

Attention Hamtramck voters and interested residents, be sure to come out to the

Meet the Candidates Night • July 13th

6 p.m. at People's Community Services, located on Jos. Campau at Danforth.

This is your chance to hear where candidates for the City Council stand on local issues.
 "Meet the Candidates Night" is being sponsored by the Hamtramck Block Club Association and The Review newspaper.
 — Refreshments Provided by The Hamtramck Review —

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 Volume 3 No. 24
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The Review

Hamtramck

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Quick Hits

It's time to celebrate. The July Fourth holiday is coming up, and this Monday (June 27), it's the annual Detroit fireworks display.

If it rains Monday, the fireworks will be held on Tuesday.

In Hamtramck, you can actually see the fireworks from certain strategic locations, such as the overpass on Caniff and Holbrook.

We at The Review like to head down to Eastern Market because it's usually easy to get in and out and there are plenty of spaces to view the show.

So, get in the holiday spirit and enjoy some fireworks. And best of all, it's free.

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.

"Let them go, thank you, see you later."

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD — Get ready to enjoy hot fun in the summertime

By Alan R. Madeleine

Even though summer is only just now officially here, have the kids already started getting underfoot?

Are they making the mopey bored face?

Well, your city Parks and Recreation Dept. is on your side, with plenty of interesting diversions to offer the kiddies – and you as well.

And you may want to save this article – the Rec Dept's website still only lists their old calendar from Fall 2010 through Winter 2011. However, by now you should have received the print copy of Rec programs for this summer, which was supposed to have been hand-delivered to every home.

The department kicked off summer a week ago tonight, when they showed the Michael Jackson biopic "This Is It" on a big inflatable screen in Pulaski Park to a varying crowd estimated, by Recreation Coordinator Teresa Yorke, at about 100 people. Kids displayed their moonwalking and Thriller stalking under clear skies.

The nice weather definitely helped make the event a success, Yorke noted.

The next similar event will be the "Summer Splash," slated for Friday, July 15, likewise to be held at Pulaski Park. The water-themed fun will go from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., and the 2006 "Karate Kid" remake, starring Will Smith's son, Jaden, will be shown this time on the big blow-up screen.

In addition, Yorke said, the splash pad will be running, there will be a mechanical surfboard (think a mechanical bull – and yes, they're insured), splash ball water bombs, blasters, squirt guns, food and a raffle.

Do your kids favor a more worldly sort of fun?

Consider the "Summer Playground Program," which is now pre-registering. It's geared toward ages 5-13, and parents can enroll their kids right now at the High School Community Center, 11350 Charest north of Caniff.

Yorke notes that parents will need three things: proof

Continued on page 2



For now, state plan for schools won't affect Hamtramck

By Charles Sercombe

According to Gov. Rick Snyder, he's got big plans for schools in trouble.

He held a press conference this week to announce an ambitious goal to start with Detroit's worst schools and said that by 2013, the worst academically performing schools – the bottom 5 percent – in the state would be next.

The schools will be managed under a program called the Education Achievement Authority.

So ... does any of this have

any impact on Hamtramck Public Schools?

From what Superintendent Tom Niczay can tell, not likely. First of all, none of Hamtramck's Public Schools are in the bottom 5 percent.

(It was not known at press time if any of the city's charter schools fall into that category.)

As for the other aspects of Snyder's plan, Niczay simply had this to say: "There are a lot of unknowns."

And he's not the first person to point that out – or at

Continued on page 3



So far, it appears Gov. Snyder's plan to reform troubled schools won't include Hamtramck. That's because Hamtramck's public schools are managing to pass academic requirements.

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Election? What election?

By Charles Sercombe

Bet you didn't know there's an election coming up in August.

Yeah, this election season is that boring. It's almost like the candidates don't care, or maybe they're doing a stealth campaign.

There are hardly any signs, and we've seen very little campaign literature. But, it's a good guess things will pick up in the coming weeks as we get closer to the Aug. 2 Primary Election for three City Council seats.

The election season has produced one mystery moment. Candidate Abu Mahfuz says he lives at 2424 Neibel, however, at least one candidate, Steve Shaya, questions whether he actually lives there.

The Review went to the address, a lower flat, and found

Continued on page 2

Bengali Fest starts Friday

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck's ethnic diversity will be on full display this weekend.

