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Volume 3 No. 23
June 17, 2011
50¢

The Review

Hamtramck

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Quick Hits

It's Dad's day this Sunday.
Time to fire up the barbecue and let dear old dad relax for the day. While Father's Day often gets overshadowed by Mother's Day, heck, we all know dad is just as important.
Also, here's a reminder about a "Teach-In" happening today (Friday, June 17) from 4 to 6 p.m. at Zam Zam restaurant on Conant. The Hamtramck NAACP is hosting a discussion on insurance "redlining," and a host of heavy hitters from the state and county will be on hand.
The event is free and promises to be chock-full of handy advice on how to deal with insurance companies. A buffet will be available for \$5.

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 a way of life in this town. There is no room."

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Happy Father's Day

A Father Is:
*There in every memory
See his love and care
Strength and hands to count on
Freely he does share
Provider, toil so faithfully
To make our dreams come true
Give strong and tender discipline
Though it is hard to do
A Father is God's chosen one
To lead the family
And point it to His will for life
Of love and harmony...*

At Veterans Park, a whole lot of TLC is needed

By Charles Sercombe
Several years ago, there was a lot of interest in Veterans Memorial Park.
And by "interest" we mean there was often heated debate in the City Council Chamber over its condition and what direction the city should go with it.
Believe it or not, at one time some city officials basically wanted to pour cement over most of the park and build a "community center" slash police station. That proposal set off a crusade to not only save the park, but also to make sure that, if any future proposal came up to do away with the park, the voters would first have to weigh in on the matter.
After that fight, there was a lot of volunteer interest in maintaining the park and investing

in improvements.
One thing has remained a constant in this lengthy debate: the park's maintenance seems to wax and wane.
Right now, the park is looking pretty shabby, at least the back portion. The two baseball fields look like they are no longer being used. In one, litter is strewn everywhere and on the day we visited, three young men were stretched out on the dugout benches in the middle of the day.
Asked what they were doing, one man said: "Just hanging."
So, what if a lone kid stumbled into this scene? Really — what was up with three guys loitering about in baseball dugouts?
The grass was also just being



City officials say they realize Veterans Memorial Park needs maintenance, but they also say it takes money and volunteers. A number of proposals just may solve that problem.

Recall drive is moving forward in Hamtramck

By Mike Murphy
Special to The Review
Hamtramck residents will have many opportunities to fire Gov. Rick Snyder if two men long associated with the city have their way.
Both Hamtramck Police Sergeant Andy Mileski and Hamtramck resident Chris Cornwell, a longtime community activist and former city councilperson, will be circulating petitions at various locations in the city from now until Aug. 5, when signed petitions are returned to the state.
Michigan Citizens United (MCU), a bipartisan political action committee formed in April

to recall the governor, has become the clearinghouse of the statewide recall effort. To achieve its goal, MCU needs to collect 807,000 signatures—25 percent of the total vote in the last state election.
Estimating that 20 percent of the signatures will be proven ineligible, the political organization is aiming to collect about 1.1 million signatures.
The state allowed petitioners to begin collecting signatures on May 21, but MCU has not released signature tallies since the campaign began for fear of inaccuracies.



Chris Cornwell (right) is one of two local people circulating petitions for a recall election against Gov. Snyder. The next petition drive is June 25 near Glory Market.

Dozens arrested in crime sweep

By Charles Sercombe
Police put a tight squeeze on crime last week.
It started Wednesday afternoon when a squad of officers and detectives swept through the city streets to arrest those wanted on warrants and those committing crimes in the open.
In all, 26 people were arrested for a variety of offenses, and several people were ticketed for code violations.
The crackdown continued on Friday.
No crime was too small in what cops called a "zero tolerance" approach. That meant anyone smoking pot or dealing it on the street was picked up. Anyone appearing drunk and disorderly was also grabbed.
There was even one guy wanted for failing to pay city

Continued on page 2

Police Chief turns a new page

By Alan R. Madeleine
Hamtramck is losing its native son police chief.
Mark Kalinowski, the former St. Florian grad who grew up here on Edwin St., and who is presently the first and only Polish-born police chief the city has ever had, has turned in his resignation to take a post as a federal court officer.
Kalinowski has worked for the city for the past two dozen years, and served as the chief for the last two. A former marine, with significant time served as a drill instructor, he is taking a mission trip, with his church, to Nicaragua before beginning his new life outside the Hamtramck P.D.
"I've gone every year for the past 10," he says about the

Continued on page 3

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Dozens arrested in crime sweep

Continued from front page

income taxes, and a household of people on Lumpkin St. were kicked out of the house they were squatting in.

The biggest bust, as far as what kind of prison time could be handed down, was the arrest of three people for possessing a half kilo of cocaine. That bust was made on a tip. Officers scouted out the area of Dequindre and Caniff "and lo and behold, the car we were told about showed up," said Sgt. Detective Dan Misiak.

Two Detroit men and a woman living in the Col. Hamtramck apartments, a public housing project, were arrested. Officers also searched the woman's apartment, where they found more drugs.

According to public housing policy, the woman and her family will be kicked out of the projects.

Also seized was \$1,600 in cash and a car. Misiak said a "large" amount of marijuana was also confiscated.

"Both days were productive," he said.

Although there was some overtime involved, Misiak said not a nickel will come

from the city's general fund. Instead, he said, overtime will be paid through the Police Department's drug forfeiture fund. The crackdown was prompted by a series of complaints, from residents and City Councilmembers, about large gatherings of people on St. Aubin St. and Lumpkin, which involved open drug activity, fights and ongoing home break-ins.

