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Quick Hits

History detectives...

It's a beautiful old photo, quite historical. But what is it a picture of? When was it taken? Is it local to our community?

These are questions local archivists often face as they sort through their collections. Stacks of unidentified photos pose a challenge. But the mysteries can be solved.

Tiny details can provide important clues – if you know where, and how, to look. History detectives will be the topic of the next Hungry for History program Thursday, May 26, at the Hamtramck Historical Museum. We'll even let you give it try on your own before the presentation. See how many clues you can find before we give you the answers.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. A catered dinner will be provided at 6 p.m. with the PowerPoint program following at 7 p.m. Dinner is \$15. The program alone – which lasts about an hour – is free.

To reserve a dinner, go to the museum website, www.hamtramckhistory.org and click on the "History detectives" link at the side of the page. Or call (313) 574-9758.

All proceeds benefit the Hamtramck Historical Museum. The museum is at 9525 Jos. Campau, between Poland and Norwalk streets.

HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD

Football club breathes new life into historical Keyworth Stadium

By Charles Sercombe

If you hear loud chanting and drums banging at Keyworth Stadium tonight, get used to it.

Tonight (Friday, May 20) is the first home game for the Detroit City Football Club, which is part of a semi-pro league, starting at 7 p.m.

Tonight's premiere is a couple of years in the making. The football club worked out a deal with the Hamtramck School Board and Superintendent Tom Niczay to relocate their home games here in exchange for fixing up Keyworth.

And that's what work crews have been hurriedly doing for the past several weeks to shore up the stadium's infrastructure and put in new seating.

As of Tuesday it looked like a race to the finish line. Funding for the makeover came from an online fundraiser the foot-

ball club sponsored. According to the club, over \$700,000 was collected.

Football club organizers expect anywhere from 3,000 to 6,000 fans to turn out. The Review reached out to a media representative from the club but did not get a response.

This is the first major makeover for the stadium since it was built in 1936. A turnout of several thousand fans has not been seen since the school district's sports heydays in the 1940s and '50s when local store owners would close up early on Friday afternoon to catch a Cosmos football game.

This version of football is the European variety – better known on this side of the pond as soccer.

The game is only part of the show. Fans play a huge role in the spectacle, often dressing up in

Continued on page 2



Work crews hurried to install new seating and lighting at Keyworth Stadium before Friday's first home game for the Detroit City Football Club. Some 3,000 soccer fans are expected to turnout for the game.



Insurance deal protects homeowners

By Charles Sercombe

For \$7 a month, homeowners can save a bundle of money.

The city has partnered with Service Line Warranties of America for a unique protection plan.

There are 12 homeowners who probably wished they had heard of the offer. They were each billed by the city for \$4,600 to repair a collapsed sewer line that connects with a city line in each of the alleys.

Last year the city dusted off an old ordinance that had not been enforced and began charging homeowners for the repair.

The need for the repair becomes noticeable when the alley pavement behind your house caves in. The likely cause of that depression is a leak in the homeowner's sewer line that causes a washout below the pavement.

"Through this program, homeowners are more likely to report problems without fear of expensive repairs," said City Manager Katrina. "In today's economy, it's important for the City to help homeowners find affordable protection for their own private aging infrastructure."

The insurance program protects against leaks, breaks and clogs due to normal wear and tear, age, ground shifting and tree root intrusion.

"Homeowners believe that the pipes located on their property will last forever or that the City

Continued on page 3



City officials once again find themselves facing a financial crisis with a likely budget shortfall. The budget was put together, however, by the former state-appointed emergency manager.

City once again facing a financial crisis despite state oversight

By Charles Sercombe

One of the jobs former Emergency Manager Cathy Square had before she left her post over a year ago was to provide a city budget for two years.

She indeed did that but now city officials are facing a financial crisis – something Square was supposed to prevent from happening again before leaving.

Not surprisingly, city of-

officials are not pleased and are lashing out about Square and the state.

As of now it appears the city will finish with a budget shortfall. Just how much that will be is unclear.

A large part of the problem is because a federal grant that pays for the salaries of 12 firefighters likely won't come in until after the city's fiscal year

Continued on page 2

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City once again facing a financial crisis despite state oversight

Continued from front page

ends – which is less than two months away on June 30.

The \$3 million grant will carry the Fire Department for another three years.

In the meantime, City Manager Katrina Powell said there is a spending freeze in city hall, except for the most needed items and services.

