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SOUP

Quick Hits

Here's a good way to beat the heat this Sunday – and contribute to a good cause.

Hamtramck Soup is once again hosting a presentation of community projects on July 24.

How this works is anyone can join the dinner for a \$5 admission and listen to the presenters. After the presentations are made those in attendance vote to pick the winning project.

The winner takes the proceeds from the night to help fund their project.

It's a great way to meet fellow residents and make new friends.

The July 24 get-together is at PLAV Post 10, 11824 Jos. Campau. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., dinner is served up at 5 and presentations are made at 6.

Quote of the week ...

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

"We want to see what's out there. ..."

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

After months of waiting, fire grant gives financial security – for a while

By Charles Sercombe

Here's one financial challenge the city won't have to worry about – for a short while that is.

Last week it was announced that Hamtramck will receive \$2.3 million from a federal grant to finance 12 positions in the Fire Department for the next two years.

City officials had been waiting – and waiting – for this announcement for the past few months.

The grant will not cover a \$400,000 shortfall in the Fire Department for last year's



For the next two years financing for the Fire Department will be largely covered by a federal grant. But city officials will have to use that time to come up with a permanent solution to funding the department.

fiscal budget, which ended on June 30. However, the grant will now eliminate a deficit in the current fiscal year.

City Manager Katrina Powell said in an email that she was doing

“cartwheels” – at least figuratively – after hearing the news. But she

Continued on page 2

Urgent care center offers one-stop health care

By Mike Murphy
Special to The Review

Unlike many health care providers, the manager of an urgent health care facility new to Hamtramck aims to provide much needed and affordable health care services for the community.

Health Choice Urgent Care Facility manager

Aziz Issa said Hamtramck is an underserved area as far as one-stop emergency health care services are concerned, and his urgent care facility is needed in the community.

“We're not here to get rich, we're here to help

Continued on page 6

Deadline for School Board race coming up

By Charles Sercombe

Time is running out for those who want a seat on the Hamtramck School Board.

Candidates have until July 26, 4 p.m., to file for the upcoming November election. There are three seats on the board to fill.

One seat is to fill the remaining term of former Boardmember Mohammed Huda, who vacated the position because he was found to not actually be a resident of the city. That position has four years remaining in the term.

Huda challenged the board's decision that his position was vacated in Wayne Circuit Court but lost. He initially charged the district with violating his civil rights, but when that was rejected by Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Robert Colombo, he tried to get his position back without seeking financial damages from the district.

That, too, was rejected by Judge Colombo.

Boardmember Salah Hadwan has been filling that seat for the past few months. He is expected to seek election to it.

Continued on page 3

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Cucumbers 2/\$1	Oranges 2/\$1	Sweet Potatoes 2/\$1 LBS.				Kingsford Charcoal 18.6 lb. \$9.99



NEWS ADVISORY: From All-Faiths Festival and Care of the Soul and Companions' Counseling. Contact 586-925-7617 for more, and reservations with group moderator and board certified professional counselor, Rev. Dr. Lawrence M. Ventline, a Catholic pastor

"Respect for Sex, Guns, and the Golden Rule,"
a Clergy Roundtable Session in the Boulevard Grill, 27200 Crocker Blvd., Harrison Twp., **Thursday, July 28th, 12 Noon - 1:15 PM.**


"Veterans and Military Therapy," a growth group in a safe setting with Father Lawrence Ventline who experienced the loss of his own brother, PFC Lukas Ventline, in Vietnam, and, has conducted veteran and grief support groups for four decades. Call or email lawrencemattthewventline@gmail.com for a seat, and venue for the **4 August Thursdays, 10:30 am and 5:00 pm sessions.**

'We, the People: Protection, the Public and Police - A Clergy Roundable Conversation,' Warren Civic Center Library Mark Twain Room, One City Square, Van Dyke betw 12 & 13 Mile, **Monday, Aug. 8th, 12 Noon - 1:15 PM**

Vacation Bible School for Children, Parents and Grandparents, "The Golden Rule, and, Respect for Sex and Guns," **Monday, Aug. 15, 1 - 2:30 pm,** at the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Apartments Community Center, 595 Chene, Detroit.

