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Hamtramck

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## HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD

# Kids team up for Junior Olympics

By Charles Sercombe

Kids in the summer recreation program capped another summer of fun with a Junior Olympics on Wednesday.

Dozens of kids squared off in a series of athletic events at Keyworth Stadium. Although temperatures hovered around 90 degrees, the kids seemed to hold up fine.

After the competition, a lunch followed along with a lot of smiles.



Kids in the summer recreation program compete during the annual Junior Olympics held on Wednesday.

## Proposed law will restrict pot growing

By Ian Perrotta

Now that medical marijuana is legal in the state and Hamtramck, the city wants to regulate it.



With the passage of the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act (MMMA) in November of 2008, the state made it legal for individuals to operate as designated caregivers for marijuana patients. Under the legislation, which went into effect in April of 2009, care-

Continued on page 6

## Polish Day Parade gets OK, with some usual flak

By Charles Sercombe

You'd think that after 20-some years of city officials and the Polish Day Parade Committee doing this dance, the routine would get tired.

But politics and parades seem to go hand-in-hand.

This year's yes or no vote on whether to allow the Polish Day Parade to take place on Labor Day danced once again to that familiar beat. On one side you have one or two city officials in a huff about having the city cover the cost of police and DPW overtime for the parade.

On the other side, there's the parade committee saying no pay, no parade.

The cost in question is about \$1,100. City Councilmember Cathie Gordon in-

Continued on page 2

## Quick Hits

Don't forget, tonight (July 30) is the Hamtramck premier of the locally made documentary, "Home Suite: Coming to Hamtramck."

Hamtramck resident Bill Meyer did several interviews with immigrants who made Hamtramck their new home. He and his ensemble will also perform during the film. It's being shown at the Gates of Columbus Hall, starting at 7 p.m. It's free to Hamtramck residents with ID. Otherwise, there is a \$10 admission.

Also this weekend, Art in the Park will take place on Saturday (July 31) at Zusan Park, located in front of City Hall. There will be plenty of art to look at and purchase as well as activities for the entire family. Stop on by.

## This week in history

• Maybe back in 1962 times were a lot more flush. That's when voters approved allowing the city to charge an income tax. Yay! New Taxes! Well, you don't hear that anymore, eh?

• In 1986, seniors started moving in to the brand new Senior Plaza apartment building. Room with a view, anyone?

Source: Hamtramck Historical Commission

# Recreation spends \$52,000 on new restrooms but good luck using them

By Charles Sercombe

Let's say you are at Keyworth Stadium, practicing soccer or running some laps. Or, maybe you're at the basketball court a short way over from the stadium. Or, maybe you and some buddies want to play some baseball at Playfair Field nearby.

And during your visit you find you have to go - really go - to the bathroom. First place you'd likely head to are the new restrooms recently installed next to the baseball field.

You better be able to hold on though because chances are the new restrooms will be locked.

And if you didn't know it already, the only other place to relieve yourself would be at two bathrooms located on the side of the administration office in the same complex where the stadium is located.

Problem is, however, if you don't already know about those bathrooms you would be in a jam because there is no signage for the bath-

Continued on page 10



It cost taxpayers over \$52,000 for a two-unit restroom to be installed at Playfair Field. The restrooms, however, seem to be rarely unlocked for public use.

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## Party on then hit the road (the day after)

By Ian Perrotta

What could be better than having fun and helping out a good cause? On a Saturday evening or a Sunday afternoon in Hamtramck, the answer is nothing.

The fun to be had involves the upcoming Festival Fundraiser and Hamtramck Road Rally, and the help for a good cause goes towards the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival. For anyone who doesn't know, the festival was in danger of being canceled until a group of residents stepped forward and volunteered to put it on.

Of course, putting on a festival is no small feat, and it also requires a lot of money. In order to help pay for the festival, organizers have devised a few ways to raise some cash. Both are happening this coming weekend.

Next Saturday (Aug. 7) from 7 p.m. to midnight there will be a Polynesian-themed fundraiser featuring a special performance by Danny D at The Hamtramck Review office, located at 3020 Caniff. Tickets for the event are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door and all proceeds go toward the festival. The cost of entry includes a buffet of food from Royal Kebab and PLAV Post 10 as well as everyone's favorite thing – an open bar.

On the following Sunday (Aug. 8), the festival committee will bring back an old Hamtramck tradition with the revival of the Road Rally. The event is a city-wide scavenger hunt in which participants get a bag of clues and hunt for them with a camera. After finding what a clue means (an example might show a picture of Mickey Mouse, with the an-

swer being Hamtramck Disneyland), teams will snap a photo of the hint's answer, and the team with the most correct answers at the end of the rally will win a prize basket full of goods from and certificates to Hamtramck businesses.

