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# The Review

Hamtramck

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December 22, 2017  
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— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

## Looking back on the year 2017, part one ...

By Charles Sercombe

Goodbye year 2017, it seems like we hardly knew you.

This past year flew by way too fast. But we think you'll agree in looking back at the weekly news that there were plenty of exciting stories about Hamtramck.

This week we present part one of our two-part annual Year in Review.

Enjoy.

### JANUARY



The Detroit City Football Club continued to be a major success story.

We started the new year, as we usually do, by announcing our "Newsmaker of the Year." For the year 2016, we chose the Detroit City Football Club, predicting its presence would "continue to jumpstart the city's renaissance."

We think it's a fair assumption that the club has indeed brought in a huge influx of people, and also attracted investors who have made Hamtramck's real estate a super hot market.

Here's what we had to say about the club:

"From the get-go turnout for the games at Keyworth were higher than anticipated. It was

initially thought about 4,000-5,000 fans would come out. Instead, 7,000 have been crowding the stadium.

"Those fans have spilled out to local bars and restaurants as well – an injection of visitors this city badly needs. If the city could bottle the goodwill this team has come to represent, we'd all be millionaires.

"But the best part is the money the club has brought in to upgrade Key-

worth Stadium like never before. There have already been huge improvements to the infrastructure and grandstands, and there is much more to come thanks to a successful on-line fundraising drive by the club."

We also added that this development never would have happened without the partnership of the Hamtramck Public School District, which owns the stadium.

And speaking of the school district, it was also successful off the field.

For the second year in a row, the Hamtramck Public School District earned high marks in placing stu-



The former Polish Market is gone, but that building didn't stay vacant for long. Fresh Market, specializing in the needs of the city's growing Middle Eastern community, is now the new occupant.

dents in advanced courses.

The Michigan Department of Education announced 23 state school districts were among 433 school districts in the nation and Canada that qualified for advanced placement honor roll status by the College Board's 7th Annual Honor Roll.

"Reaching these goals shows that these districts are successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are ready for AP," said State Superintendent Brian Whiston in a press release.

The march of new businesses opening where older ones closed continued on. The latest addition to the Jos. Campau business district was Fresh Market, filling the void of the former Polish Market that had closed down months prior.

The market specializes in Middle Eastern cuisine, which is reflective of the city's growing Middle Eastern community.

The market also is a result of the ever-growing presence of the Yemeni-American community.

The store, located at Jos. Campau and Bel-

thy because it is one of only a handful of stadiums that served the Negro League in the 1930s, a shameful era when African-Americans could not play in all-white Major League Baseball.

The good news is that the city won a \$50,000 grant from the National Park Service to fund a study that will determine what needs to be fixed and how to go about it.

It is estimated that it will take upwards of \$1 million to bring the stadium back to life.

Things keep happening over at the city's Historical Museum. Director Greg Kowalski was pleased to announce that a huge mural project was about to kick off.

The official launch of the "Coming to Hamtramck" mural project is being funded by a



Muralist Dennis Orlowski spent the year creating a huge mural inside the city's Historical Museum.

Keyworth Stadium wasn't the only stadium in town to receive some much needed love.

The city's other historic stadium, next-door to Keyworth in Veterans Park, also received a significant boost toward renovation. This stadium is notewor-

\$15,000 grant from the Michigan Humanities Council.

Kowalski said of the project: "When completed, it will be approximately 140 feet long by 8 feet high and be installed

Continued on page 3



## Quick Hits

Happy holidays and Merry Christmas readers!

Once again this issue ushers in our two-week look back at the year 2017. This week we present the first six months, and next week the remainder of the year.

We think you will agree this was another exciting year in Hamtramck. Better yet, the year ahead looks like a prosperous one as well.

During the next two weeks we will have limited hours at the office. Call ahead if you need something urgent. Our office number is (313) 874-2100. You can always email as well at: [news@thehamtramckreview.com](mailto:news@thehamtramckreview.com).