Elmwood Park Community Praise, Family Fair Food Center, 750 Chene, Det., Sunday, Aug. 7, 12 Noon. High school bands, children, parents, and grandparents join neighbors at the MLK, Jr. Apartments, more.

16th Annual Missing, Murdered Molly Bish Day, and, 25th Anniversary of the All-Faiths Festival and Care of the Soul and Companions' Counseling, **Thursday, August 25, 7 PM,** Complimentary Meal by reservation, at Saint Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Cathedral, 4575 E. Outer Drive at Van Dyke, Detroit.



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After months of waiting, fire grant gives financial security – for a while

Continued from front page

added that the city still needs to look for ways to permanently fund the department.

“Let the hard work now begin over the next year in finding a dedicated funding source,” Powell said in a group email.

Powell told The Review that she is working with state officials on a way to fund the department without depending on grants. This grant is officially called a SAFER grant, which stands for Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response and comes from the federal agency FEMA.

Hamtramck has received this grant for the past few years.

Although Hamtramck was under the control of a state-appointed emergency manager before Powell took over as city manager a year-and-a-half ago, permanent funding for the department was not ad-

ressed.

Neither was the city’s other financial hurdle: supporting the rising costs for pensions.

Powell is also working with state officials on this financial challenge as well.

The city has come under the control of an emergency manager twice in the last 15 years – all because of financial shortfalls beyond the city’s control.

Hamtramck has experienced what many other municipalities have suffered from: a shrinking tax base and increasing costs in providing services.

The city is still under the control of the state via a Transition Advisory Board. That board has final approval of financial decisions by the city.

In other news regarding the Fire Department, retired Eastpointe Fire Chief Danny Hagen will be Hamtramck Interim

Fire Chief starting Aug.

1. Powell said that a nationwide search will be conducted to fill the position permanently. She said eligible Hamtramck firefighters are also welcomed to apply for the

job.

The search is expected to take three to four months, Powell said. In the meantime Hagen will be assessing the needs of the department.

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This week at the library...

Citizenship Class – Tuesday, July 26, 5:30 p.m. Hamtramck residents can get help in preparing for their citizenship exam. Classes are free. Registration is required.

Family Feud Family Fun Night – With Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition, July 28, 5 p.m.

Meet the author – “My Evidence Closet” Author visit & Book Signing with local author Dorothy Payne Thursday, July 28, 5 p.m. Join the author for a brief reading, a question and answer session, and book signing.

“After what seemed to be the longest storm of my being, God calm the waters and graced me with love and happiness in abundance, but not without vast trials and tribulations. My love for the lord has grown from all the temporary suffering from the loss of my parents and siblings to my son being temporarily incarcerated and my daughter’s mental illness. I

also adopted my daughter’s five children all while holding down a full time job. From those situations God showed me with love; help, consoling and most of all victory.

“The book will show how God blessed and gave me the victory over each and every situation. The journey has not been easy. Thru it all God has shown me and my family how much he loves us. He has also shown me that he can work out any situation and turn it into a victory. I have proof and it is all in My Evidence Closet.”

Starlab – Wednesday, August 3, 2 p.m., Explore the wonders of the galaxy, and observe the beauty and science of the night sky by stepping inside the Starlab!

DETROIT 1967: DO YOU REMEMBER? – Do you have fond memories of living in the metro Detroit Area? Did you live in Detroit during the 1960s? Would you like to share your story? The Detroit Historical Society is currently

embarking on an ambitious project to collect oral or written histories from our community members who have compelling accounts of the life in or around Detroit before, during, or after the July 1967 civil unrest. No story is too big or too small. Please contact us today.

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.

Second Front Page



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 July 12, and all councilmembers were present.

Before the regular council meeting a work session was held. In a review of purchases, it was noted that the city paid \$42,000 for a dump truck that will haul road salt and plow the streets in winter.

“It should save some wear and tear on our smaller trucks,” said City Manager Katrina Powell.

Powell noted that the truck was purchased through a bid process and it had been hoped the city would buy it for far less, at \$25,000.

