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Quick Hits

You know spring has finally arrived when it's time for St. Florian's Strawberry Festival.

Yes, it is indeed that time for the festival, which runs this Saturday (May 2) through Sunday.

As usual the Parish will offer Polish meals, polka bands, Polish folk dancers and of course their very own strawberry pies.

Local favorites The Polish Muslims will play on Saturday at 6:30 p.m.

Festival hours are: Saturday, 5 p.m.-midnight, and Sunday, 1-7 p.m.

Also on Saturday, the Hamtramck Fire Department will host its annual march to St. Florian Church at 3:30 p.m., starting at the first station. The department invites area fire departments to march along with them as they honor their patron Saint, St. Florian.

The march is followed by a Mass at the church.



— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Getting that sinking feeling over the cost of home ownership

By Charles Sercombe

Take a look at the alley behind your home. Chances are you will see a sinkhole. The alleys in town are scattered with them. In many cases, the cause of the sinkhole is a leaking sewer connection from a house to the main sewer line. For decades the city has apparently fixed the leak on the taxpayers' dime. That is now changing. Take Dave Tulecki, who owns a home on Fleming. Recently a garbage truck sank in a neighbor's sinkhole and had to be rescued by the use of a heavy-duty tow truck. In the process of hauling out the garbage truck, Tulecki said the tow truck's

weight caused a depression on his side of the alley. In other words, a sinkhole. Flash forward several days and Tulecki receives a notice from the city saying he owes the city \$4,600 to fix a suspected leaking sewer line. "Who has that money?" said an outraged Tulecki, the owner of a small auto repair shop tucked in the middle of a neighborhood at Evaline and Brombach. According to a city ordinance, the homeowner is responsible for maintaining that connection. Tulecki, understandably, was upset. He wonders how the city can say it's his fault without even busting open

Continued on page 2



Dave Tulecki points out a sinkhole that formed in the alley behind his Fleming house. The city is now charging homeowners for repairing sinkholes caused by leaking sewer lines.



Detroit-born author Barbara Rylko-Bauer will be reading from her works on May 14 at the Hamtramck Public Library.

Noted Michigan author will present reading at Hamtramck Library

By Mike Murphy
Special to The Review

There are storytellers, and then there are storytellers. The State Library of Michigan has deemed Barbara Rylko-Bauer as one of Michigan's best, and the author will appear at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 14 at the Hamtramck Library. "It's a literary treat to have

Rylko-Bauer in our community, sharing her captivating work with our friends and neighbors in such an open, accessible way," said Tamara Sochacka, Director of the Hamtramck Library. "An author of Rylko-Bauer's caliber here, in our library, will make it an evening to remember,"

Continued on page 3

Tax exemption claims raise questions

By Charles Sercombe

The race is set for the city council election. Last Friday was the deadline for council candidates who had second thoughts to drop out of the Aug. 4 election. None of the nine candidates withdrew. The current incumbent candidates seeking re-election to council are: Councilmembers Anam Miah, Abu Musa and Robert Zwolak. Their challengers include former City Councilmember Cathie Gordon, Susan Dunn, Saad Almasari, Frank Woodman, Monzurul Karim and Mohamed Alsomiri. At least two candidates have an issue with residency claims, based on information available through the online site for the Wayne County Treasury Department and a subscription-required real estate data base operated by Realcomp, whose records are more up to date than Wayne County property records. The Review discovered that candidate Karim owns a house at 11440 Sobieski where he claims a 100-percent Homestead tax exemption. The exemption means he is claiming that address as his primary residence. According to Realcomp, Karim bought the house in August 2014. However, Karim's candidate affidavit says he lives at 2400 Carpenter. Karim confirmed that infor-

Continued on page 2

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Tax exemption claims raise questions

Cont. from front page

mation in a telephone interview with The Review. He said he "forgot" to change the Homestead tax exemption, and that he plans to move into the Sobieski house by June.

Candidate Alasmari is facing foreclosure for the house he owns at 2267 Faber, according to Wayne County Treasury records. He owes over \$1,600. He is claiming a 100-percent Homestead tax exemption at this property.

While he is claiming a

Homestead tax exemption at that address, he is claiming 2261 Faber as his official residence, according to the candidate affidavit form he filed with the Hamtramck City Clerk's Office.

Alasmari also owns one other property at 2272 Faber. According to the county treasurer, \$124.97 is owed in back taxes at 2272 Faber. Alasmari is not claiming a Homestead tax exemption for this property.

Alasmari confirmed that information with The Review.

He said his primary residence is at 2261 Faber where his wife lives.

According to Wayne County Treasurer's records, Councilmember Abu Musa was behind over \$4,000 in property taxes for his house at 11632 Gallagher. He settled that bill shortly before filing for re-election.

According to the City Charter, elected officials can be kicked out of office for being a "defaulter" to the city or any other government body.

Musa's residency also came into question when he was elected. He claims to live full-time in Hamtramck while his wife owns and lives in a house in Warren, according to Warren property records.

The question of residency claims has also spilled over to the Hamtramck School Board where Boardmember Mohammad Huda is being asked to prove he lives in Hamtramck.

School officials say they have discovered evidence that he does not live here. At the time he was elected, The Review investigated Huda's residency claim and through Warren property records found out that he was claiming a 100-percent Homestead tax exemption for a house he owns in Warren.

According to Warren property records he has since rescinded that exemption.

Getting that sinking feeling over the cost of home ownership

Continued from front page

the asphalt.

And secondly, it appears to him that the fault lies with the too-heavy tow truck, which not only depressed his part of the alley but possibly could have broken up the sewer line underneath.

