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Quick Hits

It's tax time.

Hamtramck Treasurer Joy Gargano sent us a reminder that winter property taxes are due next Friday, Feb. 15.

Also, Feb. 28 is the last day to pay 2018 property taxes at the city. After that, delinquent taxes get transferred to Wayne County.

And speaking of taxes, it's also income tax season.

Income taxes for 2018 are due April 15.

Need to work up some deductions? If so, there is a worthy cause right here in Hamtramck that could use donations.

The good folks at Friendship House sent out this email blast recently. Here is what they have to say:

"Want to donate to Detroit Friendship House"

Continued on page 2

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Detroit area is one of the worst for pedestrian safety

By Charles Sercombe

According to a national study on pedestrian safety, Michigan has some terrible drivers.

The "Dangerous by Design" report published by Smart Growth America says Michigan is the 19th-worst state when it comes to pedestrian safety.

According to the report, from 2008 to 2017 there were 1,409 pedestrian deaths in the state. The worst parts of the state are in Detroit, Dearborn and Warren.

Florida, home to seniors who perpetually keep their turn signals on, not surprisingly has the most dangerous drivers in the nation.

While Hamtramck has not experienced a pedestrian death in years, every week we have several crashes, hit-and-runs, and, yes, vehicles hitting pedestrians.

A number of years ago, a state insurance study ranked the intersection of Holbrook and Jos. Campau as one of the

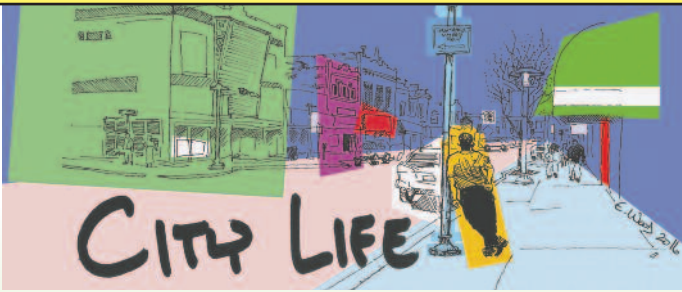
Continued on page 3



The Detroit area has some of the worst drivers in the nation when it comes to pedestrian safety. The intersection of Jos. Campau and Holbrook remains one of the city's most challenging for pedestrians to cross.



Would you be willing to pay an extra \$35 on your property tax bill to have a contractor clear your sidewalk every time it snows?



The zigs and zags of winter walkability

By Walter Wasacz

It's a question being asked by northern cities taking the responsibility for making sure that

Would you pay an extra, say, \$35 a year for sidewalks to be plowed after it snows?

Continued on page 2

So far, no takers police offer

By Charles Sercombe

It's been a couple of months now since the city OK'd a new police officers' contract that pays officers to cross-train as firefighters.

Despite the offer to pay for the training and \$1,000 extra per year in salary, not a single officer has taken up the offer.

Why?

Department policy does not allow officers to talk to the media without permission, but one officer did confide with The Review that he doubted anyone would take up the offer.

That's because, he said, there is little support among officers to transition into a public safety-styled department where police officers double as firefighters.

City Manager Kathy Angerer said the contract clause "is an option, not a mandate."

The public safety department model has generally not worked well over the years in other metro communities.

Continued on page 4

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Quick Hits

Continued front page

House while getting your tax return done?

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Block office near you, go to hrblock.com or hrblockadvisors.com.

“Thanks for being that socially conscious tax filer and feeding hungry families while filing your tax return! You are pretty awesome!”

Friendship House by the way supplies food to hundreds of low-income folks in Hamtramck and Detroit every month, and they offer a number of other needed services.

They are located at 9540 Conant.

The zigs and zags of winter walkability

Continued from front page

commercial districts and residential neighborhoods remain walkable throughout the winter months.

Largely because of budget shortfalls many communities, Hamtramck among others, cannot afford to clear sidewalks for pedestrians.

In a recent story in online magazine CityLab, it was reported that Rochester, New York plows sidewalks when snow totals are four inches and above.

In the direct path of lake-effect weather that blows in from Lake Ontario, that city pays for removal through an 'embellishment fee' on property-tax bills, averaging \$35 per homestead.

The article went on to say that Duluth, Minnesota clears 100 miles of priority sidewalk routes, including routes to schools, high-pedestrian traffic locations, and public-transit locations.

Bloomington, Minnesota clears all of its 250 miles of sidewalks. The story suggests that these cities' programs could act as templates

for others to formulate a plan for safe pedestrian paths in the winter.

