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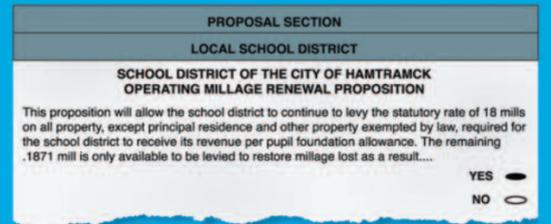
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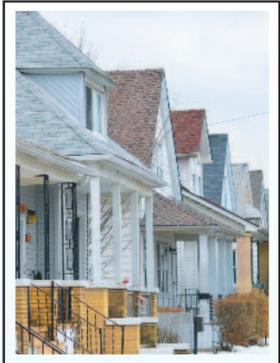
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# The Review

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## Quick Hits

Here's a good deal for Hamtramckans.

Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency (Wayne Metro) is now offering up to \$7,500 in down payment assistance funds to eligible, first-time homebuyers.

Partnering with Wayne County, Wayne Metro is working to help make the dream of owning a home become a reality through a homebuyer education and down payment assistance program.

To find out more about Wayne Metro's homeownership program and how to enroll, call (313) 388-9799. or visit [www.waynemetro.org/homes](http://www.waynemetro.org/homes).

## Quote of the week

Who said this, and what is it about? You can find the quote and the story it belongs to somewhere in the pages of this issue.

"We all have a right to fresh air."

## HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD

# Wherever you go, there are work crews in the neighborhoods

By Charles Sercombe

You could say this summer was a perfect storm of public repairs.

First there was – and still is – the city's pothole repairs.

And at the same time, there have been DTE Energy work crews tearing up sidewalks, and in some cases front yards, to replace gas lines.

This is the fourth year for DTE repairs. Work is expected to be completed this year.

While the work causes inconveniences, there is an upside: you are getting new gas lines, and if your sidewalk is ripped up for the project, you will also get a free new sidewalk.

New sidewalk slabs can amount to a savings of several hundred dollars. But there have been complaints about DTE following up on making those repairs.

Mark Ragsdale, the city's Director of Public Works, said he has been on DTE to speed up replacing sidewalks. He said there are some households who have been waiting since last year for their new sidewalks.

Ragsdale said there have also been some crews who went a little too far in tearing up lawns and shrubbery. He said at least one crew was fired on the spot for

Continued on page 8



DTE work crews are still replacing gas lines in the neighborhoods, which results in parking inconveniences and for some, the tearing up of sidewalk slabs. DTE is replacing the sidewalks.



Hamtramck is having one more blast of fireworks this Saturday at Keyworth Stadium.

# Fireworks display will light up city's night this Saturday

By Charles Sercombe

This Saturday (July 25) is going to be the Fourth of July all over again.

The Hamtramck Recreation Department is holding its own fireworks show at Keyworth Stadium.

Last year Hamtramck

was treated to a free fireworks show by a cable television company as part of a nationwide contest. The event was so popular that the Recreation Department, which is part of the Hamtramck Public

Continued on page 2

# On the campaign trail

By Charles Sercombe

The city council primary election is just a little over two weeks away.

So far, the campaign trail has been kind of quiet. That's not surprising since there are only nine candidates seeking three seats on council.

But there are some peculiar things going on out there, this being Hamtramck after all.

One thing that caught our attention is an invitation that went out for a fundraiser for Cathie Gordon, a former councilmember, by one of her supporters, er, we think. You could probably file this one under: With friends like this who needs enemies?

Here's how Andrea Bonaventura invited folks to a fundraiser for Gordon, and we're not making this up:

"Cathie Gordon is one of the biggest mouth pieces in Hamtramck.

"Sometimes I wake up in the middle of the night because I'm sure I can hear her yelling about something off in the distance. And this is why we need her back on city council in Hamtramck. We need someone who has a big mouth that is not afraid to speak up

Continued on page 2

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# Fireworks display will light up city's night this Saturday

Continued from front page

School District, decided to keep the show going.

Craig Daniels, the Director of the Department, said he chose to hold it later in the month to give residents a little extra bang for their buck since there were so many other communities hosting fireworks during the Fourth.

"We wanted to be the

only game in town, to stand out," Daniels said.

Last year's theme was "Red, White and You." This year it's: "Celebrate America in Hamtramck."

"It's a celebration of our city's diversity," Daniels said.

The event goes from 6 to 10 p.m. with fireworks going off near 10

p.m.

