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# The Review

Hamtramck

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## Quick Hits

It's that time of year again – Strawberry Festival season. For the 45th year, St. Florian Parish will host its annual spring fling in the basement of the historic church and a heated tent adjacent to the building this Saturday and Sunday (May 4-5).

As always, starting Saturday at noon you'll find delicious Polish foods including (while they last) City Chicken and Meatball Dinners, stuffed cabbage, kielbasa, potato pancakes, pierogi, nalesniki and more.

Of course, it wouldn't be a Strawberry Fest without the fruit of its namesake, and this year is no different. The Strawberry Bakery will be open for business and will have plenty of pies, tarts, sundaes, pastries, Belgian Waffles and more.

Also on the agenda are attractions like performances by the best Polish dance ensembles around and raffles including pull tabs, an hourly 50/50, a quilter's raffle and a tin can auction. On Saturday there is an all-class reunion and a Firefighter's Parade and Mass at 3:30 p.m.

Beginning at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Mr. "R" will provide entertainment on one stage as The Polish Muslims take the other stage at 6 p.m. Both shows run until 10 p.m. On Sunday, Alex Tone performs from 2 to 9 p.m., and The Dyna Dukes Polka Band is on from 5 to 9 p.m.

If you're not worn out from the Polish Muslims, on Sunday the church will offer tours every hour from 1 to 7 p.m. And during both days there is an estate sale across the street at 2640 Florian (across from the Church) from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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At St. Florian Parish, located just north of Holbrook and a block west of Jos. Campau.

## Hamtramck Public Schools celebrate a healthy tradition

By Ian Perrotta

If you weren't in the city last Saturday (April 27), then you missed one health of a hike.

For the fourth time in as many years the annual Health Hike was held at Keyworth Stadium and throughout the streets of Hamtramck. An estimated 1,000 people participated in the event, which was put on by the Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition (HDFCC) and Hamtramck Public Schools.

The event has grown considerably since it was first put

on in 2010, when it was organized by Kosciuszko Middle School counselor Kristen Hurt with the help of AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers. Hamtramck Public Schools has since partnered with the HDFCC, and the Hike continues to inspire kids to live a healthier lifestyle.

Beginning at 9:30 a.m., the mood was light and the sun was bright. Dozens of different groups of kids played on the turf of Keyworth, tossing footballs, kicking soccer balls

Continued on page 2



Hamtramck Public Schools and the Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition hosted the fourth annual Hamtramck Health Hike on Saturday, April 27. Kristen Hurt (left), a counselor at Hamtramck High School, and Kourie MacKenzie, the Gym/Health teacher at Kosciuszko Middle School, were just two of the over 1,000 people who attended the event.

## Student chefs show off their skills in presentation

By Brian Swift  
Executive Chef

Could the next top chef come from Hamtramck Public Schools?

Judging by the recent Future

Chef event held at the high school, there is indeed a good chance some star culinary experts will be emerging.

Hamtramck hosted the Fu-

Continued on page 4



Fifth grader Rodaina Namer was the winner of the Future Chef contest hosted by Hamtramck Public Schools on March 28.



Jawaria Sarfraz poses with her father before the recent Princess Prom held at Hamtramck High School. Sarfraz was one of the prom's Princesses.

## Hamtramck High School's Princess Prom a huge success

By Harry Katopodis  
Special to the Hamtramck Review

On April 20 many students and volunteers worked extremely hard to get everything

ready for the second annual all-girl Princess Prom.

Ticket sales started out slow and there was some uncertainty whether the dance

Continued on page 4

## 'Blowout' loses much of its wind

By Charles Sercombe

Could this be the beginning of the end of the Hamtramck Blowout?

This year's attendance seemed to be down by half, some said, and there is plenty of blowback coming from bar owners and fans of the music festival.

The reason for the dramatic downturn, many said, was that festival organizer, The Metro Times expanded the event to include Ferndale.

"That's what happens when you split it in two," said Mikel Smith, the owner of Detroit Threads.

Hamtramck's portion of the Blowout happened last weekend and this weekend it's Ferndale's turn.

Smith sold wrist bracelets for the Blowout and said that in past years he would have a line out the door of people waiting to purchase them. This year, he said, there was one 10-minute rush.

"The rest of the evening there were just stragglers," he said.

Metro Times Publisher Chris Sexson told The Review that attendance was indeed way down this year.

"Spreading the bands over two weekends, we expected it to be down," he said.

Sexson denied there is a plan to move the festival out of Hamtramck to Ferndale, which is what some in town believe is in the works, Sexson said the expansion was needed to bring in more revenue. He said turnout in Hamtramck has been trending down in recent years.

"There has to be evolution," he said. "This year we made a bold move. We just want to keep it going."

Cathie Gordon, who owns New Dodge Lounge and is a city councilmember, said she was offended when Sexson told the council the festival was expanding into Ferndale.