But few do, encouraging home and business owners to take care of sidewalks in front of their properties - and ticketing and fining those that don't.

Hamtramck uses contractors to plow streets for motorists. The work begins soon after snow begins to accumulate and results have been positive. They do a good job, often working through the night. No problem there.

But after two recent snow accumulations in January, each roughly 4-5 inches, the sidewalks in most neighborhoods were impassable for days.

Some people shoveled or brought out snowblowers and carved out paths in front of their properties. They surely deserve a tip of the cap from all of us.

But as I walked around the city on one of those days I found too many of the sidewalks in front of houses, vacant lots and even those directly in front of buildings on Jos. Campau, Caniff and Conant - the three main commercial arteries in

the city - packed with snow and later ice after the region experienced below zero temperatures.

My walk was a series of zigs and zags from a few cleared sidewalks to cleared streets, where I had to share the road with cars and trucks - a dangerous option for any pedestrian.

I'm an experienced urban walker. After more than half a century of residency in Hamtramck I know these streets, sidewalks and alleys like the back of my hand.

Luckily, I am relatively fit with no health concerns to prevent me from walking to my destinations, or to stroll for fun or exercise. Even then I am no match for a heavy machine on wheels, especially one going at a high speed.

But what if I were disabled, even temporarily, or more permanently handicapped? What if I needed to do my shopping using a walker or wheelchair? Or if I were a young mother pushing her baby in a stroller?

There are plenty of young women in my neighborhood doing that nearly every day. But even something as commonplace as that is im-

possible on snowy or icy sidewalks.

In that same CityLab article the writer, who is from Kalamazoo, said a pregnant woman was hit by a motorist after being forced to walk in the street in that west Michigan city. The sidewalk where she was supposed to walk was covered in snow.

She was just grazed, so presumably the injury was not serious.

That could happen here, on Gallagher or Brombach, on Mackay or Lumpkin, to kids walking to and from school. Being grazed when walking in the street is bad enough, but chances are it could be far worse in a densely populated community like ours.

In Syracuse, New York, a yearlong pilot program was launched this winter to plow 20 miles of "priority sidewalks" - determined by using data that showed areas of highest pedestrian usage - after each snowfall of three inches or more.

The program was initiated by community activists and implemented by a city administration that listened to them and took action.

Continued on page 8

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This week at the library...

ESL Class - Monday February 11th, 9:00 am and 12:00 pm. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required

ESL Class - Tuesday February 12th, 12:00 pm. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required

ESL Class - Wednesday February 13th, 9:00 am and 12:00 pm. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

ESL Class - Thursday February 14th, @ 12:00 pm. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

Citizenship Classes - Tuesdays, 5:00-7:00 pm, February 12th-April 2nd. Classes are held at the Hamtramck Public Library. The classes and all materials are presented in English. Free and Open to the Public!

2019 FREE TAX SERVICES - IF YOUR ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME IS LESS THAN \$54,000! **Monday, February 4-March 25, 10am-4pm. Closed Feb-**

ruary 18th and March 18th, 2019. Call (313)388-9799 or (734)284-6999 for an appointment

Toddler Time - Through March 14, Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Children up to age 5 and their parents and caregivers are invited for songs, storytelling and playtime.

Movie Night - Tuesdays at 4 p.m. Family friendly movies, snacks provided.

Prime Time Family Reading - Thursdays, March 28th-May 2nd, 5:30-7 p.m. Join us for a six-week reading experience for families with children 6 to 12 years old. Adults and children will participate together, sharing a meal, reading excellent books, discussing big ideas and learning tips for reading at home. Pre-registration is required.

Tech Club - Thursdays 5:30-6:45 p.m.

January 24th - Intro to Arduino

January 31st - Makey Music

February 7th - Sphero Maze

February 14th - Simple Machines

February 21st - Arduino Programming

February 28th - Code Sphero

March Youth Art Month - Wednesday March 13th 3:30 p.m., Thursday March 21st 5:30 p.m. Architecture and Drawing.

Hamtramck Music Festival - Friday March 8th, Saturday March 9th. Join the Library for the Community Event.

THE GIRL IN THE ALLEY Reading and Discussion - Tuesday February 26th 5:30 pm. Detroit mother, family advocate inspires community conversations by sharing her own captivating tale of surviving sexual assault and battles with depression.

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) 733-6822, or visit its website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us> where you can also access the online catalog. The library is located at 2360 Caniff.

Second Front Page



School Bell

Hamtramck High School News:

On December 19, Hamtramck High School's DECA Chapter participated in the District 8 competition at Baker College.

