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Quick Hits

Hey all you gear heads and fans of 1950s greaser culture.

The 7th Annual Hamtramck Hustle is once again rolling into Veterans Memorial Park this Saturday (Aug. 24). On display will be some of the coolest rat rods and cycles.

This is no ordinary classic car show. These guys live the life and like their cars faded and jacked up.

The show goes from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Last year was a huge turnout, and the same is expected on Saturday.

An after show party will be held at Kelly's Bar on Holbrook where there will be live music and a pin-up contest.

This is going to be a real fun day, so come on out.

Quote of the week ...

Who said this, and what is it about? You can find the quote and the story it belongs to somewhere in the pages of this issue.

"I'm going to pull them anyway. It's disgusting."

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Emergency manager lays out plan for financial recovery

By Charles Sercombe

City Council Chambers is usually a place where some residents come to vent, rant and yell.

Curiously, that was anything but the case Wednesday morning when Emergency Manager Cathy Square presented her financial recovery plan to the community.

Packed into the Council Chambers were residents, employees and retirees — all of whom remained calm and quiet throughout Square's talk. Those who asked questions didn't raise their voices or berate Square — something city councilmembers don't often experience.

The main concern expressed was by community garden organizers who questioned Square's plan to sell 400 city-owned lots that had been tied up in a housing discrimination lawsuit that recently was settled after 40 years.

Over a dozen community gardens have sprouted up in scattered lots throughout the city. The biggest plot, called Hamtown Farms, is spread out over nine lots on Lumpkin St.

The best Square could do to ease concerns is to promise to take each garden case by case.

Square's report had been released a week earlier so there were no surprises during her presentation. She said that by the time her employment contract as emergency manager expires next July, the city will have a \$1 million surplus.

In two years, she said, that will grow to \$2-1/2 million.

In her plan, just about everyone will be asked to take a hit.

First and foremost will be property owners, who will have to pay an extra \$150 this year to shore up the city's pension fund.

"That's a way to get out," Square said in the first step toward financially recovery.

The city has a \$3 million budget deficit. Several months ago, city councilmembers asked the state to step in after they could not come up with a remedy to fix the budget. But to be fair, the council was limited in what it could do.

For example, the council cannot break labor contracts, which is something an emergency manager can do.

One of the immediate

Continued on page 2



Emergency Manager Cathy Square presents her financial recovery plan for Hamtramck to the public Wednesday morning. Below: A city retiree asks about pension issues.



City lot clean-ups raise questions

By Charles Sercombe

City lot clean-ups and grass cutting is back in business after a temporary spending freeze was lifted by Emergency Manager Cathy Square.

The decision comes after several complaints, especially by City Councilmember Cathie Gordon, about the condition of the lots and how unfair it is for code enforcers to ticket property owners for failing to keep their yards in order while city lots remain overgrown.

Square said she allocated \$10,000 to tackle 230 city-owned lots.

The work is being done by the city's contractor, Platinum Landscaping of West Bloomfield.

But one thing caught Square's eye in reviewing Platinum's contract. It does not have an expiration date.

The Review printed billings from three of the city's largest contractors a year ago, and found that Platinum had been paid \$1.8 million from 2009 to mid 2012.

In those billings, most individual lot cleanings cost over \$1,000 each. The city was billed over \$3,400 for one lot. In charge of overseeing the bills is Steve Shaya, the city's Director of Public Works.

He is also a former employee of Platinum.

The billings raised a number of questions, and lead to Acting City Manager Kyle Tertzag proposing to rebid all of the contracts, including Platinum.

Councilmembers Gordon,

Continued on page 6

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Emergency manager lays out plan for financial recovery

Continued from front page

changes will come from firefighters and police officers who will lose a number of financial perks that will total over \$800,000.

The police and fire departments will also lose five positions in each department, under Square's plan. Because both departments are already down several men, there won't be a need to layoff any of the remaining firefighters and police officers.

That reduction will save \$1

million.

The mayor and city councilmembers are not immune from budget cuts. Their salaries and other expenses will be slashed by a total of \$30,000. That means, Square said, councilmembers will be paid a stipend of \$50 a meeting.

