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Quick Hits

What used to be Public Safety Day here in Hamtramck is now National Night Out.

Hamtramck decided to partner up with a national celebration honoring police and fire departments.

The event will be held next Tuesday (Aug. 1) at Zussman Park, starting at 6 p.m. and running until 7:30 p.m.

There will be plenty of family activities as well as beverages. As usual, the police and fire departments will be displaying some of their vehicles.

Nationally, 16,000 communities will be participating.

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

A modest candidate forum sparks a sleepy election season

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck's election season is slowly heating up.

And we mean slowly.

On Monday evening, the Bangladesh American Political Action Committee (BAPAC) hosted a candidate forum at its Conant storefront office, but only three candidates showed up.

And only seven others came to meet them.

But this has been the norm for the past several years as most of the action is now behind-the-scenes – in social clubs, cultural events and house-to-house.

Despite the low turnout, the forum had plenty of spirit. Increasingly, the Bangladeshi



The Bangladesh American Political Action Committee held a candidate forum earlier in the week, but only three candidates showed up. There is now a little over one week until the Aug. 8 Primary Election for mayor and three seats on city council.

community has become a major player in elections, and it now makes up a large percentage of active voters.

BAPAC member MD Alam kicked the evening

off with this challenge: “If you want my vote, you have to deserve it.”

Mayor Karen Majewski was there along with city councilmember Ian Perrotta and council candi-

date Fadel Almarsoumi.

They were each given several minutes to introduce themselves and explain why they are seeking election. Almar-

Continued on page 2

City manager appointment goes through

By Charles Sercombe

It's now official: Kathy Angerer will now be the acting city manager.

On Tuesday, the state-appointed Receivership Transition Advisory Board approved the city council's appointment of Angerer, which was made over a week ago.



**Acting City Manager
Kathy Angerer**

Angerer has been with the city for several years and served in a number of roles, such as economic development, code enforcement and most recently as Director of Community and Governmental Affairs.

For the past month city officials have struggled to fill the position. A divided city council first split over whether to extend former City Manager Katrina Powell's employment contract, which expired on June 30.

The discussions regarding Powell turned heated many times. Eventually, a bare majority of four councilmembers – Anam Miah, Mohammed Hassan, Abu Musa and Saad Almas-mari – rejected keeping

Continued on page 3

Election 2017: Candidates talk about issues facing the city

By Charles Sercombe

This is now week four of The Review's candidate survey.

On Aug. 8 Hamtramck voters will be going to the polls to vote for candidates for mayor and city council.

This is the primary election, and the candidates who survive that first round will square off in the November General

Election.

The Review mailed each candidate a survey of questions about some of the issues facing the city.

The Review asked for candidates to respond by June 30, but several of the candidates have not returned the survey.

This week, we present Asm “Kamal” Rahman, who is running for mayor,

and council candidate Ian Perrotta, who is an incumbent.

NAME: Asm “Kamal” Rahman

Education: I received my Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Finance from Walsh College in 1994 and 2004, respectively. Before that, I attended Hamtramck High School and Wayne

Continued on page 4





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PAID FOR BY CTE ANDREA KARPINSKI

A modest candidate forum sparks a sleepy election season

Continued from front page

soumi went first, and re-counted his immigration experience from Iraq.

His father once owned a store on Jos. Campau, and Almarsoumi, like so many other sons and daughters of immigrant parents, went on to earn a college degree.

His reason for running?

"I see this as a good opportunity to give back to the city," Almarsoumi said.

His concerns mirror those of just about everyone in the community: Public safety and economic development.

Mayor Majewski is seeking her fourth term, and said her enthusiasm has not waned in the 12 years she has served as mayor.

"This is exciting to me every day," she said.

However, she said she is willing to pass on the torch if there was someone who wanted to take over who is genuinely interested in serving the city and not just interested in holding a title.

But there is one pet peeve she has about some candidates seeking office: They don't actually live here, or have never served in any kind of community role.

"That is a deal breaker for me," she said.

Perrotta is one of two incumbent councilmembers seeking re-election. Andrea Karpinski is also an incumbent, but did not attend the forum. They are facing eight challengers.

There is also one open council seat, which was vacated by Mohammed Hassan who decided to

enter the mayoral race instead of seeking re-election to council.

Perrotta said he came to the city from Pittsburgh in 2009 after hearing about housing going for as little as \$100 each in the Detroit area. That was during the deep recession the city and country fell into after the housing market collapsed.

His idea was to buy several houses, fix them up and then allow semi-professionals to take over.

"Unfortunately, one by one, those houses were destroyed by fire or other means," he said.

Welcome to Detroit.

But he was already bitten by the Hamtramck bug and was "committed

to the area." He now owns Trixie's bar on Carpenter and attends law school at Wayne State University.

His role in government, he said is to be "responsible" and be a "conduit" for the public.

