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Quick Hits

- Did you know that, starting on Monday, next week is Earth Week?
- Want to join in the celebration?
- It's easy. Simply do one or more of these "green" things during the week:
- Less is More - Purchase items with less packaging.
 - Go Chemical Free - Adopt a chemical-free lifestyle.
 - Hybrid Light Bulbs - Use hybrid light bulbs in your home and office.
 - Recycling - Start a recycling program at your school, office, or workplace.
 - Eco-Challenges - Convert waste materials into new things that are functional, or beautiful, or both.
 - Green Transportation - Walk, ride or bike. Skip the car!
 - Plant a Tree or Garden - Green your environment with trees, gardens and flowers.
 - Turn off the lights - Turn off all unnecessary lights.

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.

"That could have changed the vote."

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Acting City Manager can now check off employment contract

By Charles Sercombe

It took a few weeks, and some strange twists and turns, but on Tuesday, Acting City Manager Erik Tungate finally got an employment contract.

It was rumored that his contract would once again be held up at Tuesday's city council meeting, but Councilmember Anam Miah dropped his opposition to hiring Tungate and voted in favor of the contract.

It was a 3-2 vote, with Councilmembers Tom Jankowski and Mohammed Hassan also voting in favor.

Miah said that, although he was initially opposed to Tungate's hiring, he was not against awarding him an employment contract.

"You have to move forward," he said.

Those voting against were Councilmembers Cathie Gordon and Robert Zwolak. Councilmember Abdul Algazali, who was a supporter of Tungate,



Erik Tungate

was absent and is apparently out of the country.

Tungate had been working without a contract for three weeks.

Tungate will be paid \$7,500 a month, an amount that Councilmember Hassan told The Review last week was too high, and that he would seek to have reduced.

However, Hassan voted against two proposals to lower Tungate's salary, one to \$5,500 a month and another to \$2,500.

There was some tinkering with Tungate's contract. The council agreed to eliminate five weeks of severance pay if Tungate is fired before June 30, and also the city will not reimburse him for Internet service at his home.

Another alteration that was made to the contract was striking out City Attorney James Allen as his employer.

Tungate's appointment has been anything but easy for this council, which had been evenly divided until this week.

Councilmember Gordon has been vocal in her opposition to the appointment, saying Tungate does not meet the requirements for the job as outlined by the city charter.

Tungate has never held a position of city manager.

He previously worked for

Hamtramck, Detroit and Wayne County in the field of economic development.

His supporters, which include Mayor Karen Majewski, say that, as Acting City Manager, Tungate does not have to meet the city charter requirements for the job.

The controversy around Tungate didn't stop there. It came to light recently that he is facing a felony charge of assaulting an ex-girlfriend while they were at Mackinac Island last September for a wedding.

His trial is scheduled for June 30 in St. Ignace County. If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison or a \$5,000 fine.

It also came to light that Mayor Majewski and Councilmember Jankowski knew of the pending charge before his appointment was considered several weeks ago, something they did not reveal that to the council.

Continued on page 2

Details of murders will come out next Thursday

By Charles Sercombe

Next Thursday is going to be a media circus in city hall.

That's when a preliminary examination will be held for five men facing murder and torture charges in the kidnapping and murder of two Hamtramck women, Abreeya Brown, 18, and Ashley



Abreeya Carol Brown



Ashley Victoria Conaway

Conaway, 22.

The men were arraigned in two groups, one on Saturday and another group on Monday. The Monday arraignment was held in Hamtramck 31st District Court, but the suspects were not actually in court.

Continued on page 6

City Attorney says his bills can't be looked at



By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck taxpayers, want to know what city attorneys are billing you?

Well, forget it.

According to City Attorney James Allen, of the Allen Brothers law firm, the monthly bills he submits to the city outlining what cases and issues he worked on, and how much he and other attorneys in his law firm received in payment, are "privileged" information.

Allen made that claim in his denial to a Freedom of Information Act request made by The

Review to get copies of the monthly billings for January and February.

Allen went on to say, in a statement prepared by Allen but signed by City Clerk Ed Norris, that only the city manager and city council can view the billings.

