



# AARDVARK AUTOMOTIVE

Aardvark Automotive Newsletter

SPRING 2018

## Spring Has SPRUNG ▶▶▶

*April showers bring May flowers... God bless your blooms this spring!*

Thank you for checking out our Spring Newsletter! In this issue, we're spotlighting Volvo's innovations in safety and normcore style, testing your vernal equinox IQ, pondering the integrity of self-driving cars, and we have several fun spring projects utilizing "throwaway" items you may already have at home. Enjoy!

*Your mind is a garden.  
Your thoughts  
are the seeds.  
You can grow flowers.  
Or you can  
grow weeds.*



*Hi everyone!*

*Someone said, 'Spring is God's way of showing that after darkness there is always light.' And isn't it true that springtime breathes new life into the world around us?*

*May you always look at the bright side of life!*

*Happy Spring!*

*- Robert & Lynda Archer*



Be sure to check our website for current specials!

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Volvo S60 Sports Sedan

## You Auto Know ▶▶▶

### *About Volvo*

Everyone recognizes a Volvo when they see one cruising down the road, whether it's the signature boxy station wagon of the 1980s or today's streamlined fastbacks and sedans. It's testament and proof to Volvo's reputation for reliability that so many older models are still on the road today, and it's testament to Volvo's tenacity that many young drivers choose Volvo when looking for something unique among the masses. Here's more on the origins of the persevering Volvo brand.

### *Innovators in Safety Right from the Start*

Volvo started making cars in 1927 because they believed no auto manufacturer was making vehicles strong enough or safe enough for Swedish roads. Along the way, Volvo has come up with dozens of innovations. Some of which—like the three-point safety belt—have changed the world. In fact, Volvo waived its patent rights for the seatbelt, so everybody could benefit, and since then, it's estimated that over one million lives have been saved. Volvo also manufactured the first-ever rearward-facing child safety seat in 1972, based on the position astronauts take when they launch into space.

### *Star Style Leads to Many Supporting Roles*

Volvo cars have always stood apart because of their unique look—a look captured in many movies and TV shows, such as *Gone Girl*, *The Other Woman*, *The Twilight Saga, parts 1-4*, *Modern Family*, and *Pretty Little Liars*. So if you drive a Volvo, you're enjoying the best in safety and unique style—but maybe we didn't have to tell you that.

## Spring Facts

### *What's Your Vernal Equinox IQ?*

In the Northern Hemisphere, spring lasts from the Vernal Equinox (varying between March 19 and 21) to the Summer Solstice (around June 21).

The reason the equinoxes and solstices don't always come on the same day is the Earth doesn't circle the sun in exactly 365 days.

Spring was called "Lent" in Old English. Starting in the 14th century, people started using the term "springing time" in reference to plants springing from the ground. In the 15th century, it was shortened to "spring-time" and then just "spring" in the 16th century.



The first spring flowers are typically dandelions, daffodils, lilacs, lilies, irises, and tulips.

Holidays occurring in the spring include Easter, Passover, April Fool's Day, Earth Day, Arbor Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Cinco De Mayo.

The Egyptians built the Great Sphinx so that it points directly toward the rising sun on the day of the vernal equinox.

## Update on Self-Driving Cars

### Are we steering away or toward autonomous autos?

Based on many reports from the automotive industry, a proliferation of self-driving vehicles is right around the corner. However, after a tragic accident in which a self-driving car struck a pedestrian, will auto manufacturers put the brakes on autonomous vehicle testing? Not at BMW—the German automaker plans to double the size of its autonomous vehicle fleet in 2018—but, hopefully, with double the focus on safety.

#### Testing Plans for Self-Driving Vehicles

According to BMW, its self-driving cars will undergo testing equivalent to 155 million miles driven, including testing on real roads and with a giant supercomputer that simulates traffic scenarios. As of now, BMW plans to launch its first self-driving car in 2021.

*What do you think? Will we be ready for self-driving cars in less than five years? Or should BMW (and other auto manufacturers) move into the slow lane?*



Dress up everyday objects in your home

## Spring Projects ▶▶▶

### *From Junk to Jazzy Home Décor*

With farmhouse style's ongoing popularity in the realm of home décor, there's lots of opportunity to turn unused "junk" that you might have thrown away or recycled into rustic yet lovely pieces for your home. Here are a few ideas we thought were just easy, interesting, and pretty enough to try.

**Tough & Tender Tire Wreath** - Take an old tire, spray paint it with metallic paint for the look in the photo above, punch two holes in either side and make a hanger with a thick rope, and fill with flowers. For a look that lasts the whole season, use fabric flowers stuck into flower foam.

**Sweet Little Centerpiece** - Insert the stems of flowers (in the photo, ranunculus) into the tubes of assorted spools of thread and arrange as a centerpiece or as part of any other vignette in your home. For longer-lasting blooms, add floral foam, which can be dampened with a straw.

**Blooming Boots** - Install a metal grommet on the back of each rain boot. Then, loop a piece of burlap ribbon through the grommets. Insert a 3" wide cylindrical vase in each boot (stabilize with tissue paper if needed). Fill vase with water and seasonal flowers. Tie the ends of the ribbon together and hang on a nail.

## From Our Blog

### *More Power to You—Common Reasons a Car Battery Won't Hold a Charge*

Most drivers have had to use jumper cables (or enlist the help of someone else's jumper cables) at one point or another because their car failed to start. Perhaps you left the headlights on, or an interior light, or maybe your battery simply reached the end of its lifespan. But, in some cases, when a car battery charge won't hold, the battery itself may not be the problem. The issue may be a bigger, more complex malfunction that requires a professional diagnosis by an experienced auto repair technician.

### *Repeat dead battery? We can help with that.*

Sometimes, a repeat dead battery requires the straightforward solution of simply getting a new battery for your vehicle. Generally, if the battery is more than four years old, or if it appears corroded and worn out, it's safe to say age or battery corrosion is, in fact, your problem, and car battery replacement is your obvious solution. Another way to determine if you have a bad battery is by testing your headlights. If they appear dimmer than normal, or don't come on at all, then a nearly-expired battery is most likely the cause.

For more, check out our blog at [aardvarkautorepair.wordpress.com](http://aardvarkautorepair.wordpress.com).

## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and products

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