Also discussed was a bid proposal to take over street repairs. Powell said the city will be ramping up repairs “hot and heavy.”

Retired Eastpointe Fire Chief Danny Hagen was introduced as the interim Hamtramck Fire Chief, and he is scheduled to begin work on Aug. 1.

Powell said that a nationwide search will be conducted for a permanent chief.

“We want to see what’s

out there. ... This is a crucial time for the Fire Department as we try to find a reliable, dedicated funding source,” she said.

During the regular council meeting, Councilmember Anam Miah asked for a moment of silence for those officers killed and wounded in the Dallas police ambush.

During public comment a woman complained about her basement flooding during a recent heavy rain.

She also complained that the city is “dirty.”

“It seems like the city is not holding anyone accountable,” she said.

A resident urged the council to reconsider waiving fees to residents who require emergency help in the case of an accident. He said the city is currently running a budget deficit.

Later in the meeting the council unanimously agreed to waive the fees.

During a discussion to accept the lowest bid in a road repair contract, Councilmember Andrea Karpinski questioned whether it is common to

award a three-year contract.

The city’s engineer said many cities OK multiple-year contracts. Plus, he said, this contract guarantees one price for cement for three years.

Councilmember Miah asked where the contract was for this bid. After some more discussion City Manager Powell said the council will be presented with a contract later for approval.

She said the vote she is asking for allows the city to accept the bid received from a contractor.

In light of the Dallas police shooting, Councilmember Karpinski urged residents to call police if they see anything even “a little off, a little suspicious.”

Mayor Karen Majewski added that when residents call police to document when they called and who they talked to. She added that she has heard of reports that a contractor is going door-to-door and causing concern whether it is a scam.

In her report to council, City Manager Powell cred-

ited Kathy Angerer, the city’s Director of Community & Government Affairs Department, for organizing a clean-up crew.

She added that while the city appears filthy, the city is “working diligently” to educate residents about city codes.

Councilmember Miah asked if there is a city law regulating medical marijuana grow houses.

City Attorney Travis Mihelick said although the city has no ordinance on the matter, people have to follow the state law and be licensed by the state.

In another matter, Councilmember Miah said the city should – at the very least – clean up city parking lots.

City Manager Powell said the city is doing landscaping, and that it would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to repair the lots.

She also said that there will be an engineering study to determine the conditions of city alleys and rank the order of which should be repaired.

“These alleys are horrible,” she said.

Deadline for School Board race coming up

Continued from front page

Two other seats are for a full six-year term currently filled by incumbents Hedy Shulgon and Jackie Starr.

They are also expected to seek re-election.

So far, only one candidate has officially filed, Showkat Chowdhury.

City Clerk August Gitschlag said he expects more candidates to file this Friday, the day after The Review went to press. Gitschlag also said he has information envelopes for anyone who seeks to run for school board. The information includes how to

properly seek voter signatures for nominating petitions and how to properly handle absentee ballots, among other issues.

The handling of absentee ballots has become an issue in recent years as there have been some candidates who have violated state law on their use of the ballots.

There is one current case pending in the state Attorney General’s Office regarding the matter.

There is no primary election for the school

board.

But there is a Primary Election on Aug. 2 for a number of non-city offices and two tax millages.

Hamtramck Councilmembers Anam Miah and Mohammed Hassan will be on the primary ballot.

Miah is seeking to unseat Wayne County Commissioner Martha Scott, while Hassan is also going after an incumbent, State Rep. Rose Mary Robinson.

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Change of date for Sept. soup kitchen
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RAKOCZY



Lottie Rakoczy (nee Balda), 97, died July 15, 2016.

Mrs. Rakoczy was the beloved wife of the late Ignatius. Mrs. Rakoczy is survived by her children, Sister Susan IHM, Daniel, Nancy, Lawrence, Richard (Rebecca), and Janice; grandchildren, Rose, Leah, Alexsandra, Sean, Kate, Emily; siblings Eugene and Wanda Kroll.

Lottie was active in the Daughters of Isabella and the Queen of Apostles

Seniors Club.

