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Volume 8 No. 20  
May 13, 2016  
**50¢**

# The Review

## Hamtramck

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**313-872-9454**

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## Quick Hits

**Trivia night...** It's that time again.

Hamtrivia is returning to the Hamtramck Moose Lodge No. 1670, at 9421 Conant. Test your knowledge of useless information at the next installment of Hamtrivia, to be held Saturday, May 14.

The fun will run from 7 to 10 p.m. There will be four rounds of questions, including one specifically on Hamtramck. There will be prizes, of sorts, but the emphasis is on having a good time. The Moose Lodge also has a full bar, which will help ensure that. Light food will be served.

Admission is \$10, with proceeds going to support the Hamtramck Historical Museum. Come and join the fun.



## 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.

**“Life is an extraordinary thing.”**

## — HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

# Appeals Court rejects city contractor defamation lawsuit against The Review

**By Charles Sercombe**

A city contractor's libel lawsuit against The Review Publisher John Ulaj and the newspaper was thrown out twice, once in Wayne County Circuit Court and again recently by a state Appeals Court.

The lawsuit was filed by Omar Nakash, the owner of Platinum Landscaping, Inc., who provides tree cutting service to the city.

It was filed in 2013 after Ulaj criticized the company's billing to the city while he was a candidate for mayor. At a candidate forum, Ulaj said that Platinum Landscaping was “ripping off the city,” and he would fire the company if elected.

The Review published that remark.

Ulaj, who did not win the mayoral election, said he based his remarks on an audit report



**City contractor Omar Nakash, the owner of Platinum Landscaping, Inc., was unsuccessful in getting his defamation lawsuit filed against Review Publisher John Ulaj to go to trial. Two courts have rejected his lawsuit.**

by Stout Risius Ross, Inc. (SRR) that was performed for the city in 2012. Out of \$40,000 worth of invoices submitted by Platinum, only about \$4,000 could be accounted for, the report found. That means about \$36,000 could not be backed up, the re-

port said.

For a period that Nakash's company was working for the city, the Director of Public Works was Steve Shaya. Unbeknown to city officials at that time, Shaya was the uncle of Nakash, and it was Shaya's job to assign work to Nakash and

oversee his billing.

At the time Platinum was doing a wide-variety of work that included cleaning up city lots and snowplowing.

During one winter season Platinum was paid \$800,000 to plow and salt the city's major

**Continued on page 2**

# Hollywood once again comes calling for Hamtramck

**By Charles Sercombe**

Hamtramck is going to act as a stand in for Detroit in an upcoming major movie production this summer.

A portion of Jos. Campau, somewhere between Holbrook and Caniff, will be transformed back to 1967 where scenes of the Detroit riot will be recreated.

While Hamtramck was

spared from any spillover violence from that incident, the storefronts here still resemble how part of Detroit looked back then.

But there will be a lot of cosmetic makeovers to be performed to get the right look for that period.

Shooting may begin in July. Before that, though, changes will be made to the street scene and

**Continued on page 2**

## Something for everyone at Zussman

**By Charles Sercombe**

Hamtramck's newly renovated Zussman Park will be the backdrop for a major arts celebration this evening, Friday, May 13.

Tonight from 6 to 10 p.m. a special free program called “Art in the Park” will be held at Zussman (which is located across from city hall).

Here is what will be happening:

- Artist - Alex Buzalini – Sculpture
- Artists - Sanda Cook and Luke MacGilvray will live paint in the park
- The Hamtramck Downtown Development Authority (DDA) will provide a children's art station staffed by DDA board members (craft project TBA)
- The Detroit Institute of Arts will provide an information table about various upcoming DIA programs
- Hamtramck Public Schools Student Art Display

• PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers, performance at 7 p.m.

• Bangla School of Music performance at 7:30 p.m.

• “Mean Wienie” Food Truck,

• “Whipped” Coffee Cart with other specialties

• Soft Serve Ice Cream (free for all)

The Friday event will also feature arts and crafts for kids.

On Saturday the fun continues from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Zussman.

**Continued on page 2**



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# Appeals Court rejects city contractor defamation lawsuit against The Review

Continued from front page

streets and emergency lanes.

Several weeks after Shaya admitted he was related to Nakash, former Hamtramck Emergency Manager Cathy Square fired him. Shaya has since filed five lawsuits against the city, one of which alleges city employees called him ethnic slurs.

Shaya is a Chaldean-American. Nakash sued Ulaj

claiming his comments were defamatory and had harmed him and his company. Nakash’s company never lost its contract with the city after the SRR report was released nor after Ulaj’s comment.

In 2015 Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Daniel Ryan ruled that the lawsuit was without basis.

“This is a clear attempt to silence ... to in-

timidate these people,” said James Raftery, the attorney at the time for Ulaj, about Nakash’s lawsuit.

In the same vein, Judge Ryan said it is lawsuits like Nakash’s that create a “chilling effect” on a newspaper’s ability to report the news.

