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# The Review

## Hamtramck

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## Quick Hits

Come on Hamtramck, and friends of Hamtramck, dig deeper.

The Pope Park fundraiser is getting down to the last couple of weeks, and it has a way to go.

The Karol Wojtyla Hamtramck Committee is hosting a fundraiser to make needed repairs to Hamtramck's Pope Park and is doing so through an online crowdfunding site.

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.

But as of Thursday the committee is only about halfway there, with \$13,710 committed.

As of today (Friday, May 15), the committee has only 17 days to reach its goal.

You can donate online by going to:

[https://www.patronicity.com/project/pope\\_park\\_renovation\\_hamtramck](https://www.patronicity.com/project/pope_park_renovation_hamtramck)

Or, if you like the old-fashioned way, make out a check to the Karol Wojtyla Hamtramck Park Committee, and mail it to that group at: P.O. Box 12248, Hamtramck, MI 48212.

## — HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

# City rolls out pothole repairs, starting with emergency routes

**By Charles Sercombe**

Pothole repairs are coming down your street soon.

On Thursday, a work crew kicked off a citywide pothole repair program by beginning on Holbrook and continuing on all emergency lanes.

After that, the crew will hit each side street.

"They'll be spray patching every day," said City Manager Katrina Powell at a city council work session this past Tuesday.

The city will continue fixing potholes for the entire season.

Funding for the project comes from the city's own road repair fund and from a

federal grant called Act 51, which has \$3 million in it, said Powell.

Not all streets will be treated equally. Some will be patched and milled down, while others will have whole sections repaved.

Powell said Lumpkin is so bad that the entire street will be repaved.

Mark Ragsdale, the Director of Public Works, will be drawing up a repair plan for each street. That plan, he said, will be made public.

There is one street, however, that won't see any improvements, at least in the near future. Powell has been

**Continued on page 2**



**A citywide street repair program kicked off this week. But one street is noticeably not included: Conant, which is county owned. Wayne County has told city officials that repairs to Conant is way down on the list of county roads in need of repair.**

## The lore of Hamtramck ...



**Bobby Kennedy rides down Jos. Campau on May 15, 1968.**

# Marking a tragic anniversary

**By Greg Kowalski**

Exactly 47 years ago today, Robert Kennedy drove down Jos. Campau, greeting thousands of well-wishers and just curious folks who wanted to see the famous member of the Kennedy clan.

Four weeks later he was dead, gunned down by assassin Sirhan Sirhan in Los

Angeles.

Kennedy's trip to Hamtramck on May 15, 1968, elated his supporters. He was in the running for president, and he carried a lot of momentum just by being a Kennedy — the brother of John F. Kennedy who himself had been slain by an assassin five years earlier.

**Continued on page 2**

## Festival celebrates our borders

**By Mike Murphy**

**Special to The Review**

A multicultural line-up of local performers will take the Detroit Folk Workshop Music Stage at the Porous Borders Festival this Saturday.

The arts festival, which is presented by Detroit-based performance company The Hinterlands, is free to the public and designed to allow those who live in Hamtramck and its Detroit and Highland Park border areas a chance to learn more about their neighborhoods.

The festival opens on 11 a.m. Saturday with a parade down the length of Carpenter followed by performances and artist installations located along many points of the Detroit/Hamtramck border.

There will also be 10 other non-artist community projects, such as a talk on the history of the Hamtramck/Detroit border presented by Hamtramck Museum Curator and Historian, Greg Kowalski.

But teaching festivalgoers about the border is just one aspect of the festival, which is also designed for art, music, and dancing in the streets.

The Detroit Folk Workshop Music Stage will feature an eclectic bunch of performers and be one of

**Continued on page 4**

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# City rolls out pothole repairs, starting with emergency routes

Continued from front page

meeting with Wayne County officials to get Conant repaved, which is something city officials have been trying to get done for several years.

Unfortunately, there are some obstacles in getting repairs made to this county-owned road. The county has ranked Conant 86th on a list of county-owned roads to repair.

The earliest it could get attention is in 2016, but it all depends on funding and when it runs out.

It gets even more complicated. Repairs to the portion of Conant that runs through Hamtramck also require Detroit officials to agree to allow the county to dip into its federal funding to repair the Detroit side of Conant.

That means Hamtramck has to negotiate with both Wayne County and Detroit officials.

Powell said she will continue to meet with county officials and advocate for Conant's repair.

"I'm not quitting," she told the city council.

Another wrinkle in the project is that each year the county re-assesses its roads and gives each street a new ranking of need. Conant is considered a "minor arterial" road based on traffic use.

There is one way, however, to push Conant higher up on the list of streets that get repaired: If it becomes impassable, the county would be forced to take action.

That prompted City Councilmember Titus Walters to, ah, suggest facilitating that to happen.

"Let's have a good old block party to destroy it," he said, joking of course.

Powell said the last time Conant was maintained was in 1974, and to a small extent in the 1980s when the middle of the road was replaced.

Another problem street is Hamtramck Dr., which has three separate owners.

For the first 153 feet, starting from Conant, Detroit is responsible for maintenance, and the next 153 feet is Hamtramck's responsibility. At Jos. Campau, the county takes over control of the street.

