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Quick Hits

Spring is just two weeks away, and we'll get a head start, so to speak, this Sunday.

That's when Daylight Savings Time returns. Here's how it works: On Sunday (March 11) at 2 a.m. we set our clocks one hour ahead.

Or, you can set them ahead before you go to sleep, or when you wake up, or whatever works for you.

So, that means we're all going to be a little sleep-deprived come Monday morning. But, we get to enjoy daylight one hour later into the evening.

Whatever happened to winter?

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 cannot spend more than we bring in."

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

'Hamtramck Blowout' still captures the best of Detroit's music scene

By Alan Madeleine

The Blowout has blown through once again. Marred this year, after closing time on Friday evening, by a truly ugly incident (see separate story, below) involving three female attendees being kidnapped and assaulted at gunpoint, the Hamtramck music staple will have to see whether it can withstand the resultant bad PR for next year.

The event, in this, its 15th year, also featured strong winds on Friday night. Gusts reached approximately 40 to 50 miles per hour at times, and shredded some businesses' signs and awnings along Jos. Campau and elsewhere. Drunk concertgoers occasionally assisted in the wind's mischief.

The Blowout had a different "ground zero" than for years past, having relocated from the Gates of Columbus Hall to the Polish National Alliance Hall up and across Conant. Sprawling across 14 of Hamtown's most storied and illustrious rock bars, the event engenders an unnaturally high amount of foot traffic along the city's main drags.

From being there in person on Friday night, I can tell you that some bars were packed to the gills, while others had more comfortable floor-space ratios. Surprisingly jammed up was the upper floor of the Polish Village Café, a last minute stand-in for the Atlas Bar, which had not

Continued on page 5



City faces a financial meltdown

By Charles Sercombe

City employees could face three months of no paychecks starting in early April.

That was the news on Tuesday, when City Manager Bill Cooper issued a press release saying the city will run out of money needed to meet payroll by that time.

In addition to that, employees will not be paid for one day per month through June. There was one positive note: Cooper said benefits will remain intact.

"This action was necessary due to an ongoing drop in overall revenues, combined with increasing costs," Cooper said in the press release.

Cooper said employees can expect to see repayment of what is owed beginning in July, when property taxes begin to roll in, and running through the remainder of the year.

But that's no guarantee, either, Cooper said.

"How quickly this occurs is dependent upon cash flow for the city during this period," Cooper said.

City officials have been warning of payless paydays for the last several weeks.

By next year, the city is facing a \$3.4 million budget deficit.

In the press release, Cooper outlined the following financial setbacks the city has experienced in the last two years:

The closing of American Axle's plant resulted in a loss of \$600,000 a year in property and income taxes.

Continued on page 6

21-year-old man charged with carjacking and sexually assaulting three women

By Charles Sercombe

For 14 years The Hamtramck Blowout has not had one serious criminal incident.

That lucky run came to an abrupt end early Saturday morning at 2:30 a.m. Police say four women had just left the Painted Lady, which was one of 14 venues participating in the Hamtramck Blowout, and gotten into their van parked in the dollar store parking lot across from the bar.

Out of nowhere, police say, a man with what appeared to be a handgun also entered the van. One of the women immediately escaped, flagged down a friend driving by and called police.

Meanwhile, the man ordered the three other women to drive off, and instructed them to take him to the Van Dyke-Harper area on the eastside.

According to Detective Derek Suwalkowski, the suspect told the women his 1-year-old child had died that day and he needed a ride to be with his family. When they arrived in the neighborhood, things took a turn for the worse.

The suspect then demanded the women perform oral sex on him, and then he

Continued on page 2



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21-year-old man charged with carjacking and sexually assaulting three women

Continued from front page

attempted to rape one of them, Suwalkowski said.

The suspect, Tonio David Dace, 21, was arraigned Monday in Hamtramck 31st District Court on 11 felony counts in connection with the carjacking of four women and the sexual assault of three of them.

He appeared in a grey hoodie, and could barely be heard when he answered Judge Paul Paruk's questions. At the arraignment were members of the Detroit media, Mayor Karen Majewski and several residents who organized through Facebook to show support for the victims.

No one from Dace's family was present.

None of the victims were at the arraignment. Also, the victims' names were not released by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, but they were described as ranging in age from 28 to 33, one from Hamtramck, two from Detroit and one from Lincoln Park. The Lincoln Park woman was able to escape when the gunman entered the vehicle.

Suwalkowski described what else happened after the three women were taken to the eastside and sexually assaulted:

While attempting to rape one of the women, Dace suddenly "lost interest and demanded money," Suwalkowski said.

