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September 23, 2016
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Hamtramck

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Quick Hits

Today, Friday (Sept. 23), is the second day of autumn.

Yes, summer is now officially gone. While we look forward to cooler temps and no humidity, we are bracing ourselves for what some weather experts predict will be a brutal winter.

And with fall here, there's another thing we look forward to: The annual Hamtramck Neighborhood Arts Festival.

The festival, held on Oct. 8, is actually whatever people want it to be. Throughout the city there will be musicians playing on house porches, artists painting on the sidewalks, theater folks performing in art spaces and so on and so on.

We'll have more about this next week, but in the meantime if you want folks to know where you will be performing, get a hold of festival organizers and let them know your location.

That way interested festivalgoers can see where art is being created. You have until Oct. 1 to get on their Facebook page. You can contact them by email: hamtramckneighborhoodartsfest@gmail.com.

— **HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD** —

With influx of new students, school district finances are making the grade

By Charles Sercombe

It was not long ago the Hamtramck Public School District feared it was losing students at a pace that could have forced the closing of some schools.

This year, there could be a problem of finding space to accommodate students.

A large number of students have enrolled this year, many of them escaping the ongoing bombing happening in Yemen, said school officials.

An early count of students shows there are at least 100 more students this year compared to last year.

That number could conceivably increase by another 186 if all the students who enrolled for this year actually show up for class.

Hamtramck School Boardmember Jackie Starr said most of the students are refugees from Yemen and a smattering from Syria.

Continued on page 2

Public school officials are bracing for a huge influx of students this year, with a number of them coming from Yemen to escape the ongoing bombing. Most of the new students will first have to learn English.

Road repairs wrapping up

By Charles Sercombe

Residents near Casmere can soon breathe easier.

Or at least enjoy smoother driving on the street.

The street was milled a few weeks ago and crews have been making repairs to the foundation and installing new sidewalks at the intersections to conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

And now the final touch is about to happen. According to the city's weekly engineering report, asphalt paving will take place starting this coming Monday or Tuesday.

The street will have to be closed off for the paving, and the city says it will inform resident near the street of the closing a few days before.

Similar work is being done on Trowbridge, from Jos. Campau to Gallagher. Repaving of the street is scheduled for the week of Oct. 3.

Next up is Botsford, where milling will take place between Jos. Campau and Fleming.

Down in the southend, work is wrapping up on a major sewer line replacement.

Continued on page 4

An illustration of the Aswak Sook Al Mehl Import Export Inc. store on Miller St. by Emily Wood.

City Life

Magic hour on Miller and Dwyer

By Walter Wasacz

When I was 11 I fell in with a group of neighborhood boys who liked to explore the full range of Hamtramck's width and length.

We walked or biked to the edges of the city – and

sometimes beyond the edges and across railroad tracks that cut across the east, west and southwest borders.

To get to destinations even farther from home, we took the bus: down-

Continued on page 5

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VOTE

With influx of new students, school district finances are making the grade

Cont. from front page

crease is good news for the district, it does present a challenge.

“We have to find them housing,” Starr said.

The students must reside in the district in order to attend, she said. That will be no easy task as there appears to be a housing shortage in the city. There has been a steady flow of new people moving into the city in the past two years.

Hamtramck has long been home to newly arrived immigrants – and that is still true – but there is now an influx of adults moving here to escape high rents in midtown Detroit.

District Superintendent Tom Niczay said many of the new students will present another challenge to the district –

teaching them how to read and speak English.

“The increase in enrollment is mainly due to English Language Learners from overseas spread out over several grades with grades 9 and 10 being the grades most affected,” he said.

The ELL program caters to students who do not speak English or speak only a little of it.

If more students start to show up, Niczay said “classroom space could be an issue.”

“We are in the process of planning for possible room assignment changes if needed to create more room.”

The boom in the student population has its upside. The district receives \$7,511 in state financial aid for every student.

The extra 100 students represent an additional \$751,100 in revenue.

If all 286 students show up, the district will receive an additional \$2.1 million in financial aid.

