

October 17, 2014 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Register Online for the 2014 AAMVA Region III Information Exchange

The 2014 Region III Information Exchange will take place October 28th-30th at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Chicago-Oak Brook, in Oak Brook, Illinois. Register online at <http://www.aamva.org/2014-Region-III-Information-Exchange/>.

Nominations for AAMVA's 2014 IDEC Award are Now Being Accepted

AAMVA is kicking off the annual IDEC Examiner of the Year nominations process. All active jurisdictional participants in the International Driver Examiner Certification (IDEC) program are asked to recognize an outstanding driver examiner from their jurisdiction by nominating them for the IDEC Examiner of the Year Award. The Examiner of the Year honor is awarded to a driver examiner who consistently performs the duties and responsibilities of a certified examiner and diligently upholds the Examiner Professional Code of Ethics. After all nominations have been submitted, the AAMVA IDEC Board will select one examiner of the 2014 Outstanding Examiner of the Year Award. Please send a nomination letter and photo of your examiner to Denise Hanchulak by December 1, 2014. To read more about the past exceptional examiners, visit AAMVA's Website at www.aamva.org/IDEC-Examiner-of-the-Year/

Region I

Connecticut DMV Mobile Gives Residents Better Access to Important Information and Services

Connecticut Interactive and the State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles launched a mobile application that makes essential DMV information more accessible. DMV branch locations, AAA offices, service listings, and wait times will be conveniently available through the free CT DMV Mobile app. The app also helps prepare teen drivers and parents for the written learner's permit exam. Read the full story at MarketWatch.com.

http://www.marketwatch.com/story/connecticut-dmv-launches-new-mobile-app-2014-10-14?reflink=MW_news_stmp

PennDOT Asking for Public Comment on Improving its Mobile Customer Service (Pennsylvania)

As part of PennDOT's continued efforts to modernize and improve customer service, the department has launched an online survey to collect public feedback on safety, education and mobility needs to help guide future mobile service development. Read the PennDOT press release at DOT.state.pa.us.

<http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Internet/pdNews.nsf/8c5bc4e349ab4db6852576c800678468/22cfbd978d50abc585257d7100626099?OpenDocument>

Yellow Dot Program Helps Seniors Alert Emergency Responders (Pennsylvania)

Have you ever seen a vehicle with a yellow dot on the back windshield? The "dot" is actually a yellow sticker purposely placed on the windshield to assist citizens in need. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation created the Yellow Dot program, which is modeled after one in Alabama, in November 2012 to alert emergency responders that contact and medical information is in the glove box of a vehicle involved in an accident. See more on www.muncyluminary.com.

<http://www.muncyluminary.com/page/content.detail/id/538604/Yellow-Dot-Program-helps-seniors-alert-emergency-responders.html>

Pennsylvania House Votes to Close DUI Loophole

The state House of Representatives has voted to close a loophole that allowed some drunk drivers to escape the enhanced penalties that come with repeat violations. Senate Bill 1239 would allow prosecutors to charge DUI suspects as repeat offenders if they are re-arrested for additional DUIs before a conviction for the original offense. Read the full story at [ABC27.com](http://www.abc27.com).

<http://www.abc27.com/story/26793049/pa-house-votes-to-close-dui-loophole>

The Buzz: New Rhode Island License Plate

When it comes to Rhode Island driving, there will soon be a change in the plates on the local cars. The iconic "wave" is out, and a new, blue license plate is in. According to our news partners at The Providence Journal, "All wave license plates will gradually be replaced in the vehicle owner's normal renewal month and over a 24-month period beginning Sept. 1, 2015." Instead of the blue wave, the entire plate will be blue. The top will read "Beautiful Rhode Island", much like the signs posted around state highways. Read the full story at [WPRI.com](http://wpri.com).

