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Volume 3 No. 21
June 3, 2011
50¢

The Review

Hamtramck

www.hamtramckreview.com • e-mail news@thehamtramckreview.com

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Quick Hits

Get your shopping shoes on.

This Friday and Saturday (June 3-4), merchants on Jos. Campau will hold their annual sidewalk sale. The Downtown Development Authority is really pushing the event to help the struggling business district.

Over 30 stores are participating and many of them are promising huge sales.

For those of you visiting from out of town, you can take advantage of free parking.

So, shoppers, get ready to take a stroll down the Avenue.



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.

"I think I should step down to make room for newcomers."

HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD

Police crackdown on growing crime wave, with more to come

By Charles Sercombe

All of you street-partying, drug-dealing Hamtramck people, here's a belated heads-up – just in case you haven't already been arrested or heard of it yet:

Party's over. And for you dipwads who keep your property a mess, squat at a house that doesn't belong to you, or – worse – subject your children to filthy living conditions ... yeah, it's over for you, too.

On Wednesday, police officers and detectives did what they do best: bust knuckleheads. Thirteen of them for various criminal activities and housing code violations.

In short, it's been a crazy, last two weeks, so to speak.

But first things, first: On Wednesday, the Police Department assigned several officers and detectives to clean up several so-called "hotspots" in town after City Councilmembers complained about a serious spike in street crimes.

On Wednesday at about mid-afternoon, a squad of officers hit the area of St. Aubin and Lumpkin near Carpenter, staking it out and swooping in

on suspected drug dealing activity.

It paid off.

"Ten minutes out of the gate, and we made busts," said Detective Sgt. Dan Misiak. "We took a zero tolerance approach."

The busts included five minors who were out on the street and not in school. They were taken into custody for violating the city's curfew, and their parent, or parents, were also cited for failing in their parental responsibility.

It didn't stop there. A group of people living at 12116 Lumpkin were found to be squatting, and were thrown out. They had illegally tapped into the city's water service, racking up a bill of \$2,900.

Next up, a man on the 2000 block of Edwin St. was finally caught at home and arrested for income tax evasion. He will also likely face child neglect charges. This house stood out among an otherwise well-kept neighborhood. A front window appeared to be broken, and from the street, with the door open wide, a foul odor

Continued on page 2



Police investigate a household where the father of two children is suspected of child negligence. The house was covered in filth, officers say. (Below) The father of the children is arrested on a charge of income tax evasion. The arrest was part of a city-wide crackdown on street crime and code violations.



'This old house' is now part of new housing

By Charles Sercombe

Usually when it comes to tearing down a house there's nothing really to it.

First you disconnect the electric and gas and then bring in a bulldozer. When it's all knocked down, you scoop up the debris, haul it off to a dump and dispose of it.

That could become a thing of the past, if the folks at Henry Ford Community College and Zachary & Associates have their way. It's all part of the ongoing greening of America and finding ways to reduce the amount of waste this country produces. Their plan is simple: In-

stead of throwing away perfectly good pieces of wood, plumbing, flooring, windows and even shingles, the material is repurposed for other construction projects.

Some of these houses have old wood that command high prices. Still, compared to the cost of new lumber, the salvaged wood is a bargain and often looks better once it's planed down.

You can see this experiment in action at a house on Carpenter near Fleming. There, a crew is carefully dismantling the house, board by board. It's called, "decon-
Continued on page 6



An experiment is underway at a house on Carpenter St. that is being stripped of wood and other items for reuse in new housing construction.

City Hall no longer home to voters

By Charles Sercombe

A decades-long tradition in Hamtramck elections has come to an end.

Hamtramck City Hall will no longer be a precinct location for voters, a small irony in the sense that City Hall is where elected officials do their business.

Voters in Precinct 4 will now cast their vote in the Hamtramck High School Community Center. City



Clerk Ed Norris said the new location is all about space.

"We're gearing up for the next presidential election," Norris said. "We had a problem space-wise."

Although the next presidential election is more than a year off, Norris said he wanted voters to get "used" to the new location.

In the last presidential election, the turnout at City Hall was overwhelming. Voters had to wait for more than an hour in some cases.

Precinct 4 is bounded by Holbrook to Caniff and Jos. Campau to the city's eastern border with Detroit.

The next election is the Primary Election, on Aug. 2.

Norris said he has sent voters in Precinct 4 new voter cards. If you have not received one yet, visit the City Clerk's Office, or call the department at (313) 876-7700, extension 4.

