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January 31, 2020 **50¢**

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— COUNTDOWN TO PAZCKI DAY FEB. 25 —

2019: A year of big ideas and new challenges

By Walter Wasacz
Let's chalk up 2019 as the year City Life began to turn words into advocacy, advocacy into action.

Let's remember it as the year we began to put Hamtramck's future under microscopic view, challenging leadership and ourselves to help fulfill the city's potential, making it a better place to invest, live, work, play.

Before we jump full blast into 2020, our first step forward is to review the year behind, learn from our successes – and, more importantly – from our failures, finding doable ideas and solutions that work in other places.

Where have we been, where are we now and where are we heading? Are we stagnating or on the path to growth and sustainability?

Those are some of the questions this column will be addressing over the coming months.

At the beginning of 2019, we wrote about the “zigs and zags of winter walkability” – asking the question: Would you pay an extra, say, \$35 a year for sidewalks to be plowed after it snows?

It's a question being asked by northern cities taking the responsibility for making sure that commercial districts and residential neighborhoods remain walkable throughout the winter months.

Largely because of budget shortfalls many communities, Hamtramck among others, cannot afford to clear sidewalks for pedestrians.



Winter walkability remains a challenge after every major snowfall.

In a story in online magazine CityLab, it was reported that Rochester, New York plows sidewalks when snow totals are four inches and above.

In the direct path of lake-effect weather that blows in from Lake Ontario, that city pays for removal through an 'embellishment fee' on property-tax bills,

tions, and public-transit locations.

Bloomington, Minnesota clears all of its 250 miles of sidewalks. The story suggests that these cities' programs could act as templates for others to formulate a plan for safe pedestrian paths in the winter.

But few do, encouraging



Hamtramckan Indira Sadikovic at then newly-installed 3D crosswalks in Sarajevo, Bosnia.

averaging \$35 per homestead.

The article went on to say that Duluth, Minnesota clears 100 miles of priority sidewalk routes, including routes to schools, high-pedestrian traffic loca-

home and business owners to take care of sidewalks in front of their properties – and ticketing and fining those that don't.

After two snow accumulations in January 2019,

each roughly 4-5 inches, the sidewalks in most neighborhoods were impassable for days.

Some people shoveled or brought out snowblowers and carved out paths in front of their properties. They surely deserve a tip of the cap from all of us.

But as I walked around the city on one of those days I found too many of the sidewalks in front of houses, vacant lots and even those directly in front of buildings on Jos. Campau, Caniff and Conant – the three main commercial arteries in the city – packed with snow and later ice after the region experienced below zero temperatures.

My walk was a series of zigs and zags from a few cleared sidewalks to cleared streets, where I had to share the road with cars and trucks – a dangerous option for any pedestrian.

But what if I were disabled, even temporarily, or more permanently handicapped? What if I needed to do my shopping using a walker or wheelchair? Or if I were a young mother pushing her baby in a stroller?

In that same CityLab article the writer, who is from Kalamazoo, said a pregnant woman was hit by a motorist after being forced to walk in the street in that west Michigan city. The sidewalk where she was supposed to walk was covered in snow.

She was just grazed, so

Quick Hits

PAC to celebrate 75th anniversary

By Alan Madlane

Of the many nationalities, ethnicities, races and creeds that have made their way through Hamtramck, particularly in the past century since the opening of the Dodge Main auto plant, Poles are probably the one group most people – those who know the city – would think of first.

In fact, in the 1950s, this town was 90-percent Polish.

Many Poles, as well as Ukrainians, Albanians and others, have since travelled the informal “northward trail” out of town, to Warren, Sterling Heights, Troy, Shelby Township and Macomb as they sought ... well, perhaps, more distance between themselves and their immediate neighbors? Less inner-city property crime? Something.

In any event, the Polish American Congress (if that group sounds familiar, maybe it's because they sponsor the Hamtramck Labor Day Parade every year) still has a presence here. You'll see it right there at 11333 Jos. Campau.

They've been a viable entity for 75 years, and they want to celebrate –

Continued on page 6

Will there be a windfall for Hamtramck?

By Charles Sercombe

Is Hamtramck in line for a major revenue boost now that GM has announced a huge investment in its Poletown plant?

That was a question on the mind of some folks, upon hearing the news that GM is going to invest \$2.2 billion in the plant and hire 2,200 workers once the retooling of the facility is completed.

Prior to shutting down production, there were 700 workers at the plant.

The increase in the number of workers may factor into how Hamtramck receives in annual revenue from GM in lieu of property taxes.

In a special agreement with GM, the amount that the company pays is based on the number of employees and shifts operating at the plant.

The city had been receiving about \$700,000 a year from GM. So, what happens if the number of employees more than triples in size?

Hamtramck City Manager Kathy Angerer said it's too early to say whether there will be an increase in yearly revenue to the city.

She said, however, that no matter what, it was welcome news about GM's plan for the plant.

“I am pleased that GM changed their decision to idle the plant, and are now set to invest over two billion dollars to retool the existing facility and produce world class electric vehicles at the

Continued on page 2

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Will there be a windfall for Hamtramck?

Continued from front page

Detroit-Hamtramck plant for many years ahead," Angerer said in a text.