The women said they didn't have any, so Dace ordered them to drive to a BP gas station on the eastside. One

woman was ordered to go inside and withdraw money from an ATM machine. While inside, the woman mouthed to the clerk to call the police. The clerk opened the door next to the cash register to allow the woman to hide.

Dace was then apparently scared off by the siren of an ambulance and ordered the remaining women to drive off. Once again, he forced them to perform sex acts. Dace then had the women drive back to the BP station, where he called the woman he sent in there on a cell phone, instructing her to come out with money or, that he would kill her friends.

By that time, police were waiting, and were able to capture Dace without further incident.

As for the "gun" the suspect had, Suwalkowski said it turned out to be a pellet gun.

Besides a minor drug offense, the suspect has no serious criminal history, but he did have two arrest warrants because he had violated his terms of probation.

Because of the severity of the crimes, Judge Paruk set bond at \$5 million. A preliminary examination is set for next Thursday (March 15) at Hamtramck 31st District Court.

There is a good chance, however, that the hearing will

be postponed, said a police source.

A preliminary examination is held to determine if there is enough evidence to support the charges. Examinations are often like mini-trials. If the district court judge believes the charges are justified, further court proceedings are held in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Dace said he lives with his mother and aunt, and has lived in Hamtramck on Hewitt St. for seven months. He told Paruk he has a 1-year-old child, but he didn't say the child is deceased.

The incident received wide media attention, and came

on the heels of another violent kidnapping of two women several days before, here in Hamtramck. Those women have not been found yet, but three suspects believed to be involved in the matter are in police custody.

Mayor Majewski was quoted in several reports about the incidents as saying that both incidents are "aberrations."

Majewski told The Review that "the whole city is shocked."

"Everyone is stepping forward, saying this is not us," she said. "This is not going to happen in our city."

Residents form 'Take Back The Night Hamtramck'

In response to the two kidnapping incidents involving six women, residents are organizing to fight back.

Nadine Gizak is organizing a group called "Take Back the Night Hamtramck" through Facebook, and anyone interested in joining is asked to attend a meeting tonight (Friday, March 9) at the Hamtramck High School Community Center, on Charest just north of Caniff, from 6 to 8 p.m.

The meeting will be in the

multipurpose room, located downstairs across from the front desk.

Gizak said there might be a vigil or town hall meeting scheduled for the near future. She said that despite the high-profile incidents, Hamtramck's streets are still safe.

"But I take personal safety precautions," she added.

April, by the way, is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

'Homeless by Choice,' but he dreams big for others

By Alan Madeleine

Roy Juarez Jr. is a medium-sized young man. But he dreams big.

Speaking at Hamtramck High School recently, Juarez detailed his strange trip: homeless (along with his two younger siblings) from the age of 14, after having been on the run from an abusive father, and then having his mother agree to marry her protective policeman boyfriend who suddenly "didn't want (her) kids." (They would later reconcile).

He now chooses to go out on a tour of the country, without promise of lodging, to tell his inspiring life story in schools. He calls it his "Homeless by Choice" tour.

His narrative jumps around a bit, perhaps reflecting the way he once had to jump from temporary home to temporary home, but he speaks with a passionate energy.

The students sat, quietly and respectfully; most, no doubt, absorbed in his tale. Whatever anger he once had

at his parents, or others, he seems to have rechanneled into his positive work.

And his best quotes seemed to hit home.

"We can't push away the people who want to help us" through our anger at the world, Juarez said.

He spoke of the power of positive dreams, couching it in terms of the many losses so many at-risk youth experience: "The gift of dreaming is a gift no one can take from you."

Continued on page 4

This week at the library...

ESL Class with Christine Templing - Saturday, March 10 at noon. Intermediate ESL class conducted by Christine Templin, free to the public.

Story Time for Children - Saturday, March 10, at noon. Join your friends at the library for a reading of "I Can Read with my Eyes Shut" by Dr. Seuss.

Toddler Time at the Library - Monday, March 12 at noon. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Computer Classes for Beginners - Tuesday, March 13 at noon and 1 p.m. Basic instructions on computer use for beginners will be held on Thursdays. Number of participants is limited to available computers.

Computer Classes for Advanced Users - Tuesday, March 13 at 2 p.m. Adults with basic computer skills can enhance their computer literacy each Tuesday at the library. Number of participants is limited to available computers.

Arts and Crafts Workshop for Children - Tuesday, March 13 at 3:30 pm. Celebrate the 100th birthday of Oreo's with a Make'n'Take crafts.

