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# The Review

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## Quick Hits

**There are two things to put on your to-do list this week, and both are on Saturday (April 9).**

As usual, since this Saturday is the second Saturday of the month, Hamtramck's recycling program will be open for business at the city parking lot on Caniff at McDougall. Bring your recyclable items any time from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If you're on a health kick, stop by the Hamtramck High School Community Center also on Saturday at 10 a.m. for a "Health Hike." There are registration forms at the high school and Kosciuszko Middle School, or you can register by emailing to hurtk@hamtramck.k12.mi.us.

The event also offers free food and prizes.

## — HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

# Gas explosion rips apart JC building, but cause is unknown

*I was born in a cross-fire hurricane  
 And I howled at my ma in the driving rain,  
 But it's all right now, in fact, it's a gas!  
 But it's all right. I'm Jumpin' Jack Flash,  
 It's a Gas! Gas! Gas!  
 The Rolling Stones*

**By Charles Sercombe**

The buzz around town: Are we all going to blow up or what?

The short answer: No, we're not.

Just because there's been two building explosions in the last three weeks caused by leaking natural gas doesn't mean Hamtramck's old infrastructure is about to give up on us.

The latest explosion happened around 2 a.m. Friday at an office on Jos. Campau near Whalen St. Hamtramck fire investigators still can't say for certain what caused the explosion, and an investigation is ongoing.

A few things can be ruled out: there was no sign of an illegal hook-up or a fixer-upper gone wrong. Also ruled out was a rumor going around town that it was caused by increased pressure as a result of DTE installing new gas lines on Jos. Campau.

Fire Chief Steve Paruk said



**Fire investigators are still trying to determine why a gas explosion occurred at a building on Jos. Campau early last Friday morning. Above: The heaviest damage occurred in the rear of the building. The force of the explosion ripped apart the walls.**



internal gas regulators within the lines prevent excessive pressure. And, after the explosion, DTE shut off gas to area businesses and then turned gas back on, business by business, to make sure there was nothing wrong with the delivery of the gas.

Paruk said there is an indication that the piping in the building may be at fault, but he declined to speculate further. He said the investigation may require digging below the surface.

As for fears that Hamtramck's old-stock housing is vulnerable, Paruk put things into perspective. He said in the 27 years he has worked in the Fire Department, he has experienced four gas explosions, two from over 20 years ago, and, now, the two recent ones.

The explosion attracted wide media attention. The force of the blow-up caused the front window to fly across Jos. Campau, deep into the parking lot of the former Clock restaurant.

The structure was also heavily damaged, with the ceiling collapsed and the rear portion of the side walls split apart.

Inside the office (the former Krakowiak Travel Agency), desks were overturned and

**Continued on page 2**

## Like it or not, merging services is a must

**By Charles Sercombe**

One of Gov. Snyder's directives to communities across the state is to find ways to consolidate, and even merge, services.

Over a month ago, the Hamtramck City Council also asked City Manager Bill Cooper to look into merging services with other communities, which could include just about all city services.

That means police and fire service as well.

So, weeks have gone by and there has been no report back to the council. We caught up with Cooper last week and asked him how that assignment is going.

His reply was terse, but not because he finds the job a waste of time.

"So far," he said, "no one has returned a call."

Cooper said he has left messages with both county and Detroit officials. As for a merger with Highland Park, it's generally agreed among city officials that combining police and/or fire departments would be a great step down.

Highland Park pays police officers \$15 an hour with no benefits. Firefighters are paid \$10 an hour also with no benefits.

Firefighters start out here with about a \$30,000-a-year salary with benefits for themselves and their family.

Cooper said with Highland Park "already cut to the bone," there is nowhere to turn to. Detroit? That city has more problems than Hamtramck, plus even the discussion of merging would cause a huge uproar.

"Residents are not happy with merging services with Detroit," Cooper said.

You could say that's an understatement.

But turning our collective back on merging services is hardly an option. Gov. Snyder has intertwined this directive with how much state

**Continued on page 4**

# Building improvements grants expand beyond Jos. Campau

**By David Piestrzynski**  
**Special to The Review**

The city of Hamtramck is due for its annual façade lift.

The yearly façade grants have been doled out by the Downtown Development Authority, and this year it is proving to be more far-reaching into the community.

Work has already begun on the former Citizen newspaper

building on Jos. Campau, one of the eight locations chosen for this year's Façade Improvement Grants.

The front of that building has been posing a danger for several months. The bricks have been buckled, and it looked like the front was about to collapse.

Construction is expected to

**Continued on page 8**



**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.

**"Did I curse, yes. It is what it is. Only God judges me."**

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## Hamtown's movers and shakers...

By Alan R. Madeleine

*Editor's note: This is the second and final part of last week's Movers and Shakers. We pick up on a discussion with Hamtramck Library Director Tamara Sochacka.*

**What are some of the challenges of the Director's position, and also of serving this demographic? We're all aware of Hamtramck's cultural diversity – do you have any particulars in your mission statement regarding these issues?**

Yes, diversity is a fact here, and I love it. Our mission statement, our goals and objectives, as well as our short- and long-term planning, all reflect services to diverse cultures.

