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The daily grind can make it tough to manage maintenance, even for items as important as your vehicle. Fortunately, there are numerous apps, such as Gas Cubby, that let you take control of your car care by helping monitor and save on gas, and Automatic, which tracks driver behavior and auto performance, recommending maintenance and repair schedules to improve your vehicle's overall health.

Dead battery? Dead cell phone? With JumpStarter, a new product from Chamberlain, you'll never be left stranded. The device provides multiple outputs for charging not only your car, but everyday devices, such as cell phones, tablets, MP3 players, GPS, portable game consoles and cameras — and its small size fits in the glove box.

Jerry Herbst of **Cedarburg Overhead Door** can attest to all these benefits, as his products include Haas doors, Great Northern doors and Liftmaster garage door openers in many colors, styles and finishes. "Whenever you get this feeling that you forgot to close the garage door, you can just check the app. You can also know when your children got in when you're not at home," he said. However, he strongly advises using a password protected phone. "If you lose the phone and it's not password protected, someone can access the app and get into your garage."

**In the Backyard**

With landscaping a chore for many, and water conservation a growing concern, a robotic hose attachment may be the answer, delivering precise amounts of water to each plant.

For a large yard, or to use your existing irrigation system, a smart sprinkler system may be a better answer to keep your yard looking lush. Most models can be customized by valve or zone, and many use weather data or moisture sensors to ensure the right amount of water is delivered each time.

When dinner plans call for a steak on the grill, keep your meal deliciously on target with a smartphone app, such as iGrill or Grill

It, which guides you to the perfect temperature based on variables such as the cut and thickness.

With such advancements right at your fingertips, it's becoming easier than ever for families to manage household tasks and functions quickly and easily with new, secure technologies, making time for other more important activities.

**What is Apple HomeKit?**

It may seem like "The Jetsons" cartoon has come to life, but new gadgets are making it possible to operate a growing number of appliances and home systems from a single device, even when you're far from home.

Apple HomeKit will make controlling smart devices simpler or more seamless using iPhone and Siri. Some of the first products to support HomeKit are Chamberlain MyQ garage door openers, Honeywell thermostats, the iDevices Switch and Schlage door locks.

Imagine relaxing at the end of the day, saying, "Siri, I'm going to bed now, is my house secure?" HomeKit will confirm that your garage door is closed, doors are locked and the thermostat is in nighttime mode.

And the Apple Watch will have a place in the home as well. You can expect to control many of these devices and other apps from the watch on your wrist, where you might



Photo courtesy of Family Features

receive notifications that you left the garage door open after leaving the house.

Evolving technology means more sophisticated alternatives are yet to come. It's clear that when it comes to home management technology, the future is only a click away.

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