Nakash challenged that ruling and appealed with the State Court of Appeals.

The panel of three judges didn’t buy Nakash’s challenge either, saying he failed to prove he was harmed in any way by the comment.

The court also acknowledged that Ulaj’s comment was protected speech.

The deadline for Nakash to appeal to the State Supreme Court has expired.

Ulaj applauded the ruling, saying it was a “victory for the public.”

“It is not only a victory for free speech, it’s a victory for the city taxpayers who have to live within their means,” Ulaj said. “That’s why this newspaper will continue to be a watchdog on how the public’s money is spent.”

# Hollywood once again comes calling for Hamtramck

Continued from front page

storefronts.

The announcement of the production was made at Tuesday’s city council meeting. A representative from the production company, Patrick Mignano, gave a brief overview of the production.

So far, the title of the movie has not been chosen but it going under the moniker of “Untitled Detroit Project.”

The director of the movie is Kathryn Bigelow who won an Academy Award for her movie, “Zero Dark Thirty” – about the hunt for and killing of Osama bin Laden.

There is no word yet on who is starring in the Detroit movie.

Some changes for Jos. Campau may include the removal of sidewalk “bump outs,” which is something that City Manager Katrina Powell told The Review she was coincidentally planning to do this summer.

All businesses recruited to be a part of the film will be compensated for their lost business while the movie is being shot. The movie company

will also pay to make changes to the facades and returning them back to normal.

“We’re so excited about this coming to our town,” Powell told city councilmembers.

This isn’t the first time Hamtramck has hosted a major movie production.

In 2010 a portion of the movie “Vamps” was filmed here, which starred Alicia Silverstone and Sigourney Weaver.

The year before, a number of scenes were filmed at Hamtramck High School for “Whip It,” a

movie directed by Drew Barrymore.

In the 1990s many scenes for the movie “Polish Wedding” were shot here. Hamtramck’s link with Hollywood goes back to the 1980s and 1970s when several movies were filmed here.

In recent years a number of lesser-known films have also been shot here as well.

It’s probably a safe bet that in many years to come, Hamtramck will always be ready for its close up.

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উযদি আপনার কোন প্রশ্ন অথবা মতামত থাকে হ্যামট্রামিক হাউজিং কমিশনে ৩১৩ ৮৬৮ ৭৪৪৫ নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করতে পারেন।

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## Something for everyone at Zussman

Cont. from front page

The public will be able to view masterpiece recreations in a special Detroit Institute of Arts mobile display.

Kathy Angerer, the Director of Community & Economic Development, said the events are a way to showcase the newly renovated Zussman Park.

“This is to show how the public can use the park,” she said.

## This week at the library...

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

**Citizenship Classes** – Tuesday, May 17, 5:30 p.m. Hamtramck residents can get help in preparing for their citizenship exam. Classes are free. Registration is required.

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

**Town Hall Meeting** – Thursday, May 19, 5-7 p.m. Hosted by The Piast Institute.

**ESL Class** – Friday, May 20, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

**Cooking Matters for Adults** – Free cooking and nutrition classes featuring healthy cooking on a budget, smart shopping ideas, culinary secrets, free cookbook and free groceries. Classes meet 2 hours each week and are 6 weeks long.

(Commitment to all classes is mandatory.) If interested please call the Hamtramck Public Library at (313) 365-7050.

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

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

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# Second Front Page

## Art collective will now be in charge of ‘Hamtramck Disneyland’

By Charles Sercombe

You can continue to go to “Disneyland” here in Hamtramck without actually leaving the city for many years to come.

A group of investors have purchased the two houses on Klinger that have long been the home of the folk art creation called “Hamtramck Disneyland.”

The massive collection of whirligigs, knick knacks and other whimsical items, are spread out on the top of two neighboring houses once owned by the creator of the piece, Dmytro Szyrak.

Szyrak died last year at the age of 92, but his family did not wish to



The two Klinger houses that host the folk art collection known as “Hamtramck Disneyland” have been purchased by local investors and turned over to the city’s art collective, Hatch.

continue owning the properties.

There was concern among artists and resi-

dents that the piece would be dismantled and removed, or worse, just rot away.

But there is still a ways to go to fully secure the property.

Hatch, a Hamtramck art collective, will have to repay the investors. To do so, the group will start up an online fundraiser. That will be no small achievement. The purchase price for the houses was \$100,000.

Chris Schneider, of Hatch, said the purchase was something that took a few months to come

together. He said the immediate plan is to “restore the installation and also create a new opportunity.”

That includes a novel way to bring in funding in an ongoing basis.

“With the four apartment units, we would like to rent three of them to people who appreciate the artwork, and then use the final unit to invite artists from all over the world who specialize in installations to live and work,” Schneider said. “Their work would also be open to the public to view.”

Hatch is a non-profit organization and is no stranger to rehabbing properties. The art collective’s home is the former Hamtramck police station across from city hall. That building had been left empty and unused for several years and needed a massive amount of work to bring it back to life.