Perrotta is also part of the committee seeking to restore the former baseball stadium in Veterans Memorial Park. It wasn't discovered until several years ago how significant that grandstand is.

It is now only one of five surviving home team stadiums in the country that was part of the Negro Baseball League.

Back in the 1920s and 1930s many famous players entertained baseball fans – both

black and white – at this site.

The upcoming election is on Aug. 8, which will reduce the field of candidates for a final square-off in November.

There are four mayoral candidates, of which only two will advance to the November election. The council election has 10 candidates, out of which the top six finishers in the August Primary Election will move on.

Since the Aug. 8 election features only the races for mayor and council the voter turnout is expected to be low – anywhere from 1,500 to 2,500 voters. There are over 9,000 registered voters, many of whom vote only in the presidential election every four

years.

So far, 949 absentee ballots have been issued and roughly half have been returned, according to the City Clerk's Office.

Precincts 2, 3 and 4 have the highest number of absentee ballots issued and returned. All of those precincts are located in the area near Hamtramck High School, which is where many Bangladeshi voters live.

Two of the mayoral candidates and six of the council candidates are Bengali-Americans. There is also one Yemeni-American council candidate. The Yemeni community has also grown in recent years.

Metro news ...

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— Hamtramck —

It's said that whatever happens to Detroit, so goes Hamtramck. Our friends over at modeldmedia.com have been reporting on fascinating development projects for the past several years.

With their permission, here is an edited version of this week's story:

At Kosciuszko Middle School in Hamtramck, at least seven different languages are spoken by students, whose ethnic

backgrounds include Yemeni, Bengali, Bosnian, Albanian, Polish, and Lebanese. While this may not be your typical American school, it is a microcosm of the multiethnic city of Hamtramck, home to the country's first Muslim majority city council.

Americans are more racially and ethnically diverse than ever before. Much of this change has been driven by immigration—it is estimated that 14 percent of the country's population is foreign-born, and this number is expected to continue to grow.

At Kosciuszko Middle School in Hamtramck, most of Nancy Walter's students are immigrants from Yemen and Bangladesh. Kosciuszko's student body includes ap-

proximately one-third Yemeni students, one-third Bangladeshi students, as well as Black, Bosnian, and Central European students. One fourth of the school's students speak English as a second language.

Walter, who is fluent in Bengali, is an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher. But language is hardly the only challenge.

"Our kids are crossing a huge cultural, religious, and language gulf," says Walter. "It's important to acknowledge who they are, and one of the biggest challenges is finding materials that really reach our kids."

Because nearly 80 percent of ESL students in the U.S. are Spanish-speaking, much of the curriculum

is designed for that demographic. But when it comes to students like hers, who speak Arabic and Bengali, Walter has few easily accessible, culturally relevant resources. She seeks out books and other resources that connect with her students' cultures, such as watching stories from "Arabian Nights" when studying Islam or playing carrom, a game popular in the Middle East and South Asia, at lunchtime during Ramadan.

"Learning a language can make you feel dumb," says Walter. "Having a day to celebrate their cultures and allowing them to be the experts in something is very motivating for our ESL students."

This was the first year Walter organized cultural

Continued on page 6



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This week at the library...

Website Development Camp – July 31 – August 3, Class Time: 2:30-4:30 p.m. Registration: Hamtramck Public Library Front Desk. Contact: Andrew He (248) 345-6863. Tuition: Free.

Have you ever browsed websites and wondered how they're built? Have you ever dreamed of building a website for your project, business, or even for introducing yourself, your own ideas, and accomplishments?

This camp is to help you learn the basic concepts and skills to build a website. You will be introduced to the basics of the programming languages HTML, CSS, and you will learn how to build a website using the online website builder, WordPress. The best of all, you will have a website of your own by the end of the class. The class will elect and reward prizes for the best websites built during the

class.

- HTML, CSS, WordPress
- Make your own website

Maximum Enrollment: 12 Students (10 – 13 years of age, or 4th – 6th Graders)

Business For Youth – Personal Finance and Entrepreneurship, Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28). Class Time: 2-3 p.m. Registration: Hamtramck Public Library Front Desk. Contact: Andrew He (248) 345-6863. Tuition: Free.

This program is designed to help young students take charge of their own financial life.

The Personal Finance and Entrepreneurship class is intended to teach students the principles of saving and investing in stocks and bonds. The class will discuss credit and investment, the difference between the NYSE and the NADAQ Stock Markets, and how to deal with in-

terest rates in an easy to understand way.

Students will make their own mock stock portfolios, and monitor them throughout the class. Then, take their newly gained investing knowledge and research how to start a business of their own.

Maximum Enrollment: 12 Students each class (10 – 13 years old, or 4th – 6th Graders)

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Second Front Page



School Bell

The school district's H.O.P.E program has been having a busy summer.

At Dickinson East, H.O.P.E students were making hand-made wind-socks by the garden bed.

Hamtramck High students participated in arts and crafts week. Students painted on canvases, made paper Mache bowls and painted ceramic pottery.

