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Quick Hits

We just got wind of this the day we went to press, so some of the details are a little sketchy.

Today (Friday, March 23), People's Community Services will be the site of a health fair from 4-6 p.m.

It's geared mostly to kids, and it's mostly about nutrition and how we can all eat better.

As we all know, childhood obesity is on the rise, and we all need to educate ourselves on how to combat this health crisis.

C'mon, even the First Lady, Michelle Obama, wants us to get on board the health train.

Do your child a favor and head on down to People's, which is located in the city's southend, on Jos. Campau at Danforth.



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.

"We don't want any more political appointments."

HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD

Community shows it won't tolerate violence against women

By Charles Sercombe

"We need to stand together tonight in defiance," said Mayor Karen Majewski at a gathering of about 200 people last Friday evening.

And defiance indeed was in the air.

The outpouring was in response to the horrible violence done to six women within a one week period recently.

Friday's get-together was also the result of planning by a new group called "Take Back the Night Hamtramck."

Friday's event started at the corner of Jos. Campau and Holbrook, and the gathering then walked a few blocks south and stopped for a brief moment of silence in the Checker's restaurant parking lot, across from the Painted Lady Lounge, where a few weeks ago four women were carjacked after leaving the Jacob St. bar.

One of the women escaped before their abductor, holding a gun, ordered the three remaining women to drive away.

The women were later repeatedly sexually assaulted. The gunman was eventually arrested later that night after police managed to close in.

The group then walked a few more blocks down and stopped at Andrus St. where a few days prior to the carjacking two women were kidnapped during a gun battle at their house, and were then stuffed into a trunk of a car. They have not been found

since.

Two suspects are being held in their disappearance. The women are believed to be dead.

During the walk, two drummers kept time with a march beat. Many in the crowd held hand-made signs. Some said:

"Like a good neighbor, Hamtramck is there"

"We are family"

"Stop violence. Spread peace"

"Take back our streets"

"Hamtramck cares"

As they walked, some in the crowd chanted: "No more violence! No more hate! Women unite! Take back the night!"

Also walking with the men and women were three firefighters, who were followed by fellow firefighters driving two ladder trucks and an ambulance.

Acting Police Chief Max Garbarino and Councilmember Abdul Algazali were also walking alongside.

By the look of many, it was an emotional walk. Some in the crowd knew the women who had been carjacked and assaulted. There were also family members of the two women missing.

As the crowd returned to the corner of Jos. Campau and Holbrook, no one seemed to want to leave. The crowd remained for about 15 minutes, some still chanting.

One of the event's organizers



About 200 people came out last Friday for a rally calling for the end of violence against women.



Continued on page 2

Labor Day festival is up in the air

By Charles Sercombe

This year's Labor Day Festival is truly going to take a major work of labor to make it happen.

In order for it to occur, the Downtown Development Authority, which organizes the event, has a self-imposed deadline to raise \$50,000 to \$75,000 by May 1, or the show is over.

"If we make that mark, the festival is definitely on," said Darren Grow, Director of the DDA.

The DDA is now contacting corporate and business contacts to raise the money.

But there are other financial strikes hurting the DDA.

Right now, in city hall, there is a lot of speculation – and finger-pointing – over why the DDA's budget is suddenly \$100,000 overdrawn.

At press time Thursday, the DDA was trying to schedule a special meeting. On the possible chopping block was not only the festival, but also Grow's position.

The reason for the shortfall, said Grow, is that somehow the city did not catch the end of a tax collection from the private developer who owns, or at this point used to own, the state Department of Human Services building on Jos. Campau.

Grow said that he is still trying to sort out what happened to the tax collection on the building, but at this point it looks like Wayne County purchased the building and is only required to honor a tax payment of \$16,000 a year.

The bottom line at this

Continued on page 2

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Community shows it won't tolerate violence against women

Continued from front page

ers, Nadine Gizak, said the turnout was better than she thought it would be.

"It was a wonderful show of support from the community," Gizak said. "That is why I love Hamtramck. I still feel awestruck."

As for future events, Gizak said there are several in the

planning stages.

"A lot of residents want to march in the neighborhoods - quietly and on a smaller scale. We are starting with the Senior Plaza Block Club members. ... Also, there is talk of a womens' pride bar crawl," she said.

Labor Day festival is up in the air

Continued from front page

point is that the DDA is in a serious financial hole.

And that, subsequently, will mean either the city picks up the tab for the festival, which Grow says usually loses money, or the event is over.

There has been no talk how this would impact the annual Polish Day Parade, which is held on Labor Day.

So, anyone out there with a loaded wallet?