Math Club Meeting - Tuesday, March 13 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 13 at 4:30 p.m. Ms. Trisa conducts English Conversation classes each Tuesday night. Free of charge to Hamtramck residents.

ESL Class with Ms. Templin - Wednesday, March 14 at noon. Christine Templin is the instructor for the ESL class for beginners. Everyone is invited. Free to the public.

Computer Classes for Beginners - Thursday, March 15 at noon, 1 and 2 p.m. Basic instructions on computer use for beginners will be held on Thursdays. Number of participants is limited to available computers.

ESL News for You - Friday, March 16 at 3:30 p.m. ESL reading and discussion class with Latisha Edge. Free to the public.

Friends of the Library Meeting - Thursday, March 15 at 6 p.m. FHPL President Kathy Kristy and Treasurer George Gorday invite all members and volunteers to participate in the regular monthly meeting.

Math Kangaroo Test - Thursday, March 15 at 5 p.m. All children registered for the Math Kangaroo Test will be able to participate in this annual math competition.

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



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 left off last week with the city council meeting on Feb. 28, and the council agreeing to hire Steve Shaya as the permanent Director of the Public Works Department.

We now move on to the second part of the meeting. Councilmember Cathie Gordon suggested having the city's zoning laws be examined by the city's Plan Commission to see if there is a

conflict with the city's proposed Master Plan. While that examination is being done, Gordon also called for a moratorium on requests for zoning law variances.

Councilmember Anam Miah questioned why this action needs to be taken, and whether there is a specific "negative" aspect in the zoning law.

Councilmember Gordon said there is nothing "nega-

tive" that she is looking at. She said it's just a review to make sure there are no conflicts.

Councilmember Tom Jankowski said he doubts there is a conflict with the planning laws.

Councilmember Abdul Algazali asked Jason Friedmann, the city's Director of Community & Economic Development, what his title is.

The point of that question

was that Algazali said Friedmann should come to the council if he thinks there is a conflict between the two documents.

Councilmember Mohammed Hassan said anyone in the city can review the plan, and there is no reason to have the Plan Commission look at it.

Councilmember Jankowski asked City Attorney James Allen what would happen while the zoning law variances had a moratorium placed on them, and an attractive development plan were to be proposed and subsequently allowed. Allen said the city could likely face law-

suits by those others who were denied special consideration.

Allen said a moratorium can be imposed, but it has to be very narrow in purpose.

In the vote for a review of the zoning laws, the council was split and required Mayor Karen Majewski to break the tie. Majewski voted in favor of the review. Those voting for it were:

Councilmembers Robert Zwolak, Gordon and Jankowski. Those voting against it were: Algazali, Hassan and Miah.

As for placing the zoning laws in a moratorium, Gordon withdrew her motion.

Councilmember Zwolak wanted to move immediately on demolishing three burned down houses on Faber St. that have been an eyesore for over a year.

"It's long overdue," Zwolak said about tearing them down. "Go and see these houses."

Jason Friedmann, the Director of Community & Economic Development, said he is work-

Continued on page 4

Police have little hope of finding kidnapped women alive

By Charles Sercombe

The search goes on. Hamtramck police, along with state police investigators, continue to look for two women abducted at gunpoint, following a short gun battle, last Tuesday.

The families of the two missing women, Abreeya Carol Brown, 18, and Ashley Victoria Conaway, 21, are now offering \$31,000 to anyone who supplies information leading to the location of the women.

But the chances of finding them alive are not good, police sources say.

Police, with the use of a cadaver dog, have been search-

ing in vacant houses on the westside of Detroit where the possible getaway vehicle used in the kidnapping was found, destroyed in a fire. Investigators said they found a partially burnt driver's license belonging to one of the victims in the trunk of the car.

According to Channel 2 Fox News in Detroit, investigators are also searching Eliza Howell Park on the westside where the women may have been buried. The park covers an area of 140 acres.

The pair's ordeal began last Tuesday at about 10 p.m. when Conaway's ex-boyfriend showed up at her Andrus St. house, where Brown also

lives with her stepfather.

The ex-boyfriend demanded the pair drop criminal proceedings against him from an earlier encounter where he shot out the back of a car Conaway was driving.

That incident occurred a few weeks earlier, and it was unclear why the ex-boyfriend, Brandon Lewis Cain, 26, had not been arrested. That lapse led to Cain and another man confronting the two women at their Andrus house.

Before they were able to abduct the women, Brown's stepfather attempted to prevent their kidnapping and opened fire on the suspects, who also returned fire.