Along with their daily academic and arts and craft activities, Holbrook students and staff had so much fun at the H.O.P.E Recreation Field Day on July, 24th.

KMS H.O.P.E has been hard at work, even in the summer. We have been reading "See You in the Cosmos" by Detroit-based author Jack

Cheng. Keeping it interstellar, students have almost completed our solar oven prototype, which has lead them to develop critical thinking about energy use and sustainability in our communities.

Students at Dickinson West displayed their EMOJI books that they wrote and illustrated.

Compiled by
Janice Gandelman



The school district's H.O.P.E. program has been busy this summer, at Holbrook School (lower left and above) and at Dickinson West (below).



The lore of Hamtramck ...

Threat of war is nothing new

By Greg Kowalski

The threat of terrorism lingers as an undercurrent of our nation today. It doesn't disrupt daily life and most people don't live in constant fear of attack, and it seems preposterous that we face the threat of foreign attack.

But we do.

Yet that is nothing new. In fact, it hardly compares to the mood of the nation following the attack of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. The nation was thrust into war, and that had a direct effect on everyday life everywhere,

including Hamtramck.

War winds had been blowing long before the attack on Pearl Harbor so the government knew that it was only a matter of time before we were involved in the conflict. By 1940 the draft had been initiated in anticipation of the coming conflict. Thousands of Hamtramckians had already registered and were put on alert that they were likely to be drafted.

By January 1942, Hamtramck — like the rest of the nation — was fully engaged. In fact, Hamtramck had a much greater stake

in the conflict than most other towns in America.

In addition to the large number of local Poles who had close relatives in Poland, which had been ravaged by the Nazis, Hamtramck was an industrial hub. The Dodge Main factory was seen as a possible target of Nazi bombers who could make their way here via Norway and Canada.

This was viewed as a serious threat. In January the city was divided into 10 "sectors" administered from centers in the local schools. Each sector was

divided into 10 "senior posts," with each senior post further subdivided into three minor posts, as was described in The Citizen newspaper in January 1942.

This arrangement allowed the city to be divided into 300 sections to respond to possible air raids.

The complex plan was explained to 1,000 people who gathered at Hamtramck High School on a Sunday afternoon. Anna W. Winkler, Hamtramck's Civil defense coordinator at the time, outlined the plan.

Among those speaking

Continued on page 5

City manager appointment goes through

Continued from front page

Powell on.

The city then went through three other appointments of temporary city managers before stopping with Angerer. The RTAB rejected the first replacement because the candidate did not have enough experience.

On the day before she left city hall for good, Powell appointed Police Chief Anne Moise as acting city manager. Although she had the authority by city charter to make the appointment, the charter also gave the city council the authority to reject it, which the same aforementioned councilmembers did.

Former Treasurer John Gabor was also briefly appointed as acting city manager by the same four councilmembers, but his employment contract also expired on June 30, which disqualified him.

Both Councilmembers Andrea Karpinski and Ian Perrotta voted against Angerer's appointment, saying that she was needed in her department head position because there were no other employees there to take over.

Angerer's department did not exist until a year ago when Powell shifted her duties. Angerer said the work she did can be easily absorbed by others in the administration, including herself.

Just how long Angerer will remain in her new role is not known. Her appointment also comes with an additional \$2,000 a month in salary.

At Tuesday's council meeting, a divided council stalled on whether to hire a search firm to begin looking for a permanent city manager. Mayor Karen Majewski had to break a 2-2 tie and voted to hire the

search firm. But that vote is pending a review by the city attorney who said there may have been a lack of votes to approve a contract.

Councilmembers Abu Musa and Mohammed Hassan were absent from the meeting. If a past vote on the matter is any indication, they would have likely voted against hiring a company.

The city charter does not put a time limit on how long an acting city manager can remain in charge.

One of the alternatives to hiring a city manager that was mentioned at the RTAB meeting was to have the governor bring back an emergency manager.

Robert Zwolak, a former city clerk and councilmember, urged the RTAB to get behind the return of an emergency manager.

"I believe the city may be in dysfunction next year,"

Zwolak said.

The reason for that, he said, was mainly because of the upcoming election and the "highly charged" political atmosphere in the coming months.

Carrie Beth Lasley, who worked for a short time in Powell's administration, also supported the proposal to bring in an EM "because this isn't going well."



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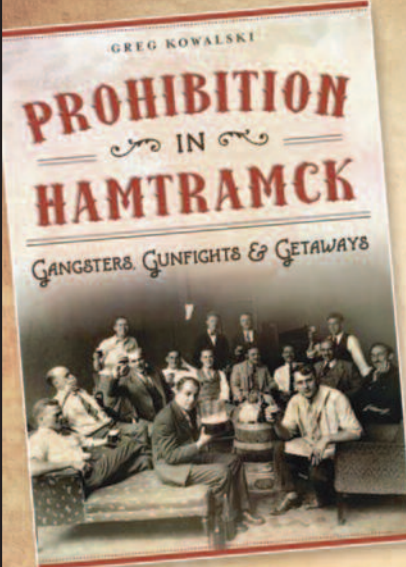
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Election 2017: Candidates talk about issues facing the city

Continued from front page

County Community College.

