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Quick Hits

Planet Ant celebrates an anniversary

By Alan Madlane

What Hamtramck cultural institution has now been around for three successful decades, unabated?

What same cultural institution expanded its footprint some years back, buying up several of the city's other former cultural touchstones, including the former 7 Brothers Bar and the old Veterans Hall on Caniff?

Why, that would be Planet Ant, of course, and can we all agree, it's been a dominant cultural force in the city since its inception?

They recently welcomed new Executive Director Daniel Jackson, thanking former director Darren Shelton for his prior six years of service in the same role.

They came up with some new classes: "One Act Writing" and "Script to Screen Short Film," and created a new synergistic workshop for public input, their "Workshop Festival."

They've reopened their old black box theater, lovingly referring to it as the "Black Box," for both scripted shows and their lifeblood, improv; they've partnered with other creatives in the area, including Cinema Detroit, the Detroit Women of Comedy Festival, Tapes Only, and Ancient Teenage Cyber Hackers, for some more thrilling, as Chuck Barris used to call it, "Stuff!"

Continued on page 3

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Winter puts Hamtramck and the country in a deep freeze

By Charles Sercombe

After a warmer than usual December, winter came howling in from the north last Friday.

And it was freaky, on Friday afternoon, when this winter storm started out as a transition from a light drizzle to a heavy, wet snow – which meant shoveling driveways and sidewalks became a heart attack waiting to happen.

And, just for kicks, Mother Nature decided to throw in thunder, giving us official "thunder snow."

Well, the lightning was entertaining, but the strong winds led to power outages here and elsewhere across the metro area. Many residents here also lost their internet connections.

The curses about Comcast's "service" could be heard from house to house.

Fortunately, for most households that lost either power or cable service, it returned in time for Sunday's Detroit Lions



Few residents and visitors were spotted walking the streets this past week because of the frigid temperatures. Forecasts call for a warming up next week, reaching into the low 40s.

football game – and what a game!

(For those who have purposely ignored what happened, the Lions won their first NFL playoff game since 1992, and they will play once again this Sunday on their quest to make it to the Super Bowl.)

Hamtramck was hardly alone in suffering a bad case of winter. Actually, Michigan was hardly alone for that matter.

A polar vortex – an atmospheric condition that generates extreme cold – came barreling down from the arctic and into much of the U.S. – from the Dakotas to Florida.

In general, temperatures were about 20 degrees colder than normal.

The weather was so extreme, the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day prayer Breakfast held at the Hamtramck Schools' Community Center had to

be canceled.

And Hamtramck Public School students got additional days off, on Tuesday and Wednesday, because of the cold.

Hamtramck's Department of Public Works was pretty much on top of things when the snow started on Friday, and most streets had been cleared by later that evening. High winds caused some cleared snow to

Continued on page 2

Hamtramck Police Chief Anne Moise announces her retirement

By Charles Sercombe

In 2015, Hamtramck Police Chief Anne Moise made local history.

She became Hamtramck's first female chief of police. In fact, up until then, there had been few women who were even in the department.

There have been dramatic changes in the department since she became chief, and the department is also becoming more culturally diverse.

Recently, Moise announced that she will be retiring at the end of this



Chief Anne Moise

month. We asked Chief Moise to provide a brief summary of her career here in Hamtramck.

Here's what Moise had

to say, in her own words:

- I was hired in January 1999, and I was sponsored in the police academy by the City of Hamtramck.
- I spent several years working on patrol on both afternoons and midnights.
- I was a training officer.
- I have been the department's hostage negotiator since the early 2000s. In the early to mid-2000s, I successfully negotiated with a barricaded gunman who was holding his girlfriend's three children hostage

on Edwin St. It was the day after Christmas. After successfully negotiating with him, he released the children and surrendered without incident.

- In 2009, I became the first female command officer in Hamtramck history when I was promoted to Sergeant.
- In 2011, I was promoted to Lieutenant in charge of the patrol division.
- In March 2015, I was named Chief of Police, becoming the first female Chief in Hamtramck's 100-year history.

