

“Your Pharmacy Experts”

SAV-MOR™

DRUG STORES X

FRD PHARMACY

9811 Conant • Hamtramck
(313) 871-1115
 Mon-Fri: 10am-8pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 11am-3pm
www.sav-mor.com

Additional Savings on OVER 5000 Brand and Generic Medications

\$400 GENERICS 30-DAY SUPPLY*
\$999 GENERICS 90-DAY SUPPLY*
 Over 500 drugs available.
 See www.sav-mor.com for details.

Million Hearts
 Team Up. Pressure Down.
Make sure your heart is happy AND healthy.

EMPTATION LOUNGE
 MON-SAT 7PM-2AM

Temptation lounge where there is something new everyday from art shows to live entertainment to the hottest DJs around and drink specials all week long and don't forget rent us out for birthday parties

SO CALL NOW AND BOOK YOUR PARTY TODAY!
(313) 974-6575

10001 Jos Campau • Hamtramck

3020 Caniff, Hamtramck, MI 48212 • (313) 874-2100

Like Us On:

Volume 7 No. 52
 December 25, 2015
50¢

The Review

Hamtramck

www.hamtramckreview.com • e-mail news@thehamtramckreview.com

Royal Kabob
313-872-9454
3236 Caniff St. • Hamtramck 48212



Quick Hits

This is the season of giving, and the Hamtramck Goodfellows could really use a helping hand.

Mike Wilk, the chairman of the Goodfellows, said donations are way down this year while at the same time requests for food coupons greatly increased.

The group needs several thousand dollars. But even though donations fell short, Wilk said all those who applied and qualified for a food coupon will get one.

It just means the Goodfellows have to dig deep into their reserve.

If you can spare a few dollars or more, here's how you can help.

To make a donation, make out a check to the Hamtramck Goodfellows and mail it to: Hamtramck Fire Department, 2625 Caniff, Hamtramck, MI 48212.

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.

“There’s a lot to do, but it’s all very, very do-able.”

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

A look back at the first six months of 2015 – a year of change

By Charles Sercombe

Every year at this time we take a break from the normal week-to-week coverage to look back at the past 12 months.

And once again we are amazed at the amount of news this little town produces.

So, grab a coffee, tea or beverage of your choice and enjoy this stroll through the first six months of 2015.

JANUARY

Winter was not even a month old and potholes had already appeared in Hamtramck.

Mark Ragsdale, the Director of Public Works, said at the time that he assigned his only two employees to patch potholes once a week – weather-permitting.

If it sounds strange to hear that the city was once again back to doing its own pothole repairs that's because it's a new policy.

It came down to dollars and cents.

The work had previously been contracted out to Platinum Landscaping, Inc., but Ragsdale said it turned out to be less expensive to do in-house.

He said that Platinum was charging the city \$375 to fill a pothole the size of 3 by 5 feet and a few inches deep.

Doing some research, Ragsdale said he was able to purchase one ton of asphalt from Wayne County for \$100.

Potholes would continue to be a major issue in the city. At one point a group of residents took matters into their

own hands and began a “guerilla” campaign to fill potholes on their own.

Speaking of road repair, The Review found out through

Potholes became a huge news item in the past year. Last winter's bitter cold and icy conditions caused a lot of city streets to need repair. Unfortunately, cold temps hung around so long the city had to wait to address the problem.

a Freedom of Information Act request that one city contractor had benefitted greatly from a state-funded road repair fund called Act 51.

In the fiscal year of 2013, Hamtramck received \$1.2 million and in 2014 it received \$1.3 million from Act 51.

In both years the biggest recipient was Platinum Landscaping, Inc.

Platinum provided several services, such as lot maintenance, tree removal and trimming, pothole repairs and snow plowing and street salting.

In 2013, the company was paid \$364,162 from the Act 51 fund. In 2014, Platinum's payment shot up to \$816,023.

The cost of snowplowing will no longer take such a huge hit on the fund. The city is now ready to take over that job. Trucks and equipment were recently purchased to

bring that service back in-house.

For 18 months Hamtramck was governed by Emergency Manager Cathy Square.

report about a woman renting a flat in Hamtramck who was living with her two daughters and 5-month-old son without water service or heat.

In a follow-up inquiry by The Review it was found out that the owner of the house is not a registered landlord.

City law requires all landlords to register and have their rental units inspected on a regular basis.

But there is one omission to the law that needs to be tightened up.

“There is currently nothing on the books relating to fining a landlord for not registering their rentals,” said City Manager Katrina Powell.

As it turned out, Mohan, who lives in Canton, is up to date on taxes but he has been claiming a 100-percent Homestead tax exemption on the

the shooting because it was still an open investigation. No arrests have been made since the incident.

Former Police Chief Max Garbarino said at the time “there's nothing definitive” about the motive.

Since the 1960s it appears there has never been a city-wide re-assessment of Hamtramck property values.

There have been new assessments given as housing values fell and rose and improvements were made here and there.

However, a comprehensive, street-by-street study of each house has not been done.

But with new city manager Katrina Powell in charge, that was about to change.

Powell assigned the city's Assessor, Jay Singh, to take the first steps toward a re-assessment.

He said the first properties he will look at are those houses and businesses that pulled construction permits within the last year.

One oddity had been found, said Powell. It turns out that there were a number of properties that had not been assessed at all, possibly meaning they were not even paying taxes.

“It's astonishing to me actually,” Powell said.

Hamtramck's 31st District Court launched a website designed to save time and effort when it comes to taking care of court matters.

Visitors to www.31stdistrictcourt.net can find out quite a bit on the site, which

New Palace Bakery
9833 Jos. Campau Downtown Hamtramck
www.NewPalaceBakery.com
 Specializing in Polish and European Style Baking Bread, Cakes, Cookies, Pies & Pastries, Wedding & Birthday Cakes
313-875-1334

WE CATER! Gift Certificates
 Open Mon-Sat 6am-11:30pm
 Closed Sunday

Try Our Famous Ribs

Chicken & Waffles \$6.99
Gyro, Fries & Pop \$6.99
Burger, Fries & Beer \$6.99
Closed Christmas Day!

11650 Jos Campau • Hamtramck • 313-368-0500

New Martha Washington Bakery
10335 Jos Campau • Downtown Hamtramck
313-872-1988
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Holiday Sale!!!

Sale runs 12/11 /15 thru 12/24/15
Shop is closed 12/25 thru 1/5/16

Items under \$5
Buy One Get One Free
(Christmas items, glass cases
& jewelry not included)

Items \$5 & Up
70% off!

Recycled Treasures

12101 Joseph Campau
Hamtramck MI 48212
313-826-7158
www.recycledtreasureshamtramck.org



STORE HOURS

Tuesday 2-6pm
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
10-5pm

**MOM & POP'S
TOY SHOP AND
VARIETIES, INC.**
313.888.9934

9528 Jos Campau
— Hamtramck —
momandpopstoyshop@yahoo.com

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday
11am-6pm
Closed Sunday & Monday

**Hamtramck
HOUSING COMMISSION**

“The Nicest Place in Town”

- Heat & Water Included
- Individual Kitchens
- Income Based Rent
- 24 Hour Security
- Recreation Areas
- On Site Mail
- Exercise Room
- Air Conditioned
- Library

2620 Holbrook St • Hamtramck • (313) 873-7878

Hamtramck Housing Commission (HHC) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap or familial status

**Hamtramck
Senior Plaza**

A HUD High Performer

Hamtramck Housing Commission (HHC) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap or familial status

A look back at the first six months of 2015 – a year of change

Continued from front page

offers information on court policies and jury duty, and also links to other sites carrying legal information.

According to a ranking of 186 Michigan cities, Hamtramck had the seventh worst crime rate.

That was the result of a study, released in January, performed by an organization called Value Penguin, a consumer research company.