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This week at the library...

"Animals of Hamtramck" Photo Contest - Saturday, June 4 at 2 p.m. Announcement of winners of the photo contest.

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 and older. During intermission, a meal will be served during every session. Space is limited, first come first serve 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.

ESL Class for Beginners - Saturday, June 4 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. Learn how to capture the sound of the wind by making your own bead wind chime and listen to a story from a book "All the World" by Liz Garton Scanlon.

Computer Classes for Advanced Users - Monday, June 6 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.

Math Club Meeting - Tuesday, June 7 at 4 p.m. Mr. Nuo is the instructor for the math club and math tutoring.

Math Kangaroom Award Ceremonies - Tuesday, June 7 at 5 p.m. Please join us for the award cere-

monies of state and national Math Kangaroo Test award winners for 2011. Refreshments will be served.

Computer Classes for Beginners - Wednesday, June 8 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 8 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, 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.

Friends of the Library Meeting - Thursday, June 16 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.

Special Thanks to: Ken Merique, book of ancestors and descendents; R. Lattuca, books; Many Mans, CD's and books; Steven Was, DVD's.

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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From the desk of Hamtramck's City Manager ...

At Tuesday's City Council meeting, City Manager Bill Cooper submitted his report on various issues he's faced in recent weeks. Here's his report in his own words:

The past few weeks have been extremely busy for all areas within City government.

While budgets have been at the forefront, being developed, reviewed and modified, we have also had a few other things going on such as a couple of fires on Sunday night. This stretched our Fire Department pretty thin, as they happened at almost the same time, but mutual aid from outside of the city did help.

The Police Department has seen activity pick up throughout the city due to warmer weather starting to arrive, and people getting out and about after a long hard winter.

Income tax and water bill payments have seen a fairly steady stream of residents and business owners in City Hall.

This just gives a thumbnail sketch of what has been keeping us busy.

On top of all of that, as everyone knows, the City of Detroit sent us a payment in settlement of our lawsuit regarding our revenue sharing agreement related to GM's Poletown Plant. But like many things in Hamtramck, this did not come easy. Let me give you a brief idea of the 10 days leading up to this payment.

On Wednesday, April 27, I received a call from Tom Saxton, Deputy State Treasurer and Brom Stibitz, Senior Financial Advisor to the State Treasurer, asking for a face-to-face meeting, as quickly as it could be scheduled. They wanted to review our financial situation. The meeting was scheduled for Friday, April 29.

Nevrus Nazarko and I met with Tom and Brom, spending nearly 2 hours accomplishing this review. We reviewed our budgets for the next two years which included projected shortfalls, we talked about our plan of attack to address those shortfalls, and reviewed our projected cash flows for the next two years. They indicated to us that they wanted to be sure that if we received the payment from Detroit, we would be able to function for at least a year.

Monday, May 2, we sent them an updated cash flow

Police crackdown on growing crime wave, with more to come

Continued from front page

seeped out. The inside looked dank and dark.

Misiak said officers had previously attempted to arrest the man, but he had been "playing hide and seek."

Two children at the house were placed in the care of their mother.

So why did the Police Department swing into action on Wednesday?

It all started with the most recent City Council meeting in which councilmembers vented and ranted about a noticeable uptick in muggings, break-ins, street gatherings of youths and subsequent brawls.

And we're not talking about any garden variety of brawls: we're talking about over 50 young thugs throwing down according to City Councilmember Catrina Stackpoole. This story doesn't

start out pretty, but then again, how could it?

Yet, for those who have lived here and experienced the Hamtramck experience, it's an all too familiar refrain: Where are the police?

That was the rant at last week's council meeting.

It was actually Councilmember Cathie Gordon who revved up the discussion, saying that there is a rampant crime wave happening in the St. Aubin-Commor area.

Things are about to change, though.

Through the Weed and Seed program here in town, a citizens patrol is up and running. The Site Director, Barbara Stachowski, said the extra eyes and ears on the road should produce some dramatic results.

"You'll see a big difference this summer," she said.

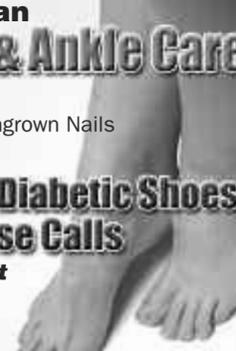
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Second Front Page

For these two councilmembers, it's no thanks for another term

By Charles Sercombe

Lost, perhaps, in this upcoming election for City Council is the fact that two incumbents have decided not to run.