District competition is often the first business-like experience many of our DECA students encounter.

This allows the students opportunities such as networking with professionals, engaging with others, enhancing skills, and building their confidence. The process is very beneficial because it builds self-esteem, confidence, and it creates new relationships.

Many of the students then moved on to the next phase, state competition, a sign of how the future leaders of Hamtramck will further make our community proud.

The following students are State Finalists from DECA's District Competition: Nouradein Ahmed, Al-Mutasim Aiyash, Mohamed Al-Kuhlani, Amarah Algahim, Emaad Alqosimi, Basher Alqusaimi, Umran Alsabahi, Yaqoob Alwageeh, Rudra Barua, Husnaara Begum, Abdus Chowdury, Patryk Czubek, Basher Ghaleb, Amer Gunic, Adnan Hassan, Khadija Helal, Kaitlyn Hill, Ahmed Jobeh, Emad Kaid, Ermina Karasuljlic, Ibrahim Khan, Amra Lekic, Nahim Miah, Armando Mitaj, Thair Mohamed, Waale Mohamed, Haron Nagi, Miriam Obeid, Samiha Rahman, Hamim Saleh, Sam Saleh, Ashleigh Sanders, Zahraa Zokari.

Congratulations to these students and good luck at the state competition.

Upcoming Events:

- February 13 – Supplemental Count Day.
- February 15 – Half day for all students. Professional Development

for staff in the afternoon.

- February 18-19 – No school for students and staff. Mid-Winter Break.
- February 20 – School Resumes for students and staff.
- February 22 – End of Progress Report Period #3.
- February 28 – Progress Report #3 distributed. Half day for all students. Parent Teacher Conferences 12:30 p.m.-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m.

Athletic Events:

- February 11 – KMS Girls Basketball vs. Melvindale ABT at 4:30 p.m. Home.
- February 12 – JV Boys Basketball vs. Ecorse at 4:30 p.m. Away.
- February 12 – Varsity Girls Basketball vs. Ecorse 6 p.m. Away.
- February 12 – Varsity Boys' Basketball vs. Ecorse 7:30 p.m. Away.
- February 13 – KMS Girls Basketball vs. Henry Ford Academy at 4:30 p.m. Away.
- February 13 – JV Boys Basketball vs. Detroit Voyageur at 4:30 p.m. Home.
- February 13 –Varsity Girls Basketball vs. Detroit Voyageur at 6 p.m. Home.
- February 13 – Varsity Boys Basketball vs. Detroit Voyageur at 7:30 p.m. Home.
- February 15 – JV Boys Basketball vs. Mt. Clemens at 5:30 p.m. Away.
- February 15 – Varsity Boys Basketball vs. Mt. Clemens at 7 p.m. Away.

Recreation Department News

For more information give us a call at (313) 892-2635. Follow us on Facebook for the most up-to-date information: www.Facebook.com/HamtramckRecreationDepartment

Compiled by
Janice Gandelman



Above and below: Hamtramck High School DECA students recently competed in a regional competition.





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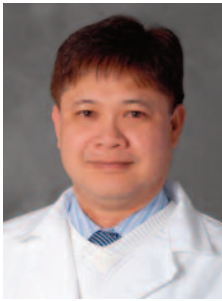




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Detroit area is one of the worst for pedestrian safety

Continued from front page

worst in the state for pedestrians.

The main cause for this is the distance from one corner to the other.

Basically, the light turns from red to green before many folks can get to the other side.

Although in the past

there was talk of creating bump-outs to shorten the distance from one corner to another, that plan never got traction.

But there is talk of creating bump-outs at Jos. Campau and Caniff.

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So far, no takers police offer

Continued from front page

Highland Park, for example, gave up that concept and went back to having independent police and fire departments.

The city administration says it is not committed to turning public safety into one department, but the option is still on the table.

The issue of cross-training has sparked a division among city councilmembers.

Both Councilmembers Ian Perrotta and Andrea Karpinski are vehemently opposed to the concept, insisting that because of the close proximity of housing Hamtramck needs a fire department staffed with full-timers.

Perrotta also said that City Attorney James Allen told the council that he is using the cross-training clause as a bargaining chip – “leverage” – for upcoming contract talks with the firefighters’ union.

Perrotta, however, doubts that.

“The Public Safety Department provision is likely not a strategy to get a better deal but more likely the endgame.” Perrotta said in a recent statement.