Visitation is Thursday, July 21, from 6-9 p.m. with Rosary at 6 at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck MI 48212. Mrs. Rakoczy will lie in state Friday, July 22 at 9:30 a.m. until time of funeral Mass at 10 at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, 11200 Conant at Prescott, Hamtramck MI 48212. Interment will be at Resurrection Cemetery, Clinton Township, MI. Memorials may be made to IHM Sisters Retirement Fund.

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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Our endorsements for the August 2 Primary Election

In just a little over a week voters will be heading to the polls for the Primary Election.

Yes, there is an election coming up, on Aug. 2.

It features two city councilmembers vying to unseat two incumbents. Councilmember Mohammad Hassan wants to kick out State Rep. Rose Mary Robinson, who is seeking her third and final term in the state House.

It's unlikely he will achieve that goal, but he concedes that at least it will position him to possibly win when Robinson's term ends in another two years.

Councilmember Anam Miah, who is Mayor Pro Tem, is also up against a strong incumbent, Wayne County Commissioner Martha Scott. Miah recently received support from the Detroit News, which endorsed him, although it mistakenly identified him as Mayor Pro Tem of Highland Park.

The Detroit News' point of view is that the entire Commission deserves to be turned out.

We agree that it is time for new blood on the Commission, and we endorse ANAM MIAH over Scott.

Scott has served in several public offices since the 1980s, and it is time for her to step down and let a new generation serve.

We think, however, that State Rep. Robinson is another matter. She has served her position well and has been a close friend of Hamtramck, and ROSE MARY ROBINSON deserves to finish out her third term.

Also seeking election this year is interim Wayne County Treasurer, Eric Sabree. He has been finishing out the term vacated by former Treasurer Raymond Wojtowicz, who retired.

ERIC SABREE has proven he is a capable leader and up to the task of running one of the largest county departments. He deserves your support.

No matter what, be sure to participate in the August 2 Primary. There are a number of other important races and two millage questions.

Let your voice be heard.

Odds & Ends

Reward... A house break-in here in Hamtramck has been making the media rounds recently.

Why?

This was no ordinary break-in – not that even an ordinary one is acceptable. But in this case, the burglar, or burglars, was truly depraved. Whoever broke into this particular house, they encountered the resident's pet dog, and beat it and then also doused it with Drano.

Some of that chemical got into the eyes of the poor pooch. The dog has survived but needs around-the-clock medical care.

There is now a \$5,000 reward being offered by the animal rights group, PETA. The money will be awarded to the person who provides information on the identity of those responsible which results in their conviction.

Have a tip? If so, call Hamtramck police at (313) 876-7827.

Celebration... The good folks at Grace Baptist Church, located on Caniff, recently held a community cookout at Veterans Memorial Park where the church also hosted visiting groups from out of state and sponsored a clean-up of the park.

Hamtramck could certainly use more people like the parishioners of Grace Church.

Donation... Hamtramck's Friendship House received a timely boost, thanks to the Moose Lodge here in Hamtramck.

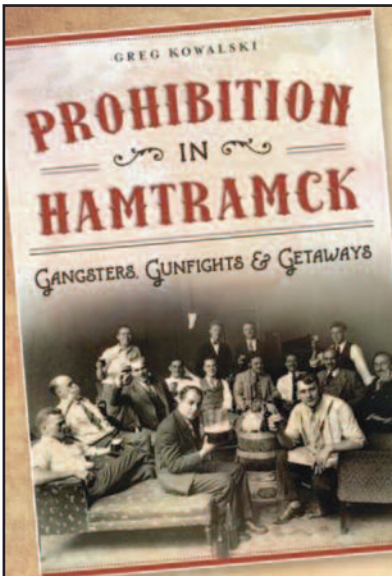
The group handed over a check to the organization for \$700 — proceeds from their popular Taco Night.

Friendship House serves hundreds of needy residents and provides food and other items.

Moose members previously donated \$300 to the organization, again proceeds from their Friday night dinners.




Members of Grace Baptist Church recently hosted a cleanup and cookout at Veterans Memorial Park.



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Other Voices: Guest Editorial

Volunteers are needed for city recycling program or it will fail

By Bill Wiitala

The Hamtramck Recycling Program has been in operation since 2009 and in these past seven years we have seen participation steadily grow.

