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— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Hamtramck's 'Newsmaker' of the year is the revolving door in city hall

By Charles Sercombe

What was the biggest news story of last year?

There were so many issues that popped up it's a coin toss to say one is more important than another.

And of course there was good news and bad news throughout the year.

At the beginning of the year, the city was chilled by the kidnapping and eventual murder of two women, and then a month later the carjacking and sexual assault of three women.

Hamtramck's financial woes seemed to hog the headlines.

But there were encouraging development news, including an ongoing housing construction boon and the introduction of an innovative new way to recycle old housing, called deconstruction.

But perhaps the most astonishing issue was that of the revolving door leading to the city manager's office.

And so, we pick Hamtramck's game of musical

chairs for the position of city manager as the "Newsmaker" of 2012.

It all started back in March with the firing of City Manager Bill Cooper, who had been with the city for a few years before cracks started to develop with his relationship with certain city councilmembers — most notably Tom Jankowski, who relentlessly peppered Cooper with increasing demands for documentation, reports and criticism for failures to live up to those demands.

It didn't help that at the same time the city's finances started to crumble. With the election of Gov. Rick Snyder, all communities took a financial hit in how much state revenue would be flowing.

Hamtramck also lost tax money when American Axle closed down and took another loss in a dispute with General Motors over how much the company owes to operate the Poletown plant.

Another significant loss in

Continued on page 2



Top: Acting City Manager Kyle Tertzag is the latest person to be in charge of the city, and so far it looks like he will be sticking around for awhile. Below: Former City Manager Bill Cooper's days were numbered last March as the city's financial woes worsened.



City wrestles with mosque developments

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck's development rules are once again being tested by the desire of the city's Muslim community to open two more mosques.

And mosques seem to be the fastest growing development in the city.

There are currently three mosques clustered in the Jos. Campau-Caniff area, a new one that recently opened on Holbrook in a former funeral home and now another one being planned in a St. Aubin St. building once owned by American Axle.

The two new requests were heard by the city's Plan Commission on Wednesday



Issam Ali speaks out in favor for allowing a former industrial building on St. Aubin St. to be converted into an Islamic center.

evening. The city council chamber was overflowing into the hallway with supporters of the mosques.

Those attending were all men, except for the presence of two women.

The first matter heard was a request to rezone part of an industrial area encompassing the former American Axle plant complex. Investors already purchased a building on St. Aubin and Faber and wish to create an Islamic center there.

But to do that, the Plan Commission will have to

Continued on page 3



Quick Hits

It's after the holidays and if you are like most of us, you have a ton of things to recycle.

Well, it just so happens this Saturday (Jan. 12) is the monthly recycling collection day here in Hamtramck.

Load up your recyclables and head over to the city parking lot on Caniff and McDougall anytime between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

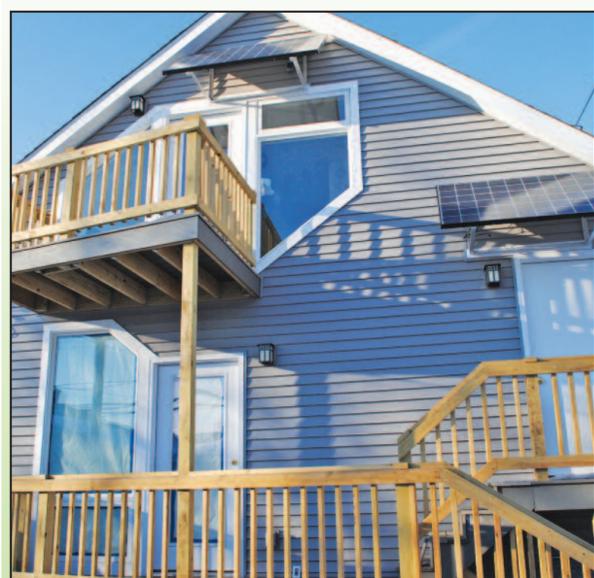
Volunteers will be on hand to help sort your recyclables into the proper containers. And the best part is it's totally free.



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.

"They do a lot of regular police work by virtue of the job."



A rehabbed house on Commor St. received special treatment, and it is likely the most unique house in the city.

"The house was a disaster when we got it. It was just full of junk. And pigeons."

That's the way contractor Steve Hughes describes his most recent project, a house overhaul on Commor Street. Like many of the other recent renovations around town, it's the result of funding from the federal government.

The money comes from the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) II, which was created to help cities maintain a stable housing stock in the wake of the Great Recession. Since being passed, in the past few years the city has rehabbed dozens of houses

through the program.

However, the house on Commor is not like the dozens of other houses scattered throughout the city. Designed by Gina Reichert and Mitch Cope of Design 99, the space incorporates a number of innovations that makes it stand in a category of its own.

From the outside, other than new siding the differences aren't immediately perceptible — from the front. Around back it's a different story, as six solar panels protrude from the side and roof and provide auxiliary power to the house.

Moreover, specially-dehabbed dozens of houses

Continued on page 2

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Hamtramck's 'Newsmaker' of the year is the revolving door in city hall

Continued from front page

revenue came from the housing meltdown, which resulted in the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars in property taxes.

As the financial bad news continued to ramp up, it became clear that Cooper was grasping at ways to balance the city's budget.

Perhaps the tipping point came when Mayor Karen Majewski, who had been a supporter of Cooper, agreed it was time for Cooper to leave.

