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The Review

Hamtramck

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

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3236 Caniff St. • Hamtramck 48212



Quick Hits

Whew! Are we glad winter is over. Good rid-dance to freezing tem-peratures, icy roads and shoveling snow.

Oh wait a minute, that didn't really hap-pen this winter. Instead we had freaky warmish temps and very little snow.

And now time is run-ning out for winter.

How's that?

You know winter's days are numbered when Daylight Saving Time returns, which it does this Sunday (March 13) at 2 a.m. when we spring forward and turn our clocks one hour ahead.

Winter's death finally comes the following Sunday (March 20) when spring begins.

So long winter, and take your time coming back.



Quote of the week ...

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

“He stands for the working people.”

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Focus is now on recreation department's millage renewal

By Charles Sercombe

With one election out of the way here in Ham-tramck, get ready for an- other.

On May 3 the Ham- tramck Public School Dis- trict's Recreation Department is seeking a renewal of its recreation tax.

The recreation tax is a little over 4 mills and if re- newed would be in place



Hamtramck's "Al the Only" will be performing card tricks at a fundraiser Friday (March 11) for the recreation department's millage renewal.



Voters will return to the polls on May 3 to vote on a millage renewal for the public schools' recreation department. The program attracts hundreds of adults and kids each year to its programs.

for 10 years. The tax has been in place for 20 years, and it now gener- ates over \$800,000 per year.

Hundreds of children and adults enroll in the department's programs each year.

A campaign committee has been formed to pro-

mote the renewal. School Board Vice President Evan Major is the chair- man of the committee. He said volunteers started going door-to-door this week.

"I did it last week to test the waters," Major said. "People weren't aware of it, but when I ex-

plained it, it was a no- brainer."

The committee has al- ready held a couple of fundraisers and more will be coming up.

Today, Friday (March 11) a fundraiser will be held at the Polish Sea League, located at 2601 Edwin,

Continued on page 8



Space explorers on a stroll

By Walter Wasacz

(Editor's note: City Life is a column about walkable discovery in Hamtramck.)

My friend and project partner Dimitri Hegemann flew back to Berlin Wednesday. He was here for a week, staying as a guest at the Detroit Zen Center. We did some busi-

ness he came here to do — our group, the Detroit-Berlin Connection, is work- ing on activating an east side Detroit industrial space using outsider tac- tics that helped Berlin rein- vent itself after the fall of the Wall in 1989.

His company, Tresor, di- rectly inspired by Detroit

techno music in the early 1990s, is currently cele- brating 25 years as a label and a club (actually four clubs and a 5,000-person capacity performance space) now housed in a former East German power station called Kraftwerk Berlin.

Dimitri calls himself a space explorer, meaning he seeks out reusable vacant space, attaches radical but doable ideas to it and helps fill it with high quality art, music, food and peo- ple. His tools are not phys- ical: hype and momentum are his tools. He is in de- mand as a speaker in places like Amsterdam and

Madrid, where he advo- cates for an economy that never stops.

He often says "Berlin would collapse immedi- ately" if bars would close at 2 a.m. as they do in Michigan. He tells the story of how an American gen- eral in command of the American sector in post- war Berlin — which had been divided into four zones among Allied powers France, the United King- dom, the Soviet Union and the United States — ex- tended drinking hours around the clock as an act of one-upmanship over the Russians, who had a 9

Continued on page 2

No go on pot dispensaries

By Charles Sercombe

For what appears to be an indefinite period of time, the idea of allowing medical marijuana dis- pensaries to operate in Hamtramck has gone up in smoke.

City Manager Katrina Powell was asked a year ago when she first came on board to come up with an ordinance to reg- ulate the growing indus- try. There has not been a word since.

In light of a first-ever local ordinance she is proposing to make the use and possession of marijuana illegal, we asked Powell what the status is on dispen- saries.

It's not going to hap- pen any time soon.

"The issue was tabled by the city to observe pending litigation in other cities and pro- posed legislation," Pow- ell said.

"Some of those are ongoing, including the new House bill regarding dispensaries. It would be more prudent for the city to wait and enact an ordinance that is based on current legislation versus having to change the ordinance later on to comply with state law. Once the legislature takes a stand once and for all on this issue, we can all move forward."