"We're hungry, we need this festival. Ferndale doesn't," she said.

Sexson also stirred up some resentment in a quote he gave to the Oakland Press. He told the paper that one reason he included Ferndale is because "... I've found, even among some of the younger music and creative people, that some people don't want to go down

Continued on page 3

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# Hamtramck Public Schools celebrate a healthy tradition Cont. from front page

or just running around. Around 10 a.m. there was a short presentation on healthy living given by members of the Hamtramck High School Student Action Committee.

Following the presentation

were a few words by Hamtramck Public Schools Superintendent Tom Niczay, as well as brief speeches by Hamtramck Mayor Karen Majewski and Health Hike Grand Marshall Dr. Joann Pieronek,

Chair of the HDFCC. Dr. Pieronek was chosen as Grand Marshall to recognize her years of behind-the-scenes service to Hamtramck. Then the hike was on its way.

This year's "hike" portion of the mid-afternoon affair was a 5 kilometer (3 mile) walk around the town. Beginning at Keyworth, hikers walked west down Roosevelt to Jos. Campau, where they headed north to Carpenter. After travelling east to Gallagher the course headed south back toward the stadium.

For anyone questioning the safety of the hikers as they meandered through town, that aspect was more than covered by the event's organizers. A fleet of squad cars from the Hamtramck Police Department and Police Reserves escorted the hike and blocked off oncoming traffic throughout the town.

Once back at Keyworth, the atmosphere was relaxed and celebratory. Thanks to the generous donations of local businesses around town, participants were all fed a healthy snack and given a gift bag that contained information on making easy nutritional choices and healthy recipes to take home. There was also a free raffle that gave away assorted prizes.

Also at Keyworth were members of the Hamtramck Fire Department, who were there to show the kids their trucks and give a lucky few a ride around town. A DJ tent pumping out the latest hits provided entertainment and gave the whole event a casual, party-like feel.

Overall, the 2013 Health Hike was a tremendous success. According to event co-

5k runs. It's really just a big celebration of being active, healthy and drug-free.

penner to Holbrook they might think, 'Oh yeah, that's less than half a Health Hike. I can walk that.'

"We are also blessed with an abundance of fresh produce grocery stores in Hamtramck. The nutritional information and recipes we provided help people take advantage of our great access to fresh, quality food. This year, our number of community members and businesses who donated to the event was more than double that of last year.

"Hamtramck Public Schools and the Recreation Department were major organizers, and very generous donations from Talmer Bank and the Hamtramck Health Center allowed us to accommodate such a big crowd. Another huge thanks goes out to our dozens of volunteers. It was truly an event by Hamtramck for Hamtramck."



Event organizer Phil Leslie (left) chats with students at this year's Health Hike. In addition to taking a walk around the city, participants were also treated to a healthy (and halal) lunch.

organizer Phil Leslie the turnout was the largest yet.

"The weather was great, and beyond the three mile walk and free lunch, many people continued to stay active as pickup games of football and soccer broke out and kids danced to a live DJ. It was a giant neighborhood picnic," he said. "You might expect people to just take a lunch and leave, but we actually had to go around asking people to leave an hour after the event ended. They were just having that much fun."

#### In their own words...

(In our correspondence with Health Hike organizer Phil Leslie, Leslie provided us with a nice summary of the event. Here's what he had to say about the Health Hike, in his own words.)

Phil Leslie on the Hamtramck Health Hike:

"The Health Hike is unique to Hamtramck in a number of ways. First, we always raise funds prior to the event in order to provide it as a free service. You won't find any \$30 registration fee like many

"The Mayor mentioned Hamtramck as a walkable city, and the Health Hike reinforces that. We nearly covered the city from north to south. The next time someone needs to get from Car-

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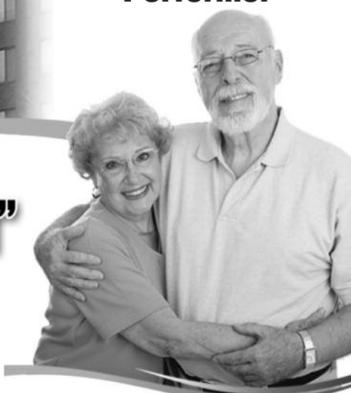


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## This week at the library...

**Library Community Garden** - volunteers who would like to get space in the library community garden, or would just like to help with garden maintenance, please register at the circulation desk.

**Toddler Time at the Library** - Monday, May 6 at 11 a.m. Join us for story time, arts & crafts, and games. This week we will celebrate Mother's Day. (Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

**Math Kangaroo Club** - Tuesday, May 7 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.

**Movie Night** - Tuesday, May 7 at 4 p.m. All children are invited for a movie shown on high-definition screen and a serving of popcorn.

**Financial Activist Club** - Tuesday, May 7 at 5 p.m. Hamtramck residents of all ages are invited to join our financial workshops, designed to expand your knowledge at budgeting and investing. Registration is required.

