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# KNOW THE FACTS

### ON THE SCHOOL MILLAGE

### FIND THIS ON YOUR BALLOT

PROPOSAL SECTION

LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF HAMTRAMCK OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSITION**

This proposition will allow the school district to continue to levy the statutory rate of 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowances. The remaining .1871 mill is only available to be levied to restore millage lost as a result....

YES   
 NO

Paid for by the Non-Homestead Renewal Committee 3915 Trowbridge, Hamtramck 48212

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# The Review

## Hamtramck

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## Quick Hits

**Soup's on!**  
 It's time once again for another SOUP fundraising event this Sunday, July 19.

Here's how the deal works, according to the organization's Facebook page:

"Attendees make a suggested donation of \$5 and learn about four projects that benefit the community. Over a potluck-style dinner, attendees vote on which project they think benefits the community the most. The winner goes home with all of the money raised at the door to carry out their project. Hamtramck residents and supporters connect, share ideas and community resources. Each dinner also features a local artist and musician!"

SOUP is held at Eight & Sand, located at 3901 Christopher and doors open at 4:30 p.m. Presentations start at 5 and are followed by dinner.

## HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD

# City now ready to move forward on park improvements

**By Charles Sercombe**

The third and final groundbreaking ceremony that kicks off a massive city park renovation was held on Tuesday at Veterans Memorial Park.

City, state and county officials gathered Tuesday to mark the beginning of renovations that will occur this summer at the park.

Work will also begin at the city's two other parks, Pope Park and Zussman Park. Those two parks each received their own groundbreaking ceremonies last week.

In all, the city will spend \$500,000 on major improvements to the parks. The funding came from a variety of sources, including an on-line crowdfunding effort for Pope Park.

The school district owns and maintains Pulaski Park, which has received several improvement projects in recent years.

Veterans Park will receive the following updates:

Starting at the front, the gating around the memorial will be removed, but iron gating

**Continued on page 2**



City, state and county officials pose for a group photo at a groundbreaking ceremony in Veterans Memorial Park. Below: Proposed improvement plans for the park.



Hamtramck High School students help create a five-minute film that features hip-hop star Trick Trick.

## For these students, filmmaking was an easy 'trick'

**By Mike Murphy**  
**Special to The Review**

Filmmaker Sareta Cheatham had one ground rule when she first sat down with a group of Hamtramck High students to make a short film last April.

"I told them it can't be a horror movie, and you can't kill the principal," she said.

But other than that they had free reign to come up with whatever they wanted and the result is "Blackout," a film scripted and acted entirely by the students with a little help from some of Cheatham's professional friends, most notably Detroit and national hip-hop artist Trick Trick, who scored the movie. Also pitching in was Perfect

**Continued on page 2**

## Residency question lingers

**By Charles Sercombe**

School Boardmember Mohammad Huda is not alone in being questioned about his residency status.

Recently, the Hamtramck School Board was presented with evidence that Huda actually lives in Warren. That investigation is still ongoing, and Huda remains on the board.

Like Huda, City Councilmember Abu Musa says he lives in Hamtramck while apparently his wife and children live in a Warren house that his wife owns. Musa has said he is not separated from his wife.

Musa, who is seeking re-election, owns a home at 11632 Gallagher in Hamtramck where he receives a 100-percent Homestead tax exemption. According to his voter registration record this is where he lives.

His wife, Jaheda Ruzi Ahmed, owns two houses in Warren, one of which she claims a 100-percent Homestead tax exemption.

Musa and his wife have two daughters. His wife's Facebook page makes no mention of her relationship with him, but there is a photo of the two with their daughters.

Musa's voting registration record shows a curi

**Continued on page 5**

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## City now ready to move forward on park improvements

Continued from front page

from Pope Park will be repurposed and placed in the front of the park.

The fencing will be interspersed with bushes to create an attractive front, but still low enough for police to monitor the goings-on inside the park.

Just past the monument there will be a play area with new play equipment and fitness sta-

tions for adults. On the south side of the park, along the edge and continuing around the bend will be beds of wild flowers.

That will create a buffer to neighboring houses and also educate kids on native species.

Work is expected to be completed by fall.

## For these students, filmmaking was an easy 'trick'

Continued from front page

Shot Production company, which shot and edited the film.

All told, the film was created by a fluctuating group of 15-20 Hamtramck High School students who worked together one day a week after school for eight weeks.

Production began in April, and the whole film was ready to be shown at a June 9 premier in the high school cafeteria at a catered affair.

The 5-minute film scripted and acted entirely by Hamtramck High students tells the story of a basketball player who passes out in the school gym and has a horrible dream about a crazed janitor killing students in the high school.

"I let them make the horror movie. I just didn't let them kill the principal," Cheatham said. "It's funny. They laugh at themselves. It turned out to be a cute 5-minute movie."

Cheatham is no stranger to filmmaking. She has been making films for both local and national release since the early 1990s. She's also no stranger to volunteering her time and talent to Hamtramck and Detroit Public High Schools.

