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# The Review

*Hamtramck*

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## Corona Virus Update

see page 3



## Quick Hits

### Art exhibit celebrates all things bowls

By Alan Madlane

Bowl. The word hollows the tongue, making of it its own lusty vessel.

Or not. In any case: bowl. You put a "b" in front of an owl, you've got a bowl. At least on paper.

What am I driving at? Or into?

Bowls, that's what. And there'll be lots of them, on display, at the Public Pool art space, coming up soon: all kinds / colors / shapes / and backstories.

Sad bowls, happy bowls, erotic bowls, psychotic bowls.

They'll bowl you over with bowls.

We're being light-hearted here, to the point of flip, but I'm betting there's a serious bowl or three in the mix too.

Forty-one artists are listed as providing bowl-shaped objects for the installation, which is opening on Saturday, Aug. 15 from 1 to 6 p.m. The exhibit will continue Saturdays at the same times, through Sept. 26.

Note that, in deference to the persistent pandemic we're all-too aware of, they'll only be letting three persons in at a time during those Saturday hours, in half-

**Continued on page 8**

## HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD

# Voters sink plans for a variety of school repair projects

By Charles Sercombe

Plans for building a new school and making major repairs to existing school buildings will have to be put on hold.

Hamtramck voters overwhelmingly rejected the public school district's bond proposal to raise seven property taxes by seven mills for up to 30 years.

Those voting against it totaled 2,571, and those for it totaled 1,380.

If it had passed, it would have raised \$35 million.

Those totals are not official yet.

The millage proposal faced steep opposition. On social media, particularly Facebook, residents, including former Hamtramck School Boardmember Nasr Hussain, spoke out against the proposal.

Also joining in the opposition were the vice principal of Kosciusko Middle School, Christina Adamczyk, and her husband David, who has done some

work for the district. They created a Facebook page dedicated to defeating the millage. Hussain also created a Facebook page campaigning against the proposal.

Critics said the district was asking for too much money while at the same time riding on a "sinking fund" millage that is paying for past building repairs.

*(Editor's note: See an accompanying story to the right of this column that provides responses to the millage defeat by Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed and Board President Evan Major.)*

Getting the vote tallies was no easy task.

Hamtramck City Clerk August Gitschlag emailed The Review at 3 a.m., saying there was a "technical nightmare with ballot jams and tabulator failures" in counting absentee ballots.

He stayed up until 4:30  
**Continued on page 2**



Most voters, over 3,000, opted to vote by absentee ballot in Tuesday's election. But those ballots proved to be a challenge to process.

### School officials respond to millage rejection by voters

By Charles Sercombe

Voters in Hamtramck defeated a Public School bond proposal in Tuesday's election.

The Review asked Hamtramck Public Schools Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed for comment.

Ahmed responded with a press release:

"Over the past year, we have worked closely with parents, teachers, the Student Youth Voice Engagement Committee and community members to put to-

**Continued on page 2**

## The lore of Hamtramck ...

### Schools debate opening in that other pandemic

By Greg Kowalski

The big debate centered on whether schools should open in light of the current epidemic. Was this putting students and staff at risk? Should the opening of the schools be delayed?

These were the key questions being raised – in September, 1949.

If the COVID-19 virus was around back then, it wasn't a threat. But polio

was, and it had struck just two weeks earlier, when a 7-year-old Hamtramck boy died of the disease.

Polio outbreaks had occurred sporadically for decades, and this wasn't the first time the opening of schools was debated. And polio wasn't the only pandemic threat.

In June, 1949, testing detected 173 cases of tuberculosis among city residents. But the threat of

polio raised the greatest alarm, perhaps because it tended to focus on children, the most vulnerable part of our population.

Hamtramck recorded four cases of polio in 1947 and one in 1948. That was a substantial improvement from 1946, when the city reported 18 cases, including six on one block. But even that wasn't as bad as 1939, when the city recorded 22

cases, three of which were fatal.

But there were no cases in 1949 until July, the heart of the summer, when polio tended to strike hardest. In a short span of a few weeks, four polio cases were reported.

That number wasn't high, and Hamtramck Health Commissioner Dr. C.A. Cetlinski stressed

**Continued on page 4**

### Voters may decide on public safety

By Charles Sercombe

Should Hamtramck abolish its police and fire departments, and the allow members of the city council to decide how to provide those services?

That's a question voters will be faced with on the November ballot – if state officials sign off on the wording of the two ballot proposals.

The proposals were presented to the city council last week by Councilmembers Mohammed Hassan and Fadel Al-Marsoumi, who said they are seeking ways to reduce city expenditures.