Ever since I started working here, I always wanted to bring Hamtramck's people

together – people of different national origins, religions, professional backgrounds, personal experiences, and so on. And an American public library is such a clever, ingenious institution, that it makes such a "mixing" much easier than, for instance, it would've been at any of the libraries I remember from Europe.

And by the way, I don't believe the library must always be quiet; people must interact sometimes.

**Latchkey kids, in other words those who have nowhere else to go after school while their parents are at work, can pose serious challenges. Do you have specific policies about that situation?**

The library has 300 to 500 visitors each day, on aver-



age. Many of them are kids that come right after school. To make this a productive and entertaining time for them, we have initiated tutoring programs, games (like chess, checkers, and others), the screening of select movies, arts and craft programs, readings, and other activities. At times, there are children who interfere with

those activities. We do our best to control them, but if nothing works, then we have no choice but call the parents and send them home.

**On a related topic, having used the library myself, I know that sometimes there can be some rowdy teens who like to push the boundaries by playing their music loud enough to hear through their headphones, or talking, or using bad language, or the like. What can you do to protect the rights of everyone in these situations? I assume the police, being as responsive as they usually are in this town, are always willing to come and help if the situation gets a bit too extreme?**

Most of the children comply with the policies. Kids who break the rules lose

some, or most, of their library privileges. Certainly, if on the rare occasion violent or abusive situations do arise, we absolutely will call the Police, to restore order and make sure that rights and safety of rest of the children are protected.

**On a more positive note, you've become known for booking a lot of interesting programming over the years. Talk a bit about that – how you decide who to pursue, what criteria you use in choosing who to try to book, what steps you have to generally go through to get people here successfully, how it's budgeted for, and so on.**

We try, within our means, to provide a variety of programs for our patrons. Many programs are ongoing, like the English as a Second Language classes, tutoring classes, Math Kangaroo International Competition, story time for children, arts and crafts for children, Summer Reading programs (which are linked with entertainers, magic shows, singers, naturalists who bring various animals to the library, etc.), travelogues, authors, illustrators, art exhibits, movie screenings, celebrations of national events or local happenings,

poetry readings, piano concerts; celebrations of Black History Month, Polish Heritage Month, and Women's Month; dancing groups, financial seminars, health seminars and various city functions - to mention a few.

Most of the programs are financed with funds we budget for the programs, some are financed by the Friends of the Hamtramck Library, and some are sponsored by private individuals or businesses.

**Speaking of the budget, it must certainly be a major challenge, in a district like this one, to maintain a high level of services. Does Hamtramck have a library board? Who decides the budget? Who does your collection development? How many professional librarians do you have on staff?**

When I became Library Director, I was the only librarian, along with one full-time staff member and two part-time library aides. For many years, I was the only full-time librarian, with one of the Board Members, Jerzy Dabrowski (who is also a degreed librarian) helping out part-time. I had to recruit many volunteers to provide a full spectrum of library services

Continued on page 4

## Gas explosion rips apart JC building, but cause is unknown

Continued from front page

walls were ripped apart. Damage also spread out to four storefronts next to the building.

Amazingly, a tenant in an apartment in the rear of the building where the explosion occurred was not injured.

Despite the heavy damage, Paruk said the building can be repaired, at least the front two-thirds of it. The rear portion is another matter.

Elias Uddin, who operates a company in the building that specializes in immigration matters, insurance, tax preparation and driver's training,

said he left around 7 p.m. and did not detect an odor of gas. Neither did the upstairs tenant.

The blast occurred just about at closing time for bars. Lyman Woodard, the son of a Detroit jazz legend and the owner of Twisted Fix, a tattoo salon on Jos. Campau, said he was walking toward the building when it exploded right in front of him.

"If I were two steps closer, I would have been blown away," he said.

We met up with Woodard around noon on Friday. He

was taking a picture of the damage with his cell phone.

"I told my girlfriend about it, but she thought it was an April Fool's," Woodard said.

Hamtramck's prior gas explosion occurred three weeks ago at a house on Norwalk St. In that case, the sole tenant living there had been making repairs to his stove, and had disconnected the gas line. It's unclear whether the tenant failed to reconnect the line or simply reconnected it incorrectly.



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## This week at the library...

**Movie Screening** - "Exit Through the Gift Shop" - Tuesday, April 12 at 7 p.m. The movie follows an eccentric shopkeeper turned amateur film-maker as he attempts to capture many of the world's most infamous vandals on camera, only to have a British stencil artist named Banksy, turn the camcorder back on its owner with wildly unexpected results. Free to the public.

**ESL Class for Beginners** - Saturday, April 9 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, April 9 at noon. All children are invited to library storytime. It is never too early to start a garden. This week we will make a crocus dish garden after reading the book, "Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed," by Emily Pearson.