We hope you and your loved ones have a wonderful holiday season. For many of us, it's a time to recharge our batteries.

Stay well, folks, and thanks so much for your support.

## 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.

"I wanted to help the community and bring in more business."

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## School Bell

### School Board

The School Board will hold an organizational meeting on Jan. 17, 6:30 p.m. in the Administrative Office, 3201 Roosevelt.

### All Schools

Saturday, December 23 through January 7 – No school for students and staff. Winter Break.  
Monday, January 8 – School resumes for all students.

### Recreation Department News

Winter Break Schedule: The Community Center will be closed December 25-26 and January 1-2. Special Hours: December 27-December 29 and January 3-January 5 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Girls Volleyball: Start date TBA. Time: 4 p.m. Grades 4th – 8th Uniform provided, \$15 resident. \$25 non-resident.

Junior League Basketball: Co-Ed. Ages 8-13. Locations KMS/DW, D. East, Holbrook. Starts Saturday January 20th at Community Center at 1 p.m. \$15 resident. \$25 non-resident.

Soccer Clinic: Co-Ed ages 7-13. Practice held at the Community Center. Starts Saturday, January 20, \$15 resident. \$25 non-resident.

Open Basketball: For students ages 11-18. High school students need student ID for entry. December 27-29 and January 3-5 from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Free.

Compiled by  
Janice Gandelman

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উ ব্যয়ামাগার

উ ২৪ ঘন্টা নিরাপত্তা পাহাড়া  
উ বিনোদন কেন্দ্র  
উ শীততাপ নিয়ন্ত্রিত  
উ পাঠাগার

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Hamtramck Housing Commission (HHC) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap or familial status

## Obituaries

### WRIGHT



Odele Wright, 65, died December 17, 2017.

Mr. Wright was born in Marlboro, South Carolina. He was preceded in death by his mother, Darness Wright Chojnowski; father, Nathan; step-father, Roman Peter Chojnowski; siblings, Nathan Thomas Wright, Evetta Pavlica. Mr. Wright is survived by his daughter, Bonnie (Greg) Collins, and was the birth father to Heidi (Robert) Barnes. He is also survived by siblings, Iona Montfort, Annetta Wright, Nathalea (Gary) Denys, Parnell (Mary Ellen) Wright, Darkess (Dennis) Redwick; many nieces and nephews. He will be truly missed by his dearest companion and partner in crime, Marie Kendzierski.

Memorial visitation is

Thursday, December 28, from 3-7 p.m., at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, Hamtramck.



## People's Community Services

### Wayne County Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) for Hamtramck Residents

Bring proof of income, and picture ID

**8625 Jos. Campau**  
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As the church bells ring proclaiming the birth of Christ we at **Our Lady Queen of Apostles Parish** wish you a Merry Christmas and for the coming New Year - health, happiness and prosperity.

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<b>Sunday, December 24</b> - Christmas Eve	
Regular Mass (Polish & English)	9:30 am
Christmas Vigil Family Mass (English)	4:00 pm
Solemn Midnight Mass (Polish & English)	12:00 am
Preceded by the singing of Christmas Carols	11:30 pm
<b>Sunday, December 25</b> - Christmas Day	
Mass in Polish & English	9:30 am
<b>Sunday, December 31</b> - New Year's Eve	8:00 am, 9:30 am
<b>Monday, January 1</b> - New Year's Day	
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - Mass (Polish & English)	11:00 am
<b>Saturday, January 6</b> - Mass (English)	5:30 pm
<b>Sunday, January 7</b> - Epiphany of the Lord	
Mass	English 8:00am, Polish 9:30 am
Blessed chalk and Incense available	

Email address: [qofaparish1917@gmail.com](mailto:qofaparish1917@gmail.com)

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#### Sunday, Dec. 24th

*Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord*

9:00 a.m. Holy Mass  
11:30 p.m. - Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long  
12 Mid - Shepherds Mass (Pasterka)

