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**BREAKING NEWS**

See page 8 for details

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**Quick Hits**

This Monday is Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and once again Hamtramck will hold an observance of this very special man.

The Concerned Women of Hamtramck and the Hamtramck Public School District are hosting a breakfast on Monday (Jan. 16) at the Hamtramck High School Community Center on Charest, starting at 9 a.m.

Besides breakfast being served up, the program features guest speakers and performances by students.

It's always a moving experience.

Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$15 for adults, and are just \$5 for children.

**Quote of the week ...**

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

**"We saw a lot of folks put on the chopping block."**

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

**What's 'IN' and 'OUT' for the year? Read on**

By Charles Sercombe and Alan R. Madeleine

Let's all kiss the year 2011 good-bye and say good riddance.

It's now a new year that's worthy of a new attitude. In with sunny optimism, and out with cranky cynicism.

Yes, it's time once again to take a look at what to welcome in and what to sweep out.

OK, maybe we're joking around a little bit, but here goes with our annual list of what's In and Out for the year.

- IN**  
All right, a New Year!
- OUT**  
Enjoy every day because this might be the last year of existence. At least, that's what the ancient Mayans predicted.
- IN**  
A new city council that takes 30 minutes to decide what the public can talk about when speaking to the council at council meetings.



In the coming year, there will be a new look for Shoppers World. So far, no one is complaining.



Good bye Solidarity slate. Oh how we hated you agreeing on things all the time.

- OUT**  
Those gosh awful Solidarity slate city councilmembers who made "easy" decisions, you know, look easy by being in general agreement of things. Don't you hate it when people get along?
- IN**  
New housing!
- OUT**  
Old housing holding its value. Sorry, we're still on the skids when it comes to getting a good price on your house.
- IN**  
(Medical) reefer madness!
- OUT**  
Pro-reefer laws, if Republican lawmakers continue to have their way.
- IN**  
Value World
- OUT**  
A world with no values.
- Continued on page 5**

**An increase in street crimes? Not really says chief**



File photo. A few high-profile street muggings occurred in the last few weeks, but that doesn't mean there is an increase in crime overall.

By Charles Sercombe

Maybe it's the recent release of daily incident reports from the Police Department, but it appears in the past few weeks, that there has been an uptick in street muggings.

There have been three high-profile robberies since early January, but Acting Police Chief Max Garbarino said that's not out of the ordinary.

"Crime has not necessarily increased, but it's in everyone's face now because of the crime log," he said.

All three robberies occurred on Jos. Campau at various times of the day. Two of the incidents involved guns and one happened in front of the New Dodge Lounge at about 4 p.m., when a man reported that two men with a knife approached him.

In the same time period, a number of home break-ins have occurred.

Garbarino said his department is looking at the trends and is preparing a plan to

**Continued on page 2**

**Police seek to halt health plan**

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck police officers may be the first group of Michigan public employees to challenge a new state law.

Officers here got a Wayne County Circuit Court injunction, from Judge Robert Ziolkowski, to temporarily halt a city health insurance plan.

The new plan calls for officers to carry most of the weight of their insurance coverage, ranging from \$3,900 for individual coverage to \$11,000 for family coverage.

According to a new state law (Public Act 152), there is a cap on how much municipalities can pay for public employees' benefits once their contract expires on Jan. 1.

The two unions representing police officers in Hamtramck say the law technically says that requirement only applies when their current insurance contract expires, which has five months to go.

The injunction will be heard Jan. 17, a day before the first paycheck deductions were supposed to take place.

The city insists the law is clear that the state law takes effect once the employment contract expires.

In the meantime, the Hamtramck City Council took a second look at the insurance deal it agreed on at its Dec. 27 meeting. Since that meeting, two new councilmembers have come on board.

At Tuesday's council meet-

**Continued on page 2**

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## Legal Notice Regarding Zoning

To the Property Owner or Party-in-Interest:  
Nasr Hussain, Vice President of Islamic Center of Hamtramck, located at 11361 Joseph Campau, has made an appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals for variances.

Variance requests for the following section of Zoning Ordinance 497 of the City of Hamtramck is as follows:

Section 2. Central Business District (CBD)  
VI - 2.02. Permitted Uses. In the CBD, all business establishments shall be retail or service establishments that deal directly with customers. All goods produced on premises shall be sold at retail on the premise.

Petitioner requests to operate a "religious, cultural, or fraternal organization," a use that is not permitted in the CBD.

A public hearing will be held in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, MI 48212, on Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. thus affording the opportunity of your input being recorded on this appeal for a modification of zoning on the premises described above.

