

November 14, 2014 - Regional News

AAMVA News

AAMVA's Updated Awards Program

AAMVA's updated awards program fosters a tradition of excellence in the motor vehicle and law enforcement community. The awards allow AAMVA to honor individuals, teams and organizations who have committed their time and resources to safety initiatives, outstanding customer service, and public affairs and consumer educational programs throughout North America. Awards are presented both at the regional and international levels in the following categories:

- Service
- Safety
- Security
- Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Submission forms for the awards are due February 14, 2015. Visit the Awards Section (<http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=5640>) for more information and to download the submission forms.

Two Webinars Scheduled for November

AAMVA is pleased to announce two webinars coming up in November. The first Webinar titled, NMVTIS State Web Interface (SWI) Training, will take place on Wednesday, November 19th from 2-3 PM (ET). The next webinar titled, Understanding and Using the New CDLIS Reports, will take place on Thursday, November 20th from 2-3 PM (ET). AAMVA membership restrictions do apply to attend these webinars. Please visit the AAMVA Webinar Series page to learn more and to register online.

<http://www.aamva.org/Webinar-Series/>

Region I

Parking Officers Piloting Smartphones to Print Tickets, Record Violations (District of Columbia)

Before checking meters each morning in his four-square-mile zone, which includes the District's NoMa neighborhood, parking officer Andre Tolver grabs a smartphone from a bin at the District's Department of Public Works. Read the full story at WashingtonPost.com.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/on-it/parking-officers-piloting-smartphones-to-print-tickets-record-violations/2014/11/07/02fc5dc6-650f-11e4-9fdc-d43b053ecb4d_story.html

Study Praises District's Taxi, Uber Regulations (District of Columbia)

Washington, D.C., has the country's best regulatory environment for taxis and rideshare services such as Uber, Lyft and Sidecar, according to a report by R Street Institute, a free market think tank. The report, which comes as rideshare services are under increasingly heated debate around the country, praised the District's price transparency rules, its single operating license for taxis, limousines and sedans and the city's lack of a cap on the number of taxis in the fleet. Read the full story at CapitalNewYork.com.

<http://www.capitalnewyork.com/article/city-hall/2014/10/8555647/uber-publicly-embraces-regulation-modern-sort?news-image>

Reminder: Toll Violators Must Pay to Avoid Suspension of Vehicle Registrations (Maryland)

Next week, the MD Transportation Authority (MDTA) will begin sending courtesy-reminder notices to the registered owners of approximately 131,000 vehicles with unpaid toll violations and civil penalties before it begins referring these violators for non-renewal and suspension of their vehicle registrations in January. Approximately 9,000 of these registrations are at risk of suspension. Read the full article on myeasternshoremnd.com.

http://www.myeasternshoremnd.com/community/article_a4aa687d-4c88-5f55-a993-b00394761fdb.html

New Jersey Likely to Shut Down Red-Light Cameras

New Jersey's controversial red-light cameras are likely to go dark next month, as the five-year experimental program expires with no legislative push to renew it. Supporters of the cameras say the program has improved safety, while opponents contend the cameras have served only to enrich local and state governments. The program was scheduled to expire Dec. 16, unless the Legislature renews it. No such legislation has been introduced. Read the full story at [Mcall.com](http://mcall.com).

<http://www.mcall.com/news/breaking/mc-nj-red-light-cameras-go-dark-20141109-story.html>

SheRides, a New York Taxi Service Aimed at Women, Finds a Loyal Following

Minutes after calling a livery car on a phone app, Lorena Cantillo easily picked out her ride in the crowd of black sedans on West 42nd Street. It was the only car with a pink sign in the window, and pink stickers all over the rear bumper. Read the full story at [NYTimes.com](http://nytimes.com).

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/12/nyregion/new-york-taxi-service-aimed-at-women-finds-loyal-following.html>

New License Plates Recognize Military Service, Support Gettysburg Monument Preservation (Pennsylvania)

New license plates, designed to recognize veterans and provide funds to preserve monuments in the Gettysburg National Military Park are now available from PennDOT. Read the DOT press release.

<http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Internet/pdNews.nsf/8c5bc4e349ab4db6852576c800678468/23d62ed39a23b26f85257d8c0061361e?OpenDocument>

PUC Grants Uber License to Operate Experimental Service (Pennsylvania)

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission on Thursday voted 4-1 to approve an experimental license to allow ride-sharing company Uber to operate across most of Pennsylvania. But the approval came with conditions that the commissioners warned had to be met within 30 days, including background checks for drivers and requirements for insurance coverage. Read the full story at Post-Gazette.com.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/business/2014/11/13/Uber-gets-license-approval-from-Pennsylvania-PUC/stories/201411130305>

Vermont to Unveil New Conservation License Plates

Vermont motorists are going to have more options for conservation license plates. On Monday, Gov. Peter Shumlin and officials with the departments of Motor Vehicles and Fish and Wildlife will announce the creation of three new conservation license plate designs. Read the full story at BurlingtonFreePress.com.

