

AAA Reading-Berks Member Publication

on the go

**Calling All Race
Fans**

**Get Curious
About Berks
County**



**May
June
2025**

PERIODICAL

Fear of Self-Driving Cars

Good Eats in Nearby Lancaster Co

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With "racing" as the event theme, you can't help but get revved up for this year's In-Vette-Tational

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AAA conducts unannounced, in-person property evaluations, with picks in nearby Lancaster County

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In-Vette-Tational
SKYLINE DRIVE CORVETTE CLUB
of Reading, PA
45th annual
CAR & TRUCK SHOW
Corvettes, along with ALL Makes & Models of Cars & Trucks, Antique, Custom, Classic, & Street Rods
Saturday July 19, 2025

On The Go

MAY-JUNE 2025

Volume 103 Number 3

Published bi-monthly by AAA Reading-Berks,
A not-for-profit organization.



www.AAA.com

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Current Hours

Office M-F 9am-5pm

License Services M-F 9am-3pm

Closed Saturday and Sunday

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Travel 610.374.5600

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In Berks: 610.374.7433

Outside Berks: 800.AAA.HELP

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Cover

On the east side of Reading on the summit of Mount Penn is the Pagoda, a seven-story 1908 Japanese building that affords an amazing aerial view of the city and the Schuylkill Valley. Originally intended to be the centerpiece of a luxury resort, it has stood as a symbol of the city for more than one hundred years. More on pg 12.

NOTICE - SPECIAL OFFICE HOURS:

Our office will be closed for the following observances - *Monday, May 26 Memorial Day;*
Friday, July 4 Independence Day

AAA Reading-Berks headquarters are located at 920 Van Reed Road, Reading, Pa. 19610. Telephone, Reading (610)374-4531. Office of Publication, executive and editorial offices at 920 Van Reed Road, Reading, Pa. 19610. Periodical postage paid at Reading and additional entry offices, Boyertown, Pa. 19512. Yearly subscription price is \$2.00 included in membership dues. POSTMASTER ATTENTION: Change of address cards on Form 3579 should be sent to AAA Reading-Berks, P.O. Box 7049, Reading, Pa. 19610-6049. (ISSN 0744-7043) FOUNDED 1910

President's Note

Peter J. Armstrong
President/CEO

“...efforts to protect this vulnerable group of road users are limited...”

Too Close for Comfort

Do you have a “close call” story? Maybe you narrowly missed hitting a deer on a dark road. Perhaps a big storm struck the area where you were vacationing the day after you went home. Or maybe you took an impromptu drive “just for the fun of it” only to find a large tree had fallen onto the driveway while you were out – right where your car was parked.

Close calls and near-misses happen everywhere – in the workplace, at home, and on the road. Heinrich’s Law, named after American engineer Herbert Heinrich, says that for every three hundred near-misses there are twenty-nine minor injuries and one serious injury or fatality. It is for this reason that near-misses – unplanned events that have the potential to cause damage, injury or death but for some reason don’t – are tracked in many industries in order to identify and address potential hazards before they lead to injury or loss of life.

Motor vehicle towing and roadside service providers are at risk of being struck by passing motorists while they are working at the roadside. The Towing and Recovery Association of America, Inc., reports that nearly 30% of towing industry respondents reported encountering near-miss incidents every day. While rightly concerned about the danger, workers in this industry consider them just part of the job.

At present, efforts to protect this vulnerable group of road users are limited by a lack of comprehensive, high-quality data regarding these close calls. Data from near-miss incidents have been identified as a major gap towards a more robust understanding of risks faced by roadside response personnel and ways to protect them. Can we learn from other fields?

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) ensures safe and healthy working conditions for workers by requiring employers to maintain accurate records of all incidents that occur in the work-

place, including near-misses.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) track aviation near-misses. They investigate, determine the facts, identify probable causes, and make recommendations to prevent a recurrence.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) has the National Fire Near-Miss Reporting System to track and learn from voluntary and confidential near-miss reports from firefighters with the aim to prevent future injuries and fatalities on the job.

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety is working with researchers at the University of Alabama to identify the elements needed for a successful near-miss reporting system for roadside responders.

This project will examine and document existing near-miss reporting systems used in other domains, such as firefighting and aviation, to inform the design of such a system for roadside responders. The project team will conduct interviews with developers or managers of existing reporting systems in order to identify the challenges, barriers, and opportunities to system development. Perceptions and attitudes regarding near-miss reporting will also be gathered from roadside workers through focus groups and surveys.