Any variation or modification granted by the Board would have no bearing on private restrictions. You may appear, authorize others to represent you, or you may express your views in writing. Communications must be received before the date of the hearing.  
Zoning Board of Appeals

## Legal Notice Regarding Zoning

To the Property Owner or Party-in-Interest:  
MD Fakrul, President of Ideal Islamic Center located at 2721 Holbrook, has made an appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals for variances.

Variance requests for the following section of Zoning Ordinance 497 of the City of Hamtramck is as follows:

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VI - 2.02. Permitted Uses. In the CBD, all business establishments shall be retail or service establishments that deal directly with customers. All goods produced on premises shall be sold at retail on the premise.

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Zoning Board of Appeals



By Alan R. Madeleine

This week's Hamtramck Crime Log is compiled from police reports from Friday, Dec. 30 through Jan. 3.

**From Friday, Dec. 30:**

- (At 8:25 p.m. Thurs. eve.) A man reported being assaulted in the 3400 block of Caniff by another man who was previously known to him.

- (At 9:28 p.m. Thurs. eve.) Following a disturbance at 12073 Dequindre, a woman was arrested for assault with intent to murder and another person was arrested for assault & battery of a police officer.

- A Detroit resident was arrested for passing a bad check at Huntington Bank, 9301 Jos. Campau.

- A man from Hamtramck reported being robbed of \$380 at the corner of Jos. Campau and Yemans. The suspect was described as a black male, 6'2" and 230 lbs., with a scraggly beard and a black skull cap.

- An agent for the business at 10030 Jos. Campau reported the padlock pried off his door, although no entry was made.

- An agent for the busi-

ness at Wally's Party Store, 11841 Conant, reported the padlock cut off his door between 3:30 and 4:30 a.m., but no entry was made.

- At 4:18 p.m., a person attempted to cash a fraudulent check at Huntington Bank.

- At 4:45 p.m., an agent of McDonald's reported suspected embezzlement by an employee.

- At 8:54 p.m., a person in the 3000 block of Hanley reported a prior breaking and entering of their home through forced entry of the home's back door.

**From Saturday, Dec. 31:**

- (At 11:15 p.m. Fri. eve.) A person reported a breaking and entering of their home at the 11000 block of Fleming.

- At some time during the day shift, a Norwalk resident reported an attempted phone scam where someone claiming to be from the Treasury Department requested \$350 via credit card payment.

- At 7:30 p.m., a man stated that his girlfriend's brother and the brother's girlfriend assaulted him at a home in the 3800 block of

Doremus. He was transported by EMS to Detroit Receiving Hospital.

**From Sunday, Jan. 1 2012:**

- At 12:49 a.m., a man in the 2200 block of Danforth was arrested on a domestic violence charge.

- At 1:08 a.m., Warren police reported the recovery of a stolen Hamtramck police handgun.

- At 5:28 a.m., a woman came to police headquarters to report an alleged assault by her boyfriend in the 1900 block of Edwin.

- A woman reported being assaulted and held against her will until about 7 a.m. this morning, following an argument with her boyfriend at a home on Belmont.

- A woman on Danforth reported that she was improperly evicted and that her property was now missing.

- At 3:25 p.m., officers recovered a damaged 2000 Honda at Holbrook and McDougall that had previously been reported stolen.

- At 3:47 p.m., a woman reported that her home in the 1900 block of Trowbridge had been broken into sometime between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Among the items listed as missing were a Samsung DVD

**Continued on page 6**

## An increase in street crimes? Not really says chief

**Cont. from front page**

combat street crimes.

In related crime news, over half a dozen iron sewer grates have been stolen, one from the Commor-Charest area and several from the Neibel-Fleming neighborhood.

Steve Shaya, a consultant running the Public Works Department, said he is looking into welding the grates to their base to prevent thefts. He said the replacement costs for the grates run between \$150 and \$250, depending on the size.

The Police Department is also checking with local scrap yards to see if the grates had been turned in for cash.

## Police seek to halt health plan

**Continued from front page**

ing, over a dozen officers and their spouses and children packed the chambers.

Despite their presence, the council refused to overturn the previous decision. In the vote to rescind the new health insurance plan, the council split in a 3-3 tie, meaning it failed.

Mayor Karen Majewski was absent from the meeting because she was out of town. Had she been there, the tie-breaking vote would have come down to her.

Before the vote, there was a heated debate on council over what to do.

You can read more about

what was said in City Hall Insider on page 4.

Police officer Jon Bondra, a union representative, said of officers were "surprised and shocked" that the council refused to go with an alternative health plan that would have resulted in greater savings to the city and was less expensive for officers.

The officers' union had an initial agreement with the city on a health package that would have produced an additional \$200,000 a year in savings. Bondra said that deal was abruptly withdrawn.

