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Quick Hits

Crime prevention will be the hot topic at this coming Wednesday's Town Hall meeting.

The Hamtramck Community Initiative is hosting the event, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the public library. The meeting will also cover creating block clubs, city-wide cleanups, code enforcement, citizen patrols and emergency preparedness.

The public will also get a chance to voice their concerns and questions.

"This event is a chance for everyone to meet together to hear about what is working and what needs to be done to make Hamtramck as safe and clean as possible. Together, we're better," said HCI Chairperson Rev. Sharon Buttry.

Quote of the week ...

Who said this, and what is it about? You can find the quote and the story it belongs to somewhere in the pages of this issue.

"I didn't think it was going to be this bad when I went to work."

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2 LOCATIONS TO BETTER SERVE YOU IN HAMTRAMCK!

Music festival helped blast away winter blues

By Daniel Voros
Special to The review

The first-ever Hamtramck Music Festival brought out thousands of people to Hamtramck last weekend.

The weather went from decent, considering the winter we've had, to bitter cold. Despite the weather, the attendance went from decent to packed as the weekend carried on.

Sources from The Hamtramck Music Festival Committee, the group that organized the event in 37

days, said that approximately 2,500 people from across the metropolitan area came together to listen to 133 local bands at 16 different venues.

Eugene Strobe, co-founder and spokesman for the festival, said "It pretty much came together without a hitch."

Strobe's band, Cosmic Light Shapes, headlined the kick-off party at Small's Thursday night. Three other bands including Atoms and

Continued on page 4



Local bars and halls were packed with music fans who came out to support a new music festival in Hamtramck.

School district committee talks about what's needed for the future

Hamtramck Public Schools District is asking voters to approve a special millage on May 6 that will be used to improve school buildings, most of which have gone decades without needed repairs.

We're talking some pretty basic fixes.

To inform the public of the proposal, a special committee has been formed to get the word out.

Here, in the committee's words, is what they have to

say: The Hamtramck Public School District is proud of its new technology; new iPads, tablets, classroom projectors, document cameras and smart boards that

are providing our students with a path to the future. Recent energy upgrades have positioned the district to save long-term operational dollars.

The District's missing

Continued on page 2

EM under fire from city employees

By Charles Sercombe

Police Chief Max Garbarino wants the public to know that he is not getting any extra money to cut overtime.

That's because it's impossible to reduce overtime, he said.

Recently, a Fox television report noted that Garbarino's employment contract gives him an extra \$1,000 a month if he reduces overtime by 50 percent. The report said this is unusual since the city is in a financial emergency, and that there is concern Garbarino will put his paycheck ahead of the safety concerns of the community.

Garbarino told the reporter he would never compromise the city's safety needs.

He told The Review that his department is understaffed and he has a hard enough time getting at least two-to-three officers to be on patrol per shift.

He said that being 10 officers short, there is no way he can reduce overtime.

"I'm not going to obtain it," he said about receiving his incentive pay.

Garbarino's contract was drawn up by Emergency Manager Cathy Square. She has been attempting to reduce the cost of overtime to the city.

Garbarino has been at odds with her, saying a key way to do that is to hire

Continued on page 2

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EM under fire from city employees

Continued from front page

more officers.

Square told The Review that the city spent \$600,000 on police overtime last year. She said 16 officers out of a total of 30, who are on special assignments, received 75 percent of the overtime.

"Max is a good chief, a good man, but he might need some management help," Square said.

As for the number of officers in the department, she said the police officers' union agreed to reduce the total number in the department during contract negotiations.

The issue of contracts seemed to get a number of city employees riled up this week.

The Review received a copy of a letter sent by city employees to the state

Treasury Department complaining about a salary increase given to Margaret Scanio, who heads up the city's Human Resources Department.

The writer of the letter, supposedly written on behalf of city employees, did not identify him or herself, saying it had to be done "under the cover of animosity."

The writer apparently meant to say "anonymity," and did so for fear of "retribution from an emergency manager that has chronically proven to us that she is incapable of doing what's best for the city, its residents and the employees."

The gist of the complaint against Scanio is that her salary was doubled from \$38,000 to \$67,500 for

Continued on page 5

School district committee talks about what's needed for the future

Continued from front page

piece is capital improvement funding, to maintain, proactively preserve and upgrade the conditions of our buildings as well as to create invigorating learning environments for the students.

The answer could be in the proposed "Capital Improvement Sinking Fund Millage" which will allow the community to rally together and take the first step towards improving their schools. By voting on May 6, residents can be the voice of the children and fill that missing piece, ensuring success for Hamtramck Schools.

Sinking funds need to be approved by a public vote and are a dedicated source of funds set aside for the sole use of school facility repairs and improvements. The funds are generated by taxes paid by property owners at a specific millage or percentage rate of individual property values. This proposed sinking fund is 4 mills or \$4 per \$1,000 dollars of a property's taxable value.

For an average home with a taxable value of \$18,000 the tax increase would be about \$72 or lower per year. The funds

cannot be used for staff salaries, wages or benefits, general operating expenses, classroom supplies or books.