Starting today (Friday, June 24), the North American Bangladeshi Festival will kick off and run through Sunday. The festival grounds have moved this year a few blocks north on Conant.

Conant will be closed from Casmere to Commor.

The festival features dancers and music acts from the Bangladeshi community from here and outside the state.

About 20 vendors will be selling Bengali cuisine, clothing, jewelry, DVD's and many other items.

The opening ceremony starts at 7:30 p.m. on Friday. As has been the custom, the festival really doesn't get going each day until the evening.

Festival organizer Akikul Shamin said he expects about 15,000 people to attend throughout the weekend.

Get ready to enjoy hot fun in the summertime

Continued from front page

of the child's age and residency here in the city, and that they (the parents) are in fact the child's legal guardians.

The Playground Program offers numerous activities, but with more freedom than, for example, a camp. For one thing, the kids can come and go as they please, and participate (or not) in any given activity.

These activities include field trips to Belle Isle, Huckleberry Railroad in Flint, Carousel Acres Farm in South Lyon, Chandler Park Aquatic Park, the Toledo Zoo, a tour of the Parade Company, and a finale at the Michigan Adventure Theme Park in Muskegon.

Also included are the use of the splash pad and the high school's pool, once per week archery and golf, gardening at the Housing Project and Pulaski Park, and

more. The program runs from July 5 to August 24. Non-residents can participate too, for a \$100 fee for the first child, and then a \$25 fee for any additional children.

August means the Back to School Carnival, with food, rides, and a limited giveaway of backpacks as highlights. There's no guarantee that this one won't lead to more mopey faces, though, as the kids realize their summer is drawing once more to a close.

Additionally, there are always the Rec Dept's class offerings. Try your hand at karate, learn to dance (or learn to do it better), inquire "Tennis, anyone?" or bunt your way to glory at sandlot baseball, just to name some of the other delectable treats that await you on the Rec's summer menu.

Go, fun!



Election? What election?

Continued from front page

it looking like it is empty.

A woman living in the upstairs flat said she never heard of Mahfuz and said no one is living in the lower flat.

The City Clerk's Office said Mahfuz registered as a new Hamtramck resident in April through the Secretary of State's Office. He told the Secretary of State that he was moving from his Detroit address on Klinger St.

The question of residency is not a new issue in Hamtramck elections. The question has been raised a number of times throughout Hamtramck's colorful history of elections and politics.

Incumbent Councilmember Cathie Gordon almost faced formal proceedings over whether she truly lived in Hamtramck or in Sterling Heights, where she resided before she won election.

Her fellow councilmembers halted proceedings after working out a deal with Gordon.

There is also a question of where exactly Councilmember Mohammed Hassan lives. According to city records, he says he lives at 2434 Neibel, which coincidentally is next-door to the address that Mahfuz says he lives at.

The 2434 Neibel house that Hassan claims as his residency appears to be empty. Hassan has refused to answer questions posed by The Review over his residency.

And in a sort of related matter, Candidate Anam Miah

has located his campaign office on Conant, but on the Detroit side of the Hamtramck border. There's no wrongdoing there, but it does perhaps send out a mixed message.

Perhaps the most laughable accusation of a city official being a non-resident occurred in the 1990s. Former Councilmember Mike Witkowski's residency status was challenged, but it turned out his accuser, a fellow councilmember, either accidentally or purposely mixed up Witkowski with another person of the same name who lived outside of Hamtramck.

Ah, but for now, tales of Hamtramck's political battles will be left for another time.

Moving on to the literature department, some of what is being promised could make your eyes roll.

Let's start with candidate Anam Miah. According to his business card-sized literature being handed out, he will "revitalize our school system." That would be great, but unfortunately the Council plays no role in the city's schools.

He might instead want to run for a seat on the School Board, which does have direct control of the school district.

Miah also must have taken a cue from Gov. Rick Snyder. Miah promises to "re-invent our community." Snyder, of course, used the phrase "reinvent Michigan" in his recent campaign.

Hey, it's better than the over-used variation of the "time for a change" mantra that politicians love to use.

If you listen to what candidate Dilshad Chowdhury promises, you'd think money must grow on trees. His literature says he will not only reduce taxes and water bills, he will also "put more fire fighters and police to protect & prevent crimes."