Anyone who would like to help with the new project can email Schneider at [schneider@hatchart.org](mailto:schneider@hatchart.org).



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**May 15** - Solemnity of Pentecost

**May 23** - Mass for people on prayer list, 7 p.m.

**May 29** - Sunday of Corpus Christi

**May 30** - Memorial Day Mass at Forest Lawn Cemetery 11 a.m.

**May 31** - May Devotion & Ice Cream Social 7 p.m.

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**Public Budget Hearing will be held for the following Public School Academy:**

**Hamtramck, 11420 Conant, Hamtramck**  
**313-368-7312, May 25, 6pm**

Copies of the Budget for the listed Public School Academy will be available at the school office.

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**CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**  
**OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION**  
**GRASS AND WEEDS**

To all property owners, agents and occupants, notice is hereby given to all persons owning or occupying property within the City of Hamtramck, pursuant to City Ordinance it shall be the duty of the owners or occupants to keep all grass, weeds and vegetation cut below a height of five (5) inches on properties and free from noxious weeds, trees and other nuisance vegetation.

City Ordinance Title IX Chap. 93.037(b) states that the owner, occupant or responsible agent, “shall not permit or maintain on the property growth of noxious weeds, tall grass or rank vegetation to a height greater than 5 inches.” (c) Owners are responsible to keep fences, sidewalk, walkways & alleyways adjacent to their property free of weeds, trees & other nuisance vegetation.

If the provisions of this ordinance are not complied with, the enforcement officer may issue a municipal civil infraction citation.

Property owners, agents and occupants, please be advised that this official notification serves as legal notice for Ordinance Title IX Chap. 93.037(b).

Published May 13, 2016


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# 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 26, and all councilmembers were present. Before the regular meeting the council met in a work session. During that meeting a discussion was held on replacing the city's water meters in residences and businesses.

Councilmember Anam Miah said he will support a council resolution that gives support to the recreation department millage, which was passed by city voters on May 3.

"The recreation millage is for the kids," Miah said.

On another topic, Miah said he wants to add a second time slot that the public can address the council during the regular meetings. Currently the public comment section is at the beginning of the meeting. Miah wanted to allow the public to comment again at the end of the meeting.

He said this will allow those who came late to the meeting a chance to speak out.

Also, in some cases "people might not have something to say until the end."

Mayor Karen Majewski said one opportunity to speak is enough. Coun-

cilmember Ian Perrotta said it would lead to people "nitpicking" the council.

In a discussion about legal fees for a lawsuit filed by the police and firefighters' unions, it was noted \$155,000 has been spent so far.

City Attorney Travis Mihe-lick said the case is now waiting for a decision by the judge overseeing the case. City Manager Katrina Powell said that six cities are facing similar lawsuits filed in response to past actions taken by state-appointed emergency managers.

Powell said the lawsuit against Hamtramck has to do with a change in health insurance coverage.

Councilmember Miah questioned the payment of \$28,000 for someone to observe work being done to replace part of the city's sewer system for just one month.

Powell said Wayne County requires someone to supervise the project to make sure it meets all codes.

In another matter, Miah said he has received complaints from residents about the behavior and attitude of some city code inspectors. He said some

inspectors are demeaning residents.

Kathy Angerer, the Director of Community & Economic Development, said she would look into the matter. She said she does not tolerate that kind of behavior among her employees and contractors.

Councilmember Saad Al-masmari said he has also heard complaints that some city employees don't smile.

Powell said there will be a study of the police department, which is one requirement the former emergency manager mandated. The study will look into how the department functions. The study will cost \$30,000. The state will pay for most of it, and the city will pay \$9,000 plus travel costs for those performing the study.

During the regular meeting, Kathy Angerer talked about an upcoming arts program at Zussman Park, May 12-14.

The council supported a project by the public school district to undergo training in cases of an armed intruder entering a school. Also, the council unanimously supported the school district's upcoming recreation millage renewal.



# School Bell

## Kosciuszko Middle School Reunion Fundraiser

Kosciuszko Middle School is holding a reunion fundraiser to benefit KMS students.

The fundraiser will be held on Saturday, May 21 at Kosciuszko Middle School from 5 to 10 p.m. Current and former KMS and Hamtramck Public School Employees will be in attendance.

Kosciuszko Middle School Alumni, over the age of 21, are invited to come and take a walk down memory lane. Participants can relive their Kosciuszko experience by walking the halls and visiting classrooms in addition to reminiscing with former teachers, staff and employees.

Some current and former employees that will be in attendance are Mr. Niczay, Mr. Ivezaj, Mr. Zygmuntowicz (Mr. Z), Ms. Cathy Krukowski, Ms. Denise Rubaga, Ms. Renee Savage, Ms. Vanessa Gray, Ms. Cookie, Mr. Radwanski, Mr. Prychitko, Mr. Trawick and Mr. Nalepa to name just a few.

