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The Review

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 Volume 3 No. 9
 March 11, 2011
50¢

Hamtramck

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— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Paczki Day is once again a huge success

By **Charles Sercombe**

Hamtramck was Party Town, USA this past week.

What, with the Blowout all weekend and Paczki Day on Tuesday ... Whew!

For the second year in a row, Paczki Day was a two-day affair, with thousands upon thousands of visitors flocking into town for the Polish Lenten tradition.

It appears to have reached a point where the words paczki and Hamtramck are now synonymous. Go ahead, Google the word paczki and you'll see that Hamtramck is right next to it.

But we digress.

This Paczki Day once again reminded us of the glory days in the 1980s, when Hamtramck was overrun with paczki lovers thanks to an onslaught of media attention.

By the 1990s or so, the tradition had lost some of

that glamour. Media attention, though, came roaring back about three years ago, thanks to an energetic special events coordinator and the help of many locals who were determined to revitalize the tradition.

What more can we say about the day?

Well, for one, we are always amazed by the lengths some folks go to get to Hamtramck just for this one very special pastry.

Take Goldie Brent, a woman in her late 60s. We stumbled across her outside of New Martha Washington Bakery, sitting on the edge of a planter, waiting for a bus. It was about 10 a.m. and she had been here since 7:30 a.m.

It took her three hours — yes three hours — to get inside the bakery and purchase two dozen paczki.

Continued on page 3



Scenes from Paczki Day: Local bakeries were running two days straight to keep up with the demand for the Polish Lenten treat. Thousands of visitors waited in line three hours or more to order their favorite paczki. Lower right: For the fourth year in a row, Matthew Holowicki won the paczki eating contest sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. This year, Holowicki ate 19 paczki in 15 minutes.



Quick Hits

Well, it may not yet exactly feel like spring, but there is one sign of warmer weather coming this weekend: the return of Daylight Savings Time.

Once again, we all "spring forward" this Sunday morning at 2 a.m., when we set our clocks ahead one hour. Yeah, the downside is that we'll all feel like we've lost an hour's worth of sleep and, come Monday, many of us will be dragging our butts into work.

Also this weekend, Saturday is recycle day here in Hamtramck. There will be a drop-off in the city parking lot on Caniff at McDougall. The program is open from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Hamtramck's recycling center operates the second Saturday of every month.

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.

"Everything turned out better than expected, and all-in-all everything was up. We could not be happier."

Deal or no deal? Poletown agreement in the works

By **Charles Sercombe**

Hamtramck had a little extra something to celebrate this past week.

Besides the Blowout and Paczki Day festivities, city officials learned there was a tentative settlement with Detroit over how much in tax revenues will be shared from the GM Poletown plant.

The two cities have been disputing a long-held agreement over the plant. City officials said that until the Detroit City Council reviews the proposed settlement, no details — and they meant nothing — could be disclosed.

In all the years of reporting here, this is about as close-mouthed as city officials ever get. Unless, by the weekend, lips become looser.

Several weeks ago, we asked Hamtramck Coun-

Continued on page 2

Public employees rally in Lansing

By **Charles Sercombe**

Union members from all walks of work haven't felt this much buzz in years.

There is opposition growing against Republican lawmakers attempting to roll back union rights to the days before there were unions. It started several weeks ago in Wisconsin when that state's governor, Scott Walker, proposed ending collective bargaining rights for public union employees.

Union members in that state were quick to respond by jamming into the state capitol to voice their opposition.

Flash forward to this past week, and Michigan public employees are also now on the war path. They are fighting against an amendment to expand the powers of state appointed emergency financial managers.

The new law — pushed for-

Continued on page 6

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Deal or no deal? Poletown agreement in the works

Continued from front page

cilmember Cathie Gordon under what circumstances she would OK a settlement with Detroit, and she said it would have to include all the money she believes Detroit owes Hamtramck.

So, did the deal come close to that?

"If you want to say that," Gordon answered.

Asked further to clarify, she said: "I did what I had to do for the city."

