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Quick Hits

This Saturday, Sept. 22, is the first day of fall.

This summer was the hottest on record, but we're not glad it's over. The recent chill in the air makes us wish we had a few more 90-plus degree days left.

But the seasons march on.

Fall has a beauty and magic all of its own.

Now, if only we could do something about those darn leaves.



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.

"It's disrespectful to not get council-city input."

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

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Mayor says she is more upbeat about the year ahead

By Charles Sercombe

Mayor Karen Majewski said she wouldn't tear up during this year's State of the City Address.

Ah, but it only took several minutes into her speech before she had to choke back some tears.

Last Sunday, Majewski gave her seventh State of City Address, and once again it was a long list outlining the city's challenges and successes.

In total, this year's address ran 28 pages long and was almost 6,000 words.

And once again Majewski,

who is the city's first female mayor, stressed that Hamtramck's greatest strength is its ethnic diversity.

This year, however, she went one step further in describing the city's unique characteristic.

"We are all here because we love this crazy place, our own sweet little village," Majewski said. "Let's remember that deeply emotional, even inexplicable attachment to this little piece of earth we share; let's remember that it can unite us as easily as divide us; let's remember that

Continued on page 2



Mayor Karen Majewski gives her seventh State of the City Address last Sunday at the Hamtramck Public Library.

The mayor in her own words about the State of the City

Editor's note: Below is an excerpt of Mayor Karen Majewski's State of the City Address:

This is the seventh time I've come before you to review the path we've traveled together in the past year, to give you a preview of where we hope to go in the days ahead, and to

invite you to walk that road—the rough spots and the smooth—together with your neighbors, and with me.

Your presence here today signifies one of Hamtramck's fundamental strengths — we are more than a city, we are a community. We are more than a place where people lay their

heads at night, we are a place where people invest their hearts and souls.

If we sometimes argue with each other, it's because what happens here matters so deeply to all of us. It's because Hamtramck so often inspires and delights us. Sometimes it also confounds

us. Sometimes it drives us crazy. And, sometimes it breaks our hearts. That, everyone, is what love is all about.

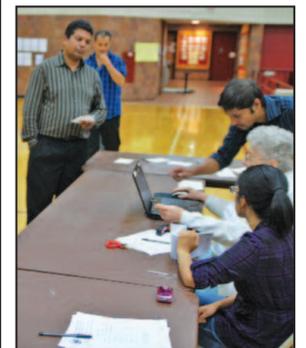
We are all here because we love this crazy place, our own sweet little village. Let's remember that deeply emotional, even inexplicable

Continued on page 2

Voters can skip over citizenship question

By Charles Sercombe

No, you won't have to check off a box confirming you are a U.S. citizen when you go to vote on Nov. 6.



Hamtramck election officials won't require voters to check a box on ballot applications that ask voters to confirm that they are a U.S. citizen.

City Clerk Ed Norris is among a growing number of local clerks who are ignoring State Secretary of State Ruth Johnson's requirement that voters check a box on ballot application forms to confirm their citizenship.

Instead, many local clerks say they are not asking voters to check off that box, basically because they say that when people register to vote they already said they are citizens.

Clerks are saying it is not only redundant to ask again, but that Johnson has also overstepped her authority.

Critics of Johnson, who is a Republican, say it's an effort to intimidate voters and suppress minority and immigrant

Continued on page 4

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Mayor says she is more upbeat about the year ahead

Continued from front page

it is, like Hamtramck itself, our common ground."

Unlike in years past, far fewer city officials, business leaders and community members attended the State of the City. Perhaps it was because it was a gorgeous, sunny day, as the mayor pointed out.

Despite Majewski's sunnier optimism this year, she conceded that once again Hamtramck finds itself in a financial crisis – and it's one that could get far worse before getting better.

She pointed out that the city is running a budget deficit, and that a tax dispute

with GM over its Poletown plant could plunge the city further into debt. She also said it's unknown if the Wayne County jail located in Hamtramck will remain open since the county is building a new one downtown.

The closing of the jail could result in the loss of \$500,000 a year in revenue.

There was more silver lining than dark cloud in the mayor's speech (you can read excerpts of it starting on the front page).

The mayor ticked off a number of successes: The ongoing building of new housing to settle a decades-old hous-

ing discrimination lawsuit, a new state-of-the-art recycling plant is coming here (which means jobs for locals besides increased property taxes), the replacement of residential gas lines, the planting of trees to replace those lost several years ago during an extremely damaging storm, continued business façade improvement grants, the lowering of city employee health care costs and ... well, the list goes on.

In the end, Majewski asked residents to be a part of Hamtramck's revival. Even if it means acting a little "crazy."

"I know in Hamtramck we like to be a little crazy. That's been a source of strength, and of uncertainty," Majewski said.

"So let's be crazy in a good way. Let's be crazy dancers, crazy singers, musicians and artists.

"Let's be crazy thinkers and dreamers. Let's be crazy lovers of our homes and neighborhoods. And let's try something else just crazy enough to work—let's put our finances on solid ground, regularize our internal procedures, develop a culture of professionalism in city hall, while still bringing all our creativity and resourcefulness to bear to continue growing a diverse and welcoming community of strong neighborhoods, entrepreneurship, and urban living on a human scale."

The mayor in her own words about the State of the City

Continued from front page

attachment to this little piece of earth we share; let's remember that it can unite us as easily as divide us; let's remember that it is, like Hamtramck itself, our common ground.