The influx of students wasn’t expected. School officials had braced for a loss of students this year.

Up until over a year ago the district was at the end of a five-year plan to climb out of a \$5 million budget deficit, due mostly to severe cuts in state financial aid as the state slashed aid to schools and communities to combat its own budget woes.

The district successfully worked its way out of the deficit and now projects its current \$6 million budget surplus – which in education parlance is also called a “fund equity” – to shoot up to \$7 million.

Getting out of the financial crisis meant making some hard choices for district employees.

Teachers and others agreed to cuts while some employees such as custodians found themselves out of a job when the district decided to privatize that work.

Niczay said that although the district is now financially sound, there are projects that require funding.

“We have a decent fund equity, however, we have building repair needs, staffing needs and technology needs that need attention,” Niczay.

District employees who agreed to cuts have an agreement with the district to negotiate restoring their losses.

The district’s teacher union president, Michelle Cooke, said her union recently entered into a three-year contract with the district that included some raises.

The union plans to continue to ask for more of their lost wages to be restored, although the district is not obligated to take that action.

“We’re slowly edging back,” Cooke said about bringing their salaries back up. “But the district is very cautious for a

number of things.”

While the economy and housing property values have improved since the housing crash in 2008, there is concern among state and national economic experts of another downturn.

One thing the district has going for it is the support of voters, who in recent years passed a sinking fund millage to allow various building repairs and also renewed the recreation millage for another 10 years.

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This week at the library...

Movie Night at the Library – Tuesday, September 27, 7:30 p.m. We will be showing the documentary "The Goat Yard." Nestled at the edge of the City of Detroit sits The Goat Yard, a most unusual place. The motley group of sailors who call the place home defy convention of what many would normally associate with a "Yacht Club." they entertain with stories from the past, misadventures on the high seas, political intrigue and wonderful inventions, inspired and led for the most part by raconteur and rabble-rouser Stephen Hume.

Movie Night at the Library – Wednesday, October 5, 6:30 p.m. We will be showing "Army of

Darkness." A man is accidentally transported to 1300 A.D., where he must battle an army of the dead and retrieve the Necronomicon so he can return home.

ESL Class – Monday, September 26, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

ESL Class – Wednesday, September 28, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

ESL Class – Friday, September 30, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

Cooking Matters for Adults – Free cooking

and nutrition classes featuring healthy cooking on a budget, smart shopping ideas, culinary secrets, free cookbook and free groceries. Classes meet 2 hours each week and are 6 weeks long. (Commitment to all classes is mandatory.) If interested please call the Hamtramck Public Library at (313) 365-7050.

Michigan Activity Pass – The pass will enable Library card holders to obtain a one-time free entry into any Michigan State park or recreation area, and free entry into over 100 participating cultural institutions. Ask at the circulation desk for more details.

For more information about events at the library call (313) 365-7050, or visit our website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us> where you can also access our online catalog.

Second Front Page

School Board News ...

**By Evan Major
Vice President,
Board of Education**

Last week the Hamtramck Public School Board officially established two traditions of a healthy school district.

The first was the invitation of school board candidates to attend the meeting, receive an information packet on the position, and speak to the audience. On behalf of the board, Superintendent Tom Niczay invited all candidates to the meeting and six out of eight were present. Three are current board members Jackie Starr, Hedy Shulgon, and Salah Hadwan.

Candidate attendees were Jeffrey Salazar, Lenny Stinson, and Moortadha Obeid. Not in attendance were Showkat Chowdury and Renee Savage.

According to the Michigan Association of School Boards, over 1,000 school board seats are up for election this November. This means a big transition for the governance of 1.6 million public school students across the state.

It is essential that all candidates deeply understand the expectations of the position, communicate their qualifications to the voters, and are ready to be part of a team of advocates for public education. It is our hope that this endeavor grows into a

larger forum for future elections and establishes a local model for preparing those that wish to hold public office.

The second accomplishment at last week's meeting was the culmination of more than a year of work by district leaders. By a unanimous vote, the school board adopted an aggressive, thoughtful, and responsible set of goals for the 2016-17 school year.

