

THE WANADA BULLETIN

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR AND ABOUT FRANCHISED NEW CAR DEALERS IN THE WASHINGTON AREA

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Merry Christmas!



December 23, 2015

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Thought for the Season...

Capitol Hill panel on smart roads, smart cars to open Auto Show Public Policy Days to start with *MobilityTalks*, Jan. 20



Sen. Gary Peters (D-Mi.)
will lead off *MobilityTalks*
panel for Auto Show

In keeping with its theme “The Power of Mobility,” the 2016 Washington Auto Show will start its Public Policy Days on Wed., Jan. 20, with *MobilityTalks*, a Capitol Hill panel that will explore how technology is making roads and vehicles safer and the infrastructure smarter. Held at the Rayburn House Office Building Gold Room, the talks will explore cybersecurity, spectrum sharing, data analytics and shared-use mobility in relation to connected and autonomous vehicles.

Organized in partnership with the Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America), the panel will be moderated by Thomson Reuters Transportation Editor Joseph White and will feature a cast of notable speakers:

- Maureen K. Ohlhausen, commissioner, Federal Trade Commission
- Dr. John B. Kenney, director, Network Div., Toyota InfoTechnology Center
- Cordell Schachter, chief technology officer, New York City Department of Transportation
- Ken Athanasiou, vice president and chief information security officer, AutoNation
- Dr. Regina Clewlow, director of transportation research and policy, RideScout
- Sen. Gary Peters (D-Mich.), Co-Chair, Senate Smart Transportation Caucus, will provide opening remarks.

The panel will be followed by an on-road demonstration of the latest connected vehicle technologies, driving from Capitol Hill to the Auto Show venue in the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. Adding to the pageantry, the demonstration will host high-level government officials and also feature a vintage 1915 Ford Model T, entered in the National Historic Vehicle

Register by the Auto Show's strategic partner, the Historic Vehicle Association. HVA recently replicated the same road trip in this Model T driven a century ago by Edsel Ford and his friends from Detroit to San Francisco.

Media/Industry Day events will continue the next day, Thurs., Jan. 21, on the floor of The Washington Auto Show for a daylong schedule of press announcements, culminating in the Auto Show Sneak Preview Reception that evening. The day launches with a morning keynote address from John Mendel, executive vice president of American Honda Motor Co., and continues with a keynote presentation from NHTSA Administrator Mark Rosekind. Numerous OEM product press announcements will also occur during the day, and a plenary session by SAE International's Government/ Industry Conference. The Sneak Peek Reception -- by *invitation only*-- commences at 5:00 pm running until 8:00 pm.

As Mendel's address follows Honda's world premiere of its Clarity Fuel Cell at the Tokyo Motor Show this fall, he will likely discuss Honda's vision of a hydrogen energy society and its contribution to empowering drivers and societies to take the wheel of a greener, cleaner world.

Featuring more than 700 vehicles from more than 40 manufacturers, The Washington Auto Show opens to the public from Friday, Jan. 22, through Sunday, Jan. 31. For more information, visit www.washingtonautoshow.com.

Auto Show to feature hands-on contest, smart highway, motor art

The Washington Auto Show just doesn't stand still! As if it weren't enough to showcase 700-plus state-of-the-art vehicles, The 2016 Washington Auto Show will also feature a live car art display, the legendary Hands-On Contest, the Intelligent Transportation Superhighway and a beer garden with micro brew's from across the world. Among the highlights:

- The Washington Auto Show's first **"Art of Motion" exhibit**, an *avant garde* art experience produced by Automotive Rhythms, promises to be a trendsetting, urban lifestyle and automotive experience. The cutting edge live car art display will feature a 6,000-square-foot exhibit of stunning experiential automotive art. Nationally celebrated artist Demont Pinder -- a.k.a. Peekaso -- will be painting at the art display, and at least 10 OEMs will exhibit specially commissioned art cars and bikes. On Saturday, Jan. 23, from 12 noon to 4 p.m., GM's young designers will style a new Chevrolet sports car for showgoers to experience. Toyota will host an interactive art installation Sunday, Jan. 24, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with the new RAV4 by Blind Whino SW Arts Club, which will also design the exhibit space.
- The ever popular **Hands-on Contest** is back! The hottest reality show in town takes place on the Auto Show floor as contestants vie for a brand new Hyundai. Showgoers will have to maintain body contact with the car over the course of the Auto Show, with only several 15-minutes nature breaks per day, for the chance to drive home in a new car.
- The **Intelligent Transportation Superhighway**, sponsored by the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, will feature a new exhibit of the latest technologies in automated and connected driving.





The U.S. Army *DownRange* Band will again perform at the Auto Show on Military Day.

- A **beer garden** will deliver the magic of an outdoor happy hour to The Washington Auto Show each day. The pavilion will feature music and specialty craft beers, including Sam Adams seasonal brews, Blue Moon and Redd's Apple Ale. The Washington Regional Alcohol Program will furnish a booth to remind showgoers to drink responsibly and not drink and drive!

