

January 30, 2015 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Don't Miss Out! Awards Deadline Approaching

There's still time to apply for AAMVA's awards program before the submission deadline, February 14, 2015. AAMVA's awards program honors 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. Learn more about the new AAMVA Awards Program and download submission forms online at www.aamva.org/AAMVA-Awards/. Don't forget - submission forms for the awards are due February 14, 2015. Apply today!

2015 Workshop & Law Institute Online Registration is Now Open



Registration is now open for AAMVA's 2015 Workshop & Law Institute, in Fort Worth, Texas, March 18-19. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to network with colleagues from other member jurisdictions across the U.S. and Canada, as well as industry organizations that provide the products and services you may need. Visit the [Workshop & Law Institute Web site](http://www.aamva.org/2015-Workshop-and-Law-Institute-Home/) for more details.

<http://www.aamva.org/2015-Workshop-and-Law-Institute-Home/>

Region I

Delaware Aims To Be 1st With Digital Driver's Licenses

Delaware is aiming to be the first state to offer virtual driver's licenses accessed through a secure smartphone app. "We'd like to go first," said Jennifer Cohan, director of the Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles and the governor's nominee for secretary of transportation. Read the full article in USA Today.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2015/01/28/delaware-aims-to-be-1st-with-digital-drivers-licenses/22449899/>

DMV Lifts Ban on Smiling License Photos (Delaware)

Delaware motorists can smile for the cameras again when having their driver's license photo taken, thanks to a policy change at the Division of Motor Vehicles. The change is effective immediately, following an upgrade to the system used by the Delaware DMV to issue driver's licenses, officials said Wednesday. Read the full story at DelawareOnline.com.

<http://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/traffic/burke/2015/01/28/dmv-lifts-ban-smiling-license-photos/22475061/>

Bill Would Pack More Punch into D.C. Distracted Driving Tickets

Distracted driving could cost more than just a ticket if a new bill proposed in the D.C. City Council becomes law. The bill, introduced by Council Chairman Phil Mendelson, would cost repeat offenders their license and car registrations for a time. Read the full story at WTOP.com

<http://wtop.com/dc/2015/01/bill-pack-punch-d-c-distracted-driving-tickets/>

Governor Cuomo Highlights Dramatic Reduction in DMV Wait Times (New York)

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today highlighted a dramatic reduction in wait times at offices of the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles. In September 2014, the average wait time at State-run DMV offices was reduced to 30 minutes – down from an average of 72 minutes in March 2013. This represents a decrease of 58 percent in customer wait time, and was achieved through the DMV's Customer Service Initiative, which the agency began at Governor Cuomo's direction in 2012. Read the full story at LongIsland.com.

<http://www.longisland.com/news/01-29-15/gov-cuomo-highlights-dramatic-reduction-dmv-wait-times.html>

Region II

Autistic Alabama Drivers to Get Cards to Show Police

The state health department will soon provide cards for Alabama drivers who have been diagnosed with autism disorders. The Legislature passed a law last year to create for the cards. A proponent of the ID cards, Republican Sen. Arthur Orr of Decatur, says they should be ready in March. Read the full story at IdahoStatesman.com.

<http://www.idahostatesman.com/2015/01/29/3617183/autistic-alabama-drivers-to-get.html>

More Moped, Scooter Rules Considered at NC Legislature

The debate over regulating mopeds in North Carolina resumed Tuesday as legislators heard new rule suggestions from the Division of Motor Vehicles just months after the General Assembly mandated owners register the vehicles. DMV Commissioner Kelly Thomas said lawmakers also may consider requiring moped or motor scooter operators to have a driver's license or state identification card and to

obtain liability insurance. Mopeds should be prohibited from roads where posted speed limits are at least 45 mph, Thomas added. Read the full article in the Citizen-Times.

