By Charles Sercombe

In last week’s “Year in Review” we neglected to mention the name of the business that was partly damaged by a fatal traffic accident.

That business was Ju-Brierick & Wilk Funeral Home (located at Caniff and Brombach), and we are happy to say that the Wilk family is still going strong. Fortunately, the building was not too badly damaged and their service is still in operation.

The Review apologizes for the omission. The Wilk family have been key members of the community for many years. Owner Mike Wilk has served in a number of roles in the city, most notably as City Treasurer for several years.

His son, Paul, recently retired as the Chief of the Hamtramck Fire Department.

We are all thankful that the family has been a great anchor for the city.

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Green Hits

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Hamtramck's Newspaper of Record

‘Newsmaker of the Year’ gave the city a new kick on life

By Charles Sercombe

With our annual Year in Review behind us, it left us to ponder what was the most important story of the year?

We say this every year, but it’s so true for this little town. There are simply too many to choose from. For example, the year 2016 was ushered in with the first-ever Muslim mayor, the city council – a cultural turning point for the city of Hamtramck, which for decades had been a Polish-American enclave. National and international media swooped into town to report on this major cultural changeover.

With an influx of folks from Bangladesh, Yemen and Bosnia, among whom are of the Muslim faith, the city’s ethnic make-up is permanently changed by being an Eastern-European center of change.

This year also started off with the official appointment of Anne Moise as the city’s first-ever female police chief. That’s a major development considering the department is over 100 years old.

But the city’s beloved folk art creation, “Hamtramck Disneyland,” was saved by possible destruction thanks to the local arts community, Hatch, stopping in to lead an online fundraiser to purchase the two houses that support the artwork.

Hamtramck Disneytraction. We came awfully, awfully close to name another first-ever as the most important development: A comprehensive plan to start repaving our streets.

But the biggest bomb to drop on Hamtramck is one that we think earned the distinction of “Newsmaker of the Year,” and will continue to jumpstart the city’s renaissance: the first-season of the Detroit City Football Club at Keyworth Stadium.

In a word, the club’s establishment here is awesome.

Why is that?

From the get-go tourout 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.

These 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 promise the club has brought in to upgrade Keyworth Stadium like never before. There have already been huge improvements to the infrastructure and grand stands, and there is much more to come thanks to a continued on page 2

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Schools earn high marks

By Charles Sercombe

For the second year in a row, the Hamtramck-Public School District has earned high marks in getting students into advanced placement courses.

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

What I means is that students in the Hamtramck Public Schools continue to place high in their earned advanced placement (AP) courses.

“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.

“In our goal to make Michigan a Top 10 education state in 10 years, we need to promote greater access to AP opportunities for all students,” Whiston said.

Every student should graduate from high school with up to 60 transferable college credits or a recognized industry credential/certificate.

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The Review’s 2017 Official City Business Directory is about to hit the streets. It includes the phone numbers of local area businesses from A to Z. Review readers are set on a special opportunity to have your message delivered to 10,000 households and businesses in Hamtramck and the nearby areas of Detroit in March 2017.

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By Walter Wasacz

My thoughts turn to walking on an inhos- pitable early January day, when the wind gusts are blowing and battering the walls and windows of my old house.

But I will not, I’ve de- cided, walk today. I caught some kind of bug over the holidays. My head is stuffed and my throat is sore.

The walk would not drive to visit friends that lived in the north Cass Corridor near Wayne State Univer- sity. I met a friend for cof- fee at the Detroit Institute of Arts and for drinks in Seva, in the block bor- dered by Forest, John R., Woodward and Garfield. My longest walk was to old Chinatown, which is experiencing economic revival but also threat of losing a con- nection to its own historical soul as new money re- shapes the neighborhood. The walk was five miles long.

The community life

The last two editions of The Review captured the com- munity news stories; I thought I’d add my own re- views of a year in art, music and fun, three of the city’s greatest assets.

