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— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —



Quick Hits

Think spring. While the transition from winter to spring doesn't happen until March 20, unofficially it begins this weekend when we go back to Daylight Savings time. This Sunday at the early hour of 2 a.m., our clocks jump ahead one hour. You know what they say, "fall back" and "spring forward." Of course this will lead to a lot of sleepy-eyed folks on Monday morning, but at least we have Sunday to sort of get used to it.



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.

"Some things shouldn't be outsourced."

Housing values still on the decline, according to county study

By Charles Sercombe

According to the Wayne County Assessor's Office, Hamtramck house values dropped by 10.5 percent.

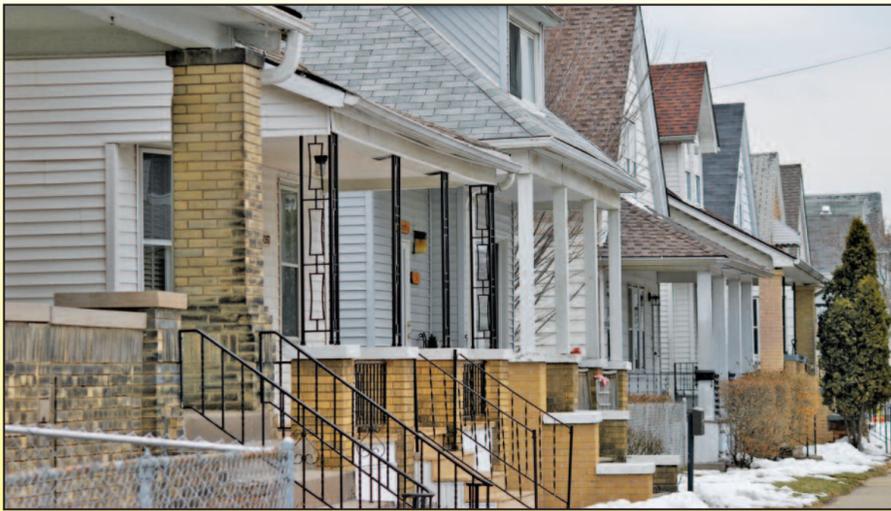
But that doesn't necessarily mean your property tax bill will also decrease, said Hamtramck Assessor Tony Fuoco.

"Proposal A could throw a monkey wrench into what you pay," Fuoco said in reference to a 1994 law that put a cap on how much tax values can increase as well as decrease.

When property values skyrocket, Proposal A protects homeowners from having to pay a huge increase in taxes. But when property values go down, Proposal A protects municipalities from losing a huge revenue source from property taxes.

Even with a cap in place, the 2008 housing meltdown eventually translated into a loss of \$1 million in tax collection for the city, said former Finance Director Nevrus Nazarko.

Also, Fuoco said, a general increase or decrease in hous-



According to the Wayne County Assessor, Hamtramck housing values fell by 10.5 percent in the last year. But that doesn't mean everyone will get a break on their property tax.

ing values does not apply to every single household. Some houses can go up in value while others around them go down, perhaps because they are special or unique in some way.

No matter what, house owners have a right to contest their property assessments this month at the annual

Board of Review. By now, property owners should have received a notice of this year's house assessment.

The Board of Review will meet on March 18, 20 and 21. You can schedule a hearing by calling the Assessor's Office at (313) 870-0325. You can also make an appeal by mail, by sending it to: As-

essor's Office, 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck MI 48212.

Fuoco said it's not unusual for homeowners to fight for even minor reductions. But that comes at a cost for the city, he said.

"Some people would rather lose a police officer or firefighter than pay 10 cents more," he said.

Firefighters demand return of ambulances

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck firefighters are firing back at city officials over who should provide ambulance service.

Acting City Manager Kyle Tertzag recently took the department's two ambulances out of service to find out what repairs are needed in the aging vehicles. In the meantime, he has contracted Detroit Medical Center to provide ambulance service.

Tertzag took that action when it was reported that one of the department's ambulances would not start after picking up a boy who had stopped breathing. Ambulance personnel were forced to turn to a neighbor of the boy to take him to a hospital.