Folks say that nothing joins people together like shared adversity, and we've had our share of it in the last few years. You'll hear about some of it today. But that is not the whole story of the last year. And it's not the whole story of who we are. Despite all the difficulties we've shared with so many other communities around the nation, and especially here in Southeast Michigan, we've managed to accomplish much to be proud of, and set the stage for what I am heartened to think can be good things to come. That says so much about the good that's in this place, and in all of you.

One very good thing that has happened since my last State of the City is the promotion of Max Garbarino as our new Chief of Police. The department is evolving under his leadership, implementing civilian dispatch and other long-awaited restructuring initiatives. New K9 and Weights and Measures positions are in progress, and the traffic safety program, while not always popular, is slowing down drivers and putting more officers on the street. The department has negotiated better terms with its own contractors, as well as settled new labor contracts with significant savings to the City. ...

The Fire Department has also undergone some major changes in the last year, including many retirements and promotions. Not to mention that we were very happy to welcome Paul Wilk as our new Fire Chief.

The department has been working diligently to secure grant funding to take the burden off the city's general fund. In May the department took delivery of a 2012 Sutphen Aerial Tower to replace the 1986 model. The tower was purchased through a FEMA grant totaling \$700,000.

The department has also submitted a FEMA grant for the purchase of new ambulance and firefighting equipment. And most recently the department's grant committee

with the help of the acting city manager and an outside grant team worked on and submitted a SAFER Grant to FEMA for the funding of 12 fire fighters' salaries and benefits for 2 years. This grant will help prevent looming layoffs in the department. An additional grant to place Automatic External Defibrillators in city hall is also in the works. ...

Our Department of Public Services also welcomes a new director, Steve Shaya. With the new director come initiatives to improve processes and accountability. The department has clamped down on delinquent water bills and started an aggressive collection program on large outstanding water accounts.

After starting out with a \$30,000 delinquency, the program now shows a positive cash flow. New controls for

billing disputes and dismissals have regularized departmental procedures. And an aggressive enforcement program aimed at those who tamper with or attempt to bypass our water meters is also now in place.

The Building and Engineering Department has played an important part in the construction and renovation going on all over town as part of the last stages of the R31 project, funded by the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The department has been involved in the process from preliminary and final site plan review, to rough and final inspections of all trades, to the handling of all architectural and engineering concerns. And if you've noticed just how much construction has been going on around town, you know that that is a

Continued on page 4

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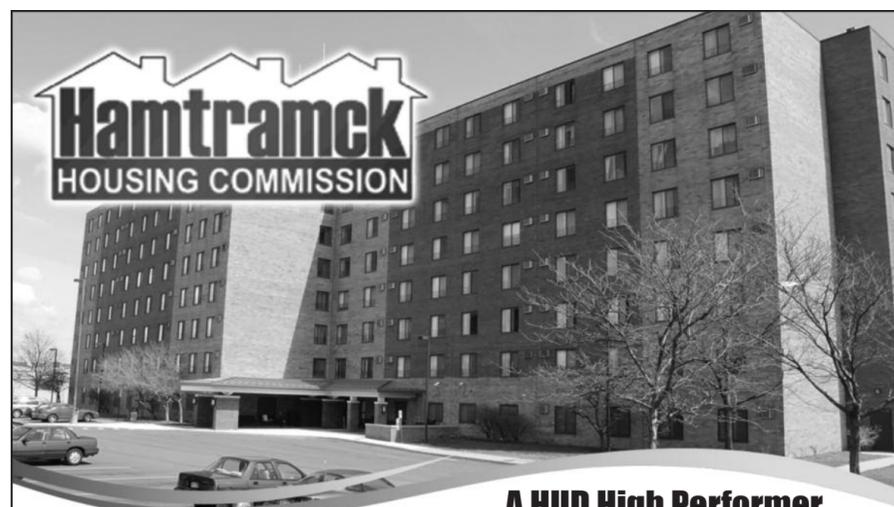
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If you have any questions or concerns you may contact the Hamtramck Housing Commission at 313-868-7445.

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This week at the library...

Story Time for Children - Saturday, September 22, at 11 a.m. Join your friends at the library for a reading of "The Boy That Was Raised by Librarians."

ESL Class with Christine Templin - Saturday, September 22 at noon. Intermediate ESL class conducted by Christine Templin, free to the public.

Math Kangaroo Club - Tuesday, September 25 at 3:30 p.m. Learn math in a fun way, and prepare for the annual international math contest, while improving your grades in school.

Make'n'Take Crafts - Tuesday, September 25, at 4 p.m. All children are invited for this back to school arts and crafts to take home, workshop.

ESL Conversation Class - Tuesday, September 25 at 4 p.m. Ms. Trisa conducts English Conversation classes each Tuesday night. Free of charge to Hamtramck residents.

Family Game Night - Thursday, September 27 at 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to participate in games and contests during the family night. This week it is Bingo night.

ESL Class with Latisha Edge - Friday, September 28 at 3 p.m. Intermediate ESL class conducted by Latisha Edge, free to the public.

Michigan Reads Program - Thursday, September 29 at 5 p.m. Join us and thousands of readers in Michigan Libraries for the reading of "Moose on the Loose." One State, one book, Michigan Reads 2012, everyone is invited.