<http://wpri.com/2014/10/13/the-buzz-new-ri-license-plate/>

Region II

Man Accused of Rolling Back Car odometers (North Carolina)

A Raleigh man is accused of rolling back odometers on 20 cars and selling 15 of them. Flavio Oliveira, 39, faced a judge for the first time Wednesday afternoon on those charges and one more - not having a car dealer's license. Neighbors of the address listed for Oliveira say he and his family moved out recently, but when they lived there cars were often lined up on the street. Read the full story at [ABC11.com](http://abc11.com).

<http://abc11.com/automotive/man-accused-of-rolling-back-car-odometers/303056/>

Odometer Fraud Case May Lead to Stiffer Penalties for Some Offenders (Texas)

NBC5 investigates odometer fraud. Now one seller is facing a \$52,000 fine. And a division of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles is recommending additional violations to protect consumers in cases like

this. An NBC 5 Consumer Investigation on odometer fraud prompts one division of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to recommend consumer-friendly changes to state law governing salvage dealers. Read the full story at NBCDFW.com.

<http://www.nbcdfw.com/investigations/Odometer-Fraud-Case-May-Lead-to-Stiffer-Penalties-for-Some-Offenders-276968221.html>

Region III

'World's Best' Michigan License Plate Quietly Replaced After Police Complaints

A license plate once voted the world's best was quietly replaced last month after law enforcement officers complained they weren't the world's most visible. Michael Yott, Jr. is a law enforcement officer with St. Clair Shores Police. He started an online petition to replace the plates, which got more than 700 signatures. Read the full story at MLive.com.

http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2014/10/worlds_best_license_plate_quie.html

Gov. Snyder Signs Laws To Go After Drugged Driving (Michigan)

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder has signed laws to target drivers under the influence of drugs after two young men were killed in a head-on collision by a repeat drugged driver. The legislation signed Tuesday allows police to conduct a preliminary roadside analysis for controlled and other intoxicating substances. A conditional bond is to be placed on motorists arrested for drugged driving and the information entered into a law enforcement database. Read the full story at MichiganMedicalMarijuana.org

<http://michiganmedicalmarijuana.org/topic/47563-gov-snyder-signs-laws-to-go-after-drugged-driving/>

New Swipe to Donate Life Application Now Available (Ohio)

Ohio will be only the second state in the nation to be able to register donors directly from the driver license through a new application called "Swipe to Donate Life." While most Ohioans register as organ donors at the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), many are not prepared to make the decision and seek other opportunities to have questions answered before registering. Read the BMV press release.

http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/media_center.stm

Wisconsin DMV Releases Self-Service Driver License Guide

Wisconsin drivers preparing for their visit to the DMV can now use a free self-service interactive driver license guide, thanks to the new Wisconsin DMV DL Guide application. Launched last month by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Division of Motor Vehicles, the DL Guide can now be accessed online 24 hours a day 7 days a week at: <https://DLguide.wi.gov>. Read the full story at BroadwayWorld.com.

<http://www.broadwayworld.com/bwwgeeks/article/Wisconsin-DMV-Releases-Self-Service-Driver-License-Guide-20141015#>

Operation Safe Driver Strives to Prevent Large-Truck Crashes (Wisconsin)

Last year in Wisconsin, there were more than 7,000 traffic crashes involving large trucks that resulted in 85 fatalities and more than 2,000 injuries. To help prevent crashes involving large trucks, buses and other commercial motor vehicles, inspectors from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Division of State Patrol will participate in Operation Safe Driver from October 19 to 25. Read the DOT press release.

www.dot.wisconsin.gov/news/index.htm

Region IV

Dozens of Victims Caught in Odometer Roll Back Scam (Alberta)

A Calgary man is facing charges in connection to a vehicle odometer roll back scam that defrauded more than 50 people. The Economic Crimes Unit was notified in January by a credit card company that a number of skimmed cards were being used for fraudulent purchases in Calgary. Police say the cards were being used to service vehicles and purchase vehicle parts and that the vehicles being serviced, were purchased at an auction house. Read the full story at Calgary.CTVNews.ca.