That street has taken a beating from heavy truck travel. Powell said potholes were temporarily patched after Wayne County Sheriffs at the Wayne County Jail, located at Conant and Hamtramck Dr., complained of wear and tear on their cars.

# Marking a tragic anniversary

Continued from front page

And both brothers had visited Hamtramck, John having been here in in 1960 shortly before being elected president and again after the election.

Bobby only made one trip, but it was memorable in itself. In June, 1968, days after his death, local photographer Tony Tenerowicz, who had photographed John and Bobby during their visits, recalled Bobby's quick trip through town.

"Robert Kennedy was not as friendly as his brother," Tenerowicz said. "He was a more forceful politician – made more of a business of it. My impression of John F. Kennedy was that he was a softer spokesman. You felt more relaxed around him."

Yet Robert Kennedy was not a "distant" person. "He seemed to be trying to reach out to the ethnic groups in his speeches," Tenerowicz said. "Here he wanted to shake the hands of all the children who lined Caniff and Jos. Campau, as well as older folks..."

Those who met with Kennedy said he was in good spirits as he rode down Jos. Campau, where thousands of people lined the streets. Kennedy had come to Hamtramck after speaking at a youth rally in downtown Detroit. He also toured Detroit's 12th Street area, where riots had erupted less than a year earlier.

Because of heavy traffic Kennedy was late in arriving to Hamtramck. Mayor Joseph Grzecki and Councilmen Eugene Pluto and Edward Kondrat were parked at the railroad tracks at Caniff for 90 minutes waiting for Kennedy to arrive. It was an unusually hot day, and the wait became increasingly uncomfortable. Workers from the nearby Celanese plant, who were lined up along Caniff, began to give up and leave. Finally a worker from the plant brought out a tray full of cups of water.

When Kennedy did appear, Grzecki was hustled into Kennedy's car, and they sped into the city. The ride through town was fairly quick, culminating at a big gathering at the Dodge Main plant before Kennedy left for the airport and the next campaign stop.

Bobby Kennedy was just one a host of presidents and politicians who have visited Hamtramck through the years. Presidents Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy, Bush Sr., Clinton and Ronald Reagan (just before he was elected) all came to Hamtramck. So did such political leaders as Hubert Humphrey, Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, Edmund Muskie, Michael Dukakis, Adlai Stevenson and many more.

But the visits by both Kennedys were special. Perhaps it was because both men were so legendary and their lives ended so tragically. The city was stunned after both Kennedys were shot but Bobby's death carried a special impact, as he had just been in Hamtramck.

*You can learn more about Hamtramck's history 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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- Search Section 3 Business Registry
- Select Register a Business
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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...

**Tutoring for High School Students** - Tuesdays and Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m. The APIA is offering tutoring for high school students and below. For more information and registration inquire at the circulation desk.

**Children's Movie Night** - Tuesday, May 19 at 4 p.m. All children are invited for movie shown on high definition screen and a serving of popcorn. This week's feature is "Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb".

**Make & Take Workshop** - Wednesday, May 20 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, May 21, at 6 p.m. Join your friends at the library for a reading of a story-book for children "Friends." This is part of the Michigan Reads Program.

**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.

**Common Word Alliance of Hamtramck** - Monday, May 25 at 7 p.m. The Hamtramck Common Word Alliance will hold its monthly meeting at the Library. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is invited.

**Registrations for the Summer ESL Classes** - Tuesday, May 26 to May 29. The Summer ESL classes will be held on Mondays from 11 a.m. to noon.

**Meeting of the Library Board** - Thursday, June 11 at 6 p.m. Regular meeting of the Library Board will be held in the auditorium. Open to the public.

**Registrations for the Children's Summer Reading Program** - Monday, June 22nd. Children who want to participate in the 2015 Summer Reading Program can register for the program starting June 22. The SRP will be held every Wednesday at 1 p.m. from July 8 to September 2. This year's theme is "Every Hero has a Story." Free to Hamtramck residents.

**Registration for the Teen Summer Reading** - Monday, June 22. The SRP program for Teens will be held on Thursdays at 4 p.m. It will start on August 6 and continue to September 3. Students who are 12 to 17 years old are eligible to participate in the program.

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



# Second Front Page



## School Bell

### Kosciuszko Middle School Curriculum Night for English Language Arts

English Language Arts (ELA) parent night was held on Tuesday, April 28.

KMS families joined the staff in a night dedicated to reading and fun. Our specific reading focus was on our school improvement strategy of Sustained Silent Reading (SSR).

Presenters from the ELA department went over the strategy with the KMS parents and how we are utilizing SSR during school. They also provided helpful hints and suggestions on how parents could incorporate the strategy at home as well.

Some of the tips included setting aside a specific reading time each night, taking monthly trips to the library, staying up to date on your child's progress and reading level at school, and being enthusiastic about reading by becoming a reading role model.

In addition to the presentation, the KMS staff donated over \$150 worth of books to parents who attended the parent night in hopes of helping start their at-home libraries.

Studies show that the more reading materials that are available the more likely a child is to read for pleasure at home.