Toddler Time at the Library - Monday, October 1 at 11 a.m. Join us for story time, arts & crafts, games and other fun activities. (Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

Movie Night - Thursday, October 4 at 4 p.m. All children are invited for a movie and popcorn.

Financial Activist Club - Tuesday, October 9 at 5 p.m. Hamtramck residents of all ages are invited to join the financial workshops designed to expand your knowledge at budgeting and investing. Registration required.

Meeting of the Library Board - Thursday, October 11 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

Finance Director announces sudden resignation

By Charles Sercombe

The exodus in city hall continues.

First there was Acting City Manager Erik Tungate who resigned – OK, maybe he was forced out by some on city council – then most recently City Clerk Ed Norris announced he is leaving.

Tungate wound up as Oak Park's new city manager, and Norris is also heading to that city to become its new city clerk.

Now also leaving is Finance Director Nevrus Nazarko, who is Hamtramck's first Albanian-American city official. He has been with the city for 14 years.

He was also briefly Hamtramck's acting city manager until he came under attack from some on city council. He resigned from that temporary post, saying, officially, that holding the two jobs of finance director and acting city manager was too much to handle.



After 14 years as Finance Director, Nevrus Nazarko submitted his letter of resignation this week and will be leaving on Oct. 15.

In his official resignation letter to the city council, he says he is leaving "to pursue other opportunities."

No, he said, he is not heading off to a post in Oak Park.

There has been some rumbling in city hall that certain councilmembers wanted to tinker in the Treasury Department, and Nazarko wanted

nothing to do with their plans. Nazarko denies that.

The city is currently going through one of its worst financial crises since being placed under the control of a state-appointed emergency financial manager.

Nazarko is leaving the city with what city councilmembers have agreed is a good

budget plan to ride out the next three years, when, hopefully things will take a turn for the better.

But, even after three years, the city will face a budget deficit.

Nazarko touched on that in his resignation letter.

"While I realize that there are some tough times ahead for the city, in financial terms, there is nothing that this hard-working, blue-collar town can't overcome," he said.

"At the end of the day, the Hamtramck that I know will emerge stronger, leaner and ready to write yet another chapter in its rich history. ..."

Nazarko will remain on the job until Oct. 15.

Councilmember Robert Zwolak said that Nazarko has been critical in "saving the city" a number of times when in a financial crisis.

"Trying to find someone to fill those big shoes will be tough," he said.



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City council holds off on discussing invoice inquiry

By Charles Sercombe

Acting City Manager Kyle Tertzag has completed an initial investigation into some questionable contractor invoices and has come up with several corrections.

Recently, an independent auditing company, Stout Risius Ross, Inc. (SRR), presented a review of some invoices submitted by four top city contractors. SRR reported that several bills were incomplete and \$56,835 in payments could not be properly documented.

But it turned out that in one case, it was a matter of the city failing to ask for a complete bid proposal for work because a repair was made to a commercial water line that was not included in the original contract bid.

Turns out that repair was much more than the cost of a residential line repair, which explained why the invoice did not conform to previous billings.

As a result, Tertzag said he may be asking the council to rebid some contracts and in

other instances amend existing contracts.

Tertzag said there were likely instances of department heads or city employees failing to follow proper procedures in invoicing.

"This situation did not occur overnight and will not be corrected overnight," Tertzag said in his report to the city council. "I will endeavor to make changes as expeditiously as possible so to improve the accuracy and efficiency of our operations vis-à-vis our city contractors and our oversight of these contractors."

Out of the \$56,835 in payments that could not be explained, \$36,602 went to a contractor called Platinum. The company performs snow plowing, street salting, lot maintenance and other duties for the city.

Tertzag said he asked Steve Shaya, the city's Director of Public Works, to put together the company's invoices and explain what happened. On Tuesday night, the council was prepared to discuss the issue, but since

a closed meeting on contract concessions for fire-fighters ran so long, the matter was put off until next Tuesday evening.

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City Hall Insider ...

What is our City Council up to these days? We have the scoop and the highlights – as well as the lowlights – of the latest council meeting.

By Charles Sercombe

We pick up this week in the second part of the city council meeting held on Sept. 11. Only Council Mayor Pro Tem Abdul Al-gazali was absent.

A discussion was held on a proposal to have Community & Economic Development Director Jason Friedmann take steps to either remove or repair a street art mural that was vandalized by someone who splattered paint on it.

The mural has been the center of controversy for several weeks because some residents find the image of a coffin being carried by six cartoon characters offensive.

Councilmember Robert Zwolak said he is concerned that no one involved city council in the decision on allowing a mural to be painted on a city-owned building.

"It's disrespectful to not get council-city input," Zwolak said. "That's my primary objection."

Councilmember Tom Jankowski said he's not going to vote to remove the

mural "just to prove a point that Mr. Friedmann should have come to the council first."

(Editor's note: Friedmann was the city's point person in coordinating the creation of several public murals during the summer.)

Councilmember Cathie Gordon said the city has to do something with the mural because it is "offensive" to the artist to leave it vandalized.

Councilmember Anam Miah said he has talked with people in the area near the mural (which is located on the side of a loft project at Jos. Campau and Goodson). He said the mural is "not best suited" for those living in the area.

Mayor Karen Majewski said even if the mural was on private property she thinks the council would still be discussing it.

In the vote to direct Friedmann to have the mural either removed or repaired, the council unanimously agreed.

