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The Review

Hamtramck

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MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

Quick Hits

Hamtramck city officials and employees will take part in next week's national "Make a Difference Day."

This is a day when volunteers across the country do any number of services to help the needy and to improve our communities.

Hamtramck City Hall volunteers will be collecting new hats, gloves, and new or gently used clean coats and donate them to Friendship House.

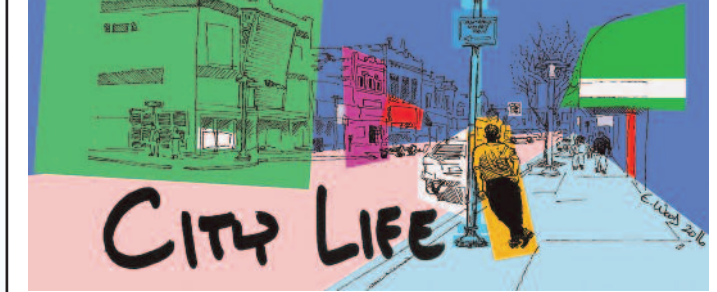
The public is invited to drop off items in city hall.

Quote of the week ...

Who said this, and what is it about? You can find the quote and the story it belongs to somewhere in the pages of this issue.

"I had a writer who was setting her book in the city in the 20s. I took her to the oldest area of town."

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —



Journey into the arts

By Walter Wasacz

I started my day-long walk at this year's Hamtramck Neighborhood Arts Festival at Bumbo's and ended it at Lo & Behold! as planned. In between I dodged raindrops and made a few apparel changes to stay as dry as possible.

For the first time since it launched in 2010 – the sprawling event that features artists inviting guests into home studios, onto porches and back yards for music and other live performances, art galleries and non-traditional art spaces opening their doors to townies and newcomers alike – experienced less than perfect weather.

The law of averages finally caught up, but it failed to deter the area's creative community from putting on its annual October party — make that a series of parties in multiple locations in Hamtramck and in neighboring Banglatown and the border community along Carpenter on the northwest side of town.

After brunch at Bumbo's, which was packed with people at 11:30 a.m. and featured a menu with cocktail and food specials along with live solo and group music performances, I walked up Gallagher and spotted some happy locals spread across artist and festival co-organizer Alice Schneider's porch at the intersection of Edwin St. Folksinger Mike Galbraith was the featured guest



Last Saturday's Neighborhood Arts Festival offered a wide variety of music, art and performance.

performer here.

I popped into Public Pool to see artist Jason Ferguson, whose 'One Man (Freak) Show' exhibition is up through this Saturday, when Public Pool co-founder Steve Hughes hosts his writers buffet (as an aside: if you have not been to this series, come check it out. It's one of the highest quality literary arts programs in all of Michigan).

I walked up to Popp's

Councilmember is not a 'defaulter'

By Charles Sercombe

Councilmember Anam Miah won't get kicked off the city council.

That's the verdict from City Attorney John Clark in answer to an accusation made by a resident that Miah was a defaulter at the time he was elected to office in 2015.



Anam Miah

Carrie Beth Lasley, a government watchdog, recently submitted documentation to the city showing that in 2015 Miah lost property he owned in Detroit to foreclosure after failing to keep on top of property tax payments.

According to the City Charter, any public official who falls behind on bills owed to Hamtramck or any other government agency is a "defaulter" and thus disqualified from holding office.

In a letter to Lasley, which Lasley shared with The Review, Clark looked past the city charter and referred to the definition of a defaulter in Black's Law Dictionary.

According to that definition, Miah was past being in default at the time of his election, and thus not guilty of being in default to the city.

Continued on page 2

Public school district will open new building in January



A former charter school on Hanley has been purchased by the Hamtramck Public School District.

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck Public Schools' purchase of a former charter school building has finally gone through.

The district had hoped to open the school this fall, but negotiations over the sale hit a snag, said Superintendent Tom Niczay.

"Certain terms and conditions in the purchase agreement could not be fulfilled," Niczay said in a press release issued last week.

At the recent monthly school board meeting, he said the purchase was finalized. The district bought the building that had housed the Academy of International Studies, located on Hanley.

Included in the \$3 million purchase is another building next door to the school and a parking lot.

Some 150 former students at the charter school have enrolled in

Continued on page 3



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Councilmember is not a ‘defaulter’

Continued from front page

But Lasley pointed out that the city charter’s reference to being a defaulter does not have a time limit.

Furthermore, Lasley said the charter requires a hearing on the matter, which was not conducted.

“This is the outcome I had anticipated and why it was important to abide by the Charter, which prescribed a public hearing

for such matters,” Lasley said in an email to The Review. “However, our city attorney, like many of our city officials, doesn’t feel obliged to follow laws that they do not like.”