A full list can be found below, but the most noteworthy point was the process. Working with board consultant Dr. Len Rezmierski, the HPS team has taken steps to research best practices and align all of our planning and evaluation processes into one streamlined system of continuous improvement.

Every student, parent, staff member, department, and building now share common targets for annual success, and we will take this coming school year to share these targets and this process with the community in an inclusive and interactive manner.

- Increase understanding of the Hamtramck Public Schools revenue and cost structure amongst all stakeholders; allocate financial resources to meet District's educational

goals and community recreational needs.

- The recreation committee will conduct a review/study of Districts' Recreation Department with emphasis on eliminating deficit spending by implementing a comprehensive evaluation and goal setting system for revenue, expenditure, staffing, supplies and programming during 2016-2017.

- Maintain District Fund Balance of 10% from 2015-2016 as adopted by the Board of Education on May 12, 2016. Further support the parameters of a 12%-15% fund balance for the next five years.

- Develop and implement an overall facility plan that incorporates Sinking Funds; Cafeteria Funds; Capital Funds; and General Funds; with emphasis towards potential or projected continued student growth with increased capacity options in the plan.

- Recommend and implement strategies to retain and recruit the highest quality staff members for Hamtramck Public Schools.

- Establish a committee to review "best practices" to retain quality staff, while attracting candidates to fill vacated positions through District Teacher Job Fairs, Wayne RESA Aspiring Administrators Academy and a local University partner.

- Improve reading and math scores by 3%-6% on the District assessments.

- Increase reading and math proficiency on State assessments by the average percent of statewide increase.

- For English Language students increase speaking, listening, reading, and writing scores on the WIDA and other local assessments by 3%-6%.

- Youth voice will be included in School Improvement Plans and the District Improvement Plan.

These are not the only goals that exist throughout the district as we undergo many large-scale projects and continuing academic improvement. These are specifically designed to act as a set of priorities for the whole system, and upon which we can measure our own success.

As always, school board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month, 6:30 p.m. at 3201 Roosevelt St. Please come and participate in the process.



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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 Sept. 6. Councilmember Andrea Karpinski and Mohammed Hassan were absent. Before the council meeting a work session was held.

During that meeting Councilmember Anam Miah questioned the cost of repairs to a fire truck. He wondered if the repairs were needed because of excessive use.

"Seems like the costs are adding up," he said.

Interim Fire Chief Dan Hagen said the repairs were part of normal service work. City Manager Katrina Powell said she will look at last year's cost of repairs to make a comparison.

She noted that in the past the city put off making repairs.

Mark Ragsdale, the Director of Public Works, said the various street and sewer repair projects

are on time and should be completed sometime in October.

Councilmember Miah questioned a charge the city pays to the Wayne County Jail for housing Hamtramck prisoners. The city is charged \$35 per prisoner each day they are incarcerated.

Powell said she is working on eliminating that fee.

"I've been questioning this the entire time," she said.

She added she has been talking with the county sheriff, and noted that the city already pays county property taxes and a jail millage. The added charge, she said, is "triple dipping."

Mayor Karen Majewski questioned the city's requirement for new businesses that open to have a fire suppression system installed. She said installing such a system can be expensive because many of the city's buildings are old.

She said it doesn't make sense to install a \$100,000 system on a building worth only \$50,000.

A discussion was held on code violations issued to Henry Velleman, who owns and manages a couple dozen buildings and lots on Jos. Campau. Many of his properties have remained vacant for years, and some of his lots are littered with trash.

The city's building inspector said the district court recently dismissed a number of tickets issued to Velleman because he had transferred ownership of his properties to another entity.

(Powell later said the tickets were primarily dismissed because the city's code requirements

Continued on page 4

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Metro news

It's said that whatever happens to Detroit, so goes Hamtramck. Our friends over at modelmedia.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:

From samosa to daal to biryani, the eclectic (and at times delightfully spicy) cuisine of Southern Asia has gained a visible pres-

ence in Metro Detroit in recent years. It's a phenomenon that can be witnessed (and tasted) quite readily at more than two dozen local ethnic markets in our region.