One proposal would eliminate the charter provision that establishes a police chief and police department, and the other one does the same thing for the fire chief and that department.

As one might expect, there was plenty of opposition from residents, and pushback on social media.

During the public comment portion of the council meeting, which is held before resolutions are discussed by the council, there was plenty of input – mostly from those against the proposal.

Among those opposed were several current and former Hamtramck firefighters.

Fire Chief Danny Hagen was the first from the fire department to speak at last week's city council Zoom meeting. He questioned the need for this proposal.

"I'm unaware of any major problems of either departments," Hagen said.

**Continued on page 4**

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- ENSURE ALL UTENSILS & SURFACES ARE KEPT CLEAN

# Voters sink plans for a variety of school repair projects

Continued from front page

a.m. processing the ballots with election workers.

In the race for state representative for the 4th district, Abraham Aiyash, a Yemeni-American from Hamtramck, won by a wide margin with 5,352 votes, which includes voters from the Detroit portion of the district.

He also won the temporary seat to fill out the term of Isaac Robinson, who died this year of COVID-19.

Aiyash said in a Facebook posting on election day that he was feeling

“very good” about election results.

“We are going to win this, folks,” he added.

Two other Hamtramck candidates, Michele Oberholtzer and Shahab Ahmed, trailed in that race. Oberholtzer came in second with 1,946 votes.

Several other Detroit candidates in that race were also in the races for the partial and full-term.

It has been 30 years since Hamtramck has had one of its own represent this district, which includes



**Abraham Aiyash, of Hamtramck, won the state representative race by a landslide. File photo**

part of Detroit, in the state legislature.

The last resident to serve was Chester Wozniak, who managed to squeeze in one last term when he was elected to the legislature in 1990.

That election victory was considered a fluke, and he served only one term. He had also previously represented Hamtramck in the 1950s.

In the race for Wayne County Commissioner for the district that includes Hamtramck, Highland Park and a portion of Detroit, incumbent Martha Scott coasted into victory with 10,761 votes.

Her only challenger was Hamtramck City Councilmember Mohammed Hassan, who garnered 3,481 votes.

Holding up Hamtramck election results, as well as for many other communities, were the high number of absentee ballots to process.

By state law, absentee ballots cannot be counted until election day – not as they come in to the city clerk’s office.

Many voters chose this method to vote because of health concerns posed by the coronavirus pandemic.

There were 3,111 absentee ballots, with another 648 that were never returned. In-person voting numbered 1,515. The total voter turnout was 4,626.

Looking to the November election, Aiyash and Scott should have no problem sealing their victories.

Since Hamtramck histor-



**Above and below: Scenes from Tuesday’s August Primary Election.**



ically votes heavily Democratic, it’s likely that Aiyash will go on to win the November runoff with his Republican rival, Howard Wheathington.

In Scott’s case, there is no Republican challenger to face in November.

In other election results: County Clerk Cathy Garrett ran unopposed on the Democratic ticket. She will face off with her Republican challenger Dylan Gomula in November, but county voters traditionally support Democrats in this race.

Wayne County Treasurer Edward Sabree faced two Democratic challengers but managed to survive, despite some ethics questions that dogged him this

election.

His Republican challenger is Anthony Wozniak.

In the Register of Deeds race, Democratic incumbent Bernard Youngblood beat his Democratic challenger by a landslide. His Republican challenger in November will be Parker Burns.

Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence, of the 14th District, which includes Hamtramck, was the only other incumbent on the ballot facing a challenger. She also survived.

Two Wayne County millage renewals, one for parks and another for a variety of expenses, were approved.

# School officials respond to millage rejection by voters

Continued from front page

gether a bond proposal based on their concerns and feedback about our aging buildings.

“Our district is home to many historically rich buildings, including the oldest functioning elementary school building in

Michigan. While we are proud of our heritage, our aging buildings desperately require upgrades to support our community’s children.

“We are disappointed our students will not see improvements to their

learning environment.

“We will continue to work collaboratively with the entire school community to determine what, if any, options we have to significantly improve our learning environment moving forward.”

School Board President Evan Major also had this to say about the millage defeat:

“While this effort was not successful, it was clear that when voters had accurate information, we found a lot of support.

“We’ve got some work to do communicating with the community so that we can still accomplish these essential improvements.

“Our commitment to our students, staff, and families has not changed. Therefore, we must still find a way forward”.



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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

## Virus update: Governor ramps up enforcement on wearing masks

By Charles Sercombe

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is cracking down.

Well, at least she's urging those agencies that issue licenses to businesses to monitor whether those establishments are enforcing mask wearing and social distancing.