The event will cost \$15 per person or \$50 for a team of four and the sign up deadline is Aug. 4. Registration forms are available at the Polish Art Center, located at 9539 Jos. Campau. The rally starts at 3 p.m. at the Queen of Apostles Activity Center parking lot and runs until 5 p.m., at which time there will be an after party.

"It's a really great way to get to find out about the city and get to know your neighbors," says Kathleen Bittner, a festival organizer. "Everyone should do it."

## Polish Day Parade gets OK, with some usual flak

sisted during Tuesday's Council meeting that the parade committee ought to cough up the money since Hamtramck is a "struggling city."

Hamtramck is indeed struggling financially with a projected \$3.3 million deficit this year. The city was forced to

lay off several employees, including the special events coordinator who organized the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival last year.

The festival, which is being organized by volunteers this year, coincides with the parade.

Continued from front page

Parade Committee Chairman John Chmura, who is a district judge in Warren, said the committee does not have the money to handle overtime costs, plus he said it's the responsibility of the city.

"It's what Hamtramck should do to promote the city," he said.

Chmura also pointed out that since most of Jos. Campau is closed for the festival, there is little extra cost for the parade.

City Manager Bill Cooper pointed out during Tuesday's City Council meeting that in years past when the city demanded payment for its overtime costs the parade committee has countered by saying it will take the parade to another community.

When asked about that, Chmura said the committee hasn't seriously talked about moving – or threatening to – in awhile, but conceded that in "theory" that could happen.

"Nobody wants to do that," he said. "We want to be in Hamtramck."

In the vote to approve the parade, Councilmember Mohammed Hassan also objected. He said he knows a donor who will cover the expense.

The festival is not just an outlet for Polish pride. The parade annually attracts local, state and national politicians – including the City Council. Neither Gordon nor Hassan could be reached to find out if they plan to sit out participating in the parade this year.

## Speed trap law hits roadblocks in state legislature

By Ian Perrotta

Unfortunately for drivers, it looks like the effort to mandate cities to conduct traffic studies to set speed limits has slowed down.

A few months ago, The Review reported that State Representatives Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge) and Rep. Bettie Cook Scott (D-Detroit) were working on an amendment to Public Act 85, a law passed in 2006 that spelled out two methods for

determining the proper speed limit of a road. Because many cities had not yet complied with the state's guidelines four years later, Jones and Scott sought to pass House Bill 6165, which would require cities to set speed limits using one of the two methods.

The first method utilizes traffic and engineering studies to analyze roadways in order to take into consideration the amount of drivers and the aver-

age speed of their vehicles. After this analysis is completed – during clear driving conditions and not during peak travel periods like rush hour – a speed limit based on the 85th percentile of free-flowing traffic can be established. The 85th percentile is the speed at which 85 percent of drivers are traveling during the study.

The second method of set-

Continued on page 7

## This week at the library...

**Computer Class for ESL Beginners** - Friday, July 30 at 10 a.m. ESL students will start with one hour hands-on experience on computers followed by 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. instruction with Christine Templin.

**ESL Class for Beginners** - Monday, Aug. 2 at 10 a.m. Christine Templin is the instructor for the ESL class for beginners. Free to the public.

**ESL Summer Reading for Adults** - Tuesday, Aug. 3 at 3 p.m. Reading program for adults sponsored by the ALA, prepared and conducted by staff members to accommodate various levels of reading skills. Free to the public.

**Math Club Meeting** - Tuesday, Aug. 3 at 4 p.m. Mr. Nuo is the new instructor for the math club and math tutoring.

**Mad Science Show** - Wednesday, Aug. 4 at 1 p.m. The Summer Reading Program will start with an entertaining science projects followed by arts and crafts, paper frame making workshop and reading journal entrees.

**Movie Wednesday** - Wednesday, Aug. 4 at 3:30 p.m. Every Wednesday is movie day at the library. Come and enjoy our feature presentation, including popcorn and snacks.

**Jeopardy at the Library** - Thursday Aug. 5 at 4 p.m. Sign up and participate in Jeopardy games held on Thursdays at the library. Compete against friends, win prizes and have fun developing your knowledge skills.

**Star Lab** - Wednesday, Aug. 5 28 at 1 p.m. The Summer Reading Program will start with an entertaining presentation about the stars followed by arts and crafts, making fish out of clay workshop and reading journal entrees.

**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 of sea life creatures out of recycled materials and reading of journal entrees.

**Rock'n'roll Beach Party** - Wednesday, Aug. 11 at 1 p.m. The Summer Reading Program will start with Rock'n'roll Party for all children, followed by arts and crafts, sea story workshop.

**Meeting of the Library Board** - Thursday, August 12 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, August 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 and election meeting of the FHPL.

