

# Helmkamp Auto Service



## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

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### Paper Currency Introduced By Lincoln 150 Years Ago



In 1861, the United States government's financial situation was

troubled by

the Civil War and becoming desperate. In the face of national bankruptcy, the government took an unprecedented step. After much deliberation, The Secretary of the Treasury was authorized to issue 150 million United States treasury notes which were considered legal tender for all debts public and private. These notes called Legal Tender Notes or United States Notes, were issued in denominations of \$1 to \$1000 and marked the first real national currency for the United States. These notes, and all paper money issued since 1861, are still valid and redeemable in current cash at face value. Though, you probably would not choose to use it today.

Coin hoarding and the need to use metals for war purposes created a shortage of coin during the Civil War and led to the circula-

tion of small change substitutes. In some cases these included tickets, bills and even postage stamps. From 1862 to 1876 the government issued more than \$368 million in Fractional Currency in three-to fifty cent denominations. These "paper coins", which were much smaller in size than our present currency, were nicknamed "shinplasters", as the hardships of war often forced troops to line their worn boots with them.

Between 1861 and 1865 Confederate currency was being issued to millions of Southerners, gambling that a Confederate victory would ensure the currency would be redeemable. In an effort to debase this currency, the North printed counterfeit money and circulated it in the south. Inflation was soon rampant in both the north and the south, but far worse in the Confederacy. As the end of the war neared, Confederate citizens completely lost confidence in their currency and came to rely on barter or black-market greenbacks. In some cases Confederate soldiers were even paid in northern greenbacks.

### Do I Have To Go Back To The Dealership?

**Except for warranty work and recalls, you never have to go back to the dealership for service or maintenance. We can do it all, right here, completely maintaining your manufacturer's warranty. It's common misconception that only car dealers can perform the maintenance services on a newer vehicle under warranty. Consumers are protected and may have maintenance services done by their local independent service shop without affecting their warranty because of the Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act. When using an independent repair shop it is always good to keep a record of all maintenance work. If a warranty claim arises, these records will provide proof that maintenance has been performed in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations and requirements. We will give you a detailed summary of all services performed, as we retain all records of all work performed at Helmkamp Auto Service.**

#### SPECIAL DATES

- 4 - LINDBERG'S BIRTHDAY 1902
- 5 - SUPER BOWL XLVI
- 12 - LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY
- 14 - VALENTINES DAY
- 20 - PRESIDENT'S DAY
- 21 - FAT TUESDAY
- 22 - WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY
- 25 - FIRST ELECTRIC PRINTING PRESS PATENTED 1837
- 25 - PAPER CURRENCY INTRODUCED 1862
- 29 - LEAP DAY

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## Spinach Salad With Warm Pomegranate Dressing

### Dressing

1 cup pomegranate juice  
1/2 cup honey  
2 tbs sugar  
1 tbs Dijon Mustard  
1 tbs soy sauce  
1 tsp Italian seasoning  
1/2 tsp garlic powder  
1/3 cup olive oil

### Salad

1 9oz bag of fresh spinach  
1/2 cup sliced red onion  
4 hard boiled eggs, sliced  
1/2 lb bacon, crisply cooked, crumbled  
1 cup cherry tomatoes  
1/2 cup fresh pomegranate seeds

1. In a one quart saucepan, heat pomegranate juice, honey and sugar over medium-high heat. Simmer about 5 minutes, stirring until sugar dissolves and sauce thickens slightly.
2. Remove from heat; pour in heatproof glass bowl. Add mustard, soy sauce, Italian seasoning and garlic powder. While beating with a whisk, slowly add olive oil, beating until well blended. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Set aside.
3. Place spinach in a large salad bowl. Top with onion, egg, bacon and tomatoes. Drizzle with warm salad dressing.



## 16th Annual “Help Kids” Dinner Auction

Saturday  
February 11th

Dinner at 6:00pm  
Auction at 7:00 pm

Knights of Columbus  
off 140 in Bethalto  
Fund raiser for the  
Boys and Girls Club  
Call 377-6030

## Schedule My Service

Call and we will  
be happy to  
arrange an  
appointment to  
meet your needs.  
618-377-6821



One of GM's current billboard in Detroit Michigan.

## How Much Life Is Left In My Battery?

The condition of the cell plates in your battery determines whether your battery has enough cranking amps to start your car. Current is produced when sulfuric acid in the battery reacts with the lead in the cell plates. As the battery discharges, sulfate accumulates on the plates and reduces the batteries ability to make current. The sulfate is returned to solution when the alternator recharges the battery by forcing current to flow in the opposite direction. Over time, some of the sulfate becomes permanently attached to the plates. The sulfate forms a barrier that diminishes the battery's ability to produce and store electricity. This process can be accelerated if your battery is run down. If the plates have become sulfated, the battery will have to be replaced. The average battery life is usually about 4 or 5 years. Sometimes it can be as short as 2 years if you live in a hot climate or take frequent short trips. Testing your battery is something you can't really do yourself. Call and we will be happy to schedule you an appointment.