**ESL Conversation Class** - Tuesday, May 7 at noon. Ms. Latisa conducts English Conversation classes each Tuesday night. Free of charge to Hamtramck residents.

**Computer Class** - Wednesday, May 8 at 11 a.m. This week's class is Microsoft Excel, Part 2: continuation of Microsoft Excel Basic. Registration is required, new students welcome.

**Basic ESL Class** - Thursday, May 9 at 11:30 a.m. Basic ESL class conducted by Ms. Latisa is free to the public (registration required).

**Citizenship and Naturalization Program #5/8** - Thursday, May 9 at 5:30 p.m. This program conducted by the International Institute is free of charge to Hamtramck residents. It provides help with preparation of documents and legal assistance, if necessary.

**Meeting of the Library Board** - Thursday, May 9 at 6 p.m. Regular meeting of the Library Board will be held in the auditorium. Open to the public.

**ESL Class with Latisa** - Friday, May 10 at 3:30 p.m. Intermediate ESL class conducted by Latisa, free to the public.

**Make'n'Take Crafts** - Thursday, May 16, at 4 p.m. All children are invited to our arts and crafts workshop.

**Friends of the Library Meeting** - Thursday, May 16 at 6 p.m. FHPL President Kathy Kristy and Treasurer George Gorday invite all members and volunteers to participate in the regular monthly meeting.

**Special Thanks for Donations:** David Palac, books and magazines; Al-Yemen Al-Saeed Restaurant, \$100; Sarah Mehta, books and magazines; Cynthia Wiloughby, magazines; Zainab Hussain, children's books; Faina Lerman, DVD's.

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

## 'Blowout' loses much of its wind

Continued from front page

there, the same as some people might not want to go into downtown Detroit. It's just outside of their comfort zone."

In response, the owner of Lo and Behold, a used record and book store on Jos. Campau, is holding his own music festival tonight (Friday, May 4) called "How I learned to stop worrying and love Hamtramck."

On the store's Facebook page, the owner said:

"For the performers not accepted to play in Ferndale,

"For people who want to see good bands play for free and need not the hassle of security guard scrutiny over overpriced bracelets,

"For those of us who remember when it was called the Hamtramck Blowout and want it to stay that way,

"For those of us who played over the weekend to a crowd divided cuz half the normal attendance decided not to 'step outside of their comfort

zones' and stay in the suburbs until the following weekend,

"For Hamtramck who needs this little economic stimulus more than Ferndale ever did or ever will

"For those who want to keep this party a party and not an uptight business venture for those north of the border,

"For those of us who feel a responsibility to our community and carry too much love and pride for what little we have no matter how f\*\*\*ed up or weird it might be to people who probably will never understand anyway,

"I encourage Hamtramck to keep this party here regardless if the name's Blowout of town or not, we've hosted it and will continue to do so."

Sexson said that it seems no matter what he says, "It's damned if I do, damned if I don't."

"We're just trying to save the festival," he added.



Attendance may have bottomed out at this year's Metro Times Hamtramck Blowout, but with bands like Raptura (above) and The Vonneguts (below) the entertainment was still top-notch.



## Merger in city hall aims to cut down on long lines

By Charles Sercombe

One thing that caught the attention of Acting City Manager Kyle Tertzag in the last few months on the job are the long lines at the Treasurer's Office in city hall.

"It shouldn't take you 30 minutes to pay taxes," Tertzag said. "That's not acceptable to me."

So, that got him to thinking that it would be more effi-

cient to tear down some walls between the Treasurer's Office and the City Clerk, open another window and cross-train employees to handle the busy times of the year for each office.

"Residents are our customers," Tertzag said. "They expect an efficiently-run service. This is done all over - it's a team concept."

But as you might expect

when change comes, there have been some grumbings in city hall. No one is speaking on record, but on Facebook certain folks have been spilling.

City Councilmembers Robert Zwolak and Cathie Gordon opposed the merger when it came for a vote of approval by the city council.

Zwolak said this is bad time of the year for the Treasurer's Office to take this action, and he questions whether the merger is legal under the city charter.

Gordon questions the benefits.

"How is that going to save us money?" she said. "I don't see any financial incentives."

She also said it's increasing the anxiety for city hall employees who are already facing possible payless paydays and the appointment of an emergency manager who might come in and making sweeping changes.

"You got all this going on and you add to this chaos?" she said. "It's unfair to the city employees."

Tertzag disagreed with Zwolak that the merger violates the city charter because both departments will still exist.

"They're going to be separate offices. They're just

going to be sharing space," he said.

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May 11 Soup Kitchen 2-4 p.m.  
May 12 Mother's Day breakfast 10:15 a.m.  
May 15, May 22, May 29 - May Devotion 7 p.m.  
May 27 - Memorial Day Mass Forest Lawn Cemetery 11 a.m.