Although Hamtramck Schools has a strong focus on the future, the buildings are rich with history and a legacy of the past that desperately need a little TLC. Holbrook Elementary dates back to 1896 and is possibly the oldest functioning elementary school building in Michigan. The High School dates to 1935.

All buildings in the district have suffered from the recent recession and declining revenues; they are now the immediate priority. The Sinking Fund Millage is an avenue to improvements such as: secure and accessible entry improvements, roofing repairs and replacements, paving and walkway restoration, fire and life safety upgrades, energy-saving window replacements, adjustments for student and staff comfort, masonry and structural repairs and classroom environment improvements.

The overall goal is to preserve district assets in the most economical approach possible.

Hamtramck is strong, diverse and welcoming, coining the phrase "You Fit in Here" for potential new students. Their annual cul-

tural dances and alternative proms show that Hamtramck Public Schools and the community celebrate ethnicity and promote the individual. Last year students earned a collective \$2.3 million in scholarships, shining a light of success on Hamtramck students and community.

How can you do your part to continue these achievements?

On May 6 the Hamtramck community will be asked to vote on a proposal for a 4 mill Sinking Fund in order to generate funds for facility improvements over the next 10 years.

Currently only 8% of the

city's taxes go to the Hamtramck School District. School building and infrastructure improvements could help raise property values, increase future revenues, decrease tax burdens and most importantly improve environments for student learning and safety.

More information can be obtained at an upcoming District public forum. Please visit the District website for dates and times. Thomas Niczay, Superintendent, can also be contacted for additional information at (313) 892-2011.

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This week at the library...

Movie Release - Hamtramck Inauguration 2014 - A documentary movie from the Inaugural Ceremonies for Hamtramck City Officials has been released by the library. A DVD is available at the library, and the movie is also posted on the library website.

Saturday Story Time - Saturday, March 15 at 12 noon. Join us for children's story time. This week's book is "St. Patrick's Day."

Free Income Tax Service - Monday, March 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If your annual income is less than \$50,000, the Wayne Metropolitan organization will help you prepare your 2013 taxes at no charge. For appointments call 734-284-6999. Walk-ins will be served on first come first serve basis.

ESL Basis Class - Tuesday, March 18 at 12 noon. ESL classes, conducted by Ms. Latisha, are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

Math Kangaroo Club Meeting - Tuesday, March 18 at 3:30 p.m. All school children are invited to participate in the Math Kangaroo program to prepare for the World Wide Math Competition Test. Free for Hamtramck students.

Movie Night - Tuesday, March 18 at 4 p.m. All children are invited to see a movie shown on high definition screen and enjoy a serving of popcorn. This week's feature is "The Croods."

ESL Conversational Class - Wednesday, March 19 at 12:00 noon. ESL conversational classes, conducted by Ms. Latisha, are free to Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

Town Hall Meeting with Kim Worthy - Wednesday, March 19 at 6:30 p.m. The Town Hall meeting with Wayne County Prosecutor, Kim Worth will be held in the library's main hall. Everyone is invited.

Citizenship Preparatory Classes - Thursday, March 20 at 5:30 p.m. Hamtramck residents are invited to take part in the citizenship preparatory classes conducted by legal staff from the International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit. Classes and legal assistance are provided free of charge.

ESL "News for You" Class - Thursday, March 20 at 12 noon. ESL reading and writing classes, conducted by Ms. Latisha, are free to Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

Family Story Time for Children - Thursday, March 20, at 6 p.m. Join your friends at the library for a reading of a story book for children.

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dren. This week's theme is "And then it's Spring."

Friends of the Library Meeting - Thursday, March 20 at 6 p.m. FHPL President Kathy Kristy and Treasurer George Gorday invite all members and volunteers to participate in the regular monthly meeting.

Knight Arts Challenge - Monday, March 24 at 6 p.m. The Hamtramck Knight Arts Challenge meeting will be held in the library auditorium.

Toddler Time at the Library - Monday, March 24 at 11 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. Join us for story time, arts & crafts, and games. This week's theme is "Penguin Story Time." (Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

Make & Take Workshop - Thursday, March 27 at 4 p.m. The theme this week is "Celebrating Youth Art Month."

Common Word Alliance of Hamtramck - Monday, March 31 at 7 p.m. The regular meeting of the Hamtramck Common Word Alliance will be held in the library main hall.

Meeting of the Library Board - Thursday, April 10 at 6 p.m. Regular meeting of the Library Board will be held in the auditorium. Open to the public.

For more information about events at the library call (313) 365-7050, or visit our website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us> where you can also access our online catalog.

Second Front Page

Winter is not ready to loosen its icy grip

By Charles Sercombe

Six days to go. Assuming you are reading this on Friday, next Thursday, March 20, is the first day of spring. You know, warm weather, leaves budding, birds chirping.

Of course, judging by the winter storm that hit us on Wednesday, you would have no idea that winter is on its way out. Some six inches of snow was dumped with winds that whipped up drifts and at times caused whiteouts.