By Alan Madeleine

Crime Log is compiled from the daily intelligence reports of the Hamtramck Police Department, this week for the dates of Wednesday, March 14 through Monday, March 19.

From Wednesday, March 14:

- A man living on the 2200 block of Yemens reported that he had been threatened over the phone by another man, known to him. The second man had threatened to shoot the first man in the head over an argument they'd previously had.

- A juvenile (gender not stated) reported being assaulted by a suspect while at Keyworth Stadium.

- A resident of a home in the 2000 block of Norwalk reported that someone broke a window on his building.

- A woman attempted to pass a counterfeit check in the amount of \$872.64 at Walter's Party Store. The woman fled in a blue Nissan Altima (no year given) prior to officers arriving, but left her purse behind with her ID in it. (That's right, friends, you heard us correctly. - Ed.) The purse, ID and check were all entered into evidence.

- A woman found a plastic bag full of pills near an address in the 3400 block of Norwalk. She turned them over to police for safeguarding. (We're sure they'd be interested in getting them back to you, especially if they're illegal. So, give them a call! - Ed.)
- A man reported that an unknown person robbed him at gunpoint (location not stated) of his iPod, cell phone, and \$150 in cash. The suspect is a white male (no age given), about 5'9", wearing a gray sweatshirt and black jeans, and brandishing a black handgun.

- A man was arrested on a charge of domestic violence after assaulting a woman at an address in the 2200 block of Danforth. It wasn't stated whether the suspect and victim were acquainted.

- A man was arrested behind a home in the 12100 block of Klingler after he attempted to cash a stolen check at Walter's Party Store, 12197 Conant, and then fled.

From Thursday, March 15:

- A man was arrested for as-

saulting his girlfriend at their residence in the 11700 block of Mitchell.

- Officers took a report of malicious destruction of property on a vehicle in the 3200 block of Trowbridge. No other info on the vehicle was given.

- A woman reported being assaulted by a black male at an undisclosed location. No other information was provided.

- Officers confiscated a portable basketball rim from the middle of the street on St. Aubin, near Carpenter, after the juveniles using it were advised several times to move it out of the middle of the street, but did not.

From Friday, March 16:

- An agent of a carry-out restaurant in the 9800 block of Jos. Campau reported that a white male came in (age and description not given), falsely presented himself as a fire inspector, and charged her \$125 to switch out their fire extinguishers, which he then ended up replacing with already used ones.

- An agent for a deli in the 9400 block of Jos. Campau reported that a man jumped over the counter and took an undisclosed amount of money from out of their cash register. He was described as being a white male in his mid-30s, with a shaved head and wearing a white shirt with a black design and black pants. He fled on foot. The agent apparently waited 20 minutes before calling the police.

- Officers arrested a man near a bar in the 2600 block of Carpenter after he assaulted a customer there.

From Saturday, March 17:

- Officers arrested a man for breaking and entering after he was found at an address in the 11400 block of Grand Haven.

- A man reported being assaulted in the 10300 block of Jos. Campau. No description of the assailant(s) available.

- A man was arrested for retail fraud after attempting to steal a quantity of smoked sausage from a supermarket in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau. (We will refrain from speculating on where he, ah, "hid" the sausage. - Ed.)

- A man reported the theft of the catalytic converter from his 2005 Honda Element while it was parked in front of an address in the 1900 block of Belmont, sometime between noon and 8 p.m. yesterday. (For yet another snarky comment on this growing trend, see the entry below under Monday. -Ed.)

- A woman reported that a male suspect, unknown to her, stole her groceries as she was leaving a supermarket in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau, in the Town Center shopping plaza. Suspect described as a white male, 6' tall, medium build with short blond hair, wearing a white printed shirt and beige shorts (no age given). He jumped into a green Dodge Caravan minivan, in which was a white female, about 5'8", with blond hair in a pony tail, a thin build, and wearing a blue shirt and plaid shorts (again, no age given). It was not stated who was driving the Caravan.

- A man was arrested on domestic assault charges after apparently assaulting a woman at an address in the 1900 block of

Continued on page 8



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This week at the library...

Youth Art Month - Submissions due Saturday, March 31. The month of March is observed to emphasize the value of art participation by children. Our contest is open to all children between ages of 4 to 18. Participants are asked to submit an original entry incorporating the theme "Springtime in Michigan." Award ceremony will be held on Thursday, April 12 at 5 p.m.

ESL Class with Christine Templin - Saturday, March 24 at noon. Intermediate ESL class conducted by Christine Templin, free to the public.