Next Tuesday the coun- cil will take up the newly- formed local ordinance making marijuana pos- session a misdemeanor with a fine of up to \$500.

There is also a hearing Tuesday (March 15) dur-

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page front page

p.m. curfew. The action was never reversed and had a profound impact on social and cultural life in Berlin. But not in ways you might expect. Dimitri says it gave the thinkers and the dreamers more headspace to create the future. It was the quiet hours of the deep night that helped make Berlin what it is today, not the party business model (no doubt also spectacularly successful) for which it is known. While he was here we also had time for fun at the Hamtramck Music Festival, some good food at Royal Kabob and Ali Baba, coffee at Cafe 1923 and, of course, some walks. Dimitri has thoughts and insights about everything so this was a golden opportunity to pick his brain about Hamtramck, in particular the commercial potential of this place. I should say this to start

before our tour begins: he stays here each time he comes to Detroit. The Zen community has been especially gracious in hosting him. The food is healthy and delicious, the vibe is always warm, he is well cared for there. He has other friends in Hamtramck, has stayed at my house and with our mutual friend Aaron Siegal, a techno producer, DJ, label owner and distributor with a growing following around the world.

If you bump into kids from Europe this spring and summer hanging around Hamtramck there is a good chance Dimitri is responsible, at least indirectly. He is a giant inside the techno universe, which had its origins in Detroit before going viral around the world, growing a youth culture that he says is bigger than what boomer hippies launched in the 1960s.

And yes, he says, Berlin social scientists and statisticians have metrics to prove him right. There are 20,000 hostel beds in Berlin alone, thousands more across Europe. There are less than 20 in all of Detroit. If our project takes hold, that number will grow quickly, more visitors will come. Hamtramck, with its attractive combination of authenticity, affordability and diversity, should benefit hugely.

On Monday, a sunny and warm day after a weekend of snow and cold weather, we walked from Mitchell and Casmere to Jos. Campau and then turned south. He was looking for some

items for his daughter, but flavored lip gloss was proving hard to find.

I thought we'd get it at CVS, so we headed there. About midway between Caniff and Evaline he said he wanted to stop for coffee. The closest place was Cafe 1923, not far but roughly eight blocks away. "But that's too far," he said. "There should be one here, and another there." He pointed randomly at buildings on either side of Jos. Campau as we neared Holbrook. "There should be a restaurant here, with good food. We should sit outside on a day like today."

As we walked past the Port Bar, I re-imagined its length along the sidewalk covered by tables and chairs, people sitting enjoying the sun. I shared my thoughts with Dimitri. "Exactly," he said. "Just a few places to begin. Coffee and food will change the entire picture."

There are, in fact, good things developing near that section of Jos. Campau. A bike shop is in the works for the building at the corner of Florian St. A few blocks north of there, another longtime Midtown retailer is relocating to the central business district. Farther south, in the former Kopytko market, the couple behind HenriettaHaus Coferoasters has been renovating that building near Andrus St. hoping to open for business later this year.

The biggest game changer of all might come when the Inner Circle Greenway is completed. This is a 26-mile trail that will push straight through Hamtramck. This means a direct connection to Eastern Market and the Dequindre Cut to the south, and to a proposed loop to the north that will hook west and eventually skirt along the western edges of Dearborn before heading back east into downtown Detroit.

The plan is for the trail to enter the city at Hamtramck Drive and head directly north on Jos. Campau, with proposed

Continued on page 8

No go on pot dispensaries

Continued from front page

ing the meeting to allow the public to speak on the issue. The meeting starts at 7 p.m.

Although Powell is not willing to move forward on the dispensary issue because of pending changes to the law, there is also a pending ballot issue for state voters to decide on whether to legalize recreational marijuana use.

So far, some on the city council, and the mayor as well, are questioning Tuesday's ordinance. At the last council meeting it was suggested that the city should downgrade the ordinance from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction in which a much smaller fine would be imposed.

There are 17 cities in the state with such an ordinance, and there are

four states that have made marijuana use legal.

But there are some cities that are sending out mixed messages. Detroit voters, for example, voted to legalize marijuana. But Mayor Mike Duggan is now moving toward severely restricting medical marijuana dispensaries.

In Hamtramck, the city never adopted a local misdemeanor ordinance outlawing marijuana use. For the past several decades the police department has relied on the state's ordinance prohibiting it.