Here at KMS, we are committed to helping our students become life-long readers and we are excited to share that same commitment with our parents. Please make sure to join us for our next parent curriculum night this Tuesday, May 19, from 4 to 6 p.m. Our focus will be on learning how to use the data from the NWEA test that your child took to gain a better understanding of their growth over the school year and how to help them con-



Kosciuszko Middle School recently hosted an english Language Arts program.



The National Honor Society at Hamtramck High School recently inducted new members.



Dickinson East Elementary students learn a lesson about the importance of physical fitness.



Horizon High School students performed sketches during a recent "Night of Shining Stars."

tinue to grow throughout the summer.

Snacks will be provided.

### Hamtramck High School NHS Induction Ceremony

Hamtramck High School held its 70th National Honor Society induction ceremony on May 7.

Several Senior NHS members posed for a picture with the Principal. From Left to Right: Amila Causevic, Hana Berishaj, Elsa Nilaj, Fabiha Sultana, Syed Kazi, Tazia Miah and Mr. Terrence George.

### Holbrook Elementary School Students of the Month

For the month of April, nine students were chosen for students of the month at Holbrook Elementary School.

These students were outstanding in April, and they've worked pretty hard to get this award without knowing they would be chosen. The teachers made smart decisions with picking these students.

Congratulations to the following students: Zhraa Aldhabiani, Abeer Al Gahim, Salman Zaid, Aliya Juwair, Ghader Alqusaimi, Nadaa Fadhel, Iftehaj Mahdi, Halimah Obaid, Jamal Alzamzami. (Submitted by Dunya Hadwan, Da'yla Gradford and Olfit Hassan, who are 6th grade students.)

### Dickinson East Elementary School Participates in ACES Program

Dickinson East participated in the ACES program last week. ACES stands for All Children Exercise Simultaneously.

Mr. Kanar, the Physical Education teacher, led all the students and staff in a series of stretches, exercises and a walk around the block. It was quite a site to see with nearly 700 people participating in this annual event.

### Horizon High School Night of Shining Stars

On Wednesday, April 29,

Continued on page 4



### It's Time to Pray, Please Join Us

We are a Multicultural Parish Family  
Sunday English Mass 9 a.m.  
Everyone is Welcome to Worship with Us

May 17 - First Holy Communion

May 20 - May Devotion 7 p.m.

May 25 - Memorial Day Mass,

Forest Lawn Cemetery, 11 a.m.

Weather permitting

May 27 - May Devotion 7 p.m.

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### Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church

in Hamtramck located at 3851 Prescott at Conant, just north of Caniff.  
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**11:00 am Mass with refreshments to follow in the activities center**

*The Our Lady Queen of Apostles family is preparing for its Century (100th year Anniversary) in the spring of 2017, and we're inviting all former parishioners, friends, families, and children to join us in celebration.*

On this Sunday, May 24, 2015 there will be a 11:00 am Mass in Polish and English to celebrate the Pentecost and Evangelization. After Mass there will be a reception in the Activity Center hosted by Fr. Janusz Iwan and Dr. Clark Okulski. At this time Dr. Okulski will make a short presentation on Evangelization.

**Please Join us for this special event.**



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# Festival celebrates our borders

Continued from front page



There will be plenty of live music this Saturday during the Porous Borders Festival happening along Carpenter.

the focal points for music at the festival.

The Bengla School of Music will kick off an afternoon’s worth of performances and feature both students and teachers of the school, which takes pride in teaching Bengali culture to youth. Performances commence at 12:30 p.m.

Victor Ghannam will take the stage at 1:15 p.m. and demonstrate his expertise on instruments such as the oud and qanun. Lac La Belle, an acoustic duo of multi-instrumentalists who

specialize in Americana will follow Ghannam at 2:15 p.m.

At 3:15 p.m. the Detroit Folk Workshop will present Mariachi Juvenil Detroit, a youth mariachi group, and performances for the afternoon will conclude with a performance by the Detroit Pleasure Society, a group that specializes in early New Orleans jazz and blues sounds.

A schedule and a map of the entire festival are available at various locations in Hamtramck and Detroit.

## Public Notice

Hanley International Academy will be holding a public hearing on its Anti-Bullying policy.

The hearing will be held on

**Thursday, May 28, 2015 at 7:00 am.**

Location:

2400 Denton Street  
Hamtramck, MI 48212

## Public Notice

Hanley International will conduct its regularly scheduled Board meeting on

**Thursday, May 28, 2015 at 7:10 am**

Location:

2400 Denton Street  
Hamtramck, MI 48212



# School Bell

Continued from page 3

Horizon High School students and teachers hosted the Night of Shining Stars.

In addition to students, families and friends, the guests included: the Superintendent, Mr. Niczay, and school board members, Mrs. Shulgon, Mr. Lukas, and Mr. Major.

Many students from the adult education program came with their teachers as well. The first part of the evening took place at the community center. There were several exhibits to admire. There were bridges made of spaghetti and wooden catapults built by students to demonstrate the principles of physics.

There were posters with thought provoking information about different countries and dream vacations and the students were on hand to answer questions.

There was a crime scene prepared by the students with their Science teacher, Ms. Horne. Everyone was invited to try to solve the murder mystery using forensic evidence. The participants had to compare finger prints, DNA evidence, and blood spatter patterns as well as compare and identify fabrics using a microscope. The mystery was solved several times.

