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**The Review**

**Hamtramck**



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## Quick Hits

Here's a toast to the season's first holiday weekend.

We can already smell the barbecue grills fired up. And with hot weather expected all weekend, be sure to grab some bags of ice and keep those beers extra cold.

On Monday (May 30 at 10 a.m.), though, if you have a spare moment, the Hamtramck Allied Veterans Council will host Memorial Day services at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church, 3851 Prescott.

Hamtramckans have always been first in line when duty calls for defending our country.

Sadly, our veteran organizations are getting older and their memberships are getting smaller.

Take some time out Monday and pay your respects. After the church ceremony there will be a get-together at PLAV Post 10 hall on Jos. Campau.

**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.

**"She's practicing law now. That makes me feel real good."**

**— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —**

**Thank You Veterans Memorial Day May 30th**




# Soccer team's debut scored a huge victory for Hamtramck

**By Charles Sercombe**

There was still plenty of good vibes being felt all around town last Saturday.

That was the day after the Friday evening debut of the Detroit City Football Club's soccer team at Keyworth Stadium.

The game attracted 7,410 people, to be exact, and it seemed like in one day Hamtramck was transformed.

"It was an electric night for an electric school district in an electric city," said public school district Superintendent Tom Niczay.

Niczay had plenty to be happy about. He played a



**Last Friday's first home game for the Detroit City Football Club was a smashing success. Over 7,000 people turned out for the game. The team plays again this Saturday (May 28) at 3 p.m. in Keyworth Stadium.**

key role in bringing the DCFC here to Hamtramck from their former home field at Cass Tech in Detroit.

A few years ago the football club outgrew Cass Tech and went looking for a larger field and stadium. They found it at Keyworth

**Continued on page 2**

## Movie company's reenactment of Detroit riot stirs up memories

**By Charles Sercombe**

In a few weeks a Hollywood production crew will be transforming a portion of Jos. Campau to resemble what a Detroit business strip looked like during the 1967 riot.

The reason Hamtramck is being used is because it still looks like a section of Detroit from that era.

Apparently a riot scene will be recreated for the movie.

Hamtramck itself did not experience any spillover from the riot, which took place just a couple of miles away to the west.

News of the movie being shot on Campau

**Continued on page 4**



**The former Citizen newspaper featured a two-page spread on the city's reaction to the 1967 Detroit riot.**

## Deadline near for business grants

**By Charles Sercombe**

Have an idea on how to expand your business or help grow one?

If so, this is your last chance to win a grant to make your dream come true.

The New Economy Initiative (NEI), a special project of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan (CFSEM), is offering a total of \$500,000 to entrepreneurs, but you have only until June 1 to submit your proposal.

The grant award is tailored for businesses in Detroit, Hamtramck and Highland Park.

Over the last two years, NEIdeas has granted over \$1 million in cash awards to more than 60 existing businesses, and has also provided access to business support for all applicants. Nearly 1,200 small businesses from every corner of the three cities applied to the NEIdeas challenge in 2014 and 2015.

"Over the last two years, we've seen the ripple effect that this challenge has had on so many small businesses in the city," said Pam Lewis, Director of NEI. "It's been incredible to not only watch the winning businesses grow, but to see the impact of the applicants who are now a part of the small business ecosystem and have access to community resources funded by NEI. This challenge is rewarding those whose spirit

**Continued on page 2**



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# Soccer team’s debut scored a huge victory for Hamtramck

Continued from front page

Niczay worked out a lease deal and got the Hamtramck School Board on board with the project, not that it took much persuading. In exchange for a modest lease over the next 10 years, the football club agreed to make major improvements to the stadium, which have already begun.

Once all the seating is in place, the stadium is thought to hold a capacity of about 11,000 spectators – a far cry from the 3,000 the club could accommodate at Cass Tech.

Leading up to Friday’s

first home game was a media storm about the team and Hamtramck.

On the night of the game, news helicopters circled from far above to capture the excitement of the night.

Also leading up to the game were plenty of people hoping the soccer fans would spill out into local businesses.

Indeed they did, at least at local bars.