"It seems that they want to get more out of us," Bondra said.

## This week at the library...

**ESL Class with Christine Templin** - Saturday, January 14 at noon. Intermediate ESL class conducted by Christine Templin, free to the public.

**Computer Classes for Beginners** - Tuesday, January 17 at noon and 1 p.m. Basic instructions on computer use for beginners will be held on Thursdays. Number of participants is limited to available computers.

**Computer Classes for Advanced Users** - Tuesday, January 17 at 2 p.m. Adults with basic computer skills can enhance their computer literacy each Tuesday at the library. Number of participants is limited to available computers.

**Math Club Meeting** - Tuesday, January 17 at 3:30 p.m. Mr. Nuo is the instructor for the math club and math tutoring.

**ESL Class with Ms. Templin** - Wednesday, January 18 at noon. Christine Templin is the instructor for the ESL class for beginners. Everyone is invited. Free to the public.

**Movies and Popcorn at the Library** - Thursday, January 19 at 4 p.m. Bring the whole family for a free movie and popcorn.

**Computer Classes for Beginners** - Thursday, January 19 at noon and 1 p.m. Basic instructions on computer use for beginners will be held on Thursdays. Number of participants is limited to available computers.

**Family Game Night** - Thursday, January 19, at 5 p.m. Join your friends and family members in friendly skill and knowledge games. This month the featured game is BINGO.

**ESL News for You** - Friday, January 20 at 3:30 p.m. ESL reading and discussion class with Latisha Edge. Free to the public.

**Financial Activists Club** - Friday, January 20 at 3:30 p.m. If you want to expand your knowledge of budgeting and investing, play financial literacy games and learn how to grow your money, join the club. It is free of charge.

**Story Time for Children** - Saturday, January 14, at noon. Join your friends at the library for reading of stories about the New Year.

**Friends of the Library Meeting** - Thursday, January 19 at 6 p.m. FHPL President Kathy Kristy and Treasurer George Gorday invite all members and volunteers to participate in the regular monthly meeting.

**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.**



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# Second Front Page

## Hamtramck's Census shows an ever-changing face

By Alan R. Madeleine

Is Hamtramck still Michigan's "Little Poland"?

Or does it seem like it's becoming "Asia West"? Or some combination of both?

The raw data is a bit sketchy, particularly with regard to Hamtramck's burgeoning Bangladeshi population, according to Piast Institute Director Dr. Thaddeus "Ted" Radzilowski, the noted local ethnologist.

"They (the Bangladeshis) prefer to classify themselves as 'Asian-Indian,' typically, on the census," said Radzilowski. As such, the Asian population comes in at 21.5 percent overall, or approximately 4,500 persons out of Hamtramck's total population of 22,423.

The trick is, the way the census is constructed, people of Arabic descent fall under the "white" designation, even though their countries are in Asia. Hamtramck has a substantial Chaldean population (referring today, essentially, to

those Catholic former Iraqis), and a growing Yemeni population.

The Polish population, meanwhile, currently stands at between 15 and 16 percent. At the time of the 1990 census, Radzilowski said, people who claimed Polish heritage comprised 45 percent of Hamtramck's population.

By the 2000 census, however – despite Hamtramck having an overall population resurgence of about 4,600 people, for a whopping gain of 25 percent – the Polish population had nearly halved, to 23 percent.

"It's not that they've been leaving," Radzilowski explained. "Those who were going to leave, for the most part, got out 25 years ago. It's that the population is aging. They're dying off."

In fact, he said, there has been a slight uptick in the number of younger Polish-heritage families moving back into town, Radzilowski noted.

Asked whether he felt the population of Poles would eventually dwindle down to next-to nothing, he made an interesting observation.

"There's no reason (Hamtramck) wouldn't remain a center of Polonia," he said, "for 10, maybe 15 more years, at least. That's because they have a presence here – houses of worship, fraternal halls, grocery and specialty stores."

He drew an analogy to the Little Italy neighborhood in south Manhattan, which, while now absorbed geographically into Chinatown, still retains its separate, well-known identity.

By contrast the Albanians, for example, moved through Hamtramck relatively quickly, and migrated up into Macomb and Oakland counties where they built their churches and halls.

Radzilowski also mentioned the growing African-American populace, which, with 4,317 people tallied here in Ham-

town, puts them at about 19.1 percent.

He also said that, while there are a few Serbs and Croats here, the primary ethnic group from the old Yugoslavian breakup is the Bosnian Muslim contingent, currently numbering about 2,000 persons and gaining.

"They've built a number of things here, now," Radzilowski said of the Bosnian faction.

There may be fewer Polish folks living here today, and there might be some of you who feel like the city just wouldn't be the same "without being so Polish."