Firefighters want the ambulances back in business.

"For the fastest, most efficient EMS service possible, it is crucial that our public officials put our ambulances back in service. Hamtramck residents deserve no less, and to keep this city's ambulances out of service does not represent a commitment to public safety," Ham-

tramck Firefighters Association President Matt Wyszczelski said in a press release.

Firefighters admit, however, that the two ambulances both have over 100,000 miles on them and have had "multiple mechanical problems."

Still, firefighters insist the city should put the ambulances back in service as soon as possible.

"Some things shouldn't be outsourced," Wyszczelski said. "There is no doubt that public safety will be compromised by longer response times and unavailable ambulances if the city

Continued on page 2

Hamtown's movers and shakers...



Therese Comor (center) appeared on ABC's "The View" as part of the show's "Hilarious Teachers" competition. She earned rave reviews from hosts Joy Behar (left) and Whoopi Goldberg (right).

By Ian Perrotta

Last Tuesday (Feb. 26) local middle school teacher Therese Comor appeared on ABC's "The View" as part of the show's "Hilarious Teachers" competition.

Although she didn't win, she did a fantastic job and earned rave reviews from the hosts. Curious about what the experience was like, we caught up with Comor and got the low-down straight from the stand-up.

How long have you been teaching?

I have been a teacher now for 15 years! Wow! Am I getting old? My first year teach-

ing was in Georgia and then I moved back to Michigan and have been teaching here ever since.

What do you teach?

I currently am teaching Supplemental Reading classes for middle school students (7th and 8th graders).

What made you want to be a teacher?

I became a teacher because I like helping kids. I like teaching reading because literacy is a vital skill that will last their entire life time. I often don't see the results until years later when stu-

Continued on page 4

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Firefighters demand return of ambulances

Continued from front page

opts to outsource EMS service to a private company. The Hamtramck Fire Department is best equipped to provide EMS service in Hamtramck."

Out of the department's approximately 3,000 runs per year, Fire Chief Paul Wilk said 80 percent of them are for ambulance service.

Tertzag said that despite claims by the firefighters that DMC won't respond in a

As for the quality of service, Tertzag said the community will actually receive improved care because DMC provides crews with advanced training.

"We're getting an upgrade," Tertzag said.

What's at the heart of the issue is a demand from the city for the union to agree to deep contract concessions.

Tertzag said he needs the union to agree to \$1.2 mil-



Hamtramck firefighters claim that the ambulance service being provided by Detroit Medical Center is inferior to their service. Acting City Manager Kyle Tertzag disagrees, saying the city is actually getting better service.

timely fashion, an ambulance is stationed in Hamtramck – at Holbrook and Conant – at all times.

"This is just another phony scare tactic that the union unfortunately has resorted to," Tertzag.

lion worth of concessions. Firefighters do not contribute any money to their health insurance nor are they required to pay deductibles for office visits or prescriptions.

Firefighters have presented concessions worth \$500,000. Tertzag said he is still verifying that amount.

Tertzag said he is under instruction from state Treasurer Andy Dillon to get concessions from the firefighters before the state will approve the city's budget deficit elimination plan and a request for an emergency \$3 million loan.

The city is facing a \$3 million budget deficit, and so far has skipped paying into the city's pension fund to avoid payless paydays. The city owes \$1.2 million to the pension fund.

Get Out on the Hamtown!

CITY OF HAMTRAMCK NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REVIEW FOR 2013

I hereby give notice that the Board of Review for the City of Hamtramck will meet in the Hamtramck City Hall at 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, MI 48212

Meeting dates and times as follows:

Monday, March 18, 2013 and Thursday, March 21, 2013 from 9 am to 5 pm and also on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 from 1 pm to 9 pm, for the purpose of examining, reviewing and correcting the 2013 Assessment Roll.

