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Volume 10 No. 10  
**March 9, 2018**  
**50¢**

# The Review

*Hamtramck*

MPA

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## Quick Hits

You may have noticed that there are more sunny days lately, and also it stays lighter out for longer.

Those extra sunrays are about to last longer starting this Sunday (March 11) at 2 a.m.

That's when Daylight Savings Time returns and we all "spring forward." At 2 a.m. this Sunday morning, our clocks move ahead by one hour.

Expect to feel groggy come Monday morning, but that's the price we pay for longer days with sunlight.

Here's another reminder:

It's tax season.

The city's Income Tax Department has this warning:

If you have a company or person, friend, prepare your tax return be "vigilant."

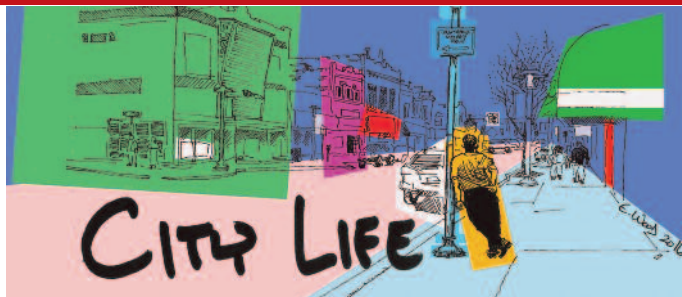
Hamtramck officials have this to say to every tax preparer:

"As the tax season gets busier, it becomes much more difficult to serve taxpayers efficiently if tax returns are missing information. A complete tax return includes attaching all W2 statements and copies of all relevant federal schedules to the Hamtramck Tax return.

"This includes page one of the federal form 1040. It can also in-

**Continued on page 6**

## — HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —



## Music Festival is a celebration of the city and much more

By Walter Wasacz

With all due respect to the over 100 bands that performed at last week-end's Hamtramck Music Festival: it was not about you.

The place and the people in it are what matters in the end. This is the story that needs writing, telling and re-telling. Spread the word, Hamtramck: the story is about us.

The city finds itself in a unique position

at the intersection of geography, history, the here and now and what is yet to come.

Hamtramck is, by its lived-in, frayed-around-the-edges nature, the ideal public reception center for art, music, dancing, conversation,

**Continued on page 2**



## Local control returns

By Charles Sercombe

That didn't take long.

Just days after the state-appointed Receivership Transition Advisory Board decided to end oversight of the city's finances, the Michigan Department of Treasury announced last week that local control has been fully returned to Hamtramck.

In other words, the city has been "released" from receivership.

At the time the RTAB decided to dissolve it was unclear how long it would take for the state to follow-up and restore local control. The RTAB met on Tuesday, and on Friday the state returned local control to the city.

The state stressed that the main goal for the city was to have financial stability. The city now has a budget surplus of \$6.5 million.

"Today marks an important achievement for Hamtramck residents, the city and all who have contributed to moving the city back to a path of fiscal stability," said State Treasurer Nick Khouri in Friday's press release. "I am pleased to say the city is released from receivership."

The city has been under state oversight since 2014. That's when an emergency manager was appointed to take control of the city. Emergency Manager Cathy Square stayed for 18 months and then appointed a city manager to take over.

That city manager, Katrina Powell, ended her relationship with the city when her employment

**Continued on page 4**

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# Metro news...

It's said that whatever happens to Detroit, so goes Hamtramck. Our friends over at modelmedia.com have been reporting on fascinating development projects for the past several years.

With their permission, here is an edited version of this week's story:

Why have there been so many tax foreclosures in Detroit over the past decade?

It's a complicated issue with numerous

causes. We also learned that there are viable solutions that many in government are overlooking.

That's what regular Model D contributor Michele Oberholtzer, a Hamtramck resident who is running for state representative in the district that includes Hamtramck, argues in a column she wrote for the Detroit Free Press titled "Government can stop tax foreclosure."

The lowest hanging

fruit is the "Step Forward" program created by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. Because of strict rules and standards in the application process, every year the program "denies assistance to hundreds of applicants."

