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The Review

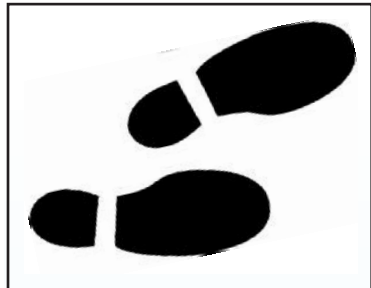
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Quick Hits

Get your walking shoes ready.

The newly-formed Hamtramck Walkers Alliance wants to get residents healthy and interacting this spring with a series of town hall-style walks that feature local officials and celebrities.

The one-to-two mile walks will run weekly on Thursday nights beginning at 6 p.m. April 16 and ending on May 21. The walks step off from Zussman Park in front of City Hall and wind their way through the streets of Hamtramck.

The first host of the evening will be Mayor Karen Majewski.

Here's the schedule for the rest of the season:

April 23: Community & Economic Development Director Kathy Angerer

April 30: Detroit City Football Club

May 7: Historian Greg Kowalski (meets at Hamtramck History Museum, 9525 Joseph Campau)

May 14: Councilman Anam Miah



Quote of the week ...

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

"We're expecting growth."

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Change in election law pushes up deadline for candidates to file

By Charles Sercombe

Thinking of running for city council this year?

If so, you have less than two weeks to file to be on the August Primary ballot. The deadline to file for one of three council seats is Tuesday, April 21.

To qualify, you must be a registered voter and a resident of the city. You must also either pay a \$100 filing fee or turn in a nominating petition with at least 40 signatures of Hamtramck voters, but no more than 100 valid signatures.

If the filing date seems earlier than usual, that's because state legislators recently passed a law bumping up the date by a few weeks.

If no more than six candidates sign up for the election there will be no need to hold a primary election in August. The primary whittles down the number of candidates to two per seat.

The runoff then happens in the November General Election.



Attention Hamtramck City Councilmember wannabes: Better hurry up and register as a candidate if you want to be a part of this year's election. The deadline to register is April 21, which is less than two weeks away. There are three seats on council up for election.

The councilmembers affected by the upcoming election are Anam Miah, Robert Zwolak and Abu Musa.

Councilmembers Zwolak and Musa say they are seeking re-election. Councilmember Miah could not be

reached for comment.

If past elections are any indication, there will likely be a number of candidates running this year. Former councilmember Cathie Gordon has already made it known she plans to run.

Previously, Gordon opted to challenge Mayor Karen Majewski instead of seeking another term on council. She came in fourth place out of four candidates in that election.

Continued on page 2

Hamtown's movers and shakers...



Author Greg Kowalski has written his eighth book on Hamtramck, and he has another one in the works.

by Charles Sercombe

Just when you think every aspect of Hamtramck has been written about, there's yet another book out on this very special city.

And to the surprise of no one, the author of the newest book on Hamtramck is Greg Kowalski, who has authored seven books on the city. He now has number eight out and it's called: "Modern Hamtramck," and it's part of a series that Arcadia Publishing is focusing on called: "Modern America."

The book is filled with photos of memorable events and places in the city. In a twist,

most of the photos are in color as opposed to the usual collection of black and white photos.

We asked Kowalski, who is also the Chairman of the Hamtramck Historical Commission and has been busy organizing the city's Historical Museum, to talk about his newest book.

Tell us a little about the latest Hamtramck book:

Kowalski: Modern Hamtramck is part of a new series of books being introduced by Arcadia. It features photos of towns from the 1950s to the

Continued on page 2

Deranged man tears up Clerk's Office

By Charles Sercombe

City Clerk August Gitschlag faced some terrifying moments on 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 declined to release the name of the man, and said he was subdued by several officers 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."

The clerk's assistant was not in the office at the time. Just what caused the man to become so enraged was not clear.

But Acting Police Chief Anne Moise said the man had called 911 that day. However, according to the 911 system the man was apparently calling from a residence in Detroit, not Hamtramck.

The man, described to be about 6-foot, 5-inches tall and in his 30s or 40s, was taken to Detroit Receiving Hospital where he is being observed. Moise said a detective will be assigned to the case to see if it warrants prosecution.

Gitschlag said the man told him "I've been trying to get a hold of you guys" when he burst into his office.

Continued on page 4

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Hamtown’s movers and shakers...

Continued from front page

present. What makes this book series different is that all the photos are in color, which is something new for Arcadia and relatively unusual for historical books. Most historical photos are in black and white. This book focuses on people, events and businesses of the past and reflects the evolving nature of the city. This book is slightly shorter than a typical Arcadia book because the production costs of color material is greater. But color brings a whole new perspective to a photo. It makes it come alive.

How long does it take you to put this together? Any special challenges?

Kowalski: It typically takes about three months to do an Arcadia photo book. There are always challenges. The first is organization. How do you determine the chapters? Do you have enough photos to create a chapter? Can they be arranged in a logical order? Usually, the organization of the book is more difficult than writing the copy. Arcadia is very particular in its structure. Photos captions are of a certain length, the introduction has a length limitation. There is a set number of pages that have to be filled. You're limited to the number of photos per page, etc. All that has to be taken into ac-

count when preparing the book. Photos have to be scanned in a certain way and some types of photos are not acceptable. That being said, Arcadia is really great to work with. They do an excellent printing job, and I have enjoyed working with them on all my books. The second challenging is assembling the material. Chapters have to be defined and laid out in a logical format. The third challenge is writing the copy. That involves research and digging through the archives of the Hamtramck Historical Museum. Fortunately, I have been assembling archives on various aspects of the city since 1998 when the Historical Commission was formed. We now have thousands of files on people, places, events, businesses, schools, churches, etc. in our archives. This makes research vastly easier.

What prompted you to put this together?

