

CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION, Inc

# OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS PLUS WHATSUP HERE AND THERE



*On Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, the EPA declined to relax requirements on the use of corn ethanol in gasoline, rejecting a request from several states related to a steep decline in the nation's corn production.*

*The big storm that hit the East Coast will delay or cancel many approved road and bridge improvements. It may also take several months before roads and bridges damaged by the storm are repaired especially with the winter weather due soon. We can expect higher gasoline costs, and insurance costs may increase as companies try to recoup their losses for the storm damages. Several state officials are warning about scammers buying flood damaged vehicles, cleaning them up and trying to sell them in the western states. There are also reports that some of the flood damaged vehicles are classics.*

*At the recent SEMA show in Las Vegas, Ford unveiled its replica 1940 Ford coupe. What you get is a shiny bare-steel body of a 1940 Ford coupe for \$11,400 plus shipping. You do not get an engine or seats, or much else. Ford is aiming at builders who want to create their own authentic hot rods. The units are available thru Fords aftermarket sales unit.*

*Ford says that buyers are lining up to order the car. Ford also has 1964 thru 1979 Mustang replicas available.*

*According to insurance claims data reviewed by the Associated Press, the actual number of vehicles damaged by the storm, Sandy, is far smaller than originally estimated, and many of those vehicles will be kept and repaired by their owners.*

*Oregon based McCullough Research has combined thru thousands of pages of environmental documents and has concluded that refineries were operating during supposed outages and maintenance in May and October, when gasoline prices spiked to an all time high in October.*

*During Thanksgiving week, police in Las Vegas Nevada, had officers dressed as turkeys cross the streets in crosswalks to see if drivers were stopping for pedestrians as required by law. Over 72 citations were issued in just one day.*

*Not all of the following state bills are laws at this time. They have recently been introduced and are under consideration by the respective legislatures.*

## **ALABAMA**

*The Montgomery City Council is considering an ordinance that would allow police to impound an uninsured vehicle that is stopped for a traffic violation, the Montgomery Advertiser reports. The uninsured motorist rate in Alabama is about 22%, sixth worst in the nation.*

## **CALIFORNIA**

*The California Air resources Board is reading plans for a new smog check program that eliminates sticking a probe up the tailpipe to measure emissions while simulating driving conditions in a shop. Instead, for 2000 model-year and newer vehicles, the new test siphons off data stored in the on-board diagnostic systems that are standard equipment on all newer vehicles. Few drivers may realize it, but their car's on-board computer is busy collecting all sorts of data as they drive. Soon, the state of California will be picking these*

*little under-the-hood brains. Starting Jan. 1, 2013, all 2000 model-year and newer vehicles will be inspected using the OBD-based test. Older vehicles will continue to be inspected using tailpipe emissions but stations will be subject to new performance and evaluation standards. Only stations meeting what CARB terms “the tough new standards” will be rated as “STAR CERTIFIED” and permitted to inspect 1999 and older vehicles. The changeover to the new testing requirements will take place over the next year. (Information from article from Central Valley Business Times , Oct. 19, 2012.*

*A major freeway off ramp revamp in the Sacramento area started on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>. CALTRANS is remodeling the Watt Ave off ramp on Hwy 50. This will result in some lane reductions and reduced speed zones in the construction area. Watt Avenue is one of the major routes from Hwy 50 to Interstate 80.*

*On Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, an 11 mile section of Interstate 110 became a toll road with a fee of up to \$15.40 for the privilege of driving the 11 mile stretch between Gardena and downtown Los angles. A 14 mile stretch of I-10 will become a toll road next year.*

*The Golden Gate Bridge had planned to eliminate toll collectors and use an automated collecting system in January, but now that date has been extended for several months. No new date has been announced yet.*

#### **D.C. WASHINGTON**

*The city has reduced fines for some speeding tickets, the Washington Post has reported. The fine for going up to 10 mph over the speed limit has been reduced from \$75 to \$50; driving 11 to 15 mph over the limit goes from \$125 to \$100.*

*The Dept. of Transportation is serving as many as 10,000 on-street parking spaces for residents in crowded neighborhoods including Colombia Heights, Adams, Morgan and parts of the U street corridor, the Washington Post has reported.*

#### **FLORIDA**

*Leon County’s tax collector is among those opposed to proposed changes in license plate tags and how they are distributed, saying the changes would decrease customer service*

*while creating more work for county staff. The state motor vehicle department wants to alter the plate's look to make them easier for law enforcement to read and to centralize tag distribution with a private vendor on the web.*

*Tallahassee City officials have unveiled the first "bike boxes," green painted zones at traffic intersections that allow bicyclists to wait in front of cars at red lights and then turn or continue straight first when the light turns green. The Tallahassee Democrat reports that Kakeland is the only other city to have them.*