The Pershing High 1989 graduate and grad-

uate of Ferris State University spent two years working with students in the schools on conflict resolution, but she said the film project, which was sponsored by the non-profit group H.O.P.E. (Hamtramck Odyssey Projects for Excellence), brought her closer to her own interests.

She said she was amazed by the creativity of the students, but joked that some of them might have been hanging around for something else.

"I think their favorite part was the food," Cheatham said. "Every week students at the production meetings found treats, such as pizza and chips."

In reality, though, sitting around and hashing out the movie for weeks enabled Cheatham to spot students with special talents.

"One student who sat in the circle was not saying anything but constantly drawing," Cheatham said. "I asked him to make the cover for the DVD."

The result is original artwork by student Donte Truelove.

Cheatham said that with social media like Instagram students are not too far removed from making their own movies.

"I was introducing something. Everyone makes 15-second Instagrams, but this gives them something else to think about. I brought it to the school and they loved it," Cheatham said.

The H.O.P.E. program, which alternates between Hamtramck schools, splits a three-hour time slot after school between academics and what the

program calls enrichments, or extra-curricular activities. In the past H.O.P.E. has sponsored yoga programs, Lego building classes and hip-hop classes.

They are generally high-needs students who need help with school, Program Specialist Karonna Funderburg said.

"It's something for kids to engage in from 3 to 6 p.m., and afterwards they have supper," Funderburg said. "The film turned out really nice. I was really impressed and they're actually looking forward to working with her next

year."

Following the premier, each student involved in the short film received a copy of the movie as proof of their substantial accomplishments over the eight-week session.

Cheatham, who worked with middle school students in the past to make a music video, is already making plans for the next film project.

"I am invited by for the winter session and Perfect Shot Productions will join me to teach the kids how to use the camera," Cheatham said

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## This week at the library...

**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, including museums, for up to one week. Ask at the circulation desk for details.

**ESL Class** - Monday, July 10 at 11 a.m. Summer ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration required.

**Registration for the Teen Summer Reading** - Monday, July 20. The SRP program for Teens will be held on Thursdays at 4 p.m. It will start on August 6 and continue to September 3. Students who are 12-17 years

old are eligible to participate in the program.

**Summer Reading Program** - Wednesday, July 22 at 1 p.m. This week Mr. Randy Baker will come with animals present a show called "Pond Ecology." Book reports and selection of reading materials will follow. All children are invited.

**Common Word Alliance of Hamtramck** - Monday, July 27 at 7 p.m. The Hamtramck Common Word Alliance will hold its monthly meeting at the Library. For more information call Arif Huskic at 313-999-5483. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is invited.

**State of the Community Address** - Monday, August 3, at 6 p.m.

State Senator, Bert Johnson, will deliver the State of the Community Address at the Library. He will update Hamtramck residents on the key legislative issues and provide an opportunity to participants to ask questions and express their concerns.

**Meeting of the Library Board** - Thursday, August 13 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, August 20 at 6 p.m. FHPL President Kathy Kristy and Treasurer George Gorday invite all members and volunteers to participate in the regular monthly meeting.

# Second Front Page

## Candidates speak out on issues facing the city and why they should be elected

By Charles Sercombe

Recently The Review asked the nine candidates running for a seat on city council to fill out a survey about who they are and where they stand on issues.

This week we present Saad A. Almasmari and Cathie Ladzinski-Gordon



Name: Saad A. Almasmari

**Employment:** Company owner. Self-employed.

**Education:** University student. Bachelors in business (Sanaa-Yemen University); And now student at Wayne state university (business administration)

**Community experience:** 4-6 years of community serving. As a volunteer, I'm the media director of the none profit organization Yemeni-American leadership association. I'm also active person in the city. I have run for Hamtramck board of education. I'm alternate member of Hamtramck Board of Review (tax board). Although I'm business owner and I help community services such as cleaning, gardening, and caring about public safety.

**What qualities do you bring to city council?**

Almasmari: Bringing the good thoughts and ideas that could do the best for the city. And one of the important qualities that I want to bring to the city is to make all communities work together as one hand to improve our diver-

sity town.

**Please identify three issues you would like to address during your term:**

Almasmari: The last few years revealed to us that the city is facing many issues. These issues have effectively hurt some of Hamtramck residents and environment. And that's what we don't want to.

We see some of the main raids and side streets need to be fixed, we hear a lot of people screaming of their high property tax, although the they may have right on that. But In my opinion, the financial situation of the city is the first issue we should worry about. If we fixed that other things will be easy to set and solve.

**The city's financial health is always a concern. What would you do make it more stable?**

Almasmari: On June 9th I have attend the city council meeting, which they discussed the city budget for the financial years 2015-2016. I confirmed that my doubts about the hardship of the city financial were right.

As city council candidate, my way to fix that issue is to work with the city council members and mayor and all Hamtramck residents do our best to bring more financial resources to the city. Such as bring more businesses into the city.

