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The Review

Hamtramck

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Quick Hits

Fourteen years ago on this day, Sept. 11, America came under attack.

Over 3,000 Americans lost their lives from the attack and destruction of the World Trade Center in New York and elsewhere, including the Pentagon.

In commemoration of that tragic event, Sept. 11 is now Patriot Day. In keeping with the spirit of the occasion, the American flag will be raised on all of the flagpoles on Jos. Campau, starting around 10 a.m.

Hamtramck firefighters will be assisting in the flag raising, and they will also be raising a flag in honor of the fallen first-responders who died that day.

Take a moment on Friday to acknowledge those who were killed and those who sacrificed their lives to save others.

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Despite brutal heat, festival attendance one of the best ever

Scenes from this week-end's Hamtramck Labor Day Festival and the Polish Day Parade. Below: The Hamtramck Yatch Club Canoe Race took over part of Jos. Campau on Monday.

By Charles Sercombe

If there is one word that defines this year's Hamtramck Labor Day Festival it would be this: Hot.

As in unbearable, muggy, suffocating and not-enough-beer-in-the-world-to-quench-your-thirst kind of hot.

At least there was no rainstorm to wipe out part of the festival as in years past — although a little sprinkling would have been welcomed.

While the brutal heat kept attendance down during the day, at night people swarmed into

Hamtramck. Organizers say it was one of the highest-attended festivals in recent years.

There were several incidents involving fights, but

Festival organizer Konrad Maziarz said this week it's not yet known whether the festival made money. Usually the festival nets a few thousand dollars — enough to get

Continued on page 4

Another chapter closes in housing lawsuit

By Charles Sercombe

One more part of the longstanding Hamtramck housing lawsuit puzzle was put in place Wednesday.

A press conference was held to showcase the last of five houses out of 25 that were built by Wayne County to help solve the city's 40-plus-year-old housing lawsuit.

The county teamed up with Habitat for Humanity to produce the houses, two of which were used as a backdrop for the press conference held on Whalen.

The key to one house was handed to Arlene Jeter, who is the granddaughter of one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

As she choked back tears, Jeter said: "This is something that has been truly a blessing."

Jeter's grandparents did not live to see this housing lawsuit come to a close. Most of the plaintiffs in the case are now deceased.

It's their descendents who are the beneficiaries of a lawsuit that started after Hamtramck city officials, who are also now long gone, targeted a mostly African-American neighborhoods in the 1960s for what was called at the time "urban renewal."

The city used federal funds that were earmarked for blight removal. For those African-Americans, how-

Continued on page 2

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.

"I'm going to die in this city, and I'd like to die happy."

Majin Luke Niewiadomski and Emjou Hillary of the Detroit Zen Center teahouse at Berlin Atonal festival in August.

Photo by Angie Linder

By Walter Wasacz

As he stepped up to her, Emjou Hillary thought the man with long straight hair and floral print jacket looked familiar. She was serving tea – lots of it – in the courtyard of a former East German power plant, now home to Tresor, the storied techno music

company. Inside, an international festival of art and music called Berlin Atonal was rolling and raging with experimental sights and sounds.

"The man said he and his band were guzzling the tea we were making and wanted some more

Continued on page 2

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Little Caesars

Another chapter closes in housing lawsuit

Continued from front page

ever, it had more to do with what a federal judge overseeing the case called “negro removal.”

The lawsuit dragged on for many years until a settlement was reached in the 1980s. The city

1990s that a housing plan was agreed on.

Wayne County played a crucial role in brokering that deal and getting state officials involved. The county was not obligated to do anything and

Evans credited the administration of former Executive Ed McNamara for helping Hamtramck settle the housing lawsuit.

He said that despite the long delay in building the houses, “we’re moving on to a more positive chapter.”

Until recently, Hamtramck officials thought all of the housing units had been built. But several weeks ago the attorney for the plaintiffs, Michael Barnhart, claimed the city still needs to build three more houses.