A public safety department isn’t the only option the city administration could seek. There is a possibility for Hamtramck to contract out firefighting services to Detroit – as long as Hamtramck firefighters would have an opportunity to transfer to that department.

One other option being explored is forming a fire authority with an existing one or starting a new partnership with other communities. This would result in an added fee to property owners, and the concept would have to be approved by voters in all affected communities.

The firefighters have another two years on their contract.

The reason why there is focus on the fire department – and for that matter the police department as well – is that the city is facing a budget shortfall.

Now, with GM likely closing down the Pole-town Plant, that will blow a bigger hole in the city’s budget.

The city collects about \$800,000 a year from the plant in lieu of taxes.

If the plant closes, city officials say that revenue stream will dry up because it’s also based on the amount of production at the plant.

In the meantime, City Manager Angerer said her staff is working on a budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which starts in July, that will include a number of cuts.

But there is little fat in the city’s budget, and Angerer said she will be meeting with the city council to discuss what other options are available.

For these podcasters, there’s nothing scary about horror movies

By Joe Anthony Myrick
Special to The Review

For many of us, horror movies give us nightmares.

For Hamtramck natives “Barnabas and Samael,” nothing brings them more joy than watching horror movies.

Well, almost nothing.

The only thing these two horror experts love more than watching horror movies is talking about them on their podcast, “Grave Discussions.”

Off the air, Barnabas and Samael are respectively a web designer/filmmaker for Clean Slate Productions and a man recovering from a work-related leg injury.

(Besides not wanting their real names to be published, the pair also asked not to be photographed.)

On the air, the two discuss the latest happenings in horror movie news, as well as review the best and worst films in the genre.

Samael and Barnabas have been podcasting under the Sports Radio Detroit internet broadcast network since last March, and after getting over some initial nervousness during their first episode, they continue to improve as their audience grows in waves.

We spoke to the horror hosts to discuss why they love the art of horror so much.

“Nothing’s really as exciting. Nothing gives me heart palpitations (as much as horror movies do),” says Samael, who’s been obsessed with horror since the age of 5.

He added: “Horror is more interesting to me because I want to see what’s inside people’s heads. What does it mean, is it an allegory for socio-economical problems that we’re facing, all of that stuff? It’s just the most fun (genre) to watch.”

For Barnabas, horror is “the most creative genre to do anything with. I think it’s great to talk about these things, too, because horror, I think, has the best community out there. Just the most passionate fans, the most rabid fans and being able to share your opinions with people is really cool. I think for a podcast, it’s awesome because you get to hear other people who are just as passionate as you about something like this. It’s a great escape.”

Initially the pair never

considered podcasting. But a life-changing compliment that Barnabas received while playing a live PC session of “Rainbow Six Siege” inspired him.

Barnabas says a stranger over the mic complimented him on his voice and suggested he should have a podcast. After mulling that thought over, the idea of working on a horror podcast sounded like a “no-brainer” and doing so with his buddy Samael seemed even more obvious.

From there, Barnabas pitched his podcasting idea to Roger Martin, co-owner of Sports Radio Detroit, and since then they haven’t looked back.

Given the pair’s deeply rooted knowledge and understanding of horror, you could say they were always destined to work on a podcast together, ever since first meeting as kids at Pulaski Park 19 years ago.

Unbeknownst to each other, they were independently chasing and scaring kids away while wearing horror-themed masks.

Samael wore a Jason Voorhees mask while Barnabas wore a Ghostface mask from the movie “Scream.” After

running into each other, then bonding over horror flicks and Yu-Gi-Oh cards, they wound up forming a match made in horror heaven.

That friendship and shared enthusiasm for all things horror morphed into a partnership. In 44 episodes and counting, Samael and Barnabas have learned to contextualize their opinions on horror over the air.

As they continue to build a cult following, both men hope to take Grave Discussions to bigger and better heights in the future.

“We’re trying to go to conventions and have more guests, keep upgrading,” Barnabas said. “I’d love it if one day the podcast was a pretty big thing. Where we could have our own building, our own little studio space where we can do it, or for it to one day be the full-time job. That’s kind of the dream.”

The Grave Discussions podcast can be heard on iTunes, Google Play, Podcastbean, Stitcher, and Spotify. They can be contacted through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and their website, GraveDiscussions.net.

Author hopes her experiences growing up helps to heal others

By Alan Madlane

Bernita Bradley is a local blogger whose passion is working to help create learning environments where kids can thrive, with support from their communities and school systems, and free from bullying or other negative distractions.