In addition to the main attraction, the event will be geared toward families, with bounce houses, a petting farm, pony rides and face painting. Food will be sold by the Athletic Department to raise funds for its activities.

No coolers will be allowed on site, but you can bring lawn chairs and blankets. There is no smoking allowed on the site, either.

There will also be the following musical acts performing: Yousif Sanati, 7 p.m.; The Polish Muslims, 7:45 p.m.; Dave Hamilton Band, 9 p.m.

Need a lift to Keyworth? The Recreation Department has you covered with free shuttle service every 15 minutes from 6 to 10:45 p.m. at the following locations: Hamtramck Senior Plaza (2620 Holbrook); Hamtramck High School Community Center (11350 Charest); and Kosciuszko Middle School (2333 Burger),

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# On the campaign trail

Continued from front page

and that really gives a s\*\*\*t about Hamtramck and its residents."

It only gets better:

"I know sometimes that Cathie's gruffness is a force to be reckon with but Hamtramck is full of assholes. All my friends are assholes. Everyone who hangs out at New Dodge are assholes. Let her be your asshole council person! We need someone who isn't afraid to speak up."

The, uh, invite continues on, but we should clear up why New Dodge is being singled out. Gordon is the owner of New Dodge and Bonaventura works there.

The fundraiser was held on Thursday, July 23.

There's an old saying that no good deed goes unpunished.

City Councilmember Robert Zwolak, who is up for re-election, got a taste of that punishment.

We received a call Wednesday afternoon from Del Slezak of Botsford who was mighty upset with how Zwolak was caring for a lawn next-door.

Slezak said that Zwolak cuts the grass there, but fails to bag the clippings or sweep up after.

"The clippings blow on everyone's lawn," Slezak said.

We met up with Zwolak at the house. He had just finished cutting the grass, and indeed there were clippings all over.

Zwolak doesn't live there, and said he was doing the yard work for a friend, and as a favor to Slezak.

Apparently Zwolak meant that there would be no yardwork if it weren't for him.

That friend in question turns to be Dolores

Sanchez, who has been an acquaintance of Zwolak's for a number of years.

Slezak didn't hesitate to lay into Zwolak in a war of words. Essentially, Zwolak told Slezak, after dropping the F bomb a couple of times, to take her complaint to city hall.

Slezak countered that as a councilmember, Zwolak should be helping out.

In a moment of frustration Zwolak said: "You know what, I won't do this anymore."

And asked why he doesn't do a better job, Zwolak blamed it on

Sanchez, who he said is a "cheapskate."

Sanchez is the publisher of El Central Hispanic News, and owns several houses in Hamtramck. Zwolak also works at the newspaper. Or after this, maybe not.

Long story made short, you could say Zwolak can forget about one vote on Botsford.

The primary election is on Aug. 4. Out of the nine candidates seeking office, three will be eliminated in this election. The survivors will face off in the November General Election.

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## This week at the library...

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### 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.

### ESL Class

**Monday, July 27 at 11 a.m.** Summer ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration required.

### Registration for the

### Teen Summer Reading

**Monday, July 27th.** 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.

### Children's Movie

**Night - Tuesday, July 28 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 "Family United."

### Summer Reading Program

**Wednesday, July 29 at 1 p.m.** This week the Library auditorium will be transformed into "Star Lab." Book reports and a selection of reading materials will follow. All children are invited.

### Photography Program

**Thursday, July 30 at 6 p.m.** Anyone interested in photography is invited to attend this program to brush up their skills on photo shooting techniques in the digital age.

### 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.

# Second Front Page



## 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 July 14, and all councilmembers were present except for Titus Walters. Before the regular council meeting a work session was held.

During the work session Councilmember Andrea Karpinski questioned the cleaning out of catch basins.

City Manager Katrina Powell said the city's sewer lines are "packed" with debris, and in some instances work crews can't even send a camera through to check on the condition of the lines.

Councilmember Robert Zwolak questioned bills submitted by the city engineer, Hennessey Engineers, Inc. He said the company has a "blank check."

City Manager Powell replied: "That's not true."

(For the month of June, the city paid Hennessey \$39,728, according to the city's expense record for the month.)

Powell explained the city is required to have its own engineer on site for the DTE Energy program going on in which the utility company is replacing gas lines throughout the city.

Powell said DTE is not reimbursing the city for its costs.

"They're doing quite a job to make sure they're (DTE) doing what they're

supposed to," Powell added.