"How do they know if the truck didn't cause the damage?" Tulecki said.

Hold on to all of that, said Mark Ragsdale, the Director of Public Works.

While he admits to taking an educated guess that the sinkhole was caused by a leaking sewer line or connection, if it is found out after the asphalt is broken out that it's the city's responsibility, the homeowner is off the hook.

"We're not going to charge the homeowner when it's not their responsibility," Ragsdale said.

On the other hand, if it is the homeowner's responsibility, the city isn't going to pay for it either.

"The city doesn't have the money to fix these," Ragsdale said.

Ragsdale had a budget of \$400,000 to fix the city's leaking sewer lines, but that has already been spent. It appears homeowners have been getting freebies.

Ragsdale has been on the job several months and has been finding odd quirks about how things got done. He now has a new policy about sinkholes: Follow the city's ordinance.

But that doesn't mean homeowners have no choice in the matter. They can hire their own contractor, instead of the city's, to do the work and there's a chance the job can be done for less money.

But using your own contractor requires the pulling of a permit and a city inspector to inspect the work and sign off on it.

Homeowners are generally given 10 days to get the repairs done because it's usually an emergency situation that might prevent garbage trucks from coming down the alley.

While spending over \$4,000 is a good deal of money for many homeowners, the city is willing to take a one-third down payment and then divide up the balance in six equal payments, Ragsdale said.

But that deal is offered only when the city's contractor is used, and it's entered into before the city begins

making repairs.

So far, 15 homeowners have been given notice.

In the meantime, Tulecki said that after thinking things over, he agreed to go with the city's contractor, and plunked down a deposit.

"What can you do?" he said.

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Join us for a Walk?

Spring 2015 Walk-And-Talks

The Hamtramck Walkers Alliance is coordinating a series of town hall-style walks designed to bring residents from all backgrounds in Hamtramck together for free, healthy, non-alcoholic and secular activities that encourage interaction among neighbors and engagement in the Hamtramck community.

Join us for one or all of our Thursday evening walks this spring from April 16-May 21. Each walk will be led by a weekly "Walking Champion," a local person of interest who will be available to answer questions and to provide information.

- April 16** Hamtramck Mayor Karen Majewski
- April 23** Community & Economic Development Director Kathy Angerer
- April 30** Detroit City Football Club
- May 7** Historian Greg Kowalski (Meet at Hamtramck History Museum, 9525 Jos. Campau St.)
- May 14** Councilman Anam Mish
- May 21** Musician and Business Owner Richie Wohlfell (followed by a neighborhood jam session)

Thursdays at 6p.m.
1-2 mile walk
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Meet at Zussman Park across from City Hall (unless otherwise noted)

For more information, please visit the Hamtramck Walkers Alliance Facebook Page.

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If you have any questions or concerns you may contact the Hamtramck Housing Commission at 313-868-7445.

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This week at the library...

Tutoring for High School Students - Tuesdays and Thursday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The APIA is offering tutoring for high school students and below. For more information and registration inquire at the circulation desk.

Children's Movie Night - Tuesday, May 5 at 4 p.m. All children are invited to see a movie shown on high-definition screen and enjoy a serving of popcorn. This week's feature is Bookflix: "Alexander and the Terrible Day."

Make & Take Workshop - Wednesday, May 6 at 4 p.m. All children are invited to an arts and crafts workshop. This week's theme is

"Youth Art."

Family Story Time for Children - Thursday, May 7, at 6 p.m. Join your friends at the library for a reading of a storybook for children "A Day With No Crayons." This is part of the Michigan Reads Program.

An Evening with Author, Barbara Rylko-Bauer - Thursday, May 14 at 6 p.m. The Library of Michigan, Michigan Department of Education, Michigan Humanities Council, Meijer and Michigan Center for the Book are sponsoring a book tour for Barbara Rylko-Bauer, a medical anthropologist whose writing focuses on health care inequalities, applied anthropology, politi-

cal violence, the Holocaust and intimate ethnography. The Hamtramck Library has been selected as part of the tour. More information about this Michigan author and the May 14 program can be found on the Library Web Page.

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

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

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.

Second Front Page



School Bell

Kosciuszko Middle School 5th Annual April Poetry Blast

The 5th annual Kosciuszko Middle Schools April Poetry Blast held on Tuesday, April 28 was a complete success.

We had 23 students in both 7th and 8th grades who participated. Students wrote original poems and performed their spoken word in front of their families and friends or they recited a favorite poem that inspired them.



Kosciuszko Middle School students recently participated in a "Poetry Blast."

Our theme this year was "Words Inspire." Not only did words inspire us, but the students who had the courage to perform spoken

word inspired us as well. We could not be more proud of our KMS students.

A big thank you goes out to all those who participated and attended along with an extra special thank you to the teachers and staff that volunteered their time to put together the April Poetry Blast.

The students who participated were: Ashraf Ahmed, Tanzina Ahmed, Hamida Akter, Shuma Begum, Sahriyia Bell, Sadia Chowdhury, Nofa Dhaif-Allah, Abdo Fadhel, Tanjim Hassan, Artif Hoque, Mahia Hossain,

Tyler and Arif Uddin.

Holbrook Elementary School Reading Month

Holbrook celebrated March is Reading Month with a calendar full of fun. Ms. Leib walked around and asked people to read "Fox in Socks," by Dr. Seuss.

When people were read-

books. Finally, Holbrook had community readers come in and tell the classes ways that you can achieve and share a story.