Lasley said she is considering whether to pursue the matter in court. Ultimately, she said, she hopes when Miah is up for re-election in two years voters will remem-

ber this issue.

“It was never important to me to unseat Councilman Miah. I would prefer to see him rejected by his peers at the ballot box so that he cannot point to me and the color of my skin and claim to be a victim, which he has become apt to do,” said Lasley, who is white.

Miah is a Bangladeshi-American and has accused critics in the past of being biased against him because of the color of his skin and him being a Muslim.

The issue of city officials being in default to the city is not new. In the past few years it came to light that a few elected officials had fallen far behind in water bills.

One elected official, Councilmember Mohammed Hassan, even had his water turned off for non-payment of his bills.

At the time that issue arose, the city was under the control of a state-appointed emergency manager who refused to follow up on the matter.

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Metro news ...

It’s said that whatever happens to Detroit, so goes Hamtramck. Our friends over at model-media.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:

Hamtramck, this concept is waiting for you:

A new take on a still-growing trend in Detroit has taken root in a northwestern part of the city. It’s called the Detroit Parent Collective; part-coworking space, part childcare facility, and part co-op preschool.

Detroit Parent Collective (DPC) recently celebrated its grand opening in the Live6 district, in a building located across from Marygrove College.

For the past several years, the co-working space has become a favorite among budding entrepreneurs and members of the gig economy. For those without an office or brick-and-mortar business to call their

own, the co-working space provides the professional resources and increased networking opportunities not usually available from a per-

son’s home office.

At DPC, typical co-working amenities like workspaces and Internet access are provided on a

Continued on page 8

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This week at the library...

ESL Class – Friday, October 20, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

ESL Class – Monday, October 23, 9 a.m. and 12. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

ESL Class – Wednesday, October 25, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

ESL Class – Friday, October 27, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

Fall Toddler Time – Thursday, October 19 at noon. Join us in celebration of the autumn season “Leaves Day.”

Thursday, October 26 at noon. Celebrate Halloween week with us “Pumpkin Day.”

Thursday, November 2 at noon. A is for Apple ... “Apple Day.”

Thursday, November 9 at noon. Learn about farm animals “Farm Day.”

Thursday, November 16 at noon. Celebrate Thanksgiving week with us “Turkey Day.”

Toddler Time is for children ages 2-5, and runs for about one hour. This event includes story time, arts & crafts, songs, games, and much

more fun! Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information please visit: www.hamtramck.lib.mi.us or call the library at (313) 733-6822

Meet the candidates – Thursday Nov. 2, 6:30-8 p.m., the Hamtramck Community Initiative presents a Town Hall Discussion (Meet the Candidates).

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) 733-6822, or visit its website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us> where you can also access the online catalog.

Second Front Page



School Bell

Enrollment
Hamtramck residents may enroll their children in Hamtramck Public Schools at the Residency Office at 3201 Roosevelt from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Parents/Guardians please bring your Michigan Driver's License or Michigan State I.D. For proof of residency, please bring from the following list two items: a current gas, electric, phone, water, cable or property tax bill, mortgage payment book or monthly mortgage statement, home/renters insurance statement, rent receipt, formal signed lease/rental agreement, verification of tenants through management of rental unit, closing statement of the domicile (home), prior year Hamtramck resident income tax return, paycheck indicating home address or official letter from Social Services verifying home address.

The name and address on either the Michigan Driver's License or the Michigan State I.D. must match the name and address of the proofs of residency. Student information needed is birth certificate (must be translated into English), Passport, Visa or Green card, Social Security card, up to date immunization records, current transcripts/report card

from previous school. If you have any questions, please call (313) 872-9270 extension 2036.

Early Childhood Elementary School News
The kindergarten through second grade students at Early Childhood Elementary put on their walking shoes and enjoyed a short fall walk to the Hamtramck Fire Department on Monday and Tuesday.

The students learned about fire safety through a short musical video. They learned what to do if there is smoke and a fire in their home and a fire fighter is coming in to rescue them. The students learned to not hide and to shout for "help!" and "I'm in here!"

The fire fighters reminded everyone to have a smoke detector in their home. The fire fighters told the students that when the smoke detector starts beeping all the time then they know it's time to change the batteries.

They had the children think and talk about where they would go for a safe meeting place if they had to escape a fire. The students enjoyed a tour of the fire trucks, hose room and meeting room.

The fire fighters gave each of the students a ruler, fire safety coloring book and a pamphlet



Early Childhood Elementary School students recently visited the fire station.



Hamtramck High School journalism students recently attended a press conference hosted by Michigan State University.

about smoke detectors. The excitement was felt all day as the children talked about the fun they had! The fire department will be coming to visit the preschool classes this week with the fire truck which will bring more excitement to ECE.

