Hammtramck's Newspaper of Record —

Renovate It ... but will they come?

By Ian Perretta

Some change happened at last Tuesday (July 13) night’s meeting — everyone agreed on something.

At least, that seemed to be the sentiment after an informational presentation was given by baseball author and historian Gary Gillette concerning the grandstands at Stadium Park.

What everyone appeared to agree upon was the fact that there should be something done to restore the grandstands. It’s working order and preserve a piece of Hamtramck’s history that has long been forgotten.

During Gillette’s convincing address to the council, he highlighted many important reasons for rehabilitating the grandstands — the most significant being the fact that it is one of only five remaining Negro League home ball parks in the United States. Moreover, because of the fact that only one other park is in a similar condition and the other three will probably be torn down, it will likely be one of only two remaining parks in the near future.

Gillette says that as one of the few Negro League ball parks still standing, the stadium would undoubtedly bring a number of tourism enthusiasts into the city, something that would bring additional revenue for the city. He also said that preserving the stadium would create national media interest, propelling Hammtramck into the national spotlight.

“I guarantee that if you preserve this stadium it will be a national story,” he said.

In addition to the extra business brought into town through baseball tourism, Gillette said that restoring the stadium would also create other benefits as well. Citing the growing movie industry in the state of Michigan, he said that it would be highly probable that the city could rent out the site for period pieces, as is the case of historic Rickwood Field in Alabama, which is currently used as a set in movies.

Furthermore, Gillette added that a restored grandstand could provide a venue for outdoor concerts and other events. This could potentially bring in even more additional revenue for businesses and people who come into the city for a concert would likely hang around for the rest of the night.

At the conclusion of his speech, Gillette was thanked by Councilmembers Cathy Gor- don, Katrina Stackowski and Kazi Movahid. Gordon applauded him for his effort and said she felt that the grandstands were a child. “If we make this happen I would be a very happy lady,” she said.

Mayor Karen Majewski agreed with Gordon, saying that she thought preserving the grandstands made sense given the intersection between the city’s decision to move forward on a historical museum and an overall growing trend in cultural tourism. She said that she would do everything she could to see the project through, and that with the possibility of the available funds through tax credits and other programs which were mentioned by Gillette in his speech, preserving the stadium could be a fairly feasible task.

“I think this is a fantastic and incredible opportunity for us as a city,” she said. “Honestly I don’t think we’ll have a lot of problems getting this through.”

A week later, things were beginning to move forward. Mayor Majewski opened a special committee to work on the project, which met for the first time on Thursday (July 22). The committee discussed the process of registering for historical designation as well as how to prove the site is in fact as his...

By Alan Madelone

Who they are:

Kathleen Bittner and Rachel Renee Srodek.

“Very excited,” said one of the two.

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Hamtramck strikes back at Detroit

By Charles Sercombe

It’s a pretty amazing sum of money at stake: Approximately $230,000 a month.

“Henry Ford’s dead, and we’re in the same boat,” Cooper said with a laugh. “In 10 months we’ll have money back.” Cooper said he had come up with the idea in retaliation to Detroit holding back $3 million in tax revenue from the GM Poletown plant that he said is owed to Hamtramck.

“If we could make that happen I would be a very happy lady,” said Cooper.

“Actually, I couldn’t let it not happen!”

The long trial, though, is no laughing matter. Cooper said without the tax payments the city may break by next January and could face bankruptcy if its receiving status were in question.

Continued on page 2
This week at the library...

**Computer Class for ESL Beginners** - Monday, July 26 at 10 a.m. Christy Telep is the instructor for the ESL class for beginners. Free to the public.

**ESL Summer Reading for Adults** - Monday, July 26 at 3 p.m. Reading program will start with a fun magic show followed by arts and crafts, making fish out of clay work and reading journal entries. Bing's administration is waiting for an audit to be completed to see if Hamtramck was overpaid in recent years. In the past, Hamtramck has received almost $2 million a year in tax revenue from the Pontotek plant. Unfortunately for Hamtramck, the City of Detroit first collects the money and then pays Hamtramck. A small portion of the plant straddles Hamtramck. As for the whopping monthly amount of money owed to Detroit, Cooper said that’s why suburbs have decribed an accounting for how much Detroit charges for water and sewer service.

**Movie Wednesday** - Thursday, August 12 at 6 p.m. Regular meeting of the Library Trustees will be held in the auditorium. Open to the public.