Who followed Cooper came as a surprise to many. Former Economic Development Director Erik Tungate was ushered in, but had to face criticism

from some — notably Councilmember Cathie Gordon — over his qualifications.

When Tungate took on the title of acting city manager, a case was made by his supporters that he didn't have to have the traditional requirements for the job.

Tungate seemed to make initial progress and even came up with budget deficit elimination plan, which no one liked.

As the weeks ticked by, Tungate faced growing opposition and even outright hostility. He abruptly resigned just days before he was going to be fired anyway. Curiously, Tun-

gate landed on his feet over in Oak Park where he was hired as that city's city manager.

Take that Hamtramck.

Next up was former Finance Director Nevrus Nazarko. Realizing they had been rough on city managers, councilmembers promised to play nice, but it took only a few weeks before Nazarko also faced hostile remarks.

Nazarko was no glutton for punishment and abruptly (there's that word again) said he was stepping down. His official line was that he could no longer do the two jobs of finance director and city manager.

In his wake, the council agreed to hire Nazarko's newly-hired assistant in the city manager's office, Kyle Tertzag.

Tertzag was the former city manager of the downriver community of Woodhaven.

He was seen as a temporary city manager while the council advertised for a permanent manager. Well, guess what? As it turned out, the council didn't think any of the candidates for the job would be a good fit and decided to extend Tertzag's contract until next July.

The thinking is that the city needs to right its finances before seeking a permanent city manager.

Who knows? Maybe by that time Tertzag will look like the obvious choice.

But watch out for what you wish for, Kyle. You just might get the job.

Federal money continues to have a local impact

Continued from front page

signed windows allow for sunlight to enter the house and provide solar heat, further offsetting energy costs. And though it can't be seen, insulation in the walls and ceiling and keeps the heat from getting out.

Inside, the house looks more like it belongs in the suburbs than Hamtramck, and that's not just because of the whitewashed walls and pristine appliances. One standout feature of the house is a custom-built staircase smack dab in the middle of the floor plan — which, for anyone familiar with the layouts of houses in Hamtramck, is a pretty impressive feat.

The rest of the house is pretty pristine, too. Its two full bathrooms feature funky tile work coupled with the home's original tubs, and the fixtures throughout are second-to-none. Hughes' construction team even went the extra mile and provided better-than-needed appliances and cabinetry from Ikea.

Overall the total cost of the project was \$250,000, though the house will be

sold to plaintiffs of the R-22 lawsuit for its appraisal value, estimated to be about \$70,000. And while a quar-

houses surrounding it.

"Think about it — everyone that worked here got paid, and, for instance, when they



At this rehabbed house on Commor St., specially-designed windows maximize the amount of light entering the house and provide solar heat. Densely-packed cellulose insulation in the walls and ceilings then helps keep the warm air inside.

ter-of-a-million dollars may seem like a lot of money to spend on one house, Hughes sees things from a different perspective. To him, the money is well spent because it is put back into the local economy and the improvements to the house increase the values of

got hungry they got something locally. It's not like the money disappears — it circulates back into the economy," he says. "And even after years of vacancy and then being torn down to the bare studs, I don't know if there's a nicer house in Hamtramck now."

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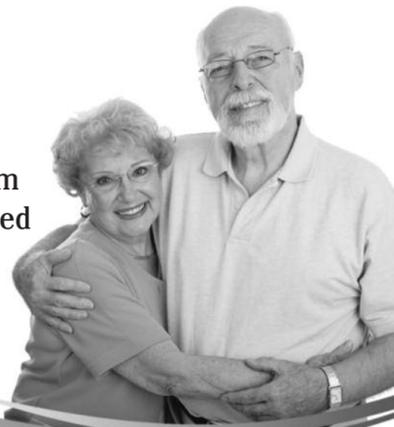


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Dispute leads to a man being shot at New Dodge

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck almost started off the first week of the brand new year with its first homicide.

A dispute between two men at New Dodge Bar last Saturday night at closing time turned into multiple shots being fired, police say. Although the argument

started inside the bar, the shooting occurred outside, in front of the bar.

A 27-year-old man was struck once in the abdomen, and he is expected to recover. Police say the incident is still under investigation and could not release details.

At press time, police said

they have a suspect in custody. No other details could be released.

Witnesses said they saw the suspect run away from the scene.

Anyone with information can call Hamtramck police at (313) 876-7800.

This week at the library...

Story Time for Children - Saturday, January 12, at 11 a.m. Join your friends at the library for a reading of a story book for children. This week discover the world of Spoon.

ESL Class with Christine Templin - Saturday, January 12 at noon. Intermediate ESL class conducted by Christine Templin, free to the public.

Toddler Time at the Library - Monday, January 14 at 11 a.m. Join us for story time, arts & crafts, games and other fun activities. This week we will celebrate the winter season. (Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

Make'n'Take Crafts - Tuesday, January 22, at 4 p.m. All children are invited for arts and crafts workshop celebrating the accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Math Kangaroo Club - Tuesday, January 15 at 3:30 p.m. Learn math in a fun way, and prepare for the annual international math contest while improving your grades in school.

Financial Activist Club - Tuesday, January 15 at 5 p.m. Hamtramck residents of all ages are invited to join our financial workshops, designed to expand your knowledge of budgeting and investing. Registration is required.