## **GEORGIA**

*Residents needing a driver's license can now check wait times at local offices of the Georgia Dept. of Driver Services. The department's web site now tracks average time spent waiting in line at its 64 customer service center locations. The information shows that Tuesdays tend to be the busiest.*

*In November, state troopers and other law enforcement officers received an annual four-hour driving courses after a spate of crashes, the Brunswick News has reported. Statewide, there were 2,475 crashes involving on-duty officers in 2011, according to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.*

## **HAWAII**

*The state is making the state Department of transportation and counties responsible for issuing both state identification cards and driver's licenses. As of Jan. 2, residents will be able to obtain ID cards at all driver's license locations in Honolulu. Maui and Kauai counties, except satellite city halls. Residents may get their ID cards at driver's license locations in Hilo and Kona.*

## **IDAHO**

*A loop trail costing \$100,000 to build around Shafer Butte above Boise should be ready for use by next summer. The trail group, Ridges to Ridges, say 7 miles of trail will be built to connect with 3 miles of existing trail on the west side of Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area.*

*The Idaho Transportation Dept. makes more than \$5.4 million a year selling motor vehicle records and other personal information to companies that use it to research car buying patterns, send out recall notices and even track down unpaid parking tickets, Department spokesman Jeff Stratten said.*

## **ILLINOIS**

*The Secretary of State's office has started its yearly holiday crackdown on drivers who misuse disability parking placards. There's a \$500 fine and possible license suspension for illegally using a placard or disability license plates. Fines for wrongly parking in a disability space can go up to \$350.*

## **INDIANA**

*On Monday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, the first section of the Interstate 69 extension opened. The extension will eventually run from Evansville to Indianapolis. The Indiana Dept. of Transportation said the first 67 miles of the project cost just under \$900 million.*

## **KENTUCKY**

*The Kentucky Supreme Court upheld a law that required an Amish group to post orange safety symbols on horse drawn buggies. It also upheld the convictions of several Amish men who said their religion prohibited them from following the law.*

*A new traffic flow design aims to smooth the ride for travelers in northern Kentucky. The double crossover diamond interchange at Kentucky 536 and Interstate 71/75 will be among the first of its kind in the area. Utility work and right of way acquisitions are expected to start next year.*

## **MICHIGAN**

*A poll shows that an effort to amend the state constitution to prevent building another bridge to Canada is losing, with 47% of voters opposed and 42% in favor, the Detroit Free Press reports.*

*The Department of Natural Resources has announced that the price of the Reservation Passport needed to enter state parks, recreation areas and forest campgrounds will rise from \$10 to \$11 on Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>.*

## **MONTANA**

*County treasurers will soon begin using a new computer system to verify whether people have liability insurance on a vehicle. when they license or renew its registration. Yellowstone County has been testing the Montana Insurance Verification System and Treasurer Matt Lenington says it works surprising well.*

## **NEBRASKA**

*The city of Lincoln will double its hourly parking rates when new meters are installed in the downtown area. The rates will go up to \$ 1 an hour from 50 cents. It is the first increase sine 1999.*

*The city of Omaha, in an effort to reduce accidents, wants drivers to back into all diagonal spaces instead of pulling in.*

## **NEVADA**

*A new state Assemblyman has introduced a bill that would change the law and allow bicyclists and motorcyclists to turn left on red lights, at least in limited circumstances. Assemblyman Michael Sprinkle said these vehicles often are too light and small to trip left turn signals on some four way traffic lights. The cyclists sometimes sit in the lane for interminable lengths of times waiting for a red light to change when there is no other traffic in sight. A Dept. of Transportation spokesman said that the state is replacing sensors in the pavement with visual detectors on the traffic signals. The new sensors are more likely to trip a green light for bikers, but they may not detect every bike tho.*

## ***NEW HAMPSHIRE***

***On Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, Police exhibited a device known as the Seat Belt Convincer at the Merrimack Premium Outlets to, promote seat-belt safety. Police said the device lets a rider experience the amount of force generated from even a low-speed collision.***

***A new one mile section of Interstate 93 northbound (near Salem) has opened. It is located north of the Exit 1 off-ramp in Salem.***

## ***NEW MEXICO***

***The Department of Transportation says it will spend \$20 million repairing the state's roads and bridges as winter approaches. Earlier this year, Gov. Martinez vetoed highway maintenance legislation saying it allocated the \$20 million from the state road fund for maintenance projects, but only offset it with a \$12 million transfer from tax revenue on car and truck sales.***

## ***NEW YORK***

***State Police troopers will be the first law enforcement officers in the nation to receive special training in responding to crashes involving electric and hybrid vehicles.***

***The Metropolitan Transportation Authority held hearings in November on fare and toll proposals for bridges , rails and subways. One would raise the 30-day unlimited subway MetroCard from \$104 to \$125. The base subway fare could go up from \$2.50 to \$2.75. With all of the damages from the big storm, the proposals are being redone and we can expect big increases to pay for the repairs.***