Continued on page 2

Pride flag ban is catching on

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck, apparently, has blazed a trail in how to deal with pride flags.

Last summer, the city council and mayor backed a ban on allowing pride flags from being flown on public property – leading to a cultural issue that split the community.

Before the council took that action, the city had allowed pride flags to be flown on city-owned flagpoles, particularly during Pride Month in June.

But when an all-male and all-Muslim conservative council and mayor were elected to office, that practice came to a halt.

The mayor and council took the step of banning most non-essential flags in the name of remaining "neutral" over what is considered controversial flags, such as, potentially, Nazi and Confederate flags.

Now, according to msn.com, other communities are taking similar action.

A Tennessee state representative, Republican Gino Bulso, recently introduced legislation in his state to ban the display of pride flags in public, including in public schools.

Bulso, who is a Christian, said the ban is to prevent "political" or "ideological" flags from being displayed.

He has said that parents want their children raised with the values of the country's founding fathers.

(It should here be noted that, at the time of the founding fathers, slavery was legal and women did not have the right to vote.)

Bulso's bill would allow only the display of the American and state flags.

Hamtramck's council resolution allows only the American, state, city and

Continued on page 5



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Winter puts Hamtramck and the country in a deep freeze

Continued from front page

drift back out into roadways, though, creating hazards anew.

As of Thursday, the weather prediction calls for more freezing temps on Saturday, but by Monday temperatures will rise back up into the 30s and by Wednesday, flirting with 40 degrees.

If you haven't taken any precautionary steps, here's a reminder of how to prepare in case the cold or snow causes a loss of electricity:

- Stock up on the necessities: Water, canned food, a battery-powered flashlight and radio, batteries, medicines, a first aid kit, portable chargers for phones, a manual can opener, a basic tool kit, baby supplies, warm clothing, cash and more.
- Refrain from using candles in order to avoid starting fires.
- Unplug all electronics and major appliances to avoid damage from voltage surges when power is finally restored.
- Keep refrigerators and freezers closed to preserve food. Use dry ice if possible. When in doubt, throw it out.
- Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning: Only turn on generators outdoors. Keep them away from doors, windows, and vents.
- DTE customers should report power outages here: 800-477-4747. Consumers Energy customers should report outages here: 800-477-5050.
- If there is an emergency, such as a fire or a downed power line sitting, for example, on an unoccupied car, first call 9-1-1, then call the power company at those same numbers above. For non-emergency situations, DTE customers can also report the downed power line online.
- Stay at least 25 feet away from downed power lines.

Lastly, cold weather like this can take its toll on folks, and now is a good time to interject some humor.

Let's revisit some of the cold weather jokes that former legendary late-night talk show host Johnny Carson worked into his monologues.

Herrrrre's Johnny!

"It was so cold, the politicians had their hands in their own pockets."

"Last night, it was so cold, the flashers in New York were only describing themselves."

"It's so cold I had to break the smoke off my chimney."

"It's so cold Dunkin' Donuts is serving coffee on a stick."

"It's so cold I had to chisel my dog off a fire hydrant."

Hamtramck Police Chief Anne Moise announces her retirement

Continued from front page

As Chief I have been involved in a lot of community engagement activities.

In addition, Chief Moise:

- Implemented an on-line training program for the police staff. Made training a priority for the police department.
- Significantly increased diversity in the police department.
- Applied for, and received, over \$2 million in grants for police equipment.
- In 2016, visited the White House with several other Police Chiefs as part of a roundtable discussion for the "President's 21st Century Policing" program.
- In 2016, was interviewed by CNN regarding our community.
- In 2018, traveled to Scottsdale, Arizona (fully funded by a federal grant) to attend a seminar on juvenile trauma.
- In 2022, was named Officer of the Year by my department and the HCI (Hamtramck Community Initiative).
- In July of 2023, was featured on WXYZ's "Check in with the Chief."

Moise also has a farewell message to the public:

"I am sure I am missing a lot more highlights, but I have had a very successful and rewarding career with the Hamtramck Police.