#### Monday, Dec. 25th

*Solemnity of Nativity of Our Lord*

9:00 a.m. - Holy Mass  
*Feast of St. Stephen, Proto Martyr*  
10:00 a.m. Holy Mass (Msza Św. w języku polskim)

#### Tuesday, Dec. 26th:

*Feast of Saint John the Apostle*

10:00 a.m. - Holy Mass (Blessing of Wine)

#### Wednesday, Dec. 27th:

10:00 a.m. - Holy Mass (Blessing of Wine)

~ Serving the Hamtramck Community ~



## This week at the library...

**Holiday hours** – The Hamtramck Public Library will be closed to the public from Saturday, December 23 through Monday, January 1, 2018. The Library will reopen Tuesday, January 2 at 11a.m. The staff would like to wish everyone a joyous holiday season.

**2018 Free Tax Services** – Free service for those whose annual household income is less than \$54,000. **Monday, February 5-March 26, 10 a.m.-4p.m.** Closed February 19,

2018. Call (734) 284-699 for an appointment.

**ABCmouse.com** – Now available at the Hamtramck Public Library, ABCmouse.com is a free digital learning resource for children ages 2-8+ with more than 8,500 Learning Activities and 850 lessons, ABCmouse.com is the most comprehensive early learning curriculum available online. Ask your library staff for more details.

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For more information about events at the library call (313) 733-6822, or visit its website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us> where you can also access the online catalog. The library is located at 2360 Caniff.

# Second Front Page

## Looking back on the year 2017, part one ... Continued from front page

at the top of the main floor walls of the Hamtramck Historical Museum. It will be painted by noted Hamtramck mural artist Dennis Orłowski.

"Each mural panel will highlight a different ethnic group that has immigrated to Hamtramck over the years."



For a moment there, it appeared the city was on the path for the return of local control. Over the past five years, the city had been under the control of a state-appointed emergency manager and after that term was over, under the watchful eyes of a state-appointed Receivership Transition Advisory Board.

At the RTAB's January meeting, the board hinted it was taking a step back to begin the transition process back to local control.

Or so we thought.

As of now, it's anyone's guess when Hamtramck will no longer be under the financial supervision of the state.

### FEBRUARY

The RTAB continued to make news.

The latest to come from the board is that it would back keeping former City Manager Powell on board.

There was talk from the chairperson of the RTAB, Deborah Roberts, of extending Powell's employment contract.

At the time Powell was not being supported by a bare majority of the city council.

Roberts said the RTAB could make a move by amending the emergency manager's final orders to ensure Powell stays on.

"That's where we can amend the order, and so we can require that there are certain things that are brought before this board," Roberts said.

"Or we can prohibit other things from happening. So that's where we'll need to look at the EM's order, and figure out which things need to be amended, and at what levels."

It's not clear what happened in the ensuing months, but the RTAB did not step in to save Powell's job.



Hamtramck's very own holiday, Paczki Day, once

again attracted thousands of visitors who packed our bakeries, restaurants and bars. There was also another Paczki Run held on the Saturday before the big day.

The run attracted over 10,000 people, who after trekking through the city's neighborhoods finished



The annual Paczki Run once again attracted thousands of visitors to the city.

off the day with free paczki and beer. Experienced Hamtramckans, of course, skipped the run and went directly to the paczki eating and beer drinking.

Paczki Day is coming early this year, on Feb. 13. Rest up and get in shape now!

### MARCH

In the political scene, the guessing was over about the political future of Mayor Karen Majewski.

She confirmed that she would indeed seek a fourth term in this year's upcoming election.



Mayor Karen Majewski faced challengers this year. She was seeking her fourth term. Did she win? Be sure to read these pages.

"There is too much momentum — too much progress — at stake, and I want to make sure that it isn't derailed," the mayor said about her decision.