"I applaud GM for creating over 2,000 jobs, and am looking forward to employees working every day in the plant. This will be great for our community and our businesses in Hamtramck."

While there may be a revenue boost in the years to come, Hamtramck will have to brace for a temporary financial setback while the plant undergoes retooling.

GM says it could take up to two years to get the



GM says it will invest \$2.2 billion in its Poletown plant to produce electric-fueled vehicles.

plant ready to produce electric-fueled vehicles.

During that time, the city will receive only a

fraction of the \$700,000 a year it received while the plant had been in production.

Despite this setback, GM investment in the plant was met with great enthusiasm from local Detroit and Hamtramck city officials, and from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer at a press conference held on Monday morning.

Hamtramck Mayor Karen Majewski was on hand for the announcement, and also "applauded" GM's investment.

Hamtramck, she said, "is pleased to be an integral part of this next revolutionary iteration of auto manufacturing."

"No one will be cheering more enthusiastically than the City of Hamtramck when these first electronic vehicles come off that assembly line."

2019: A year of big ideas and new challenges

Continued from front page

presumably the injury was not serious.

That could happen here, on Gallagher or Brombach, on Mackay or Lumpkin, to kids walking to and from school. Being grazed when walking in the street is bad enough but chances are it could be far worse in a densely populated community like ours.

In Syracuse, New York, a yearlong pilot program was launched to plow 20 miles of "priority sidewalks" - determined by using data that showed areas of highest pedestrian usage - after each snowfall of three inches or more. The program was initiated by community activists and implemented by a city administration that listened to them and took action.

The money (approximately \$170,000) came from an existing public works budget, no "embellishment fees" were needed. But to sustain a program like this, there is no doubt that new streams of money will need to be found.

So how does Hamtramck, with its limited financial resources, do something like this on sidewalks stretching across its two square miles?

Maybe it starts with Jos. Campau and becomes a project initiated by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). That strip

from Denton to Carpenter could be our pilot program, extending a message of welcome and hospitality to shoppers and other visitors.

It would make a good companion plan to the Joe Louis Greenway, the bicycle lane scheduled for construction on the length of Jos. Campau in the spring.

(An update: the Hamtramck Downtown Development Authority recently

ties in the state cannot be seasonal. It must be year-round and 24/7.

How do we begin?

First by buying into the idea that the public streets and walkways of Hamtramck are in fact ours. Let's not forget what 'public' means: it's sharing and contributing to the geographic space in which we live, work or visit. It means all of us are in this together.



Hamtramck native John Collins (left) of legendary techno collective Underground Resistance with Berlin entrepreneur Dimitri Hegemann at the 2019 Detroit-Berlin Connection conference.

sourced an outside contractor to clear Jos. Campau sidewalks - which was done after the most recent snowstorm - an important first step to making the central business district walkable year-round.)

But the neighborhoods need to be walkable for the people who live here, too. Pedestrian activity in a place that wants to be or sell itself as one of the most walkable communi-

Public life is ours to shape and govern, now and later. That's as real as it gets.

All of us are owners of the way we move and navigate through the city. If we want to walk on winter sidewalks cleared of snow and ice, we must imagine, demand and create solutions.

Will we invest in our future by paying more for a

Continued on page 4

"When you're good at something, you'll tell everyone. When you're great at something, they'll tell you."
- Walter Payton, Chicago Bears Running Back

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Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to collocate wireless communications antennas at a top height of 48-feet on a 48-foot utility pole at the approx. vicinity of Florian St and Lumpkin St, Hamtramck, Wayne County, MI, 48212. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, Victoria, v.dalton@trileaf.com, 10845 Olive Blvd, Suite 260, St. Louis, MO 63141, 314-997-6111.*

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The Review
Hamtramck

This week at the library...

Toddler Time

Thursdays

11:30am - 12:30 pm

Children up to age 5 and their parents and caregivers are invited for stories & songs followed by playtime.

Movie Night

Tuesdays @ 4:00 pm

Family Friendly Movies
Snacks provided!

Building Club

Wednesdays

3:30 - 5:00 pm through

February

Drop in for unstructured creative play.
Ages 3 and up.

Try out the library's new STEM materials:
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A Decade of World

Cinema

1959-1969

Thursday @ 5:30 pm

February 6

Free Jazz Concerts!

The Hamtramck Library

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Phil Hale Trio in Concert

Thursday, February 6

5:30 pm

This concert is free and open to the public

Brown Bag Book Club

Friday, February 7

12:00 pm

The Underground

Railroad

By Colson Whitehead

Anime Is Back!

Fridays

Beginning February 7

3:30 - 5:00 pm

Hang out, share, and

discover new Anime & Manga. Meet others with common interests. Participate in related events & activities.

Homework Help &

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Fridays

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

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Citizenship Classes

Thursdays

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February 13 - March 19

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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



School Bell

MLK Breakfast winners

The following students were voted winners in the annual talent contest held during the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast held on MLK Day.

K-6 winners:

- 1st - Dickinson East, Soumitra Roy
- 2nd - Dickinson West, Fatiha Siddiqua
- 3rd - Dickinson West, Demetrius Parker

7-12 Winners:

- 1st - Tau Beta, Sondos Aldouais, Rehke Alriyashi, Nagla AlKholani, Shayma Alrfai and Maisa Gazzali
- 2nd - KMS, Deena Alreyashi
- 3rd - Horizon, Bassam Al Mathrahi and Assem Alzawkar

The event is sponsored by the Concerned Women of Hamtramck.