At Bumbo’s on Holbrook, which was down the street from the action, there was a before game crowd as well as an after-

game rush.

Bar owner Tia Fletcher Krawczyk had only one word about the increase in business: “Whoa!”

Friday’s game ended up in a 1-1 tie, but that didn’t seem to matter to fans. The only complaint heard was that there was a long line for beer for the entire game. Organizers say they will have more beer stands for future games.

Although this is a holiday weekend, the next game is this Saturday (May 28) at 3 p.m.

This game is expected to draw an even larger crowd because DCFC is matched up against a visiting team from England,

United of Manchester.

At half time, the Hamtramck School Board and other school officials will be given a special honor.

The Police Department said there were no major incidents to report from Friday’s game other than one enterprising fellow who began charging for parking at the Hamtramck Town Center strip mall on Jos. Campau near Roosevelt, just a block down from the stadium.

The parking lot is privately owned, and once officers were alerted to the scam, the suspect ran away. But he was caught and it turned out he was also a parole absconder.

## Deadline near for business grants

Continued from front page

and determination over the years has kept the city afloat and are crucial to the future success of Detroit.”

Thirty applicants will be awarded \$10,000 each, and two businesses will be awarded \$100,000 each. Businesses must be three years of age or older by the application deadline of June 1 to be eligible for an NEIdeas award.

All applicants who apply to the challenge will gain connections to other small businesses and entrepreneurs, access to resources, and exposure

through NEIdeas’ All-Aplicant Assistance.

The application for the 2016 NEIdeas challenge is available online at NEIdeasDetroit.org.

“The application process is quick and easy,” said Rodrick Miller, president and CEO, DEGC. “Nearly 1,200 small businesses have applied over the past two years, and they all have become part of a network that will help their companies flourish. The time is now to take advantage of this opportunity, so I strongly encourage business owners in Detroit, Hamtramck and Highland Park to apply.”

NEIdeas features two types of awards:

- \$10,000 for existing businesses that gross under \$750,000 annually with ideas to grow.
- \$100,000 for existing businesses that gross more than \$750,000 and less than \$5 million annually with ideas to grow “big.”

Past winners from Hamtramck include: Alicia’s Cleaners & Alterations; Pronko Enterprises (Maria’s Salsa); Stan’s Grocery; and Pot & Box.



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## This week at the library...

**Closed** – Monday, May 30 the Library will be closed in celebration of Memorial Day.

**Citizenship Classes** – Tuesday, May 31, 5 p.m. Hamtramck residents can get help in preparing for their citizenship exam. Classes are free. Registration is required.

**ESL Class** – Wednesday, June 1, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

**ESL Class** – Friday, June 3, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

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

mandatory.) If interested please call the Hamtramck Public Library at (313) 365-7050.

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

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

# Second Front Page



School Bell

### KMS Reunion Committee

The KMS reunion committee would like to thank everyone that attended the KMS reunion last Saturday night.

Walking the halls, visiting the classrooms and spending time reminiscing made for a memorable evening. There was even a race on the gym track between former students.

The committee would also like to thank those who were not able to attend but made a contribution to the KMS student fund. As everyone left that night it was said over and over again that this should be a yearly event.

On Wednesday, KMS students celebrated the end of the school year with an annual festival held on the front lawn of the school. Students competed in a number of games of skills.

Some even sharpened their “pie throwing” skills with Mr. Semsedini as the willing target.

### Dickinson West and Kosciuszko Middle School Library News

Exciting things are happening in the Library at Dickinson West and Kosciuszko Middle School.

Dickinson West continues to promote at home reading as they encourage students to read out

side of school. Each month the class with the most minutes reading “Bull Dog Reading Minutes” wins a prize.

Mrs. Bradley’s 5th grade class won during the March Reading Contest and celebrated with a pizza party. April class winner was Mrs. Bradley’s class for a second month in a row and they celebrated with donuts and cider.

The last day to turn in Bull Dog Reading Minutes will be June 2 for the month of May. Ms. Baker, School Librarian, is looking forward to tallying up the minutes for May and announcing the class that will earn a pizza party.