While the beat will eventually go on in the city's trouble spots at least (for now) a clear message has been sent out.

But no sooner had police cleaned up, or maybe put a temporary stop in one area, a new crime wave has erupted during the past week or so. Over 20 manhole covers have been stolen during this period.

Misiak said it's likely that they are being turned into local scrap yards for money. He said he will now go out to each scrap yard and poke around to see if the covers pop up.

If so, the scrap yards will be ticketed.

Teachers look at ways to attract more students

By Alan R. Madeleine

Hamtramck Schools may be looking at an outside spruce-up soon. At least, that's the hope of many with a stake in their future.

A contingent of school officials, including some instructors, met recently at the Hamtramck High library for a brainstorming session. Members of each of the three unions at the school – teachers, administrators and support (clerical/custodial), as well as some other non-union staff – were represented at the informal meeting.

The idea is to generate some money, over and above the allotted school budget, to get the outsides of the mostly aged buildings looking nicer. And, maybe, more – well, competitive, considering the numerous charter schools popping up in the area now.

"I have to admit I'm a little uncomfortable with what could be taken as a slant that we volunteers are only doing this to be more competitive with charter schools," Hamtramck High School librarian Nancy Erickson suggested. "Teachers have been complaining for years about the appearance and cleanliness of our schools."

With the blessing of both the Hamtramck Federation of

Teachers Union, as well as School Superintendent Tom Niczay, the Community Organizing Committee has gone on to secure one \$500 donation from an anonymous local resident already. Further such donations are, of course, hoped for. The proposed makeover may include landscaping; the expanding and rejuvenating of outdoor play areas; murals and banners or other façade and entrance upgrades; and more.

Ultimately, according to Erickson, more cash-intensive ideas may also be considered, including windows, pavers, birdhouses, butterfly gardens, and the like. At the meeting, it was decided that one of the first areas they'll start with would be Kosciuszko, especially the "portable" classrooms set to house Dickinson West transplants. Some of the Dickinson West teachers toured those spaces.

Holbrook School is also high on the priority list. Professional design assistance for the project is coming from two volunteers, Meagan Robitaille (currently an Industrial Design student at WSU) and Ryan Tucker (an architecture student at Lawrence Tech). They were both referred by Power House architect and activist Gina Reichert.

Continued on page 4

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This week at the library...

Prime Time Family Reading Program - Thursday at 6 p.m. until June 30. Prime Time Reading is a family-oriented program to encourage parents to read together with their children. The program is designed for children ages 6 years and older. During intermission, a meal will be served during every session. Space is limited, first come first serves registration.

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.

Summer Reading for Toddlers: Starting July 11, on Mondays at 11 a.m., the library will hold Summer Reading Programs for Toddlers. To participate, please register before July 11.

ESL Class for Beginners - Saturday, June 18 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, June 18 at noon. All children are invited to library storytime and arts and crafts. This week we will make very special Father's Day cards and listen to a story from a book "My Dad" by Anthony Browne.

Computer Classes for Advanced Users - Monday, June 20 at 10 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.

Math Club Meeting - Tuesday, June 21 at 4 p.m. Mr. Nuo is the instructor for the math club and math tutoring.

Computer Classes for Beginners - Wednesday, June 22 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 22 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.

Meeting of the Library Board - Thursday, July 14 at 6 p.m. Regular meeting of the Library Board will be held in the auditorium. The meeting is open to the public.

Friends of the Library Meeting - Thursday, July 21 at 6 p.m. FHPL President Kathy Kristy and Treasurer George Gorday, invite all members and volunteers to participate in the regular monthly meeting.

One Sky, Many Stories - Wednesday, July 27 at 1 p.m. Summer Reading Program journey around the globe to show how different cultures view the night skies. Inside our portable planetarium children will explore the night skies and hear myths and folklore stories arising from what is seen in the constellations and stars.

Cooking and Nutrition Class - Thursday, July 28 at 4 p.m. Gleaners Food Bank is sponsoring cooking and nutrition classes taught by a chef and dietitian at the Library. Classes are free to the public. Sessions last for two hours. Participants will receive free cookbooks, free groceries and secret recipes from the pros. Number of participants is limited. You must register ahead of time. All spaces filled on first come first serve basis. To register call 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.



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Second Front Page

Police Chief turns a new page Continued from front page

mission work. "We're taking 20 young people down, to run a kids' camp and do some relief work," Kalinowski goes on. His church is related to Real Church here in Hamtramck.

So, Chief, will it be different than dealing with Hamtramck's streetwise youth?

"Actually, one of the things I'm most personally proud of is the time I spent in our D.A.R.E. program," he said.

D.A.R.E. was an acronym for Drug Abuse Resistance Education, a program every 5th grader in the district, whether public or parochial student, went through. Kalinowski taught it in the years 1995 to 2000, and still sees – and recalls – many of the kids, now in their early to mid-20s.

"They remember the classes," Kalinowski says. "There were some success stories that came out of that. Some became officers. One is

an FBI agent."

Throughout his career, his

"I had the cooperation of most of them," he says, refer-



Police Chief Mark Kalinowski accepts a proclamation of thanks from Bev Tran, a representative of Congressman John Conyers, at Tuesday's City Council meeting. Kalinowski announced his retirement at the meeting.

main goal, he notes, was "to instill confidence into the community" that his officers could keep the peace.

ring to his department. "Most bought into it."