**Friends of the Library Meeting** - Thursday, August 19 at 6 p.m. Regular monthly meeting and election meeting of the FHPL Hamtramck Emergency Task Force - Registration for training to become part of the Hamtramck Emergency Task Force may be done at the library. Training classes will be conducted by Mike Margaritis. For more information call the library at (313) 365-7050.

**Author, Wim Szwajkowski** - Saturday, September 25 at 2 p.m. Szwajkowski will present his new book, “Po Sladach Historii,” which is about her experiences in Eastern Europe, Lithuania, Ukraine and Latvia. For more information please call the library at (313) 365-7050.

**Continued from front page**

Hamtramck Review

Friday, July 23, 2010

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Phone: (313) 874-2100

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Teen Boys with robbery

The woman noticed that the car’s license plate was dangling and tore off before the teens drove away. The woman approached police officers who were nearby responding to an unrelated incident. Police were able to track down the address of the car’s owner, which was Zabed. But before police approached the house later in the day, Zabed turned himself in when he realized his license plate was missing. The other two suspects were later arrested after detectives interviewed Zabed. Zabed is free on bond. Samad and Milah are being held in jail until they can post 10 percent of their $100,000 bond. The three suspects have a preliminary examination on July 22 in Hamtramck 31st District Court.

The city has already been forced to lay off employees, require the remaining employees to take pay cuts and not fill several vacant positions in the police and fire departments. Hamtramck’s action begs the question of whether any one in Detroit will actually notice the withholding of payments. Cooper said at one time the city was 18 months behind in payments and it took several months before Detroit began to inquire. He said Detroit can’t turn off water and sewer service because it is against the law. A representative from the office of Detroit Mayor David Bing did not return a call to The Review for comment. Cooper and city council members have already approached the Detroit City Council and discussed the issue with Bing’s administration. Bing’s administration is waiting for an audit to be completed to see if Hamtramck was overpaid in recent years. In the past, Hamtramck has received almost $2 million a year in tax revenue from the Pontotek plant. Unfortunately for Hamtramck, the City of Detroit first collects the money and then pays Hamtramck. A small portion of the plant straddles Hamtramck. As for the whopping monthly amount of money owed to Detroit, Cooper said that’s why suburbs have decribed an accounting for how much Detroit charges for water and sewer service.

**This week at the library...**

**Monday, July 26 at 3 p.m.** Summer Reading Program will start with a fun magic show followed by arts and crafts, making fish out of clay work and reading journal entries.

**Monday, July 26 at 6:30 p.m.** Presentation of the city’s proposed Master Plan.

**Magic Show** - Wednesday, August 4 at 1 p.m. The Summer Reading Program will start with a fun magic show followed by arts and crafts, making fish out of clay work and reading journal entries.

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

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Youth theater spreads the word on preventing domestic violence

By Omar Thabet

Special to The Review

There’s an interesting and exciting new program to stop family domestic abuse.

It’s aimed at the Bangladeshi-American community and uses a youth theater group to promote peer education. Youth between 15 and 19 will be meeting in the coming week to talk about domestic violence and perform in skits with a goal to create happenings a week to talk about domestic violence and perform in skits with a goal to create happenings.

The venue for this program will be at the Masjid Al-Falah auditorium. The program began on July 22 and will run until Aug. 8. Here are the dates and times when the program will take place:

- July 25 (Sunday) - 2 to 6 p.m.
- July 29 (Thursday) - 1 to 5 p.m.
- Aug. 1 (Sunday) - 2 to 6 p.m.
- Aug. 5 (Thursday) - 1 to 5 p.m.
- Aug. 8 (Sunday) - 2 to 6 p.m.

By Charles Sercombe

A Hamtramck Police officer’s check on three suspicious-looking men resulted in a life-threatening moment.

Last Friday (July 18), an officer was patrolling near the city parking lot behind the former Shoppers World building in an attempt to check out three men sitting in a car.

By the time the officer could pull into the lot, the three men left the car and walked away. While the officer checked out who owned the car, which turned out to be stolen, the suspects returned and attempted to drive away.

The officer, who the Police Department declined to identify pending an internal investigation, approached the car and the three men attempted to check out three men after the officer had already dealt with a domestic violence situation.

