

on the go

Managing Novice Driver Anxiety

Who's Losing Their Cool



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Learning to drive can be a stressful and sometimes dangerous experience. These tips from AAA will help parents become effective coaches as their novice drivers prepare for the responsibility of driving. More on page 12.

On The Go

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President's Note

Peter J. Armstrong
President/CEO

“...what good is a law if no one abides by it...”

Lesson Learned?

Joseph P. Bradley, former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States (March 14, 1813–January 22, 1892), is quoted as saying “Society cannot exist without law. Law is the bond of society, that which makes it, that which preserves it and keeps it together. It is, in fact, the essence of civil society.”

Not many would argue that laws are unnecessary. Yet, what good is a law if no one abides by it?

“Move Over” laws are designed to prevent collisions between approaching drivers and emergency workers performing their duties at the roadside, such as law enforcement, EMS and emergency road service providers. Generally requiring approaching drivers to change lanes away from the emergency vehicle and/or reduce speed significantly, these laws go a long way toward preventing vehicle-pedestrian collisions.

At the end of October 2020, Governor Tom Wolfe put his signature to a bill that strengthened PA’s already existing Steer Clear law. All fifty states and the District of Columbia have what are commonly called “Move Over” laws in place. In Pennsylvania, motorists are required to move over to an adjacent lane at an emergency response area and if that’s not possible, to slow down to a speed of no more than 20 miles per hour less than the posted speed limit.

The following week, on the heels of media coverage and public awareness messaging about the newly strengthened law, AAA joined members of the Berks County DUI Taskforce, including Exeter Twp Police, the Highway Safety Network and PennDOT, to conduct an enforcement activity. Incredibly, in less than four hours on the night of the exercise, thirty eight motorists were stopped for making no effort to avoid a AAA tow truck that was parked at the side of the road providing assistance to a disabled vehicle. The tow truck was incredibly lit up, emergency LED

flashers and light bars blazing in the night. Yet, vehicle after vehicle – from compact car to tractor trailer – drivers whizzed by, inches from the tow truck lit up like a Christmas tree and the vulnerable technician rendering aid. The weather was chilly but visibility was optimal. There was just no excuse for not doing the right thing.

Research into roadside collisions is ongoing. In fact, several potentially useful aspects were revealed in a recent study by the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center, specifically focusing on tow truck operators. Here are some highlights that we should all keep in mind:

First, the odds of an emergency responder being killed if a collision occurs is quite high. The researchers found that when struck by a vehicle moving at highway speeds, the odds of a professional pedestrian being killed were 85%. This is a potentially mortal traffic safety issue that every driver should take very seriously.

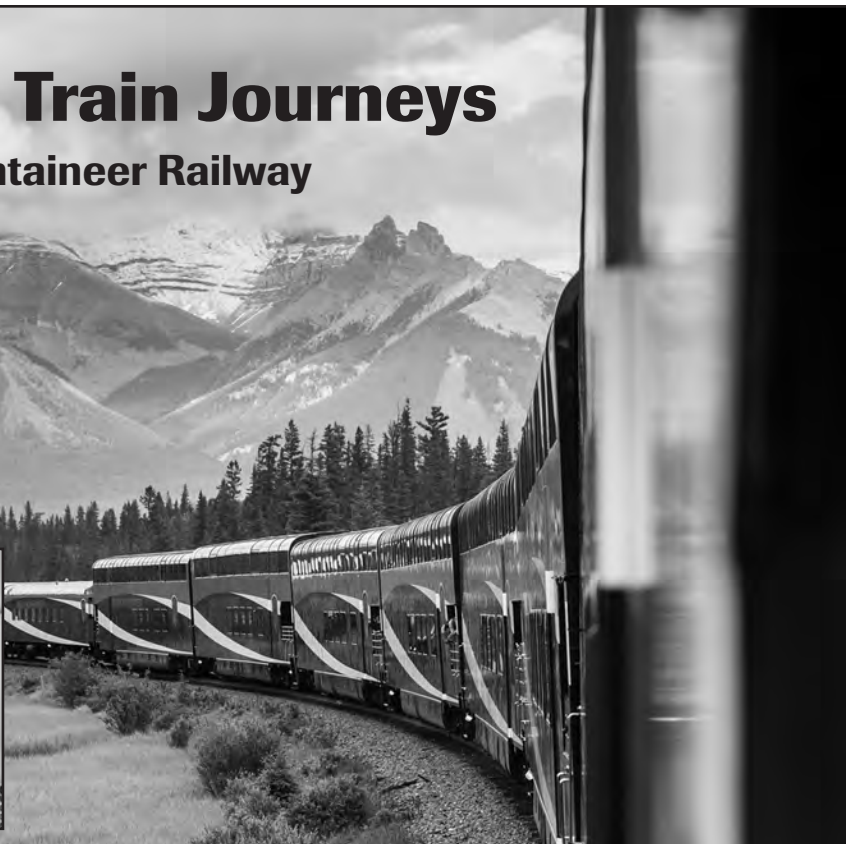
Second, the researchers found that environmental factors can play a significant role. Approaching drivers would be wise to slow down and/or move over at the earliest point they detect even a potential vehicle stopped along the roadside.

