

May 22, 2015 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Central Fulfillment of License Plates & Registration Cards: How One State Did It

Join us May 27th from 2-3 PM (EDT), for a members-only webinar on central fulfillment of license plates and registration cards. Sheila Prior hosts speaker Kevin Garvey (Chief Operating Officer, Indiana BMV) for an in-depth discussion on how Indiana's Bureau of Motor Vehicles successfully moved to central issuance, central fulfillment, of license plates and registration cards. Register online today at <http://www.aamva.org/Exclusive-Members-Only-Webinars/>

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

Bill Revises DMV Rules; Law Passed in 2013 Gives Immigrants Drive-Only License (Connecticut)

State lawmakers want to revise the forms of identity undocumented immigrants need to present to obtain special driver's licenses from the state Department of Motor Vehicles. Read the full story at Rep-am.com.

<http://www.rep-am.com/news/local/882263.txt>

MVA Drops Parallel Parking from Driver's Test (Maryland)

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration has eliminated its parallel parking requirement for its driving skills test. The change went into effect on Tuesday, MVA spokesman Buel Young said. Young said the MVA made the decision after realizing that many of the skills tested in the maneuver are also tested in the two-point reverse turn. Those skills include acceleration control, steering, backing and judgment of space, among others, he said. Read the full story at CapitalGazette.com.

www.capitalgazette.com/ph-ac-cn-parallel-parking-0520,0,4148196.story

DMV Vision Registry Helps New Yorkers Renew a Driver License On-Line, Saving Time and Effort (New York)

The New York Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) announced today that it has reached nearly 1,400 participating providers in its Vision Registry program, which helps people speed up the renewal of their driver license without visiting a DMV office. Read the DMV press release.

<http://dmv.ny.gov/press-release/press-release-05-19-2015>

State Offering Free Replacements for Peeling License Plates (New York)

Is your license plate showing signs of peeling? If so, you're not alone. Many New Yorkers have recently found the lamination on their Empire Blue and White plates coming off. Erie County Clerk Chris Jacobs says the problem stems from a defect in the manufacturing process. He is asking motorists experiencing the issue to bring their plate into a county auto bureau, where it will be replaced at no cost. Read the full story at WBFO.org.

<http://news.wbfo.org/post/state-offering-free-replacements-peeling-license-plates>

County Clerk Decries State's Use of Motorists' Personal Information (New York)

Erie County Clerk Christopher L. Jacobs Wednesday said he was shocked to find that the state Department of Motor Vehicles has been selling the personal data that state motorists provide when they apply for driver's licenses and register their automobiles. Read the full story at BuffaloNews.com.

<http://www.buffalonews.com/city-region/county-clerk-decries-states-use-of-motorists-personal-information-20150520>

State Police Warning About PennDOT Scam (Pennsylvania)

The Pennsylvania State Police are warning residents of an email scam making rounds involving PennDOT. The subject line of those emails reads "Action Required - Fine for Traffic Violations." Read the full story at WeAreCentralPA.com.

http://www.wearecentralpa.com/story/d/story/state-police-warning-about-penndot-scam/32470/f_agTSrLBEu4WEffda37yQ

Region II

Florida Highway Patrol Graduates 65 New Troopers

Today Gov. Rick Scott welcomed 65 new troopers to the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP). The graduates of FHP's Training Academy will join the nearly 1,800 troopers who patrol the state's roads each day to provide protection and assistance to Florida residents and visitors. Read the DHSMV press release.

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

New Law Asks DMV to Look at Handicap Placard Abuse (North Carolina)

Ever seen someone park in a handicap space and wonder if the handicap placard they have is really theirs? A new state law is looking at ways to stop such abuse. Gov. Pat McCrory this week signed into law a bill that directs the Division of Motor Vehicles to study ways to decrease the misuse of handicap windshield placards. Read the full story at WWAYTV3.com.

<http://www.wwaytv3.com/2015/05/15/new-law-asks-dmv-to-look-at-handicap-placard-abuse/>

DMV Fee Hike Not Quite 'Inflationary' (North Carolina)

Part of the House budget proposal is an across-the-board 50 percent increase in fees at the state Division of Motor Vehicles, from vehicle registration to license renewals. An eight-year driver's license would go from \$32 to \$48. Annual car registration would go from \$28 to \$42. The surcharge for electric vehicles, meant to replace lost gas tax revenue, would go from \$100 to \$150. Read the full story at WRAL.com.

<http://www.wral.com/dmv-fee-hike-not-quite-inflationary-/14655466/>

Truckers Oppose North Carolina House Diesel Tax and DMV Fees

Truckers say they would be hit unfairly by House Republican budget proposals to increase motor vehicle fees and set the fuel tax for diesel 3 cents higher than the gasoline tax. Read the full story at CharlotteObserver.com.