That's responsibility is assigned to everyone love Hamtramck and wants it to be better. I seat of raising taxes and make people's live harder, we can make it eastern by bringing more financial resources that can co we all the city needs.

**Why should voters support you?**

Almasmari: As Hamtramck business owner I have experience in how to

make businesses in Hamtramck better and improve the city. I'm asking all Hamtramck residents to vote for me so we can have chance to apply our good thoughts to make the city better and safer. As I always say, I'm doing my best to be elected by everyone and work, help everyone.



Name: Cathie Ladzinski-Gordon

**Employment:** Self-employed, owner/operator of New Dodge Bar

**Education:** Graduate of St. Florian (attended for 12 years); Associate Degree in Nursing, MCC

**Community experience:** DDA board member 5 years; Chair of Historical project (Baseball field); Councilmember 6 years, 2008/2013

**What qualities do you bring to city council?**

Gordon: Considering I have sat on council for six years, I feel I am very knowledgeable regarding charter mandates as well as ordinance requirements. I am outspoken with issues that affect the residents/taxpayers and business owners.

I am willing to work with just about anyone. I have a passion for our city, considering I have been a long time resident and business owner for 30 years

**Please identify three issues you would like to address during your term:**

Gordon: As of recent, communication between

council and administration has been an ongoing problem. In turn that communication MUST extend to the residents/taxpayers of our city.

Democracy and our Charter mandates requirements that include information to council as well as public input, not to mention cooperation with local media. I hope to encourage my colleagues and insist that administration adhere to charter mandates and compliance with all ordinances, which includes the release of information to the public, be that with communication to council as well as the media.

**The city's financial health is always a concern. What would you do make it more stable?**

Gordon: A clean and safe city is what I believe attracts business as well as potential residents.

We must maintain code enforcements to provide clean streets and neighborhoods, as well as proactively within our police department. I would like to see more proactivity across the board in all departments in the city, and less re-activity. We must address those issues that are of importance to our residents and not those that dis-

Continued on page 4

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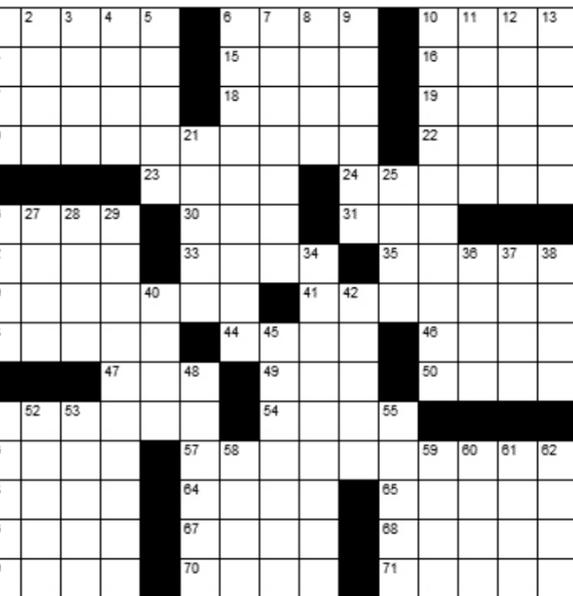
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## crossword

**ACROSS**

- A 2-masted sailing ship
- Sexual assault
- Rapscallions
- Potato state
- L L L L
- Principal
- Adult female
- Flying saucers
- Not stereo
- Make pregnant
- Chocolate cookie
- Dirt
- Naturist
- Shoestring
- Not on
- East southeast
- Dash
- Found on rotary phones
- Grain disease
- Pike (fish)
- Set up
- To yield or submit
- A few
- Container weight
- Unhappy
- Zero
- Female sheep (plural)
- A poor city district
- Hissy fit
- 500 sheets
- A supplementary part
- Lack of difficulty
- Ship
- Audio communications
- Not odd
- Balcony section
- Pieces
- Exam
- Anagram of "Seek"
- Dishes out



**DOWN**

- Flightless bird
- Biblical kingdom
- Pack down
- Blacken
- Sharpens
- Brings together again
- Forage plant
- Conspiracy
- Ancient ascetic
- Intemperate
- New Zealand native
- Yearns
- Snob
- Treat
- End
- Bawdy
- Wings
- Serene
- Tour of duty
- Bonding sheets of material
- Chew

- Monster
- T T T T
- French for "State"
- Museum piece
- Performing
- Achievable
- Welcome
- Throw with effort
- Relieves
- A monotonous hum
- Swiped
- Head of hair
- Modify
- Anagram of "Tine"
- Throw



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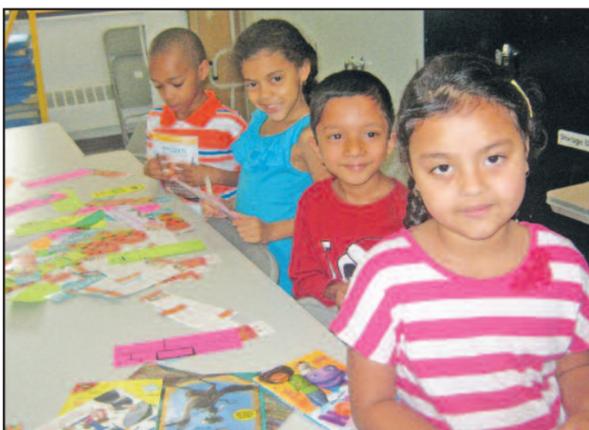
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# School Bell



## Early Childhood Elementary School News

The Early Childhood Elementary Summer Camp of Excellence started its first day on June 18 with over 55 students enrolled.