Employment: I have worked with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department for over two decades. I started at DWSD as Accountant in 1996, and was promoted to Senior Accountant the following year. In 2002, I was again promoted to Customer Operations Specialist, and to Manager in CIS Administration in 2005. Since 2015 I have worked as Project Manager/Applications Analyst. My two decades of successful employment and increasing levels of responsibility at DWSD demonstrate a high aptitude for working with municipal systems, finance, and resource distribution, along with the confidence and trust of my employers.

Experience in government/ municipal affairs: I manage the billing system for the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department. As mayor, I would use this expertise to improve the accuracy of Hamtramck’s water bill metering. My skills would also allow me to recognize and capitalize on state level resources available for Hamtramck.

This includes money set aside by the Great Lakes Water Authority for low-income residential assistance.

I am involved with various community groups and initiatives, especially those concerning human rights and minority representation. I served on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights (MCHR) from 2009-2015. I have been a on the board of the Bangladeshi American Public Affairs Committee (BAPAC) since 2005. I served as President of Hamtramck’s NAACP from 2009-10. I received a “Change-maker Award” from South Asian Americans Leading Together in 2009. SAALT is a civil rights organization based in Washington DC.

As a challenger or incumbent, explain why you are running for office:

Hamtramck has been under the state control twice in the past 16 years because of financial mismanagement. We must demonstrate competency in self-governance to maintain our autonomy. My successful

background in municipal finance would provide me with the skills needed to stabilize the city.

My 21 years of experience working with the Detroit Water and Sewage Department/Great Lakes Water Authority affords me a wealth of expertise from which to improve Hamtramck’s water and sanitary system issues.

What are the city’s top three challenges, as you see it? How would you solve/meet these challenges?

One of my top priorities as mayor would be to ensure the financial stability of the city. This would allow us to maintain our autonomy, avoid state oversight, and flourish as a city.

I would promote the financial stability of Hamtramck by promoting a flourishing businesses district and, reducing bureaucracy that hinders growth. As importantly, I would be fostering clear communication between different levels of government, and promoting transparency between the elected officials and administration. I would take measures to ensure the competency of any

staff hired for the city.

Finally, I would develop programs to improve the training of city employees and officials. Through these means, we as a city would be empowered to make better business decisions. improve efficiency and expense of running the city, and prevent costly lawsuits.

A second main priority is water rights and equity. Many residents complained about their high water bills or estimated water bills. As mayor, I would seek a full water rate audit to ensure that the residents are charged the proper rate.

Along with this, I would introduce the immediate water assistance program for qualified households. I have implemented similar program for the City of Detroit. Based on this experience, I can make an educated estimate that at least 70-80% of Hamtramck’s resident may qualify for this program.

This would entail a \$25 monthly billing reduction in the form of a credit or up to \$1.2 Million per year for all qualified residents. And, the program would ensure payment to-

ward past due bills up to \$750. My expertise working at the municipal level would allow me to facilitate the implementation of this program, as well as to recognize other opportunities for state and national level resources.

A third major priority would be to improve business districts. As mayor, I will support policies that making it easier to open businesses by reducing bureaucracy and by updating outdated codes.

The city is transitioning back to full local control. What will you do to facilitate this transition if elected?

Hamtramck is a unique city, and we value our independence and autonomy. The transition back to full local control presents a welcome and exciting challenge. To meet the demands of this transition, a mayor with a strong background in finance is a must.

As mayor, I would use the many years of experience I have garnered working for the public sector to promote consistency, transparency, and creative thinking about perennial problems. I would provide other city officials with additional training to foster a knowledgeable and capable council.

I would promote education about the past to make sure that officials and city residents understand the factors that led to the crisis and loss of independence in the first place.

What will you do to prevent the city from falling into another financial crisis?

As discussed above, we must fully understand the past in order to map out a different future. As mayor, I will promote education and training programs to ensure that city officials, employees, and residents are empowered to make the best decisions.

I would also foster clear communication and transparency between elected officials and the administration. This will help the city improve efficiency and prevent costly lawsuits.

Talk about the city’s budget. Do you think there should be some changes to where money is spent or changes to any department or service?

We should promote better business environments and a cleaner city. Bringing in grants that will help our businesses, offer incentives to attract manufacturing jobs. We must also ensure that Police and Fire service is protected and staffed ad-

equately to ensure safety and security.

For those of you seeking to become the mayor, what do you envision your role as, besides what is in the city charter?

Mayor must understand and respect the community, work with various ethnic groups to bridge the gaps. Mayor must work with regional governments to improve the city.

