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The Review

Hamtramck

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Quick Hits

This weekend isn't just about barbecuing and drinking beer with your friends.

Monday, as you all should know, is Memorial Day. Here in Hamtramck, we have a long history of saluting our veterans with a special ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park.

As usual, local and visiting vets and the community are invited to a special Mass at St. Lad's at 10 a.m., followed by a special service at Veterans Park at 11 a.m.

After the ceremony and the laying of wreaths at the park, head over to PLAV Post 10 on Jos. Campau for food and spirits.



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.

"When you live alone, you like to know what's going on in your community."

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

HHS students learn about the power of the spoken word

By Alan R. Madeleine

Café 1923 was lit up this past Friday. Lit up with the incendiary words of youthful poetry performance, that is.

Hamtramck High students, under the tutelage of Isaac Miller (a northern California transplant with some impressive credentials himself), waged verbal warfare for a shifting audience estimated at about 30 to 40.

Miller was the 2007 Bay Area Teen Poetry Slam Champion, and is also the 2010 recipient of the Judith Lee Stronach Baccalaureate Prize for his Project for Youth Poetry and City Creation in Detroit.

Some of his spoken word performances are currently

featured in Youtube videos (although he shares time there with a like-named skater kid). In one rant entitled "Wiretap," he describes American post-9/11 military action in a harsh light. In another, called "Saturday Mornings," he relates the tale of a refugee friend and his family, and touches on their struggles in Laos, post-Vietnam War. Clearly, American military conflicts are a touch point for some of his own work.

Miller reports that the kids spoke on a wide cross-section of topics. Many did pieces relating to their lives at home, experiences they've gone through already, or

Continued on page 5



Isaac Miller (above) is mentoring Hamtramck High School students in the art of spoken word. Students performed last Friday at Café 1923.



Torrential rains lead to massive flooding in area

By Charles Sercombe

Wednesday's citywide flooding may have had a few people wondering if someone nearby was building an ark.

Turns out that the flood quickly receded, but in its wake it had left a large and nasty cleanup for many households. Two inches of rain fell in less than an hour, overwhelming the city's sewer lines.

A number of people reported that sewage water had backed up in their basements. Some reported as much as four feet of water.

Marge Czarnik was walking from her Trowbridge St. home with a bottle of bleach in her hand. She was going to her mother's house to disinfect the basement, which had been

flooded. "A lot of bleach will be sold today," she said.

Some streets also became impassable, especially under viaducts on Jos. Campau and Holbrook.

DPW crews were sent to the worst spots to remove sewer grates in order to allow faster drainage.

Hamtramck has always had a flooding issue, which shouldn't surprise anyone considering this area once used to be mostly swampland. In fact, the neighborhoods east of Conant near Caniff have long been nicknamed "Ducktown."

The ongoing flooding problem has ended up in court where a group of residents are suing the city for past damages.



A city Department of Public Works employee had just taken off a sewer grate in order to speed up the draining of a flood on Trowbridge St. on Wednesday.

Weed and Seed group seeks additional funding to remain active

By David Piestrzynski
The Review Special Writer

The Weed and Seed program has lost its funding.

But these budget cuts haven't caused the Hamtramck Community Initiative (HCI) to give up on Uncle Sam's help just yet.

Over the past few months, the HCI has applied for nearly \$2 million in federal grants to keep the program going.

The HCI is asking for an extension through March of 2012.

"The (Weed and Seed) program lost its funding," said Barbara Stachowski, HCI Site Director. "That doesn't mean everything we're doing is coming to an end."

She said that, although the organization has yet to receive a federal extension, the Hamtramck Weed and Seed program has been successful in gaining support from people throughout the country.

In the midst of submitting federal grant applications, the HCI has received many letters of support from other community leaders.

The Hamtramck Weed and Seed program's national following also gained momentum earlier this month when 50 national Weed and Seed representatives toured the city.

"We have the most diverse city in Michigan," Stachowski said. "There's a lot going on here. It was good to show it."

Originally, the Weed and Seed tour was headed through southwest Detroit, but the HCI successfully lobbied for the detour through Hamtramck.

"It was great to show that we have a united voice," Stachowski said.

The current Weed and Seed activities, such as the Citizens Patrol and block club organizing, are doing well as the HCI heads into its next round of grant applications, she added.

If federal funding can be secured, the programs will be operated under the HCI, rather than Weed and Seed.