The teachers, Mrs. Bogdan, Mrs. Balko, Mr. Sawka and the paraprofessionals Mrs. Stafford and Ms. Oglesby along with site coordinator, Ms. Rakoczy, welcomed the students with a camping theme.

The activity room was set up with tents, flashlights, trees and woodland animals to create a camping atmosphere for reading. Students used Lexia, a computer program, to help improve and increase their reading levels and to gain additional reading skills.

Many wonderful activities have gone on at the camp including going to the local art display of the Hamtramck Disneyland, a free book give-away, popcorn days, The Little Creatures Animal Show, a barbeque and on our final day, July 16, a trip to the Detroit Zoo. Students have been learning skills in creative writing, mathematics, reading and computers.

The students have shown a lot of academic and social growth in these four weeks and came to school eager to start the day. Students were served breakfast and lunch in the program. The parents have shared in this positive program and wished it would go on for a longer period of time.

## Enrollment

Hamtramck Public Schools is now enrolling for the 2015-2016 school year. Families interested in enrolling their children in HPS schools can do so at 3201 Roosevelt in Hamtramck. Summer Registration Hours through August 28 are as follows: Monday, Thursday, Friday between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., and Tuesday, Wednesday between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. Enrollment documents are also available on the HPS website at:

[www.hamtramck.k12.mi.us](http://www.hamtramck.k12.mi.us)

For further information call, 313-892-2306.

## Scenes of the summer program held at the Early Childhood School.



## Candidates speak out on issues facing the city and why they should be elected

### Continued from page 3

tract us from the current happenings within our city.

Lastly we MUST work with other entities ... sharing services with neighboring communities as well as those within our community, for example our school district/school board. With the sharing of services come feelings of good will as well as increased monetary funding from the state to both entities.

Financial stability is crucial considering the present situation with our state of receivership. As councilmembers, I feel that we must keep a close eye on payables that affect our general fund.

Our problems have been day-to-day operations not long term debt. That's how we ended up in receivership. Simply put, that means that we MUST BE continuously conscious of our spending issues, to include legal expenditures, employee pension issues, and overtime costs. We MUST also include oversight of other funds such as the water fund, road funds, and even drug forfeiture funds.

**Since the state still has control over financial decisions, and the council's role greatly limited**

**while the state plays a role here, what is your role as a member of council?**

Gordon: Currently we have no liaison between the council and the TAB board. Ideally the council should be aware of all issues going before the TAB board, and systematically those issues should be brought before council prior to the TAB board's decision making.

That board needs Council's input regarding the issues that are of priority to our community i.e. the people. We can't make those final financial decisions, but we most certainly can communicate our residents' feelings/wants regarding those pending decisions. As that board approves expenditures, our role as councilmembers is to make sure that charter/ordinance mandates are followed to a T.

We must enforce strict adherence to the purchasing ordinance, and focus on the budgeted amounts for each expenditure. In conclusion, even though this body has no financial powers we must make the people's needs and thoughts known to all those involved in that financial decision making. It is our responsibility to continuously maintain transparency within our

THAT IS the Council's duty and responsibility. We must work with our administrator and all department heads, not just nodding our heads yes, assuming that as professionals they are doing what's wanted and needed by our residents. We must be the voice of the people.

### Why should voters support you?

Gordon: As a councilmember for 6 years, I believed I have indeed been the voice of our people. I implemented many ordinances, to include the parental responsibility ordinance, the cost recovery ordinance just to name a few. I have always been visible and very accessible to our residents.

I continue to be an activist in many projects/activities within the city. To say the least, I am a very vocal person who expresses the feelings of our residents as well as the responsibilities that go along with the position of councilmember.

In the past, I have been known as the financial watchdog, closely monitoring all spending issues. More importantly I have educated myself in charter/ordinance mandates and continue to hold everyone to those set standards.

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# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### Evidence appears compelling that boardmember is not qualified

Last week the Hamtramck School Board heard evidence regarding the residency status of Boardmember Mohammad Huda.

Private investigator David Adamczyk, who provided his services at no charge, offered some compelling information that needs some answers from Huda. As it turns out, Huda isn't talking.

And despite repeated requests from the school district's attorney, Huda is also not offering his resignation.