She is the Community Engagement Manager for Enroll Detroit (which of-



Bernita Bradley

fers support in school choice), owner of The Village PCL, and a former AmeriCorps worker. She is also the mother of a grown son and a tween daughter.

We caught up to her in advance of her upcoming book reading from “The Girl in the Alley: Not a Story of Faith but About The Others.”

Here is our email conversation we had with Bradley:

The Review: So, you’re doing a reading, presumably from your own book, at the Hamtramck Public Library on Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 5:30 p.m. How did this reading get arranged?

Bernita Bradley: Book Suey organized and hosted a reading/discussion last month. It was awesome, and one of the guests came up to me afterwards. It was so nice to speak with her.

She gave me an invite to come and host another one at the library. I was very shocked. I had just thought about reaching out to the local library near my home to ask about hosting, and here comes this wonderful offer.

Review: Have you given readings like this before (either related to this book, or something else) in the area, or is this a first for you?

Bradley: Yes, I also hosted one for my book launch, which was a really more of a conversation. Anyone who knows me knew not to expect a typical book launch. I am always hosting conversations for women that create safe spaces for us to discuss healing, and celebrate being who we are.

Since the launch at The Studio, I have hosted at On the Rise Bakery, Book Suey, Brilliant Detroit, and I have a host of other events scheduled, including my Twitter chat Feb. 4 at 8:30 p.m.

Review: Can you give us a very brief summary of what the book is about?

Bradley: The book is based on my life. There is not a story made up in the book. I’ve lived a childhood of traumas – (like) so many others – and once I found my voice, I declared that I would use it to help others.

My story is not one of having faith in God, but more of finding a reason to push past the pain of life and see another use for living. It tells of shortcomings and stupid brav-

Continued on page 6

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF HAMTRAMCK

PROPOSED WATER SERVICE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

The City of Hamtramck will hold a public hearing on the proposed water service replacement program for the purpose of receiving comments from interested parties. The hearing will be held during the regular City of Hamtramck Council meeting starting at 7:00pm on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at the Municipal Council Chambers located at 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, Michigan.

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide full replacement of known lead and galvanized water services from the existing water main to the structure of each property in conjunction with the road reconstruction and water main replacements projects scheduled along Holbrook Avenue in 2019 and Caniff Avenue from I-75 to Joseph Campau Avenue in 2020.

The proposed project will improve the drinking water infrastructure at these locations, provide for and continue to maintain quality drinking water and comply with new State legislation regarding lead water service replacement that went into effect on June 14, 2018.

Copies of the project plan detailing the proposed project is available for inspection beginning Friday, February 8, 2019 by the general public at the Department of Public Services within City Hall, 3401 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, Michigan. Written comments received before the hearing record is closed on March 12, 2019 will receive responses in the final project plan. Written comments should be sent to the consulting engineer for this project, Hennessey Engineers, 13500 Reeck Road, Southgate, Michigan.

Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

City’s hope for a new tax stream is going up in smoke

Hamtramck’s elected officials continue to go down the wrong path when it comes to allowing the sale and production of recreational and medical marijuana.

At the last city council meeting, a bare majority once again took steps to prevent this city from experiencing new tax revenue streams.

Council members Anam Miah, Saad Al-masmari, Abu Musa and Fadel Al-Marsoumi voted to have the city attorney draw up a resolution that will prevent sales of recreational marijuana.

Cities that don’t want such sales must officially “opt out.” If a city doesn’t take that step, marijuana sales outlets could technically operate legally.

Those opposed to the sales say Hamtramck is too small and that mar-

ijuana sales outlets would result in an increase of crime. Also, they fear that children would get their hands on it.

This is nothing more than fearmongering.

Will there be an occasional crime at a marijuana sales outlet? Yes, just as every now and then we have bank robberies and liquor store hold-ups.

Should we ban banks and party stores? Of course not.

With GM likely closing its Poletown Plant, Hamtramck will lose a substantial amount of revenue – some \$800,000 paid each year in lieu of property taxes.

Hamtramck simply can’t afford to be that picky about what kind of businesses can operate here.

True, there are a num-

ber of communities opting out. Most of them are affluent communities.

But blue-collar towns like Hazel Park and Madison Heights are on the path to welcoming marijuana sales outlets. Pontiac is poised to become a significant marijuana hub.

Ann Arbor, which decriminalized possessing a small amount of marijuana to a \$25 fine decades ago, is one of the rare affluent communities allowing outlets and growth facilities.

Ann Arbor is also home to one of country’s best colleges, the University of Ann Arbor. The town obviously attracts some very smart people to live there and run the government.

Hamtramck officials could take a lesson from them.

