

# drive

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DRIVE CLASSIFIED  
BEGINS ON PAGE 8



Photos by Bruce Lipsky@jacksonville.com  
Mike Chemago's 1963 Studebaker Avanti (left) — one of 27 classics at last Saturday's Avanti Fest — has a 1964 New York World's Fair license plate.

## Models judged family-friendly

U.S. News & World Report announced its 2016 Best Cars for Families with Mercedes-Benz and Honda taking top honors with four category winners each (story on Page 3). Here are three of the magazine's 21 family-friendly selections you'll find available at autos.jacksonville.com:

See photos online at [drive.jacksonville.com](http://drive.jacksonville.com)



**2016 Chevrolet Malibu**  
Jerry Hamm Chevrolet  
3494 Philips Highway  
1-844-566-8866  
[jerryhamm.com](http://jerryhamm.com)

This Mosaic Black Metallic ILS model, winner of the Midsize Cars category, features black cloth interior and a turbocharged four-cylinder that gets 27 mpg city and 37 highway.

See photos online at [drive.jacksonville.com](http://drive.jacksonville.com)



**2016 Honda HR-V**  
Honda of the Avenues  
11333 Philips Highway  
1-888-586-9435  
[hondaoftheavenues.com](http://hondaoftheavenues.com)

This Crystal Black Pearl EX-L model, winner of the Compact SUV category, features black leather interior, sunroof, navigation system, CVT transmission and gets 28 city and 35 highway.

See photos online at [drive.jacksonville.com](http://drive.jacksonville.com)



**2016 BMW X1**  
Tom Bush BMW Jacksonville  
9876 Atlantic Blvd.  
1-888-230-8612  
[tombushbmw.com](http://tombushbmw.com)

This Black Sapphire xDrive28i model, winner of the Luxury Subcompact SUV category, features Oyster leather interior, automatic transmission and a four-cylinder that gets 32 highway.

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A celebration of the ...

# Last



# Studebaker

The allure of Avanti stands the test of time



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*"If you look at the styling in 1963, it was way ahead of its time. It's still stylish today; it still turns heads."*

— Tom Pinnel, owner of a 1988 Avanti convertible

By Jacqueline Persandi  
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**O**n Saturday, March 5, the Avanti Club of Florida hosted Avanti Fest at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Jacksonville to celebrate one of America's most beloved performance sports coupes — the Avanti. Sunny skies and a cool breeze welcomed Avanti owners from all over the country and Canada, with a total of 14 states represented. Event attendees were treated to a smorgasbord of 27 Avantis, ranging from 1963 original Studebakers to the final 2007 model.

Nicknamed "the phoenix" because the model has risen from the ashes several times, the car was originally designed as Studebaker's saving grace in an effort to salvage the dying brand.

American industrial designer Raymond Loewy was tasked

with producing a finished design and scale model in only 40 days by Studebaker's president, Sherwood Egbert, in 1961.

Egbert had a concept for the car, and he wanted it done quickly.

Tom Pinnel, president of the Avanti Club of Florida, recalled the history of the admired vehicle.

"Egbert got together four designers and engineers and in six weeks, they had a clay model, which was unheard of," said Pinnel, who drove his black 1988 Avanti convertible from Kissimmee with his wife, Karen.

Loewy and his team met the tight time frame, creating a car that broke design and production norms with modern luxuries, including a fiberglass body, disc brakes, a roll bar and supercharged engines. The Avanti — meaning forward in Italian — was introduced at the New York International Auto

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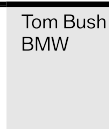
Photo by Lewis Schucart

Three AVX models are side-by-side for the first time since being built in Harrisburg, Pa. in the late '90s. AVX was short for "Avanti experimental."

**Tom Bush BMW**  
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[opbmw.com](http://opbmw.com)

Lease offer applies to 2016 BMW X1 xDrive28i financed through BMW Financial Services. \$500 lease credit is applied against MSRP of final purchase. Monthly lease payments of \$369.00 for 36 months based on MSRP of \$35,795.00. \$4,294.00 cash due at signing is based on \$3,000.00 down payment, \$369.00 first month payment, \$925.00 acquisition fee, and \$5.00 security deposit (not all customers will qualify for security deposit waiver). Tax, title, license, registration and \$689.50 dealer fee are additional fees due at signing. Offer ends March 31, 2016. See dealer for complete details. ©2016 BMW of North America, LLC. The BMW name, model names and logo are registered trademarks.