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# The Review

## Hamtramck

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### Quick Hits

Hamtramck, you're looking pretty filthy.

Now that the snow has melted, the amount of litter on the streets and yards is appalling.

But there is something all of us can do about it.

Tomorrow, Saturday (April 25), the annual Clean Sweep will take place.

Volunteers will be gathering that morning and will spread throughout the city to clean up streets, alleys and lots.

The plan is to meet up at 9 a.m. at two locations. For those in the southend of the city, at People's Community Services Center on Jos. Campau and Danforth, and for those in the northend of town at Recycled Treasurers at 12101 Jos. Campau.

Tools and trash bags will be provided. Be sure to bring gloves.

Refreshments will also be served.

## — HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

# Online funding campaign begins for Pope Park renovation

**By Charles Sercombe**

Hamtramck's Pope Park needs your help.

Or to be more exact, your dollars.

The Karol Wojtyla Hamtramck Committee now has a website where you can make a donation, called crowdfunding.

The goal is to raise \$25,000 by June 1, and once the goal is reached the Michigan Economic Development Corporation will kick in an additional \$25,000. That means a total of \$50,000 will go toward renovating the park.

There are already plans to spend about \$100,000 at the park to make major improvements. Some of those plans include removing the iron gating, improving lighting, installing greenery and new paving.

Pope Park is named in honor of Pope John Paul II, the only Polish pope elected to that position.

Karol Wojtyla was his birth name. The monument was installed in 1982. In 1987, Pope John Paul II motorcaded down Jos. Campau and saw the monument.

The park has become a destination spot for visitors. While some repair work has been done to the base of the monument, the park has not had a makeover since it was created.

The city won a state grant that will also be used to make improvements.

To donate to the crowdfunding site, to online to: [https://www.patronicity.com/project/pope\\_park\\_renovation\\_hamtramck](https://www.patronicity.com/project/pope_park_renovation_hamtramck)

**An online fundraising campaign is being held to make improvements to Pope Park, which is the home of a monument of the late Pope John Paul II, the only Polish pope. Below: Pope John Paul II motorcades down Jos. Campau during his visit to the city in 1987.**



## A new model in firefighting

**By Charles Sercombe**

Back in October Hamtramck firefighters entered a deal that would guarantee more work for them.

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

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

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

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

In other words, there is no longer a minimum staffing requirement.

This groundbreaking contract is saving overtime costs for the city, lowering the amount from \$300,000 a year to \$50,000.

At the time of the new mutual aid agreement, there was concern whether Hamtramck would get the raw end of the deal, especially considering the poor condition of Highland Park's department.

So how has the new plan worked out?

Not as bad as you would think, but Hamtramck firefighters are definitely busier than they had been.

Hamtramck Fire Chief Paul

## Nine candidates file for upcoming city council election

**By Charles Sercombe**

The election season has officially begun.

This past Tuesday was the deadline for candidates running for one of three seats on city council to file.

No surprisingly, the three incumbent candidates on council will seek re-election. They are: Councilmembers Anam Miah, Abu Musa and Robert Zwolak.

Their challengers include some well-known names, such as former City Councilmember Cathie Gordon and outspoken government critic Susan Dunn.

The other challengers include: Saad Almasari, Frank Woodman, Monzurul Karim and Mohamed Alsomiri.

All of the candidates have until this Friday, April 24, to withdraw from the election. The Review went to press on Thursday afternoon.

Continued on page 2



Cathie Gordon waited until the last 15 minutes of Tuesday's deadline to file for the upcoming election for city council. As of Thursday, there were nine candidates seeking one of three seats on council. Candidates had until Friday, the day after The Review went to press, to decide whether to drop out of the race.

### 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.

**"If he was still alive he would be here every day."**

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*The public is welcome to a presentation on Poland, Thursday, April 30, 6pm in the Hamtramck Public Library, 2360 Caniff Ave. The tour leaves from Detroit for the Nov. 9-17 pilgrimage. Reservations appreciated for the 4/30 presentation at lawrencemattthewventline@gmail.com or by calling 313-530-2777.*

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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.)

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

**May 14** Councilman Anam Miah

**May 21** Musician and Business Owner Richie Wohlfelt (followed by a neighborhood jam session)

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

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

# Nine candidates file for upcoming city council election

Continued from front page

The field of nine candidates means there will be a runoff in the Primary Election held on Aug. 4. Out of that field, the number of candidates will be reduced to six.

The final three will be decided in the November General Election.

This is one of the smallest field of candidates to file for office in recent years. The reason for that might be that the council has very little power to do anything.

The city has only recently emerged from a financial emergency that required a state-appointed emergency manager to take control of the city. The EM left her position over three months ago, but through her final directives left the city manager pretty much in total control.

A state-appointed Transition Advisory Board will also be overseeing the city's finances for at least the next two years.

The complete return to local control will be decided once local officials prove they can manage the city without falling back into a financial crisis.

By the looks of things, that could be quite a while. Some of the current city councilmembers, including

Miah and Zwolak, have butted heads with City Manager Katrina Powell, and it doesn't look like that will ease up soon.