We have also received positive feedback from community members who appreciate the convenience of recycling locally.

However, we are facing challenges that are threatening the viability of the program. Most importantly, we are in desperate need of more adult volunteers to help during the drop-off day.

We have a strong core of seven adult volunteers but this is simply not enough. If our program is to continue, we need an additional 10-15 volunteers who would serve on a rotating basis, perhaps every other month. A typical volunteer shift should be for two hours, but at present some of us are doing three, four, five or even six-hour shifts, because if we didn't, there would be no one to do the work.

Being a volunteer means assisting for a one to two-hour shift between 9a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Second Saturday drop-off bin.

We invite you to volunteer. We urge you to volunteer. Helping at the bin is a great way to meet others in our city and build new friendships with the other volunteers and our "customers."

If you are passionate about recycling and have been an active participant in our program, we kindly ask that you give back in order to see this valuable service continue. Please contact Bill at wwiitala@sbc-global.net to schedule your volunteer shift.



To register students for Hamtramck Public Schools, application packets are available at 3201 Roosevelt, Monday-Friday from 7:15 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

Please bring the following information with you to register: original birth certificate, up to date immunization record, current transcripts/report card from previous school, parent ID (current Michigan's Driver's License or Michigan State I.D.), two current proofs of residency (past 30 days) are required: e.g. utility bill, mortgage, rent receipt, etc.

Also, Hamtramck Public School District is accepting non-Hamtramck residents for the 2016-2017 school year. Please be advised of the following School of Choice application deadlines: 1st-8th grades accepted through August 25, 9th grade through August 5, 10th-12th grades through August 12.

Horizon High School of Choice applications are being accepted through August 12. Kindergarten School of Choice applications are being accepted through September 9. No late School of Choice applications will be accepted after these due dates.

Recreation Department News

Spend the weekend with the Hamtramck Recreation Department. Join us Saturday, July 30 for "It's A Blast in Hamtramck" fireworks event at Keyworth Stadium from 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

This year we'll have a mobile zipline, human hamster ball race, euro bungees, and much more.

Then come along on Sunday, July 31 to honor and dedicate the pavilion at Pulaski Park to the beloved Titus Rudolph Walters, former Hamtramck Public School Board President and City Councilmember. The dedication ceremony will begin at 3 p.m.

Compiled by Janice Gandelman

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Urgent care center offers one-stop health care

Continued from front page

and give real health care," Issa said. "Hospitals are very busy."

Health Choice Urgent Care Facility, located in the Carpenter Medical Center at 3120 Carpenter, has a lot going for it, according to Issa.

"We accept most insurances, including Medicare and Medicaid, and a visit to the clinic for someone without any insurance at all costs \$70 for everything."

Clinic employees also speak multiple languages, including Arabic, Bengali and English.

Issa said the clinic's supervising doctor, Dr. Farid Zayed, and physician's assistant, Kevin Campbell, can provide x-rays, vaccinations, physicals and EKGs for those in the need.

"We provide the whole

nine yards," Issa said. "Everything short of surgery."

Zayed is a cardio doctor and general practitioner with 15-years' experience, and while the clinic is now open from noon to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays, Issa said he plans to expand the clinic's staff as well as its hours.

"In the next month or so, we will be open six days a week," Issa said.

The clinic manager added that even now, patients can expect a short waiting period before they are seen by the clinic's medical staff.

"Wait times are less than 30 minutes now," Issa said.

Coming events

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

SATURDAY, August 6, 3-8 p.m. – The Hamtramck 6th Annual Community Reunion Picnic will be held at Pulaski Par (located on Lumpkin, between Edwin and Norwalk). All past, present and future Hamtramck residents are invited. There is no charge, but donations will be welcomed to purchase school supplies for local children and defray costs for the picnic. All children must be accompanied by an adult. No smoking or alcoholic beverage are allowed in the park. Entertainment by DJ Bush and DJ Lemuel and special DJ guest from Ohio. For more information, call Michael (Boss Man) Wimbush at (313) 310-8129 or (313) 883-4889.