The idea was to "change the culture," to get the unit "more

respectful" of those they served, something that can't be easy anywhere for law enforcement, but all the more so in a grittier urban environment such as Hamtramck's.

Kalinowski came by his job after coming up in the ranks as an officer, sergeant, and lieutenant before taking a written test that, per union rules, put him in the "hot seat" as Hamtown's latest police chief.

He says that he had to try to always remind himself to only worry about what he could control. Still, although his advice to the incoming chief (whoever it ends up being) is to "go home every day, and try not to (dwell on things)," he admits that "it's impossible to do that."

"It's an exhausting job, mentally even more than physically. You're in a state of constant concern for your guys," he said.

Hamtramck police do it all, from traffic beats to murder investigations. "There are no specialists" in the department, Kalinowski adds.

Asked to comment on how the city has changed over his full tenure, he mentions the constantly growing and shifting ethnic demographic the town has been witness to.

"There are 32 languages, or more, spoken here," he said. "It's almost hard to fathom how we've been able to serve them all as well as we have. Many of these people are coming from countries where the local police are feared."

The department has a contingent of youth interpreters on call, in case they run into situations involving people who speak a language unfamiliar to responding officers.

"I've really tried to make a point to get to know the leaders" of these more-recently

growing ethnic groups, Kalinowski says. "Yemeni, Bangladeshi – I've spoken in their mosques."

But the time has come to move on. As with any complex decision, there were multiple factors involved. The general anti-union sentiment nowadays, and the city's financial problems, were two parts of the equation. He's less willing to go into other details. What's important to him now is the future.

He wants everyone to know that he still loves what he considers to be "his" city, and wants to see it protected.

"I've never bad-mouthed anyone," he points out, "and I don't wish anyone ill. I value my time here, and I'm pretty proud of what we were able to do."

And that's it. Certainly, no tears.

Not from an ex-drill sergeant.

Chief says his tenure produced a better department

At Tuesday's City Council meeting, Police Chief Marek Kalinowski read his resignation letter. Here is what he said:

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing you this letter as I anticipate this to be one of few letters left to write as I

am officially announcing my retirement to you.

I want to express great gratitude to the City of Hamtramck, for giving me the opportunity to serve, first as a Police Officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and now Chief of Police.

It has always been my goal to serve this city and the Police Department with the best of my abilities. I can only hope that those goals were accomplished. I believe that the Hamtramck Police Department is left in good hands. It is better

trained, equipped and supervised than ever, and I feel that the department is ready to move forward.

I have made many friendships during my career, both on and off of the job, and can only hope that they last far into the future.

This great city and department will always be in my prayers with the hope that the Lord Jesus Christ blesses and prospers them beyond expectation.

I bid farewell, but not goodbye to the city which I grew up in and served.

I salute both The Hamtramck Police Department and The City of Hamtramck. Thank you for the memories.

Candidate forum set for July 13

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck candidates, get your speech ready.

The Hamtramck Block Club Association and The Review newspaper are sponsoring a "Meet the Candidates Night" on Wednesday, July 13, at People's Community Services, located on Jos. Campau at Danforth.

The structure of the evening follows past years: the public is invited to arrive at 6 p.m. for refreshments and to write down questions for candidates, and then at 7 p.m. the candidates get to speak a few minutes on any subject they want to.

After a short break, candidates will field questions presented from the public.

There are 13 candidates seeking three seats on the City Council. Only one incumbent, Cathie Gordon, is seeking re-election.

The Primary Election is Aug. 2, and out of the 13 candidates running, the top six vote-getters will go on to the November General Election.

The council race is the only local elected office on the Primary ballot.



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For students and staff, leaving old school is bittersweet



By Charles Sercombe

It's not often you hear about students going on a parade to celebrate being transferred to a new school.

But instead of moping about the closing of Dickinson West Elementary School, the students and staff decided to make it a day of fun last Friday and paraded to their new school, down the block, Kosciuszko.

The last day of class is today (Friday, June 17), and Dickinson West students won't be attending Kosciuszko until next fall. To ease the transition, the students took part of last Friday off and held a parade to Kosciuszko. Once there, they got to jump around in several

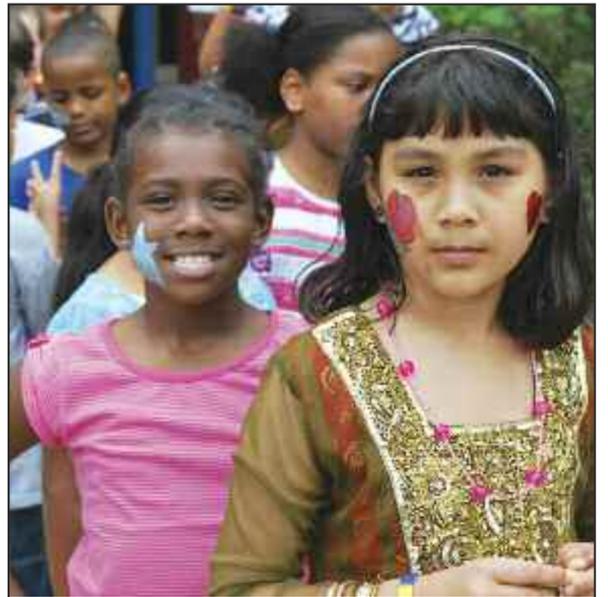
inflatables.

Teachers and staff members paid for the inflatables through fundraisers they held throughout the school year.

Dickinson West is being closed because of declining enrollment and the need for the public school district to save money.