It's almost unprecedented. Imagine, you are a sitting councilmember and you decide ... enough ... no more ... ain't gonna run.

Oh, there have been councilmembers in the past who have not sought re-election, and have even taken a more dramatic move by quitting in mid-term. But for two sitting councilmembers to call it quits, well, that's something worth talking about.

Being a Hamtramck councilmember is no high-paying job. The salary is a little over



Shahab Ahmed



Catrina Stackpoole

\$3,000 a year. Not bad if you need help on paying your mortgage, but remember, there are endless meetings and hours

and hours spent on dealing with the public.

In short, it's a lot of work – if you are conscientious about the job – for little pay.

So, why did Councilmembers Shahab Ahmed and Catrina Stackpoole decide not to seek another term?

Let's start with the relatively-speaking newcomer Councilmember Stackpoole, who will be finishing up her first – yes first – term come this Dec. 31. For Stackpoole, it's a matter of being able to keep her non-profit agency up and running.

"I've been neglecting it," she said of her resale store "Recycled Treasures."

It's actually more than just a store. The business also offers free clothing and other basic items to those in emergency – and dire – situations.

"If it's going to survive," Stackpoole said of her store. "I need to attend to it."

What she really didn't want to talk about was her increasing frustration – a frustration that she openly shows at council meetings – of the behavior and comments made by some fellow councilmembers.

Let's just say that she is this close to standing on her chair and yelling out: "Shut up, Shut up, Shut up ..."

In other words, Stackpoole doesn't suffer fools easily, or at least those she perceives as fools.

And no, we're not going to name names.

"It's a hard, thankless job," she said of the endless hours of meetings and other obligations an elected official must endure.

But despite the obvious pent up anger over the antics of other elected officials, Stackpoole, a social worker by training and education, said she would consider a return to public office.

"If I feel I was needed. ... There'd have to be a good reason."

Continued on page 5

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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

This is the second part of the May 24 City Council meeting. All councilmembers were present except for Councilmember Mohammed Hassan. The meeting ran for three hours.

Last week, we left off with the city's new budget being passed, which included a small increase in property taxes.

Let's now segue into the city manager's report. In it, City Manager Bill Cooper outlined several issues he has been dealing with, including working with Detroit officials to hand over \$3.2 million that Detroit agreed to pay Hamtramck to resolve a dispute over how much tax money Hamtramck should receive from the GM Poletown plant.

"This did not come easy,"

said Cooper.

But, the money was indeed wired over to the city, and the city in turn wired back \$3.2 million it had been withholding in water and sewer service charges owed to Detroit.

Cooper said he has initiated talks with Highland Park and Detroit over sharing services. He's also talking to the public school district and Hamtramck's public housing agency on the same issue.

"At this point all conversations are exploratory, but may eventually lead to detailed negotiations on some form of consolidation," Cooper said. "Everyone we have talked to is well aware of the Governor's mandates tied to revenue sharing, and are taking these discussions seriously."

Speaking of talks, Cooper said he will soon start con-

tract negotiations with the police, fire and public employee unions. Cooper said he will be proposing significant concessions.

"I am sensing an overall air of cooperation from all of the unions. This does not mean that they like what they have heard, or that they will simply roll over and give us what we have asked for, but it means that they have been willing to listen and to begin discussing options," Cooper said.

Councilmember Tom Jankowski asked Cooper to clarify what he means by "consolidation."

Cooper said it involves either taking over services for another city or having another city take over some of Hamtramck's services.

Councilmember Cathie Gordon suggested having Grosse Pointe Park take over Hamtramck's police dispatch service. She said GPP averages only two calls a night, which means it has plenty of free time to handle Hamtramck's dispatching duties.

Gordon also suggested the city could save money by having in-house auto mechanics for the Police Department, or taking police cars to the Fire Department for repairs. (The Fire Department has its own mechanic, Gordon said.)

And speaking of police issues, Gordon said she's received a lot of calls from residents who are upset that they can no longer use their police scanners to listen to police runs.

(Editor's note: The Police Department recently switched

over to an encrypted digital system. The new system has rendered the old analog scanners useless.)

Gordon urged the Police Department to allow the public to be able to listen to their radio communications. She said the public often helps the Police Department catch criminals because they are aware of what officers are seeking.