"Ensuring these executive orders are enforced across the state will protect Michigan families, small businesses, and the first responders on the front lines of this crisis," said Governor Whitmer in a press release.

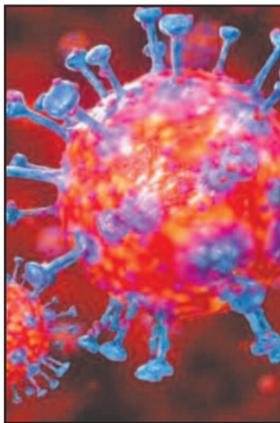
"This fight is not over yet. During the month of July, we saw an increase in positive COVID-19 cases in every region

of the state. By allocating the appropriate and needed resources, we can continue to save lives and ensure we don't have to move backward."

The uptick in COVID cases has resulted in Whitmer banning indoor service at bars that earn 70 percent or more of their earnings from alcohol sales.

Bars have been the epicenter of some recent COVID outbreaks both in the state and nationwide. A gathering at one Lansing bar led to over 180 people coming down with the disease.

It has been documented that bar patrons have been lax in social distancing and wearing



masks.

Outdoor service is still allowed, although the season for outdoor dining and drinking will be coming to a close in a couple of months when cold weather returns.

The directive by Whitmer follows a number of law enforcement agencies – mostly rural sheriffs – who have publicly said they refuse to enforce mask wearing or even respond to complaints about this matter.

Whitmer has not addressed this issue.

We reached out to Hamtramck Police Chief Anne Moise for comment on whether Hamtramck is enforcing the governor's directive, but as of

Thursday, when we went to press, there was no reply.

As for licensing agencies, Whitmer said, in a press release, that they "consider violations of law when determining eligibility for licensing. This includes any violation of relevant COVID-19 executive orders or epidemic orders.

"If a state department or agency becomes aware of non-compliance under the law, they must consider it to be presumptive evidence of a 'public health hazard' or 'imminent and substantial hazard to the public health' and take appropriate steps to mitigate any risk to public health and safety.

"This includes, but is not limited to, suspension of a license or cessation of operation of a food establishment."

Whitmer has previously ordered that people wear masks while in indoor spaces, and to also wear them outdoors when in a gathering of 100 or more people.

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# Voters may decide on public safety

Cont. from front page

"This is a dangerous proposal," Hagen added.

Bill Dickens, also of the fire department, said the proposal fails to say what a restructuring plan would look like.

"Resolutions like this make it harder to retain employees," Dickens said.

Rachel Srodek, sister of Councilmember Andrea Karpinski, was more direct, calling the proposal a "slap in the face" to residents.

"Shame on you for even allowing this resolution," she added, in a criticism aimed at City Manager Kathy Angerer who, with the mayor, prepares what will be on the council agenda.

But there was one resident who attended the Zoom meeting who seemed to be open to the

idea of allowing voters to decide the issue.

"If this doesn't pass, then it's over with," said Bill Meyer, who is the co-chair and founder of a non-profit group called OneHamtramck.

Plus, he added, the police and fire departments are "heavily white" and not representative of the city's demographics, which are largely Yemeni and Bangladeshi.

During the actual council discussion, Councilmember Karpinski questioned the timing of this resolution.

"This is coming out of left field. I'm absolutely opposed," she said.

She said there is no study to back up the need for this proposal, and that it is clear that a majority of the public opposes it.

There were some resi-



**Voters may be faced with a decision on whether to change the city charter to eliminate the police and fire departments and allow the city council to come up with a new way to deliver those services.**

dents who spoke out against the proposals, saying the replacement would be a public safety department, a model which a number of other communities in the region have tried, and later abandoned.

Mayor Karen Majewski attempted to correct that assumption, saying that there is nothing in the resolution that calls for the creation of a combined department.

"It's a generic term referring to police and fire," she said.

But she did question what would happen if voters approve the charter revision to eliminate the departments.

According to the city charter, the mayor does not vote on such matters unless there is a need to break a tie vote.

Councilmember Hassan said the proposal, if passed by voters, "does not eliminate any department."

He then said that combined police and fire departments have worked in other communities, such as the City of Fraser, and have resulted in lower costs to that city.

In Hamtramck, the police and fire departments represent about half of the city's annual budget – \$8 million. The city's total budget expenditure for the current fiscal year is \$17 million.

The city is currently in deficit spending and is burning through a \$5 million budget surplus which

will be exhausted in over a year.

Councilmember Nayeem Choudhury said the proposal isn't about combining the departments.

"It about giving the people the power to decide – not eliminate anything," Choudhury said.

The proposals, which are split into two separate proposals, ask voters whether to "delete and remove" the charter sections that create a fire and police chief, as well as fire and police departments.