"I'm looking at the city globally," Square said in her plan to spread the cuts. "Everyone shares the burden of the city's

finances."

Square is also looking at ways to reduce the city's cost of providing street lighting. She said DTE will be billing the city \$525,000 this year for the service. She said the city has 700 street lights per square mile — way too many to justify the cost.

"We're the most lit city in Michigan," she said.

City administrative staff can expect a change-up, Square said. Just what that entails, though, was not explained. But without it, Square said, "you'll get the same results" that lead to a financial crisis.

But here's a hint. Square said there are too many people employed by the city and those who remain will "need to do more."

Another possible sore point is the number of retired employees who have gone on to take another job, which is permissible. But the rub, said Square, is that if they have the option to take health insurance from their new employers, they are bound by contract to drop the city's health insurance.

And if they didn't do that, she said, they will have to pay back the past years expense of carrying them.

Square said she is demanding that all retirees submit IRS forms to prove they are dependent on the city's health coverage.

Noticeably absent from the meeting were Councilmembers Tom Jankowski, Anam Miah, Abdul Algazali and Mohammed Hassan.

Councilmember Cathie Gordon, who will be out of office at the end of December, said a lot of what she heard from Square sounded familiar.

"The majority of that plan came from the council," she said about past budget discussions.

Gordon added that she and Councilmember Robert Zwolak will present a resolution at next Tuesday's council meeting in support of the financial recovery plan.



City Hall Insider ...

What is our City Council up to these days?

We have the highlights of the latest council meeting.

By Charles Sercombe

The city council met on Aug. 13. Councilmember Anam Miah was the only councilmember absent.

(Editor's note: At some point in the meeting Councilmember Mohammed Hassan left.)

Councilmember Cathie Gordon thanked voters for "doing their civic duty" during the primary election.

She added that despite losing her bid to become mayor, she will "represent everyone."

Councilmember Abdul Algazali also thanked voters for coming out to vote.

From the public, Susan Dunn complained that city code enforcers are ticketing homeowners for overgrown yards yet at the same time the city has allowed its lots to become blighted.

"The city should be an example," she said.

Councilmember Robert Zwolak said the city has also failed to maintain the grounds surrounding a building it owns on Jos. Campau and Goodson.

He agreed with Dunn, saying the "city has its own responsibilities."

Councilmember Gordon threatened to pull weeds growing around the building in question even though she was told not to.

"I'm going to pull them anyway," Gordon said. "It's disgusting."

Mickey Pokoj said that finally, after several months, someone shut off the baseball lights at Veterans Park. He said the lights had been on around the clock every day of the week.

Councilmember Zwolak questioned why the council is being asked to approve two appointments to the Historical Commission when the council was told it "has no power."

Mayor Karen Majewski said the council has never been told it can't make a resolution. She said as long as the issue does not involve finances, the council can take action.

Councilmember Gordon disagreed, saying Emergency Manager Cathy Square told her the council can't make a resolution.

Councilmember Tom Jankowski said that the emergency manager speaks

through directives, and there has been no directive telling the council it can't make a resolution.

In the vote to approve the appointments of Cindy Cervenak and Christine Renner, all councilmembers voted in support, except for Gordon who abstained.

In a proposed resolution to close the north end of Jos. Campau for the Labor Day Festival it once again brought up the issue of why the council is being asked to pass a resolution when there is an emergency manager now in charge.

Councilmember Zwolak said the council was not asked to close off Latham St. for a recent celebration, and wondered why the council is being asked to close off Campau.

He said the administration is "playing will-nilly" with resolutions.

Councilmember Jankowski reminded his colleagues that they asked the state to appoint an emergency manager. "Maybe more thought should have been given," he said.

Continued on page 6

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This week at the library...

Mayor's State of the City Video - The Library has released the video of the State of the City Address, presented by the Mayor Karen Majewski, on August 4, 2013. It is available on DVD at the library and can be viewed on the library website, video section.

