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Quick Hits

Have a great and safe Fourth of July weekend, readers.

Since this paper comes out on Friday, the Fourth of July celebration is technically over, however the festivities continue all weekend. Remember folks that the city has a new curfew for firing off fireworks.

You can use fireworks until no later than 10 p.m.

To our Muslim friends, next Tuesday (July 9) marks the first day of Ramadan.

The month-long observance is when the Muslim community fasts during the day and reflect on life. After the sun sets, Muslims families gather together and enjoy a meal.



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.

"This is baseball. There is no crying."

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —



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Why remove trees? It's because of lawsuits, city says

By Charles Sercombe

On Sunday, we received a frantic call from a woman living on Klinger St. who wanted to remain anonymous.

It was about the tree removal project going underway all weekend long.

"It's total devastation," the woman said. "This man is a crazy maniac. This is some kind of crime."

The so-called "maniac" in question is Steve Shaya, who has been marking trees for removal with a red "X."

The trees are being marked for removal either because they are infested or have caused sidewalk slabs to buckle up. The city is using state grant money earmarked for street and sidewalk repairs to fund the project.

Despite growing outcry about the removal of 80-to 100-year-

old trees, Acting City Manager Kyle Tertzag is adamant about moving forward.

"I like trees," he said. "No one is trying to take away trees. We're trying to provide safe sidewalks. It's got to be smart green. It can't be green that's costing us money."

And what he means by costing the city money is that over the years there has been an increasing number of trip and fall lawsuits filed against the city. It's to the point that the city's insurance deductible is so high the city is basically self-insured.

In other words, damages paid out in these lawsuits are coming from the city's general budget.

Compounding issues worse is the fact that the city has a looming \$3.4 million budget

Continued on page 2



Tree removal continued through last weekend to make way for sidewalk repairs. City officials insist that the trees had to come down because they caused sidewalk slabs to buckle up (above), which in turn caused many trip and fall lawsuits to be filed against the city.



DIA masterpieces find a new home in Hamtramck



A replication of an art masterpiece from the DIA collection is installed at Café 1923, the first of six sites in Hamtramck to receive other replications.

By Charles Sercombe

Can't make it to the Detroit Institute of Arts?

Well, put on your walking shoes because the DIA has come to Hamtramck. Recently, the museum installed six reproductions of masterpieces from its famous collection.

Hamtramck is one of 12 communities participating in the DIA's Inside/Out program. The first replica to be installed was at Café 1923, which appropriately for the coffee house displays Henri

Gervex's "Café Scene in Paris" — a 19th Century scene of people in a café.

The other locations include: City Hall (Thomas Moran's "The Fisherman's Wedding Party"), the public library (Henry Matisse's "The Window"), Zam Zam Restaurant (Benny Andrews' "Portrait of a Collagist"), Polonia Restaurant (Peter Paul Rubens' "Warrior with Two Pages") and the Polish Market (Edwin Henry Landseer's "Chevy").

The city's Downtown Development
Continued on page 3

EM already reviewing city finances

By Charles Sercombe

For those of you who have lived in Hamtramck for several years, you might remember newly-appointed Emergency Manager Cathy Square.

Back in 2003, she came to work here as the Director of Public Works under former Emergency Manager Lou Schimmel. During those first days on the job she drove around town to get the lay of the land, so to speak, and the one thing that jumped out was the amount of loose garbage in the alleys and overflowing garbage cans.

"It's expensive to allow unlimited garbage to be picked up," she told The Review in an interview on Monday, that touched on her previous time with the city. Monday was Square's first day on the job in her new role.



Emergency Manager Cathy Square was responsible for bringing in the blue garbage containers each residence received back in 2003.

Not only was it unsightly, it had contributed to a citywide rodent infestation. There is one thing rats love, and that's plenty of easy to get at food.

So, she urged Schimmel to purchase the blue garbage containers you see around town for every residence to combat both problems.

And presto, it worked wonders.

"Now you don't have a rodent problem at all," Square said.

Continued on page 5

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If you are not currently registered to vote or have changed your address in the above stated jurisdiction in which you live you may do so at the following locations and times listed in this notice.

IN PERSON:

- At your city or township clerk's office or at the office of any county clerk during normal business hours.
- At any of the Secretary of State Branch offices located throughout the state during normal business hours.
- At the specified agency for clients receiving services through the Family Independence Agency, the Department of Community Health, Michigan Jobs Commission and some of the Commission for the Blind.
- At the military recruitment offices for persons enlisting in the armed forces.