The council voted to meet in closed session to discuss

how much to pay Acting City Manager Kyle Tertzag. After the closed meeting, the council agreed to pay Tertzag \$6,750 a month plus health insurance.

From the public, Mickey Pokoj said there are six-foot weeds growing on Faber St.

He also said that the new charter school on Caniff has an overflowing garbage dumpster.

Under the section of non-agenda items, Councilmember Gordon questioned why there were only 59 property code tickets issued in July when previously the monthly average was 80 to 100.

"What is going on?" she said.

Gordon also said she wants to hold off filling a vacant position in the Treasury Office. She suggested combining the role of Treasurer with the position of City Clerk.

The mayor in her own words about the State of the City

Continued from page 2

tall order.

The Department of Public Services has taken over the demolition of abandoned buildings, working to remove these eyesores and clean up the sites. Most recently, three long-term problem houses have been taken down: on Faber Street, at the corner of Trowbridge and Brombach, and at Wyandotte and Lumpkin. Two more in the works.

After making changes in the Rental Department, we are starting to see more of our residents coming in and registering their rental properties. The result will not only be more revenue for the city, but more importantly our residents who rent will be assured of housing that is up to code and meets safety requirements.

For many years the city has also faced the problem of construction going on without permits. The department's monthly statistics now show that the focused efforts of Building and Engineering Inspectors are re-

sulting in greatly increased revenue from permits. In addition, we have the assurance that work being performed on our residences and commercial buildings is being done safely and in conformity with codes and regulations. These may sound like simple and obvious procedures, but anyone who lives here for long knows that this has not always been the case. ...

Another large-scale public works project is also underway—the Hamtramck Renewal Project. MichCon is replacing service lines and gas mains from Roosevelt to Caniff. I know is causing a lot of headaches for residents. We'll all be glad when it's over. But we'll also be glad that it was done. ...

The density, hominess, and security of Hamtramck's neighborhoods are among our points of pride. Equally a part of Hamtramck's unique urban character is our traditional downtown. It is the Downtown Development Authority that

works with business owners on Jos. Campau to maintain and improve our trademark commercial strip, through programs like the Façade Grant Program.

The program is funded by Community Development Block Grant dollars allocated by the Community and Economic Development Department and approved by council. In the last year local business and property owners received \$12,500 for architectural design services and \$75,000 for construction services to restore their facades to their original condition. ...

It's well known that green space in Hamtramck, once known for its tree canopy, is well below the average. It will take some time and concerted effort from residents, the city, and outside organizations to turn this situation around, but the DDA helped further that process when, with the help of a DTE Tree Grant, it organized and facili-

Continued on page 6

Voters can skip over citizenship question

Continued from front page

turnout.

Johnson has explained that some immigrants who apply for a driver's license inadvertently say they are citizens when they don't mean to. She said there have been instances where would-be voters walked away without voting because of the citizenship question on ballot applications.

Norris said he is simply following the rules and requirements of the state Bureau of Elections. The Bureau does not require voters to confirm they are citizens when asking for a ballot.

"That's her (Johnson's) boss," Norris said. "A person does not have to check that box. If you registered to vote, you already said you are a citizen. No one will not be allowed to vote because they didn't check off the box."

However, Norris said, election workers will remind those who do not check off the citizenship box that they must be a U.S. citizen to vote.

Local clerks had no say in the printing of the ballot applications. The August Primary ballot applications also had the citizenship box. Many local clerks also ignored the citizenship question then because Gov. Rick Snyder had just vetoed legislation that would have required voters to re-declare their citizenship status when voting.

There has been speculation that the issue may head to court in the near future. Johnson has been out of the country since the issue came to light.

For those who are not registered to vote and wish to participate in the Nov. 6 General Election, you have until Oct. 9 to register.

To qualify to vote in Hamtramck you must:

- be a U.S. citizen;
- be at least 18 years of age by election day; and
- be a resident of Michigan and the city where you are applying to register to vote.



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Review: Opinion Page

Let time and history be the judge of southend mural

There has been a roiling debate over the fate of a controversial mural on the city's southend.

Last week, the council took action, sort of, by directing Community & Economic Development Director Jason Friedmann to either repair or replace the mural.

The mural was vandalized recently when someone splattered paint over part of it.

There has been protest by some in the community to have this mural removed because it contains an image of six cartoon characters carrying a casket. Painted on the front of the casket is a nameplate that says: "STREET ART."

Apparently it is a statement by the artist, known by the pseudonym of "Sever," about the commercialization of street art.

Some in town, however, view it has a statement about Hamtramck, namely that the community is dead.

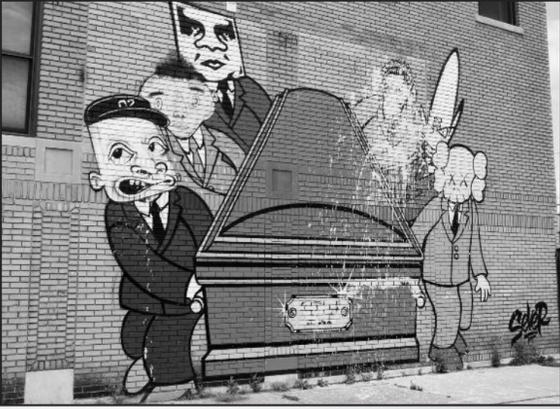
For most in the community, the artist's statement is obscure at best. And yes, an image of a casket can be viewed as a negative.