Councilmember Catrina Stackpoole said she's not so sure allowing the public to listen to police runs is a good idea. She said criminals also have scanners and use them to avoid arrest.

Speaking of crime, Gordon said there has been an increase in street crimes in the Commor-St. Aubin area.

City Manager Cooper responded: "Welcome to summer," which drew a loud "No" from someone in the audience.

Cooper said he has talked with the police chief about identifying "hotspots" in the city to get control of the problem.

Gordon suggested bringing in the Police Reserves to help out. Cooper said the council would have to approve the expense of hiring the reserves, which costs \$15 per hour per reserve officer.

Councilmember Stackpoole said a large group of kids hang out on her street, St. Aubin, and get into fights. She said one way to prevent kids from congregating is to ban barbecuing in the front of houses.

She also said a number of the younger people gathering

Continued on page 6

Metro news ...

It's said that whatever happens to Detroit, so goes Hamtramck. If you were to rely solely on the local mainstream media, you'd think Detroit is no more than a crime-infested wasteland. Well, we're here to say that isn't so. Our friends over at modeldmedia.com and 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:

Wayne State University has received a \$750,000 grant from the Kresge Foundation to expand the Michigan Area Education Center program.

The Michigan Area Education Center is working to recruit and train more students for the health-care workforce. The program focuses on students in economically challenged areas to help alleviate unemployment attract more talent to

Continued on page 8

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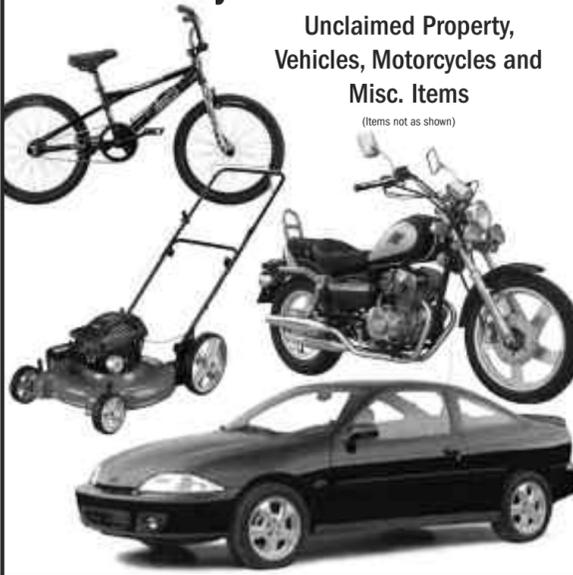
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CITY OF HAMTRAMCK, MICHIGAN SEQ CHAPTER ORDINANCE 2011-2

Ordinance 2011-2 provides for the general appropriations of the city. This ordinance constitutes the annual appropriations ordinance in accordance with Section 13.17 of the City Charter, the General Appropriations Act in accordance with the Michigan Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act, MCL 141.436 and the Special Appropriations Act pursuant to Public Act 493 of 2000. A complete copy of the ordinances is available in the city clerk's office.

Enacted: May 24, 2011
Published: June 3, 2011

T.Edwin Norris, City Clerk
Hamtramck, Michigan

NOTICE OF PRECINCT CHANGE

To the Qualified Electors of the CITY OF HAMTRAMCK - WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Precinct 4 which was located at the Hamtramck City Hall, 3401 Evaline has been permanently moved to the Hamtramck Community Center, 11350 Charest effective for the August 2, 2011 City Primary Election.

Public Notice

The City of Hamtramck Department of Community and Economic Development

The Department of Community and Economic Development is excited to announce a new program to assist property owners in the funding the redevelopment of upper story rental lofts and apartments along Joseph Campau. Property owners may be eligible for a forgivable GRANT of \$25,000.00 - \$35,000.00 per unit to rehabilitate existing, or build new rental lofts and apartments. Each property owner will be limited to no more than four (4) units, and will be subject to US Department of Housing and Urban Development Guidelines and rental restrictions.

Property owners interested in participating in the program can obtain an application in the Department of Community and Economic Development on the 3rd Floor of City Hall at 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, Michigan 48212, or by calling the Department at 313.870.0355, or emailing sstec@hamtramckcity.com. Applications are due June 15, 2011 at 4 p.m.

Review: Opinion Page

Crime wave brings community together

Periodically, Hamtramck experiences a crime wave of sorts.