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Legal Notice

Hanley International Academy will be hosting their 2011-2012 budget hearing, open to the public, at 7am, on Thursday, June 23, 2011 at 3056 Hanley Street, Hamtramck, Michigan 48212.

Request for Bid

Hanley International Academy is requesting bids on moving services as we move into our new school building. For information please email: greg@therominegroup.com

Request for Bid

Hanley International Academy is requesting bids for lockers and science room equipment and installation. Interested parties please email: greg@therominegroup.com.

This week at the library...

Memorial Day - Monday, May 30 in remembrance of those who died in defense of our freedom, the library will be closed.

Registrations for Summer Reading Program: All children are invited to register for the Library's 2011 Summer Program series which will start on Wednesday, June 29 with a 1 p.m. party for all who have registered.

ESL Class for Beginners - Saturday, May 28 at 10:30 a.m. Christine Templin is the instructor for the ESL class for beginners. Everyone is invited. Free to the public.

Storytime for Children - Saturday, May 28 at noon. All children are invited to library storytime. Join us for arts and craft and learn how make your own porcupine pet - and hear a story from the book "A Pet for Petunia" by Paul Schmid.

Computer Classes for Advanced Users - Monday, June 5 at 11 a.m. Adults with basic computer skills can enhance their computer literacy each Monday at the library. Number of participants is limited to available computers.

Making Your Money Grow - Money Builder Workshop - May 31, 12:30 - 3 p.m. Free workshop organized by Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency for library patrons. To register call (734) 824-6999 ext. 220, or the library at (313) 365-7050.

Outsmarting Predatory Lenders - Money Builder Workshop - May 31, 4 - 6:30 p.m. Free workshop organized by Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency for library patrons. To register, call (734) 824-6999 ext. 220, or the library at (313) 365-7050.

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.

Math Club Meeting - Tuesday, May 31 at 4 p.m. Mr. Nuo is the instructor for the math club and math tutoring.

Computer Classes for Beginners - Wednesday, June 1 at 11 a.m. Basic instructions on computer use for beginners will be held on Tuesdays. Number of participants is limited to available computers.

Movie Wednesday - Wednesday, June 1 at 3:30 p.m. Every Wednesday is movie day at the library. Come and enjoy our feature presentation, which includes free popcorn and snacks.

Math Kangaroo Award Ceremonies - Tuesday, June 7 at 5 p.m. Please join us for the award ceremonies of state and national Math Kangaroo Test award winners for 2011. Refreshments will be served.

Meeting of the Library Board - Thursday, June 9 at 6 p.m. Regular meeting of the Library Board will be held in the auditorium. The meeting is open to the public.

Special Thanks to: Syed Musharraf Ali and Zabeda Minia Choudhury for Bengali books; Jessica and Julian Madden for children's books; Robert Lewis for puzzles.

"Animals of Hamtramck" Photo Contest - If you want to share a unique beauty of your pet or any other local animal join us by taking photos of your furry friends. Submit no more than three pictures to the Library before Memorial Day. Contest winners will be announced on Saturday, June 4 at 2 p.m. during the opening of the "Animals of Hamtramck" photo exhibit.

In Hamtramck, police scanners are now a thing of the past

By Charles Sercombe

Like to keep tabs on police runs?

Kiss that pastime goodbye, at least here in Hamtramck.

We don't know how many folks in town like to tune into their police scanner, but we know there are quite a few who are upset with the Police Department's decision to upgrade to a digital version of communication.

That upgrade has rendered the analog scanners worthless.

It gets worse, or better, depending on how you look at it. Although there are scanners that will pick up digital signals, Hamtramck decided to ramp it up one step further by making its signal encrypted.

There is no scanner on the market that can unscramble an encrypted signal. But industry experts say sooner or later a scanner will become available to crack the digital code.

Councilmember Cathie Gordon is not pleased with the department's decision to shut out the community.

"We need the community's help in assisting" the police, she said.

Some officers have even privately complained to The Review that not allowing residents to tune into their calls will hurt them. One senior officer said the public has helped officers track down fleeing suspects many times.

"That's why we were so successful in catching suspects," the officer said, who asked that his name not be used.

Gordon said a lot of seniors rely on the scanners for security reasons. Jane Johnson, who has lived in Hamtramck for all of her 74 years, said she kept her scanner on "day and night."

"When you live alone, you like to know what's going on in your community," said the Commor St. resident.