The dispute has been going on for nearly two years. Detroit has been claiming it over-

paid Hamtramck by several million dollars. In the meantime, Detroit has withheld yearly payments from the plant, totaling about \$4 million.

That was an amount that Hamtramck had budgeted and was counting on. Detroit's unexpected withholding of the money had been causing the very real possibility of Hamtramck facing payless paydays in the coming weeks.

Hamtramck officials attempted to negotiate with Detroit officials but those talks

went nowhere. Hamtramck eventually filed a lawsuit against Detroit. In the meantime, both sides sat down with state officials to find a way to settle the matter.

Those efforts have apparently paid off.

Now the big question is whether the Detroit City Council will agree to the deal. Since it was worked out by Mayor Dave Bing's administration, there is no way of telling, considering the rocky relationship between the two.

Gordon said one hopeful

consideration is that Detroit Councilmembers are sympathetic to Hamtramck, and had earlier promised to get to the bottom of the dispute.

"I believe they believe in us," Gordon said of the Detroit Council.

A decision by Detroit councilmembers was expected sometime Thursday – the day The Review went to press.

Although news of the tentative settlement was well received, Hamtramck's financial picture isn't rosy.

The city is still looking at a

budget shortfall because of proposed revenue sharing cutbacks made by Gov. Snyder.

Hamtramck is seeking a \$2.5 million state loan to help stabilize finances. City Manager Bill Cooper said he has not yet heard back from the state about the loan.

Gov. Snyder has proposed to cut all state revenue to cities by one-third. Cooper said that figure is misleading because part of the new revenue sharing plan requires cities to adopt what's called

"best practices" in budgeting, which includes how well each city finds ways to merge services and cut costs.

Cooper said Snyder has not been specific on how that will be judged and how that translates into how much money will be shared with Hamtramck.

Cooper isn't alone in that concern.

Many communities are complaining that Snyder is setting them up for failure so an emergency financial manager can take over.

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Street Life

Film incentive program means jobs, jobs, jobs

(Editor-at-Large Walter Wasacz writes a weekly column on life in Hamtramck.)

By Walter Wasacz

A few weeks ago in Model D, we ran a powerful essay by Dave Krieger, who was the Detroit-based webzine's original photographer and now works as a location scout and manager for film industry crews working in Michigan.

His appeal to keep film incentives alive has gone viral across the state. The incentives have been slashed in the governor's proposed budget. What remains has already had a ripple effect in the film industry, which has

pulled large projects (the "Batman" franchise) from 2012 shooting schedules.

Krieger makes a convincing argument that those that will be most adversely affected are the creative people and technicians in the state that were employed by this industry, and communities – like Hamtramck – which struck up good relationships with film people over the last three years. More people working, of course, means more money in circulation in places where the work is being done.

Here is Krieger's editorial:

"The film industry is driven by two elements, money and location. Many states have a film program in place, Michigan's was the most generous and when enacted put a buzz into Hollywood. Michigan's topography has lakes the size of oceans, dunes, farms, hills, rural and suburban, and of course an incredibly visual number of cities. At this time, Michigan was bleeding workers, talent and tax revenue.

"Over the past few years the state has seen an industry grow, hire, and succeed faster than any other in our

state's history. The numbers speak for themselves. An Ernst and Young report, which independently tracked the money invested from film production, determined that for every dollar Michigan invests, six dollars are spent. Repeat



that: For every dollar invested, it comes back sixfold!

"Under Gov. Granholm and in the pages of Model D, there has been an ongoing discussion of the creative class. How does Michigan retain them, train them and help them expand their

dreams? This industry is all about creative class. Every one of the people employed in a production plays an active role in developing the

final result. These people I work with are young, primarily; energized and excited about their opportunities in developing a new industry in this state.

"This program is a game changer for Michigan. It has

Continued on page 6

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This week at the library...

ESL Class for Beginners - Saturday, March 12 at 10:30 a.m. Christine Templin is the instructor for the ESL class for beginners. Everyone is invited. Free to the public.

Storytime for Children - Saturday, March 12 at noon. All children are invited to library storytime. This week's book is "Diary of a Worm" by Doreen Cronin, and later we will learn how to start writing your own diary.