Another financial concern was the amount of money set aside for legal services, which Square projected to be \$175,000.

That estimate, however, defied legal costs the city has paid out each year for many years. The city has been averaging legal costs of anywhere from \$400,000 to \$500,000 a year out of a total city budget that runs about \$16 million a year.

At the time the budget was created Square based her estimate on the winding down of some longtime lawsuits – such as the infamous housing discrimination lawsuit that has been an albatross for the past 40-some years.

City Attorney Travis Mihelick said the ongoing legal fees boils down to one thing: "People get litigation happy," he told the state-appointed Transition Advisory Board.

The TAB was set up to oversee all financial decisions by the city.

Just how "litigation happy" can the public get?

Look no further than former Director of Public Works Steve Shaya who has filed five lawsuits against the city. (We will

have more on this later.) Mihelick told the TAB that Square's legal budget was "totally unrealistic." The criticism of Square didn't end there.

At the last city council work session, Councilmember Anam Miah railed against Square's budget decisions. He questioned how she could not have foreseen the current crisis.

Instead, he said, Square "ran away from the community and hid."

Councilmember Andrea Karpinski lashed out further.

"The state is setting us up to lay off 12 firefighters," she said.

Even if the city gets this firefighter grant, which it likely will, the issue of funding the fire department after the next grant installment has not been addressed by city officials.

Is it a case of kicking the can down the road for future city officials to tackle?

Pretty much.

But City Manager Powell told The Review "it's something we have to look at."

Football club breathes new life into historical Keyworth Stadium

Continued from front page

the team's color, maroon (which, coincidentally, it's the same color for the Cosmos), painted face and armed with noise-makers of all sorts.

And just like in Europe there will be plenty of colored smoke set off to add to the theatrical atmosphere.

Fans are being encouraged to meet up at the Fowling warehouse site off of Conant for before game festivities. Just before the game starts fans will march from the warehouse site to the stadium.

Admission is \$10. There will also be food and beverages for sale, including beer and mixed drinks.

The football club has also opened a retail space at 2750 Yemans where you can purchase shirts and other items with the team's logo. The store is open Wednesday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.

For more information go online to www.detcityfc.com.

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This week at the library...

ESL Class – Monday, May 23, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

Citizenship Classes – Tuesday, May 24, 5:30 p.m. Hamtramck residents can get help in preparing for their citizenship exam. Classes are free. Registration is required.

ESL Class – Wednesday, May 25, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck resi-

dents. Registration is required.

ESL Class – Friday, May 27, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

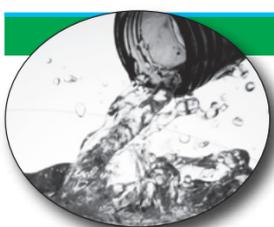
Cooking Matters for Adults – Free cooking and nutrition classes featuring healthy cooking on a budget, smart shopping ideas, culinary secrets, free cookbook and free groceries. Classes meet 2 hours each week and are 6 weeks

long. (Commitment to all classes is mandatory.) If interested please call the Hamtramck Public Library at (313) 365-7050.

Michigan Activity Pass – The pass will enable Library card holders to obtain a one-time free entry into any Michigan State park or recreation area, and free entry into over 100 participating cultural institutions. Ask at the circulation desk for more details.

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



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 throughout the city.

By Charles Sercombe

Forget about getting much done around the house and yard this weekend.

Hamtramck's social and volunteer scene is bustling.

Tonight, Friday, May 20, starts with two competing events. First up at 6:30 p.m. is the Hamtramck Community Initiative's annual "Spring Fling" community awards dinner.

The event, held at PNA Hall (10211 Conant), will offer a taste of Hamtramck and honor volunteers, public service officials and businesses that have stood out this year.

The night kicks off with a strolling dinner and then an awards presentation at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$25.

Those being honored include:

- Hamtramck Police Department Office of the Year: Investigator Dennis Janowicz

- Hamtramck Reserve Officer of the Year: Pawel Machowski

- Hamtramck Police Department Civilian Employee of the Year: Amela Catic

- Hamtramck Fire Department Firefighter of the Year: Nicholas Mancina

- Business of the Year: Hamtramck Drugs

- Organization of the Year: Popp's Packing

- Resident of the Year: Chris Wilinski

- Community Service Project of the Year: Hands-On Hamtramck and the Guerilla Road Repair – leader of both, Jeff Salazar

- Janet L. Akins – 36 years of service, Hamtramck 31st District Court

Also on Friday is the debut of the Detroit City Football Club's game at Keyworth Stadium. The game (which is actually a soccer game) starts at 7 p.m. and tickets are \$10.