Amazingly, no one was injured in that shooting.

The women ended up in the trunk of the suspects' car, and they were able to send text messages to relatives explaining what had happened. After the first hour of their having been kidnapped, the women were not heard from again.

Cain and two other suspects have been subsequently arrested. Cain has since been charged with shooting at Conaway several weeks ago.

Cain's attorney has told media outlets that his client has nothing to do with the disappearance of the women.



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March 14 - Bitter Lamentations - English 7 p.m.

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'Homeless by Choice,' but he dreams big for others

Continued from page 2

Admitting that he didn't know these young people seated before him (nor pretending to), he said, "We have control over how we let situations affect us: Bitter, or Better. Please – choose to be Better."

He had almost certainly delivered these lines before – in fact, probably twice before, just counting that day. You see, he had appeared twice earlier in the day at Kosciuszko Middle School – to deliver his inspiring message there, as well.

The lines still worked here. Juarez's true emotions kept the words meaningful.

Even the tears he shed during talking about how his little brother and sister found homes, while he could not – while probably shed before – seemed genuine.

We must be the change – the change that we want to see, he intoned. We need you to love yourself, he reminded. Not one student offered a smart-alecky rebuke. They were, it seemed, on his side.

Finally, toward the end of a roughly 45-minute journey, he stressed two more points.

"Understand how valuable your education is," he con-

cluded; "understand the opportunity you have before you."

And?
"Be nicer to one another." He had, he said, forgiven his mother for abandoning him in favor of the security of life with a policeman who initially didn't want kids. He could separate the person from her own fearful poor choices.

Even his (now) stepdad, he said, had come around. He didn't mention whether his relationship had rekindled with his birth father.

But his message still rang in the air, like a bell.

"Don't give the future away," he begged, "because it's yours."

And even if there were some of the usual blustering shenanigans outside after the final bell did indeed ring, you can't help but think that a lot of these kids – had they thought back on their school day later that night while in bed – would remember the poignant story of one Roy Juarez Jr.

Roy's business card states that he is now affiliated with America's Business Leaders. He is on Facebook, Twitter and Youtube. "Liking" him on Facebook will help, he says, toward his goal of getting some possible corporate sponsorship for the next time he tours the country, beginning again in August (after he takes a breather from the current one, set to wrap up in May).



City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 3

ing with county officials to tap into federal funds to clear out the houses. However, he said, federal guidelines often require environmental testing before the houses can come down, which would delay the demolition.

Friedmann said he is trying to get around those requirements.

Councilmember Jankowski said this issue underscores the need to require landlords to purchase business permits.

Councilmember Zwolak said he'd be satisfied if the houses were just knocked down now, and cleaned up later. He said one house has a three-story chimney that looks like it could topple at any moment.

Mayor Majewski questioned why the homeowners are not being held accountable.

"What galls me is someone owns these properties," Majewski said.

And now, she added, "it's the city's problem."

Well, as it turned out, the city received \$7,000 in insurance money for one of the houses, which will cover its demolition costs. But the city's director of the Public Works Department, Steve Shaya, said the owners of the other two houses did not have insurance, nor do they have money to cover the cost of demolition.

The cost for the demolition of the two houses is approximately \$15,000.

The council voted unanimously to cover the cost of the demolition, although it was not immediately known where the money would come from.

In another action, Councilmember Zwolak proposed ordering department heads to work up budget cuts of up to 30 percent, although he conceded most of the budgets are locked up in fixed costs.

However, he warned: "We cannot spend more than we bring in."

Councilmember Jankowski suggested taking a longer range view of city finances, and asked for a three-year budget projection.

"I don't want to go year-to-year," he said.

City Manager Cooper said it would take him some time to come up with a three-year budget.

Jankowski said it's worth it, because we are living in "extraordinary times, and we have to do something extraordinary."

Zwolak said all he is trying to do is get through the next four months.

The council unanimously agreed to have department heads rework their budgets.

We're going to skip ahead

here and look at what State Rep. John Olumba had to say. Olumba, who is in his first term – and perhaps last one because of his newly drawn district lines – had grim news.

He said that city officials should forget about relying on the state to step in and appoint an emergency financial manager to take control. He said there are too many cities under financial stress.

He said the city should, instead, rely on its own people to work out its financial trouble.

"My thing is self help," Olumba said. "I wouldn't rely on any help from the state."

(Editor: Anyone got a couple million dollars to spare?)

Olumba went on to say that the state legislature is divided politically, and there is little cooperation between Democrats and Republicans. And, he said, most of the Republicans have little concern for the needs of distressed urban cities.