The company based that ranking on FBI crime statistics from 2013. In that year Hamtramck, with a population listed as 22,017, experienced 366 violent crimes, 159 robberies, 191 assaults, 814 property crimes, 244 break-ins, 334 thefts and 236 car thefts, as well as a number of incidents in other crime categories.

Crime statistics for 2014 were not available at that time.

Hamtramck has long suffered from being neighbors of Detroit and Highland Park (which is listed as the city with the eighth worst crime rate in the state).

Because Hamtramck is viewed as a relative oasis in an area of poverty and blight, criminals have better pickings here than in their hometowns.

FEBRUARY

Winter hit Hamtramck and the metro area with a one-two punch in the beginning of the month.

The first week started out with the third highest snowfall

since the state began recording such things back in the late 1800s. A little over 16 inches of snow slammed down on the region.

And while many were still digging out, a bitter cold spell then settled in, plunging temperatures down to the single digits – and with the wind chill factored in, well below zero.

The massive amount of snow paralyzed many schools, including Hamtramck Public Schools which closed down for three days.

Hamtramck took the unusual step in plowing not only the main streets and emergency fire lanes, but also all the side streets.

The snowfall just happened to coincide with the city's crackdown on residents saving parking spaces in front of their residences with furniture or other items – a longtime custom in Hamtramck.

For years Hamtramck has been on the radar of car thieves.

It still was in 2014.

In 2013 there were 236 auto thefts and in 2012 there were 188.

Hamtramck's Police Department has an auto theft unit that consists of one investigator who gets help from two investigators from the Highland Park Police Department and one from Ecorse.

With a new city manager in town, and there were new ways of conducting city council business.

And Councilmember Anam Miah was not pleased.

Miah questioned several changes made to the city council agenda.

The agenda was changed to limit public comment to one opportunity – whereas before there were two times in the meeting that the public could comment – and noticeably the council no longer has a vote on whether to approve the agenda from the get-go at each meeting.

The changes stemmed from City Manager Katrina Powell, who said she has the authority to set the agenda under the rules of the City Charter and the final directives set down by outgoing Emergency Manager Cathy Square.

That led Miah to quip:

“This is a city council meeting, not a city manager meeting.”

Miah didn't get support from Mayor Karen Majewski, who said: “It's a new ball game.”

Sometimes, it pays to be a city in financial trouble.

Hamtramck was one of 11 financially-distressed communities to receive part of an \$8 million grant from the state.

The money was earmarked for three projects:

\$167,860 to complete a property reappraisal to provide updated and accurate assessment records.

\$50,000 to upgrade City Hall security.

\$404,600 to put in new street lighting.

Hamtramck's grant totals \$622,460, a little less than half of the city's initial request for \$1.6 million.

The award came as welcomed news nonetheless.

“We're ecstatic,” said City Manager Powell. “Of course, we always have more needs than funding available, but a couple of these awards will positively impact our revenues. ...”

One huge impact on savings for the city was the upgrade in street lights, which

had already begun the previous year. The new low-energy LED lights will result in a yearly energy savings of \$200,000, said former Emergency Manager Cathy Square, who initiated applying for the grant a few months ago.

“That will save us a huge amount of money,” Square said.

As for funding the re-assessment of all properties, Square said it will result in the city “capturing some properties not in the system.”

“This will be an opportunity to start from scratch,” she added. “You want to make sure you get as much revenue you can get, and be fair to everyone.”

Properties have not been re-assessed citywide for about 50 years.

The City Hall improvement will create a separate entrance for city hall employees and will switch to a card reading device to enter.

The only catch to the grant
Continued on page 3

Tight Fittin' Jeans

12002 Jos. Campau • (313) 892-9689

**New Year's
Eve Party!**
Thurs., Dec. 31

9 pm - Close
Karaoke • Champagne
Toast at Midnight

**MONDAY
DOMESTIC DOLLAR BEER**
WEDNESDAY FREE POOL

Hamtramck's #1 Neighborhood Bar Since 1971

**Hamtramck
Drugs**

*A professional pharmacy
serving your needs.*

Chet Kasprzak, Pharmacist

- We accept most insurance policies
- Our prices are very competitive
- We carry a large selection of natural products, Polish medicines and cosmetics

10300 Jos. Campau
(Corner of Trowbridge)

313-873-2366

Common Word Alliance

Arif Huskic, President & Founder

Interfaith Prayer For Peace & Unity

Location:
Hamtramck Public Library
2360 Caniff Street
Hamtramck MI 48212

Day & Time:
Monday December 28th 2015 @ 6pm-7pm (CWA meeting to follow)

For More Information Contact:
Arif Huskic : 313-999-5483
E-mail: arifhuskic@gmail.com
Who: Various Faith Leaders

Website <http://commonwordalliance.wix.com/commonwordalliance>
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CommonWordAlliance/>

Donations of gently-used clothing and shoes will be collected in collaboration with Zaman International, a nonprofit organization that provides basic needs assistance to women and children.
For more info please call 313-551-3994
www.zamaninternational.org

What Can YOUR Dentist Do?

- Beautiful smile reflecting healthy teeth
- NYU Graduate Dr. Sami Bilani welcomes you in many languages

Florian Dental welcomes 2015 with a big smile!
Florian Dental welcomes new patients with a big smile and continuous offers!
Call to check our offers at:
(313) 875-1700

www.DentistSamiBilani.com

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
10am-6pm
Friday - Saturday
10am-2pm

for the Weekly Dental Nutrition Blog
• Walk-in Emergencies Welcome
• We accept most insurances.

**CALL NOW!
313-875-1700**
OR Walk in at 2460 Florian St.

Just Across the Street from St. Florian Church!

Second Front Page

A look back at the first six months of 2015 – a year of change

Continued from page 2

was that the city must pay for the improvements upfront and wait to be reimbursed.

Bitter cold couldn't prevent paczki lovers from invading Hamtramck.

Although there may have been shorter lines at our two main bakeries offering up the pre-Lenten treat, many people wised up this year and picked up their paczki a day before Paczki Day to avoid the long wait.

In the city's bars paczki party people were packed like paczki crammed with a gazillion years' worth of calories. Once again, Paczki Day was a huge success.

Hamtramck had not had a tragic house fire in years. But that changed one early Tuesday morning. It just so happened to also be Paczki Day.

Shortly before 2 a.m. a fierce fire broke out in a home in the 5000 block of Yemans, killing a husband and wife and their two young sons.

The cause of the fire was not determined.

The victims were identified by neighbors and other sources as James and Freddie (Dee) Parker, both 47, and their two sons, James Jr., 11, and Jarrad, 7.

The family was survived by two adult daughters, both of whom were in college.

According to Fire Chief Paul Wilk the fire appeared to have broken out in the rear stairwell. When firefighters arrived on the scene, the house was already engulfed in flames.

Wilk said that when firefighters went to the rear of the house, the stairwells were already destroyed. Plus, he said, "There was stuff every-

where. You know how Hamtramck porches are."

Going through the front door, firefighters discovered the second floor ceiling had collapsed, which further delayed getting access to the second floor where the victims were trapped.

One of Hamtramck's more enigmatic elected officials died on Feb. 13.

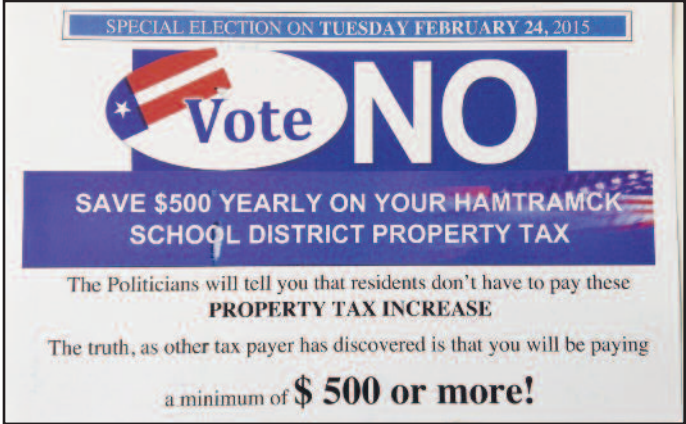
Abdul Algazali died after battling cancer for at least a

tion paid off.