The district is facing a \$6 million deficit. The cost to rent and maintain Dickinson West from the St. Lad's Parish is \$469,000 a year.

Some of the Dickinson West students will be assigned to classroom trailers on the grounds of Kosciuszko and others will have new classrooms made for them inside the building.



A Tribute to Grandpa

Grandfathers like you are hard to find
When God made you, He quit the line.
He gave you a heart as big as the earth,
And a soul so clean it's almost a mirth.
He made you a man full of pride and joy,
Like a little child with a brand new toy.
He gave you the time to fill everyone's need,
And the strength so their wishes you would heed.
But now, it's time for us to show you,
That there's always someone in love with you, too.
We may be young and frivolous and gay,
But we love you, Grandpa, day after day.

Dewayne R. Hallett
December 1, 1922
June 15, 2011
Deep in our hearts
you'll always stay,
loved and remembered
every day.

Students from Dickinson West Elementary School paraded down to Kosciuszko Middle School last Friday as a way to transition to their new classrooms. Dickinson West is being closed down in the coming weeks. On the way to the school, some students posed in front of Kosciuszko's sign before having fun bouncing on inflatables set up on the playground.



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Teachers look at ways to attract more students

Continued from page 2

"The goal is to increase enrollment," Erickson said. Thus, both the unions and the school officials are behind the idea. That will likely mean relying, ultimately, on volunteer labor. In this case, that would mean teachers, interested parties, parents when possible, and maybe even students.

"The trick there is catching up to them in the summer months," Erickson laughed.

Of course, nowadays, if you get a hold of one kid, you almost surely get a hold of many, once they text, tweet, email, Facebook, etc. one another.

So, there is a sense of hope in the air - in spite of some hard contractual wrangling going on in the meanwhile. But for the dedicated teachers, staff and district officials who want to see Hamtramck Schools compete for students, the focus for now remains on what positive forward steps, like these, can be taken.



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 June 14, with all but Councilmember Catrina Stackpoole in attendance. The meeting ran for about three-and-a-half hours, but it included a closed meeting that lasted for approximately 30 minutes.

Although this is election season, the length of the meeting didn't have that much to do with political posturing. Well, yes, there was some. Largely, the meeting dragged on due to a pile-up of issues.

First off was a lengthy introduction and discussion over the city's code inspectors. Marty Ladd, the Director of the Public Works Department fielded a number of questions on the role of some of the inspectors.

Councilmember Shahab

Ahmed said he's received complaints from some home owners that after receiving a list of things to repair from a home inspection, a follow-up inspection will lead to even more repairs needed to be done.

Ladd said that what happens is that sometimes more code violations come up after the repairs are made. For instance, he said, a homeowner could be told to rewire part of the house because it's old wiring. But when the wall is removed to replace the wiring, Ladd said, it's then discovered that the structure needs to be updated.

Councilmember Tom Jankowski questioned why it takes so long to tear down fire damaged houses. Ladd said it's a case of insurance companies dragging out their

investigations.

(Editor's note: It can also be the result of trying to figure out who owns the property. Sometimes the title work to a house can be confusing.)

Jankowski also wanted to know why the city has so many garages and sheds in "terrible, terrible shape."

Ladd said the state's law on property rights holds up the city from taking action.

"We're trying our best to whittle this" Ladd said, in reference to speeding up the time it takes the city to get the property repaired or torn down.

Ladd said he is working with the city attorney to find a way to cut down on the number of legal steps needed to take action.

Mayor Karen Majewski asked if any of the inspectors will be working weekends and evenings when many people do home improvement projects.

(Editor's note: A number of these projects require getting a work permit from the city.)

Ladd said yes, some inspectors will work "odd hours" to catch those who do work without permits. He said other than that, he relies on police officers to take action during their patrols of the city.

(Editor's note: Ever notice the number of times you see officers driving around while talking on their cell phones? And we're not talking just about Hamtramck. We see this in the city and suburbs. Which begs the question: Are they really on the lookout? Just saying.)

From the public, former Councilmember, City Clerk and Charter Revision Commissionmember and now candidate for council, Robert Zwolak, talked about a proposed retirement buyouts for two officers.

The proposal was actually only going to be taken up by one officer who is two months shy of retiring. The proposal calls for paying the officer \$6,500 so he can retire early.

(Editor's note: This has to do with Gov. Snyder's plan to change a retirement formula for public employees. The change takes place July 1, and it would delay the retirement for this officer in question.)

Zwolak cautioned the council to consider what the ramifications will be if the deal is approved, especially considering the city's financial situation and the possibility that it could trigger state intervention.

Councilmember Jankowski later in the meeting picked up on this issue, and questioned whether this one-time deal could be used by the police union to demand a similar deal.

He said the city also needs to get a contract concession

first from the police union before OK'ing the proposal. As it turned out, the council postponed the proposal until the next meeting.

Despite an impassioned plea from Police Chief Mark Kalinowski, the council refused to schedule a special meeting ahead of the next regular meeting. City Manager Bill Cooper noted that if the council waits for the next regular meeting, it is doubtful the state's public employee pension organization would have enough time to process the retirement.

In other words, as of now, the officer won't get to retire early.

Councilmember Jankowski added that the police union should be willing to accept a contract concession, such as allowing the city manager to be able to appoint the police chief. Jankowski also said he's concerned the police union will later demand a similar deal for other officers near retirement, saying it's part of the contract.

After the council met in closed session to discuss a pending contract negotiation, the meeting came back to a review of the city's expenses.