And, if voters approve of either proposal, it would allow the city council to decide how to "provide for public safety (police and fire protection) in a manner that council determines is in Hamtramck's best interests."

Councilmember Al-Marsoumi defended the proposals, but focused his remarks on the fire department.

He said it's about addressing the costs of fire

fighters, considering most employees in that department work about half of each month. Hamtramck's firefighters work around-the-clock shifts for a few days, and then have a few days off before another shift starts.

While on duty, they sleep at the fire station.

Al-Marsoumi added that "it's about making it more affordable" to maintain fire service.

The vote on the matter was split 4-2, with Councilmembers Ian Perrotta and Karpinski in opposition, and Councilmembers Mohammed Alsomiri, Choudhury, Al-Marsoumi and Hassan in favor.

One reason why the proposal was presented at this point is because there is an Aug. 14 deadline to submit charter revision proposals for state officials to approve the language.

It's not clear when state officials will reach their decision.

## Schools debate opening in that other pandemic

Cont. from front page

that the city was not in the midst of an epidemic.

But the fear was real. In August, 1949, Channel 4, which was then WWJ-TV, broadcast a special program "Polio, U.S.A.," presented by the Wayne County Chapter of the National Foundation of Infantile Paralysis "in an effort to combat fear and panic, by providing important facts to bring a better understanding to polio."

With the COVID-19 virus, most people who contracted polio survived, but often with devastating disabilities. Information about polio being disseminated at the time sounded uncannily like what is being said today.

"Studies show that only a very few cases, perhaps

3 percent, are fatal," Dr. Raymond Podlowski wrote, in a front-page story in The Citizen newspaper in August, 1950.

"The proportion of reported polio victims to the population is relatively small, and all cases do not result in paralysis," Dr. Podlowski said.

He went on to note that many people probably carried the polio virus without being harmed by it, and probably half of all cases had not been detected.

But that was little comfort to the child that was stricken, and his or her parents.

However, back in 1949, the debate over opening schools was sparked by the death of that 7-year-

old boy. At the time, there were 7,000 students attending public and parochial schools in Hamtramck. The debate would actually not be settled for several more years, when polio vaccines were finally developed.

But in the late summer of 1949, the Hamtramck school board decided to open the schools as usual.

We'll see what happens in 2020.

You can learn more of Hamtramck's past at the Hamtramck Historical Museum, 9525 Jos. Campau. The museum is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays, and by appointment. Call (313) 893-5027.

## Online funding drive aims to help build a park

By Alan Madlane

Hamtramck's scant public park space is getting a tiny, but meaningful, boost.

An unnamed person donated the empty lot at 2134 Trowbridge, located between Lumpkin and Brombach, specifically to be turned into a public park – or in this case what's known as a pocket park.

Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency, aka Wayne Metro, are overseeing the project, now named the "Salam Peace Park."

The effort has a crowd funding effort attached to it, located on Patronicity (see specifics at the end of this article). They are attempting to raise \$22,000 over the next two months, which would trigger a matching grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation

(MEDC).

Any amount raised above that target sum "would enable the park to be built with higher quality inputs and materials," they say.

Hamtramck currently is only about three percent greenspace, putting it on a par with such clogged

urban areas as Mumbai, India and Shanghai, China, according to a bar graph included on the fundraising site.

The Salam Peace Park – and yes, the name is a bit of a redundancy, since the word "salam" means "peace" in Arabic (al-

Continued on page 8

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# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### School officials made the right decision for fall

Last week, it was announced that students in the Hamtramck Public School District – which does not include charter schools – will continue to learn from home this fall.

That decision was made by the school board and Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed, after careful consideration and recommendations made by health officials.

It was the right decision.

There have been schools here and there across the country that have already opened their doors to students, and the results were predictable: students came down with the coronavirus

that is still surging throughout the country.

Recently, there have been studies that show that children are super-carriers of the virus.

The potential for this virus to spread like a wildfire should be a warning to any district or charter school considering a return to in-person classroom learning.

This virus, which causes the COVID-19 disease that has killed over 150,000 Americans and counting, is far from being extinguished. In fact, health officials say it has been mutating and growing.

This thing is a monster. We know having stu-

dents at home presents a huge burden for parents, who will have to juggle home schooling and work. In fact, it is nearly impossible for them to do both.

This is where a coordinated national plan would be beneficial, but alas, it isn't so.

The good news is that school buildings in Hamtramck will be open for those students needing extra help or having special needs.

While the decision to continue stay-at-home learning is not welcome news to some households, in the end it was the right decision to make.