BY MAIL:

- By obtaining and completing a Mail Voter Registration Application and forwarding to the election official as directed on the application by the close of registration deadline. Mail voter registration applications may be obtained by contacting:

**MARIE KENDZIERSKI, CITY CLERK
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NOTE: A person who registers to vote by mail is required to vote in person unless they have previously voted in person in the city/township where they live or are at least 60 years of age.

**৬ই আগস্ট, ২০১৩ খ্রীষ্টাব্দ তারিখ, রোজ মঙ্গলবার অনুষ্ঠিত
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নিবন্ধন বন্ধের বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

এত দ্বারা জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, উপরে বর্ণিত নির্বাচনের জন্য ভোটদানের বা আপনার ঠিকানা পরিবর্তন বিষয় **নিবন্ধনের শেষ দিন: ৮ই জুলাই, ২০১৩ খ্রীষ্টাব্দ, রোজ সোমবার।**

আপনি সম্ভ্রতি ভোটদানের জন্য নিবন্ধিত না হয়ে থাকলে বা উপরে বর্ণিত আপনার বসবাসরত নির্বাচনী এলাকার ঠিকানা পরিবর্তন করে থাকলে এই বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লেখিত স্থান ও সময়ে আপনি তা করতে পারেন।

: স্বশরীরে উপস্থিত হয়ে তা করতে পারেন :

- স্বাভাবিক কর্ম দিবসের সময়ে শহর বা নগরের ক্লার্ক অফিসে বা যেকোন কাউন্টি ক্লার্কের অফিসে।
- স্বাভাবিক কর্ম দিবসের সময়ে অঙ্গরাজ্য জুড়ে অবস্থিত অঙ্গরাজ্যের শাখা অফিসের যেকোন একটি সচিবালয়ে।
- গ্রাহকদের জন্য নির্ধারিত এজেন্সিতে, যেখানটায় ফ্যামিলি ইনডিপেন্ডেন্স এজেন্সি, ডিপার্টমেন্ট অফ কমিউনিটি হেলথ, মিশিগান জব কমিশন এবং অঙ্গরাজ্যের জন্য কয়েকটি কমিশনের মধ্য দিয়ে বিভিন্ন সেবা পাওয়া যায়।
- সশস্ত্র বাহিনীতে তালিকাভুক্ত ব্যক্তিদের জন্য সেনা নিয়োগদানের অফিসগুলোতে।

: ডাক মারফত তা করতে পারেন :

- ডাকযোগে ভোটদানকারীর নিবন্ধন আবেদন ফরম প্রাপ্তি ও পূরণ সাপেক্ষে এবং আবেদন ফরমের উপরে নির্দেশিত নিবন্ধন বন্ধের সময়সীমা অনুযায়ী নির্বাচনী কর্মকর্তার কাছে পাঠানোর দ্বারা। নীচের ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করার দ্বারা ডাকযোগে ভোটার নিবন্ধনের আবেদন ফরম পাওয়া যেতে পারে:

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লক্ষ্যণীয়: ডাক মারফত ভোট দেওয়ার জন্য নিবন্ধিত একজন ব্যক্তিকে স্বশরীরে ভোট দেওয়া দরকার, যদি না তারা তাদের বাসকারী শহর/নগরে পূর্বে ভোট দিয়ে থাকে বা তারা কমপক্ষে ৬০-বছর বয়সী না হয়।

Why remove trees? It's because of lawsuits, city says

Continued from front page

deficit and is now under the control of an emergency manager.

Still, critics say that there are alternatives to cutting down trees, such as grinding down tree roots that are lifting up the sidewalk slabs.

Emergency Manager Cathy Square said she is aware of the issue and is looking into it. The first thing she requested was a copy of the city's ordi-

nance regulating trees.

That ordinance says the director of Public Services, which in this case is Steve Shaya, has the duty to protect the safety of residents.

One could translate that into meaning he has the authority – in fact, duty – to remove trees causing a hazard to pedestrians.

Another factor working against halting the program is

that many of the trees are simply too big for the space they were planted in many years ago, possibly when those in charge didn't use foresight in deciding which trees to plant.

Tertzag said that new trees will be planted to replace those taken down, but they won't grow to be as big.

"Are the trees going to be replaced – absolutely," Tertzag said.

A question and answer with 'Save Hamtramck Trees'

By Charles Sercombe

In response to the city's tree removal/sidewalk repair project underway, a group of residents have banded together and created a Facebook page in response, called Save Hamtramck Trees.