But she also understands why the Police Department is blocking the signal. The reason for the changeover, said Lt. Max Garbarino, who coordinated the new communication system, is that criminals are also armed with scanners to monitor where officers are to avoid being busted.

"If I had to choose between the community's help and the safety of officers, I'd choose safety of our officers," Garbarino said.

The new system was paid through a county grant. The digital system also allows Hamtramck to better communicate with other agencies. Garbarino said that

when a major fire broke out at the Sterling Oil company, Hamtramck officers had to use cell phones to talk with Detroit officers helping out because their radios couldn't communicate with Detroit's.

Garbarino said that, although Hamtramck's system is encrypted, the department is able to communicate with other agencies at the flip of a switch. He said that the system could be unencrypted to allow the public to

tune in, but that would require sending the radios to the state police to make the change.

Hillary Cherry, who operates a website called hamtramckstar.com, urged the department to allow the public to hear radio transmissions. At Tuesday's City Council meeting, she said the department "will never be able to get a handle on crime" without the ears of the community.

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Second Front Page

Former Polish restaurant gets a major do-over

By Alan R. Madeleine

Another long-familiar Hamtramck dining landmark has reopened. This time though,

just opened their doors to business a week ago today. New owner Fatjon "Spike" Rushaj and server Ann Jaszczolt



The former Under the Eagle restaurant has been transformed into a coney island. Owner Fatjon "Spike" Rushaj (left) is pictured here with food server Ann Jaszczolt.

the name, menu and all else are very different from the previous occupants.

Coming fast on the heels of last week's Clock Restaurant grand reopening, the former Under the Eagle space has morphed into Campau Coney Island.

Looking considerably brighter inside, courtesy of some new windows, and spiffed up with some new leather booths, the place is now more cheerful and open. And speaking of "open," they

zolt chatted amiably over the small counter in the rear of the establishment. Business is "good - lots of happy customers," said Rushaj. Today, however, there are only two tables with patrons at 12:15 p.m. A third fills with a single gentleman as we talk.

The menu features coney dogs, needless to say, but also American dishes, as well as half a dozen Italian meals, four stir-fry choices, and three varieties of nachos. Burgers, melts, subs, pitas and other

sandwiches, as well as salads, round out the menu, along with almost a dozen appetizers.

Breakfasts are available anytime they are open, which is from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily (Sundays until 3 or 4 p.m.). They will deliver to your business as well. For those dining in, parking is available curbside, but also in the eight spots along the building's south wall in the Sunoco gas station. And of course, there's the large strip mall lot directly across the street.

There is no plan to add a

liquor license at this time. They do intend to enhance their beverage selection with a reach-in cooler, for those who prefer bottles or cans over fountain drinks.

A postcard touts their Grand Opening Specials: 99 cent coneys, \$2.49 breakfasts, and \$3.99 for a cheese burger and fries (\$4.99 for corned beef and fries).

It's certainly nice to see the city's somewhat bedraggled-looking southend get a shot in the arm with a good-looking new restaurant.

Two simultaneous house fires stretch Fire Department thin

By Charles Sercombe

What are the chances of this?

Back in December, a house on Trowbridge and a house on Belmont caught on fire within 15 minutes of each other.

Flash forward to last Sunday, and those same two houses once again caught on fire within 15 minutes of each other.

"I don't think it's a coincidence," said Fire Chief Steve Paruk.

No indeed. There appears to be a firebug on the loose, but there is scant evidence to be found that would allow investigators to zero in on a suspect.

The dual fires also posed a challenge for firefighters. Paruk said that fortunately he had already called Highland Park firefighters for assistance at the Trowbridge house, because the fire was beginning to spread to neighboring houses.

"We rerouted them (Highland Park) to the other fire," Paruk said.

The latest fires started at the Trowbridge house at 4 a.m.

The two fires not only stretched the department dangerously thin, but also come at a time when the city's newly adopted budget includes laying off six firefighters.

City Manager Bill Cooper said he is negotiating with the firefighters' union to come up with a cost-saving plan to avoid layoffs. He said a solution has to come no later than the end of the fiscal year, which is June 30.

Even if layoffs do happen, the firefighters' contract requires a minimum staffing of seven firefighters per shift. That would mean the city would be forced to pay overtime, which may make the layoffs more expensive than they are worth.



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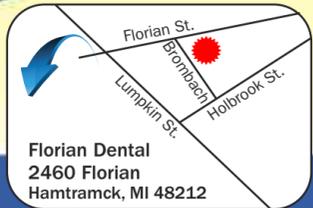
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City Hall Insider ...