Computer Classes for Advanced Users - Monday, March 14 at 11 a.m. Adults with basic computer skills can enhance their computer literacy each Monday at the library. Number of participants is limited to available computers.

Computer Classes for Beginners - Tuesday, March 15 at 11 a.m. Basic instructions on computer use for beginners will be held on Tuesdays. Number of participants is limited to available computers.

Reading and Conversation for ESL Students - Tuesday, March 15 at 5:30 p.m. Jide Aje is the instructor for the reading and conversation ESL classes.

Math Club Meeting - Tuesday, March 15 at 4 p.m. Mr. Nuo is the instructor for the math club and math tutoring.

Movie Wednesday - Wednesday, March 16 at 3:30 p.m. Every Wednesday is movie day at the library. Come and enjoy our feature presentation, which includes free popcorn and snacks.

Jeopardy at the Library - Thursday, March 17 at 4 p.m. Sign up and participate in Jeopardy games held on Thursdays at the library. Compete against friends, win prizes and have fun developing your knowledge skills.

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

Friends of the Library Meeting - Thursday, March 17 at 6:30 p.m. FHPL President Kathy Kristy and Treasurer George Gorday, invite all members and volunteers to participate in the regular monthly meeting and election meeting of the FHPL.

Special Screening of a LINK Documentary Movie "Hiding" - Thursday, March 24 at 7 p.m. LINK (Liberty in North Korea) is an organization that is currently working on a modern day underground railroad, helping refugees who have escaped North Korea to find freedom. Many North Koreans face starvation if they stay (in addition to complete religious oppression and persecution), so they risk their lives to flee to China where they must live in hiding. If caught, they will be sent back to North Korea and executed or put into a concentration camp.

Piano Recital - Friday, April 1 at 7 p.m. Matthew Walczak, a young Polish pianist, will present his music program featuring works of Mozart, Chopin and Debussy.

Special Thanks for Donations: Nazin Chowdhury, books; Michal Stena, books; Billy Lee Hager, books; Eva Curley, books; Ivona Piotrowska, books; Gregory Bogucki, books; Yolodymyr Domoretzkyi, books; and American Polish Assistance Association, books.

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.

Metro news ...

It's said that whatever happens to Detroit, so goes Hamtramck. If you were to rely solely on the local mainstream media, you'd think Detroit is no more than a crime-infested wasteland. Well, we're here to say that isn't so. Our friends over at modelmedia.com and metromode.com have been reporting on fascinating development projects for the past few years.

With their permission, here is a round-up of their reports from the past week:

Numerous small business incubators have been popping and filling up all over Metro Detroit in recent years. They're all taking a page, and sometimes tenants, from the Russell Industrial Center's success.

That's just fine with the management of the old-factory-turned-small-business incubator.

"I know we're not the only game in town, but we're the least expensive game in town," says Eric Novack, operations manager for the Russell Industrial Center. "It (the Russell Industrial Center) exemplifies the culture for Detroit's small business and artist communities."

The Russell Industrial Center, just a few minute drive south of Hamtramck, got its start in 2003 when Greektown's Dennis Kefillanos took over the floundering 2 million square feet of Rust Belt stereotype industrial space and focused renting out a smaller spaces to artists and small businesses at dirt cheap

prices. Today the Russell Industrial Center and its flea-market-like Russell Bazaar are home more than 300 entrepreneurs and artists with big dreams and thin pockets.

Some of those businesses have moved on over the years. Two long-time tenants recently moved onto bigger and better places. M1/DTW took more a more comprehensive office space in the Elevator Building overlooking the Detroit River and Wound Menswear moved into its own storefront in Corktown. Novack says high profile festivals have helped keep new businesses coming in, such as the People's Arts Festival, Detroit Business Festival and the upcoming Spring Open House on April 3-4.

A small artist collective from Ypsilanti took over Wound Menswear's space and another creatively inclined collective led by College of Creative Studies Assistant Prof Chido Johnson filled M1/DTW's space. Both signed leases before the spaces emptied.