Lastly, these types of collisions often involve an approaching driver crossing over the line into the professional pedestrian’s work area. Some drivers might focus their attention exclusively on the stopped vehicle, and may unintentionally steer toward the vehicle. Other drivers may be distracted, not perceive the stopped vehicle at all, and drift right into the work area.

It is research studies and real world experiences like these that reveal ways to prevent collisions. We encourage you to integrate these findings into your own safe driving routine. It could save a life.

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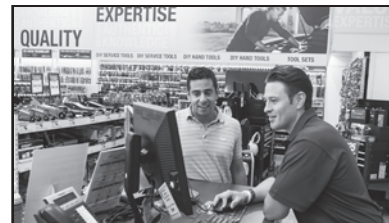
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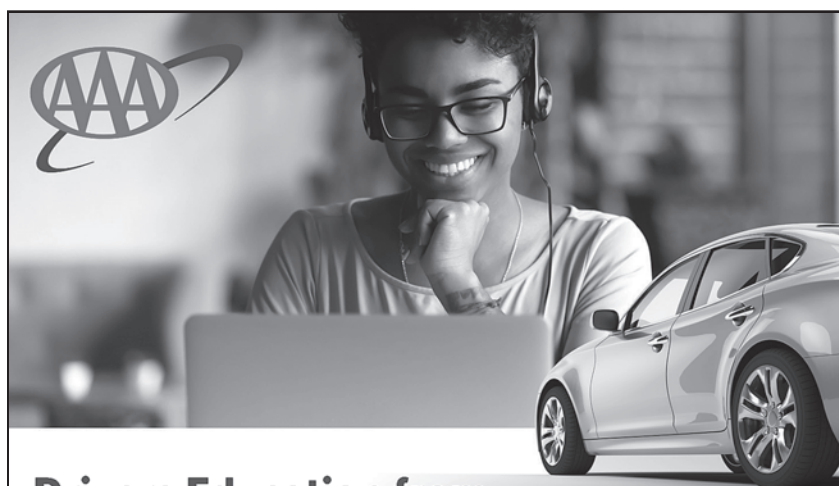
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CarFit Virtual Workshops & Focus Sessions

Due to the suspension of in-person events since last March, the CarFit Administrators, AAA, AARP, and the American Occupational Therapy Association are pleased to announce a series of virtual workshops geared toward older drivers.

Virtual Workshop: Making sure that you and your vehicle fit well together can be as important to your safety as a mechanical checkup. The new CarFit Virtual Workshop will provide an in-depth look at several key aspects involved in getting a proper fit in your vehicle. Learn about what to look for when it comes to fit, the everyday household objects you can use to measure and make adjustments, and how this may keep you safer on the road.

During this free, 90-minute workshop you will learn:

- Actions you can take to improve your fit in your personal vehicle,

- How getting the proper fit in your vehicle may increase your safety and the safety of others on the road,

- When and how to connect with professionals and trained volunteers who can help you achieve a better fit.

Virtual Focus Session: This 30-minute session is a small group discussion with CarFit volunteers designed to explore common challenges to making adjustments and finding a safe and comfortable fit in your car. This session is for individuals who have already attended a CarFit Virtual Workshop and still have specific questions or concerns regarding how to achieve a proper fit in their vehicle. Please participate in a CarFit Virtual Workshop before registering for a Virtual Focus Session.

To register, visit the CarFit website - www.car-fit.org → Virtual Workshops. Space is limited!



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who's losing their cool



Data gathered by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety confirms the perception that men tend to speed, tailgate, merge dangerously, and make rude gestures or honk at other drivers more than women. The survey finds that women also admit to some dangerous driving habits, such as running red lights. Overall, younger male and female drivers tend to be more aggressive than older drivers. With everyday stress already compounded by the pandemic, which can elevate tensions on the road, AAA urges motorists to keep their cool and avoid dangerous driving habits.

Regardless of gender, nearly 8 in 10 (79%) American drivers demonstrate aggressive behaviors when behind the wheel. Speeding tops the list, with men being the biggest culprit, though women are not far behind. Contrary to common perception, speeding does not save time on the road. The average amount saved on a 5-mile trip, driving 65 mph on a 45 mph posted road, is only 1.9 minutes.

“Speeding, red-light running, and cutting other drivers

AAA research shows differences between men and women

off can kill you, your passengers, and others sharing the road,” said Jake Nelson, AAA’s director of traffic safety advocacy. “Driving aggressively isn’t worth the risk. When you get behind the wheel, be patient, be kind, and obey traffic laws so everyone gets home safely.”