The millage proposal was defeated by 144 votes.

Some 528 voters opposed the millage while 384 approved it.

Just two days before the election it appeared that voters with Bengali or Arabic last names, according to City Clerk August Gitschlag, received an anonymous flier telling them that they will save \$500 a year in property taxes by voting against it.



An anonymous – and likely illegal – flyer seemed to be effective in sabotaging a school tax renewal. That defeat led to a second try later in the year, which proved successful.

year. Neither his age nor the names of his survivors were available.

Funeral services were held in a mosque in Dearborn.

Algazali was the city's first Yemeni-American to serve on city council. He twice ran for mayor but lost both times to incumbent Mayor Karen Majewski.

He was a graduate of Hamtramck High School and a practicing chiropractor. He also owned several properties in town.

A last-minute stealth – and possibly illegal – campaign against the public school district's millage proposal elec-

The anonymous campaign literature violated state law that says:

"All printed matter having reference to a candidate, election or a ballot question, including yard signs, brochures, billboards, poll cards, business cards, fundraiser tickets, stationery, etc., must contain the words: 'Paid for by' followed by the full name of the person or committee paying for the material and the person's or committee's street number or post office box, city or town, state and zip code."

Sources in the Bengali community, who asked not to be identified, confirmed their community was targeted by those opposed to the school millage. The flier urged voters to reject the ballot proposal in both the English and Bengali languages.

Public Schools Superintendent Tom Niczay was outraged over the deception.

"The last minute campaign flier is a cowardly act because it does not identify who sent it," Niczay said. "The ballot language was clear. The non-homestead millage renewal was just that, a renewal. No tax increase. To say Hamtramck Public Schools wanted to increase taxes again is a flat out lie. An outrageous ignorant lie."

Despite the defeat, Niczay said the district would try again to pass the millage in the next upcoming election date, which was the August Primary. Voters did an about-face and passed it in August.

MARCH

Plans were unveiled for the city's three city-owned parks, which were slated for a half-million dollar makeover.

Kathy Angerer, the city's Director of Community & Economic Development, had been working on the plans since September 2013.

The scope of the project was historical and had no apparent equivalent in the 93 years the city has existed. Funding, which amounted to about \$450,000, came from multiple sources of revenue streams – none coming out of the city's general operating budget.

"There's a lot to do, but it's

all very, very do-able," Angerer told the city council.

So, what was in the works? There were two common threads in all of the parks: more greenery in the form of trees, bushes and flowers, and new lighting.

Let's go park by park. Pope Park at Jos. Campau and Belmont, which boasts a monument to the late Pope John Paul II – the first-ever Polish-born pope – was to have the iron gating ripped out and reused in Veterans Memorial Park.

The brick pavement was to also be removed and replaced with a stamped brick pattern. More trees and a lot more benches were to be added, and the park's mural would also be cleaned up.

New lighting was to be added, making this a destination spot during the day and night.

Zussman Park, located across from city hall, would get a dramatic new look featuring amphitheater seating and a pergola-looking structure, all tailor-made to host special events and weddings.

The center of the park was to be replaced with new concrete work and two additional walkways were to be added. Parking would also be increased with the addition of angle parking spaces that would cut a little into the park.

New lighting was also to be installed.

Plans for the city's third park, Veterans Memorial, were the most ambitious. It would be good news for families and kids.

Starting at the front, the gating around the memorial would be removed and replaced with the iron gating from Pope Park in the front of the park.

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

Just past the monument there would be a play area with new play equipment and fitness stations for adults. On the south side of the park along the edge and continuing around the bend would be beds of wildflowers – something to not only buffer neighboring houses but also educate kids on native

Continued on page 4



It's Time to Pray, Please Join Us

We are a Multicultural Parish Family
Sunday English Mass 9 a.m.
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Everyone is Welcome to Worship with Us
Dec. 24 - Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord 9 a.m.
Holy Mass, 11:30 p.m. Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long
12 - Midnight Shepherds Mass (Pasterka)
Dec. 25 - Solemnity of Nativity of our Lord 9 a.m.
Holy Mass.
Dec. 26 - Feast of St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr
10 a.m. Holy Mass. (Msza w. w. j. z. y. k. u. p. o. l. s. k. i. m.)
Dec. 27 - Solemnity of Humble Shepherds
9 a.m. Holy Mass.

— We are an Active Parish Serving the Community —
Celebrating 93 Years of Traditional, Catholic, and Democratic Church
Holy Cross Parish Polish National Catholic Church
2311 Pulaski, Hamtramck • Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak, Pastor
313-365-5191 www.HolyCrossPNCC.com

Best Wishes for a Healthy & Happy Holiday

From Mayor
Karen Majewski

HAIR REPAIR

9517 Jos. Campau • Hamtramck

MEN'S HAIRCUTS
313-875-8972
Lowest Prices in Town

Seniors (60+)
\$750

Men's Cut
\$850

As the church bells ring proclaiming the birth of Christ we at
Our Lady Queen of Apostles Parish
wish you a Merry Christmas and for the coming New Year -
health, happiness and prosperity.
Pastor Fr. Janusz Iwan and Parish Staff
Christmas Season 2015
3851 Prescott, Hamtramck, MI 48212 • 313-891-1520
www.ourladyqueenofapostles.com

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Saturday, December 12 | |
| Sacrament of Reconciliation | 11:00 am |
| Saturday, December 12 | |
| Healing Mass (Anointing the Sick) | 5:30 pm |
| Thursday, December 24 | |
| Christmas Eve Family Mass English | 4:00 pm |
| Midnight Mass (both Polish and English) | 12:00 midnight |
| Preceded by singing of Christmas carols (koledy) at 11:30 pm | |
| Friday, December 25 | |
| Christmas Day Mass (English) | 8:00 am |
| Christmas Day Mass (Polish) | 9:30 am |
| Thursday, Dec. 31 | |
| New Year's Eve Mass (English) | 5:30 pm |
| Friday, Jan. 1, 2016 | |
| Solemnity of Mary (English) | 8:00 am |
| Solemnity of Mary (Polish) | 9:30 am |

Merry Christmas

Wesołych Świąt

Brodek's

Campau Quality Sausage, Co.

Address:
9501 Joseph Campau Street
Hamtramck, MI 48212
(313) 871-8080
www.brodek.com

STORE HOURS:
Monday - Thursday: 8am-6pm
Friday: 8am-7pm
Saturday: 8am-5pm
Sunday: 10am-4pm
Call for Extended Holidays Hours

OVER 30 TYPES OF PIEROGI, SMOKED AND FRESH KIELBASA, USZKA, DRIED POLISH MUSHROOMS, PLUS MUCH MORE!
FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR OVER 30 YEARS!

"THE BEST POLISH DELL...THE BEST PIEROGI EVER."
ANDREW ZIMMERN FROM TRAVEL CHANNEL'S BIZARRE FOODS

A wide variety of meats and imported groceries! Stop in and see for yourself!
Made fresh daily on our premises.

Our own Homemade Polish Kielbasa, 5 different types of Smoked Kielbasa

We have homemade Farmers Cheese, Sauerkraut, Pickles, Fresh Ground Horseradish, Mushroom Ustka, and Pure Honey!

OUR HOMEMADE

Krakowska
Canadian Bacon/Polishwica
Cottage Ham/Baleron
Smoked Spare Ribs/Zeberika
Blood Sausage/Kisaka
Smoked Bacon/Boczek
Jellied Pigs Feet/Zimne Nogi

Baked Liver Sausage/Pasztet
Head Cheese/Salesoon (4 Types)
Smoked Kielbasa (5 Types)
Crepes/Nalesniki
Pickle Soup, Caramia and many more...
Potato Dumplings/Pyrzy/Kopytka
Fresh Polish Kielbasa/Biala Kielbasa

ORDER IT - SHIPS NOW FOR SALE!