Writer: Jon Zemke

Paczki Day is once again a huge success

Continued from front page

To get here, she took a bus from southwest Detroit — which was a two-hour ordeal all by itself.

Just for paczki, which she could buy from a bakery in her neighborhood. But those wouldn't do for this very discerning paczki lover. "They're not as good as these," Goldie said of her Hamtramck-prized paczki.

Oh, and did we say that she also has recovered from two strokes?

She went through all this trouble for her family.

We ask you, if that isn't love, what is?

Besides the bakeries, there were gobs of people jammed into the local bars, many here to see the Polish Muslims once again play three shows at three different venues all in one day.

In what other city will you find dedication like that?



City Hall Insider ...

What is our City Council up to these days? We have the scoop and the highlights — as well as the lowlights — of the latest council meeting.

By Charles Sercombe

The City Council met on March 8 in a special meeting. Councilmembers Catrina Stackpoole and Shahab Ahmed were absent. The meeting ran for over two hours, which included a closed session.

In the spirit of Paczki Day and Mardi Gras, Councilmember Cathie Gordon wore a multi-colored headdress of some sort.

But despite the day's festive mood, it was all business during this meeting. In a review of expenses, Councilmember Cathie Gordon questioned a \$5,000 bill submitted from the city's street repair contractor, CPI. The director of Public Works, Martin Ladd, explained the repair was for a broken waterline that was next to previous repairs done to the same line.

He said that because the city's water system is so old, when a break occurs at one point, it's not uncommon for breaks to occur on the same line but in different locations.

Gordon said that since there are so many repairs to city's water line system, she wondered how close the city is to having a system that's in "tip top shape."

Ladd said "you couldn't fathom" the cost of a new system. With 36 miles of water lines running under the city, Ladd said it would take "hundreds of millions of dollars" to bring it up to new.

He added that the water system was built during the

1920s and '30s. He said the city's infrastructure "has outlived its life by decades."

The subject of fixing potholes also came up. Ladd said he has to wait for warmer weather in order for patches to adhere to the street.

A discussion was held on a proposed budget for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) fund.

Jason Friedmann, the director of the city's Community & Economic Development Department, said the total budget is \$394,000. The budget's appropriations include:

- Two loans totaling \$170,000 for housing development
- A county housing rehabilitation program for \$30,000
- A \$59,100 contribution for the purchase of an aerial

ladder truck for the Fire Department

- Some \$53,000 for code enforcement

- A fee of \$34,400 for administration of the fund

- The ongoing project to create a bikeway in Veterans Memorial Park for \$42,770

Councilmember Gordon took issue with funding the bikeway project, saying the park and city have greater needs.

Friedmann pointed out that the bikeway project can be used to "leverage" other grants for further improvements to the park. He also noted that the original budget for the bike path was \$800,000, which has since been scaled down to \$250,000.

Still, Gordon called the bike path a "luxury" item.

Continued on page 6

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Second Front Page

You buy, they fry – it's worth a try

By Ian Perrotta

Just in time for the annual Lenten fish fry season, Hamtramck has a brand new business to supply all your seafood needs – Discount Fresh Fish.

After opening about three weeks ago, the upstart market has already gained quite a following among those looking to treat their palettes to a wide variety of oceanic offerings. On any given day, the store is stocked with over a dozen types of fresh fish, including Catfish, White Bass, Orange Roughy and Tilapia.

In addition to the assortment of fresh fish, the business also stocks an incredible selection of frozen



The Red Snapper is just one of over a dozen types of fresh fish available every day at Discount Fresh Fish.

seafood as well. Everything from crab legs to crab cakes, squid, shrimp and numerous types of fish is available – and all at a reasonable price.

The best part about Discount Fresh Fish? Everything that can be bought there can also be cooked – either in the fryer or oven – on the spot. Throw in a side order of french fries, cheese sticks or some hush puppies and you've got yourself a meal. And for those who aren't fish fans, a number of chicken combos will surely suit

your appetite.