Many other current and former employees will be in attendance too. There is a \$20 donation fee or \$30 per couple. A variety of refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

For tickets please call the KMS office at (313) 365-4625 or if you are unable to attend but would still like to make a donation, please make your checks payable to either Michael Zygmuntowicz or Cathy Krukowski and send them to Kosciuszko Middle School, 2333 Burger, Hamtramck, MI 48212.

Hope to see everyone on May 21 for a night down memory lane.

## Hamtramck High School News

The year 2016 marks the 20th anniversary of



Above and below: Hamtramck High School students participated in the GradNation summit held at Wayne State University.



Below: HHS students in the school's Robotics Team recently participated in two district competitions.



Team 123, Hamtramck High School's FIRST Robotics team, during which the Cosmos proved themselves among the ranks of the top contenders of the season.

They competed at two district competitions, Southfield and Center Line, where they ranked among the top ten teams with the highest qualifying points.

At Southfield, the Cosmos were named District Event Finalists finishing in second place and at Center Line; they advanced to the semifinals and won the Innovation in Control Award sponsored by Rockwell Automation.

This award recognizes teams with an impressive control system or application of control components that lent to their robot's unique functions.

The Cosmos continued their journey to the FIRST Michigan District Championship in Grand Rapids, where their performance earned them a spot to compete at the FIRST World Championship in St. Louis, Missouri.

This was the second time that 123 has been able to compete at the World Championship since 2007, and they finished the season strong

by ranking 18th out of 75 teams in their division.

Team 123 is not merely a robotics team of high school students. With the continued support of its sponsors: General Motors Foundation, Ford Motor Company, Design Systems, Wayne Metro Community Action Agency, Wayne State University Formula SAE, FDR Pharmacy, Mocha Café, Delite Deli, Café 1923, Al-Haramine International Inc., Basha Diagnostics, Carpenter Pharmacy, Children's Clinic of Michigan, Comprehensive Therapy, Global Information Technology, The Hamtramck Review, Infinity Drugs Pharmacy, Jim's Collision Shop, Maine Street Restaurant, Mostek Paint & Glass Co., Qureshi Wholesale Inc., Automated Security Enterprises, Hughes and Lynn Building and Renovations and The Hamtramck Knights of Columbus.

The Cosmos Team 123 has grown into a community of people who support the FIRST mission of spreading STEM education and resources among the local community's youth.

Ten Hamtramck High School students participated in the season strong

Continued on page 6

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# ART IN THE PARK

The Detroit Institute of Arts has installed more than 90 high-quality reproductions of masterpieces from the museum's collection in outdoor venues throughout nine metro Detroit communities this season.

## ART IN THE PARK | FRIDAY MAY 13th

ZUSSMAN PARK (across from City Hall) | 6:00 - 10:00 pm

Art by Alex Buzalini (Sculpture)  
Sanda Cook & Luke MacGilvray (live painting in the park)  
Children's art station staffed by DDA  
DIA information table  
Hamtramck Public Schools Student Art Display  
Hamtramck Historical Museums Display table and kids crafts  
PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers, performance at 7:00 p.m.  
Bangla School of Music performance at 7:30 p.m.  
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MAY 12th - 14th | ZUSSMAN PARK

Thurs. 12 noon-6 p.m.  
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(Schools or other groups may sign up to tour throughout the afternoon on Thursday, Friday and on Saturday morning. Residents are welcome all hours the display is open.)

DIA ART WALKING TOUR  
MAY 12th | ZUSSMAN PARK

Walk to all 9 masterpiece reproductions with a DIA expert. Leaves Zussman Park at 6:00 pm.



- Zussman Park**  
3551 Evaline  
View of Le Cratoy, Upstream, Georges Seurat
- Moose Lodge**  
9421 Conant  
Mother and Child, Solomon Irén Wangboje
- Gates of Columbus**  
9632 Conant  
Young Woman with a Violin, Orazio Gentileschi
- Small's**  
10339 Conant  
Hardball III, Robert Moskowitz
- Kabob House**  
11405 Conant  
Allegory of Hope, Alessandro Turchi
- Bumbo's**  
3001 Holbrook  
Portrait of a Mughal Prince, Unknown Artist, Islamic
- Veteran's Park**  
8717 Jos. Campau  
Moonlit Landscape with a Windmill, Aert van der Neer
- Senior Plaza**  
2620 Holbrook  
A Day in June, George Wesley Bellows
- Fresh Valley Fruit Market**  
3011 Caniff  
The Fruit Vendor, Pensionante del Saraceni



# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### This week Hamtramck has much to celebrate and enjoy

This is a good week to be a resident of Hamtramck – not that there is really a bad week.

We are still in a good buzz from last week’s recreation millage proposal being supported overwhelmingly by voters.

The millage renewal will keep recreation programs going for another 10 years. Voters deserve a big pat on the back for believing in their community as well as investing in it.

Our recreation programs, which are administered through the public schools, serve hundreds of kids and adults.