<http://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/2015/01/27/moped-scooter-rules-considered-nc-legislature/22406791/>

NCDOT Seeks New Partners for 2015 Watch for Me NC Campaign

The N.C. Department of Transportation is now accepting applications from communities interested in participating in the Watch for Me NC campaign. Watch for Me NC is a nationally-recognized bicycle and pedestrian safety, education, and enforcement program. The campaign follows a comprehensive and data-driven approach to increasing public awareness and expanding local law enforcement capacity to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety. Read the full article in The Stanly News & Press.

http://www.thesnaponline.com/news/ncdot-seeks-new-partners-for-watch-for-me-nc-campaign/article_36860ece-a62a-11e4-a0d0-4f4077f0c0f0.html

Region III

BMV Outsources License Plate Production, Registrations (Indiana)

Indiana prisoners will get out of the license plate-making business under a state plan to outsource the production and distribution of plates and vehicle registrations. Read the full story at WashingtonTimes.com.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/jan/27/bmv-outsources-license-plate-production-registrati/>

Iowa DOT Cancels 450 Fraudulent Registrations for New York Vehicles

A Brooklyn, New York, neighborhood is no longer swamped by cars with Iowa license plates. That's likely because the Iowa Department of Transportation in September canceled more than 450 vehicle titles and registrations obtained with false or fictitious information. These cars — many with Linn County and Polk County plates — had been clogging up the Ditmas Park West neighborhood since 2012. Read the full story at KCRG.com.

<http://www.kcrg.com/subject/news/iowa-dot-cancels-450-fraudulent-registrations-for-new-york-vehicles-20150123>

Ohio Statehouse License Plate Now Available to Motorists

Motorists in Ohio can now contribute to educational programs at the Ohio Statehouse when they renew their vehicle registrations. A new specialty plate featuring an image of the Ohio Statehouse is now on sale through the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles. The license plate was created last year by the Ohio General Assembly. Gov. John Kasich signed the bill into law in April. Read the full story at Cleveland.com.

http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2015/01/ohio_statehouse_license_plate.html#incart_river

Governor Commissioned Task Force Tackles Community-Police Relations (Ohio)

A task force commissioned by Governor John Kasich will tackle community-police relations. The 18 member "Ohio Task Force on Community-Police Relations" was announced in December after what the Governor's Office describes as "a series of incidents in Ohio and around the nation highlighted the challenging situations that exist in too many places between communities and police." Read the full story at WKYC.com.

<http://www.wkyc.com/story/news/local/cleveland/2015/01/20/governor-commissioned-task-force-tackles-community-police-relations/22090305/>

Ohio Releases New Headlight Law

The Ohio State Highway Patrol released a new state law for motorists to have their headlights on when it is foggy, raining, snowing or when it is dark outside. Read the full story at WTRF.com.

<http://www.wtrf.com/story/27966714/ohio-releases-new-headlight-law>

Region IV

Mesa Police Chief Tapped as DPS Director (Arizona)

Like father, like son. Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey has appointed Mesa Police Chief Frank Milstead as director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety. Milstead will follow in the footsteps of his late father, Ralph Milstead, who served as DPS director in the 1980s and famously tangled with then Gov. Evan Mecham, even testifying at Mecham's impeachment trial. Read the full story at AZCentral.com.

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/mesa/2015/01/27/mesa-police-chief-dps-director/22426373/>

Arizona Stops Citing Uber, Lyft Drivers as New Law Crafted

Arizona regulators have stopped issuing citations to drivers for transportation companies such as Uber and Lyft as the Legislature works to craft a new law to allow the companies to operate legally, new Weights and Measures Director Andy Tobin said. Read the full story at WashingtonTimes.com.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/jan/29/arizona-stops-citing-rideshare-drivers-as-new-law-/>

AB 60 Applicants Flock to California DMVs

Foot traffic at California DMVs has increased by the thousands in recent weeks, as undocumented immigrants look to apply for driver's licenses under new legislation known as Assembly Bill 60. The law, which began Jan. 2, allows undocumented immigrants to obtain driver's licenses so long as they provide

proof that they live in the state, pass written and driving tests and meet all other requirements to be issued a license with a distinct marking. Read the full story at DesertSun.com.

