

August 22, 2014 - Regional News

AAMVA News

2014 AAMVA International Conference is Next Week

The AAMVA Annual International Conference (AIC) is next week! Join us in Dover, Delaware, August 25-27, and experience a unique networking and educational event. Prepare ahead of time by downloading the free AIC 2014 app! App details are available on AAMVA's Web site at <http://www.aamva.org/2014-AIC-App-Download/>. Haven't registered for the AIC yet? Visit the AIC Web site at <http://www.aamva.org/2014-AIC-Landing-Page/> for everything you need to know about AIC 2014.

Region I

An open letter to every teen getting a driver's license (Connecticut)

Timothy Hollister, a member of the DMV Commissioner's Advisory Committee on Teen Safe Driving, offers some safety tips to teenagers. Read the full article on autoblog.com.

http://www.ct.gov/dmv/lib/dmv/hollister_article.pdf

The People Have Spoken: MassDOT Selects #DOTspeak Safety Messages (Massachusetts)

MassDOT Secretary & CEO Richard Davey and Highway Administrator Frank DePaola today announced the winners of the #DOTspeak Highway Message Board Contest. After receiving hundreds of entries, MassDOT has selected three winners from the social media contest that solicited creative messages on how to combat road rage, distracted driving, and encourage seatbelt use. Read the full press release.

<http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/main/tabid/1075/ctl/detail/mid/2937/itemid/466/The-People-Have-Spoken--MassDOT-Selects--DOTspeak-Safety-Messages.aspx>

Washington Co. Promotes App to Curb Drunk Driving (New York)

The Undersheriff in Washington County is getting the word out about an app that could help curb drunk driving. The app is called "Have a Plan." It helps people who may have imbibed by letting them store lists of potential designating drivers, as well as GPS locators for cabs and an alcohol impairment estimator. Read the full story at CBS6Albany.com

<http://www.cbs6albany.com/news/features/top-story/stories/washington-co-promotes-app-curb-drunk-driving-18605.shtml>

Region II

Georgia Implements New Driver's License Requirements

Need to renew your Georgia driver's license? You may have to do some digging to find the required documents to prove your identity. As of July 1, Georgia has adopted the Federal Real ID Act of 2005. The Georgia Department of Driver Services will begin issuing new 'Secure IDs' on Tuesday to those with the correct documentation. Read the full story at CBS46.com.

<http://www.cbs46.com/story/18932512/georgia-implements-new-driver-license-requirements>

VA DMV Offers Context

Individuals may now volunteer to discreetly note their driver's license or identification card that they are either autistic or have an intellectual disability. The purpose of having this notation on the credential, as well as the record, is to aid law enforcement in interacting with an individual that may have one of these conditions. Individuals that elect to have the notation on their driver's license are not required to undergo medical review or additional driver testing.

New Director of Vehicle Titles & Registration (Texas)

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) has selected Jeremiah Kuntz as the new director of the Vehicle Titles and Registration Division (VTR). Kuntz currently serves as the director of the Government and Strategic Communications Division which he created when he joined the agency in 2011. Read the full article on txdmv.blogs.govdelivery.com.

<http://txdmv.blogs.govdelivery.com/new-director-of-vehicle-titles-registration/>

Region III

Ohio's Texting Ban: Does it Work?

John Edington knew what he was about to do was dangerous and illegal, but he pulled out his phone and tapped the message anyway. One hand on the wheel, one on the phone. Both eyes off I-270. The Grove City resident didn't crash, but he was fined after a police officer caught him in the act. Edington, 31, said it could have been worse. Read the full story at Dispatch.com.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/08/15/does-it-work.html>

Get Official: Use www.wisconsin.gov for Authorized Forms and Information

Officials with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) have had reports of documents seemingly from DMV but are, in fact, from marketers. Read the DOT press release.

www.wisconsin.gov/news

Region IV

Canadian Armed Forces' Support Our Troops Program Receives Support Through New Alberta Licence Plate

The Support Our Troops licence plate, which gives Albertans a new way to show their respect and appreciation for Canada's brave service men and women, will be available for purchase starting July 23. The new plate will be available for a one-time fee of \$75, in addition to regular registration fees, at registry agents across the province. Read the Service Alberta press release.

<http://www.servicealberta.gov.ab.ca/640.cfm>

Kellee Irwin Leaves ICBC (British Columbia)

Kellee Irwin has left her position of Vice President Insurance Transformation & Personal Insurance at the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia. She has accepted a position as Vice President, Western Canada with the Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Company of Canada. Her last day with ICBC was August 18, 2014. Kellee hosted the 2014 Region IV Conference and served as President of the Region for the past year. She's been a member of the Region IV Board of Directors since 2009 and a member of the International Board for the last two years. We wish her the very best of luck in her new position!

California Lawmakers Consider Incentives Package For Tesla Motors

California lawmakers are considering a package of economic incentives and environmental regulatory waivers to convince Tesla Motors to build a new electric car battery plant in the state. Read the full story at CapRadio.org.

<http://www.capradio.org/articles/2014/08/19/california-lawmakers-consider-incentives-package-for-tesla-motors/>

DMV Investigation Leads to Criminal Charges Against Antioch Car Dealer (California)

The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) announced today that a DMV Investigations case has led to criminal charges against an Antioch car dealer for odometer tampering. On Wednesday, August 20, 2014, California Car Sales owner George Guevara was charged with 79 criminal counts including conspiracy to commit grand theft, odometer tampering, and theft by false pretenses. He made an agreement with the Contra Costa District Attorney's Office to self-surrender to the court. Read the DMV press release.