Kowalski: I was asked by Arcadia if I would be interested in doing the book. I thought it was an intriguing idea, but first wanted to make sure there were enough color photos to fill a book. Checking in our archives I found plenty of material.

Leo Kirpluk is credited for taking many of the photos,

can you tell us something about him?

Kowalski: Leo was a wonderful man. I first met him when I was Editor of The Citizen newspaper back in the 1970s. He would attend city council meetings, and I got to know him. He was thoroughly dedicated to the community and fought to improve it all the time. Persons like him have helped maintain the strength of Hamtramck. He also was an excellent photographer – and just an all-around nice guy. I have his photo on my refrigerator at home as a reminder of how much one person can affect a whole community. I truly miss him.

Any favorite photos in this collection?

Kowalski: I love them all, but on Page 63 is a simple photo of the Hamtramck Historical Museum. To be able to have a photo of our museum – and I mean the historical museum for all of Hamtramck – is a symbol of enormous achievement and the fulfillment of a dream. I am immensely proud that Hamtramck now has its own historical museum.

Looking through this, you'd think Hamtramck was jam-packed with activities. What makes Hamtramck so special?

Kowalski: People. A city is

made up of people, and in that respect Hamtramck is no different than any other city. But here there is an extraordinary number of people who have a true community spirit. They love this city. Hamtramck has a remarkable ability to draw you into it. I discovered this when I was with The Citizen. It has an almost mystical lure that makes you want to be a part of it. Sometimes this can even be overwhelming. But it generates a fierce loyalty. And, incidentally, Hamtramck is jam-packed with activities. There is always some festival or event of some sort going on. These help breathe life into the community and sustain it. We never want to stand still.

Any plans for more books on Hamtramck, and if so, what subjects? If you have no immediate plans for another Hamtramck book, are you working on something else?

Kowalski: I am working on a new book on Prohibition in Hamtramck now for The History Press, a sister company of Arcadia. It will be published either late this year or early next year. I also have plans for three more Hamtramck books, but no timetable for them yet. I need to focus on the Hamtramck Historical Museum in the immediate future. We are initiating a series of programs to carry through the summer and fall. The whole Historical Commission is working on that but it is a major undertaking. The museum is a full-time job in itself. Other books by Greg Kowalski: Hamtramck: The Driven City Hamtramck: Soul of a City Hamtramck: The World War II Years Hamtramck Then and Now Wicked Hamtramck Legendary Locals of Hamtramck Modern Hamtramck All are available at the Hamtramck Historical Museum, the Polish Art Center, Pure Detroit, Barnes & Noble, Sam's Club, Costco and elsewhere.

Change in election law pushes up deadline for candidates to file

Continued from front page

No matter who wins this time around, there is little political power for city officials. The long arm of the state is pretty much in control of the city, which emerged from a financial emergency about three months ago. The former emergency manager left behind a set of directives that leaves all management power in the hands of the city manager and the state Transition Advisory Board. It's not known how long the state advisory board will remain in control of financial spending. The role of mayor and council has been relegated to that of ceremonial duties. That po-

sition has rubbed some councilmembers the wrong way, but so far none have challenged the final directives. In other election news, there will be a state ballot issue for voters to decide on May 5. The state is proposing to raise the sales tax to raise money for needed road repairs. While some communities have piggybacked on that special election to hold their own proposals, Hamtramck has nothing else on the ballot. According to various polls, the road repair tax is being overwhelmingly rejected by voters despite the support of Gov. Rick Snyder.

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Make & Take Workshop

- Wednesday, April 1 at 4 p.m. All children are invited to an arts and crafts workshop. This week's theme is "Youth Art."

Meeting of the Library Board

- Thursday, April 16 at 6 p.m. Regular meeting of the Library Board will be held in the auditorium. Open to the public.

Movie Night at the Library

- Wednesday, April 15 at 6:30 p.m. This week's movie "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade." Enjoy the movie theater atmosphere with the big screen projection, surround sound, popcorn and refreshments.

Family Story Time for Children

- Thursday, April 16, at 6 p.m. Join your friends at the library for a reading of a storybook for children "The Paperbag Princess." This is part of the Michigan Reads Program.

Children's Movie Night

- Tuesday, April 13 at 4 p.m. All children are invited to see a movie shown on high definition screen and enjoy a serving of popcorn. This week's feature is "Bears."

Common Word Alliance of Hamtramck

- Monday, April 27 at 7 p.m. The Hamtramck Common Word Alliance will hold its monthly meeting at the Library. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is invited.

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

City’s new five-year budget plan includes deficit spending

By Charles Sercombe

While Hamtramck has emerged from a financial crisis that required state intervention, its future is still questionable. Recently, 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. The five-year projection is called a "rolling budget" because a lot can change in those years, said Powell. In fact, she expects finances to continue on an upswing. "We're expecting growth," Powell said. "Revenue will

increase." And just how will that happen? 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 this summer, the city expects 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 will increase from \$5.7 million to \$6 million by 2019-20. Despite these expected increases, the city will cut into its budget surplus by about \$700,000. The largest cost out of the city's annual \$16 million budget goes to public safety, which by the end of five years will amount to \$7 million a year for the police and fire departments. Another large cost goes toward maintaining the city's pension fund, which will increase from \$3.2 million to \$4 million a year by 2019-20. While Powell is upbeat

about the city's financial future, Councilmember Robert Zwolak, who has been with the city administration on and off since the 1980s, interprets this projection as being "pessimistic down the line." Zwolak and others on council were upset about not being included in drafting the five-year budget. Councilmember Anam Miah said at a recent work session that the council did not even know a five-year budget had been drawn up. He questioned what's in it. "Are you going to cut city hall in half? We want to be included," Miah said when told about the budget projection.