Collectively, these tasks will help the AAA project team assess the data needs associated with a near-miss reporting system and to develop recommendations for a successful reporting system, from design through to deployment. Just as this type of investigation and preventive follow-through has helped other agencies to reduce circumstances that have the potential to cause injury or death to workers in their respective fields, the aim of this project is to better protect the workers at the core of our industry.

Read the report, [Developing a Near-Miss Reporting System for Roadside Responders](http://www.aaafoundation.org), at www.aaafoundation.org.

Top Getaways - Coast-to-Coast and Beyond

AAA booking data shows that, when looking for warm weather getaways, the favorite domestic destination among members is the Sunshine State. Four Florida cities are on the top ten list: Orlando, Fort Lauderdale, Miami, and Tampa.

Other springtime U.S. destination favorites include Atlanta, New York City, Honolulu, Anaheim/L.A., Chicago and Charlotte.

Polled travelers said that Florida is their top pick because of the beaches, theme parks and cruise ports. NYC and Chicago received top marks for their iconic sightseeing opportunities.

On the international list of favorites, eight of the top ten cities are in Europe. The top three are Rome, London and Paris. Two Spanish cities are also on the list: Barcelona and Madrid. Aruba is another favorite as well as Tokyo, Japan.

"Travel to Asia, particularly Japan, has been booming the past year, with

more Americans interested in exploring all that Asian countries have to offer," stated a AAA Travel rep associated with the member poll.

Additional international cities that made the top ten list are Lisbon, Dublin and Amsterdam.

Cruising is at an all-time high. AAA estimates that nineteen million Americans are going on ocean cruises

this year, making 2025 the third straight year of record passenger volume. Popular ports include Fort Lauderdale, Port Canaveral and Miami - the three busiest ports in the world! Demand is up and so is the cost: domestic cruises this spring were twenty seven percent higher than those in '24. International cruises are up three percent over last year.

AAA Members' Choice Top Travel Picks

Share your favorites in each of the six travel categories below. We'll print the top picks in the July/August *On The Go*.

Name _____

Mbr # _____

Phone# _____

Email _____

Mail: Top Picks, PO Box 7049, Wyomissing
Drop off: AAA, 920 Van Reed Rd, Wyomissing

- Dream Destination _____
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Club Update

First Time Participant:

Boyertown* - May 21 8:30am-5pm w/lunch
AAA Reading-Berks - May 27 8am-5pm w/lunch

4-hour Refresher Classes 8am-12noon:

AAA - May 28, June 10, June 24, June 25, July 1, July 15
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See associate for details.



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FRIDAY MAY 16 2:00-3:00PM

OR

MONDAY JUNE 23 6:00-7:00PM

AAA Reading-Berks, lower level

R.S.V.P. 610-741-5810, Victoria.Griffis@berkscomfortkeepers.com or online:

May 16 www.dementiafriendspa.org/eventdetail/1062

June 23 www.dementiafriendspa.org/eventdetail/1063

SKYLINE DRIVE CORVETTE CLUB

45TH



IN-VETTE-TATIONAL

calling all

racing fans

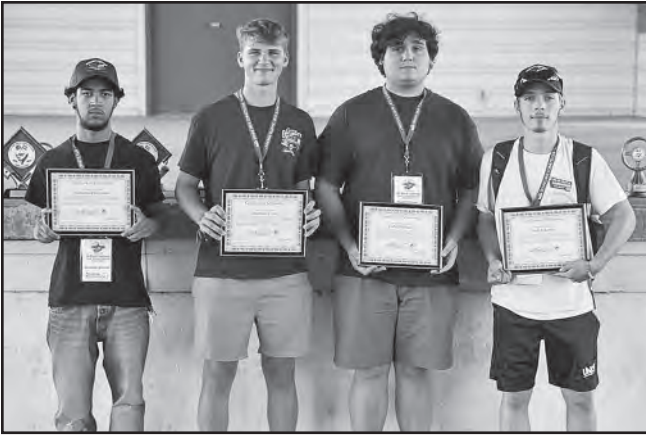
Wanted: anyone who owns a car, people of all ages who enjoy seeing awesome vehicles, AND caring individuals who like to support a good cause, dog lovers, history buffs, artists, those who appreciate the visual arts, bookworms, military personnel and veterans, game-players, folks who enjoy cool music, good food, and a beautiful county setting, AND... well, pretty much everybody!

If you're wondering why many of these people would want to go to a "car show", and where people with such diverse interests can find something that appeals to each of them at one event, mark your calendar and don't

miss The Skyline Drive Corvette Club (SDCC) of Reading's 45th Annual In-Vette-Tational on Saturday, July 19, 2025, at the Oley Fire Company Fairgrounds, 26 Jefferson St., Oley, PA 19547... rain or shine. By the way, there's no admission or parking fee for spectators! How great is that??