(OK, that was distressing news.)

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CITY OF HAMTRAMCK NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REVIEW FOR 2012

I hereby give notice that the Board of Review for the City of Hamtramck will meet in the Hamtramck City Hall at 3401 Evaline in said City on Monday, March 19, 2012 and Thursday, March 22, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and also on Wednesday, March 21, 2012 from 1 p.m. To 9 p.m. for the purpose of examining, reviewing and correcting The 2012 Assessment Roll and hearing complaints of all persons Interested herein considering themselves aggrieved.

Tentative Equalization Ratios

	Ratio	Factor
Commercial	50%	1.0000
Industrial	50%	1.0000
Residential	50%	1.0000

Anthony F. Fuoco
Assessor for the City of Hamtramck
(313) 870-0325

APPEAL HEARINGS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!!

Review: Opinion Page

An attack on one is an attack on all of Hamtramck

Six women were victimized this past week in Hamtramck.

That, of course, is six too many.

We don't know what this means, whether Hamtramck's streets are getting meaner, or if it's just one of those unfortunate flukes.

One thing we do know: What happened to those women is intolerable, and something needs to be done to prevent incidents like these from happening again. Fortunately, there are concerned community members who have formed "Take Back the Night Hamtramck" to combat these assaults on women.

In the first incident, in case you haven't heard by now, two women were kid-

napped at gunpoint from their Andrus St. home by a spurned ex-boyfriend of one of the two. At this point, more than a week since the women went missing and the ex-boyfriend and his accomplices have been arrested, it's unlikely the two women are alive.

In the second incident, a street thug carjacked four women who had just left a bar and sexually assaulted three of them. (One woman was able to escape before anything worse happened.)

We are truly sickened by what has happened, and our hearts go out to the women and their families.

Hamtramck is hurting this week. An attack on innocent victims is an attack on our city.

Crime statistics tell us that if you are going to be a victim of crime in this city, it will likely involve the theft of your property. But that is hardly comforting.

We've heard repeatedly in recent months from a variety of residents that the streets seem to be getting meaner. There is fear in the air.

But there is also hope. Hamtramck knows how to organize and fight back. We do, indeed, own our streets, and we're not going to let some mindless thugs take that away.

We all need to do some soul-searching in the coming days. More importantly, we need to band together, get to know our neighbors, and figure out how to make our city and our lives safer.

Letters • Letters

A dream comes true through hard work

Promise only what you can deliver, and deliver more than you promised. The idea was simple; to organize an all-girls prom. Little did I know that it was a manifestation of courage.

Entering high school, I had always dreamt of attending prom, but my religion, Islam, and Bangladeshi cultural beliefs forbid dating, dancing or appearing without hijab, the Islamic headscarf, in front of males.

I knew I was not alone. Hamtramck embodies people from diverse nationalities, from Bosnians, Yemeni, Pakistani to Bangladeshi and more all included in the Muslim community. In previous years, my Muslim sisters only imagined of attending prom, but I

wanted to make it a reality. In response, I created an organization called, "Princess Project 2012."

I gathered a committee of hardworking enthusiastic girls, and together we came up with an array of fundraisers, ranging from bake sales, to candy grams, to freshly baked pretzels. And, we're still continuing our fundraisers. We couldn't have done it without all the support we had from our staff members, who believed in us from day one. We successfully raised \$750 and booked a hall within four months. The all-girls prom is scheduled to take place on April 28 at

Gates of Columbus.

I believe that the future belongs to people who believe in the beauty of their dreams. I look forward to seeing my legacy live on. This is the first class to host not one, but two proms at Hamtramck High School, and I hope the classes that follow carry on this tradition.

This experience has helped me learn that there is no such thing as the bitter end, but to make the best of any situation and to shine through.

**Tharima Ahmed
Senior, Hamtramck
High School**

Obituaries

BUNGER

Henry D. Bunger, 71, died on March 1, 2012.

Mr. Bunger was retired from the roofing industry. He was predeceased by his wife, Norma Jean.

Mr. Bunger is survived by his children, Tamara Gennette (Mohamed Alghazali), Hank Jr., Billy (Carol) Sturgill, Buford Wayne (Pamela) Sturgill; sis-

ters, Anna Young, Ada Rose, Lillian Morris; brothers, Ralph Bunger, Warren Bunger, James Bunger; nine grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

The funeral was March 4, 2012, with burial on March 5, 2012 at Christian Memorial Gardens in Rochester, Michigan. Arrangements were handled by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home.