Trees are not the only thing that bloom in spring

By Charles Sercombe

Every year around this time it comes up. Once the snow melts away for the season, it exposes huge amounts of litter on the streets and in our yards. Too many people apparently think it's OK to toss litter into the streets. And that goes for businesses as well. Just check our alleys along the commercial districts and you'll see mounds and mounds of trash thrown out by business owners. By the far the biggest culprit appears to be Rent-A-



Litter can be found just about everywhere in Hamtramck, including in the alleys in the business districts where certain business owners don't seem to mind allowing their trash to pile over dumpsters. Photo by Robert Zwolak

Center on Jos. Campau just south of Caniff. They throw out so much garbage it spills over their dumpster and into the alley. City Councilmember Continued on page 4



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Trees are not the only thing that bloom in spring

Continued from page 3

Robert Zwolak said he’s been walking the alleys to record the location of pot-holes and recently stumbled on the garbage thrown out by Rent-A-Center.

“Where’s code enforcement?” he asked. “No one is going to pick up this mess.”

If Zwolak were in charge, he would order police officers to go after code viola-

tions while they patrol the city.

“Police officers are authorized to enforce every ordinance in the city,” he said. “They should write them a ticket and see you in court.”

In a related note, street sweeping will begin next Thursday. City Manager Katrina Powell said the city’s main streets and emergency routes will be swept on

Thursdays but only for a total of no more than seven times.

Side streets will be cleaned on Mondays. A schedule of street sweepings will be released soon, Powell said.

Powell also told The Review that she is thinking of hiring part-timers to pick up litter on sidewalks in the business district.



Kosciusko Middle School News

The curriculum night for Science was a success.

For those that missed it here’s a recap of what was shared with parents. Mr. Maher shared 10 websites to assist parents and students: from Astronomy oriented “Amazing Space”, to Edmodo, to BrainPop, to Chem4Kids, to others.

Mr. Brennan also shared some science websites: sciencespot.net, biology4kids and kids://usa.gov. All of the websites may be accessed by logging on to the HPS Home Page, then clicking the following: Schools, Kosciusko Middle School, Useful Websites, and https://edu.symboloo.com/mix.kmssciencebookmarks.

Not to be outdone, Mr. Dobryn shared about LEGO Digital Designer, a program that allows users to design and build their own LEGO creations in a virtual environment. The program can be downloaded at lld.lego.com.

Kosciusko is proud to announce its students of the month for the month of April: Maher Aiyash, Dolah Algaheim, Mona Almathrahi, YaQoob Alwageeh, Nedim Basic, Mahnaz Begum, Medina Besirevic, Mariam Hasan, Anyra Hayes, Mahia Hossan, Medin Husic, Omor Jabber, Jesse Lee, Fadel Muthana, Aseel Obad, Md Rumman, Ashna Sarfraz, Brianna Walker and DeShawn Williams.

All Schools

- Monday, April 13 – School Resumes

Dickinson East Elementary School

- Wednesday, April 15 – Gleaners Food Bank at 8 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 15 – Honor Roll Party for grades Kindergarten-3rd from 3:15-4:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 16 – Honor Roll Party for grades 4th -6th from 3:15-4:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 16 Dolphin of the Month party from 1:30-3 p.m.

Upcoming Events

- Monday, April 20 – No school for students. Teacher In-Service Day.

Holbrook Elementary School

- Tuesday, April 21 – Holbrook Elementary is having a Kindergarten Round Up from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Parents can register their children who are eligible for Kindergarten next fall and learn about the program.
- Tuesday, April 21 – Holbrook Elementary is having a Gizmos Math night from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

- Wednesday, April 22 –

Awards Ceremony grades Kindergarten-4th grade from 12:30-1:15 p.m. and grades 5th-8th from 1:15-2 p.m.

- Wednesday, April 22 – PTA Earth Day Activities at 2 p.m.

Horizon Alternative High School

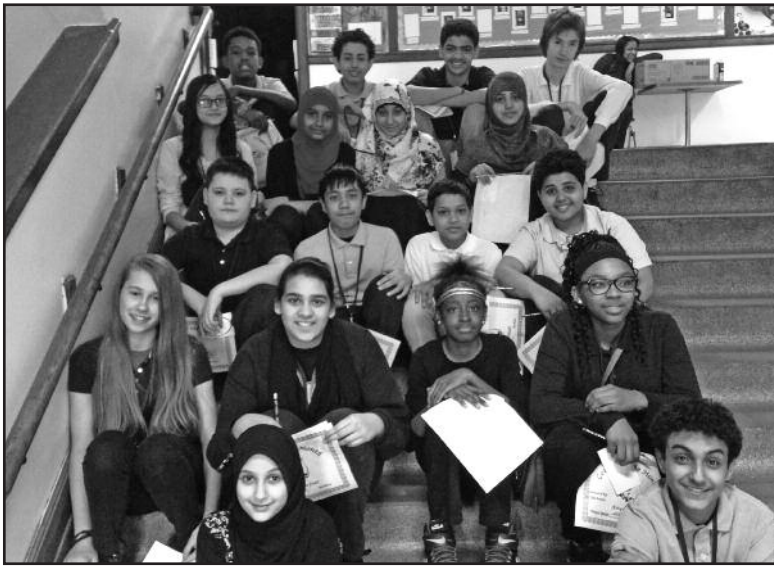
- Friday, April 24 – Half day for students.

Kosciusko Middle School

- Tuesday, April 28 – 4th Annual April Poetry Blast and English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum night from 4:30-6 p.m. The poetry blast showcases amazing student talent through poetry. Also, during the ELA curriculum part of the night you will learn strategies and tips to help your child read more and increase their reading rate. A book give-away is featured along with refreshments.

Kosciusko Middle School and Dickinson West Elementary School

- Tuesday, April 28 – Parent Care Association Meeting from 3:15-4 p.m.