There are some interesting tidbits so far about the candidates. Woodman is a rock and roll musician who goes by the name "Woodman Caveman."

Almasmari previously ran for school board but lost.

Dunn has had a colorful past dealing with elected officials, and has been thrown out of council meetings for verbally attacking Mayor Karen Majewski. At one such meeting she called the mayor a "bitch" as she left the council chambers.

She was also part of the successful mass lawsuit filed by residents against the city for damages from basement floodings. Property owners were forced to pay the lawsuit settlement through a court-ordered tax.

Dunn also accused Emergency Manager Cathy Square of assaulting her. That charge was investigated by the Michigan State Police but no further action was taken.

Gordon decided to resign from council two years ago in order to challenge Mayor Majewski. She came in fourth place out of four candidates who took on the mayor.

Majewski won her re-election bid and is now serving her third term.

Candidate Alsomiri is the owner of the former Shopper's World on Jos. Campau and Yemans. The building has been vacant for several years. It is not known what he plans to do with the building.

Candidates take note: The City Clerk's Office will be conducting a thorough background search of candidates, including their residency claims and whether they owe property taxes.

According to Wayne County Treasurer's records, Councilmember Abu Musa was

behind a little over \$4,000 in property taxes for his house at 11632 Gallagher. He settled that bill shortly before filing for re-election.

According to the City Charter, elected officials can be kicked out of office for being a "defaulter" to the city or any other government body.

## Spring Cleaning?

Have good items that you hate to throw in the trash? Looking for a place to donate? **Call us at 313-826-7158!**



Get ready for next years tax season, donate your gently used items to Recycled Treasures. Help out folks in your community and get a tax receipt for 2015.  
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- Search Section 3 Business Registry
- Select Register a Business
- Complete form and submit
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**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...

**Toddler Time at the Library** - Monday, April 27 at 11 a.m. Join us for story time, arts & crafts, and games. This week's theme is "I Spy With My Little Eye."

**Children's Movie Night** - Tuesday, April 27 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 Book-flix: "Alexander and the Terrible Day."

**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.

**Make & Take Workshop** - Wednesday, April 28 at 4 p.m. All children are invited to an arts and crafts workshop. This week's theme is "Youth Art."

**Family Story Time for Children** - Thursday, April 30, at 6 p.m. Join your friends at the library for a reading of a story book for children "A Day With No Crayons." This is part of the Michigan Reads Program.

**An Evening with Author, Barbara Rylko-Bauer** - Thursday, May 14 at 6 p.m. The Library of Michigan, Michigan Department of Education, Michigan Humanities Council, Meijer and Michigan Center for the Book are sponsoring a book tour for Barbara Rylko-Bauer, a medical anthropologist whose writing focuses

on health care inequalities, applied anthropology, political violence, the Holocaust and intimate ethnography. The Hamtramck Library has been selected as part of the tour. More information about this Michigan author and the May 14 program can be found on the Library Web Page.

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

**Friends of the Library Meeting** - Thursday, May 21 at 6 p.m. FHPL President Kathy Kristy and Treasurer George Gorday invite all members and volunteers to participate in the regular monthly meeting.

**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

## Finally, spring thaws enough to allow pothole repairs to begin

**By Charles Sercombe**  
Fed up with dodging Hamtramck's potholes? The wait for the city to begin fixing the hundreds of potholes that have popped up during winter is over. Mark Ragsdale, the Director of Public Works, said repairs will begin next Tuesday, starting on Charest near Holbrook, which has been deemed by the Detroit Free Press as the worst street in the metro area.

The city had been waiting for winter's frost to go away, which it did officially last week. Instead of just shoveling in asphalt, which lasts only a few weeks at best, the city will be using a more long-term solution. It's a method the city last used several years ago until



funding ran out. Ragsdale said the patch material will be sprayed in the potholes and will have a sealant to help keep the asphalt in. Contrary to what former City Councilmember Cathie Gordon has been saying at city council meetings lately, this method

does not harm the environment nor leak into the sewers, said City Manager Katrina Powell. Gordon has been saying that's why the city stopped using this method. That's also not true, Powell said. "The reason the spray patch-

ing was ceased in 2008 was due to funding, not for any other reason," Powell said in an email. "The city used this contractor to repair the potholes from 2005-2008. There are no more contamination or environmental issues than with the conventional method of paving a street."

While the city has no shortage of potholes, not all will be treated equally. Ragsdale said an engineering study will be conducted on all streets to determine what type of repairs to make. That could range from spray patching, to cutting out whole sections of the street to a total repave. Ragsdale said that although Charest was the focus of media attention, there is a section of Goodson that is far worse. He said about 200 feet of that street will be cut out and repaved.


According to City Manager Powell's report to the city council, that will cost \$80,200. In other road repair projects, Powell said Hanley St., from Jos. Campau to Gallagher, will be milled and filled at a cost of almost \$192,000. Further on Hanley, from Gallagher to Conant, there will be a complete reconstruction at a cost of \$358,000.