"I thank everyone for their support over the years, and wish the City of Hamtramck great success!!!"



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This week at the Library . . .

January 19, 2024

Exercise in the Library: Adaptive Yoga makes a comeback on Tuesdays at 2:30 pm and Tai Chi returning on Fridays at 10 am. These beginner friendly, weekly exercise sessions are sponsored by the RIM Foundation. Please wear comfy shoes and stretchy clothing for maximum enjoyment.

Chess Club: Something new just for you. Games held on this Thursdays at 3:30 pm right here in the library. Open to newbies, experienced pros, and all those in between.

Patricia Highsmith: This author, was born on January 19, 1921. Did you ever hear of "The Talented Mr. Ripley" or seen Hitchcock's film "Strangers on a Train"? Well, guess who typed up those classics bedtime tales. There is more to Highsmith's writings than death and violence, though. Grab a copy to see for yourself on your next visit to the library.

Story Time: Get you kids together and drop in on our Monday afternoon Story Time at 3:45 pm and Wednesday Story Time at 12:00 noon. Presented by guest readers from Hamtramck Federation of Teachers.

National Days: Be kind to any penguins you meet on the street because January 20th is National Penguin Day. On January 21st we celebrate National Hugging Day, as well and Grandma Day. Be sure to give her a hug. Grandpa too, (Grandpa Day falls on the January 22nd.) If you are equivocating about something, remind yourself of that old nike slogan (it will be Just Do It Day on January 24th). Oh, we almost forgot, January 19th is Good Memory Day!

Game Night: We are moving to Wednesdays. Join us for Game Night at the library. We are serving up something fun each Wednesday at 4 pm. Stop by and let us know that you have come to play. Everyone is invited.

Edgar Allen Poe: This poet and writer of mystery tales was born on January 19, 1809 in Boston, Massachusetts. His works include "The Fall of he House of Usher", "Tales of the Grotesque", "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" and his famous poem "The Raven"

Ethan Allen: This author was born on January 21, 1738 in Litchfield Connecticut. He was a hero of the American Revolution, who led the small force that captured Fort Ticonderoga in New York without bloodshed, in 1775. The fort contained needed supplies and ammunition.

Elizabeth Blackwell: She was awarded her MD by the Medical Institute of Geneva, New York, thus becoming America's first woman doctor.

Gold Rush: On January 24, 1848 the California gold rush began with the accidental discovery of the precious metal near Coloma during construction of a Sutter's Sawmill. An announcement by President Polk later in the year caused flood of "Forty Niners".

Library is located at 2360 Caniff Avenue, Phone (313) 733-6822
Or visit its website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us> for on line catalog
Attachments for printing, faxing or scanning send to hamtramcklibrary@gmail.com

Review: Opinion Page

Other Voices: Guest Editorial

Making progress, step by step

By Greg Kowalski

Once again, Michael Hauser did an excellent presentation at the Hamtramck Historical Museum recently.

His topic was J.L. Hudson's at Christmas, which evoked a lot of memories among the people who attended the talk, including some who actually worked at the great, old downtown store.

But it prompted a different sort of memory for me.

As I was setting up the PowerPoint projector for the presentation I thought back to when I first started doing programs on the history of Hamtramck, long before the museum opened. I did some at the public library, Cafe 1923 and a few other locations. Back then I presented slides. That was the best we could do at the time.

When the museum opened in 2013 we decided it was time to move up to the next technical level and switched to using a

laptop computer connected to a projector.

That was a big improvement because PowerPoint programs and projectors are much more powerful than slides and slide projectors and can be used even in lit rooms. Plus, we added a sound system so everyone, not just the folks in the first few rows, could clearly hear the presenter.

But that still wasn't enough. Michael asked if we had an audio link since he had three short videos with sound in his program. We had the microphone and speaker but it wasn't connected to the laptop. A quick trip to Micro Center solved that problem, and he was able to present the program with sound.

The point is that step-by-step we have improved our program presentations at the museum. And, in fact, it represents what we have accomplished over the last decade.