Recreation not only provides a much needed service but it also keeps our housing stock value stable.

Riding on that good news is a major cultural event residents can enjoy this Friday, May 13.

The city’s newly-remodeled Zussman Park, which is still a work in motion, will host a first-ever “Art in the Park.”

With the help of the Detroit Institute of Arts, the public will be treated to a number of activities in the park this evening, starting at 6 p.m. There will be artists working on projects as well as arts and crafts for kids and adults.

Also, live music will be provided, and a number of food trucks will be on hand to add to the festivities.

Along those lines, we can breathe a sigh of relief now that the “Hamtramck Disneyland” art project is in safe hands.

You can read more about that in this week’s issue of the paper.

The collection of folk art, created by Dmytro Szylak over a number of years, was purchased by a group of investors. Hatch, the city’s art collective, will be responsible for paying back the investors and securing the two houses that support the creation.

“Hamtramck Disneyland” has attracted visitors from all over the metro area as well as the world.

Szylak died last year and it is deeply satisfying that generations to come will enjoy his work. If you have never seen this masterpiece of whimsy, be sure to get over to Klinger St. just south of Carpenter to experience the wonder.



### Art, the social engager

**By Walter Wasacz**

Earlier this week I did one of my favorite walks, cutting through the north-east diagonal of the handsomely renovated Zussman Park to Conant and Prescott, then heading east to the Hamtramck-Detroit Border where Ellery becomes Fenelon.

Walking north on Fenelon, I peered into the grassy alleys on the east side of the street (there is a mix of concrete and grass alleys on the opposite side), a distinct rural-meets-urban feature of this neighborhood.

At Carpenter, I turned left and walked back toward Hamtramck. The T-shaped intersection at Conant and Carpenter features a shared political border: only the southwest corner is in Hamtramck; the northwest corner and the east side of Conant are in Detroit. This corner was one of the staging areas of the Porous Borders Festival, organized by Hamtramck and Detroit artists and held around this time last year.

Oftentimes I have no clear destination when I set out. At minimum I try to do a two-mile loop each time. Lately, I have been stretching that into three miles, sometimes far more, as when I walked to meet a friend last month at the Detroit Institute of Arts. That was 3.7 miles one way – a healthy 7.4 total miles.

But on this day my destination was predetermined. At Klinger I headed south, and into the alley between that street and Sobieski. I wanted to take a good look at Hamtramck Disneyland, the unique art installation that sits atop two garages on the east side of the alley.

The property was recently purchased by the nonprofit group Hatch Art, which previously bought and renovated an old hospital building (later converted into the Hamtramck Police Station) on Evaline near City Hall. A news story about the purchase of Hamtramck Disneyland is in today’s Review.

My own history with the installation goes back to the early 1990s, a few years after Dmytro Szylak, the man who built it, began to use the tops

of his garages, his yard and later the front of his houses as a canvas for his transformational neighborhood art project.

It was always more than about art. Through the years Hamtramck Disneyland revealed Szylak’s real life journey from Ukraine to German displacement camps to his arrival in the U.S. and Hamtramck in the mid-1950s. He was one of the first (and best) social engagers among the wave of artists that began making the city their home, resulting in an introductory 1992 exhibition of sorts at a then raw space at 2739 Edwin just west of Jos. Campau.

There was a creative blooming going on here at that time. Shadowbox Cafe, opened the same year as the art show, became the city’s first non-ethnic coffee house since the post-beatnik/pre-hippie House of Rau opened and closed in the mid- to late-1960s. HOR was in a small storefront on Jos. Campau near Holbrook, near Ableman’s Books, where comic books, pulp fiction and the occasional literary classic could be found (though if I needed a novel I had to read for one of my junior high or high school English classes, I would first try Jeanette’s Books, on the west side of Jos. Campau near Belmont).

A year after Shadowbox opened, Planet Ant

launched as a coffee shop, later as the live performance space it remains today.

Meanwhile, Szylak’s Disneyland continued to ascend. It was championed as a local treasure, a folk-art attraction with buzz that traveled fast and far: the sign-in book on the alley side of the piece showed people from all over the country, Europe and Japan had made their way to Hamtramck to see it.

Szylak was featured in magazine and newspaper articles. There was television and later film interest, including the most recent N’kisi Concorde documentary that was finished shortly before the artist passed away at age 92 last spring.

The effort to save the installation came together just a few weeks after Szylak’s death. I got a Facebook message telling me he’d died on May 1 from someone who lived near the installation. I forwarded the information to Mayor Karen Majewski, who began a correspondence with the heir to the property, Dmytro’s stepson.

We began to assemble a team to save the piece and ensure the legacy of the artist. A dialogue with the heir, whose inheritance was challenged by Szylak’s biological daughters in Wayne County Probate Court, was started. While the legal proceedings went on for the balance of 2015, we looked for potential buyers and future stewards for the properties, confident that the court would rule in favor of the stepson.