ESL Basic Class - Monday, August 26 at noon. Ms. Latisha conducts this 3-hour basic ESL class. Free for Hamtramck residents.

Common Word Alliance Meeting - Monday, August 26 at 7 p.m. The regular meeting of the Common Word Alliance will be held on Monday in the library's main hall.

Movie Night - Tuesday, August 27 at 4 p.m. All children are invited to see a movie shown on high definition screen and enjoy free popcorn. This week's feature is "Horrid Henry the Movie."

ESL Conversation Class - Tuesday, August 27 at noon. Ms. Latisha conducts English Conversation classes each Tuesday night. Free of charge to Hamtramck residents.

Summer Reading Program - Wednesday, August 28 at 1 p.m. The regular session of the Summer Reading Program will start with a show presented by Craign Wise. Games, contests and reading journal entries will follow. All children are invited.

Basic Computer Class - Thursday, August 29 at 11:30 a.m. This week's

class is on basic computer usage, Internet searches, e-mail and word processing. Registration is required, and new students are welcome.

Reading and Writing ESL Class - Thursday, August 29 at noon. The reading and writing ESL class conducted by Ms. Latisha is free to the public (registration required).

Citizenship and Naturalization Classes - Thursday, August 29 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.

Teen Club Meeting - Friday, August 30, at 2 p.m. Teens are invited to join us for the summer meeting of the Teen Club. This week we will learn the art of weaving with Ann Schumacher.

ESL Class "News for You" - Friday, August 30 at 3:30 p.m. This intermediate ESL class conducted by Latisha, free to Hamtramck residents, consists of reading news articles from a publication prepared for ESL, "News for You."

Library Gardening Club - Friday, August 30 at 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to join the library gardening club, with activities in the library community garden. Each week we will do a project in the garden and provide each member with a chance to get their own gardening plot, and grow

vegetables, herbs or flowers to their liking. For more information see Ania or Kate.

Polish Day Parade - Monday, September 2, at 12:30 p.m. All parade participants are asked to gather at 12:30 p.m. at the parking lot at Jos. Campau and Holbrook to get ready for the parade. T-shirts and parade decorations will be distributed on site. Parade starts at 1:30 p.m. and will disband on Casmere and Jos. Campau by the Hamtramck High School Building. Everyone is invited to march with the library.

Family Story Time for Children - Thursday, September 5, at 6 p.m. Join your friends at the library for a reading of a storybook. This week's topic is "A Good Day."

Toddler Time at the Library - Monday, September 9 at 11 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. Join us for story time, arts & crafts, and games. This week's theme is "Beach & Water Day." (Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

Friends of the Library Meeting - Thursday, September 12 at 6:00 p.m. FHPL President Kathy Kristy and Treasurer George Gorday invite all members and volunteers to participate in the regular monthly meeting.

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

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

Cash flows in from water shut-offs

By Charles Sercombe

Three weeks after cracking down on water bill deadbeats, Hamtramck is finding itself flush in money.

In fact, it's pouring bucks. Since Emergency Financial Manager Cathy Square ordered work crews to begin shutting off water service to households and businesses that have been long overdue in paying their water bills – some going on a few years – the city has collected a little over a whopping \$783,000.

Property owners flooded city hall, with cash in hand, minutes after the crackdown began.

To give some perspective, in July the city collected over \$288,000.

And August is not even over.

The uptick in water bill collection has already solved one budget deficit, Square said. It was projected that at the end of the city's fiscal year, the

Water Department would be over \$300,000 in the red.

Not anymore.

Square came into town on July 1 and since then she has been looking at the basics of the city's financial woes, beginning with what is owed to the city.

"It's going after the low-hanging fruit," she said of one of her first missions.

The surge in water bill collection begged the question: Why didn't the city go after it before?

"I'm not here to explain the madness," Square told The Review. "I'm here to unravel it."

The uncollected water bills are indeed a mystery. In past budget talks by city officials little discussion was held on water bills. At last count, there was \$600,000 not collected in the account, out of a total budget of \$2.6 million.

Square said water funds are used to pay for water and

sewer service provided to Hamtramck from Detroit.