In another matter, Zwolak suggested the city take over maintenance of Conant from the county.

Powell said that would be a bad move since Conant requires a lot of costly improvements.

In another matter, Zwolak complained that the surface of Jos. Campau has worn down again at Belmont to the point where old cable car tracks are exposed.

Mayor Karen Majewski said that has happened many times. She said the county, which also owns and maintains that road, did not resurface it correctly.

Councilmember Mohammad Hassan complained about the number of potholes on Carpenter.

"Nobody can drive there," he said.

City Manager Powell talked about the upcoming sewer repair program. She said the repairs are just the first phase of the program.

"We've got quite a ways to go," she said. "It's going to be long-term."

Powell added that there will be a fee passed onto homeowners to fund the project. She noted the repairs are court-ordered as a result of a lawsuit filed against the city several years ago, and that the

city has no choice in the matter.

"We can't put it off any longer. I know politically it's a hot potato," Powell said.

Councilmember Hassan questioned whether all of the city will be included in this repair project. Powell said just part of the city will be targeted. She said it would cost a million dollars a mile to repair the entire city, which would amount to \$37 million.

In a discussion about the ongoing DTE gas line repairs, Mark Ragsdale, the city's Director of Public Services, said he has complained to DTE that it has fallen behind in replacing sidewalks it had to remove.

He said the company needs to get extra crews out to catch up.

Powell added that there are households who are still waiting from last year to have their sidewalk replaced.

After the work session and during the regular council meeting's public comment portion, Fr. Lawrence Ventline said he was forced out of his office rental unit because other renters in the building smoked marijuana and the odor seeped into his office.

He said the Police Department was of no help, saying they refused to come to his office to investigate.

"We all have a right to

fresh air," he said.

Mark Koroi, an attorney, noted that it was the 12th time Councilmember Walters has been absent from a meeting. He said Walters should resign.

He also announced his endorsements for city council in the upcoming Aug. 4 Primary Election: Robert Zwolak, Cathie Gordon and Mohamed Alsomiri.

Bill Meyer encouraged the public to speak out. He also questioned who is taking the minutes of the council meetings and where they are being published. He said he does not want to rely on the local paper's coverage of the meetings with its "sarcastic" comments.

Expansion plans for a medical center on Conant were approved.

In the vote to set sewer fees all councilmembers approved of it, except for Councilmember Zwolak.



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## Metro news ...

It's said that whatever happens to Detroit, so goes Hamtramck. Our friends over at model-media.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:

For most of its eight years, McClure's Pickles couldn't keep up with the demand for its products.

The Detroit-based picklemaker was shipping its jars of pickles, chips, and bloody mary mix to upscale grocery stores both here in Metro Detroit and across the U.S. Buyers could even find them in a Whole Foods in Manhattan.

Then McClure's Pickles team decided to take a risk. It dramatically increased its production space, investing large amounts of capital

in new equipment and a bigger employee base. It even took out a bank loan to finance it. And then for the first time it had more than enough production capability to keep up with demand, and some big debt obligations to meet with projected future growth.

"It was a risk," says Joe McClure, co-owner of McClure's Pickles. "The whole production-improvement costs went through the roof."

The gamble is based on the idea of scaling McClure's Pickles business so it becomes a household name in North America. To make that work the company needed more than what its original leadership team, essentially the McClure family, had to offer.

"This year we're going to have even bigger growth because we added some key peo-

ple," McClure says.

McClure's Pickles hired an operations director to make sure production goals are met in a timely manner. It also hired a sales director with 20 years experience to bring in the revenue.

"He has grown other companies smaller than us to much bigger than us," McClure says.

So far the gamble is paying off. McClure's Pickles aims to exceed its annual revenue growth average of 30 percent. It is also clocking a net profit of 5 percent with a goal of hitting 8 percent this year and 20 percent by 2019. That seems possible for the multi-million-dollar firm with an eye on spiking its revenue.

"We expect it to grow even more this year," McClure says. "We're

Continued on page 4

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# City Council candidate won't face assault charges

By Charles Sercombe

City Council candidate Saad Alasmari had a brush with the law recently.

According to a Hamtramck police incident report that The Review received through a Freedom of Information Act request, Alasmari, 30, was arrested on July 12 after knocking a husband and a wife to the ground during a landlord/tenant dispute.

According to the police report, Alasmari went to a house at 2223 Faber around 5 p.m. and began arguing with a man outside the house and then pushed him to the ground.