<http://www.desertsun.com/story/news/2015/01/23/ab-applicants-flood-california-dmvs/22235669/>

Google Warns California DMV Away from Regulating Self-Driving Cars

Google Inc. company officials warned the California Department of Motor Vehicles on Tuesday against establishing a government process for measuring the safety of driverless cars, saying regulators may not be able to understand the technology. Read the full story at BizJournals.com.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/sanjose/news/2015/01/27/google-warns-california-dmv-away-from-regulating.html?page=all>

Colorado to Reduce Immigrant Driver's License Program After Funding Request Rejected

The Colorado Department of Motor Vehicles is dramatically reducing the immigrant driver's license program after Republicans in the Joint Budget Committee rejected requests to allocate funds. In a news release, the Department of Revenue announced that it will be dropping the number of offices that issue licenses to immigrants from five to one, starting Feb. 2. The number of appointments will go from 155 a day to 31. Read the full article on 7News Denver.

<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/local-news/colorado-to-reduce-immigrant-drivers-license-program-after-funding-request-rejected01272015>

North Dakota Considering Enhanced Drivers' Licenses

A new type of driver's license may make travel to and from Canada a lot easier for North Dakotans. North Dakota lawmakers have introduced legislation for "enhanced drivers' licenses" to be issued in the state. If the measure passes, residents would have the option of getting the new identification for a fee of \$45, enabling them to leave their passports at home when visiting Canada. Read the full article in GovTech.com.

<http://www.govtech.com/public-safety/North-Dakota-Considering-Enhanced-Drivers-Licenses.html>

State Legislator Wants to Dial Back New Distracted Driving Law (Utah)

A state lawmaker wants to pull back a distracted driving law passed last year that prohibits dialing a cellphone and other activities with hand-held electronic devices while driving. Read the full story at DeseretNews.com.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865620728/State-legislator-wants-to-dial-back-new-distracted-driving-law.html?pg=all>

New State Proposal Would Still Allow Undocumented Immigrant Drivers (Washington)

State lawmakers are trying to balance new federal regulations on ID cards with Washington's existing laws that allow undocumented immigrants to access driver's licenses. Currently, applicants don't have to disclose their U.S. citizenship or residency status when applying for a driver's license or identification card in Washington state. Read the full article in The Seattle Globalist.

<http://www.seattleglobalist.com/2015/01/28/washington-undocumented-immigrant-drivers-license/32609>

Other News

Supreme Court Rules Mounties have Right to Bargaining (Canada)

The Supreme Court of Canada says the Mounties have the right to engage in meaningful collective bargaining, but has not explicitly stated that they have the right to form a union. The landmark, 6-1 ruling gives the federal government a year to create a new labour relations scheme, setting the stage for talks among RCMP members, Commissioner Bob Paulson and Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney. Read the full story at GlobalNews.ca.

<http://globalnews.ca/news/1776263/supreme-court-set-to-rule-today-on-whether-rcmp-officers-can-unionize/>

Poll: Ride-Sharing Services Are Cutting Down On Drunk-Driving Incidents

Times used to be, if your friend was drunk and threatening to drive, you'd have to deal with the inconvenience of actually calling up a cab while hiding their keys. But now due to ride-sharing services that can summon vehicles with a swipe on an app, drunk-driving incidents are down. This, according to a poll by one of those services, Uber, along with Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Read the full article in the Consumerist.

<http://consumerist.com/2015/01/27/poll-ride-sharing-services-are-cutting-down-on-drunk-driving-incidents/>

Police Urge Google to Disable Police Tracking Feature on Waze App

Sheriffs are pressuring Google Inc. to turn off a feature on its Waze traffic software that warns drivers when police are nearby. They say one of the technology industry's most popular mobile apps could put officers' lives in danger. Read the full story at GlobalNews.ca.

<http://globalnews.ca/news/1792732/police-urge-google-to-disable-police-tracking-feature-on-waze-app/>

Regulatory Agency for Autonomous Technology Is Needed First

We are not ready for driverless cars because our public officials lack the expertise to evaluate the safety of this new class of automobiles. When Congress asked the Department of Transportation to determine whether a software glitch caused Toyotas to suddenly accelerate, the agency had to ask NASA. Just imagine: the nation's top scientists had to take a break from placing robots on Mars to look at a Toyota. Without better understanding of how automation can affect driverless vehicles, I worry state and local governments will have to either take Google's word on faith as to the safety of their cars, or else block the technology entirely. Read the full article in The New York Times.