Story Time for Children - Saturday, March 24, at noon. Join your friends at the library for a reading of the book, "Castles, Caves and Honeycombs" by Linda Ashman.

Toddler Time at the Library - Monday March 26 at noon. Join us for story time, arts & crafts, games and other fun activities. The book for this week is, "Castles, Caves and Honeycombs" by Linda Ashman. (Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

Registration for Computer Classes for Beginners and Advanced Users - Starts on Tuesday, March 26

Math Club Meeting - Tuesday, March 27 at 3:30 p.m. Mr. Nuo is the instructor for the math club, math tutoring and Math Kangaroo competition.

ESL Conversation Class - Tuesday, March 27 at 4:30 p.m. Ms. Trisa conducts the English Conversation classes each Tuesday night. Free of charge to Hamtramck residents.

ESL Class with Ms. Templin - Wednesday, March 28 at noon. Christine Templin is the instructor for the ESL class for beginners. Everyone is invited. Free to the public.

Computer Classes for Beginners and Advanced Users - New Sessions start the week of April 2

Movie Night - Thursday, March 29 at 4 p.m. All children are invited for a movie and popcorn. This week the feature film is "Mr. Popper's Penguins."

ESL News for You - Friday, March 30 at 3:30 p.m. ESL reading and discussion class with Latisha Edge. Free to the public.

Meeting of the Library Board - Thursday, April 12 at 6 p.m. Regular meeting of the Library Board will be held in the auditorium. Open to the public.

Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition - Thursday, April 12 at 6 p.m. The meeting is organized by the Piast Institute.

Friends of the Library Meeting - Thursday, April 19 at 6 p.m. FHPL President Kathy Kristy and Treasurer George Gorday invite all members and volunteers to participate in the regular monthly meeting.

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.

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Second Front Page



School Bell

By Charles Sercombe

The Hamtramck School Board met on March 14, and all but Boardmember Joan Borushko were present.

Although the meeting didn't start out with this announcement, it should be noted that Boardmember Borushko submitted a letter of her immediate resignation due to health issues.

"I write this letter with a heavy heart," Borushko said in her letter to the board. "Due to my current health

condition, I will not be able to fulfill the remainder of my term on the Hamtramck Board of Education. I had hope of regaining my health and completing my term, but it is not to be. I will resign from the board immediately.

"I would like to thank the people of Hamtramck for having the faith in me to elect me term after term. I wish the board and the school district good luck."

Borushko had been a member of the board for over 25 years. A special presentation

will be made in honor of Borushko at the April 18 board meeting (this meeting is one week earlier than usual due to spring break. It will also be held at Dickinson East Elementary School instead of the administration building.)

The school district is now inviting people in the community to apply for her seat on the board.

Before getting into the regular agenda, several students made presentations.

Abraham Aiyash, a senior, recapped a student-led recycling program. He said the program was successful in encouraging recycling among students.

"Students became environmentally aware," he said.

Aiyash also talked about a program called "Instant Recess," which gets students to exercise for 10 minutes during Homeroom. He said the program helped students become more active.

And to show, rather than tell, Aiyash prompted those attending the board meeting to get up and dance to the music of early The Beatles.

Superintendent Tom Niczay talked about a deal with American Express in which the district is issued a credit card to pay for services, which in turn charges companies an extra 3 percent in fees.

Out of that, the district receives 1 percent and the credit card company 2 percent.

Boardmember Nassr Hussain questioned whether companies will realize the extra cost and simply increase their charge to the district to cover the extra fee.

Niczay said most companies don't do that, and that if it doesn't work out the district can cancel the deal anytime.

The schedules for summer school in the middle school and high school were announced. Summer school in the middle school starts June 13 and runs until July 3.

For high school students, school starts June 18 and runs through July 18. It's \$85 per course, and to get in, it's first-come, first-served.

Boardmember Hussain said he wants summer school to be free of charge, with the costs offset by the school's general budget. He said it's unfair to charge, because then only more well-off families could afford it.

Board President Betty Zwolak said that, when students are forced to pay for classes, there is more "enthusiasm."

Superintendent Niczay agreed, saying when students must pay, they are "less likely to blow off the class."

Coming Events

SATURDAY, March 24, 4 p.m. – The Daughters of Isabella Mystical Rose Circle 736 will hold a Corporate Communion Mass at St. Florian Church. There is an elevator on the Poland St. entrance. Lunch will follow after Mass at Maine Street restaurant. Call Mary at (313) 873-0271.