At the last City Council meeting, councilmembers complained about a rash of street muggings and young men and teens hanging out at various "hotspots" in the city and getting into fights.

There has also been reported drug dealing in the neighborhoods.

One so-called hotspot happens to be across the street from Councilmember Catrina Stackpole's house. She complained that sometimes officers will drive by the large gathering of youths and not do a thing about it.

Well, it's true that just because youths are gathering together, that's not really a crime. But let's be real. Large gatherings like that often erupt into fights and the playing of music at loud volumes.

We checked this situation out after the council meeting

at 10 p.m. and sure enough, there was a large gathering of young men and open drug dealing.

City Manager Bill Cooper said he was aware of the problem and was meeting with the police chief to draw up a strategy in dealing with the problem. On Tuesday, we talked to Chief Mark Kalinowski, who said he could not provide details of how the department is going to handle the matter, but he promised something was going to happen real fast.

Well, on Wednesday, a team of officers and detectives swung into action and took a "zero tolerance" approach. The result was swift and comprehensive. Some 13 adults were arrested for a variety of crimes and ordinance violations and five juveniles were caught skipping school, which is a curfew violation.

The parents of the kids were also ticketed under the

city's relatively new parent responsibility law.

Perhaps the most striking thing about the police action is it was performed mostly on straight time with little overtime.

We are a small city, and when obvious flare-ups start happening, we need to respond to it in a timely manner. Wednesday's police action is proof that we can work out our problems in an orderly and cost-efficient manner.

Our Police Department certainly deserves a round of applause for an outstanding job.

Also encouraging is a newly launched citizens patrol formed by the Weed and Seed organization. That means more eyes and ears will be on the road to assist the Police Department in keeping criminal activity at a minimum.

For these two councilmembers, it's no thanks for another term

Continued from page 3

son," she offered.

OK, we'll guess that's not anytime soon.

As for Shahab Ahmed, his story is worthy of a lengthy New York Times magazine piece.

To put it simply, Ahmed is a major historical figure in Hamtramck. In 2003, he was the first-ever person born in Bangladesh to be elected to an American political office.

It's a milestone that is mind-boggling just to think about. Consider that Hamtramck has long been a city dominated by Polish-Americans, and you have a story that defies all local political theories and suppositions.

Heck, it's been nearly impossible for African-Americans to win elected office in this city. Just imagine the hurdles facing an immigrant from Bangladesh.

We're going to look into

Ahmed's rise and, to some degree, fall, in the near future. But suffice to it say, it's a page-turner.

Ahmed came into the political limelight as part of the former Mayor Gary Zych administration.

From that, he defied all odds and won a seat on council. But the last few years have been a slow decline for Ahmed, in terms of political clout.

Some political observers have said that Ahmed's chances of re-election, this time around, were slim to none.

Ahmed says he would have won another term, but he has decided that his family comes first.

"Right now my focus is my family," he said.

It's no secret. Ahmed is recently divorced and has two children. He has also been ar-

rested for assaulting his ex-wife, of which no charges were ever pressed.

There has been incredible pressure on Ahmed - including veiled threats to his life for being a Muslim - that have taken a toll on him.

Ahmed said it's now time to regroup and allow a new generation to test the field of public office.

"I think I should step down to make room for newcomers," he said.

It's also no secret that the Bengali community, which has become the major voting bloc in the city, is a deeply divided community when it comes to politics. Ahmed has this to say to his fellow Bangladeshi-Americans:

"I always tell them: You need to be American first, Bengali second. Look at the candidate, not the nationality."

Odds & Ends

Fun-raising ... Hamtramck's Historical Commission is holding a fundraiser on June 16 at their new museum location, the former PLAV Post 1 hall on Holbrook.

The event starts at 6 p.m. and features live music, refreshments and a cash bar. The theme of the night is 1920s Prohibition era, and you're encouraged to dress in clothing of that time period.

Tickets are \$100 per person. For more information, call (313) 874-2242.

Retiring ... City Manager emailed us this week to confirm a rumor flying around

town that Police Chief Mark Kalinowski is retiring.

Well, it's true says Cooper. As of June 30, the chief will be handing in his badge. We will have more on Mark in the coming weeks. In the meantime, good luck Mark, and thanks for your many years of dedication to the city.

