

May 15, 2015 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Register Now for the 2015 Annual International Conference

Online registration for AAMVA's 2015 Annual International Conference (AIC) is now open. Join Chair of the Board Mark Lowe August 25-27 in Des Moines, Iowa, and experience a unique networking and educational event. The AIC showcases the latest trends in the motor vehicle and law enforcement community and provides a forum for chief administrators to learn and grow from fellow jurisdiction executives. This year's sessions will cover a wide variety of topics tailored to the AAMVA community. Don't miss this opportunity to see old faces, meet new friends, and learn from our community's most innovative leaders. Watch the 2015 AIC Promo Video to get a taste of what you can expect in Des Moines, and register online today!

Register Online for AAMVA Conferences

- Region IV Conference -- June 1-4 -- Park City, Utah
Conference Web site | Register Online
<http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=5613> |
<https://www.aamva.org/profile/ListAllEventRegistrations.aspx>
- Region II Conference -- June 21-24 -- Montgomery, Alabama
Conference Web site | Register Online
<http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6368> |
<https://www.aamva.org/profile/ListAllEventRegistrations.aspx>
- Region I Conference – July 12-15 – Hershey, Pennsylvania
Conference Web Site | Register Online
<http://www.aamva.org/2015-Region-I-Conference-Home/> |
<https://www.aamva.org/profile/ListAllEventRegistrations.aspx>
- Annual International Conference – August 25-27 – Des Moines, Iowa
Conference Web Site | Register Online
<http://www.aamva.org/2015-AIC-Home/> |
<https://www.aamva.org/profile/ListAllEventRegistrations.aspx>

Region I

Delaware House Committee OKs Higher DMV Fees for Roads

Lawmakers on the House Revenue Committee approved legislation on Wednesday that would raise fees at the Division of Motor Vehicles to fund road and bridge improvements statewide, setting up debate in the full Delaware House of Representatives. Read the full story at DelawareOnline.com.

<http://www.delawareonline.com/story/firststatepolitics/2015/05/13/dmv-fees-committee/27264105/>

Legislation Could Create Future for Self-Driving Cars in New York State

Those long trips driving in the car can be a pain, but what if you didn't have to drive? The concept of self driving cars is nothing new. California, Florida, and Nevada already allow the testing of self steering automobiles, but a new bill could help add New York to that list. Read the full story at RochesterHomepage.net.

http://www.rochesterhomepage.net/story/d/story/legislation-could-create-future-for-self-driving-c/15319/WBRgYS8hQESFgxuQmHnb_Q

DMV Pushes Child Car Seat Safety With Free Inspections (New York)

As part of a push to pursue greater safety for children in cars, New York State's DMV is organizing free child car seat inspections. New York State officials say properly installed safety seats can reduce the risk of fatal injury in a crash by over 70 percent in infants, and about 50 percent in toddlers. Conversely, they say car crashes are a leading cause of death in children from 1- to 13-years-old. Read the full story at WIVB.com.

<http://wivb.com/2015/05/08/dmv-pushes-child-car-seat-safety-with-free-inspections/>

Memorial Unveiled in Memory of Trooper David Cunniff (New York)

A memorial remembering two fallen troopers will be unveiled in Montgomery County this week. Trooper David Cunniff was killed during a traffic stop in December 2013. Sgt. Stanley Bunner was killed in a one-car crash in June 1965. Read the full story at WNYT.com.

<http://wnyt.com/article/stories/S3794799.shtml?cat=300>

New York DMV's New Rule Allows Proof of Auto Insurance in Electronic Format

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles recently implemented a new regulation that allows motorists to show proof of auto insurance in either the paper or electronic format. The regulation went into effect on April 29, a New York State DMV spokesperson said. Read the full story at InsuranceJournal.com.

<http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/east/2015/05/14/368189.htm>

Pennsylvania Bill would Toughen Penalties for Distracted Driving

A Pennsylvania representative has introduced legislation to enhance penalties for drivers who cause severe injuries or death while texting behind the wheel. Read the full story at ABC27.com.

<http://abc27.com/2015/05/12/pa-bill-would-toughen-penalties-for-distracted-driving/>

New Bill Could Increase Construction Zone Traffic Fines (Pennsylvania)

A new bill is in the works that could cost you big money if you speed in a construction zone. After several recent accidents in construction zones, a bi-partisan group of senators outlined their plan for a new bill Tuesday that would increase the penalties for violating traffic laws in construction zones. The bill, if passed, would increase fines by \$1000 for minor violations and \$5000 for major violations involving construction workers or first responders. Read the full story at WeareCentralPA.com.

