

CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION, Inc

## **OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS**

### **PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE**



**Becker**

**by Larry**

**The following state bills are not laws at this time. They have recently been introduced and are currently under consideration by the respective state legislatures.**

**Drivers across the U.S. are digging deeper into their pockets as more states and communities raise tolls or impose them for the first time to build and repair highways, bridges and tunnels. Motorists are paying more at such landmarks as Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Bridge and the Holland tunnel between New York and New Jersey. They'll soon have to ante up on Interstate 95 in Virginia. Several states have or will soon increase tolls for bridges, highways and tunnels. States with the most toll plazas are Texas, New Jersey, California and New York. Texas has 51, New Jersey 41, New York 37, Florida 34 and California with 18.**

**Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said that pre-screening of Buffalo - bound truck traffic on the Peace Bridge will start soon. She said that her department is looking to do the pre-inspection on the Canadian side of the border at the bridge and at other congested northern border crossings. This may cause longer wait times at border crossings.**

**More and more states are cracking down on texting while driving. The Governors Highway Safety Association says 31 of the 34 states who have texting message bans as well as Washington D.C. have made texting while driving a primary offense, allowing police to pull drivers over for that specific offense. California and New York are among them, as is Maine, where the law went into effect in Sept.**

## **ALABAMA**

**The state has rolled out its STAR ID (Secure and Trusted and Reliable) driver's license program that's designed to comply with federal requirements for more secure identification. The new ID is presently only at licensing examining offices in Montgomery, Autauga and Clinton counties. It will be available state wide after Jan. 1st.**

**Red Mountain Park has opened more than 10 miles of trails along the eastern half of the property. The park, purchased from U.S. Steel in 2008 for \$7 million with funds from public sources, contains 1200 acres of forest and vegetation.**

## **ARIZONA**

**Construction of a multi-level freeway-to-freeway interchange is scheduled to begin in Nov. A contract has been awarded for the interchange at Loop 303 and**

**Interstate 10 near the Cotton Lane in Goodyear. It will connect with 6-lane sections of Loop 303 that is under construction between Thomas road and Grand Ave. over the next three years.**

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## **CALIFORNIA**

**For a six month period beginning Jan. 1st, motorists can receive a 50 percent discount on some unpaid traffic tickets. The California Superior Courts in all 58 counties are offering the limited time amnesty program for certain outstanding court debts. To qualify for the 50% discount, you must have an outstanding traffic case that was due to be paid in full by Jan. 1st, 2009. You don't owe restitution to a victim on any case within the county where the traffic case was filed, you failed to appear in court , or failed to pay the fine, or you have no outstanding misdemeanor or felony warrants within the county where the traffic case was filed.**

**Gov. Brown has signed A.B.1424. Under this bill, the state's 1,000 plus most egregious tax debtors could have their driver's licenses yanked, unless they enter tax repayment programs with the state Franchise Tax Board or State Board of Equalization. About \$154.8 million is owed by the top 250 people and businessse on the state delinquency list. A list of the names will be sent to the DMV on whose licenses can be revoked. The first list will not go to the DMV until Oct. 2012.**

**Gov. Brown has signed AB 353 which restricts local police from impounding a driver's vehicle at sobriety checkpoints solely because the driver is unlicensed.**

## **COLORADO**

**Transportation officials will use pace cars to reduce congestion on Interstate 70 in the mountains this winter. They say when traffic slows down, vehicles can pass through the Eisenhower-Johnson tunnels without gridlock, during two tests this year, police vehicles served as pace cars, driving 45 mph to 55 mph with their emergency lights on. Transportation Director Tony DeVito says vehicle speeds dropped even after the tests were over.**

## **CONNECTICUT**

**The state DMV have unveiled the SELECT ID , which stems from the new federal standards after 9/11. As of Oct. 3rd, people renewing their driver's license will be able to show original identity documents . In return they will get a gold star on their license. People who decline will get a license that is stamped "not for federal identification."**

## **D.C. Washington**

**On Oct. 19th, the City Council adopted emergency legislation that would repeal criminal penalties for driving with an expired license plate, instituting fines instead, the Washington post reported. The move came after public outrage over the practice of arresting drivers. The 1973 law was used during the 1990s crack epidemic that turned the District into the murder capital of the U.S.**