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Mondays – Punk Fit-ness followed by DJ Spinny; $1 PBR all night; No Cover to drink; Wednesdays – Rock and Roll Karaoke with the Millionaire. Over 80,000 songs to choose from! No cover. 313-872-8196. Campau (313) 871-9966 Free WIFI.

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Motor City Sports Bar: Great burgers and beer – $1 domestic beer every Tuesday, draft beer $1 every day, $2 well mixed drinks everyday, best char-grilled burgers, hands-down put us to the test, karaoke every Thursday, 9:00 Jos. Campau (313) 875-4710.


Shadow Bar: Thursdays: doors open at 10 p.m., Ladies free to 10:30 pm 21 and over only. Fri. 9:30 W&B with DJ Fingers; Business Man dress Code in affect; Friday: Back Door Jam. Doors open at 8:00 pm. Free Cover before 9pm, 21 and OVER welcome. Dress to Impress, Cover after 9 is $5.

Jeans: As they say, characters are welcomed. 12002 Jos. Campau; (313) 892-9689.

Skipper’s Hamtown: Hamtramck’s newest neighborhood “almost dive” bar. Skipper’s offers a wide selection of bottled beer as well as six non-alcoholic beverages. Stop by for a good drink and a great time, drink specials Monday: $1 Cans; $2 Jameson shots; Tuesday: $1.50 all Bud and Miller bottles; Wednesday: 50 cents off Motor City, Bell’s, and Founders; Thursday: 50 cents off wine by the glass. Merlot, Cabernet, Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio: Open to 2 a.m. Monday-Saturday; 9:30 Conant at Evaline.

Suzy’s Bar: Chat with owner Suzy – one of the best local bar owners. 2942 Evaline; (313) 872-9016; Free WIFI.

Turtle & Inky’s Place: Small and cozy 2656 Carpenter; (313) 365-9863.
Our choice for State Representative

On Aug. 3, voters will be heading to the polls to fill several county and state offices. Since Hamtramck’s district is heavily Democratic, the candidates who win the Aug. 3 Primary Election are guaranteed to win in November’s General Election.

The state Representative position is wide open. Rep. Bert Johnson has decided to forgo an easy reelection and has opted instead to seek the state Senate seat that Martha Scott is being termed out of. Six Hamtramck candidates are among 15 candidates seeking the state Representative seat. From our perspective, the best candidate out of this very crowded field is Hamtramck City Councilmember Shahab Ahmed. Ahmed is Hamtramck’s first Bangladeshi-American to be elected to office. He has served in Hamtramck’s City Council for seven years and has represented the city well. He has also worked with the U.S. Justice Department on voter rights issues and immigrant assimilation issues.

Ahmed has been in city government through tough times and good times. He brings a wealth of experience and contacts to the job. On Aug. 3, vote for SHAHAB AHMED for state Representative.

(next week, our endorsements for state Senator and Wayne County Commissioner)

City officials may have opened a bigger can of worms

You have to hand it to city officials for having the courage to stand up to Detroit. Last week, the City Council withheld payment to Detroit for water and sewer service. It’s a bit of a tit for tat situation since Detroit is withholding a $3 million payment that Hamtramck insists is owed.

The dispute is about a tax revenue sharing plan the two cities have regarding the GM Piletown plant. Detroit says it has overpaid Hamtramck, while Hamtramck says that is not true. In the meantime, city officials have been forced to lay off city employees because the non-payment has crippled our budget. One clever way to fight back while Detroit pon- ders the situation was to stop monthly payments on water and sewer service. It’s no small sum either. Hamtramck pays out $230,000 a month for the service.

That cost is staggering. It also makes one wonder how Detroit can possibly justify charging a little city like Hamtramck so much money. Other communities have challenged De- troit to make public how water and sewer rates are determined, but Detroit has refused.

It seems to us Hamtramck needs to join this challenge and force De- troy to come clean about how it runs its water de- partment.

Letters • Letters

Kudos to Royal Kabob for a great meal

I recently had a lady’s shingy. First off it was fabulous. We had plump and juicy main salmon, beef and chicken kabobs, which were marinated, prepared and wonderfully grilled at the “Royal Kabob” restaur- ant by Chef Abu Sinan. Everyone raved about the quality of meat, how sea- soned it was, all the beau- tiful vegetables and the rice. The bread was fresh and the garlic spread was addictive. The manager, Mr. Abu, was ever so helpful in ar- ranging time slots to dis- cuss matters and the en- tire staff, I bow my head down to you. Thank You! I highly rec- ommend their catering services or just dine in for fresh food.