Don't whoop it up too much Friday night be-

cause Saturday (May 21) starts early at 9 a.m. with a cleanup at Veterans Memorial Park with multimedia star Mitch Albom.

Albom (a longtime Free Press columnist and author of "Tuesdays with Morrie," and a long list of other accomplishments) brings his "A Time to Help" program to Hamtramck.

According to Albom's charity organization, the program has "staged more than 150 monthly projects, ranging from building houses, delivering meals, beautifying city streets, running adoption fairs, repairing homeless shelters, packing food, and hosting an annual Christmas party to a shelter for battered women."

Also that morning volunteers with the Hamtramck Downtown Development Authority will be planting flowers in the flower boxes located along Jos. Campau.

After that morning workout, rest up and if you are an alumnus of Kosciuszko Middle School head over there at 5 p.m. for a get-

together of a who's who of the school and public school district.

Former Principal Tom Trawick will be there, and so will former Superintendent John Radwanski, current Superintendent Tom Niczay, "Mr. Z," Denise Rubaga, Renee Savage, Vanessa Gray and Stan Nalepa and many, many others.

Admission is a donation of \$20 or \$30 per couple. You'll be able to walk around inside the school and visit your old classroom.

This is going to be a quite an event and one not to be missed. The social goes until 10 p.m. and there will be food and beverages for all. You

Continued on page 4



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May 29 - Sunday of Corpus Christi

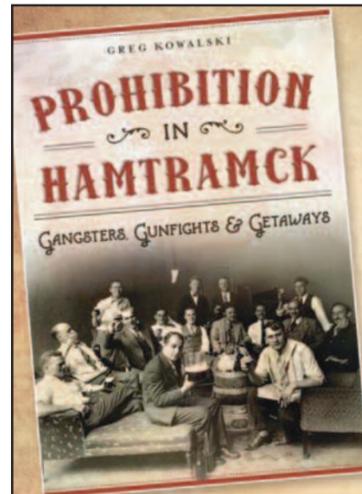
May 30 - Memorial Day Mass at Forest Lawn Cemetery 11 a.m.

May 31 - May Devotion & Ice Cream Social 7 p.m.

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Polish Legion of American Veterans 6

Veterans of Foreign Wars 4162
Blue & Gold Star Mothers
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Ladies Auxiliary

Insurance deal protects homeowners

Cont. from front page

will repair the line if it breaks," said Powell. "That's simply not the case. Many factors contribute to the life expectancy of a line such as tree root intrusion, ground shifting, weather and age – all factors which are covered through the Service Line Warranties of America warranty program."

For more information about the program or to enroll, call (866) 922-9006, or go online to: www.slwofa.com.



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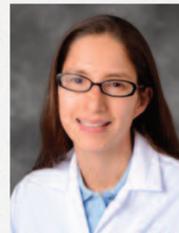
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School Bell

Kosciuszko Middle School Reunion Fundraiser

Kosciuszko Middle School is holding a reunion fundraiser to benefit the KMS student fund.

The fundraiser will be held this Saturday, May 21 at Kosciuszko Middle School from 5 to 10 p.m. Current and former KMS and Hamtramck Public School Employees will be in attendance.

Kosciuszko Middle School Alumni, over the age of 21, are invited to come and take a walk down memory lane. Participants can relive their Kosciuszko experience by walking the halls, visiting classrooms in addition to reminiscing with former teachers, staff and employees.

Some current and former employees that will be in attendance are Mr. Niczay, Mr. Ivezaj, Mr. Zygmuntowicz (Mr. Z), Ms. Cathy Krukowski, Ms. Denise Rubaga, Ms. Renee Savage, Ms. Vanessa Gray, Ms. Cookie, Mr. Radwanski, Mr. Prychitko, Mr. Trawick and Mr. Nalepa to name just a few.

Many other current and former employees, will be in attendance too. There is a \$20 donation fee or



Students at the Early Childhood Elementary School got a hands-on experience with insects.

\$30 per couple. A variety of refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Tickets can be bought at the door or if you are unable to attend but would still like to make a donation, please make your checks payable to either Michael Zygmuntowicz or Cathy Krukowski and send them to Kosciuszko Middle School, 2333 Burger, Hamtramck, MI 48212.