**Evening with Author** - Thursday, Aug. 26 at 7 p.m. Greg Kowalski, Chairman of the Historical Commission, will present his new book "Wicked Hamtramck; Lust, Liquor and Lead." Refreshments will be served. Everyone is invited.

**Hamtramck Emergency Task Force** - Registration for training to become part of the Hamtramck Emergency Task Force continues at the library. Training classes will be conducted by Ms. Margalski. For more information please call the library at (313) 365-7050.

**Author, Miroslawa Wojszwillo** - Saturday, September 25 at 2 p.m. The author presents her new book, "Po Sladach Historii," which is about her experiences in Eastern Europe, Lithuania, Soviet Union and USA. Everyone is invited.

**Special Thanks for Donations:** Ralph Rinaldi, Yasmin Hogue, Thomas Schemanski, Maria Barrios, Norm Anderson, Jared Choudhury, Juanetta Wimberly and Rahiel Housey-Johnson.

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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I D G E 1D	هيئة تدريس تتميز بمؤهلات و كفاءات عالية

# Second Front Page

## Local teachers take up retirement buyout

By Charles Sercombe

Some 20 teachers and other public school employees took advantage of a state buyout to retire.

Their retirement will initially cost the district \$440,000, but School Superintendent Tom Niczay said the district will end up saving a considerable amount of money in the years to come.

Just how much that will be hasn't yet been calculated. But the average salary of the teachers and administrators retiring is \$70,000, Niczay said. Niczay said the savings comes from hiring young teachers, who start out with a salary of \$38,000, which is a saving of \$32,000 per position.

The cost-saving move was initiated by the state to help districts – many of which are running deficits – to save money. Hamtramck's public school district has a \$2.8 million deficit.

The district has a five-year plan to balance its budget. Niczay said the retirements will help reduce the deficit in the long run.

Included in those retiring are popular Kosciuszko Middle School band director James DeNardis and long-time teacher/principal Michael Zygmuntowicz.

There are other cost-saving proposals being considered by the state legislature. One is to force public school teachers to pool together and

receive the same health insurance plan. That action, which is opposed by the state teachers' union, would save millions of dollars.

In other school-related news, Republican Congressmembers defeated a proposal by the Obama

administration to provide millions of dollars in financial support to school districts.

Asked what he would tell Congress about that defeat, Niczay said: "Spend money on schools not Afghanistan."

## One more time: our new e-mail

By Charles Sercombe

We tried.

Tried to give you our brand new e-mail address and, you guessed it, we got it WRONG! Egad.

Someone fire the bum.

Oops, that would be me.

Anyway, we're going to try one more time, yes sir. You ready? Here it is, The Review's new e-mail:

news@thehamtramckreview.com

OK, now with that piece of business out of the way, here's a reminder that our website (hamtramckreview.com) was recently overhauled and hot-rodged up by our friend Terry Murphy. It now has a whole lot more stories to read, and there are also new videos by our contributor Terry Parris, Jr.

Terry has a few more vids coming soon, so be on the lookout.

(You can contact Charles Sercombe at email at cs@thehamtramckreview.com.

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# Out on the Town

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**Capo Lounge:** No Cover Charge. Tuesdays – Karaoke, Thursdays are Thirsty Thursdays Ladies Night live DJ; Dress to Impress. Fridays and Saturdays – Live DJs. Sunday is SEXY SUNDAY live DJ 11625 Jos. Campau (313) 365-CAPO (2276).

**Motor City Sports Bar:** Great burgers and beer – \$1 domestic beers every Tuesday, draft beer \$1 every day, \$2 well mixed drinks every day, best char-grilled burgers, hands-down put us to the test, karaoke every Thursday, 9122 Jos. Campau (313) 875-4710.

**Painted Lady:** Mondays – \$1 beer night w/ Todd.

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**Shadow Bar:** Thursdays: doors open at 10 p.m., Ladies free till 10:30 pm 21 and over only. FM 98 WJLB 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 \$10!! Valet parking available; Live broadcast on Mix 92.3 from 7pm- Midnight. Saturday: Ladies free till 10:30 pm; Wear what ever you want. Hot 102.7 Live Broadcast with BIG GREG and DJ Chandler. Valet Parking available;

**Small's:** Sundays - Nurse your weekend hangover with Dave and Melody, \$1 off everything. Acoustic performances on select nights. Mondays - Karaoke with Squid and Jared! Tuesday - Trivia Night! Game starts at 9 p.m. with tons of great prizes and cheap drinks; 10339 Conant, (313) 873-1117. Free WIFI.

**7 Brothers Bar:** Hamtramck's hippest hangout

for actors, 11831 Jos. Campau; (313) 365-6576.

**Atlas Bar:** One of the last neighborhood bars, come shoot pool. \$1 domestic beer specials until 7 p.m. and \$1 Black Label & Schlitz until 8 p.m., 2363 Yemans.