We talked, via email, with one of the organizers of the group, Jessica Frelinghuysen.

Review: What do you think about the decision-makers responsible for the tree removal?

Frelinghuysen: Ultimately, it's our understanding that the city's DPW department is responsible for the management of this project. The criteria for removal is severe. If a tree so much as heaved a sidewalk square by one-half of an inch the tree was marked for removal. That's not much.

The crews came in quickly, and started cutting. They removed as many 6 to 7 trees in a block. Despite the fact that the city said it would only remove about 45 large trees, we estimate that number is far closer to 100. Surprisingly, dead trees and junk trees that should have been removed have been left standing. Residents were stunned. Their streets were in one day abruptly deforested.

The project was not carefully implemented. It was forced on the taxpayers without any notice. In other words, no letters were sent to homeowners notifying them that trees on their street would soon be removed. The city did not carry out this project in a considerate manner.

The only information given to those in the neighborhood was a red X on the trunk. That's it. Some assumed that the city would be pruning them and were later stunned when they were chopped down.

People need to be notified when a significant project that will affect them is occurring on their street. They needed a chance and an opportunity to protest the removal and discuss other options. Certainly in most cases the concrete could be repaired without removing the tree. There was no careful case by case evaluation.

The criteria was cut and dry. The plan steamrolled ahead. It left people without a voice.

Powerless.

Even DTE with their gas line replacement work has been more courteous regarding set up and implementation of their project. They sent letter and talked to residents before working on their street. The city simply plowed ahead.

Review: What does the group want to happen, ultimately?

Frelinghuysen: We want the city to stop the current project.

We understand that sidewalks need to be replaced. The criteria for tree removal needs to be more flexible. Residents need to be given choices and opportunities to keep their trees.

The city needs to act carefully and give notifications with plenty of time to respond. The administration needs to do it's best to save as many trees as possible and still flatten our sidewalks. They need to learn to be better stewards of the city.

Review: Do you have alternatives to what is happening?

Frelinghuysen: The course of action has to be handled with a greater attention to detail. Many trees are not root bound and are only raising the sidewalk 1/2 inch.

These panels could be horizontally ground, a sidewalk fix that is inexpensive and considered a permanent fix in cities

Continued on page 6



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This week at the library...

Toddler Time at the Library - Monday, July 8 at 11 a.m. Join us for story time, arts & crafts and games. (Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

ESL Basic Class - Monday, July 8 at noon. Ms. Latisha conducts this three-hour basic ESL class, free for Hamtramck residents.

Movie Night - Tuesday, July 9 at 4 p.m. All children are invited to see a movie shown on high definition screen and enjoy a serving of popcorn.

ESL Conversation Class - Tuesday, July 9 at noon. Ms. Latisha conducts English Conversation classes each Tuesday night. Free of charge to Hamtramck residents.

ESL Class "News for You" - Friday, July 5 at 3:30 p.m. This intermediate ESL class conducted by Latisha, free to Hamtramck residents, consists of reading news articles from publications prepared for ESL, "News for You."

Library Gardening Club - Friday, July 5 at 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to join the library gardening club, with activities in the library community garden. Each week we will do a project in the garden and provide each member with a chance to get their own gardening plot, and grow vegetables, herbs or flowers to their liking. For more information see Ania or Kate.

Basic Computer Class - Thursday, July 11 at 11:30 a.m. This week's class is on basic computer usage, Internet searches, e-mail and word processing. Registration is required, and new students are welcome.

Reading and Writing ESL Class - Thursday, July 11 at noon. The reading and writing ESL class conducted by Ms. Latisha is free to the public (registration required).

Evening with Author - Thursday, July 11 at 6 p.m. Author of "Legendary Locals of Detroit,"

Paul Vachon, will present his new book and participate in a question and answer session. Everyone is invited, refreshments and book signing will follow.

Meeting of the Library Board - Thursday, July 11 at 6 p.m. Regular meeting of the Library Board will be held in the auditorium. Open to the public.

Family Story Time for Children - Thursday, June 13, at 5 p.m. Join your friends at the library for a reading of a story for children. This week's topic is "Exploring Nature."

Friends of the Library Meeting - Thursday, July 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.

Teen Club Meeting - Friday, July 19, at 2 p.m. Teens are invited to join our summer meeting of the Teen Club.