Councilmember Cathie Gordon inquired about the city being charged for incarcerating people in the county jail. City Manager Cooper confirmed that indeed, the city is charged to house prisoners in the county jail.

Gordon suggested the city should skip sending people to jail and instead put prisoners on a tether. Cooper said the city is also charged for tether service. He said the jail turns out to be the less expensive alternative because prisoners are sometimes released early.

A lengthy discussion was held on a proposal to purchase four new police vehicles. Cooper said two cars are so "worn out" that they have no "get up and go."

Two of the police cars will be auctioned off and two are still usable enough to replace worn out cars used by the city administration.

Cooper also noted the new cars will be purchased through drug forfeiture funds. Councilmember Jankowski asked how much money is in that fund. Cooper said a little less than \$1 million.

Jankowski also asked how many cars are there in the Police Department and how many are actually needed. Cooper said there are 21 cars within the department, and that the new cars are needed to slow down the wear and tear on the fleet.

In a side note, Cooper said the Fords the department have are not as good as the Chevy Caprices (which have been discontinued).

The council eventually approved of the purchase.

If it's close to summer (and it will be officially summer next

Tuesday), that means festival season.

The Hamtramck Downtown Development Authority received the OK to hold the annual Hamtramck Labor Day Festival.

"I want to applaud you," said Councilmember Gordon to DDA Director Darren Grow. "I hope you make a ton of money."

Except for one little thing. Gordon objected to the wording in the council's resolution approving the festival. She asked to tweak it to remove the council giving the DDA authority to hold the festival on the grounds that it ties potential responsibility back to the city.

Or something like that. Hey, if someone is going to sue, there's no stopping them from including the city.

But the tweaking of the wordage was completed, and now everyone can look forward to four days of beer and live music.

Later in the meeting, City Manager Cooper noted that the upcoming Bangladeshi Festival, slated to be held on a portion of Conant next weekend, may have to be forcibly canceled because the organizer failed to meet a deadline to produce a number of documents and insurance

forms.

He said with only a week to go, it's getting too late to allow the festival to go forward.

Mayor Majewski said even if the city gets the info by the end of the week, it still may be too late. She said this is an issue that deals with "respecting" city deadlines and requirements.

Cooper said he will give the organizer until Friday to produce the required documents.

A lengthy discussion was held on a state act that would bring in state officials to review the city's finances. Councilmember Jankowski said he brought up the issue to enlighten the council on its options down the road and the "triggers" that could lead to state intervention.

Jankowski said that although the city's finances are shaky over the next few years, he thinks the state won't have to be called in.

"I'm convinced we can manage our way out," he said.

Mayor Majewski said she's "really frightened" of the prospect that the state would take over the city.

"One way or another," she said, either the city fixes the financial problems or the state will.

Continued on page 10

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED 2011-2012 BUDGET

The Board of Education of the School District City of Hamtramck will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 29, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. in the Administration Building, 3201 Roosevelt Street, to review and consider the school system's 2011-2012 proposed budget.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

Copies of the 2011-2012 Proposed Budget will be available for examination in the Superintendent of Schools Office, 3201 Roosevelt, from 8:00 a.m. June 24, 2011, until the time of the Public Hearing.

Hedy Shulgon, Secretary, Hamtramck Board of Education

Review: Opinion Page

Hamtramck's police force is long overdue for a makeover

Hamtramck has a chance of taking a small step toward diversifying the ethnic makeup of the Police Department.

The department currently has two African-American officers on a force out of about 40. There are also three women on the force.

And that's it as far as race, ethnicity and gender go. The rest of the force is made up of white males.

Before we go on, let's make one thing clear. This is in no way a criticism of the current officers and detectives. They had nothing to do with the department's hiring practices in the past or present.

And let's make another thing clear. Newly retiring Police Chief Mark Kalinowski's approach to hiring, which was to hire the cream of the crop no matter what the candidate's race, gen-

der or ethnicity was, was not a bad policy either.

Only thing is, it always ended up being a white male.

For an ethnically diverse city like Hamtramck, there are skills we need in officers that don't directly translate into how well they scored on the police placement test.

We need a Police Department that reflects the ethnic and racial makeup of Hamtramck, and this need has not been adequately addressed for decades.

There is currently a chance to hire a Bengali police candidate who finished somewhere around 30th in the latest officer test. The bottom line to keep in mind is, this candidate passed the test to become an officer.

Credit here must go to City Councilmember Tom

Jankowski for bringing this to light at this week's council meeting. He, as well as others on the council, are urging the administration to take solid steps to begin the reshaping of the Police Department.

However, the city simply can't gallop ahead and leapfrog over the other candidates who scored higher. Instead, we have to make it clear in the hiring process that we need special language and cultural skills.

The city has to tread carefully here because of state and federal employment laws. The city manager and city attorney are taking a close look at this issue and will draw up some guidelines that will meet those state and federal requirements.

Clearly, though, it's past due for Hamtramck to diversify its police force.

Odds & Ends

Correction ... Last week we erroneously reported that the Hamtramck Public School district is facing a \$4 million budget deficit.

Sorry folks, it's worse than that. It's actually a \$6 million deficit.

Condolences ... Our regrets go out to our graphics honcho and the person who puts this paper all together, Kim Cerne. Her grandfather died on Wednesday, and she went beyond the call of duty to get this paper out on time. Kim, may your dear old grandpa rest in peace.