ESL Conversation Class - Tuesday, January 15 at 4 p.m. Ms. Trisa conducts English Conversation classes each Tuesday night. Free of charge to Hamtramck residents.

Computer Classes for Beginners - Wednesday, January 16 at 11 a.m. Learn basic computer skills and how to navigate the Internet or use email. Registration is required, and

space is limited.

Citizenship & Naturalization Program - Wednesday, January 16 at 5:30 p.m. In cooperation with the International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit, attorneys will help Hamtramck residents in preparing to pass the Naturalization Test, assist with the N-400 form and filing application forms for U.S. Citizenship. To sign up for the assistance program call the library at (313) 365-7050.

Family Game Night - Thursday, January 17 at 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to participate in games and contests during family night. This week it is checkers night.

ESL Class with Latisha Edge - Friday, January 18 at 3 p.m. Intermediate ESL class is conducted by Latisha Edge and is free to the public.

Friends of the Library Meeting - Thursday, January 18 at 6 p.m. FHPL President Kathy Kristy and Treasurer George Gorday invite all members and volunteers to participate in the regular monthly meeting.

Movie Night - Thursday, January 24 at 4 p.m. All children are invited to a movie and free popcorn. This week's feature to be announced.

Meeting of the Library Board - Thursday, February 14 at 6 p.m. Regular meeting of the Library Board will be held in the auditorium. Open to the public

Special Thanks for Donations: Mr. Donald D. Crawford, past City Manager of Hamtramck, donated a collection of 32 new books on December 29, 2012 invoiced at over \$650.

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

Second Front Page

City wrestles with mosque developments

Continued from front page

Commission would have to agree to allow the building to be used for non-industrial use.

Over a dozen speakers addressed the commission. First up was Susan Dunn, a resident of Hewitt St.

She said she was concerned about increased traf-

standard," Ali said.

Another speaker said the center will not only attract new residents, it will also spur business growth in the southend where empty land now sits.

"You'll see a lot of people invest," Yaser Fadel said.

Fadel noted that the area

would then move forward for the approval of the city council.

In the second matter, the commission wrestled with a façade design proposal for what would be a new mosque at the northwest corner of Jos. Campau and Caniff, a two story building that had apartments on the top floor and retail space on the bottom.

The Al-Islah Islamic Center purchased the building and plans to move from its current location on Caniff, right around the corner of Jos. Campau.

Last fall, the city's Zoning Board granted permission to rezone the building from commercial/residential use only to religious use.

That variance in the city's zoning law was only the first step. In applying for the switch in usage, mosque organizers agreed to abide by the city's façade design rules, which require the front of the building and the exposed side facing Caniff to have at least 70 percent of its surface be glass.

The final design plan fell short of that requirement, however.

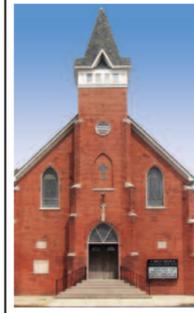
That left commission members at a momentary loss of

OK to the plan on the condition the Zoning Board grants another variance on the zoning rules.

The Zoning Commission next meets on Feb. 6.

If the plan goes forward, there will be three mosques on Jos. Campau – the city's main business district – within a two-block distance.

Religious institutions do not have to pay property taxes. The proliferation of religious centers and subsequent loss of property taxes in the city's business district has been a growing concern among some city officials.



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Jan. 20 - Christmas dinner following 9 a.m. Mass
Jan. 22 - Holy Mass for people on prayer list, 7 p.m.
Jan. 25 - Feast of Conversion of St. Paul Mass 10 a.m.
Feb. 9 - Polish Dinner 4-7 p.m. Featuring Kevin Solecki

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A building formerly owned by American Axle may find new life as an Islamic center. The city's Plan Commission will have to decide on whether to convert a former industrial section of the city to be used for multiple purposes.

fic from the mosque as well as eliminating a building for further potential industrial use.

She also questioned the need for so many mosques in the area – now numbering about a dozen. She said the Muslim community should concentrate the mosques to one or two large ones instead of creating a number of "smaller ones."

Issam Ali disagreed, saying the mosque will attract new development and people to move into an otherwise vacant area. He also said that companies are not planning on bringing industry back to the area.

"Companies are running away," Ali said.

He also noted that there is already a Hindu temple just a few blocks away from the proposed center and that there are a number of Christian churches in the city.

"We cannot do double-

is now a "ghost town."

"This is a chance for that area to come back," he said.

The Planning Commission gave a preliminary OK to allow mixed usage in the area, which would allow the center to operate. However, there must first be a public hearing on the proposal.



An architect for a proposed Islamic center on the northwest corner of Jos. Campau and Caniff holds up a rendering of what the building that now sits on the corner would look like.

The hearing was scheduled for the commission's next regular meeting on Feb. 13.

If the commission gives its final blessing, the proposal

what to do next. Commissionmember Tom Jankowski, who also sits on the city council, motioned to give a preliminary

what to do next. Commissionmember Tom Jankowski, who also sits on the city council, motioned to give a preliminary



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1997	MERC	GOLD	4D	1MELM50U7VA642457
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1998	CHEV	BURG	4D	1G8FK16R0WJ310883
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City Hall Insider ...

What is our City Council up to these days? We have the scoop and the highlights – as well as the lowlights – of the latest council meeting.

By Charles Sercombe

The city council met on Jan. 8, and the meeting ran for two hours. Mayor Karen Majewski was the only one absent.