But to heed the calls to have this painted over is foolish.

Why? Because it smacks of mob rule.

This mural was created by

an internationally-known street artist. Hamtramck was very fortunate this past summer to be the epicenter of several street murals being created by folks from all around the world.



They are legitimate pieces of art, and they have been attracting visitors left and right.

Instead of rushing to remove the mural in question, let's all take a step back, take a breather and let some time go by.

It reminds us of the situation that another famed muralist faced many years ago when he revealed several of his pieces. Diego Rivera was both praised and condemned for his many works of art.

Locally, he is famously known for creating the wonderful mural in the DIA court-

yard. At one time, there was serious talk of removing that mural because of some of the subject matter included in that sprawling piece.

That wasn't the case for another one of Rivera's art-

works. A mural that was created in the Rockefeller Center was destroyed after completion because of its Marxist politics.

Now, we're not suggesting that the mural coming under fire here in Hamtramck reaches Rivera's level of mastery, but the principle remains the same.

Let's not rush to judgment. Let time and history be the judge of things.

You never know, this work could one day be considered a masterpiece in its own right. It would be wrong to deny history a chance to decide.

Odds & Ends

Kudos to the library ...

Phillip Leslie of the Hamtramck Community Drug Free Coalition dropped us an email this week thanking us for covering the 9/11 ceremony his group put together last week.

He said credit should also go to the Hamtramck Public Library for also being a sponsor and for hosting the event.

So, let's give the hard-working folks at the library a big thanks.

He will be missed ...

Finance Director Nevrus Nazarko submitted his letter of resignation at a special city council meeting on Wednesday. He said he did so with a "heavy heart."

Well it's also with a heavy heart that we all have to see

him go. Nazarko has always been open with meeting with anyone, and is one of the most level-headed persons we've dealt with in city hall.

And that's saying something.

Nazarko has been here for 14 years, starting out with the Zych administration, survived the Lou Schimmel takeover of the city and the transition to the Jankowski and then the Majewski administration.

Now that's an impressive record.

We here at The Review wish "Nevers," which has become his nickname, success and happiness wherever he winds up.

Let's just hope the city will get someone who is just as

talented as Nazarko.

Mural update ... Just a quick note for those of you wondering what the latest is on the controversial mural on the southend.

Jason Friedmann, the city's Director of Community & Economic Development, has been tasked with deciding whether to remove the vandalized mural or repair it.

The mural was splattered with paint by some nut job who thinks he or she has the right to decide what stays or goes here.

Anyway, Friedmann said he's still talking with local artists to see if the paint splatter can be removed without requiring major restoration of the mural.

The mayor in her own words about the State of the City

Continued from page 4

tated the removal 35 dead, diseased and/or dangerous trees along Jos. Campau and the side streets between Caniff and Holbrook. Twenty-two of the trees were replaced with new urban friendly species and six new trees were also planted at the entrance to Veteran's Park. The remaining 13 trees will be replaced over the next three years as funding becomes available. ...

... I know everyone is waiting for the opening of the Hamtramck Historical Museum. We should have an official announcement of its final location any day now, and then it will be full steam ahead to get preliminary renovations underway, items moved in, and programs started. The Historical Commission and its many supporters will soon be creating an important destination for our many visitors and for our residents. This has been made possible through generous grants from MSHDA and the General Motors Foundation, as well as a major private donation and the help of our many, many supporters. ...

The City of Hamtramck Plan Commission recently granted Preliminary Site Plan Approval to Green Power Technology, the company that will be developing the Hamtramck Resource Recovery Center on the former Missant site on Conant.

The current 300,000 square foot obsolete building will be demolished and replaced with a \$300 million dollar state of the art, energy efficient recy-

cling and resource recovery facility. Essentially, this operation takes municipal waste, uses an automated system to sort out valuable recyclables, then uses high temperature steam to break down the remaining organic material into a bio-mass-synthetic coal-that is then pelletized and reused to create a green energy source.

All operations are conducted inside the building in an environmentally friendly manner. This development will bring up to 150 new jobs to Hamtramck and is expected to bring over one million dollars in direct revenue to the City through increased property taxes and hosting fees. ...

The City is in final stages of negotiating a shuttle service that will connect the City to Midtown Detroit, the SMART bus system on Woodward Avenue, Amtrak, Wayne State University/the College for Cre-

ative Studies, the Detroit Medical Center, Eastern Market, and the Detroit Riverfront. This system will both serve the need of current Hamtramck residents, as well as attract many potential transit users to the City.

Unfortunately American Axle has shut down operation at its Detroit/Hamtramck facility; however, the entire complex is for sale and has generated a great deal of interest. More than likely several smaller operations will move into the complex, thus making the City less susceptible to the whims of a single corporate entity.