Although we get great help from our supporters we don't have the resources to make expensive renovations as fast as we would like to. But incrementally, we have been getting better and better.

You may remember what the museum looked like when we opened in 2013. To say it needed major upgrades is a massive understatement.

Yet we have been making those upgrades steadily, if slowly. Much still needs to be done. I have learned from our experiences to always aim high, we have done things I never thought we could achieve. We are still aiming high.

Thanks to you we have been able to do so much. And more is in the works. We are just getting started.

(Greg Kowalski is the Executive Director of the Hamtramck Historical Museum.)

Community spirit shines in Hamtramck's snowstorm response

By Max Gilginas

What a weekend it has been in Hamtramck! The office of Community Involvement extends heartfelt gratitude to the incredible snow shoveling volunteers who braved the elements, going above and beyond by helping neighbors in need.

A special shout-out to Phillip, Julia, Jessi, Elise, Ellie, Max, Hannah, Paige, Alex, Linda, Daniel, Daniel P, and Sophie – your dedication did not go unnoticed.

These selfless individuals took on the challenge, some even covering three or more houses to ensure the safety and well-being of their fellow residents.

Their efforts truly exemplify the strength of our community.

As the storm swept through, additional requests for shoveling poured in from the east and south ends, highlighting the ongoing need for assistance.

We appeal to the community to support our volunteers by lightening their loads on the north end. Every neighbor counts, and together we can make a significant impact.

A big thank you is also due to the generous contributors who made this community initiative possible. Hamtramck Hardware, Antar's Hardware,

Michigan Alliance of Timebanks, and Holy Cross Church, your donations played a crucial role in facilitating this much-needed service.

For those willing to lend a hand, please consider filling out the form on Hamtramck's Mutual Aid Facebook page or reach out via email to mgilginas@hamtramckcity.com. Your support will go a long way in ensuring the well-being of our neighbors.

To our dedicated volunteers, your commitment is commendable, and we express our deepest gratitude. Don't forget to pick up your volunteer packets from city hall as a token of our appreciation.

In the face of adversity, Hamtramck has once again demonstrated the strength of its community spirit. Together, we weather the storm – not just the snowstorm, but any challenge that comes our way. The Storm Team salutes each and every one of you for making a positive impact in our beloved city.

(Max Gilginas is the city's Community Involvement Coordinator.)

rate in kind.

In short, they did things.

Check out their website for some upcoming things you can see, or maybe even participate in – it's simple: planetant.com

Quick Hits

Cont. from front page

They revamped their comedy club, had a record year for fundraising, and disbursed money to performers at a record

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Odds & Ends

Update... It's been a few weeks since a suspect got away with a robbery at PNC Bank at Jos. Campau and Caniff, and there have been inquiring minds wondering where the case is at.

Hamtramck Police Chief Anne Moise gave The Review this update:

"Our detectives are working very hard on this case. They are following some leads, but nothing we can update the community on at this point."

Also, there were some who were wondering if the woman who was arrested for allegedly robbing a PNC Bank in Hazel Park might be connected to the Hamtramck robbery.

Moise said there is no link, at least not yet.

Pulling the plug... The Hamtramck arts scene has lost one of its recent mainstays.

Public Pool, that prominent gallery right there on Caniff at Gallagher in the heart of the city, has closed permanently after being unable to come to terms with the owner of the building in which they've been housed.

Gallery manager Alice V. Schneider cut right to the chase in the opening sentence of her mourn-

ful press release, stating that it "breaks our hearts to announce this."

"Over the years, we have been immensely grateful to be a part of this vibrant and artistic community," the release went on. "The support from local creatives, visitors, and participants has been nothing short of inspiring."

She continued:

"We want to express our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who has contributed to the success of Public Pool. Your creativity, enthusiasm, and passion for the arts have left an indelible mark on our gallery."

"While the unforeseen circumstances with building ownership have led to this decision, we cherish the memories created and the connections forged within these walls."

"Thank you, Hamtramck, for being our home and allowing us to be a part of your artistic journey. We will always hold a special place in our hearts for the incredible community that made Public Pool a truly remarkable space."