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## Student chefs show off their skills in presentation

Continued from front page

ture Chef event on March 28, and to our fortune the event was a big success. I was very excited to have the assistance of the Student Action Committee, and their advisor, Kristen Hurt, who is one of the coun-

HHS Principal Rebecca Westrate, HHS Assistant Principal Jeremy Cartwright, School Board President Titus Walters, Boardmember Hedy Shulgum and John Ulaj from the Hamtramck Review.

I believe this event was a great addition for the Hamtramck Public Schools, and really opened the district up for the students to participate in more school activities.

The winner at this year's event was fifth grader Rodaina Namer, who created The Most Healthy Salad. This salad was made with carrots, tomatoes, fresh peas, diced fresh apples, broccoli florets, cucumbers, seasoned potatoes, mushrooms, shrimp and ranch dressing to top it off.

Rodaina's recipe has been entered into the national competition, and I will keep you posted on the progress of The Most Healthy Salad. Rodaina's recipe will go into the national competition with over 4,000 entries around the country.

Last year's entrée by Jada Lawrence went all the way to the regionals finals. So, let's hope Rodaina will also go far up the ladder of success. I hope she will enjoy all of the gifts presented to her as a Future Chef.

Rodaina Namer is a star in our district, and we wish her more culinary success in the future.



Each year students in Hamtramck Public Schools have the chance to participate in the Future Chef competition. This year students competed to create a healthy, tasty salad.

selors in the high school. I also had assistance from Felecia Starks, another counselor from the high school.

From 17 entries six students were selected, and they came ready to play. The shyness of the contestants faded when the cooking began as Chef Helpers assisted in the preparation.

The finalists welcomed a panel of judges consisting of

While the students were in the kitchen the audience was entertained by the Student Action Committee, professional salsa dancers and a cooking demonstration by Chef Carol from the Henry Ford Health Systems, who also provided samples.

The audience consisted of over 100 students, parents, and faculty.

## Metro news ...

It's said that whatever happens to Detroit, so goes Hamtramck. If you were to rely solely on the local mainstream media, you'd think Detroit is no more than a crime-infested wasteland. Well, we're here to say that isn't so. Our friends over at modelmedia.com and metromode.com have been reporting on fascinating development projects for the past few years.

With their permission, here is an edited version of this week's story:

You can't really begin to appreciate just how much Highland Park is in need of a new fire station until you see the space out of which they're currently operating.

When I contacted Highland Park Fire Chief Derek Hillman about doing a short story on the new headquarters, he insisted that I see it in person. We met at the Highland Park City Hall and Chief Hillman took me on a ride in his cruiser to see the current, previous, and future fire stations.

The fire department is currently located in a "temporary" location in the back corner of a massive industrial park on the outskirts of Highland Park. "How temporary is 'temporary'?" Hillman answered without missing a beat: "Eight years."

The space is basically an open warehouse: cold (literally – it doesn't get above 45 degrees in the winter) and barren. Mobile trailers house its offices and bathrooms, while the firefighters constructed a sort of plywood barracks for themselves. It looks like a shantytown inside a bunker.

"And this is better than the building we moved out of," Hillman said.

And what's wrong with the old building? That's where we're headed next.

For a city of only 12,000 people, Highland Park has 150 fires per year. For a single fire, the department brings only six or seven men – the City of Detroit brings three times that. Some of the men make only \$10 an hour. Chief Hillman knew the working conditions were abysmal, so when a FEMA grant became available for fire departments in the U.S., as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, he applied.

CHMP Architects in Grand Blanc donated time and expertise to draft an architectural design for the grant application. Out of 1,200 applicants nationwide, Highland Park received \$2.6 million in federal grant money for a new station – one of

only five departments in Michigan to receive anything.

The new building, more than halfway complete, is 14,000 square feet and is located directly across from the old fire station. As we pulled up, Chief Hillman pointed at a two-story structure in which the upper floor has totally collapsed and the back wall fallen off. "That's the old fire station."

While the old Highland Park police station, built in 1917, was torn down to make way for this new fire station, the old fire station – a building so structurally damaged from neglect and exposure preservation likely isn't feasible – will continue to stand, a hulking shell, until the city can reach an agreement with the State of Michigan Historic Preservation Office to tear it down.

The new facility is like a dream for the men who've been working out of a shoddily slapped-together "temporary" location for nearly the last decade. They'll have proper offices and sleeping facilities, even a full gym for the men to work out. It stands in stark contrast to the sagging building it faces, a dramatic juxtaposition that mirrors the current state of the city itself – the new colliding with the old; better things rising from the ashes.

Writer: Nicole Rupersburg

## Hamtramck High's 2013 Princess Prom a huge success

Continued from front page

would draw a respectable crowd. The organizers were hoping for 100 girls, which would equal last year's attendance. As the prom grew closer the organizers felt that they would reach their goal of 100 girls.

The prom exceeded their expectations, as 200 girls showed up.