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

The City Council met on May 24, and all councilmembers were present except for Councilmember Mohammed Hassan. The meeting ran for three hours.

In the spirit of “sharing the wealth” and since this meeting went on for so long and also since there were a number of meaty issues talked about, we’re going to split this report up in two parts.

So, here’s a recap of the first half of the meeting, or so.

We don’t want to violate the journalism rule of burying the lede, so let’s say this right up front: Your property tax officially increased by 2.2 mills, but for some of you, the amount of property taxes you pay is actually going to

go down. More on that soon.

And here’s the second important tidbit: There is one heck of a street crime problem going on in certain sections of the town, and apparently the cops are not doing much about it – according to some comments made by some councilmembers.

Taxes first.

The council’s unanimous vote to increase the city’s property tax rate by 2.2 mills, which takes the city’s total rate to 49 mills, drew a lengthy discussion by the public.

But first Steve Shaya, a candidate for council, questioned whether the council has a “plan of attack” to deal with a projected \$1.5 million deficit by the end of

2012. Since council’s house rules prohibit a back and forth exchange during public comment, the question just hung out there. But in later discussion over the city’s financial picture, yeah, there is sort of a plan, or at least as well as any community can do when facing dwindling revenues and increasing costs for everything.

On the proposed tax increase, former Councilmember Abdul Algazali, who is now seeking to get elected back onto the council, said if the council “really cares” about the city, it would reject the tax.

Algazali conceded that, while the city is spending more than it is bringing in, the tax will “only give you more money to spend.” Instead of a tax hike, Algazali said unions have to make contract concessions and that all non-union employees and city officials should take a 10 percent pay cut.

(Editor’s note: Algazali did not mention once again about advising the council to wait for the “fat lady to sing” before raising the property tax rate.)

Robert Zwolak, who is – surprise! – also a candidate for council, said the council needs to think about the “ramifications and consequences” of the tax increase.

Zwolak offered only one example of a ramification and consequence: Landlords will raise rents if taxes go up.

Instead of raising taxes, Zwolak said the city should explore bringing in more money through:

- Collect more from tax delinquents
- Get more from inspection fees
- More code enforcement
- More traffic tickets
- More from business licenses

Zwolak further questioned how accurate the city’s database is, and whether department heads are talking to one another about possible cross-referencing to go after more money.

Another proposal by Zwolak is to offer an amnesty program for anyone who owes the city money.

In a review of the proposed 2012 city budget, Zwolak vented about a “pet peeve” of his: The city has failed to provide “capital outlay” for

the city’s new historical museum. He said it’s the city’s responsibility to bring the museum building up to code.

(Editor’s note: Hamtramck’s Historical Commission is seeking donations and grants to remodel the building in an effort to save the city money.)

As for the budget in general, Zwolak said since it is partly based on hoped-for contract concessions from city employees, it is a “bogus, bogus budget.”

“I don’t think the state’s going to appreciate that,” Zwolak said.

He further warned that if the city plans to submit an “inflated” budget, there could be state intervention. “It’s a new game in town,” he said.

Later in the meeting, City Manager Bill Cooper gave a report on the general things happening in the city, and he addressed the state’s interest in the city’s financial health.

Cooper said he met with state officials and went through the city’s budget for the next two years. He said the state was satisfied with the city’s budget plan. He said if Hamtramck could not prove it can survive financially for the next year, it was almost certain that an emergency financial manager would have been appointed to take over.

Right after the public comment portion, the meeting shifted into a public hearing on the budget and property tax increase.

Hillary Cherry spoke on the tax increase. For those of

you in the know of things, Cherry and her husband Steve host of an online site called hamtramckstar.com. She is also a member of the Historical Commission.

Back to the tax.

Here’s something that might put things into perspective. Cherry said – and it was later confirmed by Finance Director Nevruz Nazarko – that those who bought a house five or six years ago will see a decrease in their taxes because property values have tumbled.

She said – and again, Finance Director Nazarko confirmed it – that taxes dropped 21 percent for those who bought houses five or six years ago. This tax increase is only 1.1 percent.

When it came to the council’s turn to discuss the new budget and tax increase, Councilmember Gordon

pointed out that the council had “multiple, multiple” meetings about the budget.