**Carbon Lounge:** 11474 Joseph Campau.

**Celina's Sports Bar:** Lots of TV's, sports and hot women, 11667 Jos. Campau; (313) 365-4194.

**Head Coach:** A Hamtramck tradition; 12001 Conant; (313) 366-6317.

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**Jeans:** As they say, characters are welcomed.

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**Skipper's Hamtown:** 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; 9735 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.

## 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 a round-up of their reports from the past week:*

### Wayne State gears up development

A lot of business lessons were taught at the latest E2 Challenge this summer, lessons organizers hope will lead to a more vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem based in both the new economy and the city of Detroit.

"We hope to create a viable entrepreneurial community and getting students interested in running their own businesses," says Eric Stief, program coordinator for E2 Challenge. "We want to create an entrepreneurial buzz on campus."

The Wayne State University event features six students running four start-ups in a competition geared toward making them ready to create revenues and attract outside investment. The winners receive financial support and a summer-long mentoring program to develop their business ideas.

One of the winners was Life-Code Health, which is co-founded by Melissa Hui and Steve Markovitch. The duo is creating a smart-phone application that will allow its users to track chronic diseases, such as cardiovascular disease. The application will track vital signs and profiles in a variety of zones, ranging from dense urban neighborhoods to remote rural areas. The idea, which is a two-time finalist at Microsoft's national Imagine Cup competition, is to create a virtual clinical environment anywhere in the world.

This is the second year of the competition, which is funded by Michigan Initiative for Innovation & Entrepreneurship and Wayne State University. It is held in TechTown.

Writer: Jon Zemke

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# Proposed law will restrict pot growing

Continued from front page

givers can provide medical marijuana for up to five patients – as well as themselves if they are a registered cardholder – allowing for a potential total of 72 plants per household.

However, around the middle of June, City Councilmember Tom Jankowski circulated an e-mail that contained a draft of a proposed zoning ordinance which would limit the amount of patients a caregiver could have in a residential area to one. Caregivers wishing to provide for more than one patient would be required to set up shop in a commercial zone.

When asked about the origin of the ordinance, which was written with the aid of city attorney Harry Kalogerakos, Jankowski said that because he recognizes that medical marijuana is a fast-growing industry, he wants to stay a step ahead of the growers and distributors and keep the production of medical marijuana out of the city's residential areas. He says that the growing of marijuana in a residential area could potentially lead to a higher incidence of break-ins, as well as a possibility of an odor coming from the plants.

"My reasoning is that if you have to choose between spending \$700 to \$1,000 for a commercial space or \$250 to rent a house, you're going to choose a house," he says. "We're probably one of the first cities to apply a zoning ordinance to keep it out of neighborhoods."

The regulation would come through a zoning ordinance because growing marijuana in the city is not covered in existing zoning laws. According to Community and Economic Development Director Jason Friedmann, only things that are specifically outlined in the zoning laws are permitted by the city. Echoing Jankowski's sentiments on the business potential of the industry, he says the ordinance will hopefully make Hamtramck attractive to potential growers by letting them know it is acceptable and safe in Hamtramck.

"We know [medical marijuana] is coming and we want to get on the front end and allow for new businesses to come to the city," Friedmann

said. "But we also know that challenges will come with it. There are lots of positives and negatives to it."

Along with restricting the areas marijuana would be grown, the ordinance would also require a safety inspection to check the electrical wiring as well as preventative measures to be taken to reduce excess odors. While Councilmember Catrina Stackpoole agrees with the safety inspection and odor prevention provisions, after seeing the draft she had concerns about limiting the amount of plants that can be grown in a residential area, saying that it could prevent some people from having the opportunity to engage in the business.

"It seems that the ordinance might be restricting to individuals," she said. "If they have the necessary square footage and have jumped through all the hoops of an electrical inspection and odor control, why should we restrict people having businesses in their homes as long as they're doing things properly? Especially in the current economic climate."

Stackpoole's concern goes beyond economic reasons. A few years ago, when marijuana use was still illegal, her own brother was stricken with an illness and could have greatly benefitted from the medicinal properties of the plant. But because it was illegal he turned to alcohol, which hastened the affects of his disease and ultimately shortened his life. Stackpoole says she doesn't want to see a similar situation happen to others if it could be prevented with adequate access to the proper medication. However, she still recognizes the need to look out for the safety of Hamtramck's residents.

"I certainly think we need to have a discussion about it," she said. "It's important that we look at both the issues of public safety involved, in terms of crime and the potential of fire hazards, but we also need to make medicine available to patients."

Fortunately for Stackpoole and the rest of the city, there will be a discussion on the ordinance. Because the regula-

tions will be facilitated through a change to the zoning law, a public meeting must first be held to give the city's residents a chance to voice their opinions. The meeting will be held before the next Planning Commission meeting on Aug 11.