Spoiler alert: The mayor, the first woman in the city's history to fill this position, went on to win the primary and general election.

■■■  
Jos. Campau's tallest building remained vacant, despite high hopes in the recent years.

The owner of the building, Dennis Kefallinos, was in the news spotlight after Detroit officials forced the closing of his most well-known building; the 2.2 million-square-



foot Russell Industrial Center located off of I-75, just a few minutes south of Hamtramck.

Hundreds of tenants, mostly artists, were forced to remove their possessions from the building because of numerous safety violations that Kefallinos had been warned about.

Kefallinos has come under criticism in recent years for what some say is his neglect of his many real estate holdings, which included the building he owns at Jos. Campau and Belmont.

It's now for sale, in case



anyone is interested in securing a sizable footprint in the city.

■■■  
Newly-appointed Fire Chief Dan Hagen talked about his new role and his background.

We asked him what inspired him to become a firefighter.

Hagen replied: "As a child I was always fascinated with the fire service; every Saturday I would drive with my dad to my grandmother's house and we would see the fire station. The truck would be outside and sometimes the men would also be out washing the trucks."

"As a teenager, I worked at a small local hardware store that employed off-duty firefighters. I would listen to their stories and set my goal to be one of them. Also, at that time the TV show "Emergency" (about Firefighters/Paramedics) truly influenced my life."

Welcome aboard, Chief.



Homeowners received a stern warning from the city:

Get some insurance to cover the cost of repairing your collapsed sewer line leading into the alley or prepare for a very expensive bill. Letters were sent to homeowners.

That fix is not cheap. It's estimated repairing the lines costs anywhere from \$3,000 to \$5,000 and homeowners have to pay for that.

The city began charging homeowners for repairs a couple of years ago. In the past, the city ate those costs, but according to the administration the city's ordinance on the matter puts the financial responsibility on the shoulders of homeowners.

For whatever reason, past administrations ignored the ordinance. There is a way to avoid that expense, though.

The city partnered with Service Line Warranties of America for a unique protection plan that costs homeowners only \$7.75 per month.

As long as the insurance policy is in place before a homeowner gets notification from the city, rid of Powell, and was willing to pay the price for not extending her contract.

The state-appointed Re-



Former City Manager Katrina Powell had a rough year that didn't end well. Her employment contract ran out at the end of June.

the insurance company will cover the repair — at least up to \$4,000.

### APRIL

The relationship between City Manager Katrina Powell and some members of the city council continued to deteriorate.

Councilmember Anam Miah led the charge to get

ceivership Transition Advisory Board warned city officials that unless a full-time, professional city manager was in place after June 30, the state could impose a higher interest on a state loan given to the city, or even call in the loan early.

City Manager Katrina Powell's contract was set

Continued on page 4

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Dec. 24 - Sunday Mass 9 am  
Christmas Eve Sing-a-long 11:30pm  
Christmas Eve Mass Midnight, English

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day, Mass 9 am, English  
Dec. 26 - Feast of St. Stephen, Mass 10 am, Polish

Dec. 27 - Feast of St. John the Apostle & Evangelist, Mass 10 am Eng.

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# Looking back on the year 2017, part one ... Continued from page 3

to expire on June 30. The state loan is scheduled to be paid back in 2024. The interest rate on the loan is 2 percent.

As it turned out, Powell's contract was not renewed and the RTAB did not follow through on its threat, most likely because it would have caused a financial hardship for the city – something the RTAB is here to help prevent.



**The future of the state-appointed Receivership Transition Advisory Board came into speculation. For a moment, it was thought the RTAB would be dissolved and full local control would be returned to the city.**

ended in Hamtramck.

The suspect was finally apprehended at the Caniff/I-75 overpass when she was boxed in by police cars and then ran from her still moving vehicle.

The woman attempted to climb over the embankment fence and was tack-

led by Jabour.