The federal judge who has overseen the lawsuit all these years, Damon Keith, agreed, and will soon require Hamtramck property owners to pay a special tax to fund the construction of the houses.

It’s estimated it will cost an additional \$600,000 to build what will now be the last three houses.

Those who have moved into the lawsuit houses bought them at below market value and were given special loans and in some cases tax breaks.

Jeter will be living in a brand new, three bedroom house with a two car garage. The county-built houses also feature energy efficient appliances.



Top: Arlene Jeter is handed a key to her new house on Whalen. She is the granddaughter of one of the plaintiffs who filed a housing discrimination lawsuit against the city over 40 years ago. Below: Wayne County built 25 houses to help settle the Hamtramck housing lawsuit case.



agreed to build 200 housing units, but funding for house construction was nowhere to be found.

Federal funds by that time had long dried up.

A special tax district was created in the city to begin collecting funds, but it wasn’t until the late

had no part in the lawsuit.

On hand at the press conference was Hamtramck City Manager Katrina Powell, who said the event was a “landmark” day for the city, and Wayne County Executive Warren Evans.



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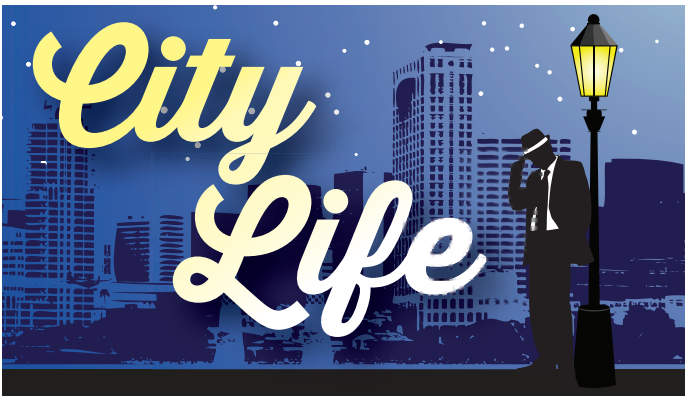
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If you have any questions or concerns you may contact the Hamtramck Housing Commission at 313-868-7445.

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Continued from front page

brought backstage,” Emjou says. “It dawned on me it was (Jean-Hervé P ron) of Faust, a band I have loved for years. We brought more back to them and saw them perform. It was wonderful.”

Faust is a pioneering group of musicians and artists that helped launch a highly influential scene, called kosmishe muzik or krautrock, in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Emjou is telling me the story on a recent stormy afternoon in Hamtramck, in the basement below the Detroit Zen Center’s meditation hall, a commercial space the local Buddhists call Living Zen Organics.

Three members of Hamtramck’s Zen community were invited to Berlin to do a pop up teahouse during the Atonal festival, held in late August. They made the trip at the request of Dimitri Hegemann, who launched Tresor in 1991 and founded a trans-Atlantic group called the Detroit-Berlin Connection (DBC) in 2013.

(Full disclosure: I have worked as an unpaid consultant for the DBC since 2013.)

In April 2014, during a brief stay in Detroit, Hegemann was introduced to the Zen Center by a mutual Hamtramck friend, Aaron Siegel, who runs a music distribution company and label here called FIT Sound.

“We prepared a meal for them and Dimitri said he really liked it,” says Emjou, who has been a

resident monk at the Zen Center since the late 1990s. “The meditation hall reminded him of Berlin, he said what we

were doing at Living Zen Organics was like a performance art piece.”

Hegemann came back three more times (staying in Hamtramck the last two times) before plans for the Berlin pop up were made good on this summer. He spoke of Living Zen Organics as a model of creative entrepreneurship, Emjou says, the kind of non-traditional, non-corporate, outside-the-mainstream business that can lead (directly and afford-

Continued on page 8

enterprise

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This week at the library...