Tentative Equalization Ratios

	Ratio	Factor
Commercial	50%	1.0000
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Anthony F. Fuoco
 Assessor for the City of Hamtramck
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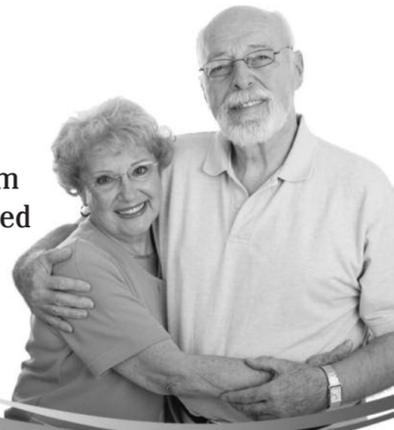
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This week at the library...

ESL Class with Latisha Edge - Friday, March 8 at 3 p.m. Intermediate ESL class conducted by Latisha Edge, free to the public.

Free Income Tax Service - Friday, March 8 at 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency will provide this service free to Hamtramck residents who have earned less than \$50,000. To make an appointment call 734-284-6999. Walk-ins will be accepted, but appointments will be served first.

Toddler Time at the Library - Monday, March 11 at 11 a.m. Join us for story time, arts & crafts, and games. This week bring your Teddy Bears to the Library. (Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

Movie Screening - Wednesday, March 13 at 7 p.m. Special presentation of the Film of the Year, "SEARCHING FOR SUGAR MAN." This five-star rated movie has been called "The Greatest Documentary Ever Made." It will be presented in the Hamtramck Library, free of charge. Please arrive early, number of seats is limited.

Story Time for Children - Saturday, March 9, at 11 a.m. Join your friends at the library for a reading of a story book for children.

Math Kangaroo Club - Tuesday, March 12 at 3:30 p.m. Learn math in a fun way, and prepare for the annual international math contest while improving your grades in school.

Financial Activist Club - Tuesday, March 12 at 5 p.m. Hamtramck residents of all ages are invited to join our financial workshops, designed to expand your knowledge of budgeting and investing. Registration is required.

ESL Conversation Class - Tuesday, March 12 at 4 p.m. Ms. Trisa conducts English Conversation classes each Tuesday night. Free of charge to Hamtramck residents.

Make'n'Take Crafts - Tuesday, March 12 at 4 p.m. All children are invited for arts and crafts workshop and the celebration of newspapers in education week.

Computer Classes for Beginners - Wednesday, March 13 at 11 a.m. Learn basic computer skills and how to navigate the Internet or use email. Registration is required and space is limited

Movie Night - Thursday, March 14 at 4 p.m. All children are invited for a movie and popcorn.

Meeting of the Library Board - Thursday, March 14 at 6 p.m. Regular meeting of the Library Board will be held in the auditorium. Open to the public.

Friends of the Library Meeting - Thursday, March 21 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.

Second Front Page

County executive is upbeat about economic development

By Charles Sercombe

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano echoed what many communities in the state – including Hamtramck – are complaining about. The decrease in property tax collection.

Since the housing bubble burst in 2008, Hamtramck's property tax revenue fell \$1 million, said former Finance Director Nevrus Nazarko.

For Wayne County the loss equaled \$100 million, Ficano said during his 11th State of the County Address on Thursday evening.

Despite making cuts of 2,000 jobs, Ficano said the loss in tax revenue is stunting the county's rebound.

He said that because of Proposal A and the Headlee Amendment, which caps how much of a tax increase communities and the county can impose on property owners, it will take until 2025 to reach the tax revenue level of 2008.

He urged state government leaders to reconsider those two pieces of legislation. Proposal A was passed in 1994 and the Headlee Amendment was passed in the 1970s. "Our efforts are still ham-



Despite some financial setbacks, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano was upbeat about economic development during his 11th State of the County Address.

pered by Proposal A and Headlee, legislation that was designed to deal with a completely different reality – booming growth and skyrocketing home prices. ... It's a broken model," Ficano said. "We need to address the structural deficiencies that are built into the way we fund local government."