<http://www.wearecentralpa.com/story/d/story/new-bill-could-increase-construction-zone-traffic/13136/PywK10ZSq0CBtMuK0TYNiA>

'Scarlet Letter' License Plates Mark Repeat DUI Offenders (Pennsylvania)

While Pennsylvania legislators mull changes to toughen the commonwealth's drunken driving laws - and Lancaster County District Attorney Craig Stedman is backing other measures he thinks could get more repeat offenders off the roads - the state of Ohio has taken a different, more visible approach. Read the full story at LancasterOnline.com.

http://lancasteronline.com/news/scarlet-letter-license-plates-mark-repeat-dui-offenders/article_ffbf518c-fa59-11e4-9c09-23366b9b8b2e.html

Vermont Driver's Privilege Card Fraud Spreads to Foreign Countries

An investigation into fraudulent applications for Vermont driver's privilege cards has spread to foreign countries, according to the commissioner of the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles. Read the full story at Watchdog.org.

<http://watchdog.org/218126/vermont-drivers-privilege-card-fraud/>

Region II

Local Woman Finds Out She's Dead While Updating Driver's License (Florida)

Eva Brown will celebrate her 60th birthday in August. It's a birthday she says she'll never forget because, according to the DMV, she's been dead for nearly two years. Read the full article on FirstCoastNews.com.

<http://www.firstcoastnews.com/story/news/weird/2015/05/14/jacksonville-woman-finds-out-shes-dead-while-updating-her-drivers-license/27331667/>

DOT Launches Yearlong Campaign to Reduce Roadway Fatalities (Georgia)

Transportation and law enforcement officials across Georgia today kicked off DriveAlertArriveAlive, a year-long multi-agency campaign to call attention to an alarming 25-percent increase in roadway

fatalities in the first quarter of 2015 and how changes in driver behavior can help to decrease these numbers. Read the DOT press release.

<http://www.dot.ga.gov/PartnerSmart/Public/PressReleases/DAAA-5-11-15.pdf>

New Law Could Bring Ridesharing to Atlanta Airport (Georgia)

There is never a slow day at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. It's the busiest airport in the world, and travelers are always coming and going. But how they arrive and leave has gotten Atlanta Police Maj. Lane Hagin's attention. Hagin, the police department's airport commander, is the man responsible for cracking down on ridesharing. Read the full article on www.11alive.com.

<http://www.11alive.com/story/news/local/mornings/2015/05/12/new-law-uber-atlanta-airport/27167711/>

Texas DMV Questions if Moving-Service App Complies with State Laws

Essentially an Uber for movers, Austin-based Burro received a letter from the department saying its operators needed to be registered with the state. Read the full story at [GovTech.com](http://www.govtech.com).

<http://www.govtech.com/applications/Texas-DMV-Questions-if-Moving-Service-App-Complies-with-State-Laws.html>

Region III

Legislation Strengthening Ignition Interlock Program Approved by Senate (Illinois)

Legislation proposed by Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White requiring Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Devices (BAIID) to be installed on all vehicles used by DUI offenders was approved today by the State Senate. Read the SOS press release.

<http://www.dot.ga.gov/PartnerSmart/Public/PressReleases/DAAA-5-11-15.pdf>

Van Berkum Appointed Colonel of Iowa State Patrol

Commissioner Roxann Ryan has named Michael Van Berkum as the new Chief of the Iowa State Patrol. She said, "Like those who have served before him, Colonel Van Berkum brings his strong values and his broad experience to a job that has long garnered the highest respect in Iowa and elsewhere. Col. Van Berkum began with the Iowa State Patrol in 1985, and his network of colleagues extends worldwide as a result of his leadership and experience in the FBI National Academy, along with his long and distinguished service in the Iowa State Patrol."

Nebraska Lawmakers Advance Bill Granting Driver's Licenses for 'Dreamers'

Nebraska lawmakers gave resounding approval Thursday to a bill that would allow the children of illegal immigrants to qualify for driver's licenses. Read the full story at [Omaha.com](http://www.omaha.com).

http://www.omaha.com/news/legislature/nebraska-lawmakers-advance-bill-granting-driver-s-licenses-for-dreamers/article_0d8e4086-f9e5-11e4-9484-fb5af0c403bf.html

WisDOT Issues Three New Specialty License Plates (Wisconsin)

Three new designs join the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WisDOT) offering of specialty license plates. The most recent plate includes one dedicated to the memory of fallen law enforcement officers. The others feature the group-sponsored Trout Unlimited and In God We Trust. Read the DMV press release.

www.wisconsin.gov/news

Region IV

Off Road Vehicle Registration Required After June 1, 2015 (British Columbia)

If you intend to operate your off road vehicle (ORV) anywhere on public lands after June 1, 2015 you have just three weeks left to register it through ICBC. When the vehicle is registered an off road vehicle licence plate will be issued and must be displayed. The changes replaced outdated legislation governing British Columbia's growing off-road sector, and helps ensure these vehicles are driven in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. Read the full story at ILSTV.com.