Snydered ... Well, yes, this is an awkward transition from the above, but we must march on. By "Snydered," and we aren't the first to coin the term, we mean something bad is happening to you thanks to the "Tough Nerd" now holding the position of governor.

And there is more bad Snydered to come. Starting next year, you can no longer get a state tax credit for donating money or stuff to charities. So, yeah, those appliances, clothes, food, furniture ... you name it ... that you drop off to say, Recycled Treasures in Hamtramck or any of the Salvation Army centers, can no longer be given a dollar value to get a state tax credit.

However, and this is a big however, you can still get a tax credit on your federal tax form - unless Congressional "Republicans" take the lead from Snyder and stick it further to the middle class.

Coincidence? ... Hmmm ... yes, that's what Councilman Tom Jankowski is wondering (well not really, he's pretty sure it's not) about the timing of three cop cars pulling up to his bar at 3:45 a.m. early Wednesday morning wondering what was going on.

Before we continue, let's back up several hours earlier to when, at Tuesday's council meeting, Jankowski spoke out against approving a deal for a senior police officer to take a buyout from the city in order to retire two months early.

Jankowski objected because of two things, mainly: That in prior special deals given to officers, the officers' union would later cite that as a precedent and insist it was a permanent deal for all officers.

And the second thing was, hey, if the union wants a special deal, then there has to be give and take.

Well, skip ahead a few hours, and the cops are bursting into Jankowski's bar, obviously looking to bust the bar for serving patrons after-hours. And according to Jankowski, they weren't too nice about it.

As it turned out, there was the bartender and a helper mopping up. The cops left, with a little better attitude, Jankowski said, and that was that.

This isn't the first time Jankowski has accused the department of tit for tat in past labor issues he's had with the department.

Everyone, let's hold a "Come-to-Jesus" rally and turn our fight outward to the real culprits responsible for our economic woes. Yes, the party for the rich and greedy corporations - the Republicans.

Pizza bandits ... This subject has already been the focus of TV news reports this week, but it's worth repeating.

Last Friday night the good folks at Amar Pizza on Conant were held up at gun-

from the till.

There's a video of the incident on the website of WXYZ Channel 7, which you can find at www.wxyz.com. Anyone with information that leads to the arrest of the suspect can claim a \$1,000 reward.

There is some good news to this. Since the armed robbery, we're told, friends and supporters have been ordering food from Amar like crazy. The best part is, they really do make excellent pizza.

Breaking news ... On Wednesday evening, at around 7 p.m., a blaze erupted in an abandoned house on Faber St. This was no ordinary fire, because it quickly spread to two other neighboring houses. In all, three houses were left in smoldering ruins and four families - yes, four families - were left homeless.

Fire officials are still trying to figure out the cause of the fire, but it smells like arson or the result of squatters. During the past year or so there has been a rash of fires on the southend, and fire investigators say most of it has definitely been the handiwork of an arsonist.

We'll have more on the fire



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Residents remove belongings from their house that was burned down on Faber St. on Wednesday night. Three houses were destroyed and four families now have to find a new place to live.

point and were forced to hand over \$800 from the till.

According to the news report, three men came into the pizzeria around 10 p.m. and hung out until the place cleared out.

One of the men then asked for change, and then, get this, asked for change twice more. Apparently he was trying to figure out how much money was in the register.

The third time the suspect asked for change proved to be the charm, so to speak. That's when he showed the store employee a gun and demanded all of the money

next week.

But one disturbing thing happened when firefighters arrived on the scene: residents on the street told TV reporters that because a close-by fire hydrant was out of commission, it took firefighters 30 minutes or so to get additional water pumping onto the houses.

City Manager Bill Cooper told TV reporters he didn't know why the hydrant was not working.

Folks, unless the hydrant just went out of commission, this is unacceptable.

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Is Old Glory a fading memory in Hamtramck?

By Charles Sercombe

Once upon a time, not too long ago actually, Flag Day in Hamtramck was something special.

But apparently, not anymore.

We're not sure when this happened, but it seems that within the last few years – three or five? – fewer and fewer households displayed American flags on this special day created by Congress

the tradition. Over at the Polish American Congress office on Jos. Campau, they had a flag all right on display outside, but it was the flag of Poland.

Well, to be fair, the PAC always displays the Polish flag no matter what day it is.

Also missing this year was the annual flag ceremony held by local vets. On Flag Day vets would hold a special ceremony to dispose of

esting background.

Back in the 1960s, his family emigrated to the US from Poland. He was 11 years old and coming to America from communist Poland was a breath of fresh air.

Greg, now 55 years old, went on to serve in the Army from 1975 to 1978. Over the past few years, he's developed degenerative bone disease in his back, hence



Grzegorz "Greg" Marynowski is proud of the flags of Poland, his homeland, and America, the country he emigrated to at age 11 and later the country he served for in the Army.

a long, long time ago.

There were even fewer flags out during this past Tuesday's Flag Day.

It used to be you could look down any block and see house after house with a flag out front or draped down the porch. Oh, there were some houses displaying Old Glory on Tuesday, but it was only here and there.

Hamtramck used to be a pretty patriotic town. What happened?

Is it symptomatic of the continuing political fracturing of America? Weariness and apathy from the ongoing sluggish economy?

Or is it a sign of Hamtramck's shifting immigrant population, a population that is not fully assimilated into the American mainstream?

Even the longtime immigrant community was strangely out of step with

soiled and old American flags in Veterans Memorial Park.

In other words, the flags were set on fire, which is the proper way to dispose of a flag.