Despite the financial setbacks, Ficano was upbeat about economic development in the county. He cited numerous examples of growth, including the upgrades in Cobo

Hall, plans for regional transportation, the creation of thousands of jobs and the growth of the healthcare industry.

And speaking of healthcare, Ficano noted the recent opening of the county's medical clinic in Hamtramck is designed to offer medical care to people regardless of their income.

Attending the State of the County Address from Hamtramck were Mayor Karen Majewski and School Board President Titus Walters.

FBI investigation turns up speculation of where it's heading

By Charles Sercombe

For the past week, the buzz around city hall has been about the FBI investigation into city contractor invoices. Last Friday, it was reported

by two television news stations that an FBI agent had visited city hall earlier in the day. Apparently to the two TV stations this was news to them.

But actually, the FBI has been investigating here for the past several months, ever since the council invited the FBI to take a look at some invoices that didn't seem to add up right.

The investigation came about after the city council reviewed an audit performed by an outside company of four major city contractors. Some of the billings from two contractors raised some questions.

In one heated exchange

Continued on page 4



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Hamtown's movers and shakers... Continued from front page

dents come back to visit. That is one reason I really like Hamtramck – I am always running into former students.

How long have you been performing stand-up?

I have been a stand-up comedian since 2009. So about 4 years. I had just started working in Hamtramck and took a Stand-Up Comedy Class at Macomb Community College with Martin Arakelian. For graduation we got to perform at Mark Ridley's. I just continued from there.

Do you perform regularly?

I do perform regularly at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak. Usually during Wednesday Open Mic Nights. I have also performed at Joey's in Plymouth and at Gilda's Laughfest in Grand Rapids.

Are there any benefits to being both a comedian and a teacher?

I think one benefit of being a comedian and teacher is that there are some times when I should be crying but I

can laugh because I see the humor in the situation.

Another reason middle school and comedy works is because there is not a tougher audience than a group of pre-teens and teenagers – sometimes I can test out material without them even knowing about it. I also do that with friends and family, too.

Do you have any long-term plans for comedy?

My future plans include a website that will include my blog and podcasts. I also would like to continue building my fan base by using Facebook and Twitter. I just really want to start marketing myself for appearances and shows.

Given the opportunity, would you give up teaching for comedy?

I think for me to give up teaching it has to be a position that will last a while and has good benefits. I would also need an opportunity that feeds my soul like teaching, so something working with people would be great.

How did you come to appear on The View?

I received a notification from a good friend that The View was looking for "Hilarious Teachers." I emailed the link to my comedy DVD and they picked me (and four others) out of quite a few people.

Did the show pay for your travel and accommodations?

The show paid for my plane ticket and a nice boutique hotel around the corner from Times Square. They also had cars and drivers to get me around the city. I do have to say that the really modern shower faucet was way above my educational knowledge, so I accidentally wet the entire bathroom before leaving for the show.

What was the studio like?

I believe on a good day the studio holds around 240 people. That day it seemed like a full house. It was a lot different than working in the clubs. In a comedy club you can only see the first few tables around the stage. In a studio you can see almost everyone, even if it's an out-

line.

What was taping the show like? Were you nervous?

They did let me rehearse in the studio first, but during the show I was nervous. Taping the show created some anxiety because it's live – not a tape – and there are no "re-dos". The studio was pretty large there are a lot of people that work there behind the scenes so the studio is pretty large and packed.

I met two really great associate producers: Vinny Napolitano and Johnathan Faulhaber. They helped me work through the material and made sure I felt good about the day. I met lots of other producers but I can't remember their names but they were all super nice.

Did you meet any "famous" people?

I walked past Brooke Shields. I also sat in the makeup room with Kate Gosselin. I got a chance to meet four of the regular hosts (Barbara Walters was sick). I also met the other judge Mario Cantone. He was hilarious –

he called me prosciutto! When I got back to Detroit, I met the local ABC morning crew: Alicia Smith, Vic Faust, Erin Nicole and Keenan Smith. They were very kind as well.

How have the kids reacted to your appearance on the show?