In one sense, it seems like the gallery just opened yesterday, but in another way it feels like

it's been around for ages.

Could it be possible that some art-loving savior could come along quickly, and offer up a substitute space that could keep it all going? Well, stranger things have happened.

But if not, then thanks are in order – for Public Pool, with its unique storefront appeal and inclusive philosophy, was certainly a master class in how to run a funky urban gallery the right way.

Instead, it feels like yet another fine institution gone too soon, and with that, a piece of what has made this city so intriguing for so long.

Farewell Pool-no-longer-Public, you will be missed.
(By Alan Madlane)

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January 19, 2024

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Local events, Library programs,
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By Charles Sercombe
This week's Crime Log covers Jan. 9-15.

Tuesday, Jan. 9
• At 11 p.m., a fight was reported in the 3800 block of Prescott.
• A complaint was made about harassment in the 3400 block of Evaline.
• Officers responding to a call about retail fraud at a business in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau arrested a Detroit male as he fled from the business.

Wednesday, Jan. 10
• At almost 12:30 a.m., a complaint was made about an unwanted guest in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
• A complaint was made about noise in the 2300 block of Carpenter.
• At 1:15 a.m., a male driver was arrested for driving without a license, and for being wanted on several warrants.
• At about 4 a.m., officers responded to a call about a suspicious person in the 8900 block of Jos. Campau.
• A complaint was made about an animal in the 3200 block of Yemens. Complaints about animals were also made on Edwin, Belmont and Dequindre.

Thursday, Jan. 11
• A complaint was made about an animal in the area of Edwin and Buffalo.
• At a little after 1 a.m., a complaint was made about a disorderly customer at a business in the 2900 block of Holbrook.
• At almost 3 a.m., officers responded to a call about a missing juvenile in the 9300 block of McDougall. The juvenile was later located and returned by Detroit police officers.
• A loose dog was reported in the area of Jos. Campau and Hamtramck Dr.
• A theft was reported on Holbrook.
• A business on Jos. Campau reported an incident of fraud.
• An assault was reported on McDougall.
• A domestic assault was reported on Lehman.
• Family trouble was reported on Jos. Campau.

Friday, Jan. 12
• Officers responding to a call about customer trouble at a business in the 3000 block of Holbrook arrested the customer.
• A theft was reported in the area of Conant and Jacob.
• An incident of fraud was reported by a resident on Botsford.
• A domestic assault was reported in the 2200 block of Grayling.
• Customer trouble was reported at a business in the 12100 block of Conant.
• A domestic assault was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
• A reckless driver was reported in the area of Jos. Campau and Carpenter.
• An assault was reported in the 3100 block of Holbrook.
• A hit-and-run accident happened in the 5100 block of Yemens.

Saturday, Jan. 13
• A trespassing complaint was made in the 2600 block of Holbrook.
• Family trouble was reported in the 3200 block of Jacob.
• A hit-and-run accident happened in the 2200 block of Florian.
• An attempted auto theft was reported in the 11600 block of Gallagher.
• An incident of fraud was reported in the 9300 block of Conant.
• A complaint was made about an animal in the area of Roosevelt and Gallagher.

Sunday, Jan. 14
• Complaints about noise were made in the 2600 block of Holbrook and the 2200 block of Danforth.
• A break-in was reported on Yemens.

Continued on page 5

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Pride flag ban is catching on

Continued from front page

Prisoner of War flags, as well as the flags that represent the international character of the city’s residents – many of who are immigrants, or sons and daughters of immigrants, from various countries in the world.

Florida and Utah have similar pending legislation, and a number of school boards across the county ban the display of pride flags.

Hamtramck officials said they took that action because of feedback they received from residents. Some residents who are opposed to displaying pride flags refer to them as “sin flags.”

But, in a federal lawsuit filed by two former members of the Housing Commission (who defied the council’s policy and raised a pride flag on a

Jos. Campau flagpole), it has been claimed that the council was influenced by religious beliefs.