The Allen/Norris statement said:

"These communications are privileged and protected from disclosure to third parties. In addition, the information in these invoices are communi-

Continued on page 2

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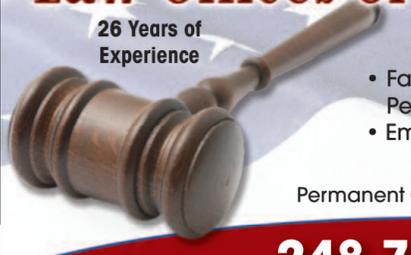
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Acting City Manager can now check off employment contract

Continued from front page

Majewski has said that she believes Tungate will beat the charge, and that he is still the best candidate for the job.

Councilmember Gordon accused her colleagues of holding Tungate to a lower standard compared to what other appointees are required to go through prior to appointment, namely a background check and a physical.

"Are we making special rules for special people?" she said.

In the meantime, the coun-

cil has directed Tungate to post an advertisement for a permanent city manager. That directive was made two weeks ago. At Tuesday's council meeting, Tungate said he had not yet followed through with that directive, saying he is waiting for further guidance from the council.

Hamtramck is facing payless paydays in the coming weeks, unless the city receives advanced payments of state revenue.

City Attorney says his bills can't be looked at

Continued from front page

cated only to high ranking city officials also contain the mental impressions and work product of members of the city's law firm."

Allen/Norris went on to say: "These communications are also privileged and, by statute and common law, not subject to disclosure to third parties. Opening them up to public view, especially in matters involving pending and potential litigation (as well as contemplated commercial transactions) would seriously compromise any attorney's

ability to competently represent the city's interests and effectively communicate about the work that attorney does, much of which is, by necessity, confidential in nature."

Robin Luce-Herman, an attorney with the law firm Butzel Long, which represents the Michigan Press Association, said Allen's interpretation of the law "doesn't make sense."

She added that "it's impossible" to claim that all of the information is exempt from the state's Freedom of Information Act.

"You might have to redact some words, but not all of them," she said.

Councilmember Cathie Gordon, who has been an outspoken critic of Allen, also doesn't agree that Allen can withhold the information from the public.

"That information belongs to the client, and the client is not the council," Gordon said. "It's the city."

Gordon also questioned Allen's motives, saying: "What's he hiding? What's he concerned about?"

At Tuesday city council meeting, Gordon proposed to have Allen's monthly billings made public, but she received support only from Councilmember Robert Zwolak.

Allen argued that if his billings are made public, opposing attorneys in pending or ongoing cases would be able to read what he has been doing, and use that information to their benefit.

The Review has submitted an appeal to the city's denial, and as of Thursday, the day the paper went to print, the city had not responded.



By Alan Madeleine

Crime Log this week is taken from Police Intelligence Reports from between the dates of Thursday, April 5 and Tuesday, April 10. Please enjoy.

From Thursday, April 5:

- Numerous power tools were recovered by police from an address in the 11400 block of Mackay. They were tagged into evidence. There was no further report on whether they had previously been listed as stolen or missing, or whether any arrests were imminent, or why police knew to go to this address.

(Slow crime day!)

From Friday, April 6:

- Officers arrested three Detroit residents after they tried to cash a fraudulent check at a party store in the 12100 block of Conant.

- Officers took a report of a fight at Jos. Campau and Caniff.

- A woman reported her

brother, who had been living in a residence on the 3900 block of Evaline, had died. No signs of foul play, but a handgun was tagged into evidence.

- A man who lives in the 2200 block of Danforth was arrested for public intoxication after he was observed in the middle of the street creating a disturbance, and then refused to follow officers' commands. His blood alcohol content later registered .0219 (see story, page 3).

From Saturday, April 7:

- A man came into the station to report being threatened by several males at the Hamtramck Town Center at Jos. Campau and Holbrook.

- A man was arrested for felony assault following a disturbance at Conant and Hanley.

- A man was arrested for possessing a firearm while under the influence, after officers found him passed out be-

Continued on page 3

This week at the library...