A mayor will think outside the box and bring changes necessary to prepare the city to take advantage of the economic resurgence taking place in Detroit and the vicinity.

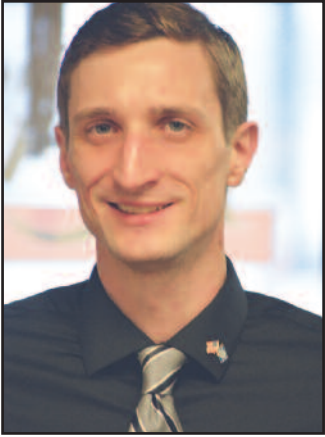
Also for those running for mayor, what is your vision of the city, and how would you achieve your goals?

A city that will continue to welcome everyone to the city like it has been doing for over a century. We need to have more activities and modern playground for our children. Some part of the city children have nothing to do other than playing on the dusty street.

Businesses are the heart and soul of any town. Our business district need to expand to include Caniff and Conant. These 2 streets has seen a surge in investment and new stores popping up.

One way to revitalize Joseph Campeau district is to increase foot traffic by opening all stores for business. For this we need to work with the owners of these stores to see what need to be done to get these store fronts opened.

Many people complain that the business codes are too outdated and does not reflect the need of the current business demands. We must update these codes to facilitate more openings.



NAME: Ian Perrotta
Education: Bachelor of Arts degrees in English Writing and Political Science (summa cum laude); Rising 2L at Wayne State Law School (recipient of academic full tuition Governor’s Scholarship and Charles H. Gershenson Trust Scholarship, awarded to students with high credentials and outstanding character).

Continued on page 5

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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

For some candidates, there might be something to hide

In a little over a week voters will be heading to the polls to cast their ballots for the city council and mayor.

The Aug. 8 Primary Election will whittle down the field of 10 council candidates to six, and the mayoral field of four down to two.

For the past few weeks we have been running candidate surveys that were sent to all candidates. Unfortunately, only five of the council candidates responded. In the mayoral race, the response was much better, with three out of the four candidates responding.

Council candidates who did respond include: Andrea Karpinski and Ian Perrotta, both of whom are incumbents seeking re-election, and challengers Akil Alhalemi, Nayeem Choudhury and Fadel Almarsoumi.

In the mayor's race,

Mayor Karen Majewski, who is seeking a fourth term, Cathie Gordon and Asm “Kamal” Rahman responded. Mohammed Hassan, who is currently a councilmember, did not respond.

Those who didn't respond in the council race include: Gias Talukder, Mohammed Alsomiri, Monzurul Karim, Saiida Miah and Showkat Choudhury.

We thank those who participated and wish them luck.

As for those who didn't respond, we are truly disappointed. By no means is it required for candidates to participate in our survey. But it is a helpful tool for them to get their message out and let the public know where they stand on issues of the day.

The Review is not the all mighty to which candidates must bow down.

We are just one avenue for dispensing information. But, to us at least, their absence speaks volumes.

It makes us think they have something to hide by not returning the surveys. Maybe they don't really have a position on the issues. Or maybe they don't know how to articulate their thoughts.

Or maybe they think they have the election already sewed up, and don't have to answer questions from the public.

No matter what, we all lose when half the candidate pool declines to participate in answering a few questions.

Voters should remember this when going to cast their votes on Aug. 8. But more importantly, be sure to vote on that date. This primary will likely determine what direction this city will take.

Odds & Ends

Freebie... In the coming weeks you will see a promotion campaign by DTE Energy touting a free service for households.

You will be able to get a free energy saving analysis and suggestions on how to save energy.

For some households that qualify, and we are told by DTE officials that likely means most of Hamtramck, you will be eligible for a free – yes, free – refrigerator.

Now how's that for a deal?

The fridge, by the way, is a Whirlpool.

For more information on the service, call 886-796-0512.

Civic duty time... The city is looking for a resident to sit on the Plan Commission. It's a non-paying job, but it's your opportunity to give back to Hamtramck.

The Plan Commission meets once a month to consider site plans for new buildings and renovation plans, among other requests.

The city is looking for someone who has “knowledge and understanding of urban planning, zoning, ordinances, and experience, qualifications, and/or education in urban planning, architecture, historic preservation, real estate development, or a

The lore of Hamtramck ...

Continued from page 3

at the event was Glenn Richards, associate coordinator for the Detroit Metropolitan area, who represented Detroit Mayor Jeffries.

Also speaking was Clyde Wishard, research and education director for the UAW-CIO, and Anthony Karczmarzyk, president of PNA Council 122, who spoke to the group attending in Polish.

Further stressing the threat of air raids, the

Hamtramck Civil Defense scheduled showings of the film “How to Fight a Fire Bomb” during an entire week in March at the local schools for all residents to see.

And there would be much, much more including blackouts, bond drives, scrap collections and, of course, the announcements of men going into the service, and tragic news of those who would not return alive.

It was a tough time, but life went on and those who sought to destroy America were themselves defeated.