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article21455103.html>

Inspection of Commercial Buses Increasing in West Virginia

The West Virginia Public Service Commission says it is increasing inspections of motor coaches, tour buses and other commercial passenger buses. Read the full story at Theet.com.

http://www.theet.com/web_exclusive/wv/inspection-of-commercial-buses-increasing-in-w-va/article_76253ef0-4b10-5d6c-8ae4-f52a804da259.html

Region III

50 Cadets Graduate from Minnesota State Patrol Training Academy

What started on a cold day in January culminates today as 50 cadets graduate from the 56th Minnesota State Patrol Training Academy at Mariucci Arena at the University of Minnesota. For 16 weeks, 15 hours a day, the cadets demonstrated their mental and physical toughness to eventually become part of the Minnesota State Patrol. Read the DPS press release.

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ooc/news-releases/Pages/38-Cadets-Graduate-From-Minnesota-State-Patrol-Training-Academy.aspx>

Nebraska Lawmakers Debate Whether to Remain Only State Denying Driver's Licenses to So-Called 'Dreamers'

Some Nebraska conservatives on Wednesday sought to keep in place a policy that has left the state the only one in the nation that denies driver's licenses to young people protected from deportation despite being brought to the U.S. illegally as children. Read the full story at FoxNews.com.

<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/politics/2015/05/14/nebraska-aims-to-remain-only-state-that-bans-drivers-licenses-for-dreamers/>

Immigrant Driver's License Bill headed Toward Finish Line (Nebraska)

Legislation that would end Nebraska's ban on driver's licenses for the children of undocumented immigrants drove through another roadblock Tuesday evening on its way to a final vote. Opponents stalled the bill (LB623) at second-stage consideration with a four-hour filibuster before supporters had their opportunity to move the measure forward on a commanding 37-9 vote. Read the full story at Columbestelgram.com.

http://columbestelgram.com/news/state-and-regional/immigrant-driver-s-license-bill-headed-toward-finish-line/article_401280dd-736b-527b-969f-572d2c656145.html

DUI Drivers Forced to Buy 'Scarlet Letter' License Plates (Ohio)

All three regular readers of this column know I usually write about breaking news, but today some rare happened — I ran across something I didn't know. In Ohio, drivers convicted of DUI are issued "Scarlet Letter" license plates. The tags are bright yellow with red letters, just like a jaundiced adulterer's forehead. Read the full story at NewsTome.blog.ajc.com.

<http://newstome.blog.ajc.com/2015/05/14/dui-drivers-forced-to-buy-scarlet-letter-license-plates/>

Region IV

British Columbia's Drinking & Driving Laws Go Before the Supreme Court of Canada

BC's tough drinking and driving laws face another legal challenge today — this time, before the highest court in the country today. The case looks at whether roadside driving prohibitions are constitutional. Read the full story at ISLTV.com.

<http://www.ilstv.com/bcs-drinking-driving-laws-go-before-the-supreme-court-of-canada-today/>

Ex-DMV Official Gets 3 Months for Bribes (California)

A former DMV official who admitted setting aside DUI suspensions and issuing temporary driver's licenses in exchange for cash and gifts from lawyers was sentenced Monday to 90 days in custody followed by six months of home confinement. Read the full story at UTSanDiego.com.

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2015/may/18/dmv-official-sentenced-bribes/>

California State Employees Get Protections Against Traffic Citations

Seven years ago, a newspaper investigation found that a little-known California state program designed to protect police and judges from the public disclosure of their home addresses had expanded into a massive database of 1.5 million public employees and their family members, few of whom face any on-the-job dangers to merit the protection. Read the full story at Reason.com.

<http://reason.com/archives/2015/05/15/california-state-employees-get-protectio>

California Auto Dealers' Lawsuit Contends TrueCar Violates Sales Laws

California car dealer group tries to block TrueCar sales method. The California New Car Dealers Assn. filed a lawsuit against the fast-growing TrueCar auto sales service, claiming the Santa Monica company violates various laws that govern car sales in the state. Read the full story at LATimes.com.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/autos/la-fi-hy-car-dealers-sue-truecar-20150520-story.html>

Though Idaho Refuses REAL ID, it Complies With All But Five Requirements

A coercive federal mandate, threats to privacy, risk of identity theft, outside intervention in state affairs — just the sort of impositions and issues that make Idaho lawmakers howl. They were among the concerns raised when a legislative committee in April rejected a rewrite of federal child support rules, changes lawmakers will reconsider when they return to Boise for a special session Monday. Read the full story at GovTech.com.