## Odds & Ends

**Memories...** An old illustration recently popped up on the Facebook page for a group called "Hamtramck Memories Back in the Day" that caught our attention.

It was of the former Liberty State Bank, and it was being promoted as the first the bank in Hamtramck to have drive-through teller windows.

From the looks of it, the illustration was made sometime in the 1960s.

The bank is now called Huntington, and it is moving out of its current location at Jos. Campau and Holbrook over to a storefront in the Hamtramck Town Center, just across Holbrook but still on Jos. Campau – but set back quite a distance, as most strip malls are these days.

It is located in the former Payless shoe store, and the bank will open there on Aug. 14.

The old building is considered a landmark in Hamtramck, and it was built in 1918. It was originally home to Merchants National Bank.

But the bank was long-known as Liberty State Bank.

**Reminder...** For those who missed this in last week's issue, the Hamtramck 31st District Court has extended its amnesty program through Aug. 31.

This means that anyone who has an unsettled financial obligation to the court can come in on or before that date, and settle up without being responsible for the default fees, late penalty fees, or in some cases even the warrant or show cause fees, if the original debt is paid in full. If you're wondering how much you owe, or what (or if) you're going to save, you can ei-

ther send an email to info@31stdistrictcourt.net, or else call them at (313) 800-5248.

**How sweet it is...** If you haven't been to Hamtramck's historic baseball stadium, get yourself over there pronto.

Renovation work has begun at the stadium, and new infield grass was laid in this week. It looks spectacular.

On the facebook page of the group called "Hamtramck Stadium Grounds Crew," Tom Derry of the group poetically wrote:

"We have grass.

We have water.

It already looks better than the PAL Field.

Baseball on real grass. It's a beautiful thing."

The PAL reference, for those not familiar with the organization, is an acronym for the Police Athletic League, which has overseen the renovation of the former Tiger

Stadium field.

That project has been heavily criticized, and despite earlier promises by the group to install real grass, an artificial turf has been placed in.

For baseball fans, this is an unforgivable sin.

But that insult pales in comparison to the murder of Tiger Stadium, and by murder we mean the demolition of it, and the moving of the team to a new stadium downtown.

But that's a whole other topic.

The good news is, Hamtramck is on the road to preserving its historic stadium.

The Grounds Crew, by the way, had been maintaining the former Tigers field until they were kicked out by the PAL group. The team of volunteers then switched allegiance, and have been maintaining the Hamtramck field.



There is a new infield at Hamtramck Stadium. Be sure to check it out.



This illustration, likely from the 1960s, showcased Hamtramck's first drive-through bank tellers at the former Liberty State Bank at Jos. Campau and Holbrook.

### Former detective charged with shooting his son

**By Charles Sercombe**

A former Hamtramck police detective has found himself on the other side of the law.

Michael Szymanski, 56, of Macomb Twp., has been charged with assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder.

The felony charge is a result of a shooting incident in which his son was shot in the abdomen.

The son, Steve Szymanski, 30, survived the shot, but faces extensive recovery.

The circumstances of the shooting remain unclear, other than it took place in Szymanski's home late at night where there was an ongoing party involving alcohol.

There was also apparently a dispute, but the sheriff's department has declined to elaborate on details.

According to a source familiar with the matter, the shooting might be a matter of self-defense.

Szymanski was released from custody on a \$100,000 personal bond – meaning no money was required to be paid for his release.

The case drew criticism from his son's relatives and friends, who complained that, because Szymanski is a former police officer and detective, he received special treatment.

On the night of the shooting, he was questioned by the Macomb

County sheriffs but was later released. The incident occurred over Memorial Day weekend, but it wasn't until last week that charges were filed.

Szymanski was known as a skilled detective in Hamtramck, but he also had vocal critics regarding how he handled some cases.

His father was a Wayne County Sheriff, who was once charged for shooting a Hamtramck store owner with whom he got into a verbal confrontation. The elder Szymanski was found not guilty of a felony after two hung juries.

Upon his retirement, Michael Szymanski has worked in the security field.

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## Obituaries

### BOCHNEK



Alina Bochenek, 70, died August 3, 2020.

Alina was the loving mother of Agnieszka Trzaskus, Jolanta Ziaja; grandmother of Bernard, Victoria, Dominik, Veronika; dear sister of Janina and Czeslawa Wilk, Bronislawa Bos, Andrzej, Jan and Jozef Bochenek; aunt of Renata Michael, Beata Kochanek, Arthur Bochenek, Adrian Bochenek, and Ryszard Bos. Alina is also survived by her cousin Bronislaw Rudny and also leaves many other family members and friends, who will sadly miss her.