Children's Fantastic Art World Exhibit - Exhibit of works done by students from Lyubov Lysuk's art class at Hanley International Academy will be on display in the library auditorium until the end of April.

ESL Class with Christine Templin - Saturday, April 14 at noon. Intermediate ESL class conducted by Christine Templin, free to the public.

Story Time for Children - Saturday, April 14, at noon. Join your friends at the library for a reading of the book "Stellaluna," by Janell Cannon.

Computer Classes for Beginners - Monday, April 16 at noon. Adults who would like to acquire basic computer skills can enroll in this course, free of charge. At this time the class is full, call to check for openings. Tom Zaworowski is the instructor.

Computer Classes for Advanced Users - Monday, April 16 at 1 p.m. Adults with basic computer skills can enhance their computer literacy. Tom Zaworowski is the instructor.

Make 'n Take Crafts - Tuesday, April 17, at 3:30 p.m. All children are invited for an after-school poetry workshop.

Computer Classes for Beginners - Tuesday, April 17 at noon. Adults who would like to acquire basic computer skills can enroll in this course, free of charge. Two classes are offered on Tuesdays at noon, and at 1 p.m.. At this time the class is full, call to check for openings. Tom Zaworowski is the instructor.

Film Screening "The Interrupters" - Sunday, April 22 at 6 p.m. One Hamtramck and NAACP are sponsoring the showing of the movie "The Interrupters." The film raises awareness about violence interruption and the Youth PROMISE Act. Discussion will follow the movie. Free to the public, everyone is invited.

Toddler Time at the Library - Monday April 23 at 12 noon. Join us for story time, arts & crafts, games and other fun activities. This week's book is "My Garden" by Kevin Henkes (children must be accompanied by an adult).

Math Club Meeting - Tuesday, April 17 at 3:30 p.m. Mr. Nuo is the instructor for the math club, math tutoring and Math Kangaroo competition.

ESL Conversation Class - Tuesday, April 17 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, April 18 at noon. Christine Templin is the instructor for the ESL class for beginners. Everyone is invited. Free to the public.

Teen Club Meeting - Monday, March 19, at 3:30 p.m. Teens and tweens are invited to join us for an arts and crafts workshop celebrating spring.

Computer Classes for Beginners - Thursday, April 19 at noon Adults who would like to acquire basic computer skills can enroll in this course, free of charge. Three classes are offered on Tuesdays at noon, 1 p.m. and at 2 p.m. At this time the class is full, call to check for openings. Tom Zaworowski is the instructor.

Movie Night - Thursday, April 19 at 4 p.m. All children are invited for a movie a Snd popcorn. This week's feature film is "Flipped."

ESL News for You - Friday, April 20 at 3:30 p.m. ESL reading and discussion class with Latisha Edge. Free to the public.

Meeting of the Library Board - Thursday, May 10 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, 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.

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Special Thanks for Donations - Clara Paluszewski, books; David Bark, books.

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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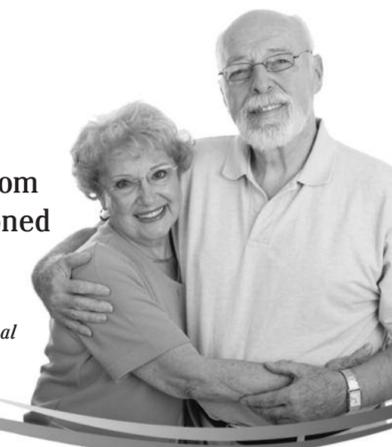
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Second Front Page

Feeling soused? Be sure to stick to the sidewalk

By Alan Madeleine

Perhaps, lately, you've spotted someone – maybe a friend, neighbor, or cherished religious figure – out in the street, minus, for lack of a better term, their mode of transportation; but, undeterred, nevertheless utilizing the roadway as their own personal makeshift sidewalk.

Perhaps you've, whether kindly or no, made an effort to remind them of their oversight, by, for example, shoving your car horn where the sun doesn't etc., or simply by shouting gently that they are an idiot, and/or are likely to soon become roadkill.