WEDNESDAY, March 28, at noon – The Daughters of Isabella Mystical Rose Circle 736 will hold a Spring Card & Bunco Social, featuring door and table prizes, share the wealth, raffle and a lunch – all for \$7 – at Queen of Apostles' Activity Center, entrance on Harold St., fenced parking.

Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition meets every second Thursday of the month (next: April 12), 11 a.m. at The Piast Institute, 11633 Jos. Campau.

SATURDAY, April 28, 9:30 a.m. – The Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition will hold a Health Hike. Volunteers are needed. For more information, call (313) 733-4535.



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Sunday English Holy Mass 9 a.m.
Sunday School 10 a.m.

Soup Kitchen 2nd Sat. of the Month 2-4 p.m.

March 26 - Solemnity of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mass 10 a.m.

March 28 - Bitter Lamentations, 7 p.m.

April 1 - Palm Sunday – Blessing & Distribution of Palms at 9 a.m. Mass, Bake Sale and Butter Lamb Sale 10:30 a.m.

~ Easter Mass Schedule ~

Wednesday, April 4th
7 p.m. – The Way of the Cross

Maundy Thursday, April 5th
6:00 p.m. – Private Confession for youth.
6:45 p.m. – Adult General Confession
7:00 p.m. – Holy Mass and Holy Thursday Liturgy

Good Friday, April 6th
9 a.m. – Liturgy of the Passion of our Lord.
12 – 3 p.m. – Adoration of the Cross and Scripture Reading at half-hour intervals.
7 p.m. – Sorrowful Lamentations – 3 parts

Holy Saturday, April 7th
9:30 a.m. – Holy Saturday Liturgy
Blessing of Food Baskets at 11:00 a.m.; 1 p.m.; 2 p.m.; 3 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 4th
Resurrection of Our Lord
7 a.m. – Procession and Holy Mass.
Intention: For all Parishioners.
9 a.m. – Holy Mass.
Intention: In Memory of Caroline & Chester Chyla

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When: Saturday, March 31, 2012
Where: The Hamtramck High School Community Center
Who: Kids 10 and under only. 2 parents only!
No one will be admitted without child under 10 and all children must be accompanied by at least 1 parent over 18.
Fee: \$2.00 per child, \$3.00 per adult

Please purchase tickets in advance at the Community Center located at 11350 Charest. Money is due at time of sign up.



Ticket sales end Friday, March 30th! No tickets sold day of!
Breakfast Begins: 10 a.m. **Breakfast Ends:** 11 a.m. or when food is gone.

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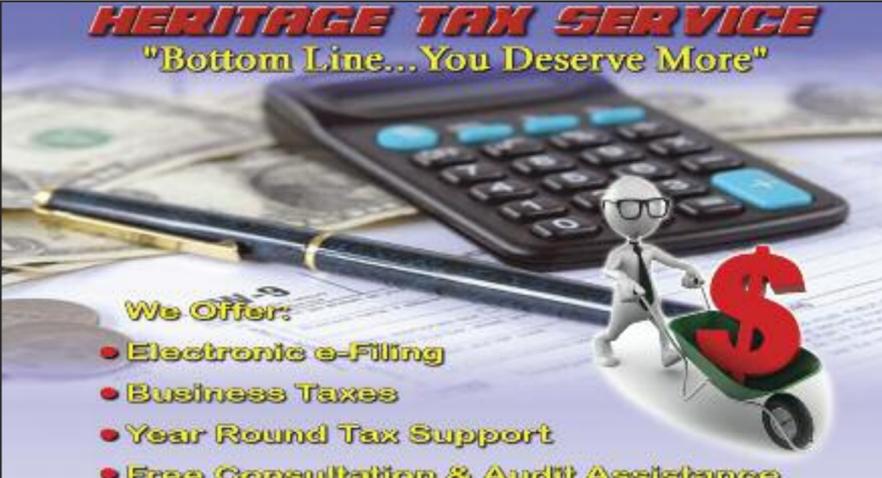


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City Hall Insider ...

What is our City Council up to these days? We have the scoop and the highlights – as well as the lowlights – of the latest council meeting.

By Charles Sercombe

We last left off with the March 13 city council meeting, as councilmembers were about to address the regular agenda issues.

Robert Zwolak proposed to remove City Clerk Ed Norris as Acting City Manager and instead appoint city Treasurer Mike Wilk to that position.

Mayor Karen Majewski would not allow the discussion to proceed because regular agenda items needed to come first. Councilmember Cathie Gordon disagreed, which led to the mayor calling her out of order.