Demetrius Parker



Bassam Al Mathrahi and Assem Alzawkar

Upcoming Events:

- February 12 - Supplemental Count Day.
- February 14 - Half day for all students.
- February 17 - No school for students and staff. President's Day.
- February 26 - End of Progress Report Period #3.

Recreation Department

For information about recreation activities, give us a call at (313) 892-2635. Follow us on Facebook for the most up-to-date information: www.Facebook.com/HamtramckRecreationDepartment

Compiled by **Janice Gandelman**

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February 8 - Soup Kitchen 2-4 pm
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February 9 - ANS Quiche Breakfast (\$7.00 donation) 10:15 am after 9 am Mass

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Fatiha Siddiqua



Deena Alreyash



Sondos Aldouais, Rehke Alriyashi, Nagla AlKholani, Shayma Alrfai and Maisa Gazzali



Soumitra Roy

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**TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 4, 2018**

5:30 - 7 PM at BANK SUEY (corner of Caniff and Campau)

AGENDA:

- 1) SEWING T-SHIRT SHOPPING BAGS
- 2) DISTRIBUTION PLAN FOR T-SHIRT SHOPPING BAGS
- 3) DOOR to DOOR EDUCATION of RESIDENTS about RECYCLING
- 4) NEW AGENDA ITEMS FOR 2020 - what is important to you?

The "Be A Good Neighbor Project" is a project of the HAMTRAMCK COMMUNITY INITIATIVE for more information contact Rev. Sharon Buttry
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2019: A year of big ideas and new challenges

Continued from page 2

better quality of life, not only for ourselves and our families or for the sake of our own properties?

Will we put our heads together and find solutions that benefit everyone in Hamtramck, using models of success in other, also cash-strapped, cities?

In June, we wrote that Hamtramck took an innovative first step forward to increasing pedestrian safety on the city's streets.

In a joint meeting of the common council and the board of education, the two local public bodies unanimously approved a pilot project to install 3-D crosswalks at four intersections along the Gallagher corridor.

The intersections are, from north to south, at Casmere, Caniff, Evaline and Holbrook. Gallagher was chosen for the collaborative pilot program because it connects three public schools – Hamtramck High, Dickinson East and Tau Beta – and is heavily used by pedestrians on their way to and from restaurants and markets on Caniff and Holbrook.

The implementation of the 3-D design is thought to be the first of its kind in Michigan. The cost of the project will not exceed \$25,000 and will include a \$12,500 contribution from the school district and \$12,500 from the city.

In addition, the joint body supported installing vertical traffic bollards at Lump-

kin and Norwalk and Lumpkin and Edwin to deter hot rodding near Pulaski Park.

The resolution referred to the City of Hamtramck as being “known for its walkability and residents in our community walk for exercise, fun and many walk to school, walk to work,



Conant Avenue, in Hamtramck and Detroit, celebrated its 20th Bangladeshi Festival in summer 2019.

walk to parks, or walk to shop on a daily basis.”

It went on to underscore a “deep commitment to education and safe behavior for pedestrians and motorists and creating a safer, more walkable community – not only for our children, but for all members of the community.”

The 3-D crosswalks are expected to be phase one of several road safety projects discussed in meetings between outgoing schools superintendent Thomas Niczay and City Manager Kathy Angerer.

Update: the 3-D crosswalks and vertical bollards were never installed. To questions about the proj-

ect Angerer responded to me in November by email: “It was my hope also that we would complete this work this year. Unfortunately, with the weather and construction delay issues, it was not possible. The contractors have overbooked themselves and hop from city to city and

often times don't complete their contracts.” She also wrote that the “busy construction season has been plagued with rain, delays, contractor issues, an early large snowfall and more. Along with all of the City projects, we have DTE tearing up all areas of our City. We are trying to get them to finish what they have started while the final days of decent weather to restore sidewalks for walkability.”

The response concluded with this follow-up from the engineering firm that works on the city's behalf: “The 3-D crosswalks will have to be installed in the Spring. However, PK (the

contractor installing the crosswalks) will place, at their expense, the typical continental crosswalks for the winter where 3-D striping is proposed and will remove and place the 3-D crosswalks in the spring as soon as weather permits.”

So, we will wait until spring to tackle this topic once again.

From last summer: two stories from along the Conant corridor that explored the unique diversity of Hamtramck – and how we grapple with evolving community identity issues, now and likely into the near future.

The first one: walking through the Bangladeshi festival - celebrating its 20th year holding this event – brought back memories.

As I walked up and down Conant, I imagined the future of this vital corridor, now the focus of an ambitious development project by the City of Detroit.

Wide-ranging plans include the rehabilitation of buildings on Conant, Dequindre and the former Transfiguration school building near Mound. American Axle is putting \$5 million toward the neighborhood plan and a Bingham Farms-based housing development company is proposing the construction of a \$17 million, 50-unit apartment building on the northeast corner of Carpenter and Charest.

Streetscape Improvements are planned for the

Conant business district, which extends on the Detroit side of the avenue from just north of Harold to Davison. It's unknown what Hamtramck's contribution to the streetscape will be on the west side of Conant.