A driver may be stressed or react wrongly to another driver’s action on any given day, and certain times of the year can add to the strain and anxiety. Introduce the pressures and concerns tied to a global pandemic, and even the calmest, most safety-conscious drivers can find themselves frustrated by other motorists.

“If you encounter an aggressive driver on the road or find your temper rising, remember to slow yourself down,

breathe deeply, and safely create distance between you and other motorists. Aggressive drivers are likely not thinking about their potential impact on others until it is too late,” added Nelson.

AAA offers these tips to help drivers manage aggressive driving scenarios:

Don’t Offend: Never cause another driver to change their speed or direction. That means not forcing another driver to use their brakes or turn the steering wheel in response to something you have done.

Be Tolerant and Forgiving: The other driver may just be having a really bad day. Assume that it’s not personal.

Do Not Respond: Avoid eye contact, don’t make gestures, maintain space around your vehicle, and contact 9-1-1 if needed.



Aggressive Driving Laws

Overall, 13 states and Washington, D.C. have aggressive driving laws, while three additional states (CA, PA, and UT) have taken action on aggressive driving through other legislative actions.

California has enacted a law against committing a criminal assault using a motor vehicle (commonly known as “road rage”); the Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed a resolution to encourage drivers to drive courteously and defensively, not aggressively. The House also resolved to support measures that would promote safe driving practices in the Commonwealth. Utah’s reckless driving law is similar to aggressive driving offenses in other states.



Aggressive Driving Behaviors among Male and Female U.S. Drivers, 2019

Learn more at
aaa.com/preventroadrage

Drove 15 mph over the speed limit on a freeway	52.0%	44.6%
Followed the vehicle in front closely to prevent another vehicle from merging	37.8%	29.3%
Made rude gesture/honked at another driver	35.4%	28%
Drove through a red light	32.2%	30.0%
Drove aggressively by switching lanes quickly and/or very close behind another car	31.5%	21.4%

Brain Training for Driver Safety

Drivers who have been on the road for thirty or more years know a lot about driving, and a lot about how to drive safely. But statistics show that after the age of 50, the risk of having a crash grows and grows - until experienced drivers are at as much risk as teenagers fresh behind the wheel! How could this be? Well, if you're an experienced driver, you know it's not because you don't know how to drive safely - you've had decades of experience with safe driving. It's because the brain changes over time - and in ways that make it harder to notice hazards on the road quickly, and harder to take the right action to avoid those hazards in time to avoid a crash.

Brain training can help. By specifically improving your visual speed and attention, the exercises in DriveSharp train the basic brain skills of experienced drivers - giving you the brainpower to stay sharp at any age behind the wheel.

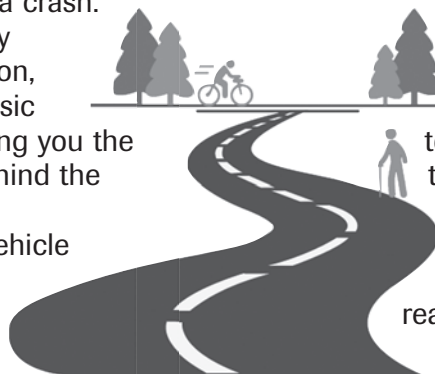
The most important cause of motor vehicle crashes in experienced drivers is when a driver doesn't notice a hazard in enough time to take the action that their experience has taught them is the right one. A common report from experienced drivers is that another vehicle (or bike, or pedestrian, or child) "just came out of nowhere" and there wasn't enough time to react.

DriveSharp - a tool supported by the AAA

Foundation for Traffic Safety - has taken this core science, which has been developed over decades of university-based research, and built them into a fun and engaging on-line brain training program. When you train with DriveSharp, it's not like a driving simulator - you already know what it's like to drive, and you know the rules of the road. DriveSharp takes a different approach - think of it as a workout for your brain. If you go to the gym and work on a rowing machine, or do arm curls, you get broad ranging physical benefits far beyond rowing or curling - like weight loss, cholesterol improvement, and overall fitness.

DriveSharp works the same way - when you use the program and train your brain with the hazard signs, flying tomatoes, paint cans, cars, trucks, and national parks, you get broad ranging brain benefits far beyond those specific things - like quicker reaction time, improved ability to avoid crashes, and over safer driver skills.

With DriveSharp, every driver can improve their driving safety - at any age. You'll find a like to DriveSharp from AAA's senior driver safety web site, SeniorDriving.AAA.com → Maintain Mobility & Independence → Keep Your Mind & Body Fit.



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Mouse Chew Redo

Apparently there are quite a few little critters running around, taking up residence in and consuming our vehicles. My last article, *Dealing with Rodent Damage*, generated quite a nice - and appreciated - response from our readers. So I thought that, instead of addressing a new automotive topic of concern submitted by a reader, in this issue I'd share a couple of the rodent problem solutions shared with me. My comments are in italics.

