full story at SeasideCourier.com.

http://www.seasidecourier.com/online_features/travel/teenagers-not-driving-safe-cars-study-shows/article_b4ca524e-a3ff-5120-9cdb-bcaa0054f163.html

In Japan, Wearing the Wrong Shoes Can End a Driver's License Test

It's so easy to make fun of the Department of Motor Vehicles in the United States. Whenever folks return from renewing a license or getting new plates, everybody has a joke making fun of the long lines, prolonged waits or bored employees. But it looks like we in the US have it easy compared to the Japanese. Journalist Jacob M. Schlesinger recently chronicled the bureaucratic hell involved for an American to get a driver's license there on The Wall Street Journal Japan Realtime blog. Read the full story at Autoblog.com.

http://www.autoblog.com/2014/08/03/japan-drivers-license-process/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+weblogsinc%2FAutoBlog+%28Autoblog%29

Did You Know

ELECTRIC CARS

Electric cars are now a common sight on our roads (whether they are full electric or hybrid). I did find out some interesting facts about electric cars, though, that I thought I'd share with you.

- The first working electric motor and electric vehicle, a small locomotive that used two electromagnets, a pivot and a battery, was built by Thomas Davenport, an American from Vermont, in 1834 or 1835.
- The average electric vehicle can travel up to 100 miles per charge.
- Your chances of running out of charge when stuck in traffic are about the same in an electric car as in a gasoline-fueled car.
- You can use a home power outlet to charge them. You need a 240 volt outlet, like the kind that would power an electric stove, but if you have one in your garage or can retrofit one, you will never have to pay for gas again.

- Many electric cars have been built by hobbyists and regular people who want to convert their existing car with the aid of manuals and conversion kits.
- The annual fuel cost is about \$500-\$600 USD per year for most electric vehicles (charging costs), versus about \$1,000 for a gasoline-electric hybrid, and about \$2,300 for an average gasoline only new car.

Find more information about electric cars online:

- What is the History of electric cars? (HowStuffWorks.com)
<http://auto.howstuffworks.com/fuel-efficiency/hybrid-technology/history-of-electric-cars1.htm>
- 10 Facts You May Not Know About Electric Cars (Reality Spikes)
<http://www.realityspikes.com/2013/02/23/10-facts-you-may-not-know-about-electric-cars/>
- 10 Interesting facts about electric cars (Odysen.com)
<http://blog.odysen.com/2013/12/22/10-interesting-facts-about-electric-cars/>
- 10 Fun Facts About Electric Cars (Practical Environmentalist)
<http://www.practicalenvironmentalist.com/automobiles/facts-about-electric-cars.htm>