When it did, things began to fall into place, though nothing was assured until Hatch went all in. With the aid of private

Continued on page 6

## Odds & Ends

**On display...** Hamtramck-based artist Nancy Michnick is currently having a showing of her incredible paintings at the MOCAD gallery in midtown Detroit.

This is a show not to be missed. Several pieces of her Detroit series are also on display. The series focuses on the unexpected beauty one can find in the many abandoned and decaying houses.

Trust us, they are really breathtaking. The exhibit runs until July 31.

MOCAD (Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit) is located at 4454 Woodward.

**Celebration...** St. Florian Parish held its annual Strawberry Festival last weekend, breaking from tradition in which the festival is usually held on the first weekend of May.

The parish decided to switch to the second weekend of May and did so with mixed results. Saturday was packed but Sunday, Mother’s Day, the crowd thinned out.

No matter. The home-cooked Polish dinners were tasty as usual and the music was toe-tapping.

We can’t wait until next year.

**Hamtramck artist Nancy Michnick poses in front of her paintings at an opening for her exhibit at MOCAD last Friday.**



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Coming events

**SATURDAY, May 14, 9-3 p.m.** – Hamtramck’s Recycle Center is open at Caniff and McDougall. Drop of your recyclables for free.

**WEDNESDAY, May 18, 7 p.m.** – The Hamtramck Midtown Block Club will meet in St. Florian’s Convent, 2626 Florian. Join us as we discuss our citywide flyer project, community concerns such as public safety, upcoming special events, and anything else that concerns us as residents. Speakers are featured and light refreshments will be served. Please enter the convent by the side entrance and thank you for your support of our club.

**SATURDAY, May 21, 9 a.m.** – Join other volunteers in famed writer/radio host Mitch Albom and his “A time to help” project. Volunteers will be working on several projects throughout the city. More information to follow. To help out, call Kathy Angerer, Director of Community & Economic Development, at (313) 876-7700, extension 326.

**WEDNESDAY, May 25, noon** – The Daughters of Isabella Mystical Rose Circle 736 will hold a Card & Bunco Social, featuring a raffle, share the wealth, door prizes and table prizes, luncheon, admission \$7, at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Activity Center, entrance on Harold, fenced-in parking.

**MONDAY, May 30, 10 a.m.** – The Hamtramck Allied Veterans Council will host Memorial Day services at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church, 3851 Prescott. A veterans ceremony will be held after Mass at PLAV Post 10 hall.





Continued from page 5

investors and a realtor friend who negotiated the deal, earlier this month the group completed the purchase of the two properties. Now it's full speed ahead on raising funds for renovation and programming. To be sure some exciting things will be happening in the months ahead. It's a story of perseverance, of pooling commu-

nity resources for the common good. A lot of people quietly came together for this, and made the right moves to save a local landmark and keep alive the spirit of its maker. I am happy I was able to play my own small role in it.

**Walter Wasacz walks around Hamtramck and writes about it.**

## Obituaries

### DOUGHERTY



Debra Marie Dougherty, (nee Whisler), 55, died May 6, 2016.

Ms. Dougherty was the beloved mother of Desi (Heather), Vince (Aleksandra), Shawn Mendoza; daughter of the late Alberta Bickes and Raymond John Whisler Sr.; stepdaughter of the late Walter Bickes; sister of Raylene (Wade) Chandler, Tina Bickes, Suzanne (Roger Grody) Luton, Raymond (Kris) John Whisler Jr., Michael (Karen)

Whisler, Anthony (Pauline) Morris, Jeff Morris, the late Grace Mary Humistead. Ms. Dougherty is also survived by ten grandchildren; 18 nieces and nephews; fiancé, Ted Gwinn and his daughters, Dakota and Amber.

Visitation is Friday, May 13, from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home. Ms. Dougherty will lie in state Monday, May 16, at 9:30 a.m. followed by the funeral Mass at St. Florian Catholic Church, Hamtramck. Private cremation will follow.

**People's Community Services**  
**Wayne County Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) for Hamtramck Residents**  
Bring proof of income, and picture ID  
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**Thursday, May 19, 11 am-12:30**  
Eastpointe home of Marge Hallman, 25-year secretary, 15598 Crescentwood by reservation only to lawrencemattthewventline@gmail.com  
Down memory lane tale and photo epiphanies with 25th Anniversary of ♥ Care of the Soul & Companions Counseling & All- Faiths Festival.  
40th Wedding, 40th Ordination And Retirement Of Father V, Birthday Anniversaries  
**Sunday, June 5th, 12 Noon**  
**Mass Mob, St. Anne Church**  
1701 Lafayette By Ambassador Bridge with Trumpets, Distinguished Choirs, More. Open House  
Internationalbeginningministries@yahoo.com on Grayling, west of Jos. Campau,  
**Sunday, June 12th, 11:30 am**  
**Vibrant Praise For All.**  
**Anger and God - 10 Tips to Reduce Rage,**  
Hamtramck Public Library. 586-925-7617, for time and day, lawrencemattthewventline@gmail.com.  
**Marriage, Family, Sex in the Bible's Song of Songs in Maine Street Restaurant.**  
Reserve your space and contact lawrencemattthewventline@gmail.com ASAP  
**Acceptance - A Covenant of Scriptural Freedom.**  
Contact lawrencemattthewventline@gmail.com for time. Open House in International Beginning Ministries, 2965 Grayling, Hamtramck, June 12, 3-4 pm.  
Contact internationalbeginningministries@yahoo.com.  
**Discussion in the Hamtramck Public Library about Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition,**  
city hall leadership on drugs, more. Contact internationalbeginningministries@yahoo.com, internationalgospelhelpers@gmail.com, for meeting time. Reservations only ASAP