'Hamtramck Blowout' still captures the best of Detroit's music scene

Continued from front page

yet gotten its own upstairs back to code after the fire there several months back. Whiskey in the Jar was also featuring smush-your-neighbor time.

By contrast, the cool interior and open seats of Mars Bar were welcome relief. Likewise, the spacious PNA Hall afforded plenty of room to stake out one's territory without somebody else's elbows jammed into your back.

Still, the ugliness that would unfold early Saturday morning couldn't help but color the final night. Both The Metro Times and the Hamtramck Police provided more bodies to watch the streets on Saturday night.

The result was a happily uneventful finale. Or perhaps, one where all the events stayed where they belonged - inside the clubs.

The Metro Times own Blowout sub-website took care not to dwell on Saturday morn-

ing's awfulness. Instead, bloggers gave tired-but-happy commentary more typical of the Blowouts of happier years.

"...Woke up... covered in glitter. ... Blowout was a blast," wrote Mike Anton of the group the Mantons.

Some bloggers did mention the wet, heavy snow that fell on the last night, and the giddy treachery of both sidewalk and road, alike. One blogger recalled overhearing someone rhetorically query, "Where are we, in <expletive> Alaska?"

Don Duprie, of the band Doop and the Outlaws, sounded amazed to have returned to his trailer to find that, even though he'd forgotten to shut the doors on it after they'd parked in front of New Dodge Lounge, and even though it was also 2 a.m. on the city's southend, nothing had been "removed." (Consider this the exception... - Ed.)

"Attendance was actually up

this year," according to Metro Times publisher Chris Sexson. He cited personal favorites from this time around, including Pink Lightning at Skipper's, The Dirtbombs at the Polish National Hall, and Johnny Headband at Small's.

He also again expressed his sadness on behalf of the women caught up in the occurrences of Friday night.

A few celebs flitted amongst us. The Black Keys, in town for a major gig of their own, and just a few years removed from having played the Blowout themselves, were spotted at the PNA Hall on Saturday.

Legendary rock impresario Kim Fowley, whose "Psychedelic Dogs" did a short set on the PNA stage on Saturday, was spotted by yours truly the night before, leaving Mars Bar with a cane supporting his lean, lithe frame.

Sounds like a normal garden-variety Blowout, right? Music,

snow, drinking, the odd celeb here and there? And, it wasn't.

Oh sure, Hamtramck has lost its sheen of being a safe oasis before, due to various incidents. But this one could conceivably have really tarnished one of the area's truly fun, and long-established, events.

If I had to bet, I'd bet that it things will be pretty much back to normal again next year. Most peoples' memories are mercifully short when it comes to events such as these. Witness the Detroit fireworks, which have had several high-profile problems over the years.

But let's hope that what was learned was, that you can never have too many eyes watching each others' backs - during the Blowout, or any other time for that matter.

"Blowout on."

In loving Memory
Amanda Dumas
March 12, 2001

Lifelong member of the NAACP, active member of Corinthian Baptist Church

Sadly missed by, your son, Jerome Harry Dumas; daughters, Jacqueline Harris and Gussie Dumas; grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In loving memory of
Mary A. Swetech
March 7, 1921 - March 8, 2011



Wife of the late Alexander. It's been a year since you've gone. We love and miss you dearly. We miss your laughter, your sense of humor, and your beautiful smile. You'll always be in our hearts. Your children, Loretta, Jim, Stephen, Joan, John and all our families and friends.

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City faces a financial meltdown

Continued from front page

Property taxes overall for the city have decreased by \$200,000.

Speaking of property taxes, the city faces a further loss of \$200,000 to \$400,000 if property owners are successful in their pending tax appeals.

And on top of that, house values continue to drop, which could mean an additional loss of \$350,000 in the year to come.

Expected revenue from the GM Poletown plant came in \$1 million short. Instead of receiving \$1.7 million this year, the city is only going to get \$700,000.

Health insurance for em-

ployees has always been a major expense, and costs continue to rise. The city was hit with a 30-percent increase in health costs, which translates to an additional \$700,000 the city has to come up with.

When Gov. Snyder took office, he slashed state revenue sharing to all communities by one third. For Hamtramck, that was a loss of \$600,000, and Cooper said more cuts from the state will include an additional loss of \$200,000.

Cooper said the city has already taken several steps in reducing costs. But he said it's now up to the city's em-

ployee unions to step up.

"City unions have agreed to some concessions, but more needs to be done in ongoing efforts to close the gap between revenues and expenditures," Cooper said.

Payless paydays could be the first step in bringing in a state review of Hamtramck's finances, which could then lead to the appointment of an emergency financial manager.