Councilmember Robert Zwolak noted that he had placed a number of suggested appointments to various commissions on the agenda, but they were removed. He was particularly concerned over appointments to the Parks Advisory Board.

Acting City Manager Kyle Tertzag said that he took up a suggestion from a councilmember and started an award for city employee of the month. January's employee of the month is Penny Aniol. Aniol heads up the Accounts Payable Department and is also the Income Tax Director.

Tertzag noted that she has gone above and beyond her duties. Besides receiving a certificate, the owner of Maine Street Restaurant donated a \$25 gift certificate.

The council unanimously approved renaming part of Caniff to Rev. Joseph R. Jordan St., in honor of the pas-

tor of Corinthian Baptist Church, located on Caniff.

The honorary designation will cover the area from the railroad tracks west of I-75 to Jos. Campau.

Rev. Jordan has been the pastor at Corinthian for 39 years.

After a lengthy discussion, the council agreed to change what the city charges for business and home alarms and the business license fee. The change agreed on is to do away with the business alarm fee (which was \$100 per year), and increase the business license fee from \$75 to \$100.

Councilmember Zwolak was the lone dissent in the vote, saying there should be a "fiscal note" attached to the proposal.

The council, except for Councilmembers Cathie Gordon and Zwolak, also agreed to contract with a company called Leadsonline. The company supplies software programming for the Police Department to set up a method to keep track of what pawn shops and resale shops purchase.

The purpose of keeping track is to see if stolen items pop up.

Police Chief Max Garbarino said the new system will streamline things for the department as well as for businesses.

Councilmember Gordon said resale shops should also be included. She also questioned how the Police Department will know if businesses are being honest and reporting what they purchase.

Garbarino said his department will do spot checks.

Councilmember Zwolak said the city should require computer stores and auto parts dealers that handle used goods to be included.

City Attorney Alexis Krot said that including additional businesses such as resale shops will drive them out of business and would be too "onerous" for the Police Department to monitor.

Councilmember Tom Jankowski said that if it becomes clear that more businesses need to be included, the council can address the issue at a later date. Otherwise, he said, the council should support the police chief's effort to update what the department does.

Councilmember Zwolak questioned why Mayor Majewski doesn't use Mayor Pro Tem Abdul Algazali in her place when she can't attend events. Instead, Zwolak said, the mayor uses a "proxy."

He said he plans to question the mayor about that at the next meeting.

Acting City Manager Tertzag introduced his new assistant, Kathy Angerer. He said Angerer will be acting as a liaison to the council and city employees, among other duties.

Councilmember Anam Miah said he wants the council to start planning on what to do with about 400 city-owned lots that will soon be released back to the city's control by a federal court.

(The lots had been held in reserve for over 20 years until a housing discrimination lawsuit filed against the city was resolved. The housing lawsuit has been resolved and no other lots are needed to build new housing for the plaintiffs.)

'Blowout' isn't blowing out of town

By Ian Perrotta

Like a typical 16-year-old, the Metro Times Blowout is about to hit the road. But it won't be going too far.

After a decade-and-a-half of hanging in Hamtramck, the much-loved music festival is starting to grow up and branch out. This year, instead of being confined to the city's 2.2-square-miles the event will also take place in Ferndale.

Blowout fans need not worry, however, as the two locations won't be competing against each other. In an added tweak to the traditional

three-day format the festival will expand to two weekends. The first will take place in Hamtramck and the second in Ferndale.

And since things come in threes, there's also a change to the schedule. In an effort to coincide with better weather the Blowout will move from early March to six weeks later. The scheduled dates for 2013 are Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27 for Hamtramck and Thursday, May 2, Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4 for Ferndale.

Not everything is changing, though. The Blowout will still

kick off in Detroit with a party at the Majestic on Thursday, April 25. And it will still provide music fans an opportunity to enjoy the best local talent and discover something new.

"Metro Times wanted to elevate the Blowout within the metro Detroit community, and Ferndale was a logical choice due to its multiple appropriate venues in close proximity," said Metro Times Publisher Chris Sexson. "By expanding to two weekends, the Blowout can showcase even more extraordinary talent than before."



By Ian Perrotta

This week's crime report covers Jan. 2 through Jan. 8.

Wednesday, January 2

- A crash occurred at Mitchell and Commor.

- A crash occurred at Poland and Lumpkin.

- At 1:25 p.m. an agent of a business in the 12100 block of Conant reported that two fraudulent checks had been passed by suspects named in the report.

- A Ferry Street resident reported that an unknown suspect stole his bicycle while it was chained to a fence on Jos. Campau at 3:45 hrs. His front wheel was left chained to the fence.

- A Dwyer Street resident was placed under arrest for operating a vehicle while intoxicated by alcohol after he struck a utility pole and rolled his vehicle at Buffalo and Trowbridge at 4:18 p.m. His vehicle was impounded and DTE secured the downed pole.

- At 10:35 p.m. two males were arrested in the 2200 block of Alice for breaking in after they were found in an abandoned house.

Thursday, January 3

- At 12:26 p.m. a male was arrested at Jos. Campau and Hewitt for driving with a suspended license and a Hamtramck warrant.

- At 6:11 a.m. officers responded to the 9800 block of Jos. Campau for a damaged front door. On arrival officers found the front door had been shattered. The owner was notified and advised of the damage.