The man's wife then attempted to separate Alasmari from her



Saad Alasmari

husband but in the process she was pushed away by Alasmari. The woman then fell on her back and hit her head on the porch steps, according to the police report.

Police were called to the scene and Alasmari was still there. One

officer asked Alasmari, according to the report, whether he pushed the husband down.

Alasmari replied, according to the report: "Yes I did push him to the ground."

Alasmari was then arrested and booked at the police station without further incident.

The woman was taken by ambulance to Henry Ford Hospital for treatment for head and back pains.

Acting Police Chief Police Chief Anne Moise told The Review no further legal action was taken.

"The case was closed out, no prosecution as the complainant refused to cooperate with the investigation," Moise said

in an email reply about the matter.

Alasmari told The Review a slightly different version of what happened.

He said the man was staying at his rental dwelling without permission while the unit was being renovated.

Alasmari said the man became physical. Alasmari made no mention of pushing anyone to the ground nor that the man's wife was present.

He said he was taken to the police station where the incident was cleared up.

"It was a misunderstanding," Alasmari told The Review.

## School Bell

### Hamtramck High School

A group of students have mixed fun and education over the summer.

Students guided by Ms. Nermina Kurtovic and Ms. Olivera Binevska strengthened their English skills and got out into the metro area. Students recently visited Brower Farms where they got some face time with some animals and also went to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History.

### 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, Thurs-

day, 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.



Above and below: A group of Hamtramck High School students were busy this summer visiting a farm and the Museum of African-American History.

## Metro news ...

Continued from page 3

expecting about 45 percent growth."

McClure's Pickles has the ability to meet those goals. It has expanded its workspace at its facility on the Detroit/Hamtramck border. It has moved its warehousing to a nearby location which opens up another 4,000 square

feet of production space.

"We're expanding to all production there and we're locating warehousing down the road," McClure says.

The company is also hiring. It has hired seven people over the last year, expanding its staff to 27 employees

and a few summer interns. It expects to hire more as production increases and the company adds new products, like a bloody mary mix infused with the alcohol.

"We're going to give it a shot," McClure says. "It's not a surefire bet but we're going to give it

a try."

Written by Jon Zemke

## Vote Yes! for the kids Aug. 4th



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# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### New city policy on awarding bids will have unintended consequences

A new city administration policy was announced at a special city council meeting on Tuesday.

And it's one that we think seriously needs to be revisited.

The meeting was held to OK a tentative contract with two bidders to do work on an upcoming sewer repair project.

In the past, the city administration, through the city manager or a department head, presented a recommendation on which contractor bidder the city council should select.

It was still up to the council to make the final decision, but at least they had some guidance.

Normally, it's a routine matter. This is the way most cities operate: department heads giving their recommendation and the mayor and city council acting on that recommendation.

But now, City Manager Katrina Powell said that based on the advice of the city attorney, her administration will no longer give council a recommendation on who to hire.

That decision will be up to the council with no direction from the city administration.

Why? City Attorney Travis Mihelick said the new policy is based on past experiences.

There are a couple of problems with this new policy, which is why we think it needs to be thought out a little more.

First, the city council and mayor are not experts in many of the projects and services that are bid out. Instead, they rely on the expertise of the city administration to give di-

rection and recommendations.

Most cities we know of do it that way, unless there is now a new way of thinking in municipal government circles.

A bigger problem, as we see it, is this new policy inadvertently opens the door to corruption.

Before we go further with this thought, let us say that we are not accusing anyone in local elected office of being corrupt or susceptible to being corrupted.

But knowing human nature, it is not inconceivable that somewhere down the road there might be some who are so inclined. It's certainly not unheard of.

What we mean by a corrupting factor is that bidders on projects can approach elected officials who are the decision makers to vote in favor of them via generous campaign donations.

In fact, it's not illegal for contractors and business owners, and their family and friends, to make donations to candidates. It happens on all levels of government, local, state and national. Just check out numerous stories of elected officials accepting donations from high-powered lobbyists and businesses.

We can foresee local officials being easily influenced by the donations and articulating a reason for accepting a contractor's bid that may not be the lowest.

Oh, they'll present their reason in words to make it look as if even though it's a higher bid, the work quality will be better and hence in the long run worth more bang for the buck.

It will all sound very reasonable.

Hamtramck's situa-

tion, for now, is a little more complicated since there is a state-appointed Transition Advisory Board that could reject contract decisions and make the council revisit the matter.

But the TAB is a temporary thing. We bet that in two years when a new governor is elected the TAB will be dissolved.