Two events in winter in Hamtramck more than bring me back to the city’s greatest assets:

The Razzle Dazzle Par- ty, held the Saturday before the Super Bowl, and the Ham- tramck Music Festival, held the last weekend in March. The Razzle Dazzle Party was in early February, but thanks to the mild winter we had, the weather was nearly perfect. This year, it falls on Feb. 25.

By W alter W asacz

The couch, a new playlist for a spot in the corner of my living room. The Col. Hamtramck H ousing Com- mission makes things happen, but Hamtramck, like any other community, would be a much less interesting place.

I have thoughts to do a story beginning in the 1930s under the administration – a nationw ide ef- fort that put millions of Americans to work during the height of the 1930s depression. President Franklin De- lano Roosevelt came to deliver a state of the union address. Now that’s some pretty impres- sive history.

The walk was five miles long. The distance helped put thoughts into focus for an article about the intersection of past, present and future I wrote for another publication.

First I started walking as far north as Davison, southeast to the Hamtramck-Detroit-Highland Park city limits at the tracks that run alongside the Cal, Hamtramck housing Projects, and southwart toward the Miller-Downer neighborhood. I also continued some of my favorite long walks adventures and community highlights experi- enced during the year.

The R eview captured the city’s greatest assets:

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313-874-2100

Friday, January 6, 2017

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Find us on Facebook and Twitter. Follow us on Instagram.
By Nicholas J. Wojtala
Special to The Review

Baseball season in Detroit was a long way off before Christmas. But it felt like it was right around the corner for members of the PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers and their families during the group’s annual Christmas party. The dancers received a surprise visit from a member of Poland’s National Baseball Team, Ray Wojtala (#30).

Founded in Hamtramck in 1960, the PRCUA Gwiazda Dancers gathered on Dec. 30 at their practice space at PLAV. General Sikorski Post #10 for their annual Christmas Party. There was a potluck, games, and lots of Christmas cheer.

As the evening progressed, the dancers received two special visitors. The first visitor was St. Nicholas (w. St. Nicholas called up each dancer and gave them each a present. This year’s presents were T-shirts, new for 2017 to support the Polish National Baseball Team.

The dancers can wear these shirts as the Polish National Baseball Team competes in the European Cup Tournament this summer in Miejska Gorka (a village located between Poznan and Wroclaw), Poland and perhaps to the 2017 Detroit Tigers’ Polish American Night at Comerica Park.

The second visitor was Wojtala, who plays first and third base for the Polish National Baseball Team. Wojtala came to the party to thank the students for their support. He chatted with the dancers, took photos (including selfies) and signed baseballs for all of the dancers.

Wojtala, whose parents are from Poland, was born and raised in Allen Park, Michigan. He moved to Poland four years ago, and was back in Michigan to spend the holidays with his family. In addition to playing for the Polish National team, Wojtala also plays for the Wroclaw Barons.

Not many people associate baseball with Poland,” said Wojtala, “but it’s growing in popularity. There are baseball teams being built throughout the country now. In fact we are building a new stadium now for the upcoming summer.”

The Polish National team receives some funds from the Polish Sports Ministry; however, they still rely on fundraising through T-shirt and jersey sales to cover additional expenses.

“The money raised (from the T-shirt sales) goes 100 percent to the team for new jerseys and equipment such as bats and helmets,” said Wojtala.

Wojtala’s visit was well received by both the dancers and the school’s director, Jessica Wendt. “It was so amazing of Ray to come by and spend time with the kids.”

Members of the Gwiazda Dance School pose with Polish baseball player Ray Wojtala at their recent Christmas celebration.

It’s said that whatever happens to Detroit, so goes Hamtramck. Our friends over at modelmem dia.com have been reporting on fascinating development projects for the past several years. With their permission, here is an edited version of this week’s story:

In 2014, the engineering team at General Motors’ Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly Plant realized that stormwater discharge fees were eating up a whopping 14 percent of the plant’s utility bill. Two years and 20,000 dump truck loads later, the plant is recycling its own stormwater at an annual savings of over $2 million. The plant, which produces the Chevrolet Volt, achieved that turnaround by digging a massive stormwater retention pond, adding to two retention ponds that were already on site to increase the site’s retention capacity to 47 million gallons of water.

