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Quick Hits

It's been two years since the "Detroit Firestorm" sent columns of smoke billowing through the sky on 9/7/10, but tonight (Friday, Sept. 7) something else will be in the air. To commemorate the anniversary, the Sunnyside Block Club (of the Jayne Field area) has put together a free outdoor concert called "Burning House". The music starts at 4 p.m. and runs into the night. Headlining act Sick Smile takes the stage around 8:30, and afterward an uncut video of the fire will be projected onto the side of a house. The location of Burning House is 13207 Moenart, which is just off Jayne Field near White Elementary on Charles St.

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.

"We're going to need to work on the sidewalks."

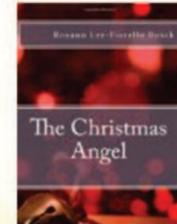
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Labor Day Festival is another success

By Charles Sercombe
Perhaps the hippie dude summed it up best about this year's Hamtramck Labor Day Festival:
"Hamtramck is the best city in Detroit."
We couldn't agree more, and this past Labor Day weekend was a perfect example of why Hamtramck shines so much: We are a fun and interesting town.
This year's festival barely happened at all, but the volunteers who agreed to pull it together at the last minute did a Herculean job.
The weather behaved too,
Continued on page 2



New budget includes a tax increase

By Charles Sercombe
City officials agreed on a financial plan to fix the city's budget for the next three years.
But the budget comes with a price for property owners. Recently, the city council agreed to a budget deficit elimination plan that includes a small property tax increase of 1.89 mills.
That millage will last only three years and will generate about \$325,000 a year. The money will be earmarked to pay a lawsuit filed years ago by police and firefighter pensioners.
The tax money will lighten the city's general fund load,
Continued on page 2

Murder case remains unsolved

By Charles Sercombe
There will be no charges filed against four suspects in the stabbing death of Joseph King.
King was killed last October after encountering the suspects late at night two blocks from Small's Bar on Conant. The suspects had been in the bar.
Detective John Aiello, who is in charge of the investigation, said the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office declined to press charges at this point. However, he added that the case is still open and if new evidence is discovered
Continued on page 2

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New budget includes a tax increase

Continued from front page

but it will not end the city's obligation to pay the lawsuit settlement.

Finance Director Nevrus Nazarko came up with the plan, and he said that after three years the city will still continue making payments for the next 15 years or so.

Most of the retirees are in their 80s, he said.

Nazarko said he asked for only a three-year tax so the city can stabilize its finances. It is hoped that at the end of three years, he said, the city will be able to shoulder the remaining payments.

Or maybe not.

In which case the city council may agree to extend the tax.

But the tax is far from a done deal.

The city has to ask a circuit court judge to order the tax onto property taxes, Nazarko said. The city will argue it cannot afford to make the payments.

A judge could just as easily refuse to do that, Nazarko conceded.

It was no easy decision by the council. Councilmembers debated the issue for a long time in a special council work session a week ago.

Councilmember Cathie Gordon argued against the tax, saying residents are also struggling financially.

"We can't keep going to the same well," she said.

Gordon suggested that instead of a tax, the city should impose a service fee on non-profit organizations, which would also include churches and mosques.

Nazarko said that for the average homeowner, the extra tax will cost only \$35 per year.

"It's a small price to pay,"

he said.

Councilmember Tom Jankowski agreed, saying that the city cannot possibly afford to pay huge lawsuit settlements.

"We, the taxpayers have to pay for these lawsuits," he said.

At last Tuesday's regular council meeting, the deficit elimination plan was accepted with only Councilmember Robert Zwolak voting in opposition (Councilmember Abdul Algazali was absent).

Labor Day Festival is another success

Continued from front page

although cloudy skies from Hurricane Isaac did threaten to open up and rain here and there. Otherwise it was a sunny and gorgeous weekend.

On Tuesday, as if on cue, a much needed downpour finally let loose, and helped wash Jos. Campau from the built up beer slosh and barbecue grease.

At press time organizers were still tallying up the bills and didn't know yet if the festival made money.

This year's festival may be

done and over with, but that doesn't mean organizers are taking it easy.

"We'll be starting to plan next year's festival next week," said co-organizer Konrad Maziarz.

Also in the works is to set up the festival as an official non-profit organization. That will help attract donations and possible grants, Maziarz said.