She said she still has “problems” with the budget. Gordon wants to cut the expenditure for legal service from \$425,000 to \$200,000, and if more money is needed for the city attorney, the council can authorize it on a case-by-case basis.

Gordon also hinted that she would rather hold off from adopting the budget in order to tinker with it. City Manager Bill Cooper said that may raise a red flag with state officials because the city would not meet a state-mandated deadline to adopt the budget – and that could lead to a state takeover of the city.

Finance Director Nazarko reminded the council that the budget can be amended

Continued on page 8

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Review: Opinion Page

For many, tax hike will hardly be noticed

We've said it before, but we'll repeat it again.

The Hamtramck City Council did the right thing on Tuesday by officially raising the city's property tax rate to its legal limit. The 2.2 mills will hardly be noticeable to most households, despite what some critics claim.

For the average homeowner, the increase will translate into an additional \$60 a year. But in reality, for many households, they will experience a decrease – yes, a decrease – in property taxes.

If you bought a house just before the housing bubble burst, when houses were

still selling for outrageous amounts, the value of your house has greatly fallen. That means your tax bill will also shoot down, by 21 percent, we are told.

And for those who have owned a house for over two decades, well, you've been paying a very low tax bill for quite some time. A little bump up will hardly break anyone's bank.

Of course that's not the way some council candidates see it. They insist the tax will send some folks over the edge.

And these same candidates insist there are alternative ways for the city to

raise money, through cuts or revenue sources not being tapped into.

Hogwash. These candidates are full of hot air, and they are hoping to hoodwink voters into thinking there is wasteful spending going on in the city.

This is a time when many communities are asking voters to approve extra millages. For the most part, voters are saying yes to new taxes because they want their city to survive.

Hamtramck property owners have a vested interest in making sure Hamtramck survives as well.



Letter from the Publisher

By John Ulaj

Getting our own house in order first is ideal

It has come to our attention that the city is again dealing with gangs, and drug homes, in the community.

Just this week, at the City Council meeting, this problem was again brought up. It has caused much concern, both to the people living in the community, and to our elected officials.

The city manager, along with the chief of police, should be aggressively proactive in targeting these drug homes, as well as in shutting down any gang operations that exist in our city. How can a city move forward with development and growth when you have issues such as these chasing away many of our law-abiding and peaceable residents?

I hear our elected officials, along with City Manager Bill Cooper, all talk about moving the city forward, and generating job growth, when in fact we can't even get our house in basic order. What corporation in their right mind would locate here when they can see graffiti all around the city, especially the downtown area (Jos. Campau, etc.)?

I was both appalled and disheartened as I drove around the city this week, only to witness the extraordinary amount of graffiti on many of our historical buildings.

If we are truly serious about getting this city on the road to success – by, for example, generating growth jobs and bringing new development to the city, thus increasing commerce and the demographic base of residents with higher disposable income – then we had better provide them with an environment that is safe, clean, and drug-free, with nice parks and (most importantly) solid infrastructure.

The police and fire departments, city manager, city council, schools and non-profit organizations (such as Weed and Seed, the Piast Institute, the block clubs, the Hamtramck NAACP, etc.) need to get even more involved, and start brainstorming and networking with one another to get this city on the road to success.

The only way to truly move our city forward is to stop playing politics and start problem solving. For example, why isn't the Hamtramck NAACP branch working with the police in addressing the gang-related issues?

The Hamtramck NAACP should take a more firm stand in dealing with these race- or gang-related issues, instead of pandering with propaganda and accusations about racial profiling, or reacting with knee-jerk negativism to police arrests when people are committing crimes.

I have great concern for the safety of our children and, especially, for our senior citizens who are all so vulnerable to these kinds of criminal acts.

We are all affected by these crimes, whether you are an African American, or Polish, Bangladeshi, Albanian, Yemeni, Hispanic, etc. We are all in this together like a family. We all want the ability to be able to enjoy ourselves – to walk our dogs, walk with our

children and spouse, rollerblade, bike ride, walk with our significant other – at any time, whether it be day or night, without the fear of being assaulted by gangs and drug addicts.

This is the normal way of life in most suburban Detroit communities. I believe we are all entitled to have this standard of living, and to have the right to the quiet and peaceful enjoyment of one's home and city.

If these problems are not remedied soon, but rather persist, rest assured we will eventually have no police, fire department, or livable city, because everything is tied into property valuations and, as crime increases, home values decrease. We could become another Highland Park in the making.