General Motors' Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly-the Poltown plant-is causing us headaches again (this time with a tax dispute that will not just deprive us of expected personal property tax revenue on plant equipment, but require that we repay monies

Continued on page 7

The Amazing CYNICALMAN by Matt Fezell



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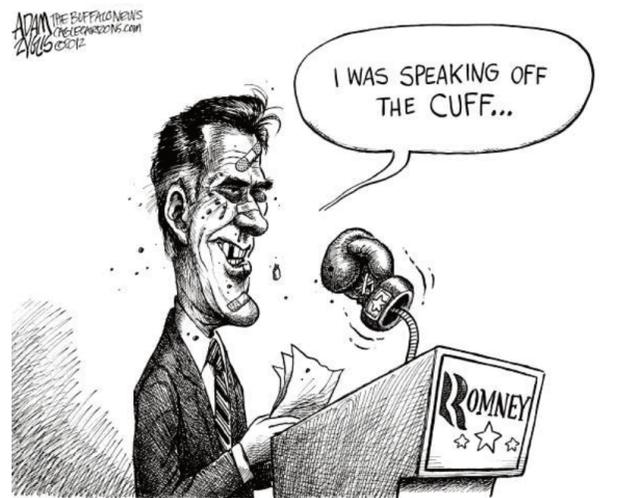
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On Friday, look out for that artist in a parking space

By Charles Sercombe

"Parking" on Jos. Campau may never be the same.

Well, at least for today, Friday, Sept. 21.

Before we go any farther, let us just say that today don't be surprised to see some performance art on Campau parking spaces instead of, you know, cars.

It's being called

PARK(ing) Day, which is actually celebrated worldwide.

From 3 to 9 p.m. today anyone can "park" themselves in a metered parking space (for free) and engage in something creative.

"Many PARK(ing) Day participants have already reserved spaces for activities including live music, danc-

ing, parks, miniature golf, food, yoga, gallery, games, farming and gardening, a temporary library, and much more," said Scott Collins, who is an organizer of the event.

For more information, contact Collins through his email at: collins@hatchart.org.

Athlete of the week ...

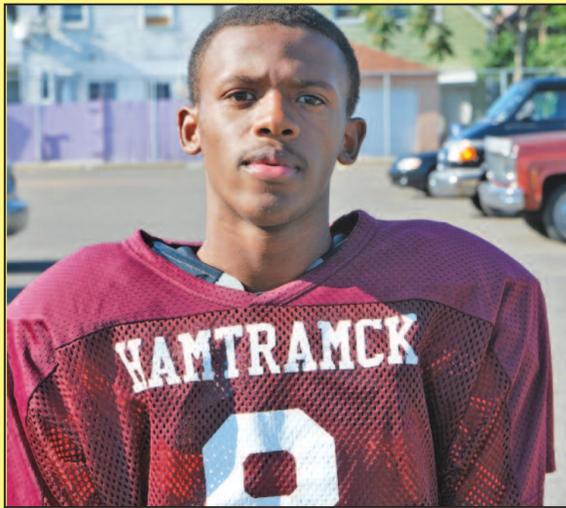
Each week we will highlight the athlete of the week from Hamtramck's Public Schools.

Name: Wontay Jackson, 12th grader at Hamtramck High School

What he plays: Varsity football, runningback and cornerback

What he did: Jackson had nine carries for 176 yards and scored three touchdowns. Not a bad game, eh?

Personal interests: What a coincidence, Jackson says his favorite interest is football.



The mayor in her own words about the State of the City

Continued from page 6

that were paid for legitimate taxes over the past several years.) But in the long run GM's long-term investment in the plant, with the assembly of the Volt and now the Chevy Malibu, should generate additional tax revenue for the City.

That said, the financial challenges in the past year have been enormous.

The past year has been one of the most financially challenging on record, for the City of Hamtramck, and that's saying a lot. Due to the decline in revenues from various sources—property taxes, American Axle, GM, City of Detroit etc.—Hamtramck has exhausted the positive fund balance that we worked so hard to build by the end of fiscal year 2011, and we've ended the fiscal year 2012 with a budget deficit.

We have tried hard to manage our scarce resources to balance our books and pay down the outstanding debt, but for the short term we will need some financial help in form of a low interest emergency loan from the state of Michigan.

The escalating cost of

health care and the State mandated cap on health care spending forced the administration to take a hard look at past practices and insurance policies and come up with an innovative plan that keeps the premiums in check while maintaining the same coverage to its employees and retirees.

Had the city not taken these steps to upgrade the medical insurance plan the way it did, with the projected increase in health care costs, we could have come to a point that the city could have not afforded to provide the promised benefits to its employees and retirees.

The lawsuit from the flooding event of several years ago was settled last year and we are in process of paying the settlement during the current year. We expect a full payment to the plaintiffs—Hamtramck residents whose basements flooded just like yours and mine did—by the end of December 2012. (By the way, we have taken the first step in the costly process of updating our inadequate infrastructure with a planning grant that will help us determine the most effi-

cient and cost effective fix to this decades-long problem.)

This lawsuit by Hamtramck residents and others that we have faced have had a negative impact on our liability insurance premiums and we had hard time finding an underwriter to renew for this year, forcing us to take on more risk and increase our deductible to a high level in order to keep the upfront premium low. ...

Despite of all these challenges, there is a ray of light at the end of the tunnel: We have settled all the major union contracts and are working to restructure contract with our other vendors. We have applied and expect to receive a SAFER grant for the next two years that will keep our fire department in place and provide the level of service that our citizens expect and deserve.

By paying down one of the major loans that was obtained by the former emergency financial manager back in 2002, we are going to get some relief when it comes to debt payments. We also low-

Continued on page 8

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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 modeldmedia.com and metro-mode.com have been reporting on fascinating development projects for the past few years. With their permission, here is this week's story:

The final four of this year's Hatch Detroit competition are set to be named on Wednesday.