Some described Jabour's tackle as being "NFL worthy," and some wags suggested she try out for the Detroit Lions.

Jabour, who has been with the Hamtramck Police Department for two years, shrugged off the accolades of her perform-

ance.

"I've never been in a running tackle. That was a first. That was fun," she told Fox 2.

The Trump protest movement came to Hamtramck on a recent Saturday.

Hamtramck joined protesters who hit the streets nationwide demanding that President Trump live up to his campaign promise to release his income tax records.

Trump reneged on that promise once he took office. He is the first presidential candidate to not release tax records since that practice was started 40 years ago.

He insisted that only reporters were interested in seeing his taxes. His re-

sistance to ignoring precedence led some critics to accuse him of having something to hide.

About 100 showed up at Pope Park, most of

ments about the president. A number of speakers also rallied the crowd.

A short march was held up and down part of Jos. Campau, with the crowd



**Protestors gathered at Pope Park as part of a national protest against President Donald Trump.**

whom bore signs demanding the release of his taxes and also sporting other slogans and com-

chanting, "Hey, hey, ho, ho, Donald Trump has got to go."

**Continued on page 5**

## Scenes from The Hamtramck Review 2017 Christmas Party



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Mid-block of Grayling, south of Holbrook,  
west of Joseph Campau

Bible Study & Mankind Project 2018  
First Friday of every month, 12 noon,  
IBM Church on Grayling St. Hamtramck

Rev. Dr. Lawrence Ventline  
989-582-0520

# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### Holiday season is a time to look back at the year

This week's issue is the first half of our annual year in review.

As usual, we are amazed at the amount of news this little town produces. It's a chore sometimes just trying to keep up.

There is – and perhaps always will be – one constant theme. That's passion. People here are passionate about local politics and the lives we all live.

Just when you think you have Hamtramck fully figured out, the city throws you a curve ball. While Detroit may enjoy the attention it receives for being a comeback city, Hamtramck has one up on that city: We are always in motion. There is no slowing down here.

That's one reason, we think, that when people move away from here, they always come back

for a visit. Hamtramck is a powerful magnet, and once you come under its spells, you are hooked forever.

The city is still fragile when it comes to finances, but with all this positive energy, Hamtramck will survive and thrive.

Happy holidays and Merry Christmas readers, and thanks for keeping us in your hearts.

#### Notice of Public Hearing CITY OF HAMTRAMCK ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct its Annual Meeting and a public hearing in the 2nd Floor Council Chambers of Hamtramck City Hall, 3401 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212, on January 10, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., to consider and afford the opportunity for input to be recorded on the appeal for a modification under Zoning Ordinance 497 on the premises described below. Any variation or modification granted would have no bearing on private restrictions. The public is invited to attend and comment at the public hearing or to make written comments on or before the date of the hearing. Written comments should be made to the attention of Melanie A. Markowicz, City Planner, ATTN: Zoning Board of Appeals, 3401 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212.

• **Public Hearing – Ideal Islamic Center, 2715, 2727 Holbrook**

Ord. 497. Article VI. Commercial Zones. Section 2. Central Business District (CBD). Paragraph 2.02. Permitted Uses. The request is for use variances to permit a religious/cultural use for a proposed expansion of Ideal Islamic Center.

PLEASE NOTE: This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.71 a (2) (3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The City of Hamtramck will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the Meeting to individuals with disabilities at the Meeting or Public Hearing upon 10 day notice to the City Clerk's Office. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Hamtramck City Clerk by writing or calling the Clerk's Office at (313) 800-5233 x821.

#### Notice of Public Meeting CITY OF HAMTRAMCK PLAN COMMISSION

The Plan Commission will conduct its Annual Meeting in the 2nd Floor Council Chambers of Hamtramck City Hall, 3401 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212, on January 3, at 6:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend and comment at the public meeting or to make written comments on or before the date of the meeting. Written comments should be made to the attention of Melanie A. Markowicz, City Planner, ATTN: Plan Commission, 3401 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212.