The emergence of a network of South Asian, or Desi, food retailers here is tied to an influx of immigrants from various parts of the Indian subcontinent (which includes countries like Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri

Lanka) to Southeast Michigan over the last few decades.

There are now around 60,000 South Asian-American families living in Michigan, mostly in Metro Detroit, according to South Asian American Voices for Impact, a Canton-based group that provides education, outreach, and advocacy services to the Desi community.

Although it's come in different waves, much of the

immigration from South Asia to Metro Detroit has happened since the 1990s.

When it comes to the food of the Indian subcontinent, the cuisines of India, Bangladesh and Pakistan have a lot in common. But there are still regional specialties and preferences like Hyderabadi biryani, a mixed rice and meat dish that originated in India but is very popular in Pakistan. And Pakistanis tend to eat a lot of red meat and a variety of biryani mixed rice dishes. Vegetarian cuisine, on the other hand, is very central to Hindus in India.

Metro Detroit ethnic markets run the gamut of these traditions. Hamtramck is home to a number of markets catering to these ethnic communities.

Perched on the corner of Conant and Yemens in Hamtramck, Amanah Poultry & Groceries makes its home in a sturdy brick building with a big yellow sign proudly announcing its name in English and Bengali.

The shop—which carries a sizable assortment of imported goods, frozen foods and meats and is known for its extremely fresh chicken—is well-positioned to draw in folks from the growing Bangladeshi community that makes its home in Hamtramck and a nearby

slice of Detroit.

Amanah's owner is a friendly fellow with a cap and a long goatee named Ahmed Hussain; he has a good-spirited candor about him that seems to fit well with the name Amanah, an Arabic word that refers to the fulfilling or upholding of trusts.

Born in the city of Sylhet, Hussain immigrated to the United States in the 1980s, following in the footsteps of his father, a sailor, and his brother, who served in the U.S. Army. Although his first home in this country was Queens in New York City, he heard about Hamtramck from his brother, who had settled here and found a job with Ford. His sibling's tales of cheap land and inexpensive living conditions in Michigan eventually proved too hard to resist.

"[My brother] went to New York [to] vacation, and when he came [back, he took] me with him," says Hussain. "We drive here, and then I look, and I say: 'OK, no problem!' We did buy this place and then fixed everything."

At first, the brother was the owner and Hussain served as the shop's butcher. Eventually, his sibling opened a travel agency called Fair Sky Travel, and Hussain ended up owning the shop. He now runs the place with the help of his sons.

In addition to spices, rice mixes, lentils, rice and a nice assortment of pickles, the store offers a se-

lection of fresh produce, including mangos from Pakistan that Hussain says are as "sweet as honey." The store also boasts an ample selection of frozen foods including kebabs, chicken and beef patties, fish (both Bangladeshi-specific and more typical U.S. varieties) and an oily flatbread called paratha.

For many of the customers, however, the real attraction is the fresh chicken. Hussain has been a butcher all his life and slaughters the chicken (and Turkey for Thanksgiving) himself.

"Our chicken is special. Amish people raise [it] for us, and we slaughter it [in a special room in the back of the store]," says Hussain. "We take the skin off [and charge] \$2.25 a pound."

Hussain is an authorized Halal slaughterer and has also cooperated with a rabbi to butcher chicken in a kosher manner for Jewish holidays. The shop gets brisk business from Bangladeshis, Indians, Pakistanis and Yemenis in the area. It used to get a lot of Polish customers too, but Hussain says most of them have moved on to the suburbs at this point.

Hussain says he has no complaints. Hamtramck is thriving these days, and business is good, a state of affairs he attributes to hard work and God's assistance.

By David Sands



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MICHIGAN**

Notice is hereby given that **Tuesday, October 11, 2016** is the **last day to register** to vote or change your address for the above stated election.

If you are not currently registered to vote or have changed your address in the above stated jurisdiction in which you live you may do so at the following locations and times listed in this notice.