During the intermission everyone had a chance to sample delicious food provided by Ali Baba restaurant.

The second part of the program took place in the High School Auditorium. Horizon High School students performed several sketches prepared with their drama teachers Ms. Hosey and Ms. Wright.

The actors wore costumes and stage make up and gave wonderful performances. The representatives

of Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition were present to provide information to all attendees.

### Events taking place for the week of May 18-22

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

- Tuesday, May 19 – Parent Care Association Meeting from 3:15-4:00 p.m.

**Kosciuszko Middle School**

- Tuesday, May 19 – Curriculum Night from 4-6 p.m., learn how to use the data from the NWEA test that your child took to gain a better understanding of your child’s growth over the school year and how to help them continue to grow throughout the summer. Snacks will be provided.

**Early Childhood Elementary School**

- Thursday, May 21 from 4-6 p.m. art show of student work. The students were inspired by their trip to The Detroit Institute of Arts to hold their own art show.

Each class will pick an artist’s style to imitate and create their own masterpiece in that style.

Student work will be displayed and there will be a short musical performance by our second graders. Refreshments will be served and the students will get to make an art project during the program.

**Dickinson East Elementary School**

- Thursday, May 21 – Spring Concert at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

**All Schools**

- Friday, May 22 – Half day for all students.
- Monday, May 25 – No School, Memorial Day Holiday

**Upcoming Events**

- Thursday, May 28 – Last day for Horizon Seniors
- Friday, May 29 – Last day for Hamtramck High School Seniors
- Thursday, June 4 – Last day for Preschool students
- Friday, June 5 – Graduation for Hamtramck High

School 6 p.m.

**Athletic Events**

- Tuesday, May 19 – Kosciuszko Boy’s Baseball vs. River Rouge at 4:30 p.m., Away

**Poetry in motion ...** English teacher Deborah Molnar, who teaches interpersonal communication, reports that 15 students who participate in Hamtramck High School’s InsideOut Writer in Residence program attended a writing workshop on May 6 at Wayne State University.

Each student worked in three workshops that day where they wrote, discussed, and shared their work with others.

Those who attended were: Ayad Ali, Nolyn Bobic, Nazifa Choudhury, Jacob Gubin, Bryce Hollis, Arman Hosain, Natorie James, Dominika Madej, Ema Melkic, Fatimah Odeh, Bilal Osmanovic, Ayman Qsaimi, Merima Skapur, Weronika Solecka and Tarik Woodward.

# History presentation focuses on city’s movie theaters

By Greg Kowalski

Remember when it cost 22 cents to go to the movies? Maybe not.

That was a long time ago, but it is what people paid to see a movie when they went to the local theater. And Hamtramck had a slew of them. They’re all gone now, but some fascinating reminders of those days still exist.

You can explore them at the next Hungry for History program Thursday, May 21, at the Hamtramck Historical Museum.

“Movie Magic” will be the theme following a sit-down dinner. A PowerPoint presentation will explore the old theaters, the stars and the movies they showed.

Dinner is \$12, with \$5 tax deductible. The program is free. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with the program at 7 p.m.

This is the second installment in the Hungry for History series. Last month’s program drew a full house and response from attendees was overwhelmingly

positive. Even so, some improvements are being made to this month’s program.

To reserve a dinner, call (313) 893-5207, or email hamtramckhistory@gmail.com. Also visit the Historical Commission website for information on future programs at www.hamtramckhistory.org.

The museum is at 9525 Jos. Campau between Poland and Norwalk streets. Come on down. There might even be some free popcorn.

**Advertisement for Bid**

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**BID TITLE: DISTRICT – WIDE FOOD SERVICE EQUIPMENT PURCHASE**

Hamtramck Public Schools will receive single prime sealed bids to furnish all labor and materials and perform all work necessary and incidental for the **District-Wide Food Service Equipment Purchase Project** in accordance with published instructions, specifications, drawings and other contract documents.

Sealed bids must be received at the Hamtramck Public Schools Administration Building, located at 3201 Roosevelt, Hamtramck, MI 48212, no later than, **Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at 2:00pm**. Bids received after this date and time and bids received electronically or via fax will **not** be accepted or considered. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 2:05pm.

Bidders **MUST** use the bid form(s) in the specification packages. **RETURN TWO COMPLETE COPIES OF EACH BID SUBMITTAL.** Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope, clearly labeled with the bid title, date and time due.

All bids shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship(s) that exist between the owner(s) or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board of Education of the School District or the Superintendent of the School District. The Board of Education shall not accept a bid that does not include a sworn and notarized familial relationship disclosure statement. All bids must also be submitted with a sworn and notarized Affidavit of Compliance regarding Michigan Public Act No. 517 of 2012 – Iran Economic Sanctions Act.

Submit with each bid, a certified check or acceptable bid bond payable to Hamtramck Public Schools, in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid.

Bids submitted shall fully comply in all respects to these instructions, published specifications, drawings, and other contract documents. Bid price shall include all costs associated with this project.

No bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the date of the bid opening. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any formalities in regard thereto. In addition, the Board reserves the right to evaluate bids on any basis determined by the Board to be in the best interest of the Board and to consider alternate bids if the low bidder(s) do not meet the specifications or are otherwise determined to be unqualified.

The Architect will provide the documents to prospective bidders, electronically free of charge or in hard copy format at \$20.00 per set. Checks shall be made payable to: PARTNERS in Architecture, PLC. Bid documents will be available on May 15, 2015. Interested contractors should request documents via email @ epacella@partnersinarch.com. Questions may be directed to PARTNERS in Architecture, PLC, 65 Market Street, Mt. Clemens, MI 48043 (Phone: 586-469-3600).

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**There will be a Pre-Bid Meeting and Walkthrough**, for all contractors wishing to submit a bid, at Horizon High School, located at 3225 Caniff, Hamtramck, MI 48212, on **Friday, May 22, 2015 @ 9:00am.**

Sealed bids must be received at the Hamtramck Public Schools Administration Building, located at 3201 Roosevelt, Hamtramck, MI 48212, no later than, **Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at 2:00pm**. Bids received after this date and time and bids received electronically or via fax will **not** be accepted or considered. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 2:05pm.

Bidders **MUST** use the bid form(s) in the specification packages. **RETURN TWO COMPLETE COPIES OF EACH BID SUBMITTAL.** Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope, clearly labeled with the bid title, date and time due.

All bids shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship(s) that exist between the owner(s) or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board of Education of the School District or the Superintendent of the School District. The Board of Education shall not accept a bid that does not include a sworn and notarized familial relationship disclosure statement. All bids must also be submitted with a sworn and notarized Affidavit of Compliance regarding Michigan Public Act No. 517 of 2012 – Iran Economic Sanctions Act.

Submit with each bid, a certified check or acceptable bid bond payable to Hamtramck Public Schools, in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid.

Bids submitted shall fully comply in all respects to these instructions, published specifications, drawings, and other contract documents. Bid price shall include all costs associated with this project.

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# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### In Wayne County it’s a game of waiting forever

Road repairs.

We’ve been talking about them for months now. This past winter was more brutal than usual on our roads, and residents have been steadily complaining about when the city is going to begin repairing potholes.

Last week we reported that the city tested out a new method of pothole repairs – well, at least newish to Hamtramck; it was first used several years ago.

This week the city rolled out a full-on pothole repair project that will eventually hit every street in the city.

Except for one notable exception.

Conant.

Talk about a cluster of confusion. The portion of Conant that runs through Hamtramck has three masters, so to speak of. Wayne County technically owns it, but Detroit also plays a part for the portion that runs on its side of the border of Hamtramck.

That means any improvement to the street requires the county to get a hold of Detroit to get it to dedicate federal monies to help repair it.

Got it?

City Manager Katrina Powell has met with Wayne County officials about fixing Conant but has been told it’s way down on the list for repairs. She has also been told that she will have to keep coming back to re-serve our place at the table.

That’s a lot to ask for our busy city manager who has plenty of other things to do. Yet this is how Wayne County functions. Keep spinning our wheels.

The last time Hamtramck’s portion of Conant received significant attention was in 1974.

Conant can be held as an example of out-of-date thinking by our regional leaders. Why in the world does it take so many people to sign off on fixing this street?

There are too many layers of overlapping political entities here, and it is also an example of why it is so hard to do business in Wayne County. There are too many players and not enough decision makers.

It’s a road in need of repair – fix it. If we were in Oakland County this road would have been repaired years ago – but not here in tired-old Wayne County, mired in its political divisions and old-fashioned thinking.

That’s how Wayne County rolls.

In Wayne County we have to wait our so-called turn, which could be decades, while one of our main arteries continues to crumble in disrepair.

This is a county that has gained the dubious distinction of having to pay to play.

We thought with a new county executive in charge things would change, but not so. It’s more foot dragging and getting nothing done while giving the illusion that progress is being made.

Conant has more potholes than actual street. There is heavy traffic here and a lot of it is truck traffic cutting down to I-94. It is a major artery for Hamtramck residents to get from one side of town to another.

There are dozens and dozens of businesses located there that depend on visitors. If their cars can’t make it down Conant without suffering from some kind of damage, those businesses will lose customers and close up.

Amazingly, Conant was repaved just north of the city just recently but that stopped right at Hamtramck’s border. The county got its act together to pave that portion but couldn’t complete the job.

In a functional setting, the paving would have continued all the way through Hamtramck.

But again, this is Wayne County. It’s business – or dysfunction – as usual.

## Letters • Letters

### Reckless drivers are endangering the lives of children

I would like to thank the Hamtramck Police Department for their recent quick response.

I am a parent of Dickinson East Elementary school children and we walk to and from school. I see speeding drivers ignore stop signs and pedestrians each day as we are walking along Gallagher.

One especially dangerous intersection is the three-way stop at Evaline and Gallagher before and after school, especially because children walk to and from school.

Recently I contacted the Hamtramck Police Department and asked if they would patrol the intersection of Gallagher and Evaline during the weekday between 2:50 and 3:20 p.m.