Voting to determine the four finalists for the second-annual competition finished yesterday. The contestants are competing for \$50,000 in seed capital to open a retail location for their business in Detroit. This year's semi-finalists include some familiar names that have been growing their businesses from their homes and hope to leverage the Hatch cash to build a home for their budding businesses.

"There is a lot more experience in this group than what we had last year," says Ted Balowski, co-founder of Hatch Detroit. "A lot of them have worked through Eastern Market or the Rust Belt Market (in downtown Ferndale). They have worked very hard to build up their following."

Balowski and Nick Gorga launched Hatch Detroit last year as a vehicle to champion, support and grow locally owned retail businesses. The nonprofit accomplishes this through funding its \$50,000 contest, education, exposure, and mentoring. The bottom line is providing a stimulus that helps revitalize the Motor City and inspires others in the community to create change.

This year's winner will be revealed on Sept. 27. Last year's winner, Joe Posch of HUGH, is close to opening his contemporary mens fashions store in Midtown. "He is going into the Auburn building, which still being built," Balowski says.

Writer: Jon Zemke

Science Corner

Getting goose bumps yet?

By Dennis Lukas

With summer just about over you can feel the weather becoming cooler.

Everyone is trying to enjoy as much of the warm weather as we can. But as the air becomes cool we sometimes feel a body reaction. It is called goose bumps. If this has happened to you this is the reason why.

Some things happen whether we want them to or not. Goose bumps are one of them. They're a reminder that we're not always in control of everything. Goose bumps might erupt after you get out of a swimming pool. Goose bumps help mammals (that's us) keep warm and help defend us against danger.

Any strong emotion – fear of an attacking predator, sadness or the joy from music, nostalgia, well, the list goes on, can cause goose bumps. This is because all emotions stimulate a part of the brain called the hypothalamus, which controls responses, in this case goose bumps. It also controls the increase of your heart rate and sweat-

ing. In fact, these various responses may occur at the same time.

Goose bumps are all about keeping warm.

When fur/hair is all fluffed up, it's a better insulator. It's better at keeping out the cold. Humans aren't covered with fur but our prehistoric, pre-human ancestors probably were. When it got cold, their fur stood on end, trapping air and forming an insulation barrier. Our goose bumps are sort of a leftover from those days – millions of years ago.

When it's hot, little muscles at each hair relax. Your sweat glands pump body heat. Your blood vessels get big to take more heat to the skin to get rid of it.

When it's cold, the body muscle pulls the hair up. The duct to the sweat glands gets small to conserve heat. Our blood vessels get small to save heat.

Hair standing up doesn't make good insulation for us anymore, we don't have enough fur for that. But it does make goose bumps.

Cold is not the only thing

that can cause our hair to stand on end. Fear or anger does it, too. The same thing happens to other mammals. You'll notice on a cat or a dog that its fur stands on end when it's in danger and needs to look bigger.

The most extreme goose bumps happen to porcupines. When they're frightened, their quills stand on end to warn other animals to stay away.

What still confounds scientists is how emotions act on the hypothalamus and the rest of the brain to set this process in motion. Learning more about brain chemicals may shed light on how music affects emotion.

The release of these chemicals could even explain why some people have very specific goose bump activators, whether it be love song, a crescendo of classical music, or even a passionate version of the "Star – Spangled Banner."

For more information Google Cutis Anserina to get more details.



Thank You!

Hamtramck Community Initiative and Hamtramck Citizen's Patrol would like to thank all who participated in the "Take Back the Night" Fundraiser at Kelly's Bar.

Many thanks to:

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The mayor in her own words about the State of the City

Continued from page 7

ered the interest on the other outstanding bond.

We are applying for a low-interest state loan to provide a cash-flow cushion.

And finally, we have put together a deficit elimination plan that will allow us to pave our way over the next few years to the goal of a balanced budget.

Taking these steps has not been easy, as you know. It has been a contentious process that has tried everyone's nerves and shaken the foundations of the city administration. It has meant many trips to Lansing and conversations with the State Treasurer's Office. And it's a testament to the commitment of our Finance Director that we have come to a point where we can begin to see a way out—a painful, uncertain, and long-term process, to be sure, and one with many moving parts—we don't know what will happen with the American Axle facility, or what to expect next from GM.

We don't know if Wayne County will shut down our jail when its new one is completed. We don't know what the final status of the Emergency Manager law will be. We don't know what the final outcome will be of the state legislature's determination to do

away with personal property tax on businesses. We don't know what to expect from the national economy. We don't know if we'll receive the grants and loans for which we've applied.

Yes, there are many moving parts as we try to craft a fiscally viable, sustainable way forward for Hamtramck.

But of those many moving parts, let's remember the most important of all—we, the residents of this Hamtramck. It is how we choose to act, how and how we choose to move forward together, that determines the future of this odd and dear little place. So many people tell me, "Hamtramck is changing."

Nothing lives without change, everything living grows and evolves. And Hamtramck needs all of us to guide that change, to be those moving parts that move the city through difficult times toward the future we all want here for ourselves and those who come after us. ...

The work we have now ahead of us is among the most challenging, and most exciting, the city has ever faced. Challenging, because the financial pressures we are now under might be the end game in a less determined,

less resourceful kind of place. Exciting, because it means that the Hamtramck that we are tasked with crafting can be a more creative, sustainable, and prosperous community.

Elected officials, department heads, union members, organizational leaders, community volunteers, young, old, newcomer, longtime resident ...The city needs you, and it needs your neighbors.