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

Police and fire departments open their doors to community



By Charles Sercombe

For the second year in a row, Hamtramck residents got a chance to look at their police and fire departments up close and personal.

The second annual Hamtramck Public Safety Day, sponsored by the Recreation Department, was held on Saturday at Zussman Park, which is located across from city hall.

Adults and kids — especially kids — were invited to get inside a police squad car

and turn on the sirens, while the fire department also opened the doors to its rigs.

Talk about a kid's fantasy come true — they actually got to climb inside a fire truck.

Also on hand were state police officers giving a demonstration of their robot used to handle suspicious packages.

The highlight of the day was the tug of war between police officers and firefighters. And once again, police officers get another year's worth of bragging rights.



It was fun for everyone at last Saturday's Public Safety Day at Zussman Park.



DIA masterpieces find a new home in Hamtramck

Continued from front page

opment Authority will be sponsoring walking tours of the collection in the coming weeks. Here's the schedule for that:

July 11 - Zam Zam - Portrait of a Collagist (11917 Conant), City Hall - The Fisherman's Wedding Party, Polonia Polish

Restaurant - Warrior with Two Pages and Polish Market - Chevy

Aug 15 - City Hall - The Fisherman's Wedding Party (3401 Evaline), Polonia Polish Restaurant - Warrior with Two Pages, Polish Market - Chevy,

and the Public Library - The Window

Sept 19 - Polonia Restaurant - Warrior with Two Pages (2934 Yemens), Polish Market - Chevy, Public Library - The Window, and Café 1923 - Café scene in Paris

The tours begin at 7 p.m., starting at the first location.

Hamtramck will also have its own special weekend at the DIA, Aug. 10-11. Residents will get free admission and several discounts at the gift shop and CafeDIA as well as other specials.



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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

Well, we have some catching up to do. Here is the second part of the May 28 city council meeting. All councilmembers were in attendance. And we'll also include highlights from the June 11 meeting.

We last left off with the council making a preliminary agreement to apply for a loan that is backed up with incoming property tax payments this summer.

Police Chief Max Garbarino recommended, and the council approved, a change to the city's handling of fireworks. Garbarino called it a "quick fix" to what has become an escalating problem of fireworks going off at all times of the day and night.

The change in the city's noise ordinance would prohibit firing them off after 10 p.m.

In the acting city manager's report, Kyle Tertzag noted that the month of May amnesty program for settling – without punishment – outstanding bills and fines had ended. He said that beginning in June, enforcement of collecting fees and fines owed to the city would be "stepped up."

Tertzag had good news for homeowners and the city. It had been predicted that property values would decrease by 10.5 percent, but in reality the decrease was only 2.5 percent.

That means the city will collect over \$300,000 extra in property taxes. While that may mean homeowners will pay more, they can rest easier in knowing their property values did not fall quite as far.

General Motors, Tertzag said, will be more involved with the community. He said GM plans to do projects in the city's parks and

get kids involved as well.

And in related news to parks, Tertzag said that in exchange for allowing the contractor involved in the citywide sidewalk repair project to take a little extra time — past Labor Day — to finish up, it will create for free a cricket pitch in Veterans Park.

In more GM news, the GM Foundation says it has an "interest" in fixing up the stadium in Veterans Park, which has been designated as a historical place because it was built decades ago to host Negro League baseball games.

Finally, Tertzag said state officials gave a "conditional" approval of the city's budget deficit elimination plan, which had previously been rejected.

From the public, Andrea Karpinski complained that on a recent Saturday she called the city to have a dead possum picked up from off the street and instead of the department's boss coming out to do the job, a city employee was called in on overtime.

Karpinski, a former city employee, said that was a waste of money.

The Director of the Department of Public Works, Steve Shaya, said he is bound by the employees' labor contract to call in a city employee. He said that by contract, he is forbidden from doing the work of city employees.

Responding to an earlier request for more officers to be hired to replace those who have left the department, Chief Garbarino said his department is indeed down by seven officers.

He said this has "crippled" his department.

June 11 city council meeting

From the public, a representa-

tive of a proposed restaurant on Caniff, across from Charest, said he has been seeking a curb cut to allow access to a parking lot next to the building.

The request previously had been turned down twice by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The representative said that without having a way to get into the parking lot, his business won't succeed.

Councilmember Anam Miah questioned why the request had been denied in the past. Jason Friedmann, the city's Director of Community & Economic Development, said it was denied because it posed a traffic hazard to pedestrians.