The plant’s paint shop managed the plant’s paint shop manager and former manufacturing engineer, manager spearheaded the stormwater retention project. “We really looked at the trend of stormwater discharge fees being charged by the city of Detroit, and it was an almost exponential growth,” Clippard says. “There were year-over-year increases for several years, and it ended up equating to $193,000 a month. Whether it rained or not, it was such a significant part of our overall utility cost.”

GM hammered out a deal with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) to obtain drainage credits for either redirecting water that it would normally send to DWSD, or for re- storing stormwater until DWSD’s system has the capacity to revert to dryer weather mode after a storm. DWSD deputy director and chief engineer Polenica Mobley says those kinds of credits were developed recently as part of a much larger overhaul at DWSD. The department has also re-tooled its billing system and is working on a city ordinance encouraging property owners to manage their own stormwater. Stormwater reuse in the plant’s cooling towers saves the plant $140,000 annually. But that’s only the first step for stormwater once it hits the plant. After further purification, the water is in the plant’s sludge system, which breaks down sludge from painting cars, and the phosphate system used to prepare and treat metal used in vehicles.

By Patrick Dunn

Metro news...
New market caters to international food lovers

By Charles Sercombe

It didn’t take long for someone to fill the void of the Polish Market closing. On the morning of New Year’s Eve, the owner of Fresh Market held a grand opening at the former location of Polish Market.

There is one key difference between the two: Fresh Market, located at Jos. Campau and Belmont, is now catering to international food lovers, especially those who like Middle Eastern cuisine.

The store features fresh baked bread every day, a huge selection of produce, fresh olives, and a collection of fruit drinks, meat, and halal meats and chicken. “I wanted to help the community and bring in more business,” Husain said about why he decided to get into the market business.

On hand for the grand opening were Mayor Karen Majewski and Mayor Pro Tem Anam Miah, along with Yemeni community members and even the Hamtramck soccer club, the Warriors.

Schools earn high marks

Continued from front page

through access to quality dual enrollment, English as a second language, and/or career/technical education. AP credits are one avenue to get there.”

Inclusion in the 7th Annual AP District Honor Roll is based on a review of three years of AP data, from 2014 to 2016, looking across 37 AP exams, including world language and culture. Districts had to meet the following criteria:

• Increase participation/access to AP by at least 4% in large districts, at least 6% in medium districts, and at least 11% in small districts;

• Increase or maintain the percentage of exams taken by black/African American, Hispanic/ Latino, and American Indian/Alaska Native students; and

• Improve or maintain performance levels when comparing the 2016 percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher to the 2014 percentage, unless the district has already attained a performance level at which more than 70% of its AP students earn a 3 or higher.

Hamtramck Schools Superintendent Tom Niczay said everyone in the district played a role in the students’ achievement.

“I’m most proud of the students that took Hamtramck High’s Advanced Placement classes. They did the work and deserve credit for this statewide Honor Roll status recogni- tion,” Niczay said.

Three years of data were used. Many of the students are currently suc- cessful university/college students. Of course, their teachers, parents, adminis- trators, and support staff played a large role in their success. However, the bot- tom line is the students did the work and earned the recognition. The Ad- vanced Placement stu- dents have made the entire School District of the City of Hamtramck extremely proud.”

This academic achieve- ment was at a time when the school district has also become financially stable, unlike many other districts in the state.

The market also reflects the ever-growing presence of the Yemeni-American community.

Co-owner Radwan Hu- sain said he received consider- able help in opening his store from the Yemeni-American Chamber of Commerce, which is located in Dearborn.

School Bell

Kosciusko Middle School News

Students. Mrs. Tan- ner’s Supplemental Math class is using Success-Maker to improve their math skills. It is a program that students use daily for at least 20 minutes. They are also doing other activities such as problem-solving, finding patterns, and multiplica- tion bingo. Students in this class are at least two years be- hind grade level, according to their NWEA scores. The goal is to help these stu- dents improve their math skills, so they can be successfu l in math and work at their grade level.