"Dear Ed, just read your column in my AAA magazine. Farmers have had this problem for a long time, actually anyone that has equipment parked outside. There is a product that really works, it is called Fresh Cab Rodent Repellent. I buy mine at Erb and Henry Equip. Inc. in New Berlinville. It is a botanical product that has balsam fir oil as the active ingredient. Big plus, it smells good!"

Darrell P.

You can learn more about this product at earthkind.com, where you can purchase it online for \$59 for a 12-pack, sign up for a 12-pack delivered every three months for \$50.15, or as a 36 industrial pack for \$179. The web site claims that this product is safe for use around children and pets when used as directed. Prices range elsewhere from \$12.99 (Blain's Farm & Fleet, farmandfleet.com, for a pack of four pouches) to \$19.95 (Lehman's, lehman.com, for a pack of four pouches).

"Ed, the perfect solution works 100% of the time. That is, using 100% Pure and Natural Peppermint Oil, dab small amounts throughout the engine compartment; it doesn't take much. Rodents avoid this smell and will go elsewhere. Renewal of the oil is necessary, usually after 3 or 4 months. I've done that and it works!"

Dan R.

I found Pure Origin Rodent Repellent 100% Peppermint Oil at pureoriginproducts.com for \$29.99 for an 8 oz. bottle of concentrate or \$18.99 for a 16 oz. spray bottle of diluted solution.

"Concerning Rodent Damage, I was having problems with my mowers at my camp. Mice easily entered the shed and each spring I had wires exposed or broken. A friend of mine said he heard the drier sheets Bounce kept mice away. The last two years I put an abundance of these sheets near the wires. No damage and better yet no sign of mice droppings on the sheets. This will be my third year, hoping for the same results, or should I say I am confident I will not have damage."

Herb S.

There are many internet claims that dryer sheets repel mice, bats, mosquitoes, rats and other pests. The TV show This Old House did a piece about it. An RV blogger commented on it. I even found some internet articles written by



pest control companies that had opinions on the use of dryer sheets to repel these little home wreckers. All mostly emphasize that the smell - although pleasant to humans - is uncomfortable for rodents and encourages them to look elsewhere for a home. Since the perfumes dissipate over time, the replacement of old sheets with fresh ones seemed to make a difference.

Thanks for writing in, everyone. Keep those cards and



letters and emails coming.

Happy motoring!

Ed

Do you have an automotive question, comment or concern? Contact Ask Ed - maybe you'll see your issue addressed in a future edition of On The Go!

AskEd@aaardgberks.com or write to Ask Ed, AAA, 920 Van Reed Road, Wyomissing, PA 19610.

SeaWorld at Frontline of Conservation Effort

SeaWorld and conservation partner, American Humane, have released a new, eye-opening documentary called "Escape From Extinction" to help raise awareness of the rising threats facing animals and their habitats across the globe.

The feature is narrated by academy award winner Helen Mirren and produced and directed by Matthew Brady of MRB Productions in partnership with American Humane. It explores what scientists are calling a 'Sixth Mass Extinction' or, in other words, the loss of biodiversity. The documentary includes remarkable footage of endangered animals and shows the vital work of major zoological organizations which, according to American Humane, are truly nature's last arks of

hope in the fight to prevent endangered and disappearing species from going extinct within a generation.

The facilities and individuals included in the film are considered the world's leading animal welfare specialists, veterinarians, and conservation

scientists dedicated to protecting and preserving animals from all corners of the earth and its oceans. SeaWorld is among a number of accredited zoological facilities whose conservation work is highlighted, along with SeaWorld's own Dr. Christopher Dold and Kelly Flaherty Clark.

The film is now showing in over a 100 theaters across the U.S. through Concert Films. Proceeds from the 90-minute documentary will go back to American Humane in helping to further its vital work to aid animals around the world, including saving, sheltering, and improving the lives of some one billion animals each year.

SeaWorld and American Humane are proud to be a part of this project, and hope to "SEA" you at the theater!



My Happy Place...

AAA Travel Agents share their favorite destinations

My name is Nicki Vandevort and I have been a part of the travel industry for 27 years. I have always considered myself a beach person until I experienced the mountains of Alaska.

Photography is a very amateur hobby of mine. There is no shortage of photography subjects in the land of the midnight sun. My favorite time of year in Alaska is fall. The ground in Denali National Park is covered with red fireweed and the aurora borealis lights up the night sky. Late spring is also a great time to visit as the animals are making their way down to the tundra.

A drive along the Seward Highway any time of year offers spectacular views of the Turnagain Arm shorelines



and the Chugach Mountains. If you are an outdoor lover like me, Alaska is a must-see.

Hiking in the wilderness, horseback riding through the forest, or simply finding a spot to enjoy the view is what draws me to my happy place, Alaska.

Please email me

at

nvandevort@aaardgberks.com or call me at 484-878-2069 to learn more about the wonders of Alaska.

.....

My name is Abigail O'Keefe and I have been a travel agent for over four years. Out of all the destinations I have traveled to, none of them were quite like Alaska.