Adnan "Eddie" Gobah, the owner of Discount Fresh Fish, says that he opened the market to help diversify Hamtramck's businesses, which he hopes will in turn bring both people and additional types of commerce into the area. Moreover, he says he wanted to give people an opportunity to buy fresh seafood and to try new things.

"There isn't anything else like this in the area," said Gobah. "Besides – seafood is good for you."

Discount Fresh Fish is located at the corner of Jos. Campau and Carpenter and is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday. For more information visit www.discountfreshfish.com or call (313) 365-1111.

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I hereby give notice that the Board of Review for the City of Hamtramck will meet in the Hamtramck City Hall at 3401 Evaline in said City on Monday, March 21, 2011 and Thursday, March 24, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and also on Wednesday, March 23, 2011 from 1 p.m. To 9 p.m. for the purpose of examining, reviewing and correcting The 2011 Assessment Roll and hearing complaints of all persons Interested herein considering themselves aggrieved.

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School custodian comes to the rescue of a driver

By Charles Sercombe

It was a good thing Tim Turner decided last Wednesday to leave for work early.

On his way there, coming southbound on I-75, Turner came upon two overturned cars on the side of the freeway. Turner, a custodian with the Hamtramck Public School District for 20-some years, told his son, who was driving, to pull over.

"I didn't see anyone coming out of the cars," Turner said when asked what prompted him to take action.

Plus, he pointed out, there was a possibility that the cars could burst into flames at any moment.

So, without thinking of his own personal safety, Turner dashed to a car and helped the female driver get out. Another Good Samaritan had also pulled over by that time and helped the other driver out.

Turner said the story he heard of how the accident happened is that the driver he pulled out crashed into the other driver, causing both cars to flip over onto their roofs.

Turner stuck around long enough for police to arrive, and was also interviewed by a news reporter from WWJ-AM radio. While Turner is

downplaying his actions, the WWJ reporter called his rescue of the driver "heroic."

School District Superintendent Tom Niczay also thinks Turner deserves praise.

"I heard the interview live as I was driving to work, and Tim's humility was very impressive," Niczay said in an email.

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Review: Opinion Page

Tentative deal with Detroit still leaves city financially shaky

It appears Hamtramck will reach an agreement with Detroit over tax money shared from GM's Poletown plant.

For the past two years, or so, the two cities have disputed how much tax money Hamtramck should receive and whether Detroit has overpaid Hamtramck to the tune of \$7 million.

The dispute has crippled Hamtramck financially to the point where we are heading toward payless paydays.

In the meantime, Hamtramck is applying for an emergency state loan to

stabilize the city's finances. Even if Detroit forks over money right now, Hamtramck will still face hard times.

City Manager Bill Cooper couldn't divulge details about the agreement until city officials here and in Detroit review the agreement, but he said he was generally pleased with it.

The Hamtramck City Council tentatively agreed Tuesday night to the deal. The proposal was scheduled to be reviewed by Detroit's City Council on Thursday, the day The Review went to press.

It's a good assumption a

deal will be reached. It's also a good guess that Hamtramck's financial future is still shaky. But then again, considering what hundreds of other communities are looking at, we are hardly alone.

These are crazy times, and it looks like there is going to be a lot of blood-letting by many communities. In fact, there appears to be a major political showdown between Republicans and Democrats over how we fund communities and public employees.

The issue of finances is far from over.

Odds & Ends

Published ... Former Hamtramck resident and HHS graduate Nick Green has a book out now about his experience as a Green Beret and as a globe-trotting agent for the US State Department.

The book is entitled, "Ripples: One man's journey from the barracks to the embassy." From the press blurb we read, it's one head-spinning story.

But unfortunately, we have learned that Mr. Green died recently. Our condolences go out to this family.

Mr. Green graduated from HHS sometime in the 1950s and at one time even taught here in the public schools. We'd like to know if there is anyone out there who remembers Nick.

If so, we'd like to hear from you. Give us a call at (313) 874-2100 or email us at news@thehamtramckreview.com.

Nick's book is available at Barnes & Noble as well as

through amazon.com.

Hatched ... Local artist Tophér Crowder is being exhibited at Café 1923 through the auspices of Hamtramck's artist collective, Hatch.