Schools once again cancelled classes for the day.

At the time we went to press on Thursday, this weekend is supposed to be mild, unless winter decides to stick around.

Actually, it doesn't matter. This winter has been so cruel and bitter cold, we'll take anything over freezing at this point and consider it a heat wave.

Wednesday's dumping of six inches of snow got us a little bit closer to breaking a record of snowfall for the season – just three inches shy of 93.6 inches that oc-

curred in the winter of 1880-81.

The streets of Hamtramck were eerily empty-ish on Wednesday, but there were a few brave



Once again, Hamtramckans had to dig out from a snow storm on Wednesday, which forced the closing of schools. Bitter cold also came with the storm. By this weekend, however, temperatures are expected to be in the 40s.



souls walking around, including Cnae Popoeski who was walking his bike home around 11 a.m. after working the early morning shift at New Palace Bakery.

"What do you think of this winter?" we asked.

"Won-der-ful," came the snappy answer to a stupid question.

(Our apology to Mad Magazine for the "snappy answers to stupid questions" reference.)

And what about the bike? "I didn't think it was going to be this bad when I went to work," Popoeski said, who we should note works the 3 a.m. shift.

Speaking of stupid questions, where is the best place to hone this art? At a bar, of course.

So with that chore in mind we headed to Bakers Street Car Bar where three gents were enjoying beer and television.

"So, what brings you out on a day like this?" we asked.

"I was out protesting Daylight Savings Time," snapped Steven Was with-

out missing a beat. "But nobody showed up – cause of the weather."

As for all the snow days schools have used up so far, Was said that was unheard of when he went to school in the 1980s and

90s. Being spared the experience of trudging through the snow and cold, he said, is leading to "no character in these kids."

We'll drink to that.

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City will survey streets to begin pothole repairs

By Charles Sercombe

Been doing the Danforth dodge?

The Lumpkin lurch?

The Wyandotte weave?

The Goodson gotcha?

No, we're not talking about new dance moves. We're talking about trying to avoid hitting the numerous potholes on every freakin' street in the city. And on the streets beyond Hamtramck's borders.

This winter's extreme cold has created not only more potholes but monster-sized ones at that.

"Hamtown has, hands down, the biggest, widest and deepest potholes anywhere I've been," said

Nolan Skipper LaFramboise II, a former business owner here and still a frequent visitor to the city, in a recent posting on his Facebook page.

"Basketballs and tires, with the wheels attached, could disappear in yours," he added.

The city has been filling the most severe potholes when it can, and weather permitting. But with the constant swings between cold and warmer weather, it's been hard to keep up, said Steve Shaya, Director of Public Works.

"It's just been a horrible winter," Shaya said.

Some of the streets are

so bad, it appears they need more than patching. Emergency Manager Cathy Square agrees. She said she will have the streets surveyed and begin resurfacing the worst – as soon as warm weather settles in.

"I definitely want to leave the city with a good road repair plan," she said, in reference to when her employment contract ends on July 1.

There is also talk of the state allocating money to help with repairing roads statewide in light of increasing complaints. According to the U.S.

Continued on page 6

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Music festival helped blast away winter blues

Continued from front page

Ease also played. Atoms, whose musical influences include the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Erykah Badou, got the crowd dancing with their blend of funk and rock. Lead singer, Cye Pie, said she was pretty happy with the set.

"The crowd was dope," said Pie.

Bands taking to the stages and pool-table areas of the venues represented many shades of the musical spectrum. There were sounds of Motown, old fashion country-blues and hard-core punk echoing down the streets.

Melvin Davis, who was Smokey Robinson's personal drummer for two years, threw his 45-release party at Paycheck's Lounge Friday night. He took the stage with an eight-piece band, including a horn section, that shouted out a sound reminiscent of Motown. Or northern soul, as Davis called it.

Davis was pumped to be playing in Hamtramck.

"We're all a little bit Polish when we're in Hamtramck," said Davis.

He said that the northern soul sound is big in Europe. He also said he was leaving for Spain early this week. But, he'll be back to play his next show in Detroit on May 3 at Trinosophes on Gratiot in Eastern Market – just in case you want to check him out, and you should.

A few steps further along the musical spectrum and

into the weekend was the premier performance of Pony Drags. The duo, comprised of Rachel Skotarezyk and Richie



Above: Caveman Woodman works up the crowd at Kelly's Bar while music fans enjoy the exotic sounds of St. Zita at Rock City Eatery.

Wohlfeil, was unpolished and intimate. Skotarezyk's guitar was accompanied by Wohlfeil's bass. Her high-crisp country voice was genuine. Her lyrics: personal. The relationship between the two surfaced in their banter and the background Skotarezyk gave to each song.

The duo is so new that they don't have music posted online as of now.

"We're planning on recording a demo sometime this week," Wohlfeil said.