Most of the kids have been congratulating me. They have been saying I did a good job, or I was funny, or they saw me. Most said I was funny. Some had no idea what had happened. Several keep asking me to tell them a joke.

Even though it's only been a few days, has anything changed for you since your appearance?

I have had many people tell me that I have inspired them with my appearance. They are mostly women who said if I can do stand-up on national TV, anything is possible.

Although I did not win The View's "Hilarious Teachers" contest, I feel like I do have the tools to be a success in the entertainment industry. This experience gave me a

taste of what is possible so now I have the drive to keep going.

The minute the producers called me and said I didn't win, I began thinking of Jennifer Hudson. She did not win her season of American Idol, but since then she's won an Oscar and she's living her dream. I think I can do the same. I can also show others that anything is possible.

Therese Comor's next show is on Wednesday, March 27 at 8 p.m. at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak. For more information check out Therese Comor on Facebook (www.facebook.com/apluscomedy) or follow her on Twitter (@apluscomedy). You can also watch her appearance on The View at <http://tinyurl.com/theviewcomor>.

FBI investigation turns up speculation of where it's heading

Continued from page 3

among councilmembers, Robert Zwolak blurted out that the city should call in the FBI. Acting City Manager Kyle Tertzag later agreed that an outside agency should take a look at the invoices.

He recommended the state police or the FBI.

The council eventually settled on the FBI. That was back in October. Flash forward to last week and the question was: Where is the investigation heading?

For some, it has raised the question of who would likely be indicted.

This week, The Review went to press earlier than usual, and by Wednesday afternoon, there had been no FBI sightings.

Coming events

SATURDAY, March 9, 2 – 4

p.m. – Monthly Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross Parish, Pulaski at Fleming. All are welcome.

WEDNESDAY, March 13, 11 a.m. – The Daughters of Isabella Mystical Rose Circle 736 will meet at the Queen of Apostles Activity Center, entrance on Harold, fenced parking.

Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition meets every second Thursday of the month (next meeting: March 14), 11 a.m. at The Piast Institute, 11633 Jos. Campau.



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Review: Opinion Page

Reassessment of housing is overdue and unfair to homeowners

Hamtramck homeowners are being cheated.

Recently, a slim majority on city council rejected a proposal to conduct a re-assessment of properties.

According to city Assessor Tony Fuoco, the last time the city performed such a survey was in 1969. Saying we are overdue is an understatement.

While we understand the city is cash-strapped at this point to cover the \$80,000 it will take to do the assess-

ment over the next two years, the city owes it to homeowners. They have a right to be taxed fairly.

What city officials aren't saying is that there is a good chance the new assessment could result in a drop in home values. That would likely make a huge impact on how much in property taxes the city collects.

Sooner or later the city has to do this study. In fact, at any point the state could order the city to conduct the

assessment.

Hamtramck will have to take its chances on what that study finds. If property tax collection indeed goes down, so be it. The city will have to live within its means.

If that requires making drastic changes in how the city provides services, better to find out now while we're already in a budget crisis.

The bottom line is, homeowners have every right to be taxed fairly, and that is not happening today.

Councilmember will step down to take on mayor

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck's election season is off to an early start.

And a surprising one.

City Councilmember Cathie Gordon has submitted a letter of resignation to the council in order to run for mayor. The City Charter requires councilmembers who are still in their term to resign to run for mayor.

The resignation doesn't take effect until next Jan. 1.

Gordon has been a vocal critic - even a thorn in the side - of Mayor Karen Majewski.

Gordon said she decided to run for mayor because she doesn't like the "direction" the city is going.

"I don't think this administration has considered what the people want," Gordon said.

She criticized the administration for spending \$10,000 on the historical museum and \$70,000 to create a bike path at a time the city is running a budget deficit.

"In the meantime we have no ambulance," Gordon said.

As for economic development, Gordon said the city should be promoting its bars and affordable housing.

"We should be pounding that," she said.

Gordon has been in office for five years. She is also the owner of the New Dodge Lounge.

Mayor Majewski could not be reached for comment.

