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February 23, 2024 **50¢**

The Review
Hamtramck

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FEBRUARY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Quick Hits

Bring on the bars

By Greg Kowalski

Bars have long played a major role in the Hamtramck social scene. In fact, Hamtramck gained national attention for the number of bars squeezed into this enclave of 2.1 square miles. No one knows for sure how many there were but at least 200 bars were operating in Hamtramck at one time.

And Hamtramck's legendary music has been closely tied to the bars for decades. On March 1 and 2 the city will host the Hamtramck Blowout, a musical festival with bands playing in sites across town including bars.

Coinciding with the Blowout, the Hamtramck Historical Museum will present a special program, "Bring on the Bars" at 6 p.m. Friday, March 1, at the museum, 9525 Jos. Campau.

This is a partial repeat of the "Bars, Beer and the Beat of Hamtramck" program presented several years ago but with a twist: The program has been updated to capture the sounds of music that have rocked local bars.

From the Legendary Lili's to the sweet Blues at The Attic it will all be presented in a Power-Point presentation.

And there's more: As a special treat, the

Continued on page 2

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

This year's MLK celebration called for political action

*"It's been a long
A long time coming, but I
know
A change gon' come
Oh yes, it will"
Same Cooke, "A change is
gonna come."*

By Charles Sercombe

Perhaps because it's a presidential election year –but maybe, also, because this country is so politically divided – that this year's Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast had a certain air of urgency.

The theme of the breakfast was "A change is gonna come" – which is a song that the late soul singer Sam Cooke made popular. The song referenced the civil rights struggles of the black community as it was in the 1950s and 1960s.

The annual breakfast was supposed to be held on Jan. 15, but the event was canceled due to the extreme cold on that day. That call came from the Hamtramck Public School Superintendent, Jaleelah Ahmed, who closed all the schools, including the Hamtramck High School Community Center where the event is held.

The breakfast is sponsored each year by the Concerned Women of Hamtramck, which has been hosting it for 26 years.

A highlight of the morning event was the annual talent competition among HPS students. As usual, students presented a variety of poems, and dance and musical performances.

An unscheduled appearance was made by actor Gill Harper, who is seeking to be elected to the U.S. Senate seat that Sen. Debbie Stabenow is retiring from at the end of her term this year.

Harper is running as a

Democrat, and he offered a lively motivational-style talk, walking off from the dais to interact with the audience.

Harper said Hamtramck is a model city for inclusion in regard to races and religions.

"Hamtramck represents, to me, the greatest city," he said.

Harper noted that the concept of multi-ethnic inclusion is "under attack" in the nation. Speaking to the adults and students in the room, he said it's up to all of us "to do something" to bring about change.

"We're in this together," Harper said.

Echoing that sentiment was co-organizer, and President of the Concerned Women of Hamtramck, Madelyn Porter, who said "We are for the people."

Noticeably absent were the mayor and city councilmembers, as well as most of the school board. Only Boardmembers Daz'Shavon Hall and Abdulmalik Algahaim attended.

HPS Superintendent Ahmed was also out on a medical leave.

Former Superintendent Tom Niczay was the keynote speaker, and encouraged students to shoot big when they consider careers.

"Whatever career path you choose, shoot for the moon, and if by chance you fall short, you'll land on a star," he said.

Rounding out the morning breakfast was the district's own Eric Porter, who gave a soulful rendition of "A Change is Gonna Come."

How he does not have a recording contract by now will continue to be one of life's mysteries – he is that powerful of a singer.



School board clashes over agenda items

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck's school board meeting a few weeks ago was full of fireworks.

A clash has apparently erupted between Board President Jihan Aiyash and Vice President Salah Hadwan.

The two had been in what appeared to be an alliance for the past year, but that relationship took an unexpected turn for the worse.

Hadwan came out swinging at the beginning of the meeting, trying to get two resolutions added to the meeting's agenda. One of the resolutions was to reverse the 700-percent pay raise the board previously approved, including for Hadwan.

Aiyash only allowed his resolution to accept his resignation as vice president to be included in the board's agenda for the meeting.

It's the board's policy to have the superintendent create the board's meeting agenda, and it's up to the board president to allow items to be added to the agenda.

Hadwan also had issues over agenda proposals to hire various attorneys to take over legal matters.

He repeatedly asked who made the decision to select which attorneys to hire that were already on the agenda.