## Struts Or Shocks?

Most of us know that struts and shock absorbers are part of the suspension and seemingly do the same thing-dampen the impact of bumps to help provide you with a smoother ride. You you may not recognize the signs of wear. An inspection of the shocks or struts should be carried out if your vehicle:



- “Rolls” more going around corners.
- seems to dip excessively during braking.
- seems to sway or bounce excessively on bumpy surfaces.
- It's been more than 50,000 miles since your last inspection.

## Caring For Your Timing Belt Or Chain

The timing belt or chain is one of the most important maintenance items on an automotive engine. Yet it is one of the most frequently neglected. Failure to follow the required maintenance schedule for the timing belt or chain can lead to very expensive repairs to other engine components. One reason so many drivers neglect timing belts is the long service intervals. Unlike oil changes that typically occur several times per year, timing belts typically last at least 50,000 to 60,000 miles, and timing chains can go 100,000 miles or more before needing replacement.

Like a runner, an engine needs to breathe in order to produce power. Engines draw in air and then exhale exhaust gases. Every cylinder in an engine has from two to four valves, half of which allow air and fuel in and the other half providing a path to let exhaust out. Each valve has a spring attached to it, keeping it tightly closed. The valves are opened by a rotating camshaft with lobes that push down on the top of each the valve stems in turn. As the lobe passes, the spring pushes the valve back up.

For an engine to work, the opening of these valves must be carefully synchronized with the rise and fall of the pistons. If the valves open too early or too late, the engine can run poorly or not at all. Worst of all, because the valves must open as the piston falls, if the valve timing is too far off, the pistons and valves can collide, causing severe damage inside the engine. In order to keep everything in sync, the camshafts are driven by the crankshaft. With just a few notable exceptions, the camshafts on virtually all modern engines are mounted on top of the cylinder heads at the opposite end from the crankshaft, this is referred as an overhead cam. Chains have a durability advantage over belt drives, but they are noisier than belt drives. A toothed rubber belt can stretch as it ages; this can leave the camshaft out of sync with the camshaft. Chains usually last twice as long as a belt.

Whether an engine has a belt or a chain, the service interval will be listed in you owner's manual and manufacturers strongly advise that drivers follow the recommendations. Modern engines can run for many miles and years with the original timing belt or chain. When it's time to replace it, however, it's best to get the job done promptly, delay can be costly.

**“When you  
cease to  
make a  
contribution,  
you begin to  
die.”**

**Eleanor  
Roosevelt**

## Leap Year - A Quadrennial Celebration

The Gregorian calendar, which now serves as the standard calendar for civil use throughout the world, has both common years and leap years. A common year as you know has 365 days and a leap day adds one more being February 29. A leap year occurs every 4 years to help synchronize the calendar year with the solar year, or the length of time it takes the earth to complete its orbit around the sun, which is about 365 1/4 days. The length of the solar year, however, is slightly less than 365 1/4 days-by about 11 minutes. To compensate for this discrepancy, the leap year is omitted 3 times every four hundred years. In other words, a century year cannot be a leap year unless it is divisible by 400. Therefore 1700, 1800 and 1900 were not leap years, but 1600, 200 and 2400 are leap years.

## Want to go from 0 to 60 in 3 Seconds?

While most of the world's sports car builders want their customers to experience the most luxuries options you can buy, some builders have moved in a different direction. Joop Donkervoort of the Netherlands is just such a designer. He has moved in the direction of lightness instead of comfort. The Donkervoort D8 GTO shows the benefits of not following the crowd.

While Donkervoort has been building cars for over 30 years, the GTO is an all new design. Powered by a 2.5 liter turbo five cylinder from Audi spinning 340 hp, the GTO only weighs 1,540 lbs. about half what even compact cars weigh. To hit that weight, there's no roof and few comforts. The only modern option is electronic traction control.

The combination of mass and force should produce accelerations that would put the Donkervoort in the forefront of European sports cars. The GTO will do 0 to 60 in about 3 seconds, and a top speed of 160 mph. The company says the first 25 GTO's will be special editions complete with a "race" switch that squeezes an extra 60 hp from the engine. The everyday models will arrive in 2013, with prices starting around \$130,000.

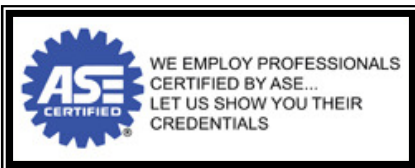




**WHERE CUSTOMER CARE COMES FIRST!**

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Send us your email and we will keep you up on all the latest specials we have to offer. Send your address to [jeneane@helmkampauto.com](mailto:jeneane@helmkampauto.com)

## How Much Life Is Left In Your Battery?



Don't take chances whether your car will start when you need it, have your battery tested.

**Save**

**\$5.00 of any battery up to \$100.00 and  
\$10.00 of any battery over \$100.00**

Coupon must be presented at time of vehicle check-in. Coupon expires February 29, 2012