The In-Vette-Tational is open to all makes and models of cars and trucks, including antiques, customs, classics and street rods. For information on registering a vehicle, go to www.skylinedrivecorvettes.org or visit the Skyline Drive Corvette Club on Facebook.

A portion of the In-Vette-Tational's proceeds supports



2024 Skyline Drive Corvette Club Scholarship Fund Recipients: (L to R) Alexander Reynoso, Dominic Lebo, Todd Hitchens and Ben Eckstein.

the SDCC Scholarship Fund created in 2009 to aid qualified youth graduating from Berks County's three Vocational Technical Schools who want to pursue higher education in the automotive field. Every year, up to six students each receive a scholarship during a ceremony at the show. As of 2024, SDCC has given a total of \$39,000 to our community's young men and women.

“...you can do all this
and more...”

The theme of the 2025 In-Vette-Tational is “auto racing”, so look for an amazing display of race cars provided by individuals and organizations such as the Reading Fairground Racing Historical Society. While at the show, don't miss meeting special guests Amy Hardin, Director of Development at the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky and Corvette Racing Team Ambassador Wes Wong of Pratt Miller Motorsports. Wes, a retired FBI agent, was the lead site agent at the World Trade Center on 9/11 and inside the second tower when it fell. He is also a former member of the NCM Board of Directors. Each will present a special trophy for the car of his/her choice.

Arrive at the show by 9:30 a.m. for the opening ceremony to honor our nation's active military and veterans. Hear a beautiful live performance of the National Anthem and see a presentation by the Wilson High School JR Army ROTC Color Guard.



Then watch an exciting demonstration by several of the Reading Police Department's K-9 teams and meet the dogs and their handlers.

But there's so much more to see and do throughout the day. The In-Vette-Tational doesn't end until about 3 p.m., so car enthusiasts will have plenty of time to wander through the hundreds of amazing vehicles to vote for their favorites. Forty-eight trophies will be awarded.

Is your car so loud that your neighbors complain when you start it up? Why not enter the In-Vette-Tational's Loud Exhaust Competition? Afterwards, you can visit more than twenty-five vendors and displays, many of which can tell you how to lower the volume of that obnoxiously loud car, and the best ways to maintain and preserve your 4-wheeled beast or beauty.

Prefer games that don't involve cars? Then you might enjoy taking a chance on raffle tickets, the Wheelbarrow of Cheer and Tricky Tray Auction. Or maybe you'd rather pick up a cornhole board set that will provide fun for years to come.

Interested in how things have changed over time (yep, that's history)? Stop by our local veterans' displays to hear fascinating accounts of their experiences, and see an authentic Jeep from the Vietnam era, along with other memorabilia. Also, learn how to access services available to veterans. If the history of cars is more to your liking, be sure to see the representative from the Boyertown Museum of Historical Vehicles. And, if you enjoy reading about history (or any other subject), head to the Oley Community Library book sale for great bargains.

Admire paintings, multimedia creations and other beautifully handcrafted works of art? The In-Vette-Tational has something for you, too. Meet the artists whose displays include custom photo-art paintings, fused glass jewelry and items for your home and office, one-of-a-kind hand-turned wood pieces, and unique home décor created from repurposed barnwood.

You can do all this and more while enjoying great live music, beverages, and good food prepared by the Oley Fire Company.

For questions about the In-Vette-Tational, contact

Committee Chair Bob
Messner

bobmessner1@gmail.com. To become a vendor or set up a display, contact Committee Marketing Director Donna Baumener at aladon83@comcast.net. For information about joining SDCC, go to www.skylinedrivecorvettes.org or visit the “Club Table” at the In-Vette-Tational.

Improving Roadside Safety

If your car has ever broken down unexpectedly, you know how dangerous and unsettling it can feel to be stranded at the roadside as cars whizz past. Roadside technicians, police officers, firefighters, and rescue workers put themselves in harm's way to help people in that situation every day.

An average of two roadside service providers are killed each month attending to disabled vehicles along America's roadways, and many more are injured.

To protect roadside workers and anyone else working or stranded at the roadside, AAA offers these tips:



- Always remain alert. Avoid distractions and focus on driving.
- Watch for situations where emergency vehicles, tow trucks, utility service vehicles or disabled vehicles are stopped on the side of the road.
- Slow down when you see the flashing lights of an emergency vehicle at the roadside and, if possible, move over into an adjacent lane. If you are unable to switch lanes, slow to a speed that is safe and reasonable.

If you see someone with their lights or hazards on, show them a little love by giving them the gift of space. #SlowDownMoveOver and exchange.AAA.com/automotive/roadside-assistance/slow-down-move-over.