Seventh Grade Ad- vanced Language Arts stu- dents are participating in NAWORRIMO, a national writing program. Students had the entire month of November to write their hearts out. Each of the students had a goal of 10,000 words in their book.

In December, students had the opportunity to read through their work, edit, and refine it. There are many wonderful fic- tion stories and even an autobiography being writ- ten by these motivated 7th grade students.

Early Childhood Elemen- tary School News

Early Childhood Ellemen- tary students have been very busy the last few weeks. On December 2 and December 5 the Mo- bile Dentists came to check students’ teeth who signed up for a checkup. Hearing screenings from the Wayne County Health Department were also per- formed checking all the students’ auditory health. Students participated in a Writing Fun Workshop after school. A parent forum meeting was held addressing the strengths and “wishes” the parents want for the school.

On December 14 a live reindeer came to visit from a farm in the western part of the state. The reindeer didn’t mind at all as he greeted the students in the entrance of the school. On December 20 the students performed a musical show under the guidance of music teach- ers, Mr. Maxwell Slayton and Mr. Matthew Rautio. Music from around the world was performed by the students practiced the songs over the weeks in music class. Even Mrs. Seppali’s preschool class performed a musical song. The school has had won- derful surprises as well. A former Hamtramck resi- dent, Patricia Huggler, who now resides in Tecum seh, sent a box full of hand knit items to the students. A donation was made to the school from Advent Lutheran Church in New York City to purchase new headphones for the com-
New year promises to deliver more economic good news

Without a doubt, the year 2016 kicked off with all the collective roar of just about everybody. We lost too many talented people in the world, and the presidential election hit everyone, one down. There is still an air of exhaustion and plenty of life-hostility from the election.

Hamtramckans can always take refuge in the knowledge that we as a people have suffered harder times before and we persevere.

Looking back in the year we have had plenty of firsts and historical moments. You can read more about that in the Newsmaker of the Year story on the front page. What comes across to us looking back on the stories of 2016 during the past two weeks is how incredibly busy we are as a small town.

But the best thing we are taking away from last year is that we are on a roll in expanding our economic base. We have experienced a number of new business openings and some key cultural shifts.

One of the most important developments, as we reported in the News-
maker story, is the establishment of the Detroit City Football Club here at Keyworth Stadium. Our hat goes off to the folks at the Hamtramck Public School District for partnering with the club.

We think the club will be a magnet for other development. There are about 7,000 fans who come out to see their games, and it’s inevitable that some of them are going to look around and decide Hamtramck is a good place to do business.

Hamtramck, we predict, is about to experience a major turnaround. Once again we are excited about covering what’s to come.

Hang on, it’s going to be an exciting ride in 2017. Cheers.

Odds & Ends

Got talent?... Organizers of the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day show, call Ms. Madelyn Porter at (313) 573-0782.

Students are needed for this year’s “Hamtramck’s Got Talent” held during the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast. This year’s event is on Jan. 16.

The event is sponsored by the Concerned Women of Hamtramck, and this year’s 20th Annual Prayer Breakfast. The breakfast will take place at the Hamtramck Community Center, 11350 Charest on Monday, Jan. 16, 9-11 a.m. Tickets are $15 for adults and $5 for children. For tickets, call (313) 573-0782.

School Bell

All Schools - Monday, January 9 - School resumes.
Compiled by Janice Gandelman

Continued from page 4

The club is organized and operated exclusively for the purpose of teaching the techniques and rules of soccer to children of our community and surrounding neighborhoods. The club’s mission is to help young develop soccer skills, to expand their parent’s knowledge and in-volvement in the sport, to instill the essential elements of sportsmanship and fair play among the children, coaches, parents, and community, and to provide fundamental physical sport.

This club will not dis-criminate against any per-son regardless of sex, ethnicity, or religion. Further-more, no part of the net earnings (if any) pro-vided to the club shall be used for the benefit of any individual, nor will the club operate against any federal, state, or local law. We started with one team in 2014 and expanded into three teams to allow more community kids to become part of a team. Currently, we have about 60 players.