**Computer Classes for Advanced Users** - Monday, April 11 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.

**Computer Classes for Beginners** - Tuesday, April 12 at 11 a.m. Basic instructions on computer use for beginners will be held on Tuesdays. Number of participants is limited to available computers.

**Reading and Conversation for ESL Students** - Tuesday, April 12 at 5:30 p.m. Jide Aje is the instructor for the reading and conversation

ESL classes.

**Math Club Meeting** - Tuesday, April 12 at 4 p.m. Mr. Nuo is the instructor for the math club and math tutoring.

**Movie Wednesday** - Wednesday, April 13 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.

**Jeopardy at the Library** - Thursday, April 14 at 4 p.m. Sign up and participate in Jeopardy games held on Thursdays at the library. Compete against friends, win prizes and have fun developing your knowledge skills.

**Meeting of the Library Board** - Thursday, April 14 at 6 p.m. Regular meeting of the Library Board will be held in the auditorium. Open to the public.

**Open Mic Poetry Reading** - Wednesday, April 20 at 4 p.m. In celebration of the National Poetry Month, the Hamtramck Library will hold Open Mic Poetry Readings with cooperation of our local poet Vievee Francis. Everyone who wishes to participate, or just listen, is invited.

**Friends of the Library Meeting** - Thursday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m. FHPL President Kathy Kristy and Treasurer George Gorday, invite all members and volunteers to participate in the regular monthly meeting and election meeting of the FHPL.

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

## Former School Board president cited for outburst

By Charles Sercombe

Public School Boardmember Titus Walters will be the first to tell you he has a temper and can be "passionate" about his support of the schools.

And he will also admit to using profanity when going head-to-head with the president of the Hamtramck Federation of Teachers, Bo Karpinsky.

That temper, apparently, lead to an exchange of words that have come back to haunt the district.

According to a complaint filed by Karpinsky with the Michigan Employment Relations Commission in December of 2009, Karpinsky says that in a private meeting with Walters and Superintendent

Tom Niczay, Walters lashed out at him.

In the meeting, according to Karpinsky, Walters threatened to have Karpinsky fired.

"I'll have a couple students make up a couple things, say this and that, and you'll be gone, mother—."

At the time, Walters was president of the School Board. The confrontation was a follow-up to a labor grievance Karpinsky filed against the district over having the athletic director also serve as a coach.

Unbeknownst to Walters, Karpinsky and Niczay had worked out a deal to allow the athletic director to serve as a coach for the remainder of the season just before Walters confronted Karpinsky.

Under questioning in a court hearing, Niczay confirmed that Walters threatened to have Karpinsky's job.

But in a telephone interview with The Review, Walters denies he made the threat.

"I'm not going to ask a kid to say something, come on," Walters said. "I'm a direct person."

Walters said he did swear at Karpinsky.

"Did I curse, yes," Walters said. "It is what it is. Only God judges me."

Reached by telephone, Karpinsky said he could not comment because he was with students, but did say the findings of his complaint "speak for itself." He called a short time later to inform The Review about a school district

health run to be held on Saturday and then quickly hung up.

Superintendent Niczay said the school board does not plan to contest the findings. He declined further comment.

Since the complaint was filed, Walters was not re-elected by his fellow boardmembers as president. The new president, Elizabeth Zwolak, said the incident is "unfortunate."

"But we're not going to fight the legal decision. We'll just go forward by staying positive," Zwolak said.

The board must promise to not "restrain or coerce" employees in exercising their labor rights, and must insure they are free to engage in legal union activities.

## Hamtramck public housing agency expands 'green' goals

By Alan R. Madeleine

The cold weather lingering around here may be getting a collective "good riddance," but a hot deal on furnaces for Hamtramck's public and senior housing should get a warm welcome.

Particularly since the \$1 million price tag for the improvement is coming out of

the Fed's pockets.

The big beneficiaries will be the folks residing in the Colonel Hamtramck Homes project and the Senior Plaza, who'll realize new high-efficiency furnaces, as well as water heaters, light fixtures, and water-saving plumbing work.

Kevin Kondrat, Executive Di-

rector the Hamtramck Housing Commission, elaborated to The Review.

"The grant is a two-stage deal," he said. "It comes under the auspices of HUD."

One of the federal government's ways to encourage housing commissions to "go green" is through their Energy Savings Contracts, or ESCOs.

The details are complex and a bit dry, but the upshot is that one thing led happily to another in this case, and the city was able to parlay the ESCO part of the deal into something even more impactful for its residents.

Encompassing approximately 300 total living spaces, the joint Col. Hamtramck/Senior Plaza project is a major one. Essentially, the housing complex is for low-income residents, while the Senior Plaza is for those 55 and over. Both are run by HUD, or the federal government's Housing and Urban Development Office.

The original Energy Savings Contract appealed to the Housing Commission, "as we're trying absolutely to be at the vanguard, a forward-thinking entity," Kondrat stated with some pride. The biggest issue was the upgrading of the current 84% efficiency furnaces with new ones that run at 92%. While that may not seem a large increase on the surface, as any good economist will tell you, the economies of scale add up when you start multiplying it all out by so many units over a period of time. Especially given the costs of heating gas these days.