Our guest reader was only going to read to kindergarten to 5th grade, but this time the guest reader wanted to read to the middle school kids. We had a great



The month of March was reading month at Holbrook Elementary School.

ing, Ms. Leib recorded and showed the video to the students in Holbrook Elementary. We also had a day when we had to dress as any character you want. Next, we had reading buddies.

The 6th graders were reading to the 3rd graders and we had weeks when we did different genres of

month celebrating reading and having fun.

(Submitted by Javier Whitaker 6th Grade)

Early Childhood Elementary School News

Mrs. Stevens, Principal at the Early Childhood Elementary school, made a commitment to her students that she would hear each and every one of them read to her by the end of the year.

After she hears the student read, they give her a paper link to add to the reading chain in the office.

Continued on page 6

Noted Michigan author will present reading at Hamtramck Library

Continued from front page

Sochaka said.

Rylko-Bauer, a medical anthropologist whose writing focuses on health care inequalities, applied anthropology, political violence, the Holocaust, and intimate ethnography, is one of 20 authors chosen this year to participate in the Library of Michigan's 2015 "Michigan Notable Authors Tour."

Born in Germany and raised in Detroit, Rylko-Bauer attended the University of Michigan as an undergraduate and was awarded a Ph.D. by the University of

Kentucky in 1985.

She will be on hand at the Hamtramck Library to read from her literary works, sign books and meet-and-greet with the public.

Her most recent books are "Global Health in Times of Violence" and "A Polish Doctor in the Nazi Camps: My Mother's Memories of Imprisonment, Immigration, and a Life Remade."

The program annually selects 20 of the most outstanding books published in that year - titles that are reflective of Michigan's di-

verse ethnic, historical, literary and cultural experience.

This year, the 20 authors whose engaging works were chosen as 2015 Michigan Notable Books selections will visit nearly 50 libraries throughout the state.

"The tour offers the opportunity for book enthusiasts in many corners of the state to join in the conversation about what constitutes 'great writing' and to hear from some of the Great Lakes region's most beloved authors," State Librarian Randy Riley said.



It's Time to Pray, Please Join Us

We are a Multicultural Parish Family Sunday English Mass 9 a.m. Everyone is Welcome to Worship with Us

- May 1 - May Devotion & Ice Cream Social 7 p.m.
- May 3 - Sacrament of Confirmation at 9 a.m. Mass, Welcome Bishop Stanley Bilinski
- May 6 - May Devotion 7 p.m.
- May 9 - Soup Kitchen 2-4 p.m.
- May 10 - Mother's Day Breakfast & Family Photos

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An important message from your Bishop:

I wanted to express my thanks to Fr. Andrew Wesley and all of the Parish Staff for their service in difficult circumstances during the past several months, as Fr. Andrew recovered from surgery to replace a heart pacemaker. In fact, I have advised him to take more time, although he is happily back home, in order to fully recover from his surgery.

To that end, Archbishop Vigneron has appointed me as temporary Administrator to free him from administrative responsibilities. He has also appointed a Michaelite priest, Fr. Thomas Dilisowski, CSMA to celebrate Masses in Polish, in addition to those who already assist with Masses in English. Starting next Sunday, the Masses will be celebrated at the St. Ladislaus site at 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays in English by Father Bill Krol, and on Sunday at 11:00 a.m. in Polish by Fr. Thomas. At the Transfiguration site, the 9:00 a.m. Polish Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Thomas, and the 10:00 English Mass by Fr. Krol. As his strength improves, Fr. Andrew may concelebrate Mass at either site, without the need to worry about preparing a Homily. Deacon Paul will assist at both sites according to his availability.

I want you to know how proud I am of everyone's accommodating a most unusual set of circumstances with Fr. Andrew's illness, and for your understanding and accepting the need he has for a serious respite to fully recover.

In the coming weeks, I will ask Lory McGlennen to assist me in reconvening the Parish Task Force that is studying the plan to choose a single parish site for the future of Pope John Paul II Parish, with hopes to make a recommendation by the early summer. *You should understand that no decision has yet been made.* Until then, Masses scheduled at each of the parish's two sites will continue.

With my prayers and thanks to each of you, and inviting your prayers to the Holy Spirit as the Task Force does its work, I am.

Sincerely yours,

+Bishop Donald F. Hanchon
Auxiliary Bishop/Central Region



City Hall Insider ...

What is our City Council up to these days?
We have the highlights of the latest council meeting.

By Charles Sercombe

The city council met on April 14, and all councilmembers were present. Before the regular council meeting a work session was held.

During the work session Mark Ragsdale, the Director of Public Works, said he is now enforcing a city ordinance requiring homeowners to be responsible for sewer line repairs.

He said last year the city spent \$100,000 on repairs. Ragsdale said, though, "there's been resistance" from property owners.

Councilmember Robert Zwolak objected to some of the discussions being held at the work session, saying they should be conducted during the regular council meeting where it is televised for the public to view.

Zwolak also objected to two of his resolutions not being included in the council agenda.

City Manager Katrina Powell said that's because one violates the Second Amendment and the other violates a final directive set by the former emergency manager.

She also said that it's pointless to vote on resolutions that the Transition Advisory Board will reject, and that by doing so it sends the TAB the message that "we can't govern ourselves."

Zwolak said that he doubts the council's charter revision committee will accomplish anything in a timely manner. Zwolak said it would be better to have the public vote on electing a charter revision commission.

Councilmember Titus Wal-

ters said it's the council's job to come up with charter revision suggestions. He said the only thing preventing the job getting done is "competence."

Regarding a proposal to adopt a policy on granting honorary street signs, Councilmember Zwolak said international figures should not be allowed.