And, he promises to "bring more aids from the state & federal."

Candidates, here's a tip on how to better communicate to voters: Brush up on your English skills — or at least have someone proofread your communications.

Candidate Showkat Chowdhury is also promising to

"lower" city taxes while at the same time providing more "police protection."

OK, candidates, here's the deal: How in the world can you cut taxes and also be able to afford more police and fire protection? Sorry, it really can't be done.

Well, maybe it can be done by contracting those services with another agency. No one has really looked closely at this option, and no one can say how much it would save the city's budget.

But that's a whole other can of worms.

Although the campaign season is sleepy for now, maybe things will liven up at the "Meet the Candidates Night" on July 13 at People's Community Services.

Obituaries

LOBAZA

Genevieve E. Lobaza, 82, died June 20, 2011.

Mrs. Lobaza was a retired librarian at St. Florian School. She was also a member of St. Theresa Guild and the Rosary-Altar Society of St. Florian.

Mrs. Lobaza is survived by her son, James; sister, Helen (Homer) Montagne; sisters-in-law, Gladys Gorski and Stella Lobaza; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral arrangements were made by Krot Funeral Home, and funeral services were held on June 23 at St. Florian Church. Burial was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

This week at the library...

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.

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 serve registration.

ESL Class for Beginners - Saturday, June 25 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 perform science in making a bubble machine and listen to a story from a book "Questions, Questions" by Marcus Pfister.

Computer Classes for Advanced Users - Monday, June 27 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 28 at 4 p.m. Mr. Nu is the instructor for the math club and math tutoring.

Computer Classes for Beginners - Wednesday, June 29 at 10 a.m. Basic instructions on computer use for beginners will be held on Tuesdays. 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

Labor Day Festival now has a new sponsor

By David Piestrzynski
Special to The Review

The annual Hamtramck Labor Day Festival is taking shape.

"Right now we're working on the aesthetics to make it all look good," said Kathleen Bittner, chairman of the festival committee.

A major change this year is that the city's Downtown Development Authority is now the official sponsor of the event.

Camping will once again re-

turn to Veteran's Park during the weekend. Bittner said there might be a twist to the festivities by partnering with Detroit Synergy to sponsor the "World's Largest Water Balloon Fight." If things go as expected, there could be thousands of people participating, and it will likely qualify for the Guinness Book of World Records.

This year, Friday will once again be eliminated, with the event running from Saturday through Monday. Bittner said this year's festival will have many of the same great features and activities, such as the 5 K Fun Run (or Walk) and the "yacht" races.

"We want to get all the bars to start making their yachts," Bittner said.

Live music will also be a central offering this year. The festival is expected to feature six bands per day, with some of last year's performers returning.

Bittner said they're still working on the full schedule of bands for the event, along with planning some new features for this year.

Marketing for this year's event is being handled by Seeds Marketing, Advertising and Design, a Detroit-based firm that volunteered its services.

Bittner also welcomes all local businesses to come and be a part of the festivities.

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HAMTRAMCK RECREATION

Summer Playground Program

Registration going on now!

Resident Fee: FREE

Non-Residents Fee: \$100 for the summer.

\$25 each additional child



This year's program will run from Tuesday, July 5-Wednesday, August 24. The program runs Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Please do not drop off children before 9 a.m. and please pick up children by 4 p.m.

The Hamtramck Summer Playground Program will offer games, arts & crafts, field trips and much more for children ages 5-13. All children must be registered at the Hamtramck High School Community Center to be eligible for field trips, snacks, and all off site activities. All sites are open and children may come and go as they please.

Field trips will be on Fridays this year with one exception for the Michigan Adventure trip. Your child must attend the park for at least 3 days the week of a field trip in order to participate.

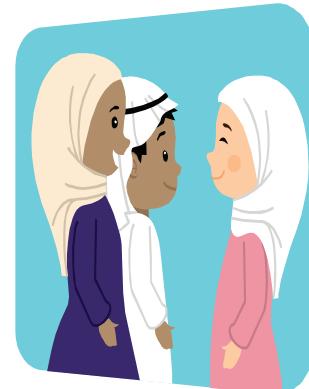
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Time
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9 a.m.-4 p.m.
9 a.m.-4 p.m.