The Kosciusko Middle School students of the month pose for a photo.

Deranged man tears up Clerk’s Office

Continued from front page

That could have been a reference to his calls to the Police Department. The Police Department is also located in City Hall, but off to the side of the front entrance.

Dispatchers at the Police Department’s front office are protected by a full glass window.

The City Clerk’s Office is the first office most visitors encounter when entering city hall. Most offices on the ground floor of city hall, except the Treasurer’s Office, have open windows for clerks to communicate with the public.

The administrative wing of offices on the third floor of city hall is sealed off by a locked glass door.

City Manager Katrina Powell said she has no immediate plans to change the security policy in city hall.

“I’m not a believer of making changes that affect a multitude of people, based on one incident,” Powell said in an email in response to a question posed by The Review.

“However, we will be establishing a plan internally on how to deal with situations, such as this, in the event something should happen again in the future.”

Powell has had experience with scary situations with the public in a prior role as a city administrator in Longwood, Florida. It was reported that Powell installed a security door to her wing of offices after a large man visited her unannounced while she was alone and made salacious remarks about her looks.

That security door became her undoing. City officials later cited that door for one reason they forced her to resign, saying it symbolized her isolation from officials.

If it were up to Councilmember Robert Zwolak, there would be one immediate addition made to Hamtramck City Hall. He is resubmitting a proposal to post a sign in front of city hall that says firearms are not allowed inside.

He proposed that in recent weeks but received no sup-

port from his colleagues on council.

Although the man in Tuesday’s incident was not armed, Zwolak said there are a number of departments with open windows and that employees are vulnerable to an attack.

“People are desperate, and many are in dire straits,” Zwolak said. “They are being hammered with taxes and water bills.”

Plus, he said, no guns are permitted in Detroit’s municipal center.

Tuesday’s incident also had some wondering if anything like that happened before in city hall.

Greg Kowalski, the Chairman of the Hamtramck Historical Commission and a former Editor of The Citizen, said he remembers only two incidents of note.

“I once saw Bob Kozaren’s assistant toss a guy out the front door,” Kowalski said in regard to the former mayor. “And I mean toss. The guy flew. And there was a guy who peed in a voting booth.”



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 March 23, and all councilmembers were present. Before the regular council meeting a work session was held.

Councilmember Robert Zwolak asked for a breakdown on legal fees paid to the city attorney. He also suggested hiring Hamtramck High School to do graphics and printing for the city when it’s needed.

Councilmember Mohammed Hassan asked for the amount paid in legal fees for the Steve Shaya lawsuit against the city and city officials. (Shaya is the former Director of Public Works.)

Hassan was told the city has spent \$50,000-\$60,000 in the Shaya lawsuit so far. He was also told

that there are five legal matters involving Shaya.

It was also brought to light that Shaya had delayed submitting to a deposition, claiming he is suffering from stress and has heart issues. The judge in the case, according to City Manager Katrina Powell, has ordered Shaya to show medical proof of his ailments.

“The judge does not believe him,” Powell said.

Councilmember Zwolak questioned whether the city is getting the best price for gasoline service for the city’s fleet of vehicles. He was told that former Emergency Manager Cathy Square selected the vendors for that service and that it was not bid out.

Zwolak also said he wants to review some of the directives set by the former emergency manager. He also questioned City Manager Powell’s changing of the council’s agenda format.

Powell said the city charter gives her and the mayor the sole authority to set the council agenda.

Councilmember Anam Miah said it’s not about what agenda items the council will consider, but the structure of the agenda. Miah said the council previously allowed the public to comment at two points in the meeting. Now, he said, Powell streamlined it to only once during the meeting.

Miah said it’s the council’s desire to “engage our public.”

Powell said the mayor can always suspend the rules of the council and allow the public to speak a second time.

Councilmember Zwolak

said that an advantage to allowing the public to speak twice, once at the beginning and once at the end, is that sometimes the public gives the council new insight on a subject that had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

There have been instances, he said, where the council reconsidered a vote based on input from the public.

Mayor Karen Majewski said that if a member of the public has something to say about a council issue, they can wait to speak at the next council meeting.

Councilmember Miah questioned why Powell submitted a five-year “rolling” budget to the state Transition Advisory Board but not the council. He also criticized her for not involving the council in creating the budget.

He questioned what’s in it.

“Are you going to cut city hall in half? We want to be included,” he said.

Miah also suggested the council put together a list of final directives set by the former emergency manager that they object to.

Powell offered to talk with state officials to see what format they want the concerns to be in. Miah said he suspects that waiting for the state’s input will only delay the issue for months.

During the regular council meeting Councilmember Zwolak noticed that according to the Police Department’s daily incident reports, there has been an increase in the number of car crashes.

He said the city has a lot of “blind spots,” especially

Continued on page 6



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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

While Hamtramck stalls, opportunity goes up in smoke

Hamtramck sure can be slow when it comes to getting business done. While it is no one person's fault, the city has taken a long, long time in adopting regulations that would permit medical marijuana dispensaries to open here. For one reason or another, the issue has been punted by a number of folks. The former emergency manager refused to touch the issue for the 18 months she was here. Before then, city officials couldn't agree on where to allow the dispensaries to operate, which was the initial reason why it went nowhere. A new city manager has been on the job for less than three months and it's understandable this might not be on the top of her list of things to do. In the meantime, just about every other city has opened their doors to dispensaries and is enjoying the benefits of having new businesses operate and contribute taxes. In Hamtramck, we continue to wait. For Hamtramck commercial building owners, who can't find businesses to set up shop, it's a loss of rental income. If you take a drive down Jos. Campau and throughout town you will see many empty storefronts and buildings. Many of them could easily have been filled by now if only there was a legal way to open a dispensary here. Other cities have done this without fuss. So why are we still waiting in Hamtramck? Setting up permit regulations for dispensaries may not be urgent, but it is something that can be very easily accomplished in a matter of a few weeks. It's not rocket science. This type of business is legal and many other cities have made it easy to open shop. Let's make it something at least near a priority to get this accomplished once and for all and move on.