Mayor Karen Majewski said she would favor including international figures as long as they have a connection to the city.

During the regular council meeting, City Manager Powell asked to move up several items under the consent agenda, but that was rejected by a majority vote.

Councilmembers Zwolak, Anam Miah, Mohammed Hassan and Abu Musa voted against it.

Powell said that the items moved up needed to be approved so that the TAB board will be able to approve them.

Later in the meeting the council unanimously voted to approve the items. Powell did not say why she wanted the items moved up.

Councilmembers Zwolak and Miah said they voted against the change because their resolutions were not included in the agenda. (Powell and Mayor Majewski, by charter, are responsible for setting the agenda.)

Councilmember Andrea Karpinski said that had Miah attended the work session that issue could have been discussed. Miah replied: "No, that's not a council meeting."

One of Miah's resolutions that was not included on the agenda regarded having the city manager take immediate steps to allow medical marijuana dispensaries to operate in the city.

City Manager Powell said the city's current proposed ordinance regulating dispensaries is not up to date with state court rulings.

Miah's other resolution was to seek bids for the services of city attorney. City Attorney Travis Mihelick said that's for the city manager to decide on, not the council.

Councilmember Hassan was questioning the city attorney on who can decide

what appears on the council agenda when an argument broke out. Hassan accused the mayor of interrupting him.

The subsequent uproar led to Mayor Majewski calling for a five-minute break to cool down.

Later, on a vote to approve the agenda Councilmembers Miah, Hassan, Zwolak and Abu Musa voted against it.

With a majority of the council voting down the agenda it resulted in a question of what happens next.

City Attorney Mihelick said the meeting goes on anyway since the vote doesn't matter.

He said a vote on approving the agenda only matters when there are additions or deletions made.

A presentation was made about an upcoming arts festival, called "Porous Borders." The festival will feature presentations made on the Hamtramck and Detroit sides of the city border.

A festival organizer said Carpenter St. - the dividing line between Hamtramck and Detroit - will have a number of activities.

Treasurer John Gabor went over the city's five-year budget projection. He said the budget is subject to changes along the way.

"It's the 30,000-foot view," he said.

He added that the budget does not include improvement projects for the city. That, he said, will come later.

One of the concerns about the budget, he said, are the pension costs.

"Your legacy costs are going up faster than your revenues are," Gabor said.

The state is providing advisors to the city to help draw up a strategy to deal with pension costs.

He said that the city is owed \$1.2 million in overdue water bills, which has prevented the city from making repairs to the water system.

Gabor said overdue bills should represent no more than 5 percent of service users, but the city's overdue amount is 30 percent.

Councilmember Zwolak questioned a projection in the budget that cuts legal ex-

Continued on page 5

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source: the350project.net

NOTICE OF CITY OF HAMTRAMCK HAMTRAMCK SCHOOL ELECTION

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a CITY OF HAMTRAMCK SCHOOL ELECTION will be held in the City of Hamtramck, County of Wayne, State of Michigan on Tuesday, May 6, 2014 from seven (7) o'clock in the morning until eight (8) o'clock at night (local time) at which the proposal listed below will be voted upon.

STATE OF MICHIGAN BALLOT PROPOSAL:

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The City Clerk's office, 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, Michigan 48212, will be open on Saturday, May 2nd, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. for the return of Absentee Applications and Absentee Ballots.

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All polling place locations are handicap accessible. To obtain election instructions in an alternative format (audio or Braille), contact the Clerk's Office prior to Election Day

April 2015 August R. Gitschlag
Hamtramck City Clerk

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COUNTY, MICHIGAN-এর ভোটারদের জন্য

এই মর্মে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রদান করা যাচ্ছে যে, আগামী ৬ই মে, ২০১৪ খ্রীষ্টাব্দ, রোজ মঙ্গলবার, (স্বাভীয়া সময়) সকাল ৭টা থেকে রাত ৮টা পর্যন্ত City of Hamtramck, County of Wayne, State of Michigan-এ সিটি অফ হ্যামট্রামকে একটি নির্বাচন অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। এই সময়ে নীচের তালিকার প্রস্তাবের উপর ভোট দেওয়া যাবে।

মিশিগান ব্যালট প্রস্তাব রাজ্য:

7% 6% থেকে মিশিগান বিক্রয় কর বৃদ্ধি, বিক্রয় নির্মূল, পেট্রোল ও ডিজেল কর ব্যবহারের কর একটি অংশ উৎসর্গ করা স্কুল এইড তহবিল রাজস্ব, স্কুল এর অনুমোদিত ব্যবহার করে, সংশোধন উৎসর্গ রাজস্ব অন্তর্ভুক্ত এইড অর্থ জমা এবং ড্রিগার অন্যান্য আইন সড়ক ও অন্যান্য পরিবহন উদ্দেশ্যে

শহরের করগিকের অফিস, 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, মিশিগান 48212, অ্যাংবেসিট অ্যাপ্লিকেশন এবং শহরবাসী ballots ফেরত 2:00 অপরাহ্ন পর্যন্ত 8:00 টা থেকে শনিবার, মে 2RD, 2015 উপর খোলা হবে।

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| PCT#3 | COMMUNITY CENTER | 11350 CHAREST |
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| PCT#5 | SENIOR PLAZA | 2620 HOLBROOK |
| PCT#6 | PEOPLES COM.CENTER | 8625 JOSEPH CAMPAU |
| PCT#7 | SENIOR PLAZA | 2620 HOLBROOK |

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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Proposal 1 is not perfect but it's the only choice we have

There is one thing that folks from all sides of the political spectrum can agree on:

Our roads need to be fixed. Now.