"Disco lights, loud music, all the girls dolled up as well as the teachers, plus yummy Middle Eastern food equaled an EPIC Night! It couldn't be any better, can't wait for next year's prom and hope this carries on as a tradition in the coming years!" said Jawaria Sarfraz, one of the prom Princesses.

Girls who wanted to ob-

serve the Muslim tradition forbidding boys and girls to date were able to do so and still have fun at a prom.

The girls let their hair down and had fun dancing and enjoying each other's company. Without boys present, girls who normally wear their head covering (Hijab) were able to take them off. There was lots of food, music, dancing and fun.

The overwhelming sentiment was that this tradition should continue and judging by the success of the first two proms, the tradition will not only continue, it will also grow.

The dance was chaperoned by female teachers who helped with the preparations and the ticket collection and sales at the door.

"I hope this year's prom will inspire our girls next year to continue the Princess Prom," said Farjana Begum, one of this year's prom coordinators.

The following girls were elected to the prom court:

Queen: Noha Alshauweyh  
Princesses: Monika Tipuric, Jawaria Sarfraz, Aysa Begum, and Soha Alshauweyh

(Harry Katopodis is a teacher at Hamtramck High School and a freelance journalist.)



By Ian Perrotta

This week's Crime Log covers Wednesday, April 24 through Wednesday, May 1.

**Wednesday, April 24**

- At 11:22 p.m. officers investigated an open door at a residence in the 1200 block of Nagel. The residence was checked and secured.

**Thursday, April 25**

- At 12:24 a.m. a person was arrested for possession with intent to distribute following a traffic stop at Jos. Campau and Caniff.
- At 12:18 p.m. a man reported that another man threat-

ened to blow up a school in the 8700 block of Jos. Campau because he did not get a job offer.

- At 2:06 p.m. a female passenger was arrested for a Hamtramck warrant after a traffic stop at Caniff and Dequindre.

- At 4:26 p.m. Child Protective Services faxed over a complaint regarding a child abuse case that occurred in the 3200 block of Lehman.

- At 5:19 p.m. a Hamtramck resident reported that someone opened an account in his name.

- At 6:44 p.m. a male juvenile was assaulted in the

12000 block of Selfridge by two other male juveniles. Both suspects fled the scene.

- At 11:20 p.m. a person was placed under arrest for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated following an accident at Lumpkin and Poland.

**Friday, April 26**

- At 2:52 a.m. a resident in the 3000 block of Holbrook reported the break-in of his residence. Forced entry was made through a rear door.

- At 3:34 a.m. a resident in the 3100 block of Lehman reported the theft of his white 2007 Dodge Charger from in front of his residence.

- At 11 a.m. a man reported that his cell phone was stolen

Continued on page 7

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# Review: Opinion Page

## Splitting 'Hamtramck Blowout' may work for Ferndale, but not Hamtramck

Now that the annual Metro Times Hamtramck Blowout has come and gone, it's time to take stock.

Bar and hall owners say that this year's Blowout was a fizzle, with about half the number of people attending, compared to previous years. They lay blame for this directly on the Metro Times for expanding the festival for another week in Ferndale.

Splitting the festival with Hamtramck hosting the event one week and Ferndale the next appears to have diluted Hamtramck's attendance.

Having said that, The Metro Times has every right to do what it wants with this private festival.

We take interest because this event is a huge promo-

tion for the city, and we welcome the thousands of visitors who stop by here. The Blowout is also a much needed economic shot in the arm for some of our bars, which count on this event and the Labor Day Festival to make it through the year.

The Metro Times has enjoyed a lot of goodwill from the city, so, yes, the community at large has a right to be concerned.

It doesn't help that MT Publisher Chris Sexson was quoted in the Oakland Press about his reason to expand the music festival into Ferndale, saying there are some who don't want to venture down here because it's "out of their comfort zone."

That quote has generated a lot of criticism.

Sexson told Hamtramck City Councilmembers that the reason for the expansion is that the magazine needs to tap into new revenue streams.

Considering the above quote, we have to wonder if the plan really is to leave Hamtramck behind.

The Metro Times can do what it wants, but we think Hamtramck offers a unique spice to the festival that cannot be duplicated in the suburbs — even "Funky Ferndale."

What we take from all this is that bar owners, city leaders, the Metro Times and music lovers need to discuss the future of this festival. This year has shown that splitting the festival in half is not working for Hamtramck.

## Odds & Ends

**Busy day ...** Congressman Gary Peters, whose district includes Hamtramck, was just about everywhere on Wednesday.

After announcing his run for the Senate seat now held by Carl Levin, who announced he was retiring after this term at The Review's annual Christmas party, Peters stopped by the Hamtramck Fire Station.

Peters' staff helped the firefighters get the federal SAFER grant that will pay for the salaries of a dozen or so firefighters for two years.

He got an up-close look at the department's new ladder truck, which arrived just about a year ago.