It is important to realize that the only way for our city to excel is by getting its house in order first – and this will involve instituting the principles previously mentioned above.

Implementation of these basic ideas will propel our city forward, thus increasing property values, and this in turn will generate wealth and revenue for our city. Without this increase in our home values, we really can't generate more revenue – and without revenue, how can a city then possibly sustain or preserve its own sovereignty?

HHS students learn about the power of the spoken word

Continued from front page

hopes, visions or fears for their futures. Some spoke as other characters. A few produced more song-lyric styled material. Nervous of voice or not, all seemed to gain from, and appreciate, being part of the event.

Miller works with these kids at the high school, through an arrangement as a "workshop facilitator." He first met librarian Nancy Erickson through an Allied Media conference they both attended. This led to his meeting with the English department staff, and from there the alliance was forged.

This collaboration will bear fruit when Miller oversees the group of kids selected to represent Detroit this July in the International Youth Poetry Slam being held in San Francisco. He will accompany the group there, and as a prior winner, should have excellent advice to impart to the young wordsmiths.

Miller also works with a couple of local non-profits: the InsideOut Literary Arts Project and the already-mentioned Allied Media Projects. But, he clearly has an affection for the spoken word thing.

"It lets these kids explore

their voices," he said. "And then, (the initial exposure) helps motivate them to further work on their craft."

The kids are judged by a five-person panel. It's not a complex formula. Rather, they're mostly chosen based on the quality of the work, as well as the performance of it. "Works that move the audience," Miller notes. "That's what they look for."

Under his guiding hand, can another award be too far behind?

The Amazing CYNICALMAN by Matt Fezell

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Panel 4: ONE TO FIND A NEW LIGHT BULB... THEY WERE GIVING THESE AWAY AT WORK. YEH, RITE

Panel 5: ONE TO GET THE LADDER, ONE TO STEADY IT, ONE TO CLIMB UP AND SCREW IN THE NEW LIGHT BULB... HOLD IT STILL... QUIT SQUIRMING

Panel 6: ... AND ONE TO FIND FAULT WITH THE WHOLE PROCESS. YOU LOOKED BETTER WITH THE LIGHT OFF.

Coming Events

SATURDAY, June 11 – Holy Cross Parish Youth Club, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming, is having a sub sandwich sale fundraiser. Six inch meat and cheese subs are \$3 each or 2 for \$5. Meatless option is available. Please order your subs now, call Mrs. Marsh at (586) 731-6937. Pick up orders at the church between 12-2 p.m., or 4-6 p.m. Pop and snacks also available.

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Public schools help immigrant parents overcome language barrier

By Charles Sercombe

These may be the last few weeks of Dickinson West Elementary School, but there is one program that will carry on in the district.

That's because this past year a pilot program to teach English to immigrant parents of students was highly successful.

Heck, the parents liked it so much that program coordinator Mary Vlatkoski said parents want to see it expanded.

"They want to be here five days a week," she said.

As of now, about 25 parents come three times a week. It ends this June when school lets out for the summer. It will pick up when school starts next fall.

With Dickinson West closing this year and students being transferred to Kosciuszko Middle School, the program will also move into that school.

The program is an interactive one involving a specially tailored computer program.

Parents put on headphones to help sound out letters and

words. Vlatkoski said there are numerous studies that have shown parents who can speak English with their kids will re-

sult in kids staying in school. "We value our parents as partners, and we try to provide a warm caring, nurturing envi-

ronment," Vlatkoski said. The program was paid through a federal education grant.

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gardener's corner ...

By Kathleen Wojcinski

In the science fiction novel, "Dune," "wormsign" was the word used to describe the coming of giant monster, atomic-fueled worms.

If you look down in your garden soil, "wormsign" is everywhere. Along bricks, patio stones, sidewalks, paths of all types, the earth is raised up in mounds, disturbed and pushed upwards. Worms turn the soil as they tunnel up from the deep winter slumber.

A garden without cannot exist. They tunnel, loosening packed earth, eating leaf and other vegetative debris, digesting and exuding "black gold," the nutritive by-product prized by gardeners.

It can be bought in bags at garden centers or the garden aisle at grocery stores. You can help raise worms easily. Dig a small ditch, throw in kitchen scraps (no meat) and cover back up. This will also keep out the scavengers.