- At 9:18 a.m. a man reported that an unknown person(s) broke into a home in the 5200 block of Trowbridge between 11:30 p.m. on 1/2 and 8:30 a.m. on 1/3.

- At 9:54 a.m. a man passed fraudulent insurance during traffic stop at Jos. Campau and Casmere.

- At 11:16 a.m. a man reported that an unknown person(s) broke into a building in the 12000 block of Jos. Campau between 1/2 and 1/3.

- At 11:32 a.m. a woman reported a black female assaulted her at a business at Conant and Doremus.

- At 12:45 p.m. a woman reported that an unknown person(s) took her cell phone on Holbrook between 1/1 and 1/2.

- At 12:46 p.m. a woman reported that a man pointed a gun at her in the 12000 block of Grand Haven at 12:15 p.m. on today's date.

- A male was placed under arrest for domestic violence in the 3900 block of Evaline at 3:07 p.m.

- A crash occurred at Charest and Commor at 3:19 p.m.

- A crash occurred at Lehman and Gallagher at 4:09 p.m.
- A crash occurred at Holbrook and Lumpkin at 9:36 p.m.

- A crash occurred at Belmont and Gallagher at 11:16 p.m.

Friday, January 4

- At 4:57 a.m. officers responded to the 11800 block of Jos. Campau for a B&E in progress. Officers found a

window had been shattered. The business' owner arrived and stated a TV was missing.

- At 7:30 a.m. a male was arrested for driving with a suspended license after a traffic stop on Caniff.

- At 1:30 p.m. a Holmes resident stated that a known party stole another employee's check from her office desk drawer.

- At 3:14 p.m. units were dispatched to the library regarding a fight. Officers arrived and after an investigation placed two suspects under arrest.

- At 4 p.m. a man came into the station stating he located a purse. The purse was turned over and tagged into evidence.

- At 4:41 p.m. there was a crash at Trowbridge and Conant.

- At 20:43 p.m. a man reported that person(s) unknown broke out a window at his home in the 2300 block of Geimer at approximately 10:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 5

- At 12:44 a.m. officers placed a woman under arrest at a bar on Jos. Campau for carrying a concealed weapon and child neglect after swinging a meat cleaver at security in front of the bar. Her blood alcohol content was .271 and it was later discovered that she left her 11-year-old child unattended at home.

- At 1:45 a.m. a man reported that a white male with shoulder length who was wearing a black hat, brown jacket, and blue jeans damaged his 1991 Dodge Dakota in the

Continued on page 7

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Review: Opinion Page

Police department needs all the extra eyes and ears it can get

If you are a regular reader of our Crime Log, you will have no doubt noticed an uptick of street robberies in recent weeks.

Some of them have been pretty brazen. In one instance, a suspect rushed up and grabbed the purse of a woman while she was in front of her house.

The robberies are happening at all times of the day and throughout the city. It's getting a little scary out on the streets.

We bring this up because the city council had an opportunity to give the police department extra eyes and

ears. A few weeks ago the council rejected a proposal to unencrypt police radios to allow the public to listen in on police communications.

Hamtramck had a long history of residents listening in on their scanners at home. Often residents would hear of a crime in motion and be able to help police track down the suspect just by looking out their windows.

That all changed recently when the department switched to a new digital format and blocked out the ability to allow the public to tune into their communications. It was done to prevent

the bad guys from also listening in, although it's highly unlikely most criminals are using scanners.

It seemed like the council was in favor of unencrypting the radios but for some reason all but Councilmember Cathie Gordon voted against that action.

While we understand there is a need for sensitivity in police matters, we think allowing the public to listen in on their scanners is a plus for officers. Right now Hamtramck needs to step up its security network, and the best way to do that is to get the community involved.

Odds & Ends

Art reception ... Hamtramck's Public Pool art gallery will host another opening this Saturday (Jan. 12).

The new exhibit showcases five women artists — one of whom, Alice Schneider, is from Hamtramck.

The show is called: Con-

torted: Humor and the Body in Recent Art.

According to the folks at Public Pool, the theme is about the artists "using their own bodies as subject matter in video or performance; or using popular expressions of beauty such as muscle mag-

azines, in collages; or using photography or installation pieces."

Saturday's party starts at 7 p.m. Public Pool is located at 3309 Caniff in Hamtramck and is open every Saturday from 1 – 6 p.m. The show is up until Feb. 9.

HDFCC gets by with a little help from its friends

By Ian Perrotta

Nobody was blowing smoke at Thursday's (Jan. 10) monthly meeting of the Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition (HDFCC). After the pancakes, it was straight to business.

Held at Piast Institute on Jos. Campau (the headquarters of the HDFCC), the meeting set the agenda for 2013 and was attended by a number of coalition members, including Police Chief Max Garbarino and Hamtramck Public Schools Superintendent Tom Niczay.

For the coming year, the HDFCC plans to build on its work at Kosciuszko Middle School as well as start a social media campaign. Additionally, it will continue sponsoring the annual Health Hike, which is now in its fourth year.

The breakfast also had a special guest with the presence of U.S. Representative



U.S. Representative Gary Peters chats with HDFCC Chairperson Dr. Joann Pieronek over a light pancake breakfast.

Gary Peters (D) of the newly-created 14th Congressional District. Congressman Peters, who has shown an interest in Hamtramck since being elected last year, praised the work of the coalition and offered the support of his office.

"I take my job of Representative very seriously, and the best way to know the needs of a community is to be there on the ground," said Congress-

man Peters. "If I'm not in D.C., I'm in the district."