The exhibit features drawings, paintings and prints. According to the Hatch press release, Crowder is known for his "intricate black ink drawings."

We've been to the Café, and it's highly worth checking out.

There will be a reception this Friday (March 11) from 6 to 9 p.m. Café 1923 is located on Holbrook, right across from the Kowalski Sausage plant.

Party time ... If you're not too burned out from the Blowout and Paczki Day, head on over to the Belmont Bar this Friday (March 11) for a great Hamtramck cause.

On Friday, the bar will host

a fundraiser for the Hamtramck Recycling Commission. The evening features a ton of fun things to do.

Freebie ... The Hamtramck Fire Department had some leftover grant money and decided to purchase some carbon monoxide detectors for residents.

The department has 350 detectors to give away. All that is required is for you to be a resident – which includes those who rent here – and call the department during business hours, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

It's pretty much first come, first serve. The deal gets even better. The department will deliver the detector and install it for you.

To get one, and remember they will go fast, call (313) 876-7778.

Also available are about 200 smoke detectors. Call the above the number to get one installed.

Letters • Letters

Democrats also have a history demanding unions cuts

In the interest of fairness I would like to point out that I'm a 36 year retired state employee and AFSCME member.

Last week's "union busting" article hit close to home but I would like to point out something: Reopening already negotiated contracts is not just a Republican practice.

Shortly after her first term election Jennifer Grandholm (sic) reopened every union represented state employee's contract and forced through threat of layoffs, unpaid days off, furlough time, and banked leave time upon all union state employees.

Yes after the heads at AFSCME, UAW & IAPES donated heavily to her campaign and begged, cajoled and pleaded with their membership to vote for her, she did that.

Who suffered?

Not the almighty unions. AFSCME's magnanimous gesture to its membership over that period was suspension of dues for one pay cycle, the equivalent of flipping us the bird.

Yes, after beating their chests and blowing enough hot air to inflate the Goodyear Blimp even the almighty UAW

and Ron Gettlefinger rolled over for her. You may not have known about her antics because the Free Press buried the story at the back of section A of the newspaper.

Judging from The Review's concurrent run anti-Republican editorial and lack of in-print editorial response letters I doubt that my letter will make its way into print. I've always wondered why newspapers with an obvious liberal/Democrat slant who are so anti-profit, anti-rich motivated even accept advertising.

Perhaps I overlooked it but I saw no editorial staff name(s) attributed to the editorial itself. I have enough conviction to put my name to my words.

Oscar Zamora
Warren

Unions members are dedicated to working for their communities

Recent Hamtramck Review articles mentioned the concept of union busting.

In one article William Diamond, the president of the Hamtramck Firefighters' Union, mentioned that "with (Gov.) Snyder in there, we don't know what's going on."

That's certainly true. Who ever thought that a Michi-

gan governor would suggest taxing pension income? Or shortchanging Michigan children by taking a surplus, and more, from the K-12 education budget and giving it away to community colleges? Or increasing the tax burden on the middle class while slashing the tax burden on the super-rich?

Or refusing to honor Proposal A, legislation which promised a bare minimum level of funding for all K-12 schools?

My wife, Karen, voted for him, but she thought she was voting for a "tough nerd." She didn't know she was voting for someone who might turn out to be, maybe, a reckless nerd – someone who would cheat our seniors and cheat our schoolchildren.

I think the kids deserve better than this. If the kids represent the future of Michigan, then the governor should be helping them, not hurting them. No matter what public school these children attend, they deserve a fair deal.

But is the governor truly trying to bust all of the unions? Most unions will not need to contend with emergency financial managers, or EFM's, because I think most of the unions, in fact, will bargain in good faith to avoid the appointment of an EFM.

Let's get real, jon Bondra (the president of the Ham-

Continued on page 6



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City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 3

Councilmember Tom Jankowski disagreed, saying the bike path is needed to connect Hamtramck to downtown and the Wayne State area where development "has really taken off."

Mayor Karen Majewski said park improvements have to begin somewhere and in a "step-by-step" method.