Gordon ignored the mayor

and jumped ahead to talk about an anticipated proposal to appoint former director of Community and Economic Development, Erik Tungate, to the position of Acting City Manager. Gordon said that the city charter says the Acting City Manager must be a current member of the city administration. As for having Tungate take the position, Gordon said: "This is horrendous. I am appalled at what is going on here," she said.

Councilmember Zwolak said the city already has an Acting City Manager, and that person has not resigned. He said the

city needs someone qualified in the position.

"We don't want any more political appointments," Zwolak said.

Zwolak also noted that Tungate was seeking the position as Acting City Manager in February when former City Manager Bill Cooper was still on board.

The issue comes down to "trust," Zwolak said.

And the person "we can all trust," Zwolak said, is City Treasurer Mike Wilk.

Zwolak also predicted that if Tungate is appointed Acting City Manager, he will bring back City Attorney James Allen. (Allen was given a 30-day notice of termination by Cooper. But the day after Cooper fired Allen, city officials fired Cooper.)

Councilmember Tom Jankowski questioned the charter interpretation that says the council can't hire Tungate. He disagreed that this appointment has to be someone from the administration.

All of this talk led to a discussion on a resolution to hire city Treasurer Mike Wilk as Acting City Manager.

Councilmember Zwolak said Wilk has been treasurer for a number of years, and in the last few years has declined to draw a salary.

"He has the pulse of the city," Zwolak said.

He added that Wilk can likely get more concessions from the city's unions than "other people could make."

Wilk was invited to speak, and he was asked how he would "protect" the city's em-

ployee payroll (it is feared that the city will be broke by the end of the month and unable to meet employee payroll for the next three months).

Wilk said state officials have made it clear what the options are, and that the city needs to follow-up on those options.

"I've been through this before," Wilk said, in reference to prior financial crises.

Wilk said that no matter what, all employees will have to make concessions.

Councilmember Gordon asked Wilk if he has any "political allegiances."

Wilk said he doesn't go to political fundraisers to get a job.

Councilmember Jankowski asked Wilk what he thinks about extending police services to Highland Park. Wilk questioned whether Highland Park can afford to pay for the service.

In the vote to hire Wilk, the council split, 3-3. Mayor Majewski broke the tie by voting against Wilk's hiring.

Those voting for his hiring were Councilmembers Anam Miah, Cathie Gordon and Robert Zwolak.

So, the discussion then turned to the hiring of Erik Tungate as the city's Acting City Manager. (We talked about this last week, and to recap, Tungate was hired.)

It should be noted, once again, that we incorrectly reported how the vote went down on Tungate.

Last week, we reported that it was a tie vote with Mayor Majewski breaking the tie in favor of Tungate's hiring.

That was not what happened.

Instead, before the vote was taken, Councilmembers Gordon and Zwolak walked out of the council chambers. Despite their temporary absence, there was still a quorum. The vote was

then 3-1, with only Councilmember Miah voting in opposition.

However, before the matter was concluded, Councilmember Gordon returned, and Mayor Majewski asked her to vote. Gordon also voted in opposition, but the final vote, 3-2, was enough to hire Tungate.

Those voting in favor of his hiring were: Councilmembers Abdul Algazali, Mohammed Hassan and Jankowski.

Moving on ... Councilmember Jankowski requested to have money budgeted for conferences for department heads, \$12,000, be transferred to the council's budget.

Jankowski said that this money comes from what department heads had recently cut for their budgets.

Councilmember Zwolak questioned why the money should be transferred to the council when the city is broke.

In the vote on the matter, only Councilmember Zwolak voted in opposition. Councilmember Gordon had temporarily left the council chambers during the vote.

Next up were three proposed resolutions from Councilmember Zwolak. The first two resolutions, one to ask voters to approve a public safety millage and the second to ask voters to consider selling city parks, did not receive a second motion in support, thus preventing further discussion on the subjects.

The third item, asking for a state review of the city's finances, went to a vote.

Zwolak said he proposed the review because he sees no "workable resolution" to the city's financial crisis.

In the vote on the matter, only Councilmembers Zwolak and Gordon voted in favor of it.