Labor Day Parade Movie

A short movie made during the Labor Day Parade has been released by the Library. It can be viewed on YouTube by selecting “Hamtramck Labor Day Parade 2015.”

Tutoring Service

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, children can take advantage of tutoring service provided South Asian Student Society and Hamtramck Library. The program is free of charge to Hamtramck residents and open to students and adults.

Summer Reading Awards Program

Friday, September 11 at 5 p.m. Participants in this year’s Summer Reading Program will receive their certificates and prizes. Ice cream social will follow the official

part of the program. Everyone is invited.

ESL Class

Monday, September 14 at 11 a.m. Summer ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration required.

Movie Night

Tuesday, September 15 at 4 p.m. All children are invited to view this week’s movie “Planet Earth.” Popcorn and drinks will be provided.

Meeting of the Library Board

Thursday, September 17 at 6 p.m. Regular meeting of the Library Board will be held in the auditorium. Open to the public.

Friends of the Library Meeting

Thursday, September 24 at 6 p.m. 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, September 28 at 7 p.m. The Hamtramck Common Word Alliance will hold its monthly meeting at the Library. For more information call Arif Huskic at (313) 999-5483 Refreshments will be served. Everyone is invited.

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, including museums, for up to one week. Ask at the circulation desk for 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

Too much fun? No such thing for Hamtramckans

By Greg Kowalski

Dancing was fun. So was going to the movies. But that trip aboard the steamer Tahsmoo – which sank – not so much. Still, if there was one thing Hamtramckans could excel at, it was find-

ing ways of having fun. Whether it was spending hours at the corner bar, or being in or watching one of those endless streams of parades held in the city, there always seemed something for Hamtramckans to do. And they did it with gusto.

See for yourself (and maybe you'll pick up some ideas) at the next Hungry for History program at the Hamtramck Historical Museum on Thursday, Sept. 24.

In this PowerPoint presentation, we'll step inside the fabulous Bowery night club where Jimmy Durante and The Three Stooges used to perform, hit the courts with tennis legend Jean Hoxie and even take a peek at some of the more bawdy places that flourished during Prohibition (this might not be suitable for children). In any case, the focus will be on fun (even aboard the ill-fated Tashmoo).

The program includes a catered dinner for \$15 (\$7 is tax deductible). Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The PowerPoint presentation is free and begins at 7 p.m. The museum is at 9525 Jos. Campau, between Norwalk and Poland streets. RSVP to (313) 893-5027 by Monday, Sept. 21, or email hamtramck-history@gmail.com. For more information and to register, go to the Historical Museum website at www.hamtramckhistory.org.

(Editor's note: Greg Kowalski is the chairman of the Hamtramck Historical Commission.)

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Despite brutal heat, festival attendance one of the best ever



Cont. from front page

the next year's festival up and running.

Maziarz said there was increased interest by those attending to help out in the festival committee.

"People do want to make sure it goes on," Maziarz said.

A weekend highlight included the annual Polish Day Parade, which seemed a little shorter this year. And because of the intense heat, the various groups of Polish dancers participating in the parade did not perform as usual. Instead, they just walked down the parade route and waived to onlookers.

This was the 36th year for the festival. At one time the only competition for the festival was the Michigan State Fair.

Now, metro area residents have a number of choices, including Arts, Beats & Eats in Royal Oak and the Detroit Jazz Festival.

Unlike those other festivals, Hamtramck's is free to attend.

And unlike Arts, Beats & Eats, there is no heavy hand of the law. It was reported by WXYZ Channel 7 that Royal Oak cops issued almost 1,600 parking tickets over the weekend.

How's that for a welcome?

In Hamtramck, where people are actually appreciated, festivalgoers were greeted by a person peddling a bike cart offering Jello shots.

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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Labor Day Festival needs to have city assistance

First of all, to all the volunteers who put together this year's Hamtramck Labor Day Festival, thanks for creating another fun get-together.

To Mother Nature we say, no thanks for creating the hottest weekend this summer.