Continued on page 8



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# TOAST of the TOWN

When it comes to good food and great times, Hamtramck has plenty to offer. In this column, we'll talk about what's happening at our bars, restaurants and other events that can be found throughout the city.

**By Charles Sercombe**

We haven't really said too much about the recent closing of the Under the Eagle restaurant, located in the southend on Jos. Campau near Jacob St. Rumors had been going around town that the venerable Polish eatery was on its last legs for the past few months.

We even heard of a deal with one of the owners of A & C Market, which is right next-door, to keep the place going but it fell through. Under the Eagle will be greatly missed, and its owner Terenia Pecze-

niuk was a Hamtramck treasure.

For us, Under the Eagle is the source of precious memories of Hamtramck in the early 1980s and the former Lili's 21 Club, which was located around the corner on Jacob. Toast had an old buddy who was enamored with a certain waitress at the restaurant, who is most likely long gone from the establishment.

We'd come early to town just to catch a dinner there, and to possibly talk our waitress into a couple of drinks at Lili's. Our memory is a little rusty (too much Jezynowka?) to remember how that plan worked out.

Probably not as intended. But that's the charm of youth: Nothing pursued, nothing gained.

No matter, the Polish cuisine

was enough of an education. Toast has to admit we're not Polish, and we grew up on the west side – a world so very far apart from Hamtramck. Needless to say, the sight of pierogi and potato pancakes and city chicken was an eye-opening experience.

So ... with fond memories now so distant, we salute Under the Eagle and wish Terenia a well-deserved retirement.

Hey, speaking of eating Polish food and drinking with Polish buddies, an upcoming annual celebration has our name on it. On Monday, April 25, think of a good excuse to get the day off or skip class or drop whatever you have planned and instead celebrate "Dyngus Day."

Never heard of it? Well, it's a Polish-American tradition where you take the day off to eat Polish food and celebrate all things Polish. It apparently started in Buffalo, New York, but there is no reason why Hamtramck can't compete.

Our Facebook buddy "Hamtramck Bars" is hosting Dyngus Day here in town. The plan is simple: eat Polish food, and then spend the rest of the day drinking at local bars.

Dyngus Day goes way back in Polish history, and it includes boys whacking at girls' legs with Pussy Willows. We swear we're not making this up.

So, if you see a wild-eyed group of guys armed with Pussy Willows, well, just laugh out loud.

And keeping the Polish theme going, we were tickled to receive an update from our friends the Polish Muslims.

The big news first: The group is being honored with a "Distinguished Lifetime Achievement" award from the Detroit Music Awards organization on April 15 at the Fillmore. We've lost track how long the group has been delighting all of us, but as Dave Uchalik from the group points out, "I don't know how distinguished we are but we have been doing this for a lifetime."

Before that big award show, you can catch the Polish Muslims perform on Fox 2 news on Wednesday, April 13 sometime between 7 and 9:30 a.m.

And ... there's more. Today, April 8, is opening day for the Detroit Tigers, and for the second year in a row The Polish

Continued on page 6

## Hamtown's movers and shakers...

Continued from page 2

ices to Hamtramck residents.

With the help of Mr. Woody (from Woody Pontiac) and People's State Bank, we established a computer lab in the library. Currently, Konrad Maziarz is in the process of getting his librarian's license, and is working in that capacity.

Collection development has been mainly my responsibility. Over the years, I have been able to increase the library staff to fourteen employees, plus ESL teachers and tutors.

The Library Budget is proposed by me, then discussed and adopted by the Library Board. Under the new charter, the Library is governed by five members of the Library Board. With the cooperation, and under the direction, of the dedicated members of the Board, we have been able to modernize the library with high-tech equipment, including 35 computers (25 for public use); we have also maintained a fully-computerized catalog system, which gives us access to books from all libraries within the TLN library network.

We've secured audio visual equipment; provided our patrons with access to electronic books, audio books, and foreign language books; maintained a historical collection of digitized photos, and even produced some documentary films!

The library operates on a budget of approximately

\$400,000.00. Since all of the funds come from city property taxes (per the library millage), as well as from State Aid, County Penal Fines, Grants and private donations, it is up to the Library Board to manage this budget wisely, providing, too, for wages and all the other expected and unexpected expenditures.

The installation of new lights, a new furnace, new windows, and new doors in the library was covered by a grant. Installation of a new roof and the purchase of the adjacent lot west of the library was paid for by funds set aside from the library budget each year for capital expenditures.

**Anything else you'd like to add that I haven't covered? Any special events coming up that you'd like to tout?**

Our next large project is to build a Library West Wing on the land we purchased two

years ago. This project would also include upgrades to the code of the current library building.

The reason for the need to expand is a lack of space. We have no more room to install additional computers (after six more are installed in the next few weeks). Likewise, we need more room for our secured archives, meeting rooms for classes & tutoring sessions, and meetings of the community groups; we have no more storage room, nor space in the main hall to accommodate special events.