Similar issues plague applying for the poverty tax exemption. "A retroactive poverty exemption could annul foreclosures for hundreds or thousands of at-risk Detroit homeowners who are losing their houses for taxes that they could have had waived," Oberholtzer writes.

She also thinks pro-ownership programs like Right of Refusal are being underutilized. In 2017, this program saved 80 homes from the tax auction, allowing homeowners to buy them back for \$2,000 to \$5,000.

"If this program was expanded to include all occupied foreclosed homes, this would mean that 2,000 homes might be diverted from the grips of foreclosure onto a common-sense affordable path to homeownership."

Oberholtzer also wrote a column for Model D last year proposing that city-owned homes be sold back to their occupants.

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# Music Festival is a celebration of the city and much more

Cont. from front page

food, fun – all the human activity that makes the world go round.

Anecdotal evidence also suggests more people walked from venue to venue at this year's festival. The streets were as alive as the indoor spaces that hosted the musicians, DJs and fans. There was electricity in the night air, inside and out. We shout out a big hooray to that.

Another festival down. Next one up. The story to be continued.

Walter Wasacz is a Hamtramck-based writer, consultant and an advocate for the creative economy and creative industries.



## 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 Jan. 9, and all councilmembers were present. Prior to the regular meeting a work session was held.

Mayor Karen Majewski said there is a challenge in getting people to volunteer for various city commissions. She said she has 12 positions that need to be filled.

In a discussion about changing the council's rules of procedures,

Mayor Majewski questioned if it has to be in the form of an ordinance or, as she preferred, in the form of a council resolution.

City Attorney John Clark said it can be in either form. Majewski also conceded that the council does not always follow its own rules.

A discussion was held on the city's master plan, which is now five years old. Melanie Markowicz, the former City Planner,

said the issue is that no one acts on implementing the plan.

Majewski urged the council to take time to review the plan.

"It's really dense," she said.

Councilmember Anam Miah questioned the re-striping of traffic street lines. He said the striping that was done last year at Jos. Campau and Holbrook has already faded, and that the company

Continued on page 3

## This week at the library...

**ESL Class** – Monday, March 12, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

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

**ESL Class** – Thursday, March 15, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

**New Video Release** – Dr. Martin Luther King Breakfast Program 2018 held at the Hamtramck Community Center and organized by The Concerned Women of Hamtramck has been made into a movie featuring a talent show performed by students from the Hamtramck Public Schools. It can be viewed on the Hamtramck Public Library website and on youtube.

**March is reading Month** – "March to the beat of your own drum". Please join us every Wednesday in March after school for stories, singing and crafts. We will also be making musical instru-

ments to use during the program. Tell a friend.

**Hamtramck Recreation Department Senior Easter Egg Hunt** - Easter Egg Hunts aren't just for the young, they are also for the young at heart! Lots of eggs, goodies, and prizes! No registration required. **Friday, March 23, 10-11:30 a.m.** For more information call the Community Center (313) 892-2635

**Exhibit** – The Hamtramck Public Library &The Creative Spirits Art Collaborative presents the 2018 Black American Art & History Exhibit (The Black Explosion), "We No Longer Have To Be Silent." February 1 – March 31. Opening Reception February 8, 5-7 p.m. For exhibit hours call (313) 733-6821. **ART BY LOCAL BLACK ARTISTS**, Shirley Woodson Lolles, Creative Spirits Artistic Director.

**City Wide Poets: Are you a writer? Join City-wide Poets** – Every Tuesday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. At the Hamtramck Public Library, 2360 Caniff. Free and open to all teens. Sessions Begin January 30. For more in-

formation, please contact: [justin@insideoutdetroit.org](mailto:justin@insideoutdetroit.org) or visit [www.insideoutdetroit.org](http://www.insideoutdetroit.org)

**2018 Free Tax Services** – Free service for those whose annual household income is less than \$54,000. **Mondays through March 26, 10 a.m.- 4p.m.** Closed February 19. Call (734) 284-6999 for an appointment. **ABCmouse.com** – Now available at the Hamtramck Public Library, ABCmouse.com is a free digital learning resource for children ages 2-8+ with more than 8,500 Learning Activities and 850 lessons, ABCmouse.com is the most comprehensive early learning curriculum available online. Ask your library staff for more details.