IN PERSON:

- At your city or township clerk's office or at the office of any county clerk during normal business hours.
- At any of the Secretary of State Branch offices located throughout the state during normal business hours.
- At the specified agency for clients receiving services through the Family Independence Agency, the Department of Community Health, Michigan Jobs Commission and some of the Commission for the Blind.
- At the military recruitment offices for persons enlisting in the armed forces.

BY MAIL:

- By obtaining and completing a Mail Voter Registration Application and forwarding to the election official as directed on the application by the close of registration deadline. Mail voter registration applications may be obtained by contacting:

**CITY CLERK
1-313-870-0342
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NOTE: A person who registers to vote by mail is required to vote in person unless they have previously voted in person in the city/township where they live or are at least 60 years of age.

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- গ্রাহকদের জন্য নির্ধারিত এজেন্সীতে, যেখানটায় ফ্যামিলি ইনডিপেনডেন্স এজেন্সী, ডিপার্টমেন্ট অফ কমিউনিটি হেলথ, মিশিগান জব কমিশন এবং অন্ধদের জন্য কয়েকটি কমিশনের মধ্য দিয়ে বিভিন্ন সেবা পাওয়া যায়।
- সশস্ত্র বাহিনীতে তালিকাভুক্ত ব্যক্তিদের জন্য সেনা নিয়োগদানের অফিসগুলোতে।

ডাক মারফত তা করতে পারেন:

- একটি ডাকযোগে ভোটদানকারীর নিবন্ধন আবেদন ফরম প্রাপ্তি ও পূরণ সাপেক্ষে এবং আবেদন ফরমের উপরে নির্দেশিত নিবন্ধন সময়সীমা অনুযায়ী নির্বাচনী কর্মকর্তার কাছে পাঠাতে হবে। নীচের যোগাযোগ করে ডাকযোগে ভোটার নিবন্ধনের আবেদন ফরম পাওয়া যেতে পারে:

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লক্ষ্য করুন: ডাক মারফত ভোট দেওয়ার জন্য নিবন্ধিত যে কোন ব্যক্তিকে স্বশরীরে ভোট দিতে হবে, যদি না তারা তাদের বসবাসের শহর/নগরে পূর্বে ভোট দিয়ে থাকে বা তাদের বয়স কমপক্ষে ৬০ না হয়।

Road repairs wrapping up

Continued from front page

ment project. One last piece of the pipe is expected to be installed starting on Sept. 28.

After that the concrete work will be completed. In all it will take another three to four weeks to complete.

The new sewer is expected to help reduce

basement flooding – a problem that is widespread in the city when heavy rains fall. But it is only the first major step in what will take upwards of \$40 million to finally solve.

Funding sources for the next round of repairs has not yet been found.



City Hall Insider...

Continued from page 3

were found to be unconstitutional.)

During the regular meeting, the council adjusted the city's budget to reflect a fire grant the city received. The grant compensates the salaries for 12 firefighters, and brings the budget out of deficit

spending.

In other business, Mayor Majewski noted that there has recently been renewed media interest in the city with the upcoming elections. A media team from Sweden was in town this past week.



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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Cooperation will be key in transforming Jos. Campau

One of Hamtramck's most prominent commercial property owners has come under scrutiny in the past couple of weeks.

A report in the online publication Mlive.com has stirred up a hornet's nest, to say the least.

We're not going to get into the details of the report or name the property owner in question, but the report raised a number of worthy points.

The biggest issue it raised was: what to do with a person who stubbornly holds out from leasing his many Jos. Campau storefronts?

One thing we have learned over the years is not to gang up on this person. The property owner has his own, let's say peculiar, business plan and what type of business is desired.

Whatever the merits of this business plan, one thing is obvious: many of the properties have remained vacant for years.

Community leaders and residents were quoted in the report saying that the empty storefronts have resulted in Jos. Campau looking like a ghost town. It also has the effect, they said, of turning off potential businesses from locating here because it appears the city is going belly-up.

It is a frustrating situation to say the least, err, least.