**A Transportation For America report said that 215 bridges in the area are structurally deficient, including three of the five major bridges that cross the Potomac River into the city, the Washington Post reported. The Key Bridge, the Memorial Bridge and 14th Street Bridge all need repair.**

## **FLORIDA**

**Sarasota County prosecutors have decided not to use alcohol-breath results in about 100 current DUI cases in Sarasota and Manatee Counties after learning about problems with breath-test machines. The Herald Tribune reports that drivers across the state have been arrested and convicted on flawed Intoxilyzer 8000 that reported impossible results.**

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## **GEORGIA**

**Peach Passes for the new Interstate 85 toll project will soon be in the mail to police officers and firefighters in Gwinnett County under an agreement with the State Road and Tollway Authority for free access for emergency vehicles. The tolls began on Oct. 1st. in parts of Gwinnett and DeKalb Counties.**

## **ILLINOIS**

**The state Dept. of Revenue said 651 of the states 2,400 gas stations operators were illegally withholding a portion of the sales taxes their customers paid at the pump, the Tribune reported. The state has recouped \$5.4 million in back taxes, interest and penalties, largely thru settlements or after the scoffaws acknowledged their wrongdoing.**

**Chicago plans to launch a bicycle-sharing program next year , with the goal of eventually providing 3,000 bikes for short-term use. Bicycles will be available for members to use for free during the first 30 minutes. Fees will be charged for additional time and for visitors.**

## **KANSAS**

**The city of Topeka now has its first public station for charging electric vehicles. Western Energy installed the station in the heart of the downtown area. The electric utility plans charging stations in Lawrence, Emporia and Wichita.**

## **KENTUCKY**

**Four more Amish men are headed to trial over their refusal to use reflective triangles on their horse drawn-buggies. A state law requires people in a slow moving vehicle to display the bright orange safety emblem in the rear, but an Amish sects in Graves County refuses to comply, saying the law conflicts their religious beliefs. Eight Amish men served jail time in September after being convicted of not using the emblem and refusing to pay fines.**

## **MAINE**

**On Sept. 28th, a new law took effect that authorized the Dept. of Transportation to post 75 MPH speed limits from Old Town to on Interstate 75, where the 65 mph limit has been in effect. But Transportation Department spokesperson said the new limit took effect when the new signs go up the first week of Oct.**

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

**A bill is being considered by lawmakers would create a new license plate for Baby Boomers, anyone born from 1946 to 1964. The plate's design would be the subject of a contest. The plates would require drivers to pay an extra \$30, a portion of which would go to support local councils on aging across the state.**

## **MICHIGAN**

**Motorists in the city of Ferndale now can feed parking meters with a smartphone. The city is the latest in Michigan to use the Parkmobile technology that was approved by the City Council last July. People will still be able to feed the meters with coins.**

## **MINNESOTA**

**A petroleum company in Mankato is replacing gas that it delivered to nearly two dozen communities because the fuel contains too much ethanol. The gasoline came from Magellan Midstream Partners Petroleum plant. Magellan spokesperson, Bruce Heine said "an operational issue" caused the gas to contain more than 10% ethonal.**

## **NEVADA**

**One of Northen Nevada's DMV offices is opening a coffe shop . It will be inside the Reno's office on Galletti Way. The shop will offer coffee, pastries and sandwiches. (Will it help make the wait any shorter)?**

**LOL.OMG.RIP. Officials are using signs with that message in hopes of getting that point across to all ages. Not only is talking or texting with a cellphone while driving is dangerous, it will soon become illegal. Politicians behind the ban joined law enforcement and driving safety advocates on Sept. 23rd for a news conference to remind drivers of the new law which took effect on Oct. 1st. Officers began aggressively pulling over motorists who are talking or texting with handheld phones, but they will be issuing warnings until Jan. 1st, when they begin issuing misdemeanor fines of \$50. A second offence in a seven-year period carries a \$100 fine plus points on the driver's**

record and third offense and subsequent will result in \$250 fines.

## **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

The city of Keene Police Dept. is opening a permanent drop box at headquarters for residents who to dispose of unused prescription drugs. The box in the lobby officially will be available 24 hours a day for unused, unwanted and expired medicines.