<http://calgary.ctvnews.ca/dozens-of-victims-caught-in-odometer-roll-back-scam-1.2031958#ixzz3G9SYI9Aa>

DUI Blood Test Not Admissible if Medical Attention Refused (Arizona)

The Arizona Court of Appeals, vacated a woman's DUI conviction last month after finding that a Blood Alcohol Test (BAC) was performed in violation of her constitutional rights in State v. Spencer, CA-CR 13-0804 Ariz. Ct. App. 2014. Read the full story at NewsOn6.com.

<http://www.newson6.com/story/26799850/dui-blood-test-not-admissible-if-medical-attention-refused>

Six Charged in Alleged Auto Title Loan Scam (California)

A half-dozen people are facing charges of conspiring to commit loan sharking for allegedly offering exorbitant car title loans to unsuspecting consumers who often fell behind on their payments and had their vehicles unlawfully repossessed, the District Attorney's Office announced Friday. Read the full story at MyNewsLA.com.

<http://mynews1a.com/crime/2014/10/10/six-charged-alleged-auto-title-loan-scam/>

After California Decriminalized Marijuana, Teen Arrest, Overdose and Dropout Rates Fell

A new report from the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice adds to the growing body of evidence that legalizing or decriminalizing marijuana does not lead to any number of doomsday scenarios envisioned by legalization opponents. Looking specifically at California, where full marijuana decriminalization went into effect on Jan. 1, 2011, the report finds that "marijuana decriminalization in California has not resulted in harmful consequences for teenagers, such as increased crime, drug overdose, driving under the influence, or school dropout. In fact, California teenagers showed improvements in all risk areas after reform." Read the full story at WashingtonPost.com.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/10/15/after-california-decriminalized-weed-teen-arrest-overdose-and-dropout-rates-fell/>

Civil Liberties Groups Appeal Ruling Over Automatic License Plate Reader Data (California)

The Electronic Frontier Foundation and the ACLU Foundation of Southern California are taking the fight over automatic license plate reader (ALPR) data to the next level by asking the California Court of Appeal to rule that the public has a right to know how Los Angeles cops are tracking their locations. Read the full story at EFF.org

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/10/civil-liberties-groups-appeal-ruling-over-automatic-license-plate-reader-data>

In Governor's Race, Driver's License Law Among Most Divisive Social Issues (New Mexico)

Few political fights energize Gov. Susana Martinez more than one over the law that allows New Mexico residents without proof of immigration status to obtain a state driver's license. Read the full story at SantaFeNewMexican.

http://www.santafenewmexican.com/elections/elections_2014/race_for_governor/in-governor-s-race-driver-s-license-law-among-most/article_0dafda25-00df-53d8-98e5-7e6656b5418c.html

Driver Card Opponents Cite Safety and Legal Concerns (Oregon)

Proponents of Measure 88 say an estimated 80,000 undocumented people across Oregon stand to be eligible for driving privileges if enough people vote "yes" on the measure during the general election on Nov. 4. And because there is scarce information available on the exact population, it's unclear exactly how many people in Malheur County could benefit from the passage of the measure. Read the full story at ArgusObserver.com.

http://www.argusobserver.com/news/oregon-driver-card-opponents-cite-safety-and-legal-concerns/article_bf2acc2a-53c2-11e4-8286-83c946648903.html

SGI Holds Public Consultations for Safe Drivers (Saskatchewan)

Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) wants you to help shape its safe driver recognition program (SDR) and that could mean a rate change. The Crown corporation is accepting feedback online until the end of the month. Read the full story at GlobalNews.ca.