By using the state law, most of the fines go into the pockets of the state, not the local district court. By adopting a local ordinance, the city's district court will keep most of the fines.

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- Search Section 3 Business Registry
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- Print and maintain record of registry

If you have any questions or concerns you may contact the Hamtramck Housing Commission at 313-868-7445.

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This week at the library...

ESL Class – Monday, March 14, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

Tuesday Family Movie – Tuesday, March 15, 4p.m. Join us for a reading and viewing of "Where the Wild Things Are." (Refreshments will be provided.)

Citizenship Classes – Tuesday, March 15, 5 p.m. Hamtramck residents can get help in preparing for their citizenship exam. Classes are free. Registration is required.

ESL Class – Wednesday, March 16, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

Movie Night Wednesday – At 6:30 p.m. March 16, "The Big Short"; March 30, "The Hateful Eight."

ESL Class – Friday, March 18, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

Tax program – Mondays, through April 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wayne

Metro's Free Tax Program offers accessible services throughout Wayne County, with different times and locations. While appointments are encouraged, walk-ins are also accepted. To make an appointment please call: (313) 388-9799.

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

For more information about events at the library call (313) 365-7050, or visit our website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us> where you can also access our online catalog.

Second Front Page

School Bell

Recreation Department News

• Saturday, March 19 – Bunny Breakfast from 10-11a.m. at the Community Center.

Spring is just around the corner, and the Easter Bunny is ready to celebrate! Kids can enjoy an exciting great breakfast with their family before the Great Egg Scramble. This hopping event is sure to fill up quickly so place your reservation today.

Register at the Hamtramck High School Community Center. The fee is \$3 for adults and \$2 children ages 10 and under.

• Saturday, March 19 – The Great Egg Scramble starts at 11 a.m. at the Community Center. Hop on over for an “eggseptionally” good time with an egg hunt, candy and prizes!

Bring a basket to fill with goodies. No need to pre-register, just come on down. Each child must be able to get the eggs themselves to participate. Parents are not allowed on the gym floor during the scramble. Residents Only. No admission fee.

Kosciuszko Middle School News

The Student Council February Class Quilt results are in. The theme was “What do you love about yourself?” and Valentine’s Day.

The winning class was



Above: Students at the Early Childhood Elementary School celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Below: Students Abdulrahman Nasher and Aziz Alzamzami work with Mr. David Preston to identify different chemical elements using atomic modeling.



Ms. Madelyn Porter’s class. Their quilt was very original and creative. It was also really unique.

Congratulations to Ms. Porter’s academic support class. Each student received a goodie bag filled with pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners and snacks.

In an effort to improve system practices, Kosciuszko Middle School is conducting a community survey. We value your opinion and ask that you take the time to complete this survey.

In order to complete the survey, please go to: <http://advanc-ed.org/survey/public/4516783>.

Please be assured that your responses to this

survey will be anonymous. Your honest opinion is appreciated. Thank you in advance for your time and attention.

Hamtramck High School News

Students Abdulrahman Nasher and Aziz Alzamzami worked with Mr. David Preston to identify different chemical elements using atomic modeling.

Holbrook Elementary School News

• Tuesday, March 15, 8:30 a.m. – P.O.G.S (Parents of Great Students) meeting. All Holbrook parents are encouraged to attend.

March is Reading Month Activities for the week of March 14-19: D.E.A.R – Drop Everything and Read (students wear jogging pants); Show Your Talent (students do something pertaining to reading); Balloons in the Clouds (all students will write a message, place into a balloon and release the he-

Continued on page 4



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Sunday School 10 a.m.

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March 12 - Soup Kitchen 2-4 p.m.

March 16 - Lenten Devotion 7 p.m.

March 20 - Palm Sunday-Blessing & Distribution of Palms, Bake Sale

March 23 - Lenten Devotion 7 p.m.

March 24 - Maundy Thursday, General Confession 6:45p.m., Holy Mass 7 p.m.

March 25 - Good Friday Adoration of the Cross 12-3 p.m. Sorrowful Lamentations 7 p.m.

March 26 - Holy Saturday Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.

Blessing of food baskets at: 11am, 1 pm, 2 pm, and 3 pm.