Odds & Ends

We're all family ... The Hamtramck Historical Museum will host a program on "The Family – The Glue of our Society," at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 16, at the Museum, 9525 Jos. Campau, between Poland and Norwalk streets. The program is sponsored by the Interfaith Center for Counseling and Coaching, under the direction of Fr. Lawrence Ventline. Fr. Ventline will discuss the importance of the family structure. As part of the program, Greg Kowalski, of the Hamtramck Historical Museum, will present a PowerPoint presentation on the family from a historical perspective. All are welcome. It's free. For information, call the Interfaith Center at (313) 530-2777. Email lawrence-matthewventline@gmail.com.

Good deal ... Hey foodies, here's a deal you can't beat. This Sunday, April 12, PLAV Post 10 is holding another all-you-can-eat breakfast for a mere \$6 donation. It gets better: There will also be a Bloody Mary Bar as well. All of this happens from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Post 10 hall is located at 11824 Jos. Campau.

Arts celebration ... Get ready to get your art fix. Detroit is the canvas for Art X Detroit: Kresge Arts Experience, a free celebration of Detroit's thriving arts scene, happening now and staged over three weekends in April (April 9–12, 16–19, 25–26) in Midtown, Down-

town and Eastern Market. The public is invited to experience visual art installations, dance, musical and theatrical performances, film screenings, literary readings, workshops and more, featuring the works of the nearly 40 Kresge Eminent Artists and Artist Fellows at 20 cultural venues across the city. Art X Detroit features Eminent Artists from 2013 and 2014, including Michigan Opera Theatre founder and acclaimed composer David DiChiera (2013 Eminent Artist) and iconic Detroit photographer and educator Bill Rauhauser (2014 Eminent Artist). For a full schedule of events and list of artists, go online to: www.artxdetroit.com.

Letters • Letters

Hamtramck school science teacher deserves praise

Congratulations to the Science and Engineering Fair of Metro Detroit winners from the Hamtramck Public Schools. Among them I was happy to see the names of former students in the paper. They are fortunate to have had Mrs. Eva Klikovac as their coordinator and coach for all her long extra hours devoted to their successful projects. Mrs. Klikovac was recognized as Science Teacher of the Year for 2014 by the Detroit Council of Engineers and will pass the torch to another honoree in May. See the website for more: www.sefmd.org

Ms. A. Henneau
Retired Hamtramck teacher

Metro news ...

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

Deciding where to locate a new business is a monumental decision, one that will often determine a business's fate. That's why the Build Institute has partnered with the Detroit Experience Factory to offer a series of monthly tours that will take prospective shop owners through a number of neighborhoods, introducing them to landlords of available properties, neighborhood officials and representatives, and current business owners nearby. Providing historical and cultural context will also be a focus. It's called Open Shop, and the series of commercial real estate tours is a way for Build and DXF to play matchmakers between new businesses and area landlords and property owners. The first Open Shop is April 18th from 1 to 4 p.m. and takes place in Hamtramck. Additional tours are scheduled for the following months, including commercial districts in Southwest Detroit, Jefferson East, Northwest Detroit, and along the Woodward Corridor. Jessica Meyer is director of programs with Build Institute and helped develop the tour. It initially grew out of the requests of a number of Build grads who wanted to open their business in a storefront but didn't know where to start. Even knowing the neighborhood or commercial corridor in which they want to open isn't enough. "It's difficult to get a run-down of what's available where and who owns what,"

says Meyer. "This is a great opportunity to introduce people to each other." The Hamtramck Downtown Development Authority jumped at the chance to be the first Open Shop destination. The DDA will introduce tour-takers to people like the Economic Development Director and others who can offer help in opening a business in Hamtramck. The DDA is also offering to cover the Hamtramck business registration fee for the first two businesses from the tour to move to the city, a value of \$100 each. In addition to meeting landlords and pre-existing business owners, the tour will also stop at Hamtramck Historical Museum and Tekla Vintage, both graduates of Build programming. Tickets are available online at <http://buildinstitute.org/program/build-next/>

Writer: MJ Galbraith

Public gives thumbs up for Hamtramck 31st District Court

By Mike Murphy
Special to The Review

According to a 2014 State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) survey, most 31st District Court customers are walking away satisfied. And while all of the customers may not be smiling after their court visits, an overwhelming majority concede that they are being treated with respect by the court staff (95 percent) and feel that their cases are being handled fairly by the judges and magistrates (88 percent). Most court users (96 percent) also say that they are able to get their business done in a reasonable amount of time at the 31st District Court. Court officials say that the Hamtramck court ranks well above the state average in all three categories and attribute the positive results of the survey to the emphasis Chief Judge Paul Paruk places on customer service.

As part of its customer service effort, the court launched www.31stdistrictcourt.net in January and recently added the info@31stdistrictcourt.net email address as a means for customers to provide feedback and suggestions on how the court can continue to improve. The complete results of the survey can be found on the court's website.