<http://globalnews.ca/news/1610765/sgi-holds-public-consultations-for-safe-drivers/>

Other News

Truck Driving Jobs Plentiful as Economy Recovers; Drivers in Short Supply Nationwide as Economy Spurs the Flow of Goods

Jobs available: Paid training, retirement savings match, health insurance, job security, and annual pay that starts at \$43,000 and can climb to \$60,000. (Plus you can listen to music while you work.) Open positions: Approximately 30,000. Truckers are in great demand — a sign of an improving economy and growing demand for goods. Newly minted drivers with a commercial license are virtually guaranteed jobs, according to American Trucking Associations, the industry's largest trade group. Read the full story at BostonGlobe.com.

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/business/2014/10/12/help-wanted-for-long-and-short-haul/3FR1lc4IE3EaDMFpoAOAIK/story.html>

Study Finds Millennials' Shift Away from Driving is 'More than Temporary'

The nation's largest generation — the so-called "millennials," born between 1983 and 2000 — have shown less dependence on driving to get around in recent years and aren't likely to change their ways, according to a new study released Tuesday by the Maryland PIRG Foundation and the Frontier Group. Read the full story at BaltimoreSun.com.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/business/bs-md-millennials-driving-report-20141014,0,667006.story>

3 Driverless Car Projects that May Change How the World Travels

Driverless cars have the potential to solve pressing transportation problems. Computerized, autonomous driving systems can place cars in the same lane in extremely close proximity to reduce congestion, and they can be designed to emit fewer pollutants than traditional vehicles. Wireless vehicle-to-vehicle communication also enables them to avoid one another while en route, preventing collisions. Read the full story at GovTech.com.

<http://www.govtech.com/videos/3-Driverless-Car-Projects-that-May-Change-How-the-World-Travels.html>

Chrysler Recalls 184,000 Vehicles for Airbags

Chrysler Group said it is recalling 2014 model year Dodge Durango and Jeep Grand Cherokee SUVs to fix a potential problem with the airbag safety system. The recall covers 184,215 vehicles globally, including 126,772 in the U.S. Read the full story at Yakimaherald.com.

<http://www.yakimaherald.com/news/business/latestotherbusiness/2576062-8/chrysler-recalls-184000-vehicles-for-airbags>

Did You Know

PREDICTIONS FOR WINTER 2014-2015

We all have our own thoughts and predictions about the coming winter. But let's see what the "pros" have to say about what we can expect.

- After a record year in the Midwest & the East Coast, El Nino will have a big impact going into the 2014-2015 winter season. Here in early October we still see a 67% chance of El Nino at this point.
- The biggest wildcard will be in the South as the southern jet and El Nino produce a few big time winter storms with snow and ice.
- According to The Old Farmer's Almanac, another teeth-chatteringly cold winter is on its way across the United States. It predicts that this winter will be another arctic blast with above-normal snowfall throughout much of the nation.
- Though parts of the Northeast and mid-Atlantic winter will arrive without delay. Cold air and high snow amounts will define the season.
- Farther south, ice storms and snow events will threaten the Tennessee Valley and parts of the southern Plains. Much of the South can prepare for a wet winter, with some severe weather encroaching on Florida.
- The northern Plains will be somewhat inconsistent with variable, back-and-forth temperatures and below-normal snowfall. Meanwhile, the drought will persist in the Northwest and northern California and ease slightly farther south.

Find out more online:

- Winter Outlook 2014-2015 U.S. Winter Forecast (liveweatherblogs.com)
<http://www.liveweatherblogs.com/index.php/community/groups/viewdiscussion/178-winter-winter-outlook-2014-2015-u-s-winter-forecast?groupid=16>
- Winter Weather Predictions 2014–2015 from The Old Farmer's Almanac (Almanac.com)
<http://www.almanac.com/content/winter-weather-predictions-old-farmers-almanac>
- US Winter Forecast: Cold, Snow to Seize Northeast; Wintry Blasts to Slick South (Accuweather.com) <http://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/us-2014-2015-winter-forecast/35422753>
- NOAA: Another warm winter likely for western U.S., South may see colder weather (NOAANews.noaa.gov)
http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2014/20141016_winteroutlook.html