# School Bell

Continued from page 4

pated in the GradNation summit held at Wayne State on May 5. Sponsored by the United Way of Southeastern Michigan, the event featured panels of college students and speakers sharing advice on how to succeed in college.

### Kosciuszko Middle School News

KMS students were able to bring beautiful roses home on Friday, May 6 to celebrate Mother's Day. This initiative was hosted by KMS Student Council. More than 60 mothers were greeted by roses as a gift and thank you. KMS students appreciate all that mothers do.

### Upcoming Events at KMS

- 8th Grade Celebration

Dance: Friday May 20, 4-6 p.m. This is a time for 8th grade students to celebrate their time together at Kosciuszko Middle School.

- End of the Year Festival: Wednesday May 25, 4-6 p.m. We will be providing carnival games for kids of all ages to play. Most games are free, however, if you'd like to pie your teacher, you'll have to pay to play. There will also be food, T-shirts and many games to play.

### Kosciuszko Middle School Athletic News

- Tuesday, May 17 – KMS boys' baseball vs. River Rouge at 4:30 p.m. Home.

### Holbrook Elementary School News

- Tuesday, May 17 and Wednesday, May 18 –

Bake Sale after school. Please come and make a purchase to help our Parent Association.

- Wednesday, May 18 – Career Day.
- Thursday, May 19 – 3rd grade field trip to Greenfield Village.
- Friday, May 20 – Kindergarten and 5th grade trip to the DIA.
- Wednesday, May 25 – 3rd and 4th grade trip with Gleaners

### All Schools

- May 13 – End of Progress Report Period 4.
- May 19 – Progress Report #4 Distributed.
- Friday, May 27 – Half day of school for all students.
- Monday, May 30 – Memorial Day -No school.
- Tuesday, May 31 – School Resumes.

**Compiled by Janice Gandelman**

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**By Charles Sercombe**  
This week’s Crime Log  
covers May 3-9.

**Tuesday, May 3**

- Detroit police recov-  
ered a Jeep Liberty that  
had been stolen out of  
Hamtramck.
- An agent at a med-  
ical clinic in the 9400  
block of Conant reported  
a possible assault.
- A Hanley resident re-  
ported the theft of a bag  
from his garage contain-  
ing his family’s pass-  
ports, Social Security  
cards and assorted pa-  
pers.
- A Gallagher resident  
was committed at Henry  
Ford Hospital after he  
was found wandering in  
front of a neighbor’s  
house making threats.
- A Detroit man was  
taken to Detroit Receiv-  
ing Hospital after he was  
found talking to invisible  
people and carrying a  
large knife.
- A Gallagher resident  
reported someone shot  
out an upstairs window  
with a BB gun.

**Wednesday, May 4**

- A resident in the  
12000 block of Sobieski  
reported a garage break-  
in.
- A Moran resident re-  
ported that a person he  
knows tried to enter his

**Thursday, May 5**

- A Moran resident re-  
ported a break-in.
- A man reported  
someone stole an item  
from his car while it was  
parked at Jos. Campau  
and Evaline.
- A person was ar-  
rested for being disor-  
derly.
- A woman reported re-  
ceiving harassing phone  
calls while at work.
- A Detroit resident  
was arrested after a traf-  
fic stop for driving with-  
out a license and being  
wanted on two Ham-  
tramck warrants.
- A Moran resident re-  
ported a person he  
knows tried to break into  
his residence.

**Friday, May 6**

- At almost 1 a.m. a  
resident in the 3900  
block of Dorothy heard  
his car alarm go off, and  
when he went outside he  
saw a suspect holding a  
hand gun that had been  
in his car. The resident  
then saw the suspect  
shoot at a black SUV and  
then ran away. The driver

- residence without per-  
mission.
- A resident on Jacob  
reported a burglar in her  
house. Officers found  
the woman’s son had  
broken in.