But how we should go about funding this huge repair program is what divides many. Our state legislators have proven to be massive failures when it comes to solving this challenge.

And now, we are being asked to pay for this through a sales tax increase. Next Tuesday, May 5, voters will go to the polls to decide whether to pass what's being called Proposal 1.

In Hamtramck, it will be the only proposal on the ballot. Many other cities have piggybacked their own proposals.

This is no ordinary proposal. Instead, it's a complicated mess that appears to have no end date. If it's passed road repairs won't actually begin until 2018. What we're

supposed to do in the meantime is unknown.

If we were to consider this proposal purely on how Hamtramck would benefit we would urge voters to pass it. According to a study by the Michigan Municipal League, the city would receive over \$700,000 a year for local road repairs and over \$200,000 in additional revenue, presumably to be spent any which way the city chooses.

According to an analysis by the Associated Press, the average car owner will be billed over \$500 a year in increased taxes and fees.

That alone is probably a deal breaker for many voters.

But rest assured, if the proposal is defeated, and recent polls show that it will be overwhelmingly rejected, our state legislators will find a way to sock it to us. Or maybe they will continue to punt this issue because, you know, no one

wants to be blamed for increasing taxes.

What a cluster of cowardice and incompetence.

So, it all comes down to us – the voters. Do we reject this proposal and continue to drive indefinitely on our crumbling roads? Or, do we bite the bullet and fork over the extra money?

It's tempting to vote this down and let the legislators continue to squirm. But then you must realize just how truly craven they are.

As one local media pundit observed, it's time for someone to stand up and be the adult in the room.

Hamtramck sure could use this extra money, and it would go a long way in keeping the city financially solvent.

Based on this reason, we reluctantly urge voters to vote YES on Proposal 1. But you may want to hold your nose while doing so.

Letters • Letters

Still waiting for something to be done about speeders

I am writing to let you know that we have a serious problem in this city, and it has to be addressed.

I am referring to speeders in this town. As of Dec. 15 of 2014, I made a verbal report with a Hamtramck police officer about two incidents that day at the corner of Fleming and Burger with my 10-year-old niece almost getting hit by a car while crossing the street going to school.

Also at the crosswalk on that very street (Fleming)

there were children crossing to go to school and a car actually slammed its brakes on and the driver told the children to get out of her way.

Since then I have yet to see or hear of any action taken by the police. I have written the mayor on the matter, and I am still waiting for her response or action from her. I'm also waiting for a response from Channel 4 News.

I've noticed in a previous issue of The Review that Samantha Abdulla had writ-

ten about a similar problem. Obviously the police or the mayor, and let's not forget Channel 4 News, that they just don't care about the children or their safety.

It's time for a change in city officials, starting with the mayor.

Don't call this Hamtramck; call it "Welcome to Mayberry."

**Darryl Rutkowski
Hamtramck**

Metro news ...

It's said that whatever happens to Detroit, so goes Hamtramck. Our friends over at modelmedia.com have been reporting on fascinating development projects for the past several years.

With their permission, here is an edited version of this week's story:

Last year, the New Economy Initiative and the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation teamed up to award 32 existing small businesses in Detroit, Hamtramck, and Highland Park a combined total of over \$500,000 for their ideas for growth.

Several Hamtramck businesses won grants last year.

Instead of focusing on startups like other Detroit business competitions, NEIdeas is designed specifically for small businesses that are at least three years old and have had a lasting impact on their neighborhoods.

This year, a whole new group of time-tested Detroit businesses will receive NEIdeas

challenge grants. Applications for 2015 NEIdeas grants open on Thursday, May 7.

The 2015 NEIdeas features two types of awards:

\$10,000 for businesses that gross under \$750,000 annually with ideas to grow \$100,000 for businesses that gross more than \$750,000 and under \$5 million annually that have ideas to grow 'big'

Thirty applicants will be awarded \$10k each and two higher-grossing businesses will be awarded \$100k each. By applying for the challenge, all businesses will gain connection to other small businesses and entrepreneurs, access to resources, and exposure.

NEIdeas will once again operate in partnership with the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation (DEGC). DEGC will participate in the jury process and coordinate an outreach program that features more than two dozen "Ambassador" organizations and institutions

throughout all three cities that will provide small businesses with information and guidance throughout the application process. A full calendar of upcoming Information Sessions, Office Hours and Workshops are listed on NEIdeasDetroit.org.

"For this second year of NEIdeas, our team has put together a strong outreach program across Detroit, Highland Park and Hamtramck to attract even more small businesses," added Rodrick Miller, President & CEO, Detroit Economic Growth Corporation. "We want all of the great entrepreneurs and business owners across the cities that we work with – and can't wait to work with – to know that the application process is quick and simple, and has the potential to unlock growth opportunities for their business, beyond the NEIdeas prizes."

For a full schedule of NEIdeas events, visit neideasdetroit.org.

Odds & Ends

Thanks ... The Hamtramck Beautification Commission gives a big thanks to the following businesses who contributed food for volunteers at last weekend's annual Clean Sweep: Maine Street Restaurant, Royal Kabob, Amicci pizza, Shish Kabob, Family Donut and Al-Haramain.

Volunteers ... Susan Dunn had some thanking to do also. She organized a group of volunteers this past winter to shovel snow for the elderly and disabled. All of the volunteers are Hamtramck high school seniors

who showed their Cosmos pride.

The volunteers are: Albert Williams Jr., Gulgar Matin, Mamoon Nagi, Kyon Jones, Azraf Bakth, Yousef Rageh, Oliver Patel, Rich Man, Alen Talic, Deante Murray and Sean Pelak.