The next day, Officer Fedenis was there and he was writing tickets. He notified me that he had written four tickets that day. Officer Fedenis was very courteous and helpful, and said he would check that location as often as possible. He also patrols all the school zones in town.

Our community must work together with the police department to uphold the traffic laws. We must support our police department to increase the number of traffic control officers.

Hamtramck’s schools, churches, mosques and community centers must be active in reminding drivers to observe all traffic laws. Parents of young drivers must also be vigilant and explain the consequences of reckless driving.

Please, Hamtramck Drivers,

Slow Down! Obey the traffic signs! Watch for pedestrians!

Our lives depend on it.

Anne Harrington Hughes  
Hamtramck

### Potholes are an embarrassment to the city

Before the arts festival along Carpenter begins this Saturday, let’s hope the city fills the many deep and dangerous potholes between I-75 and Jos. Campau.

It’s an embarrassment to our city, and it’s a real liability. We could even lose a small child in one of these holes let alone have a parade going on.

Sharon Medulla  
Hamtramck

## Developer finds out what happens when you don’t play by the rules

By Charles Sercombe

Let this be a cautionary tale for would-be developers.

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

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

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

This is where Kathy Angerer, the city’s Director of Community & Economic Development, entered the picture. On the Monday after the work was completed she noticed the parking lot as she drove to city hall.

She promptly put a stop to any further development to the site. She said it’s not uncommon that contractors deceive developers.

At a recent meeting of the city’s Plan Commission, which met to consider Nagi’s development plan (something Nagi failed to do in the

first place), he was told there is a possibility that the parking lot will have to be torn up and replaced.

Angerer told The Review in

The contractor is long gone, and Nagi said it’s not worth spending money tracking him down and taking him to court.



The owner of a lot on Holbrook found out the hard way about trusting a contractor to get city-required permits.

an email that there is no question the lot will be replaced.

“The owner will proceed to tear out the existing asphalt and re-do the parking lot per the Plan Commission/Building Department approved specifications,” she said.

Although Nagi is understandably frustrated, he wants to move forward.

“It’s the first time I did it,” Nagi recently told the city’s Plan Commission. “I got screwed. I just want to get it over.”

“I’m sick of chasing,” he said. “That’s how life is.”

The lesson here is do your homework before undertaking a development, or you will likely end up spending twice as much.

Get Out  
on the  
Hamtown!



## City Hall Insider ...

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

By Charles Sercombe

The city council met on April 28, and all councilmembers were present. Before the regular council meeting a work session was held.

City Controller Bhama Cairns gave an overview on a financial audit of the city’s finances. She said that overall it was a good report.

However, there was a disagreement with the auditor

over whether to include the 31st District Court in the audit. The auditor insisted it should while the city argued the court is separate from the city and had never been included in previous audits.

Councilmember Robert Zwolak questioned what the city is doing about following up on sewer line repairs. City Manager Katrina Powell said the city is moving forward on the project.

Zwolak complimented the city assessor for “cleaning up tax exempt properties.”

During the regular meeting, a resident complained about “illegal” enforcement of parking. He said a neighbor is all of a sudden getting tickets for parking in the alley.

Mayor Karen Majewski pointed out that it has never been legal to park in the

Continued on page 8

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# Students learn a hands-on lesson about the importance of law

By Mike Murphy  
Special to The Review

When the subject in Hamtramck schools is art and the law, what better place to display it than the halls of the 31st District Court?

A group of 30 sixth-grade students from Dickinson Elementary School gathered at the court house last Friday to take part in the 31st District Court Law Day Art Contest.

The students were asked to create a piece of art incorporating this year's Law Day theme: "Symbols of Freedom Under the Law."

Court officials also asked them to write a paragraph on the importance of the symbol they selected.

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower designated May 1 as Law Day, and this year's art contest is a continuation of the 31st District



Dickinson Elementary School students show off their winning artworks during Law Day at the Hamtramck 31st District Court. Judge Paul Paruk, left, poses with the students.

Court's tradition of coordinating with local schools to celebrate Law Day.

The 31st District Court staff voted on the submissions and the top five entries received a prize and a

certificate of recognition. And the winners are: First Place – Asha Hossain, Second Place (tie) – Taisir Kassem and Nuha Ahmed, Fourth Place – Shazana Begum, and Fifth Place –

Malak Ali.

During the field trip, the students had an opportunity to see their art on display at the Courthouse, and Chief Judge Paul Paruk led a discussion on symbols of freedom that ranged from national icons like the American flag and the Statue of Liberty, to more local variations, such as churches, mosques, and the 31st District Courthouse itself.

After the discussion, Judge Paruk took questions from the students and then announced the art contest winners, and presented the winning students with their prizes.

The students' art will remain on display for the remainder of the week for anyone wishing to see it.