Even though the 22 hours of sunlight took some getting used to, it meant there were more hours in the day to explore! From zip-lining in Talkeetna to cuddling with puppies at Jeff King's Husky Homestead in Denali, I never

wanted to leave. Although my trip to Alaska was nothing less than amazing,

my travels only lasted a week and I wish I could have stayed longer. The next time I travel to Alaska I would like to stay for at least two weeks and adventure

down to the Kenai Fjords National Park to go kayaking and hike

to Exit Glacier! Talk to me

about setting up your AAA Alaska adventure - 484-878-2064.



CARL, The Remote EV Charging Robot

One of the largest concerns drivers have about electric vehicles (EVs) is the possibility of running out of battery power while away from their permanent charging station - range anxiety! While it's relatively easy to ensure an EV is charged up by plugging it in to a power source at home, what happens if your battery is running low while you are away from home?

That is where the mobile EV-charging robot named CARL comes in! Under development by Aiways, its charger is simply requested by a driver via an app, then it drives itself to the EV's location and automatically plugs itself into the vehicle to charge it. And charging won't take long, due to the robot's charging power - it is capable of increasing an EV's battery level to 80 percent in less than one hour.

CARL looks like a glorified vacuum cleaner and is equipped with hardware that allows it to recharge electric cars with either 30 kWh or 60 kWh and should be compatible with any recognized charging standard.

"Instead of drivers trying to find a charger, the charger will find them," said Alex Klose, VP for Overseas Operations at Aiways.

"We want to make EV ownership as simple, easy and enjoyable as possible, and CARL provides a blueprint for how EVs can be charged in the future."

Aiways has not announced when CARL may become available to the public.

In sum, instead of having to drive to some unknown charging station, the station comes directly to your vehicle and takes care of business, ensuring you have plenty of juice to make it to your next destination. Beyond looking rather cool, sort of like a Star Wars droid, it also holds promise to significantly reduce the biggest concern people have about EVs, thus helping to promote the adoption of electric vehicles and supporting further reductions in vehicle-related negative impacts on the environment. Charge on!



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managing novice driver

ANXIETY



From time to time, parents are faced with a teen who is appreciably on-edge about learning to drive. Intellectually, teens likely recognize it's normal to be nervous. Emotionally, however, the mere thought of driving a car can cause some youth to become anxious to the extent it is difficult for them to function. Some learners suffer with anxiety to a degree they may become temporarily incapacitated. Recognizing that your teenager is extra nervous about behind-the-wheel instruction is one thing; being equipped to assist him or her is quite another. The purpose of this article is to explore strategies and techniques for coping with – and managing – that anxiety.

It might be helpful to explore several reasons why your teen may be reluctant to move toward provisional driver licensure:

Fear of the unknown – The training vehicle they'll be driving and/or the instructor with whom they'll work.

Concern with harming others – Damaging the car, or appearing “foolish”.

Scared of being struck, injured, or killed by other road users.

Fear of failing – Often the result of performance expectations ineffectively communicated (or not communicated at all) by parent or other



instructor.

Fear of succeeding.

As to fear of the unknown, it is helpful to “set the stage” at the onset of any in-car instructional session. Previewing the objectives and planned activities of any behind-the-wheel session as it begins goes a long way toward reducing learner nervousness. Students are in a much better position to see their way clear to succeeding when we clearly communicate performance expectations.

Consider using a 0 to 10 scale to discuss with your teen his/her anxiety at the start of an in-car session. Toward the end of the session, ask him to score his anxiety level





a second time. The goal, of course, is to reduce the number. Even if the number remains the same (or even if it happens to increase), teenagers at this stage are actively involved in their own emotional statuses. Moreover, this method allows parents and even professional instructors to gauge novice drivers' outlooks as they learn to drive.

When using this technique, it is important to establish with the teen the meaning of the rating scale. For example, you might say, "On a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 meaning 'none' and 10 meaning 'awful', where is your anxiety right now?" Often times, the teen will respond in a non-numeric, non-committal way, such as, "Meh", "Not bad", "I'm fine", or by shrugging their shoulders. Be kind in meeting these types of responses, but be gently firm in insisting upon a number. Once a scale number is provided, assure your son or daughter that an important session goal is for that number to go down. Not surprisingly, most typical end-of-sessions student-reported numbers are, in fact, lower.

Whether or not the parental or professional instructor uses the above technique, it is vital to establish and maintain a cool, calm instructional style when working in-car with teenagers. Use

positive reinforcement appropriately. Identify and communicate clear paths to performance improvement as indicated. Rather than speaking and training in terms of what teens are "comfortable" doing, focus instruction on competence-based confidence.

For example, many teens are terrified at the mere prospect of negotiating freeway environments. Consider the differences between the following instructor-to-student session preview approaches:

A. "Today, we're expressway driving. Are you comfortable with that?"

B. "Today, we're driving on a freeway or two. You might be a little apprehensive about that, and that's OK. But if I didn't think you were up to it, we wouldn't be doing it. You've got this!"