She said Hamtramck has not only fallen behind on water bill collections, but also failed to keep pace with water and sewer rate increases by Detroit.

Funds from the Water Department are used not only for paying services owed to Detroit, but also for investing back into the city's water and sewer delivery system.

For years households in parts of the city have been subject to basement flooding when there were heavy rains. The issue came to a head a couple of years ago when a massive lawsuit was filed against the city by hundreds of residents who demanded payment for damages they suffered.

A Wayne County Circuit Court ruled in their favor, and property owners for the past few years have been forced to pay an extra four mills on their property taxes – or about an extra \$150 a year.

That court-imposed tax is now coming off the tax rolls.

But the problem of basement flooding is not over. The city is now undergoing an engineering study to find a way to fix the problem.

But figuring out how to fix the problem is only the beginning. There is no money set aside to begin repairs.

Square said collecting what's owed to the city is a start. The whole issue, she said, has been a past practice of "not paying attention."

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Hamtown's movers and shakers...

Michael Davis is one of the organizers of Hamtown Farms, a community garden located on Lumpkin St. in the southend.

Normally we ask the questions, but this time around Davis has provided both the questions and answers. As an introduction, Davis offers this:

The lesson of giving back. Hamtown Farms, a sprawling community farm on Hamtramck's south side, is a product of generous giving from individuals, businesses and the community as a whole. With exceptional growing conditions and an over-

abundance of produce, the Hamtown Farms Leadership Team decided it was time to start giving back.

So tell us about Hamtown Farms' spirit of giving.

Davis: Hamtown Farms was founded on the idea of giving. Giving new life to the community, giving people a sense of pride and ownership, giving young people food source awareness and giving people the tools to grow their own food. Thanks to the weather, we were incredibly blessed to be in the position to give back and involve our younger farmers in the

process. We pooled produce from many of our individual farmers' beds and made a sizeable donation of fresh produce to Friendship House.

Which farmers contributed?

Davis: Pretty much anyone with something to spare chipped in — the firefighters, Penny, Dylan, Amar, Scott, Emily, Erik, Jeffery, Yakoob, the Petersons, and Mohamed.

Why Friendship House?

Davis: We try to have as much of a local impact as possible, and you can't get

any more local than Friendship House. They've been part of the community since 1929 and serve more than 500 families every month. Hamtown Farms can learn a lot from them and their 85 years of serving the city.

What about the new public picking signs out on the farm?

Davis: In the spring all the beds were spoken for. Unfortunately, due to a lack of maintenance, a few private beds were cleaned up and converted into public picking beds. Anyone can come and pick ripe produce from



At Hamtown Farms, kids get hands-on experience on how to grow vegetables.

these marked beds. We do ask that folks pick what they need, not all that they can.

times a year. With the shed, folks will be able to easily borrow and return tools free of charge.

So what's next for the farm?

Davis: We've got a lot of fun ideas in the hopper, but one that we're really excited about is a community tool lending shed. Over the past two years we've acquired a large number of tools and it seems to be a waste when they're only used a few

If you'd like to become a part of the growing sense of giving in Hamtramck, volunteer opportunities on the farm and at Friendship House are always available. Email Hamtown Farms at hamtownfarms@gmail.com or contact Kim at Friendship House (313) 871-7443 to learn more.



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Review: Opinion Page

Hamtramck's turnaround is about getting the basics down

Mindboggling.

Three weeks ago Emergency Manager Cathy Square ordered a crackdown on delinquent water bills. Work crews went out and began shutting off water service to houses and businesses that were long overdue in paying their bills.

Immediately, property owners began paying their bills.

In those three weeks, the city has received over \$700,000. Before the crackdown, in July, the city collected over \$200,000.

So, why didn't the city go after water bill deadbeats in the past?

There are no clear answers, but we deserve one. Thankfully we have Cathy

Square here to cut through the crap and, as she says, go after the "low hanging fruit."

Consider this, too: the Water Department was projecting a \$300,000 budget deficit this year.