LEADERS

in Short-Term
Rehabilitation

The Renaissance

Providing **quick recovery** and **quality care** through our **comprehensive rehabilitation program.**

ST. JOSEPH'S
NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTRE

StJosephsHealthcare.com
Hamtramck • 313-874-4500

OLYMPIA



**Support Your
Local Businesses
Get Out on
the Hamtown!**

**Merry Christmas
and a Happy &
Healthy New Year!**

**Wesołych Świąt
Bożego Narodzenia!**

**Magdalena Srodek
and Daughter
Board of Education
President**







***Wishing you the
Very Best for a
Safe Holiday
Season.***

**Michael and Christine
Wilk & Family**

**Jurkiewicz & Wilk
Funeral Home**

2396 Caniff • 313-365-9600

A look back at the first six months of 2015 – a year of change

Continued from page 3

species.

■

Anyone behind on their water bills was warned. Pay up or face having your service shut off.

Or at the very least get on a payment plan in place with the City of Hamtramck. The city aimed to collect on \$1.1 million owed in back water bills, and once warm weather arrived, the collection process would get aggressive.

According to Mark Ragsdale, the Director of Public Works, water shutoff notices were going out “as soon as the weather breaks” and those who owed the city money would have 10 days to pay up or enter into a payment plan.

Ragsdale said there were likely hundreds of residents and commercial building owners who were delinquent. That was going to require more employees to help with the crackdown.

“The intent is to hire part-time employees to shut off water because we have that many that need to be done,” Ragsdale said.

The last time the city began shutting off water service to households, in July of 2013, hundreds of residents rushed to city hall to catch up on their bill.

Since then, the city switched from a quarterly billing period to a monthly bill. The thinking was it would be less of a financial blow to households to pay monthly instead of every few months.

■

This came as a shocker. Days after being suspended from his job, Police Chief Max Garbarino abruptly resigned.

The reason for his suspension by City Manager Powell was never disclosed and remains one of the biggest mysteries in city hall.

Garbarino was quoted in the press release saying: “I am proud of the service and leadership I provided to the City of Hamtramck and its residents. I believe I leave the

Police Department in a better condition than when I became police chief. However, I believe the timing is right for me to now pursue other career opportunities.”

Powell also had this to say about Garbarino in her press release: “On behalf of the City of Hamtramck, I want to thank Mr. Garbarino for his service to the city and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.”

Powell began a search for a new chief. In the meantime, the Acting Police Chief was Lt. Ann Moise. Moise remains as Acting Chief to this day.

Garbarino, 35, was appointed chief in 2012.

■

The federal government continued to crack down on food stamp fraud in Hamtramck.

their benefit for cash in exchange for giving Ali a cut.

That had been the alleged motive for six other Hamtramck market owners who were arrested the previous September following a raid by federal authorities.

Some 11 people were charged with defrauding the government of a total of \$12.5 million in a period of two months.

APRIL

In Hamtramck, you still had to purchase your prescription outside the city while the city manager tweaked a proposed ordinance that would regulate marijuana dispensaries.

It had been a work in progress for about four years. To this day, it is still a work in motion.

While other cities rushed to

confirmed that calls were still coming in.

“I’ve got people calling me all the time,” she said.

■

City Clerk August Gitschlag faced some terrifying moments on one April Tuesday.

A man who police said was having a mental breakdown managed to climb through the clerk’s office window and proceeded to trash the office in a fit of rage.

Police officers subdued the man after he threw desks and damaged computer monitors.

Gitschlag said he barely escaped being possibly assaulted by the man.

“A crazy man built like Ray Lewis vaulted through the Clerk’s Office service window and proceeded to destroy the office,” Gitschlag said on his Facebook page about the incident.

“He smashed all the computers, flipped tables and literally wrecked the office. I managed to escape out the back door dodging the last table he tossed. It took several officers to contain him. It was absolutely terrifying.”

Just what caused the man to become so enraged was not clear. The suspect was taken away for medical observation.

■

While Hamtramck had emerged from a financial crisis that required state intervention, its future was still questionable.

City Manager Katrina Powell released her projected budget for the next five years.

During those years the city will still be in deficit spending, but thanks to a \$2 million budget surplus it won’t fall into a crisis again.

Powell said one main thing working in favor of Hamtramck and the region is no economic recession is expected to take place, which will allow for economic growth.

Powell said the city will be aggressively seeking economic development and attracting businesses to locate here.

Plus, with a citywide assessment about to take place in the summer, the city expected to see more property taxes collected.

“It’s going to be a multi-prong approach,” Powell said.

According to her projections, the city’s tax collection would increase from \$5.7 million to \$6 million by 2019-20.

Despite these expected increases, the city would cut into its budget surplus by about \$700,000 to cover growing pension and benefit costs.

■

Hamtramck School Board-member Mohammad Huda’s residency status came under investigation by the public school district.

This wasn’t the first time Huda’s residency had come in question.

During the school board election the previous year, The Review discovered that Huda owned a house in Warren where he claimed a 100-percent Homestead tax exemption.

To qualify for this exemption the homeowner swears that the home is where he or she lives.

Warren property records now show Huda rescinded that exemption.

Niczay said The Review’s investigation prompted his own. As of this date, the issue has not been settled.

■

Continued on page 5



In a move that shocked many, former Police Chief Max Garbarino abruptly resigned days after City Manager Katrina Powell suspended him pending an unexplained investigation. Garbarino is seen here being interviewed by a television reporter.

In March the Justice Department announced that a Hamtramck market owner had pleaded guilty to illegally pocketing \$1.8 million from the food stamp program.

Syed Ali, 42, agreed to pay that amount back and was to be sentenced in June. He faced up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The investigation into the matter was conducted by the IRS and the US Agriculture Department.

According to prosecutors, Ali, the owner of Modhubon Grocery, which has no business license registered with the city, would allow food stamp recipients to swap

welcome the new business after voters approved legalizing the use and sale of medical marijuana, Hamtramck continues to lag behind.

At first the issue was discussed by city councilmembers who bickered over whether to restrict where the dispensaries could be located or allow them to operate just about anywhere.

Some entrepreneurs just went ahead and set up shop, only to be promptly closed down.

City Manager Katrina Powell had been on the job for less than three months and said she assigned an intern to work on an ordinance. She



Hamtramck Public Schools

Diverse K-12 Educational Program
All School Staff Highly Qualified
Technology & Career Prep Courses
Honors & Advanced Placement Classes
National Honor Society
Dual Enrollment
Robotics Program
Art, Music & Band
Full Day Kindergarten
Restorative Practices
Award Winning Lego Team

Hamtramck Recreation Department
Programs for Children & Adults
Parks & Play Areas
Special Events
Community Center
Fitness Center
Pool Programs



Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Holiday season is a time to reflect and give thanks

What a year it has been for Hamtramck. Some would even say historical, and rightly so. This has been the first full year that the city has no longer been under the direct control of a state-appointed emergency manager. While the state still has the last say on financial decisions through a Transition Advisory Board, local control rests mainly with our city manager.

This past November election, Hamtramck reached a new milestone. When the new city council begins its term in January, it will be a Muslim majority. This is a transition away from city hall being dominated for the past several years by Polish-Americans.

This change has attracted huge attention from the national and international media. Not all of the reporting has been fair and balanced, but on the whole the world got to see how culturally diverse we are as a town and that for the most part we all blend in well.

The holiday season is a time to reflect on the past year and make plans for the new year that's fast approaching. Most of all, we wish our readers a prosperous new year. Hamtramck families have had it rough these past few years as the local economy struggles to recover. This Christmas isn't going to be easy for many families, and our heart goes out to them.

The best thing we can do this holiday season is to band together and help out our less fortunate neighbors. Kindness goes a long way.