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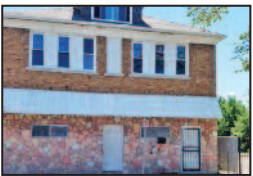
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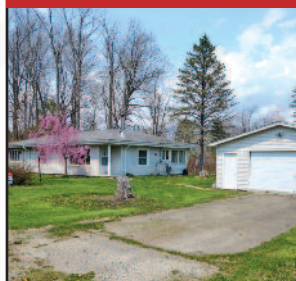


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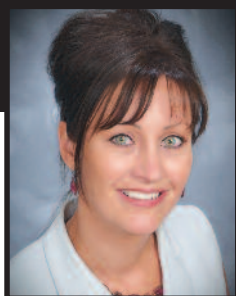
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8/5



By Charles Sercombe
This week's Crime Log covers July 12-18.

Tuesday, July 12

- At 3:30 a.m. Michigan State Police dropped off a Detroit resident at the Hamtramck Police Station. The man was wanted on a local felony warrant.
- At about 12:30 a.m. officers took a report from a man in a local hospital who said he cut himself when he grabbed a knife by the blade. Hospital officials thought he had been stabbed.
- A Detroit resident was arrested after a traffic stop for driving without a license.
- A Detroit resident said someone stole her debit card at work and withdrew \$750 from her account.

Wednesday, July 13

- The Hamtramck Special Response Team conducted a search warrant that resulted in four arrests.
- A Warren resident was arrested after a traffic stop for driving without a license. The driver has seven previous convictions for this offense. He was also wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.
- At 3 a.m. a resident

was arrested for domestic violence after assaulting two people in the 2600 block of Edwin.

- A resident reported the front passenger window of his Toyota was broken out while it was parked in the 9500 block of Charest.
- A resident reported she was assaulted by a co-worker at a business on Jos. Campau.
- A Detroit resident was arrested for obstruction after she interfered with officers involved in an unrelated traffic stop. The woman was later committed to Detroit Receiving Hospital after acting irrationally.

Thursday, July 14

- At 3 a.m. a Hamtramck resident and a Warren resident were arrested for reckless driving and obstruction.
- At 3:15 a.m. a St. Clair Shores resident was assaulted by two women while she was in the 9500 block of Charest.
- At 9 a.m. a Charest resident was arrested for assaulting his wife.
- A St. Aubin resident reported someone broke out his car window and stole his radio.
- A Farmington Hills resident reported someone stole her purse while

she was at a business on Conant.

- Two residents were ticketed for not being responsible parents after their children stole a bicycle.
- A Gallagher resident reported a break-in.

Friday, July 15

- At a little after midnight a person in the 11300 block of Gallagher reported being stalked.
- A person turned in a driver's license and various gift cards that were found.
- A man was arrested for domestic assault after assaulting his girlfriend.
- A resident reported someone may have entered her mother's house by fraudulent means. It was not known if anything was stolen.

Saturday, July 16

- A resident in the 2000 block of Evaline reported a break-in and the theft of a number of items.
- A resident in the 3000 block of Roosevelt reported someone stole mail out of her mailbox.
- Police in Atlanta, Georgia recovered a car that was reported stolen from Hamtramck.
- Officers responded to

Continued on page 8

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Continued from page 7

a shooting in the area of Oklahoma and Circle Dr. A person who had been shot was later found by Detroit police and treated at a local hospital.

- A resident reported her wallet was stolen from her car while it was parked in the 9500 block of Conant.

Sunday, July 17

- At almost 11 p.m. a man reported that while sitting with friends in a parking lot at Fleming and Commor he was assaulted by a group of 10-12 suspects, one of whom was armed with a gun. The victim said one

of the suspects broke a bottle over his head, causing a cut.

- At 2 a.m. a man reported someone broke into his semi-truck while parked on Denton near Lumpkin.

- A person said that while walking in the area of Caniff and Jos. Campau a male on a bike forcefully stole a bag carried by the victim.

- A Prescott resident reported a break-in.

- An agent from Metropolitan Bakery on Lumpkin reported the theft of propane tanks from an area outside of the business.