One person sure to be there is Gregg Black, the organizer of The Hamtramck Compassion Club. After hearing about the proposed ordinance and attending the July meeting of the Planning Commission, he became worried about the impending restrictions and voiced his concerns. Chiefly, he says that the reasons for restricting growth to commercial areas are insufficient and do not make an adequate enough argument to legitimize the ordinance. Moreover, he says that the city's interpretation of the law could lead to the federal prosecution of caregivers and patients because of its allowance for dispensaries, which are not mentioned in the state law.

Officially, the law does not allow or disallow dispensaries; rather, it does not mention them at all. The MMMA does allow for a patient to designate a caregiver, but it does not specify how the transaction between patient and caregiver should occur, nor does it make any provisions specifically allowing or prohibiting patients from buying their medicine from another patient or caregiver.

Overall, while many things remain uncertain, one thing is clear: medical marijuana has officially come to Hamtramck. And while there is some disagreement on how to regulate it, there seems to be a concurrence that it will definitely be an economic benefit to the city, whether through increased taxes, the filling of vacant commercial buildings, or just the residual business that comes with more traffic coming and going in the city.

"There is a lot of interest," says Jankowski. "People are just waiting to lease space."

(Ian Perrotta can be reached at [ian@thehamtramckreview.com](mailto:ian@thehamtramckreview.com))

## Street Life

### A look at Hamtramck's cultural life

(Editor-at-Large Walter Wasacz writes a weekly column on life in Hamtramck.)

By Walter Wasacz

On Wednesday evening's presentation by Interface Studio on the Philadelphia firm's Master Plan for Hamtramck, mention was made frequently about arts and culture and how each pays big dividends to community life.

We can't say it enough times: Hamtramck is naturally cool and endlessly attractive because of the activity of talented, productive people doing creative

summer's greatest hits in pictures. A brief description for each: the tall, hairy electronic musician jamming on a board full of odd gear is



ing at 2739 Edwin are (left to right) recent Kresge Arts

Grant winner Joel Peterson and James Cornish.

And then there is always more. This Friday (July 30), Popp's Packing opens its summer show, Weasel Camp II, featuring art works by Andy Krieger, Mary Fortuna, Matt Hanna, Alison Wong and



Chris Pottinger of Cotton Museum, performing at the Painted Lady; the two electric, amplified sheep are part of an installation called "The Quantum Field" by Jon Brumit, Sarah Wagner and Christy Matson now up at Public Pool; and the musicians perform-

others calling themselves the Slippery Weasel Society. Music by the Space Band, Deb Agoli, Ben Teague and more. Popp's Packing is at 12138 St. Aubin. The opening is 7-10 p.m. and is free.

Also this Friday: The Home Suite: Coming to Hamtramck, an ensemble performance organized by jazz pianist Bill Meyer, another Kresge Arts Grant winner who lives in Hamtramck.

It's at the Gates of Columbus, 9632 Conant Avenue. Tickets for the show are \$10 at the door only, but free to all Hamtramck residents with proof of ID. Showtime is 7 p.m.



work on a high level.

Said another way, the kinds of work on display or performed in Hamtramck art spaces, bars and clubs are competitive with the best of what goes on anywhere in Detroit. And Detroit, as many art and music insiders will tell you, produces some of the strangest, quirkiest and original work on the planet.

Here are just a few of this



## Block Club Corner ...

**First Thursdays, 4 Cs Neighborhood Watch** (if you live or have a business between Carpenter, Conant, Caniff, and Campau), 7 p.m. Hamtramck Recreation Center, 1135 Charest, lower level

**Second Mondays, Eastside Block Club** (if you live or have a business East of Conant) 7 p.m. Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church, Activity Center, entrance on Harold Street

**Second Wednesdays, 3 C7 Neighborhood Watch** (if you live or have a business between Carpenter, Campau, Caniff, and I-75) People's community Services Senior Center on Caniff, across from the Public Library

**Third Wednesdays, Midtown Neighborhood Watch** (if you live or have a business between Caniff, Campau, Holbrook and I-75) 6:30 p.m. in the Convent of St. Florian's Church, on Florian Street

**Fourth Thursdays, Southend Neighborhood Watch** 6:30 p.m. in the People's Community Center on Joseph Campau and Danforth, for all residents and businesses south of Holbrook.

**The Central Neighborhood Watch** (Caniff, Conant, Holbrook, Campau) will soon set up regular meeting dates. For more information, go online to [hamtramckCBC@gmail.com](mailto:hamtramckCBC@gmail.com). Facebook: Hamtramck Central Block Club group page.

The Hamtramck Housing Commission Neighborhood Watch is not meeting at this time. If you would like to help start these groups, call the Weed and Seed office at (313) 281-8150.