It was brutal out there, but those who did attend the festival – and there were thousands – had another great time partying down on Jos. Campau.

For the kids of this town, it was a rare opportunity to enjoy some carnival rides for pretty cheap.

And for music lovers it was another stellar line-up of the very best in Detroit area bands.

Best of all, the festival and the music were free.

Having said all that, we'd like to once again point out that this festival can't continue to rely solely on volunteers. As good of a job as they do on a shoestring budget, the festival needs some assistance.

And that will take some kind of help from the city. We don't know to what extent the city should get involved, but there definitely needs to be some financial input.

Why?

Because this festival is a showcase for Hamtramck. We need to further promote and bolster the festival to make it the very best it can be. That takes some deeper pockets.

Over the next few months we encourage city officials to at least start a dialogue on what role the city can play in supporting the festival.

It's asking an awful lot to have unpaid volunteers dedicate hundreds of hours of their labor to put this event together. Let's all get behind the festival and continue to make improvements and make sure it's here for another 30-plus years.

Odds & Ends

Exhibiting... Hamtramck artist Nancy Mitchell will be displaying her paintings at Public Pool starting this Saturday (Sept. 12) evening.

Take it from us, her work is amazing. Here is how she explains her paintings:

"There are lots of ways to make art. I like hidden narratives. My language is visual and silent. My paintings are about experience."

The show runs until Oct. 17. An opening reception will be held Saturday evening at 7 p.m. Public Pool is located on Caniff just east of Gallagher.

Kicking around... On Wednesday the Hamtramck Public School Board got an update on a proposal by the Detroit Football Club to move their team and games to Keyworth Stadium.

The club is proposing to lease the stadium for the next several years. The board is still reviewing terms of the lease, and a decision on it will probably be made probably at next month's board meeting.

By all appearances it looks like the lease will go through. This is great news for soccer fans and the city. The club expects some 6,000 fans to attend the games. If all goes as planned, the season will kick off next April.

We'll have more on this in next week's issue.

Speak out... We received late notice of this, but it's worth sharing. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will accept comments until Saturday, Sept. 12 – yes,



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 Aug. 25, and all councilmembers, except Titus Walters, were present. Before the regular council meeting a work session was held.

During the work session Councilmember Robert Zwolak questioned the expenses submitted by the city's IT contractor, ADR. City Manager Katrina Powell said it was two months' worth of invoices and that the contractor did several things — including work for the Police Department, which will be paying part of the bill.

The council briefly discussed a resolution to support banning fireworks sales in the state. City Clerk August Gitschlag said the proposal is "bouncing around the state" as more and more communities object to the sales.

City Manager Powell capped a recent town hall meeting held with members of the Bangladeshi community regarding crime. She said the meeting was "enlightening."

Councilmember Zwolak, who attended the meeting, noted that a speaker claimed the Bangladeshi community makes up 60 percent of the city's population. Zwolak took issue with that claim.

In another matter, Zwolak questioned why there was a stop-work order issued at a DTE Energy project on Lumpkin. Mark Ragsdale, the city's Director of Public Works, said that's because the project did not conform to the city's engineering specs.

Zwolak asked when DTE is going to replace sidewalk slabs it removed during its citywide gas line replacement project.

Ragsdale said the work will be completed before the first snowfall.

Moving on, Zwolak questioned when the city will get a sustainability report on the police overtime traffic patrol program.

He was told the report is not required, but can be produced on the city's request. The study would require the police officers' union to fund half the cost.

Zwolak said the city needs to conduct the study.

Later in the meeting Powell said the city is attempting to "break out" revenue collected from traffic tickets on overtime from tickets issued during regular patrols.

She said, however, that it appears the overtime program is paying for itself and producing extra revenue.

In matters of crime, Zwolak said there is a "spike" in crime in the city. Powell said there has been more crime because the weather is warm and more people are out and about.

She noted that the Police Department lost 20 officers to other departments in the last year. She said the department has been "in the process of rebuilding."