March 27 - Resurrection of Our Lord, 7 am

Procession & Holy Mass, 9 am Holy Mass

March 28 - Easter Monday, Holy Mass in Polish, 10 am

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BREAKFAST: \$3 ADULTS \$2 CHILDREN

Music fans crowd city streets for annual festival

By Charles Sercombe

Last weekend seemed like a different Hamtramck.

Or maybe a preview of what Hamtramck could become: A mecca for young adults, musicians, and anyone looking for a good time.

The city played host to the 3rd Annual Hamtramck Music Festival, and by the looks of things, even more people attended than in previous years, which means something that was already a major success just ratcheted things up a

couple of notches.

On both Friday and Saturday nights thousands of music lovers were bar hopping all over town. And they were here early, when the festival started at 9 p.m. or so.

In most venues, it was shoulder-to-shoulder packed. In any given hour you could hear a wide-variety of music, from folk, to rock, to something experimental.

And this being a music festival, there was a certain aroma in the air no matter where you went. Let's just say that for two



Outrageous Cherry at PLAV Post 10, Friday.



Bangla School of Music at Bank Suey, Saturday.

nights there seemed to be a skunk on the loose.

Hamtramck police reported no criminal incidents starting Friday night through Saturday.

On hand in force Friday night were Michigan State Police, who seemed to focus on the safety of the festivalgoers walking the streets.



Danny and the Darleans were one of over 200 bands and performers who participated in last weekend's 3rd Annual Hamtramck Music Festival.

Primary election voters support Clinton and Trump

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck voters weren't quite feeling the "Bern" like other Michigan voters.

On Tuesday, voters here gave Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton the slight edge over her main competitor, Bernie Sanders. But Clinton won just by a hair here, edging out Sanders 1,002 to 953.

Statewide, Sanders barely beat out Clinton in what has been called an upset win.

On the Republican side of the presidential primary ballot, frontrunner Donald Trump left his challengers in the dust with 192 votes compared to runner-up John Kasich, who garnered 55 votes.

Trump also won in the statewide election results. City Clerk August Gitschlag credited Clinton's win here to absentee voters, who usually are elderly and likely to vote for the establishment candidate.

Voter turnout was high,

at 2,340. That's a number one usually sees for a regular general election.

This year's presidential primary elections have seen higher than usual voter turnout nationwide.

Political observers say it's likely that come November it will be Trump squaring off with Clinton.

While Hamtramck has historically been heavily supportive of Democratic candidates, there are anywhere from 100 to 300 voters who support Republicans.

On election day we caught up with voter Asia Markham just before she cast her vote at the Hamtramck High School Community Center.

Without hesitation she said she was a Sanders supporter.

"He stands for the working people," she said.

And coming out of the Community Center after voting, Mohammed Uddin gave a one-word response as to why he supports Clinton.

"Experience," he said.

School Bell

Continued from page 3



lium filled balloon); Decorate Your Classroom Door; Dress as Your Favorite Character; Read to an Adult. Scholastic Book Fair Monday, March 21-Thursday, March 24.

More information will be provided soon. March is Reading Month. Community Readers Day is on Wednesday, March 23.

• ESL classes began at Holbrook Elementary School. Please contact the school if interested at (313) 872-3203.

Early Childhood Elementary School News

Tuesday, March 2 – Early Childhood Elementary students celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday. Theodor Geisel adopted the pen name, Dr. Seuss, and authored popular children's books such as "The Cat and The Hat" and "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas."

His work has sold over 600 million copies and the books have been translated into more than 20 languages.

Students at the Early Childhood Elementary dressed as characters, shared and read books.

The students also made "oobleck, a goo" written about in the book "Bartholomew and the Oobleck" and shared treats.

Dickinson West Elementary School News

Mrs. Bradley's 5th grade class and Dickinson West Nature's Vision Fundraising Sellers are a part of our "Green Crew" this year.

They are responsible for the 20 activities that we do at our school to make us a Michigan Green School. They help in raising funds for the Animal Adoption at the Detroit Zoo, cleaning up the school yard, filling up the birdhouses and taking care of the potted plots in and out of the school building.

We are continuing to collect #2 plastic bottles to melt into benches we can use, called "Bottles To Benches."