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August 4, 6, 11

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Leave Gravity Behind & Reach New Heights

This summer, Hersheypark amusement park debuts Twizzlers Twisted Gravity, a high-thrill pendulum ride as the tallest Screamin' Swing in the world. Manufactured by S&S Worldwide, the all-new Twizzlers-inspired adventure is the newest candy to join the iconic Hersheypark skyline.

Boasting a bright red and blue frame, the new attraction towers 137 feet in The Hollow region of the largest amusement park in Pennsylvania. The one-minute and 10-second experience on Twizzlers Twisted Gravity begins as riders of Hershey's height category (48-54") and above sit in one of four branded zones across two gondolas, featuring the Twizzlers Strawberry, Cherry,

Hershey's Chocolate and Black Licorice-flavored designs.

Riders will ascend 137 adrenaline-pumping feet, defy gravity at speeds reaching 68 miles per hour and experience multiple mind-bending zero G moments as they swing high above Spring Creek.

Twizzlers Twisted Gravity joins more than 70 rides, including most coasters in the Northeast, as well as The Boardwalk At Hersheypark water park (open Memorial Day through Labor Day) and the 11-acre ZooAmerica North American Wildlife Park. All three experiences are included with one attraction ticket.



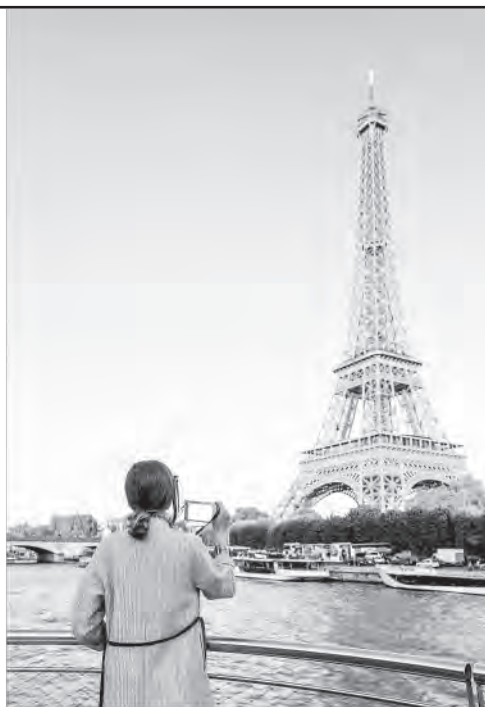
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Everything Counts

Dear Ask Ed:

I took my car to get it inspected, and it failed for my bike rack! I've never had that happen before! What's going on! Am I being taken advantage of? I feel like I was ripped off. Can you help? Thank you.

Angelica P.

Dear Angelica,

Is your bike rack mounted on the back of your vehicle rather than on the roof? If so, the inspection station is correct if the carrier structure was partially or completely covering the vehicle's license plate (see photo below).

As I'm driving around Berks and beyond, I see so many vehicles that should have failed their safety or "state" inspection, as some folks call it, but there they are, driving along with a current sticker on the windshield. Someone isn't fully doing their job...

I'm going to take this opportunity to touch on some of what I see. I'm doing this because not only as an inspection mechanic but as a PennDOT Inspection Program Instructor, I'm hearing rumbles that PennDOT is cracking down on inspection stations that are passing vehicles that should not pass. The result should be more stations taking safety inspections seriously and making sure that their inspection techs are doing their jobs correctly so that they don't get cited or even shut down as a result of an infraction. Penalties range from warnings to permanent suspension from the inspection program for both the tech and the facility.

Safety inspections are conducted in accordance with Pennsylvania's Vehicle Equipment and Inspection Regulations Pub 45, the inspection tech's "Bible". If your bike rack obscured your license plate, the technician was correct because he was acting in accordance with Title 75 Section 1332.0 Display of Registration Plate, subsections (b) and (c). This would also include racks for scooters, camping equipment, etc. Certain license plate frames that obscure the top of the plate where it says "Pennsylvania" also cause the vehicle to fail the safety inspection, as well as tinted plate covers and registration numbers that are illegible at a reasonable distance.

Items hanging from a rearview mirror are also cause for failing the vehicle safety inspection because they create a blind spot for the driver. Same for baby booties, fuzzy dice, etc. Remember, a handicap parking placard should only be hung from the mirror after the driver has parked the vehicle and should be taken down and stowed away while the vehicle is in motion.

Other things I see going illegally down the road include aftermarket tail light covers, uncovered offroad



AskEd@aaardgberks.com

lighting, forward-facing lights that are colors other than white, and flashing brake lights. Brake lights per Pennsylvania Code must be steady burning. Sequential brake lights (i.e. on certain factory-equipped Ford Mustangs) are not considered flashing lights and pass.