Councilmember Andrea Karpinski noted that crime is "everywhere."

"We're surrounded by the City of Detroit," she said.

During the regular council meeting, a presentation was made by a student enrolled in the Hamtramck GM summer intern program.

Several Hamtramck High School students cleaned up Holbrook Garden and established a recycling club at Hamtramck High School, among other projects.

Mayor Karen Majewski praised the students.

"It was just incredible the job you did this year," she said. "It made a difference."

Kathy Angerer, the Director of Community & Economic Development, said GM agreed this year to cut the grass at Veterans Memorial Park. She said that over the three years the program has been in place, the city's ties with GM's Poletown plant has grown stronger.

Councilmember Karpinski also had praise for the students.


"Hamtramck has truly talented kids," she said. "There are kids with really great ideas."

During the public portion to speak, former city employee Tom Stopczynski urged city officials to look into federal financial help to fix the city's sewer system. He said that un-

Continued on page 8

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School Bell

Dickinson East Elementary School receives school supplies donated from Holy Cross Parish

The teachers at Dickinson East were greeted by a pleasant surprise when they came back to work on Tuesday, Sept. 1.

Holy Cross Parish, located on Pulaski, donated boxes and boxes of school supplies, backpacks and winter jackets. These supplies are greatly appreciated and we would like to thank them for their donations.

Dickinson East Elementary School

Wednesday, September 16, 4-6 p.m. Curriculum Night. Dickinson East parents will get a chance to meet their child's teacher. The teachers are ready for an excellent

2015-2016 school year and will be explaining the rules, procedures and the material of study this school year.

Hamtramck High School

Monday, September 21, 5-7 p.m. Parent meeting and Curriculum Night. From 5-6 p.m., we will have a meeting of our

6-7 p.m., parents will have a chance to tour the building and meet with many of their children's teachers.

Kosciuszko Middle School and Dickinson West Elementary School

Tuesday, September 22, 4-7 p.m. Curriculum

Night. Come and meet your child's teachers and see what they will be learning this year in school. Also, learn how you can help your child at home with their learning.

Horizon High School

Friday, September 25, 5-7 p.m. Curriculum night.

Holbrook Elementary School

Monday, September 28, 4-6 p.m. Curriculum night. Come and meet your child's teacher and see what they will be learning this school year.

Early Childhood Elementary School

Monday, September 21 – First half day for pre-school students.



Members of Holy Cross Parish donate school supplies to Dickinson East Elementary School.

new Parent Association and a light supper. From

- Tuesday, September 22 – Half day for pre-school students.
- Monday, October 5, 4-6 p.m. Curriculum night.

All Schools

- Wednesday, September 23 – No school for students. Teacher professional development day.
- Thursday, September 24 – No school for students.

Athletic Events

- Monday, September

- 14 – HHS Boys' Varsity Soccer vs. Ferndale at 4:30 p.m. Home.
- Thursday, September 17 – HHS Boys' Varsity Soccer vs. Southfield Christian at 5 p.m. Away.
- Friday, September 18 – HHS Varsity Football vs. River Rouge at 7 p.m. Home.
- Saturday, September 19 – HHS Varsity Volleyball- John Glenn Tournament at 8:30 a.m. Away.



Hamtramck Public Schools staff recently attended a workshop training by Dr. Jean Feldman. The staff is excited to use the new skills they learned to increase student achievement.

Obituaries

PINKOS



Sandra Ann Pinkos, 55, died September 7, 2015.

Ms. Pinkos is survived by her children, Shannon, William Boraski Jr.; mother, Loretta; grandchildren, David, Megan; siblings, Brian, Michael Lepkowski, David Lep-

kowski, Lisa Lepkowski; life partner, Billy Boraski. Ms. Pinkos was predeceased by brother, Frankie; sister, Kathy.

Sandra worked at Dickinson East School in Hamtramck.