It seemed pretty clear

that Huda actually lives in Warren with his wife and children, and that the house he claims to live at in Hamtramck is unoccupied. In fact, for a period, the city cut off water service to the house, which begs the question of how could have Huda lived there with his family?

So, now that the evidence has been laid out and Huda refuses to clarify the matter, we are all wondering what the next step is. The school board is not being asked to do anything at this point, and the district at-

torney said the information gathered by the private investigator will be turned over to various government agencies.

It would seem that a complaint filed by a resident in town with the Secretary of State's Office would be appropriate.

No matter what, the district has every right to ensure that those serving on the board are actually qualified to do so.

That's a standard all of our election officials should be held to.

## Odds & Ends

**Barbecue ...** It's summer and if there's one thing we love doing it's a barbecue.

Any time, anywhere.

As it turns out, the good folks over at Kelly's Bar on Holbrook are holding a huge BBQ party this Saturday, July 18, starting at 2 p.m. The day features a ton of bands.

Good food and good bands are all for \$5.

**Cultural show ...** This is going to be one busy weekend. On Sunday (July 19), the Yemeni community will host a "Cultural Night," featuring poetry, songs and traditional dances.

It's free and will be held at the Gates of

Columbus hall (9632 Conant) starting at 6 p.m.



## 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:*

Zakary Pashak has been the face of Detroit Bikes since he moved to the Motor City and launched the bicycle manufacturer in 2011.

He set up the firm's pro-

duction plant on the west side of Detroit, served as its spokesman, and made sale after sale. That's starting to change this summer.

Detroit Bikes has hired former Electra Bicycle Company founder Justin Manthe as its director of sales with the idea of setting up anational sales network for its classic American bicycles. Manthe spent close to 15 years building Electra into a top leisure and lifestyle bicycle brand in the U.S. before coming becoming a part of the Detroit Bikes team.

He's already on the job. "There are 160 million American who don't ride a bike but could," Manthe says. "We want to build a bike for them."

Detroit Bikes specializes in building accessible, quality bicycles for everyday cruising. It is leveraging Detroit's manufacturing heritage by producing thousands of bikes at its 50,000-square-foot facility. It also recently opened a flagship store in downtown Detroit at 1216 Griswold. The firm's team of a couple dozen people can produce up to 100 bicycles a day.

"Our goal is fill this facility (with bicycle production) one day," Manthe says.

**Writer: Jon Zemke**

## Residency question lingers

Continued from front page

ous path from Hamtramck to Warren and back again to Hamtramck.

He first registered to vote in Hamtramck in 2011 while living on Trowbridge, and then a little over a year later he moved to a house his wife owns in Warren at 28880 Audrey Ave.

That was in August of 2012, but then a month later, Musa came back to Hamtramck and re-registered to his former residence on Trowbridge, according to his voter registration record.

In March of 2013 he moved to a house on Moran and then in December of that year to his present address on Gallagher.

Musa is not the first elected official to claim residency in Hamtramck while their spouse lives in another city.

You could say that back in 2007 former Councilmember Cathie Gordon set the precedent. At that time Gordon announced she was running for a seat on city council and would move out of her house in Sterling Heights.

She said she was leaving her husband Lewis Gordon there while she lived with her mother in Hamtramck.

Gordon said at the time that she and her husband were not separating or divorcing.

While some in the city questioned whether she truly would make Hamtramck her home, she was elected to office. But a year later, her residency once again became a matter of debate.

In an interview with a television reporter about what effect the possible closing of GM's Poletown plant would have on the city, Gordon said she would be forced to sell her Sterling Heights home and move into her bar, the New Dodge Lounge.

Some on the council seized on that comment, saying it was proof positive that Gordon was not a resident and thus subject to being kicked out of office.

Gordon insisted she was being "sarcastic," but the council found the comment warranted an investigation into her residency.

It was discovered that her name was not only on the deed to the Sterling Heights home, but she was also claiming a Homestead exemption.

After the city's legal bills accumulated to \$50,000, the council abandoned its inquiry into Gordon's residency because the investigation was getting too expensive.

"It's in the best interest of the city," said then-Councilmember Alan Shulgon. "We have to move on beyond this."

But what investigators discovered during the inquiry was that Gordon frequently went to her Sterling Heights home, even after closing her bar, late at night.

Although Gordon is still on the deed for the Sterling Heights house, she agreed to remove her name from the Homestead exemption in 2010 in her settlement with the council following the inquiry.

Gordon is seeking a return to city council in the August Primary Election.

## Pothole repairs taking a long and bumpy road this year

By Charles Sercombe

If you've been wondering if the city is fixing the potholes around town, the short answer is yes.

The city was set back a month after it was ordered by a state-appointed financial review board to seek a new contract for pothole repairs.

That's one reason why so many potholes remain.

The city got back on track, pothole repair-wise, a few weeks ago, but there is still a slight snag, said Mark Ragsdale, the Director of Public Works.

The company performing the work, Highway Construction, can't be here every day because it has contracts with other cities.