Aiyash said it's within her authority as president to create the agenda.

"That's your opinion," Hadwan shot back, to which Aiyash replied: "No, that's my role."

Hadwan then accused Aiyash of violating the state's Open Meetings Act multiple times.

Later, Hadwan asked who decided, for the board, to vote on Boardmember Abdulmalik Al-

Continued on page 2



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Feb 28 – The Bitter Lamentations (Part I) 7 pm

Feb 24 – Drive-thru / Take-out Polish Dinner 3:30 - 5:30 pm
Menu: Pork Chop, Kielbasa, Pierogi/sour cream, Sauerkraut (Bigos), Mashed Potatoes/gravy & Paczek
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School board clashes over agenda items

Continued from front page

gahaim taking on his old role of vice president. He said nominations for board officers, such as president and vice president, usually come from boardmembers during an open meeting. “There was no nomination from the board,” Hadwan said. “You (Aiyash) can’t admit it. Did you violate the Open Meetings Act?” The agenda had originally called for the removal of Hadwan as vice president, but the only reason given was for “cause.” The “cause” was never explained, but the rupture in Hadwan’s relationship with Aiyash and the board was evident in January’s meeting when the board gave Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed a poor work evaluation for the past year. Hadwan was apparently opposed to that assessment and left the board meeting after a

three-hour closed session to discuss Ahmed’s yearly evaluation. Shortly after that evaluation, Ahmed took a leave of absence, citing unspecified medical reasons. According to district sources, Ahmed plans to return on March 8, although there is wide speculation that she may resign. An interim superintendent was appointed at the February meeting. The board also, except for Hadwan, passed a resolution to censure Boardmember Regan Watson for not attending any meetings since last March, and without explanation. Watson was stripped of her title as board treasurer in 2023 after being re-appointed to that position. She has not attended a board meeting since that action. She has also not returned emails from The Review asking why she stopped attending. Hadwan once again pounced on that resolution, accusing Aiyash of having a “personal ven-

detta to get her off the board.” Aiyash spent most of 2022 absent from the board. She said she told the board president at that time, who was Hadwan, that she would be absent, which is the first time that became public. During her absence, Aiyash did not return emails from The Review to explain her absence. In a curious coincidence, Aiyash returned to

board meetings in 2023 at the same time Superintendent Ahmed also returned from taking an initial medical leave and then being put on a paid suspension by a former board, for reasons that were never explained. The board had a rocky school year in 2023, failing to meet at least once per month, as required by state law, on three different months. City Called Hamtramck” and more. You can rock your socks off to the Hamtramck tunes of Gene Krupa, the York Brothers, Frank (Kowal) Smith and others. Admission is \$5 and light refreshments will be served.

Quick Hits

Cont. from front page

program will be accompanied by the music of great recordings, such as “Hamtramck Mama,” “Hamtramck Taxi,” “Jos. Campau,” “There’s a



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This week at the Library . . .

February 23, 2024

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.

Together We Read: Get on board with this program to connect with book lovers from all across the country. This digital book club offers participants access to ebook and audiobook versions of its chosen title without having to navigate waitlists and borrow limits. Then from February 21st to March 6th, join in on the discussions from your computer, tablet or other smart device. On the menu for this term is Terah Shelton Harris’s debut novel “One Summer in Savannah”. Be ready for an emotional read as this one deeply interrogates questions of family, redemption and unconditional love. Head on over to www.togetherweweread.com/us/ to see full details and take part in the ongoing book chats.

Term Limits: On February 27, 1950 the 22ms Amendment to the U.S.A. Constitution was ratified, limiting the president to two terms or a maximum of ten years in office.

Exercise in the Library: Adaptive Yoga is back on Tuesdays at 2:30 pm and Tai Chi 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 maxi-

mum enjoyment.

Hoopla: Visit our website at www.hamtramck.lib.mi.us to find a link to Hoopla and its huge digital media collection under the eResources tab near the top left corner of the homepage.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: This American poet was born on February 27, 1807 in Portland, Maine. He was best known for “Paul Revere’s Ride”, “The Song of Hiawatha” and “The Wreck of the Hesperus”.

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.

Peace Corps: On March 1, 1961, President John F. Kennedy established this organization by sending young American volunteers to developing countries to assist with health care, education and other basic human needs.

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. The programs are presented by guest readers from Hamtramck Federation of Teachers.