Visitation is Friday from 5 – 9 p.m. with Prayers at 6 p.m., at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home. There will be a private cremation.

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2614 Casmere - \$59,900 - NEW!

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12502 Corunna, Clayton Twp. - \$34,900
Sutton - Dryden - \$37,500

Crawford - \$32,900

8902 Jos Campau - \$49,900 NEW!

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8311 Toepfer - \$25,000 - NEW PRICE!

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270 W. Third St. - \$77,700 - PENDING

105 Grove - \$94,900 Bank Owned

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3722 Rhoten - \$153,000 - PENDING!
41426 Harvard - \$143,899 - PENDING!

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8550 Hough Rd. - \$369,900

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Armada

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^{9/18}

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CRIME LOG

By Charles Sercombe

This week's crime Log covers Sept. 1-7.

Tuesday, September 1

- A homeless man was arrested for breaking into a garage in the 11400 block of Klinger. The man was also charged with obstruction and was wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.
- A woman in the 3900 block of Yemens reported a break-in. The suspect gained entry through a bedroom window.
- At about 12:30 a.m. a Detroit resident was arrested after he was seen slashing two car tires in the 2200 block of Alice.

Wednesday, September 2

- A Yemens resident reported that an acquaintance stole \$695.
- At 8 p.m. officers responded to a situation in the 12000 block of Grand Haven where a man was assaulting a 14-year-old. The suspect obstructed officers and a group of 100 people then surrounded the officers. Other police agencies were called for assistance. Several arrests were made.
- A Detroit resident was arrested at Commor and Grand Haven for being intoxicated while in public.
- At 4 a.m. a resident in the 12000 block of Grand Haven saw a suspect scale up the second story of an apartment and gain entry.
- A person was arrested for being disorderly in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
- A Charest resident reported that his neighbor's

doors were open and an alarm was going off. Officers checked the dwelling and found no one inside. The residence was secured.

- A Jos. Campau resident was ticketed for trespassing at a Jos. Campau business.

Thursday, September 3

- At 3 a.m. a Detroit resident who was highly intoxicated and banned from the Hamtramck Housing apartments was arrested for being disorderly, trespassing and being wanted on two Hamtramck warrants.
- A resident reported damage to their backyard gate.
- Officers responded to a child custody dispute at a residence in the 11300 block of Charest.
- A person was arrested for attempting to cash a fraudulent check.
- A Danforth resident reported he lost his wallet and someone tried to get a prescription using his identity.
- A Detroit resident was arrested for attempting to pass a stolen check at Huntington Bank.
- A stray dog was captured while on the 1-75 ramp and was taken to the Michigan Humane Society in Westland.

Friday, September 4

- At a little after 2 a.m. an intoxicated Detroit man was arrested for interfering with officers who were assisting other officers in an investigation at Caniff and Lumpkin.
- A person was ticketed for possessing an open

intoxicant while in public at Carpenter and Grand Haven.

- A Caniff resident was arrested for assaulting a woman with his walking stick while at Conant and Carpenter.
- A resident reported that her friend's boyfriend stole items from her purse.

Saturday, September 5

- A resident in the 12000 block of Selfridge reported the theft of their apartment key.
- At almost 10 p.m. a Jacob resident rolled his vehicle after striking several cars and then ran away. Officers arrested him at Hanley and Conant. The suspect was charged with drunk driving (his third offense), driving without a license and other felony charges.
- At 2 a.m. officers were assisting an intoxicated male at Jos. Campau and Commor and discovered cocaine in his possession. The man was taken to Detroit Receiving Hospital.
- A person reported the theft of aluminum siding from their residence in the 5000 block of Yemens.
- A juvenile was arrested for being disorderly and obstruction while at Jos. Campau and Whalen. He was released to his guardian. Also at that area a person was arrested for assault.

Sunday, September 6

- A man reported a break-in at his residence in the 2100 block of Caniff and the theft of his electric guitar and keyboard.

Continued on page 8

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