<http://www.govtech.com/state/Though-Idaho-Refuses-REAL-ID-it-Complies-With-All-But-Five-Requirements.html>

Oregon Preps Program to Swap Mileage Tax For Gas Tax

Oregon is about to embark on a first-in-the-nation program that aims to charge car owners not for the fuel they use, but for the miles they drive. The program is meant to help the state raise more revenue to pay for road and bridge projects at a time when money generated from gasoline taxes are declining

across the country, in part, because of greater fuel efficiency and the increasing popularity of fuel-efficient, hybrid and electric cars. Read the full article in USA Today.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2015/05/20/oregon-gas-tax-mileage/27676973/>

Lawmaker to Resurrect Bill that Rolls Back Utah's Distracted Driving Law

A bill that would roll back some of Utah's ban on using cell phones while driving is being resurrected in the state legislature. Rep. Jake Anderegg, R-Lehi, told FOX 13 on Tuesday that he was planning to reintroduce his bill next year, allowing for people to have some use of their cell phones while driving. Read the full story at Fox13Now.com.

<http://fox13now.com/2015/05/19/lawmaker-to-resurrect-bill-that-rolls-back-utahs-distracted-driving-law/>

Other News

Are Women Better Drivers Than Men? One Study Has Suggested They Are.

A survey has suggested that driving's battle of the sexes appears to have been won by women. The survey, conducted by Privilege Insurance, showed that only 28 per cent of women believed they were better drivers than men - and only 13 per cent of men thought women were better behind the wheel. Read the full story at Independent.co.uk.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/are-women-better-drivers-than-men-one-study-has-suggested-they-are-10252243.html>

FBI Halted Buying License-Plate Readers After Lawyers Raised Privacy Concerns

The FBI has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in license-plate reader technology, but it halted a purchase order at least temporarily after lawyers raised privacy concerns about the surveillance three years ago, according to e-mails and other documents obtained by the Associated Press. Read the full story at AZCentral.com.

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/money/business/tech/2015/05/17/fbi-halted-license-plate-readers-privacy-concerns/27511689/>

It's Not Just Texting: Drivers are Instagramming and Video Chatting Too

Forty-six states now have laws that explicitly ban texting while driving. But smartphones can distract drivers in many other ways, too, a new survey commissioned by AT&T shows. Read the full story at VOX.com.

<http://www.vox.com/2015/5/19/8625223/driving-texting-phones-distraction>

Takata Air Bag Recall Doubles to Nearly 34 Million

Under pressure from U.S. safety regulators, Takata Corp. has agreed to declare 33.8 million air bags defective, a move that will double the number of cars and trucks included in what is now the largest auto recall in U.S. history. Read the full story at [UTSanDiego.com](http://www.utsandiego.com).

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2015/may/19/ap-source-takata-air-bag-recalls-to-double-in-us/>

Did You Know

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

While we should all take every opportunity to enjoy extra time with family and friends, please also don't lose sight of what this holiday weekend is all about. There are many who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, leaving behind spouses, sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters and so many more. Take a few moments throughout the weekend (whether silently or otherwise) to acknowledge their sacrifice and remember why we've been given this extra time to enjoy being with our loved ones.

- Memorial Day wasn't originally called Memorial Day. It was originally named Decoration Day. Flowers were placed on the graves of both Confederate and Union soldiers to remember them and their sacrifice on the battlefield.
- Originally, Memorial Day was designated to honor Civil War dead. Later it was changed to honor all Americans who had given their lives in the service of the country.
- In December 2000, Congress passed a law requiring Americans to pause at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day to remember and honor the fallen.
- Millions of people will travel over 50 miles to commemorate the holiday. Last year over 36 million people traveled during the Memorial Day weekend.
- Average price of unleaded gas for Memorial Day weekend in 2015 is \$2.66 per Gallon.
- The National Hot Dog and Sausage Council notes that starting on Memorial Day, Americans will consume 818 hotdogs per second.
- Top choices for grilling will be burgers (85%), steak (80%), hot dogs (79%) and chicken (73%). Hickory is the top flavor of barbecue sauce, followed by mesquite, honey, and spicy-hot.
- 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of WWII's close.
- More than 400,000 U.S. servicemen lost their lives in WW II, and 750,000 in the Civil War.

Learn more online:

- Memorial Day 2015: 10 Facts To Remember About The Holiday (Inquisitr) <http://www.inquisitr.com/2094497/memorial-day-2015-10-facts-to-remember-about-the-holiday/>
- 7 Things You Didn't Know About Memorial Day (TIME) <http://time.com/110697/memorial-day-facts/>

- Seven fun Memorial Day facts for the holiday weekend (Christian Science Monitor)
<http://www.csmonitor.com/Business/Saving-Money/2015/0518/Seven-fun-Memorial-Day-facts-for-the-holiday-weekend>