Between the lines ... east meets west

By Charles Sercombe

Let's call this a Hamtramck story. But first some background. For those who have lived here a number of years, the fact that we are a multi-ethnic town is not new, and often we kind of take it for granted. You live on a block where, say, a family from Bosnia is across the street, another is from Albania, another from Poland, and more from Bangladesh and Yemen. All of this multi-diversity can fade into the background as we all have our own lives to lead. And often we don't have too much interaction with folks from other countries and cultures other than the occasional "Hello." We all tend to keep to ourselves, our family and friends. Every once and a while though, the city's diversity reveals itself in ways that can be profound. Let's take one of our friends, a former city official who is searching for a new career, but is tight on money and maybe even feeling a little blue. He asked that we not identify him and instead concentrate on the story he related to us. Here's how it goes. Recently, our friend went to a

local bank to withdraw \$650 to pay rent. Now that's a nice chunk of change but when you're super tight on money "it might as well be \$65,000," he said. After that he went to Al-Haramain International Food at Caniff and Gallagher to get a few items. He paid for them, left the store and got into his car. Out of the corner of his eye he saw a familiar face, an older gentleman who works at the market. The employee, whose name is Abdul, seemed to motion to him, so our friend didn't pull out of the parking lot. Abdul

Continued on page 6

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City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 4

near corners. He asked for a traffic and parking study.

City Manager Powell said traffic studies are normally only done in conjunction with a development plan.

"Without that, I don't see a reason for one," Powell said.

Powell said, however, that a parking study is "in the pipeline."

Councilmember Abu Musa questioned why there is parking on only one side of the street in a portion of Gallagher.

Fire Chief Paul Wilk said it used to be that way when the former North Detroit Hospital was in operation.

A lengthy discussion took place over ongoing contract negotiations with the Police Department's two unions.

Councilmember Miah said he was surprised to hear that negotiations are still taking place.

He said the emergency manager claimed the contracts were settled.

Councilmember Hassan questioned who will OK the final contracts. Powell said it's her decision to make.

Upon hearing that, Councilmember Miah said: "Why are we here?"

Councilmember Hassan said the council wants to have input on the contracts.

Powell said the contract talks have to do with consolidating the language in them, not about salaries.

Miah complained about the council being "lied" to by the state and being "kept in the dark."

Between the lines ... east meets west

Continued from page 5

ambled up to the car and asked our friend if he "lost" something.

Now it should be noted that our friend was not feeling so well.

"My head was in the clouds," he told us.

So, looking into his wallet he didn't notice anything missing, thanked the man and took off, despite Abdul persisting in trying to spark a thought.

It wasn't until three days later that our friend noticed the missing \$650. Now he remembered the money was not in his wallet, but in his pocket.

So, it made sense now that Abdul was questioning him, and our friend returned to the market. Abdul, though, apparently wanted to make sure the money belonged to our friend and asked him for a description.

Our friend thought for a minute and remembered it was all in 50 and 100 bills.

Abdul insisted on a more detailed description and our friend said the bills were folded over and that there "X" number of 50s and "X" number of 100s.

That was still not good enough for Abdul, so he told our friend to think harder and

call him later that day or the next.

At this point our friend came to terms with his loss. He did everything he could, and now was time to get over it. Move on. Learn your lesson.

But he thought more, and called Abdul one more time. He nailed down the exact number of 50s and 100s he had been carrying.

Abdul told him to come to the market the next day. When they met again, Abdul confided that his spiritual leader told him he is obligated to hold on to his finding for one year and during this time it was his duty to locate its proper owner.

Abdul asked again for a description, and they talked some small talk. Abdul revealed that he, too, is barely scraping by. Abdul then pulled out the wad of money from his pocket, except it's nothing like how our friend remembers.

The money is not folded in half, but folded twice with a rubber band around it.

How could our friend not remember it was folded up that way? Well, keep in mind that when our friend originally got the money from the bank he wasn't himself and wasn't thinking about what he did with

the money.

He couldn't even remember he put it in his pocket let alone had folded it up and put a rubber band around it.

Anyway, the money was now back in his hands. Our friend is somewhere between shock and disbelief. He fanned out the bills and said to Abdul: "Take as much as you want as a gift from me to you."

"I was full of gratitude," our friend told us.

Abdul refused, no matter how many times our friend insisted.

Our friend didn't want to nag and possibly offend Abdul, so he goes home and began reflecting.

Here are two Hamtramck people, both from far-away worlds. In our friend's case, he is an immigrant from Poland. In Abdul's case he could be either from Yemen or Bangladesh.

East meets west.

Abdul could have very easily pocketed the money and never approached our friend in the parking lot when the money was originally lost. Abdul apparently only had a hunch that it belonged to our friend and wanted to make sure it got back to the rightful owner.

After all, it was what his spiritual advisor said must be done.

Our friend was profoundly affected. There are a lot of things going on in his life, and he's looking for a sign, something that will guide him to the next chapter in his life.

You know how they say that when one door closes another opens up?

Yeah, that happens, but in many cases it takes a long time before that next door opens, and then sometimes it opens just by a crack, ready to be slammed shut.

Our friend still had intentions to see that Abdul was properly rewarded. He asked Abdul's employer if he could give him some money that could be included in Abdul's check, but the employer declined.

It was explained that the Muslim faith requires that even if after a year of finding the person who lost the money comes up empty, the money must then be donated to someone in need.

In the meantime, our friend, who remember is between jobs and short on cash, is thinking:

"This experience will stay with me for the rest of my life," he says.

East meets west. Two cultures. One city.

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By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers March 31-April 6.

Tuesday, March 31

- At almost 11 p.m. a man driving in the 3300 block of Holbrook said his car window was shot out. He told officers he thought there were two men involved.
- At about 12:30 a.m. a person reported a break-in to their residence.
- At about 5 a.m. officers arrested a man for breaking into a car in the 3000 block of Yemans.
- A man was arrested following a traffic stop for driving without a license.
- A man reported seeing a man dressed in dark clothing and driving a red four-door car steal a metal cutter out of a business in the 3000 block of Hamtramck Dr. The witness was able to get the license plate number of the suspect.
- A person reported that a delivery driver lost his money order and that the money order was later cashed by someone.
- A Detroit resident was arrested following a traffic stop for driving without a license and possessing an open intoxicant. Another Detroit resident was arrested for driving without a license, and it was noted the driver had been cited for driving without a license 51 times before.