There is one bright spot in all this. City Manager Katrina Powell has added a city planner.

We think there could be a powerful combination in the works to begin working with the property owner in question and coming up with a new vision of filling those empty spaces that vex so many in this community.

This is certainly going to test the mettle of Powell.

We wish the spirit of cooperation to work its magic in the community and move things forward.

Odds & Ends

Celebration... Our friend Joy Gargano celebrated a milestone last Saturday with a whole bunch of friends and family members. She turned 50 years old, and had quite a night at PLAV Post 10 hall.

Gargano is a city employee who works in the Treasurer's Office, and always has a smile for those coming in to pay their tax and water bills.

We wish her many more birthdays to follow. Sto Lat!

Art opening... Hamtramck's own Hatch Gallery will be presenting the works of 12 artists on Oct. 1. The exhibit is called "There is No I In Hamtramck," and as you might guess most of the artists are from Hamtramck.

Included in the show are sculptures by Dmytro Szylak, who created Hamtramck Disneyland but passed away in 2015. Hatch Art purchased his properties and is in the process of restoring it back to its former glory.

The exhibition is free and open to the public. The opening reception is Saturday, October 1, from 6 to 10 p.m. Hatch Gallery is located in Hamtramck's former police station at 3456 Evaline St. For complete information, visit www.hatchart.org.

Artists include Sanda Cook, Jeff Fournier, Jessica Frelinghuysen, Matt Hunt, Laura Macintyre, Luke MacGilvray, Robert Piatek, Mariuca Rofick, Clinton Snider, Dmytro Szylak, Carl Wilson, and Emily Wood.



Above: Joy Gargano, a city employee with the Treasurer's Office, celebrated her 50th birthday at PLAV Post 10 Hall last Saturday with friends and family. Below: Some of her well-wishers gather for a photo.



Continued from front page

town to see the Pistons at Cobo or the Tigers at the Corner (by taking the Chene bus to Cadillac Square than walking); to Northland Mall or Edgewater Park via the Conant line.

It was 1966, a year when I first felt the stirrings of urban discovery and the allure of experience outside family life. I became fascinated by streets and where they went. Pouring over maps after my adventures, I plotted out how to get from here to there, most often by taking the less obvious routes. I was always looking for new ways to find unknown places and neighborhoods.

It may seem odd that an 11-year-old boy would act out his wanderlust in such profound ways. In retrospect, I wonder how I did it, keeping my explorations secret from my parents. Only once did I fail, when I spent all my money and a kind stranger gave me a ride home from Grand Blvd and Mt. Elliott. I was exposed and shamed. My parents' eyes now on me, my bus adventures began to slow down.

But I continued to explore the city on foot and on my bike, until it was stolen from my yard in the summer of 1967. Now when I left Hamtramck with my friends it was usually just across the city limits, to the train yard adjacent to the Chrysler Lynch Road Plant. We'd get there by walking to the end of Caniff and crossing Mt. Elliott, where we'd find tadpoles, frogs and crayfish in the creeks and ponds alongside the tracks.

Only much later did it occur to me that Hamtramck was ironbound on every side of the city except to its north (though a rail line did once run across the top of McNichols and to the west side of the Detroit.

This is one piece of the proposed Inner Circle

Greenway that will eventually cut through Hamtramck. (More on this project in the weeks to come.)

In late August, Hamtramck artist Emily Wood and I walked south on Conant, under the viaduct where freight trains roll back and forth each day, to a neighborhood tucked away on the far southeast side of the city.

I was always fascinated by this section of town. Before Dodge Main was demolished in 1979-80, it bordered the eastern side of the factory. There was other big industry in the area. Facing Conant and hugging the diagonal railroad tracks was the Olsonite Corporation; Briggs Manufacturing was farther west along the tracks and facing Miller St., as was Polar Brand Ice Cream.

I remember when the buildings that housed them burned in the 1970s and 1980s. Missant Corp and an independent phone company called LDMI (Long Distance of Michigan) Communications spent time in the former Olsonite property. It remains standing but is now vacant and for sale.