We collect our cereal bowls in the morning, started a returnable plastic bottle and can drive, which are collected in our big blue bin inside of the school. We sent home a Home Water and Energy Audit that was returned to school for a free dress day at Dickinson West.

Metroparks have visited and we plan on taking a trip on the Detroit River to learn about our Michigan Watershed with the Great Lakes Education Program at Lake Erie Metropark.

We are currently preparing for our Dickinson West Earth Day and looking forward to a great composting treat. We just applied to be a Michigan Green School again this year by helping with recycling, energy saving, environmental protection and other projects that help our building be more Earth friendly.

• Tuesday, March 15 – 4th -6th grade students will be attending an anti-bully assembly from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Dickinson East Elementary School News

• Tuesday, March 15 – Dickinson East is welcoming Community Readers to help celebrate Reading Month.


All Schools

• Friday, March 11 – No school for students. Professional Development Day for teachers.
• Friday, March 25-April 3 – No school for students. Spring Break.
• Monday, April 4 – School resumes.

Compiled by Janice Gandelman

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

source: the350project.net



Hamtramck Public Schools



2016/2017 Kindergarten Round-Up Dates

Dickinson East Elementary
April 14, 2016 (3:30p-5:30p)
3385 Norwalk
(313) 873-9437

Dickinson West Elementary
April 7, 2016 (3:30p-5:00p)
2333 Burger
(313) 365-5861

Early Childhood Elementary
March 22, 2016 (3:30p-5:30p)
Preschool/Kindergarten
11680 McDougall
(313) 891-3200

Holbrook Elementary
April 12, 2016 (3:30p-5:00p)
2361 Alice
(313) 872-3203

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- *2 Proof of residency (utility bill, mortgage, etc.)
- *Proof of income (preschool only)



Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Governor deserves credit for adding to Hamtramck’s security

Right now Gov. Rick Snyder isn’t the most popular guy in the state. His handling of the Flint water crisis continues to come under fire. Politically, the governor looks beyond repair, and the gracious thing for him to do is resign. But this is not the point of this editorial. Instead, we offer praise to Snyder for advocating and getting money to help subsidize our police patrols. Last week we reported that the governor was able to get the legislature to allocate \$1.5 million to pay for state police patrols that will alternate between here, Highland Park, and Harper Woods. Last Friday, there were several state police patrol cars that added greatly to the security of the city when it needed it the most: the annual Hamtramck Music Festival. It was nice to see the extra security to make sure festivalgoers remained safe. We also noticed patrols down the side streets – something we rarely see happening. The extra police presence paid off in other ways: According to the Hamtramck Police Department incident reports, not a single criminal activity was reported that night and throughout Saturday. Hamtramck, it appears, was one of the safest urban cities in this country for at least one night. Gov. Snyder probably doesn’t hear this too often these days, but thanks governor for being on the lookout for Hamtramck’s well-being.

Odds & Ends

For sale... We recently received an email from Greg Kowalski, the writer of the popular “Lore of Hamtramck” series we print in The Review, about the latest goings-on at the Hamtramck Historical Museum. Greg is also the Chairman of the city’s Historical Commission. Anyway, here’s the latest news from the museum: “You can now own the fabulous photos of Hamtramckans that made up the ‘Faces of Polish Diaspora: People of Hamtramck’ exhibit at the Hamtramck Historical Museum. “The more than two dozen photos of Hamtramck persons, places and events are now on sale at the museum. The photos were the core of the exhibit, which was held in conjunction with the Polish Emigration Museum in Gdynia, Poland. “The photos were taken by Tomek Zarek, who graciously donated them to the Hamtramck Historical Museum to sell as a fundraiser for the museum. All are framed and sell for \$25, \$50 and \$100 depend-

ing on size. “The photos range from whimsical to insightful, and all offer a unique perspective of Hamtramck and its varied residents. Although the exhibit is officially on Hamtramck’s Polish community, in fact it ranged far beyond that to include many of the city’s Muslim and other ethnic residents. “The photos are on display at the museum, 9525 Jos. Campau. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and by appointment. Call (313) 574-9758. “Persons depicted in the photos especially might be interested in acquiring them.”