Pope Park ... Last week we reported on the fundraiser for Pope Park being conducted online.

With just a little over a week into it, the Karol Wojtyla Hamtramck Park Committee is pleased to report that \$6,530 has been raised.

The group needs to raise at least \$25,000 in order to get the Michigan Economic Development Corporation will kick in an additional \$25,000. But this has to be done by June 1.

To donate, go online to: https://www.patronicity.com/project/pope_park_renovation_hamtramck

Or, if you just want to send in a check, that will work, too. To do so, make a check out to the Karol Wojtyla Hamtramck Park Committee, and mail it to that group at: P.O. Box 12248, Hamtramck, MI 48212.



City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 5

penses in half from \$350,000 to about \$175,000.

Gabor said legal costs should go down because some longstanding lawsuits will be ending.

City Manager Powell presented a U.S. flag that had been given to the city by a former resident who served in the military. The flag had flown in Fallujah, Iraq over a Memorial Day weekend.

"This is really a special honor for the city to receive this," Powell said.

The flag was donated by Mark Calcaterra to the city several years ago. It was recently found stored in a closet. The flag will be put in a display box and hung on the wall on the ground floor

of city hall.

From the public, Susan Dunn challenged councilmembers to attend Saturday's (April 25) citywide cleanup and each to bring five volunteers.

"Your words don't mean as much as your actions do," Dunn said.

And for those on council seeking re-election she said this cleanup is an opportunity to show they care about the city: "It's about getting your hands dirty."

Cathie Gordon, who is also seeking a seat on council, questioned why the council bothers to meet since the state-appointed Transition Advisory Board is ultimately in charge of the city.

A proposed discussion on

adopting a policy for granting honorific street names was postponed, but with Councilmembers Andrea Karpinski and Titus Walters objecting.

Karpinski said after the vote: "What a joke."

Karpinski also noted that she learned recently from a training session held by the Michigan Municipal League that she should be sitting to the immediate right of the mayor and requested a change in seating for the next meeting.

Councilmember Walters responded to an accusation that he singled out the Bengali members of the council as "they." He said that he didn't mean that as a racist slur.

Continued on page 8

State road repair proposal on Tuesday's ballot

By Charles Sercombe

Next Tuesday voters across the state will decide whether to agree to a sales tax hike to pay for road repairs.

According to numerous polling services, it looks like voters will reject what's called Proposal 1.

In Hamtramck, that will be the only proposal on the ballot. Turnout here is expected to be low.

If voters do the unexpected, Hamtramck is in line

to receive a huge financial boost. According to a study by the Michigan Municipal League, the tax increase will result in a yearly influx of \$782,678, starting in 2018.

That money would be slated for road repair. The city would also receive an additional \$211,000 a year starting in 2016.

City Manager Katrina Powell relayed that information to city councilmembers and the mayor and urged them to cite

this when talking to the public.

Voters we talked to were divided on the issue, including many who are confused by the ballot proposal and remain undecided.

The bad news, however, is that for the average car owner, the Associated Press reported recently the tax will cost a little over \$500 a year.

Kevin LaPointe definitely has his mind made up against the proposal.

Continued on page 7

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School Bell

Continued from page 3

She started this endeavor during March's Reading Month.

So far, she has heard half of the building read. Feel free to stop by the school and see the reading chain grow.

finals.

On April 22 students from Hamtramck High School participated in a mock trial competition against Henry Ford Academy at Wayne State University's Law School.

Through hours of study and preparation of rules and

May 14.

Shakeeb Hasan won best defense attorney, Rema Chowdhury won best orators, Mohammed Al Awdi won best bailiff, Azra Skrijelj won best artist, Soha Al-Shauweyh won best clerk, and the council teams in general won the gold medal.

This is to take nothing away from the students at Henry Ford Academy, all of whom did an excellent job and pushed our students to the limit.

Congratulations and good luck at the finals.

Horizon High School Clean Sweepers

Horizon High School Students volunteered hours of their time on Saturday, April 25 to help clean their city and keep it looking beautiful.

Pictured: Mrs. Wright and grandson Riley Post, Juwan Franklin, Dalvonte Porties, Melvin Seatts, Nicholas Hardin, Amina Floyd, Akita Floyd, Alona Gray, and Rezwana Ahmed.

Upcoming Events

All Schools

- Wednesday, May 6 – End of progress report period 4.
- Saturday, May 9 – Hamtramck Health Hike registration starts at 8:30 a.m. at the community center. Health Hike starts at 9 a.m.
- Tuesday, May 12 – Spring District Wide Fine Arts Program at 6 p.m. in the Community Center.
- Thursday, May 14 – Progress Report #4 distrib-

uted.

Dickinson East Elementary School

- Friday, May 8 at 1:30 p.m. all the staff and students at Dickinson East will gather on the playground to participate in A.C.E.S.

A.C.E.S. stands for All Children Exercise Simultaneously. This is an annual event for Dickinson East and it's really amazing to see.

Please come out and see all 700 students and staff

exercise simultaneously if you have the opportunity.

Early Childhood Elementary School

- Thursday, May 21 from 4-6 p.m. art show of student work. The students were inspired by their trip to The Detroit Institute of Arts to hold their own art show.

Each class will pick an artist's style to imitate and create their own masterpiece in that style. Student work will be displayed and there will be a short musical performance by our second graders.

Refreshments will be served and the students will get to make an art project during the program.