In our second year (2015) the USW won the state Michigan Youth Soccer League (MYSL) championship. They also won one Rec tournament and the indoor league championship. Our U12 (now changed to U13 per MYSL) won state championships in the MYSL U12 league during our first year in competition.

This newspaper is not responsible for mistakes in advertising beyond the cost of the space involved.
CAMPBELL

Helen Lois CAMELL, (nee Yonts), died January 1, 2017. Mrs. Campbell was the dear wife of Richard; mother of Louis (Susan), Anita Emick, Erick Perdue, Jennifer Tyceny, Carol, the late Leah Losh (largely survived by fifteen grandchildren; five great grandchildren. Mr. Jozwik is also survived by five children; five great grandchildren. Margaret (Julius) Lowery, Robert J. Jozwik, 68, died December 31, 2016. Mr. Jozwik was the son of the late Alfred and Sylvia; brother of the late James; father of Jennifer (Brian), Jessica (Charles, Jr.),(Fredia). Visitation is Saturday, January 7, 2017 from 10 a.m. until 12 noon, at Ju- rieckwick & Wilk Funeral Home, 2356 Caniff, Hamtramck, MI 48212. Burial will be at Mt. Olivet Cem e- tery, Detroit, MI.

JOZWIK

Continued from page 5
We had a hard time get- ting transportation for the players to games so we purchased an old school bus and as a team we gut- ted it inside out and rebuilt it to help with the transporta- tion situation. We did this with the generosity of Hamtramck SOUP (who do- nated $700) and what we personally could con- tribute. We currently need help with maintaining the bus to keep transportation for the players running. In 2016 we almost were not able to participate in any of the MYSL leagues due to funding and many players not having proper attire to play. We were able to overcome that by finding ways to raise funds to help pay for very basic equipment and league fees.

We started a GoFundMe page as well as went to many local businesses to ask for support. Our U17 team won the State Pre- mier League Championship and the opportunity to play in the State Cup for the first time. Our U13 claimed 2nd Place in the MYSL League, and qualified for the State Premier as well as the State Cup tournaments. Our U15 came in 3rd place in the MYSL League.

The MYSL League con- sists of 10 teams per age group. We found a location to open an actual office and currently are in the process of having a grand opening. We started the club for the community and the children’s love of the sport. We refuse to exclude kids interested in having the opportunity to play for any of our three teams be- cause of their financial sta- tus. We also make sure that not only do our players succeed on the field, but off the field as well. We require each of our players to have passing grades and good behavior in the classrooms. Even if we are not directly affili- ated with any of the schools, we want to teach the players the value of an education, and if they love playing soccer as a part of a championship team they have to prove they can do so while maintaining their academics as well. We also give each player a contract that states that they understand their school grades and behav- ior will come before their practice and play in any games. They are allowed to ask for help if they are struggling with academics and each player’s parents are able to contact us directly with any questions, concerns or matters that they may have regarding their child. We also give each player a scholarship that states that they have to maintain their school grades and behavior in order to play for us.

On December 31, 2016 we held the 3rd Annual Winter League Tournament for our teams. The players were not what we had hoped but it was re- ally an award ceremony for their outstanding year.

Along with coach Hes- ham a few of our sponsors joined us and helped with the presentation of the awards.

We would love to thank all of the sponsors for this year including: The Ham- tramck Review, Anwar Me- chanic Shop, Athletic Sports Complex, Hamtramck Good Price, Royal Kabab, Alqam ar Pizza and Saw-More Pharmacy. We would especially like to thank John Ulaj, the publisher of the Hamtramck Review, Khalil AlRefai, Ameer Alhamad, and An- thony Spicca owner of the Athletic Sports Complex for taking time on New Year’s Eve to help in bring- ing joy to the youths’ dedi- cation and hard work by presenting trophies to the players. We hope to have more sponsors for the years ahead and want you all to thank you for making it possible to keep the organ- ization running.