Fire... We had to go to print one day earlier than usual last week, so we missed out on reporting on a major fire that happened last week early Monday morning. Fire Chief Paul Wilk called to fill us in. A former party store on the corner of Carpenter and Charest went up in flames for the third and final time about 5 a.m. that Monday. The remains of the building have since been hauled away, but there were two apartments attached to the store. Wilk says there might have been someone squatting in one of the apartments who may have created a fire to keep warm. It’s not unusual in instances like this the fire grows out of control. By the time firefighters arrived, Wilk said the fire was “going good.” And because there had been two previous fires, firefighters couldn’t enter the unstable structure for fear that it would fall down on them. Detroit firefighters were also on hand to help put out the fire. The matter is still under investigation. In the meantime, an empty lot has just opened up for those looking to develop something.

Get Out on the Hamtown!

School Board News ...

By Evan Major Vice President of the Hamtramck School Board Tonight (March 9) was an outstanding meeting with good news in many directions. The Yemeni American Leadership Association (YALA) presented an exciting partnership opportunity to the board. Our adult education programs at Horizon Educational Center have a waiting list nearly as long as the present enrollment. Our main barrier to serving this community need is space. Currently, we use every square inch possible and hold classes at 4 different locations around the community. The idea was presented that we partner on the development of a new property that would serve not only as additional space for adult education programs, but as a "one-stop-shop" for many of the needs of our newly arriving immigrants. We are simply in the exploration stage at this point, but are excited about the prospect! Thanks to Moortadha Obeid for presenting!

The 3C7 block club presented another fun partnership opportunity that could benefit our city. The block club has done a lot of work to develop an anti-litter campaign, and is proposing that they partner with HPS art classes to develop the artwork that will wrap their new garbage can installations around the city. Their next stop is to city council to explore any potential ordinance conflicts they might encounter. It sounds like a great idea, and there is research that suggests public art is a strong deterrent for littering. Hopefully, we can continue to build on our strong presence of public art. Thanks to Paul Krynski for the presentation.

The 2015/16 budget was amended as well. Our current year operating surplus was projected at \$1,679,280 and was amended to \$3,475,180. The original estimated ending general fund balance was \$3,730,792 and was amended to \$5,862,068. These projections are a tremendous turnaround from the financial state of the district only 6 years ago when there was a large deficit. A special thank you to all the employees who sacrificed to regain our financial health, to the leadership who were able to guide us through those troubling times, and to the families who continue to put their faith in our system. We know there is still work to be done, but we are on much stronger ground to face our remaining challenges.

The Hamtramck FIRST Robotics Team took 2nd place at their regional tournament over the weekend. They defeated multiple higher seeded opponents to reach the finals and eventually lost to the #1 seed. A big congratulations to them and their dedicated coach, Mr. Stofflet.

Two Hamtramck wrestlers earned All-State status over the weekend as well. Stahj McCoy and Wasam Kasem both placed 8th in their respective weight classes. As a former Hamtramck High wrestling coach, I am proud the program Adam Mused started has become so successful over the years, now having the first two state placers in school history. And as fate would have it, we are looking for a new varsity wrestling coach. We have great kids and a great

community. Please reach out to me if you're interested so I can connect you to our Athletic Director.

The Hamtramck Historical Museum presented on a very exciting project they are undertaking. They are seeking funding and partners to develop a year long process of documenting the immigration history of Hamtramck through a massive mural project that will adorn 168 feet of the interior walls of the museum. They are actively seeking partners from all of Hamtramck's ethnic groups to develop each portion of the mural, and will celebrate each completed section with a cultural celebration of that particular ethnic group. If you are part of an organization that could partner to develop your group's portion of the wall, please contact Thomas Cervenak. The board will also be submitting a letter of support.

And lastly, a member of our very dedicated staff, Ms. Ismail, shared with us some of the challenges of our newly arrived English Language Learners at Holbrook Elementary School. Behavior problems have been observed potentially as a result of their lack of understanding and engagement with the course material in their new language. The request was made for a renewed emphasis on recruiting, hiring, and retaining multi-lingual staff so students can have their best chance of success. I wholeheartedly agree and will also make a renewed effort to work with our district leadership to support a solution to this problem. That's all for now! See you all next month!