So, there are still some streets to avoid at all costs, such as the Hamtramck side of Carpenter, from Dequindre to Jos. Campau, and all of Casmere.

Holbrook was bad, too, but that street was taken care of this week.

Next up, said Ragsdale, is: Commor, Casmere and the last block of Gallagher

from Commor to Carpenter.

Streets completed, besides Holbrook, are Charest from Holbrook to Evaline and Gallagher from Goodson to Commor.

City Manager Katrina Powell said work will continue until cold weather returns.

And when cold returns, along with snow and ice, more potholes will appear, and the cycle will begin all over.

### City of Hamtramck Notice of PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

Please take notice that the public testing of the equipment and the program to be used for tallying the results of the City Primary Election of Tuesday, August 4, 2015 will be held on Wednesday, July 22, 2015 at 12:00 p.m. The test will take place at the Office of the City Clerk in Hamtramck City Hall located at 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, MI 48212.

All interested parties are invited to observe.

Hamtramck শহরের  
নোটিশ  
পাবলিক সঠিকতা পরীক্ষা

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April 2015 August R. Gitschlag  
Hamtramck City Clerk

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# Photo exhibit takes a look at the 'Poletown' neighborhood

By Greg Kowalski

It's been more than 30 years since the eyes of the nation – and even the world – turned to Detroit and Hamtramck as a whole neighborhood was demolished to make way for an auto factory.

The area was known as Poletown, and for more than a century it formed the core of an ethnic neighborhood that stretched from Gratiot in Detroit to the southern border of Hamtramck. Primarily Polish, it changed through the decades as it aged and became more diverse.

But no one anticipated what was to come. In 1980 General Motors proposed building a huge manufacturing plant on

465 acres located just north of the East I-94 Freeway. This entailed the acquisition by the City of Detroit of more than 1,500 Poletown houses, churches and businesses, which were to be demolished.

The uproar the proposal generated reverberated around the world, as journalists from as far as England and Germany came here to see what was happening.

And no one had a better view than photographer Bruce Harkness. At the time, he was a master of fine arts candidate in the Art Department of Wayne State University. During 1980-81 Harkness visited the area

more than 90 times and took some 550 photos of the architecture, street scenes, residents and panoramic views of the area.

The result was an incisive photo essay of a neighborhood undergoing a wrenching transformation.

To this day, the photos remain powerful. See for yourself at the "Poletown 1981" exhibit of 50 photos by Harkness that will be on display July 23 through August 30 at the Hamtramck Historical Museum, 9525 Jos. Campau.

Harkness takes an intimate look at this once thriving ethnic neighborhood through the pene-

trating lens of his camera. It's revealing and just as powerful today as it was 35 years ago as that portion of the city literally disappeared around him.

An opening reception will be held 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 23, at the museum. Wine and cheese will be served.

In addition, Harkness will present a program on his photos at the monthly Hungry for History program sponsored by the museum on Thursday, Aug. 27. A sitdown dinner is offered for \$12 (\$5 is tax deductible) at 6 p.m. The program is at 7 p.m. and is free. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for dinner; 6:45 p.m. for the

program.

For dinner reservations and more information, call (313) 893-5027 or

(313) 574-9758 and visit the museum website at [www.hamtramckhistory.org](http://www.hamtramckhistory.org).

## Obituaries

### WILK



Myron "Mike" Wilk, 57, died July 9, 2015.

Mr. Wilk was predeceased by his father, Stanislaw; brother, Robert (1984). Mr. Wilk is survived by his mother, Helena Wilk; sisters, Bozena (Janusz) Bilek, Jolanta (Joseph) MacDonald; brother, Casimer

(Leokadia) Wilk; nieces and nephews, Daniel (Sara), Monika (James), Marek, Anetta, Taylor, Gabriella.

Mr. Wilk was a tool-maker.

Funeral Mass was celebrated July 13, at Holy Cross Polish National Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to Krot Funeral Home in Hamtramck.



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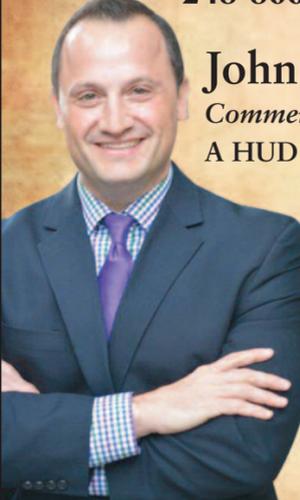


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**SATURDAY, July 25, 6 p.m.-10 p.m.** – Celebrate America in Hamtramck at Keyworth Stadium, 3201 Roosevelt. Bring the entire family to this free event to enjoy live music and dancing, petting zoo, inflatables, food, carnival games and fireworks!

**SATURDAY, Aug. 8, 9-3 p.m.** – Hamtramck's Recycle Center is open at Caniff and McDougall. Drop off your recyclables for free.

**WEDNESDAY, Aug. 19, 7 p.m.** – The Hamtramck Midtown Block Club will meet in St. Florian's Convent; please use the side entrance.