Councilmember Cathie Gordon said the city council cannot override the decisions of the Zoning Board of Appeals. She said a challenge to the ZBA would have to go through the county circuit court.

Andrea Karpinski said she recently walked five miles throughout the city and in that time did not see a single police car on patrol. She said she is aware that several officers have left the department, and she wants to find out why.

Karpinski also questioned the response time of the DMC ambulance service, which took over that function from the fire department several months ago.

Councilmember Gordon questioned whether there is an "exit interview" policy with employees who leave the city.

Acting City Manager Tertzag said there is not one, but he can establish one if desired by council.

In a review of city bills, Councilmember Gordon questioned

why the police department spent \$30,000 on ammunition. Police Chief Max Garbarino said the department supplies officers with ammo, and that officers also need to practice shooting, which requires ammo.

Gordon also questioned whether there is "accountability" in how officers spend their allotment of \$1,000 for clothing and guns.

City Attorney James Allen said there is an "assumption" that officers are honest about how they spend their \$1,000 allotment.

In another item, Councilmember Zwolak questioned what is going on between the police department and the county's Department of Homeland Security. "You can't share with us?" Zwolak said.

Police Chief Garbarino said he can't publicly speak about what is going on, but he invited Zwolak to meet with him.

In a decision on whether to request the governor to appoint an emergency manager, Councilmember Gordon said she's "not crazy" about the option but conceded, "I really don't think we have any other choice."

She added it's a "disgusting" situation.

During the call for a vote, Mayor Majewski began tearing up and had to pause for a moment.

That prompted Susan Dunn, who is a candidate for city council, to say in the public comment portion of the meeting: "This is baseball. There is no crying."

(Editor's note: The reference for quote comes from a line in the movie "A League of Their Own.")

The council unanimously decided to reject a proposal to seek an immediate loan backed up by property taxes to be collected this summer. Councilmembers were not pleased to hear that there were unexpected costs to the loan, totaling \$37,500.



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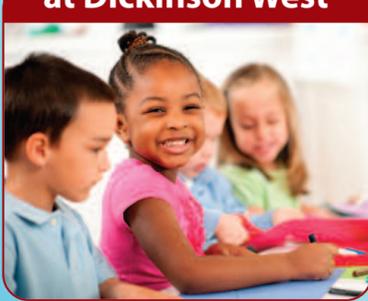
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Review: Opinion Page

City officials need to reconsider tree removal plan

We don't mean to belabor this issue, but now that there is an emergency manager in charge of the city, we hope the city's tree removal project is put on hold.

The first step in the city's sidewalk repair project began last week, which started out with the removal of trees that have caused sidewalk slabs to buckle up. While we agree that they have caused sidewalks to be a hazard for pedestrians, we disagree that the only way to deal

with the problem is to cut down the trees.

Many of these trees are 80 to 100 years old and provide much needed shade and beauty to the neighborhoods.

It's crazy to take these trees down.

In other cities, tree roots are ground down to save the trees and keep sidewalks safe.

While it's true many of these trees are simply too big for the area they are planted in, we still think there are alternatives. It

just takes some creative thinking.

The city's plan is to plant size-appropriate trees in place of the ones cut down. That's great as the city should be planting more trees. But it's going to take decades for them to provide shade.

All we ask is to take a step back in the project and bring in experts on how to deal with this problem.

It's a crime to take down these majestic trees, and it's also a detriment to the property values.

Letters • Letters

There are alternatives to cutting trees down

Saving the trees destined for the chopping block should and can be done.

Other communities faced with a similar problem have chosen a more palatable solution. Instead of cutting the trees down, they simply relocated the sidewalks or streets around the growth.

This solution preserves the trees to continue gracing the residences. True, it may call for a "give and take," due to the loss of a few feet of street or residential property.

It's a sad matter of a minimal sacrifice for a continuing beautification.

The naysayers will balk at this as causing them to drive slower or, heaven forbid, be forced to walk a few extra steps. In answer to the former, if one abides by the stated residential speed limit of 25 mph, there is no problem.

That said, with children playing in the streets it is common sense for any driver to slow down.

Hamtramck has never fully recouped all the trees lost by the 1997 tornado. Like it or not, trees enhance a neighborhood. Studies have shown planting trees have a direct effect on youths and adults.

How can we so limit our thinking to remove these wonders of nature?

**Dick Kaleski
Hamtramck**

EM already reviewing city finances

Continued from front page

It's that same matter-of-factness and by the textbook approach Square will use to assess the city's financial problem and figure out what steps to take next.