Cutting left on Dorothy, we walked east into one of Hamtramck oldest residential districts. About 15 houses into our walk I looked for the change in asphalt that would tell us we were stepping into Detroit. It was here, somewhere, but the street was worn thin and it was impossible to see.

Maybe it would be easier to see in the alley, between Dorothy and Miller streets, where we ran into Eric, who said he'd been on Miller St. since 1953, the year he was born.

Did you go to Resurrection school, I asked? He said he did. Do you remember Worm, he lived around here probably around the same time you were growing up? (Worm is

Christopher Przybycien, an old friend from the 1970s I have not seen for decades.) "No," he said, "I don't remember any Worms."

I walked over to a part of the alley where the pavement changed in texture. I asked Eric if this is where Hamtramck and Detroit city limits meet? He said it was.

We cut through a vacant lot to Miller and walked left, to the parking lot by the Masjid Mu'ath Bin Jabal mosque and Oakland International Academy that had once been Resurrection school and church.

We saw some people painting the curb at the intersection of Dwyer St. The young man who was leading the group told us he was Khalil Refai, one of the chaplains of the Hamtramck Police Department. He talked about the work that the Yemeni American Leadership Association was doing, that the group had new offices on Conant between Harold and Casmere streets above the hookah shop.

Years ago, before my time, this neighborhood had a small cinema, the Oliver Theater, at the corner of Mt. Elliott and Oliver St. Residential urban subdivisions extended east to Van Dyke and beyond, to Gratiot, and then to the far east side. The neighborhood anchored by the mosque is one of the few left intact along this Detroit-Hamtramck border.

We walked to a spot on Dwyer St. where Emily took a spot standing up and sketched the back of a building that faced Miller. The business at the front of the building is called Aswak Sook Al-Melh.

On the opposite corner is a Yemeni grocery store. Much of the signage in this densely populated and vibrant neighborhood is in Arabic. Kids are everywhere, life spills out into the streets. It's a friendly, welcoming place.

The light was beginning to fade. As the "magic hour" approached a group of boys gathered around us. They wanted the artist to draw them. They tried to guess our ages and asked us to guess theirs.

A man rolled up in a

Continued on page 8

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

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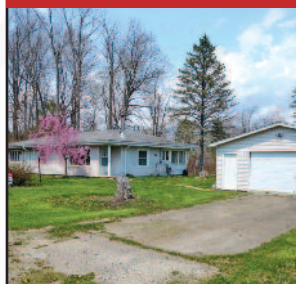


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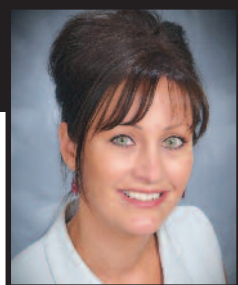
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By Charles Sercombe
This week's Crime Log
covers Sept. 13-19.

Tuesday, September 13

- A resident in the 11300 block of Fleming complained that a neigh-
bor's pit bull jumped the
fence and attempted to
attack three smaller dogs.
The owner of the pit bull
denied the accusation
and said her pit bull was
chained up all day.
- A resident was ar-
rested for passing a coun-
terfeit \$100 bill and being
wanted on a Hamtramck
warrant.
- At 10:45 p.m. two res-
idents and a Lincoln Park
resident were robbed at
gunpoint by four males
while in the 2300 block of
Poland. The suspects
stole two cell phones, a
wallet, handbag, debit
card and \$40 in cash.
- At almost midnight a
woman in the 2600 block
of Holmes asked officers
for help in leaving her
house. She said she was
afraid of her boyfriend and
with the assistance of of-
ficers she was able to
leave the residence with
her baby without being
harmed.
- At 12:30 a.m. a War-
ren resident attempted to
pick up a family member
near Hanley and Gallagher
when a man grabbed his
family member by the hair
and shoved her into a car.

The Warran resident said
he was then assaulted by
four males. He declined to
press charges.