<http://www.ilstv.com/off-road-vehicle-registration-required-after-june-1-2015/>

Happy 100th to California DMV!

Watch the CA DMV Centennial Celebration video:

<https://youtu.be/gbVDFmdGZeM>

DMV Warns Californians of Phone Scam

The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is warning its customers about a phone scam. Officials say the caller in this scam pretends to be a DMV employee calling to reschedule an appointment. They ask for personal information, including social security number, date of birth, home address, and driver license number. The DMV says you should never give out such personal information to anyone who contacts you by phone or email. Read the full story at KSBY.com.

<http://www.ksby.com/story/29007365/dmv-warns-californians-of-phone-scam>

Self-Driving Cars Getting Dinged in California

Four of the nearly 50 self-driving cars now rolling around California have gotten into accidents since September, when the state began issuing permits for companies to test them on public roads. Two accidents happened while the cars were in control; in the other two, the person who still must be

behind the wheel was driving, a person familiar with the accident reports told The Associated Press. Read the full story at NBCNews.com.

<http://www.nbcnews.com/business/autos/self-driving-cars-getting-dinged-california-n356991>

California Looking at New Drug-Detecting DUI Technology

California lawmakers are considering a proposal that would give cops permission to use technology that identifies drivers under the influence of marijuana, cocaine and other drugs. Read the full story at GovTech.com.

<http://www.govtech.com/California-Looking-at-New-Drug-Detecting-DUI-Technology.html>

Idaho Motorcycle Training Classes Shown to Reduce Accidents

The weather has warmed up and motorcycles are out in droves, so May is motorcycle awareness month. As many as one in five motorcycle accidents are caused by cars not seeing the bikes - and many more accidents are completely avoidable. However, most accidents aren't caused by young guns on their sport bikes. Instead, 70 percent of accidents happen to riders 40 years or older and 75 percent of the time the bike is a cruiser. Read the full story at ScrippsMedia.com.

<http://www.scrippsmedia.com/kivity/news/Idaho-motorcycle-training-classes-shown-to-reduce-accidents-303354771.html>

Committees OK More Workers to Reduce Lines at DMV Offices (Nevada)

Nearly 60 new workers would be hired by the state Department of Motor Vehicles to alleviate long lines and wait times under a plan approved today by Nevada Senate and Assembly budget committees. Gov. Brian Sandoval has recommended the agency hire 54 new technicians and five supervisors at four offices in Clark County and one in Washoe County. Read the full story at LasVegasSun.com.

<http://lasvegassun.com/news/2015/may/13/committees-ok-more-workers-reduce-lines-dmv-office/>

New State Seat Belt Law Goes into Effect (Utah)

According to a new statewide law, police can now pull over drivers who aren't wearing seat belts. Deseret News reports that starting Tuesday failing to wear a seat belt is considered a primary offense. Read the full story at LocalNews8.com.

<http://www.localnews8.com/news/new-state-seat-belt-law-goes-into-effect-in-utah/32963792>

Washington State Patrol Facing Severe Trooper Shortage

The help wanted sign is out at the Washington State Patrol, but there just aren't enough qualified candidates answering the call. "We currently have over 100 vacancies that we're looking to fill, our line troopers that you see out on the road" said Lt. Tim Coley, assistant commander of the WSP human resources division. Read the full story at MyNorthwest.com.

<http://mynorthwest.com/11/2760303/Washington-State-Patrol-facing-severe-trooper-shortage>

Other News

Technology Revolutionizes Voter Registration for 2016

When President Barack Obama was first elected in 2008, only two states offered a website where citizens could register to vote. By the 2016 presidential election, it's possible that a majority of states will offer that service, helping to cut down on errors resulting from bad handwriting and reducing time spent by voters in line on Election Day, according to data released Wednesday by the Pew Charitable Trusts. Read the full story at EastValleyTribune.com.

http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/local/the_valley/westvalley/article_3bf32e71-7544-510f-9a93-ee9b7531a593.html

Spying for Safety: New Apps Allow Parents to Track Teen Drivers

Most of us are guilty of distracted driving from time to time, even though we know how dangerous it can be. We text, email, or check Facebook. The problem is especially bad for teenagers. Distracted driving is the leading cause of fatal and serious crashes for people under the age of 20. But now there are ways for parents to virtually look over their child's shoulder at all times, no matter where he or she is. Read the full story at TucsonNewsNow.com.

