OUT & ABOUT by Gayle VanVooren

There's so much talk these days of the "cash for clunkers", and Ufkin's even got into it with old washers, dryers, and dishwashers, which was very clever.
But this week, a funny e-mail caught my attention - and I think I'm there!

If My Body Were a Car
If my body were a car, this is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model. I've got bumps and dents and scratches in my finish, and my paint job is getting a little dull.
But that's not the worst of it. My headlights are out of focus, and it's especially hard to see things up close.
My traction is not as graceful as it once was. I slip and slide and skid and bump into things even in the best of weather.
My whitewalls are stained with varicose veins. It takes me hours to reach my maximum speed. My fuel rate burns inefficiently.
But here's the worst of it...almost every time I sneeze, cough or laugh, either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires!
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Our schools are getting ready to open for another year of education. Teachers report for inservice days this week, we celebrate our Labor Day holiday, and then it's back to the books and activities.
We here at The Mascot look forward to a good year with the students. Teachers are in place to lead the students, and extra-curricular activities give students a well-rounded challenge.
Encourage your students to join a club, an interest group, or take advantage of the after school program if they need that extra help with their studies. This is a new program that is in place to make the educational process better for our students.
We must remember that each student learns in their own way, at their own pace. It may come very easy for some students, but reading for comprehension, for retention, and actual test-taking may be difficult for others. It is a real challenge to meet all these needs.
Then there's the sports scene. It looks to be a very exciting year for the Viking fans and it all begins with our Fall sports.
You are invited to come and watch these student athletes - remembering that they are youthful, that they will make mistakes, but that they will also grow from those mistakes. Be a good support system, and show good sportsmanship in the stands. These same students will thank you for it.
Now, excuse me, I need to refuel.