PLAV POST 10

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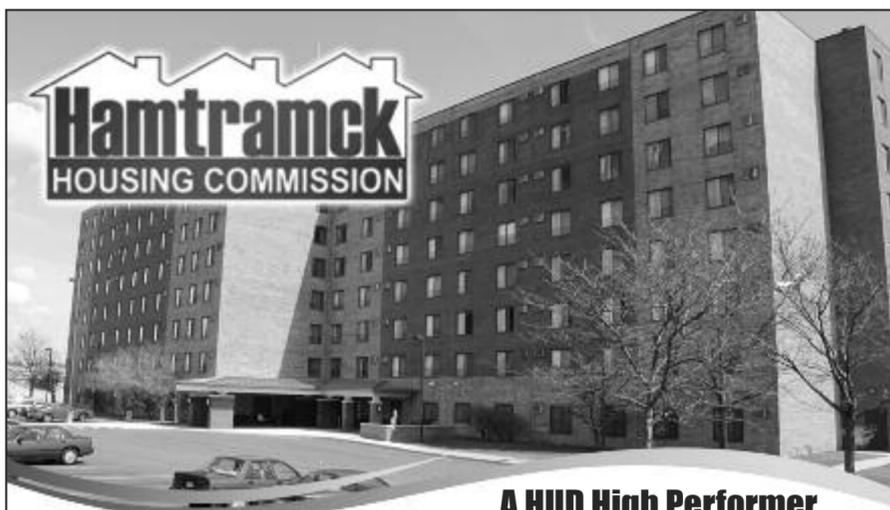
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Review: Opinion Page

In the wake of violence, Hamtramck rises up in solidarity

A pretty amazing thing happened last Friday evening.

An incredible turnout of people participated in a quickly put-together rally/march in support of the six women who were violently attacked within a one-week period recently.

The get-together was called "Take Back the Night Hamtramck."

We couldn't agree with it more.

We all need to take back our nights and days and our lives.

We, as a community, are not going to sit idly by and allow evil in this world rule and abuse us.

Our hearts go out to the two women who were victimized in a kidnapping – and who were likely murdered. And just a few days after that horrible incident, there was a carjacking of initially four women, and eventually sexual assault committed against three of them.

Add it all up, and our col-

lective stomach wretched over these attacks.

Fortunately, if you can call it that, all suspects believed involved in the two incidents have been apprehended, and their convictions look like a slam dunk from here on out.

That is hardly a soothing thought. The families of the two women who are still missing have yet to find out the fate of their beloved daughters.

The women who have been sexually assaulted likely face a lifetime of grief and therapy.

Lives have been taken here either literally or figuratively.

All of this is sickening. But for a brief moment on Friday, we had a very public showing of solidarity, of togetherness and of tenderness as well. It reminded us that although violence against women will likely continue, with numbers comes safety.

When a community comes

together, we become stronger.

It was heartwarming when supporters walked down Jos. Campau, a number of people driving by honked in support.

Yes, Hamtramck belongs to us, the good people who do not commit mindless violence against others.

These outrageous acts of violence are truly an aberration – but that is small comfort.

It's going to take a long time to heal from this.

But we take solace in what Mayor Karen Majewski had to say to the 200-plus caring people who showed up.

"Women of Hamtramck will not be intimidated. ... We do not surrender our freedom of movement," she said.

No we don't, Madam Mayor.

And speaking for the men who love the women in our lives, we are standing strong with you.

Odds & Ends

Correction: We erroneously reported last week that the city council split on the vote to hire Erik Tungate as Hamtramck's new Acting City Manager with Mayor Karen Majewski casting the tie-breaking vote in favor of Tungate's hiring.

The vote was actually 3-2, with Councilmembers Cathie Gordon and Anam Miah voting in opposition.

Mayor Majewski did not vote on the matter.

Fundraiser ... You've heard that money doesn't grow on trees. Well, neither does spaghetti (or so we're told).

But, if you eat some spaghetti on Sunday, April 1 at Maria's Comida on Jos. Campau from 3-6 p.m. enough money will hopefully be raised to buy a bunch of trees.

See, spaghetti, money and trees – they do go together after all.

Any way, the city's Human Relations Commission is sponsoring a "Spaghetti Tree Fundraiser" as a way to raise funds for a tree planting this spring.

The cost to get in is a mere \$12 per person, and from what we hear the folks at Maria's (located at 11411 Jos. Campau) really know how to serve up a good helping of spaghetti (which comes with or without meat).

You'll also automatically get a chance to win four 10th row field-level box seats to a Detroit Tigers game.

Russ Gordon, the Chairman of the Human Relations Commission, tells us the plan is to pick out a few city blocks, at first, for the tree planting, and eventually move to more

areas of the city when more money comes in.

His bigger aim, other than helping to bring in more needed shade to the city, is to get people together. In this ethnically diverse city, it's surprising how many people don't mingle or even say hello to their neighbors.

"I want to get the people who don't care to come out," Gordon said. "When people work shoulder-to-shoulder, sweating, they're going to have something to talk about for a long time," Gordon said.

And before you know it, neighbors who once ignored each other become fast friends, he said.

Hey, it works for us.