Merry Christmas, readers and thank you for your support.

For every \$100 spent in locally owned business, \$68 returns to the community

source: the350project.net

The Hamtramck Review

Published every Friday

3020 Caniff, Hamtramck, MI 48212

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

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

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

Editor: Charles Sercombe Office Manager: Jean Ingenthron

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

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

New Palace Bakery

Open Mon-Sat 6am-6pm • Open Sun., Dec. 20 and Thursday, Christmas Eve!

PLACE YOUR CHRISTMAS ORDER!

Angel Wings (Chruściki), Kolaczki, Assorted Coffee Cakes, Rolls (Poppy, Almond, Walnut), Assorted Babkas and Honey Babkas, Kremówka (Pope's favorite), Assorted Christmas Cookies, Jajecznicza (Holiday Egg Bread with Raisins), Chalkas (Egg bread with Raisins), Mazurka (Raspberry & Pineapple)

9833 Jos. Campau Downtown Hamtramck
www.NewPalaceBakery.com

Specializing in Polish and European Style Baking Bread, Cakes, Cookies, Pies & Pastries, Wedding & Birthday Cakes

313-875-1334

Don't Forget Your Favorite Kowalski Meats for the Holidays!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Happy Birthday Suzy!

FUNERAL DIRECTORY

When the need arises, these caring professionals are ready to help.



Krot Funeral Home

- International transfers
- Burial
- Cremation from \$895
- Adjacent Parking

2687 Caniff, Hamtramck (313) 365-5240

Continuously owned and operated by the Krot Family since 1935

Alexandra Krot, Manager
David A. Krot, Public Relations

Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home

MICHAEL A. WILK, DIRECTOR ROBERT A. WILK, DIRECTOR

2396 Caniff at Brombach | 313-365-9600

A look back at the first six months of 2015 – a year of change

Continued from page 4

The city remained true to its word about shutting off water service to deadbeats. Some 950 water shutoff notices were sent out on April 2, warning property owners to pay up within 10 days or face having their service shut down.

A couple of weeks later, the city began shutting off water to those who owed \$250 or more.

Once the shutoffs began, property owners rushed to city hall to pay their bills. Mark Ragsdale, the Director of Public Works, said his work crew was able to do 20 to 40 shutoffs a day.

Ragsdale said that 30 percent of the city's water users were behind on their bills. That meant out of 6,000 houses and businesses, 2,000 were delinquent.

In terms of revenue to the city, that meant there was \$1.2 million to collect.

In 2013 the Hamtramck firefighters entered a deal that would guarantee more work for them.

The department agreed to expand its already existing mutual aid plan with Detroit and Highland Park. The plan called for Hamtramck to continue to respond to Highland Park when needed, but expanded the call for help in Detroit to fires within a one-mile radius from Hamtramck.

Those two cities also agreed to help out with any fire that occurs in Hamtramck. All cities were required to send a crew and a fire truck to assist.

That meant if Hamtramck has a fire, a total of 15 firefighters and two extra trucks would be on hand.

With a new labor contract in place for Hamtramck firefighters there are no more than six on duty at one time, and if any call in sick or take the day off, the department is not required to call in replacements.

In other words there was no longer a minimum staffing requirement.

This groundbreaking contract saved overtime costs for the city, bringing them down from \$300,000 a year to \$50,000.

So how has the new plan worked out?

Hamtramck firefighters are definitely busier than they had been. Hamtramck Fire Chief Paul Wilk had nothing but praise for how things had worked out.

"We're getting a lot in return," he said. "We get security that they are coming."

The wait for the city to begin fixing the hundreds of potholes that popped up during winter was over.

Repairs began on Charest near Holbrook, which had been deemed by the Detroit Free Press as the worst street in the metro area.

The city had been waiting for winter's frost to go away, which finally occurred late in the month.

Instead of just shoveling in asphalt, which lasts only a few weeks at best, the city used a more long-term solution. A different kind of patch material was used, which was sprayed in the potholes and had a sealant to help keep the asphalt in.

The pothole issue continued to linger into warmer weather. Eventually residents became restless with the city's wait and took matters into their own hands.

MAY

Homeowners received a rude shock about the cost of owning a home.

For possibly the first time ever, the city came up with a new policy about repairing sinkholes in the alleys.

In many cases, the cause of the sinkhole is a leaking sewer connection from a house to the main sewer line. For decades the city has apparently fixed the leak on the taxpayers' dime.

No more.

According to a city ordinance, the homeowner is responsible for maintaining that connection.

Department of Public Works Director Mark Ragsdale admits to taking an educated guess that the sinkholes were caused by a leaking sewer line or connection. But if it is found out that it is the city's responsibility, the homeowner is off the hook.

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

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

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

The typical cost for such a repair is \$4,000.

A multicultural line-up of local performers took place over one weekend in May.

Called the Porous Borders Festival, it featured free performances and art installations throughout Hamtramck and in Detroit along the Carpenter border.

The festival kicked off with a parade down the length of Carpenter followed by performances and artist installations located along many points of the Detroit/Hamtramck border.

A local developer found out what happens when you don't follow the city's rules.

Noaman Nagi wanted to create a parking lot next to his building at 2396-2342 Conant.

He was approached by a contractor who offered to do the job and take care of all necessary permits the city requires. Flash forward a few thousand dollars later and it turned out the contractor not only did a bad job, he did not bother to get the required permits.

Not surprisingly, the work was done on a weekend, when city hall is closed and there is no way permits could have been issued.

Kathy Angerer, the city's Director of Community & Economic Development, promptly put a stop to any further development to the site. She said at the time it is not uncommon that contractors deceive developers.

Angerer required the developer to tear up the parking lot and do it all over again – except this time correctly.

First there were potholes all over the city to dodge, and in May there was utility work being done on Conant.

From about Casmere to Caniff there was one huge mess of construction and congestion on Conant.

If you were not paying attention, you could have easily find yourself nose first in a huge pit on the side of the road.

The work being done, said Mark Ragsdale, the Director of Public Works, was the replacement of gas mains by DTE Energy/MichCon.

As Hamtramck's infamous housing discrimination lawsuit inched ever closer to being settled once and for all, there were some plaintiffs in the case who felt left out.

"We have been done an injustice," said Charlene Sloan of Grand Haven, who was part of a lawsuit filed by African-Americans who claimed the city targeted their neighborhoods for demolition in the 1960s under the guise of "urban renewal."

A deal offered about 10 years ago to her and other homeowners in the area was that they could receive free house renovations. The details of the plan were not immediately available, and the players in this deal are long gone.

The plaintiff's attorney, Michael Barnhart, was asked by The Review to explain the details of the offer, but he refused to talk, saying: "I'm just not going to discuss matters involving my clientele. Have them give me a call."

The last time Sloan said she talked to Barnhart he told her, "It's over with."

Since that conversation Sloan said she had been unable to get ahold of Barnhart. If he had taken her call, he would have heard plenty.

Sloan and three other residents from the neighborhood said that while it may look good on paper that they got free house fix-ups, the work performed was shoddy and incomplete.

Sloan said they even went to the federal judge overseeing the case all these years, Judge Damon Keith, who still handles the case even in his retirement.

"We tried to get him to listen to us," she said.

As you can guess, they had no luck there. Their beef over the housing deal they got was left unresolved.

Out of the 711 water shutoff notices the city sent out in April, less than half of the households and businesses had made a payment.

According to the city, 332 water customers paid their bill or agreed to go on a payment plan.

Most of the customers paid the bare minimum to avoid a shutoff.

At the time the shutoff notices were mailed out, the city said \$1.2 million was owed and that 30 percent of its water customers were behind in their bills.

Despite facing the threat of a shutoff, some 292 customers

Continued on page 6

Obituaries

HYPNAROWICZ



Theresa Hypnarowicz (nee Genrich), 65, died December 18, 2015.