But remember, even the city's name, which many assume to be Polish, is in fact not: rather, it comes from the surname of an old French general.

The point is, there'll almost certainly be a Hamtramck.

Even if the face it presents to the world is always changing.

## Hamtramck crime prevention group invites residents to join

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck's resident crime-fighting organization is applying for a new grant.

The Hamtramck Community Initiative (HCI), a non-profit agency that focuses on building community relationships

and revitalizing neighborhoods, was recently given the green light to apply for funding through the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan.

The HCI has been in operation for the past four years

thanks to Department of Justice grants worth \$1 million.

What did the city get in return? According to the group, among their laundry list of improvements, they created a network of eight block clubs, and formed a citizens patrol that has so far logged in over 200 hours of patrols throughout the city for a total of almost 700 miles.

Since its involvement with the community over the last four years, violent crime decreased by 8 percent and auto-theft by 20 percent.

As for the future, the group has set its sight on several projects

"New projects will include the creation of a Graffiti Removal Task Force, creating positive spaces throughout the city, and the formation of a Translation Corp and a Cross Cultural Community Crises Response Team to effectively build community relationships" said Barbara Stachowski, of the HCI.

Want to be a part of the Initiative?

The HCI annual meeting is Jan. 19 at 6:30 p.m. in City

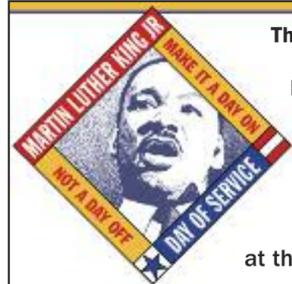
Hall.

"Here at HCI, we believe that great challenges need grassroots solutions," Stachowski said.

For more information, check the HCI website at [hamtramckcommunity.org](http://hamtramckcommunity.org).



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January 14 Soup Kitchen 2-4 p.m.  
January 22 Christmas Dinner after 9:00 a.m. Mass  
January 25 Feast of Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle Mass 10:00 a.m.



The Concerned Women of Hamtramck and the Hamtramck Public Schools invite you to our annual Martin Luther King Day Breakfast.

It will be held on January 16, 9 a.m., at the Hamtramck High School Community Center on Charest near Caniff.

This year's theme is "Yes I Can." Hamtramck students will perform and read their essays on this year's theme.

There will also be a special presentation made by Superintendent Tom Niczay.

Tickets are \$15 per person, or \$120 for a table that seats eight. To order tickets in advance, call Madelyn Porter at (313) 310-3295. Tickets are also available at the door.



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### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL – HOUSING COUNSELING SERVICES

The City of Hamtramck is soliciting qualifications from Professional Housing Counseling Agencies/Firms for assistance with prospective home buyers for properties that are being redeveloped as part of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP2) housing development initiative. The City of Hamtramck anticipates up to 39 homes to be built/renovated with NSP2 funds and sold to eligible buyers who have successfully completed 8-hours of housing counseling. The City of Hamtramck anticipates housing counseling services will be needed for up to 150 individuals/households as a result of this RFP. Please visit [www.hamtramckcity.com](http://www.hamtramckcity.com) or call 313-588-6358 to obtain the RFP in its entirety.

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Monday, January 30, 2012 by 4 p.m.**

SUBMIT TO: City of Hamtramck Clerk's Office  
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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.

The city council met on Jan. 10 with only Mayor Karen Majewski absent. The meeting ran for two hours.

Councilmember Abdul Algazali took over chairing the meeting until the council agreed on a mayor pro tem to be the second in charge of running meetings.

As it turned out, Algazali was chosen, but it took a long time before council came to that agreement.

First things first, though.

State Sen. Bert Johnson gave a brief overview of the last year in the state capital. He characterized the year, at least for Democrats, as being "rough." He also said cities took a "huge hit" in cuts to state revenue sharing.

Democratic lawmakers, he said, "have been fighting that mindset" to reduce financial aid to cities, the low-income and children.

"We saw a lot of folks put on the chopping block," he said.

He urged residents to "petition your government" and let lawmakers know you are upset with cuts to public services.

Councilmember Cathie Gordon asked Johnson what the plan is to help low-income cities. Johnson said it's likely that Detroit will be taken over by an emergency financial manager, but he doubts the state has the resources to take over many cities in the state.

Instead, he said, it's likely the state will empower local govern-

ments to make the changes they need to balance their budgets.

"We're in a quandary like we've never seen before," Johnson said of the challenges facing communities.

As for emergency financial managers, Johnson pointed out that no manager has been successful in financially turning around a community. He said Highland Park has been under the control of an EFM for several years and is still not fiscally sound.

He said those communities that have turned around did so because of local officials in charge.