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City Hall Insider... Continued from page 4

at any time to accommodate revenue changes. Councilmember Tom Jankowski said he's more concerned with the projected deficit in the budget year of 2013. Cooper said the state won't have a problem with the projected deficit as long as the city continues to work on a plan to eliminate it. Cooper added that he's looking into consolidating services with the public

school district, and that there is talk that the GM Pottstown plant could bring in additional money to the city. Councilmember Jankowski said he's more concerned with making "major, structural" changes to the city budget, but he did not elaborate on what that means. The financial future of the city, Jankowski noted, is "not looking good." Councilmember Catrina Stackpoole said that the good news is that some homeowners will realize a tax reduction, but the bad news is that the city is receiving less money from property taxes because property values have gone down.

to the city. Councilmember Stackpoole said she's not "holding my breath" about American Axle. She noted that when the tax abatement from Hamtramck expired, the company "left the day after. ... Shame on them." Stackpoole also said that all cities in the state are "in the same freakin' boat," financially-speaking. "So why are we whining about it?" she added.

Let's skip forward a bit because, well, things started to repeat and repeat - namely that the budget is based on a wish list. And after all the talk, the council unanimously voted in favor of adopting the budget and the tax increase, as well as an increase in water and sewer service. Did you know that at one time the city offered unlimited free education for police officers? That deal included covering the costs of completing college. A bachelor's degree. A master's degree. And even a law degree. Heck, no one in the police department pushed it, but theoretically it could have included a freakin' Ph.D. As long as it was job related. (What a beautiful thing. Imagine this ... a cop arrests you and he or she is also an attorney. Arrestee says: "Gosh, do

you know of a good lawyer?" Arresting cop/attorney says: "Yeah ... me." OK, we kid.) But Councilmember Jankowski, upon reviewing the current list of payments made, floated a question about two officers being paid for education courses. City Manager Cooper said that according to a recent contract adjustment, the city is obligated to pay for courses as long as they are not only job related, but also capped at no higher than receiving a master's degree. Jankowski said it's "open to interpretation" over how one decides just how "job related" some of the courses are. Cooper said "basket weaving" would definitely be out of the question. (Editor's note: What about "donut appreciation 101"? Mmmmm ... donuts.) Well, that's it for this week. Let's kick back and enjoy the Memorial Day weekend. Next week we'll pick up where we left off. To you vets of yesteryear and today, here's a big thanks for keeping the stars and stripes alive. And to my Dad (rest in peace), here's to you and the Greatest Generation. May that B-26 in the sky fly you straight and true.

CEDAR POINT!

Monday, June 20, 2011
 Bus will leave at 8 a.m.

You Must Pre-Register!
 Registration going on now!
 This will sell out quick!

Requirements:

- Hamtramck Resident or attend a Hamtramck Public School
 - Ages 15-18 (In High School) Proof required
 - Not been suspended for fighting this school year
 - Signed parent permission slip
- All kids signed up will be rechecked in June to assure good behavior in school

Fee: \$25

Parent must come in to register!
 Register at the Hamtramck High School
 Community Center 11350 Charest
 Call 893-5520 for more info

Register early, registration is limited!

Hamtramck Recreation Department, Your millage dollars at work!

Obituaries

JANAS

Jean Janas, 86, died May 19, 2011. Mrs. Janas was a Hamtramck resident and a member of the M-K Society. She was preceded in death by her husband, Stanley (1993). Mrs. Janas is survived by her daughter, Jeri Selva; sons, Roger Janas and Mark

Syzdek; grandchildren, Gregory and Jeffrey Sakowski; great-grandchildren, Brianna, Brittany, Courtney and Kyle. Funeral arrangements were made by Krot Funeral Home, and funeral services will be held on May 27 at Holy Cross Polish National Catholic Church. Burial will be at Fort Custer National Cemetery.