After his brief visit in Hamtramck, it was off to Flint. To say the least, Peters is going to have a long year of campaigning ahead of him.

Locally, Peters received the endorsement of the Bangladeshi American Democratic Caucus (MI-BADC).

In a press release, MI-BADC President Dr. Nazmul Hassan (Shahin) said:

"Gary is a great friend of the Michigan Bangladeshi American Community and the Michigan Bangladeshi American Democratic Caucus (MI-BADC). He represents the most diverse districts (MI-14) across Michigan knowing the needs for all communities like ours.

"He is a real fighter and a strong advocate for the middle class families in Michigan.



**Congressman Gary Peters (center) visited with Hamtramck Firefighters on Wednesday (May 1). Congressman Peters' staff helped the department obtain a federal SAFER grant that will pay for the salaries of about a dozen firefighters for two years.**

There are no stronger leaders in the Michigan Democratic Party to take on the Republican Party candidate in the 2014 US Senate race than Gary to keep the

Democratic. If elected, Gary will join Senator Stabenow in the US Senate to continue his fight for the Michiganders."

## School Bell

By Ian Perrotta

The Hamtramck Public Schools Board met on Thursday, April 18. All members were present except President Titus Walters.

On the agenda for the evening was the usual lineup of a consent agenda, action items, audience participation and discussions. The meeting ran for about two hours.

First up was the announcement of a few resignations. After 32 years in the district, Dickinson East second grade teacher Susan Sarti retired with a heavy heart, effective at the end of the year.

"It really seems like just yesterday I started," she wrote in her resignation letter. "I have truly been blessed to have a long career with Hamtramck Public Schools."

Also after 32 years of service to the district, Head of Security Joseph A. Myrick, Jr. also submitted his resignation letter. Among his many achievements, Myrick was the first African-American Recreation Site Supervisor.

"I will always be a strong supporter of the Hamtramck Public School District," he wrote in his resignation letter. "I wholeheartedly thank all who have supported me for my many years working for the district."

The third person to announce their retirement was Title I Math Specialist Joanne M. DeSmet, who served the district for 14 years.

Up next for the Board was the approval of the consent agenda. In addition to approving the three retirements and the minutes from any special meetings held since the last Board meeting, the Board also approved a payment to the Detroit Cab Company for the transportation of Special Education students.

During the consent agenda a number of new hires were also made. A total of 10 vacancies were filled, mostly for seasonal recreation employment and coaching positions for the fall sports seasons.

After the consent agenda was unanimously approved, a presentation on the recent Michigan Recreation and

Parks Association Conference was given by Recreation Coordinator David Lesmeister.

The takeaway? "We need to get more feedback from residents when it comes to the programs we offer," he said.

Among the action items needing approval, resolutions to pay contractor invoices, approve out-of-state travel, approve tree planting in Pulaski Park, approve the district's entry into the Michigan Metro Athletic Conference, and send an official condolence to the family of the late Joan Borushko (a longtime Boardmember) were all on the table.

Additionally, resolutions to approve the summer school session, enter into a lease agreement with Konica Minolta for printing, approve of the purchase of new computer equipment, and reconfigure the district's setup (by transferring a section of second grade to Early Childhood Elementary if warranted by demand) were also up for consideration. All action

Continued on page 7

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## Kindergarten & Preschool Fair!!

Wed., May 8th

4:30 to 6:00 PM

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## Kindergarten enrollment starting up next week in public schools

By Ian Perrotta

Just as school is about to end, it's time for parents to start thinking about next year. Fortunately, Hamtramck Public Schools (HPS) has got you covered.

This coming Wednesday (May 8) HPS will host a Kindergarten Round-up and Preschool Fair at the Hamtramck Community Center. The event runs from 4:30 to 6 p.m. and is open to parents of young children interested in enrolling their children in the HPS system.

At the event kids will have the opportunity to meet the teachers and enjoy games, activities and refreshments. During that time parents can learn more about the education their child will receive.

Parents interested in registering their child will need a few items. In addition to their child's original birth certificate, up-to-date immunization records, proof of address and proof of income (for preschool only) will also be needed. Parents will also need identification.

## Kindergarten age of enrollment changes – sort of

By Terrence George

For as long as most of us can remember, Michigan children that turned 5-years-old by Dec. 1 were allowed and expected to enter kindergarten.

In most other states, children must reach 5 years of age by Sept. 1 in order to be eligible for kindergarten. Over the next three years, Michigan's kindergarten age will move – in stages – to the more common Sept. 1 cutoff date.

According to the new law, in order to enter kindergarten this coming school year, children must reach the age of 5 on or before Nov. 1, 2013.

In other words, they can have a birth date no later than Nov. 1, 2008. For the 2014 school year, children must be 5-years-old by Oct. 1, and they must be 5-years-old by Sept. 1 to enter kindergarten in 2015.