Hope to see everyone on May 21 for a night down memory lane!

Kosciuszko Middle School News

Wednesday, May 25, 4-6 p.m. End of the year festival in front of the school. KMS Student Council is hosting the festival. There will be various carnival games to play such as bobbing for apples, face painting and ring toss.

Also, if you would like to throw a pie in your teacher's face, you'll have to pay to play. There

will also be food for purchase and prizes to win. Let's celebrate all of our hard work this year. Hope to see you there!

Early Childhood Elementary School News

The first graders at the Early Childhood Elementary learned all about insects with Jupiter J of High Touch High Tech Science.

Students learned about how insects live and their habitats, how they shed an exoskeleton, experienced touching a Madagascar cockroach and experimented with a spy-glass that imitates the vision of flies.

Holbrook Elementary School News

• Friday, May 20 - Kindergarten and 5th grades field trip to the DIA.

• Wednesday, May 25 - 3rd and 4th grades field trip to Gleaners Food Bank.

Continued on page 5

TOAST of the TOWN

Continued from page 3

must be at least 21 years old to participate.

And then on Sunday, yes Sunday, it's a chance to hear some exciting proposals to make Hamtramck better and slurp up soup at the appropriately titled "Hamtramck Soup."

The event, which starts at 4:30 p.m., has moved to a new location, Bank Suey at 10345 Jos. Campau - the former Chinese restaurant, Golden Hill.

So what's soup all about?

In a nutshell, it's about hearing proposals from several individuals or groups who need start-up money to get their project up and running.

In the past winners included things like library stands located throughout the city that house books for free for anyone to read and the purchase of a bus for a local soccer club.

It's five bucks to get in, which includes soup and other things to eat, and a presentation. It's also about getting to know your neighbors and having fun. Those who attend will vote on which proposal gets to take home the proceeds.

And on Monday?

That's your day to rest.

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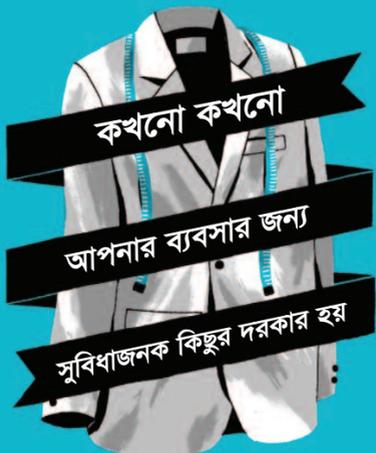


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سواء كنت مصفف شعر أو طابع الشاشة، مشيد الدعائم أو تعمل العصير، والمناظر الطبيعية أو تصليح الملابس، وفي بعض الأحيان تحتاج فقط يد إضافية لنتمو. لذا، مهما كان عملك، يمكنك جلب الأفكار، ونحن سوف تساعدك على العثور على المؤسسة الخاصة بك

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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Arts event showcases a new and impressive Zussman Park

Zussman Park never looked so good.

Last Friday, the city hosted an arts event in the park, and it could not have turned out better. On hand were local artists, musicians and folk dancers who entertained some 200 residents and kids for a few hours in the evening.

Kathy Angerer, the city's Director of Community & Economic Development, said the purpose of the event

was to encourage residents to use the park and hold similar events.

That is indeed what parks are all about: people using them.

In the past couple of years the city's three parks, Zussman, Veterans and Pope Park, have received an infusion of money to spruce them up.

All three parks have been transformed into something amazing.

What we would like to

see in the future is the development of pocket parks in the neighborhoods, which is something that has been talked about for a number of years.

Hamtramck has too little green space, and creating mini-parks will create space for residents to relax in and places for kids to play.

Little by little, Hamtramck is looking better and better.

Odds & Ends

Memorial... On May 28 the city's Recycling Commission will dedicate a bench at the Hamtown Farms site in honor of former chairman Ellen Aubrey.

This is no ordinary bench. It has been made out of recycled plastic bottles – over 1,700 of them to be exact. It's part of the "Bottles to Benches" program coordinated by Hamtramck resident Dick Kaleski.

Aubrey died two years ago at the age of 57. She was killed by her stepson.

The dedication ceremony will start at 10 a.m. Hamtown Farms is located on Lumpkin, just south of Holbrook. That Saturday is also the Farm's annual Volunteer Day.

one.