## Real Estate Corner

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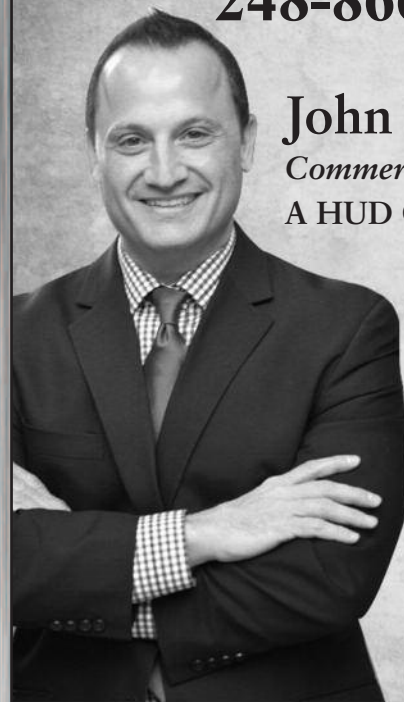
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### By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers May 5-11.

### Tuesday, May 5

- At a little after midnight a resident was arrested following a traffic stop for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.
- At 4 a.m. a resident was arrested in the 12000 block of Selfridge for possessing marijuana, loitering and obstruction.
- An agent for Walter's Party Store reported a woman attempted to pass a stolen check. The woman grabbed the check back and fled the store.
- A woman was arrested following a traffic stop for possessing fraudulent proof of insurance.
- A man was arrested for domestic violence in the 2900 block of Trowbridge after assaulting a family member.

### Wednesday, May 6

- A Dequindre juvenile was taken to Children's Hospital after refusing to take his medication.
- A resident in the 11400 block of Gallagher reported someone broke into their garage.
- A man was arrested for drunk driving after getting into an accident in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau.
- A woman reported her boyfriend opened three accounts in her name without her permission.

### Thursday, May 7

- Two Dearborn residents were arrested for attempting to rob a homeless man at Holbrook and Jos. Campau. Also, a resident and a Taylor resident were arrested for obstruction.
- A Detroit man was arrested for driving a motorcycle without a license after being observed riding the wrong way down a one-way street without plates. The man was also wanted on a warrant for robbery.
- At about midnight two Detroit residents were arrested following a traffic stop. The driver was arrested for driving without a license and the passenger was arrested for being wanted on a felony warrant (involving heroin) out of Ohio.

### Friday, May 8

- A man was arrested after brutally attacking a woman and 80-year-old man in the 11900 block of Conant.
- At 1:20 a.m. officers responded to two men fighting in the 2700 block of Neibel. One man was armed with a knife and the other had a gun. Upon arrival officers found the man armed with a knife standing in the street and intoxicated. He was arrested and his knife was confiscated. The other man had fled.
- At about 3:30 a.m. a Detroit woman was arrested after intentionally ramming a car. She was charged with felonious assault and possessing an open bottle of liquor.
- At 8 a.m. a Detroit resident was bitten by a loose dog while on Lumpkin. The owner of the dog was located.

- At 8:30 a.m. officers discovered the back door of a residence in the 1900 block of Trowbridge had been kicked in.
- A Detroit woman was assaulted by the father of her child while at his residence on Dequindre.
- A man was arrested for trespassing and possessing cocaine after being located in a house in the 2600 block of Botsford.
- A man reported the theft of his bike while he was in the Red Caboose party store on Holbrook and Brombach.
- A woman reported a break-in at her residence in the 12000 block of So-bieski.

### Saturday, May 9

- At about 10:30 p.m. a

resident in the 2300 block of Carpenter noticed two men in his parked car. The suspects then fled. The door lock and ignition had been punched in.

- A resident was arrested following a traffic stop for driving without a license, having improper plates, driving an unregistered vehicle and being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant. The driver had been convicted of driving without a license 17 times prior to this arrest.
- At 2 a.m. a woman reported that her 16 year-old daughter ran away while visiting a relative in the 2400 block of Commor.
- At about 2:30 a.m. a resident was arrested after robbing three people with a replica gun at Jos. Campau and Caniff.
- At about 3 a.m. a Detroit man was arrested after assaulting several women on St. Aubin just north of Caniff. A Hamtramck woman was also arrested after kicking and spitting on an officer investigating the incident.
- At 3 a.m. a Detroit couple had an argument while at the Mobil gas station on Caniff. The woman struck the man in the face and then drove away, stranding the man.
- At about 10 a.m. a Detroit resident was arrested for drunk driving after striking a car on Caniff. A resident also in the car was arrested on a Hamtramck warrant.
- A Detroit resident was arrested after attempting to cash a fake check at a party store at Conant and Caniff.

### Sunday, May 10

- At 1 a.m. four men were arrested for assaulting a man they know after getting into an argument. During the booking of one of the men officers found mail that had been stolen from a former resident.
- At about 4 p.m. a resident in the 12000 block of McDougall reported seeing two men break into a neighbor's house.
- A Yemans resident reported someone illegally dumped car tires on his property.

### Monday, May 11

- At 12:30 a.m. a resident was assaulted by two men he knows while in the 2000 block of Caniff.
- At 7:15 a.m. a resident said that a person he knows stole his car while on a test drive.

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## City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 5

alley.

The city's auditor made his presentation to the council. The auditor, who is new to the city, conceded his report was submitted late to the state, but that was mostly due to "getting up to speed."

The auditor said during the past year the city has managed to take in more money than it spent.

"The challenge is keeping that up," he said.

The bad news, though, was the city's pension fund is underfunded. The auditor said the city's pension fund is funded for only 50 percent of what's required.

Normally, he said, the fund should be at least 65 percent funded.