So far, the talk of town is that Majewski will seek a third term. She may face a field of

council seats up for grabs.

Also possibly in the running for the mayor's job is Review Publisher John Ulaj.

Candidates can file for office starting March 18 and must file their petitions by May 14. Candidates who have second thoughts about running must



City Councilmember Cathie Gordon is going to give up three years of what's left in her term to run for the office of mayor.

challengers. It's been rumored that Councilmembers Tom Jankowski, Mohammed Hassan and Abdul Algazali will turn their back on running for reelection this year and instead take on the mayor.

With Gordon on the ballot, that means there will be four

withdraw by May 17.

For Gordon, she cannot undo her resignation from council even if she withdraws from the mayoral race. She has three years remaining in her term.

Odds & Ends

Movie time ... The Hamtramck Library is branching out its offerings with a free screening of the Oscar-winning documentary "Searching for Sugar Man."

It's the story of Detroit-based folk musician Sixto Rodriguez who faded into obscurity in the early 1970s until South African youths became infatuated with him.

It's an inspiring story, and as we all know Detroit needs all the inspiration it can get.

The free showing is next Wednesday, March 13, at 7 p.m. See it, because it is fantastic.

Recycle ... This Saturday, March 9, is the monthly free recycling program. Load up your car and drop off your recyclables at a dumpster set up in the city parking lot on Caniff at McDougall. The program goes

from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Speak out ... We just got wind of this as we went to press on Wednesday. A half hour before next Tuesday's regular city council meeting, the public is invited to meet in the council chambers to talk about the future of the Fire Department.

There has been a lot of talk about doing this and that with the department in order for the

city to save money.

The public is invited to meet up at 6:30, on the second floor of city hall.

Celebrate ... The boys soccer team from Frontier International Academy was recently treated to a special banquet after winning the state championship.

The team, school officials and city officials had a feast at Byblos in Dearborn.



Tertzag's Two Cents

By Kyle Tertzag
Hamtramck Acting City Manager

Hello Hamtramck!

The old saying says that "March comes in like a Lion and goes out like a Lamb." Hopefully, we will get a break from this slushy dreary weather soon and get into our springtime mode as several of our residents have promised to teach me how to play cricket!

As you may know, we have been fighting to balance our city budget for some time.

This is a struggle that pre-dates my arrival on the scene here. Recently, a team of representatives from Hamtramck met with the State Treasurer. The over-riding theme that the state reiterated to us was that they are not going to give us a loan to fund the status quo.

We were told very directly to get to the bargaining table with the city labor unions and work out concessions to their "Cadillac Labor Contracts." We have approached the unions requesting concessions. We are hopeful that they will respond favorably.

Now on to a different topic.

You may have seen some news stories about our ambulance service. We recently became aware of two separate situations whereby our ambulances were not able to service our residents due to mechanical problems. As soon as I found out about this, we took our city ambulances offline so they could be checked out by a mechanic to determine what is wrong with them and what it will cost to repair them so that they are reliable and can provide the

service that our residents expect and deserve.

In the meantime, DMCare (which had recently done a presentation for the city council and residents at one of our regular council meetings) will be handling servicing our residents. This will actually be a substantial upgrade in the services to our residents as DMCare offers full Advanced Life Support services.

DMCare is not charging the city anything to perform this service for us. This move was done to make sure that our residents are offered the best public safety services possible within the confines of our budget.

I'm Acting City Manager Kyle Tertzag and that's my Two Cents.

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Obituaries



VIVODA

Karen Marie Vivoda, 43, died March 3, 2013.

Ms. Vivoda was a lifetime Hamtramck resident and was employed at 18th Street Deli

for 18 years.

Ms. Vivoda is preceded in death by her mother and three brothers. She is survived by her father, Robert; daughter, Mariah (Beautiful); son, Keith (Handsome); step-mother, Terri; brothers, Bob V. (Dog), Josh, Brett; sisters, Va-

leria, Linda, Joann, Laura (Brat Face); brother-in-law, Clyde; niece, Crystal (Brat); nephews, Ken and Nathaniel. Visitation is Saturday, March 9, from 1 to 9 p.m. at Jurkiewicz and Wilk Funeral Home.