Wednesday, April 1

- Officers assisted the FBI in arresting a wanted fugitive who ran away from a residence in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
- Officers were flagged down by a person regarding a

case of domestic violence that occurred in the 2400 block of Holbrook. The suspect was gone before officers arrived.

- A Fleming resident reported someone used their identity information to file a tax return.

- A resident in the 12000 block of Klinger reported someone stole two tool boxes that had been stored in their enclosed porch.

- At about 6:30 p.m. a homeowner in the 2900 block of Roosevelt encountered a suspect in their house, who then fled out the back door. The suspect was described as a man in his 30s, scruffy looking, wearing faded blue jeans and had shoulder-length hair that was slicked back.

- A resident was arrested following a traffic stop for possessing prescription drugs that were obtained by fraud.

Thursday, April 2

- At 11:45 p.m. a person was arrested for assault and battery following a disturbance in the 12000 block of Dyar.
- A woman reported someone used her name to open a DTE Energy account without her permission.
- A man was arrested for carrying a concealed gun without a permit and obstruction when he was stopped in the Yemans alley west of Brombach.
- A Detroit woman reported she found her stolen car parked in the 9400 block of McDougall, where her ex-boyfriend lives.
- A Detroit resident was arrested for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant following an investigation of an intoxicated man in the 9400 block of Gallagher.

- Three Detroit residents were arrested following a traffic stop for possessing narcotic paraphernalia, possessing open intoxicants and being wanted on a felony warrant.
- A Charest resident reported someone used their identity information to open a DTE Energy account in Hazel Park.

Friday, April 3

- Three people were arrested following a traffic stop for possessing narcotic paraphernalia.
- A Fleming resident reported a house break-in.
- At almost midnight a man was arrested for domestic violence after assaulting his wife in their residence.
- At 7 a.m. a business owner in the 12000 block of

Jos. Campau reported a break-in.

- A man reported the theft of his 1995 Ford Econoline from the 3900 block of Caniff.

- A resident reported someone broke into his car and stole two skateboards while the car was parked in the 3500 block of Caniff.

- The Police Department's SWAT team conducted a search at a residence in the 2200 block of Danforth. Three suspects were arrested.

- A resident of McDougall reported seeing two men shake the doors and windows of a neighbor's house. The owner of the house was away.

- A Detroit resident was arrested on a warrant for embezzlement.

Saturday, April 4

- At almost 5 a.m. a person was arrested for driving drunk.

- At 11:30 a.m. a person was arrested for being disorderly while in the 9600 block of Jos. Campau.

- A Danforth resident was arrested for hit and run after striking several vehicles in the Glory Supermarket parking lot.

- A resident on Poland reported a woman she does not know entered her residence and stole her purse.

- Firefighters and officers investigated an arson fire in the 11300 block of Nagel. The suspect in the case was described as a tall man wearing a grey hoodie and dark pants.

Sunday, March 5

- An armed robbery was reported at 3 a.m. in the 3300 block of Edwin. The suspect was described as a man in his 20s, about 5-foot, 3-inches tall, wearing a dark grey hoodie and red and blue cap.

- A resident reported someone damaged the front window of his residence in the 11300 block of Lumpkin.

Monday, April 6

- At 12:15 a.m. a resident was arrested following a traffic stop for driving without a license and being wanted on a warrant.

- At 1:45 a.m. two Detroit men and two Detroit women were arrested following a traffic stop. The driver was arrested for driving with a suspended license and the passengers were arrested for refusing to leave the scene and fighting with officers.

- A representative for Caniff Electric reported someone spray-painted "WTF" on the side of the company's building.

- A representative from Huntington Bank reported damage to a door leading to the ATM machine.

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lawrencemattthewventline@gmail.com

Coming events

SATURDAY, April 11, 9-3 p.m. – Hamtramck's Recycle Center is open at Caniff and McDougall. Drop off your recyclables for free.

WEDNESDAY, April 15, 7 p.m. – Join the Midtown Block Club! Attend our next scheduled meeting in St. Florian's convent, 2626 Florian, across from the church. A guest speaker will participate in our discussion. We meet the third Wednesday of each month. The Midtown Block Club works for promoting community safety, stewardship, service and social events. Add your voice on any neighborhood concern.

Obituaries

JACOBS

Dennis Jacobs, 67, died April 7, 2015.

Mr. Jacobs was the beloved husband of Victoria. Mr. Jacobs is survived by his son, Charles David Wilson Sr.; grandson, Charles Jr.

Visitation is Friday from 3 – 8 p.m. at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home. Mr. Jacobs will

lie in state Saturday at 9:30 a.m. at Transfiguration Catholic Church until the time of the funeral Mass at 10. Interment will be at Sacred Heart Cemetery.



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The lore of Hamtramck ...

Preparing for the big blast

By Greg Kowalski

How's this for a headline: "Hamtramck First A-Bomb Target, Washington Tells City Officials."

That disquieting pronouncement was at the top of The Citizen newspaper back on May 10, 1950. The story below noted "Hamtramck is in the heart of the nation's No. 1 target for atom bombs, and the defense against the potential bombing rests squarely on the shoulders of the city it-

self."

Gee, sometimes being No. 1 isn't the best. The threat originated from a meeting Common Councilpersons Martin Dulapa, Henry Kozak and Julia Rooks, along with City Engineer I.M. Kopkowski and Civilian Defense Director Anna Winkler, had with officials in Washington D.C., as the threat of nuclear war with the Soviet Union simmered.

The Hamtramck crew heard an address given by

President Harry Truman and met with Congressman Thaddeus Machrowicz and Senator Blair Moody. They also made a side trip to Baltimore where they studied that city's civil defense system.

What put Hamtramck squarely in the crosshairs of the Reds was Dodge Main, along with all the other factories that dotted Detroit at the time. In World War II, metro Detroit showed the world that it was the Arsenal of Democracy as auto factories turned from producing cars to war materiel in staggering numbers.