**Neighborhood Watch meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend. If additional information is needed contact the Weed and Seed office at (313) 281-8150.**

## Gardener's Corner ...

By Kathleen Wojcinski

Weeds! Can't live with 'em, can't live without 'em!

Though they invade every garden, don't misjudge them. All weeds are not created equal. What we consider ugly or a nuisance can be beneficial. Going back hundreds of years, farmers allowed weeds to grow along with crops to attract insects that pollinate and other to eat the crop eating bugs.

It's even mentioned in the bible and shown in ancient

Babylonian and Egyptian hieroglyphics as a time-honored way of farming. At harvest, the weeds would be separated and burned.

In more recent times, scientists discovered why weeds attack sidewalks and heavily polluted "brownfields." They actually absorb toxins in the soil, preparing it for new plants to take hold. If you pull up crabgrass, don't compost it. Instead, bag it up for recycling. It acts like a sponge, absorbing heavy metals from contami-

nated soil.

After low-growing weeds absorb toxins, the long deep roots of taller weeds act like slow-moving sledgehammers. Over time, they should break up cement in parking lots, alleys and sidewalks.

Weeds eventually help trees and shrubs to take root. You can see how, in just one summer, foreclosed homes disappear in a field where once lay a green, trimmed lawn.



*Hamtramck Housing Commission*

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# Speed trap law hits roadblocks in state legislature

Continued from page 2

ting a speed limit has to do with the amount of access points on a given road. By taking into consideration the number of driveways, parking lots and side streets that border a road, a speed limit can be determined through guidelines set by the state.

However, Jones and Cook ran into trouble with several groups which Jones deemed to be "special interest," particularly the Michigan Municipal League (MML), an organization that represents cities, townships and villages throughout the state. An article in this week's Detroit News reported that Jones said he met with the House Urban Policy Committee to discuss the proposed legislation in May only to have the bill thwarted by the MML.

"It never even got to a vote," he said. "The Michigan Municipal League did everything they could to stop it."

Also in this week's Detroit News, Chris Hakbarth, a lobbyist for the MML, defended the lack of action by cities which haven't complied with Public Act 85, saying they haven't done anything wrong.

"There's nothing in the public act that specifically says communities must do these studies and change their speed limits," he said.

On the other end of the spectrum are people like Lt. Gary Megge, the former head of the Michigan State Police Traffic Services Section whose job used to be preventing speed traps. In an interview with Megge earlier this year, he said that while there was nothing in Public Act 85 that specifically requires cities to comply with the law. Problems arise when the speed limits are enforced.

According to Megge, when a ticket is issued by a police officer, the officer must list the law that corresponds to the violation. And because some tickets are issued for speed limit violations on roads that have not been studied, that is where the legal transgression occurs.

"There is nothing in the code that specifically requires a municipality to conduct traffic studies," said Megge, "but enforcement of any law must match the criteria of the law."

The question of whether or not speed limits that are currently posted are enforceable could have serious implications for the city of Hamtramck. This year, the police officer's union has promised to produce at least \$60,000 a month worth of traffic citations to prevent layoffs in the department. Incidentally, a study by the Detroit News earlier this year found that the northbound service drive on I-75 qualifies as a speed trap - a fact that may negate the legality of tickets issued in the area.

Despite the failure of House Bill 6165, Jones, who was a police officer for 31 years, is still determined to pass legislation that requires cities to conduct traffic studies. After a few tweaks, Jones plans to reintroduce the bill under a new name.

"This has been the law for four years, but all these city attorneys keep saying there's a gray area, but they don't want to fix it, because there's a lot of money to be made from writing tickets in speed traps," Jones was quoted as saying in the Detroit News. "Our legislation would have cleared up that gray area."

## Letters • Letters

Continued from page 5

(For more info about the Block Club call 313-999-5483 or 313-418-2097.)

**Kimberly Gretsinger  
Hamtramck**

### An apology for wrong information about schools

In the spring of this year, the Hamtramck Community Initiative Weed and Seed took action to address the problem of recurring student violence in school and on the streets following school dismissal times.

The action consisted of an ad in this newspaper requesting parents and residents to document the problem of school and community violence for discussion and strategic response. As the volunteer Co-chair of HCI Steering Committee, I also sent information via e-mail that I have since learned is

not true.

This letter is an apology to Superintendent Tom Niczay and the School Board for my failure to verify the scope of the facts prior to sending out information.

While I cannot speak for any other schools, the Hamtramck Public Schools follow a school safety and incident reporting policy. I have personally seen the folder of records of incident reports faithfully made throughout the 2009-2010 school year by the HPS. The incident report policy is crafted per the directions of the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. According to Mr. Niczay, any incident that involves violence is reported in accordance to the law to the Hamtramck Police Department.

The Hamtramck Police Department forwards the information to the Wayne County Prosecutor.