The reason we expect the city administration to have a hand in contract recommendations is not only is it the expert in such matters, there are layers of vetting to prevent a city department head from being corrupted.

For instance, a recommendation by a city department head must also meet approval with the city manager. That recommendation is then vetted by the city council and mayor.

And if the council goes against a recommendation, they will have a lot of explaining to do.

And after that, there is always the press and local government watchdogs looking over financial decisions.

As for the reason given to why there is a new policy, City Attorney Mihelick said it was because of past experiences. What experiences? What contracts?

If he is saying there are current contracts that came about under questionable circumstances, then it is up to the city manager to deal with it and take corrective action.

Bottom line here is that the city administration and city attorney need to reconsider this policy. We see it leading to a very slippery slope.

## Letters • Letters

### Article on the city's library finances was misleading

As a former member of the Hamtramck Library Board, I am very sensitive when misleading information is reported as news about the Library.

The recent article published in the Review was inaccurate about several issues. As a publisher of Polish Times newspaper I take my responsibility seriously to make sure that what we publish is accurate and when necessary add comments from the editor to provide the facts.

*(Editor's note: The Review reported in the story that it reached out for comment by Library Director Tamara Sochacka but she was not available. At press time on Thursday, she has not returned a call for comment.)*

The article states several things that are completely inaccurate, for example: that Library holds fancy dinners – where in fact the Annual Library Dinner is organized by the Friends of the Library, not the Library itself, it is funded by advertising and ticket sales and it honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the Library and Hamtramck community.

Also the article mentions that the Library should save funds by not serving as a day care center, where in fact the Library's prime directive from the Library of Michigan is to serve students.

That is not being a day care center.

That is what Libraries are all about. New Libraries being built now,

provide not only access to books or computers, but also must provide educational entertainment activities for young people to draw them in.

The main theme of the article is that the Library is overspending, where in fact the Library has reduced its full time staff by half, part-time staff by one-third, and its book purchases by 66%. Also, it has not purchased any new furniture or equipment in years, except for items that have been paid for by the Friends of the Library.

The Library annual budget has been reduced by over 40% as compared to five years ago and this year, the millage coming from delinquent taxes (14% of the budget) has been delayed due to extensions of deadline for payment of taxes from March to June.

Also, one needs to mention some of the overcharges where funds are withdrawn by the City from the Library Fund. As an example, the Library was charged by the City over \$4700.00 for three telephone lines, and not until couple of years of protests the charge was adjusted to reflect the true cost of \$57.00 per month. That is over \$4000.00 a year in overcharges. Will the Library get that money back?

When Louis Schimmel served as the Emergency Financial Manager of the City of Hamtramck, he took a close look at the Library operation. With his help, the Library budget almost

doubled, and on top of that he found over \$200,000.00 of additional funds to make improvements to the Library building.

The fact is, that the Hamtramck Library operates on one of the smallest budgets of all Class IV Libraries in Michigan. It is the most efficiently operated department.

With help of the volunteers and benefactors, Hamtramck rivals in services with libraries that operate on budgets going into millions. It would be nice if instead of making inaccurate statements about the Library our local organizations would spend that energy to contribute in fund raising to make sure that this institution that will celebrate 100 year anniversary in three years, has the means to provide necessary services to our community.

**Sebastian Szczepanski**  
Editor and Publisher of  
Polish Times

*(Editor's note: The writer of this letter is incorrect in saying The Review made the statements referenced in this letter. The Review quoted a discussion held by members of the Transition Advisory Board, most notably TAB member Cathy Square, the former emergency manager of Hamtramck, and City Manager Katrina Powell. A full transcript of that discussion, held on May 26, is available on a link in the city's website, www.hamtramck.us.)*

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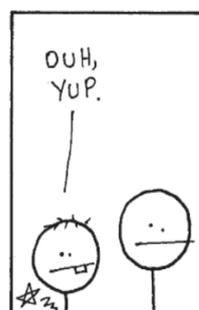
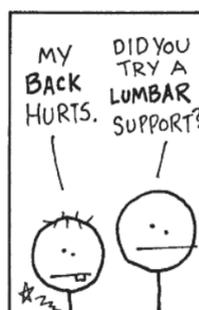
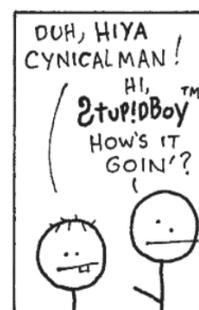
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## The Amazing CYNICALMAN

by Matt Fezell



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# Odds & Ends

**Family affair ...** We received an email from Angel Salatrik, of Tiny Acres Hamtramck Farmers Market, about a special make and take workshop for kids this Saturday (July 25).

