



March 2012

## **Information of interest to Florida drivers**

**Florida Highway Patrol Graduates 59 New Troopers:** The Florida Highway Patrol now has 59 new state troopers to join its ranks as the 121st Recruit Class graduated from the FHP's Law Enforcement Training Academy. The graduation ceremony marked the conclusion of an intensive 27-week training period that prepares recruits for a career as a Florida State Trooper and instills the FHP's core values of courtesy, service and protection.

During his remarks, Col. David Brierton, director of the Florida Highway Patrol, congratulated the graduates for their incredible accomplishment. "We are proud that these men and women have selected law enforcement as their career, and we are proud that they have chosen the Florida Highway Patrol," he added. "They are ready to go to work, and we are more than ready to receive them into our ranks."

The 121st recruit class comprises a diverse group. There are members of this class who were born in The Ukraine, Germany, The Philippines, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic. All of these men and woman have chosen to make Florida their home and to serve the state's residents and visitors with distinction.

**Customer Alert about Unnecessary Fees:** The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles has issued a warning to its customers about deceptive websites that lure people into paying a fee to access DHSMV's online motorist services. The official-looking websites require their customers to pay a surcharge for their assistance. DHSMV does not require a surcharge for any of its websites -- [www.GoRenew.com](http://www.GoRenew.com) or [www.flhsmv.gov](http://www.flhsmv.gov) and others. The Department posts fees on [www.flhsmv.gov](http://www.flhsmv.gov). The Federal Trade Commission is now looking into this issue.

**Florida Highway Patrol Focuses on Aggressive Cars and Trucks:** Drivers on Florida roadways may want to practice some relaxation techniques before hitting the road this month. The Florida Highway Patrol announced an education and enforcement campaign to ticket aggressive truck and car drivers. In crashes involving cars and commercial trucks, actions by drivers account for 88 percent of the crashes. Only 12 percent of the crashes are the result of vehicle defects, road conditions or inclement weather. The campaign aims to reduce commercial motor vehicle-related crashes, injuries and fatalities by combining outreach and education with enforcement activities to raise awareness among car and truck drivers about safe driving behaviors.

Troopers statewide will be on the lookout for violations attributed to aggressive driving such as: following too closely, unsafe lane change and speeding; committed by truck and car drivers as they interact on Florida highways.

**Florida Offers Crash Reports Online:** DHSMV launched a new service that provides easy online access to crash reports. By going to [BuyCrash.com](http://BuyCrash.com), involved parties can purchase and download a copy of the report and eliminate the time, gas and inconvenience of driving to the local police agency and standing in line for a copy of the report.

**DO U TXT?** Texting can make you LOL (Laugh Out Loud) and a great way to communicate with your friends and family. But it is no laughing matter when done while driving. The possibility of a life altering tragedy is very real and it must make everyone think twice before picking up their cell phone to text while driving. According to a study conducted by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, drivers are 23 times more likely to be involved in a traffic crash when texting while driving.

**An Appointment Saves Time!** All customers who must visit one of our offices to renew, replace, or file a change of address to their driver license or identification card, are urged to secure an appointment prior to their visit. Connect via Internet at [www.flhsmv.gov/oasis](http://www.flhsmv.gov/oasis) for an appointment to reduce the length of the visit. Then link to the [on-line pre-application](#) and complete it before coming to one of our offices.

Driver license offices in Florida are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please check our website at [www.flhsmv.gov/offices/](http://www.flhsmv.gov/offices/) for the most up-to-date information on office locations and schedules.

**Document Assistance:** DHSMV highly recommends that all our customers visit [www.GatherGoGet.com](http://www.GatherGoGet.com), a website dedicated to assist Floridians with new driver license and identification card requirements. Floridians renewing or obtaining a new license or ID are required to show proof of: 1) identification, 2) Social Security number and 3) residential address (two items).

The website and its tools are also available in Spanish at [www.ReunaVenqaObtenqa.com](http://www.ReunaVenqaObtenqa.com) and in Creole at [www.RasanbleAlePran.com](http://www.RasanbleAlePran.com).

The Department is issuing driver licenses and identification cards that meet new federal standards. This will enhance our efforts to minimize fraud and identity theft.

**Driver Licenses and Identification Card Fees**

Class E (original and renewal)	<b>\$48</b>	Commercial Driver License (original and renewal)	<b>\$75</b>
ID Card (original and renewal)	<b>\$25</b>		
Replacement License or ID	<b>\$25</b>		
Endorsements	<b>\$ 7</b>		
Driver License Services at Tax Collector Office Service Fees	<b>\$ 6.25</b>		

For a complete listing of all motorist services fees, including the amount of the previous fee and the date of the most recent fee change, please click [here](#).

A combination of vehicle information is used to determine registration fees. They are the registration use, license plate type and class code. The class code is determined by the vehicle weight, body type, vehicle type and registration use. To see a sample, click [here](#).

For a list of frequently asked questions and answers regarding Florida's fees, click [here](#).

***Buckle Up Every Time, Everyone!***