A successful in-car session is a period of time during which no one has been killed or injured, nothing has been broken, and learning has occurred. That's worthy of feeling relieved and accomplished ... by the learner and the instructor. Relatively little for teens learning to drive is "comfortable", per se, although righteous confidence blossoms and grows as demonstrated student competence improves. Anything parents can reasonably do to ease in-car anxiety serves our young adult – and us – well.

How to use GoodRx Coupons at the Pharmacy in a COVID-19 World

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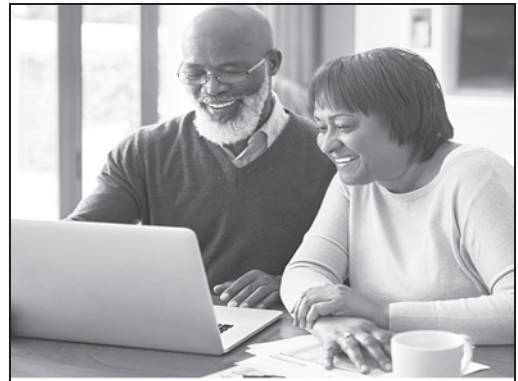
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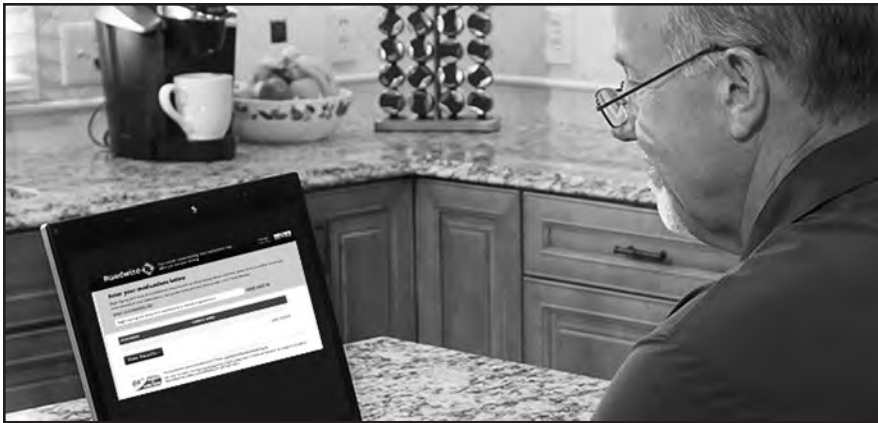
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Eight out of ten senior drivers age 65 and older take medications on a regular basis.

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And despite high prescription and over-the-counter medication use, almost half of senior drivers using medications have never talked with their health care providers about how the drugs might affect their safe driving abilities.

Medications have both intended and unintended effects on your body, and these effects change based on the other medications that you're taking and the foods that you eat. Not only does that affect how you feel, many of these effects can also impact your ability to safely drive.

Roadwise Rx - a free, confidential tool developed by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety - offers a way for you to record all of your medications in one central location. It also provides customized feedback on how your prescription and over-the-counter drugs, herbal supplements and foods, as well as their interactions with each other, can affect safe driving.



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Destinations & Diversions

Magic is Here Again at Disney Theme Parks

After several months of being closed, *Walt Disney World® Resort* theme parks officially reopened their gates to guests in July. With the reopening brings new health and safety policies and procedures for all guests and cast members, including a significant reduction in guest capacity, that follow guidance from health experts and government agencies. In addition to limits on attendance, new procedures are in place for park entry, attractions, dining, retail, transportation and more, with the well-being of guests and Disney cast members at the forefront of the planning.

Disney Park Pass Reservation System To promote physical distancing, guest capacity is limited at all *Walt Disney World Resort* theme parks. Guests with a ticket or Annual Pass must use the *Disney Park Pass* system to make a reservation in advance for each park entry.

Once guests log in to their **StartYourDisneyExperience.com** account and link their tickets, they have access to a calendar of available reservation dates for each theme park; multi-day tickets require a park reservation for each day of their tickets. Families and friends can link their tickets together and look to arrange theme park entries at the same time. Park reservations are limited in number and subject to availability.

Health and Safety Procedures Theme parks will include the following new protocols:

- *Appropriate face coverings* – All guests 2 years of age and older, along with cast members, will be required to wear an appropriate face covering while visiting the theme parks. They must be worn over the nose and

mouth at all times, except when actively eating or drinking while stationary.

- *Transportation* – Capacity is limited for complimentary *Walt Disney World* guest transportation. Buses and monorails implemented a combination of physical distancing and physical barriers to provide separation between guest parties. Party groups are required to remain physical distancing while aboard Disney watercraft. On *Disney Skyliner*, one party per gondola will be enforced. For those arriving in personal vehicles, auto plazas offer cashless payment; parking lot trams are not to be available at this time.

- *Temperature Screenings* – All guests will be required to undergo temperature screenings prior to entering a theme park. Based on the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, anyone displaying a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher will not be allowed entry, nor will those in their party.