As for the possibility that he will succeed in unseating John Conyers in Congress, Johnson said Hamtramck will always remain special to him.

"This is the most diverse region in the state," he said.

From the public, Jon Bondra, the vice president of the police officers' union, asked why the council forced police officers to pay thousands of dollars for health insurance.

He urged the council to vote "yes" in overturning the council's previous resolution forcing officers to pay for a costly health insurance program.

Later in the meeting the council took up the issue. The vote to rescind council's previous resolution failed in a 3-3 split vote (Councilmembers Cathie Gordon, Robert Zwolak and Anam Miah voted in favor of overturning the requirement).

Councilmember Zwolak said that if he had been on council when the vote was taken (on Dec. 27), he would have voted against forcing officers to pay for practically all of their health insurance.

He said it was unfair to force this deal on only one group of city employees, and that it was the result of a "failure" to nego-

tiate.

"This is not going to work when we have public safety at stake," Zwolak said.

Zwolak also said he is concerned about public safety in Hamtramck when there is a call by some community activists for civil disobedience in Detroit. He said the city needs to go back to the negotiation table with the police officers.

*(Editor's note: Bob, stop being an alarmist. This isn't 1967. It wasn't a call for a riot to take place.)*

Councilmember Tom Jankowski said the officers' union has failed to make concessions. He also pointed out that officers made \$500,000 from working overtime.

*(Editor's note: It was later pointed out that much of that overtime was earned on the city's traffic patrol program, which also brought in \$800,000 in fines.)*

Jankowski says he has nothing against officers, but noted the union has "failed to act in the best interests of the city."

Councilmember Anam Miah said the city can't "burn one department with a sledge hammer."

*(Editor's note: Warning, mixed metaphor.)*

He said the city had one health plan that the officers' union agreed to on the negotiation table, but the city abruptly pulled it away.

Miah said the city needs to negotiate in good faith.

Councilmember Mohammed Hassan said the city simply doesn't have money to cover health insurance costs. He said if the city continues to spend money it doesn't have it will end up like Highland Park, which he added can't afford to pay for street lights.

Councilmember Gordon said there was a previous health insurance plan that the firefighters also agreed to that would

have saved the city another \$200,000.

"I question the motives here" Gordon said in regard to some of her colleagues who voted for the more costly insurance plan.

Councilmember Jankowski noted that the city's hands are tied because a new state law puts a cap on how much the city can contribute to public employees' benefits.

He said if the officers' health insurance plan is rescinded, it would mean the city is violating state law, which he said could lead to a loss of state revenue.

Mayor Pro Tem Algazali said the council has to keep the city financially solvent. He reminded his colleagues they have to vote for what's in the best interest of residents.

Times are tough, he noted, and many people are out of work.

The vote to rescind the council's resolution on the officers' new health insurance plan failed in a 3-3 split. Councilmembers Miah, Zwolak and Gordon voted in favor of rescinding the vote, while Councilmembers Hassan, Jankowski and Algazali voted against it.

And now, back to how the council came about to choose a mayor pro tem. It wasn't pretty, but then again, very little in government is.

The selection process began with Councilmember Jankowski, who was nominated by Councilmember Hassan. Hassan said of Jankowski: "I know he's very smart."

And he's "studious." Speaking on behalf of himself, Jankowski said he has 16 years experience in one position or another in city government, and that he has served for a variety of officials.

"All in all, I'm familiar with how things work," Jankowski said.

Councilmember Zwolak said that, because the mayor is frequently busy with work or with being president of the Michigan Municipal League, the position of mayor pro tem is important. He said the councilmember selected for this position has to be ready "24/7" to fill in for the mayor.

Zwolak said there are only two councilmembers who can do that.

*(Editor's note: Presumably)*  
**Continued on page 5**

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# Review: Opinion Page

## City officials' stance on police health care doesn't add up

Is it fair to ask Hamtramck police officers to bear the brunt of their health insurance?

Hamtramck is in a tight space. According to a new state law, pushed through by a majority of Republican lawmakers, there is now a cap on how much a city can spend on public employee health care costs and other benefits.

The Hamtramck City Council may have gone a little further in passing on this cost to police officers, or maybe not, depending on who you talk to. Long story made short, the city council has stuck to its guns in forcing officers to pay a hefty price for health insurance.

For family coverage it's close to \$11,000 a year.

We're going to sidetrack for a moment here and point out that Ferndale firefighters agreed to a new health plan that requires firefighters to kick in \$4,000 for family coverage.

We don't know what insurance carrier that's with, but it would be wise for Hamtramck to investigate further.

Back to Hamtramck  
Police officers here have filed an injunction to temporarily halt the latest health plan, but there is no guarantee they will successfully interpret what the state law specifically means.