Although in the past we've commented on the mixed message of the event, it at least was a ceremony of respect for Old Glory.

Now, it seems, the stars and stripes are fading away.

But then late in the day on Tuesday, we looked up from our computer screen and out into Caniff, and there whizzing by the office was Grzegorz "Greg" Marynowski in his electric wheelchair.

There on his handlebar basket was a small American flag, flapping in the breeze.

We ran out of the office and caught up Greg. He's an interesting guy with an inter-

the wheelchair. He not only had the American flag on display, but also the Polish flag.

He said he flies both flags each day. The Polish flag represents a place that is special to him.

"It's where my family came from," he said. "My heritage."

And for many American-Poles, Poland has an even deeper connection because of Pope John Paul II – the first-ever Polish born person to become Pope.

"I'm so proud of my Pope. He helped end the Soviet Union," he said.

In other words, the end of communism, which is why the American flag is nearer and dearer.

The American flag, Marynowski said, is all about two things: "Pride and freedom."

gardener's corner ...

By Kathleen Wojcinski

Botanical gardens are great ways to get inspired.

Try the Detroit Zoo. Surprisingly, well-tended gardens of varying themes pepper the park. Colorful pots drip with color. Paths meander through exhibits, under shade trees, softening cement corners. Cool re-

treats invite you to sit on a log bench amid ferns and hostas.

An undulating fence made from tree branches looked easy to copy. Cut 2-inch think branches to 3 feet in length.

Pound upright into ground 2 feet apart. Bind about five bendy thin branches 3 feet

or more, together at both ends with twine.

Tuck one end into soil at base of the large branch, curving them up and tucking the other end in at the next big branch.

Continue along for a rustic look. You could use grapevine instead. It's easy to replace next year.



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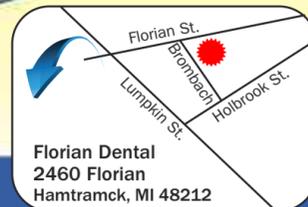
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At Veterans Park, a whole lot of TLC is needed

Continued from front page

cut after growing to about two feet high. That didn't stop a charter school from holding an end-of-the-summer program for what looked like about 200 kids, despite the tall grass.

Veterans Park is city-owned, but in a deal with the public school district, the job of cutting the park's grass falls to the district.

Even though the school district is facing a \$6 million budget deficit, it has agreed to maintain the park.

While the park may not be in the best of shape now, that isn't to say the park is not on the radar of city officials. Recently, the city completed a Master Plan, and there are several proposals for the park.

Unfortunately, as you can likely guess, it requires money

and volunteers.

The two ball fields may be repurposed as soccer fields or even a place for cricket games. More security lighting is also being looked at as well as replacing a playscape that was burned down not once, but twice (or is it three times?).

In a separate effort, volunteers are seeking historical designation for the baseball grandstands, which is likely to have hosted Negro League baseball teams decades ago, before blacks were integrated into mainstream baseball.

If the historical designation comes through, there could be funding to revamp the grandstands and baseball field. It could become a popular sight-seeing stop for out-of-town fans of baseball history.

City Manager Bill Cooper said funding for the overall improvement of the park depends on finding both public and private funding sources.

"It's very frustrating," Cooper said about starting up improvements. "We want to move forward on it."

The city has already set aside \$50,000 from a yearly federal grant to create a bike path around the park that will link up to the "Dequindre Cut" that goes to the Detroit River.

All of this is going to take time and patience, though.

In the meantime, city officials admit maintenance is high on the list of things to do.

"The big part is getting it cleaned up," said Jason Friedman, the Director of Community & Economic Development.

The even bigger challenge is finding a way to do that with the city's extremely limited budget. And considering the fact that some communities are being forced to close some of their parks because of shrinking budgets, at least Hamtramck is talking about ways to improve Veterans Park.

Recall drive is moving forward in Hamtramck

Continued from front page

Cornwell, who works for the Hamtramck Housing Commission, said he collected about 30 signatures from Hamtramck residents at his first signing event, but said that he was surprised at the amount on nonresidents who wanted to sign the petition or get involved in the campaign.

Mileski is holding his first signing event from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 25, in the Hamtramck Town Center parking lot at Jos. Campau and Holbrook (near Glory Market).

Like many citizens across the state, Mileski and Cornwell are not reacting against one facet of the governor's actions, they are protesting Snyder's agenda as a whole, but Mileski acknowledged that recalling the governor would be a long shot.

"You've got to stand up for what you believe in," Mileski said. "If it doesn't work, it doesn't work. But you've got to try. That's why it's America."

For both Mileski and Cornwell, the most maddening policies associated with Snyder are those that are unfolding from the recently passed Public Act 4, or the "Local Government

and School District Fiscal Accountability Act."

Among other things, the Act allows the state to appoint emergency financial managers for both municipalities and school districts.

Cornwell and Mileski, who is a union member, are also worried about Snyder's attempts to inhibit and curtail collective bargaining rights and his plans to balance the state budget through tax cuts for corporations and budget cuts.

Mileski said Snyder's agenda, which calls for service employees like police officers to do more with less, will not lead to improvement.

"They expect everyone to do more," Mileski said. "With the economy down, crime is going up. We're not superheroes."

Cornwell, who was able to examine closely some of the adverse effects of an emergency financial manager while he served as a Hamtramck councilperson, said that the time to recall Snyder is now, and that people should not take a wait-and-see attitude.

"I think the longer he is in office, the more of his agenda will be passed into policy," Cornwell said. "It's already happening. You can't put the toothpaste back into the tube."