**Thanks so much for taking the time out of what I know must certainly be a very busy schedule.**

I would like to take this opportunity and thank the Review Newspaper, for providing space each week for the listing of library events!

## Like it or not, merging services is a must

Continued from front page

revenue the city will get – or to be more precise, what the city won't get.

If Hamtramck does not find a way to merge services, or at least some of them, the city could lose hundreds of thousands of dollars in state revenue.

And if the city falls into a deep enough debt and can't make payroll, Snyder has another option: bring in an emergency financial manager, who likely won't hesitate to merge services – whether residents like it or not.

**Tight Fittin' Jeans**  
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Let's do Tigers Opening Day together at Jeans! We're always more fun! Drink Specials, Complimentary Hot Dogs

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# Review: Opinion Page

## Education should be a cost we want to support

What in the world is going on with public education?

This isn't just a Hamtramck question.

Under Gov. Snyder's budget plan, funding for education is getting slashed by almost \$500 per student. For Hamtramck, this means a total cut of \$1 million. The district is already staring at a \$4 million deficit.

Is Snyder setting up public school districts for financial failure? It sure does appear that way.

The American public education system was once a true marvel, and an inspiration to the world. Millions of Americans were guaranteed a quality education and a good chance to go on to higher learning.

Over the past few decades we have allowed elected leaders to whittle away at this foundation. We are now at the point of watching the whole system crumble.

Make no mistake, Republicans would love to see public education go away, especially union teachers. They are seen by many Republicans as a base support for Democrats.

Snyder is also a Republican, but he would have you believe he is not politically motivated. Folks, don't believe it for a minute. He likes to characterize himself as a "nerd" but he is actually a wolf in nerd's clothing.

Reducing school funding has nothing to do with making public schools more "efficient" – as Snyder insists. It has to do with hacking away at public employees.

What Snyder and his cohorts would love to see is public schools get taken over by privatized charter schools. We're not knocking charter schools, because there is a place for them and they can co-exist with public schools.

Education isn't about

being "efficient" in the sense we have come to understand. Education is a necessary expense to ensure our nation has a populace that can make educated decisions.

Education should be a priority expense, and something we as a people are proud to support.

Republicans have increasingly become driven by politics for the sake of politics.

Enough already.

A lot of voters got hoodwinked by Snyder this past election. It's time we stand up and say no more. There will likely be a recall effort come this July, the earliest possible time a recall can begin.

We seriously urge voters to send a clear and loud message that when it comes to public education, we draw a line. That message begins with a ballot.

## Odds & Ends

**Correction ...** Last week we incorrectly reported that those wishing to get on the ballot for City Council in the August Primary Election can skip collecting 25 signatures from Hamtramck registered voters and instead pay a fee of \$25.

Hey, elections aren't that cheap. You'll have to shell out \$100 to get on the ballot if you don't have the time, or gumption, to get the necessary number of signatures.

**Art exhibit ...** Hamtramck artist Kristin Beaver is among several other metro artists who are part of a special arts celebration happening around the Detroit area this month.

If you have never seen Beaver's paintings, they are truly amazing. Her latest work, being showcased at MOCAD in Detroit, focuses on the lives of Sandy and Jim Shaw of Hamtramck.

The show is especially poignant because Jim Shaw passed away from cancer last November. Sandy Kramer-Shaw owns Barberella's hair

salon here in Hamtramck. MOCAD's hours are, Wednesday-Sunday, 11-5 p.m. and Thursday-Friday, 11-8 p.m. It's located at 4454 Woodward, in the Midtown area. For more information, call (313) 832-6622.

**Calling all grads ...** Well, not all grads, but grads from St. Ladislaus High School are invited to a reunion in what's being billed as a "Last Hurrah!"

The event takes place on May 21, kicking off with a special Mass at 4 p.m. Dinner follows, which will feature a pretty good spread and live music. Here's the deal, though. Your \$15 admission must be submitted no later than May 12 or the reunion will have to be canceled.

Send your check to: Norman Jaworski, 2591 Eastern, Rochester Hills, MI 48307.

For more information, call Diane Levocek at (248) 464-2030.

**April Fooled? ...** We're not sure how many readers no-

ticed that in last week's "Quick Hits" column we ran a piece on how the government is about to buy up Hamtramck homes to house Japanese refugees.

Uh ... it turns out the disclaimer for our April Fool's joke on readers kind of backfired because that part of the article was printed in teeny, tiny print that many couldn't even see.