## **NEW JERSEY**

The Port Authority has scrapped plans to build a \$800 million bus garage in Manhattan because recent toll increases were lower than proposed. That means the hundreds of empty buses are forced to return to New Jersey to park between the morning and evening rush hours, snarling traffic at the Lincoln Tunnel.

Effective Oct. 17th, video cameras were activated at the Garden State Parkway's 84 exact change lanes on both the highway and ramps. The cameras will record the license plates of drivers who don't pay the proper tolls. The vehicle's owners will then receive a bill in the mail for the toll plus a \$50 administration fee. The Turnpike Authority said the parkway has lost about \$3.2 million in revenue so far this year from toll cheats in exact change lanes.

## **NEW MEXICO**

The State Department of transportation is getting a \$1 million federal grant to help combat drunken driving. The money is part of an incentive program by the National Highway Safety Administration that encourages state's to

**enact and enforce laws and implement programs to combat drunken driving.**

**Keith Perry, the head of the State Motor Vehicle Dept. has resigned . Spokesman S.U. Mahesh said Perry's resignation after eight months had "absolututey nothing to do" with recent controversial effort by by the agency to verify the residency of foreign nationals who have New Mexico driver's licenses.**

## **NEW YORK**

**The New York Bridge Authority plans to increase tolls next year on it's five bridges in the Hudson Valley. The agency is proposing to boost tolls from \$1 to \$1.25 for E-ZPass customers and to \$1.50 for cash customers. The proposal comes as Bridge Authority revenue has decreased by \$450,000 so far this year because of a decline in traffic.**

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

**The DMV is running out of copies of the Driver's Handbook . Its online, but at 116 pages, many people feel it's too long to print. DMV spokesperson Marge Howell said the agency expects a new printing by next year.**

**CurrituckCounty has decided to spend \$300,000 to fill and grade an unpaved three-mile section of Ocean Pearl Road which has 75 potholes, one of which measurers nearly a tenth of an acre. "You just can't get anywhere fast" said Sonia Mays, an emergency medical employee and volunteer firefighter.**

**The State Transpotation Dept. said the Hatteras Island highway sliced apart when Hurricane Irene cut channels across the barrier island, could reopen in a few weeks. The**

first layer of asphalt has been put on Hwy. 12 nearing the beach north of Rodanthe.

## **OHIO**

Turnpike tolls are expected to increase on Jan. 1st, despite an earlier proposed freeze and opposition from truckers. Turnpike Commissioner Chairman Jerry Hruby said the increase is about 10% for trucks and cars. Cross-state rates for trucks using E-Zip Pass will increase from \$45 to \$55. A car crossing the full 242 mile-length of the turnpike will pay \$11.25 with E-Zip Pass, up from \$10.25.

## **OKLAHOMA**

A proposed ordinance would allow vehicles used in prostitution to be impounded. The measure would allow impoundment of vehicles used by pimps, prostitutes, and their customers.

## **RHODE ISLAND**

The town of Hopkinton has sent the Highway Administration letters from residents opposing proposed tolls on Interstate 95. Opponents said motorists will clog local roads to avoid tolls.

The American Civil Liberties Union is asking the City Council to dump a proposal to hire a private company to scan license plates of cars parked overnight on city streets for parking permit violations. The scanning proposal is part Mayor Angel Travera's plan for an overnight parking permit program.

## **TENNESSEE**

**The Hamilton County Clerk is giving voters who don't have a photo on their drivers license a chance to get a free updated ID that will comply with a new state voting law. Starting on Oct. 1st, the county's 7,092 registered voters who need a photo on their licenses can get a new ID, County Clerk Bill Knowles said.**

## **UTAH**

**The state is launching a spin-off of the Amber Alert with a new system to notify the public when a law enforcement officer is killed or seriously injured. Attorney General Mark Shurtleft announced the Blue Alert as the way to get the word out about potential dangerous suspects. Notification will come on electronic highway signs, media releases, text messages and e-mails.**

## **VERMONT**

**The State Dept. of Transportation plans to open seven temporary bridges by the end of Oct. to replace those damaged by the Tropical Storm Irene. Of 34 highway bridges closed due to flood damage after the storm, 25 have reopened. The first two replacements were scheduled to open the last weekend in Sept. on Route 100A in Plymouth and Route 100 in Pittsfield.**