Photos bring Hamtramck black history to life

By Greg Kowalski

Ordine Toliver was a remarkable man. A musician, music teacher, composer, amateur photographer and member of the Hamtramck Village council in 1921, he accomplished much.

It was rare for an African-American to hold an elected post at that time, especially one who lived in an overwhelmingly white immigrant community.

Yet he had no trouble winning the support of the whole town.

Some of Mr. Toliver’s accomplishments are on display now at the Hamtramck Historical Museum in the special exhibit “Through the Lens: Ordine Toliver’s Hamtramck,” in recognition of Black History Month.

These photos are small, and many are unidentified, yet they provide a unique perspective of the black community in Hamtramck during the 1940s and 1950s.

They include weddings, sports scenes, church activities and more.

The photos were donated to the museum by Hattie Killenberg, who grew up next door to Mr. Toliver’s house on Goodson St.

The Hamtramck Historical Museum is at 9525 Jos. Campau, between Norwalk and Poland streets. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, or by calling (313) 893-5027 to make an appointment.

Admission is free.

Introducing a locally produced logic game...

By Charles Sercombe

There’s a new game in town, and it’s called “Hamtramck Logic.”

Wiseacres will no doubt call that an oxymoron. (Laugh all you want, the next beer is on us.)

But, it’s the real deal, and we are proud to showcase the talents of Hamtramckan Kayla Kopke, who created it.

Not familiar with logic games? There are countless publications that feature them (check your local magazine rack), that will tell you how to play the game.

Or, you can go online and Google it. Some say it’s so easy anyone can figure it out, which sadly, does not include us here at The Review – well, at least this writer.

(To quote a Groucho Marx joke: “It’s so clear.

Why, a four-year-old child could understand this. Run out and find me a four-year-old child.”)

The game is basically one of deduction. That’s all we’re going to say before we start to get mush mouth.

Kopke’s game is Hamtramck-themed. Have fun. And yes, the answers are located elsewhere in the paper. Try not to cheat (heh-heh).

Five families living in five different colored houses on five different Hamtramck streets got five different home improvement projects done by five different local contractors in five different years.

1. The Abboud family did not hire A&E Heating & Cooling.
2. The family that hired Brothers Handyman Services lives on Casmere.
3. The family that hired Bisaga Plumbing & Heating did so 2 years after the yellow house hired Heaney Plumbing & Heating.
4. The Johnson’s hired In “Vince” Able Painting before Brothers Handyman did work at the white house.
5. The Patel family lives in the brown house on Lumpkin.
6. Heaney Plumbing & Heating was hired in 2008.
7. The family on Norwalk lives in a house painted a color that starts with G.
8. 2019 is starting out as a good year for Brothers Handyman Services.
9. In “Vince” Able Painting was hired to update the Norwalk home.
10. Work trucks had trouble parallel parking in front of the grey house on Yemans in 2010.
11. The Syed family updated their home in 2008.
12. The Kowalski family now has a good relationship with Bisaga Plumbing & Heating.
13. A&E Heating & Cooling was hired after In “Vince” Able Painting.

	Casmere	Yemans	Lumpkin	Belmont	Norwalk	2008	2010	2014	2017	2019	Brown	Green	White	Gray	Yellow	Heaney	A&E	Brothers	In "Vince" Able	Bisaga
Kowalski																				
Abboud																				
Syed																				
Johnson																				
Patel																				
Heaney																				
A&E																				
Brothers																				
In "Vince" Able																				
Bisaga																				
Brown																				
Green																				
White																				
Gray																				
Yellow																				
2008																				
2010																				
2014																				
2017																				
2019																				



Note: This puzzle is not based on any actual data. Solution on page 7

Poletown Plant’s future? GM is not saying

By Charles Sercombe

If production at the GM Poletown Plant does shut down for good this June, what exactly will happen to the site?

That’s a question city officials are seeking to find out.

Recently, GM announced work will cease this year at five North American plants, including one in Canada.

Hamtramck officials have a lot to be concerned about. The Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly Plant, commonly called the Poletown Plant, produces about \$800,000 per year in lieu of property taxes to the city.

That payment is also based on the amount of production at the plant.

Without that revenue stream, the city will be hit with a major financial crisis.

City officials, including Mayor Karen Majewski and City Manager Kathy Angerer, are in discussion with GM about the site’s future.

Plans for the site, a small portion of which is located on the Hamtramck side of the Detroit border, are incomplete, and GM officials have not talked publicly with the media about what it would do with the closed plants.