This is a slap in the face to those who faithfully paid their water bills, and a bigger slap in the face to those who have suffered basement floodings.

This delinquent money should have been spent on improving our water and sewage system. But instead, the city let people go for years without paying their water bills.

It makes one wonder, is the city really broke, or is the

dysfunction in city government over the years so bad we don't know how to manage our resources?

You can bet, though, Hamtramck is on the road to recovery. There is no doubt that there will be plenty of other discoveries to come. While we may not agree on how the current emergency manager law came about in the state legislature, thank god we are now under the state's control.

By the time Cathy Square leaves town, there is a good bet Hamtramck will be in very good shape. It's up to all of us to make sure city officials keep it that way.

Hamtramck Athletics 2013/14 Varsity Volleyball Schedule

Sat 9/7	9:00 a.m.	St Clair Shores Lakeview Tourney
Mon 9/9	5:30 p.m.	Highland Park vs Hamtramck
Wed 9/11	5:30 p.m.	Hamtramck @ Ecorse
Mon 9/16	5:30 p.m.	Hamtramck @ Det. Community
Tues 9/17	6:30 p.m.	Hamtramck @ Summit
Mon 9/23	5:30 p.m.	HFA vs Hamtramck
Wed 9/25	5:30 p.m.	River Rouge vs Hamtramck
Mon 9/30	5:30 p.m.	W. Christian vs Hamtramck
Wed 10/2	5:30 p.m.	Hamtramck @ UPSM
Fri 10/4		***Homecoming***
Mon 10/7	5:30 p.m.	Ecorse vs Hamtramck
Wed 10/9	5:00 p.m.	Tri- Harper Woods-Yes Acad
Mon 10/14	5:30 p.m.	Hamtramck @ Taylor Trillium
Wed 10/16	5:30 p.m.	Hamtramck @ HFA
Sat 10/19	9:00 a.m.	Hamtramck Tournament
Mon 10/21	5:30 p.m.	Hamtramck @ River Rouge
Wed 10/23	5:30 p.m.	Upsm vs Hamtramck
Tues 10/29	5:00 p.m.	Quad-Consort, Mac Christ, Dear Ata
Sat 11/2	9:00 a.m.	MMAC League Meet

2013-14 Varsity Football Schedule

Friday 8/30	Michigan Collegiate	Away
Friday 9/6	Notre Dame Prep	Away
Friday 9/13	Shrine Catholic	Home
Friday 9/20	Star International	Away
Friday 9/27	Harper Woods	Home
Friday 10/4	Melvindale ABT-Homcoming	Home
Friday 10/11	Detroit Loyola	Home
Friday 10/18	Lutheran Northwest	Away
Friday 10/25	Ferndale	Away

2013/14 Varsity Boys Soccer

Aug 23	Rochester High School	Away	5:00 p.m.
Aug 27	Parkway Christian	Away	4:30 p.m.
Sept 3	Cesar Chavez	Away	5:00 p.m.
Sept 5	Notre Dame Prep	Home	5:00 p.m.
Sept 9	Universal Academy	Home	5:00 p.m.
Sept 10	Summit Academy	Home	5:00 p.m.
Sept 12	Southfield Lathrup	Home	5:00 p.m.
Sept 16	Auburn Hills Avondale	Away	6:00 p.m.
Sept 18	Ypsilanti Arbor Prep	Away	5:30 p.m.
Sept 20	Allen Park Inter City Baptist	Away	5:00 p.m.
Sept 23	Detroit Western	Home	5:00 p.m.
Sept 24	Madison	Away	5:00 p.m.
Sept 26	Cesar Chavez	Home	5:00 p.m.
Oct 1	Star International	Home	5:00 p.m.
Oct 2	Ypsilanti Arbor Prep	Home	5:30 p.m.
Oct 8	Cranbrook	Home	5:00 p.m.
Oct 10	Southfield Lathrup	Away	5:30 p.m.