On Tuesday morning, a little after 11 a.m., a man driving through the Town Center strip mall at Jos. Campau and Holbrook somehow lost control, jumped a curb and then struck a woman sitting in a bus shelter.

At press time on Thursday the incident was still under investigation and little information was

available.

But Police Chief Anne Moise says although the woman was injured, she was conscious and talking to officers. The driver was also checked for injuries, and Moise said there was no sign that he had been drinking.

The bus shelter was totally destroyed and removed.



On Tuesday morning a driver lost control of his SUV and ran into a bus shelter on Jos. Campau near Holbrook. A woman sitting in the shelter was injured.

Accident ... We're still trying to figure out this



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 May 10 and all councilmembers, except for Mohammad Hassan, were present. Mayor Karen Majewski was also absent.

Before the regular council meeting a work session was held. A discussion was held on an upcoming purchase of firefighter gear. Chief Paul Wilk said that a grant is paying for 90 percent of the cost.

The gear being purchased is what firefighters wear when fighting a fire. Wilk said the current gear is about 10 years old, which is as long as it can hold up.

"Thank god for the grant," Wilk said.

City Manager Katrina Powell talked about a major motion picture that will be filmed in Hamtramck. Part of Jos. Campau will be recreated to look like Detroit in 1967.

The film will be about the Detroit riot of that year.

Kathy Angerer, the Director of Community & Economic Development, said the presence of the film crew will likely boost the city's economy. She said those connected with the production crew

will be eating at the city's restaurants and making purchases at other businesses.

A lengthy talk was held on the city's current budget outlook. The city is facing a budget shortfall because it will likely have to wait until after the end of the city's fiscal year (which is June 30) for a major grant that pays for the salaries of firefighters.

The current budget was created over a year ago by the former Emergency Manager Cathy Square.

Councilmember Anam Miah said Square has burdened the city with a faulty budget.

Councilmember Andrea Karpinski agreed, saying: "The state is setting us up to lay off 12 firefighters."

Square was appointed by the Treasury Department and Gov. Snyder.

Councilmember Miah said the budget shortfall should have been brought to the council's attention six months ago. He said the council will likely face the blame for a budget crisis that the state created.

He added that former Emergency Manager Square "ran away from this community and hid."

Powell said that regardless of who created the budget, city officials have to deal with it.

Miah said the city should let the state-appointed Transition Advisory Board amend the budget since the state created it.

"Do not put your hands to this," Miah told his colleagues.

Powell added that if the city fails to get the firefighter grant "there are going to be issues."

Fortunately, though, the city has a \$4 million budget surplus to tap into, Powell said.

Police Chief Anne Moise said that on May 24 the Police Department will hold a mock car crash at Hamtramck High School to show students and the public what happens in a drunk driving crash.

During the public comment section, a resident complained that he got a water bill for \$2,600. He said he had been unsuccessful in getting anyone from the city to explain the bill.

Another resident requested the city translate its ordinances into other languages since so many resident don't speak English.

School Bell

Continued from page 4

Dickinson East Elementary School News

• Thursday, May 26 – Spring concert at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Parents are invited to attend.

All Schools

• Friday, May 27 – Half day of school for all students.

• Monday, May 30 – Memorial Day. No school.

• Tuesday, May 31 – School Resumes.

• Friday, June 3 – Hamtramck High School and Horizon High School Graduation at 6 p.m. Must have ticket to attend.

• Thursday, June 9 – Last day for preschool.

• Wednesday, June 15 – Hamtramck and Horizon High School and Kosciuszko Middle School, Final Semester Exams. Half day for all schools including elementary schools.

• Thursday, June 16 – Hamtramck and Horizon High School and Kosciuszko Middle School, Semester Exams. Half day for all schools including ele-

mentary schools. Last day of school for all students.

• June 23 – Final Re-

port Cards mailed.

Compiled by Janice Gandelman

Coming events

FRIDAY, May 20, 6:30 p.m. – Hamtramck Community Initiative will hold its annual SPRING FLING Awards Event, honoring the best of Hamtramck. Strolling dinner and awards program at PNA Hall on Conant. Tickets \$25.

SATURDAY, May 21, 9 a.m. – Join other volunteers in famed writer/radio host Mitch Albom and his "A time to help" project. Volunteers will be working on several projects throughout the city. Volunteers will meet up at Veterans Memorial Park. To help out, call Kathy Angerer, Director of Community & Economic Development, at (313) 876-7700, extension 326.