Perhaps you've even gotten a good-natured response, oh I don't know, to the effect of 'please go seek pleasure upon yourself,' or 'same to you, pal.' Perhaps these words sounded, well, slurry, or the gestures appeared, ah, uncoordinated.

Perhaps you've even noticed a well-meaning constable assisting these misguided folk into a vehicle, such as one with sirens and flashing lights.

You're not alone. There's been a mini-rash, if two people in separate incidents can amount to a mini-rash – and why not? – of people wandering down the middle of the streets, seeming out of sorts, as though all is not right in their worlds.

Oh, let's just come out and say it: As if they've had one, or seven, or twenty-six, too many, and have now decided that they can soar with the metaphorical eagles.

Police Chief Max Garbarino said it's likely they're drunk, and trying to walk themselves home from the bar.

"They get that 'liquor courage,' and... think they're the king of the world," Garbarino said.

He added that acting like this is a "guaranteed way to get locked up."

Which we find oddly comforting.

So come on, rummies,

juicers and sots: Keep to those sidewalks. You'll recognize them by the other folk you see also walking there. If it's big and shiny and honks like a goose and hits you like a rhino, that's probably a car, and you're probably out in the street.

We hope this helps.



Continued from page 2

hind a location in the 2000 block of Caniff with a .45 caliber handgun in his waistband. He did possess a valid CCW, but his blood alcohol registered at .16, resulting in the charge.

- A man was arrested for retail fraud after he fled an auto parts store in the Town Center with several cans of brake cleaner he hadn't paid for. It was also discovered that he had multiple outstanding warrants.

- A man reported the breaking and entering of a garage in the 3600 block of Caniff sometime between April 5 and noon on this date. Power tools were reported missing.

- A man reported the theft of his purple 1997 Dodge Caravan minivan from in front of a home in the 2900 block of Hanley, sometime between 11 p.m. Friday night and 12:30 p.m. on this date.

- Police responded to two ac-

idents involving pedestrians, one at Caniff and Conant at 2:48 p.m., and another at Dequindre and Circle Drive seven minutes later. Both victims were treated at the respective scenes.

- A woman reported that her daughter was assaulted by another juvenile female while at the Hamtramck Housing playground at about 4:30 p.m.

From Sunday, April 8:

- A woman reported a possible break-in at her former residence in the 9400 block of Charest, where some of her belongings remained. She noticed damage to the door, and possible items missing, and tried to contact the former landlord, but could not.

- An employee of a building restoration company located in the 12000 block of Lumpkin reported that a break-in appeared to have occurred sometime over the weekend, resulting in the theft of some

copper pipe and a shower diverter unit.

- Officers contacted the Michigan Humane Society, who opened an investigation regarding a malnourished and injured dog found in the rear yard of a location in the 12000 block of Mitchell.

- A woman reported that an unknown juvenile injured her cat, while it was outdoors, by throwing a shoe at the animal.

- A man was arrested for domestic violence after he assaulted his wife, then tried to intimidate her into not calling the police about the incident.

From Monday, April 9:

- A man reported that he was assaulted by his roommate while they were both visiting a friend in the 3100 block of Hanley.

- An employee at a business in the 2600 block of Casmere reported that someone pried open a first floor window and stole copper piping, sometime between late afternoon the day before and this morning at 7:30 a.m.

- A woman reported the theft

Continued on page 5

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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

All but Councilmember Abdul Algazali were present at the April 10 city council meeting. The meeting ran for a little over two hours.

Condolences were made in honor of former Councilmember William Hood, who recently died.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, April 12, at the Muslim Center on Davison in Detroit.

Mr. Hood was the city's second African-American ever to hold a position on council.

Councilmember Robert Zwolak thanked firefighters for

their clean-up of Veterans Park and the grandstands. He said that, thanks to the firefighters, there's a "head start" in turning the park around.

From the public, Bill Meyer spoke in regard to the proposed employment contract to hire Erik Tungate as Acting City Manager. He said that, although he "respects" Tungate, he has a "serious concern" about the felony assault charge he faces.