She says: "Kids can choose between three crafts: paint a dinosaur, make a rubber stamp collection or learn how to paint fireworks.

"We will also have everyone's favorite in season organic veggies featuring cucumbers, zucchini, to-go salads, french gold beans, long peppers, ham and cheese or veggie croissant sandwiches, jams, muffins, necklaces, cupcakes and more!"

The Farmers Market is open every Saturday from noon to 4 p.m., and is located at 2360 Yemans on the corner of Brombach, in the backyard of the maroon house.

Angel says they take bridge cards, cash and

credit.

She also added: "We will be hosting special events all season long. For updated information on the Tiny Acres Farmers Markets events like Tiny Acres on Facebook."

**Photo exhibit ...** Don't forget, this week there is a new display of photos chronicling the old Poletown neighborhood before it was destroyed to make way for the GM Poletown plant.

Photographer Bruce 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 pho-

tos by Harkness that will be on display through Aug. 30 at the Hamtramck Historical Museum, located at 9525 Jos. Campau.

**Good job ...** We received an update from Kathy Angerer, the city's Director of Community & Economic Development, about the good works being performed by high school students participating in a GM internship program.

The students, from Hamtramck High, decided to take on cleaning up Holbrook Gardens this summer. The city-owned park had not been

maintained for a few years and really needed a thorough do-over.

Well, the students put a lot of sweat into the project, and the park now looks terrific.

Thanks, kids.

**Litter, litter, everywhere ...** There is one thing you can count on in Hamtramck: There will always be a mound of litter and debris behind Hamtramck's worst corporate neighbor, Rent-A-Center, or RAC as it is also known as.

The company is located on Jos. Campau just south of Caniff, and the alley behind it is always filthy. The city has been on the company about this persistent problem, but the company appar-

ently doesn't care.

Looks like the company needs another reminder from the city.

**Getting a head start ...** It's not too early to enroll in a Head Start program run by Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency.

The organization, which holds its program here in Hamtramck, is enrolling

kids 3 to 5 years old

The program is free for eligible families. Included in the program are preschool education, breakfast and lunch, disability services and access to dental services as well.

For more information call (313) 202-0255 or go to its Facebook page at: [facebook.com/wmheadstart](https://www.facebook.com/wmheadstart).



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## Get Out on the Hamtown!

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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.

**SATURDAY, Aug. 8, 2-8:30 p.m.** – The Hamtramck 5th Annual Community Reunion Picnic will be held at Pulaski Park (on Lumpkin between Edwin and Norwalk). All past present and future Hamtramck residents are welcomed to this event, which features DJ Bush, DJ Lemuel and special guest DJE. Charitable contributions, such as school supplies, are encouraged. Children must be accompanied by an adult. No alcoholic beverages allowed and no smoking in the park. For more information call Mr. Michael (Boss Man) Wimbush, (313) 310-8129 or (313) 883-4889.

**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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## By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime covers July 14-20.

### Tuesday, July 14

• A man was arrested in the 2200 block of Faber after threatening another man with a knife.

• A house break-in was reported in the 2300 block of Burger.

• At 2 a.m. officers investigated a suspicious situation involving a man being seen pulling on door handles of vehicles.

• At about 4:30 a.m. a McDougall man reported the theft of his two scooters from his backyard.

• A Norwalk resident reported the theft of his license plate while his car was parked in the 9600 block of Jos. Campau.

• A Jacob resident reported a garage break-in and the theft of her lawnmower. The resident said her door lock was cut off.

• A woman reported a male stole her cellphone while she was on Jos. Campau.

• A Hamtramck juvenile was arrested for a previous robbery report.

• A Sterling Heights resident reported the theft of his car while it was parked in the 11700 block of McDougall.

• A Jacob resident reported being robbed by his step-son during an argument.

### Wednesday, July 15

• At 2:30 a.m. a resident reported she was possibly being stalked by a male in the 11300 block of Mackay.

• A Danforth resident reported the theft of his bike while in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau. A male suspect was seen and described as wearing black clothing and carrying a red bag.

• A driver fled on foot after being stopped for a traffic violation. The driver was later identified and issued several tickets.