"We'd like to use the profits to make improvements to Veterans Park and other places in the city," he said.

Murder case remains unsolved

Continued from front page

the matter could be revisited.

King, 24, reportedly got into a knife fight with the suspects. King was found with his throat slit. The suspects also had knife wounds.

According to sources, the suspects said that King instigated the fight and they were forced to defend themselves.

Investigators initially thought the death was a hate crime because King was black and the suspects are white.

There was no evidence to support that theory, police later said.

What little has emerged publicly is the incident is that the result of a drunken encounter between the men. The suspects were held for 72 hours before being released without charges being filed.

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This week at the library...

State of the City Address - Sunday, September 16 at 2 p.m. Mayor Karen Majewski will present her 2012 State of the City Address in the library's main hall. Everyone is invited, refreshment will follow.

Summer Reading Awards Program - Saturday, September 8 at 11 a.m. All participants of the Summer Reading Program, are invited to the Awards program. All winners will be awarded their certificates and prizes.

Remembering 9/11 - Tuesday, September 11 at 4 p.m. Everyone is invited for a program in remembrance of those who perished in the 9/11 attack.

ESL Conversation Class - Tuesday, September 11 at 4:30 p.m. Ms. Trisa conducts English Conversation classes each Tuesday night. Free of charge to Hamtramck residents.

ESL News for You - Thursday, September 13 at 3 p.m. ESL reading and discussion class with Ms. Latisha. Free to the public.

Michigan Reads Program - Thursday, September 13 at 5 p.m. For the kick-off the Michigan Reads, we will start with a reading of "Moose on the Loose." All children are invited.

ESL Class with Christine Templin - Friday, September 14 at 11 a.m. Intermediate ESL class conducted by Christine Templin, free to the public.

Meeting of the Library Board - Thursday, September 13 at 6 p.m. Regular meeting of the Library Board will be held in the auditorium. Open to the public.

Citizenship Day in Hamtramck - Saturday, September 15 at 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A team of attorneys from the International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit will provide free legal help to Hamtramck residents who want to apply for U.S. citizenship. For information and a list of documents required, stop by the library or call 313-365-7050.

Toddler Time at the Library - Monday, September 17 at noon. Join us for story time, arts & crafts, games and other fun activities. This week we will try to create a masterpiece of art. (Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

ESL Class with Latisha Edge - Monday, September 17 at 3 p.m. Intermediate ESL class conducted by Latisha Edge, free to the public.

Math Kangaroo Club - Tuesday, September 18 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.

Friends of the Library Meeting - Thursday, September 20 at 6 p.m. FHPL President Kathy Kristy and Treasurer George Gorday invite all members and volunteers to participate in the regular monthly meeting.

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.

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

City's new insurance policy comes with high deductibles

By Charles Sercombe

City officials better cross their fingers that fewer people will claim a slip and fall accident on the sidewalks.

Last year about 20-25 people claimed they were injured tripping over sidewalks that should have been replaced a long time ago.

That was one of the contributing factors in making it nearly impossible to find an insurance company that was willing to provide coverage to the city, said the city's insurance agent, Deb Elkins.

"We're going to need to work on the sidewalks," Elkins said.

Another factor working against the city was two huge settlements involving a

man losing an eye after an officer accidentally tazed him there, and a police officer suing the city for racial harassment.

Both cases amounted to nearly \$500,000.

Even though the city did manage to snag an insurance plan, it's going to come at a steep cost if there are a lot of claims. The deductibles for the city were raised to the point where there is barely any insurance coverage.

For example, the city will be on the hook for the first \$100,000 in all lawsuits, including slip and falls.

Say a police car gets in a bad accident? The city is responsible for covering the

first \$10,000 in repair costs. That could start to add up real quick.

If something happens to any of the city's buildings, the city is on the hook for the first \$100,000 of the claim. City officials better hope Mother Nature doesn't hit the city with a fierce storm, or massive flooding.

Finance Director Nevrus Nazarko said he considers the two costly lawsuits an aberration and doubts something similar would happen again.

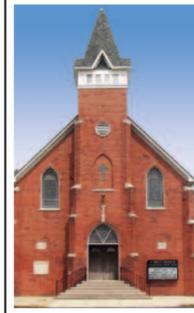
As for the city's broken up sidewalks, the city actually has a little luck working on its side. DTE Energy is currently undergoing a massive replacing of its service

pipes, which requires the company to rip up a number of sidewalks and then replace them.