Got questions, requests? Call Gordon at (248) 442-8000, or better yet, e-mail him at poorrichard@sbc-global.net.



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The Hamtramck Review
Published every Friday

3020 Caniff, Hamtramck, MI 48212 Phone: 313-874-2100 Fax: 313-874-2101
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Letters • Letters

Some on city council take advantage of charter flaw

Using an obscure provision of our city charter, the city council has appointed an "acting" city manager.

This action runs counter to both the spirit and intent of the charter and the will of the voters of Hamtramck. Councilmembers Cathie Gordon, Anam Miah and Robert Zwolak are absolutely correct in their stand against this method of appointment.

Twice since 2004, Hamtramck voters have gone to the polls and voted for a system that provides for a qualified and experienced city manager. In the 2008 election, over 70 percent of the voters said yes to a charter amendment that required the city council to appoint an interim city manager or city manager with three years experience as a manager or assistant manager of a city with a population of at least

10,000 people.

So why and how, then, appoint an acting city manager with no experience as an acting city manager? The why end of things speaks to motivations and agendas which are always a matter of speculation, and a number of people have offered theories which may or may not be accurate. I won't speak to the why of action, but I do have something to say about the how, which is the mechanics of the act.

The majority of council has grabbed on to a flaw in our charter which does not define the difference between acting and interim city manager. The charter contains two ways to appoint a person as the temporary city manager. One section, which I've already mentioned, talks about an interim city manager who is required to have a minimal

amount of experience in the job.

A later section, in the same chapter, gives council the ability to appoint an acting manager with no experience. It is on this later hook that majority of council hangs its hat on.

The question becomes at what point do we pass from a position that should be held by an acting manager to a position that should be filled by an interim manager? Interim is defined as "a temporary or provisional arrangement; stopgap; makeshift." Acting, on the other hand, is defined as "serving tem-

porarily, especially as a substitute during another's absence; not permanent; temporary."

The appointment of Eric Tungate with a set salary and what, in essence, an open-ended term of office is clearly a provisional arrangement. There is nothing temporary about the arrangement. If the votes do not change on the council, Mr. Tungate could be at the helm of the city two years from now. This is possible because the actions of council signal that he is, in all but title, the interim city manager.

Why is this important?

Twice in less than 10 years voters have said, we want a city manager hired because of what he knows and not because of who he knows. Regardless of

whether Mr. Tungate is able to perform the job is not relevant because, by law, he cannot hold the position indefinitely. And if we allow this precedent to stand, what truly unqualified friend of a council member or two will take his place as "acting" city manager.

At a time when the integrity of government is being questioned all around us, how is this appointment any different from those now celebrated in the media in other cities and in Wayne County?

Ms. Gordon is exactly right when she says an interim city manager must be appointed from the pool of retired city managers available from the Michigan Municipal League, and that a search for Mr. Cooper's re-

placement begins in earnest.

And the council must correct this flaw in the council either by ordinance or charter amendment that limits the time an acting city manager may be in power to a period not longer than 60 days, which is more than enough time to find a qualified interim manager.

In the spirit and the intent of our city charter, this is the only course the city council can take that will honor the wishes of the voters they represent, and provide us with the good government we deserve.

**Scott Klein
Hamtramck**

(Mr. Klein was a member of the the City Council and the Hamtramck Charter Commission.)

Obituaries

HELKOWSKI

Gerald George Helkowski II, 48, died peacefully on Friday, March 16, 2012 at Father Murray Nursing Home in Center Line.

He was born November 10, 1963 in Detroit, MI to Gerald Sr. and Bernadette (nee Tucci) Helkowski. Gerald was a baker and had been in the landscaping business.

He is survived by his parents, Gerald Sr. and Bernadette; children, Daniel and Alyssa Helkowski; grandchildren, Daniel Helkowski Jr. and Alivia Newman. Brother of Timothy (Kim) Helkowski.

Gerald grew up in Hamtramck, and had been an 11-year resident of Fr. Murray where he was well known and loved by staff and patients. He would be seen around Center Line in his motorized wheelchair, frequenting stores nearby to supply residents who could not get out with snacks and pop.

A memorial service will be held in his honor at Fr. Murray Nursing Home, 8444 Engleman in Center Line on Wednesday, March 21, 2012 at 2 p.m. He will be missed.

MAY

Russell A. May, age 56, died on March 20, 2012.

Mr. May was preceded into God's care by parents Artie and Cecilia.