Dickinson West classes are competing among each other to attempt to be the class with the least amount of overdue/lost library books. The class winner be announced June 3 and will earn a popcorn and movie party.

Kosciuszko and Dickinson West Library hosted a book giveaway on Wednesday, May 25 during Passport to Learning and the KMS Spring Festival. Students of all ages were welcome to select books to take home with them.

### Hamtramck High School News

Hamtramck High School is proud to announce that Brejon Hollis has been selected as the Peacemaker of the Month for May.



Above: Scenes from the annual Kosciuszko Middle School end of the school year festival.

Brejon graduates on June 3 and has consistently demonstrated compassion and a high level of character throughout her career at HHS. She al-

**Continued on page 6**



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**May 29 - Sunday of Corpus Christi**

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

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

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## CITY OF HAMTRAMCK Notice of Public Hearing

The City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2016-17 budget on Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at 7:00pm in the Hamtramck City Hall, City Council Chambers, 3401 Evaline St. The proposed budget is available for public inspection between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday, at the office of the City Clerk. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

## Support Your Local Businesses - Get Out on the Hamtown!

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2016-2017

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When:

Wednesday, June 1, 2016  
12noon -3pm

Where:

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(Kindergarten classrooms)

Who:

For parents and their children who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2016.

What to expect:

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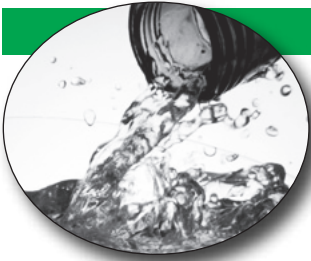
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# TOAST of the TOWN



Above: John Lopez, John Grossi and the city's Director of Community & Economic Development, Kathy Angerer, plant flowers in a Jos. Campau flower box. Below: Other volunteers also helped out with the plantings. Bottom: A group of kids from a Chinese church in Troy clean up Veterans Memorial Park on Saturday.



When it comes to good food and great times, Hamtramck has plenty to offer. In this column, we'll talk about what's happening at our bars, restaurants and other events throughout the city.

By Charles Sercombe

Last week we told you about a busy weekend ahead.

And indeed it was.

Friday night proved to be difficult to be in two places at once. As everyone knows, Friday was the home game opener for the Detroit City Football Club at Keyworth Stadium.

You can read about what happened on the front page. It was one of those nights that will forever be historic.

On a smaller scale on the same night the Hamtramck Community Initiative held its annual public service awards. Before the awards were handed out participants enjoyed a fantastic sampling of local cuisine.

We didn't stay up too late Friday so we could be up and ready Saturday morning to head over to Veterans Park where media celebrity Mitch

Albom and his volunteers gathered to clean up the park.

They also painted the new picnic shelter there as well.

Also on hand at the park, and just a coincidence, dozens of young people from a Chinese church in Troy also cleaned the park and ripped down the walls of the skating rink.

It's still going to be a skating rink, but now more like a skating park. Watch for more to happen at this spot.

Along Jos. Campau, volunteers with the Downtown Development Authority planted flowers in the flower boxes, thank you very much.

Our main shopping strip looks so much better. See what a little TLC can do?

We went home after that morning workout and rested up for the main event: the alumni get-together of Kosciuszko Middle School and the public school district in general, held at the school.

What a trip back through memory lane. The good news is every-

Continued on page 8



It was time to reminisce at the alumni gathering Saturday evening at Kosciuszko Middle School.

# Movie company's reenactment of Detroit riot stirs up memories

Continued from front page

prompted talk among some who lived here during that time.

Frances Krula called The Review to recount her experience, back on July 23, 1967. She is now 87

years old and lives at the Hamtramck Senior Plaza.

The riot started in the early morning hours – technically Sunday morning, but basically Saturday night while most people were asleep. The riot grew and grew during the night but it wasn't until later during the day on Sunday that word had spread about the scale of it and the mounting violence.

Krula said she had taken her son and daughter, who were 7 and 10 years old respectively at the time, to a movie at the former Martha Washington Theatre on Jos. Campau just south of Caniff.