But all of that could be wiped out by just a couple of big H-bombs.

The challenge was in how to deal with the effects of an attack. Little Hamtramck could not stop the Commies from flattening us, but it could take steps to deal with the aftermath. That led to a revitalization of the city's Civil Defense program. Civil Defense had been initiated during World War II when there were real fears that the Germans were going to bomb the city by sending planes from Germany to Norway to Greenland and down onto us.

During the war Civil Defense officers patrolled the city during black out tests to ensure that no stray light was being emitted to make us an easier target. They also reinforced the message that the threat of an attack was serious.

Following the war, Russia replaced the Germans as our greatest threat, and they were armed with much more potent weapons. Atomic weapons. Sure, we had them too, but no one wanted to have to pick up the pieces

of an all-out atomic war, if anyone was left to do that.

Still, preparations had to be made. This was a time when the country was becoming obsessed with the Red Scare. Commies were being rooted out of places in town, like the old Workman's Hall on Yemens and the Workman's International Co-Op restaurant, which was founded in the 1920s by local Communists. Today the building houses Polonia Restaurant.

Through the 1950s and into the 1960s, periodic programs focused on the threat of an atomic attack. The Civil Defense system was designed to provide a coordinated way to respond to an attack. CD officers learned such things as administering first aid, monitoring radiation, fire-fighting and rescue operations.

An elaborate organizational structure was developed linking the city into the county and state response and support system. Technically, the CD system could be activated to respond to any emergency, such as a fire or big storm. But the focus really was on The Bomb.

Well, as you might have guessed by now, no bombs ever fell on us, although the threat of a nuclear attack, especially by terrorists, still remains. But we're not as big of a target as before. Many of the major auto factories, including Dodge Main, are gone, as is the Soviet Union. Whether the Russia that replaced it is still a nuclear threat to us remains

to be seen.

But if it is, we can always reactivate the Civil Defense program.

You can see a genuine Civil Defense officer's helmet along with a period gas mask at the Hamtramck Historical Museum, 9525 Jos. Campau. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and by appointment. Call (313) 893-5027.

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ON THE ROAD WITH THE VENT-Line Interfaith Center, 2231 Caniff: Open House, Sunday, April 12, 2-4 pm

- "The family is the core of our society. It predates nations and government. Without it there would be virtual chaos." **For more, listen to Greg Kowalski, Thursday, April 16, 7 pm** in the Hamtramck Historical Museum, 9225 Jos. Campau.
- Grief Growth Group, Wednesday, April 22, 4 pm** in the Hamtramck Public Library.
- "Does Religion Matter, Anyway?" **Thursday, April 23, 5:30 pm** in the Hamtramck Public Library with Rev. Dr. Lawrence Ventline and responders.
- Oakmont Senior Facility, on 18 Mile/w. of Ryan, Sterling Hts., **3 pm Mass every Saturday, WELCOME!**
Jail Mass, 1 pm, Mondays, Macomb. Call for clearance.
- Saint Anne Church by Ambassador Bridge, 8:30 am Mass Sundays.** "The Kingdom of God is within you," said Jesus. Help me, God, to live it in love. Amen.
- The public is welcome to a presentation on Poland, Thursday, April 30, 6 pm** in the Hamtramck Public Library, 2360 Caniff Ave. Want to join me for a pilgrimage to Poland? Come hear a presentation April 30, 6 pm, in the Hamtramck Public Library. Trip leaves Detroit, Nov. 9-17. 313-530-2777. Discounts for early RSVP.

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Porous Borders Festival

We are holding a festival along the whole border between Detroit and Hamtramck on May 16th and 17th - and we want YOU to be a part of it! There will be art, music, storytelling, parades, and fun surprises.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?
COME to the festival May 16 & 17! It's free and family-friendly!
HELP to build the festival parade. Next parade build April 18 1-4pm at 12657 Moran Street.
HOST a puppet show or concert in your yard. We need 8 hosts east of Conant!
SHARE your border story at the festival! Tell the community about your history, memory, culture, or hope for the future.

WHY?
We want to celebrate the different stories of our past together with neighbors and share ideas for our future. We want people from all over the area to spend a few hours getting to know our special community.

HOW DO YOU GET INVOLVED?
Call 313-454-1758
Email: pbff@thehinterlandsensemble.org
We will also be visiting your neighborhood between now and May 1 to talk about the festival and answer questions.

WHO ARE WE?
We're The Hinterlands, a theater company living and working north of Hamtramck.
<http://thehinterlandsensemble.org>
<http://porousbordersfestival.org>

EXCHANGE

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Join us for a Walk?

Spring 2015 Walk-And-Talks

The Hamtramck Walkers Alliance is coordinating a series of town hall-style walks designed to bring residents from all backgrounds in Hamtramck together for free, healthy, non-alcoholic and secular activities that encourage interaction among neighbors and engagement in the Hamtramck community.

Join us for one or all of our Thursday evening walks this spring from April 16-May 21. Each walk will be led by a weekly "Walking Champion," a local person of interest who will be available to answer questions and to provide information.

- April 16 Hamtramck**
Mayor Karen Majewski
- April 23 Community & Economic Development**
Director Kathy Angerer
- April 30 Detroit City**
Football Club
- May 7 Historian Greg Kowalski** (Meet at Hamtramck History Museum, 9525 Jos. Campau St.)
- May 14 Councilman Anam Miah**
- May 21 Musician and Business Owner Richie Wohlfel** (followed by a neighborhood jam session)

Thursdays at 6p.m.
1-2 mile walk
Free!

Meet at **Zussman Park** across from **City Hall** (unless otherwise noted)

For more information, please visit the Hamtramck Walkers Alliance Facebook Page.