## **WEST VIRGINIA**

**Harpers Ferry National Historic Park is looking to increase it's entrance fees to help pay the cost of running a shuttle bus system. The annual pass fee would increase from \$25 to \$30. The per-vehicle fee would raise from \$6 to \$10 and the per-person fee would increase from \$4 to \$5. The motorcycle fee would increase from \$6 to \$10.**

## WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

*Mike's Exxon in Kennewick, Washington was the last place in the TriCities area to get a windshield wash, free air for the tires and an engine oil check along with a gas fill-up is closing. Mike stated that his business was still good, but that he just wanted to retire.*

*The National Park Service has announced that the Washington Monument will be closed indefinitely and that the 5.8-magnitude in August had done more damage to it than had previously thought.*

*New York City's Times Square pedestrian plazas will be getting a sleek new redesign by 2014. The Times Square Alliance said it's intended to simplify and declutter, and create a new unified identity in the heart of Times Square. The \$27 million plan is heading for final approval.*

*In the second week of Oct., hundred of vehicles in Mandan, North Dakota have been serviced after their drivers filled up with bad gasoline that came in from the Tosoro refinery. Draining the fuel and putting in good gas seemed to fix the problems that motorists had been having with sputtering or stalling engines.*

*Thirty-three clean diesel buses will be added to Oahu, Hawaii's public transit system thanks to \$12 million federal grant. The buses provide more than 75 million rides to residents and visitors each year. Honolulu will match the grant with about \$3 million. The new buses are expected to arrive in about three months.*

*The drumbeat of idling engines at stoplights is starting to be replaced by silence, the result of an engine technology expected to spread fast within a few years. "Start-Stop" is a gas saving system that shuts off the engine when the car is stopped for more than a few seconds, then restarts it, in most systems, when the driver releases the brake. The system requires some tricky electronic controls, but otherwise requires only a beefed-up battery and a few other parts. The Kia Rio has start-stop on the redesigned 2012 models shown in October.*

*On Sept. 20th, General Motors announced that it had signed an agreement with a Chinese automaker to co-develop electric vehicles despite claims by some groups that it amounts to a giveaway of American tech secrets.*

*More than \$24 million in classic cars were sold at the Barrett-Jackson auto auction in the week ending Sept. 24th. Topping the sale was a 1964 Ford Fairlane that went for \$700,000.*

*You can say goodbye to these as they are no longer being made, Buick Lucerne, Chevrolet HHR, Ford Ranger, Mitsubishi Endeavor, Mazda Tribute, Nissan Hybrid, Honda Element and the Cadillac STS and DTS, Lotus Elise, Ford Crown Victoria, Lincoln Town Car, and the Dodge Dakota.*

*Cuba has authorized the sale and purchase of automobiles for all citizens. Buyers and sellers must each pay a 4% tax, and the buyer must make a sworn declaration that the money used to purchase the car was obtained legally. Unrestricted sales had previously been limited to cars built before the 1959 revolution.*

*A recent survey has found that more women than men favor red-light cameras. They see it more as a safety feature.*

*The Tennessee Tourism Dept. launched the Great River Road Trail, a self-guided driving tour covering 240 miles through six counties and several small towns along the Mississippi River, including museums, parks, historic homes, nature trails and Civil War sites.*

*On Oct. 8th, Southern Californians in and around downtown Los Angeles had a surreal experience as 10 miles of streets were closed to cars. Nobody was driving. The city's CicLAVia festival attempted for the third time to get Angelenos to ditch their cars for a day in an event that organizers call the city's biggest block*

*party. The idea was to open the streets to non-motorized vehicles, modeled after a weekly event in Botoga, Colombia.*

*Cleco Corp. of Louisiana unveiled its first all-electric vehicle Ciccle, a \$60,000 2011 Ford Transit Connect.*

*Half of children's car boosterseats can't ensure a proper fit with all safety belts, an insurance indutsry-related safety group said in a report on Oct.12. Booster seats , which are recommended for children who have outgrown foward -facing child seats, are designed tor raise kids up to adult size safety belts fit properly. The Insueance Institute for Highway Safety said six booster seat were so bad that itwas recommending parents to avoid them.*

*NEW MEMBER ?????*



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