However, parents of children born in November of 2008 have an option to enroll their children in kindergarten this year in spite of the new cutoff dates. Parents may complete a request to waive the new age cutoff and enroll their children born after Nov. 1, but before Dec. 1, 2013.

Here's the catch: that waiver must be completed by

June 1. After June 1, Hamtramck parents will have to adhere to the new cutoff date and children turning 5 in November of 2013 will start kindergarten in 2014.

In the future, parents will continue to have the right to request the waiver so that

their children can start kindergarten even if they turn 5 in September, October or November. To do so, however, they must meet the June 1 deadline.

Terrence George is the Director of Pupil Services for Hamtramck Public Schools.

### Coming events

**Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition** meets every second Thursday of the month (next meeting: May 9), 11 a.m. at The Piast Institute, 11633 Jos. Campau.

**WEDNESDAY, May 8, 11 a.m.** – The Daughters of Isabella Mystical Rose Circle 736 will meet at Queen of Apostle's Activity Center, entrance on Harold St., fenced-in parking.

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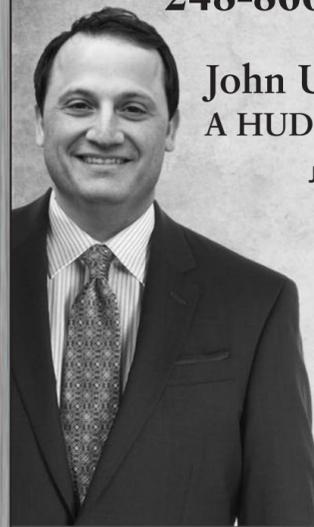
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3273 Hanley, 2 br, 2 dining rooms, kitchen, bathroom & pantry, stove & carpet, 313-575-7411. 5/3

## HOUSE FOR RENT

Hamtramck, Jacob St., large kitchen, living room, new carpet, very clean, senior citizen or couple preferred, \$550/ month + security deposit, 313-580-3771, 313-871-0189. 5/17

2 br. lower flat, 9470 Charest, Hamtramck, no pets – cats ok, nice and clean, large kitchen, 586-747-3400. 5/3

3214 Holbrook, by Joseph Campau, 2 br., stove, fridge, upper apt., 2 living rooms, 586-604-0552. 5/17

Single house, 2 br., living rm., kitchen, very nice condition, full finished basement and attic. Call Palo, 248-659-2278.

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## Continued from page 5

by force by a black male with a street name of "Man Man," approximately 17-years-old, wearing a white baseball cap.

• At 11:28 a.m. a victim reported a break-in at her residence in the 11700 block of Mitchell.

• At noon a resident of Hamtramck reported a man impersonated an officer and demanded money from the victim to cancel a warrant that did not exist. The victim paid the suspect \$3,610.

• At 12:18 p.m. a man reported the lug nuts were stolen from the wheels from his Dodge minivan while it was parked in front of his residence in the 2400 block of Danforth.

• At 12:43 p.m. a female was arrested for domestic violence at her residence in the 2600 block of Trowbridge after she assaulted her ex-boyfriend, with who she has a child in common.

• At 3:41 p.m. a man reported that his deceased father's gun was stolen from his residence in the 2400 block of Danforth.

• At 11:10 p.m. three people were arrested for disorderly conduct following a disturbance in the 11000 block of Lumpkin. **Saturday, April 27**

• At 2:16 a.m. two people were placed under arrest for disorderly conduct in the 11000 block of Jos. Campau.

• At 2:58 a.m. a person was placed under arrest for possessing a replica firearm following a traffic stop at Jos. Campau and Casmere.

• At 6:56 a.m. a Trowbridge resident walked into the station and reported his 2007 Jeep was stolen while it was parked in front of his residence between midnight and 5 a.m.

• A hit-and-run occurred at Conant and Carpenter.

• At 3:07 p.m. a woman reported being robbed of her purse in the 2600 block of

Caniff. The suspect was a black male, approximately 17-years-old, with a large build, approximately 6' tall, wearing a black Nike hoodie with a white Nike swoosh logo.

• At 4:05 p.m. a man was arrested for driving without a license, possession of narcotic paraphernalia and having a stolen license plate after a traffic stop was conducted at southbound I-75 and Caniff. The man also had three warrants.

• At 9:35 p.m. a person was placed under arrest for possessing an open intoxicant and a possession of narcotic paraphernalia after the same was investigated at Jos. Campau and Holbrook.

## Sunday, April 28

• At 5:03 a.m. a female was arrested at southbound I-75 at Clay for possession of narcotic paraphernalia after a traffic stop.

• At 10:55 a.m. a man reported that an unknown person took his 1988 Toyota Corolla, plate: 11623 McDougall between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. on today's date.

• A female was reported missing from 11330 Conant after family members were unable locate her for almost two days.

• A Danforth resident was petitioned into the Detroit Receiving Hospital Crises Center at 6:43 p.m.

• At 11:30 p.m. an intoxicated female was arrested at PNA hall on a Hamtramck warrant.