***Vendors who did not win the state's contract to produce driver's licenses are protesting the \$88.5 million award to Canadian company CBN Secure Technology, which will provide only black and white photos and end up costing the state \$38 million more than the current contract.***

## **OHIO**

*The Department of Transportation said the state will be the first to equip its snow plows with green strobe lights to improve visibility. The goal is to cut down on rear-end collisions with the plows.*

## **RHODE ISLAND**

*If driving in the Providence area, beware, thieves have stolen at least 24 manhole covers in the last 11 months. It is very difficult to see a missing manhole cover when driving at night. The man hole covers are about 185 pounds each and thieves sell them as scrap iron for 10 to 20 cents per pound.*

## **TENNESSEE**

*It took 26 years to complete, but state officials opened a 78-mile stretch of State Route 840 that loops south of Nashville. The \$750 million divided highway runs from Interstate 40 near Dickson to Interstate 40 near Lebanon and is expected to ease traffic congestion and boost the economy.*

## **TEXAS**

*The nation's fastest highway has only been open for a week, but drivers already have a reason to slow down. There were two collisions involving hogs, walking on an expanded Texas 130, an 85 mph toll road.*

## **UTAH**

*A proposal to bring an "In God We trust" specialty license plate has the approval of a legislative committee. The plate will become official if supporters gather 500 pre-orders for the design and lawmakers pass a bill in 2013.*



## **VERMONT**

*A reconstruction of U.S. Route 2 through the town of Danville is headed into a winter nap. It had been hoped the major excavation on the \$6.6 million project would be completed this season.*

## **VIRGINIA**

*Construction is expected to begin 2014 on a new \$14 billion Route 460 from Petersburg to Suffolk, with the road opening in 2018. Drivers would pay \$3.69 for cars or \$11.72 for trucks to use the 55-mile road, the Richmond Times Dispatch reports. The big storm will affect this project and it is likely that it will be delayed or altered.*

*The State Police have scaled back an aerial speed-limit-enforcement program because of costs. Since 2008, only 20 tickets have resulted from trooper patrolling interstates in Cessna 182 airplanes. The state says it has retired the planes. An hour in the air costs \$150 for fuel and maintenance.*

## **WEST VIRGINIA**

*The Department of Motor Vehicles has extending the expiration of passenger vehicles, driver's licenses, and identification cards. The extension, due to effects of Hurricane Sandy, was for registration due to expire Oct. 31 and licenses and identification cards expiring between Oct. 29 and Nov. 15. The extension was only until Nov. 15.*

## **WISCONSIN**

*A state law that prohibits new drivers from using cellphones went into effect on Nov.1. The law applies to drivers with an instruction permit or probationary license. It also applies to new state residents with fewer than three years of experience and new residents under the age of 21.*

*The rate of vehicles failing emissions tests from July through September is 5.5%, down nearly 1 percentage point from last year.*

# WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE



*Santa Monica California has a program offering free bike use for two weeks to encourage potential riders to embrace more environmentally friendly transportation. Santa Monica is one of the nations most congested traffic areas. It also has one of the nations largest bike parking facilities.. The program is run by Bike Share in partnership with the city. The goal is to have 400 bike stations and 4,000 bikes for use.*

*The sheriff of Boulder County Colorado has requested \$300,000 to equip up to 30 marked patrol cars with a camera system, but county officials have decided that the cameras will not make the 2013 budget.*

*D.C. Fire Chief Kenneth Ellerbe has proposed to the City Council to put more ambulances on the street from early morning to midday, the Washington Post reports. The fleet of 14 paramedical units, which have the most advanced lifesaving equipment and best trained personnel, would be pulled from service from about 1 a.m. to 7 a.m.*

*Residents of Brookline, Mass. have voted to ban eating establishments from using Styrofoam beverage cups and take out food containers by December 2013. Supporters say the ban will reduce trash and keep the products, which take years to break down, out of landfills.*

***Warning!!!***

***A group of San Francisco residents have sued the city to block a proposed ban on nudity. The City Council will consider a vote on the measure that prohibits nakedness on public streets, sidewalks and plazas at all times except during permitted fairs, and parades, such as the city's annual gay pride event. On Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>, the Board of Supervisors voted 5-6 in favor of an ordinance that prohibits exposed genitals in public places, including streets, sidewalks and public transit, with some exceptions for special events. The measure still needs a final vote and Mayor Edwin Lee's signature in order to take effect next year. (It is not known at this time how many members of the group are CHVA members).***

***The city of Sioux City Iowa plans to add more than 80 miles of bike paths in an effort to become a "Blue Zone" city. The City Council is reviewing the proposed paths before a final decision is made.***

***I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a great 2013.***

***Larry Becker  
Nov. 26, 2012***