Steve Shaya, the Director of Public Works, said he estimates about half of the city's sidewalks will end up being replaced.

The city had embarked on a sidewalk repair program several years ago, and marked up dozens of slabs that homeowners were responsible for replacing.

But there was such an outcry from homeowners, the city "chickened out" of the program, said Mayor Karen Majewski.



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Here are the daily crime reports from last Thursday (Aug. 30) to Monday (Sept. 3).

Thursday, Aug. 30:

- At about 8 p.m., an Andrus St. woman reported three males came to her residence in search of her brother. One of the suspects, for unknown reasons, fired three shots from a handgun into the air.

- A Lehman St. woman reported someone broke a window at where she lived.

- Inskter police reported they found a Chevrolet that had been stolen in Hamtramck in 2010.

- At almost 2:30 a.m., a woman was pulled over in a traffic stop at Conant and Jacob, and she wound up being arrested for drunk driving without a license and it also turned out she was wanted on a previous warrant.

- A woman reported to police that she was a victim of ID theft.

- A St. Aubin man reported someone broke into his residence and stole items.

Friday, Aug. 31:

- Two house break-ins were reported, one on Carpenter

and another on Roosevelt.

- At almost midnight a male was arrested on the 8900 block of Jos. Campau for assault and battery. About an hour later, a juvenile was arrested for felonious assault at 2300 block of Wyandotte.

- At 2:30 p.m., a woman reported a man wearing a blue T-shirt and white shorts pushed her off of her bike while she was at Mackay and Holmes. The bike was later recovered at Fleming and Holmes.

- A Lehman St. man reported his 2002 Dodge Caravan was stolen.

- A woman reported that a man she knew took her husband's bike without permission and refused to return it.

- A little after 5 p.m., a man was arrested at Jos. Campau and Casmere for being disorderly.

- A woman reported at about 9 p.m. that a man wearing a purple shirt and black pants approached her while she was waiting for a bus at Jos. Campau and Holbrook. The man then groped the woman, touching her leg, chest and buttocks. The man then fled the area in an unknown black vehicle.

- A juvenile was arrested at

Jos. Campau and Casmere for stealing \$76 out of a purse. He was released to his grandmother.

Saturday, Sept. 1:

- At about 10 p.m., a woman reported that the day before she had been assaulted by 20 males while at the 2600 block of Trowbridge.

- An Andrus St. woman reported that her boyfriend had assaulted her.

- A Prescott woman reported someone tried to break into her garage.

Sunday, Sept. 2:

- A man reported that an unknown person threatened to kidnap his son and daughter.

- A male and female teen were arrested on the festival grounds at about 10 p.m. after officers witnessed them assaulting two people.

- At about 10:30 p.m., a man was arrested at Holmes and MacKay for public intoxication. Police had responded to a complaint about a disturbance in the area.

- At about 11 p.m. two teens were arrested for fighting at Jos. Campau and Faber after they refused to obey an order from officers to stop fighting.

- At almost 3 a.m. a man reported he was assaulted and robbed in the area of Holmes and Mackay.

- A man was arrested for obstructing and disturbing the peace at Jos. Campau and Caniff.

- A teen was arrested on the 2400 block of Danforth after he was seen breaking into a house.

- Police investigated the firing of a gun in the area of Commor and Sobieski, Four males were questioned but no arrests were made.

- It was not a good week for old Dodge Caravans. A woman reported her 2003 Caravan was stolen from the area of Evaline and McDougall.

Monday, Sept. 3:

- At about 12:45 a.m., a man was arrested for loitering

Continued on page 4

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Review: Opinion Page

Festival organizers did an outstanding job despite the short notice

Well done. The organizers of this year's Hamtramck Labor Day Festival did an outstanding job. And when you think of the short time frame they had to pull things together, it was an amazing job.

In fact, this festival might be the best ever in recent years, and that's saying a lot considering we've enjoyed some mighty fine festivals.

You could say that Konrad Maziarz and Shannon Lowell raised the bar this year.