Meyer said he was also disappointed that Mayor Karen Majewski and Councilmember Tom Jankowski knew about the pending charge, before Tun-

gate was first considered for the job, but didn't tell anyone else on council.

"That could have changed the vote," Meyer said.

Meyer also said it's inconsistent for the mayor to have marched in support of ending violence against women, but also support Tungate's appointment.

(Editor's note: Tungate is charged with assaulting his ex-girlfriend while they were on Mackinaw Island last September.)

Meyer also questioned the role of City Attorney James Allen, saying two former city managers fired him, only to have the tables later turned on the city managers in question, who found themselves fired.

In both cases, Allen managed to hang on to his job, Meyer said.

He said it raises the question of who is running the city: is it James Allen?

A discussion was held on whether to apply for an advance on state revenue money that is due to come in at the end of the month. Tungate said the money is needed to cover an upcoming employee payroll.

Tungate said he is still applying for a bank loan, based on property taxes that will be collected in July and August.

The loan will be for \$2 million, which Tungate said will cover all costs until October, at which time the city hopes to get a \$3 million emergency loan from the state.

Councilmember Cathie Gordon received support to limit what the city can spend the

money on, namely just payroll and benefits.

In an ongoing discussion, the council agreed to tackle a proposed employment contract with Tungate.

The council agreed to a few changes in the contract, such as no reimbursement for Internet fees for Tungate's home, no increase in salary if he remains on the job for longer than 90 days, no severance payment if he is fired before June 30, and also to strike out City Attorney James Allen as Tungate's "employer."

The council rejected two proposals, one by Zwolak to decrease Tungate's salary from \$7,500 a month to \$2,500, and then another, by Gordon, to \$5,500 a month.

Gordon also pointed out that although Tungate has been on the job for three weeks, he has not gone through a background check or a physical. He said the city could be taking on a hidden liability if it turns out that Tungate has a serious health issue.

She also pointed out that all employees are required to go through a background check.

"Are we making special rules for special people?" Gordon said.

In the vote to hire Tungate, only Councilmembers Gordon and Zwolak voted in opposition. Councilmembers Tom Jankowski, Anam Miah and Mohammed Hassan voted in favor of hiring him.

In a vote to pay the city's bills and employee payroll, the council refused to move on it. There was no explanation given.

Mayor Majewski questioned whether this could prompt a state intervention. Tungate said there could be penalties, but he did not elaborate.

The council OK'd permanent employment contracts for Acting Police Chief Max Garbarino and Acting Fire Marshal Paul Wilk.

Councilmember Zwolak wanted to increase Garbarino's salary because there are some officers in the department who make more than him.

Councilmember Gordon complained that the council didn't receive copies of the contracts until earlier in the day, which did not give her enough time to review them.

Tungate apologized for submitting the contracts late, but said they were being worked on right up to the last minute.

The council agreed to shift \$31,000 from a state street repair fund to reimburse the Downtown Development Authority for sidewalk repairs it paid for last summer.

The transfer in money, said

DDA Director Darren Grow, will eliminate a \$30,000 debt in the DDA that occurred from a decrease in tax collections.

Councilmember Zwolak asked if this budget balance will allow the DDA to put on the annual Labor Day Festival. Grow said the DDA still needs to raise money to cover expenses.

The council agreed to a proposal by Councilmember Gordon to have council meetings be aired on television, recorded and broadcast twice a week. However, the council refused to allocate \$15,000 to fix the video and audio equipment that records the council meetings.

(Editor's note: The sound has been barely audible in live broadcasts of the meeting for over a year.)

Come back next week for part two of the meeting.

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Review: Opinion Page

Let there be light in our city government

When are public records open for the public to view?

There are a lot of exemptions when it comes to restricting public records, according to the Freedom of Information Act.

And over the years, politicians and their cronies have managed to keep more and more so-called public documents under wraps.

But that doesn't mean all exemptions are unreasonable. Certainly, attorney memos involving ongoing and pending lawsuits filed against a city should remain out of public view, at least until the case is resolved.