WEDNESDAY, May 25, noon – The Daughters of Isabella Mystical Rose Circle 736 will hold a Card & Bunco Social, featuring a raffle, share the wealth, door prizes and table prizes, luncheon, admission \$7, at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Activity Center, entrance on Harold, fenced-in parking.

MONDAY, May 30, 10 a.m. – The Hamtramck Allied Veterans Council will host Memorial Day services at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church, 3851 Prescott. A veterans ceremony will be held after Mass at PLAV Post 10 hall.

SATURDAY, June 11, 9-3 p.m. – Hamtramck's Recycle Center is open at Caniff and McDougall. Drop off your recyclables for free.

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3020 Caniff, Hamtramck, MI 48212

Phone: 313-874-2100 Fax: 313-874-2101

www.hamtramckreview.com • email news@thehamtramckreview.com

Publisher: John Ulaj • (248) 866-1110 • julaj@thehamtramckreview.com

Editor: Charles Sercombe Office Manager: Jean Ingenthron

Sales Manager: Dave Sweet Reporter/Copy Editor: Ian Perrotta

This newspaper is not responsible for mistakes in advertising beyond the cost of the space involved.

Art festival draws hundreds of residents to Zussman



By Charles Sercombe

The newly remodeled Zussman Park was the star of the evening last Friday.

And it never looked better.

The city hosted "Art in the Park" at the newly-renovated Zussman and hundreds of residents came out to enjoy the festivities.

On hand were local

artists creating art and showing kids how to make their own. Joining in were local DJ "Top Kat," who spun tunes, and there were performances by children in a Polish folk dance group and kids in the Bangla School of Music.

One comment heard throughout the night was: "They should do this all the time."



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Anger and God - 10 Tips to Reduce Rage,
Hamtramck Public Library. 586-925-7617, for time and day,
lawrencemattthewventline@gmail.com.

Marriage, Family, Sex in the Bible's Song of Songs in Maine Street Restaurant.
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Acceptance - A Covenant of Scriptural Freedom.
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Open House in International Beginning Ministries,
2965 Grayling, Hamtramck, June 12, 3-4 pm.
Contact internationalbeginningministries@yahoo.com.

Discussion in the Hamtramck Public Library about Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition,
city hall leadership on drugs, more.
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HOUSE FOR SALE

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Hamtramck, 2207 Carpenter, 3-Br. full basement, call Palo or Dianne, 248-659-2278, 248-659-2325.

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By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers May 10-16.

Tuesday, May 10

- A Caniff resident reported a hit-and-run accident.
- A car parked in the 2200 block of Norwalk was damaged.
- A woman walked out of CVS Pharmacy with several stolen items.
- A juvenile reported being assaulted by a group of males while at Jos. Campau and Jacob.
- A Klinger resident turned in several smoke grenades he found in his grandfather's basement.
- A resident reported someone opened a DTE account in his name.

Wednesday, May 11

- At 11:15 p.m. a Trowbridge resident saw a man enter his car and chased him to Jos. Campau where he held the suspect. But, the suspect's brother came on the scene and the suspect then fled.
- At 2 a.m. a Detroit man was arrested after a traffic stop for being wanted on a warrant for carrying a concealed weapon.
- A resident reported that numerous accounts were opened in her name

without her knowledge.

- A resident was arrested after she stole a \$20 bill from a woman who had dropped it while exiting her car.
- A juvenile was arrested for choking his sister during an argument.
- A Warren resident was assaulted by a man while he was at a business on Jos. Campau.
- A Klinger resident reported her mother and sister took her 12-year-old daughter without permission. The woman also reported her sister charged at her with a knife.

Thursday, May 12

- At about 3 a.m. a Romulus resident reported that someone smashed out their car window and stole a radio and bag of tools. About a half hour later a resident reported someone broke out their car window in the same area, at Mackay and Holmes.
- A man was arrested for trespassing and violating the city's knife ordinance while in the 10000 block of Jos. Campau.
- A Detroit resident reported someone broke into his car and stole several musical instru-

ments.

- A Detroit resident was arrested for obstruction while police were investigating a complaint about a gun on Dequindre.