- *Physical Distancing and Capacity Measures* – To maintain appropriate physical distancing, a limited number of guests will be able to visit each theme park each day; limits are also in place for indoor locations within the parks, such as retail shops and dining locations. Ground markings and physical barriers have been added to help guests responsibly navigate the parks.

- *Cleanliness* – Enhanced cleaning procedures have been implemented and guests are encouraged to frequently use hand-washing stations and hand sanitizer available throughout the theme parks.

- *Cashless Transactions* – Guests are encouraged to use cashless options whenever possible, including MagicBands, debit cards, credit cards,

Disney gift cards and mobile payment methods. The *My Disney Experience* App is essential to make the most of the magic and can be used for mobile food ordering.

Beloved Attractions & Character Experiences Most attractions will be available at each park. Enter a cartoon world at Mickey & Minnie's Runaway Railway at *Disney's Hollywood Studios*. Visit the Valley of Mo'ara in Pandora – The World of Avatar at *Disney's Animal Kingdom*. And enjoy a bevy of *Magic Kingdom* favorites, such as The Haunted Mansion, Pirates of the Caribbean, and Space Mountain.

Seeing beloved Disney Characters is one of the most magical moments of any Disney theme park experience. While traditional greetings are on hiatus, Disney characters will appear in new and different ways throughout all four theme parks, bringing smiles to guests' faces while maintaining proper physical distancing.

With all these changes, the fundamentals of a Disney theme park experience remain the same. Stories will come to life through favorite attractions and beloved characters. Cast members have started returning to work – donning their costumes and pinning on their name tags once again – and are ready to help guests discover magic is here again at *Walt Disney World Resort* theme parks.

When you're ready, AAA Travel agents can help you plan your dream Disney vacation. Contact AAA Travel at 610-374-5600 or visit [AAA.com/Travel](https://www.aaa.com/Travel)



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Where in Berks is...?

Berks County has historic roots that run deep, some of it leaning toward the darker, somber side. Such a place is Shartlesville.

It all began in 1765 when the Shartle family built the Shartle Log Cabin Inn. As often happens, settlers built homes nearby, viewing the inn as a form of refuge when an indian attack was imminent.

Located in Upper Bern Township, Shartlesville at present is the scene of robust warehouse construction. With easy access to Interstate 78, Amazon, Wal-mart and Ashley Furniture wisely erected distribution centers in this lovely section of the county on the south side of Blue Mountain.



Perhaps the lovely landscape was what enticed the small group of Amish that settled along the Northkill Creek in 1736 - the first Amish settlement in America. According to explorepahistory.com, the first families were the Hostetlers, Yoders, Hetzlers and Millers, followed by the Zugs, Jotters, Glicks and Kauffmans. By 1749, the community grew to more than 150 residents. These peaceful settlers enjoyed a time of good relations with the indigenous native people.

Tragically, when the bloody action of the French and Indian War spilled into Pennsylvania, the settlers suffered terribly. Staying true to their pacifistic holdings, the Amish offered no resistance when a Lenape and Shawnee raiding party attacked on September 29, 1757. Members of the Jacob Hochstetler family were killed - his wife and two children - with Jacob and his two sons taken captive and turned over to the French in the area of Lake Erie.

What was left of the Northkill community scattered east and south. To this day, travelers can stop to read the iron roadside marker, erected in 1959 by descendants of the Hochstetler family, near the now-closed Roadside America attraction.

Another historic landmark - also now closed - is Haag's Hotel and Family Restaurant. Six generations of the same family served delicious Pennsylvania Dutch food from its location along Old Route 22 - also known as Hex Highway - in the middle of Shartlesville. Established in the early 1800s, it was rebuilt and back in business a year after a fire destroyed it in 1914. A member of the fourth generation - John J. Seitzinger - was born upstairs.

Are you a treasure hunter? Why not drop by Antique Treasures, 55 Roadside Drive or Good's Antique Goods, 5715 Old U.S. 22, for a fun afternoon of searching for your next great find.

Jack Frost nipping at your nose? Shiver on in to the Shartlesville Sheepskin Shop, 18 Roadside Drive, for comfy sheepskin apparel and accessories that are sure to fend off any chill.

All that shopping is bound to make you hungry. Pull up a table at the Blue Mountain Family Restaurant or



order great take out food at Kramer's Korner and Kramer's Scoops and Subs, 5652 Old U.S. 22. Prior to its closing in 2012, delicious Pennsylvania Dutch cuisine - 7 sweets and 7 sour - was enjoyed by generations at the Shartlesville Hotel. Built in the 1800s, it served as stagecoach stop, hotel, brothel, and then restaurant.



Walk off the calories with a nice hike on the State Game lands - you can follow the path to the Appalachian Trail. This section is the Tom Lowe Trail at State Game Lands Number 110. The area features a waterfall and is rated as moderate for hikers.