**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) 733-6822, or visit its website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us> where you can also access the online catalog. The library is located at 2360 Caniff.

# Second Front Page



School Bell

**Donation**

Alpha Delta Kappa (ADK) is an international honorary organization of women educators dedicated to educational excellence, altruism and world understanding.

Our local Chapter, ADK-Beta Nu is comprised of retired and active teachers and school support staff. The theme for the current state biennium is Energy-Opportunity-Impact.

In this spirit, and in celebrating Reading Month and the Centennial Anniversary of the founding of the Hamtramck Public Library, ADK-Beta Nu has decided to raise much-needed funds for this gem of our school community.

All money raised will benefit the Children's Book Collection or Children's Programming at the library. A donation of up to \$24.99 receives a thank you note. A donation between \$25-\$49.99 receives a thank you note and a personalized book plate in a book in the book collection.

A donation of \$50 and over receives all the previous gifts and a Hamtramck Library t-shirt!

Please make checks payable to: Friends of the Hamtramck Public Library.

To make a tax-deductible donation, please send your donation by March 26 to: Jackie Dziedziula (Co-President of ADK-Beta Nu) c/o Early Childhood Elementary 11680 McDougall Hamtramck, Michigan 48212. Thanking you in advance for your contribution.

**Theater grant**

Hamtramck High School's theater program was awarded \$10,000



Students at Dickinson West Elementary School recently celebrated "Reading Across America."

from NBC. The television network announced 50 winners of the grant earlier in the week, and donated a total of \$500,000 across the country.

HHS drama coach Nancy Walter applied for the grant.

"On behalf of the School District and the HHS students, congratulations and thank you, Ms. Walter. Your efforts are truly appreciated," said Superintendent Tom Niczay.

The grant coincides with the premiere of NBC's newest series, "Rise." The program is about a theater program in a small town.

**Dickinson West Elementary School and Kosciuszko Middle School Library News**

Dickinson West Elementary and Kosciuszko Middle School students tested their knowledge as they kicked off Reading Across America.

Each day school librarian, Ms. Jill Baker, selected a passage from a Dr. Seuss book and made a video of herself reading the passage. Students and staff had the opportunity to guess the book and win special reading prizes. The winners

Continued on page 5



City Hall Insider...

Continued from page 2

that did the work needs to go back out again and redo it.

During the public comment section of the regular meeting, it was noted that a public meeting will be held at Bank Suey to discuss how the city's yearly Community Development Block Grant, which is over \$200,000, should be spent.

Attorney Mark Koroi welcomed new Councilmember Fadel Al-Marsoumi. He said Al-Marsoumi is the city's first Iraqi-born American to hold public office. The occasion, he said, is a "historical moment."

He added that he is looking for candidates to challenge Hamtramck 31st District Court Judge Alexis Krot in this year's election.

In a discussion on changing the council's

rules, Councilmember Miah said he wants to expand the number of times the public can comment. He said the public should have another opportunity to speak other than at the beginning.

Councilmember Andrea Karpinski said she is in favor of expanding the public comment portion to more than once, but first wants to see what other cities allow. She noted that letting the public speak twice could make council meetings go on for a long time.

"We don't want to end up here until 11 o'clock on a Tuesday," she said.

Councilmember Saad Almasmari said he would like to see the council meetings recorded and broadcasted on social media as a way to give the meetings more expo-

**Dickinson East Elementary School**

Students and staff at Dickinson East were treated to an interactive presentation for Black History Month on Feb. 22.

They learned about the important contributions of black cowboys and cowgirls in US history and then had a chance to meet two rodeo horses up close.

They also watched and participated in some rodeo fun, such as mock bull riding and calf roping. It was a truly enjoyable and educational event that highlighted a little-known area of our history. Real cowboy and rodeo champion Keith Morrell of Morrell Equine Services put on the presentation with his real-life cowgirl daughter, Carmen.