Majewski told The Review that GM has not talked about specifics about the site with her.

“Even if the physical plant gets sold to another company – which I’m not at all sure GM is considering – I’d like to open a discussion about development of the green space and parking lots on the Hamtramck side,” Majewski said.

The Review reached out to a GM representative for comment, but at press time no phone call was returned.

This isn’t the first time a major auto-related plant has closed in Hamtramck.

Continued on page 8

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Obituaries

BIALAS

 Zdzislaw “Jim” Bialas, 58, died February 4, 2019. Zdzislaw was the beloved husband of Monika; loving father of Brandon (Sheena), Aaron (Paulina), and Jeremy (Kamilia); proud grandfather of Marshall and Teegan; dear brother of Lela (William) Laracey, the late George (Maria, still living); uncle of William (Stephanie), Rose (Michael); great uncle of Christopher, Benjamin, Samantha, Addison and Hunter.

Zdzislaw loved the outdoors, skiing, camping, being near the water, guns, water fights (especially with his best friend, John Ulaj) and listening to Christian talk radio. Visitation was Wednesday and Thursday. The funeral service is Friday, February 8, at 10 a.m., at Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Rd., (3 blocks east of Van Dyke), Utica, MI.



Author hopes her experiences growing up helps to heal others

Continued from page 4

ery that almost cost me my life. Bravery, meaning I am a natural-born protector, but also, learning to protect others made to me see more faults in myself than I ever knew.

Review: Interesting answer. What motivated you to write the book?

Bradley: My journey in life could not be complete until I tell it. I am still not finished. My teachers made me promise to tell it. It was the only way to help others be free. So many people see me as having it all together, and they find consolation to know I am not perfect.

Review: Was this your first book? Do you have any plans to write another, and if so, what will the subject be?

Bradley: No, my first book was most of the po-

etry you read in the book and a few others I will share in Book Number Two. I didn’t know where to start, so I just put together all of my poems from age 15, categorized them, and made a I’il book.

I never published it, because I was still fearful of my full story. The next book will be more of a finding-of-oneself for Alley Girl. I went through so much after the point where the book ends, and most of Book One pales in comparison to the next 15 years of my life.

Review: Even Amazon didn’t really classify or categorize your book. You’ve written it part in narrative form, part in poetry, but would you call it non-fiction, or fiction, or would you question whether it really

even matters?
Bradley: Hmm! I have been told it shows on Amazon as non-fiction; I would call it a Memoir of Painful Art. I used poetry to express moments I am still a bit taken back about. Things I may never put into voice, into words. However, poetry was my source for those parts. The dark parts.

Review: How much of it is based off a true event or circumstance, or do you prefer to just let the reader read the work, and absorb its message without really worrying about that aspect?

Bradley: It is all true. Every bit true. My mother told me of her childhood. I loved listening to her. She had such a prolific voice, and would mesmerize my brothers and I with every story she

shared. Others were my story, and what I viewed my mother, siblings and myself having gone through. All truth. You can ask some of the people. Real names were used.

Review: Please feel free to end by adding anything else you care to.

Bradley: I hope the readers use this book to open up dialogue with, not just youth, but adults who are still dealing with childhood trauma. I hope it becomes a source for permission to tell their stories, and then to heal as well. Once again, Bernita Bradley will read from her book at the Hamtramck Public Library on Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 5:30 p.m.

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CRIME LOG

By Charles Sercombe
This week's Crime Log covers Jan. 29-Feb. 4.

Tuesday, January 29

- A resident reported receiving harassing phone calls.
- A resident in the 9300 block of McDougall St. reported an incident of domestic violence. The suspect was later arrested.
- The owner of a lot in the 1900 block of Belmont St. reported that a person driving a yellow Hummer did donuts on the lot and tore up the grass.
- A resident in the 9400 block of McDougall St. reported the theft of their blue bar stool that was in the front of their residence.
- A 2004 Dodge Ram was stolen in the 2300 block of Neibel St.

Wednesday, January 30

- A resident in the 12000 block of Selfridge St. reported a break-in.
- A hit-and-run accident happened at Dubois and

Thursday, January 31

No criminal activity was reported for this day.

Friday, February 1

- An Evaline St. resident reported that someone stole his wallet.
- A vehicle crash happened at Trowbridge and Jos. Campau.

Saturday, February 2

- At about 3 a.m. a person was arrested for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.
- At a little after 3 a.m. a Lyft driver reported being assaulted by two women. The suspects fled before officers arrived.
- At about 5 a.m. a woman was arrested for driving without a license and for possessing an open intoxicant.
- A resident was arrested in the 2100 block of Belmont St. for domestic violence.