During the movie something strange started to happen, she said. One by one fellow moviegoers began to filter out of the theater while the movie was still showing. And then the air conditioning kicked into high gear – making it so cold that Krula felt forced to leave.

"It was getting too

cold," Krula said.

Outside, news of the riot was spreading, and there was a sense of panic in the air.

Krula remembers hearing over and over one word: riot.

"I was crying and the kids were crying," Krula said.

Krula felt paralyzed and too afraid to walk alone to her home on Casmere. In a moment, though, her son recognized a friend in a passing car. Her son yelled out at the friend's family to stop and take them away.

They did.

Once at home, Krula said, her husband was outside with the neighbors, talking excitedly about the riot.

For the next few days there was palpable fear among residents that the violence would spread to Hamtramck.

Krula said her family, like many others, stayed home, inside.

"We were very cautious, very scared," she said.

How did the rest of Hamtramck react at the time?

To find out we went to the Hamtramck Public Library and looked at the back issues of The Citizen, the former weekly newspaper that covered Hamtramck.

Three days after the riot broke out, The Citizen hit the streets with that week's issue.

Looking at the front page you'd hardly know that there was a major riot going on in next-door Detroit.

The lead headline on top of the front page was: "Local merchants being fleeced by stolen check passing gang"

But just under that headline there was a single column story on the riot with this headline: "City free of riot damage"

The story pointed out that while Detroit suffered

Continued on page 5

## PUBLIC NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

Pursuant of Michigan Open Meetings Act, Act. No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976, being Sections 15.261 to 15.275 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

### ACADEMY OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

#### Proposed 2016-2017 Budget Public Hearing

**TIME:** 12 noon  
**DATE:** June 10, 2016  
**LOCATION:** Academy of International Studies  
3056 Hanley  
Hamtramck, MI 48212

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at Academy of International Studies School Board Offices, 20542 Harper Ave., Harper Woods, MI 48225. Telephone: (313) 347-0026.

The Academy shall comply with subtitle A of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Public Law 101-336, 42 USC 12101 et seq or any successor law. Should you require specific accomodation(s) please contact Mr. Glenn Mach at (313) 347-0026 prior to the meeting.

# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### City could likely see an economic kick from soccer league

On Monday, many in Hamtramck were still gushing over the turnout at the first home game for the Detroit City Football Club.

There were over 7,000 soccer fans who packed our historic Keyworth Stadium last Friday evening.

The spill over to local bars – before and after the game – was also amazing. Hamtramck has not experienced this kind of energy in decades. And Keyworth Stadium never looked so good.

A major kudos goes out to Hamtramck Public Schools Superintendent

Tom Niczay for orchestrating the deal between the district, which owns Keyworth, and the football club.

It was a couple of years in the making. The school board also deserves huge credit for getting behind this project and giving its authority to seal the deal.

For the next 10 years the football club will be leasing Keyworth and making continued improvements and upgrades to the aging facility.

We have heard from dozens of residents who attended the game and those who watched the

spectacle unfold from the streets how nice the crowd was and how this is such a boost to our city.

Local media also covered the event and presented Hamtramck in a positive light.

We’re betting that bars and restaurants will continue to see a boost in business. And we’re also betting that there are some of those attending the games who will look around and see investment potential in Hamtramck.

Hamtramck could very well be on the verge of a renaissance.

## Movie company’s reenactment of Detroit riot stirs up memories

Continued from page 4

\$2 million in damages in two days of rioting, Hamtramck “escaped without a dime’s worth of damage to any property.”

The story credited the “precautionary measures” taken by police and city officials.

Those measures included: “a blockade thrown around the city and all vehicles entering the city appearing to carry persons of suspicious character were halted. Without a valid reason to enter or pass through the city they were turned back.”

Cars that had stolen items were confiscated and the occupants were arrested.

In a story below that, there was a total of 75 people arrested for looting in the riot. Hamtramck was between two riot zones.

They came through not only in cars but on foot. Many of those walking were carrying freshly looted items. Some were also carrying concealed guns and narcotics.