Another common infraction that I see are tires whose tread sticks out beyond the vehicle body. This might not be the fault of the inspection mechanic, as I suspect that the vehicle owner switches out the illegal tires for those he/she knows will pass the inspection process. The truck gets a new sticker for another year, the legal-size tires go back in the corner of the garage and the big honking mudders get reinstalled, free to throw dirt, stones and other road debris unimpeded into the path and windshield of any following vehicles.

I hope this information is helpful. Thanks for writing in. Happy motoring!

Ed

Contact Ed with your automotive question either by email at AskEd@aaardgberks.com or by writing to him at AAA Reading-Berks, 920 Van Reed Road, Wyomissing, PA 19610, Attn: Ask Ed.



Renew Your Membership at AAA.com

get curious about berks county



By Lori B. Donofrio-Galley

May is National Tourism Month, which coincides with National Travel and Tourism Week (NTTW), held the first full week of May. NTTW originated in 1983 by a congressional resolution to highlight the importance of travel and tourism to the U.S. economy and to our local communities.

Last year, Governor Shapiro launched a new PA State tourism brand - *Pennsylvania: The Great American Getaway* - to encourage millions of visitors within driving distance to travel to our state. Bringing visitors to Reading and Berks County to support the local economy is the mission of Pennsylvania's Americana Region (PAR), our local Visitors Bureau.

As explained by Heather Zimmerman, President/CEO, "We are the marketing force behind bringing in visitors to explore all we have to offer in Berks County. This helps create jobs, generates revenue for area businesses, as

well as our local and state tax base. The close to \$1 billion in spending that tourism delivers to Berks County is a game-changer - and is perhaps an eye-opening statistic but one we are so proud of here at Pennsylvania's Americana Region."

Whether you are a new resident of Berks County or a visitor from outside the area, you will be curious to explore our local culture, history, and natural surroundings. In fact, 'Get Curious', the mantra of PAR, is branded visibly on its popular travel guide, available at AAA Reading-Berks, and other marketing for tours, trails, and road trips.

Berks County natives, many of whom have planted themselves here, can sometimes overlook what makes Reading and Berks County a desirable place to live, work, and explore. Our arts and culture; covered bridges and historic sites; historic railroads; festivals and fairs; trails, parks and scenic views; sporting venues; antiques and boutiques; farmers markets; restaurants, breweries and wineries attract tourists, preserve our county's identity, and contribute to our affordable cost of living.





A state report studying travel and tourism spending across Pennsylvania in 2022 revealed that visitors' direct spending in Berks reached \$983.2 million that year.

Whether you live here or visit here, you are served by our Visitors Bureau. "We market to the people inside and outside the county," according to Lisa Haggerty,

Marketing Director. "People who visit are blown away by the beauty of our area."

All of Berks County is positively impacted by tourism in ways we may not consider. Time and dollars spent here by tourists help to boost our economy. A thriving tourism industry can influence businesses to expand their services, thereby creating jobs to meet new demands. New businesses often surface for the same reason. Thus, tourism creates opportunities for entrepreneurs and local job-seekers.

PAR partners with local economic development and business marketing organizations, businesses, and nonprofits. A partner can grow its visibility and highlight its value through tourism marketing initiatives.

Creating experiences, like the Sweet and Salty Trail, or mapping out road trips are just a few of the ways PAR makes your exploration of Reading and Berks easy and fun. Visit <https://www.visitpaamericana.com> to get started!

Photo credits: Page 12 (left) @diva_deva;(right) @nandrejczk. Page 13 (above) @homespun_blazes;(below)



Smartphone Apps - Key to Safer Drivers?

In 2023, over 40,000 people died in motor vehicle crashes in the United States, fueled by risky behaviors like speeding, impairment, and aggressive driving. Although this number has decreased from previous years, it remains high compared to pre-pandemic levels, underscoring the need for innovative approaches to improve the safety of our nation's roads. AAA is committed to finding effective ways to encourage drivers to adopt safer behaviors behind the wheel and curb this unsettling trend.

"This research, with over 1,400 study participants, gauges what motivates individuals to change certain risky driving behaviors," said Dr. David Yang, president and executive director of the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. "Finding ways to reduce these behaviors can positively impact traffic safety and reduce injuries and fatalities on our roads."

Research shows that speeding, aggressive driving, and distraction contribute to a significant number of crashes. Efforts to change these behaviors often involve driver education, public awareness, and legislation. While these approaches can be effective, they often require significant resources and time to yield results, and the crash trends suggest that additional countermeasures are also needed.