What's more pertinent in this debate is whether the city passed on a better plan that would have been easier on the wallet for officers, and also produced a much larger savings for the city.

It's a complicated deal that requires the firefighters to re-open their contract, and agree to climb on board with the new insurance plan. Technically, firefighters don't have to agree to anything new because they have a solid contract that runs through 2014.

But, according to officials, the firefighters seemed to be leaning toward agreeing to this new insurance plan, even if it would mean digging deeper in their pockets just to help lower the cost for the cops and city employees.

This is an all-around lousy situation in the sense that the state is forcing all communities and public employees to make tough choices.

But it seems to us that if the city can realize a bigger savings with a health plan that is kinder to cops, we should go for it.

Instead, we are told that the plan at work here is to play hardball with officers in order to extract more concessions, such as lowering the minimum staffing levels.

Folks, keep in mind these are tough economic times and the state – or at least Republican lawmakers – are tightening the screws on communities.

Remember that, come next election time.

If the argument is to be tough on health benefits to get more concessions, we have a solution. Let this contract negotiation play out until the point where paydays are at stake, and then go to the state and ask for the next step before an emergency financial manager can step in.

Under a new state law, the state can grant local governments more leeway in forcing contract concessions under a special arrangement.

If the police unions still refuse, well, let them deal with the legal powers that emergency financial managers wield.

At least city officials can say they tried to negotiate a deal that's fair to both sides.

## Odds & Ends

### Calling for volunteers ...

Students, here's a great way to spend MLK Day this coming Monday: Volunteering to put together school snack kits at Friendship House, 9540 Conant, starting at noon.

The kits will be distributed to students at Friendship House (on Jan. 19, 20, 23 and 24) and Kosciuszko Middle School and Hamtramck High School (Jan. 19-20).

The Hamtramck Drug Free Coalition is also helping

organize the event as a way to reinforce good nutrition among students.

Organizers hope to get at least 25 volunteers to create 500 snack kits.

**SOUP's on ...** Hey you creative types, it's time once again to put your thinking caps on and get together for Diverse(SOUP)City at Maria's Comida at 11411 Jos. Campau on Jan. 22, starting at 6 p.m.

For \$7, you get to sample some great soup and hear

about community-based projects that require funding.

At the end of the presentations, diners vote on who gets to keep the evening's proceeds in order to help jump-start their project.

It's a nifty opportunity to meet people and exchange ideas.

Have a project you want to submit? Call (313) 733-8406 or email them at [diversesoup@gmail.com](mailto:diversesoup@gmail.com).

## What's 'IN' and 'OUT' for the year? Read on

Continued from front page

### IN

Soul Food

### OUT

Standard Clock food

### IN

A plan to save Hamtramck's Catholic churches from closing.

### OUT

Actual parishioners.

### IN

A new county jail in downtown Detroit that will save taxpayers millions of dollars.

### OUT

Sixty million bucks — wasted to construct a county jail in Hamtramck just 21 years ago.

### IN

A new health plan for cops.



**After spending \$60 million in taxpayers' money on Hamtramck's county jail, the county is mothballing it to build a new jail downtown. Maybe the first "visitors" of the downtown jail will be some county executives, eh?**

### OUT

A new health plan that cops can actually afford.

### IN

A new, modern look for the old Shoppers World building.

### OUT

Over-the-top opposition to a new, modern look for Shoppers World. Or maybe not.

**Well, that's it for this year, unless you, dear readers, have some suggestions for what's in and out. If you do have something to add, call us at (313) 874-2100 or better yet, e-mail us at [news@thehamtramckreview.com](mailto:news@thehamtramckreview.com).**



## City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 4

Zwolak doesn't think it's Jankowski.)

In the vote to appoint Jankowski, the motion failed in a 3-3 tie. Those in favor were: Jankowski, Hassan and Algazali. Those opposed were Gordon, Miah and (surprise!) Zwolak.

Next up was Councilmember Gordon.

Speaking for herself, Gordon said she's not after a title, but mentioned it is indeed about being available for service.

Zwolak said Gordon indeed has the time and the communication skills needed for the job.

Her nomination failed in another 3-3 split vote, with those voting in favor being: Miah, Zwolak and Gordon. Those voting against were: Hassan, Jankowski and Algazali.

Next.  
Zwolak's nomination was considered, with Zwolak speaking for himself and basically saying

he has (surprise!) all the qualifications needed to do the job.

Gordon pointed out that Zwolak has held a "litany" of public service jobs for the city. She also noted that Zwolak is a lifelong resident (not quite true, he lived out of state for a little while driving a taxi).

And by lifelong resident, Gordon said, she meant that's a "long time Bob."