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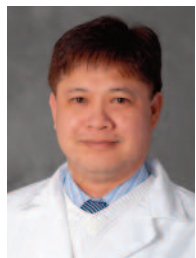
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# Local black history roots go deep



Scenes from a recent celebration of African-American history in Hamtramck, held at the city’s historical museum.



## Coming events

**WEDNESDAYS, 7 p.m., every second Wednesday of the month** – The 3C7 and Midtown Block meets at 2339 Caniff PCS Senior Day Center. This block club includes all residents and businesses west of Jos. Campau and north of Holbrook.

**SATURDAY, March 10, 2-4 p.m.** – Holy Cross Parish, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming, will host a Soup Kitchen. All are welcome.

**FEBRUARY-MARCH 23, every Friday, 4-9 p.m.** – Fish Fry at Hamtramck Moose Lodge 1670, 9421 Conant, proceeds to benefit local charities.

**SATURDAY, March 10, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** – Hamtramck’s Recycle Center is open at Caniff and McDougall. Drop off your recyclables for free.

By Walter Wasacz

A night dedicated to African American history in Hamtramck turned into a celebration of song, food and fellowship at the Hamtramck Historical Museum.

The event was standing room only. But it was better to stand while listening to a choir sing traditional hymns often heard at neighborhood church services.

Museum director Greg Kowalski talked about the deep roots the black community has in Hamtramck, citing that migration from southern states began in the 1800s, then swelled when auto factories like Dodge Main were built in the first decades of the 20th century.

There were slides of African American leaders on both the village council and the first city council in 1922; police officers and detectives; and members of the school board. Another source of pride mentioned was the current renovation of Hamtramck Stadium, where Negro League games were played in the 1930s.

Kowalski pulled no punches in describing the history of discrimination against blacks in

the city, including an over-40-year legal battle won by plaintiffs displaced from a southend neighborhood in what the city argued was an urban renewal project. Black residents said it was more about “Negro removal.”

Black Hamtramck families also lost homes when the dig that became I-75 began in the mid-1960s.

Also cited was a fight over residency at the Col. Hamtramck Homes, which had a “whites only” policy when the projects were built in 1942. It took 12 years to break down those racial barriers, Kowalski said, “but it showed the local community was up for the fight. African Americans resisted, their voices were heard and they won out in the end.”

The final slides of the program had simple but powerful messages, including these: “Yet (all) that was not enough to tear the fabric of Hamtramck, (which) has remained a strong community that in many ways is better than it has ever been. We are together as a community. Hamtramck is home for all of us.”

# Local control returns

Continued from front page

contract ran out last June.

Another goal of the state intervention was to somehow change the city’s volatile political climate. That task, however, proved to be elusive at best. There is still plenty of political division in the city.

That division rose up sharply when a bare majority on city council refused to extend Powell’s employment contract, and then most recently when almost the same bare majority on council refused to hire a city manager two weeks ago.

Acting City Manager Kathy Angerer has been running the city in the meantime. Angerer told The Review previously that she has been working with state officials closely since she took the acting city manager role last July.

She said her main objective was to return local control to the city.

In the state’s press release, Mayor Karen Majewski said she is optimistic about the city’s future.

“Hamtramck is in a great position for solid growth in the future,” Majewski said. “I am pleased with the progress the city has made and ready to move forward.”

Not everyone wanted local control to be returned. At last Tuesday’s RTAB meeting, Councilmember Andrea Karpinski pleaded with the board to remain.

“We’re not ready to govern ourselves,” she said, as she began to tear up.

Karpinski added that she is “disgusted” to be on council.

“It’s a mistake if the state leaves us right now,” she said.

Councilmember Saad Almasmari also spoke at the RTAB meeting, and in answer to Karpinski he suggested she should resign if she doesn’t like being on council.

As for the future of the city, Almasmari said the city is in good hands.

“I think you’ll see some amazing work in the future,” he said.