School Bell

By Ian Perrotta

The Hamtramck Public School Board met on Wednesday, Feb. 13. All board members were present, and the meeting ran for one-and-a-half hours. Here are the highlights:

Hy Safran, aide to Congressman Gary Peters, was on hand to introduce himself to the Board and offer the services of his office. He encouraged the Board and those in attendance to not be shy in reaching out.

"We want to be very visible, supportive and attentive to Hamtramck," he said. "We're

at your service, but we can only serve you if you reach out to us."

The meeting then moved to consent agenda items with the Board rapidly approving all of them. Among the items agreed upon were a number of employment contracts, the acceptance of a custodian's resignation and the approval of payment invoices.

Next up was the approval of a conditional agreement to make upgrades to the district's telecommunications and information service technology through the federal E-Rate program.

According to technology consultant Bob Rice, the district's technology is badly outdated, and though the quality of external equipment like computers and related components is being built up the internal infrastructure needs to be updated.

Moreover, some schools aren't even in the 21st century, technologically-speaking. Both Hamtramck High and Horizon Adult/Alternative Education Center lack wireless Internet access, and because a former technology specialist did not do their job correctly, some of the

Continued on page 7

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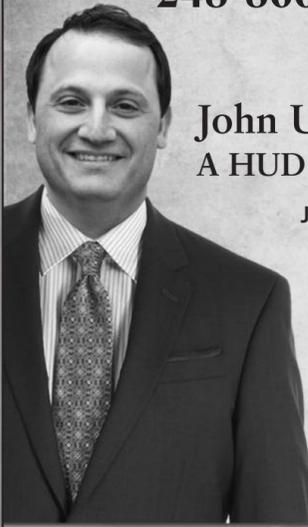
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School Bell

Continued from page 6

equipment is literally from the 1990s.

"The infrastructure was last updated in 2008-2009 – by network electronic standards it's ancient," said Rice.

Fortunately for the school district, the E-Rate program covers between 89 and 90 percent of total costs. Considering that upgrades need to be made to the district's network electronics, wireless network electronics and servers, it's a pretty good deal.

"For less than \$20,000 the school can replace \$200,000 worth of equipment," Rice said.

After the conditional agreement was approved, the next item on the agenda was to recognize Kosciuszko Middle School teacher Michael Dobbyn for being the LEGO Education "Featured Teacher" for the month of February.

Dobbyn has been teaching the LEGO Robotics Team for 15 years, and his after-school program became so popular that after a few years it was turned into a regularly scheduled class. His dedication to the program has resulted in many competition winners over the years and earned the recogni-

tion of the LEGO company.

The final big-ticket item of the night was a discussion over whether-or-not the district should approve a contract with CoachEZ by PESG. The contract, recommended by Hamtramck Public Schools Superintendent Tom Niczay, would allow for the employment of non-district employee athletic coaches.

According to Niczay, the contract would open up coaching positions to people not currently employed by Hamtramck Public Schools, allowing the district to save on retirement and FICA costs. About \$2,800 per year could be saved.

Niczay stressed the importance of saving money, noting that many other districts do a "pay-to-play" system where athletes must pay to participate. He also pointed out that Hamtramck provides transportation to athletic events – something other districts have cut down on.

"The district is losing money on its athletic program," he said. "We have to do something."

Though the contract was ultimately approved, it was not without debate. Teacher's union Vice President Laurie

Kroon expressed a concern that it may permanently squeeze teachers out of coaching positions.

"Are outside hires hired indefinitely?" she asked. "What happens if a job is filled one year but a teacher wants it the next year?"

Her sentiment was echoed by Boardmembers Erik Burkman and Magdalena Srodek, who both questioned the need to allow non-district employees to coach. Their concern was that it could lead to more non-union hires.

"It's a slippery slope," said Srodek.