The two former commission members, Russ Gordon (who had been the longtime chairman) and Catrina Stackpoole, said their First Amendment rights had been violated, among other constitutional issues.

They quoted former Councilmember Nayeem Choudhury as proof that some on council acted out of religious beliefs. At a past council meeting, where the council resolution was passed despite passionate objection by some during a three-hour public discussion, Choudhury said:

“...We have to respect the religions. We have to respect the people around here. Schools,

mosques, churches.”

Choudhury also said that the LGBTQ community, which the pride flags represent, is welcomed in other ways.

“You guys are welcome to the community. You guys (are) welcome to walk to the restaurants, walk to the grocery store,” Choudhury said.

“Why do we have to have a flag flown in the city property to be represented? You’re already represented. We already know who you are, and we don’t have any hate or any discrimination against that. We get along very well.”

Mayor Amer Ghalib has dismissed the lawsuit and the fuss about pride flags as coming from supporters of former Mayor Karen Majewski and the prior administration.

He said that this is “another unnecessary distraction by the former power structure that doesn’t like to see the city moving forward. Good things are happening for the first time in decades, such as budget surplus and infrastructure repair.”

“This exposes the former egregious leadership failure, therefore they want to constantly create obstacles on our way.”



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 Dec. 12, and all councilmembers were in attendance.

A proclamation was read thanking Councilmember Nayeem Choudhury for his service. Choudhury lost his re-election bid last November, and will no longer be a member of the council after December.

The proclamation read, in part:

“Nayeem Choudhury has served our community with unwavering commitment, passion, and diligence during his tenure as a City Council Member; and his tireless efforts have significantly contributed to the betterment of Hamtramck, leaving an indelible mark on the city's progress and development; and Nayeem Choudhury has exemplified the true spirit of public service, advocating for the well-being and interests of our residents with integrity and compassion; and his leadership, wisdom, and collaborative approach have fostered a positive and inclusive environment within the City Council, promoting unity and cooperation among

colleagues. ...”

Later in the meeting Choudhury said he was “very honored to be part of this council. ... It’s been an honor serving this community.”

An audit of the city’s financial picture was presented by representatives from UHY certified accountants.

Some of the findings included:

- The biggest expense for the city is public safety, which includes police and fire service. That budget is \$13.5 million.
- The second largest expense is for general government services, totaling \$5.2 million.
- The main revenue source is from property taxes at \$7.6 million, followed by state revenue sharing, \$5 million, income taxes, \$3.6 million and fines, \$1.9 million.
- The city received \$2.3 million from the Biden administration’s Rescue Plan Act, which was used to supplement city employee payroll.
- During the past year, the city spent \$2.6 million replacing lead water lines, and \$4.6 million for other infrastructure upgrades.
- Thanks to the increase in property values, the city collected an extra \$708,000 in property taxes, although state revenue sharing decreased by \$422,000.
- Thanks to the state,

the city received \$16 million to shore up its pension fund.

• If Wayne County transfers inmates in the Hamtramck county jail, the city could face a loss of \$1.4 million in revenue that is paid by the county in lieu of property taxes.

An overview was given on the plan to restore restrooms in Veterans Park this year. The project is expected to begin in spring.

Hennessey Engineers gave an update on various improvement projects that happened in the city and what’s to come in the new year.

The city received \$19 million in various federal grants. This year, the city will replace 1,700 more lead water lines.

There will also be a number of streets and alleys being repaved, including Caniff, from Jos. Campau to Conant. The council agreed to allocate an additional \$907,500 to do additional alley repaving.

“Next year (2024) is going to be hell with traffic,” said Public Works Director John DeAngelis.

Councilmember Mohammed Hassan motioned to remove a resolution to rename the Hamtramck portion of Holbrook as “Palestine Ave.”

The renaming would be honorific only. Holbrook’s

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NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF HAMTRAMCK

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Hamtramck (the “City”) intends to issue bonds, in one or more series, in an amount of not to exceed \$11,500,000 (the “Bonds”).