You can learn more about Hamtramck's role in World War II at the Hamtramck Historical Museum, 9525 Jos. Campau. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and by appointment. Call (313) 893-5027.

Election 2017: Candidates talk about issues facing the city

Continued from page 4

Employment: Owner of Trixie's Bar in Hamtramck; Copy Editor for The Hamtramck Review; Rental Property Owner/Manager.

Experience in government/municipal affairs: I am currently on the Hamtramck City Council and am a Level One graduate of the Michigan Municipal League's Elected Officials Academy. I am also on the board of Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium, an organization I co-founded to restore the historic grandstands in Veterans Park which was successful in placing the site on the National Register of Historic Places in 2012 and that is currently in the process of raising funds towards the stadium's rehabilitation.

Additionally, I served as the Neighborhood Restoration and Economic Development Chair for the Hamtramck Weed and Seed program for a few years.

tramck Review since the summer of 2009. This gives me a deep and fundamental understanding of where the city has been, where it is, and where it's going.

As a City Councilman I have never missed a meeting and have attended every single work session since taking office in October of 2015. And as a home and business owner I can balance the residential and commercial needs of the community in relation to the realities of operating a city government, ensuring that all sides are considered fairly when making decisions.

What are the city's top three challenges, as you see it?

First and foremost, the biggest issue is a shortfall in funding. The financial crash of the late 2000s significantly lowered property values throughout the state, and while they have since somewhat recovered, because of restrictions on how much property taxes can increase each year taxes are not able to accurately reflect current property values. Coupled with cuts in state revenue sharing, Hamtramck – like many other communities in Michigan – faces a huge problem in funding pensions and other obligations.

The second challenge the city faces is the overstepping of duties by council. The City of Hamtramck is like a business, and City Council is the Board of Directors, the City Manager is the CEO, and department heads are department managers.

The job of City Council is not to direct day-to-day operations, but rather to make sure the business is operating in the best interests of its shareholders, who in this case are residents of the city. Because we are elected, we do not have to have the necessary education,

As a challenger or incumbent, explain why you are running for office:

I am running for office because doing so is consistent with the way I have always tried to serve my community to the best of my ability. As a child I would help out my mom with service projects for soldiers when my dad was in the Army. In high school I received a distinguished service award for time spent volunteering. And in college I joined the town's volunteer fire department. All of this was because it has always been instilled in me that one of the greatest things you can do with your time is to help others.

Moreover, I have the knowledge, experience, and perspective to successfully represent the residents of Hamtramck. As a copy editor I have read every single article printed in The Ham-

training, and credentials that department heads and the City Manager have. This means that when it comes to running the city, we should allow those who have the knowledge and skills to do their jobs, and only intervene when residents feel that the city is not working in their best interests.

Unfortunately, we have seen too much interference of the day-to-day operations by members of council, and it has caused problems in City Hall. This interference, coupled with uncertainty about the future, has resulted in departmental vacancies and other chaos in City Hall that was completely avoidable and which has stalled the progress that was being made.

The city's third biggest challenge is getting on one page in a cohesive narrative between all communities. Right now we have a very diverse but fragmented city, and many of the groups don't really mix.

If people look at issues through the lens of how they affect their particular population they sometimes aren't able to see the big picture. But if everyone looks at the issues as Hamtramckans then I believe we will recognize that there are more similarities than differences between the many groups in Hamtramck, and that will lead to solving some of the problems that have plagued the city for years.

How would you solve/meet these challenges?

The first challenge is not one that can be solved without significant legislative changes and is not necessarily one that can be solved through local government. However, local elected officials are on the front line of that battle.

Continued on page 6

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Election 2017: Candidates talk about issues facing the city

Continued from page 5

tle, and it is up to us to understand the issue and accurately report how it affects our municipalities. This will help articulate the need for the legislative changes that can positively affect the situation, and is something I am willing and able to do.

The second challenge is something I can directly help with. As a current Councilmember I understand our role and responsibilities, and if re-elected I will gladly assist any new members with the acclimation process.

When elected officials (or anyone, really) are ed-

ucated on how to do their jobs by people with experience they are able to do the job better than if they are elected without guidance. I am happy to help anyone in learning the ropes of being a responsible and productive member of City Council.

The third challenge is one I have already began working on. I have made a point of trying to include members of all groups in conversations regarding the city and how to move forward, and I have also made it a point to show those groups that their voices matter through my cam-

paign material.

By translating my material into Arabic, Bengali, and Polish, I am trying to show that it is not just the English-speaking population that has a voice. Potholes don't care about religion and a flooded basement is indifferent to the language in which it is cursed about.

Fortunately, I also see this problem as one that will inevitably solve itself with the passage of time. Whereas the community is currently fragmented because of the way many ethnic communities self-segregate, the younger generation of Hamtramckans seems to not have this issue.