Act #
3059
3060
3061

This program is free to Hamtramck Public School students or children who live in Hamtramck! Proof of residency is required for child. Current: drivers license, utility bill, report card (must be a HPS), rental agreement. Parental proof and proof of child's age is also required (birth certificate and proof of guardianship if not birth parent).



To sign up please visit us at 11350 Charest or call 313-893-5520 for more information.

Your Millage Dollars At Work!

The event's Web site, Hamtownfest.com, is expected to be current by the end of the month. In the meantime, anyone who wants to volunteer their services can contact Bittner at (313) 874-2242.

For now, state plan for schools won't affect Hamtramck

Continued from front page

least insinuate – Snyder's plan for Detroit and other schools is vague at best.

One editorial writer at Mlive.com – an online news outlet – compared Snyder's plan to nothing more than rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic.

Teachers throughout the state have chimed in saying that the core issue is to first deal with poverty many students live with, such as broken homes.

Teachers say: How can you expect to raise the grades and test scores of kids who live with no heat, little food, and possibly a very violent homelife?

But one thing Niczay wishes he could get is relief on the district's budget deficit. Detroit was given permission to issue bonds to pay off its massive \$300 million deficit.

Hamtramck schools are facing a \$6 million deficit, thanks in no small part to cuts made in financial aid from the state.

Perhaps the bigger question is, have Snyder's cuts in financial aid set up school districts for failure?

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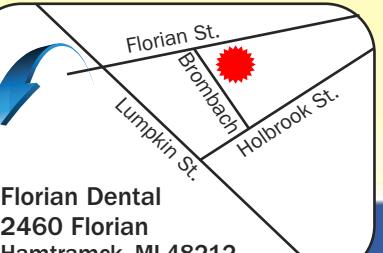
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Police deal underscores changing relationship with city officials

By Charles Sercombe

Times are a-changin' in City Hall.

It used to be, if a city employee asked for a special deal, it was a done deal.

Kiss those days goodbye.

This is now an era when the state is demanding public employees take cuts in benefits and salaries.

Heck, city employees everywhere can potentially have their union contract ripped up and tossed into the trash can – providing a pending lawsuit doesn't change things.

Hamtramck's City Council has begun to make its own imprint on this changing attitude with public employees. In other words, no more Mr. Nice Guy.

Case in point: two senior police officers asked for an early retirement deal, but councilmembers didn't roll over easy on the request.

In fact, at first the council refused to take any action on the

request, for fear that it would set precedent in the union. As it turned out, the union was not interested in the deal, and it was strictly done on an individual basis.

To the casual observer, this was not necessarily a noteworthy deal, but it is a deal that speaks volumes about the changing attitude the council has in dealing with its employees.

It used to be, you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours. Not so anymore.

In this deal, the officers asked for a buyout to retire two months ahead of time.

They have 24 years and 10 months into the job. Normally, officers need at least 25 years before getting their full pension. The council was initially asked to OK a deal where the city would purchase two months, at a cost of over \$6,000 per officer, to allow the officers to retire early.

The city, though, would save much more money in hiring a new officer at a starting salary.

But that wasn't sweet enough for this council. Instead, they demanded, and got, a one month buyout from the city and a one month buyout to be paid by the officers.

That means the officers each have to cough up about \$3,000 to be able to retire early.

Well, as it turns out, only one of the officers accepted the deal, the other officer is said to have no interest in retiring early anyway.

In the days of not so far back, this would not have even risen to a 50-50 kind of deal. After all, city officials from back in the day used to say about their relationship with city employees: "You're either related or obligated."

Not so anymore with Hamtramck's changing demographics.

This matter didn't stop there. Councilmember Tom Jankowski, who has been an outspoken critic of the Police Department and its union, said,

Continued on page 5

Arabic-style café expands beyond just baked goods

**By David Piestrzynski
Special to The Review**

Hamtramck residents no longer have to make the trip to Dearborn for authentic Arabic cuisine.

Earlier this year, Yunus Wasel, owner of the Conant Café, had some renovations done at his restaurant to begin serving a full slate of Arabic foods.

The café, which was formerly the Al Jenah Bakery, is now equipped with a grill, and offers a full menu of Middle Eastern cuisine.

"The city has a huge Arabic community, but I felt like an Arabic style restaurant was something that was missing," Wasel said.