Eventually School Board President Titus Walters stepped in to alleviate the concerns of both sides. Conceding that the district needs to save money, he addressed the fears that coaching jobs may not be available to teachers after they have been filled.

"Teachers can always apply for coaching positions," he said. "But let's put it this way: If we have a football coach who is an outside hire and they are winning 10 games a year, we're gonna keep him on. No one is anti-teacher. I am pro-kid."



By Ian Perrotta

This week's Crime Log covers Wednesday, February 27 through Monday, March 4.

Wednesday, February 27

- At 3:07 a.m. officers responded to a break-in in the 3000 block of Caniff.

- At 9:35 a.m. a male was arrested at St. Aubin and Carpenter after a traffic stop for driving without a license. A GMC Denali was towed by B&T.

- At 10:53 a.m. a man reported that someone possibly stole his Oxycodone prescription

and was attempting to get it refilled.

- At 11:17 a.m. a man reported that an unknown person(s) took his 2001 Dodge Caravan from the 2400 block of Goodson.

- At 12:28 p.m. a man was arrested at Grand Haven and Caniff after a traffic stop for driving without a license.

- At 1:40 p.m. an officer responded to the 11300 block of St. Aubin regarding a dead body. The medical examiner responded and took custody of the body.

- At 9:51 p.m. a Dearborn Heights resident reported that someone smashed out her car window while it was parked in the lot at Poland and Latham.

- At 11:20 p.m. a subject was arrested for domestic violence.

Thursday, February 28

- At 12:30 a.m. a subject was placed under arrest for driving without a license.

- At 5:39 p.m. a Sobieski resident reported his car stolen.

Friday, March 1

- At 12:25 a.m. two subjects were placed under arrest on traffic and drug possession charges.

- At 3:30 a.m. officers discovered malicious destruction of property at a business located in the 9300 block of Jos. Campau.

- At 2:01 p.m. a man was arrested for an expired license after a traffic stop at Holbrook and Brombach.

- At 2:03 p.m. a man reported that an unknown person(s) took his 1997 Chevy from the 3300 block of Hanley.

- At 3:13 p.m. officers were dispatched to Caniff and Charest regarding a fight. A woman told officers that she was assaulted by two females.

- At 3:21 p.m. officers were dispatched to Evaline and Gallagher regarding a fight. After a short investigation one male was transported home.

- At 4:02 p.m. a victim stated while shopping at a store in town someone stole money from her purse while it was in her shopping cart.

- At 6:19 p.m. two males were arrested after a traffic stop investigation.

- At 6:30 p.m. a Comstock resident made a report stating that her son pawned her computer.

- At 7:57 p.m. a Botsford resident stated while she was walking in the area Charest and Carpenter an unknown male stole her purse.

Saturday, March 2

- At 12:40 a.m. a subject was placed under arrest following a traffic stop.

- At 10:52 a.m. a male was arrested for breaking and entering at Jacob and Conant, after breaking into a house on Jacob.

- At 3:45 p.m. a Goodson resident stated someone struck her vehicle while it was parked in front of her residence.

- At 5:59 p.m. a subject was placed under arrest after a traffic stop.

- At 7:02 p.m. a Detroit resident made a report stating that he was involved in an accident at Lumpkin and Evaline.

Sunday, March 3

- At 12:39 a.m. a subject was placed under arrest for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated and leaving the scene of an accident.

- At 5 a.m. a subject was placed under arrest for trespassing.

- At 11:13 a.m. a Hamtramck resident reported the theft of his debit card by his daughter, who spent \$500 of his money. The complainant was unable to give any information on his daughter, his bank card, or his phone number.

- A man was placed under arrest by officers investigating a domestic assault in the 3300 block of Holbrook at 5:47 p.m.

- A Mitchell resident was placed under arrest for breaking and entering and a 31st District Court warrant after officers located him lying on an upstairs porch of an occupied residence in the 9400 block of McDougall at 5:50 p.m.

Monday, March 4

- A woman was arrested for assault and cruelty to animals after she threatened her boyfriend with a knife and kicked his dog several times in the 2300 block of Andrus.

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