When you go to school with people of all races, religions, and nationalities, it is inevitable that you will become friends with them. When today's teens and young adults become tomorrow's lead-

ers I truly believe we will have a more cohesive and interconnected city.

The city is transitioning back to full local control. What will you do to facilitate this transition if elected?

If elected I will be responsible with the finances and respect the office. The main reason that the city went into Emergency Management was that council was not responsible with the city's finances and its inaction ultimately led to intervention.

A secondary reason, specifically cited by the state, was the dysfunctional nature of the city council. The state was not happy with the way councilmembers interfered with the day-to-day business of City Hall, and felt that the environment created as a result was toxic. I will work to restore local control by

showing that we can handle the responsibility that comes with it.

What will you do to prevent the city from falling into another financial crisis?

In order to prevent the city from falling into another financial crisis we need to implement best practices, listen to professionals, and not behave recklessly. Best practices are called that for a reason – they are methods proven time after time to be the best way to go about a task.

For instance, a best practice in hiring a city manager would be to go through a search firm, and not hand pick friends or associates because they are willing to do the bidding of others. Along that line of thought is listening to professionals.

As I mentioned earlier, just because someone is elected to city council it

does not mean they are qualified to dictate the day-to-day operations of city departments. Those who have been educated and have the experience in doing those jobs are the ones who understand the issues better than elected officials, and we should take their advice to heart.

This leads to not behaving recklessly. By listening to the advice of professionals and implementing best practices, we can effectively and responsibly manage the city, and that is something I have done in the past and will do in the future.

Talk about the city's budget. Do you think there should be some changes to where money is spent or changes to any department or service?

The budget is tight as it

Continued on page 8

Metro news ...

Continued from page 2

celebration days, and she hopes to make it a school wide celebration next year.

In addition to navigating the cultural differences of being a first generation American, Walter's students must also confront the very real threats they face as immigrants. "Half of my students are from Yemen—one of the countries on the travel ban," Walter says. "The fact is they fear going home for the summer, and they ask me, 'Will I still be able to get back into the U.S.?'"

Walter's goal is not only to help her students feel

pride for their own cultures, but also to learn empathy and understanding for people different from them. To this end, she started a language exchange unit with her Bengali and Yemeni students so each group could teach the other their mother tongues.

"Someday they may not have all Bangla and Yemeni neighbors," says Walter. "If I can give them the skills to get along with anybody I've given them something that will help them move forward in their lives."

By Muna Danish

Coming events

TUESDAY, Aug. 1, 6-7:30 p.m. – The City of Hamtramck will host National Night Out at Zussman Park. The free event will feature public safety presentations by the police and fire departments and fun family activities.

SATURDAY, August 12, 9-3 p.m. – Hamtramck's Recycle Center is open at Caniff and McDougall. Drop off your recyclables for free.

WEDNESDAYS, 7 p.m., every second Wednesday of the month – The 3C7 and Midtown Block meets at 2339 Caniff PCS Senior Day Center. This block club includes all residents and businesses west of Jos. Campau and north of Holbrook.

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CRIME LOG

By Charles Sercombe
This week's Crime Log covers July 18-24.

Tuesday, July 18
• A Hanley resident reported her ex-husband was sending her harassing telecommunications.
• A Sobieski resident reported a garage break-in.
• A Yemans resident reported being assaulted by her husband.
• Two residents were arrested after officers responded to a call for help. One resident was arrested for assault and the other was wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.
• A man stabbed his ex-girlfriend in the arm and then fled in a Ford sedan.
• A juvenile reported he was assaulted by an adult while in the area of Caniff and Charest.
• A man reported his Dodge Ram was stolen while it was parked in the 11400 block of Grand Haven.

• A resident in the 5000 block of Trowbridge reported someone stole his son's bicycle.
• A resident in the 12000 block of Dyar reported her boyfriend assaulted her and then fled.
• A resident reported a group of males stole his uncle's cellphone from inside the uncle's car. The resident followed the suspects and was able to retrieve the phone.
• A resident in the 2600 block of Neibel reported several items were stolen from his backyard.

Wednesday, July 19
• A Southfield resident reported the theft of a navigation system from his car while it was parked in the Hamtramck Town Center.
• A Detroit resident was arrested after a traffic stop for drunk driving and possessing an open

Continued on page 8

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Continued from page 7

intoxicant.

- Officers assisted firefighters on a report of a suspicious car fire.
- A resident was arrested for leaving the scene of an accident that caused property damage.

Thursday, July 20

- At almost 3 a.m., a resident was arrested after a traffic stop for drunk driving and driving without a license.
- Officers recovered a car stolen out of Detroit in the 11300 block of St. Aubin.
- A resident reported a person they know made threats through an electronic device.
- A resident in the 9300 block of Charest reported the back window of his car was broken out.
- A resident in the 3000 block of Jacob reported his new landlord ransacked his home and stole his Green Card and Social Security card.
- A resident reported her boyfriend assaulted her.
- An employee at Royal Superstore on Jos. Campau reported a man in his 40s stole an iPhone and then fled on a bike.