Momona V. Settipani
Hamtramck

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www.hamtramckreview.com • email news@thehamtramckreview.com
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The Amazing CYNICALMAN by Matt Fazzelli
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Momona V. Settipani
Hamtramck
Gardener’s Corner

By Kathleen Wojcinski

Yard art can be repre- sented so many ways, from funk y wind chimes and colorful banners to painted birdhouses. For a personal touch, you can decorate planters and birdhouses with strong glue pained birdhouses. Yard art can be conven- tional, like a mosaic bird bath and a weather vane or unconventional, like found objects. Antique metal bed head rails, wheelbarrows, bath- tubs, even an old wringer washing machine have been spotted with flowers. Planters can be made of anything, even old boots. Line with plastic and ei- ther the fill bottom with gravel or old broken clay pot- tery for drainage, or drill holes. Mix peat with potting soil and plants. Stopping stone tiles can be a fun proj- ect for all ages. “Michael’s Crafts” stores have a large selection to choose from. Use your imagination and have fun.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF HAMTRAMCK

Notice is hereby given that the Plan Commission will hold a Public Hearing on:

Wednesday, August 11, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.
in Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 3401 Evaline.

The purpose of the hearing is to read and discuss the details of a proposed Med- ical Marijuana Ordinance for the City of Hamtramck and to receive any public comment on such a proposed ordinance.

A copy of the proposed Medical Marijuana Ordinance is available in the Clerk’s office for review.

The public is invited to attend and comment on the proposal during the Public Hearing or to make written comments on or before 4:00 p.m., August 10, 2010. Written comments should be made to the attention of the Community & Economic Development Director, 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, MI 48212.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF HAMTRAMCK

Notice is hereby given that the City Council will hold a Public Hearing on:

Tuesday, August 10, 2010
7:00 p.m.
in City Council Chambers,
2nd Floor, City Hall, 3401 Evaline.

Pursuant to Federal guidelines, the City of Hamtramck is announcing its ob- jectives and possible uses for development projects using Federal Commu- nity Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

The City’s allocation for 2010 is approximately $394,000.01

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Funding</th>
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<tr>
<td>Repayment of Jos. Campau Section 108 Loan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repayment of Grand Haven/Dyar Section 108 Loan</td>
<td>$ 90,184.29</td>
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<td>Countywide Housing Rehabilitation</td>
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<td>Code Enforcement</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
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<td>Downtown Façade Improvement</td>
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<td>Business Start-Up Grant</td>
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<td>Business Start-Up Workshops/Training</td>
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Last chance to comment on city’s new Master Plan

By Ian Perretta

If enough people throw in their two cents, the city will see a lot of change. On Wednesday (July 28), at 6:30 p.m., the final meeting of the city’s Master Plan revision process will be held at the Hamtramck Public Library. It will be the last chance for res- idents to give their input or everything from streets and parks/open spaces to commercial and economic develop- ment.

At the meeting, the team in charge of the revision process will provide a summary of their preliminary recommendations for the Master Plan. The team, which includes Interface Studi- o, Sam Schwartz Engine- ring, and Anderson Economic Develop- ment, has been working on the project since last September.

The summary – called a “Draft of Preliminary Findings” – will outline a range of ideas that can be implemented in the short term (while respecting the city’s current financial status).
perhaps you had some con-
nections to the entertain-
ment world that helped you
start setting up the music
lineup, for example? If so,
how did you come by these
connections? Right. And then
how did you wangle your way
into the world of band book-
ings, managers and so forth?
Kathleen: No. We had no
connections whatsoever.
Once we decided on the
theme of “Homegrown Ham-
tramck,” we went online to
see who the famous Ham-
tramckers were.
Rachel: On the City’s web-
site…
Kathleen: … there was Rudy
Tomjanovich, former NBA
player and coach, but who
really made sense was
Mitch Ryder. So we dug
around and found out who
his booking agent was.
And he agreed to come and play.
Rachel: We called some other
known better acts too, and
they all talked to us, but
they wanted more money than
we could afford to pay.

Is, so the music lineup set
now? Kathleen: Yes, it is.