Also unknown is how the departure of influential chief City of Detroit planner Maurice Cox, who is leaving for a similar posting in Chicago, will affect the plans for Banglatown.

Cox was an advocate of the “20-minute neighborhood,” where people can walk or bike to get basic needs met within that time frame. He expanded the number of planners employed by the city from around six to 36 in five years.

It's not accidental that redevelopment projects are underway in several Detroit neighborhoods: there is a lot of talent behind the increased activity.

Some Banglatown improvements high on the list to consider would be bike lanes, curb and crosswalk improvements and traffic calming strategies to increase pedestrian activity and safer streets. Facade enhancements to existing businesses, and business recruitment and retention should also be on the list.

It also wouldn't hurt to create budgets for PR and marketing the region's most concentrated Bangladeshi community. It is far too insular for a neighborhood and business district so unique. When Conant throws a weekend party everyone in metro Detroit – over 5 million people live within a 50-mile radius – should be invited, the streets packed with visitors from near and far.

Update: Earlier this month, a national jury selected by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) gave the City of Detroit's Planning and Development Department a regional and urban design award for its Campau/Davison/Banglatown Neighborhood Framework Plan. Only four projects across the country were named. Kudos to our neighbor for a job well done. It's exciting to see recognition for progress being made on borders Hamtramck shares with Detroit.

And this one, from a soccer match at Keyworth Stadium:

The faces of the people in the crowd also made an impression on me. Young, old, middle aged, and of every color under the rainbow (which by the way, on cue made an appearance in the sky on the southern horizon as the rain still came down).

“Rainbow” is another key word in this story. The most passionate, and often crude and profane, fan supporters of Detroit City, the Northern Guard, fly a rainbow flag at all home matches.

The DCFC club takes its community of inclusion role seriously, supporting local projects for Hamtramck's largely Muslim youth population as well as initiatives for LGBTQ youth at risk (at Highland Park's Ruth Ellis Center).

The social and political environment established by the club is explicitly progressive: anti-racist and pro-immigrant, for gender-equality and pro-LGBTQ, sharing the same passion for sport and positive social change.

It represents an ever-changing world as it is now, in other words, a model of diversity and inclusivity that can be easily replicated across these two square miles of urban geography in which we live.

Perhaps a rainbow flag to join the national flags installed on Jos. Campau north of Caniff is the next step forward in growing the city's progressive, tolerant profile being shaped in large part by the community mission of a football club reaching for the stars.

It should be a community mission to set even higher standards for being a city of progress, creating goals that retain the virtues of welcoming and hospitality – that means everyone under the stars included - for decades to come.

Let's keep this conversation alive, vital and real.

Another story that had to do with breaking down borders and shareable human resources, from October:

Last Saturday morning, I led a group of around a dozen people on foot through streets and alleys along the Detroit-Hamtramck border.

I was asked by Banglatown-based The Hinterlands – an experimental theater, performance art and community engagement collective based in Banglatown – to participate in a mobile workshop we called a psychogeographic stroll.

I did a group walk using the same title during the Porous Borders festival, organized by The Hinterlands and other artists in Banglatown and Hamtramck, in 2015.

This one was both a physical walk and a virtual one, linked via Skype with an audio-visual production station inside the group's Play House, where we were connected to two Russian philosophers in Moscow. It was streamed live on Facebook and Periscope.

What we did might be dubbed “techno-psychogeography,” a futuristic, early-21st century take on what began in 1950s' Paris as a playful exploration and interaction with urban environments.

Called the “derive” (or the “drift”) by the Situationists, an art/politics movement that created no art (aside from provocative graffiti strewn across build-

Notice of Public Hearing City of Hamtramck

The City Council of the City of Hamtramck will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 7:00pm. The meeting will be held at City Hall, 3401 Evaline St, Hamtramck, Michigan 48212. The public is invited to attend and comment at the public hearing or to make written comments before the date of the hearing. Written comments should be made to the attention of Hamtramck City Clerk, 3401 Evaline St., Hamtramck, MI 48212. The subject of the hearing is:

- The naming of a newly created City of Hamtramck public park located on Trowbridge St as “Salam Peace Park”
- The honorary renaming of Commor Ave. between Joseph Campau and Conant as Taras Shevchenko St. *(The honorary designation will not affect residential mailing addressing)*

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 x. 821.

Previous version of this publication that appeared in the January 24th edition of The Hamtramck Review incorrectly stated the public hearing would be held at the January 28, 2020 meeting. We apologize for the error.



Continued on page 5

Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

From our readers: in favor of new parking meters?

As expected, last week's article about the city's plan to partner with a private company to install new parking meters generated some strong opinions.

We will turn this space over to what some of our readers opined about the issue on our website (hamtramckreview.com).

Fatema Hossain questioned the technological reliability of the meters:

"These parking meters have been termed 'Robo-Cop meters.'

"They can be modified to operate as video surveillance as an auxiliary function; they can also be outfitted with 911 emergency communications instruments.

"City leaders should be contacting other municipalities who have hired this company as references to see if they are satisfied how it has worked out.

"There are consumer complaints from other cities about frozen 'smart

meters' which ticket motorists unable to place coins or credit card into the non-functioning meter, erroneous tickets being issued, and of course, the general disgust of consumers having the risk of a ticket due to going shopping in an area where meters have been installed.