PLEASE NOTE: This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.71 a (2) (3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The City of Hamtramck will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the Meeting to individuals with disabilities at the Meeting or Public Hearing upon 10 day notice to the City Clerk's Office. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Hamtramck City Clerk by writing or calling the Clerk's Office at (313) 800-5233 x821.

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### Looking back on the year 2017, part one ... Continued from page 4

#### MAY

Some 300 Hamtramck charter school students were put on notice to look for a new school the coming year.

Central Michigan University cut its ties with the Academy of International Studies, located on Hanley in the former Tau Beta Community Center.

The charter school had to find a new sponsor to authorize it, which could have been another charter school, the Hamtramck Public School District or another university.

CMU said it pulled out of this school and two other Detroit area charter schools because of low student grades.

As it turned out, the charter school's loss was the Hamtramck Public School District's gain. You will read more on this later.

This year's city election was set to be a historic one.

With the deadline over to register for the Aug. 8 Primary Election, Mayor Karen Majewski faced challengers Mohammed Hassan, Asm (Kamal) Rahman and Cathie Gordon.

Hassan opted out of running for re-election for city council, and Gordon

was a former councilmember who ran against Majewski four years ago.

In the city council race,

Powell told the city council that the consultants looked at the problem and concluded there wasn't anything the city can



A charter school closed, but the historic building on Hanley was purchased by the public school district.

incumbents Andrea Karpinski and Ian Perrotta were met with challengers Gias Talukder, Mohammed Al-Somiri, Akil Al-Halemi, Nayeem Choudhury, Fadel Al-Mar-soumi, Monzurul Karim, Saiida Miah and Showkat Choudhury.

One of the major financial hurdles facing the city will be finding a way to pay for rising pension costs.

It was a problem that former Emergency Manager Cathy Square left for the city to take care of with the help of state-funded consultants.

City Manager Katrina

do. "The city's pension problems were incurred through years of mismanagement and 'giveaways' to the employees through multiple bargaining unit contracts, and cannot be solved at this point," Powell said in an email to The Review.

Hamtramck is not alone.

Many other communities are facing the same issue, and so far no one has come up with a way to fund the obligations. The state legislature and the governor also tried to find a fix without success.

Continued on page 6

# Winter Break Schedule

The Community Center will be closed/opened on the following days during the holiday break.

**CLOSED**  
Monday - Tuesday  
December 25 & December 26  
January 1 & January 2

**OPENED**  
Wednesday - Friday  
December 27 - December 29  
January 3 - January 5

**8 A.M. - 6 P.M.**

## Happy Holidays

Hamtramck HS Community Center  
11350 Charest St, Hamtramck, MI  
(313) 893-5520 x3

The Hamtramck Review  
Published every Friday

3020 Caniff, Hamtramck, MI 48212 Phone: 313-874-2100 Fax: 313-874-2101  
www.hamtramckreview.com • email news@thehamtramckreview.com

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Sales Manager: Dave Sweet Reporter/Copy Editor: Ian Perrotta

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# Looking back on the year 2017, part one ... Continued from page 5

In what was the start of a chaotic process to hire an interim city manager, the council held a hastily called meeting on a Friday to take the first step.

It didn't go well. During the meeting, Councilmember Anam Miah, who chaired the meeting because Mayor Karen Majewski was absent, refused to let City Attorney Travis Mihelick to speak, despite requests from Councilmembers Andrea Karpinski and Ian Perrotta to allow Mihelick to talk about the pending resolution.

The meeting lasted for a little over one hour and at times the filled-to-cap-

acity council chambers erupted into shouting matches between audience members and the council.

out of the meeting unless they settled down.

The issue proved to be far from over.

The bad blood in local politics continued. What is usually a routine matter in putting together the city's annual budget turned into anything but that on a Saturday morning.