Head Coach Rahmija Celic
Principal: Ms. Rebecca Westrate
Athletic Director: James Weller

The Hamtramck Review Published every Friday
3020 Caniff, Hamtramck, MI 48212 Phone: 313-874-2100
Fax: 313-874-2101

www.hamtramckreview.com • email news@thehamtramckreview.com
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Editor/Publisher: Charles Sercombe Office Manager: Jean Ingenthron
Sales Manager: Dave Sweet Reporter/Copy Editor: Ian Perrotta

This newspaper is not responsible for mistakes in advertising beyond the cost of the space involved.

Odds & Ends

Moosing around ... OK, you can groan at that teaser intro, but here's something to cheer about. Hamtramck's own Moose Lodge has donated a bunch of stuffed Moose dolls, known as "Tommy Moose," to the police and fire departments.

The purpose of the stuffed toy is to help kids who are stressed out in emergency situations.

They can cuddle up to the doll and, hopefully, that eases the emotional pain they may be experiencing.

Breaks your heart just thinking about it, doesn't it?

On Monday, representatives from Hamtramck's Moose Lodge and Police Chief Max Garbarino and Fire Chief Paul Wilk met and posed for a photo outside of city hall.

Hamtramck's Moose Lodge is on Conant just north of Holbrook, and they are just about the friendliest and community-minded group of folks we have in this city.

Well, come to think of it, Hamtramck has an abundance of like-minded folks.

Brewing ... A new business in town is in the running to win \$50,000 to get off the ground.

HenriettaHaus Coffee



From left, members of the Hamtramck Moose Lodge, Ed Stacey and Kevin LaPointe, present a donation of stuffed toys to Police Chief Max Garbarino and Fire Chief Paul Wilk. The toys will be given to children who are experiencing stress during emergency situations.

Roasters is competing against three other metro businesses to win the prize being offered by Comerica Bank through a contest sponsored by Hatch Detroit.

Winning the pot of money will depend on you, though.

The trick is, the business that receives the most votes through the Hatch website will win.

HenriettaHaus is not yet open, but will soon be operating out of the old Kopytko meat shop on Jos. Campau in the southend.

The winner of the contest will be announced on Aug. 29. Until that time, you can vote no more than once every 24 hours. To show your sup-

port, go to www.hatchdetroit.com.

Calling volunteers ... The Hamtramck Recycling Commission needs your help. If you have a passion about recycling, the commission needs more commissioners.

If interested, the commission meets next Tuesday, Aug. 27, at 6:30 p.m. on the 3rd floor of the Hamtramck City Hall.

Pitching in ... Last week we wrote about a city-owned building on Jos. Campau and Goodson that had plenty of weeds around it. City Councilmember Cathie Gordon

Continued on page 7

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City lot clean-ups raise questions

Continued from front page

Anam Miah, Robert Zwolak and Mohammed Hassan voted against rebidding Platinum's contract.

The Review has also discovered that the owner of Platinum, Omar Nakash, owns five houses in the city, and is delinquent in property taxes on three of them for a total of \$12,695, according to the Wayne County Treasurers Office.

The properties are subject to foreclosure.

Councilmember Hassan lists one of Nakash's properties, at 2425 Niebel, as his residence.

Square said that Hamtramck's charter does not require contractors to pay all overdue city bills in order to work for the city. Detroit, however, does have that require-

ment.

Hamtramck's charter does require elected officials to be up to date on city bills, or they face having their election votes being voided and being tossed out of office.

Councilmember and Mayor Pro Tem Abdul Algazali may be the first elected official to face that action. He owes over \$9,000 on two buildings he owns on Jos. Campau.

The buildings face being foreclosed by the county. Square said the city attorney is looking into the matter and is reviewing state election law as well.

Square said there are also other city officials who may face to the same dilemma.

The Review will have more on this in the coming weeks.

City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 2

In the vote to close Campau, all councilmembers supported it, except for Gordon. It was pointed out that Gordon had earlier seconded the resolution.

Jankowski asked Gordon why after initially supporting the motion she abstained. Gordon said it's because of a conflict of interest.

Mayor Majewski asked what the conflict of interest was, and Gordon said it's because she was told the council can't pass resolutions.

"That's not a conflict of interest," Majewski said.