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**April 25** - Parish yard clean up  
**April 28** - Mass intention for prayer list 7 p.m.  
**May 2** - Sacrament of Confirmation at 9 a.m. Mass  
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**PERFORM IN THE PARADE**  
Strong, enthusiastic adults are needed to pull bike floats, carry signage, and operate large puppets. Must attend rehearsal at Poppa Packing (12138 St. Aubin) Saturday MAY 9th - 1-4 PM  
Then, meet before the parade at the Children's Garden at the Colonel Hamtramck Housing Projects. Bring your own bike if interested in pulling a float.  
MAY 16th - 10:30 AM

**PARADE WITH US DAY OF**  
Join the parade, day-off! No experience necessary! Meet at the Children's Garden at the Colonel Hamtramck Housing Projects to choose an object or costume to parade.  
MAY 16th, 10:30AM

**WATCH THE PARADE**  
MAY 16th, 11AM  
Parade kicks off down Carpenter Street from the Colonel Hamtramck Housing Projects, ending at Conant.

All ages welcome! It's easy and free to be involved. Help make a surprising and moving event with your friends and neighbors.

 #PorousBordersFest [porousbordersfestival.org](http://porousbordersfestival.org)

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## Senior Citizen Spring Breakfast

Brought to you by the Hamtramck Recreation Department.

**Date:** Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> 2015  
**Time:** 10:00AM  
**Location:** Hamtramck Senior Plaza On Holbrook  
**Who:** Seniors 50 and over  
**Fee:** Free!



Please join us for a wonderful Friday morning of food and conversation. Pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon and ham will be served. There is no cost involved.

**\*\*\*\*\*Those who wish to attend must call the Community Center at 313-892-2635 to register. Please call and put your name on the list by Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. \*\*\*\***

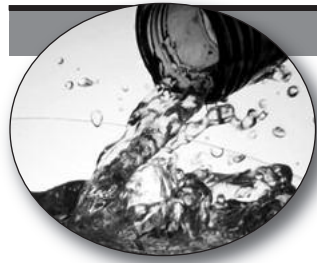
## Hamtramck Recreation Department's Mom 2 Mom Sale

Looking for children's clothes, toys, accessories, etc. at a good price? Then come fill your closet and toy boxes with gently used bargains at our Mom 2 Mom Sale!

**When:** Saturday, April 25  
**Time:** 11:30AM-3:30PM  
**Where:** Hamtramck High School Community Center  
**Cost:** \$1.00 admission to public



Your millage dollars at work!



## TOAST of the TOWN

When it comes to good food and great times, Hamtramck has plenty to offer. In this column, we'll talk about what's happening at our bars, restaurants and other events throughout the city.

**By Charles Sercombe**

Sometimes the weeks fly by here in Hamtramck.

Lately, there has been no shortage of things to do around town.

Recently during one evening there were two interesting fundraisers. First up was a visit over at Hamtramck's newest sensation, the Fowling Warehouse, where Hamtramck United Social Services (HUSS) was hosting a get-together to raise money.

For a mere \$10 you got pizza and two-hours' worth of fowling. If you haven't tried this sport yet, get yourself over there.

What you do is throw a football at a set of bowling pins, and the first one to knock down their set of pins wins. Sounds easy, right?

Well, how wrong you are. It requires throwing the ball low and straight, as opposed to up high and in an arch. Hard to do my friend, hard to do.

But this is the perfect game to drink beers as you play along, and thankfully

the warehouse has a super long bar for folks to belly up to.

They also have a stage set



**Above: The recent fundraiser for Hamtramck's HUSS organization drew dozens of supporters who enjoyed games of fowling at the Fowling Warehouse. Below: The Hamtramck Historical Museum also held a fundraiser, which featured dinner and a talk on Hamtramck Public Schools in the early 1900s.**



up where bands play from time to time.

The money raised that evening will go to scholarships for Hamtramck High School seniors.

Next up was a dinner-fundraiser, called "Hungry for History," at the Ham-

tramck Historical Museum where director Greg Kowalski also presented photos of the public schools from the early part of the 1900s.

The digitally transferred glass plates offered a fascinating glimpse into Ham-

hours poring over them.

One item leapt out.

For those who remember former Mayor Robert Kozaren – the city's longest serving mayor – there is a slightly larger-than-life photo cutout of him standing on one side of the room. At first glance, dang if we didn't do a double-take thinking it was the man himself standing there.

Bob has been deceased for several years now. He will probably go down in history as Hamtramck's most popular mayor, and Kowalski reminded us that he was also a big fan of Hamtramck history.

"If he was still alive he would be here every day," Kowalski said.

Bob also had a sizeable collection of Hamtramck and Michigan political items and other historical artifacts. His family donated some of the collection to the museum.

As for the future of the museum, "We have a long way to go," Kowalski said.

One of the first things they need to get is a furnace to heat the place. Also on their wish list is new flooring, restoring the original tin ceiling and a host of other things.

An architect has already worked up a new design for the interior that will maximize the displays.

Kowalski said there will be more dinner fundraisers coming, so stay tuned.

## Obituaries

### GRACA



Jeannette Graca (nee Calabris), 85, died April 22, 2015.

Ms. Graca is survived by her sister, Annette (Edward) Tilicki; many nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her siblings, Michael Calabris, Marie Kovacic, Delores Calabris.