Friday, July 21

- At about 1 a.m. officers on patrol noticed a Dodge Charger travelling

at high speed in the area of Jos. Campau and Roosevelt. The driver refused to pull over.

- At 2 a.m. a resident reported someone stole his girlfriend's car, which had keys in it.
- A resident in the 12000 block of Dyar reported a break-in and the theft of a laptop, Xbox, 60-inch television and speakers.

Saturday, July 22

- An agent for a mosque on Caniff reported someone damaged the front door.
- An employee of CVS reported the rear window of her car was broken out while it was parked in the building's parking lot.
- A man was arrested after stealing several items from his girlfriend's car.
- A resident in the 3000 block of Lehman reported her boyfriend damaged a number of items and fixtures in her residence. While officers attempted to talk to the suspect he ran away.

Sunday, July 23

- A resident was arrested for carrying a concealed knife and resisting and obstructing officers.
- A resident reported being assaulted by several men during a parking dispute in the 3300

block of Holbrook.

- At 12:30 a.m. a resident reported someone slashed their car tires.
- At about 4 a.m. a Moran resident reported someone stole a bike, which had been locked up, from their porch.
- A woman reported being assaulted by her boyfriend at a residence in the 2300 block of Botsford.
- A man reported he lost his gun while emptying a Red Cross donation box in the 9200 block of Conant.
- A resident in the 5000 block of Evaline reported a break-in and the theft of several items.

Monday, July 24

- A Detroit resident was arrested for domestic violence.
- A Detroit resident was arrested after causing a hit-and-run accident and also driving without a license.
- A resident in the 2700 block of Evaline reported the theft of his black Huffy bike from his porch.
- A resident reported the theft of his bike while it was parked in the rear of his work place in the 2700 block of Holbrook.
- A resident in the 3900 block of Evaline reported the theft of her son's bike from their porch.

Election 2017: Candidates talk about issues facing the city

Continued from page 6

Continued from page 6

is but I believe it makes do with what it can. The current budget was passed by the council after we had the opportunity to provide input, and it was independently verified through an accounting firm to make sure it was one that would work.

That being said there are always ways to improve the city and its services. I think stepping up code enforcement efforts can not only be a budget-neutral proposition but also something that can have an immediate and positive effect on the community. Economic Development and City Planning are also an important aspect of growing the city, and I think spending money on these departments is something that can pay dividends in the future.

The city has had a problem in getting along with its city managers. What has been going wrong in this relationship, and how can the city avoid the constant change in management?

I believe the main problem – as I have pointed out before – is that members of council let personal problems overtake their professional responsibilities. I do not believe that the problems that some members of the council have with City Manager Katrina Powell are professionally based; rather I believe they are a result of issues that have nothing to do with good governance and legitimate problems with pol-

icy.

In the future, I think the city can avoid a constant change in management by putting personal problems aside and making decisions that are based on logic and reason and which benefit residents on the whole.

Talk about economic development. How can the city spur economic growth?

The best way to spur economic growth is to really promote the town as a place to live in and do business. The fact is that advertising works. If people are informed about the many aspects of Hamtramck that make it a viable and dynamic place to do business, I believe they will respond accordingly.

When I first ran for office in 2011 I thought it would be a good idea to promote the city with a billboard on I-75 that said “If you lived in Hamtramck you’d be home by now.”

I think many people are aware of that fact now and we don't really have a problem finding occupants for houses anymore. Similarly, I think the same type of promotion might help expedite economic development. However, I also think economic growth is somewhat inevitable.

There has been a marked increase in businesses opening up in the city, and with Hamtramck's proximal location to the economic activity happening in

downtown and midtown I think it is only a matter of time before that activity makes its way to our city.

How can the city encourage commercial property owners to fill their retail spaces?

I think there are two main ways to motivate people to do something – carrots and sticks. By carrot I mean incentives, and stick I mean penalties. A combination of the two will probably be the best way to encourage commercial property owners to fill vacant retail spaces. Incentive-wise, I think the city can look into providing cost-neutral tax breaks that will encourage property owners to want to fill their store space.

Penalty-wise, I think the city can look into increasing the cost of having a vacant commercial space to the point where it is not economically viable to have it empty and it makes more sense to have the space filled.

Overall I think the future of the City of Hamtramck is incredibly bright. We have a perfect mix of people, place, and passion, and I truly believe that some of the issues we currently face are nothing more than growing pains.

Ultimately, I think residents of the city will be able to find common ground and move forward, and I for one am eager to be a part of the revitalization process. I live here, I work here, and I spend my time and money here, and I want nothing but the best for the city and its future.

I hope that by answering these questions I was able to shed more light on who I am and what I believe, but I encourage you to contact me if you need any more information about what has been discussed. Thank you for taking the time to read what I have to say, and I hope you will take it into consideration when it comes time to vote.

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