RTAB member Mark Stema, who was one of two Hamtramck residents appointed to the board, said the board was not created to “fix the problems the city has.”

Just what problems he was referring to was not made clear.

This is the second time in recent history that Hamtramck came under state receivership.

The financial problems facing the city are similar to what many other communities are facing: Rising health and pension costs.

Neither of the two previous emergency managers touched the problem of pension costs, and it is predicted that within a few years, Hamtramck won’t be able to meet its pen-

Continued on page 8

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# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### City officials have to agree to disagree and then move on

Did Hamtramck blow a chance to hire a highly-qualified city manager? That's been a matter of debate in city hall during the past few weeks, and it's an issue that has sharply divided the city council.

Recently, the council interviewed a candidate for the job, Stephen Duchane, the former city manager for Sterling Heights and Eastpointe. He has 37 years of experience and boasts of many significant accomplishments.

But he was the only candidate that the city's search firm recommended out of 38 people who applied for the job. Most of the people didn't qualify for the job because of the stringent city charter qualifications.

Four councilmembers – a bare majority – decided they wanted to hold off from hiring a city manager until a change in the city charter is made. The council has been in agreement to reduce the qualifications for city manager, but that could take several months because it will also need voter approval.

Changing the charter, they said, will give the city more choices.

Two councilmembers and the mayor thought not hiring Duchane was a wasted opportunity, considering his experience and reputation. To underscore their displeasure, they walked out before a vote was taken on Duchane.

That stunt is an old one in Hamtramck when one political faction can't get what they want. It's something that needs to stop because it only adds to the city's reputation of being politically unstable.

Councilmember Anam Miah was correct in saying that it comes down to the simple fact that the majority rules – even if it's a bare majority.

Hamtramck will not fall apart because Duchane was not hired. The city is humming along just fine with Acting City Manager Kathy Angerer. In fact, a lot of the tension felt during the tenure of the previous city manager has largely disappeared.

And if you need proof that the city is under good management, look no further than the state's recent decision to end its supervision of Hamtramck. If state officials have faith in the city, the least our elected officials can do is find a way to acknowledge there will be differences of opinions, but at the end of the day we move on and still strive to work together.



## School Bell

Continued from page 3

were: Samaiya A., Shurmin B., Nashwah M., Anood M., Machi C., Yacoob A., Nusrat R., Rasheda K., Hisham A., Hamza D., DaMaria W., Kenneth D., Bassmah A., Myah T., Anood M., Zharia B., Kennedy H., Ariel W. and Abdul M.

Congratulations to these students and keep reading.



**Early Childhood Elementary School News**

Monday started off the week celebrating author Dr. Seuss' birthday, which occurred on March 2.

Students celebrated by doing art, creative writing, math and reading activities reflecting Dr. Seuss books. The first grade students are excited because Rhonda Walker from Channel 4 News WDIV will be a guest reader on Friday.

She will be sharing her love of reading as part of Reading Month. Also, the entire school is anticipating the arrival of famous children's illustrator, Cyd Moore on March 15.

Ms. Moore has illustrated numerous children's books including the "Stinky

Face" book series.

**Horizon High School**

- Thursday, March 29 – Half day. Final exams.

**All Schools**

- Friday, March 30-April 8 – No school for staff and students. Spring Break.
- Monday, April 9 – School resumes.

**Kindergarten Round Up Dates**

- Wednesday, April 11 – Early Childhood Elementary School from 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- Friday, April 13 – Holbrook Elementary School from 1 to 3 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 18 – Dickinson West Elementary School from 3:30-5 p.m.
- Thursday, April 19 – Tau Beta Elementary School from 1-3 p.m.
- Thursday, April 26 – Dickinson East Elementary School from 4-6 p.m.

**Compiled by Janice Gandelman**

**Students at the Early Childhood Elementary School celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss.**

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The Hamtramck Review

Published every Friday

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

## Obituaries

### WILLS



Gordon Wills, 83, died March 5, 2018.