It should also be mentioned they certainly didn't work alone, and an equal amount of praise is due to the following volunteers:

Anna Marie Dinn handled the beverage tents; Emily Kiser put together the popular "canoe races"; Anthony Raucho coordinated the non-food vendors, and John Lopez handled the food vendors; the DDA's Darren Grow oversaw booking the carnival; Ben Hernandez and Jay Carroll booked the bands; Ana Cukovic was the secretary; and the city's Community and Economic Development Director Jason Friedmann served as the city's primary liaison.

While Oakland County's Arts, Beats & Eats often overshadows Hamtramck's festival, we remain the real deal. And our festival has the best music line-up.

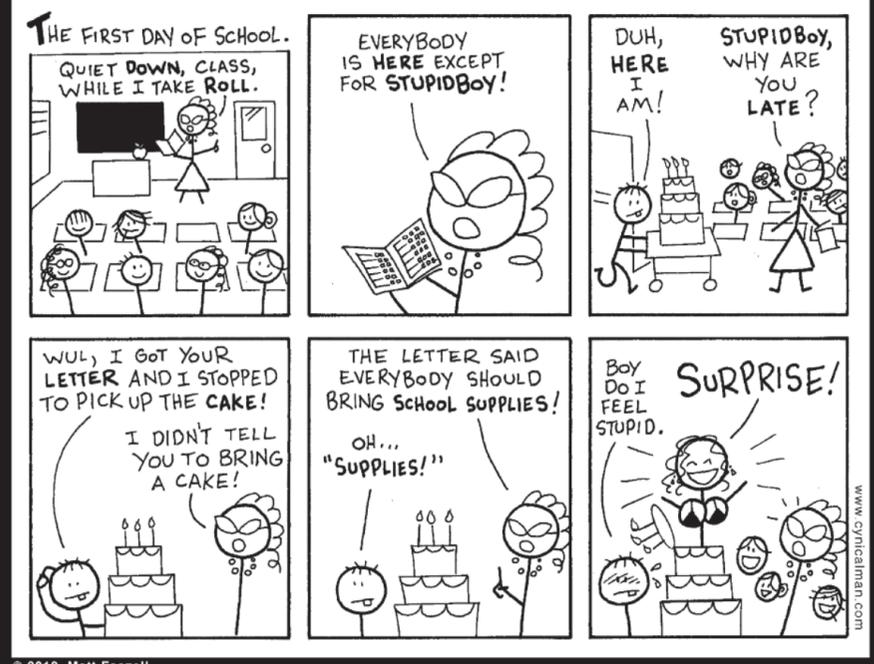
At the time we went to print it wasn't known if this year's festival was a money-maker or a money-loser. Even if we lost money, and even though Hamtramck is struggling financially, it's important to keep this festival going.

It's been here for 32 years, and as Councilmember Cathie Gordon noted, we need this festival to lift our spirits. For many residents, this is the only outing they can afford.

Since we're in a praising mood, let's also credit Mother Nature for diverting the expected rain fallout from Hurricane Isaac.

Now, let's get to work on planning next year's party.

The Amazing CYNICALMAN™ by Matt Fezell



Continued from page 3

at the 12000 block of Oklahoma after officers responded to a complaint about a disorderly person.

Officers responded to calls of a man on the ground at the 12000 block of Grand Haven. A man was indeed found there, bleeding from a

cut he received after falling onto a broken bottle.

A woman reported that a woman she knew struck her with a van at Jos. Campau and Carpenter.

A woman reported that at about 3 p.m. while at 9139 Jos. Campau, a man about 6

feet tall ripped a gold necklace from her neck and then fled westbound on Holbrook. A little while later, police received another report of a person being robbed of their gold chain, this time in the area of Lumpkin and Casmere. However, the suspect dropped his cell phone when he fled.

A Geimer St. man reported that his 48-year-old mentally-impaired sister walked away from their house.

Odds & Ends

Art opening ... Hamtramck's very own art gallery, Public Pool, is presenting a new exhibit starting on Sept. 15.

Artist George Rahme is showing off his latest work, which he calls "Fire over Water."

That's an I-Ching reference for all of you who know about Eastern philosophy.

What Rahme has done is a mash-up of found objects that he has formed into collages.

Trust us, it's good stuff.