On the night that rioting broke out Mayor Joseph Grzecki set up an emergency office in police headquarters and worked out a plan of action with public safety officials. He stayed there for 24 hours straight.

There was one fatality. The Citizen reported on and that was an 18-year-old who lived on Mackay on the Detroit side of the Carpenter border. The Citizen reported that Fred Temple, 18, was found shot to death with two of his friends in the Algiers Motel.

That incident was written about at length in a best-selling book called “The Algiers Motel Incident” by John Hersey.

For whatever reason – curiosity? Wanting to get in on the action? – Temple and his friends went into the riot area later on Sunday.

His mother told The Cit-

izen that before he left home, “I begged him not to leave the house that Sunday but he went down there with some friends.”

His mother further stressed that her son had never been in trouble.

Once there, Temple called his mother and said he and his friends were trapped by the rioting and were taking a room in the Algiers for safety, located on Woodward (and razed in the 1970s), according to The Citizen article.

That decision proved fatal. Not only were the three already in the wrong place at the wrong time, the Algiers was not a place to be in even on a good day.

The motel was long known as a drug den and a place where prostitutes worked.

According to other media reports, someone in the motel fired a blank starter pistol from a balcony at the motel.

That prompted National Guardsmen and police officers to storm the motel to capture what they thought were snipers firing at them.

Temple and his two friends, all of whom were African-American, were rounded up. Witnesses at the Algiers Motel said that Temple and his friends were taken into rooms and soon after shots were heard.

Officers insisted that the trio were snipers, said media reports of that time.

But as it turned out, a 32-year-old Detroit officer, who had been with the department for only two years, was charged with murdering Temple. Two other officers were later charged with the killings.

The indictment was based on interviews with 80 people and a 30-page internal report conducted by the Detroit Police Department.

At the time the charges were announced the pros-

ecutor’s office would not release details of the investigation.

The trial of the officers was moved to Flint where an all-white jury found them innocent.

In all 43 people lost their lives during the riot.

On the home front, while the riot raged on 60 civilians, including many city officials, were deputized and assigned to patrol the city.

An army tank was stationed at the Dodge Main plant.

At all entrances into the city police officers and police reserves were armed with shotguns.

By Wednesday, the riot had nearly ended and in Hamtramck things began to return to normal.

In all, there were only two incidents of note that happened during the week of the riot: An attempted break-in at a liquor store, which was repelled by police officers, and two boys who threw a Molotov cocktail at an American Legion hall.

The two Hamtramck juveniles were caught hours after the incident. Asked why they did it, one replied: “To see something burn.”

The week after the riot, The Citizen ran a front-page photo of two soldiers in a friendly chat with two smiling African-American workers from the GM Chevrolet plant on Holbrook and St. Aubin.

The caption under the photo was a mangled attempt at humor that could not have been more grossly insensitive. It said: “Things were so calm by last Wednesday morning that the army’s ‘Screaming Eagles’ had nothing to shoot but the breeze.”

*Do you have memories or a tale to tell about living in Hamtramck during the 1967 Detroit riot? If so, drop us a line at (313) 874-2100, or email us at news@the-hamtramckreview.com.*

## Odds & Ends

**Reminder...** Yes, this is a holiday weekend, but if you are here in town on Saturday morning, May 28, the city’s Recycling Commission will dedicate a bench at the Hamtown Farms site in honor of former chairman Ellen Aubrey.

This is no ordinary bench. It has been made out of recycled plastic bottles – over 1,700 of them to be exact. It’s part of the “Bottles to Benches” program coordinated by Hamtramck resident Dick Kaleski.

Aubrey died two years

ago at the age of 57. She was killed by her stepson.

The dedication ceremony will start at 10 a.m. Hamtown Farms is located on Lumpkin, just south of Holbrook.

Stick around Saturday because this is also the Farm’s annual Volunteer Day.

**Meeting up...** Susan Dunn of the Southend Block Club has some important info to pass along about an upcoming meeting.

Here’s what she has to say:

“On June 3 The

Southend Block Club is hosting a meeting at People’s Community Center (Jos. Campau & Danforth) at 6:30 p.m.