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**Deadline for classifieds for next week is Thursday at Noon**  
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**By Charles Sercombe**  
This week's Crime Log covers July 7-13.

### Tuesday, July 7

A resident in the 9300 block of Dubois reported someone shattered a window in their house.

At 10:30 p.m. a resident was arrested for drunk driving following a traffic stop. The driver had a blood-alcohol level of 0.24, three times over the level considered drunk.

At a little after 11:30 p.m. a man was arrested for stealing a can of beer from a party store near Carpenter and Fleming. The man was also charged with resisting and obstruction.

A Detroit resident was arrested following a traffic stop for driving without a license and possessing illegal prescription pills.

At about 3 a.m. a resident reported that suspects known to him shot out a window at his residence and also attempted to intimidate him.

A Florian resident reported three males attempted to steal his cell phone while at Goodson and Jos. Campau.

An Andrus resident reported a garage break-in and the theft of several power tools.

A Belmont resident was arrested following a traffic stop for being wanted on three Hamtramck warrants and driving with improper license plates.

A Lumpkin resident reported the theft of her son's bike near Kosciusko Middle School.

### Wednesday, July 8

A suspect was arrested at Jos. Campau and Holbrook regarding a prior theft complaint.

A suspect was arrested in the 2600 block of Whalen for a domestic incident.

### Thursday, July 9

A Pulaski resident reported someone broke out his car window.

At about 10 p.m. a resident reported that while riding his bike a driver of a green sports car (possibly a Camaro or Challenger) almost struck him at Mackay and Carpenter. The two exchanged words, and the driver exited his car and punched the bike rider in the head and then pointed a black 9mm gun at him and threatened to shoot. The suspect, described as a black male, 5-foot-10 inches tall, clean cut and wearing all black clothing, then fled.

At about 10 p.m. a Whalen resident was arrested after swinging a knife at several family members following an argument.

Officers responding to a stray dog complaint in the 11000 block of McDougall found two stray dogs and took them to the Michigan Humane Society.

A man reported someone broke out his rear car window while the car was parked in the 2100 block of Belmont.

A man reported the theft of his Glock handgun.

A Lehman resident reported the theft of her city-issued garbage container.

A Detroit resident was arrested for attempting to cash a fraudulent check at a business in the 12000 block of Conant.

Officers found a gun and ammunition from a residence in the 3900 block of Oliver.

A resident was ticketed for soliciting without a permit after going door-to-door asking for money.

A Dequindre woman reported her son stole her watch and cell phone from her bedroom.

### Friday, July 10

A resident in the 11300 block of Fleming reported a neighbor was harassing them by pointing a green laser in their eyes and into their surveillance camera.

A resident in the 12100 block of Nagel reported someone broke out a window at their residence.

At almost 4 a.m. a resident was arrested for trespassing and disorderly conduct at a residence in the 2300 block of Whalen.

A resident was arrested following a traffic stop for driving without a license and being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.

Two women were arrested for fighting while inside a party store in the 11300 block of Conant. A man was also arrested for refusing to leave the scene and being disorderly.

A rollover accident was reported on Jos. Campau and Danforth. The driver suffered a minor injury.

A business in the 9600 block of Jos. Campau reported someone damaged its front door window.

### Saturday, July 11

A man was arrested for retail fraud and being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant after striking a child with his bike and fleeing from a business in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau.

A bar in the 11600 block of Jos. Campau reported a break-in and the theft of an ATM machine and two televisions. A number of other machines were damaged.

A complaint was made about three teens sitting on parked cars in the 2300 block of Andrus. The teens were released to their parents.

At 9:30 p.m. a man reported that two heavy-set males knocked him off his bike and tried to go through his pockets. Bystanders chased the suspects away.

At a little after 1 a.m. a Detroit resident was arrested in the 2200 block of Andrus for trespassing.

At about 2 a.m. a resident was arrested in the 10000 block of Jos. Campau for being disorderly.

A woman reported the theft of her license

Continued on page 8

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# The lore of Hamtramck ... Moving on out

**By Greg Kowalski**

There were 56,000 people living in Hamtramck's two-square-miles in 1930. It was one of the most densely packed cities in America. Unlike New York or Chicago, there were no high-rise apartment buildings in Hamtramck. Many of the residents lived in two-story houses that were divided into as many as four sets of three-room apartments. It was just too crowded. After 1930 Hamtramck's population began to decline, probably to the relief of many. That decline picked up after World War II when the guys returned from the service. Many were married, some were even new fathers by then and there was almost no place for them to live in Hamtramck.