Alexander Graham Bell: He was born on March 3, 1847 in Edinburgh, Scotland. Bell and his father were involved in teaching deaf persons to speak. Bell developed a method of transmitting sound electronically.

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

What do you think?

By Greg Kowalski

One of the biggest challenges of operating a historical museum in Hamtramck is that there is almost too much history.

So much has happened in Hamtramck over the years that there is a seemingly endless supply of topics for exhibits and material to put on display. We try to keep up by constantly rotating exhibits, tweaking displays and exploring new topics.

And overall, I think we do a pretty good job. But still, we have barely begun to dig into Hamtramck's history (and that includes the three archaeological digs Wayne State University anthropology students have done here with the assistance of the museum).

But just how good of a job are we doing? That is a question we constantly ask ourselves. We risk

being biased in answering it, so we are turning to you for answers.

Near the front of the museum stands a podium (that, incidentally, was at St. Florian Church) with an open binder on top. We invite people to write their comments about the museum and what they think of it.

I'm pleased to say that the comments collected - and there are hundreds - are overwhelmingly positive. That's encouraging but isn't a very scientific way to gather information. So we're going to take this to the next level. We are in the process of developing comprehensive surveys to gather input from the public on specific programs and the museum as a whole.

These surveys will help us get a better understanding of what the public thinks of what we are doing well and what

needs to be improved. The surveys will be available at the museum and on our website in a few weeks, and we will be actively seeking comments.

It's important for us to know what you think of us and if we are succeeding in our mission to preserve and promote Hamtramck's wonderful history.

What you think matters greatly to us and can help us improve in a variety of ways ranging from programs offered to building upgrades. And your comments will help shape our future direction.

So get your pens ready. Or don't wait. Send us an email now with your thoughts to Greg@hamtramckmuseum.com.

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

Odds & Ends

Paczki squad... Max Gilingas, the city's Community Involvement Coordinator, passed along some kind words for the volunteers who helped clean up things before and after the recent annual Paczki Run.

Take it away, Max: "The Paczki Run brings thousands of visitors to Hamtramck, and we all know how fantastic that is. What you may not see are all the folks who gather before and after the run to clean up the city. Though some are costumed, they are overlooked, yet vital.

"What began as an individual grassroots effort from each individual has become a team of those who are proud to pick up the trash others leave behind.

"Thanks so much to Lynn, Joe, Glenn, Chrissy, Christy, Carrie Beth, Joe, Phillip, Sarah, and all those that came out to pick up trash before and during the run. You each helped make our town a little cleaner and brighter!

"We will be taking a contingent of folks from Hamtramck to volunteer for the Nain Rouge parade in Detroit on March 24.

"Please get in touch if you'd like to be a part of this amazing event. You'll get a lanyard and access, snacks, a warming spot and restroom, and all supplies.

"Costumes are HIGHLY encouraged. It's a great event and a chance to have fun representing Hamtramck. Contact mgilingas@hamtramckcity.com.

com for more information."

In the news... Mayor Amer Ghalib's media exposure has once again caught the attention of folks in town.

And once again, he agreed to sit down for an interview with a state-controlled media outlet.

This time he was interviewed by the television outlet TRT, which is considered a propaganda arm of Turkish Prime President Erdogan and his administration.

TRT, by the way, is registered as a foreign agent with the U.S. Justice Department.

According to Wikipedia: "In March 2020, the United States Justice Department required TRT World's Washington operation to register as an agent of the Government of Turkey, engaged in political activities, under the anti-propaganda Foreign Agents Registration Act."

Erdogan critic Steven Stalinsky had this to say about TRT in a 2019 Washington Post opinion piece: "Turkey's modus operandi of silencing domestic critics while spending millions on PR abroad is mightily aided by TRT World."

Stalinsky is the executive director of the Middle East Media Research Institute and the author of "American Traitor: The Rise and Fall of al-Qaeda's U.S. Born Leader Adam Gadahn."

Previously, Ghalib has been interviewed by the

Russian state-controlled television network RT, which is also registered as a foreign agent with the U.S. Justice Department.

Charity game... Omar Thabet of OZ Media, and who is also the city's Administrative Generalist, has some news to share.

"On Friday, March 8, OZ Media and CRSD will be hosting their 3rd Annual Hamtramck vs. Dearborn Charity Basketball game.

"This time the game will be held at the Hamtramck High School Community Center (11350 Charest Street, Hamtramck, MI).

"Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. The event will officially begin at 7 p.m.

"Elected officials such as Mayor Abdullah Ham-moud, Mayor Amer Ghalib, Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, State Representative Abraham Aiyash, State Representative Alabas Farhat as well as many others will be in attendance at the game.

"There will also be a few social media celebrities at the game who will be playing in the game as well.

"Tickets for adults are \$10 and \$5 for kids.

"All proceeds will be donated to Palestine and Yemen to help the residents there pay for Ramadan necessities.

"You can purchase your tickets online from here: <https://www.eventbrite.com>.

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

New Dawn Academy of Warren

Legal Notice of Open Enrollment

New Dawn Academy of Warren is a nonprofit, no-tuition, Michigan public school academy (charter school). Please stop by the Academy at 8200 Irving Street, Sterling Heights, MI 48312 (<https://newdawnacademy.net/>) or contact the Academy's office by phone at: (855) 800-STEM if you are interested in seeking enrollment or information about the Academy. Select weekend dates and evenings are available during the open enrollment window. Enrollment for current students and siblings will be taken beginning March 1, 2024 and ending March 15, 2024. Open enrollment begins March 18, 2024 – April 12, 2024 for all new students. Should any grade receive applications that exceed class limits a lottery will be held Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 4:00 pm, at the Academy. The Academy cannot enroll any student who is not a resident of this state, except a foreign student who is not a United States citizen. The Academy is an equal opportunity public educational institution and does not discriminate based on intellect/measures of achievement, race, sex, religion, national origin, and shall comply with all state and federal civil rights laws.



Caniff Liberty Academy

Legal Notice of Open Enrollment

Caniff Liberty Academy is a nonprofit, no-tuition, Michigan public school academy (charter school). Please stop by the Academy at 2650 Caniff Street, Hamtramck, MI (<http://www.canifflibertyacademy.com>) or contact the Academy's office by phone at: (313) 872-2000 if you are interested in seeking enrollment or information about the Academy. Select weekend dates and evenings are available during the open enrollment window. Open enrollment begins March 1, 2024, for current students and their siblings and March 18 – April 12, 2024 for all new students. Current students and siblings may also apply during this window but will not receive preference based on current enrollment or being a sibling of a current student. Should any grade receive applications that exceed class limits a lottery will be held Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 4:00 pm, at the Academy's school library. The Academy cannot enroll any student who is not a resident of this state, except a foreign student who is not a United States citizen. The Academy is an equal opportunity public educational institution and does not discriminate based on intellect/measures of achievement, race, sex, religion, national origin, and shall comply with all state and federal civil rights laws.



Oakland International Academy

Legal Notice of Open Enrollment

Oakland International Academy is a nonprofit, no-tuition, Michigan public school academy (charter school) offering grades K-12. Please stop by the Academy's middle school location at 8228 Conant St Detroit, MI (<http://oiacademy.net/>) or contact the Academy's office by phone at: (313) 925-1000 if you are interested in seeking enrollment or information about the Academy. Select weekend dates and evenings are available during the open enrollment window.

Re-enrollment for current students and their siblings is from March 1, 2024 through March 15, 2024.

Open enrollment for all new students is from March 18, 2024 through April 12, 2024. Current students and siblings may also apply during open enrollment but will not receive preference based on current enrollment or being a sibling of a current student. If any grade receives applications that exceed class limits, a lottery will be held Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 4:00 pm, at the Academy's Middle school library. The Academy cannot enroll any student who is not a resident of this state, except a foreign student who is not a United States citizen. The Academy is an equal opportunity public educational institution and does not discriminate based on intellect/measures of achievement, race, sex, religion, national origin, and shall comply with all state and federal civil rights laws.

The Hamtramck Review

Published every Friday

3020 Caniff, Hamtramck, MI 48212

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

www.hamtramckreview.com • email news@thehamtramckreview.com

Publisher: John Ulaj • (248) 866-1110 • julaj@thehamtramckreview.com
Editor: Charles Sercombe Office Manager: Jean Ingenthron
Sales Manager: Dave Sweet Copy Editor: Alan Madlane

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February 16, 2024

Hamtramck Public TV-19

Broadcasting on Comcast Channel 19 in Hamtramck area and YouTube Live world wide (Hamtramck Public Library)

What's on this coming week?