If you would like to join the Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition the next meeting is at Piast Institute on Thursday, February 14 at 11 a.m. For more information contact Hdfcc Director Eric Burkman by phone at (313) 733-4535 or e-mail at burkman@piastinstitute.org.

Police chief seeking to increase reserve force

By Ian Perrotta

Hamtramck Police Chief Max Garbarino is looking for a few good men and women. Well, a bunch, actually.

In an effort to bolster the Police Department's personnel numbers, Chief Garbarino recently initiated a recruitment drive focused on diversifying the force and bringing more residents into the picture.

Though the department is also looking to add fulltime officers, the primary goal is to increase the amount of Police Reserves. There are currently 38 full-time officers and about two dozen Reserve Officers.

If you think you've got what it takes to be a Reserve Officer, the requirements are fairly simple and straightforward. You must have U.S. Citizenship, be at least 21-years-old and be able to pass a background check.

"We're looking for people who are generally of good moral character," says Chief

Garbarino. "But at the same time we know that everyone makes mistakes. A previous arrest won't automatically discount an applicant from the process."

Provided an applicant meets the general requirements, the department will outfit him or her with a uniform and vest and then it is off to the Reserve Academy. The course is 16-weeks long and takes place at either Schoolcraft Community College, Oakland Community College or Macomb Community Colleges.

Classes are held two nights a week for three hours at a time, with a couple of eight-hour Saturday sessions for a total of 136 hours of instructional time in all. Subject matter includes topics such as police procedure, First Aid and criminal law.

Once a recruit successfully completes the course, he or she is then sworn-in by the Hamtramck Police Depart-

ment and is ready for patrol. Reserve Officers are required to work one unpaid weekend a month, though they are often called in for special circumstances like the Labor Day Festival or a situation that requires extra manpower.

As far as the actual job goes, some of the duties include acting as patrol support – patrolling the city from a squad car while in uniform – transporting prisoners to jail, and participating in community events.

"They do a lot of regular police work by virtue of the job," says Chief Garbarino.

Do you have what it takes to be a Reserve Officer? Visit www.hamtramckpolice-reserves.com for more information, or just stop by the station. Reserve Officers are required to abide by the same standards of conduct as regular officers so applicants must be able to pass a drug test.



Tertzag's Two Cents

By Kyle Tertzag

Acting City Manager

Happy New Year Hamtramck! For my first installment this year I wanted to touch on an item that I have had people ask me about over the holiday season. It's in regards to the mural on the building at Jos. Campau and Goodson.

First of all the old Casket Mural on the building has been whitewashed and an artist is in the process of replacing it with what in my opinion is a more appropriate mural. The new mural features a Bald Eagle, an iconic symbol of America. It will also have two words on it. HAMTRAMCK PRIDE!

The mural is meant to reflect that Hamtramck is just like a microcosm of our great nation. We are our very own little melting pot of dozens of cultures, ethnicities and various religions. What better symbol to represent our city taking flight once again than a Bald Eagle?

The words were chosen to reflect that regardless of our backgrounds we all want a better Hamtramck and that is only

possible if we share a common pride in our community!

Hamtramck Pride is reflected in a lot of ways. Whether it's taking pride in our walkable community, or the championship recently earned by one of our youth soccer teams. Whether it's being proud of being a 4th or 5th generation resident or the pride felt by a brand new immigrant to our nation and our city.

There are many reasons to

be proud of our community!

I look forward to the challenges in front of us in 2013. Because if we pull together and work as a team, we will have more things to be proud of in the coming months! I, for one, am excited about our prospects for success! I, for one, have Hamtramck Pride! I'm Acting City Manager Kyle Tertzag, and that's my Two Cents.

Obituaries

GREZLAK

Jane E. Grzelak, 93, died January 9, 2013.

Mrs. Grzelak was a homemaker. She was predeceased by her husband, Edmund; son, Leslie; daughter, Vanessa.

Mrs. Grzelak is survived by her daughters, Jacqueline Dudus and Carol Cattrell; five grandchildren; twelve great-grandchildren.

Visitation is Saturday, Janu-

ary 12, 10 a.m. at Krot Funeral Home, followed by Mass at St. Ladislaus Church at noon. Burial will be at Resurrection Cemetery.



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Editor/Publisher: John Ulaj • (248) 866-1110 • julaj@thehamtramckreview.com
Editor: Charles Sercombe Office Manager: Jean Ingenthron
Sales Manager: Dave Sweet Copy Editor: Ian Perrotta

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Controversial mural is being replaced

By Charles Sercombe

To Mickey Pokoj, it was like a Christmas miracle.

One of the loose ends of 2012 was tied up in early December when it was decided to paint a new mural over a controversial one on the side of a city-owned building on Jos. Campau and Goodson.

Pokoj was in the forefront of those objecting to the mural, and he demanded that it be painted over. He finally got his way in December.

"In Hamtramck, there is a Santa," he said as a muralist painted over the offending mural, which had been done by the graffiti artist known as "Sever."

Sever's mural depicted six cartoon characters carrying a coffin. The message of the mural was supposed to be about the death of street art.

Some in Hamtramck, including Pokoj, were offended by the image of death and said it gave the appearance that it was about the death of Hamtramck.