You've heard about the many good programs the city is conducting and the good things we've been able to do. You also know the precariousness of our fiscal situation, and the threats to our stability. I know in Hamtramck we like to be a little crazy. That's been a source of strength, and of uncertainty.

So let's be crazy in a good way. Let's be crazy dancers, crazy singers, musicians, and artists.

Let's be crazy thinkers and dreamers. Let's be crazy lovers of our homes and neighborhoods. And let's try something else just crazy enough to work—let's put our fi-

nances on solid ground, regularize our internal procedures, develop a culture of professionalism in city hall, while still bringing all our creativity and resourcefulness to bear to continue growing a diverse and welcoming community of strong neighborhoods, entrepreneurship, and urban living on a human scale. ...

This is only possible if we—Hamtramck's most essential moving parts—agree to move together, in the same direction, toward a common goal and with a common commitment to our collective good. Moving together, walking forward.

It may mean giving up some old ways of doing things. It will

require trust in each other. It will require good will, cooperation, and a spirit of generosity. It will require humility, and courage, which go hand in hand in the best of us. ...

So, I say to all of you, the days ahead will require most of all a belief in Hamtramck. ...



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Hamtramck, 3216 Holbrook, 2 br. lower, stove + fridge, full basement, 2 living rooms, 586-604-0553. 9/21

Hamtramck, 2242 Hewitt., 2 br. lower flat, \$600/mo. including heat. 313-938-4484. 9/21

Hamtramck, 2 br. lower, adults, no pets, \$500/mo. + security, 313-421-7564. 10/5

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Hamtramck, 9430 Charest, 2 br., good condition, move-in ready, call Rocky 586-214-1010. 9/28

Hamtramck, beautifully remodeled 3 br. house, \$700/mo., security deposit, credit check, Section 8 ok, 313-590-1000. 10/5

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8	4	3		5	2			
	7	1						3
6		2		1	7	8		
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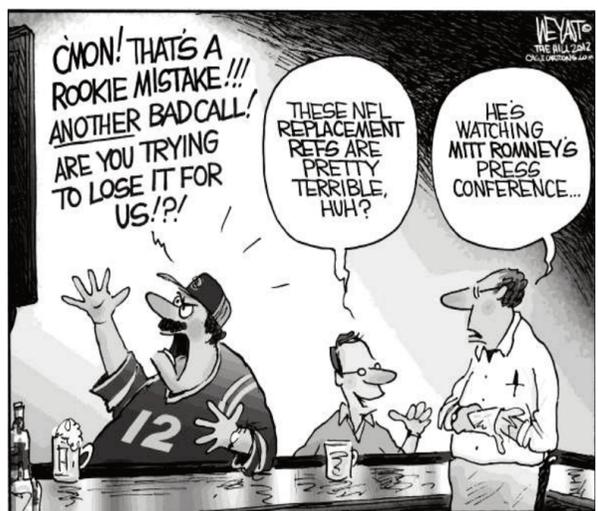
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The following is a round-up of daily crime reports from Sept. 12 through Sept. 17.

Wednesday, Sept. 12:

- A Conant man reported unspecified damages to his property on the 8500 block of Conant.
- A woman reported her 2000 Plymouth Voyager was stolen while she was shopping at Glory Supermarket on Jos. Campau.
- A man living on the 3300 block of Holbrook reported someone stole his Social Security card from his mailbox.
- A Detroit resident said he saw a suspect break the windshield on his 1989 Cutlass while it was parked on Commor.
- Wednesday was not a good day for cars. A Doremus resident reported that someone smashed the windshield of their 1999 Chrysler and also slashed the tires.
- A person visiting from Ohio reported his vehicle was "keyed" while it was parked in the city parking lot on Yemans near Jos. Campau.

Thursday, Sept. 13:

- A woman reported that a male suspect broke into her car while it was parked at the 8800 block of Jos. Campau.
- A man and a woman were arrested after being pulled over at Lumpkin and Commor. The woman was arrested for having an open bottle of liquor and for holding an illegal knife.
- A man was arrested for trying to pass a fraudulent check.

Friday, Sept. 14:

- A woman was arrested for drunk driving and child endangerment after she was involved in an auto accident.
- At almost 2 a.m., a man was arrested for his third

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• Police recovered a 1978 Camaro and a 1980s Trans Am on Spruce in Detroit.

• Two Highland Park residents were arrested after stealing two bicycles from two juveniles at Conant and Caniff.

Sunday, Sept. 16:

- At about 11:30 p.m., one woman and three men were arrested for a break-in at the 3200 block of Hanley St.
- A Detroit teen was arrested for possessing alcohol while police were investigating a disturbance at Klinger and Carpenter.
- Two juveniles said that they were robbed of an I-phone while at Jos. Campau and Roosevelt. The suspect was described as a black male with tattoos on his arms, and had pointed a BB

pistol at them.

Monday, Sept. 17:

- A woman reported her 2007 Toyota was stolen.
- A woman reported that someone stole her purse from out of her 2002 Ford Focus.
- A man was arrested for unarmed robbery at 9838 Jos. Campau after he was recognized from another incident that occurred at the same address several weeks ago.
- A Lumpkin St. resident reported someone broke into his house and stole record albums and a turntable. The items, however, were later recovered.
- A resident said he was assaulted by five men he knew while at Caniff and Charest.

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