In another resolution to close a city parking lot on Caniff so festival organizers can use it to charge for parking, Gordon questioned how the council can be asked to make what she considers is a financial decision.

After some discussion, the council unanimously, including Gordon, voted in support to close the parking lot.

From the public, a contractor complained that he has been trying to get a hold of Community & Economic Development Director Jason Friedmann for two months about zoning infor-

mation where Yazan Plaza is located at Holbrook and Conant.

He said he wants to know why he is getting "stonewalled."

Councilmember Gordon said there has been an ongoing issue regarding zoning and the business.

"Give the man the information," she said. "Is this how we treat people? Put them on hold for months?"

Kathy Angerer, the assistant to the emergency manager, said the issue will be resolved.

John Justewicz said he has

been "broken out of a sound sleep" by the call to prayer being broadcast from a new mosque on St. Aubin St. Councilmember Abdul Algazali said he will pass on the concern to the mosque.

Councilmember Gordon said the city's noise ordinance is not enforceable because the police department does not possess a decibel meter. Police Chief Max Garbarino said there is no need for a meter. He said anyone can file a complaint that their peace has been disturbed.

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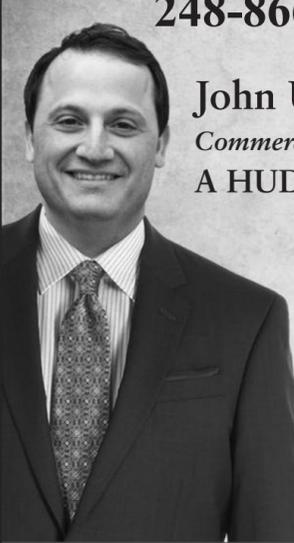
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By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Aug. 13 through 19.

Tuesday, Aug. 13

- At 11:30 p.m., a man reported being carjacked by two males while sitting in his 2001 Acura MDX in the city parking lot at Caniff and McDougall. The man said one suspect had a hand gun and the other had a knife.

- It wasn't a very happy birthday for a Grayling St. man who reported an acquaintance stole \$350 during his birthday party.

- A man reported that his 1998 Pontiac Grand Prix was stolen while parked in the 3800 block of Dorothy St.

- It was a case of fraud for a man who reported that a woman known to him wrote two checks that came back saying there were not sufficient funds to cover them.

- A woman reported that another woman followed her into her house and asked for a glass of water. The woman who entered the house then stole the other woman's car keys.

- A woman was arrested after assaulting officers who had responded to a disturbance call on Hanley St.

- A Ferndale man was arrested after he fled from police when officers tried to pull him over for speeding.

Wednesday, Aug. 14

- A man reported someone stole his 2007 Chrysler Town & Country van while it was parked in the 2300 block of Hewitt St.

- A man was arrested for passing fraudulent proof of car insurance during a traffic stop.

- A woman reported that her ex-boyfriend violated a restraining order.

- Detroit police reported recovering a stolen 1998 Dodge Caravan belonging to a Hamtramck woman.

- A man was arrested for

driving without a license and possessing a stolen plate after being pulled over for a traffic violation.

- A woman reported that her neighbor violated a restraining order she has against the neighbor.

- A Casmere St. resident reported that a driver of a red Cadillac hit her privacy fence and then fled the scene.

Thursday, Aug. 15

- A man living in the 2600 block of Botsford St. reported that his blue Roadmaster 12-speed bicycle was stolen while it was parked, but unsecured, in front of 12040 Jos. Campau.

- At 1 a.m. a driver of a car was arrested for possessing an open intoxicant following a traffic investigation at Jos. Campau and Carpenter.

- At 2 a.m. a person was arrested for disorderly conduct while at Jos. Campau and Roosevelt.

- A man reported that his work trucks were broken into overnight while they were parked at Jos. Campau and Denton.

Friday, Aug. 16

- A woman said that while walking on Jos. Campau a man snatched her cell phone from her hand and then ran away.

- At 12:30 a.m. officers arrested two juveniles for violating the city's curfew. The juveniles were turned over to their parents.