"Will the City of Hamtramck have to augment the one parking enforcement officer it has due to the expected spike in violation tickets to be issued? Will it divert police from other and more important duties?"

"Greektown merchants over the years have bemoaned the effects of parking meters on their businesses. Why should Hamtramck take on a similar problem?"

"Will this be another unwise decision in hindsight? Time will tell."

Nasr Hussain, a former Hamtramck School Boardmember, said there are several (negative)

guarantees about the meters:

"This contract will make the citizens mad (check).

"This contract will make the business mad (check).

"This contract will show that our city officials are incompetent (check).

"The city will lose more money than it's making now from the parking meters (check).

"The city will be subsidizing a privately-run corporation whose reviews online are down the drain (check).

"The city will pay a steep price for breaking the contract before the 5-year hostage term is over (check).

"Therefore: This contract should never be approved, or even considered in the first place."

Again, we ask our readers to weigh on this before a contract is signed to install the meters.

2019: A year of big ideas and new challenges

Continued from page 4

ings in Paris during the student/worker protests in May 1968) and had no desire to govern, walks like these are the cornerstone practice of psycho-geographical societies in San Francisco, New York, London, Manchester (UK) and elsewhere.

Our "renegade performance walk" was part of an all-day series of Hinterlands' activities called "Border Blast II" as well as just one piece of the even larger Hamtramck Neighborhood Arts Festival.

We began at Play House – the performance space used by The Hinterlands, – at the corner of Moran and Lawley streets.

We walked around the corner and then south down the alley between Moran and Klinger.

There, we spotted a Mercedes with deflated tires pressed up against a wooden privacy fence. "Something happened here," I asked, vague mystery in my voice intentional, "but what?"

Lush, green leaves were growing around it. The entire alley in fact appeared as many shades of bright green, aglow in muted sunshine slicing through the canopy of giant trees high above.

All green, that is, aside from garages covered with vivid blue or saturated mauve paint or the occasional dusty brown or gray, with only hints of the yellow and orange natural colors of fall still to come.

At Halleck, we walked left and carefully crossed fast-moving Conant Avenue to the edge of Jayne Field. This huge, once forgotten park is a centerpiece of the City of Detroit's Campau-Davison-Banglatown redevelopment plan.

We stopped to talk and imagined ourselves at a picnic, spreading blankets across the grass and sharing food.

As we crossed Charles, I asked rhetorically if anyone had ever walked on Justine St. to Carpenter. We were here now, I answered, in the neighborhood once labeled Hamtramck Heights in the 1960s, evidenced by suburban, ranch-style housing built from the late-1950s to early-1970s.

This neighborhood was one of several gateways to Warren and other newer suburban communities, where the white majority population began its pattern of abandonment and northward migration over half a century ago.

A question about munic-

ipal corporate borders and why we even have them came from Irfan Husic, a Fulbright scholar from Bosnia doing a year of research in Detroit. Others on the walk had similar questions, including why it was necessary to duplicate services – public education and safety, water and waste management – over politically established borders such as Detroit and Hamtramck share.

Why not pool resources for the good of the public that cities serve, rather

far less relevant than are neighborhood borders, an important distinction.

We walked up the alley behind Hamtramck Disneyland, now being restored by the Hatch Art collective that purchased it from original owner Dmytro Szyrak's family after his death in 2015, then across Carpenter to Klinger (more speed humps, slowing traffic on an already narrow two-way street) and back to where we began our journey 90 minutes before.

We'd actually lost one



Psychogeographic stroll through green alleys along Detroit-Hamtramck border during the 2019 neighborhood arts festival.

than divide and dilute them – unequally and unjustly – I posed as another question.

On Fenelon we walked past newly-installed speed humps and witnessed their effectiveness in slowing down traffic. "Wow, they actually work," someone said.

We crossed Conant again and into the alley east of Moran. Richard Newman from The Hinterlands, who was following along from the control desk at Play House – Newman's colleagues Renee Willoughby and Dave Sanders were providing tech support with microphones, cameras, iPhone and iPad on the walk – asked if we were now in Hamtramck.

"Yes!" came the response as a chorus from the walkers.

"It feels different here," Husic said.

The alleys are paved in Hamtramck; in Detroit, across Carpenter and Conant, mostly they are left to dirt, gravel and grass, I said. A few times I'd heard Newman saying the same thing to the couple, Helen Petrovsky and Oleg Aronson, in Moscow and translator Jonathan Flatly in Detroit.

But it is also a different environment, I said, regardless of what city we are in now the "feels" are different, the ambience of the place is altered just by crossing a street.

The political borders are

part of the feed from Russia along the way (apparently they could see us, but we couldn't communicate with them) but it didn't matter at all. The group was immersed in the experience, as if surrounded by strange, beautiful music on the cusp of foreign and familiar.

Finally, I wrote about conferences I helped organize and in which I participated in 2019. The topics were both global and hyper-local, with lots to be applied to Hamtramck's present and future.

One of them took place in late September, the location was Milwaukee Junction, a Detroit neighborhood just a few blocks from the far southwest border of the city.