First up, she said, is a look at all contracts and an examination of the structure of the city administration.

There are no employees on the chopping block at this point, but Square said any cuts to staff will be based solely on whether the given position is needed and is giving taxpayers' "their bang for the buck."

By Monday, Square, 51 and of Detroit, had already met with several department heads.

"We talked about getting organized," she said. "If we can all get on the same bus, we can do it."

Asked how long it might take, Square didn't hesitate to say that she has just a one-year contract.

"I hope to be out of here before that," she said.

One thing working in her favor is that elected officials actually asked, several times, for the state to appoint an emergency manager. Elected officials said that their hands were tied in restructuring labor contracts and that what was needed was someone with the power to rip up contracts.

That, indeed, is the authority that Square has.

She has said in a prior media interview that it makes sense to merge services with other government agencies.

That's just what Lou Schimmel has done in Pontiac, where

he has been the emergency manager for the past year or so. Square was working under him there as well, in a number of roles.

Square may have the authority to tear up contracts, but that doesn't mean she can rule with an iron fist. The city council can also propose alternatives to her plans and ultimately it's a state board that will make the final call.

The new emergency manager law was written that way, Square said, to "dispel the dictatorship" view that some critics of the law perceive it as.

And for those in the know of things, Hamtramck resident Joe Sobota, who is also working with Schimmel, won't be coming to help out in Ham-

Continued on page 8

Other Voices: Guest Editorial

Congressman praises community leader in address to US House

By Gary Peters

U.S. Congressman Gary Peters submitted the following language on the Floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to be included in the permanent record of the United States of America:

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my longtime friend, Dr. Nazmul Hassan, as he is recognized by the Bangladeshi-American community in Michigan for his many years of stalwart guidance and leadership. Known to friends as Shahin, Dr. Hassan has been a strong voice for Bangladeshi-Americans, not just in Michigan, but across the United States of America. As an immigrant to our nation, Shahin is emblematic of one of the greatest strengths of our nation, our ability to bring the best and brightest from across the world.

Before coming to Michigan, Shahin was a leader in his birth country of Bangladesh. His commitment to service is an ideal he learned at a young age, from watching his father, who was an educator and prominent elected leader in Bangladesh having served as a Member of Parliament for four terms. The value of service to the community is one that Shahin brought with him when he arrived in the United States as a student in 1991. Shahin

later went on to earn a Masters of Science in Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering in 1996, and in 2011, he completed his Doctorate in Industrial Engineering from Wayne State University. In his professional work, he worked for both Delphi Automotive and Ford Motor Company.

While his educational and professional pursuits are impressive, nowhere has his passion been felt more greatly than in his tireless advocacy for the Bangladeshi-American population. In his tenure as the President and Chairman of the Michigan Bangladeshi American Democratic Caucus (BADCA), Shahin has worked within his community to organize its members and raise issues of importance to them in the public arena.

His work has included assisting community members with a wide range of issues, from immigration to helping families in need obtain basic necessities. He has been a source of information for his community on pressing policy issues such as human rights, foreign affairs and health care.

In particular, during the debate on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act he organized discussions within the Bangladeshi community to raise awareness of health care issues.

In my time representing Michigan in the United States Congress, I have been fortunate to call Shahin a valued friend and trusted advisor.

Thanks to his leadership, I have developed close relationships with Bangladeshi constituents and am honored to serve as a leader of the Bangladeshi Congressional Caucus in Washington, D.C. Shahin's passion for his community and his support of cross-cultural dialogue, both in Michigan and across the country, have earned him numerous accolades, including the 2011 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Award from the Michigan Democratic Party.

Mr. Speaker, our unparalleled ability to attract the best and the brightest from around the world and bring them to our country, where they make significant contributions to our future, is one of our nation's greatest strengths.

Dr. Nazmul Hassan's life is an embodiment of the American Dream and for his work, our nation is a better place. I am grateful to both Shahin and his family for the many experiences they have shared with me and I wish Dr. Hassan well as he continues to represent the interests of Bangladeshi-Americans in his new endeavors.

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A question and answer with 'Save Hamtramck Trees'

Cont. from page 2

such as Ann Arbor. In many cases a new sidewalk could be poured around the tree, this requires a little more attention to detail, with the mould being curved instead of a straight cut out.