Visitation is Saturday August 8, 2020 at 4 p.m. with Rosary at 6 p.m., at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home. Burial will be at Malawa Krasne in Poland.

### NOWICKI



Kenneth Nowicki Sr., 70, died July 31, 2020.

Mr. Nowicki was the father of Andria Byers, Jennifer Alsomairi, and Kenneth Jr.; son of the late Adalbert and Cassie; grandfather of

Sameera, Dennis Jr., Michael, Ali, Shianna, Alyssa, Samantha, Hannah, Adisa, Arnela, and Jasmina. Many great grandchildren also survive. He was the brother of Karen (Carl) Kraiza, Nancy (Dave) Marosi, and the late Katheryn Orzechowski-Shekoski.

Ken was in the United States Navy, worked for the City of Hamtramck, and retired from The Hamtramck Housing Commission. Ken was a member of the Knights of Columbus and enjoyed rooting for the Tigers, Lions, and Wings, enjoyed fishing and going to the St. Bonaventure Capuchin's Monastery.

Visitation was Thursday, August 6, with Funeral Mass Friday, August 7, 2020 at 10 a.m., at St Florian Catholic Church, 2626 Poland, Hamtramck MI 48212. Entombment will be at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Detroit MI. Arrangements were made by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home.



## City Hall Insider ...

What is our City Council up to these days?

We have the highlights of the latest council meeting.

By Charles Sercombe

The city council met on June 23, and all councilmembers were present.

City Manager Kathy Angerer gave her bi-monthly update on the Census, and how residents were responding.

Turns out residents have fallen behind, Anger said. The Census count here has not reached the count level in the state.

Angerer said there will be virtual Census events in the coming weeks.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, Bill Meyer said that it's not enough to be non-racists, people have to be "anti-racists."

He said it's been encouraging to see people across the country "rising up" to protest police brutality. He also noted that Hamtramck has some streets named after slave owners.

As for police departments, Meyer said cities have to get away from being "militaristic."

A woman complained about the nationwide changeover to 5G cellular networks, saying it has high radiation levels.

She said that this technology is dangerous to human health.

*(Editor's note: This has been a controversial claim. The World Health Organization says there is no evidence this technology poses a threat to people.)*

The woman urged the city to ban 5G from being installed here until more research has been done.

Kit Parks said the council's recent resolution condemning racism "sugar coated" the issue, because it did not directly address bias among some police officers. She said

she has witnessed Hamtramck officers interact inappropriately with minorities.

When she objected to their behavior, Parks said she was threatened with arrest. The officers, she said, "Were out of control."

The solution, she said, is to defund the city's police department. She pointed out that the police department represents one-third of the city's annual expenses, and that city officials should "divest" some of that budget to social programs.

Moving on, a public hearing was held on a proposal to adopt a new weapons ordinance, which in this case focused on the city's knife ordinance.

Bill Meyer said the proposal fails to adequately define what a weapon is.

He said someone could threaten others with a pair of scissors. Or, he said, "a rock could be a weapon."

Max Garbarino, the city's Director of Community Safety and Services, said the proposal updates the city's knife ordinance to comply with recent state regulations that were updated.

State lawmakers legalized switchblades.

"We're loosening it (the law) up," Garbarino said.

The proposal passed.

Another hearing was held on amending the city's fireworks ordinance, which also updated it to recent changes in state law.

Meyer once again questioned the proposal, saying that just like the weapons ordinance, this one fails to fully define what a firework is.

Garbarino said the city's update allows fireworks to be set off during Eid.

Councilmember Ian Perrotta said the ordinance does indeed define what fireworks are.

"We are just trying to make it safer for the community," Perrotta said.

The resolution was passed.

The city manager introduced a resolution to extend the city's contract with DivDat – a kiosk system where the public can pay city and county bills.

The extension is needed, City Manager Angerer said, because the city wants to add additional payments that can be made by the kiosk, which is located in city hall.

She said the company, DivDat, is willing to waive fees to include additional services in exchange for extending the contract.

The new services will include paying city income tax, building permits and business licenses.

The system has been a success since it was installed several months ago. Over 10,000 payments were made, totaling over \$1.6 million.

"DivDat was especially convenient to residents and helpful to city administration during the extended closure of city hall during the COVID-19 crisis," Angerer said in a note to the council.

"We anticipate that usage will continue to increase as customers become more familiar with the system."

The contract was approved.

In another contract matter, the council approved one with a company, BCL, that had been mowing city lots. The company will now mow residents' lawns that are not in compliance with

city codes.

"This proposed addendum allows the City of Hamtramck code enforcement officers to better administer all aspects dealing with non-city-owned properties in violation of the City of Hamtramck code of ordinances," Angerer said in a note to the council.