The painting was part of a citywide art project spon-



Grffiti artist "Kobie" creates a new mural on top of one that some in the city found objectionable.

sored by a national spray can paint company. Several internationally-known artists were brought in to create murals throughout the city.

Only the one on the city-owned building attracted any hint of controversy.

The new mural is of a bald eagle, which some might think is supposed to repre-

sent the Polish eagle.

Grffiti artist "Kobie" is creating the mural, which he said will blend a variety of influences once it's completed.

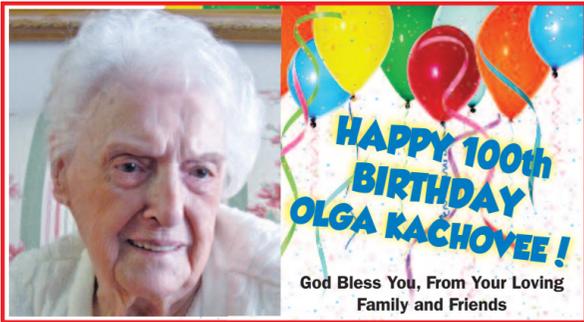
"It will have a lot of classic elements with a new twist," he said.

Kobie is known for the mural he created on the Russell Industrial building, which

houses a number of artist studios. The mural faces I-75.

Acting City Manager Kyle Tertzag said he wanted the mural to be controversy-free.

"We wanted to put something there that would better represent Hamtramck in a positive fashion," he said.



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Hamtramck, 11680 Nagel, 3 or 4 br., living and dining rm., \$675/mo. + water, call 313-438-3438. 1/18

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Continued from page 4

12000 block of McDougall.

- At 1:45 a.m. a woman from the 12000 block of McDougall reported that the same suspect from the previous report had also damaged her 1999 Dodge Durango.

- At 1:45 a.m. a man reported that an unknown person(s) damaged his 1994 Toyota Camry, also in the 12000 block of McDougall.

- At 2:51 a.m. officers were dispatched to a car fire at Grand Haven and Caniff. On arrival officers found a Salvation Army truck on fire with another Salvation Army truck right behind it. Vehicle was transferred to the fire department. At 8:27 a.m. Oakland County reported the vehicles as stolen. They were notified of the recovery.

- At 4:13 a.m. officers reported a water main break in front of the Post Office.

- A crash occurred at Edwin and Ellery.

- A crash occurred at Jos. Campau and Lehmen.

- At 12:51 p.m. a male was arrested at the police station on a Hamtramck warrant.

- At 3:07 p.m. a Bernard resident came into the station with a child. The resident stated that the child's mother has not been in contact for a day. After an investigation the child was turned over to family members and a report was made.

- At 4:40 p.m. there was a crash at Doremus and Buffalo.

- At 10:08 p.m. a woman stated that she was robbed on Doremus, east of Conant. The suspect grabbed the victims black coin purse containing \$440 and a debit card. The suspect fled eastbound on Doremus on foot. The suspect was described as a thin, 6-foot tall white male wearing a navy blue jacket and a dark colored knit cap.

Sunday, January 6

- At 1:53 a.m. officers

heard several shots fired in the area of Jos. Campau and Roosevelt. An investigation revealed a man shot outside of a bar in the 8800 block of Jos. Campau. Suspects were described in the report, the victim was treated at Detroit Receiving Hospital, and a handgun recovered.

- A resident of the 2300 block of Whalen reported that between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. an unknown suspect(s) kicked open her back door and ransacked the interior of her apartment. A sum of currency was missing from her purse.

- A resident reported that at 2:30 p.m. she was walking near the east Jos. Campau alley near Trowbridge when an unknown male wearing a knee length black coat and ski mask ran by and grabbed her black brief case containing miscellaneous documents. The suspect fled westbound across Jos. Campau into the west alley.

Monday, January 7

- At 12:41 a.m. a woman was placed under arrest in the 11300 block of Lumpkin after pulling a knife on another woman.

- At 11:22 a.m. an agent for a business reported that one of his payroll checks had been altered.

- At 11:28 a.m. two subjects were interviewed regarding a stolen vehicle they were attempting to register at the Secretary of State office. The vehicle was impounded and a suspect was named in the report.

- At 11:44 a.m. a Lehman resident reported being assaulted by her child's father.

- A man was placed under arrest at Halleck and Mackay for absconding parole at 1:30 p.m.

- An agent of a business in the 9500 block of Jos. Campau turned over a check that he found inside the business at 3:40 p.m.

- Officers placed a male under arrest for domestic violence in the 12000 block of Charest at 3:55 p.m.

- A crash occurred at Dequindre and Caniff at 5:44 p.m.

- A resident of the 2600 block of Neibel reported a B&E between 11 p.m. on 1/6 and 7:45 p.m. on this date.

- A Yemans resident reported that while walking in the area of Jos. Campau and Holbrook a black male, approximately 5'6", 18-20-years old and wearing a black coat over a hooded sweatshirt, pointed a gun at him. The victim turned over his cellular phone and the suspect fled the scene westbound on Holbrook at 7:58 p.m.

- At 11:50 p.m. a man was placed under arrest during a traffic stop for possession with intent to deliver and driving with a suspended license as detailed in the report.

Tuesday, January 8

- At 5:17 a.m. a woman reported that two black males (one wearing a black jacket and one wearing a plaid jacket) attempted to get into her vehicle as she was warming it up in the 12000 block of Mitchell. The suspects fled the scene on foot.