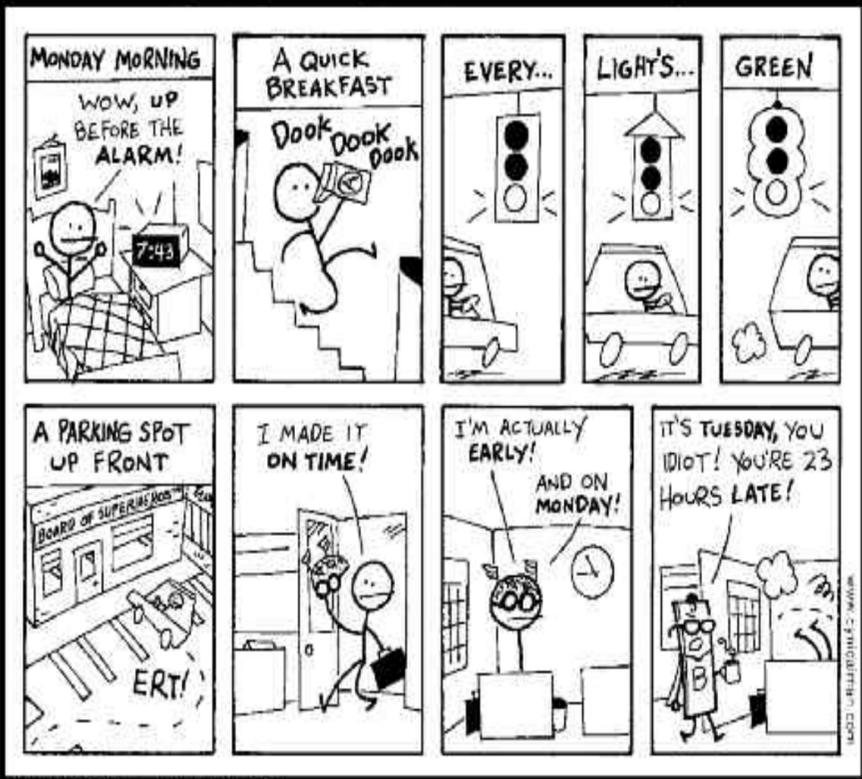
Tune in ... Next Wednesday (June 8), be sure to watch "Dining in the D" on Detroit public television, WTVS Channel 56. Hamtramck's very own Maria's Comida will be featured in the segment.

And speaking of Maria's, the little restaurant is expand-

ing its line of fine food items. They are now bottling their own barbecue sauce. That means, however, that the restaurant will be closed on Mondays.

Last call ... Word just came down that the Belmont Bar will be closing its doors on June 13. But word also has it that it will open later in the month with a new format, which will most likely mean no more live music.

The Amazing CYNICALMANSM by Matt Fezell



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Obituaries

GALGAN

Rita Dolores Galgan, 81, died May 17, 2011.

Mrs. Galgan was preceded in death by her husband, Walter.

She is survived by her daughter, Carol; son, Christopher; grandchildren, Christina and Jennifer; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements

were made by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, and funeral services were held on May 19 at Our Lady Queen of Apostles. Burial was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

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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'This old house' is now part of new housing

Continued from front page



structing" a house.

"It allows us to reuse a house instead of throwing it away," said Jason Friedmann, Hamtramck's Director of Economic & Community Development.

Besides being green, this method of taking down a house provides jobs. But there is one problem to this approach: Money.

Normally, an average house costs about \$6,000 to tear

down. A deconstruction project costs over double that amount, about \$15,000.

The house on Carpenter is not costing the city anything. It's being taken down as part of an experiment to find a way to bring the cost down.

Once that hurdle is cleared, Henry Ford expects this to be a dynamic new field and will offer classes to train people.

Who knew, there's some "green" in going green.

City Hall Insider... Continued from page 3

are underage.

"Why are we not enforcing our curfew?" asked Stackpoole.

She added that unless action is taken, "someone is going to get severely hurt."

Councilmember Shahab Ahmed said he's witnessed "obvious" criminal activity at Holbrook and Brombach in recent weeks. He questioned why police officers aren't cracking down.

City Manager Cooper said there are a limited number of officers patrolling on each shift, but now that the traffic patrol program is back up and running, more officers will soon be on hand.

Councilmember Jankowski suggested calling in the Wayne County Sheriffs, especially since he and all other residents pay county taxes.

Jankowski was also critical of Cooper for not reacting sooner to the crime problem. He said he was recently invited to ride with officers, but complained that instead of being shown the "hotspots," he only got to see officers hand out traffic tickets.