<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/story/news/2014/11/10/vermont-unveil-conservation-license-plates/18787909/>

Region II

DHSMV “Stuffs the Chargers” to Help Feed Florida Families

What do Thanksgiving turkeys and Florida Highway Patrol cars have in common? They are both “stuffed” to feed Florida families for the holidays. In the case of the cars (known as Chargers), they were stuffed last week as part of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles’ (DHSMV) inaugural “Stuff the Charger” food drive. Read the DHSMV press release.

<http://www.flhsmv.gov/news/press-releases/>

Texas Man Pleads Guilty in Buffalo, Fined \$250,000

A man from both Texas and Mexico pleaded guilty to a crime which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. Alcarar Vasquez, also known as Noberto DeRivas, also known as Abraham Rivas-Rios, 43 pleaded guilty before U.S. District Court Judge Richard Arcara to possession of 15 or more unauthorized access devices. Assistant U.S. Attorney Marie Grisanti handled the case which spanned between November 2012 and March 2013. Read the full story at WIVB.com.

<http://wivb.com/2014/11/10/texas-man-pleads-guilty-in-buffalo-fined-250000/>

Texas DMV Rejects Hundreds of 'Indecent, Vulgar' Personalized License Plates

Picking a personalized Texas license plate isn't a free-for-all. The Department of Motor Vehicles uses very specific criteria for reviewing vanity plate requests, resulting in more than 1,600 rejected requests. Read the full story at KLTV.com.

<http://www.kltv.com/story/27380922/texas-dmv-rejects-hundreds-of-indecent-vulgar-personalized-license-plates>

DMV Now Testing Commercial Drivers with Missing or Impaired Limbs; Virginia is First State Granted Exemption from FMCSA

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles is making it easier for qualified disabled citizens to obtain the required certification to drive commercial motor vehicles. DMV is now issuing Skill Performance Evaluation (SPE) certificates previously only issued by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). Read the DMV press release.

<https://secure2.sglc.com/DMSImage/16820141110081948843/0.htm>

Region III

Rules of the Road: Indiana's Moped Law Lax on Safety and Theft

Some people love mopeds, others curse them, and many more people fall somewhere in between. However mopeds are viewed, people across that same spectrum are revealing how relaxed the laws are on state mopeds. Indiana law does not require moped riders to have a license, registration, plates or insurance. Read the full story at WLFI.com.

<http://wlfi.com/2014/11/10/rules-of-the-road-indianas-moped-law-lax-on-safety-and-theft/>

Region IV

DMV Eases Path to Licenses for Immigrants (California)

Unauthorized immigrants, particularly Mexican nationals, would have an easier time acquiring a California driver's license under new regulations proposed Friday by the California Department of Motor Vehicles. The new design for California driver licenses for unauthorized immigrants is shown. Read the full story at OCRegister.com.

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/california-641348-documents-mexican.html>

DMV Lists New Documents Required For Driver License Under New AB 60 (California)

The California Department of Motor Vehicles has posted the list of documents that applicants will use to obtain a California driver license under AB 60—the new law requiring DMV to issue a driver license to individuals who can prove identity and California residence and meet all other licensing requirements, such as passing the driver license knowledge test and behind-the-wheel driving exams. Read the full story at Patch.com.

<http://patch.com/california/rohnertpark-cotati/dmv-lists-new-documents-required-driver-license-under-new-ab-60>

DMV Extends Office Hours and Adds Appointments For First-Time Driver License Applicants (California)

The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) today announced that it is extending office hours and adding appointment opportunities to support the issuance of all original driver licenses, including licenses that will be issued under AB 60 starting on January 2, 2015. Read the DMV press release.

http://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/pubs/newsrel/newsrel14/2014_71

New California Law to Allow Undocumented Pinoys to Apply for Driver's License

Effective January 1, 2015, state residents will be eligible to apply for driver's license in California regardless of immigration status. The Golden State will succeed Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and Washington as states, according to the National Immigration Law Center, to enact such law. Read the full story at GMANetwork.com.

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/388075/pinoyabroad/news/new-california-law-to-allow-undocumented-pinoys-to-apply-for-driver-s-license>

ITD Helps Honor Military Veterans Through Designation on Idaho Driver's Licenses and ID Cards (Idaho)

Leading into one of the most important holidays of the year, when Idahoans stop to remember military service and sacrifice, the state of Idaho is taking another step toward honoring its nearly 140,000 military veterans. Beginning today (Monday, Nov. 10), a special designation on state-issued driver's licenses and identification (ID) cards will allow better recognition of veterans throughout the state. Read the ITD press release.