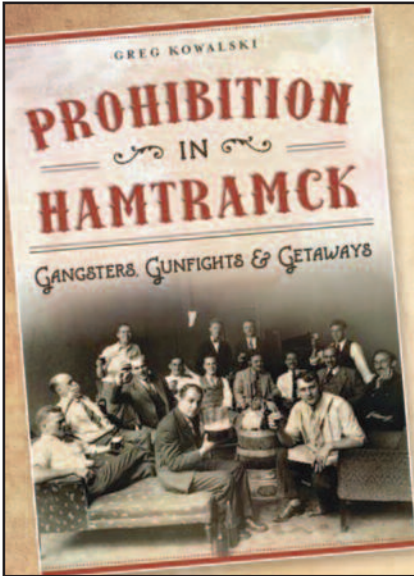
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Obituaries

CLARK

 Janice Clark (nee Zacharias), 50, died March 9, 2016. Mrs. Clark was the beloved wife of Ken (Kenny) for 26 years. Mrs. Clark was dearest mother of Kristopher Cassidy; daughter of Frank and Marge Zacharias; sister of Amy Zacharias, Julie (Matthew) Pasquinelli, Martin (Erin) Zacharias; aunt of Jake, Ryan, Connor, Shane (Zacharias), Carolyn and Rachel (Pasquinelli); stepmother of Jamie Clark and Kristi (Doug) Ehrlich; step-grandmother to Jessica Clark, Jasmine Feliciano, Heather Taulbee. Visitation is Sunday, 2-8 p.m. with prayers at 5 p.m. at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck. A memorial Mass will be held Monday at 10 a.m., at St. Ladislaus Church in Hamtramck with a family gathering at 9:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family would prefer donations to the family.

OLKO

David Martin Olko, 66, died March 2, 2016. Mr. Olko was the

beloved husband of Roberta; father of Damon (Cheryl), James, Jeffery; the late Daniel Goudey Jr.; brother of Mark (Vicky), Betty Ann Nawrocki; grandfather of Daric, Johnathan, Jordan. Many extended family members also survive. Funeral service was held Sunday, March 6 at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck, MI 48212. A private cremation followed.

SYCH

Helena Sych, 91, died March 6, 2016. Mrs. Sych was preceded into God's care by her husband Bronislaw and children Stanley, Cecilia and Kazmier. Mr. Sych was the loving mother of Teresa, Christina Konieczki-Martin, Mary (Sal) Intravia and Richard (Pamela); dear grandmother of ten; cherished great-grandmother of six. The Mass of Christian Burial was Thursday at St. Hyacinth Church. Interment was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to Krot Funeral Home in Hamtramck.



City Hall Insider ...

What is our City Council up to these days?
We have the highlights of the latest council meeting.

By Charles Sercombe

The city council met on Feb. 8, and all councilmembers were present except for Councilmember Mohammed Hassan. Before the regular meeting the council met in a work session. During that meeting a discussion was held on a Hamtramck recycling company receiving a huge reduction in its property value. The company was able to reduce its property value from almost \$1 million to \$168,074. The city was forced to refund the company \$19,000 in past property taxes paid. "It's not something we're happy about," said City Manager Katrina Powell. Powell added that the company's attorney is also a good friend of one of the tax commission members

who heard the company's appeal.

In another matter, Powell said that next year's Community Development Block Grant could be "up in the air." She said the state will change the formula on how this state development grant is allocated.

Hamtramck has automatically received the grant in past years, which has been spent mainly on improving parks and funding clean-up programs.

Moving on, a brochure is now available, Powell said, that explains the fees included on city water bills. The brochure, however, won't be mailed to households because of the expense in doing so.

Powell talked about a tow truck operator who some say has been aggressively towing cars

parked after hours on business lots without the knowledge or permission of the lot owners.

Powell said she will be

presenting an ordinance to regulate tow truck services.

During the regular meeting Councilmember Anam Miah suggested scheduling works sessions to set goals for the city manager.

He also asked for a closed session to get an update on pending legal matters.



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CRIME LOG

By Charles Sercombe
This week's Crime Log covers March 1-7.

Tuesday, March 1

- At about 2 a.m. a Detroit resident was arrested after a traffic stop for having an improper license plate.
- A resident in the 12000 block of St. Aubin reported the theft of several items from her car while it was parked in front of her residence.
- At almost 10 a.m. a man was arrested at Caniff and McDougall for possessing an open intoxicant and being wanted on a felony warrant.
- A resident reported the theft of his license plate while his car was parked in the 3100 block of Trowbridge.
- A Trowbridge resident reported someone had been tampering and opening his mail.
- A Fleming resident reported someone damaged his security system.