The Saturday discussion in city hall with the city manager and city council took a sudden and unexpected turn when Treasurer John Gabor, who is also the deputy city manager, spoke out against the budget.

To no one's surprise, Gabor was placed on paid administrative leave on the following Monday when he came to city hall. He was kept off work for the remainder of his employment contract, which expired June 30.

City Manager Katrina Powell later told the state-appointed financial advisory board that oversees the city's financial health "There's nothing hidden in the budget. Numbers don't lie. People lie."

## JUNE

Before Hamtramck High School students left for the year, they got a valuable lesson - a lesson that educators hoped saved lives.

The police and fire departments put on a "Mock Prom" accident scene outside at the high school to drive home the message that driving while drunk or high on drugs can end terribly wrong.

Teen drinking and driving isn't just a prom night

phenomena. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2011 one million teens got behind the wheel drunk during that year.

Before students arrived outside the high school building, a car that had

been in a crash in Hamtramck was positioned to look like an accident scene.

Inside the car, four students, dressed as if they were out on prom night, played their part as driver and passengers. Some

were made up to look severely injured, and one played dead.

The scene unfolded as it would in real-life, with first the arrival of police cars, with sirens blaring, to the scene of the "acci-

Continued on page 8



The police and fire departments put on a "mock prom night" display to teach Hamtramck High School students the dangers of drinking and driving.

Police Chief Anne Moise had to warn some of the more vocal audience members several times that they would be thrown

According to sources who were at the meeting, Gabor said the budget was full of "lies" and that City Manager Katrina Powell was setting the city up for "disaster."

An uproar ensued with Powell insisting Gabor to sit down and remain silent.



## Merry Christmas Wesołych Świąt

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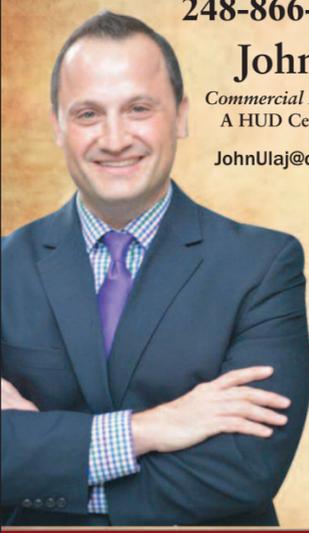


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**Imlay Twp.**

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2954 Goodson, 4 br., living, dining rm., kitchen, full basement, 2 car garage, turn-key house, \$125,000, 248-879-2521, ask for Pete.

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**Deadline for classifieds for next week is Thursday at Noon**

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**By Charles Sercombe**  
This week's Crime Log covers Dec. 8-16.

**Friday, December 8**  
• At 11:30 p.m. a resident was arrested in his semi-truck in the 3300 block of Denton after being involved in an accident.

**Saturday, December 9**  
• At about 2:30 a.m. a report was made that a car was damaged by gunfire while it was parked in the 2000 block of Caniff.  
• A resident in the 11600 block of Moran reported someone attempted to steal his car.

**Sunday, December 10**  
• At almost midnight two people were arrested after getting into a fight. During the investigation, officers found one of the suspects was wanted on a warrant and the other was possessing drugs.

**Monday, December 11**  
• A Detroit resident was arrested for domestic violence.

• An Oak Park resident was found unconscious by officers in his semi-truck in the 3300 block of Denton after being involved in an accident.

**Tuesday, December 12**  
• Florida police reported recovering a person who was reported missing from Hamtramck. The person said they had left Hamtramck voluntarily.

• A Detroit resident reported being a victim of fraud.  
• A woman reported being sexually assaulted.

**Wednesday, December 13**  
• A Conant business reported five incidents of fraud.

• A homeless person was found in the 12000 block of Selfridge and

**Continued on page 8**

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# Service Directory

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**Coming events**

**WEDNESDAYS, 7 p.m., every second Wednesday of the month** – The 3C7 and Midtown Block meets at 2339 Caniff PCS Senior Day Center. This block club includes all residents and businesses west of Jos. Campau and north of Holbrook.