• A Roosevelt resident reported four juvenile males robbed his cellphone while he was at Roosevelt and Jos. Campau.

### Thursday, July 16

• A resident from Smith's Creek was arrested a little after 11 p.m. for drunk driving.

• A resident reported the theft of their license plate while their car was parked in the 3200 block of Hanley.

• A suspect was arrested for possessing stolen property.

• A Canton resident reported the theft of his 2008 Ford Econoline while parked in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau.

• A Mitchell resident reported a garage break-in and the theft of two lawnmowers.

### Friday, July 17

• At almost midnight a resident was arrested for being disorderly while in the 2400 block of Botsford.

• At about 11 p.m. a 15-year-old was arrested for violating the city's curfew. The teen's parent was issued a ticket.

• During a traffic stop, a 300,000 volt Taser was confiscated from a 16-year-old.

• At 2 a.m. a resident was arrested in the 2400 block of Grayling after pointing a loaded rifle at his two roommates. Police also confiscated a pair of brass knuckles.

• At almost 2:30 a.m. a St. Clair Shores woman was assaulted by a man and woman while in the 12000 block of Oklahoma.

• At almost 5:30 p.m. a Detroit resident reported he was robbed of his cellphone while at Conant and Caniff. About one hour later the victim told police he paid the suspect \$50 to return

his phone.

• A Trenton resident was ticketed for the "solicitation of goods."

• A Lumpkin resident reported he was robbed of his cellphone while in the 2300 block of Burger.

• A Pulaski resident reported he located his stolen weed eater at a business in the 10200 block of Conant.

• A resident in the 3800 block of Evaline reported her television and sound system were stolen from her garage.

• A Hamtramck resident was arrested following a traffic stop for driving without a license and obstruction.

### Saturday, July 18

• A resident in the 2400 block of Pulaski reported the theft of two weed whackers, a bike pump, a CD radio and three gas cans from his backyard.

• At almost 2 a.m. a Farmington Hills man parked his crashed car in the area of Fleming and Burger and then walked around screaming and waving his loaded gun. The man was arrested on a number of charges.

• A Madison Heights man reported the theft of his maroon 1998 Dodge Caravan while in the area of Conant and Caniff.

• At about 2:30 a.m. officers assisted an injured resident with getting into their home after being locked out.

• A resident in the 2600 block of Yemans was ticketed for calling police for no reason.

• A resident in the 2600 block of Caniff reported the theft of his bike from his yard.

### Sunday, July 19

• At about 2 a.m. a Detroit resident was arrested outside of White Star bar for loitering following a large disturbance.

• At about 2:30 a Detroit resident was arrested for drunk driving after a disturbance was reported at Evaline and Jos. Campau.

• At almost 4 a.m. a Detroit woman was arrested for felonious assault after cutting her boyfriend with a pocket knife.

• A resident reported someone shot a bullet through their car windshield while it was parked in the 2600 block of Pulaski. Officers found a bullet in the front passenger seat.

• A Charest man reported his bike was stolen while in the 9800

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## The lore of Hamtramck ...

# Taking a look between the lines

By Greg Kowalski

Finding your way around Hamtramck's past can be more difficult than you might think.

Take a look at a map of the city. Our border lines are all over the place. We're kind of boxy, but certainly not square. Some border lines jut out in angles while other take sharp right turns.

How did Hamtramck get into the shape it's in? That's not an easy question to answer.

There are maps of Hamtramck going back to the days when it was formed as a township back in 1798. At that time, Hamtramck stretched from the Detroit River on the south and Woodward Avenue on the west to (Base Line) Eight Mile Road on the north and through the Grosse Pointes on the east. (The Grosse Pointes split off to form their own communities in 1848.)

Maps from throughout the 19th century show how Hamtramck Township disappeared bit by bit, and the city of Detroit grew and annexed the township a piece at a time.

By 1901 much of Hamtramck was gone. That's when a group of residents living in the area we now know as Hamtramck formed the village of Hamtramck and

mapped the current border lines.

Sort of.

Look at a 1905 map of Hamtramck and you'll notice a few odd things. For one, the village was a mix of built-up neighborhoods and empty land. But there's something not

today. How about Buford? It's Trowbridge now. Some streets are simply gone. Arthur, Cook, Harsha, Bismark and Whiting were all swallowed by the Dodge Main factory once it got going in 1910.