<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2015/01/29/are-we-ready-for-driverless-cars/a-new-regulatory-agency-for-autonomous-technology-is-needed-first>

GM Asked by U.S. Senators to Extend Ignition-Switch Claims Deadline

General Motors today denied a request from two U.S. senators to extend the Saturday deadline for victims of the company's defective ignition switch to apply for compensation. Read the full story at AutoNews.com.

http://www.autonews.com/article/20150128/OEM11/150129797/gm-asked-by-u-s-senators-to-extend-ignition-switch-claims-deadline?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

Volkswagen, Audi, Porsche Issue Recalls for Fuel Leaks

Audi, Volkswagen and Porsche are recalling more than 93,500 cars and SUVs worldwide to fix fuel leak problems. The recalls cover the Audi A6 and Volkswagen Touareg hybrid from the 2012 model year, the Audi A7 from 2012 and 2013, and the Audi Q7, S4 and S5 from 2011 through 2012. All the vehicles have 3-liter V-6 engines, according to documents posted Tuesday by U.S. Read the full story at TownHall.com.

<http://townhall.com/news/us/2015/01/27/volkswagen-audi-porsche-issue-recalls-for-fuel-leaks-n1948828>

Coming to a car near you: electronic license plates

With wireless connectivity, digital license plates could alert authorities when a car has been stolen or its registration has expired. An uninsured driver cruising down the freeway has nowhere to hide from police. License plates, seemingly drawn from science-fiction, give him away by flashing a message telling everyone his coverage has lapsed. It's a future pushed by Compliance Innovations, a South Carolina startup developing the technology. The idea is to replace metal license plates—used for almost as long as cars have existed—with digital screens that are connected wirelessly to mobile phone networks. Instead of merely showing a jumble of letters and numbers, the futuristic plates could be used to alert law enforcement by flashing messages like “Stolen,” “Amber Alert,” and “Expired registration.” Read the full article in Fortune.

<http://fortune.com/2015/01/30/coming-to-a-car-near-you-electronic-license-plates/>

Did You Know

SUPER BOWL XLIX

In case you didn't know, Super Bowl XLIX between the New England Patriots and Seattle Seahawks is on Sunday, February 1st. Here are some fun facts about the Big Game to chew on:

- The last five Super Bowls have been the five most watched telecasts in U.S. television history, prior to that the most watched telecast was the M*A*S*H finale in February 1983 with 106 million viewers. (Nielsen)
- Despite all the tuning sources now available, the audience for the Super Bowl has increased 22.4 million viewers over the past ten years 2004-2014. (Nielsen)
- Females accounted for 46.8% of the Super Bowl audience last year. The average audience for females was a record high 52.6 million. By comparison, The Oscars last year had 43.7 million TOTAL viewers. This was the fourth straight year the Super Bowl had averaged over 50 million female viewers. During the regular NFL season about one-third of the viewing audience is female. (Nielsen)
- A :30 ad in the 2015 Super Bowl cost \$4.5 million, the most expensive ad in history and a 12.5% increase from last year's game. On average, Super Bowl ad rates have grown 10.8% annually. (Kantar Media)
- The number of advertising time has increased from 40 minutes and 15 seconds in 2005 to 49 minutes and 15 minutes in 2014. The 2013 Super Bowl had 51 minutes and 40 seconds of ad time the highest to date. (Kantar Media)The median age of The Super Bowl viewer in 2014 was 43.7, a slight increase from the previous year 43.5. (Nielsen)
- If winning the Super Bowl was not enough motivation, players on the winning team get paid \$97,000.
- Super Bowl players on the losing team taking home \$49,000.

Learn more online:

- Fun Facts About the Super Bowl (Forbes)
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/bradadgate/2015/01/30/fun-facts-about-the-super-bowl/>
- Super Bowl XLIX: Facts and Figures Ahead of the Big Game (ABC News)
<http://abcnews.go.com/Sports/super-bowl-xlix-facts-figures-ahead-big-game/story?id=28482995>

8 Interesting Facts to Know About Super Bowl 2015 (International Business Times)

<http://www.ibtimes.com/8-interesting-facts-know-about-super-bowl-2015-1796424>