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1996 CHRYSL PURPLE LL	1C4GP54L0T8220338
1999 FORD BLK 4D	1FALP52U0V0201522
1997 FORD SILVER 4D	1FALP52U4V6219022
1994 FORD MARO 2D	1FALP62W6RH158389
1996 FORD WHITE 4D	1FASP1418TW108466
1993 FORD GREEN SW	1FMDU34X2PUA92791
1998 FORD RED LL	1FMPU18L9WLA83017
1986 FORD RED LL	1F7CR10A8GUD34443
1995 FORD GREEN PK	1F7EX15H8SKA16900
1997 FORD WHITE VN	1F7HE24LXWB40487
2003 FORD WHITE LL	1F7NE24L83HB73701
2001 FORD GRN PK	1F7NF20S21EC82261
1998 FORD MARO PK	1F7ZF18W2WNB86415
1986 CHEVY MARO 2D	1G1G237G2GR124844
2001 CHEVY GRN 2D	1G1JC124417225220
2000 CHEVY WHITE 2D	1G1JC12497198932
1996 CHEVY BLU 4D	1G1LD55M8TY155100
1999 CHEVY MARO 4D	1G1ND520X6266133
2000 CHEVY BLU 4D	1G1NE5219Y6127566
2005 CHEVY GRAY 4D	1G1Z75486F200115
1999 PONTIAC TAN 4D	1G2HX52K7X218964
1997 PONTIAC BLK 4D	1G2HZ52K4VH271788
1994 PONT SUNRO COMWB	1G2JB349R756147
1991 PONTIAC RED 4D	1G2JC54K7M7650143
1988 OLDS REG BLU 4D	1G3CW51C04304190
1990 OLDS GRAY 4D	1G3HN54C5LH307482
1986 CADILLA MARO 4D	1G6CD6988G4347305
1997 CADILLA GRAY 4D	1G6KD549YU278568
1999 SATURN BLK 4D	1G8ZK5274X2353561
1994 CHEVY WHITE VN	1G8DM15Z58121180
2002 CHEVY RED PK	1G8CT19W328236082
1995 OLDS RED VN	1GHDU06L3S325406
1990 CHEVY BLUE SW	1GNCT1827L0104896
CHEVY GRN VN	1GNDM19W6XB178150
1996 CHEVY TAN SUV	1GNEK13R4T367599
1989 GMC BLU PK	1GTDCC1429K531128
1990 HONDA WHITE 4D	1HGCB7653LA066755
1990 HONDA BLK 4D	1HGCB7664A130245
1998 HONDA GREEN 4D	1HGCG5641WA092675
1993 HONDA BLK 2D	2B7HB21X9PK506021
2001 JEEP WHITE LL	1J4FF48S81L630509
1987 JEEP GRAY LL	1J7HS417H088931
1995 TOYOTA PURPLE 4D	1NKAED4B0S2281970
1994 PLYMTH MARO	1P3AA4635RF193282
1995 PLYMTH BLU 2D	1P3E562Y8S0361834
1988 DODGE MARO VN	2B6HB23Y3JK182842
1993 DODGE BLK LL	2B7HB21X9PK506021
2001 DODGE GRN VN	2B8GP44341R248860
2001 CHEVY SILVER 4D	2C1MR522516711878
2000 CHRYSLER GRN 4D	2C3HD46RXH329949
1992 FORD BLU 4D	2FACP72WXX235068
1989 FORD WHITE 4D	2FAPP36XKB199960
1991 FORD RED PK	2F7EF15V6MCA47220
1996 CHEVY BLK 2D	2G1FP22K1T2116500
2002 CHEVY BLK 2D	2G1WH55K229160246
1991 OLDS TAN 4D	2G3AJ54N2M2344423
1999 BUICK GOLD 4D	2G4WB52K1X1490202
1987 MERC WHITE 2D	2MEBM72F9HX697347
1999 MERC WHITE 4D	2MEFM75W81X678176
2000 MERC GREEN 4D	2MEFM75W9YX639705
1995 DODGE GREEN 4D	3B3AA46KXST540237
2000 FORD BLK 2D	3FAKP1139YR195097
1996 DODGE RED 2D	4B3AU52N4TE359552
1997 DODGE BLK 2D	4B3AU52N5VE193884
1999 MERC GREEN SW	4M2XV11T5XDJ27337
1993 NISSAN BLU VN	4N2DN11WXP0820355
2002 TOYOTA WHITE 4D	4T1BF28B32U218157
1991 TOYOTA WHITE 4D	4T1SV24EXMU444475
1992 GEO RED 2D	J81RF2365N7547728
1992 ACURA BLK 2D	JH4DA9471NS027051
1991 HONDA WHITE 2D	JHMB4424MCO29016
1999 MAZDA GRAY 4D	JM1BJ222X0113960
1999 MAZDA BLK 4D	JM1BJ222X0103015
1996 NISSAN RED 4D	JN1CA21D9T1134552
1993 LEXUS GRN 4D	J78VK1370P0123477
1995 FORD RED 2D	KNULT05H7S6140773
OLDS	NO PLATE/NO VIN
1989 BMW 4D	WBAC2305K2084077

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