"This bike path connects us to other communities. ... It's a new system," Majewski said.

Gordon said it's not that she has a "problem" with a bike path, it's that the city is financially strapped and that there might be better uses for the money. She suggested the money could be used to renovate the baseball grandstand in Veterans Park, which recent research has shown that it may have been part of the historic Negro League.

In the vote to approve the budget, only Gordon opposed it.

The council then went into

a closed session to discuss a settlement agreement between Hamtramck and Detroit over tax revenue collected from GM's Poletown plant.

The council spent 45 minutes in closed session, and when it came out, all members voted to accept the settlement.

No details of the deal could be made public until after the proposal is reviewed by the Detroit City Council.

Hamtramck councilmembers unanimously agreed to release \$2.6 million owed to Detroit for water and sewerage service. Hamtramck was holding back payment until the Poletown issue was settled.

The council added one condition to releasing the money, and that is it won't be released until Detroit agrees to the Poletown deal.

And with business all done, it was time for everyone, or those inclined, to get back to celebrating Paczki Day.

Public employees rally in Lansing

Continued from front page

ward by Republican lawmakers and endorsed by Gov. Rick Snyder, who is also a Republican - allows a financial manager to nullify public employees' contracts, among other drastic measures.

Hamtramck public employees were represented by firefighter William Diamond, who is the president of his union. He joined thousands of other union employees Tuesday in the state capitol, shouting slogans and trying to persuade Republican lawmakers to back off from expanding the power of state-appointed financial managers.

"It was nice because it was a mix of all unions," Diamond said of the rally. "There was solidarity there although it didn't work."

Across the country, newly-elected Republican legislators are on the forefront to break unions and push their agenda of privatizing public services.

Those who oppose the move toward breaking unions say there are serious consti-

tutional issues that may prevent these measures from taking place. America appears to be heading full speed ahead into an ideological war.

Snyder has been quoted in the media saying that the new powers of the emergency financial manager are meant to prevent communities from facing bankruptcy.

However, one of the key tools in the new legislation allows financial managers to nullify contracts in order to save money. Financial managers also have the power to dissolve struggling cities and school districts as well as merge them with other communities.

While Snyder is not taking unions head-on, he is nonetheless endorsing what could lead to the end of union contracts.

Diamond conceded that this "isn't a good time for unions," but he is hopeful that this debate will inspire other working people to stand up.

No matter how this issue plays out, Diamond said his union members will remain dedicated to providing service to the community.

"We will put 100 percent of dedication to protecting the city," he said. "We are not going to cut back on our aid to the citizens," he said.

Street Life

Continued from page 2

transformed overnight, opportunities for college graduates and young people who were fleeing in droves because of the lack of jobs, opportunities and creative work. No other industry can point to this instantaneous success.

"Putting a cap on the rebates and not signing the contracts for movies currently looking to Michigan has crippled the program. Without leadership, the industry will turn away and may not come back. Producers are looking to Michigan to sort this out NOW. The rebates may need to be retooled and there is time for that. The governor has force

fed this without looking at the long-term consequences.

"Unfortunately, this could be the immediate result:

- Thousands of high paying jobs: gone.
- Millions of dollars in investment: wasted.
- A new industry in Michigan: banished.

"We need to alert our elected state representatives, senators and the governor. Tell them you support the new film industry. It is not too late to motivate these leaders to action.

"With your help, we can keep something that clearly benefits creative life - and job growth - in Michigan going forward."

Obituaries

DAWSON

Johann C. Dawson, 74, died February 28, 2011.

Mrs. Dawson was an animal lover, avid book reader, independent traveler and adventuress.

She is survived by her brother, Ronald, niece, Kimberely (Darren) Stogman; nephew, Scott and great aunt to Genevieve and Gillian; and a great friend to many.

She will be remembered for her optimistic outlook of life.

Funeral arrangements were

made by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home. For information on a memorial service, call (313) 368-9003.