Wednesday, March 2

- A person was arrested for a sexual assault.
- A resident reported the theft of their car from Lumpkin and Andrus. Michigan State Police recovered the auto 30 minutes later at I-96 and I-75.

Thursday, March 3

- At almost midnight a resident was arrested at a business in the 2100 block of Caniff for trespassing and being disorderly.

Friday, March 4

- At 1:40 a.m. a resident in the 12000 block of Grand Haven reported someone broke their apartment window.
- Two residents on Neibel reported someone damaged their cars. At about the same time a resident in the 12000 block of McDougal reported damage to his car.
- A woman reported the theft of an item from her car while it was parked in front of her residence on Mitchell.
- A resident reported that while in a store on Conant a man ran into the store and stole his cell-phone from out of his hand and then fled.
- Three Detroit residents were arrested for carrying a concealed gun, possessing narcotics and fraud following a traffic stop.

Saturday, March 5

- No criminal activity was reported on this date.

Sunday, March 6

- At a little after 2 a.m. a Detroit resident was arrested in the 9800 block of Conant for being disorderly.
- A man reported that while his unlocked car was parked on Gallagher at Belmont someone entered it and stole several items.

Monday, March 7

- Officers recovered a car in the 2300 block of Andrus that had been stolen out of Detroit.
- A resident in the 11600 block of Gallagher reported someone damaged the driver's side window of his 2012 Dodge Charger.
- A woman was ticketed for driving with a fraudulent license plate tab.
- A resident was arrested for possessing narcotics and driving without a license.
- A resident reported that their passport did not arrive in the mail and was missing.
- A man reported his car was improperly towed while it was parked in the 3900 block of Christopher.
- A resident reported he was told that he won a cash prize and to send \$2,519.99 to someone in Jamaica to get the prize. The matter turned out to be a scam.
- A resident was arrested for possessing an open intoxicant while at Evaline and Brombach.
- A Trowbridge resident reported that someone damaged his gate and fence.

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4		3		6		
1			2		5	
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9	8	2	7	8	2	6	1	9
9	1	6	8	9	2	7	8	2
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2	9	1	9	6	7	8	2	8
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Continued from page 2

protected bike lanes from Caniff to McNichols. There is ample room for protected lanes on the northend of town. They are not only safer, but catalysts for economic growth. We must insist that they

be built, complementing the ideas for more side-walk activity that Dimitri and I had as we strolled.

More on this later and on the advocacy group that has its eye on Hamtramck as a hub for non-motorized transit, as we move into the warm weather months.

Walter Wasacz spends most of his time walking, reminiscing and writing in Hamtramck, where he was born and still lives.

Focus is now on recreation department's millage renewal

Continued from front page

from 3:30 to 7 p.m.

On hand will be Hamtramck's own "Al the Only" who specializes in sleight of hand, tricks and humor. Al Ulman now lives in Hawaii but he travels back to Hamtramck often.

Al said he has a "soft

spot" for the recreation department because his sister, Carol, met her husband while they both worked for the program years ago.

Al said he will be at the club starting around 4 p.m. Admission is \$5.

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Recreation For All!
Maine Street Restaurant
Recreation Millage Fundraiser



On May 3, 2016, all voters in the community will be asked to renew the 10-year Recreation Millage. This is not a tax increase, it is simply a renewal of the SAME level for another 10 years. Voting YES will keep the department's programs afloat for the school district each year. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to this great recreation department.

Friday, March 11, 2016

Dine-in or carry out and a portion of the proceeds will support the "It's Your Recreation" millage campaign.

Maine Street Restaurant
11650 Joseph Campau, Hamtramck, MI 48212

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Polish Sea League
Recreation Millage Fundraiser

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Special Guest!

Magician Al The Only
Performing at 5:00 p.m.

Friday, March 11, 2016
3:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
50/50 raffle

Can't Attend? Still want to support the cause? Donations are graciously accepted! Make checks out to "It's Your Recreation" and mail to 12067 Lumpkin, Hamtramck, MI 48212

\$5 Polish Sea League
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