Sets like this made the weekend special. They played in Lo & Behold, a second-hand record, book and bike shop on Jos. Campau, owned by Wohlfeil. The shop was full. And though a lot of acts flow

through the store on a weekly basis, Skotarezyk's talent plus the intimacy of the set made the duo stand out.

In some ways the weekend also stood out from its predecessor, The Blowout. John Weier, who did sound for 7 Brothers Bar, thought the weekend felt, "less regulated. It maintained its structure, but it feels looser."

"Feels nice not have a guy from Budweiser interfering," he added.

Jeremy Waun, whose band Reverend played at 7

Brothers, felt similar to Weier.

"It was fun. It was wild and loose. 7 Brothers is amazing," said Wuan.

The grassroots nature of the event was also reflected in some aspects of Hamtramck's nightlife not changing.

Kevin LaPointe, a resident, said "beer prices are the same as they would be any other weekend in Hamtramck."

As the festival approached its final hours the temperature dropped. At 1

core, at 2 a.m., or 3 a.m. considering that night's switch to Daylight Savings, it continued to get colder, but inside the late hour and cold temps didn't matter.

The crowd in Kelly's erupted. People were shoulder-to-shoulder and on their feet, and some formed a mosh pit up in front of the band. A certain journalist was thrown out of the pit and into a wall.

Frank "Caveman" Woodman, who played before the Johnny III band and who was also moshing in the

f*%#er!" he shouted.

Woodman's excitement was shared by many in the bar. Kelly's Bar owner, Brad Ruff, who said the festival was "F*%#ing excellent, off the hook. Better than The Blowout."

As 3:30 a.m. rolled around and people spilled out onto Holbrook leaving Kelly's, Ruff said, "It (the festival) was definitely more than what I expected."

The festival will definitely have an encore next year.

"Next year we plan on continuing what worked, and only tweak a few things that we felt could have been better," Strobe said. "The format will largely remain the same, but with more time to plan for next year, we should have a number of the kinks ironed out."

Strobe said that the event actually came out of the weekend in the black.

"We made a profit this year, which 100 percent will go to Ben's Encore charity, who will then present it to local music programs in order to give youth music lessons."



a.m. Saturday night, as the Johnny III Band was getting ready for their set at Kelly's Bar, it was 20 degrees outside. During the band's third crowd-encouraged en-

pit, said the festival was "amazing."

"They did it in one month's time. And the streets are alive. The streets are alive, mother

Other Voices: Guest Editorial

Another man-made disaster from Lansing

By Nancy L. Erickson
Hamtramck Public Schools
Teacher-Media Specialist

There's another manufactured disaster coming out of state government these days. The Michigan Department of Education is responsible. If it were practicing medicine, the MDE would be sued for malpractice.

Why? Because it withholds effective treatment from patients suffering from a life-threatening condition. But in the MDE's case their "patients" are children. The life-threatening condition? It's poverty.

The effects of poverty on a child's performance in school are profound. Yet specific strategies proven to reduce the achievement gap between wealthier students and those living in lower income families are well known.

The MDE's leaders could easily have pushed for their implementation years ago. But they did not.

Is this a case of institutional classism? You be the judge. But here are some facts:

Fact #1: Most students, even those living in poverty, make academic progress at about the same rate during the school year. Summer is when the less privileged usually fall behind.

Fact #2: The effects of summer learning loss accumulate. Most children in question will read more than 2 years below grade level by the start of middle school. They will not come close to achieving their academic potential. Yet the MDE will inform the public

that the schools those children attend fail to educate them.

Fact #3: Starting in third grade, reading well is essential for learning all subjects.

Fact #4: The effects of summer learning loss have been known for decades.

Fact #5: Researchers Richard L. Allington and Anne McGill-Franzen write in their book, Summer Reading: Closing the Rich/Poor Reading Achievement Gap, "Too many current educational reform initiatives ignore ease of access to books, reading volume, and summer reading loss...Schools that serve many poor children must play a substantive role in ensuring that each and every child has year-round access to a generous supply of books to read in school and out, books the children cannot wait to read."

But what leadership is the MDE providing? Glance at a few issues of their online newsletter, Education Connection.

Parents are informed they should take their children to public libraries – or buy their kids books as gifts.

Seriously?

Because here are only a few of the harsh realities faced by many low-income families: lack of transportation; unsafe conditions for children walking to a public library; often no public library within walking distance. Parents should buy books? That's an impossibility in homes experiencing shortages of food and other basic necessities.

The MDE leadership needs a lesson in basic arithmetic as well. Because it's obvious public libraries are not equipped to support the hundreds of thousands of children across Michigan living in poverty. Some of those libraries aren't much larger than a shoebox. Their staffing is minimal. So is their funding.

Mike Flanagan, State Superintendent of Schools, recently announced another strategy. Donations for book purchases will be solicited and coordinated at the state level. But will all children who need books have access to them? On the MDE website we are informed that the number of books available will be determined annually by the level of donations raised.

Folks, that's like saying, "Let's hold a bake sale to buy medicine. But not all kids in desperate need will benefit. That depends on how much money is raised."