- At about 2:30 a.m. a
resident was arrested
after a traffic stop for driv-
ing without a license. The
resident had been previ-
ously convicted of this of-
fense nine times. A
passenger was arrested
for possessing an open in-
toxicant.
- An employee at a
business in the 9400
block of Conant reported
someone keyed her car.
- At 10 a.m. two males
were arrested at Jos.
Campau and Caniff for
possessing an open intox-
icant, loitering and pos-
sessing narcotics.
- A resident reported
being sexually assaulted
at Jos. Campau and Han-
ley.
- A Detroit resident said
the father of her child
forcibly took their son
from her mother's house
on Belmont. The father
later had his sister return
the child.
- At about 9 p.m. a De-
troit resident was arrested
for attempting to sexually
assault a woman.

Wednesday, September 14

- At about 1 p.m. a per-
son was arrested for
being disorderly after a re-
port of a disturbance at
Conant and Caniff.

- A Detroit resident was
stabbed during an argu-
ment on Doremus.

Thursday, September 15

- At 10:30 p.m. a resi-
dent in the 5000 block of
Caniff reported seeing a
man trying to break into
his neighbor's house. The
suspect fled before offi-
cers arrived.
- A Holbrook resident
reported a person he
knows stole his laptop
from his apartment on
Holbrook.
- A woman reported the
theft of her 1999 Pontiac
from the 3900 block of
Evaline.
- At about 1 p.m. a per-
son reported being
robbed at gunpoint by two
males after using an ATM
on Jos. Campau and Can-
iff. The suspects fled on
foot.
- At about 4 p.m. a
woman reported that
while walking to her car in
the area of Jos. Campau
and Jacob, a male
snatched her purse and
ran away.
- Officers responded to
a report of two suspects
attempting to start fights
in Veterans Park. One of
the suspects was seen
with a handgun. The sus-
pects were last seen run-
ning away.

Friday, September 16

- A woman reported her

Continued on page 8




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Continued from page 7

daughter as missing. The juvenile later returned home.

- A person was arrested for obstruction following an investigation.
- A man was arrested for domestic violence after hitting his wife.
- A woman reported being assaulted by her boyfriend.
- A person was arrested after a traffic stop for being disorderly.
- A man reported juveniles damaged his car after they threw rocks at it.

Saturday, September 17

- A city employee in the Treasurer's Office reported a person passed a counterfeit \$5 bill.
- An employee of a business in the 9500 block of Jos. Campau reported a suspect wrestled a gaming system from his hand and ran off with it.
- A resident in the 2900 block of Council reported someone damaged his screen door.

Sunday, September 18

- Officers took a report of a broken window from a residence in the 12000 block of Dyar.
- Officers took a report of a break-in at a residence in the 12000 block of Dequindre.
- A Dorothy resident reported being assaulted by

someone they know.

- A business owner in the 8800 block of Conant reported a break-in.
- Officers responded to a report of a couple in the area of Lumpkin and Caniff taking drugs. The couple was found unresponsive and taken to Detroit Receiving Hospital.

Monday, September 19

- At a little after midnight officers responded to gunshots being fired in the area of the 12000



Continued from page 5

minivan and offered us copies of the Koran. He asked Emily if she would be interested in giving some Yemeni women immersive English lessons. We walked west on Dwyer to Conant, turned back onto Winkleman, then found a sidewalk that cut from there to Sallan St. and onto Conant.

The sun was hugging the horizon as we walked back to the central part of the city. I looked south and, in

block of Grand Haven. A male was arrested at the site for obstruction and being wanted on warrant.

- A break-in was reported in the 2400 block of Casmere. Jewelry was reported missing.
- A resident reported receiving harassing phone calls from a male claiming she won a sweepstakes and needed to send money to him to hold the prize. When the woman refused, the man began making sexual advances.
- A St. Aubin resident reported a break-in and the theft of assorted items.

the distance, through the trees, saw rays of sunlight reflecting off the glass of the General Motors building downtown. I took a picture of it but it looked much better to my naked eye.

Walter Wasacz walks and writes in Hamtramck, where he was born and still lives. To see more of Emily Wood's art, go to emily-janewood.com


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