Visitation is Sunday, April 26, from 1 – 6 p.m. at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home. The date and time of Funeral Mass is to be determined at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church.

### MATYLONEK



Wladyslawa (Wladja or Lot-tie) Matylonek (nee Gawel), 88, died April 17, 2015.

Mrs. Matylonek passed away at Resurrection Medical Center in Chicago in the presence of her children.

Mrs. Matylonek was the wife of the late Albin. She is survived by her children, Henry, Lucy, John, Paul, Israel; grandchildren, Adam, Jason; siblings, Czes, Zosia; many nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Matylonek was born December 30, 1926 near Drohiczyn, Poland. She was a WWII survivor and immigrated to the Polish enclave of Hamtramck. Mrs. Matylonek was a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend and heroine of a family that has spread from the United States to Poland and South Africa.

Visitation was Thursday at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home with interment at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

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## From your pastor in the Elmwood Park Community, Detroit, Michigan:

A group met in the MLK Jr. Apartments recently to talk about the grief we're experiencing with so much loss of life, limbs, loves, murders, and more. GRIEF is a normal and natural process toward healthy adjustment to any significant loss in one's life.

Any pain from loss of a home, a reputation, loss of face, retirement, gun shooting, and death of a pet brings about a grieving period. People walk through various stages including:

SHOCK – Disbelief, denial, numbness. Tears cursing, anger (focus your anger, rage with walking, quieting, arguing with God, exercise, cooking, talking...), sleepless, not hungry, easily annoyed.

GUILT – Was I involved in the loss? How? You need to be able to forgive.

IDEALIZING – The past was perfect.

DEPRESSION – long black tunnel like the Detroit/Windsor Tunnel aiming toward end of tunnel, LIGHT.

LIVING WITH THE LOSS - Recognizing the loss, owning it and by the Grace of God, getting through the pain.

### COMING EVENTS:

**Thursday, June 18, 2015** – Celebrating family with Louis Armstrong's "When the Saints Go Marching In," 6 p.m. in the Warren Civic Center. Leaders meet before at 4:45 p.m. to strengthen family. Come party with us! It does take a village to raise a family, no?

**Sunday, August 2, 2015** – from 12 noon – bring the family to the Fifth Annual Belle Isle Landscape Area Unity Picnic. Contact Doris at mutzim@aol.com, or 313-530-2777.

**Wednesday, August 26** – Elmwood Park, Chene/LaFayette Revival/Restoration of Marriage and Family, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Revival preacher, Archbishop George Stallings Jr., of Washington D.C. Contact lawrencemattthewventline@gmail.com, or mtross@aol.com.

**Thursday, August 27** – Van Dyke/8 Mile Unity Walk, 6 p.m. to Warren Metro Family Unification, hosted by Rev. David Kasbow. 7 p.m. potluck program with young married witnessing to their I do! Walk for the half mile, or simply join in the program at Metro Family Church, on Memphis Street, betw. 8-9 Mile.

**In crisis? Contact VENT-line Interfaith Center for Counseling/Coaching and Inter-religious Dialog and Debate, 2231 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck MI 48212, 313-530-2777.**

*"Grieve, but not as though without hope." 1 John*

*"The family is the core of our society. It predates nations and government. It is the glue that unites humanity and without it there would be virtual chaos. This was especially evident among the immigrants who came to America in the last century. Often traveling as a family unit, they had no one to rely on but each other. That tightened the bonds that held them together. But, it's a different world today with modern transportation and technology, leading some to wonder if the family unit is still relevant."*

— G. Kowalski

## Love and devotion to God is the bond of love that brought Muslims Christian & Jews together



## CRITICAL CRISIS FOR CHILDREN IN AMERICA COLLAPSE OF MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE MINOR CHILD HOUSEHOLDS:

**Percentage That Are Married Family Homes<sup>1</sup>  
National, State, & District of Columbia Data**

Region	%Married (Pop. 10 <sup>6</sup> )
United States:	59.7% (308.7 M)
New York:	59.0% (19.4 M)
California:	68.4% (37.3 M)
Texas:	60.9% (25.1 M)
Florida:	61.4% (18.8 M)
Illinois:	62.7% (12.8 M)

Region	%Married (Pop. 10 <sup>6</sup> )
Wash. DC:	38.8% (0.60 M)
Massachusetts:	64.7% (6.55 M)
Colorado:	66.4% (5.03 M)
Michigan:	59.7% (9.88 M)
Mississippi:	50.2% (2.97 M)
Maryland:	60.4% (5.77 M)

### Selected Cities

Region	%Married (Pop. 10 <sup>6</sup> )
New York City:	51.4% (8.17 M)
Chicago IL:	48.1% (2.70 M)
Macomb Twp.:	83.2% (0.08 M)
Detroit MI:	24.7% (0.71 M)
Los Angeles:	57.6% (0.65 M)
El Paso TX:	54.1% (0.65 M)

Region	%Married (Pop. 10 <sup>6</sup> )
Bronx NY:	34.9% (1.39 M)
Las Vegas NV:	57.1% (0.58 M)
Cleveland OH:	27.2% (0.40 M)
Troy MI:	82.7% (0.08 M)
Warren, MI:	56.0% (0.13 M)
San Antonio TX:	49.0% (1.33 M)

<sup>1</sup> Data in these charts, compiled from the 2010 U.S. Census and American Community Survey, reflect married households in which there are one or more minor children living with at least one married parent who is a biological, adopted, or step-parent. Numbers would be much lower if data enumerated married households in which both spouses are biological parents of the child(ren).