A few old maps still show the route of Hol-

brook

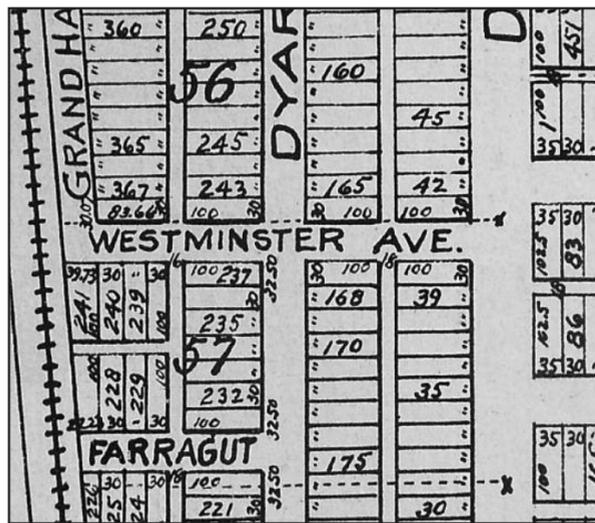
It's these details that can tell so much about the town without really saying anything. A lot can be learned and interpreted from old maps. That's why they are such a treasure trove of information.

This is going to be explored at the Hamtramck Historical Museum on Thursday, July 30, at the next installment of the "Hungry for History" program.

A PowerPoint presentation will give a fascinating view into Hamtramck's past. This will be more than just pictures of maps, as accompanying photos of the community will help bring the maps into focus.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner is served at 6 p.m. A catered dinner is \$12 (\$5 is tax deductible). Doors for persons attending the program only open at 6:45 p.m., and the program is free. It begins at 7 p.m. All proceeds benefit the Hamtramck Historical Museum, 9525 Jos. Campau.

To make a reservation, got to the museum website [www.hamtramckhistory.org](http://www.hamtramckhistory.org) and click on the link "Look Between the Lines" under the Latest Events section on the Home page. Or you can call (313) 893-5027.



Who remembers Westminster or Farragut streets? They were once part of Hamtramck. It's details like this that make maps so valuable.

quite right about the shape of the community. It takes a close look at the map to realize that the village was shaped differently than the city is today. Back then, it extended farther to the west. Somehow, likely when the city borders were adopted in 1922, a piece of the village was shaved off.

Many of the streets had different names as well. Does anybody remember Nall Avenue? Sure you do. It's called Gallagher

brook Creek that once impressively flowed down the site we now call Holbrook Avenue. A similar creek once also defined Carpenter Street. Both were gone by the early part of the 20th century. In fact, the maps show the rapid growth of the town.

In a matter of a handful of years, Hamtramck went from farmland and trees into a forest of smokestacks as 23 factories sprang up in this 2.1-square-mile commu-



Continued from page 7

block of Jos. Campau.  
• A Botsford resident was arrested after assaulting her girlfriend.

Monday, July 20

• At almost 1 a.m. a resident was arrested at Conant and Caniff after threatening to stab another man.  
• At 4 a.m. two Detroit

residents were arrested in the 12000 block of Conant for a break-in.

• A Yemans resident reported a break-in and lumber being stolen.

• A resident reported his bike was stolen while he was at McDonald's.

• A Faber resident reported his bike was stolen.

## Wherever you go, there are work crews in the neighborhoods

Continued from front page

causing needless damage.

At the same time gas lines are going in, DTE has been continuing to replace city street lights with energy-saving light

bulbs. That is expected to greatly reduce the city's budget for keeping street lights on.

In the meantime, mind the orange barrels.

## Revival 4 All



Sun., Aug. 2,

5th Annual DION-led Belle Isle Playscape Area Unity FREE PICNIC

from 11 am March for Marriage at McCarthur Bridge until 5 pm. Walk on to Island for free.

Bishop Doctor A. Barnes: May my house of prayer and a home for all peoples. Come pray, praise and enjoy the Creator, and, others in a home-like atmosphere of joy, peace, love!

Wednesday, August 19, 6:30pm

At 2335 Grayling Street, West of Jos. Campau, near Holbrook, Hamtramck MI 48212  
(313) 948-8563

"Follow me," Jesus said.

Hear Rev. Dr. Lawrence Ventline & Rabbi Dorit Edut, Imams.

Join in the Motown Marriage Revival (under tent). August 26, 6:30pm

at Chene/Lafayette, across from the Rev. MLK, Jr. Apts. Refreshments!

Contact [Mutzim@aol.com](mailto:Mutzim@aol.com),  
Call: (734) 546-4395

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