Smartphone technology enables the measurement of dangerous driving behaviors, which could pave the way for remedies to help drivers improve their safety. Interestingly, this may already be happening through usage-based insurance (UBI) programs, which are typically used by insurance companies to offer customers incentives for safe driving. However, it is challenging to determine whether UBI programs truly improve safety, as only individuals

who opt in are monitored.

To explore this issue further, The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety examined whether providing feedback and incentives—typical of UBI programs—enhances driver safety. Researchers also explored whether targeted goals, either assigned or self-selected, lead to greater improvements.

The trial examined the use of handheld phones, speeding, hard braking, and rapid acceleration. Participants were divided into four groups, with different levels of feedback and advice over a 12-week period. All groups, except the observation group, could earn bonus incentives based on their overall driving safety.

- **The Observation group** – served as the control; their driving was monitored during this period, but they received no feedback or bonus incentive.

- **The Standard Feedback group** – given weekly feedback and advice via text messages on all behaviors monitored.

- **The Assigned Goal group** – focused on one specific behavior assigned to them and were given weekly feedback and advice via text messages on that one behavior.

- **The Chosen Goal group** – participants selected one behavior to focus on and set a goal for improvement; were given weekly feedback and advice via text messages on that goal.

The Results:

Among the three feedback groups, there were clear improvements in driver behavior:

- Up to a 13% reduction in speeding
- Up to a 21% reduction in hard braking
- Up to a 25% reduction in rapid acceleration

Surprisingly, the use of handheld phones remained unchanged. It is

possible that the baseline safety scores provided to participants at the start of the study for this behavior led drivers to believe that they were being safer than they actually were—and therefore, there was less need for improvement.

Participants also reported how helpful the following tactics were in changing their behaviors:

- 67.4% - the potential to earn extra money
- 53.9% - weekly driving feedback via text message
- 45.8% - weekly dashboard (provided detailed driving information for the week)

Participants in the "Assigned Goal" and "Chosen Goal" groups also displayed higher engagement with the dashboard, which correlated to greater improvement in risky driving behaviors.

After the 12-week period, participants were monitored for an additional 6 weeks without any feedback or incentives to determine if their habits would persist in the absence of reinforcement. The study found that, generally, participants continued to drive more safely, indicating that they did so without receiving feedback or incentives.

"It's encouraging to see that many individuals stuck with safer habits even after the study," said Jake Nelson, AAA's director of traffic safety advocacy. "This shows that positive reinforcement, not just punitive measures, can lead to safer driving habits that can save lives."

AAA's research shows that the kinds of feedback and incentives offered by UBI programs can improve driver safety across a range of behaviors. Developers of this technology can maximize the benefits of this tool by looking for ways to enhance participant engagement.

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These AAA Diamond Approved eateries in nearby Lancaster County look forward to serving you.

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264 W. Main Street, Leola 17540

Cuisine: North American

Breakfast, lunch and dinner served.

AAA Diamond Inspector Notes:

Bacon lovers unite! This wonderful eatery serves some of the best comfort food in the area. The menu celebrates bacon, but there are plenty of "non-bacon" options to choose from. Save room for dessert as all baked goods are made in house.

Lancaster Brewing Company

302 N. Plum Street, Lancaster 17603

Cuisine: American

Lunch and dinner served. Full bar, patio dining.

Parking: On-site and street.

AAA Diamond Inspector Notes:

Originally a turn-of-the-20th-century tobacco warehouse, this casual eatery's industrial dining room overlooks the brass kettles of the micro-brewery. The extensive beer list gives a variety of options for all different types of tastebuds. The menu features steaks, sandwiches and shareable appetizers, including a variety of flatbread pizzas. The outdoor patio is great for a summer night full of drinking, eating, and laughing with friends.

Miller's Smorgasbord & Bakery

2811 Lincoln Highway E, Ronks 17572

Cuisine: American

Breakfast, lunch and dinner served.

Reservations recommended.

AAA Diamond Inspector Notes: The menu at this sprawling restaurant consists of traditional Lancaster County favorites including fried chicken, brown butter noodles, stewed tomatoes and a variety of pies. While the buffet is the most popular option, a la carte items are available. The drink menu promi-



During the Revolutionary War Lancaster was the largest inland city in the Colonies. It was capital of the nation for one day on September 27, 1777 when Congress stopped in Lancaster as it fled Philadelphia after the Battle of Brandywine. Lancaster was the state capital 1799-1812.

nently features several cocktails, local wines and beers. The quality of the food makes it all worthwhile.