Friday, May 13

- At 11:30 p.m. a resident reported that while his car was parked at Gallagher near Yemans, another car struck his and then fled.
- At 1 a.m. a woman reported someone broke into her car while it was parked at Jacob and Jos. Campau. A jacket and keys were stolen.
- At 4 a.m. a resident reported that an unwanted guest gained entry into their residence without permission.
- Officers captured a pitbull running free. The dog was taken the Michigan Humane Society.
- At 2:30 p.m. a resident reported being assaulted and robbed by two men while at Caniff and McDougall.
- A St. Aubin resident reported that a person he knows caused extensive damage to his residence.

Saturday, May 14

- At almost 4 a.m. a Macomb resident was arrested after a traffic stop

Continued on page 8

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Life in early Hamtramck

By Greg Kowalski

What was Hamtramck like in the early years as a village?

There are few photos we know of from that time, and records are scant. Even so, we can piece together a glimpse into that time and see a picture of a town very much different from what it would become in just a

few years.

In 1901 the village of Hamtramck was created, a nearly 2.1-square-mile area carved out of the much larger Hamtramck Township, which was being gobbled up by the rapidly growing city of Detroit.

Physically, other than the ground the town grew up on, not much remains

from that period. A notable exception is Holbrook school, which is where a group of villagers met that year to agree that the village would be formed.

Once that occurred, an election was held to name village officers. Anson Harris won the election for village president with 116 votes. However, William Hawkins topped all voter-getters with 127 in the race for village trustee.

As the numbers indicate, there weren't many people living in the new village, perhaps a few hundred. Roads were unpaved, as far as we can tell, and almost all of the village activity was centered on Jos. Campau, mainly south of Holbrook. Holbrook then was dominated by a large creek at the bottom of a steep ravine. Farms occupied the land north of Holbrook, with a few shops and bars along Jos. Campau. The Acme Paint Co. stood at the far west side of town.

There wasn't much else. But even then it was changing.

One of the first acts of the village council was to authorize funds to have a village map drawn up, and seemingly the village board of trustees was fo-

cused on modernizing the village. Much of its early activities included issuing bonds to have a water main system installed in the town. Paving roads and putting in lights also was important.

In October, 1902 the board instructed the street commissioner to remove the street light from Smith Avenue and move it to Leuschner Avenue by the railroad crossing. That would be the area of Miller and the viaduct now.

There would be more attention devoted to the streets. In January, 1903, the trustees awarded a contract to Thomas Campau & Son to locate streets in Hamtramck "according to blue print furnished and according to instructions of the Civil Engineer of the Detroit Water Board, and such stakes to be not less than

sixteen inches in length and two inches square of oak-wood and set not more than five hundred feet apart, work to begin at one for the sum of Seven Dollars," according to the minutes of a January 26, 1903 board of trustees.

The early village minutes are the primary source of information about the town at this time. Most of what is recorded is routine, with not much business to conduct. But here and there you'll find tantalizing hints.

For example, at the meeting of June 4, 1903, "the Beth Olem Cemetery Association" was given approval to connect with a sewer in Jos. Campau. We know a synagogue was located by that cemetery at one time, too. The cemetery is also one of the last vestiges of the village. It still stands on the ground of the General Motors factory.

Another reference in

1903 calls for "The Health Officer to investigate the condition of the cellar of Hock's saloon on Pallister Ave. and report at the next meeting."

In July, 1903, the trustees ordered that a study be done of the condition of the ditch on the east side of St. Aubin and asked for a copy of a bill from "Dr. Weitenberner" for attending the Stevens family "confined with small pox."

All this occurred just before Hamtramck was to become an industrial powerhouse and the fastest growing town in America. It is doubtful then that anyone could have imagined what was about to happen.

You can see more of Hamtramck's early years at the Hamtramck Historical Museum, 9525 Jos. Campau. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and by appointment. Call (313) 574-9758.



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Continued from page 7

for driving recklessly.

- A Caniff resident reported a break-in.
- A Roosevelt resident reported a break-in.

Sunday, May 15

- A Belmont resident reported an attempted break-in of his garage

Monday, May 16

- A resident reported someone broke into his

2012 Chrysler and stole the radio.

• A Dearborn resident reported fraudulent activity in his bank account from an ATM in the 8700 block of Jos. Campau. The resident reported the loss of \$200 from his account.

• A resident reported the theft of his cellphone from his unlocked car.

• A Detroit resident reported being assaulted by staffmembers at a business on Conant.

• A resident reported someone opened six credit card accounts in his name. Another resident reported someone opened two credit card accounts in his name.



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