- A resident reported he was given counterfeit bills during a Craigslist transaction in the 9300 block of Jos. Campau.

- A Casmere resident reported a friend of his neighbor stole his television.

Monday, July 18

- At a little after 2 a.m. a resident was arrested in the 11400 block of Grand Haven for being intoxicated, obstruction and driving without a license.

- At a little after 6 a.m. officers chased a driver suspected in the thefts of catalytic converters. The

suspect was apprehended.

- A resident in the 12000 block of Grand Haven reported the theft of their 2009 Chevy Malibu.

- Caniff Liberty Academy reported damage to its sliding gate.

- A Nagel resident reported a domestic violence incident that happened in her residence.

- A person reported being robbed of her purse while at Carpenter and Gallagher by a male with a beard and wearing a black and red shirt and a hat.

- An Andrus resident reported her neighbor pulled a gun on her and her family during a dispute about a swimming pool.

The lore of Hamtramck ...

Hamtramck’s amazing numbers

By Greg Kowalski

The story is in the numbers, and they didn’t add up.

Or rather, they were adding up too fast. Whatever. Something wasn’t right. The tax records of the utilities serving Hamtramck were way out of line, showing that they were being used by some 18,000 people.

But the census of Hamtramck taken a mere five years earlier showed that only 3,500 people lived in the 2-square-mile town.

And that’s what

prompted the Hamtramck Village Council to seek to have the Federal government do a special census of Hamtramck in May of 1915.

Granted, even in that short span of time things had changed dramatically in Hamtramck. In June of 1910, John and Horace Dodge bought a patch of ground on the south side of the village, and by November of that year they already had the beginnings of the factory in place and were producing parts for Henry Ford there.

Some other factories had opened as well, and the lure of jobs they all provided had proven to be a powerful magnet, drawing people to work and live in Hamtramck.

But nearly 15,000 people in just five years? That seemed a bit much.

Hardly. What no one seemed to realize at the time was that Hamtramck was in the midst of an explosive growth unlike anywhere else in the country — except neighboring Highland Park, which also was in a population explosion. But even it didn’t add up to what was happening in Hamtramck.

People were pouring into Hamtramck. Houses were being built at a furious rate as fields were being converted into blocks of homes almost overnight. The Federal government took note as well, and on June 17, 1915, “The President,

through the Secretary of Commerce, acting under the authority conferred by section 8 of the organic act of the department, approved February 14, 1903 instructed the Director of the Census to make an enumeration of the inhabitants of Hamtramck, Mich.”

At least that’s how the action was noted in the “Special Census of the Population of Hamtramck, Mich.,” published in 1915.

The city authorized an expenditure of \$800 to cover the costs of the census, including paying the hotel bill, street car fares and whatever for the census director and \$1 paid to each enumerator.

What they produced was a gold mine of staggering numbers.

“The special enumeration of Hamtramck, made as of June 25, 1915, shows a population of 21,520 on that date, compared with 3,559 on April 15, 1910. The increase was 17,961, or 504.7 percent,” the census report noted. “The population of Hamtramck has been growing about 50 times as rapidly as that of the United States as a whole,” it went on.

The numbers were broken down by sex, age and race. For example, there were 1,881 men in Hamtramck in 1910; there were 11,902 in 1915. There were 1,678 women in 1910 compared with

9,558 women in 1915. The population of children exploded as well. In 1910 there were 638 children age 5 and under in Hamtramck. In 1915 there were 5,264.

Racially, there were 39 black people in Hamtramck in 1910 compared with 278 in 1915.

And this was just the beginning. In another five years Hamtramck’s population would more than double again, finally reaching 56,000 people in 1930. It was predicted then that Hamtramck would have more than 90,000 residents, although where they would have fit was not specified.

In fact, Hamtramck became too crowded, and ultimately the numbers went down substantially, to about 18,000 in 1990.

But the story is far from over. Since 2000 Hamtramck’s population has been consistent at about 24,000. It’s nothing like the growth spurt of the early 20th century, but it is fairly steady. However, it looks like we will have many more numbers to count in the next census.

You can learn more about Hamtramck’s fascinating past 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) 574-9758.