Meanwhile, our state budget has a nearly billion dollar surplus.

Real Solution #1: Mr. Flanagan, ever heard of a school library? A student could borrow a dozen books a week – if the doors were open through the summer. No new layer of bureaucracy or grant writing need be created. School libraries are close to home; students and parents trust in them. Despite severe budget cuts, most school libraries are still managed by highly-qualified teacher-librarians. These specialists are experts at supporting the literacy needs of hundreds of

children per day.

The cost of keeping school libraries open all year is nominal; the benefits for children are enormous. Nonetheless, the leaders of the MDE refuse to promote increased use of these existing resources. In doing so, they make a choice – to deprive struggling children of opportunities they need and deserve.

Action Strategy #1: Readers, please send a copy of the above article to each member of the State Board of Education listed below. Use a postage stamp, email, fax, social networking – and whatever else you can get your hands on.

Mr. John C. Austin (D)

Mr. Daniel Varner (D)

Ms. Michelle Fecteau (D)

Mrs. Eileen Weiser (R)

Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny (D)

Dr. Richard Zeile (R)

Ms. Kathleen N. Straus (D)

Ms. Casandra E. Ulbrich (D)

Mr. Mike Flanagan, Chairman

Mrs. Marilyn Schneider

Address: State Board of Education, P.O. Box 30008, Lansing, MI 48909. Email, phone and fax #s are available at www.michigan.gov/mde

Also contact Governor Rick Snyder, Executive Office, State Capitol, Lansing, MI 48909. He mentioned the importance of summer learning in a recent televised speech.

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MARCH 15 Doc Illingsworth/Hiro/Rai D/Rufio of Detroit Cydi/
Doss the Artist/Lokye/Kopelli of Gold Men Young

MARCH 18 Comedy Night

MARCH 21 Murder in the Dark/The Soaring Eagles/
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11am - All Day • Dinner \$8 • Sandwich \$6

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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Now is the time to plan for an even better Paczki Day

Now that Paczki Day is behind us, we have a few suggestions to make next year's event sweeter.

We don't mean to sound like we're complaining but we think there is room to improve, and isn't that what everyone wants?

Well, assuming so, here goes. For one thing, would it be too much to ask for the city to clear the Jos. Campau sidewalks of snow and ice? From what we were told, it's up to the Public Works Department to get the job done.

It was downright treacherous trying to walk on our

sidewalks, and we saw more than one senior struggle mightily to keep from slipping and falling over.

Just for safety's sake it should be done, but it also sends out a message to visitors that by not clearing our sidewalks we're not a very hospitable community.

It would also be nice to see reserve police officers walking around our bakeries and bars to send out a message of security.

As for the bakeries, it confounds us that they haven't figured out a way to reduce the waiting time for

paczki buyers. There is no reason for anyone to stand out in the cold for two to three hours.

Why not set up a cart out front to expedite sales? Or better yet, rent a food truck to sit outside the bakeries to speed things up.

And speaking of food trucks, where were they? You'd think a major gathering like this would attract them.

Despite these shortcomings, this year's Paczki Day was a resounding success. Our only wish is for it to get better and better.

Letters • Letters

Firefighters give a deep breath of thanks for community support

The Hamtramck Firefighters were proud to participate in the American Lung Association's Fight For Air stair climb last week at the Renaissance Center.

Three of our members, Matt Wyszczelski, John Dropchuk and Joe Lafever, climbed the 70 flights of stairs to the top of Detroit's tallest building in full firefighter turnout gear.

This was to raise funds to help provide lifesaving education, research and advocacy so we can beat lung diseases and to find a cure.

The American Lung Association says it best: "We

climb for our friends and loved ones who suffer from lung cancer, the leading cancer killer. We climb for those who struggle to breathe, because air pollution threatens lives. We climb for those whose asthma makes even the simple act of breathing difficult. We climb for those that can't breathe on their own."

We would like to thank all those that have supported us during this campaign. During the last few months, our friends Edie, Baker Streetcar Bar, Polish Sea League and the Hamtramck

Moose sold "paper clouds" for us and the money raised went to support this worthy cause.

We'd like to thank them and everyone for helping us support the American Lung Association, because no one should struggle to breathe.

While this event is now over, donations are still being accepted until April 2. You can check our website at HamtramckFirefighters.com for details.

**Thanks again,
Hamtramck Firefighters**

EM under fire from city employees

Continued from page 2

work that city employees say she is not qualified to do.

The employees also say that Scanio has committed numerous errors in her job as payroll clerk.

Square dismissed the complaint, saying Scanio has been criticized because she is insisting employees follow the rules of employment.

"She (Scanio) inherited a dysfunctional Human Resources Department," Square said.

Square said that Scanio received a salary increase because she has been assigned more duties, such as overseeing IT services.

Square said that for too long bills have been paid

without being reviewed first, including IT costs, which according to past invoices total up to over \$80,000 a year.

The complaints, Square said, boil down to employees not liking being told to do things different from past experiences.