- At 7:45 a.m. a male was arrested after a traffic stop at Dequindre and Caniff for driving with a suspended license and not possessing proper insurance

- At 10:19 a.m. a male was arrested in the 12000 block of Sobieski for domestic assault.

- At 11:31 a.m. a male was arrested in the 12100 block of Conant for assault and battery, obstructing justice and disorderly conduct

- At 12:20 p.m. a woman reported that her boyfriend assaulted her in the 2300 block of Wyandotte. He fled the area.

- An officer was provided fraudulent insurance during a traffic stop at Conant and Caniff at 4 p.m.

- A resident of the 1900 block of Yemans stated that as she was exiting her vehicle a thin, 6' tall black male of

Continued on page 8

Coming events

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 23, noon – The Daughters of Isabella Mystical Rose Circle 736 will hold a card and bunco special, featuring a share the wealth prize, raffle, door and table prizes, at Queen of Apostles Activity Center, entrance on Harold St., fenced-in parking. Admission is \$7.

Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition meets every second Thursday of the month (next meeting: Feb. 14), 11 a.m. at The Piast Institute, 11633 Jos. Campau.

Metro news ...

It's said that whatever happens to Detroit, so goes Hamtramck. If you were to rely solely on the local mainstream media, you'd think Detroit is no more than a crime-infested wasteland. Well, we're here to say that isn't so. Our friends over at modelmedia.com and metromode.com have been reporting on fascinating development projects for the past few years.

With their permission, here is an edited version of this week's story:

The Detroit Bus Co plans to start to transition its business plan this month. The downtown Detroit-based firm will do less of the party bus

loop in the greater downtown Detroit area and more bus service for downtown businesses.

"In a nutshell, we're launching Detroit Bus Co 2.0," says Andy Didorsi, president & founder of the Detroit Bus Co. "We're moving from a party service to a commuter service."

The new commuter service will be five days a week and consist of a loop between various downtown businesses and institutions. The company is also working on a loop in Hamtramck and some transit educational services that will be launched later this year. The downtown party

loop will continue, being held on the last Saturday of every month.

The Detroit Bus Co, which is a year old, now employs seven people. It recently made the move to downtown, taking space in the Department of Alternatives space at the corner of Washington Boulevard and Clifford Street. The new work space is creating office space for startups making a positive impact on the city.

"We want to put our money where our mouth is and invest in downtown Detroit," Didorsi says.

Writer: Jon Zemke

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16th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast

January 21, 2013, the Concerned Women of Hamtramck, along with the Hamtramck Public Schools present to you the 16th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast

A song, dance, poetry, drama and art competition from each school will take place at the breakfast, with the theme "Hamtramck's Got Talent". You, the audience, will choose the winner.

First prize \$100, second prize \$50, third prize \$25, with all contestants receiving a certificate for participation.

Support our youth by saying Yes, I know that Hamtramck's Got Talent, and attend the breakfast at the Hamtramck Community Center, 11350 Charest, near Caniff at 9:00 a.m., January 21, 2013.

Adult tickets, \$15, children's tickets, \$5, tables of 8 are \$120. Call Madelyn Porter for reservations at 313-310-3295. Questions about tickets may also be directed to Yvonne R. Myrick, 313-873-4142.

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	Thin Crust	\$7.00	\$10.00	\$12.00
	Square Deep Dish	\$7.00	\$10.00	\$12.00
SPECIALTY PIZZAS	BBQ PIZZA:			
	Chicken, Bacon, Onions, and House BBQ Sauce	\$6.00	\$9.00	\$11.00
	Thin Crust	\$7.00	\$10.00	\$12.00
SPECIALTY PIZZAS	PHILLY STEAK PIZZA:			
	Philly Steak, Green Peppers, Onions	\$9.00	\$11.00	\$13.00
	Thin Crust	\$9.00	\$11.00	\$13.00
SPECIALTY PIZZAS	NAGA PIZZA:			
	Chicken, Red Onions, Cilantro, Made with Naga Sauce	\$7.00	\$10.00	\$12.00
	Thin Crust	\$7.00	\$10.00	\$12.00
SPECIALTY PIZZAS	Square Deep Dish			
		\$7.00	\$10.00	\$12.00
		\$7.00	\$10.00	\$12.00

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CRIME LOG

Continued from page 7

about 20 years of age, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and a white scarf over his face pointed a black handgun at her. The suspect stole a purse containing two phones, keys and a wallet and attempted to steal the victim's vehicle but was scared off by a male witness. The male witness chased the suspect to Yemans and Dequindre, where a small red car picked the suspect up at 6:43 p.m.

A male reported to the station that while he was driving at Caniff and Conant at 7:12 p.m. a black male in a silver sedan suddenly stopped in front of him. The male opened the victim's door and struck him several times with a closed fist while yelling about the victim's driving etiquette. Hamtramck EMS treated the victim at the station.

A resident of the 12000 block of Sobieski reported a black male, approximately 6' tall and 20-years-old, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt, a grey knit cap/black scarf covering his face and "skinny" jeans pointed a black handgun at him and stated "give me everything." The suspect fled southbound on Sobieski then westbound on Commor with approximately \$40 in currency at 10:02 p.m.

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- Sixth Grade - 10 openings
- Seventh Grade - 5 openings

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Horizon School
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Adult & Alternative High School

Holbrook Elementary
2361 Alice
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Kosciuszko Middle School
2333 Burger
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