## Monday, April 29

• At 12:05 a.m. a man was arrested in a Detroit stolen vehicle at Conant and Caely.

• A juvenile reported receiving threats from an ex-boyfriend.

• A juvenile was assaulted by juveniles at Caniff and Charest at 3 p.m.

• A Detroit resident was placed under arrest for two 31st District warrants and driving with a suspended license during a traffic stop at Conant and Caniff at 4:03 p.m.

• An officer took a break-in report in the 3200 block of Poland. A resident was away from 4/21 until this date and found his basement window pushed open and several electronic devices stolen.

• At 11:47 p.m. a man was placed under arrest during a traffic stop at Caniff and Buf-

falo for two Macomb County warrants.

## Tuesday, April 30

• At 12:15 a.m. a woman reported that someone damaged her vehicle while it was parked in a parking lot in the 9700 block of Conant.

• At 2:33 a.m. a man was placed under arrest during a traffic stop at Jos. Campau and Goodson for driving with a suspended license.

• An agent of a business in the 9100 block of Jos. Campau reported the theft of his iPhone from behind the front counter at approximately 11 a.m.

• Two males were placed under arrest after officers observed them stealing aluminum siding off a house in the 2300 block of Faber at 2:50 p.m.

• Three juveniles were placed under arrest after officers observed them fighting at Trowbridge and Jos. Campau at 3:15 p.m.

• The owner of a house in the 12000 block of McDougall reported that someone changed the locks between 4/20 and this date.

• A man was placed under arrest at the station on a 31st District warrant.

• A juvenile reported that while in a store in the 3200 block of Caniff another juvenile known to him grabbed a ten dollar bill from his hand and fled the store at 8:46 p.m.

## Wednesday, May 1

• At 1:07 a.m. a man was placed under arrest during a traffic stop at Fleming and Carpenter for driving without a license and possessing an open intoxicant.

• At 2:24 a.m. a man was placed under arrest in the 2400 block of Neibel for trespassing after he was caught inside an abandoned home.

• At 5:23 a.m. a woman was placed under arrest during a traffic stop at Edwin and Alpena for driving without a license and an outstanding 31st District warrant.

• At 3:35 a man reported his adult son missing from their residence in Hamtramck for approximately five days.

• At 4:45 p.m. family members reported through a translator that their mother was malnourished and was in fear for her well-being. Officers went to her Hamtramck location and she was transported to Detroit Receiving Hospital.

• At 8 p.m. a landlord reported his tenants stole furniture after being evicted off his property in the 9600 block of Dequindre.

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## Continued from page 5

items were approved.

During the audience participation portion of the meeting, a parent expressed concern that the district did not have official department heads for each subject. Her concern was that teachers need more resources to help better educate their students.

"Students have access to a lot of programs, but teachers need support, too," she said.

One of the most in-depth discussions of the night was held when teacher union representatives brought up the case of a teacher who was laid off from the district a few years back. The teacher was laid off due to budget cuts, but has since been approved

for rehire.

The problem the union has is that the teacher was let go at a higher pay grade than he was recalled at, which they say was a breach of contract. A third party arbitrator was brought in to settle the dispute, and that arbitrator sided with the union.

However, the district has challenged that decision. The district argues that the arbitrator based his decision on a law that is no longer on the books and because of that the decision should be nullified. Meanwhile, the union argues that the arbitration was binding and should stand.

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**New Corvette Stingray a hit at Detroit Auto Show**



Much to the delight of auto enthusiasts everywhere, Chevrolet re-introduced the Corvette Stingray at the 2012 North American International Auto Show.

**By John Kovach**  
**Special to The Review**  
By far, the hit of the 2013 North American International Auto Show was the all new seventh generation 2014 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray. Chevrolet is reintroducing the "Stingray" name after its departure in the 1970s. The new Corvette is so new that it only shares two parts with the previous model. The styling is mind blowing.

It has a new fastback roofline combined with large fender side vents. The familiar wheel bulges have also returned. A convertible model will follow for all the wind-in-the-hair fans. This car is stunning from all angles. All the show visitors wanted to have their photos taken with it. Of course, this is an indicator that the all new Corvette Stingray will be a success.

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<b>BBQ PIZZA:</b>			
Chicken, Bacon, Onions, and House BBQ Sauce	\$7.00	\$10.00	\$12.00
Thin Crust	\$8.00	\$11.00	\$13.00
Square Deep Dish	\$8.00	\$11.00	\$13.00
<b>PHILLY STEAK PIZZA:</b>			
Philly Steak, Green Peppers, Onions	\$9.00	\$12.00	\$14.00
Thin Crust	\$9.00	\$12.00	\$14.00
Square Deep Dish	\$9.00	\$12.00	\$14.00
<b>NAGA PIZZAS:</b>			
Chicken, Red Onions, Cilantro, Made with Naga Sauce	\$7.00	\$11.00	\$13.00
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