- of the vehicle also sped  
off.
- At 2:30 a.m. a resi-  
dent was arrested in the  
2600 block of Norwalk  
for possessing an open  
intoxicant and carrying a  
gun without a permit.
- A resident in the  
2600 block of Whalen re-  
ported the theft of their  
1997 GMC Savanna.
- At about 7 a.m. a  
Royal Oak resident was  
arrested after fleeing the  
scene of an accident.  
The driver was arrested  
for fleeing, drunk driving  
and obstructing an offi-  
cer. The driver had a  
blood alcohol level over  
twice the legal limit.
- A resident in the  
3400 block of Edwin re-  
ported the theft of their  
van. Shortly after, Detroit  
police recovered it.
- A man reported  
someone shot his car  
with a BB gun while it  
was parked on Lumpkin.
- A Commor resident  
reported being assaulted  
by her boyfriend.
- A Jos. Campau resi-  
dent reported someone  
entered his car and stole  
assorted items.

**Saturday, May 7**

- At 10 p.m. a resident  
was arrested for inde-  
cent exposure while in

Continued on page 8



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# Supreme Court justice doesn’t let handicap get in his way

**By Charles Sercombe**

If there was one lesson students from Kosciuszko Middle School and Dickinson West Elementary School learned last Friday it was this:

No matter how hard you work, no one works harder than Michigan Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein.

While Bernstein was far from bragging, his in-

spirational talk to a group of students at Kosciuszko’s auditorium focused on the lengths of preparation he had to take to get through school as a youngster, then pass law school and now work on the court.

Bernstein, a member of the Bernstein law family who has long advertised their services on television, is the state’s

**Above: State Supreme Court Judge Richard Bernstein gives his autograph to a Kosciuszko Middle School student after a talk he gave at the school last Friday. Below: Bernstein talks about the challenges he faces as a blind person.**

first blind Supreme Court justice.

Born blind, Bernstein said growing up was a challenge, and getting through school even more so.

What took students an hour to complete in homework or studying, it took him at least four hours to accomplish.

“I had to memorize

the students. He invited the students to ask him anything, especially anything personal.

For example, he said, you may wonder if a blind person dreams.

He indeed was asked that, and the answer is: Yes, but not of images since people born blind have never seen anything.

Instead, he dreams of shades of darkness and sound.

Imagine that.

How does he dress himself?

He had to be taught at an early age how to organize: white shirts go here on this shelf, blue shirts there, ties here, and on and on.

Crossing the street? You must listen closely to the sounds of traffic and be able to sense when cars going this way and that come to a stop.

If you were to stop right there to contemplate how incredibly hard it is just to do the simplest things that those who can see take for granted every day, it

would likely overwhelm you.

But that struggle, said Bernstein, is also an inspiration.

“The blessing that comes of that is that you experience life in a completely different way,” he said.

If you think that sounds spiritual, it is indeed.

“My life is more exciting,” he said, “It has a purpose and a mission.”

But, he stressed, so does everyone.

“Life is an extraordinary thing,” he said. “Celebrate the life you were given.”

This was the second visit Bernstein has made to Hamtramck Public Schools. Before being elected to the Supreme Court two years ago, he talked with high school students at the Community Center.

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Continued from page 7

the 3400 block of Holbrook.

- At 10:30 p.m. a Detroit resident was arrested for possessing an open intoxicant while in public in the 12000 block of Lumpkin.
- A 14-year-old ran away from a boys home on Hanley.
- An officer interviewed an assault victim at Henry Ford Hospital who said he had no memory of how he was injured.
- A resident juvenile was arrested for having a replica firearm while at Pulaski Park.

**Sunday, May 8**

- A resident in the 5100 block of Evaline reported someone damaged their car.
- Two men stole several items of clothing from a store in the 9600 block of Jos. Campau.
- A woman was arrested after stealing \$14 from a business in the 9100 block of Jos. Campau. The woman also was charged with possessing narcotics.

**Monday, May 9**

- A Yemans resident reported a break-in and the theft of various items.
- A resident reported the theft of their 2009 GM Acadia while it was parked in the 2600 block of Belmont.
- A Dearborn Heights resident reported being assaulted in the 9300

block of Jos. Campau.

- A resident in the 2400 block of Hewitt reported a break-in.
- At noon a resident reported being assaulted in the 12000 block of Dyar.
- A woman reported being assaulted by her ex-boyfriend in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
- A woman said she was bitten by a dog in the 11300 block of Gallagher.

# Common Word Alliance



Arif Huskic, President and Founder

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Bring gloves, rakes, brooms, branch trimmers, chain saws and pickup trucks.

**MAY 7TH**

Gathering at People’s Community Center  
8625 Joseph Campau & Danforth  
8am-1pm followed by cultural potluck lunch.

**MAY 14TH**

Gathering at Masjidun Nur  
(Corner of Caniff & Mound)  
8am-1pm followed by cultural potluck lunch.

**MAY 21ST**

Gathering at Frontier International Academy  
13200 Conant St & Charles Street.  
8am-1pm followed by cultural potluck lunch.

**MAY 28TH**

Gathering at People’s Community Center  
8625 Joseph Campau & Danforth  
8am-1pm followed by cultural potluck lunch.

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