And it's reasonable that information involving ongoing or pending contract negotiations fall into that category.

But Hamtramck's City Attorney James Allen is claiming that every single bit of information he includes in his monthly billing breakdown is "privileged" information that the public has

no right to see.

Hogwash.

Mr. Allen has overreached in his denial of our request to see his monthly billings.

We have been told by certain city officials that we should file a Freedom of Information Act request for the information, because they think there has been some questionable billing.

We are not accusing Allen and his firm of wrongdoing, but we are awfully curious as to what taxpayers are being billed for.

The city pays Allen's firm about \$300,000 each year for legal services.

That's a huge chunk of change for a tiny city like Hamtramck.

It begs the question: How does Allen justify that expense?

We think the public has a right to know, and we realize there might be some billings that Allen can't release details of. But we should, at the very least, find out the

date of each bill, how much was spent and who was paid.

Allen can't possibly believe it's legitimate to say that each and every billing is privileged information.

Does Allen really believe that his work will be compromised if we find out he talked with a certain councilmember or official from the state?

We also find it alarming that Allen gets to decide what his firm can or cannot release to the public when it comes to their billings. Isn't that a conflict of interest?

Shouldn't that be the job of someone else to decide – and not have that decision based on a recommendation by Allen?

From what we have heard, there are other media outlets interested in this information. This matter is far from over.

Lastly, what happened to pledges of a transparent government?



Continued on page 2

of her red 1999 Plymouth Voyager minivan from in front of a location in the 2300 block of Casmere between 8:30 a.m. and 9:55 a.m.

At 10:03 a.m., officers responded to the robbery of a bank located inside a grocery store in the Town Center, in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau. FBI ultimately took over the investigation.

A woman reported the theft of her gray 1996 Chevy Lumina from an undisclosed location sometime between 9 p.m. last night

and 9:30 a.m. this morning.

At 11:05 a.m., officers responded to a possible break-in in progress at a residence in the 3200 block of Trowbridge.

Upon arrival, they found two people moving into the property, based on a rental arrangement through a realtor hired by the landowner. The landowner claimed not to be aware of the contract, and issued a trespass warning.

A DPW inspector received a dog bite while in the rear yard of a location in the 3200 block

of Trowbridge.

From Tuesday, April 10:

A man was arrested for operating a vehicle while intoxicated after being involved in a traffic crash on Yemans, west of Jos. Campau. The vehicle was impounded.

A woman reported that her ex-boyfriend assaulted her at McDougall and Evaline, because she refused to give him \$10. She declined medical attention.

At 7:42 p.m., officers responded to a possible break-in at a residence in the 2300 block of Geimer. The house appeared to be abandoned. Officers found the door ajar, but saw no one inside.

Odds & Ends

Calling all artists ... The owner of the former Oaza Bakery is looking for some volunteer artists to touch up a fading mural on part of the front wall of the building.

If you'd like to keep part of Hamtramck's rich history of murals alive, call Bashar Imam at (248) 242-3475.

Coming events

Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition meets every second Thursday of the month (next meeting: May 10), 11 a.m. at The Piast Institute, 11633 Jos. Campau.

WEDNESDAY, April 25, noon – The Daughters of Isabella Rose Circle 736 will hold a spring card & bunco special, featuring door prizes, raffle, table prizes, share-the-wealth and lunch, all for \$7. The event will be at the Queen of Apostles Activities Center, entrance on Harold, fenced-in parking.

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.



By Charles Sercombe

Real Esteals highlights some of Hamtramck's best properties on the market, and most likely ones that you can purchase for a steal. Get them while you can folks because eventually, the real estate market will come back.

There's a quaint bump shop for sale on Carpenter that is loaded with history.

The building has been with one family for 84 years. Just think about that for a second.

Back in 1928, Bob Dowe's grandfather, Joseph Dziatkowski, opened up a collision shop that he called "Joseph's Auto Body & Fender Repair."

Dowe has a ton of stories about the shop, and about his father and his father's brothers working there. Perhaps too many memories, because the more he talks about the shop he admits he starts to have second thoughts about selling it.