"I sift through thrift shops, garage sales, going out of business sales, even friend's attics for interesting or obscure things - magazines, gift bags, posters, photos, paintings, fabric etc.," said Rahme in a press release. "Then I give them a second life."

Rahme is an interesting guy. He was born in Lansing to Lebanese immigrant parents, and he later graduated with honors in 2007 from the College for Creative Studies.

Two years later, Rahme had his first solo exhibition at Fred Torres Collaborations in New York. Most recently, Rahme was part of a show with David LaChapelle and Michael Anderson at Oakland University.

This is more than an art opening, though.

What Rahme is also creating is a "pop-up" studio space. He will be occupying the space for two months, and invites people to visit while he works 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Rahme is using this experiment as a catalyst for future pop-up studio spaces throughout the city, both for himself and other artists.

So, be sure to stop by on Sept. 15, from 7-11 p.m. Oh yeah, there will be, of course, refreshments (yes, that means beer and wine) on tap. Public Pool is located at 3309 Caniff.

Contest ... Students, we know it's just the beginning of school and no one wants to start writing essays, but this one could score you some good money.

Here's the deal: In honor of the upcoming commemoration of Veterans Day, the

Polish American Journal is awarding over \$1,000 in cash and prizes to students who submit an essay on the topic of: "Why I Think the United States Postal Service Should Issue a Stamp Commemorating Lt. Col. Matthew Urban."

So who's Lt. Urban? This Polish-American officer and a gentleman was a World War II hero who was awarded a number of distinguished military and government medals, including this nation's highest honor, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

President Jimmy Carter called him the nation's "greatest soldier in American history." He was buried in Arlington Cemetery in 1995.

For a copy of the contest eligibility and submission rules, call the Polish American Journal at (716) 312-8088; Toll Free (800) 422-1275; or visit www.polamjournal.com.

Donation ... Holy Cross Parish recently put together a book and school supply drive, and yowzer was it ever a success.

Hundreds of items were donated. The collection

dent Ben Jaros, who celebrates his 95th birthday this Saturday.

Ben was recently interviewed about the Negro baseball teams that used to play here in town. As a boy, he would regularly go and see the teams play at the stadium in Veterans Park.

As they say here in town, Sto Lat!



Ben Jaros is turning 95 years old this Saturday.

It's the second Saturday of the month... You know what that means.

Yes, it's time to gather up



Volunteers at Holy Cross Parish organize donations of school supplies that were eventually dropped off at the school district's Early Childhood Development Center.

was actually enormous. Volunteers put it all together and delivered the needed supplies to the public school district's Early Childhood Development Center.

Best wishes ... The gang here at The Review sends out a huge Happy Birthday to lifelong Hamtramck resi-

all your recyclable items and drop them off at the city's makeshift recycling center, in the city parking lot on Caniff at McDougall. Volunteers will be on hand from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Not a recycler? Come on, do your part and help make a difference in sparing this planet from the overload of garbage.

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Let's take a stroll through the festival



By Charles Sercombe

There was so much to do at this year's Labor Day Festival we decided to share more of our photos of the three-day event.

Let's see, besides the usual food, beer, music

and rides, there was the canoe race and kielbasa eating contest on Monday.

And of course the Polish Day Parade was a highlight on Monday as well.

Enjoy!



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Block Club Corner ...

3C7 Block Club Meeting

When: Second Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Where: People's Senior Center, 2339 Caniff St.

For: residents that live between Caniff and Carpenter and between Jos. Campau and I-75

Hamtramck Heights Neighborhood Association (4Cs Block Club) Meeting

When: First Thursday of every month, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Where: Hamtramck Community Center (11350 Charest St.)

For: residents that live between Caniff and Carpenter and between Conant and Jos. Campau

East Side Block Club Meeting

When: Second Monday of every month, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Where: Our Lady Queen of Apostles Activity Center

For: residents that live East of Conant.

Midtown Block Club Meeting

When: Third Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Where: St Florian 2626 Poland Street

For: residents that live between Caniff and Holbrook and between Jos. Campau and I-75.

Senior Plaza Block Club Meeting

When: Fourth Monday of every month, 4-5 p.m.

Where: 2620 Holbrook St

For: Residents of the Hamtramck Senior Plaza

For more information about

Hamtramck's network of block clubs, go online to: www.hamtramckblockclubs.com

Obituaries

PRIEUR



Pearl "Jean" Prieur, 74, died on September 2, 2012.