Some of these trees just need to be pruned if the only problem of a specific tree is potential harm to a structure. Other cities have implemented asphalt sidewalks to save their trees, which are more flexible and allow the roots to grow in tandem with the asphalt swelling and shrinking. Some

cities pour rubber sidewalks made from old tires.

Some of these solutions are common sense and some are expensive. If we save even a little number of the many trees that are slated for removal then we have saved our city's beauty, history, charm, and shade.

We are calling for the city to work in tandem with the Greening of Detroit from the beginning of the project, and work with a community minded local arborist like Kevin Bingham from Singing Tree, a more care-

ful and thoughtful tree service than these cutting companies from West Bloomfield.

Review: Do you think your voice is being heard?

Frelinghuysen: Facebook has been an effective platform to raise awareness about this issue. Still only a small handful of residents use social media.

Many on council don't have accounts and aren't interested in it. The mayor though was aware of this page almost immediately and also became part of the discussion. Many in the neighborhood chimed in too.

It's been an effective beginning for the discussion and has

allowed a lot of folks to throw in their two cents. Also it creates an interesting document regarding the history of the project.

If you read everything that's been written there you'll have a pretty good sense for how the project steamrolled through the northeast quadrant of town. If you don't speak up, it will happen to the rest of the city as well.

I am a resident. I live on Moran St. The city has taken down a beautiful maple across the street from me that used to block the window from the neighbor's house.

Now we look at each other and can see into our windows

at night. The tree used to block the direct rising sun that now shoots into my house, raising the temperature in my house many degrees, forcing me to use my air conditioner, where the tree's shade helped before. This raises my monthly bill, of course.

On Moran and many other streets the city has left dead trees up and taken down the living. The dead trees don't raise the sidewalk, so they are allowed to stay. Forget that they can fall and land on someone's head!

If this is a public safety project, then some priorities of the city need to get reworked.

Let us know as soon as possible when the new trees are slated to be planted. The city has promised us new trees, but the Greening of Detroit said they were just approached, but no agreement was signed with the City of Hamtramck.

Editor's note: Jessica Frelinghuysen is an artist and teaches at CCS and the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Save Hamtramck's Trees is a group made up of a number of citizens to give a voice to the cause of saving some of Hamtramck's most beautiful and historical assets, the trees.

<https://www.facebook.com/SaveHamtramckTrees>

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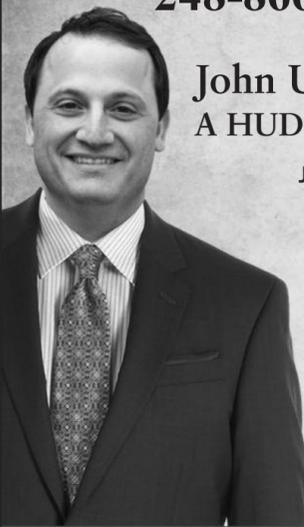
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By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers June 25 through June 30.

Tuesday, June 25

- A man driving a stolen Dodge Caravan fled from officers at Carpenter and Mackay. The driver later crashed the vehicle at Fleming and Nevada in Detroit. About an hour later, officers arrested another man driving a different stolen Dodge Caravan.

- A man living in the 11600 block of Nagel St. reported someone stole tools from his residence.

Wednesday, June 26

- A driver's vehicle was impounded after the driver presented fraudulent proof of insurance to officers.

- A man turned himself in for two Hamtramck arrest warrants for failing to pay city income taxes.

- A Charest St. resident reported his backpack, containing his wallet, driver's license, credit cards and cash, was stolen from a locker at the Hamtramck Community Center.

- A McDougall St. resident reported a man about 18 or 19 years old pushed him off his bicycle, stole the bike and fled the scene. The incident happened at McDougall and Holbrook.

- A Trowbridge St. resident was arrested by Michigan State Police during a traffic stop for an outstanding arrest warrant.

Thursday, June 27

- A Yemans St. woman reported that her ex-

boyfriend made repeated harassing phone calls.

- A man living in the 5000 block of Caniff reported someone stole his green 1999 Dodge Voyager from in front of his residence.

- A man reported that he was robbed at about 1:30 p.m. while at the Auto Zone store on Jos. Campau and Goodson. The victim said the suspect appeared to be about 25 years old and had scruffy facial hair. The suspect also had a Glock-style gun.

- A Detroit man said his bicycle was stolen from in front of the CVS store on Jos. Campau and Holbrook.

Friday, June 28

- At 11 p.m., a woman said she was assaulted while walking on Carpenter near Fleming.