The aim of the Vent-Line Interfaith Center for Coaching/Counseling & Inter-religious Dialog and Debate is to strengthen family. We welcome you to follow God's Word of Sacred Scriptures in Jewish, Christian & Muslim Faiths at:

**"Following the Common  
Word of God"  
June 10, 6 p.m.  
Queen of Apostles Church  
Activity Center.**

In September, 2008, area clergy, including Fr. Ventline, Imams Elturk, Hassan-Husainy and Rabbi, Dr. Waldman met to face the critical crisis for children in the U.S.

Did you know? As a child, Chief Seattle (1786-1866) watched the arrival of the first white folks in the Northwest. As Chief of his tribe in his 20s, Chief Seattle dealt with white settlers. In 1830, he converted to Christianity and integrated faith with his native culture.

## SPECIAL TRAVEL PRESENTATION On Poland

Thursday, April 30, 2015

6:00 p.m.  
Hamtramck Library  
2360 Caniff  
Hamtramck, MI 48212

Please RSVP to  
Fr. Larry Ventline  
313-530-2777 or  
lawrencemattthewventline@gmail.com

# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### In Hamtramck, far too many have fallen behind on water bills

Owning a home comes with a number of responsibilities. Besides making your mortgage payment each month, there is one more must-pay bill: Your water bill.

For too many property owners in Hamtramck – about 30 percent – that obligation is not being met.

But now those home and business owners have to pay up or face having their water service shut off by the city.

The city's Water Department issued shutoff notices earlier this month and last week began turning off service to those who owed \$250 or more. Not surprisingly, a number of residents rushed into city hall to make good on their bill.

There is \$1.2 million owed from water bill deadbeats, and it's surprising the city waited this long to collect. The money owed could have gone to making repairs.

What are property owners here thinking? That it's OK for everyone else but them to pay their water service bill? That attitude needs to

change in a hurry. Having 30 percent of property owners not keep up with their bill is ludicrous.

While some folks might have a legitimate claim for financial hardship, there is nothing the city can do about that. Either you can afford to own a home or commercial property or you can't. It's as simple as that.

Water is not free nor has it ever been. It costs millions of dollars to make our water safe for consumption. There is simply no excuse for passing the buck.

## Odds & Ends

**Walk and talk ...** There are still plenty of Hamtramck mini-walking tours coming up. The newly-formed Hamtramck Walkers Alliance held its first walk last week, despite a little rain.

Here's the schedule for the next few walks, which meet up at 6 p.m. in front of city hall (unless otherwise noted):

April 30: Detroit City Football Club

May 7: Historian Greg Kowalski (meets at Hamtramck Historical Museum, 9525 Jos. Campau)

May 14: Councilman Anam Miah

**Soup's up ...** The ongoing fundraising projects for Hamtramck is happening this Sunday (April 26), 4:30 p.m. at Eight & Sand (3901 Christopher St.). Presentations start at 5

p.m., dinner is at 6 and the winner is announced at 7.

Admission is \$5 and gets you a generous portion of soup and a salad and a vote.

This is what organizers say about the event:

"Attendees make a suggested donation of \$5 and learn about four projects that benefit the community. Over a potluck-style dinner, attendees vote on which project they think benefits the community the most. The winner goes home with all of the money raised at the door to carry out their project. Hamtramck residents and supporters connect, share ideas and community resources. Each dinner also features a local artist and musician!"

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## The Hamtramck Review

Published every Friday

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## School Bell

### Hamtramck High School Newspaper, Cosmos Times, wins three awards

Hamtramck High's school newspaper, Cosmos Times, won three awards at the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association (MIPA) Award Ceremony in Lansing.

The competition was fierce, as there were 4,464 total entries. MIPA is hosted by Michigan State University School of Journalism.

The winners were: 3rd Place, advertising layout, Ghadir Mozeb, Honorable Mention for a review of Annie, the play, Amal Alzendani & Elizabeth Ratajczyk and Honorable Mention for the video morning announcements, Cosmos News, Halloween edition, staff, Luthfor Khan, Elizabeth Ratajczyk, Laki Ali, Alexandra Paradowski, and Elsa Nilaj.

"This is a big accomplishment for us because this is only our second year as a newspaper," said their teacher Mr. Katopodis. Congratulations to the staff of Cosmos Times.

### Hamtramck High School Peacemaker of the Month for April

Troy Adkisson was awarded Peacemaker of the Month for April at Hamtramck High School.



### HHS student Troy Adkisson is "Peacemaker of the Month."

According to several teachers, Troy has shown the skill to diffuse tensions between several students by peacefully talking to the parties involved.

"He is a team player who is friendly, gets along with everyone and is very considerate."

We are proud Troy is a student at Hamtramck High School and congratulate him and his family for the contribution he has made to building a positive and safe school environment.