We asked for reactions from the firefighters' union, but its president declined to comment at this point.

Jon Bondra, vice president of the police officers' union, said payless paydays will be "devastating" for the police department, as well as all city employees.

"Some of the guys go paycheck to paycheck," Bondra said.

Marie Kendzierski, the president of the city hall employees' union, AFSCME Local 666, said:

"What can you do? We've been through this before. We know we'll get our checks. It's

just a matter of time."

Acting Police Chief Max Garbarino said he is concerned what three months of not receiving paychecks will do to his department.

"Morale," he said, "will be in the toilet."

In the meantime, the city council met on Wednesday evening to discuss the city's financial situation. The Review went to press on Wednesday, a day earlier than usual, and cannot yet report on what was said.

Councilmembers Abdul Algazali and Muhammed Hassan also called for a special meeting on Wednesday evening to talk about Cooper's contract and employment.

According to sources, a proposal will be made to fire Cooper. Cooper's contract does not expire for another five months.

Also according to sources, Cooper fired City Attorney James Allen on Tuesday.



By Alan Madeleine

Taken from Hamtramck Police reports for the dates of Thursday, March 1 to Tuesday, March 6.

From Thursday, March 1:

- A man was arrested at his home in the 5100 block of Evaline on a domestic violence charge, following a disturbance there.

- A man was arrested at his home in the 12000 block of St. Aubin on a domestic violence charge, following a disturbance there.

- One of the owners of a restaurant in the 11600 block of Jos. Campau reported the theft of a Glock handgun from the restaurant.

- A man reported that someone broke into a property in the 12000 block of Lumpkin and stole some fixtures. It is unclear from the report whether the man owns the property or not.

- A woman in the 11300 block of Charest reported being assaulted by her brother.

- A man reported that someone had stolen his vehicle (no make/model/color given), while it was parked on Belmont near Gallagher.

From Friday, March 2:

- A man was arrested for possession of narcotics paraphernalia while in front of a grocery store in the 3300 block of Caniff.

- Officers took a "suspicious report" concerning a juvenile residing on Yemans.

- A woman, no address given, came into the station to report that someone had used her social security number fraudulently, in order to file their taxes.

- A man residing in the 3900 block of Oliver reported the theft of his 1997 Dodge (model, color not given).

From Saturday, March 3:

- A juvenile was arrested in the 12000 block of Charest after he attempted to steal a car. The report states that he was eventually turned over to the care of his mother, presumably after having been arraigned.

- Officers took a report of a break-in in the 2600 block of Casmere. No list of items missing (if any) was provided.

- A man was arrested for simple assault following an altercation.

Continued on page 7

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Continued from page 6

tion at Jos. Campau and Yemans.

- A woman reported that her 1998 Jeep Cherokee, license plate number OJMD76, was taken sometime between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. from in front of a home in the 2000 block of Belmont.

- A woman reported that her 1970 Cadillac Catalina (no color given) was taken from the garage it was parked in behind a home in the 3800 block of Caniff, sometime between 2/29 at 3 p.m., and 3/3 at 4:30 p.m. The car was unpled while in storage, but has a VIN ending with 8963.

- A man and his female companion were arrested after the man attempted an unarmed robbery of a party store in the 11600 block of Jos. Campau. The man attempted to get behind the protective glass while yelling "Give me your money!" several times (*Excellent strategy, there, son. - Ed.*) The woman, who did not participate, was nonetheless arrested on an outstanding city warrant.

- Detroit Police recovered a Smith & Wesson 9mm handgun that had previously been reported stolen in Hamtramck.

- Officers responded to a break-in in progress at an address in the 9000 block of Conant and found the front door kicked in, which they secured. A witness reported seeing two black males driving away from the home in a white Nissan Altima.

Sunday, March 4:

- Two men were arrested on charges involving carrying a concealed weapon while in front of a lounge on the 11400 block of Jos. Campau.

- A person living in the 12000 block of Grand Haven reported that someone broke the front window of the home.

- A man was arrested on a domestic violence charge after he assaulted his child's mother at a home in the 2600 block of Trowbridge. The woman sustained facial injuries, and was taken to Henry Ford Hospital.

- Detroit Police recovered a 1998 Plymouth Voyager minivan, license plate BNM6674, at Harper and Lakepointe in Detroit, which had previously been reported stolen in Hamtramck.

- A woman reported that her

2006 Dodge Caravan sometime between 1 and 4 p.m., while it was parked in front of a home in the 3200 block of Belmont.

Monday, March 5:

- A man reported that someone broke a mirror off of his Dodge (model etc. not given) while it was parked in front of a home in the 2600 block of Holmes.