Mr. Wills is survived by his significant other, Theresa Whitehead; sons, Mike (Vicki) Wills, John (Connie) Wills; six grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren. Mr. Wills is also survived by his brother, Jerry (Sandy) Wills; many nieces and nephews.

Gordon was a member of the United States Army and served during the Korean War. He was a past commander of

VFW #3130, a lifetime member of VFW Post #6782 and a Golden Eagle of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles, Hazel Park Aerie #2449.

Visitation is Saturday, March 10, 2018, from 2-8 p.m., with VFW service at 6 p.m. The funeral service is Sunday, March 11, at 12 noon, at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck, MI 48212.



## The Chief's Corner...



By Hamtramck Police Chief Anne Moise

I am excited for the opportunity to write a column for the Hamtramck Review. I have been thinking about what to write for my first column and I thought I would share some recent positive police activity.

While our police officers and detectives are always working hard to keep the community of Hamtramck safe, some notable arrests were made in the month of February.

In the first week, officers responded to a residential break-in. A suspect was arrested after a he was located hiding in a nearby garbage can. Two days later, two suspects were arrested for the theft of several license plates

from parked vehicles.

One suspect fled on foot and was apprehended by officers after a foot chase. The next day, officers responded to a break-in at a business and arrested a suspect after a foot chase into neighboring Detroit.

Less than two weeks later, officers responded to an armed robbery of a business. Two suspects were located and money was recovered less than five minutes after the call was received.

These arrests were made possible not only by hard working officers and detectives, but also by assistance from the community by promptly reporting crimes to police.

Calls to police of an

emergency nature can be made by calling 911. Please be mindful that if you call 911 from a cell phone, you may reach Detroit Police or Michigan State Police first.

You will need to advise them that you are in need of Hamtramck Police. The non-emergency police number is (313) 800-5281. Lost property reports can be made online on the City's website [www.hamtramck.us](http://www.hamtramck.us)

Click on Departments Police.

*Please join me at my next "Chat with the Chief" informal meeting on Wednesday, March 28 from 2 to 3 p.m. inside the City Council chambers, which is located on the second floor inside Hamtramck City Hall, 3401 Evaline. Please stop in a meet your Police Chief and share your thoughts and ideas with me.*

## Quick Hits

Cont. from front page

clude a copy of the federal Schedule C, federal Schedule D, or federal Schedule E, depending upon the situation. It also includes attaching another city's tax return, such as Detroit, if the

client is claiming a tax credit.

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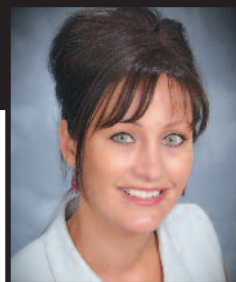
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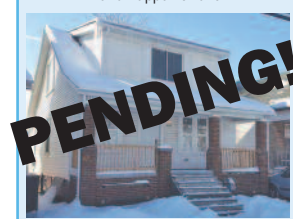
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**By Charles Sercombe**  
This week's Crime Log covers Feb. 27-March5.

**Tuesday, February 27**  
• At 12:40 a.m. a Detroit resident was arrested in the 9300 block of Mitchell for being disorderly. Later, another Detroit resident was arrested in the same location for damaging property and being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.

• A Dequindre resident reported being assaulted by her boyfriend.

• A Moran resident reported someone slashed her car tires.

• A St. Aubin resident was arrested for assaulting a person, and violating a personal protection order. The suspect was also wanted on various warrants.

• A resident in the 3200 block of Belmont was arrested after threatening a family member with a knife.

• A resident in the 2200 block of Norwalk reported someone threw a piece of concrete through their living room window.

**Wednesday, February 28**

• At almost midnight a Detroit resident was arrested in the Carpenter/Moran area for being disorderly and obstructing officers.

• A Caniff resident reported someone broke a window at his residence.

• A Conant business reported an incident of fraud.

• A Warren resident reported two city-issued trash cans were stolen from his rental property in the 11000 block of Gallagher.

**Thursday, March 1**

• At almost midnight a suspect was arrested for multiple traffic violations, being wanted on Hamtramck warrants and possessing narcotics.