Lastly, Jankowski said sev-

eral bars were recently broken into. He questioned why patrols aren't being stepped up or made more aware of this particular crime wave.

(Editor's note: Jankowski is the owner of the bar, "Whiskey in the Jar," on Yemans St. He said his bar was also broken into.)

From the public, council candidate Robert Zwolak said the city manager should be the one appointing the police chief instead of having the chief come up through the ranks.

(Editor's note: The selection of police chief is bound by union contract. Having the city manager make the appointment would require the police officers' union to agree to a contract change - which has a zero possibility of happening unless the city agrees to give up something in exchange.)

Candidate Zwolak agreed with Councilmember Jankowski's earlier comment that Wayne County Sheriffs should be patrolling the city. But he conceded that having the sheriffs ride into town is a police union contract issue.

Other issues Zwolak touched on include the status

of replacing the bus shelter at Jos. Campau and Holbrook (It's been a year and what's up with it?) Planters on Jos. Campau (it's almost June, he said, and what's up with them?) And the property tax increase the council just passed: "People of this town have been whacked and whacked and whacked."

A man who identified himself as Kola, previously a resident of Sterling Heights, questioned what services residents are getting for the amount of taxes they pay. He said the city has too many abandoned houses and overgrown lots.

"And you know that brings crime. ... Remember, citizens make the city," he said.

He added that if it's less expensive to contract out police service, the city should do it.

Pete Hamling talked about his trials and tribulations in trying to purchase the property nextdoor to his house on St. Aubin. The house in question was recently destroyed in a fire, but Hamling said he still wants to purchase the lot and preserve the brick garage that is more or less intact.

Long story made short: Hamling also brought his attorney, and they want to work out a deal to purchase the lot and garage. However, they complained about getting the runaround by city and state officials who insist the garage must be torn down.

So ... the city agreed to have its attorney, or one of its attorneys, look into the matter.

(Editor's note: We know Pete and, yes, he can be a cantankerous guy. But Pete, man, you have a bigger problem: the burned down house is still standing there with all its debris spilled out onto the front. When in the world is someone gonna demolish this major eyesore?)

Tune in again, folks, when the ongoing drama of city life is played out in the June 14 City Council meeting. Meanwhile, look for a follow-up in this issue on the crime problem in the city and what the Police Department is doing to confront it. Plus, we're going to take a closer look at Pete Hamling's next door property in next week's issue.

Real Estate Corner



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2382 Commor-Hamtramck - 1 bedroom, Living Room, Dining Room, Expansion Attic, First-Floor Laundry \$17,000

12019 Fleming - Hamtramck - 4 Bedrooms, Living Room, Dining Room, Finished Basement, 2-Car Garage, \$29,900

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

Hamtramck, 1 Br. upper, nice neighborhood, clean, stove-fridge, 313-598-0175. 6/10

Hamtramck, upper 3 Br., references required, private parking, \$575/month + security deposit, 313-801-4001. 6/10

Lehman St., 2 Br. lower, furnished is optional, new windows, new doors, separate washer-dryer, separate utilities, immediate occupancy, 586-873-8510. 6/10

Hamtramck, 2 Br. lower, very clean, nice basement, \$500/month + security + references, 248-214-9573. 6/10

9721 Dequindre, 2 Br. lower, living, dining, kitchen, bathroom, utilities separate, \$475/month + one month security deposit, immediate occupancy, 313-729-7760. 6/3

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Upper, 2+3 Br., clean, \$450/month, 3356 E. Palmer, Detroit, 586-634-5593. 6/10

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APARTMENTS & FLATS FOR RENT

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Hamtramck studio apartments, good location, immediate occupancy, 248-229-4295, 248-229-4297. 5/27

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Hamtramck, Conant-Yemans area, 2 Br. upper, living room, dining room, \$400/month + security, must have good credit, no pets, 586-945-0317. 6/10

Hamtramck, 2 Br. lower, stove-fridge, living, dining, ask for Doda or David, no pets, 586-722-8963, 586-978-2363. 6/10

12601 Gallagher, 3 Br., no pets, 313-892-8963. 6/3

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

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Metro news ...

Continued from page 4

the rapidly growing industry. "It's intended to recruit kids in the K-12 into the health-care profession," says Ramona Benkert, associate professor at the College of Nursing at Wayne State University. "It also will help them improve their skill set. The long-term goal is to get these kids into the health-care professions." The Wayne State Univer-

sity School of Medicine and College of Nursing received the initial federal grant in fall 2010 to establish the program. It is now working with community groups and schools in Metro Detroit to establish a regional career center and begin the outreach portion of the program this year.