Last weekend I had the privilege of participating in a digital media conference in Detroit. The over-arching theme was 'access,' and there were dozens of panels, presentations, performances and workshops on communication, urban space, mobility and transportation, race, gender and queer politics, immigration and refugee justice, the importance of inclusivity and partnerships – concluding with a danceable afterglow at a renovated underground studio space in New Center.

I moderated a discussion on "unlocking the potential of the 24 economy" – a trend gaining steam

Continued on page 8

Odds & Ends

Benefit... Here's a reminder about a worthy fundraiser happening tonight, Friday (Jan. 31) at Whiskey in the Jar, located on Yemens, just west of Jos. Campau.

It's for helping out in the care of animals caught up in Australia's hellish fires.

All proceeds will be sent to deserving organizations trying to save these poor animals. Before we get into details, heads up, Aussie beer fans. Yes, there will be a special deal on cans of Foster's. So, bottoms up, mate.

Here's what co-organizer Michelle Slisinger has to say about what's going on there:

"All across Australia, devastating brushfires have left vital habitats (destroyed) and so many animals from koalas to kangaroos to fruit bats have been displaced.

"Now as they try to escape the flames, there are not only burn injuries, but also animals coming onto roads, being hit by cars, and attacked by dogs, so it really is a tough situation and it's going to be something that's going to take years to recover from.

"Australia Zoo Wildlife Warriors was established in 2002 by Steve and Terri Irwin as a way to include and involve other caring people in the protection of injured, threatened or endangered wildlife – from the individual animal to an entire species."

Features of the night include Fosters beer specials, a 50/50 raffle and a kissing booth.

Whiskey is located on Yemens, just west of Jos. Campau.

Donations will be made to the Steve Irwin's Foundation, Wildlife Warriors,

and the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital.

And here is what donations from all over will help accomplish:

1. Purchasing and regenerating crucial habitat for species affected by human impact, drought and wildfires.

2. Planning a ward for flying foxes at the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital. Flying fox (or fruit bat) admissions have skyrocketed this fire season, and the ward will allow care for more while they undergo treatment.

3. Designing a crèche for orphaned flying foxes, where they will learn how to be wild again before being released to a wild colony.

4. Sending medical supplies to wildlife rescuers and caregivers on the frontline of the fire-affected areas.

Continued on page 6

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Published every Friday

3020 Caniff, Hamtramck, MI 48212

Phone: 313-874-2100 Fax: 313-874-2101

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Publisher: John Ulaj • (248) 866-1110
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Office Manager: Jean Ingenthron

Sales Manager: Dave Sweet

Copy Editor: Alan Madlane

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Historical museum to highlight Black History Month

By Alan Madlane

Hamtramck's long history of welcoming and inclusivity will be highlighted next month at the Historical Museum. The museum will have a special exhibit recognizing Black History Month, and the contributions of the African-American community to the city's history.

February is, of course, recognized in the United States and Canada as Black History Month (in the UK, the Netherlands and Ireland, October is the designated month, per Wikipedia).

The designation actually has long roots in this country, no pun intended. A black historian named Carter G. Woodson of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History suggested a "Negro History Week" almost a century ago, in 1926. He

proposed that it fall on the second week of February, to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12) and Frederick Douglass (Feb. 14).

In 1970, a Kent State University campus group called Black United Students, along with black professors at the school, proposed that the entire month be given the present day designation. Within half a dozen years, the acceptance level was already such that then-President Gerald Ford gave positive recognition to the concept during his bicentennial speech.

Greg Kowalski, executive director of the Friends of Historical Hamtramck, notes that the museum's exhibit will look at the role that the black population of the city has played in the city's development.

There have, for example, been black persons elected to prominent positions in Hamtramck since the Roaring 20s, Kowalski notes in the Friends' press release. He mentions that many of the photos that will feature in the exhibit were actually taken by a man named Ordine Toliver, who was himself elected to the then-Village Council in 1921, and eventually became city clerk.

It should be noted that there will be a special Black History program at the museum (9525 Jos. Campau) at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 27. Doors to the museum will open at 5 p.m. for the free event, and light refreshments will be served.

Watch their website (hamtramckhistory.com) for more details, or email hamtramckhistory@gmail.com or call 248-770-8389.

Quick Hits

Continued front page

and they want to celebrate with you, Hamtramckan.

The only trick of it is, you're going to have to have to travel to Troy to do it.

The celebration is planned for Saturday, Feb. 8, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the American Polish Cultural Center at 2975 E. Maple Rd. That's on the northwest corner at Dequindre. We're talking less than a dozen miles due north, essentially.

The event will have a "carnival" theme, and promises to be a fun evening.

PAC-MI is a division of the national organization,

acting as a voice and advocate for all Polish Americans. They were instrumental in helping thousands of families find their footing here during World War II, and again for those fleeing communist Poland during the crack-down on the Solidarnosc, or Solidarity, labor movement of the 80s.

Tickets for the event are priced at \$75 for this 75th-year fete, and include dinner, an open bar and entertainment.

For tickets, call Jackie Kolowski at (586) 558-3624. For more information, call Stella Szczesny locally at (313) 680-4548, or the local office at (313) 365-9400.

And look forward to a "smaczny" evening!

Odds & Ends

Continued from page 5

5. Putting together bat caregiver packs to be sent home with wildlife caregivers. These include bottles, milk formula and bat wraps.