Rooster Street Butcher Restaurant & Taproom

11 S. Cedar Street, Lititz 17543

Cuisine: American

Lunch and dinner served. Full bar.

Parking: street only.

Located in the heart of quaint downtown, this is the perfect stop for a quick bite or to lounge and regroup. The menu is sandwich-heavy, focusing around the prime offerings of the butcher shop. Lighter options include soup of the day and fresh salads. Weeknights offer food and/or drink specials, ranging from Taco Tuesdays to Friday steak dinner nights.

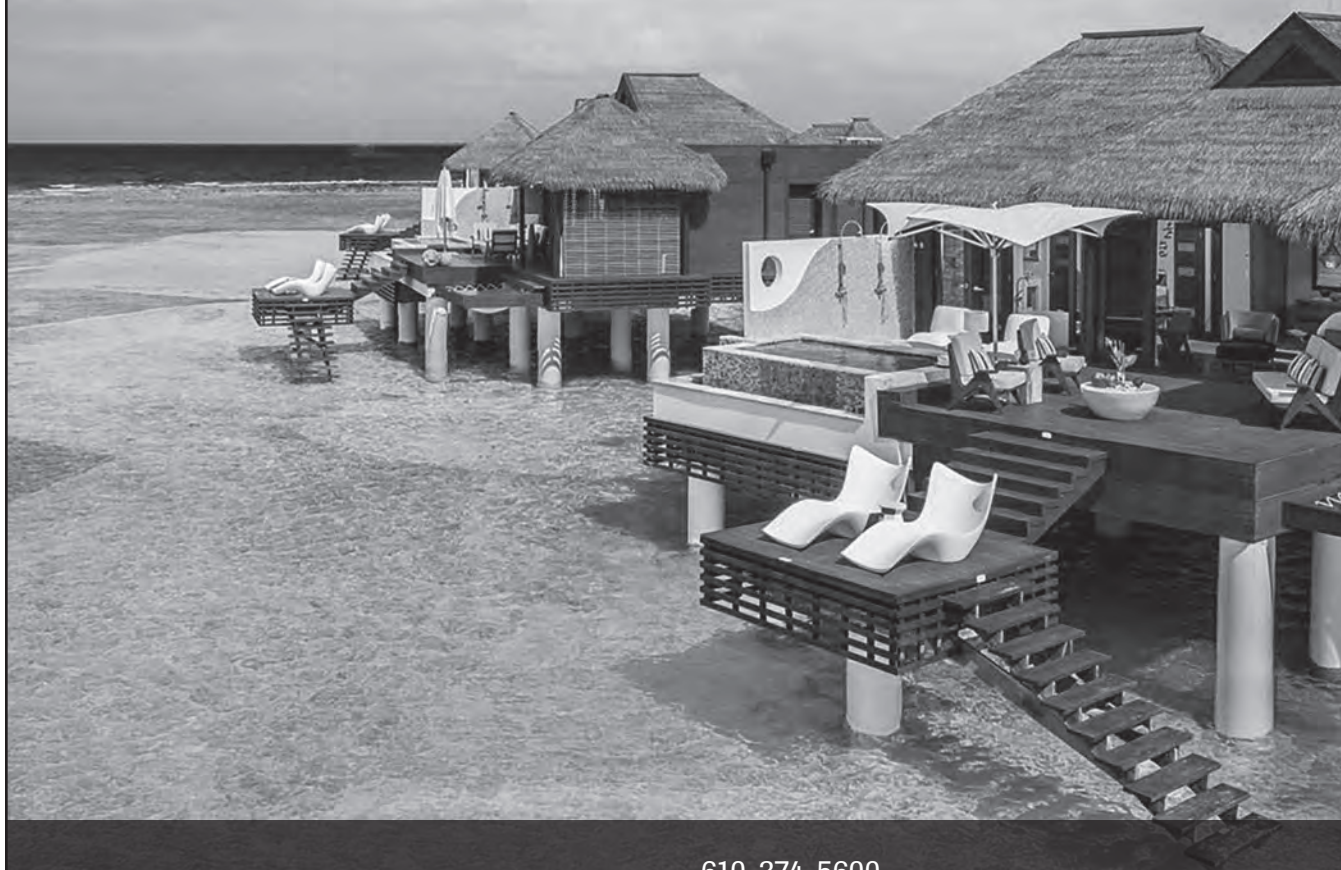
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AAA Survey: Fear of Self-Driving Vehicles Persists

According to AAA's latest survey on autonomous vehicles, 13% of U.S. drivers would trust riding in self-driving vehicles – an increase from last year, when this number was 9%. Despite this slight increase, 6 in 10 U.S. drivers still report being afraid to ride in a self-driving vehicle. For drivers, enhancing vehicle safety systems remains a priority over the development of self-driving, with interest among drivers decreasing from 18% in 2022 to 13% this year.