Dr. Martin Luther King Breakfast Program, Press Conference with Mary Waters, Motivate Me Interviews, Music programs ESL Classes for the 2023-24 school year Local events, Library programs, Interviews, Council meeting highlights, Evenings with authors, and more.....

BECOME A LOCAL REPORTER: If you know how to take photos or make film clips on your phone, you can download them to Hamtramck TV along with a news story, to be aired the same day. Send in event announcements, comments to city officials, facts you want to share with the community, etc.

Hamtramck Public TV is broadcasting from Hamtramck Public Library

On Comcast Channel 19 and streaming on YouTube Live (24/7) Google "Hamtramck Public TV", and click on link "Hamtramck Public TV"

Or go to YouTube; Hamtramck Public TV; Hamtramck Public Library; videos

To place community announcement call the Library at 313-733-6822

Or email: HamtramckTV@gmail.com

Announcements submitted by 10 am

Will go on air the same day (evening)

To send large video files (TINYurl.com/hamtramcktv)

CRIME LOG

By Charles Sercombe
This week's Crime Log covers Feb. 13-19.

Tuesday, Feb. 13

- At almost 4 a.m., officers responded to a call about two intoxicated people in the 9800 block of Jos. Campau.
- At 4 a.m., officers, responding to an auto theft in progress in the area of Lehman and Gallagher, chased a suspect fleeing in a vehicle. The suspect got away.
- An incident of fraud was reported in the 3300 block of Yemans.
- A theft was reported in the 2300 block of Botsford.

Wednesday, Feb. 14

- At about 2 a.m., family trouble was reported in the 2300 block of Caniff.
- A resident was arrested, at a business on Conant, for retail fraud.
- A resident of Trowbridge reported being the victim of fraud.
- An attempted car theft was reported on Miller.
- An incident of identity theft was reported.

Thursday, Feb. 15

- At about 3:30 a.m., a hit-and-run accident was reported in the 3500 block of Hamtramck Dr.
- A dog was reported loose in the area of Yemans and Buffalo.
- Neighbor trouble was reported on Fleming.
- A dog was reported loose on Prescott, and another one on Goodson and then as well on Lehman.

Friday, Feb. 16

- Family trouble was reported in the 2400 block of Pulaski.
- A person was reported missing from a residence in the 3400 block of Evaline.

Saturday, Feb. 17

- A suspicious person was reported in the 9200 block of Jos. Campau.
- A male was arrested, in the 12000 block of Dyar, for domestic assault.
- A complaint was made about trespassing in the 3800 block of Prescott.
- A complaint was made about a disorderly person in the 3500 block of Caniff.

Sunday, Feb. 18

- Gunshots were reported on Danforth.
- A male was arrested, in the 12000 block of Lumpkin, for both assault and domestic violence.
- A complaint was made about a juvenile in the 2700 block of Holbrook.
- Customer trouble was reported at a business in the 3500 block of Caniff.

Monday, Feb. 19

- A vehicle was reported stolen from in the 11400 block of Conant.
- A fight was reported in the 11000 block of Klinger. Fights were also reported in the 2200 block of Danforth, and in the 11000 block of Conant. In the Conant incident, a male was arrested for strong-armed robbery and for assaulting an officer.
- A report was made about a suspicious male looking into vehicles in the 12000 block of Dequindre.
- Officers investigating a two-car accident in the 2300 block of Hewitt arrested a female for assault.
- A fight was reported in the 2200 block of Danforth.

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School Bell

Hanley International School
Hanley School has some high achievers. Recently the school gave dozens of students of their PAWS award. PAWS stands for:

- Participate
- Always try your best
- Work together
- Show Respect

The award is part of the school's positive behavior interventions and support program is designed to encourage and reward positive behaviors within the school and community.

A number of students also received the Principal's Award. Those are students that received all A's on their report cards. The principal's name is Jenna McGregor.



Coming Events

SATURDAY, Feb. 24, 3:30-5:30 p.m. – Drive-thru Take-out Polish Dinner at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. \$13 Adult/\$6 Child 12 & under. Menu: Pork Chop, Kielbasa, Pierogi/sour cream, Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Dessert. Cars will be staged in parking lot for delivery in front of church.

Aiyash joins chorus of local Arab community leaders critical of Biden

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck state Representative Abraham Aiyash was one of many metro area Arab-American leaders who recently refused a meeting with a campaign manager for President Biden.