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CONDO FOR SALE


By Charles Sercombe This week’s Crime Log covers Dec. 27-Jan. 2.

Tuesday, December 27

A Grand Haven resident reported that someone broke the window on her door.

Wednesday, December 28

At about 12:30 a.m. a resident was arrested after a traffic stop for driving without a license (a second offense) and being wanted on a local warrant.

Talabep Village police arrested two Detroit residents for being wanted by Hamtramck warrants.

A Warren resident said that two men broke into his car while it was parked in the 12000 block of Jos. Campau and stole his gun.

An Edwin resident reported someone broke into his car and stole his wallet, which contained his ID and credit cards.

A Casmerene resident reported the theft of her prescription from her mailbox.

A resident from Chem- ical Bank reported someone attempted to cash a fraudulent check.

Thursday, December 29

At 12:30 a.m. officers responded to a domestic violence incident in the 12000 block of Gallagher.

A resident in the 2200 block of Danforth reported a break-in.

A man reported the theft of the GPS system from his car while it was parked in the 12000 block of Jos. Campau.

A Seffridge resident reported someone damaged windows of her apartment.

An Ann Arbor resident reported the theft of his license plate from his car while it was parked at the Ham- tramck Public Library.

Three women were arrested during an inves- tigation on Casmerene.

Friday, December 30

A Harper Woods resident reported the theft of her 2006 Chevy Impala.

At almost 2 a.m. a hit-and-run accident was reported that involved three cars being struck.

A resident reported receiving harassing phone calls.

A resident reported her ex-boyfriend made threatening text messages and phone calls.

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Continued from page 2

this year on April 16. The Detroit Opera House, which launched the Hamtramck Mosaic Music Festival, which began in 2014 to supplant the Metro Theatre Lounge (un-officially branded the “Hamtramck Blowout”), argued that its line-up of artists and crowds for its 2016 version. The weather also cooperated for last year’s festival, which wrapped up the city March 2-5 this year.

Come spring, Detroit City Football Club began its soccer season at Keyworth Stadium, drawing crowds of up to 7,000 people. Many of the fans “adopted” local bars for the most socializing.

Hamtramck art galleries had exceptional shows throughout the year. One of the best was an auto- mated sound installation, “Slendrotron,” by the De- troit-based Aperature group.

There were other great art exhibitions at 9338 Jos. Campau, Pops Pack- ing and Hatch Art, which scored a big win for the community by raising $50,000 (earning a $50,000 match from the State of Michigan) to pre- serve local art treasure “Hamtramck Disneyland.” The folk-art piece on Klinger was left in limbo after the artist Dmytro Szylak died last May and his heir put the property up for auction.

In late fall, Glimm Cafe, a photo gallery and coffee bar, opened in the former Belmont Bar space of in town for 45 years. According to Rodger Alls in 2016, Planet Art Hall debuted across the street from its original theater on Caniff.

Two bars, Seven Brothers (moved from its loca- tion on Jos. Campau near Zinow) and Ghost Light, are in the building, origi- nally belonging to the Polish Roman Catholic Union (and better known as BHA Hall).

Earlier in the year, Bank Street opened up the cor- ner of Jos. Campau and Caniff, offering up pop-up lectures, concerts, confer- ences and other events. All three bars are an active com- munity life in the city.

The three festivals capped the year in late summer and early fall.

The Hamtramck Festi- val drew an estimated 3,000-5,000 people to their own hometown. The annual Labor Day festival, begun in 1980 as a way to lick the w ounds of the state’s economic com- munity. There was cent m em ory. There was contem porary m usic, fab-

Anod Alameri

Leena Alrhtih

Olivia Krzak

Leslie Gregory

Khalid Naji

Khaled Alghanim

Yasmeen Alhanuma

Kalen King

Galba Baruch

Tahfir Alsaleh

Malek Mehtar

Leila Ghalib

Trixie’s, also a new addi-

tions, was the Hamtramck B H A H all.

The “parties” were in coffee shops and bars, with a closing event at Trice’s, also a new addi-
tion to the community’s social scene in 2016.