### Dickinson East Elementary School Reading Month

March was reading month and Dickinson East invited community members to come read to our students.

We had a wonderful turnout this year and the students en-



### Hamtramck journalism students won three awards at the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association conference.

joyed being read to and learning a little bit about the wonderful people who make Hamtramck such a special place.

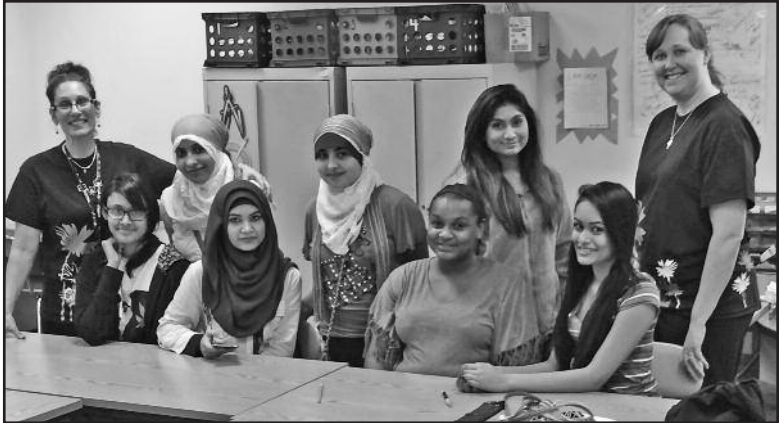
### Kosciusko Middle School Student Council News

Kosciusko student council will be hosting a Mother's Day flower fundraiser from April 17 to May 1. We will be selling roses and all funds will go towards an 8th grade celebration dance.

The dance will be held on Friday, June 12. Flowers will

### Horizon High School

• Wednesday, April 29 – Horizon's Night of Shining Stars at 6 p.m. at the Community Center. This night will feature a play performed by Horizon's drama students and showcase student projects and portfolios. Please join us in celebrating all of our students' achievements.



### Ms. Wright and Ms. Hosey pose with the Horizon High School Girl Club. The students work on community service projects in their community.

be delivered on Friday May 8, just in time for Mother's Day. Kosciusko Middle School student council is very grateful for all our mothers do.

### Kosciusko Middle School

• Tuesday, April 28 – 4 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.

### Dickinson East Elementary School

• Tuesday, April 28 – Young Author's Night from 5-6:30



### Hamtramck Detective Jackie Crachiola visited a class during Reading Month at Dickinson East Elementary School.

### All Schools Upcoming Events

• Saturday, May 9 – Hamtramck Health Hike registration starts at 8:30 a.m. at the community center. Health Hike starts at 9 a.m.

• Tuesday, May 12 – Spring District Wide Fine Arts Program at 6 p.m. in the Community Center.

### Essay contest winner

Each year Wayne County Commissioner Martha Scott, through her foundation, sponsors an essay contest for area high school students. They are tasked with writing about Sojourner Truth and her fight for the freedom of slaves.

This year HHS 12th grader Mohammed G. Al Awdi was the first-place finisher. He won \$300 for his essay. Below his is his essay:

### "Sojourner Truth: Life & Legacy"

By Mohammed G. Al Awdi

It is aggravating to see people maltreating their fellow human beings by dividing them into categories based on color, gender or religion. It is a tragic story; its hero is not a man. Sojourner Truth died, yet her legacy remains as a manifestation of the unceasing struggle against gender inequality and a symbol for freedom. She overcame the traditional barriers of the "slave-slave master" relationship. She overcame the "man vs. woman" quandary. Although she was a slave, she had a dignity her master did not possess nor can he control. She was illiterate, yet

Continued on page 6

# A new model in firefighting

Continued from front page

Wilk has nothing but praise for how things have worked out.

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

He said prior to this agreement, Hamtramck would have no more than seven to eight firefighters to respond to a fire – no matter its size. Sure, Wilk could have called for help from Detroit and called firefighters for overtime, but that meant waiting for them to respond.

It took a few months for this new agreement to swing into action. Wilk said the departments had to familiarize themselves with equipment and procedures. A new dispatch service had to be worked out, too.

"There was a lot of training that had to happen," Wilk said.

As it has worked out, Hamtramck has not had to respond to a Highland Park call. He said Detroit has taken on that workload.

But Hamtramck has re-

sponded more to Detroit than vice versa. The program didn't start until January of this year. Here are the monthly breakdowns for the exchange between Hamtramck and Detroit:

In January, Detroit helped Hamtramck in three fires and 10 other runs (which included alarms and false alarms). Hamtramck assisted in five Detroit fires (and five other runs).

In February, Detroit came to Hamtramck five times, and Hamtramck responded to 13 Detroit fires (and six other runs).

In March, Hamtramck runs to Detroit spiked up to 39, and Detroit came to Hamtramck four times.

Wilk concedes that this expanded mutual aid agreement means more wear and tear on equipment. But the arrangement will also lead to an increased likelihood of winning grants to replace trucks and other equipment.

For firefighters, it means honing their skills – which is

something that could come at a price.

"You're still risking your life," Wilk said.