• A car owner reported the theft of their catalytic convertor.

• A parent of a 7-year-old child reported an adult woman assaulted their child while in the 9600 block of Buffalo.

**Continued on page 8**

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Continued from page 7

- The city's director of Public Works was notified of a tree branch with heavy snow on that was about to break off and damage cars parked under it in the 11300 block of Gallagher.
- Friday, March 2**
- At 3:45 a.m. a suspect was arrested at a residence in the 3200 block of Yemens for domestic violence.
- A Detroit resident was arrested after a traffic stop on multiple misdemeanor and felony charges.
- A passport that was found was turned over to officers.
- A resident reported an assault between her and

her child's father.

- A Macomb resident reported his gun was stolen out of his vehicle that was parked in the 2600 block of Caniff.
- Saturday, March 3**
- A Detroit resident was arrested for drunk driving.
- A Detroit resident reported she was assaulted while in the 2100 block of Holbrook.
- Sunday, March 4**
- A Warren resident was arrested after a traffic stop for drunk driving.
- A resident reported someone broke out his car window.
- A resident was arrested for damaging prop-

erty in the 12000 block of Nagel.

**Monday, March 5**

- Two people were arrested after a traffic stop for being wanted on Hamtramck warrants.
- A resident in the 2700 block of Evaline reported someone threw a rock through their front window.
- A resident in the 3500 block of Caniff reported their 12-year-old son was missing. The child was carrying a "Despicable Me" backpack.
- A resident dropped off at the police station a debit card found in front of city hall.
- Officers took two reports of graffiti sprayed on garages in the 2600 block of Norwalk. A similar incident also occurred in the 2600 block of Edwin.

# City and school officials move forward on grant

By Charles Sercombe

Continuing in their new partnership, city and school officials have agreed to formally apply for a grant to improve their park spaces.

In a special joint meeting held at the library Monday evening, the city council and public school board passed a mutual resolution to ask the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation for a grant to fund a master plan for "green spaces" in the city.

This is the second time the two public bodies have met, the first being last December.

The Wilson Foundation is

seeking to increase play spaces and physical activities for kids to combat the growing problem of childhood obesity. Ralph Wilson is deceased and was the owner of the Buffalo Bills football team.

certs.

Hamtramck's Acting City Manager, Kathy Angerer, said the city will also seek other funding sources for its proposed projects.

In order to win a grant from the Wilson Founda-

**City and school officials held a joint meeting recently at the public library to take the next step to apply for a grant that will renovate parks and create more spaces for kids to be active.**

The grants being awarded by the foundation go to communities in southeast Michigan, where Wilson was from, and to Rochester, New York.

School Superintended Tom Niczay said it will cost about \$100,000 for a master plan to be completed. He said funding eventually could be in the millions of dollars to act on the plan.

On top of the wish list is to further improve Keyworth Stadium and to totally renovate Hamtramck's historic baseball stadium in Veterans Park.

The baseball stadium was once home to the Detroit Stars of the Negro National Baseball League in the 1930s. The plan is to make it a multi-purpose stadium that will host a number of sports activities as well and host entertainment events, such as con-

tion, the public schools and the city must join together.

That partnership has been rare throughout the city's recent history.

Niczay said applications are due by August and the city and school district should know by next October if they will be awarded a grant. Both Niczay and Angerer met with foundation representatives recently for about three hours, going over in detail what the foundation is looking for in a grant application.

Councilmember Ian Perrotta noted that the foundation is "tailor-made" for the school district and city.

"I think there's ... very little chance this will fail," he said.

Councilmember Anam Miah added that it's not a "two body effort – it's a one-table effort."

# Local control returns

Continued from page 4

sion obligations.

There are a number of police and fire retirees making upwards of \$40,000 a year. One fire retiree is being paid over \$100,000 a year.

During the state's supervision of the city, it paid for consultants to examine the pension obligation, but

those consultants could not find a solution to the problem.

State legislators have also tackled the issue without success. A number of other communities are also on the brink of financial collapse because of their pension costs.



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