"It's mixed emotions," he said.

The building hasn't been used for about 14 years. That's when his uncle closed shop and retired. His uncle passed away a few years ago, and now Dowe is looking to sell.

Inside the building, his uncle left his tools behind, perhaps waiting for the next person to pick up where he left off. His uncle, by the way, renamed the shop "Art Joseph's Collision."

You could pretty much walk

in and start the business right back, up without having to do too much.

"Tools," Dowe said, "outlive people who own them."

Here are some facts about the building, which is located at 2370 Carpenter:

It's 3,000 square feet, with a lot next door.

down the street, Graveyard Records is about to relocate into an old storefront.

This could be one swinging block in town.

"It's just a cool building," said Jason Friedmann, Hamtramck's Director of Community & Economic Development. "You could do



Besides the tools, there is a compressor, frame straightening equipment, vehicle jacks, an acetylene torch, power tools, hand tools, paint spray guns and more. The selling price is \$55,000.

Although it's a collision shop, the mind runs wild with other possible uses. How about an art gallery? Just think of the crazy installations you could have with a car hoist?

Or, my pet project idea: a recording studio. Since Hamtramck is home to a lot of musicians, it makes perfect sense to have a recording studio here for them. And just

anything with it."

And, if there happens to be an environmental issue in converting the building into another use, Friedmann said the city has access to a Brownfield Development grant through the state that could be used to identify the possible problem and then clean it up.

You can't get a better deal than that.

You can get more information about the property by going online to Craig's List: <http://detroit.craigslist.org/wyn/reo/2919492446.html>, or you can call Dowe at (586) 464-3556.



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Details of murders will come out next Thursday

Continued from front page

They were arraigned on camera from a holding cell in Wayne County Jail.

There was no bond for each of the five suspects.

The two lead suspects, who are believed to be involved in both the kidnapping and murder, are Brian Lee, 25, and Brandon Cain, 26.

According to investigators, Cain is at the center of this investigation. It is believed that he became upset when Conaway broke off a relationship with him, and he then allegedly ordered someone to shoot at her and Brown when they drove away from him after being ordered to stay put.

Lee's attorney, Arnold Reed, said after Monday's arraignment that his client

is innocent of the charges.

"My client had nothing to do with this," said Reed.

He said Lee was arrested in the belief he had information about who committed the crimes.

"They are trying to twist his arm behind his back to get information," he said.

"This is all he said-she said," Reed added, although he didn't explain who the "he" and "she" are in question.

A source in the Hamtramck Police Department said that despite the attorney's claims, there is overwhelming evidence in this case.

Investigators refuse to give out more details of the case, but the preliminary examination is like a mini-trial

and much of what allegedly happened will come out then.

The women were kidnapped from their house on Andrus St. on Feb. 28 and then forced into the trunk of the car that Cain and Lee allegedly drove away in.

The women's bodies were found several weeks later in a shallow grave on Detroit's west side.

Both had been shot in the head.

All of the suspects are from Detroit and face life in prison if convicted. Also facing murder charges are: Miguel Rodriguez, 24, Reginald Brown, 24, and Jeremy Brown, 19.

Here in Hamtramck, the case has shocked the community. Adding to that shock was the carjacking and sexual assault of three women, just a few days after the kidnapping, outside of a Hamtramck bar.

gardener's corner...

By Kathleen Wojcinski

You may have received Easter flowers along with your baskets of goodies.

Enjoy them indoors for another month, setting them outside briefly on a sunny day.

This IS Michigan after all!

For those of us who are impatient, however, here's a quick, clever tip to get a head start without any has-

le. When you're finished with your cabbage, lettuce, even celery, keep the core (that thick bottom part of the vegetable). Cut it off and place in a shallow tray or other small container, fill with water just to cover the base, about 1/4 inch.

Keep it at that level, every day. Place in a sunny windowsill, in about a week, roots will form and it will

sprout leaves!

You can then add small stones or gravel to keep the roots wet, but the plant base dry. In May, it will be warm enough to move these plants outside. The tops of carrots, parsnips and other root veggies work the same way.