Mrs. Prieur was the owner of Hank's Lounge in Hamtramck for 45 years.

Mrs. Prieur was predeceased by her husband, Hank. She is survived by her daughters, Jeanette Zielinski, Rayette (William) Robinson and Dawn (David) Dykla; sister, Mary; brother, Lester; grandchildren, Michael,

Christopher, Veronica and Jacob; and five great-grandchildren.

Services are Saturday, September 8, 2012 at Bagnasco & Calcaterra Funeral Home, 25800 Harper Ave., St. Clair Shores. Memorial Gathering is at 10 a.m., followed by the service at 11 a.m.



• Won \$1.8 Million Arabic grant (FLAP) in 2010.

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School Bell

Global Educational Excellence (GEE), a charter school organization that operates 10 schools in the area, including Frontier, Bridge and White Academy, celebrated some good news recently.

Two of its schools recently were named "Reward Schools" by the Michigan Department of Education.

That distinction is given to schools that score in the top 5 percent in academics.

In an award luncheon held in Dearborn, the keynote

speaker was John Austin, the President of Michigan State Board of Education.

GEE also announced that it is teaming up with Eastern Michigan University to recruit international students and partner with a university in the Middle East.

GEE says its schools focus on the national and Michigan core curriculum in addition to providing an Arabic program. GEE is also expanding their schools to include one school in Jordan, which will open its doors in the fall of 2013, and another one in Dubai.



Officials with Global Educational Excellence recently attended an awards luncheon.

Science Corner

Getting ready and organized

By Dennis Lukas

With school starting there will be many things that you, as a student, will learn. Soon you will work on many projects.

Some may be for reading, writing or social studies. This article deals with science projects and how to organize them.

How does a scientist begin to work? Do they decide this is a good day to do an experiment? Do they go into a laboratory and mix things together? Of course not! Scientists use specific steps. It is called the Scientific Method. It is a very carefully planned system.

Scientific investigation might begin with an OBSERVATION. For example, have you observed that plants living in the sun seem to grow faster than those living in shade?

An investigation might also begin with a need to know something. If you were a florist, you would need to

know which plants require a lot of sun or just a little. A scientist, having observed and thought about a phenomenon, might form an educated guess called a HYPOTHESIS. A scientist may guess that sunlight makes plants grow faster.

To check a hypothesis a scientist then plans to study the phenomenon and gathers the necessary materials. Also, the HYPOTHESIS, PROCEDURE (plan) and MATERIALS must all be entered in a LOG BOOK.

When everything is prepared, the investigation can be carried out. The next step is to carefully record the RESULTS. The results are what actually happen at each step, not what you think should happen. This is an important distinction. Write only what you observe. Your brain can be in neutral as long as your eyes are in gear.

When all the results are in, you may put your brain in gear to reach a CONCLUSION

about the investigation. Conclusions are general statements based on the results. If the same conclusions are reached each time the experiment is done, the theory can be considered true. If not try, try again.

Here are a few things to think about.

Control is one of the most important aspects of a scientific investigation. There are many variables or factors in any experiment and a scientist must try to isolate only the factor being studied.

For instance, in the sample hypothesis, you will be testing only for the effect of sunlight. If you use one geranium plant and one petunia plant, can you be sure that the sun makes one grow faster?

Or could it be that one species grows faster than the other? Does temperature affect the growth rate? How about the size of the pot, the type of soil or the amount of water?

To control the experiment,

everything about the test plants must be the same. In other words use only one type of plant. The only difference is that one plant would be exposed to more sunlight than the other. The plant to be grown in the sun is the experimental plant. The other is the control.

Question: Will a controlled experiment using two geranium plants test the hypothesis? Would the conclusion tell us about other species of plants?

Sometimes hypotheses are too general to test. What hypothesis is really being tested in the above investigation? This is the process that many scientists follow. Some investigative scientists may change this method to suit their experiment.