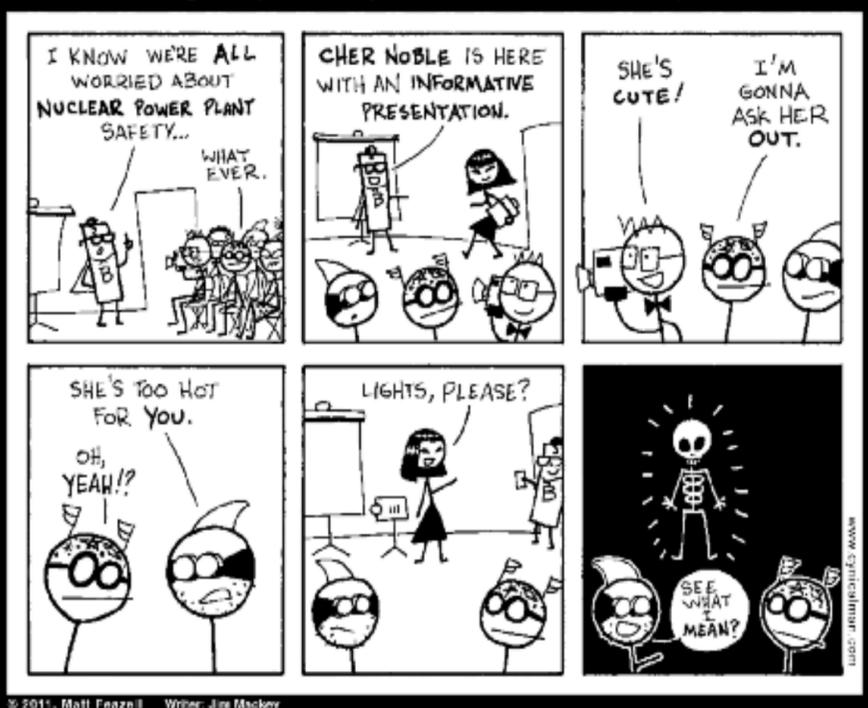
So, long story short: there is no government program to buy up Hamtramck houses, and yeah, the Japanese are still screwed.

Now who's the fool?

**On the go ...** Hamtramck Mayor Karen Majewski spent Tuesday and Wednesday in Lansing to attend a Michigan Municipal League conference, where she moderated one session on pending legislative issues that have great impact on communities.

She also represented Hamtramck well. The mayor was awarded an Outstanding Service Award from the League.

### The Amazing CYNICALMAN<sup>SM</sup> by Matt Feazell



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**The 2nd Annual HAMTRAMCK HEALTH HIKE 2011**

Kicks Off at the Community Center at 10:00 am on **Saturday, April 9th!**

This year's hike will cover three miles down **Joseph Campau!**

Register early to receive your FREE T-Shirt at the Hike! Registration forms are available at the main offices of Hamtramck High School and Kosciuszko Middle School. You can also register by emailing [hurtk@hamtramck.k12.mi.us](mailto:hurtk@hamtramck.k12.mi.us)

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\* These gatherings replace our Sunday events in Hamtramck.  
 Join us on Sundays at Real Church Detroit! <http://www.hope4detroit> for more info.

# City streets are due for spring cleaning

By David Piestrzynski  
Special to The Review

The good news is that winter appears to be gone.

The bad news is that it left a mess. The streets of Hamtramck are covered in dirt and debris.

But don't get your knickers all bunched up over litter, because your city officials are all over it.

On April 12, City Council will decide who gets to sweep away those last remnants of winter. The \$30,000 project will be paid for by the state's Act 51 Roads Fund.

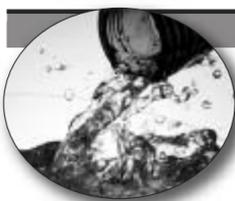
Martin Ladd, the city's di-

rector of Public Services, declined to comment at length about the project before the council votes on the upcoming bid for the project.

But he was willing to offer a few details.

He said residents can expect the job to be completed in its normal timetable, leaving us with clean streets within the next few months. The job includes the city's major streets and residential streets as well.

"The people know what to expect," Ladd said. "We come through every year and work through the summer."



# TOAST of the TOWN

Continued from page 4



Muslims will perform at Nemo's Bar in Corktown (1384 Michigan Ave.), starting right after the game ends, which is about 6:30 p.m.

The bar puts up a huge heated tent outside and hundreds of happy, drunk Tigers fans stop by to keep the party going.

Are you a fan of vinyl records?

Toast certainly is, because there is nothing like slapping

down a record on a record player and turning the volume up. Digital, MP3, Ipod ... it's all electronic throw-away crap. Heck, while we're at it, let's bring back mono!

So, in keeping with spring celebrations popping up like so many wildflowers (and yes, Pussy Willows), April 16 is Record Store Day. Here in town we have two outstanding record stores, Record Graveyard on Caniff and Detroit

Threads on Jos. Campau near Trowbridge.

Over at Record Graveyard, owner Jeff Garbus will be spinning records from noon to 5 p.m. on Hamtramck's own 1610 AM radio station. The store is also selling used vinyl at half - yes half - off.

At Detroit Threads, our buddy Mikel Smith is on the

game. He's got DJ's coming in all day to spin discs. It sounds like too much fun.

Can you believe all this is happening in just the month of April? Something tells us that this spring and summer is gonna be a party like no other.

