

# September 9, 2014 - Regional News

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## AAMVA News

### **2014 Annual International Conference Closes: Relive the Experience Online**

The AAMVA Annual International Conference (AIC) came to a close in Dover, Delaware, on August 27. The conference may be over, but you can still experience the event through pictures on AAMVA's Flickr page (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/aamva/>). Presentation downloads (<http://www.aamva.org/2014-AIC-Download-Center/>) will also soon be available on AAMVA's Web site. Thanks to all attendees and staff for pulling off another successful AIC. We hope you'll join us next year in Des Moines, Indiana!

## Region I

### **Revenue from Special Pennsylvania Monuments License Plates to Help Maintain Monuments at Gettysburg (Pennsylvania)**

Stone and metal markers honoring the sacrifices of Pennsylvania soldiers at Gettysburg will get a boon this year from some Pennsylvania drivers. Revenue from special Pennsylvania Monuments license plates — with the words "Gettysburg, 1863" and a rendering of the Pennsylvania Memorial — will help maintain state-related monuments. The plates likely will become available for purchase in November. Read the full story at TribLive.com.

<http://triblive.com/news/allegheeny/6609835-74/pennsylvania-monuments-plates#axzz3C9uOUtZf>

### **Ex-Pennsylvania Driver's License Examiner Pleads to Bribery**

A former state driver's license examiner has pleaded guilty to taking bribes from immigrants, mostly from the Asian country of Bhutan, who were given licenses without having to pass driving tests. Read the full story at Post-Gazette.com.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/local/south/2014/09/05/Ex-Pennsylvania-driver-s-license-examiner-pleads-to-bribery/stories/201409050198#ixzz3CSYaVpIK>

## Region II

### **Florida Drivers To Pay Less In License Plate Fees**

It will hurt your wallet a little bit less the next time you have to renew your license plates. Starting Sept. 1, tag fees for cars, trucks and motorcycles will drop by about \$17 to \$25 each, depending on the type of vehicle and its weight. Read the full story at WUSFNews.

<http://wusfnews.wusf.usf.edu/post/florida-drivers-pay-less-license-plate-fees>

### **Transgender Teen to Sue South Carolina Over License Photo**

An organization that supports transgender rights is planning to sue South Carolina after the state wouldn't issue a driver's license to a 16-year-old boy unless he took off his makeup. Read the full story at IndependentMail.com.

[http://www.independentmail.com/news/state/transgender-teen-to-sue-sc-over-license-photo\\_77302016](http://www.independentmail.com/news/state/transgender-teen-to-sue-sc-over-license-photo_77302016)

### **New Law Speeds Up Driver License Process for Minors (Texas)**

Forget the long lines at the DMV office. A new state law allows minors to take the drivers license exam from a driver education instructor instead of going to the drivers license office. Read the full story at ABC13.com.

<http://abc13.com/education/new-law-speeds-up-drivers-license-process-for-minors/289749/>

## **Region III**

### **New school zone law now in effect – safety a priority as students return to class (Manitoba)**

It's that time of year again – thousands of students are heading back to school. This fall brings a new rule for motorists – reduced speed limits when travelling through school zones, effective September 1. Read the full press release.

<http://www.mpi.mb.ca/en/Newsroom/News-Releases/Pages/nr2014sept3.aspx>

## **Region IV**

### **New State Bike Law Require 3-foot Buffer Between Cyclists, Vehicles (California)**

As more bicyclists take to the streets, the number of frustrated motorists unaccustomed to sharing the road also is growing, prompting a new term for the conflict — bikelash. Now the state has enacted a new law that goes into effect Sept. 16 that seeks to codify the common sense and courtesy drivers should display that mandates a 3-foot buffer between cyclists and vehicles. Read the full story at DailyNews.com.

<http://www.dailynews.com/article/20140901/NEWS/140909959>

### **ITD Encourages Employers to Help Stop Distracted Driving (Idaho)**

Employers may be some of the best safety partners when it comes to combating distracted driving. The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), Idaho Power, Franklin Building Supply and others are leading the way by enacting policies that ban or restrict use of hand-held electronic communication devices and cell phones while in a company vehicle or in a personal vehicle with a company-issued cell phone. Read the full story at ValleyTimesIdaho.com.