How will you conduct your experiment? Many of your teachers will ask you to follow the process that they will introduce to you. It may be slightly different than the one

Continued on page 8



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		1	9				2	
9	6					5		1
				7				4
3	9	2			6	7	1	
4	6		3					2
	1		6	4				3
							4	
			8	5	1			

6	9	2	1	5	8	3	4	7
5	4	1	6	3	7	8	2	9
3	7	8	4	2	9	6	1	5
2	5	6	8	1	3	7	9	4
8	1	7	9	4	5	2	6	3
4	3	9	7	6	2	5	8	1
1	8	5	2	7	4	9	3	6
7	2	4	3	9	6	1	5	8
9	6	3	5	8	1	4	7	2

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Coming events

SEPTEMBER 8, Saturday 2 - 4 p.m. - Monthly Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross Parish, Pulaski at Fleming. All are welcome.

SEPTEMBER 12, Wednesday, 11 a.m. - The Daughters of Isabella Mystical Rose Circle 736 will meet at the Queen of Apostles Activity Center, enter from Harold St., fenced-in parking.

SEPTEMBER 14, Friday, 5-8 p.m. - An all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner will be held at the Hamtramck Moose Lodge, 9421 Conant. Admission is \$6, and there will be a 50-50 raffle. The dinner is a fundraiser for DAPCEP, an educational organization that provides math and science programs for kids.

Every Wednesday, 5-8 p.m. - The Hamtramck Farmer's Market is open at Pope Park, located at Jos. Campau and Belmont. The market offers a wide variety of locally grown food.

Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition meets every second Thursday of the month (next meeting: Sept. 13), 11 a.m. at The Piast Institute, 11633 Jos. Campau.

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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 modelmedia.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:

There's a curvaceous new concrete landscape at Klinger Street and the Davison, in the neighborhood just north of Hamtramck variously referred to as NoHam or Bangalatown (the latter after an influx of Bangladeshi immigrants that began in the 1970s).

Depending on the time of day, there are likely figures in this new landscape, too, many in motion and some periodically airborne. In the short month and a half since it was built, Ride It Sculpture Park has already become something that so many neighborhoods in Detroit badly need: a focal point, a shared destination, a place for people – especially young people – to meet (or more to the point, in this case, a place for them to skate.)

The park, a new project organized by Mitch Cope and Gina Reichert's nonprofit Power House Productions, isn't exactly officially open yet, but that doesn't mean the skaters and BMX riders haven't found it. There were 20 or so kids there when I visited one recent evening, ranging from about 10 to 20 years old.

"There's rarely a time when no one's here," Reichert tells me after I express surprise to see it so bustling. When I ask Jordan, a 16-year-old skateboarder from Hamtramck, how he's heard about Ride It, he answers matter-of-factly, "It's kinda hard not to."

Currently the site, occupying four once-vacant commercial lots purchased from the city, consists of several traditional skate park elements (bowl, quarter pipe, hip, and corner bank), a grill (that's not skater lingo - you cook on it), some trees, and a lot of dirt. Construction, performed by skate park builders and professional skaters from the West Coast, began in late June. (Check out Curbed Detroit's construction photo gallery here.) This is Phase 1 of the project, which still requires a little "buttoning up,"

as Reichert puts it: some post-construction clean-up and the installation of more fencing and signage.

Phases II and III are forthcoming over the next couple years as more funding is secured. They will involve the installation of sustainable landscaping elements to green the space and manage rainwater, the construction of sculptures that skaters can actually skate on, and the transformation of the neighboring alley into a street course. The course will eventually lead into Skate House, a formerly vacant home in which skaters will be able to rent helmets, repair their boards, and ... skate. "It's all about flow," Reichert says, describing a circuit that will lead from inside the house to the street course to the park.

By Matthew Piper

Getting ready and organized

Continued from page 6

I introduced to you.

That is all right.

The object of your experiment is to observe and record in your journals in a logical way. When you must do an experiment, follow the Scientific Method that is introduced to you.

As an experiment exercise of the Scientific Method, test the following hypothesis. (It is not important to know whether the hypotheses is true or false, nor is it important to know what some of the chemicals are. The important thing is how YOU would plan to test it.)

- Toads cause warts
- Excess salt causes the body to retain water
- Light causes photosynthesis
- The world is round
- Weight affects how fast objects fall
- Fish can only live in certain temperatures

Hint: Check information that you will find at the Hamtramck Public Library, or what you find through a computer research.

Using the Scientific Method

will help you to solve these various hypotheses. Remember: Keep a record of what you do. I will refer back to the scientific method as we do different experiments.

Good luck!

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