<http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/29037256/spying-for-safety-new-apps-allow-parents-to-track-teen-drivers>

Mitek Now Providing Driver License Authentication on Mobile Devices

It could spell an end to the fake ID as we know it. This week, Mitek — a provider of mobile capture and identity solutions to improve customer acquisition — lifted the veil on new ID authentication technology called Photo Verify. Read the full story at MobileMarketingWatch.com.

<http://mobilemarketingwatch.com/mittek-now-providing-driver-license-authentication-on-mobile-devices-50249/>

Obama Administration to Fast-Track "Talking" Car Mandate

Before self-driving cars can safely ply U.S. roads and highways, they'll need to be able to talk to one another to anticipate a sudden stop or turn, and ultimately, avoid accidents. While some automakers are planning to incorporate vehicle-to-vehicle communication technology in future cars—the 2017 Cadillac CTS will have it—there are currently no rules mandating such a feature. That could change sooner than expected. Read the full story at Fortune.com.

<http://fortune.com/2015/05/14/v2v-communication-cars/>

Honda Recalls 5 Million Cars as Airbag Woes Spread

Honda has recalled an additional 4.89 million cars equipped with possibly faulty airbags manufactured by Japan-based Takata. The recall covers 14 models produced between 2002 and 2008, including the Civic and CR-V ranges, according to a Honda spokesperson. More than 3 million of the cars are located outside of Japan. Read the full story at Money.CNN.com.

http://money.cnn.com/2015/05/14/autos/honda-airbag-recall/index.html?iid=HP_LN

Mitsubishi Recalls Cars for Faulty Defrosters, Head Lights

Mitsubishi is recalling more than 130,000 cars because of two separate issues that could lead to reduced visibility for drivers and raise the risk of a crash. Read the full story at IdahoStatesman.com.

http://www.idahostatesman.com/2015/05/09/3794689_mitsubishi-recalls-cars-for-faulty.html?rh=1

More Vehicles Recalled for Problem Takata Air Bag Inflators

Toyota Motor Corp. and Nissan Motor Co. are expanding their recalls over problem air bags made by Japanese supplier Takata Corp. by another 6.5 million vehicles. Read the full story at TimesUnion.com.

<http://www.timesunion.com/news/world/article/More-vehicles-recalled-for-problem-Takata-air-bag-6260032.php>

General Motors Recalls 469K Chevrolet Malibus For Seat Belt Fail; Here Is A List Of Every GM Recall So Far In 2015

General Motors issued on Tuesday its largest recall of the year so far, asking owners of nearly 469,000 Chevrolet Malibu sedans from the 2011 and 2012 model years to bring their cars in for seat belt repairs. The Detroit maker of Cadillacs, GMCs and Buicks said in a statement that a steel belt that holds the seat belt to the vehicle's frame can wear and separate, preventing the belt from restraining passengers and drivers in the event of collisions. Read the full story at IBITimes.com.

<http://www.ibitimes.com/general-motors-recalls-469k-chevrolet-malibus-seat-belt-fail-here-list-every-gm-1919107>

Did You Know

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. Spring is in the air, and motorcycles are hitting the roads to take advantage of the warmer weather. Other drivers on the roads should be alert and be ready to share the road safely the increasing number of riders on the roads. Motorcycle riders should be ready for anything by reviewing some of the following safety tips:

- Don't buy more bike than you can handle.
- Hone your skills. Learn the basics, as well as advanced techniques, such as how to perform evasive emergency maneuvers.

- Wear a helmet. Riders without a helmet are 40 percent more likely to suffer a fatal head injury in a crash and are three times more likely to suffer brain injuries, than those with helmets.
- Wear the right gear. For maximum protection, go for a leather or other reinforced jacket, gloves, full pants, and over-the-ankle footwear, even in summer.
- Be defensive. Keep an eye out for cars suddenly changing lanes or pulling out from side streets. And don't tailgate.
- Before each ride, do a quick walk-around to make sure your lights, horn, and directional signals are working properly. Check the chain, belt, or shaft and the brakes. And inspect the tires for wear and make sure they're set at the proper pressure.

Find more safety tips online:

- 10 motorcycle safety tips for new riders: Expert advice for first-time and returning riders (ConsumerReports.org) <http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/2013/04/10-motorcycle-safety-tips-for-new-riders/index.htm>
- Motorcycle Safety and Awareness (Allstate) <https://www.allstate.com/tools-and-resources/motorcycle-insurance/safety-tips.aspx>
- Top 10 Motorcycle Safety Tips (Discovery News) <http://news.discovery.com/autos/drive/top-10-motorcycle-safety-tips.htm>