Angerer further said: "Our hope is to get to compliance."

Moving on to the city's budget, the council approved new adjustments.

Angerer said the coronavirus pandemic "had multiple impacts on us."

In some instances, the city saved money because it had to shut down a number of services and training programs.

In other areas, there has been reduced revenue.

A lengthy discussion was held on a resolution, introduced by Councilmember Fadel Al-Marsoumi, to recognize "prominent languages in Hamtramck."

His proposal would seek to have important city documents and other city information translated into Arabic and Bangla, the two most prominent languages spoken in the city, besides English.

Al-Marsoumi said the resolution came about after talking with community members who say they are disconnected with what's going on in the city because of their language barrier.

He said this action is "vital ... in order to get the community engaged."

Councilmember Perrotta also suggested including summaries of meetings in those languages.

Councilmember Andrea

Continued from page 8

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### By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers July 28-Aug. 7.

#### Tuesday, July 28

• At about midnight, a resident was arrested on Grand Haven St. for assault, malicious destruction of property and for disorderly conduct.

• At about 1:30 a.m., a resident reported that, while in the area of Conant and Caniff, someone stole his cellphone.

• At about 9 a.m., a resident reported that someone stole his vehicle while it was parked in the Brombach/Edwin area. The car was later recovered, without its license plate, in the 11800 block of Fleming St.

• An agent for Hanley House for Boys reported that two juveniles ran away.

• A resident of Roseville was arrested for carrying a weapon without a permit after three guns were found in their vehicle.

#### Wednesday, July 29

• At about 11:30 p.m.,

a resident reported that they were threatened while at a business in the 2900 block of Holbrook Ave.

• At 3 a.m., the driver of a purple Dodge Charger, which had no license plate, fled from officers while in the area of Holbrook and Lumpkin.

• A resident reported that someone maliciously damaged their vehicle.

• A resident in the 3400 block of Holbrook Ave. reported that someone damaged a window at their residence.

#### Thursday, July 30

• A resident of East Pointe was arrested for driving without a license and for being wanted on two felony warrants.

• Two residents were reported as being missing by their neighbor.

• A resident was arrested for assault and for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.

#### Friday, July 31

• A Whalen St. resident reported that a suspect

**Continued on page 8**



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### Continued from page 7

made numerous threats of physical harm via Facebook.

- Officers took a report of a sexual assault that occurred in the 9300 block of McDougall St.

- Two residents were arrested in the area of Jos. Campau and Evaline for fighting.

- A resident in the 12100 block of Charest St. reported that someone stole his cellphone from his porch.

### Saturday, Aug. 1

- At about 6 a.m., a Detroit resident was arrested for trespassing.

- A juvenile from a residence on Danforth St. ran away from home.

- A Zinow St. resident was arrested for burglary.

### Sunday, Aug. 2

- A resident on Oklahoma St. reported that his vehicle was stolen.

- A hit-and-run accident

occurred at Holbrook and Jos. Campau.

- A resident in the area of Trowbridge and Lumpkin reported that someone spray-painted their garage.

### Monday, Aug. 3

- At 3:45 p.m., a resident in the area of Burger and Fleming reported that a stray bullet struck a window at their residence. There was speculation that someone fired a gun into the air, and the bullet hit the window on its way down.

- A theft was reported in the 2300 block of Caniff Ave.

- The driver of a white Corvette convertible fled from officers during a police chase.

- Officers assisted the Children's Protective Service in an investigation in the 12000 block of Dyar St.

without living a hollow life thereafter, you can probably buy it – but not with cash. They'll take checks, credit or debit cards, PayPal, or Venmo.

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## Quick Hits

Continued front page

hour blocks.

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Note also that, if you find a bowl that you won't be able to live without,



## City Hall Insider...

Continued from page 6

Karpinski noted that there will be a cost factor in getting translations. She also suggested considering translations into Ukrainian and Polish.

City Manager Angerer said the resolution gives her administration latitude in coming up with a plan. She also suggested a subcommittee be formed to help decide what city documents need to be translated. Al-Marsoumi and Perrotta were placed on the committee.

In the vote to adopt the resolution, Councilmember Karpinski was the sole objection.

Some financial good

news was announced. The council agreed to accept a Bureau of Justice 2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Grant.

The grant is worth over \$53,000, and will be spent on "reimbursing overtime funds for police officers and supplies needed to maintain the safety all staff," Angerer said in a note to the council.

In her report to the council, Angerer cautioned the public that city parks are open, but are not being sanitized.

The city also has a tree-cutting program underway,

in addition to DTE Energy trimming trees that threaten its power lines.