Ms. Hypnarowicz was the loving mother of Suzette Vandecar, David (Ana), Kim and Mike. She is survived also by her siblings, Suzette (late Carl) Stitchick, Tom (Patti), Bob (Sandy), Joe (Andrea); grandchildren, Amber, Ashley, Justin, Anthony, Brian, Kevin, Ella; great-grandchildren, Blake, Ava.

Theresa was the proprietor of Theresa's Kozy Kerner.

Visitation was Tuesday at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck, MI.

KOMISARZ



Frank Komisarz, 90, died December 21, 2015.

Mr. Komisarz was the beloved husband of the late Paulina. Mr. Komisarz is survived by his children, Walter (Christine), Henrik (Mary), Stanley (Karen), and Christine; his brothers and sisters in Poland; many nieces and nephews; 10 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren.

Visitation is Sunday from 2-8 p.m., with Rosary at 5:30 p.m., at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck, MI 48212. Mr. Komisarz will lie in state Monday at 9:30 a.m. until the time of the funeral Mass, at 10 at St. Florian Church in Hamtramck. Interment will be at White Chapel Cemetery. The family requests donations to St. Florian Parish or Hospice of Michigan.

A look back at the first six months of 2015 – a year of change

Continued from page 6

tomers ignored the warning and had their service turned off. Amazingly, only 96 customers had their service restored – and out of that some of the service was illegally turned back on, the city said.

JUNE

It didn't quite take a Hail Mary for the Pope Park fundraiser to meet its goal.

But it came close.

The Karol Wojtyla Hamtramck Committee was crossing its collective fingers as the final hours ticked down on a deadline to collect at least \$25,000 by early June.

Almost right up to the deadline the fundraiser was still a few thousand dollars short of its goal.

As it turned out, the committee received more than it asked for – a whopping

\$31,307 from 307 donors through an online fundraising campaign.

That meant the Michigan Economic Development Corporation would kick in an additional \$25,000 as part of a matching grant.

"Lesson learned: All you have to do is ask and people tend to be very charitable," said Tom Jankowski, the Chairman of the Committee.

"I'm very proud of the people who stepped up, even though it looked a little daunting," he added.

His whimsical inspiration has attracted thousands of visitors to Hamtramck for over 20 years.

In June we found out that Dmytro Szyrak, the creator of "Hamtramck Disneyland,"

Continued on page 7

Call For Artists!

Call 313-826-7158 to get an application and chair

1st Place winner gets \$100 cash prize

Save the Date!

January 30, 2016 at 6pm

4th Annual *Chair Affair Dinner*
"A Taste of Hamtramck"

And

"A Chair to Remember" Contest & Auction

A Benefit for *Recycled Treasures*

Artists will be decorating or remaking chairs into art, that will be auctioned off to support the mission of Recycled Treasures.

Door Prizes, 50/50 raffle, and more!

Recycled Treasures

12101 Joseph Campau
Hamtramck MI 48212
313-826-7158
www.recycledtreasureshamtramck.org



STORE HOURS

Tuesday 2–6pm
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
10–5pm

Coming events

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

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 17, 7 p.m. – The Hamtramck Midtown Block Club will not meet during December 2015 and January 2016. In 2016, the block club will meet Wednesday, February 17, at 7 p.m. in St. Florian's Convent, 2626 Florian; please use the side entrance. Share information with your friends and neighbors and listen to guest speakers. Light refreshments will be served. Please invite others to join us.

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



RE/MAX METROPOLITAN

Dan Rojek, Realtor®
586-997-9900
danrojek@remax.net

Search For all Homes at www.danrojek.com



12898 Gable • Detroit

Located approximately one mile from Hamtramck;
Near Mound Rd. & Charles.
3-Bedrooms, Living Room, Dining Room, Basement,
2 ½ Car Garage. Motivated Seller!
\$29,900

For All Your Real Estate Needs

Ben Bawazir Realtor

PR PRO REALTORS

www.benbawazir.com
313-424-9962

13530 Michigan Ave. Dearborn, MI 48126 Suite 331
2709 Holbrook St. Hamtramck, MI 48212

Villa Realty

Villa Realty & Associates

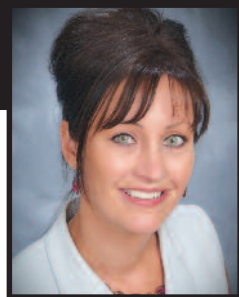
31800 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 200
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
248-866-1110

John Ulaj
Commercial Broker/Owner
A HUD Certified Agent

JohnUlaj@comcast.net

CRS
Certified Residential Specialist

Looking to buy single & multi-family dwellings - CASH!



DiamondRealty and Associates

Leanne Zaliwski-Conger

Hamtramck Native/Specialist

Associate Broker • Multi-Million Dollar Producer
Short Sale/REO Specialist

Multi-Family Homes

2654 Commor - \$79,900 - **BACK ON MARKET!**
11523 Dequindre - \$59,900 - **SOLD!**

Single Family Homes

9801 Dequindre - \$29,900 - **NEW!**

Vacant Land

Holland Rd. - Clay Twp. - \$139,900 **REDUCED!**
12502 Corunna, Clayton Twp. - \$34,900
Sutton - Dryden - \$37,500

Crawford - \$29,800 **NEW PRICE!**

8902 Jos Campau - \$49,900 **PENDING!**

Hamtramck Rental

11637 Sobieski, Unit #1 (lwr) - \$600/mo water incl.

11637 Sobieski, Unit #2 (upr) - \$500/mo water incl.

Lapeer

302 Devonshire (Condo) - \$249,900

302 Devonshire (Condo) - For Lease \$1600/mo.

304 Devonshire (Condo) - \$245,900 **NEW!**

304 Devonshire (Condo) - For Lease \$1600/mo.

Armada

22363 32 Mile Rd. - \$219,000 - **NEW PRICE!**

Mayfield

1067 Farnsworth - \$89,900 - **SOLD!**

Dryden Twp.

4029 Union St. - \$94,900 **SOLD!**

3373 Thornville Rd. - \$249,900 - **NEW!**

Shelby Twp.

53254 Hawald - \$239,900 **PENDING!**

Romeo

297 W. St. Clair - \$119,900 **PENDING!**

Richfield Twp.

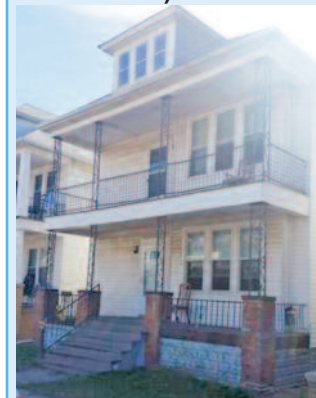
10468 Richfield - \$249,900

Attica Twp.

4759 Attica Rd. - \$30,000 Bank Owned **PENDING!**

Land Contracts
Available on Many
of my properties!

2654 Commor
\$79,900



Office (810) 375-2500 • Cell (586) 214-4663 leanneconger@gmail.com

RENTAL PROPERTIES • REAL ESTATE • CLASSIFIEDS

APARTMENTS & FLATS
FOR RENT

Beautifully remodeled, 2 br. upper, Hamtramck, nice area, \$560/mo., + sec. dep., utilities not included, 313-590-1000.

1/8

3146 Belmont, Hamtramck, 2 bedroom, stove, fridge, washer, dryer, lower remodeled, apartment, 586-604-0553. 1/1

Hamtramck, 9441-9443 Charest, same house, 4 br. upper + 2 br. lower, full basement, new carpet, ceramic bathroom, \$500/mo. each unit, clean, 586-806-4888, 586-420-0001. 1/1

Your Ad Here
(313) 874-2100

Advertisers should check their ad following first publication. The newspaper shall not be liable for failure to publish an ad, for a typographic error or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first day's insertion. Adjustments for errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. We reserve the right to classify, revise or reject any classified advertisement.