6. Purchasing commercial food preparation equipment for wildlife care groups to cater to a huge number of patients.

7. Constructing a climate-controlled intensive care ward for our ever-growing number of koala patients.

So, please stop by for some fun and donate to a very good cause.

Lost in the mail... Every once and awhile we all get someone else's mail. Usually it's for someone who lives nearby.

And then there are whopping cases of misdirected mail.

Recently, an anonymous resident dropped off a piece of mail that was delivered to their residence here in Hamtramck, but was addressed to a person living in Shelbyville,

Michigan – some 170 miles off course.

The street name (4th St.) on the envelope is not a Hamtramck street, so there was no mistake based on that.

Our resident wrote us a note, in exasperation, saying:

"I guess it could qualify for the Guinness Book of World Records. ... I don't

Al the Only... Hamtramck's own magic man, Al Ulman, who goes by the stage name of "Al the Only." Recently emailed a hello from where is currently at, somewhere in China celebrating the Chinese New Year.

Hmmmm... maybe not the best time to be over there, considering the outbreak of coronavirus.

We hope all is well Al! And come home soon!

Correction... In last week's issue, it was incor-



Hamtramckan Al Ulman (right) was recently performing his magic and illusion show in China. When he's not travelling the world, he is living in Hawaii, but he still has a home in Hamtramck where visits often.

use the word 'unbelievable' very often, but in this case, it's perfectly justified: UNBELIEVABLE!!!"

Indeed. And yes, we turned the piece of mail in to the post office.

rectly reported that Municipal Parking Services was based out of Detroit.

The company is actually based out of Minnesota.

We apologize for the error and any inconvenience it may have caused.



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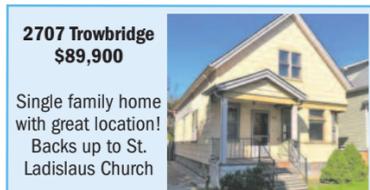
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Deadline for classifieds for next week is Thursday at Noon (313) 874-2100 to place an ad



By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Jan. 21-27.

Tuesday, Jan. 21

• Officers recovered a vehicle in the 2900 block of Caniff Ave. that was involved in a hit-and-run crash that happened at Carpenter and Charest.

• At about 10:30 p.m., a Detroit resident was arrested for a robbery that occurred in the 3800 block of Norwalk St. The officer working overtime in traffic patrol.

Wednesday, Jan. 22

• A Poland St. resident reported that their vehicle was stolen.

• A Council St. resident reported that someone stole packages from his porch.

• A resident was arrested after a traffic stop for driving without a license. The driver has 13 previous convictions for this offense.

• A Poland St. resident reported that they lost their passport and Social Security card.

• A resident went to the police station and turned himself in for being wanted on four Hamtramck warrants.

• A vehicle crash at Jos. Campau and Commor damaged a bus stop shelter.

• Detroit police recovered a car stolen out of Hamtramck. The car was missing all of its tires and rims.

• A resident was arrested in the area of Fleming and Caniff for obstruction.

Thursday, Jan. 23

• A Detroit resident was arrested after a traffic stop for carrying a concealed gun without a permit.

• A hit-and-run accident happened on private property in the 11300 block of Conant Ave.

• A resident in the 2400 block of Commor St. reported that, while his car was warming up, someone stole it. The vehicle is a 2006 Honda Odyssey with a Michigan Odyssey with a Michigan Security card.

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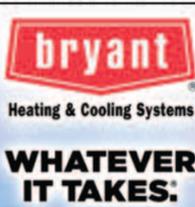


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2019: A year of big ideas and new challenges

Continued from page 5

worldwide.

The “no curfew” expert on our panel was Dimitri Hegemann, the famed Berlin entrepreneur who helped convert inspirational Detroit dance music energy into what I call “sustainable euphoria” – a positive social tool that played a major role in the German capital’s economic and cultural recovery in the 1990s after decades of war, occupation, political and institutional division.

Through a serendipitous side door entered Detroit techno, which became, in Hegemann’s words, “the soundtrack of reunification” – also called the “peaceful revolution of 1989” – bringing youth from east and west together on the dancefloor.

Those “dancefloors” that emerged soon after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 were hardly glamorous places. They were usually located in dank, dark basements and abandoned industrial spaces, barely-salvageable relics from both hot and cold wars of the last century.

Social innovators like Hegemann and his peers, many of whom were active in West Berlin’s alternative rock culture of the 1970s and 1980s – which featured artists like David Bowie, Iggy Pop, My Bloody Valentine, Nick Cave and Einstürzende Neubauten – used the rubble of a collapsed society to begin creating a previously unimagined future.

One piece of that future was already in place: a 24-hour service economy that put no restriction on alcohol sales.

That came in 1949, when a U.S. military commander in charge of West Berlin’s American Sector (the city had been divided into east and west after World War II, though the Wall surrounding West Berlin was still to be built

12 years later) made a decision to allow 24-hour bar service to keep drinkers from spending late night hours in the sector controlled by the Soviet Union.

The Russians allowed drinking in bars and cafes until 1 a.m. The French and the British, which controlled the two other sectors, had even earlier closing times.

It was the Americans, Hegemann points out, that showed the initiative – albeit one born out of Cold War rivalry – to open up the night to what he calls “what is possible, always the potential to do more.”