CITY OF HAMTRAMCK, MICHIGAN ORDINANCE 2011-3

Ordinance 2011-3 adopts the 2009 edition of the International Fire Code as the fire prevention code for the City of Hamtramck. A complete copy of the ordinance is available in the City Clerk's office.

Enacted: June 14, 2011 T. Edwin Norris, City Clerk
Published: June 17, 2011 Hamtramck, Michigan

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Lehman St., 2 Br. lower, furnished is optional, new windows, new doors, separate washer-dryer, separate utilities, immediate occupancy, 586-873-8510. 6/17

Hamtramck, 2 Br. upper, stove-fridge, newly remodeled, on Holbrook between Gallagher and Jos. Campau, for appointment, call 586-604-0553. 8/5

Hamtramck studio apartments, good location, immediate occupancy, 248-229-4295, 248-229-4297. 7/8

2 Br. lower flat, \$575/month + \$575 security deposit, utilities not included, adults only preferred, non-smokers, no pets, must prove income and references needed, call 313-874-1442, leave message. 6/24

Lower flat, 2 Br. Hamtramck, dining room, kitchen, appliances included, security deposit, nice area, call 313-712-8347. 7/8

3 Br. upper, furnished, Poland St., near St. Florian, 1 month security, \$500/month, call (519) 965-4161. 6/17

Nice apartment, Hamtramck, lower, \$550 + \$550 deposit, 313-268-7420. 7/1

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Hamtramck, 3101 Jacob St., 2 Br. lower, large kitchen and dining room, excellent condition, newly painted, Section 8 welcomed, 586-497-8810. 7/22

Hamtramck, 9479 McDougall, 2 Br. Lower, living room, kitchen, bathroom, immediate occupancy, first month rent + 1 month security deposit, 313-871-0724. 6/17

Hamtramck, 2154 Belmont, 2 Br. lower, living room, dining room, kitchen, newly remodeled, no pets, new fridge and stove, first month rent + 1 month security, 313-213-8502. 6/24

Studio, 2 - 3 br. For rent, central air, dryer-washer, dishwasher, Hamtramck + Warren, call Mario, 313-420-7451.

Hamtramck, 2 Br. upper, living room, dining room, kitchen, 2300 Whalen, good condition, near school, Section 8 OK, no pets, immediate occupancy, \$475/month + security deposit, 586-354-6270, 586-806-5312. 6/24

Hamtramck, 2 Br., nice and clean, available immediately, \$400 + up + deposit. Also have 2 Br. condo in Warren, 313-712-6021. 6/24

Lower, 2 Br., pretty flowers, shaded porch, large backyard, sage neighborhood, appliances, water included, \$500/month + one month security deposit, 313-301-0594. 6/24

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3 + 5 Br. single houses with option to buy, no pets, 313-369-1654. 6/17

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City Hall Insider... Continued from page 5

Jankowski added that it's time city unions, especially public safety unions, agree to contract concessions.

"It's time, the clock is ticking," he said.

A longtime complaint from a Belmont St. resident about Jet Pizza delivery drivers parking their cars in the alley and causing noise at night was addressed. Councilmember Kazi Miah said the city has to do something about the mat-

ter, which has been going on for over a year.

Councilmember Gordon asked City Manager Cooper who is responsible for enforcing the no parking law in the Jos. Campau alley. Cooper said in the evening it's the Police Department.

Cooper said that illegal parking is one of the least concerns of police officers during the night because they have to deal with a range of

serious crimes. He said, though, the department has issued tickets to the drivers and has talked with drivers and the business owner about the matter.

He said the problem seems to go away for awhile and then comes back.

Councilmember Jankowski said that area of the city is often busy at night and that parking is tight on the street. That leaves no other place for the drivers to park, he said.

"We're not set up to resolve this problem," Jankowski said.

Councilmember Gordon said many people park in the alley because there is nowhere else to park.

"It's a way of life in this town," she said. "There is no room."

(Editor's note: After the council meeting, at about 11 p.m., City Hall Insider went through the alley. Sure enough, there were two cars parked behind Jet's, but it was

not clear whether they belonged to employees working there. And as for tight parking at the side of the pizzeria as

Mayor Majewski suggested police officers step up patrols along the Jos. Campau alley because they just might catch

that Cooper talk with public housing officials here in town about sharing services such as payroll and legal.

Moving on, Councilmember Jankowski said there is a possibility for the city to hire a Bengali police officer candidate, according to an eligibility list that the Police Department hires from.

However, there is an issue because the candidate in question ranked 30th or so in a field of over 100 candidates. The council questioned whether there would be a legal issue, or lawsuit possibility, if the city leapfrogged over more highly qualified candidates.

City Attorney James Allen said although it is unlikely that a legal challenge would be made, the city would have to proceed carefully. He said rather than hire the candidate merely because he is a Bengali, the city would need to structure as the job requires someone who speaks that language.



A resident on Belmont St. has long complained of cars illegally parked in the alley behind Jet's Pizza. The resident said the drivers cause noise late at night. Sure enough, on Tuesday night, there were cars parked behind the pizzeria.

well as in front, there were many open spaces. It could be the problem is worse during Friday and Saturday nights.)

someone trying to break into a business or house.

In another issue, Councilmember Gordon suggested

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Thin Crust	\$6.00	\$8.00	\$10.00
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Philly Steak, Green Peppers, Onions			
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Thin Crust	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$12.00
Square Deep Dish	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$12.00
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