- A black male (no age or further description provided) was transported from Caniff and Jos. Campau to the Detroit Receiving Hospital Crisis Center.

- A woman reported the theft of the catalytic converter from her vehicle. No other information about the vehicle or the exact location was listed (*but it wouldn't be a week in Hamtramck without a catalytic converter theft. - Ed.*)

- Officers responded to a suspicious person report at an address in the 3800 block of Yemans. The rear door at the address was found to be open, but no one appeared to be inside. Officers secured the door as best they could.

- A man came into the station to report that, while at a supermarket in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau back on Friday, someone apparently took his wallet, allegedly containing \$1,000, his PNC Bank card, and his identification.

- A man associated with the New St. John Missionary Baptist Church at 3901 Miller reported that, for the fourth time, someone threw a rock through the same window, sometime today between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Tuesday, March 6:

- A man was arrested on a domestic violence charge after assaulting his girlfriend during an argument (no location provided).

- (*And, in the "Our Personal Favorite Dept."... - Ed.*) A man was arrested at a home in the 9400 block of Charest for being drunk, and demanding to be allowed into a home that was not his own (*"He's a Lonely Bo-o-o-y"...* -Ed.)

That's it for now. Note that, per a memo in the report from Monday, March 5, the Department of Human Services' new number for reporting suspected child abuse of any kind is now (855) 444-3911.

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School Bell

By Charles Sercombe and Alan Madeleine

HHS senior Lopez Davis is proof positive that a little hard work pays off.

Davis won third place in the Detroit Pistons' "Know Your Black History Month" for his research into Fannie Mae Richards, an African-American education pioneer who moved to Detroit in 1857.

Richards is credited with integrating Detroit's public schools.

It's no surprise Davis chose Richards. He, too,

plans to major in education when he goes to Crown College in Minnesota next fall. Asked "Why education?" he said: "I feel kids are being left behind," he said. "It's all about technology. We need to get back to education."

Davis said he spent two weeks doing research on Richards. He ended up competing against four other area students at the Palace where Pistons star Rick Mahorn hosted the event.

For coming in third place, Davis walked away with a check for \$2,500.

Asked what advice he has

for those coming up behind him, Davis said: "Never give up, even through hard times." HHS Counselor Kristen Hurt added: "And he's had some bumps in the road."

Hanley International Academy has added to its list of top students, seeing 33 more inducted into their chapter of the National Junior Honor Society.

This newest bunch join 14 other members currently in the society, which honors academic achievement across the board, while also considering other less tangible qualities, such as leadership, citizenship and community service.

Academically, students must maintain a minimum 3.5 grade point average across the board, while having at least a "B" (3.0) grade point for every class they have taken.

The National Junior Honor Society is the middle school wing of the National Honor Society, and the Hanley Academy got their chapter in 2008, beginning with the originally inducted class of 10 students.

New members are: Wail Al-Gahim, Danisha Ali, Sumayah Alshaibah, Maha Alwaisi, Alexis Brown, Noah Burns, Mercedes Carter, Fatima Cham, Jai-La Culver, Amra Dzanic, Donovan Hall, Kaitlyn Hill, Hamza Ismael, MD Islam K, Gabriel Kaczorowski, Sayak Kapali, Mateusz Kaszowicz and Kimberly Kelly.

Also, Talia Kwasniewski, Kenan Mahmutovic, Latifah Musaid, Isa Nasher, Haren

Ng, Jordan Olko, Taryn Richard, Darrian Sanders, DeShawndra Slaughter, Noelle Slawinski, Jasmina Sulejmani, Alexis Taylor, Lena Tsurkan, Sebastian Urban and Michael Watts.

They join the 14 remaining members, President Patrycja Sobierjska, Vice President Ewa Sztandera, Secretary Manal Alawdi, Treasurer Shahin Shojon, and Historians Krissawn Tolbert and Pronoye Kapali.

Other members are Kennedy Babicz, Michelle Grochowski, Natalia Kaszowicz, Rostyslav Krashovskyy, Natalia Pasienski, Lube Velychko, and Makayla Wetoszke.

Hanley Academy also notes that they are one of the "first schools" (they don't specify whether they mean nationally, or within Michigan) to get a chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society, which (as you might guess) is for honoring elementary school-age children.

Coming events

March 10, Sat. 2 - 4 p.m., Monthly Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross Parish, Pulaski at Fleming. All are welcome.

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.

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