Aiyash – a Democrat and the House Majority Floor Leader – as well as other Arab-American community leaders, have been critical

of Biden’s ongoing military support of Israel and its invasion into Gaza, where it is estimated that about 30,000 people have been killed, many of them women and children.

Israel attacked Gaza after Hamas militants invaded Israel on Oct. 7 and killed 1,200 people, while also taking a couple hundred more as hostages.

A number of Arab le-

aders, both in the metro area and nationwide, have said they will not support Biden for re-election this fall, but they do not say who, if anyone, they would support instead.

Aiyash hasn’t gone so far as to say he won’t support Biden, but he also hasn’t committed to him.

A few weeks ago Aiyash said he has reached out to the White House for com-

ment, but has yet to receive a response.

“Since October 7th, I have received ZERO correspondence from White House, DNC (Democratic National Committee), or MDP (Michigan Democratic Party) leadership about the concerns from our community on the ongoing genocide unfolding in Gaza,” Aiyash said on the social media platform “X,” formerly known as Twitter.

He continued: “After 110+ days of US-backed Israeli bombings that have killed Palestinian babies and families, many who have ties to Americans right here at home, we will not allow our communities to be utilized for political expediency.”

Aiyash and other Arab community leaders later did meet with a Biden campaign official, and according to media reports, the meetings were frosty at best.

According to sources in the Democratic Party, Aiyash could face possible backlash for not committing to Biden’s re-election.

Aiyash is also up for re-election this year, and is seeking a third term.

He is the first Arab-American to be appointed as Majority Floor Leader, and

he is the first Yemeni-American to be elected to the state legislature from Hamtramck.

There has been growing discontent among Arab-Americans with President Biden as the Israel-Gaza invasion continues.

Some have labeled Biden as “Genocide Joe.”

Biden, however, has become increasingly critical of Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over his handling of Israel’s military aggression, and has hinted lately of slowing down the military supply chain to Israel, several media outlets have reported.

Arab leaders, including Hamtramck Mayor Amer Ghalib, are urging voters to vote “uncommitted” in the Feb. 27 presidential primary election as a sign of protest to Biden.

Michigan is considered a crucial swing state in the upcoming presidential election.

The presumed Republican presidential nominee is former President Trump.

Trump has promised that, if elected, he would deport any immigrant who supports Hamas.

There are about 300,000 Arab Americans in the met-

ro area, most of whom live in Dearborn-Dearborn Heights. Hamtramck’s majority populations are now Yemeni- and Bangladeshi-Americans.

Biden beat Trump here in Michigan by about 154,000 votes in the 2020 election.

Response to Aiyash’s “X” comments was as expected: either supportive, or critical.

A person who identified himself as Yousif Alghamdi said those of the Muslim faith should not support Biden.





“It would be a shame and a disgrace for any Muslim or Arab to vote for Genocide Joe. I believe it’s over,” Alghamdi said.

A person who went by the moniker “Sneaky Ghillie” said Arab-Americans will be hurting their own political interests by not supporting Biden.

“Y’all are undermining an administration pushing a two-state solution down Israel’s throat, and who are desperately trying to restrain Israel and negotiate a cease fire/release of hostages,” Ghillie said.


“In return y’all will get an administration who will support Bibi (Netanyahu) and erase any future with a Palestinian state.”







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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 Jan. 23, and all councilmembers were in attendance.

NOTICE

CITY OF HAMTRAMCK BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of Hamtramck Board of Review will meet in the Hamtramck City Hall located at 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, Michigan 48212.

Meetings by appointment only on the following days:

Tuesday March 5, 2024, at 9:00 am for the organizational meeting (no appeals will be heard).

By appointment to hear appeals,

Monday	March 11, 2024 1:00pm to 7:30pm Location: 2nd Floor City Council Chambers
Wednesday	March 13, 2024 11:30am to 7:30pm Location: 2nd Floor City Council Chambers

The purpose is to review the assessment rolls of Hamtramck. Matters pertaining to the assessment of property may be brought before the Board of Review. Appointments will be taken until 4:00 pm on Wednesday, March 13, 2024. Appeals will also be accepted by letter.

****All letter appeals must be received by 4:00pm on Wednesday, March 13, 2024.**

	TENTATIVE RATIO	TENTATIVE FACTOR
201 – COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
301 – INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
401 – RESIDENTIAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00

**THOMAS D. MONCHAK
ASSESSOR,
CITY OF HAMTRAMCK**

A proclamation honoring former Police Chief Anne Moise was read out loud. Moise retired from the department after srving for 25 years.