“Wayne County Commissioner Martha Scott and State Senator Bert Johnson will be attending to speak about the discriminatory auto insurance rates charged to Wayne county residents.

“Also in attendance to speak is State Representative Rosemary Robinson who will discuss US Ecology hazardous waste handling facility updates. Isaac Robinson attorney in law, circuit court judge candidate will also speak.

“This will be a question & answer session. All Wayne county residents are invited and welcome to attend.

“You may contact me at Americanwmn358@yahoo.com with questions or confirmation of attendance (so we can know how many people to expect for setting up chairs and space needed).”

## Obituaries

### BALINSKI

Joan Alice Balinski, 67, died May 22, 2016.

Ms. Balinski was the beloved daughter of John and Rosalie; dearest sister of Mary.

Visitation was Monday and Tuesday at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home with the funeral Mass Wednes-

day at St. Ladislaus Church in Hamtramck.

Interment was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.



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email news@thehamtramckreview.com

Publisher: John Ulaj • (248) 866-1110  
julaj@thehamtramckreview.com

Editor: Charles Sercombe

Office Manager: Jean Ingenthron

Sales Manager: Dave Sweet

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# School Bell

Continued from page 3



Brejon Hollis

ways has a kind word for others, and exudes positivity in everything she does.

#### All Schools

- Friday, May 27 – Half day of school for all students.
- Monday, May 30 – Memorial Day. No school.
- Tuesday, May 31 – School Resumes.
- Friday, June 3 – Hamtramck High School and

Horizon High School Graduation at 6 p.m. Must have ticket to attend.

- Thursday, June 9 – Last day for preschool.
- Wednesday, June 15 — Hamtramck and Horizon High School and Kosciuszko Middle School — Final Semester Exams. Half day for all schools including elementary schools.
- Thursday, June 16 – Hamtramck and Horizon High School and Kosciuszko Middle School — Semester Exams. Half day for all schools including elementary schools. Last day of school for all students.
- June 23 – Final Report Cards mailed.

Compiled by Janice Gandelman

More photos of the KMS end of the school year festival.



## Coming events

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

**SATURDAY, June 11, 9-3 p.m.** – Hamtramck's Recycle Center is open at Caniff and McDougall. Drop of your recyclables for free.

**WEDNESDAY, June 15, 7 p.m.** – the Hamtramck Midtown Block Club at St. Florian's Convent, 2626 Florian.



Food Ministries In Collaboration  
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every Thursday at 11:00 am-11:15 am.

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**Sunday, June 5th, 12 Noon**

**Mass Mob, St. Anne Church**

1701 Lafayette By Ambassador Bridge with Trumpets, Distinguished Choirs, More. Open House  
Internationalbeginningministries@yahoo.com on  
Graying, west of Jos. Campau,

**Sunday, June 12th, 11:30 am**

**Vibrant Praise For All.**

**Anger and God - 10 Tips to Reduce Rage,**

Hamtramck Public Library. 586-925-7617, for time and day,  
lawrencemattthewventline@gmail.com.

**Marriage, Family, Sex in the Bible's Song of Songs  
in Maine Street Restaurant.**

Reserve your space and contact  
lawrencemattthewventline@gmail.com ASAP

**Acceptance - A Covenant of Scriptural Freedom.**

Contact lawrencemattthewventline@gmail.com for time.  
Open House in International Beginning Ministries,  
2965 Grayling, Hamtramck, June 12, 3-4 pm.  
Contact internationalbeginningministries@yahoo.com.

**Discussion in the Hamtramck Public  
Library about Hamtramck Drug Free  
Community Coalition,**

city hall leadership on drugs, more.

Contact internationalbeginningministries@yahoo.com,

internationalgospelhelpers@gmail.com, for meeting

time. Reservations only ASAP



## Hamtramck memories, vivid and clear

By Walter Wasacz

As summer approaches, my walks are getting longer.