The Bonds shall be issued to pay the cost to design, purchase, acquire and construct improvements to the City’s Sewage Disposal System, including, but not limited to, acquisition and construction of new relief sewers, related appurtenances and facilities, relocation of existing utilities to accommodate such improvements, and improvement of related, existing facilities as well as all work necessary and incidental to these improvements, including without limitation the restoration of property, streets, rights-of-way, and easements affected by the improvements and to pay the costs of issuing the Bonds and capitalized interest, if any.

The Bonds of this issue shall mature within the maximum terms permitted by law with interest on the unpaid balance at a rate not to exceed the maximum rate permitted by law payable over not more than forty (40) years from the date of issuance of the Bonds. The Bonds shall be issued pursuant to Act 94, Public Acts of Michigan, 1933, as amended (“Act 94”).

SOURCE OF PAYMENT

The principal of and interest on the Bonds shall be payable from the net revenues derived from the operation of the Sewage Disposal System. In addition, the Bonds may be secured by a pledge of the distributable state aid received by the City from the State of Michigan and/or the full faith and credit of the City as limited by applicable constitutional, statutory, and charter limitations on the taxing power of the City.

RIGHT OF REFERENDUM

The Bonds will be issued without a vote of the electors approving such Bonds, unless, within 45 days from the date of publication of this Notice of Intent, a petition, signed by not less than 10% of the registered electors residing within the limits of the City shall have been filed with the City Clerk or other recording officer of the City requesting a referendum upon the question of the issuance of the Bonds. If such a petition is filed, the Bonds shall not be issued until approved by the vote of a majority of the electors residing within the City qualified to vote and voting thereon at a general or special election.

This Notice is published pursuant to the requirements of Section 33 of Act 94.

Rana Faraj, Clerk

Continued from page 4

- A loose brown and white dog was taken to the Westland Humane Society.

Monday, Jan. 15

- At about 3 a.m., officers assisted a stranded motorist.

Customer trouble was reported at a business in the 2700 block of Carpenter.

- Officers investigated a suspicious situation on Jos. Campau.

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Covid update: Covid cases on the increase and still pose a risk

By Charles Sercombe

Covid-19 has once again struck in Hamtramck. According to Wayne County health officials, another Hamtramck resident has died of covid, bringing the total number of covid victims to 84 for the past three years, since when the pandemic began. The last previous covid death in Hamtramck was reported back in November. This latest death comes at a time when covid cases are increasing nationally, as well as regionally.

Since the end of November, the number of new covid cases in Hamtramck increased to 101, bringing the total number to 6,375 for the past three years. Statewide, according to officials, the number of cases rose 10 percent. However, that number is likely an undercount, since many people test at home but then don't report that they actually have covid, health officials say. While there has been an uptick, state officials say covid poses a medium health threat in this

area. In some states, such as California, the covid outbreak has reached a point where people working and visiting hospitals must wear masks. Health officials in general recommend wearing a mask when out in public. Scientists say that it's likely covid is here to stay – at least for the foreseeable future. The virus keeps mutating and therefore requiring yearly vaccine updates – much like flu shots.

Crime watch: Which vehicles are being stolen, and handling road rage

By Charles Sercombe

In last week's issue we identified a common crime trend in Hamtramck that has recently spiked – auto thefts. Hamtramck Police Chief Anne Moise has also confirmed the trend. Although, it appears that, since last week, the number of incidents have gone down. The daily incident reports issued by the Hamtramck Police Department do not identify what brands or models of vehicles are being stolen here. But Motor Trend recently came out with a list of the top models that were being stolen in the U.S. in 2022. Full-sized trucks were the number one target. Here's what Motor Trend identified as the top 10 most stolen autos:

- 10) Honda CR-V: 13,832 Thefts
- 9) GMC Sierra: 16,622 Thefts
- 8) Toyota Camry: 17,094 Thefts
- 7) Kia Optima: 18,221 Thefts
- 6) Hyundai Elantra: 19,602 Thefts
- 5) Hyundai Sonata: 21,707 Thefts
- 4) Honda Accord: 27,089 Thefts
- 3) Honda Civic: 27,113 Thefts
- 2) Ford F-150: 48,175 Thefts
- 1) Chevrolet Silverado: 49,903 Thefts

A “key” way to preventing your vehicle from being stolen is to install a kill switch.