<http://apps.itd.idaho.gov/Apps/MediaManagerMVC/PressRelease.aspx/Preview/5329>

DMV to Offer Real ID Driver's Licenses (Nevada)

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is now offering Nevadans a choice of which type of driver's license or identification card they may carry. Residents may choose between a "Real ID" compliant card and a standard card. Read the DMV press release.

<http://www.dmvnv.com/news/14015-Real-ID.htm>

First Photo Radar in the Province Starts on Friday (Saskatchewan)

Moose Jaw will be the site of the first working photo speed enforcement camera in the province on Friday. Yellow signs were being installed Wednesday near the intersection of the Trans-Canada Highway and 9th Avenue to notify drivers of the upcoming camera. Read the full story at LeaderPost.com.

<http://www.leaderpost.com/First+photo+radar+province+starts+Friday/10376823/story.html>

Other News

Study: Teens Drive Like Their Parents on the Road

If you want to know how your teen drives when you're not around, you may just need to look at how you drive. Parents are the number one influence on teen driving behaviors, according to a new study from Toyota and the University of Michigan. Read the full story at WVMetroNews.com.

<http://wvmetronews.com/2014/11/10/study-teens-do-what-their-parents-on-the-road/>

Nissan Recalls 52,000 Vehicles for Faulty Air Bags

Nissan announced Saturday that it is recalling more than 52,000 vehicles for passenger air bags that can explode with too much force and send shards of metal into the passenger compartment. The vehicles have air bag systems made by troubled Japanese supplier Takata Corp. The Nissan recalls are among nearly 8 million others made by 10 automakers, mainly in Southern high-humidity states, over the Takata air bags. Read the full story at SILive.com.

http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2014/11/nissan_recalls_52000_vehicles.html#incart_river

Uber Publicly Embraces Regulation, the 'Modern' Sort

The days of Uber publicly thumbing its nose at regulators are apparently a thing of the past. On Wednesday afternoon, a reporter asked Uber executive (and former Obama campaign manager) David Plouffe whether Uber thinks taxi apps like itself need to be regulated by the government. Read the full story at CapitalNewYork.com.

<http://www.capitalnewyork.com/article/city-hall/2014/10/8555647/uber-publicly-embraces-regulation-modern-sort?news-image>

Study Shows People Know Dangers but Text at the Wheel Anyway

By now, everyone knows the dangers of texting and driving, however, one study is finding that the awareness isn't enough. A survey by AT&T finds that, despite knowing the dangerous risks, two thirds of people text behind the wheel anyway. Read the full story at KIMT.com.

<http://kimt.com/2014/11/14/study-shows-people-know-dangers-but-text-at-the-wheel-anyway/>

Dramatic Experiment Shows Deadly Danger of Drowsy Driving

Last June, a truck driver for Wal-Mart struck a car carrying Tracy Morgan, seriously injuring the comedian and killing his close friend. According to police, the truck driver had been awake more than 24 hours at the time of the crash. Read the full story at Today.com.

<http://www.today.com/health/drowsy-driving-dramatic-experiment-reveals-deadly-danger-1D80283114>

Google's Self-Driving Cars Must Learn to Deal with the Bizarre

In 700,000 miles of navigating Bay Area and other roads, Google's self-driving cars have encountered just about everything -- including an elderly woman in a motorized wheelchair flailing a broom at a duck she was chasing around the street. Apparently perplexed and taking no chances, the vehicle stopped and refused to go further. Read the full story at GovTech.com.

<http://www.govtech.com/transportation/Googles-Self-Driving-Cars-Must-Learn-to-Deal-with-the-Bizarre.html>

Did You Know

WINTERIZE YOUR VEHICLE

- Before heading out onto the roads, monitor forecasts on the Web, radio, TV, cable weather channel, or in the daily papers.
- Keep an emergency kit inside your car in case a winter accident leaves you stuck on the road.
- Make sure your 4-wheel drive works.
- Consider a switch to winter tires.
- Check your car's belts and hoses.
- Replace windshield wipers and top off your wiper fluid.
- Make sure you have a flashlight and extra batteries.

Find more winterizing tips online:

- Top 10 Car Winterizing Tips (HowStuffWorks.com) <http://auto.howstuffworks.com/car-driving-safety/accidents-hazardous-conditions/car-winterizing-tips.htm#page=4>
- Winterize Your Car (weather.com) <http://www.weather.com/activities/driving/drivingsafetytips/winterize.html>
- Winterizing Your Vehicle - A cold-weather survival guide for your car (ConsumerReports.org) <http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/2012/12/winterizing-your-vehicle/index.htm>
- Ten Tips to Winterize Your Car - Winterize Car Checklist (autobytel.com) <http://www.autobytel.com/car-ownership/advice/ten-tips-to-winterize-your-car-923/>