He began with baked items such as cheese and meat pies. In February, Wasel had the renovations done. He added a grill, which has allowed him to fill out the menu with falafel, chicken and steak subs and

several other Middle Eastern meals.

Since the new menu was unveiled at the Conant Café, the restaurant has gained a solid following.

"We have been getting a diverse crowd," said Bassam Gobah, an employee at the Conant Café.

He said, along with the usual bakery orders, the restaurant draws a steady lunch crowd, and has also become a popular dinner location for local high school kids.

The Café is located on Conant at Holbrook, in the Yazan Shopping Plaza.



Mosleh Almathrani is the manager at the newly revamped Conant Café.

NOTICE OF CLOSE OF REGISTRATION PRIMARY ELECTION TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2011

**To the Qualified Electors of
HAMTRAMCK CITY – WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

Notice is hereby given that Monday, July 5, 2011 is the last day to register to vote or change your address for the above stated election.

If you are not currently registered to vote or have changed your address in the above stated jurisdiction in which you live you may do so at the following locations and times listed in this notice.

IN PERSON:

- At your city or township clerk's office or at the office of any county clerk during normal business hours.
- At any of the Secretary of State Branch offices located throughout the state during normal business hours.
- At the specified agency for clients receiving services through the Family Independence Agency, the Department of Community Health, Michigan Jobs Commission and some of the Commission for the Blind.
- At the military recruitment offices for persons enlisting in the armed forces.

BY MAIL:

By obtaining and completing a Mail Voter Registration Application and forwarding to the election official as directed on the application by the close of registration deadline. Mail voter registration applications may be obtained by contacting:

T. EDWIN NORRIS, CITY CLERK
1-313-876-7700 – OPTION 3
3401 EVALINE, HAMTRAMCK, MI 48212

NOTE: A person who registers to vote by mail is required to vote in person unless they have previously voted in person in the city/township where they live or are at least 60 years of age.

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Review: Opinion Page

Snyder's financial policies are setting up cities for failure

This past week, Gov. Rick Snyder unveiled his plan to turnaround failing schools.

It's an ambitious plan, but ultimately, it's awfully vague. For example, Snyder is seeking to have more money spent on students and less on management. That's great, but how exactly will schools operate without supporting staff?

Worse, how can Snyder expect school districts to function when he has slashed financial aid to the point where many districts are going to end up broke?

And how can we attract teachers if they are required to pitch in 20 percent of their healthcare costs?

Under Snyder, the future of Michigan's schools looks cloudy at best. Actually, it seems all public employees — including firefighters and cops — are under attack by Snyder's financial policies.

And speaking of financial cuts to schools and extra financial demands on public employees, Snyder is doing this while at the same time

offering millions of dollars of tax cuts to corporations.

No wonder there is increasing disapproval among voters over Snyder's policies. That shouldn't come as a shock considering that Snyder refused to talk specifics about his plans while he campaigned for governor.

The amazing thing is he got elected without telling voters what he planned to do. No wonder there is a growing sense of buyer's remorse about this governor.

Police deal underscores changing relationship with city officials Continued from page 4

more or less, good riddance to the oldtimers on the force.

"The more these oldtimers go, the better off we are," Jankowski said in a telephone interview.

In a special meeting on Monday to OK the deal, Jankowski lashed out on the police union, saying certain members have

an attitude of "entitlement" that has lead to greater concern for what's best for the union, instead of what's best for the city.