Writer: Jon Zemke

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12197 Conant • Corner of Conant & Carpenter HAMTRAMCK

FREE 2-Liter Pop w/Min. \$20 Purchase

16 Pc. WING DINGS <small>Hot or BBQ • 65¢ for every 8 wings</small>	1 lb. Rib Tips\$4.99
\$8.99	— PICKUP SPECIALS —
	XL Square Pizza\$9.99
	<small>15 Slice Pizza with 2 Items</small>
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(Large Only) (Medium Only)

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- Pepperoni • Mushrooms • Italian Sausage • Ham • Onions
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- HOWIE BREAD • CAJUN BREAD •
- CINNAMON BREAD • 3 CHEESER BREAD •

& HOWIE WINGS

WE DELIVER!

Open for Lunch Everyday

Order Online @ WWW.HUNGRYHOWIES.COM

Free Flavored Crust

Sesame

Onion

Cajun

Ranch

Butter

Butter Cheese

Garlic Herb



From the desk of Hamtramck's City Manager ...

Continued from page 2

tied directly to our budget numbers. Brom contacted me later in the day to clarify a couple of points on our cash flow, specifically the loans we had taken from the street fund and the water escrow account. I responded to their questions, with Nevrus' help.

I must admit that throughout our conversations I was a bit surprised at just how much they seemed to know about our financial situation, and the concern they expressed about our ability to get through the next year without State intervention.

On Tuesday, May 3, I was told by Brom Stibitz that the Treasurer had accepted our budget and plan to address our shortfall. I was told that as a result, a letter would be issued to

Detroit within a day or two. I notified Jim Allen that the letter would be issued and to start working on the securing the payment from Detroit.

Wednesday evening, May 4, a letter was sent from the State to the City of Detroit.

On Thursday morning, May 5, I notified Jim Allen that the letter had been sent, and I asked Jim to put a fire under Detroit. We were notified later in the day by Detroit's attorney that we would be issued a check no later than Tuesday, May 10. I immediately asked that Detroit try to move a little faster so that we would not have to take the loan from the water escrow in order to meet payroll on Wednesday, May 11. After a couple of minor exchanges, I was informed that an electronic transfer of funds would occur on Friday, May 6.

Friday, May 6, the funds were electronically transferred to our account. We, in turn, released the water escrow a few days later.

Now we turn our attention to other major issues:

The potential consolidation of services:

Preliminary meetings have been held with Highland Park, and the Detroit Police Department. A meeting is scheduled with the Hamtramck School District, and calls have been made to the Sheriff's Department and will be made to the Housing Authority. At this point all conversations are exploratory, but may eventually lead to detailed negotiations on some form of consolidation. Everyone we have talked to is well aware of the Governor's mandates tied to revenue sharing, and are taking these discussions seriously.

Contract negotiations:

I have started negotiations with the FOP and AF-SCME unions, and will soon be talking to the ROA. I have started discussions with the Fire Fighter's Union regarding possible concessions. I am sensing an overall air of cooperation from all of the unions. This does not mean that they like what they have heard, or that they will simply roll over and give us what we have asked for, but it means that they have been willing to listen and to begin discussing options.

Some of our most critical assumptions regarding our budget are tied to these negotiations.

New legislation:

We continue to watch all of the new legislation.

PA 4, the new Emergency Manager legislation. It is law today, but will it change, or be changed, or should I say clarified, via the legal process.

PA 7 which may eventually require employees to pay for 20% of their health insurance costs. This passed the Senate and is moving to the House.

Other legislation is being discussed or is moving through the House or the Senate. Things are changing rapidly, much of it tied to recommendations coming from the Governor. Initial proposals are being modified, agreements are being made to address alternatives, and proposals are changing almost as fast as they are made, often due to discussion and debate in Lansing.

A key point in all of this is that the State made it very clear to us that they wanted to assess our financial condition and to determine whether or not the payment from Detroit would resolve our financial situation for at least 1 year.

In my opinion, if we had not shown the State Treas-

While all of this is going on, we will be watching our financial condition very closely to assure that our assumptions hold, so that we can react quickly to any and all changes in those assumptions.

Those are just the big things that lie ahead. Throw in all of the smaller, everyday items, and we have plenty to keep us busy over the next few months.