Letters • Letters

Continued from page 5

tramck police officers' union), most union members will not leave Michigan. Most union members work really hard to make a difference. Like the union members at Ford, most union members work exceptionally hard to accomplish all that they can. I know. I've been known to work tons of extra hours and show up every day so that I can help the kids.

I know a lot of teachers, and others, who work really hard to help the kids.

No matter how much the governor bashes the unions,

most union members will still work to do everything they can to serve their community. The safety of the city and the future of the children depend upon this. I don't think public sector collective bargaining is the problem. I think our problem might be the politicians, Republican or not, who show work for the rich and bash the rest of us.

Brad Alan Neff
School Media Specialist for Grades 1-8
Hamtramck Public Schools

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Coming Events

MARCH 12, Saturday, 2 - 4 p.m. Monthly Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross Parish, Pulaski at Fleming. All are welcome.

MARCH 12, 13, 10 a.m. - Transfiguration Parish, 5830 Simon-K, Detroit, is holding a Giant Closet Sale, featuring many used items. We will accept gently used items before the sale, call 313-892-1310 for delivery times. Food service will also be available.

Saturday will be soup & sandwich, and Sunday will feature mostaccioli diner for \$6.

MARCH 20, Sunday, 11:30 a.m. - Transfiguration Parish, 5830 Simon-K, Detroit, is holding a card & bunco party, featuring a hot meal, refreshments, door prizes and table prizes. Admission is \$9. For tickets, call Terry at 586-558-0173 or the Rectory at 313-892-1310.

APRIL 3, Sunday, 2 p.m. - The Holy Cross Parish Mission Committee will host a bowling fundraiser to support the Hamtramck Friendship House. The event will be at Universal Lanes, 2101 E. 12 Mile Rd. in Warren. For more information and tickets, call (586) 558-7321 or stop by Srodek's Campau Quality Sausage at 9601 Jos. Campau. Ask for Maggie Srodek.

MARCH 23, Wednesday, noon - The Daughters of Isabella Mystical Rose Circle 736 are holding a "Baby Shower Card & Bunco Social," featuring a lunch, dorr and table prizes, raffle and share the wealth, admission is \$7 or a new baby item valued at least \$7, at Queen of Apostles' Activity Center, entrance on Harold St., fenced parking. Baby clothes go to Children's Hospital for babies with illnesses.

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The 14th annual Hamtramck Blowout was a rocking success. Music fans from both down the street and around the state got a chance to enjoy some old favorites and discover some new ones. Which band do you think was the best? Send your thoughts to news@thehamtramckreview.com.

By Ian Perrotta
 Some people called it the "Snowout" on Saturday night, but according to the books the 14th annual Hamtramck Blowout was a rocking success. While the exact attendance figures are still unavailable, in terms of ticket sales this year's event looks to have been the best ever. And the news only gets better – despite earlier reports to the contrary, event coordinator Eve Doster Knepp has decided to return next year to do it all again. A number of things helped contribute to the success of this year's Blowout. Additional presale locations were added to accommodate demand, and tighter security helped curtail underage drinking and prevent fights from happening.

"Everything turned out better than expected, and all-in-all everything was up," said Doster. "We could not be happier." It may have been mostly smooth sailing, but that didn't mean there weren't some rocky waters to overcome. Thanks to the diligent work of utility crews, a potential crisis was diverted when a show-stopping power outage was quickly repaired on Saturday afternoon. Unfortunately, nothing could be done about the snow, which – along with overpriced tickets, according to New Dodge Lounge bar owner Cathie Gordon – contributed to a below-average Saturday night. "Attendance was down this year," said Gordon. "It's going to have to be revamped — \$20-\$25 charge is too much. It really doesn't leave them (customers) any money to drink with. How many young people have that kind of money?" Gordon also questioned how the Metro Times (the publication that sponsors the Blowout) spends the money it makes by throwing the event. She said that the cost of providing PA systems has gotten too high for the weekend to be really profitable and wondered if it would be possible for Metro Times to help defray some costs. However, Doster explained that the Blowout is not primarily a money-making venture and said that most revenue goes toward putting everything on. "It's more about the music than the money," said Doster. "It's the Metro Times' way of kind of giving back."

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