Athletic Events

- Tuesday, May 5 – Kosciuszko Boy's Baseball vs. Henry Ford Academy at 4:30 p.m., home



Mrs. Bogdan of the Early Childhood Elementary School reads to kindergartener Christopher Chambers.

Hamtramck High School wins mock trial competition and are on their way to the

evidence, Hamtramck High School was victorious and is on its way to the finals on



Horizon High School students get into the community spirit during the recent citywide Clean Sweep program.

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By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers April 21-27.

Tuesday, April 21

- Officers found narcotics on a prisoner being booked in the police station.
- At about 1 a.m. a driver was cited for producing fraudulent proof of insurance during a traffic stop.
- A woman reported her son had been assaulted by boys he knows while he was in the 2300 block of Burger.
- A resident reported being assaulted by a woman in the 11400 block of Jos. Campau. The suspect showed up later at the victim's house in the 3900 block of Prescott, saying: "Beat you ass."
- A woman was arrested for driving without a license and being wanted on a Detroit felony warrant.

Wednesday, April 22

- At 8 p.m. a man in the 2400 block of Holbrook struck a woman in the head with a board and then threw a brick at her. Another man jumped on the suspect and cut the suspect's neck with a knife. The woman and the suspect were treated for their injuries. The suspect was later charged with a felony. The man with the knife was also charged.
- At almost 1 a.m. a Detroit resident was arrested following a traffic stop for driving without a license, possessing an open intoxicant and having improper plates. The driver had been cited for driving without a license 22 times previously.
- At almost 6 a.m. a resident was arrested following a

traffic stop for being wanted on a Warren felony warrant.

• A man was arrested following a traffic stop for having improper plates and an unregistered vehicle.

• A man threatened residents in the 3000 block of Trowbridge with a gun and said he was owed \$200. The man fled before officers arrived.

Thursday, April 23

- An abandoned car with fraudulent license plates was impounded from the St. Aubin-Carpenter area.
- A woman reported someone stole her debit card from her residence.
- A person reported the theft of his cell phone.
- A man reported the theft of his 2012 Chevrolet while it was parked in the 2200 block of Andrus.
- A woman reported that a man she knows had been making threatening phone calls.

Friday, April 24

- A Detroit man was arrested for driving a motorcycle without an endorsement license after he was seen riding the bike on a sidewalk.
- Officers impounded the vehicle of a driver who produced fraudulent proof of insurance.

insurance.

• A business in the 3300 block of Holbrook reported the theft of a Samsung laptop and 10 Apple iPhones.

• A man reported a break-in at his residence in the 3300 block of Doremus. He said medications were stolen.

Saturday, April 25

• No incident report was available for this date.

Sunday, April 26

- A Jacob resident reported someone broke her car window.
- A Yemans resident reported a group of suspects threw rocks and bottles at his house and broke a window.
- A Mitchell resident was arrested for disorderly conduct after he created a disturbance in front of his residence.
- A Faber resident reported the theft of his bike from his front porch.

Monday April 27

- At a little after 3 a.m. a person reported the theft of their cell phone in the 8900 block of Jos. Campau.
- A resident reported a neighbor entered his yard and cut down a tree without his permission.
- Officers secured an open door at a business in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau. The owner of the business could not be contacted.

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Coming events

SATURDAY, May 9, 9-3 p.m. – Hamtramck's Recycling Center is open at Caniff and McDougall. Drop off your recyclables for free.

WEDNESDAY, May 20, 7 p.m. – Join the Midtown Block Club! Attend our next scheduled meeting in St. Florian's convent, 2626 Florian, across from the church. A guest speaker will participate in our discussion. We meet the third Wednesday of each month. The Midtown Block Club works for promoting community safety, stewardship, service and social events. Add your voice on any neighborhood concern.

MONDAY, May 25, 10 a.m. – The Hamtramck Allied Veterans Council will host a Memorial Day Service at St. Ladislaus Church (2700 Caniff). A reception will follow at PLAV Post 10 hall (11824 Jos. Campau).

Obituaries

CHALICKA

Janina Chalicka, 97, died April 29, 2015.

Ms. Chalicka is survived by nephews, John R. (Michaeline) Harper, Larry W. (Lil) Harper; eleven great nieces and nephews.

Ms. Chalicka was retired from Harper Hospital where she worked as a housekeeper. She was a member of the Altar and Rosary Societies, and Ladies Handicraft Group at St. Ladislaus Church.

Visitation is at Krot Funeral Home, Monday May 4, from 3 – 8 p.m. with a Scripture Service at 6:30. Ms. Chalicka will be in state at St. John Paul II (St. Ladislaus), Tuesday May 5, at 9:30 a.m. until the Mass at 10. Entombment will be at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

WESOLOWSKI

Helen Wesolowski, 87, died April 25, 2015.

Ms. Wesolowski is survived

by her nephew, Thomas Richards; great nephew, Michael Richards; great niece, Jennifer Richards; cousin, Richard Zawada; many great friends, especially Elzbieta Ford and Jadwiga Maksymiuk.

Ms. Wesolowski was predeceased by her sister, Anna (Walter) Dombrowski; brothers, Al and Zigmund Wesolowski; nephew Wally Dombrowski; very close friend Julia Lazowski.

Mrs. Wesolowski was a retired surgical nurse from North Detroit General Hospital.

A memorial Mass will be held Friday, May 8th, at 10 a.m., St. Florian Catholic Church, in Hamtramck. Arrangements were made by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home.

State road repair proposal on Tuesday's ballot

Cont. from page 5

"It's a vote of spite because the people we elected to do their job couldn't, and now they expect us to do it," LaPointe said.