Square said there is a reason why the city has experienced a financial crisis and required state intervention twice now.

"Dysfunction," she said, is the root of the problem.

Since Square has started her one-year term as a state-appointed emergency manager last July, there have been complaints about her from city employees. But until this week, not

much has been said publicly about Square's performance.

Square is due to leave her post on July 1. She said she will still have a hand in the city's financial decisions by sitting on a transition board that will have ultimate authority on management decisions.

Recently, the mayor and city council have complained about getting little input from Square during her stay here. But it was the mayor and council that also requested the state to appoint an emergency manager, admitting they could not get a handle on the city's financial crisis.

Odds & Ends

Art opening ... Hamtramck's artist collective and gallery, Hatch, will host the opening of a new exhibit this Saturday (March 15).

It's a solo show of paintings by Kate Paul, which is being called "FATHOM."

Kate says of her work:

"These painting represent my own voyage upon the colored ocean of curiosity, swimming with the world of possibilities in myth making, riding on the sea of imagination to describe the indescribable while squinting through a spy glass looking for home."

The opening reception is 6-9 p.m. on Saturday with a closing reception and artist talk, 6-9 p.m., on Saturday, March 29.

Hatch is located at 3456 Evaline, and more information can be found online at www.hatchart.org.

County offers help in applying for health care

If you or someone you care about are uninsured, it's not too late to sign up for quality, affordable coverage under the Affordable Care Act – but you'll want to act soon before March 31.

That way, your health insurance coverage will take effect by May 1.

In a county-wide effort to enroll residents in Affordable Care Act and Healthy Michigan (Medicaid expansion) health coverage plans before the March 31 deadline, Wayne County is hosting two, free-of-charge "Cover the Uninsured – Enroll Wayne County" health expos during the month of March.

Enroll Wayne County events will be held at the following locations:

- Wednesday, March 19, at Cobo Center, Michigan Hall, from 9 AM to 4 PM, (free parking on Cobo Roof), and

- Saturday, March 29, at WCCCD's Belleville Western Campus, 9555 Haggerty Road, from 9 AM to 3 PM.

Federally-certified health navigators will offer free, individualized assistance to those seeking help enrolling in health plans. Health providers and vendors will also provide important health-related information and services.

Event sponsors include the Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion; Community Bridges Management; Detroit Medical Center (DMC), and St. John Providence Health System.

So don't delay, come to the Wayne County Cover the Uninsured events, and join

the more than 4 million Americans who have already signed up for a health coverage plan, and the more than 10 million people who've signed up for private insurance or signed up, renewed, or learned they are eligible for Medicaid coverage.

Those attending Enroll Wayne County events are asked to bring proper documentation: driver's license or identification card; social security number; proof of

income/unemployment benefits for family members and any existing health insurance information.

For more details, call Wayne County Health and Human Services Department at (313) 224-0810 or visit www.waynecounty.com

You can also sign up for health coverage 24 hours a day, seven-days a week at HealthCare.gov or 1-800-318-2596.

2nd Annual Chair Affair A Benefit for *Recycled Treasures*

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Beds for Kids Project

Advance tickets \$10 and \$15 at the door.

March 28th at 6pm

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Artists will be decorating or remaking chairs or creating recycled art to be auctioned off. All proceeds from auctions will go to buy new mattresses for children in our area who have no bed. Proceeds from ticket sales at the door will repair Recycled Treasure's truck door!

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For more info or to purchase tickets call 313-826-7158 or stop by Recycled Treasures 10-5pm Wednesday-Saturday

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The City of Hamtramck is seeking proposals from certified public accounting firms to provide municipal audit services. All sealed proposals must be delivered to:

**THE CITY OF HAMTRAMCK, CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
HAMTRAMCK CITY HALL, 3401 EVALINE,
HAMTRAMCK, MI 48212
by 3:00 p.m., March 26, 2014**

You may secure a copy of the REQUEST for PROPOSAL by visiting the City of Hamtramck's website or by picking up a copy at the City Office described above.

All proposals submitted by 3:00 p.m., March 26, 2014 will be publicly recorded at 10:00 a.m. on March 27, 2014 in the City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, Hamtramck City Hall, 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, MI 48212. Please e-mail questions to August Gitschlag at agitschlag@hamtramckcity.com

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School Bell

Hamtramck Public School teacher Suzana Bosnjakovski could use your vote.

She says she is taking part in a national contest to win a \$2,500 grant that will be used to purchase basic school supplies for students, along with special project materials, "so that they will be able to get the most out of their learning." In order to win the grant she needs all of us to go to the ThankAMillionTeachers website and drop her a vote. The more votes she gets, the better the chance she wins the grant.

"I am the ONLY Hamtramck teacher with an active proposal on the site," Bosnjakovski says.

To vote, go online to: www.thankamillionteachers.com and then click on "Vote for Proposal" and

search for her name, or just Hamtramck.

Here is what is coming up next week in the Hamtramck Public School District.