For those wondering about potholes, Angerer said a crew is filling them three times a week.

Angerer reminded the public that city hall is open for business, but you have to wear a mask to enter the building. She encouraged the public to take care of paying city bills via the DivDat machine or online.

There is also a new drop box across from the front doors of city hall.

During the second public comment portion of the meeting, Andrew Perrotta, brother of Councilmember Ian Perrotta, said he would rather see money go to the

fire department than to the police department.

"I'd rather they show up than the police," he said.

He was then cut off by the city clerk after dropping an "F bomb."

Bill Meyer once again talked about racism. He said "it's so obvious" that city laws are based on the "white privilege foundation."

After a closed meeting, the council reconvened to adopt a new two-year police union contract. The contract does not include salary increases, but pays officers \$500 in the first year of the contract as a signing bonus, and then \$350 in the second year of the contract.

## Online funding drive aims to help build a park

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though it is also frequently used as a general greeting) – is actually a well-planned use of a modestly sized space.

The park-to-be sits between two other homes on Trowbridge. How on-board with the project those homeowners are is an interesting speculation.

As imagined by the five members of the Wayne State Student Urban Planners Design Team (Joseph Tangari, Katie Johnson, Chelsea Neblett, Robert Mehregan, and Dennis Arca), the small park will

feature 8-foot-high wooden fencing along the sides, and part of the alley end; two different sets of three trees; five benches; a children's area 30-foot square, with a playset including swings, a slide and a treehouse; and a bike rack.

Proponents ask that, if you like the idea, you consider these or other ways to support it: donate money toward it; let everyone you are connected to know about it; and pitch in at points when volunteers are needed.

As of the time of this ar-

ticle's writing, \$1,615 had already been raised.

You can find out more by going to [Patronicity.com](http://Patronicity.com)

and entering "Salam Peace Park" into the search window.

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The Review**  
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**MEET UP and EAT UP** Healthy food to fuel your summer.



### KOSCIUSZKO MIDDLE SCHOOL &

#### DICKINSON WEST

2333 Burger, Hamtramck, MI 48212

June 15 – August 28, 2020

#### BREAKFAST

#### LUNCH

9:00am – 12:00 Mon-Fri

**MEET UP and EAT UP** Healthy food to fuel your summer.

Distribution Location:

FLEMING STREET DOOR OFF THE PARKING LOT



**MEET UP and EAT UP** Healthy food to fuel your summer.



### DICKINSON EAST ELEMENTARY

3385 Norwalk, Hamtramck, MI 48212

June 15 – August 28, 2020

#### BREAKFAST

#### LUNCH

9:00am – 12:00 Mon-Fri

**MEET UP and EAT UP** Healthy food to fuel your summer.

Distribution Location:

CAFETERIA DOORS MAIN ENTRANCE



**MEET UP and EAT UP** Healthy food to fuel your summer.



### HOLBROOK ELEMENTARY & TAU BETA SCHOOL

2361 Alice St., Hamtramck, MI 48212

June 15 – August 28, 2020

#### BREAKFAST

#### LUNCH

9:00am – 12:00 Mon-Fri

**MEET UP and EAT UP** Healthy food to fuel your summer.

Distribution Location:

MAIN DOOR ENTRANCE ON GRAYLING STREET



**MEET UP and EAT UP** Healthy food to fuel your summer.



### HAMTRAMCK HIGH SCHOOL & HORIZON

11410 Charest, Hamtramck, MI 48212

June 15 – August 28, 2020

#### BREAKFAST

#### LUNCH

9:00am – 12:00

**MEET UP and EAT UP** Healthy food to fuel your summer.

Distribution Location:

WEST FRONT DOOR OF HIGH SCHOOL ON CHAREST STREET



**MEET UP and EAT UP** Healthy food to fuel your summer.



### EARLYCHILDHOOD

11680 McDougall, Hamtramck, MI 48212

June 15 – August 28, 2020

#### BREAKFAST

#### LUNCH

9:00am – 12:00 Mon-Fri

**MEET UP and EAT UP** Healthy food to fuel your summer.

Distribution Location:

MAIN OFFICE DOOR BY PARKING LOT ON CHAREST STREET



**MEET UP and EAT UP** Healthy food to fuel your summer.



### J & E COMMUNITY RELIEF

11816 Joseph Campau, Hamtramck, MI 48212

June 15 – August 28, 2020

#### BREAKFAST

#### LUNCH

9:00am – 12:00 Mon-Fri

**MEET UP and EAT UP** Healthy food to fuel your summer.

Distribution Location:

FRONT ENTRANCE OF BUILDING

On Joseph Campau