It feels good to push forward through the heat (though I must admit doing the same through cold air has benefits as well), meandering through the east end of the city – often landing on Ellery, Alpena or Buffalo, which cuts diagonally through the old Ducktown neighborhood – eventually heading south, north or west before finishing my loop and coming home.

My memories of boyhood in Hamtramck are never far from my present reality. As I walk past houses on Yemans or Evaline, Carpenter or

Mackay, Botsford or Neibel, Danforth or Andrus, I recall who used to live in this house or that one.

When I'm feeling really sharp I remember houses that friends of my parents lived in, some of whom I barely knew. But the houses still stand, many in very nice shape, long after the family friends had gone.

The housing stock, in neighborhood after neighborhood, is in remarkable condition for its age. Many of the houses date to the 1940s and 1930s. Others go back even earlier, to the 1920s. A few houses that were built in the teens, when Ham-

tramck was still a village and booming with industrial, commercial and residential energies, are still around, too.

There are also newer houses, shoehorned into blocks where once were blighted shells or vacant lots.

I was walking past one of them this week when I heard a voice calling out my name, then saw someone bounding down the steps to greet me.

It was Joe Myrick, a retired security guard and former girls basketball coach at Hamtramck High. I had not seen Joe for some years. We always had good talks about city life back in the 1960s. We did not know each other then, but we share a lot of memories of those days.

There is something about the "Hamtramck memory" that stands out to me. It is so vivid and clear. Names of people, oftentimes their faces, are seamlessly recalled, as if we are talking about yesterday, not 1968.

Continued on page 8

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**By Charles Sercombe**  
This week's Crime Log covers May 17-23.

**Tuesday, May 17**

- An incident of domestic violence and the theft of a car were reported in the 12000 block of Grand Haven.
- A resident in the 12000 block of Fleming reported the theft of 32 cinder blocks.
- A Casmere resident reported the theft of a catalytic convertor from his car while it was parked in front of his residence.
- A St. Clair resident was arrested after a traffic stop for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.
- A Grand Haven resident received an anonymous call in which the caller told him where he could find his missing car and keys.

**Wednesday, May 18**

- A resident was arrested after a traffic stop for driving without a license, possessing narcotics and being wanted on two Hamtramck warrants. The driver had been previously convicted of driving without a license 22 times.
- An officer attempted to interview a resident being treated at Providence Hospital for allegedly being struck with a baseball bat while in Hamtramck. The victim refused to cooperate.
- At almost 4 a.m. an intoxicated resident was arrested for possessing a stolen car. He was also arrested for driving without a license. The driver had previously been convicted of

driving without a license 54 times.

- A car collided with a fire truck while firefighters were on their way to fight a fire.
- A resident reported that her ex-fiancee was sending inappropriate photos of her to her family and friends.
- A teacher at Caniff Liberty Academy reported receiving threats against his well-being.
- Officers discovered a small fire in the grandstands at Veterans Park.

**Thursday, May 19**

- At about midnight two males were seen attempting to break into a van parked in the 11400 block of Charest. The suspects fled before officers arrived.
- A resident reported losing four money orders somewhere between A&C Market and his residence on Poland.
- A Trowbridge resident reported an attempted garage break-in.
- A Caniff resident reported a garage break-in and the theft of her lawnmower and leaf blower.

**Friday and Saturday, May 20-21**

- A resident was issued a parental responsibility ticket after his son was caught skipping school.
- A resident in the 9500 block of McDougall was arrested for domestic violence.
- A resident was arrested after being caught charging soccer fans to park their car in the Hamtramck Town Center parking lot. The suspect initially ran from officers but was caught. The suspect was also wanted on a warrant for being a parole absconder.

- A person was arrested after a traffic stop for having fraudulent proof of insurance and possessing narcotics.
- A woman reported receiving harassing phone calls and texts from her ex-boyfriend.
- A woman filed a complaint that she was threatened by a neighbor.
- A resident reported that a man stole her necklace while was in the 10200 block of Jos. Campau.

**Sunday, May 22**

- At about 2:30 a.m. residents on their porch in the 12000 block of Dyar said they were shot at by a man. No injuries were reported, and the suspect fled the area.