Dickinson East Elementary School

- Wednesday, March 19 - Parent Meeting from 1-3 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Holbrook Elementary School

- Wednesday, March 26 - Reptile Show for students 1-3 p.m.
- Thursday, March 27 - Community Reader Day at Holbrook School

- Friday, March 28 - Parent Teacher Association meeting at 4 p.m.

Horizon Alternative Education

- Friday, March 28 - Half day for all students. Dis-

missal at 11:45 a.m.

All Schools

- Monday, March 31 - No school for all students. Professional Development Day for teachers.

Athletic Events

- Wednesday, March 19 - Girls Varsity Soccer vs. Cesar Chavez, home at 5 p.m.

- Friday, March 21st - Girls Varsity Soccer vs. Rochester High School at 4:30 p.m., home.

City will survey streets to begin pothole repairs

Continued from page 3

Census, Michigan comes in last on spending money for road repair - at \$154 per person.

Colorado spends over \$400 per person on roads.

Bad roads aren't bad for everyone. Tire stores, as you would guess, are thriving.

Over at Sucher Tire on Conant and Davison the phone has been ringing

constantly, said Roy Sehller. He confirmed that potholes have "quadrupled" the number of damaged tires.

"It's bombastic," he said. Dave Tulecki of Dave's Discount Auto on Evaline and Brombach, one of the last neighborhood auto shops left in Hamtramck, said drivers are making the situation worse by not hav-

ing their tires properly inflated.

Under-inflated tires, he said, allows "the rim to hit the pothole and chop through the tire."

There is one good thing to say about all the snow. At the very least it fills up the potholes to make driving a little smoother - until it melts.

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Obituaries

WOJTOWICZ

Wesley Wojtowicz, 53, died March 7, 2014.

Mr. Wojtowicz is survived by his parents, Raymond and Delphine; sisters, Susan (John) Liska, Renee (Mark) Dudek; brothers, Christopher, Dean (Sheila); many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 11, at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church in Hamtramck.

The family asks that donations be made to Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, 11200 Conant Ave., Hamtramck, MI 48212. Arrangements were made by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home.

GRONET



Zygmunt "Ziggy" Gronet, 98, entered into God's care March 7, 2014.

Mr. Zygmunt was the loving husband of the late Irene (nee Rychlicki). Loving father

of Barbara and Christina (Keith) Burns. Beloved grandfather of Andrew (Meshia) Burns and Carolyn Burns.

Zygmunt was born in Detroit, but was raised in Ciechocinek Poland, and after World War II was the only one of 5 children of Jan & Marcianna Gronet to return to the United States. He was a retiree of the Dodge Main plant in Hamtramck, Michigan. He was proud of his Polish heritage and made sure, with the help of Irene, that both of his daughters grew up with the same pride.

Visitation Thursday & Friday 3-8 p.m. at Krot Funeral Home, 2687 Caniff, (1 block west of Jos. Campau) Hamtramck, (313) 365-5240. Parish Rosary is at 7 p.m.

Friday. In state Saturday, 9:30 a.m. until the time of the Funeral Mass at 10 a.m., at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church, 11420 Conant (2 blocks north of Caniff), Hamtramck. Interment will be at Mt Olivet Cemetery.

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2 br. upper, living room, dining room, washer + dryer in basement, internet access available, clean house in good condition, 313-268-5137. 3/14

Nicely updated and furnished 1br./1 bath in prime, quiet Hamtramck apt. building at Evaline and Joseph Campau, \$695/mo., includes utilities, 1 mo. security deposit req., non-smoking preferred, incentive for signing 1 yr. lease, sorry, no pets, 313-872-5516. 3/21

2 br. lower, \$575/mo., \$575 deposit, heat included, no pets, non-smokers, adults preferred only, proof of income + references, 313-874-1442, call 6-8 p.m. only. 4/4

APARTMENTS & FLATS FOR RENT

Nice, 2 br. upper in Hamtramck, \$550/mo. + \$550 security deposit, 313-737-5384. 4/4

Hamtramck/Detroit, 2 br. apt., good condition, no pets, 586-634-2502. 3/14

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Mound and Davison area, large, fenced lot, Sect. 8 ok, 2 br., \$600/mo., 4 br., \$800/mo., 248-894-0131. 3/21

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Administrative assistant/secretary, accounting and tax background helpful, part time, call 313-784-9329. 3/14

Barber wanted, part time, call 313-784-9329. 3/14

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By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers March 5-10.

Wednesday, March 5

- A Hamtramck man reported someone used his identity information to open an account.

- A resident reported the theft of his car while it was in the 2300 block of Botsford. The man said the keys to the car were inside.

- Child Protection Services investigated a case of suspected child abuse at a house in the 3900 block of Belmont.

- A woman reported being struck while at a Yemans bar. The suspect fled the scene.

Thursday, March 6

- At 1:30 a.m. a person was arrested after a traffic stop for not having a driver's license.

- At 7 a.m. a woman reported that her car was stolen in the 3200 block of Belmont.