**Do you know of a cool bar, a great restaurant or just a nice place to hang out? If you have tips on special events or just want to shine some light on your favorite spot send a message to news@thehamtramck-review.com or call us at (313) 874-2100.**



Left: The Polish Muslims will receive a "Distinguished Lifetime Achievement" award from the Detroit Music Awards organization. Below: Celebrate all things Polish on "Dyngus Day" this April 25.

— In Memory of —

**Dr. Edward T. Roginski**  
November 26, 1951 – March 29, 2011

Ph.D in Pharmacology, inventor, owner of "Medical Compliance Services," Husband of Susan; sons, Edward and Brett; brother, Tom. Golfer, bowler, member of Polish Falcons Nest 86.

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**49254 Shady Glen, Chesterfield Twp.** - "Bank-Owned Home" 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, full basement, 2 car attached garage. Located near 22 Mile & Gratiot. \$89,900

**2682 Evaline - Hamtramck** 2 BR, Basement, Needs Work \$18,000 PRICE REDUCED!

**2362-64 Burger-Hamtramck** - 3 Unit Multi-Level; 6 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, Basement, Garage, Separate Utilities \$39,900

**3826 Carpenter, Detroit** - 3 Bedrooms, Living Room, Dining Room, Full Basement, 2 Car Block Garage. \$29,000

**11662 Nagel - Hamtramck** - Completely renovated with custom designer touches throughout. 3 BR, built-in appliances, basement, garage. Must see to appreciate. \$56,000 - PRICE REDUCED!

**3454 Caniff - Hamtramck** - 6 bedroom, 2-family home in need of repair. Full basement garage. \$24,900 - NEW PRICE!

**13404 Yvonne - Warren** - 3 Bedroom, 1-1/2 Bath, Full Brick Ranch. Finished Basement, 2 Car Attached Garage \$79,900 - PRICE REDUCED!

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**Dryden:**  
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2 Br. upper, newly renovated, all appliances new, no pets, \$650 + security deposit, rent includes heat and water, call Michele 313-523-1373. 4/22

Lower 2 Br. large backyard, safe neighborhood, appliances and water included, \$550/month + security, 313-301-0594. 4/8

Hamtramck, Conant-Yemans area, 2 Br. upper, living room, dining room, \$400/ month + security, must have good credit, no pets, 586-945-0317. 4/8

Hamtramck, 2 Br. upper, close to shopping and Jos. Campau, appliances included, no pets, for appointment call 810-210-4994. 4/8

Clean flats for rent, 11449 Fleming St., \$425/month, 11427 Fleming, \$475/month + security, call Kim 313-682-2928. 4/8

Hamtramck, 2 Br. upper, \$550/month + deposit, 313-268-7420. 4/15

## APARTMENTS & FLATS FOR RENT

Belmont St., 2 Br., between Conant and Gallagher, stove-fridge, clean, call for appointment 586-604-0553. 4/8

Studio, no pets, Hamtramck, 313-632-5566. 5/27

Upper 2 Br., new carpet, safe neighborhood, large backyard, appliances and water included, \$525 + security, 313-301-0594. 4/8

Hamtramck studio apartments, good location, immediate occupancy, 248-229-4295, 248-229-4297. 4/8

Hamtramck-Detroit, 4 Br., living, dining room, appliances, basement, fenced yard, Section 8 OK, \$600/month, 248-894-0131. 4/22

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## HOUSE FOR RENT

8325 E. 10 Mile Rd., Center Line, east of Van Dyke 3 Br., basement, large living room, formal kitchen and dining room, large fenced yard, appliances, water included, nice and clean area, good neighborhood, can park 8 cars in garage and driveway, \$800/month + security, 586-806-4888, 586-354-8673. 4/15

Hamtramck, 11638 Nagel, upper flat, \$450/month, 313-438-3438. 4/15

Hamtramck, 2 Br., appliances, clean, senior citizen or couple preferred, 313-580-3771 or 313-871-0189. 4/29

3 + 5 Br. single family house with option to buy, no pets, 313-369-1654. 4/15

## HOUSE FOR SALE

5095 Evaline, 3 Br. house, living and dining room, kitchen, computer room, 1 car garage, full basement, 1200 square feet, \$18,500, cash only, call Anna (586) 819-7395. 4/8

2-family, 12909 Klinger, 4 Br., aluminum siding, large yard, asking \$14,000, 248-219-3374. 4/15

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12089 Mitchell St., Hamtramck, 4 Br., 2 baths, full basement, 2-car garage, short walk from high school and kindergarten, selling as-is with furniture and appliances, 1382 Sq. feet, 313-368-1098. 4/22

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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 modeldmedia.com and metro-mode.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:

Thanks to Birmingham's Erb Foundation, Eastern Market will build a \$200,000 community kitchen sometime in 2011, furthering one of the foundation's key missions: promoting environmental

health and justice.

Plans for the grant, payable over two years, will allow Eastern Market to develop the community kitchen as an hub for food entrepreneurs, in a city where access to commercial kitchen space can be difficult to find. They also hope to increase access to locally grown and processed healthy foods.