Deadline for
classifieds
for next week is
Thursday at Noon
Call to place
your ad
(313) 874-2100

HOUSE FOR SALE

5095 Evaline. Single family two-story house. Great as income property or personal residence. 3 BR, 1 bathroom, nice front yard and large, fenced-in backyard. Attached garage, office space, new roof being installed. Currently rented at \$600 per month, renter pays water bill. Good location, two blocks east of police station. Appliances included. Asking \$30,000. 716-578-1733.

Hamtramck, 11659 Lumpkin, all remodeled, 5 br., 2 bath, single family, new paint + flooring, laundry rm., upstairs can be used as separate apt., \$36,000, land contract possible, 313-485-7307. 12/18

Hamtramck border, 3 br., living, dining rm., nice location, basement, ready to move in, asking \$34,900, land contract available, 313-610-8371. 12/18

3894 Fredo, Hamtramck border, brick bungalow with att. garage, 4 br., 1 ½ baths, full basement w/glass block windows, new windows, oak flooring throughout, walk in closets, 90 plus furnace, central air, new porch, check valve in main sewer – no flooding, \$75,000, Stanley, 313-460-8002.

PARTY STORE
FOR SALE/LEASE

Party store for sale or lease, Southwest Detroit (Mexican Town), 2200 Scotten, Detroit, 48209. Good traffic, loyal customers, large parking lot, good neighborhood, offers considered, call Mike, 248-703-4144.

12/25

HELP WANTED

Experienced caregivers, non-medical, private duty in seniors' homes, full time, part time & live in, flexible schedules, incentive bonuses, apply online at: helpseniors.net, 586-782-6363. 12/25

STAMP COLLECTION
FOR SALE

Stamp collection for sale, 313-327-7790. 12/18

OPEN
FOR BUSINESS

Amana Graphics open 7 days, 2709 Holbrook, designs, prints and signs, Hamtramck, 313-826-7360, 313-721-0902. 1/8

Your Ad Here
(313) 874-2100

A look back at the first six months of
2015 – a year of change

Continued from page 6

had died on May 1 at the age of 92.

For decades his self-created collection of whirligigs and found objects, which tower over his house and next-door on Klinger, attracted visitors from near and far.

On any given afternoon it is not unusual to see a gathering in the alley behind Szylak's house of students or visitors from overseas viewing his creation, which he continued to add on to over the years.

It was – and still is – customary to pose in front of this giant artwork and have your photo taken – or as is done today, take a selfie.

Szylak began assembling the piece in the early 1990s. It eventually grew to a proportion that caught the attention of city code enforcers who periodically threatened to tear it down.

It probably isn't easy either living nearby Szylak's house. The many whirligigs loudly clang as the wind blows, and at night, it turns into a festival of lights.

He called the artwork "Hamtramck Disneyland."

Today, there is an ongoing effort to save the piece.

Thanks to dozens of volunteers, Hamtramck was looking greener.

Volunteers planted 58 trees around the city's Downtown Development Authority district, mostly in the central part of the Jos. Campau business area.

The event was organized by the city's Beautification Commission, the Greening of Detroit and the city's Department of Community & Economic Development.

Kathy Angerer, the Director of Community & Economic Development, said the project had been in the works for months.

"This area surrounding our DDA district was selected to add to the walkability of our neighborhoods as residents and visitors come to shop," Angerer said in an email. "Other neighborhoods have been targeted for future plantings."

A variety of trees that will survive better in an urban setting were selected. Angerer planned to apply for more grants to plant trees.

The campaign for the public schools' millage renewal stepped up in recent weeks.

Supporters of the millage renewal went door-to-door for the previous month a few days out of each week.

Evan Major, a member of the Hamtramck School Board and a member of a campaign committee created to support the millage, said the feedback he received from voters had been supportive.

"It's been overwhelmingly positive," he said. "People by and large understand the important role the school district plays."

The district was seeking the renewal of 18 mills that produce \$1.8 million a year. The tax millage has been in place for 20 years. The millage proposal was held on the Aug. 4 ballot.

Spoiler alert: It won this time around.

The days of basement flooding were drawing closer and closer to being plugged up.

The city began seeking

bonds worth \$7 million to begin repairs to the city's aging sewer system.

It was one step toward an estimated \$40 million worth of repairs that will eventually be needed.

The catch to these improvements is that an extra fee was attached to water bills. No one in city hall was saying what the initial fee would be, but based on discussions held in the previous September, it was expected to be anywhere from an extra \$5 to \$17 on the monthly water bills.

The city was forced to make repairs as part of a court agreement with residents who sued the city a few years ago over continued basement flooding whenever there were heavy rains.

A long neglected – and little known – city park received some tender loving care.

Hamtramck Public Schools students involved in the General Motors Student Corps program teamed up with the city's Community & Economic Development Department to bring the Holbrook Garden back to life.

The park, located across from Holbrook Elementary School on Alice, had not been kept up for a number of years.

Students trimmed back overgrown bushes, weeded, and generally spruced the site up. By the time they were done, the park looked fresh and new.


(That's it for part one of our annual year in review. Be sure to come back next week for a look back at the last six months of 2014.)

Service Directory



HEATING & COOLING

6/30/13

We Repair
& Install
• Furnaces
• Boilers
• Air Conditioners

 **WHATEVER
IT TAKES**

• Licensed & Insured
Financing Available
Ask for Details

A&E HEATING &
COOLING

Family Owned & Operated
Since 1964
11647 Jos. Campau
892-2122

PLUMBING

**HEANEY**
PLUMBING & HEATING
(313) 371-3766
(586) 758-6637

We specialize in all phases of
*Air Conditioning, Freon Charge,
Plumbing, Heating, Sewer
Cleaning & Excavation.*

Service
Installation
Repairs

Fast Same Day Service
Radio Dispatched

10% OFF
Labor on Any Plumbing,
Heating, Air Conditioning
or Sewer Cleaning Job In-
stallation or Repair
Not to be combined with any other offer.

www.HeaneyPlumbing.com
Proudly Serving Hamtramck
Since 1965.
• Licensed & Insured
• Residential & Commercial

ROOFING

**BROTHERS ROOFING
& HOME REPAIR**

ALL HOME REPAIRS Interior • Exterior
TOP QUALITY WORK AT LOW PRICES


• Shingle & Flat Roofs • Sidings & Gutters
• Chimney Work • Porches



Ask for Frank or Jerry
Family Owned & Operated
and Located in Hamtramck
313-365-4913
FREE ESTIMATES
Senior Discount Available!
Call for Details



POWDER COATING

 **PowderWorks**
Automotive and Production Powder Coating

Curtis Gibbs
Owner

DetroitPowderWorks@Yahoo.com

248-835-3352

PLUMBING? SEWER? DRAIN
PROBLEMS? WE CAN HELP!

**WATERWORK**
PLUMBING

CALL TODAY:
248-542-8022
586-298-2380

MASTER PLUMBER
LICENSED & INSURED
AVAILABLE 24/7
EXPERT SEWER & DRAIN
CLEANING
CERTIFIED BACKFLOW TESTING

**\$20
OFF**

New clients only. Not to be
combined with any other offers.

www.waterworkplumbing.com

FULLY STOCKED TRUCKS TO SERVE ALL YOUR PLUMBING NEEDS

1/29/16

Serving our community for over
100 years since 1904.
* Senior Rates available *

BISAGA
PLUMBING &
HEATING
(313) 365-8630

'Star Wars' and the Force Be With You!

What if young people met for worship and praise Sunday with a service about 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens?' The force is strong and attracting 58 percent of men. Its theme song could be played at the organ. Star Wars shows religious images and how the Bible and church keep being reworked and understood. Dressed as Chewbacca, one could talk about his visit: "God questions intrigue me."

Come to the most ancient U.S. Saint Anne Church by the Ambassador Bridge for the Noon Mass for the Force to Awaken!

WELCOME ALL WITH COSTUME UP FRONT.