**Monday, May 23**

  - At 10:30 p.m. a resident said he was assaulted by three males as he was walking home from a bar to his residence in the 11300 block of Dequindre.
  - Two suspects were arrested at Steve's Party Store on Caniff on multiple misdemeanor charges.
  - A resident reported someone broke into his car while it was parked at his residence in the 11300 block of McDougall.
  - A Royal Oak resident reported the theft of his Ford van while it was in the 11600 block of McDougall. Detroit police later reported it had impounded the van after a traffic stop when the driver failed to show proof of ownership.



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**Hamtramck Allied Veterans Council Memorial Day Services**

**Monday, May 30, 2016**

**10:00 am**

**Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church**

3851 Prescott St. • Hamtramck

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*Veterans Ceremony following Holy Mass*

*Reception following ceremony at P.L.A. V. Post 10*

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| Polish Legion of American Veterans 10 | Blue & Gold Star Mothers              |
| Disabled American Veterans 83         | Polish Legion of American Veterans 10 |
| Polish Legion of American Veterans 6  | Ladies Auxiliary                      |



**Continued from page 6**

Here are some names that came to us as we talked: former NBA player Rudy Tomjanovich ("Rudy lived over there on Nagel," Joe said) and his former Cosmos' teammates, the brothers Brisker, Ralph and John ("The Briskers grew up on Selfridge in the proj-

ects; I grew up a block over, on Oklahoma"). We talked about Jim Smith and Ike Blessitt, multi-sports stars at HHS in the '60s, and Mel Guyton, a teammate of theirs who sadly lost his life in Vietnam. We talked of the

# TOAST of the TOWN

**Continued from page 4**

one still looks good and healthy.

Making a rare appearance was former Superintendent John Radwanski, who related a tale about a certain notorious student who was such a handful that a special paddle was made and named for him.

Yeah, that's right, back in the day student discipline was handled in a much different way.

The paddle was created after one incredible event with this student back in the 1980s. In the 8th grade this individual showed up to his prom driving a sports car.

Let that sink in for a moment: An 8th-grader driving and driving a sports car.

Talk about a "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" kind of moment!

Obviously, there is at least one thing going on

in this scenario: This troublemaker was far too young to be legally driving.

Also, there was another thing going on, namely there was a good chance the sports car was stolen!

So what did school officials do when they saw this student pull up? Well, we can't say because that would be telling tales out of school.

But we have it on good authority this student didn't go on to become a career criminal and he is a family man now.

There were a bunch of funny tales we heard that night.

Someday maybe someone will write them all down.

**Scenes from the alumni get-together at KMS Saturday evening.**



**Above: Janet Akins (left), an employee at the Hamtramck 31st District Court, was one of the recipients of the Hamtramck Community Initiative's community awards at Friday's dinner.**

Collins family, who lived on Dequindre and were displaced by the big I-75 dig that separated communities, most of them African-American, on the northwest side of the city. One of the family members, John Collins, is a good friend. I saw him later that same night at a book launch at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD). I mentioned seeing Joe Myrick and memories easily came flooding back for him as well.

But Joe also talked about more recent history. He told me one of his best basketball players from the late 1990s and early 2000s has had great personal achievements since graduating from HHS.

Aida Spahic, who came to the U.S. from Bosnia with her family as refugees from a country torn apart by war, was an outstanding student and athlete. Joe said she went to the University of Michigan and later on to law school. "She's prac-

ticing law now. That makes me feel real good," he said.

Joe said he also feels good that his son, also named Joe, is a high achiever at Marygrove College. He's studying English and wants to be a writer. I could see the pride all over his face, could feel it on mine, too.

It was a nice meeting, purely by chance, which is what the vibrancy and beauty of city life is all about, right? Joe had to fly and I needed to keep

walking. We will see each other again. I'm sure of it.

Next column: some thoughts on traffic and pedestrian safety, how other cities are finding ways to slow motorists down and share the streets with cyclists, skaters, runners and walkers. Can we do it here?

*City Life is a column about experience, participation and walkable discovery.*