- Shortly after midnight, a Norwalk St. man was arrested for assaulting his girlfriend.

- A driver was arrested at about 1:30 a.m. for drunk driving after being pulled over at Conant and Evaline.

- A man reported that a man by the name of Eric took his 1997 Dodge Stratus.

- A McDougall St. man reported that someone broke a window at his residence.

- A Caniff man reported receiving threatening phone calls from an unknown man.

- A Detroit resident was arrested for obstructing officers while they were investigating a suspicious situation.

- At 8 p.m. a man reported a man wearing a black shirt, black shoes and black shorts came up to him and ripped off two gold necklaces from his neck while in the area of Yemans and Charest

Saturday, June 29

- A Mitchell St. man was arrested for beating his wife.

- At about 1:45 a.m. a man living in the 12000 block of McDougall said he was robbed at gunpoint by two men in front of his residence. The suspects fled in a white car.

- The owner of Mitali Grocery reported someone damaged a display case.

- A Poland St. resident was arrested for possession of marijuana following a traffic stop.

Sunday, June 30

- A Danforth St. man was arrested for assaulting his wife. Also, a Roosevelt St. woman reported her boyfriend assaulted her.

- A Conant business owner reported someone broke into his business and stole various items.

- At about 10:30 a.m., officers responded to a fight at Lumpkin and Belmont.

- A Dearborn resident reported someone stole his car keys and cell phone from a business in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau.

- A Caniff resident said someone driving a black SUV followed her son in the Buffalo-Belmont area.

- A Trowbridge St. resident reported someone stole his vehicle while it was parked in front of his residence.

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Councilmember asks new EM to keep city clerk

By Charles Sercombe

Emergency Manager Cathy Square was on the job just for a few hours, and already an elected official came knocking on her door.

City Councilmember Robert Zwolak, never known to be the shy, retiring type, submitted a letter to Square asking her to reconsider the "retirement" of City Clerk Marie Kendzierski.

Kendzierski announced last week, out of the blue, that she was retiring as of Wednesday, July 3 – a month before the Aug. 6 Primary Election.

The talk in city hall was that Kendzierski's retirement was not voluntary.

Zwolak said it's because of that he asked Square to look into the matter.

"Initially, I would request a consideration and review of the early retirement of our present City Clerk Marie Kendzierski," Zwolak said in his letter to Square. "... I anticipated problems and mistakes with the pre-

mature merging of the city clerk and treasury offices at this time of the year with tax collections, business licenses and especially city primary elections. The additional responsibility of city council agenda, minutes and record keeping for one person and part-time employee, can without doubt, bring considerable pressure to that office. ... I was very disappointed that the city clerk was not given an opportunity to provide additional information on her part, during a closed session on a personnel issue concerning her, and that she was asked to leave the meeting."

Kendzierski said she did not ask Zwolak to intercede, and that she has "mixed emotions" about leaving.

"I'd be more than happy to come back and work for August," she said, referring to the newly-appointed city clerk, August "Auggie" Gitschlag.

Kendzierski had been a city employee for 20 years.

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EM already reviewing city finances

Continued from page 5

tramck, at least any time soon, Square said.

Square has nothing but praise for Sobota and said she will use him as a "resource."

According to the new emergency law, Square is required to hold a town hall meeting. She said no date has been set but stressed there will be an open meeting for the public.

But don't expect her to attend city council meetings, she said.

"I am not the city manager," she said of her role.

And yes, at this point Acting City Manager Kyle Tertzag and his assistant, Kathy Angerer, are still on the job.

Talking with Square about the city is hearing non-stop

praise about the community, the businesses and the people.

Her favorite part about the city?

"I love the gardens, and Hamtramck has the best porches," she said.

Coming events

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	Chicken, Bacon, Onions, and House BBQ Sauce Round	\$7.00	\$10.00	\$12.00
	Thin Crust	\$8.00	\$11.00	\$13.00
NAGA PIZZA:	PHILLY STEAK PIZZA:			
	Philly Steak, Green Peppers, Onions Round	\$9.00	\$12.00	\$14.00
	Thin Crust	\$9.00	\$12.00	\$14.00
SPECIALTY PIZZAS	NAGA PIZZA:			
	Chicken, Red Onions, Cilantro, Made with Naga Sauce Round	\$7.00	\$11.00	\$13.00
	Thin Crust	\$7.00	\$11.00	\$13.00
Square Deep Dish	\$7.00	\$11.00	\$13.00	

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