And also, in other vehicle-related crimes, Hamtramck has not been immune to incidents of road rage. In a recent article published in Salon.com, E. Scott Geller, a professor of psychology at Virginia Tech, says that an increase in these incidents may be due to people being tied in more to the internet. Geller says that this has led to a decline to “in-person” interactions, which leads to some people dehumanizing others. So, while these folks who fly into a rage would not normally exhibit bad behavior while face-to-face with others, that sense of civility goes away once they are isolated in their vehicles. According to Michiganautolaw.com, a private attorney firm, some examples of road rage include:

- Ramming another vehicle
- Sideswiping another vehicle
- Forcing another driver off the road
- Blocking cars attempting to pass or change lanes
- Cutting in front of someone and then slowing down
- Brake-checking or slamming on one's brakes
- Running red lights
- Getting out of the car to confront another driver
- Physical threats
- Throwing objects at another driver, other vehicles or pedestrians or bicyclists
- Cursing

- Verbal insults
- Making rude or obscene gestures
- Flashing one's high beams
- Honking
- Speeding
- Weaving
- Tailgating
- Discharging a gun at another driver, other vehicles or pedestrians or bicyclists
- Deliberately changing lanes too close to another vehicle

If you find yourself on the receiving end of a road rage motorist, the law firm recommends doing the following:

- Don't respond. Avoid the hand gestures and nonverbal communication that prompts and/or aggravates a developing situation.
- Remain calm. The best way to avoid this behavior is to avoid engaging with the other driver.
- Be courteous, or at the very least, be patient. Try your best to stay calm, regardless of what you encounter on the road.
- Don't get out of your car.
- Call 911.Or drive to a nearby police station when it's safe to do so.
- Report aggressive drivers. Call 911 to make a report with detailed information.

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City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 5

official name would remain the same. Councilmembers Mohammed Alsomiri, Muhith Mahmood and Abu Musa agreed, with Councilmembers Khalil Refai and Choudhury opposed. During public comment, Bill Meyer said he was disappointed that the council removed that resolution. “This could have been a courageous action on your part,” Meyer said. Meyer said the council would have been the first in the country to take this action. “You should be ashamed for what you just voted on,” he said. Later in the meeting, Mayor Amer Ghalib convinced the council to reconsider that action, and the resolution was returned to the agenda. Ghalib said that not taking that action would leave people “disappointed.” He added that it would make it “look like we don't support Palestine.” Councilmember Hassan disagreed, saying that the council should reserve making honorific street names for people only – such as Yasser Arafat (former chairman of the now defunct Palestine Liberation Organization.) Ghalib said that the people of Palestine are more important than Arafat. He said that if the council does not approve the proposal, that “social media will attack us.” Later in the meeting, the council – in a close vote – approved renaming the same section of Holbrook as Palestine Avenue. In a return request, Police Chief Anne Moise asked for the approval to purchase 15 license plate reading cameras. She stressed that a number of criminal incidents in the recent past could have possibly been solved if the city had the cameras. She promised that the cameras would not be used to spy on people or even used for traffic enforcement. Moise also said that the Dearborn Police Department uses the cameras and have found them to be effective tools. Unlike a previous at-

tempt to get the council's approval, this time the council OK'd the purchase. Councilmember Hassan the cameras will “give you the look you need.” In another police matter, the council approved the installation of more stop signs in order to help curtail speeding drivers. “We are committed to safety,” said Chief Moise. The following locations will now have stop signs:

- Brombach at the intersection of Norwalk
- Brombach at the intersection of Edwin
- Brombach at the intersection of Yemans
- Brombach at the intersection of Belmont
- Gallagher at the intersection of Trowbridge
- Gallagher at the intersection of Yemans
- Mackay at the intersection of Burger
- Mackay at the intersection of Casmere
- Casmere at the intersection of Sobieski



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