Friday, March 7

- A man reported that someone stole his catalytic convertor from his car

while it was parked at 11400 Jos. Campau.

Saturday, March 8

- At a little after 1 a.m. a person was arrested in the 11400 block of Jos. Campau following a disturbance.

- At 1:30 a.m. a person reported receiving harassing phone calls.

- At almost 8:30 a.m. a woman reported someone spray-painted her business in the 9600 block of Jos. Campau.

- A man was arrested for domestic assault while at a residence on Edwin St.

- Two Detroit men were arrested following a traffic stop at Caniff near Nagel. One man was arrested for having an open warrant and the driver was arrested for not having a license.

Sunday, March 9

- Three people were arrested for being disorderly while in the 11400 block of Jos. Campau.

- At 4:30 a.m. a person reported being robbed by three to five men while at Jos. Campau and Casmere.

- A Waterford resident reported the theft of his Dodge Neon while it was at Pulaski and Jos. Campau.

- A Warren resident reported a break-in at his rental property in the 11700 block of Moran.

- A Caniff man was arrested for damaging his girlfriend's car.

Monday, March 10

- At 11 p.m. a Belmont resident was reported missing. No other details were provided.

- A Detroit motorist was arrested for leaving the scene of an accident, not having a license and possessing marijuana.

- At 4:30 a.m. a resident in the 1900 block of Norwalk reported someone poured sugar in the gas tanks of his cars.

- At 11 a.m. a woman living in the 12000 block of Grand Haven said someone stole a package off of her porch.

- A man reported the theft of his 2003 Dodge from a parking lot at 9161 Jos. Campau.

**Deadline for classifieds for next week is Thursday at Noon
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The lore of Hamtramck ...

Women who made history in Hamtramck

By Greg Kowalski

March is Women's History Month, a time to recognize the contributions women have made to our society.

There are many examples of outstanding women in Hamtramck. Some are perhaps more infamous than

Bartkovicz, who posted a win at Wimbledon.

In the world of entertainment, Gail Kobe leads the



Two of Hamtramck's great women are present in this photo. Bea Olmstead is at the podium and Gail Kobe is sitting to the left.

famous, but all helped weave the rich tapestry of the city.

Here's just a sampling of some who should never be forgotten:

Whether you're speaking of sports – or any other topic – the name Jean Hoxie stands proudly. There's no need to dwell too much on Hoxie as she is already well-known for the world-class tennis program she created at Veterans Memorial Park. From the 1940s to the 1960s she trained Wimbledon champions there, bringing great pride to the city.

One of her star pupils was Jane "Peaches"

list of Hollywood stars who called Hamtramck home. Kobe, who died just a few months ago, acted in hundreds of plays, movies and TV shows in the 1950s and 1960s, and achieved even greater success as a producer, mainly of soap operas. In fact, she's legendary in the soap opera sphere.

Women, as was the custom everywhere, entered the political arena relatively late. Mary Zuk was the first woman elected to the Common Council, in 1937. She served only one quite controversial term on the council. Zuk was labeled a

Continued on page 8

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Women who made history in Hamtramck

Continued from page 7

communist, and she made little effort to deny that charge, but it wasn't politics that led to her downfall – it was the bad publicity from a nasty divorce case that pushed her out of the spotlight.

Zuk paved the way for more women leaders. In 1950 Julia Rooks began a 20-year career as a Councilwoman and had the distinction of being the first woman Council president. While she was an able leader, she was also noted for her flamboyant hats that became her trademark.

She was followed by Helen Justewicz, who has served on the Common Council as well as the Hamtramck School Board. Justewicz was a tireless community activist, and was particularly devoted to aiding senior citizens.

On the music scene, who could forget Lili Karwowski? She presided over Lili's bar (now the Painted Lady) which became famous for nurturing the punk rock movement as well as many rock performers. Lili was truly a Hamtramck legend.

Education was one area that was more open to women than most, and Hamtramck had many fine women teachers.

Bea Olmstead, Anne Sheleegy and many others are still remembered today by appreciative former students. Olmstead in particular was noteworthy for her accomplishments, including serving as director of Instruction for the Hamtramck Public Schools back in the 1960s. Olmstead was listed in "Who's Who in American Education" at

least twice, in 1963 and 1964. She was recognized nationally as an expert in developing school curricula.

Not all of Hamtramck's great women can be defined by their profession.

Josephine Skopowska was named Mother of the Year by the Polish Activities League in 1962 for her involvement in many organizations. She is particularly remembered for helping

found the local chapter of the Blue and Gold Star Mothers, an organization dedicated to helping the families of veterans and those who had lost loved ones in our nation's wars.

And how do you define Theresa Witkowski, who was renowned for her skill of crafting Polish food into a fine art? She even won a paczki-making contest. Witkowski was a fixture at St. Florian Parish for years.

And there were many others — too many to list in this short space.

It is part of the mission of the Hamtramck Historical Museum to ensure that all of them will never be forgotten. See for yourself. The museum, at 9525 Jos. Campau, is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and by appointment. Call (313) 893-5027.

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