This practice came into question in community meetings this past spring because

some of the police personnel who met with community groups did not have knowledge of specific incidents related by students and parents to HCI.

I have since learned that reports were made about the incidents in question, however, those reports are not generally seen by community police officers. I believe we have a better understanding now of the school's responsibility and compliance and an assurance from the Hamtramck Public Schools that they will continue to report physical confrontations and violence as required by law.

Again, I apologize for stating that "incident reports were not being filed by the Hamtramck Public Schools" when in fact, all known incidents have been filed with the authorities as required.

All of us want a safe school environment and safe streets around schools during dismissal time. HCI Weed and Seed promotes volunteer ef-

orts toward that goal through Neighborhood Watch and Block Club groups and provision of grant funds for police overtime (the grant does not permit funding for police salaries, only overtime).

According to HPD administrators, one action that would be simple and welcomed is the presence of more adults at school closing time. This happens quite naturally with elementary students, but it would be very helpful for the middle and high school dismissal time.

HCI Weed and Seed looks forward to a safe and violence-free school year for 2010-2011. I would like to thank all the volunteers, school, and civic leaders who work hard to make Hamtramck a safe place for children and youth.

**Rev. Sharon A. Buttry  
Co-Chair, Weed and Seed  
Steering Committee  
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## Obituaries

### TOMASZEWSKI

Antoni Tomaszewski, 59, died July 22, 2010.

Mr. Tomaszewski was a truck driver with J.F. Freight and was a Hamtramck resident.

He is survived by his wife, Krystyna; daughter, Elizabeth (George) Telegadas; sister, Hanna; brother, Wieslaw and three grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements were made by Krot Funeral Home, and funeral services were held on July 29 at St. Ladislaus Church. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery.



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# Rentals and Real Estate Classifieds

## APARTMENTS & FLATS FOR RENT

Hamtramck, upper, studio-style, large kitchen and front room, \$475/month, ideal for couple or single person, 586-530-6872, 586-582-0311. 8/6

Hamtramck, 1 Br. upper, stove-refrigerator and water included, \$300/month + security, 586-939-7118. 8/20

Hamtramck, 2 Br. upper, hardwood floors, \$500/month, 313-444-5638. 8/20

Hamtramck, 2 Br. upper and lower, stove-refrigerator, prime location, nice and clean, near school, Section 8 OK, \$475/month + security, call Ali 313-768-7757. 8/20

Clean, large 3 Br. upper, 11358 Nagel, \$500/month + security, no pets, 586-530-6872, 586-582-0311. 8/6

2 Br. appliances, clean, senior citizens or couple preferred, \$550/month + security, 313-580-3771, 313-871-0189. 8/20

3 Br. lower, near White School, 13146 Moenart, Detroit, \$500/month, 313-574-1912, 313-872-5948. 7/30

Hamtramck lower 2 Br., Wall-side windows, clean, \$500/month, 313-492-8302. 7/30

Beautiful flats in Hamtramck, 1 + 2 bedrooms, by appointment only, 586-747-0808. 8/13

## APARTMENTS & FLATS FOR RENT

Hamtramck, 11370 Gallagher, 2 Br. lower, clean carpet, large kitchen, appliances, full basement, washer-dryer, nice area, available now, \$480/month + \$480 security, 586-604-0029. 8/13

Hamtramck, 2 Br. lower, \$500/month + security, references required, 313-801-4001. 7/30

Hamtramck, Lehman St., 2 Br. upper and lower, good area, ready to move in, washer-dryer, \$400/month + deposit, no pets, seniors or adults only preferred, 586-354-5343. 8/6

Hamtramck, 2 Br. upper & lower flat, heat and water included, newly painted + carpet, 734-671-2902. 8/6

Hamtramck, Danforth St., 2 Br., \$400/month + security, nice, clean, good area, 313-712-6021. 8/6

Hamtramck, Belmont, between Gallagher and Conant, 2 Br. upper and lower, stove-fridge, 586-604-0553. 8/6

Hamtramck, 2 Br., living room, kitchen, clean and great location, 313-550-9205. 7/30

Hamtramck studio apartments, good location, immediate occupancy, 248-229-4295, 248-229-4297. 7/30

## APARTMENTS & FLATS FOR RENT

1 Br. lower, Sobieski-Casmere, appliances included, \$350/month + deposit, 313-477-2454. 7/30

Hamtramck, 2 Br. upper, very clean. Also, 1 Br. upper, 586-943-8814. 8/6

Detroit 12404 Klinger, 2 Br., living, dining, kitchen, \$525/month, 313-523-5851. 8/20

Hamtramck, 11669 Lumpkin, 2 Br. (could turn into 3 Br.), upper, \$500/month + \$500 security, 248-250-2946, ask for John, call after 6:30 p.m. during week, anytime on weekend. 8/6