"It's going to serve as an incubator for people, especially Detroiters, who want to start

their own niche food processing business. It's a good way to not only support the local food system, but to create jobs," says the Erb Foundation's Jodee Fishman Raines.

It's also a way to make better use of produce and other perishables that can go to waste – fruit that can't be sold can still be pickled or jarred, for example. There will be food demonstrations and workshops encouraging healthy eat-

ing, plus the community kitchen can be rented out by groups.

The Erb Foundation, which has distributed money over the past three years, focuses primarily on promoting environmental health and cultural wellness to help revitalize the Great Lakes region, with a focus on Metro Detroit.

"Eastern Market is really, we think, an important institution in the city, an important part of

building this local food system ... the better and stronger it is, the better off we think it will help revitalize the city. When you've got these wonderful local institutions, you can make them even more accessible to people. Eastern Market is already very user-friendly, but this takes it to a whole new level," says Fishman Raines.

Writer: Ashley C. Woods

# Building improvements grants expand beyond Jos. Campau

Continued from front page

begin on three other locations by the end of the month.

Each project is expected to cost at least \$20,000, with the façade grant covering up to \$15,000 per project.

The grants are funded by the federal government through its Community Development Block Grant program.

"The goal is to try to maintain and restore these buildings to their historical look and significance," said Darren Grow, the DDA's director.

The DDA has been awarding these grants since 2007, with the primary focus on downtown. But this year, things are different.

With enhanced involvement from the City Council and Jason Friedmann, Hamtramck's director of Community and Economic Development, this has become a citywide program.

As a result, there have been

grants awarded to locations throughout Hamtramck, not just in the Jos. Campau business district.

For example, there are façade grants for the Painted Lady bar on Jacob St. and for Dale's Party Store on Holbrook. Work is expected to begin at both businesses by the end of April.

Another project on Carpenter St. is awaiting approval from the State Historic Preservation Office before bids can be solicited, Grow said.

Rounding out the list of recipients of this year's grants are MGM Pawn Shop, a soul food restaurant called Flavor, The Yoga Suite and the former Flowers By Us, all on Jos. Campau.

Grow said all the work is expected to be completed by the end of June.



Eight buildings in town will be getting a facelift in the coming weeks, thanks to a Downtown Development Authority grant. Above: The MGM pawn shop. Below left: The former Citizen building. Below: Dale's Party Store.



# Library hosts concert pianist

Photostory by Konrad Maziarz Special to The Review



Friday evening was a classic night in Hamtramck.

At least at the Hamtramck Library where Polish concert pianist Matthew Walczak performed. Walczak played selections from Mozart, Chopin and Debussy.

The city's library has been on the forefront of presenting a number of cultural events, including showing documentaries.



Pianist Matthew Walczak performs at the Hamtramck Public Library last Friday. Below: Walczak poses with his family after his concert.

# Hamtramck public housing agency expands 'green' goals

Continued from page 3

The "real cherry on top," as Kondrat put it, came when the electricians started to evaluate the electrical grid for its ability to handle the new furnaces. The finding that it wasn't up to the task, and would require a million-dollar renovation, led to the HHC applying for a competitive American Recovery Act (ARA) Energy Grant.

And then the HHC showed why it's considered by HUD to be a "high performer" - it secured the grant that will enable it to upgrade every resident's electrical service along with the other improvements.

The work is slated to begin in about six weeks. For Kondrat, it's another example of trying to keep Hamtramck ahead of the curve, through the commission's commitment to, and belief in, saving energy - and by buying into the current administration's greening policies.

"Last year, they got new cabinets. This year, they'll be making out even better," he noted.

And with their current track record of securing federal monies, who knows what the years ahead might yield?

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**Coming Events**

**APRIL 8, Friday, 4-7 p.m.** Fish dinner at Holy Cross Parish, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. Dinner includes hand battered fish, coleslaw, fries, dinner roll and beverage, adult \$8, children \$3. Also two choices of soup available for purchase. Carry out available

**APRIL 9, Sat. 2-4 p.m.** - Monthly Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross Parish, Pulaski at Fleming. All are welcome.

**APRIL 9, Saturday, 1-4 p.m.** - People's Community Services (8625 Jos. Campau) will host a Service Fair for the South Asian Community. The Fair will offer access to a number of agencies for help in social and economic issues, such as tutors, financial support, job skills, help with utility bills, job search and much more. There will also be free food, free childcare and entertainment. For more information, call (734) 922-5799.

**APRIL 9, Saturday, 4 p.m.** - Daughters of Isabella Mystical Rose Circle 736 will hold a Corporate Communion, at Queen of Apostles Church. Dinner will follow at Maine Street Restaurant.

**APRIL 13, Wednesday, 11 a.m.** - Daughters of Isabella Mystical Rose Circle 736 will meet at Queen of Apostles' Activity Center. Entrance on Harold St., fenced parking.

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