



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.

Beyond the White LINES

This month's newsletter is dedicated to safety *between* the white lines. In considering mobility for older adults, we need to recognize that many older adults still drive, and drive safely. ***Safety behind the wheel is about ability, not age!***

Meet Wayne Wiese

Wayne is a volunteer with the AARP Driver Safety Program and the new State Coordinator for Wisconsin. The program consists of Smart Driver Classes, CarFit Events and We Need To Talk (WNTT) Seminars. More information on these offerings and to locate a class, go to www.aarp.org/drive. Your agency can fill out a form at this site to indicate your interest in hosting a class.

- The 4 hour Smart Driver class is offered in a classroom setting or online and was newly revised in 2014. AARP worked with AAA and AgeLab to include new information about roundabouts and technology. If you take the class it may qualify for a car insurance discount. Contact your insurance to see if they offer a discount, which is optional in WI. They teach about 2000 people per year. The class is \$15 for members, \$20 non-members for the classroom version. It is also offered online for a fee. A class can be open to the public or limited to drivers and agency staff. This training may be eligible for RTAP scholarship reimbursement if offered to your paid or volunteer drivers.
- CarFit is free event that offers older adults the opportunity to check how well their personal vehicles "fit" them by going through a 40 point check list with a qualified Technician in about 20 minutes. The CarFit program also provides information and materials on community-specific resources that can enhance safety as drivers, and/or increase mobility in the community.
- We Need to Talk - This free 1.5 hour session is geared towards caregivers and those with aging parents. This session goes through having the conversation about driving and options available. This can also be taken as a self-directed online course.

Do you have volunteers looking for a great opportunity to give back? Wayne is always looking for new volunteers to assist with the program in instructing and coordinating. Wayne Wiese— waynew626@yahoo.com, 608-291-2295 or online at www.aarp.org/drive.

Beyond the White Lines

is a publication of the Greater WI Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. dedicated to transportation, mobility and livable communities.

For more information, contact Carrie Porter, carrie.porter@gwaar.org, 608-228-8092

Free Driver Training

Rural Transportation Assistance Program (RTAP)

This program managed by WisDOT has a variety of free driver trainings. Click [here](#) for more information and training schedule.

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Wisconsin Senior Driving Summit

WisDOT and AAA teamed-up to host the Wisconsin Senior Driving Summit on Oct. 2, 2015 at Madison College. The group of about 70 people heard from national experts including Jake Nelson, Director of Traffic Safety Advocacy & Research for AAA, Elin Schold Davis, Older Driver Initiative Project Coordinator from AOTA and Helen Kerschner, Director of the National Volunteer Transportation Center. Discussion included medical fitness to drive, under-utilized interventions to support safe driving and transportation options when driving is no longer a safe option. Watch for more opportunities to get involved in this discussion and work with new partners to promote older driver safety.

Prepare to celebrate Older Driver Safety Awareness Week December 7-11, 2015!

Every year, the American Occupational Therapy Association, AOTA promotes Older Driver Safety Awareness Week. More information can be found on their [website](#).

Topics and resources for this week include the following:

- ✓ Identifying changes that can affect driving
- ✓ Family conversations
- ✓ Screenings and evaluations
- ✓ Equipment that can empower drivers
- ✓ Taking changes in stride

Driving is about ability, not age. You can help people retain and improve the skills needed to drive safely. You may consider hosting one of the AARP classes as part of recognition for this awareness week!

Resources

[Be Safe, Not Sorry](#) WisDOT rereleased workbook from the Medical Review Unit at WisDOT, Dept. of Motor Vehicles.

For additional resources, self-assessments and tools for driving safely, giving up the keys and finding alternative transportation options, go to the [GWAAR website](#) for Seniors and Families.

For more information,
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The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety conducts studies and releases reports that can be found on their [website](#). Some of their findings about older drivers are below.

Advancing age can bring impairments that affect driving ability. Drivers age 70 and older have higher crash rates per mile traveled than middle-aged drivers, though not as high as young drivers.

The number of drivers age 70 and older is growing but crashing less often. As baby boomers age, older people make up a bigger proportion of the population than they used to. In addition, older drivers are keeping their licenses longer.

Despite their growing numbers, older drivers are involved in fewer fatal collisions than in the past. A total of 4,115 people ages 70 and older died in crashes in 2013. That's 30 percent fewer than in 1997.

Many older drivers limit their driving. Surveys show that many people drive fewer miles and avoid night driving or other challenging situations as they get older. Some states require in-person license renewal for older drivers to help identify those who shouldn't be driving or should have restricted licenses.

In-person license renewal is the only policy proven to reduce fatality rates among older drivers.