You may even get a bunny to nibble on your new plants!



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Obituaries

JANUSZKIEWICZ

Thomas M. Januszkiewicz, 62, died on April 6, 2012.

Mr. Januszkiewicz was a millwright at General Motors and American Axle. He was a U.S. Army veteran who served in Vietnam and a graduate of Orchard Lake St. Mary High School.

Mr. Januszkiewicz is survived

by his daughters, Terri (Ken) Turmell and Jill (Basam) Petros; sister, Lori (John) Sweeney; grandchildren, Kayla and Lyla Turmell and Gabriella Petros; nephews, Grant and Kyle Sweeney.

Funeral services were held on April 12, 2012 at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church with arrangements entrusted to Krot Funeral Home.



In Memoriam

Gary (Gilly) Frank Bartell July 19, 1955 – April 2, 2012

Missed by Peggy Bartell and Eric Bartell

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Raising a farm one lot at a time

By Alan Madeleine

Picking up paw-paws; put 'em in a basket.
Picking up paw-paws; put 'em in a basket.

in a basket.

Picking up paw-paws; put 'em in a basket.
Way down yonder in the paw-

paw patch.

From "Paw-Paw Patch," a familiar Cub Scout song. (If you were ever a Cub Scout, maybe. — Ed.)

They're'll be plenty to pick from, if a small coterie of folks has the fortitude to finish the ambitious plan they started up on the southwest side of Hamtramck.

At the intersection of Lumpkin and Wyandotte streets, on the 9100 block of Lumpkin, these bare lots sit, getting ready for a royal floral makeover come this summertime.

Mike Davis, a spokesperson for the project (dubbed "Hamtown Farm"), refers to himself, in a phone interview, as the "Father of the Project," and says that the idea was basically his "brainchild." The impetus for the project was Davis' using the same route from, and back to, home each week — and seeing the same desolate and forlorn little piece of land at that corner.

"I drove past those lots twice a day for eight years," Davis remembers.

He thought initially about doing a little what-he-called "rogue" pumpkin planting, perhaps with a few other friends involved, to at least make some use of all the empty space.

Then, last summer, his friend Julie Swartz brought back some paw-paw fruit after a visit with her father.

"One bite, and I knew what I wanted to do," he says now. The two of them, along with her father Robert and friends Evan Major and Stephen Gach, formulated a more formal plan, armed with which, they would then eventually put out feelers to the city.

They caught the ear of Community & Economic Development Director Jason Friedmann, who liked the idea. Even Mayor Karen Majewski got involved, meeting with the plotters for a dinner that Davis says he "thought would go about an hour — but ended up going on for two-and-a-half or three," with the Mayor making numerous useful suggestions about the project.

Davis seems thrilled that she was so thrilled. Ultimately, they

would obtain a five-year gardening permit for the city-owned property.

The plan they ultimately did devise goes on for 12 well-thought out pages. They seem on target with much of the initial prep work, and are shooting for a ceremonial tree planting day, for the media, of June 9, little less than two months from now.

They plan to focus on the five lots on the north side of Wyandotte Street, for now, and then get to the four lots on the south side in the next phase. They are financing the project themselves — Davis says the

first step was to "gather and stratify the seed stock," which they obtained by shaking seeds out of some of the trees in a Sterling Heights park.

"We had to keep assuring passers-by that what we were doing was legitimate," Davis laughs.

They will have gotten rolling with the bigger landscaping work a couple of weeks ago, assisted by the use of a couple of Bobcat front-end loaders, donated by the Kohl's artist community and Jason Edelston of Sterling Oil. There was much gravel to be moved away, so that the rootstock seedlings of

the trees could be planted. It is onto these roots that the other saplings will eventually be grafted, over the course of a couple of years.

The group has already purchased mature trees, as well, to begin the project while the other roots take. In total, there will be 20 paw-paw trees, as well as 30 hazelnut trees and a few pear and apricot trees.

The group is working with a sponsoring local non-profit, Peoples Community Services, to try to secure some funding grant monies, including from Constellation Energy and the Fruit Planting Foundation.

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