Loving and kind brother of Cynthia May, Ava (William) Janke, Madonna May, Kenneth May and Christopher May; beloved, gentle and humorous uncle of Rachel (Richard) Jones, Sarah (Mathew) Paulson, Jessica May-Grzybowski, Danielle May and Lauren May; cherished great-uncle of Madeleine and Lillian Paulson.

Mr. May was employed as an electrician with the Detroit Newspaper Association and Motorcycle Hobbyists.

His father was Arthur May, past Community Director of Hamtramck High School and owner of Artie's Locker Room.

Visitation is Friday March 23, 3-8 p.m. with Parish Rosary at 6 p.m. at Krot Funeral Home, 2687 Caniff, Hamtramck (313) 365-5240.

The funeral service is Saturday March 24, at 10:30 a.m. at Krot Funeral Home. The Mass of Christian Burial will follow at St. Ladislaus Church at 11 a.m.

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There is a vacancy on the Board of Education. Interested candidates are to submit a notice of their interest, in writing, to the Board President by March 29, 2012. Letters can be sent to the Hamtramck Board of Education 3201 Roosevelt Hamtramck Mi 48212 or via email to jmcbryar@hamtramck.k12.mi.us. The Board will interview all interested candidates to ascertain their qualifications.

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Support Your Local Businesses Get Out on the Hamtown!

gardener's corner ...

By Kathleen Wojcinski

Since we're having a remarkably mild and early spring, you may have noticed a rise in allergies.

Ranging from headaches to sneezing, watery eyes and exhaustion, there's no doubt allergy sufferers will be doing more suffering this year.

Here are a few reasons for this drama. Flowering plants don't usually cause problems, contrary to rumor. Pretty, blossoming trees, like apple, flowering cherry and pear, red buds, etc. as well as tulips, daffs, hy-

acinth, etc. are harmless.

The real culprits are: most maple trees, from ash leaf, to sugar, red and silver types. Elm trees, oak trees, mulberry and Arizona cypress round out the trees. All grasses cause grief, but rye grass, timothy, blues and orchard grasses are worse.

In the weed family, pig weed, tumbleweed, Russian thistle, green molly or burning bush love to make you sniff.

The one that really makes you cry for relief is ragweed, with 75 percent of Ameri-

cans reaching for their tissue boxes. The final "blow," (ha-ha) comes from mold. When humidity and heat come together, the mold found in the environment under damp ground, leaves and wood is released into the air as spores, where we inhale them.

Wearing a face mask all day isn't generally accepted, but a good allergy tablet like Claritin or drug-store generics will help you enjoy that warm fragrant breeze.



Continued from page 2

Trowbridge. She had minor injuries, and refused medical attention at the scene.

A man walked into the police station to report that his 2002 Mercury Villager was stolen from the Town Center shopping mall lot near a drug store in the 9200 block of Jos. Campau, between the hours of 6:50 p.m. and 7:10 p.m. Then, at around 7:57 p.m., he returned to the station to state that he had found his vehicle back in the same lot. No further explanation was given.

A woman was cited for disturbing the peace after hosting a loud party in her backyard at the 3000 block of Holbrook.

From Sunday, March 18:

A resident of the 3000 block of Jacob reported that one or more unknown persons broke a window out of her vehicle (not described at all) while parked on the street.

Officers took a report of multiple (4 to 5) cars being damaged on Evaline between Dequindre and Lumpkin overnight by one or more persons, who had spray-painted them. Two possible suspects were listed.

From Monday, March 19:

A red 2001 Dodge Caravan was stolen from in front of a location in the 2600 block of Holbrook between 11 p.m. last night and 6 a.m. this morning.

No less than four separate persons, three at the same Mitchell St. address in the 12000 block, reported having their catalytic converters stolen from their vehicles some time before 10:50 a.m. The fourth person's car was parked in a restaurant lot in the 11600 block of Jos. Campau. (*Alright, Mr. Catalytic Converter thief, what do you want? A town so noisy nobody can bloody well stand it?! Anarchist. - Ed.*)

A woman reported someone using her identity to file their 2012 taxes. (*How is this working, exactly? - Ed.*)

A man reported the theft of his green card, Social Security card and passport from his vehicle, while it was parked at Jos. Campau and Faber back on March 8.

A woman reported that someone stole her city-issued garbage can from behind her home in the 11700 block of Charest, some time between 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

A man was arrested for assaulting three women at a location in the 8900 block of Lumpkin. EMS treated and released the three victims.

Well, that's all for now, folks - stay alert, stay safe!

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Round	\$6.00	\$8.00	\$10.00
Thin Crust	\$7.00	\$9.00	\$11.00
PHILLY STEAK PIZZA: Philly Steak, Green Peppers, Onions			
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