The Republican majority legislature has shot down a number of proposals that even Gov. Rick Snyder had endorsed. Snyder, who is a Republican, is supporting this proposal.

Richard Hyska said his distrust of Snyder has him second guessing how he will vote. At this point, he is undecided, but concedes "They have us over a barrel."

If the proposal is shot down there is no other proposal in place to fund road repairs.

Former City Councilmember Scott Klein said he went from opposing to supporting the proposal.

"Something has to be done with the roads," he said. "If you don't vote yes the legislature will do nothing and it will only get worse."

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The lore of Hamtramck ...

The passing of Northland

By Greg Kowalski

Although Jos. Campau continues to struggle with a high level of vacancies, at least it is alive. The same cannot be said for the Northland shopping mall in Southfield.

Its closing has attracted a lot of attention, as it should. Northland was the first shopping mall of its type in the nation. It set the pattern for the whole country to follow back in 1954 when the doors first opened. At the time, it represented a new concept in retailing, one that thrilled shoppers and terrified merchants.

The mall concept offered an exciting alternative to traditional shopping, one that made shopping an experience. But even as Northland opened, traditional stores were concerned if the mall concept meant their doom.

In May, 1956, Dr. H. Webster Johnson, a professor at the University of Detroit, came to Hamtramck where he spoke on the potential threat that Northland posed to Jos. Campau merchants. Speaking at the Tau Beta Community House on Hanley St., Johnson's words were grim, as he said Northland could have a severe impact on Jos. Campau.

The convenience of huge, free parking lots, the attractiveness and variety of stores and amenities like sculptures, fountains, a refuge for lost children and even free gas for motorists who had run out, made it a powerful magnet.

Johnson based his findings on community surveys his students had done throughout the area. Students visited every fifth house in neighborhoods in

Huntington Woods, Royal Oak and East Detroit along with the Rosedale Park and Livernois-Seven Mile areas of Detroit. What they found was that people in the communities closest to Northland were the most inclined to shop there, and the

son was right in one sense - the shopping malls did drain away much local business - he was wrong in another. The local downtown district is still the strongest retail arrangement.

What wasn't evident at that time is that shopping

Hamtramck has lagged behind for a variety of reasons, including the shifting demographics of the city and the old parking problem. Today, Johnson might say that Jos. Campau needs to redefine itself, to find the proper match of stores to the com-



Jos. Campau at just about the time that Northland opened.

biggest draw was clothes.

Jos. Campau at that time had a wide variety of clothing stores to counterbalance the lure of Northland, but parking was extremely limited. And the infrastructure was aging. It didn't have the post-war gleam that Northland had.

"Diagnose the patient," Johnson said in making a recommendation of what the local merchants needed to do. He placed a strong emphasis on merchants to conduct public promotions to attract attention.

At that time Jos. Campau was booming, so little was done in response to his comments and the threat of Northland. And while John-

patterns move in cycles. The open-air shopping mall, like Northland originally was, supplanted local downtowns, and they themselves were replaced or forced to redesign as enclosed shopping malls, like Oakland Mall.

And those in turn lost favor to the strips of "big box" stores, like what are found along M-59 in Macomb County. And now the system has gone full circle with downtowns coming back into favor, like Royal Oak and Birmingham.

And he likely would restate the importance of promotions.

As for what he would say about Northland, who knows, other than rest in peace.

Visit the Hamtramck Historical Museum where you can see special displays on Jos. Campau and Hamtramck stores. The Museum is at 9525 Jos. Campau. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and by appointment. Call (313) 893-5027.

City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 5

"Ignorance and competence has no color or creed," Walters said.

He said that if anyone who wants to play the race card, "Oh well."

Councilmember Musa asked what the water service rate is because there are some people paying over \$100 per month.

City manager Powell said she doesn't have the rate on hand. She added that Detroit will be raising its rate to Hamtramck in the near future.

She conceded that the city's bills are high. Powell added that some property owners are getting higher bills because they didn't get actual readings until recently.

Mayor Majewski said it's her understanding that the city undercharges property owners. She said the city does not pass on the full charges from Detroit, which supplies Hamtramck and many other communities with water and sewer services.

Majewski said Hamtramck will have to raise water service rates "so at least we cover our costs to Detroit."

Councilmember Miah asked Acting Police Chief Anne Moise what the department's policy is on taking reports from people claiming they have been verbally threatened.

He said one man tried to make a report of being threatened, and had witnesses with him, but was told the department doesn't take such reports.

The man was told to go to court to get a personal protection order. Moise said that's true because the department has no way to know if the claim is true or trumped up.

Moise said that people make verbal threats all the time, but that doesn't mean they will carry those threats out.

City Manager Powell reported that if state ballot Proposal 1, which would raise taxes to repair roads, is passed the city will be in line to receive \$782,000 a year beginning in 2018 and an additional \$211,000 in general revenue.

Powell urged the council to bring this up when talking to the public.

Councilmember Zwolak questioned why the council is not getting a breakdown on legal expenses and what the city is paying for exactly. Powell said future legal bills will reflect what was worked on, unless that information could compromise the city.

Zwolak also noted that a number of residents are doing home improvement projects on the weekend without getting needed permits.

Kathy Angerer, the Director of Community & Economic Development, and who is in charge of overseeing code enforcement, said the city's privately contracted code enforcers don't work weekends.

However, she said, most of the unpermitted work is caught on Mondays.

Zwolak doubted that: "The weekend is wide open," he said.

Councilmember Miah called for a review and evaluation of the city manager. Mayor Majewski said that it's too early to start that, but it would be appropriate to do in September or October.

(The city manager has been on the job for about three months.)

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