(Editor's note: Hmmm ... is Gordon suggesting Zwolak is, you know, "old"?)

Hassan said that if Zwolak has so much experience, why is the city broke? He added that having enough time to do the job is not as important as being able to balance the budget.

Zwolak's nomination failed in yet another 3-3 tie, with those voting in favor being Miah, Zwolak and Gordon. Those opposed were Jankowski, Algazali and Hassan.

With that, Hassan nominated

Algazali.

Zwolak asked Algazali to talk about why he thinks he is qualified for the job. Algazali said he would "gladly" talk. He said he has lived in the city all his life and has no agenda other than to "serve Hamtramck."

Gordon pointedly asked Algazali exactly how he has served the city and what activities he has participated in.

Algazali called that question a personal attack. Gordon said Algazali is hardly available, has not served on city commissions and doesn't know the rules of conducting a meeting.

Jankowski said too much has been made out over who has the time to take on the job.

Algazali got the job, with Miah, Algazali, Hassan and Jankowski voting in favor, and Zwolak and Gordon voting in opposition.

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Continued from page 2

player, a Gateway computer and two flat screen TVs.

- At 7:08 p.m., a man reported that his 1995 Toyota had all the windows broken out of it while he was parked outside the New Dodge Bar at 8850 Jos. Campau, and he was inside the bar from approximately 6 to 7 p.m. He stated that he believed his girlfriend was responsible for the damage.
- From Monday, Jan. 2:**
- At 11:29 p.m. on Sunday night, a juvenile male was arrested after his mother reported that he assaulted her in their home on Oklahoma.
- At 12:17 p.m., a man reported being assaulted by three other men while walking on Danforth. He was transported by Hamtramck EMS to Detroit Receiving Hospital.
- At 12:36 p.m., a woman was arrested after being asked to leave New Dodge Bar at 8850 Jos. Campau, and refusing to do so.

- During police day shift, an employee of the Carpenter Pharmacy reported the malicious destruction of property of a window on the building.
- Officers responding to a panic alarm at a McDougall street residence were informed of a domestic assault. The suspect was gone from the area by that time.
- A juvenile was arrested for attempting to tackle police officers investigating a disturbance on Jacob St.
- At 1:54 p.m., a woman on the 3800 block of Yemans reported that someone broke into her home sometime between the day before and the time of the report. Nothing appeared to have been taken.
- At 2:21 p.m., a woman reported that her home on the 9400 block of Charest had been broken into by way of a rear window. Among the items missing were a gold necklace, two gold rings, an Xbox 360 and 15 games for

it, and \$500 cash.

- At 2:55 p.m., officers responded to Dr. Harris Medical and Dental clinic at 8721 Jos. Campau about a man bleeding and possibly shot. The man stated that he had been stabbed, but "did not know where, or who did it." Once at the hospital, he confessed that he had cut himself while punching out a window.
- At 3:15 p.m., a man reported that his Green Iguana bicycle was stolen from in front of the Polish Village Café at 2990 Yemans.

**Tuesday, Jan. 3:**

- At 4:20 p.m., a man reported that his home in the 5000 block of Evaline had been broken into on Dec. 31, three days earlier, between 4:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Among the items he claimed missing were his Driver's License, his green card, his Social Security card, and \$500 cash.
- At 4:46 p.m., a woman, accompanied by a female companion, came to the police station to report that her husband had been assaulting her, dating back to early March of last year.

## Coming events

**JANUARY 14, Sat., 2-4 p.m.** – Monthly soup kitchen at Holy Cross Parish, in the church hall at Pulaski and Fleming. All are welcome.

**JANUARY 25, Wed., noon** – The Daughters of Isabella Mystical Rose Circle 736 will hold a card party, featuring raffles, share the wealth and lunch, at the Queen of Apostles Activity Center, entrance on Harold. Admission is \$7. There is fenced-in parking. Weather permitting.

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## Block Club Corner ...

### 3C7 Block Club Meeting

When: Second Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Where: People's Senior Center, 2339 Caniff St.  
For: residents that live between Caniff and Carpenter and between Jos. Campau and I-75

### Hamtramck Heights Neighborhood Association (4Cs Block Club) Meeting

When: First Thursday of every month, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Where: Hamtramck Community Center (11350 Charest St.)

For: residents that live between Caniff and Carpenter and between Conant and Jos. Campau

### East Side Block Club Meeting

When: Second Monday of every month, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Where: Our Lady Queen of Apostles Activity Center  
For: residents that live East of Conant.

### Midtown Block Club Meeting

When: Third Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Where: St Florian 2626 Poland Street  
For: residents that live between Caniff and Holbrook and between Jos. Campau and I-75.