## ROOM FOR RENT

Separate entrance, no pets, 313-369-1654. 7/30

Furnished single room, gentleman preferred, \$240/month + deposit, 586-344-6383. 8/20

## HOUSE FOR RENT

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Hamtramck, 2 Br., \$400/month, 313-610-8371. 7/30

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# Classifieds

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## WANTED

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## ESTATE SALE

City's largest garage and estate sale, 13101 Bloom, Detroit, July 30, 9-6 p.m. and possibly July 31, appliances, kitchen cabinets (new and used), bedroom sets, electrical, tools, washers, dryers, anything you need and could ask for, 313-310-3540. 7/30

**Deadline for classifieds for next week is Thursday at Noon**  
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## service directory

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## Coming Events • Coming Events • Coming Events • Coming Events

**JULY 31, Sat., noon-7 p.m.** – Join the fun at Art in the Park at Zussman Park, featuring events for the entire family.

**MONDAYS and THURSDAYS, Through July 29, from 3-5 p.m.** – Workshops will focus on skills development and ACTION in the community. Everyone is welcome, and young people between the ages of 14 and 26 are strongly encouraged to register. Please call Cheri or Whitney at (313) 875-1750, People's Community

Services (8625 Jos. Campau Avenue). TO REGISTER: Please contact Cheri or Whitney at (313) 875-1750, or [cmpace@umich.edu](mailto:cmpace@umich.edu).

**The Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition meets the second Thursday of every month from 11 a.m.-noon** at the Piast Institute, 11633 Jos. Campau. To allow for summer planning sessions, the next meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 9. Meetings are open to the public.

**SECOND MONDAY of each month, through Dec. 13, 12:30-2:30 p.m.** – A Wayne County program, food program for low-income families, at People's Community Services, 8625 Jos. Campau. To qualify you must be a Hamtramck resident and had picture ID and proof of income. Volunteers are needed to unload supplies, etc. To volunteer, show up at 10:30 a.m.

# Recreation spends \$52,000 on new restrooms but good luck using them

Continued from front page

rooms. So, if you really have to go, you are out of luck.

What's the deal with the brand new restrooms installed next to the baseball field?

They cost taxpayers over \$52,000 for one bathroom for men and one bathroom for women. Recreation Director Craig Daniels, the person responsible for installing the restrooms, told The Review that the new restrooms are open all day, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., during the week and for most of the day during the weekends.

Hamtramck School Boardmember Hedy Shulgon says

that's not so. She said the restrooms are rarely open to the public.

Daniels spoke with The Review on Tuesday at around 5 p.m. - twice informing a reporter that he was calling back even though he was on vacation. (At one point, he said: "You don't seem to care that I'm calling while on vacation.")

That's the interview where Daniels said the restrooms were open during the day. After the interview, a reporter went to Playfair to check it out.

Guess what?

The restrooms were locked.

In fact, the restrooms were locked the next morning (Wednesday) during the Recreation Department's annual "Junior Olympics" being held in Keyworth. At least they were at 10:30 a.m. when a reporter checked. (The games began at 10 a.m.) Daniels was at the event.

On Tuesday, recreation staffmembers at the park said the restrooms are open only during scheduled baseball games and that they don't have keys to the facility.

The staffmembers said there are bathrooms for the public on the side of the administration building.

Those bathrooms, neither of which were marked for men or women, had ugly stains on the walls and floors and generally looked dingy.

School Boardmember Hedy Shulgon said she wants to know why the new restrooms are rarely open for use.

"It seems too limited," she said about the hours of operation. "I don't know what it was built for."

The restrooms are the second project by the Recreation Department this year to come under questioning. In June, a splash pad that cost taxpayers \$115,000 was opened in Pulaski Park.

Similar to the restrooms, the splash pad has limited hours of operation. Daniels said the public can only use

the splash pad from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. during the week and extended hours during the weekend.

Daniels told the School Board that the hours are limited because he wants a life-guard on duty during operation.

Compared to other communities, Hamtramck spent twice as much per square foot for the splash pad. Also, other communities do not have staffmembers to watch the splash pad during operation.

Many communities are moving to open splash pads as opposed to pools to cut down on staff costs and reduce safety risks.

The Recreation Department is funded by a voter-approved property tax. In recent years, the department has collected \$1 million a year from tax revenue.

In the past, Recreation Director Daniels has refused to answer questions posed by The Review about the splash pad, saying he doesn't have to answer questions.

(Contact Charles Sercombe at [cs@thehamtramckreview.com](mailto:cs@thehamtramckreview.com))

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- Support efforts to reduce crime and increase public safety in high crime areas
- Promote educational opportunities through classes at local schools and colleges
- Promote jobs as a high priority effort in the district
- Be available and open to honest, reasonable and responsible communication with local leaders and citizens on improving the district

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