At this point, he said, "You have a benefit you can't pay for."

City Manager Powell inter-

jected that the state has provided consultants to help the city work on funding its pension system.

Powell also added that her staff is already working on correcting weaknesses and errors cited in the audit report.

Councilmember Zwolak said he was satisfied that the city is "on the right direction," but Councilmember Mohammad Hassan said he doesn't think the former emergency manager made the necessary changes.

Mayor Majewski noted that Hamtramck is working with other cities to make tax collection easier. She said that legislation is being drawn up to make changes for communities.

Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Karpinski urged residents to become members of their neighborhood block club.

In her city manager report, Powell noted that Councilmembers Hassan and Anam Miah failed to take training courses with the Michigan Municipal League. The former emergency manager directed that councilmembers take the training courses.

(Editor's note: It's not known what the consequences are for not taking the courses.)

Powell talked about the condition of the city's sewer system, which she said was "very dirty." She said the system has not been cleaned out in a long time. She said the treasurer will draw up a capital improvement plan.

It's something, Powell said, the city failed to do in the past.

## 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:*

On Saturday, May 2, local dignitaries and Eastern Market Corporation officials gathered to celebrate the unveiling of Eastern Market Shed 5 in all its renovated glory. After Detroit mayor Mike Duggan and Sen. Debbie Stabenow took part in the pageantry of the ribbon-cutting ceremony, market-goers explored the renovated shed while Shed 5 vendors saw their patience rewarded.

Shed 5 stayed open and was host to its usual vendors during its three-year renovation. For all the dust and inconveniences vendors weathered during the various rounds of construction, the improvements made to Shed 5 should prove worth it.

The shed was built in 1981 and had seen few improvements since. Because of the recent renovations, Eastern Market Corporation believes that Shed 5 sets a new standard for regional food hubs.

"Shed 5 was functional before the renovations, but now we can really brag about the shed," says Caroline Glidewell-Hoos, marketing and communications manager for Eastern Market Corporation. "For one thing, it will increase attendance in the winter. A lot of people don't realize we're open year-round and now we have a heated indoor shed."

Shed 5 floors are now heated and its doors are reinforced and better suited for keeping the heat in during cold-weather months.

Adding to the Shed 5 experience is the DTE Energy Foundation Plaza. The newly landscaped public outdoor space on the Russell Street side of the shed will feature special events and entertainment and likely food trucks and other vendors. Also new to Shed 5 is the Kid Rock Kitchen Commons, a large room dedicated for meeting space that can be rented for parties, exercise classes, and other uses. Green Collar Foods has installed a vertical indoor growing system.

One of the biggest additions to Shed 5 is the community kitchen. It's a fully licensed commercial-grade kitchen available to small

food businesses and entrepreneurs. The facilities will allow Detroit Kitchen Connect, a group that connects local entrepreneurs with its network of kitchens, to increase capacity and accept more small businesses into its program. A number of Eastern Market vendors, including Chez Chloe and Five Star Cake Company, have come through the Detroit Kitchen Connect program.

Writer: MJ Galbraith



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1997 GMC GRN 4D	1GKCS13W8V2510948
1997 FORD RED 4D	1FMDU35P2VZC28626
1999 ACUR RED 4D	19UUA5649XA027841
2000 FORD BLU TK	2FTRX18L0YCA24701
2000 FORD WHT TK	1FTRX17W1YKA32426
2000 FORD RED VN	1FTNE24L8YHA22980
2000 MERC RED 4D	2MEFM75W2YX743405
2000 MERC RED 4D	1MEFM55S4YG604853
2000 TOY BLU VN	4T3ZF13C0YU253425
2001 PONT SILV 4D	3G7DA03E91S530305
2002 CHEV SILV 4D	2G1WF55KX29282732
2003 FORD SILV 4D	1FAFP55U43G113627
2003 DOD GRY 4D	1B3ES56C53D236091
2004 CAD SILV 4D	1G6DM577840146676
2004 FORD YEL VN	1FTNE24W54HB06775
2006 TOY SILV 4D	2T1KR32E0C577019
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## Coming events

**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.

**WEDNESDAY, May 20, noon** – The Daughters of Isabella Mystical Rose Circle 736 will host bunco social, featuring prizes and share the wealth, \$7 admission, includes lunch at Queen of Apostles Activity Center, on Harold. Fenced-in parking.

**MONDAY, May 25, 10 a.m.** – The Hamtramck Allied Veterans Council will host a Memorial Day Service at St. Ladislaus Church (2700 Caniff). A reception will follow at PLAV Post 10 hall (11824 Jos. Campau).

**THURSDAY, May 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** – A fundraiser for Detroit Friendship House, which serves hundreds of local folks who are able to stock up on needed food supplies. The fundraiser is \$25 and will be held at the Fowling Warehouse, located at 3901 Christopher here in Hamtramck. The event includes two hours of free fowling, food and a T-shirt. To get tickets, go online to: [www.detroitfriendshiphouse.org](http://www.detroitfriendshiphouse.org).

**SATURDAY, June 13, 9-3 p.m.** – Hamtramck's Recycle Center is open at Caniff and McDougall. Drop off your recyclables for free.