Continued on page 8

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3	Syed	Yellow	Belmont	Heaney	2008
4	Patel	Brown	Lumpkin	A+E	2017
5	Johnson	Green	Norwalk	INvince	2014

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The zigs and zags of winter walkability

Continued from page 2

The money (approximately \$170,000) came from an existing public works budget, no “embellishment fees” were needed. But to sustain a program like this, there is no doubt that new streams of money will need to be found.

So how does Hamtramck, with its limited financial resources, do something like this on sidewalks stretching across its two square miles?

Maybe it starts with Jos. Campau and becomes a project initiated by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

That strip from Denton to Carpenter could be our pilot program, extending a message of welcome and hospitality to shoppers and other visitors.

It would make a good companion plan to the Joe Louis Greenway, the bicycle lane scheduled for construction on the length of Jos. Campau in the spring.

But the neighborhoods need to be walkable for the people who live here, too. Pedestrian activity in a place that wants to be, or sell itself as, one of the most walkable communities in the state cannot be seasonal. It must

be year-round and 24/7.

How do we begin?

First by buying into the idea that the public streets and walkways of Hamtramck are in fact ours. Let's not forget what “public” means: it's sharing and contributing to the geographic space in which we live, work or visit. It means all of us are in this together.

Public life is ours to shape and govern, now and later. That's as real as it gets.

All of us are owners of the way we move and navigate through the city. If we want to walk on winter sidewalks cleared of

snow and ice, we must imagine, demand and create solutions.

But do we?

Will we invest in our future by paying more for a better quality of life, not only for ourselves and our families or for the sake of our own properties? Will we put our heads together and find solutions that benefit everyone in Hamtramck, using models of success in other, also cash-strapped, cities?

Hamtramck native Walter Wasacz writes a walkable discovery column twice monthly for The Review.

For every \$100 spent in locally owned business, \$68 returns to the community

source: the350project.net

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3°

Poletown Plant's future?

GM is not saying

Continued from page 5

Several years ago, American Axle & Manufacturing abruptly announced it was ending production at their sprawling facility, which covered both sides of Holbrook near I-75.

A good-sized portion of the plant was located in Hamtramck, and the company was one of the city's largest taxpayers.

Apparently as a way to reduce those taxes to a bare minimum, American Axle razed the Hamtramck side of the plant, as well as a good portion on the Detroit side.

That was an old factory dating back at least to the 1950s, and was once owned by GM.

It's hard to say whether what happened in that instance is a guide to what will happen with the Poletown Plant.

The fact that GM is shutting down the Poletown Plant raises another question.

The creation of the plant back in the 1980s was extremely controversial because it required demolishing thousands of houses, churches and businesses that existed where the plant was going to be built.

Many people were forced to sell their homes through legal action taken by the City of Detroit in a procedure known as eminent domain.

GM got its plant, but at a high emotional cost to residents in the old Poletown neighborhood.

The plant's closing makes one wonder why the plant was built in the first place.

Rather than demolishing the plant, why would GM not instead retool such a fairly new facility for vehicles the company wants to focus more on, such as electric and driverless vehicles?

A partial explanation came from GM CEO Mary Barra, who recently told reporters that other GM plants are not running at maximum production levels.

GM, analysts say, needs to consolidate its plants, and then invest its money in future markets.

It's not clear what other affected communities are going to do.

But there is strong backlash from workers at the Oshawa Assembly Plant in Ontario.

That plant is the community's main employer, and its closing will be devastating.

In response, Canadian union auto workers are urging a boycott of GM vehicles that are built in Mexico. Union workers bought an ad for the recent Super Bowl game, which said:

"GM you may have forgotten our generosity but we'll never forget your greed," the ad says. "If you want to sell here, build here."

That triggered GM to issue a “cease and desist” warning to the workers to not post further advertisements attacking the company.

Neither American union auto workers nor Hamtramck officials have yet to publicly protest the closing of the Poletown Plant.

Continued from page 7

Sunday, February 3

- A Detroit resident was arrested for drunk driving and for driving without a license.
- A driver of a maroon-colored car sped away when officers attempted a traffic stop.
- A Fleming St. resident reported the theft of his license plate.

ing.

- A business owner in the 9500 block of Jos. Campau reported an incident of retail fraud.
- A resident in the 12000 block of Dequindre St. reported lost property.

Monday, February 4

- An owner of a business in the 12100 block of Conant reported someone damaged his build-

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