**SATURDAY, January 13, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** – Hamtramck's Recycle Center is open at Caniff and McDougall. Drop off your recyclables for free.



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## Looking back on the year 2017, part one ... Continued from page 6

dent” and then the arrival of firefighters and an ambulance.

What became immediately clear at the beginning of the accident scene was that drinking had been involved. An empty bottle of liquor was pulled out of the car and placed on the roof for all the students to see.

Students watching the drama unfold kept their focus. Several recorded the re-enactment on their cell phones. One student said to another: “This is scary.”

Hamtramck streets have long had a reputation of being among the worst when it comes to

potholes and craters.

But a review of the Kia Sportage took it to a new level.

Auto writer Maureen McDonald, the Senior Editor for the Michigan Bureau of The Auto Channel, wrote about the vehicle in an article entitled: “2017 Kia Sportage ‘Hamtown’ Safari - Exotic Road Trip

Review.”

The road trip was a day-long drive through the city.

While praising the car’s handling when it came to traveling over rough sections of Hamtramck’s streets, she pulled no punches calling it “some of the roughest concrete in Detroit.”

She didn’t let up there.

“Take most vehicles to Hamtramck – or other areas the cement mixers forgot – and you might have to fish it out of a giant pothole or limp along to the nearest tire shop for a rim and a tire.”

Ouch.

Left hand, meet the right hand.

The city administration learned something new from one of its key service providers. At a recent city council work session, the city’s sanitation contractor, Green For Life (GFL) Environmental USA, Inc., said it had not been billing the city to replace lost garbage cans for at least the past year or so.

That seemed to blind-side the city administration. The Public Works Department had been

billing residents \$100 for a replacement can.

The city promised to research past requests and issue a refund to anyone who was charged.

City Hall drama contin-

him to speak at the end of the meeting despite several comments made by the public about him and his qualifications.

So, it came down to take two for the council.

The next appointment



**If you lose your city-issued garbage can, don’t fret. The city will now replace it for free.**

ued on.

At a packed monthly Re- ceivership Transition Advisory Board meeting on a Tuesday afternoon, the board rejected a city council resolution hiring Kyle Tertzag to come back as interim city manager.

Without further comment, the board said that Tertzag was not qualified, but did not specify why he was not qualified. The board instructed the city council to come back with an appointee who is qualified, although it was unclear what qualifications the board was looking for.

Tertzag lashed out at the board for not allowing

as acting city manager was also no stranger to the city.

City Treasurer John Gabor was tapped for the job, but once again uncertainty was in the air.

Gabor’s appointment still had to be approved by the RTAB.

The story wasn’t over yet. Come back next week to find out who eventually was appointed as acting city manager. Hint: Once again it was a familiar face.

*That’s it for this week. Come back next week for part two of our Year in Review.*

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



Continued from page 7

taken to Detroit Receiving Hospital for evaluation.

**Thursday, December 14**  
• Two Detroit residents were arrested after a traffic stop for being wanted on warrants.

• A resident in the 2600 block of Yemans reported the theft of two cellphones that were in a mailbox waiting for pickup.

• A taxi operator turned over property that was left in his cab.

**Friday, December 15**  
• At 6:30 a.m. a Grosse Pointe resident reported being robbed at gunpoint while on Oklahoma St.

• A Charest resident re-

ported someone stole his rental car. Later the resident reported the suspect returned the car.

• A resident reported being assaulted after a traffic crash.

• A resident who had arranged the sale of his car via Facebook reported the alleged buyer drove off with his 2007 Pontiac Torrent without paying.

**Saturday, December 16**  
• A Detroit resident was arrested for driving without a license and having improper license plates.

• A hit-and-run accident was reported in the 11400 block of St. Aubin.

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Wayne County Treasurer

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