“Potential” and “freedom to try anything and do more” are the key words and phrases of a worldwide night economy and creative industries initiative that my nonprofit group, the Detroit-Berlin Connection – which I co-founded with Hegemann in 2013 – advocated at the conference (organized by the Berlin-based digital media accelerator re:publica) and others yet to come (we talked about the influence of Detroit creativity on the modern night in Berlin and Dortmund, Germany in November 2019).

What impact can all these lofty discussions have on Hamtramck?

Plenty. Hamtramck (viewed from afar as a vibrant, multicultural district of Detroit, rich in creative spirit and talent, more than as a separate municipal entity) is well known to our partners and friends in Berlin, Barcelona, Amsterdam and other cities with expansive night economies.

They are attracted by the scale of our commercial avenues and residential streets, easy accessibility both within its 2-square miles and to nearby neighborhoods like the North End, Milwaukee Junction and New Center (three connected areas of Detroit

where all of the conference activities took place), as well as Banglatown on Hamtramck north and northeast borders.

There are food, drink and



The Detroit City Football Club (DCFC) includes rainbow flags in support of the LGBTQ community at every home match at Keyworth Stadium

lodging options within this dense urban community – arguably its single greatest asset – and it’s walkable and reachable by bicycle day and night.

So what more can Hamtramck do to join this worldwide movement for which it already seems perfectly suited?

- First join the conversation. We can learn a lot by having dialogue with urban thought leaders, cultural disruptors and producers doing it at a high level in Berlin and elsewhere. Closer to home, build networks with Detroit planners and economic developers now reshaping connective neighborhoods literally at our doorstep.

- Begin building tangible, visible, hands-on relationships with entities – government bodies, foundations and other institutions and organizations – that have the resources to enable growth. Only strong, committed partnerships can help create pathways to Hamtramck’s future.

- Take advantage of every opportunity to make Hamtramck more attractive, safe and livable. The recent Holbrook reconstruction project could

have included bike lanes to allow cyclists-protected access on east-west routes in the city. Phase two of the Holbrook road project is scheduled to

healthy pressure on government and community leaders to not overlook what’s possible. Slower, shareable, safer streets accessible to all must be a top priority in the city’s future.

- Commit to better economic development practice, including attracting and retaining businesses that will work in a rich, diverse community like Hamtramck. We have models of success: Oloman Cafe & Gallery, Bon Bon Bon, Bank Suey, Bumbo’s, Planet Ant, Ghost Light, Al Haramain, Aladdin Sweets and Cafe, the Film Lab, Balkan House, Yemen Cafe and others that have gotten regular or recent positive media attention.

Impressive as the above list may be, it is in reality a fractured collection of organic independents than a result of any intentional planning strategy.

Also, failures: how could the city allow a major local

and regional influencer like Wheelhouse Detroit to close up shop? Wheelhouse was more than about business, more about social innovation and lifestyle revolution: it was both a glimpse and a symbol of what a healthy, less-motorized transportation future could look like.

Owner Kelli Kavanaugh – a founder/organizer of successful events like Tour-de-Troit and the Paczki Run – is the kind of unique community partner that comes along too rarely and not easily replaced.

It is vision like hers – aside from the brick and mortar business itself – that can endure and still be used productively if we so desire. In City Life, we’ll follow the bouncing ball during the coming months to see if it does.

Native Hamtramckan Walter Wasacz’s column appears twice a month in The Review.



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license plate of CLU-1205. The car also has smiley face stickers on the back of both side mirrors.

- A Detroit resident was arrested for drunk driving (with three prior convictions of the same offense). A passenger was also arrested for possessing narcotics.

- A Highland Park resident was arrested for driving without a license, having an improper license plate, and for being wanted on various warrants.

- A resident in the 2300 block of Poland St. reported a break-in and the theft of three televisions, two computers and a cellphone.

Friday, Jan. 24

- At 1 a.m., a resident was arrested in the area of Commor and Dyar for possessing an open in-

toxicant in public, and for being wanted on various warrants.

- At about 3 a.m., a Detroit resident was arrested after a traffic stop for carrying a concealed gun without a permit.

- A report was made of an attempted theft of a catalytic converter from a vehicle parked on Caniff near Ellery.

- A hit-and-run accident occurred on private property in the 9400 block of Conant Ave.

- An agent for a school in the 2600 block of Poland St. reported a break-in, and the destruction of numerous items.

Saturday, Jan. 25

- A loose dog was captured on Danforth St. and taken to the Westland Humane Society.

- A Gallagher St. resident reported that she lost her Green Card.

Sunday, Jan. 26

- A McDougall St. resident reported being assaulted by a person who was driving a gray Jeep, who was possibly armed with a handgun.

- At about 2:30 a.m., a resident was arrested for an assault that happened in the 5000 block of Trowbridge St.

- A Danforth St. resident reported the theft of his vehicle.

Monday, Jan. 27

- At about 11:30 p.m., a resident reported being assaulted by her boyfriend at a residence in the 2300 block of Neibel St.

- A Detroit resident was arrested in the area of Carpenter and Mitchell for being disorderly and for obstruction.

- At a little after 1 a.m., a Detroit resident was arrested for drunk driving.

- A resident reported being assaulted while in the area of Burger and Mackay.

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