It's no surprise that the suburbs began their explosive growth at that time. Warren, in particular, was highly attractive to Hamtramckans. It was largely undeveloped so it had a lot of space for new homes on large lots. Unlike Hamtramck, where most homes are on lots 30 feet wide by 90 feet deep, the suburbs offered far larger spaces, big enough for substantial lawns and garages, things that were (and still are) rare in Hamtramck. The highway system also made it easier for people to commute long distances in a short space of time. The suburban communities, and the realtors, realized this and began to actively promote other

towns as an alternative to Hamtramck. A large ad that appeared in The Citizen newspaper in 1954 told the story well. "New Polish Community!" its headline proclaimed. "Close to Everything... Easy to Reach from Any Spot!" read the subhead. It was dubbed "Fitzger-

ald Heights," and was defined loosely as the area between Ryan and Mound Roads just north of Eight Mile Road. The ad focused on two modest brick houses that were typical of the neighborhood. One sold for \$16,425 and the other for \$15,995. Both houses featured oak flooring, kitchen fan, vinyl tile or linoleum, a linen closet in the bathroom, storm windows and screens, insulated walls and ceilings, forced air heating and each were on lots "AT LEAST 55 feet wide (their emphasis); some even wider." Each lot was between 130 and

134 feet deep. And just to make sure that the point hit home with Hamtramckans, the ad noted the lot size was "almost 2 1/2 times more land area than in most Hamtramck lots." The ad further promoted that the area had new sewers, city water connections and paved square miles, but a long way from its peak. What has happened since that ad appeared could fill a book. But the latest chapter would read that Warren is a fine, strong community – and so is Hamtramck, despite its still small lots, old infrastructure and cramped conditions.



**This 1954 newspaper ad was designed to draw people from Hamtramck.**

streets. And it was "near everything," including several Polish churches. It's clear this developer was aiming at a specific customer base. And it's easy to see its attraction. Hamtramck is an old community and even then its infrastructure was failing in many ways. Sewers were a half-century old in the 1950s, and streets routinely flooded. All these factors made it especially attractive for many people to leave the city. And they did. By 1990, Hamtramck's population was about 18,000, which is still not bad for a city of two-

The fact is buildings don't make a community – people do. Those two houses featured in the ad are still standing on Cunningham Street between Ryan and Mound and the neighborhood looks pretty good. Whether they are still attracting Hamtramckans is not clear. You can find out more about Hamtramck's past 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) 893-5027.

and passed out near his residence, someone stole his wallet and cell phone from his pocket. A Lehman resident reported someone beat him with a gun. A Warren woman reported that while driving southbound on I-75, several males threw rocks off of the Commor overpass and damaged her car. A Faber resident was arrested after assaulting his tenant.



Continued from page 7

- At 1:30 p.m. a person was arrested for reckless driving.
- The owner of a building in the 11600 block of Mitchell reported his tenant stole his refrigerator.
- At 2:30 a.m. a Detroit man and woman were arrested for loitering in the area of Circle Dr. and Grand Haven after refusing to leave the area.
- At 5:30 a.m. a resident reported the theft of his 1999 Honda Civic while it was parked in the 9500 block of Conant.
- At 6 a.m. a resident flagged down officers and handed over a male puppy, possibly a German Shepherd. The dog was taken to the Westland Humane Society.
- At almost 8 a.m. a Hanley man reported that while intoxicated

- A Warren woman reported that while driving southbound on I-75, several males threw rocks off of the Commor overpass and damaged her car.
- A Faber resident was arrested after assaulting his tenant.
- A Trowbridge resident reported finding a knife in her front yard.
- A woman said she was assaulted by another woman whose sons assaulted her kids near Keyworth Stadium.
- A Detroit juvenile was arrested for committing several felonies.
- A Klinger resident was ticketed for operating a garage sale without a city permit.

## Complete Foot & Ankle

— Dr. Myron Lederman —

- Heel Pain • Corns, Calluses • Hammer Toes
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**Senior and Diabetic Foot Care**  
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 Please call for appointment

**9731 Jos. Campau • Hamtramck**  
**(313) 872-4076**



## People's Community Services

**Wayne County Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) for Hamtramck Residents**

Bring proof of income, and picture ID

**8625 Jos. Campau**  
**11am-12pm**

**Every 2nd Monday of the Month**



## Motown Marriage Revival

**Music Testimonies**  
 Messages by:  
**Archbishop George A. Stallings**  
 Imami Temple, Washington DC  
**Rev. Horace Sheffield**  
 New Destiny Christian Fellowship



**Wednesday, August 26, 2015**  
**Spartan Store Plaza**  
 (Under the tent)  
 Chene St. at Lafayette  
 Refreshments will be served

Sponsored by:  
 All Faiths Festival, For more information: (313) 530-2777

And join us at the  
 3rd Annual Urban-Suburban Unity walk: Thur. Aug. 27th, 6:00PM  
 Meet on the west sidewalk of 8 Mile & Van Dyke

## POLONIA POLISH RESTAURANT

2934 Yemans St. • Hamtramck  
 313-873-8432

### JULY SENIOR \$5.00 SPECIALS

**Soup & Sandwich**      **VARIETY OF CHOICES**

Thursdays — All Day! —

Valid with this ad till July 31, 2015. Dine-in only.