<http://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/newsrel/toc.htm>

A Google Car Without a Steering Wheel? Not So Fast, California Says

Google GOOGL -0.50% caused a stir earlier this year when it unveiled a self-driving car without a steering wheel or pedals for braking or accelerating. But Google's goal of an autonomous car is bumping up against new testing rules from California's Department of Motor Vehicles. Read the full story at m.us.wsj.com.

<http://m.us.wsj.com/articles/BL-DGB-37267>

Idaho License Plates Focus on Wildlife

First the state bird, then an elk, and a trout. These iconic Idaho species are featured on the state's wildlife specialty license plates that can be seen on the front and rear bumpers of thousands of vehicles in Idaho in license plate program that raises money for wildlife conservation. Read the full story at Spokesman.com.

<http://www.spokesman.com/blogs/outdoors/2014/aug/20/idaho-license-plates-focus-wildlife/>

1,300 Penalties Issued Under New Traffic Laws; Two-Thirds of Sanctions for Impaired Driving (Saskatchewan)

One month after changes to Saskatchewan's traffic laws came into effect, 515 motorists have received licence suspensions and 785 have had their vehicles seized, for a total of 1,300 sanctions. Read the full story at GrenFellSun.sk.ca.

<http://www.grenfellsun.sk.ca/News/2014-08-17/article-3837577/1,300-penalties-issued-under-new-traffic-laws%3A-two-thirds-of-sanctions-for-impaired-driving/1>

Other News

Study: Traffic Lights are Dangerously Easy to Hack

Traffic lights all across the United States are dangerously easy to hack. Anyone with a radio hooked up to a laptop can wreak havoc by remotely changing lights at will -- or by shutting them all down. That's according to findings by computer researchers at the University of Michigan. Read the full story at Money.CNN.com.

<http://money.cnn.com/2014/08/21/technology/security/traffic-lights-hack/>

Drugged Driving Perplexes Scientists, Lawmakers

Once a drug associated with college parties, the munchies and stupid movies, marijuana has re-entered the political spotlight as states choose to legalize it for medical and recreational use. But the new statutes are surfacing an issue policymakers are struggling to tackle: drugged driving. Read the full story at USNews.com.

<http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2014/08/22/drugged-driving-perplexes-scientists-lawmakers>

NHTSA Releases Vehicle Recall Search Tool

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration unveiled its new search tool to find out if a recalled car still needs to be repaired. Using this new tool, drivers are looking to see if their car was impacted by a recall or if they are in the market for a new car can find out if a vehicle has any safety concerns. Drivers simply need to enter their vehicle identification number into the search box at safecar.gov. Read the full story at WALB.com.

<http://www.walb.com/story/26332608/nhtsa-releases-vehicle-recall-search-tool>

Two-Thirds of UK Motorists Against Driverless Cars

UK motorists are opposed to allowing driverless cars on UK roads from 2015. The majority of UK motorists are opposed to government plans to allow driverless cars on British roads by January 2015 according to new research. Read the full story at Fleetworld.co.uk.

<http://fleetworld.co.uk/news/2014/Aug/Two-thirds-of-UK-motorists-against-driverless-cars/0434015876>

Older drivers the new road safety risk (Australia)

Older drivers have been confirmed as the new road safety risk as deaths of younger drivers have been cut by one third over the past five years. Motorists also need to give cyclists a bigger safety gap as the number of fatalities has risen by a staggering 44 per cent over the past year -- to 56 deaths in the 12 months to July 2014, or more than one fatality a week. Read the full article on carsguide.com.au.

http://www.carsguide.com.au/car-news/older-drivers-the-new-road-safety-risk-29249#.U_dvjrHD-po

Teaching safety from the car seat to driver seat

Parents often wrestle with how to balance child safety and independence . . . But there is one clear rule: Safety trumps independence on matters that put a child at risk for permanent disability or death, and motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of child and adolescent death. So, for traffic safety decisions, it is a parent's sole responsibility. End of discussion. When it comes to auto safety, there is no such thing as parents being overprotective. Read more on www.philly.com.

http://www.philly.com/philly/blogs/healthy_kids/Teaching-safety-from-car-seat-to-driver-seat.html#Y1Xvl8dHupZS5Ysb.99

Google: driverless car testers don't need to be "safe drivers"

Google and car manufacturers have lobbied the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to remove the requirement that autonomous car test drivers meet "safe driver" standards. Read more on www.pcpro.co.uk.

<http://www.pcpro.co.uk/news/390394/google-driverless-car-testers-dont-need-to-be-safe-drivers>

Did You Know

SEAT BELTS

- Seat belts reduce serious crash-related injuries and deaths by about 50%.

- Air bags provide added protection but are not a substitute for seat belts. Air bags plus seat belts provide the greatest protection for adults.
- Adults age 18-34 are less likely to wear seat belts than adults 35 or older. (CDC, 2010, unpublished data)
- Men are 10% less likely to wear seat belts than women. (CDC, 2010, unpublished data)
- Adults who live in rural areas are 10% less likely to wear seat belts (78% use) than adults who live in urban and suburban areas (87% use). (CDC, 2010, unpublished data)
- Seat belt use is lower in states with secondary enforcement seat belt laws or no seat belt laws (79%) compared to states with primary enforcement laws (88%).
- Forty-nine states and the District of Columbia have mandatory seat belt laws (the exception is New Hampshire).

Learn more about seat belts online:

- Seat Belts (National Safety Council)
http://www.nsc.org/safety_road/DriverSafety/Pages/SeatBelts.aspx
- Seat Belts Fact Sheet (CDC)
<http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/seatbelts/facts.html>
- SeatBelts (Safe Kids Worldwide)
http://www.safekids.org/safetytips/field_risks/seatbelt