Okay. Do you foresee keep-
ing the general plan for the
festival similar to other past
festivals, or have you con-
siously tried to, if not dis-
tance it, then at least make it
different, from what’s come
before? If so, in what way?
What will we see that will be
new? If the answer is that
you decided NOT to change,
than why not? Tradi-
onality, simplicity.
Kathleen: A lot will stay tra-
ditional, for example it will be
the same line-up, we have the
same company providing
the rides that has been doing
for years. One change we
fo-
cus on was to try and make
the look of it more inviting.
Rachel: We’re trying to add
more greenery, more seating.
And we definitely wanted a
dance area in front of both
stages.
Kathleen: We went around
to other festivals and hand-
picked some vendors to be
part of it as well. So the booths
will be, in some cases, more
organic and handmade.
Rachel: Except for the glow
necklace one. (Laughs)
Kathleen: But in general…

It certainly isn’t cheap to
put on a festival. How is it
financed? Is there money
left out of pocket? Do you have
spon-
sors?
Kathleen: For we’ve only
put on a festival. How is it
financed? We definitely do have sponsors, American Axe is a major one. Frankly, I can’t give you any advice, or other-"wise give you any ideas as
we’ve needed. Also, Darren
this year’s festival up, or have
organized the Labor Day Fes-
tival fell to Eve Doster as the
person, easy to work with.
Kathleen: We knew her very
well. She’s totally self-suf-

Last chance for public to comment on
city’s new Master Plan
Continued from page 6
as well as an optimistic vision for
the future to help our city change
and prioritize efforts to improve
Hamtramck over the next 20 years.
After the presentation, the
floor will be opened up for
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Hamtramck’s movers and shakers...
Continued from front page
brother is Rachel’s hu-
band’s brother. At the
Festival fell to Eve Doster
we were Coordinator. Did
you ever get to meet him?
She offer any advice, or
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Once a law enforcer, this candidate now wants to become a lawmaker

By Ian Perretta

What do you get when you cross a retired Detroit police officer and former elementary school teacher with a current State Representative? State Senate candidate Bettie C. Scott.

This week, Rep. Scott was in town to meet and greet her potential constituents and spread the word of her candidacy. And though she served two successful terms as State Representative, this time around she’s got her sights set a little higher – State Senator.

Rep. Scott – who is not related to current State Senator Martha Scott – has been socially and politically active for much of her life, in addition to serving as a precinct delegate and helping to create Detroit’s Adopt-A-Cop program for at-risk youth, she also founded the Calumet Townhouses Community Board and served as the president of the 3 Mile Block Club.

“When you go into a community and you’re not politically active, you don’t know what your community needs and what some of the crucial issues are,” says Rep. Scott. “If you’re not politically active you don’t know what your community needs and what some of the crucial issues are.”

The crucial issues of Hamtramck’s past and present are something that Rep. Scott is definitely familiar with. During the call to prayer debate a few years back, she assisted the city’s Muslim residents with the issue by holding crime prevention seminars and diversity training.

And she says that Hamtramck’s current financial dispute with Detroit is something that concerns her.

Before throwing her hat in the political ring, Rep. Scott served as a Detroit police officer for 17 years, ultimately becoming eligible for the rank of lieutenant before retiring as a sergeant. She also graduated from Wayne State University with a combined degree in education and sociology and worked as a teacher for six years – first as a substitute and then full-time.

For her campaign for State Senator, Rep. Scott says she has three main issues. Her campaign is simple: HealthChoice premiums are low. You pay one-third of the cost of basic services, up to $67 paid by HealthChoice (depending on hourly income).

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The Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition 
meets the second Thursday of every month from 11 a.m.-noon at 
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Once a law enforcer, this candidate who wants to become a lawmaker*

*Continued from page 8

first objective is to strengthen the public’s trust in the police and foster a better relationship between the two groups. Second, she would like to work with DFTP to make it more consumer friendly. Finally, she wants to see the Driver’s Responsibility Act get repealed, as she believes the law is unfair and is counterproductive.

“No one can sit at a desk and think you should have to do the things they are asking of you if you commit a crime,” she says, “but I don’t think you should have to do double time for a law we put on the books.”

Beyond those three objectives, however, Rep. Scott says her ultimate goal is to improve the lives of her constituents. She says that unlike the other candidates in the race, she has never had a position or job handed to her, and that any job she has gotten was because she was qualified, educated, and worked for it. Ultimately, she says she’d do whatever it takes to make things better. “I will go across the aisle for the greater good of the people,” she said.