After a nice nature walk, you'll look forward to cooking over the fire at your campsite at either Mountain Springs Camping Resort, 3450 Mountain Road, Hamburg (north of the Shartlesville Exit 23 of I-78) or the Appalachian RV Campground, 60 Motel Drive.


Get out and explore beautiful, historic, engaging Berks County!



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Pennsylvania's Enhanced Move Over Law

As of November 2, 2020, 43 emergency responders have been struck and killed in the U.S. (16 law enforcement officers, 20 tow truck operators, 1 mobile mechanic, 3 Fire/EMS personnel and 3 safety-service patrol operators). This includes two Pennsylvania emergency responders, paramedic Matt Smelser and tow operator/FF Tyler Laudenslager.

On Thursday, October 29, 2020, Governor Tom Wolf signed Senate Bill 1281, the enhanced Move Over Legislation into law, Act 105 of 2020, taking effect April 27, 2021.

The Pennsylvania General Assembly voted unanimously on October 21st to approve Senate Bill 1281, with House Amendments for an enhanced Pennsylvania Move Over Law.

SUMMARY: This legislation amends Title 75 to modify the Commonwealth's "Steer Clear Law" and renames the law as the "Move Over Law". The renaming brings clarity to what is expected of motorists when they drive near an

emergency situation on the roadway.

This legislation increases the penalties, establishes the minimum speed when passing in a nonadjacent lane, extends the provisions to disabled vehicles and increases PennDOT's responsibilities for public awareness.

Below is a breakdown of the increased fines a person would be subject to along with a summary offense for a violation of Section 3327(a) or (a.1):

- 1st offense = Increased from \$250 to \$500
- 2nd offense = Increased from \$500 to \$1,000
- 3rd offense = Increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000

Enhanced Penalties: This legislation also adds enhanced penalties for bodily injury or death in relation to emergency response areas or disabled vehicles.

Schedule of Convictions and Points: The legislation also amends Section 1535 to establish that a person would be subject to two points for a violation of Section 3327(a) or

(a.1).

Minimum Speed: If a person cannot pass an emergency response area or while passing a disabled vehicle in a nonadjacent lane because it is impossible, illegal or unsafe, the person would need to pass those areas at a speed no more than 20 miles per hour less than the posted speed limit.

Markings by Disabled Vehicles: A disabled vehicle shall use at least two of the following markings:

- Vehicular hazard signal lamps as provided in section 4305 (relating to vehicular hazard signal lamps)
- Caution signs or other traffic control device
- Road flares.

Public Awareness Campaign: PennDOT shall educate the public of the Move Over Law periodically throughout the year and maintain information on the department's website and refer to the education effort as the "Move Over" campaign.

Every motorist has the opportunity and, more importantly, the responsibility to save lives by obeying this law.

facebook.com/groups/PennTIME | www.PennTIME.org

IIHS: New Older Driver Data

A new Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) study shows that drivers in their 70s are now less likely to be involved in a fatal crash than those in their prime working years - a marked turnaround from previous estimates.

As expected, the number of older drivers has risen sharply. It was this expectation that led to the theory that these older drivers could be a threat to themselves and other road-way users. While older drivers may self-regulate - choosing not to drive under conditions that they find difficult - the fact remains that older people in general are more fragile



physically. Injuries incurred in a crash that could be survived by a younger person can prove incapacitating or deadly to a person of advanced age.

Advanced age can also mean a change in cognition, ability to judge distance and speed of oncoming vehicles, and other issues that have a bearing on safe driving.

The IIHS study showed that better health in individuals that are driving safer vehicles - although advanced in years - combined with improvements in infrastructure and changes to licensing policies, has had a positive impact on reducing the expected upsurge in older driver crashes.

The study compared trends among drivers aged 70+ with drivers

aged 35-54. As had been expected, the number of older licensed drivers rose almost twice as fast from 2010 to 2018, reflective of the increase from 2000 to 2010. Miles driven by older drivers also increased during this period, no doubt a result of more seniors delaying retirement compared to previous generations.

Advances in vehicle safety can be credited for the lower number of crashes experienced by drivers of advanced age and a reduction in injury severity when they are involved in a crash. Easier to read highway signage has eased older driver confusion, and conversion of intersections to roundabouts has removed the top cause of older driver crashes - the left turn.

Interestingly, the study showed that, per mile traveled, middle-aged drivers are now over-represented in both fatal and reportable crashes of all severities when compared to drivers over the age of 70 years. The study pointed out that this has not been seen since 2017.

This doesn't mean that older drivers have nothing to worry about. They are still physically more fragile and are hurt more severely when involved in a crash. Recovery from an injury also takes longer in older persons than younger persons. Another interesting factor is that older drivers tend to keep their older cars longer. As these vehicles are slowly replaced with newer ones with better safety features, it is still imperative that older drivers do whatever they can to remain safely behind the wheel.

You can read the entire study at go.iihs.org/older-drivers-update.

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