<http://www.valleytimesidaho.com/NewVTweb.pdf>

### **DMV Dash Pass Comes to Las Vegas (Nevada)**

The Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles has launched its new Dash Pass check-in system in the Las Vegas area. The system is designed to revolutionize the DMV experience, according to agency officials. Motorists can text, phone, or go online to place themselves in line at the DMV without being physically present. Read the DMV press release

<http://www.dmvnv.com/news/14011-plate-contest.htm>

## **Other News**

### **Researchers, Safety Advocates Debate the Dangers of Driving Stoned**

Safety advocates worry that more drivers high on pot will lead to a big increase in traffic deaths as states liberalize their marijuana laws. Researchers who have studied the issue are divided. Read the full story at DallasNews.com.

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/local-news/20140901-researchers-safety-advocates-debate-the-dangers-of-driving-stoned.ece>

### **Will Traffic Deaths Rise as States Legalize Pot?**

As states liberalize their marijuana laws, public officials and safety advocates worry more drivers high on pot will lead to a big increase in traffic deaths. Researchers, though, are divided on the question. Studies of marijuana's effects show the drug can slow decision-making, decrease peripheral vision and impede multitasking, all of which are critical driving skills. But unlike with alcohol, drivers high on pot tend to be aware they are impaired and try to compensate by driving slowly, avoiding risky actions such as passing other cars, and allowing extra room between vehicles. Read the full story at Observer-Reporter.com.

<http://www.observer-reporter.com/article/20140901/NEWS05/140909962#.VAdAwPldVrM>

### **U.S. Auto Sales Surge in August to Month's Highest Level in Years**

Auto sales rose to their highest August levels in about a decade based on the early reports from automakers Wednesday. Chrysler, Ford, Toyota and Nissan all posted gains while General Motors saw sales slip. Read the full story at LATimes.com.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/autos/la-fi-hy-august-auto-sales-rise-20140902-story.html>

## **Did You Know**

### **DRIVERLESS CARS**

- The first driverless car achieved a maximum speed of 20 miles-per-hour and was built by Tsukuba Mechanical Engineering Laboratory in 1977.
- The Mercedes Benz robot van built during the 1980s achieved a full speed of 60 miles-per-hour using vision guidance.
- Autonomous driving on natural terrain using sensors was achieved in 1987 by HRL Laboratories on an Autonomous Land Vehicle (ALV) funded by DARPA.
- In 1995, Mercedes Benz team achieved a 95% autonomous driving on a trip of 1600 km in Europe.
- The systems that are just starting to be used now or in the near future are: stability and traction control; pre-accident systems; improved cruise control; self-parking systems.
- According to some, widespread use of autonomous cars will reduce the number of traffic fatalities, because the leading cause of all traffic accidents is human error.
- Robotic cars will be able to react instantly to the moving traffic ahead with closer distances to each other, and this will create a much more efficient and continuous flow of traffic, which will increase highway capacities, even in packed situations.
- As the cars will be driving themselves, the responsibility and liability picture will look a little different. For example, in case of a car accident for instance, the liability will belong to whoever is responsible for not maintaining the software and the mechanical condition of the responsible car according to the laws and regulations.
- Google hopes that robotic cars will one day halve the number of road fatalities, cut energy consumption, fit more densely onto crowded roads and free commuters for more productive activities

Learn more online:

- Driverless Cars (Tech-FAQ) <http://www.tech-faq.com/driverless-car.html>
- An in Depth Analysis of Autonomous Cars (AutonomousCars.com) <http://www.autonomouscars.com/>
- Why Bayes Rules: The History of a Formula That Drives Modern Life (Scientific American) <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/why-bayes-rules/>
- Who Is at Fault When a Driverless Car Gets in an Accident? (Citylab.com) <http://www.citylab.com/tech/2014/04/who-fault-when-driverless-car-gets-accident/8983/>
- Autonomous Vehicles Information Library (AAMVA) <http://www.aamva.org/Autonomous-Vehicle-Information-Library/>