### Senior Plaza Block Club Meeting

When: Fourth Monday of every month, 4-5 p.m.  
Where: 2620 Holbrook St  
For: Residents of the Hamtramck Senior Plaza

For more information about Hamtramck's network of block clubs, go online to: **HYPERLINK "http://www.hamtramckblockclubs.com" www.hamtramckblockclubs.com**



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# TOAST of the TOWN

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 that can be found throughout the city.

By Alan R. Madeleine

George Cvetanovski must be lucky, or else have great genes.

Or, he's a testament to the healthful powers of soccer playing and Macedonian beer.

Cvetanovski, a first-generation Macedonian American and the sole owner and operator of the 7 Brothers Bar for almost 35 years now, celebrated a milestone birthday this past Friday, in a bar filled with his loyal subjects: Actors, and others, from Hamtramck's arts community.

His energy level matched those around him well, these other 100

or so folks that came and went, whose average age probably hovered around 30 – young enough to be his grandchildren (this reporter excepted). For although George Cvetanovski was turning 80 on this night, he surely didn't look much over about 65.

The jukebox blared as per usual, and folks tried to squeeze in a game of darts

amid the crowd. The many, many actor headshot photos that line the wall here – yours truly's among them – seemed to stare down in approval at the melee below.

Actress and comedienne Jaime Moyer, still back visiting here from her L.A. trans-



Well, yeah, he looks good - it's an old photo!

plant, worked the bar as in the old days, and a slew of faces familiar to the town's theater community spilled out on the sidewalk to smoke, noshed on some food, or chatted loudly in pairs or small groups.

Among those who would be familiar to the avid Detroit theatergoer were Dawn Rasnick, Lauren Bickers, Jill Dion,

Dave Davies, Peter Prouty, Brian Papandrea, Amy Probst, Brian Spangler, James Mio, Dyan Bailey, Molly McMahon, Planet Ant Artistic Director Inga Wilson, Phil Bolden and Robin from the Hastings Street Ballroom.

Cvetanovski's bar is an old-time watering hole. Although there are grills, no food is cooked here. Even tonight, the food comes from Jet's Pizza and elsewhere. But there are the aforementioned darts, and there is pool, and there is above all that outstanding jukebox.

And there is George. Lean and wiry, he almost looks like he could still get back out there on the footie pitch and swat away a few "benders."

But, for now, he's seemingly in his glory – tending bar, not goal, at his self-modeled "Home of all Arts."

**Do you know of a cool bar, a great restaurant or just a nice place to hang out? If you have tips on special events or just want to shine some light on your favorite spot send a message to news@thehamtramckreview.com or call us at (313) 874-2100.**



## School Bell

By Charles Sercombe

Here's a round-up of the latest happenings in our schools.

A new year, and a new – sort of – school board.

There are two new members to the board, Magdalena Srodek and Nasr Hussain.

At Wednesday's school board meeting the first order of business was appointing which members would serve as officers of the board.

No drum roll is necessary. Serving as Board President is Elizabeth Zwolak, Vice President is Yvonne Myrick, Treasurer is Titus Walters and Secretary is Hedy Shulgon.

In regular business, eight basketball aides and two soccer aides were hired for the Recreation Department.

Also, a paraprofessional was hired, and Steve Shaya submitted his resignation for the Recreation Commission.

Know anyone who wants to serve on the Recreation Commission? The school district is asking for candidates and is taking names.

Sex was on the mind of the board. Kidding. But the subject of sex education certainly was. According to Eva Klikovac, the district is about to expand its sex education program to deal with teen pregnancy.

Klikovac said the district has not taken a complete survey of students, but it appears sex is on the mind of a lot of students.

"They think everybody's doing it," said Klikovac.

Well, to set the record straight on the consequences of teen sex, the district has set up a 10-week program at the high school that will explain about birth control, including just saying no (abstinence) and safe sex methods, as well as the risks of unprotected sex (diseases of all sorts and pregnancy).

It should be noted that all districts are required to provide HIV education, and that the district does have a sex

education program in place. And it should be further noted that parents can have their children excused from some aspects of this education program.

Yes, we know, it's not easy being a parent.

There's a new Parent Teacher Association in town, but the specifics of it are a little fuzzy at this point. Several members of the group attended the meeting, and said it's a group of about 50 parents from Hamtramck and Detroit.

The group has representatives in the public schools here, as well as in the charter schools. The group is still in the forming stage. If you want to find out more, call Fateh Obaid at (313) 213-4139.

The Review will also have more information on the group and how to join in next week's issue (sorry, we just found out about it shortly before press time).

We'll have more in the coming weeks. Until then, keep up-to-date on school happenings here in The Review.



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