The proclamation read, in part:

“Chief Moise has served with distinction, displaying leadership, integrity, and a profound sense of duty in her role as the Chief of Police, contributing significantly to the safety and well-being of the residents of Hamtramck; and Chief Moise has demonstrated tireless dedication to fostering positive relationships between law enforcement and the community, working collaboratively to create an environment of trust, understanding, and mutual respect; and throughout her distinguished career, Chief Moise has been a beacon of professionalism, guiding the Hamtramck Police Department with a focus on excellence, innovation, and a deep commitment to upholding the principles of justice and fairness. ...”

Proclamations were also read honoring Black History Month and World Hijab Day.

The proclamation for World Hijab Day read, in part:

“This day provides an opportunity to celebrate the diversity of Muslim women and acknowledge the importance of religious freedom, choice, and expression in our pluralistic society; and the history of the hijab dates back centuries, with roots deeply embedded in Islamic traditions and teachings; and the hijab is not merely a garment but a symbol of modesty, dignity, and devotion for millions of Muslim women around the world, reflecting their commitment to faith, identity, and self-expression. ...”

The Fire Department presented its yearly report. Some highlights of the year include:

- Fire inspections in dwelling and businesses increased by almost 1,000 from the year before. In 2023, there were 2,351 inspections.
- Some 142 smoke alarms were installed in homes.
- The department responded to 8 percent more incidents, for a total of 1,028. Out of that, there were 359 fires. (Hamtramck, in an automatic aid agreement, also responds to fires in part of Detroit and Highland Park. Last year the department made 251 runs to Detroit, and 26 runs to Highland Park.
- Detroit responded to 38 calls for assistance in Hamtramck. Highland Park assisted here 13 times.
- There were 101 false alarms.


The department is seeking to purchase two “front line” fire trucks to replace the department’s two aging vehicles within five years.

It takes about 2-1/2 years from the time an engine is ordered to when it is delivered.

Continued on page 6

HAMTRAMCK BLOWOUT

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POLKA DOT • PORT BAR • THE SANCTUARY
SMALL'S BAR • WHISKEY IN THE JAR

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City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 5

“We have applied for numerous grants to pay for or offset the cost of purchasing new Fire Engines, but we have not been successful yet,” the report said.

During public comment, several property owners complained about increase in their property tax bills for vacant lots that they own. It was explained to them that the city now charges an extra fee for those who own vacant lots but do not develop them – except for property owners who own a lot next to their dwelling or for community gardens.

“Bottom line, property is expensive in Hamtramck, and is at a premium,” said City Manager Max Garbarino.

He said the city is trying to motivate people to develop their vacant lots.

Mayor Amer Ghalib said that when the city council agreed to the extra fee it was with the idea of getting rich people to develop their empty lots.

He suggested the council “reconsider” the fee increase.

Councilmember Muhith suggested first issuing warnings to property owners that they will face paying more unless they develop the lot. He said the city could give lot owners six months to act after being notified of the tax increase.

“It’s a lot of money for families,” Muhith Mahmood said about the increase.

In other business, the council OK’d the city’s budget calendar for the year as well as: Accepting a \$10 million grant from the state to replace lead water lines and other water infrastructure repairs needed. The grant was previously announced by state Rep. Abraham Aiyash (D-Hamtramck).

In the mayor’s report, he said the city’s snow plowing has improved. *(The city recently purchased trucks and gear to perform the service instead of using a contractor.)*



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Monday – Friday

April 1, 2024 – April 19, 2024: 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 2, 2024: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 6, 2024: 10:00 a.m. – 12 Noon
Thursday, April 11, 2024: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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This program is not available to everyone. If you own and live in the property, and are suffering financial hardship you may qualify for this program. Proof of ownership, occupancy, and hardship are required.

Stipulated Payment Agreement (SPA)

Available to everybody, this plan allows a taxpayer to pay taxes pursuant to a payment schedule. The plan will avoid foreclosure provided that payments are submitted per the agreed upon schedule.

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Only for those who have first applied for their local municipality's Poverty Tax Exemption (PTE) and received an approval. Once notified by your local Assessor's office and deemed eligible, our office will mail you a notification letter with your Reduced Amount Due. You will have the option of paying a lump sum (additional 10% off) or enrolling into a PAYSPA.

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