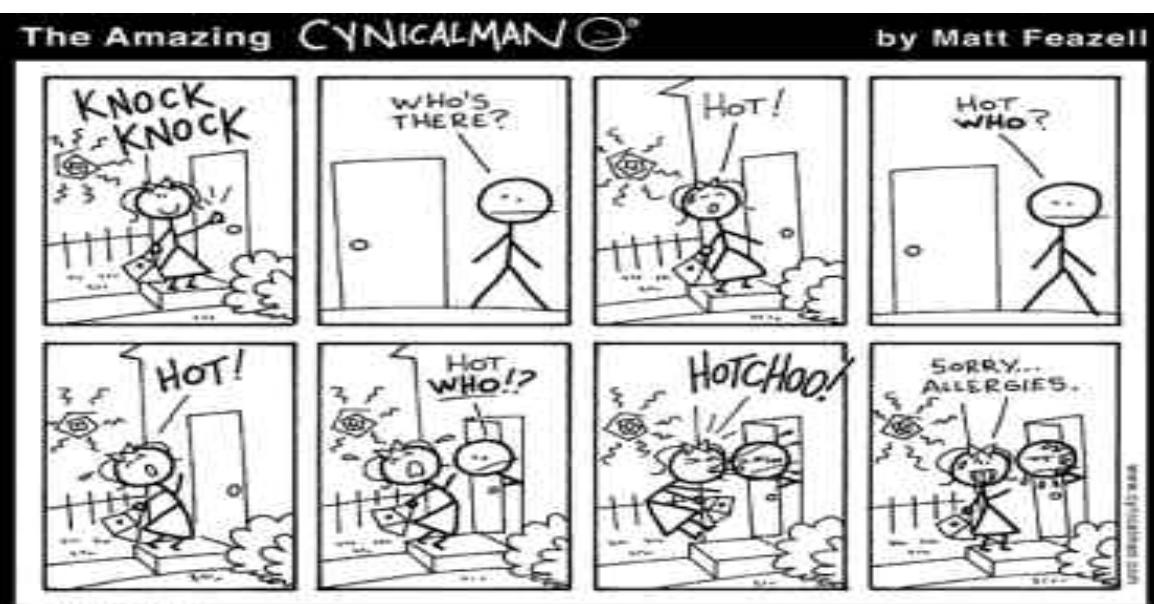
He said the "exodus" of oldtimers in the department will "help pave the way for a positive development. ... A department that works for the city and

not the union."

"Let them go, thank you, see you later," Jankowski added.

Oh, man, them's fighting words, Tom. Or at least, they might have been in the not-so-distant past.

A change, Bob Dylan once sang, is coming.



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Metro news ...

It's said that whatever happens to Detroit, so goes Hamtramck. If you were to rely solely on the local mainstream media, you'd think Detroit is no more than a crime-infested wasteland. Well, we're here to say that isn't so. Our friends over at modelmedia.com and metromode.com have been reporting on fascinating development projects for the past few years.

With their permission, here is a round-up of their reports from the past week:

Hamtramck isn't the only

inner-city looking at creating a dog park.

A group of Detroit residents are also on the prowl.

Led by Detroiters Carly Mys and Alison Woodburn, the Detroit Dog Park group hopes to build a secured outdoor community center where dogs and owners alike can socialize.

"It is in the initial steps, but we're really excited about it. Who doesn't like dogs?" Mys asks. "Let's have some fun!"

While the Detroit Dog Park team is looking in several different locations, Mys says they hope to build the dog park in the greater downtown

Continued on page 8

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Odds & Ends

Crime watch ... Here's a mini trend that elderly residents need to be aware of. Detective Derek Suwalkowski called us early this week to say that so far, two incidents have been reported where seniors were targeted by young males.

Here's the deal. Last Wednesday, an elderly couple, both 73 years old, was walking down Evaline between Brombach and Lumpkin when two punks, described as being 18 years old or so, knocked both of them down and grabbed a necklace from the woman.

They also tried to get her purse, but a resident came out and chased the suspects, both black males, away.

Then on Friday, a 74-year-old man was walking into McDonald's. A young black male politely opened the door for him, but then grabbed a necklace the man was wearing and ran off.

Recall drive ... Do you think Gov. Rick Snyder's "reinvention" of Michigan is nothing more than union busting and corporate tax breaks? Join the crowd and sign onto a petition this Saturday (June 25) to hold a recall election against the governor.

The recall drive is a statewide effort that has also targeted several key Republican lawmakers who are also behind Snyder's so-called reinvention.

The petition signing will be held in the parking lot near Glory Market in the shopping strip on Jos. Campau and Holbrook from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Heads up, candidates ... By now, all candidates for City Council should have received a questionnaire from The Review regarding local issues and how they would address them.

If you are a candidate and you didn't get it yet, give us a call at (313) 874-2100, or email us at news@thehamtramckreview.com, and we'll get one to you. And candidates, please, please, return the questionnaire no later than July 4 so we can get your answers into the paper before the Aug. 2 election.

Climbing ... HHS business teacher John Rostek is still at Mt. McKinley attempting to reach summit. In the meantime, a group of students held a picnic in his honor at

nounced on Facebook that her vintage Sears bike was stolen from her garage.