Travel to see Vatican City, Padre Pio, Sistine Chapel, Francis of Assisi SHRINES OF ITALY with Rev. Dr. Lawrence Ventline, May 17-27, 2016 216.496.1406

Complimentary
Care of the Soul
Counselling



Father
Lawrence Ventline
D. Min.
313.530.2777

If you are among the million U.S. addicted, a 12 step program, and, treatment beyond jail bars works best. I will help you.

Contact me,
lawrencemattthewventline@gmail.com,
313 530 2777

You're worth it! God made you for more.

Pearl Dental Clinic

— Dr. Kabra —

9811 Conant • Suite 2

Call Now!

313-870-9423



got teeth?
thank your dentist.



Comprehensive
Cleaning

\$69

\$190 Value!

New patients. Restrictions apply. Call for Details.

Consultation
Exam & X-Ray

\$29

\$75 Value!

New patients. Restrictions apply. Call for Details.



KEEP CALM
AND
SMILE

We perform all areas of
Dentistry with specialty in:

- Cosmetic Dentistry
- Endodontics
- Dental Implants
- Oral Surgery
- Restoration & Whitening
- Crown & Bridges

Enhancing your smile, health & life.



Exceeding Your Expectations

Walk-Ins Welcomed. Open Saturday & Sunday too!

Proud
Supporter
of:



King Cole Foods



ON 40 WEST CLAIRMOUNT AND
CORNER OF WOODWARD
PHONE 313-872-0220

WE ACCEPT WIC & EBT BRIDGE CARD!

Pay Your Utility Bills at King Cole • Check Cashing
ATM Machine • Notary Public • Jitney Driver Service



Services We Provide:

Money Orders 25¢

Store Hours:
Mon thru Sat: 8 AM to 9 PM
Sun: 8 AM to 7 PM



KING COLE WELCOMES GLORY SUPERMARKET CUSTOMERS. We are less than 2 Miles away! COME SAVE WITH US!



We are Open
Christmas Eve
8am-7pm
We are Closed
Christmas Day!

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| <p>USDA Choice Whole Boneless English Cut Roast</p> <p>Sold as roast only</p> <p>\$2⁶⁹ lb.</p> | <p>Fresh Lean & Meaty Boneless Pork Butt Roast</p> <p>97¢ lb.</p> | <p>Grade A Skinless Boneless Chicken Breast</p> <p>Value Pack</p> <p>\$1²⁹ lb.</p> | <p>Fresh 6 oz. pkg. Raspberries, Blueberries or Blackberries</p> <p>\$1⁹⁹</p> | <p>Fresh, Crisp Broccoli Crowns</p> <p>\$1⁴⁹ lb.</p> | <p>5 lb. bag Fresh Idaho Potatoes</p> <p>2/\$4</p> |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|

Merry Christmas

Sale Dates:
Sat., Dec. 26 - Sun., Jan. 10

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|
|  <p>Nabisco Cheese Nips 7 oz. or Sour Cream, Cream & Onion or Classic Original Pringles 4.41 - 4.62 oz.</p> <p>10/\$10</p> |  <p>Regular Only Campbell's Chicken Noodle or Tomato Soup 10.75 oz. (Excludes 98% fat free, 25% less sodium, healthy request & ready to serve low sodium</p> <p>10/\$10</p> |  <p>Made In Michigan Hearth Oven Bakers Split Top Bread White or Wheat 20 oz.</p> <p>10/\$10</p> |  <p>All Varieties Open Pit BBQ Sauce 18 oz. or French's 10 oz. Worcestershire Sauce</p> <p>10/\$10</p> |  <p>Nestlé Butterfingers Fun Size Bars 11.5 oz.</p> <p>10/\$10</p> |  <p>All Varieties Colavita Pasta 12-16 oz. or 24 oz. Hunt's Pasta Sauce</p> <p>10/\$10</p> |
| <div><p>\$10 OFF</p><p>Your purchase of \$30 or more</p><p><small>Excludes Lottery and money orders. Coupon valid Dec. 26 to Dec. 31. Limit one time use during valid coupon dates. We have the right to reserve the quantity of coupons honored.</small></p></div> | |  <p>Corn Pops 12.5 oz., Froot Loops or Apple Jacks 12.2 oz., Frosted Flakes 10.5 oz. or Special K 11-13.1 oz SALE PRICE: \$2.99 COUPON - \$1.00</p> <p>Kellogg's Cereal</p> <p>\$1⁹⁹ FINAL PRICE</p> |  <p>Regular or Light Kraft Miracle Whip or Regular only 30 oz. Mayonnaise</p> <p>\$1⁹⁹</p> |  <p>All Varieties 1.5 qt. Edy's Ice Cream or Custard 32 oz. SALE PRICE: \$2.99 COUPON - 50¢</p> <p>\$2⁴⁹ FINAL PRICE</p> <p><small>WHEN YOU PURCHASE ANY 6 WITH COUPON. Coupon & Details inside</small></p> |  <p>All Varieties 100 oz. Dynamo Liquid Laundry Detergent</p> <p>\$2⁹⁹</p> |



Come In for Your FREE Gift!



DOLLAR Mart

Great Store for Holiday Gifts

- Toys • Clocks • Pictures • Coffee Makers
- Groceries Items • Luggage • Cookware • Kitchenware • Pet Supplies • Drapes • Automotive • Office Supply

Designer Clocks from Around the World

Flags of the World
Reg. \$9.99
\$7⁹⁹

MEN'S & WOMEN'S COLOGNE

RUGS Starting at \$49

3407 Caniff at Sobieski
Across from Bozek's Market
313-731-7341

OPEN 7 DAYS • 10am-10pm

We Accept EBT

Complete Foot & Ankle

— Dr. Myron Lederman —

- Heel Pain • Corns, Calluses • Hammer Toes
- Bunions • Ingrown Nails • Foot and Ankle Injuries

Senior and Diabetic Foot Care
Over 30 Years Experience

In Area House Calls

M-T-Th-F 9am-4pm • W - Sun closed
Sat - 9am-2pm
Please call for appointment

Medicare Covered Diabetic Shoes

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



Happy Christmas *Wesołych Świąt*



Srodek's
Campau Quality Sausage, Co.



Address:
9601 Joseph Campau Street
Hamtramck, MI 48212
(313) 874-8080
www.srodek.com

STORE HOURS:
Monday - Thursday: 8am-6pm
Friday: 8am-7pm
Saturday: 8am-5pm
Sunday: 10am-4pm
Call for Extended Holidays Hours

OVER 30 TYPES OF PIEROGI, SMOKED AND FRESH KIELBASA, USZKA, DRIED POLISH MUSHROOMS, PLUS MUCH MORE!
FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR OVER 30 YEARS!

"THE BEST POLISH DELI...THE BEST PIEROGI EVER."
ANDREW ZIMMERN FROM TRAVEL CHANNEL'S BIZARRE FOODS

A wide variety of meats and imported groceries! Stop in and see for yourself!
Made fresh daily on our premises.

Our own Homemade Polish Kielbasa, 5 different types of Smoked Kielbasa

We have homemade Farmers Cheese, Sauerkraut, Pickles, Fresh Ground Horseradish, Mushroom Uszka, and Pure Honey!

OUR HOMEMADE

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Krakowska | Baked Liver Sausage/Pasztet |
| Canadian Bacon/Polishvein | Head Cheese/Saason (4 Types) |
| Cottage Ham/Baleron | Smoked Kielbasa (5 Types) |
| Smoked Spare Ribs/Zeberka | Crepes/Nalezniki |
| Blood Sausage/Kiszka | Pickle Soup, Czarnaia and many more... |
| Smoked Bacon/Bocek | Potato Dumplings/Pzyz/Kopytka |
| Jellied Pigs Feet/Zimne Nogi | Fresh Polish Kielbasa/Biala Kielbasa |

ORDER T-SHIRTS NOW FOR SALE!