"Most drivers want automakers to focus on advanced safety technology," said Greg Brannon, the automotive engineering director at AAA.

"Though opinions on fully self-driving cars vary widely, it's evident that today's drivers value features that enhance their safety."

Improving safety systems is important for U.S. drivers—78% prioritize advancements in safety systems as a top vehicle technology initiative—which has been steady for the past several years. In contrast, the excitement surrounding new vehicle styles is a low priority, with only 24% of drivers viewing it as important. Enthusiasm is also low toward the development of self-driving vehicles—only 13% of drivers consider this a priority, a decrease from 18% in 2022.

As of 2025, Robotaxis, self-driving vehicles used like a taxi or ride-share, operate in several major cities. AAA's survey found that 74% of drivers were aware of Robotaxis, yet 53%

said they would not choose to ride in one.

Different demographics have varying opinions. Millennial and Generation X drivers are more likely to say they would ride in a Robotaxi than Baby Boomer drivers, but even among younger drivers, most say they wouldn't ride in one.

Collectively, interest in advanced driver assistance features (ADAS) con-

tinues to remain high. The survey found that 64% of U.S. drivers would "definitely" or "probably" want Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB) on their next vehicle, 62% would want Reverse Automatic

Emergency Braking, and 59% Lane Keeping Assistance. AAA believes that to maintain a growing interest in these features, the performance and naming of these systems must adequately reflect the intended benefits and capabilities of the systems.

AAA believes addressing consumer concerns means transparency regarding ADAS performance with clear communication about its limitations. Advanced vehicle safety technology should enhance driver safety rather than give the impression that the car is driving itself. As these systems have been refined with upgraded software and sensors, AAA has conducted various tests to determine if the technology performs as expected. Research released by AAA in October 2024 showed significant AEB advancements, particularly at speeds up to 35 mph.



What is a Robotaxi?

A robotaxi is a self-driving car that operates as a ride-sharing vehicle. Robotaxis are also known as driverless taxis, autonomous taxis, or robot taxis. (i.e., Waymo).

Would drivers ride in a Robotaxi?

Half of U.S. drivers would not ride in a Robotaxi if given the opportunity. The people who have more experience with them or know someone who has ridden in one are more likely to say they would ride in one (36%) than those who didn't have the exposure (15%).

What demographic is more likely to ride in a Robotaxi?

Different demographics have varying opinions about Robotaxis. Millennial (27%) and Generation X (23%) drivers are more likely to say they would ride in a Robotaxi than Baby Boomer (13%) drivers.



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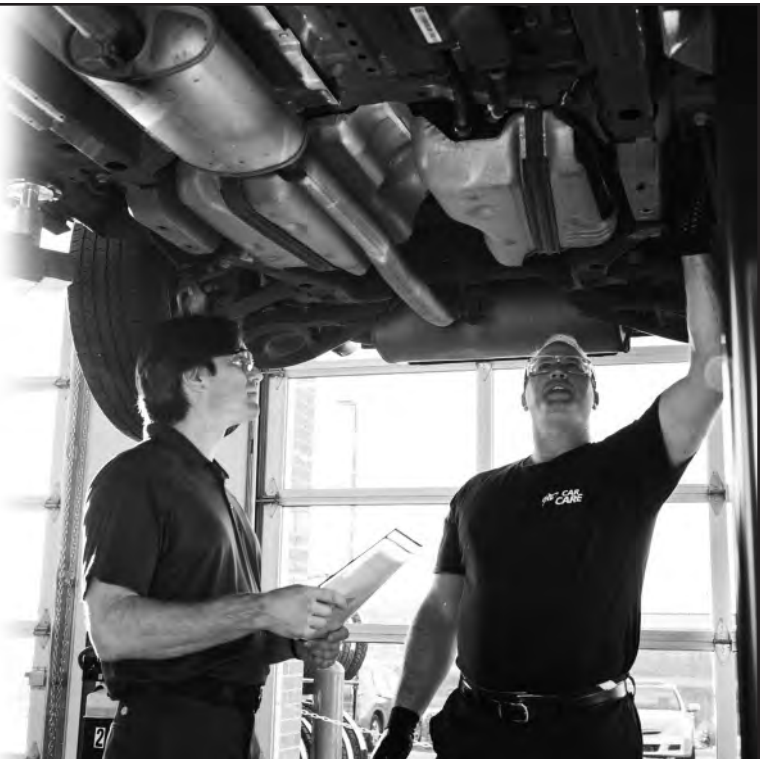
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