And this was no ordinary theft. She said the thief had just moments to snatch the bike and also had to climb over a fence. The bike is blue and has baskets on the front and back, but by now, who knows what's left of it.

Apparently, local thieves are on the lookout for vintage era bikes, so be sure to keep your bike locked up when it's not in use. Remember, it only takes a thief a few seconds to swipe your stuff.

Spaghetti O ... Speaking of the mayor, she stopped by the Holy Cross Parish "Summer Spaghetti Dinner" on Wednesday.

This was the first of three



Mayor Karen Majewski (right) stopped by the first installment of "Summer Spaghetti Dinners" held at Holy Cross Parish.

Pulaski Park.

Rostek's climb will also raise thousands of dollars to help offset field trips students will be able to take.

Go Cosmos!

Sign of the times ... Sheesh, even Mayor Karen Majewski can be a victim of crime. The mayor recently an-

dinners the parish will offer this summer. Although several storms rolled through on Wednesday afternoon and evening, the parish was packed with hungry customers.

The next dinners will be July 20 and Aug. 17, from 4 to 7 p.m.

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Historical museum fundraiser was a jazzy affair



It was fun times at last Thursday's fundraiser for the newly-purchased historical museum on Holbrook.

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Square Deep Dish	\$6.00	\$8.00	\$10.00
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By Charles Sercombe

For a few hours last Thursday here in Hamtramck, it was a step back in time to the "Roaring 20s."

The Hamtramck Historical Commission held a 1920s-era theme fundraiser at its newly-purchased museum, a former post hall on Holbrook. And by all accounts it was not only a roaring good time, it was also a great financial success.

"Checks are still coming in, but after expenses we cleared about \$4,000," said Commission Chairman Greg Kowalski.

Attendees dressed in 20s fashion and a jazz combo supplied 20s era music to get the flappers in attendance on the dance floor. Of course with booze being legal now for decades, there was no need to hide the drinks from the law.

Actually, during Prohibition, Hamtramck never really did hide its alcohol. It was said at the time that Hamtramck was a city that never acknowledged the nation's ban on alcohol sales and consumption.

Kowalski said there will be

more fundraisers in the future. The building has a long list of repairs that need to be done before it can be officially opened to the public.

If the stars align just right, the museum could be open, or at least a part of it, by late fall.

In the meantime, Kowalski said he continues to receive artifacts weekly. As of now, if he had to guess, there are about 10,000 individual items, including letters, maps, records, books, photos, movies ... you name it.

One of the more interesting donations is a photo of President Kennedy campaigning in Hamtramck.

And then there is a letter written by the infamous Paddy McGraw, whose claim to fame is being the proprietor of the "Best Whorehouse in the Midwest" – located, as you can guess, here in Hamtramck way back in the roaring 20s.

Considering that when the Historical Commission started in 1998 "without a single piece of paper," said Kowalski, it's come a long way.



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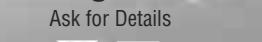
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gardener's corner ...

By Kathleen Wojcinski

So, what's eating "Gilbert's Grape"?

Bugs! As summer begins, so does the insect invasion. A gentle reminder: All bugs are not bad. Ladybugs, lacewings and parasitic wasps eat hornworms — those nasties that love your

tomatoes, peppers, etc.

They also take out aphids and other bad boys. Praying mantis are not only cool to watch, they also make short work out of destructive moths, caterpillars and so on.

Spiders are the best fishers when they throw out a

line of spider silk and quickly roll the fly-by up like a pita. Take this into consideration when choosing insecticides. Ask questions, check the websites, read labels and please, no bug zappers.

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Metro news ...

Continued from page 6

district. They're hoping to secure enough land to build a larger park with benches and secured gating.

So far, interest has been red-hot. They received over 400 responses to a survey they created, and the group hopes to use the results to tailor the park to the community's needs.

What's the cost? While the price of the land can't be estimated yet, Mys says, "based on some of the research we've done, Canton recently opened one. They said that it cost 38 thousand dollars. I don't know what the cost will be yet, but we'll get there."

Researching dog parks in other cities, Mys says it can take up to three years to build a dog park. She and her team hope to work with the community and the city to speed up that process. "I know that the group of people we're working with is very passionate," she says. "And Detroiters rock, and dog owners, too. So we're moving forward."

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