Still that risk is worth it, he says, considering what the city gets in return – especially if there is a major fire.

Wilk says Hamtramck gets this backup: "Two fire engines, one ladder truck, one squad, and a battalion chief, and 15 people. The goal for the response is to have a short response time to an emergency, and have enough people, and resources (equipment) to safely, effectively, and efficiently perform our jobs."

No matter how many firefighters he has on hand, he knows Detroit and Highland Park have Hamtramck's back.

So far, the new mutual aid arrangement has been a work in progress. Two years ago, Wilk said, he never would have predicted this

amount of cooperation.

"We had very little communication with Detroit," Wilk said.

In fact, there were some in the Detroit command, he said, who sharply questioned Wilk's motives.

Wilk had to point no further than to Gov. Snyder who demanded from the onset of his first term in office some five years ago that communities begin to share services.

This mutual aid model fits in with that mandate and preserves Hamtramck's independent fire department.

It's not been an easy process, though. Wilk says it takes "weekly meetings, constant monitoring of the responses, the input of the firefighters and dispatchers."

This, he said, "is a sign of a management team that is dedicated to the cause."



Continued from page 5

she is one of the greatest teachers that ever introduced the concept of freedom to humanity. She is truly an example of what the late Tupac Shakur referred to as a "rose that grew from concrete."

'Ain't I a woman?' was a slogan that has inveterate influence in the feminist movements throughout the world: an inquisition that roamed the globe to question the very authority of man, to impeach the congenital misogyny, to reinterpret the Biblical patriarchy, and to denounce the objectification of women. 'Ain't I a woman?' came as a reminder to man that the woman he is persecuting is his mother, the woman that he is oppressing is his sister, the woman he is enslaving is his wife, the woman he is abusing is his daughter. The hypocrisy and blinders over this seeming contradiction speaks to the culture where

this brave woman rose up in.

Sojourner Truth exhibited an invincible bravery. She was the first Black woman to challenge (and defeat) a white master for illegally trading her son in the court of law. That challenge was a major shift in Black history; it reveals the kind of woman Sojourner Truth was, and lives through today. A woman who endured chattel slavery and a systematic dehumanization of herself and her people. Despite the fact that she was from the lowest caste in her society, she continued to preach for freedom and anti-slavery. For all that she witnessed, she stood firmly in the front line to combat slavery. Sojourner Truth was only two years old when slavery ended in New York in 1799 (although it took an additional quarter century before all slaves in the state were offi-

Continued on page 8

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7	9	8	2	2	6	8	1	9



By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers April 14-20.

**Tuesday, April 14**

- Two men were arrested at Jos. Campau and Roosevelt following an investigation of a theft at a business in the 8500 block of Jos. Campau. One man was charged with being wanted on a warrant and the other man for possessing stolen property and illegally carrying a concealed gun.
- A person made a complaint about a man who is about 50 to 60 years old pointing a gun at the victim while they were both stopped at Caniff and Lumpkin. The suspect then sped away in a maroon-colored Toyota.
- At about noon, a person was arrested in the 2600 block for possessing marijuana.
- A woman said she gave a family member a laptop to return to Rent-A-Center, but the family member failed to return it. The woman said she cannot get ahold of that family member.
- A man was arrested for fleeing and eluding officers and having numerous traffic violations.

- At about noon, a person was arrested in the 2600 block for possessing marijuana.
- A woman said she gave a family member a laptop to return to Rent-A-Center, but the family member failed to return it. The woman said she cannot get ahold of that family member.
- A man was arrested for fleeing and eluding officers and having numerous traffic violations.

- A resident was arrested following a traffic stop for driving without a license.
- A Detroit resident was arrested for failing to file his income taxes.

**Wednesday, April 15**

There was no incident report available for this date.

**Thursday, April 16**

- A resident was arrested after an altercation at Holbrook and Brombach. He was charged with felonious assault, obstruction and carrying a concealed gun without a license.
- A resident reported a break-in at their home in the

2300 block of Casmere and the theft of \$225.

- The department's SWAT team raided a house in the 2200 block of Danforth for narcotics and made several arrests.
- A Detroit resident was arrested following a traffic stop for driving without a license and being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant. The driver had been cited for driving without a license 29 times previously. In a separate incident another Detroit driver was arrested for the same offense and had been cited for it 18 times previously.
- A resident in the 12000 block of Lumpkin reported two stray pit bulls attacked his cat. The resident was able to scare off the dogs.
- Two men were arrested following a traffic stop for being wanted on warrants.
- A man reported the theft of his 2011 Ford Fusion while it was parked in the area of Evaline and Brombach.

**Friday, April 17**

- A resident in the 8900 block of Lumpkin reported the theft of his 2003 Pontiac by someone using a towtruck.
- A resident reported that he was assaulted by two men in the Commor alley west of Jos. Campau. The suspects were attempting to rob the victim. A resident at the scene was arrested for carrying a concealed gun, obstruction and reckless discharge of a firearm after firing warning shots at the suspects.
- A Detroit resident was arrested following a traffic stop for driving without a license. He was cited for this offense 31 times previously.
- At almost 4:30 a.m. a Detroit resident was arrested for drunk driving.
- Two people made reports of identity theft.
- At almost 3 p.m. a resident reported that while at Conant and Caniff he was approached by four men in a black Crown Victoria who punched him numerous times in the face and head and then dragged him into their car. The suspects demanded his ATM pin number. The suspect said he lost consciousness and woke up on the front porch of an abandoned house on Mackay on

the Detroit side of the Hamtramck border. The victim said he was missing \$140 and his debit card.