- **Live music, courtesy of iHeartRadio**, will heighten the Auto Show excitement threshold

on Wed. Jan. 27, Young Professionals Night. Washington's rising stars will enjoy discount admission to the vehicle showcase, accentuated with great music.

- **Military Day.** On Auto Show Tuesday, Jan. 26, active duty and retired military get free admission with proper identification. Among the day's special features, the American Red Cross will bring service dogs, trained to assist troops with PTSD, and provide showgoers the chance to wrap care packages to be sent to combat troops. The U.S. Army's DownRange Band will be back again this year to *rock the night away*.
- **Camp Jeep** returns to offer rides along an indoor obstacle course with steep climbs and thrills. And the **Family Fun Zone** brings beloved children's characters and mascots to meet, greet and take photos with their fans. Among them, Simpsons characters are visiting Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 23 to 24, and Captain Planet will appear Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 30 to 31.

Md. Dealer license fees to *drop* February 1

Maryland Governor Larry Hogan was true to his word when he said in his campaign he would lower fees for businesspeople. Starting February 1, the fee for a new car dealer's license will drop from \$250 to \$225, and for vehicle sales reps the license fee drops from \$75 to \$67.50. For other decreases in MVA regulatory fees, [click here](#) for the MVA Bulletin.

'Cadillac tax' on healthcare delayed for two years

As part of the \$1.8 trillion budget bill that was passed by Congress before they left town for the holidays, the "Cadillac tax" on healthcare was delayed for two more years, until 2020.

The Cadillac tax is a 40 percent excise tax paid by employers on a portion of high-cost insurance plans, adjusted annually to the Consumer Price Index. But because medical inflation greatly exceeds overall inflation, the number of plans to which the tax applies would quickly grow. Estimates are that it would apply to as many as one-quarter to one-third of health insurance plans in 2018.

The tax has already been delayed once, and some observers believe the current delay is a sign that eventually, the tax will be repealed. There is opposition to the tax *on both sides of the aisle*. Others argue that repeal would add to the federal deficit.

Rep. Don Beyer and other regional members of Congress praise U.S. budget bill



The fate of the U.S. government and the Washington region are still inextricably linked.

No surprise, the sprawling U.S. budget bill that will fund the federal government through September wasn't a *lay-up* to get passed. House Speaker Paul Ryan said that pushing through such a vast bill is no proper way to pass a budget. But clearly, it's better for the Washington region and the country when there is no government shutdown.

Rep. Don Beyer of Virginia, longtime Washington Area dealer and WANADA member, said the budget was "good news for federal employees." Rep. Gerald Connolly, Don's Virginia colleague, agreed, saying it "spares Northern Virginia from the harmful cuts of sequestration, which has been a drag on our region."

Regional economists have said that the metro area should try to wean itself from dependence on government jobs. But the number of government-related jobs, such as government contractors, has grown this year, said Deputy Director Terry Clower of George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis.

Record number of holiday travelers expected

The number of year-end holiday travelers will top 100 million for the first time on record, says the American Automobile Association. Nearly one in three Americans will take a trip, with 100.5 million expected to go 50 miles or more from home. That number represents a 1.4 percent increase over last year and the seventh consecutive year of year-end holiday travel growth.

Part of the reason, of course, is low gas prices, which are well below last year's levels. More than 90 percent of travelers will drive to their holiday destinations. Lower unemployment and rising incomes will also boost holiday travel.

But there's a downside: The National Safety Council estimates 307 people will be killed and 37,200 injured in traffic crashes during the three-day Christmas period – the NSC's highest estimate since 2009. The Council says that 405 lives could be saved if everyone wore seat belts over Christmas and New Year's.

AAA wants automakers to put spare tires back in cars

More than one-third of 2015 model year cars have no spare tire, and the American Automobile Association is unhappy about it. Automakers have been eliminating spare tires to cut down on vehicle weight and instead provide tire inflator kits. Because of their limited utility, the kits cannot provide even a temporary fix for many common tire-related problems, the AAA said.

"AAA responds to more than four million calls for flat tire assistance annually and, despite advances in vehicle technology, we have not seen a decline in tire-related calls over the last five years," said John Nielsen, AAA's managing director of Automotive Engineering and Repair.

AAA noted that younger drivers are less likely to be able to change a tire. More than one in five drivers age 18 to 34, do not know how to change a tire; but nearly 90 percent of drivers 35 to 54 can do so.

WANADA office holiday schedule

The WANADA office will close at 12 noon Thursday, Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, and reopen Monday, Dec. 28. The same pattern will be followed for New Year's, with the office closing at 12 noon New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, to reopen, Monday, Jan. 4.

Thought for the Season...

I have always thought of Christmas ...as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable and pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem, by one consent, to open their shut-up hearts freely to all fellow travelers.

--Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*



WANADA staff wishes a holiday season of peace and joy to one and all!

Archie Avedisan

Andrea Holmes

John O'Donnell

Ana Campos

Joe Koch

Katy Orme

Huda Farooq

Ed Mullaney

Billy Painter

Judi Fike

Gerry Murphy

Connie Ryan

Trish Frisbee

Jackie Murphy

Bob Storin

Isabel Garcia

Kendra Northrup

Kathy Teich

Curtis Wowk