- A resident said he was the victim of a phone scam involving Green Dot cards and the IRS.

- An Andrus St. child was bitten by a neighbor's dog.

- A woman reported her landlord illegally moved her belongings out of her house on Danforth St.

- A woman on Belmont St. reported someone stole her central air conditioning unit.

- A woman on McDougall St. reported someone broke into her house and took items.

- A Danforth St. man reported people not known to him entered his house without permission, assaulted him and stole items.

Saturday, Aug. 17

- Two hit-and-runs were reported, one at Fleming and Pulaski and another at Casmere and Lumpkin.

- A woman living in the 12000 block of Grand Haven St. reported someone broke into her residence by forcing open the screen of her front door.

door.

- A woman reported her foster child as a runaway.

Sunday, Aug. 18

- At almost midnight, officers assisted a DMC ambulance crew with an intoxicated male lying on the sidewalk in the 11400 block of Jos. Campau.

- At 4:30 a.m., officers responded to a building alarm in the 9600 block of Buffalo St. and found the building had been broken into and had been severely damaged. Officers arrested two Hamtramck residents for burglary, destruction of property and obstructing officers.

- A Hamtramck resident reported her ex-boyfriend stole \$100 in cash from her.
- A man living in the 2200 block of Evaline reported his 2005 Dodge Caravan was stolen while parking in front of his residence.

- A person was arrested after repeatedly interfering with officers who were investigating a crime scene.

- A Detroit juvenile was arrested after stealing a Moped and attempting to flee officers.

- A man living in the 2400 block of Casmere St. reported someone broke into his house.

- A Detroit resident was arrested for domestic abuse and an outstanding Hamtramck warrant after assaulting his ex-girlfriend.

- A woman reported that while at Holbrook and Brombach, a man snatched \$5 out of her hand and then fled on foot.

Monday, Aug. 19

- A little after midnight, the father of a 14-year-old boy reported that his son left home four hours earlier and had not returned home.

- An Andrus St. man was arrested for obstructing officers who were investigating a missing juvenile case.

- Officers checked on the well-being of a juvenile who had been photographed drinking alcohol and posted the photos on social media. After checking several locations, the juvenile was found and returned to his parents. The parents were issued parental responsibility tickets.

- A Hazel Park resident reported her vehicle was possibly damaged by a city contractor.

- At 9:30 a.m. a Warren resident was robbed of her purse in the 12000 block of Fleming St.

- A Detroit resident was arrested after attempting to steal items from CVS Pharmacy on Jos. Campau.

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Odds & Ends

Continued from page 6

complained about the city's lack of maintenance.

Well, it didn't take long for some volunteers to hop into action. Konrad Maziarz and Shannon Lowe, co-organizers of the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival were joined by Jason Friedman, the Director of Community & Economic Development and together they tackled the overgrown weed problem.

They also cleaned up around the unofficial Hamtramck welcome sign on Campau at Denton. But one thing. Jason, weed whipping in flip-flops? Awesome.

Thanks guys for not waiting for the city to step in.



Shannon Lowe mows down weeds growing along a city-owned building on Jos. Campau and Goodson.

Police nab three teens connected with business break-ins

By Charles Sercombe
Some good old-fashioned police work lead to the arrest of three teens suspected of breaking into two businesses recently. Police Chief Max Garbarino said that on Aug. 8 Win Communications on Caniff was broken into during the early morning hours, and then on Aug. 12 ABC Computers on Jos. Campau was broken into, also during

the early morning. Three days later, detectives apprehended Tashawn Jones, 18, and Travon Jones, 17, both of Detroit. They will be charged as adults. A third teen was also arrested. However, he is considered a juvenile and his name is being withheld. During the arrests, Garbarino said, some of the stolen items were recovered at the house of one of the suspects.

All suspects were arraigned over the weekend. Summer in Hamtramck has been marred by a number of street robberies, most notably the grabbing of gold necklaces from people walking the streets. In one of the more high-profile cases, a Detroit man was shot dead by a security guard when he and two others attempted to rob a Jos. Campau jewelry store.

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