- An employee at Little Caesars on Jos. Campau reported a woman walked out of the store with two pizzas without paying for them and fled in an unknown direction.
- A man was arrested for malicious destruction of property after damaging a window in the 12000 block of Oklahoma.

**Saturday, April 18**

- At 11:30 p.m. an Inkster resident was arrested at Caniff and Lumpkin for domestic violence.
- At 12:45 a.m. a Detroit resident was arrested during a traffic stop for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.
- At about 1 a.m. a large group of people attending an event at BHA Hall at 2320 Caniff erupted into a fight. The fight then poured out into the street. The suspects fled as officers arrived.
- At 2 a.m. an employee at White Star bar on Conant reported that a suspect kicked his motorcycle over and caused \$1,500 worth of damage. The incident happened after an altercation occurred in the bar.
- A Detroit resident was arrested for failing to file his income taxes.

- A Detroit resident was arrested for failing to file his income taxes.

**Sunday, April 19**

- A resident reported being verbally harassed over the telephone by his landlord.
- A resident reported someone damaged their garage door in the 1900 block of Belmont.
- A resident reported damage to their car windshield while the car was parked in the 5000 block of Belmont.

**Monday, April 20**

- At about 5 a.m. a resident was arrested for domestic violence in the 5100 block of Yemans.
- A person was arrested for shoplifting at CVA Pharmacy on Jos. Campau.
- A stray dog was picked up in the 9400 block of Mitchell and taken to the Westland Humane Society.
- A resident reported her son ran away from Caniff Liberty Academy, but he later returned home.

# SERVICE DIRECTORY

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Hamtramck

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All Welcome

[lawrencemattthewventline@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencemattthewventline@gmail.com)

# Coming events

**WEDNESDAY, April 29, noon** – The Daughters of Isabella Mystical Rose Circle 736 will host a spring card and bunco social, featuring lunch, table and door prizes, raffle and a share the wealth, at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Activity Center, entrance on Harold, fenced-in parking, admission \$7.

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

**WEDNESDAY, May 20, 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.

# Sudoku

6			9					
7							1	3
					4	2		
	4				6			
	6	2		8	3			
					1	5		
4						1		2
9		1				7		
			5					

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## School Bell

Continued from page 6

cially free), she lived to experience the Emancipation Proclamation (even though this was merely symbolic and did not free any slaves). President Abraham Lincoln gave her the honor to deliver a speech in National Relief Association in 1864. A year later, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, and all slaves in the United

States were free. Unfortunately, President Lincoln was assassinated 8 months prior.

In wars, Sojourner Truth had an ineffable creed that 'truth is powerful and it prevails.' Therefore she, with her charismatic character, helped to recruit black troops for the Union Army under the motto of 'freedom and unity.' Her support for the Union Army

explained that her concern was not just for African-American and women, but of social and economic equality in general. She was an egalitarian who transferred the inequality she experienced as a Black Woman into the inequality that poor white men faced. This level of empathy is what makes her even additionally great.

The traveler for truth her name means. A truth which was distinctly depicted in her life. She drew a masterpiece, its ink is struggle, its brush is racism, its color is 'black.' She composed a symphony out of the cacophony of injustice and gender inequality. Thanks Isabella Baumfree for paving the way for generation to come to stand for freedom and egalitarianism.

**Get Your Message Out!**

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**FIX THE ROADS in MICHIGAN? YES or NO? KNOW BEFORE YOU VOTE!**

**Your vote counts on May 5th**

**NON-PARTISAN VOTER EDUCATION SESSION**

**GUESTS: CITIZEN RESEARCH COUNCIL & STATE REP. ROSE MARY ROBINSON**

**CONGRESSWOMAN BRENDA LAWRENCE - invited guest**

Sponsored by Hamtramck Community Initiative

**6:30 PM Tuesday, April 28, 2015**  
**Hamtramck Public Library**

**HCI SPRING FLING!**  
**May 15, 2015 6:30-9pm**  
 at Polonia Restaurant

**COMMUNITY AWARDS BANQUET**  
**TICKETS for DINNER and SHOW \$25**  
[hcinonprofit@gmail.com](mailto:hcinonprofit@gmail.com)

The mission of HCI is to create a clean, safe Hamtramck, and to build community capacity through citizen engagement.

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**Cadillac - Black or White 10 Passenger**  
**40 Person Trolley Red or Green**  
**Pink Hummer 20 Passenger**  
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**Mercedes Benz S550 12-14 Passenger**  
**Mercedes Sprinter Party Bus 14 Passenger**  
**Chrysler 300 - Black, White or Red - 12 Passenger**  
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**\$600 per Event**  
**Limo Party Bus - 30-44 Passenger Or 30-57 Passenger Shuttle**  
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