Hamtramck High School News
The Hamtramck High School Cosmos Times staff attended the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association (MIPA) Fall Conference hosted by Michigan State Univer-

sity. Nearly 2,000 students and media advisors attended the nearly 80 sessions run by top journalism educators and professional journalists

Continued on page 4

Public school district will open new building in January

Continued from front page

the public school district. The charter school abruptly closed last summer after Central Michigan University cut its sponsorship ties.

The building will now re-open under the control of the school district on

Jan. 29. It will serve students in kindergarten through 8th grade.

“The families that had children attending classes in that building before it lost its charter and was closed will have the first opportunity to re-

turn,” said Niczay in a press release.

The district will have to spend an additional \$1 million in furniture and educational material.

Also, 18 teachers will be hired at a cost of \$1.3 million, which includes the cost of benefits.

There is no name for the school yet, and the district is asking for suggestions from the public, school employees and students.

“We are very excited about this acquisition and we are asking for suggestions for the naming of the school. As members of the community, the District would appreciate input on this matter,” Niczay said.

Have a good name to suggest?

You can submit your idea online at: <https://goo.gl/forms/5kPLj4flezVcQ5853>

Names can also be handed into school staff members. The deadline to submit a suggestion is Nov. 3.



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Nov. 1 - Solemnity of All Saints, Holy Mass, 7 pm
Nov. 2 - Observance of All Souls, Remembrance Service, 7 pm
Nov. 3 - Santa Shoppe, 3-6 pm
Nov. 4 - Santa Shoppe, 10-2 pm
Nov. 5 - Santa Shoppe, 10-12 pm

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Scope: Hamtramck Public Schools will receive sealed bids for the purchase of Smith System Student Furniture

Documents: Specifications will be available from the Michigan Bid System website at www.bid4michigan.com. The Hamtramck Public Schools will also provide the specifications electronically. A written request for specifications, questions and bid submittal information shall be sent to: Richard Wawrzynski, Director, Building and Grounds rwawrzynski@hamtramck.k12.mi.us

Schedule: October 19, 2017: RFP Issued
October 27, 2017: Last day for questions
November 1, 2017: Bid Deadline 2pm

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 2:05pm on November 1, 2017.

No bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the date of bid opening. The Hamtramck Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids received.

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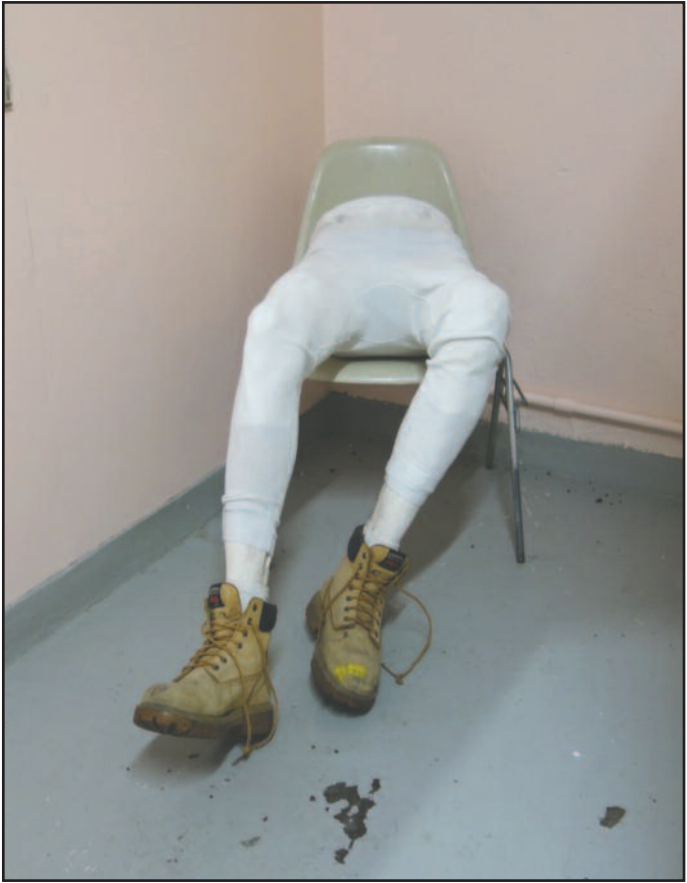


Journey into the arts

Continued from front page

in trailers, under tents and back porches. This was not just random noise. The rotating cast of performers was instructed to play in the same key to create some order to the cacophony. From there I zig-zagged through neighborhoods between Carpenter and Caniff, making it to Klinger Studios just after 8 p.m. for a performance in the Klinger and Sobieski alley north of Casmere, underneath the canopy that extends from the Hamtramck Public Schools utility building. Spaceband, a collective led by longtime Detroit Surrealist Maurice Greenia, was playing long drone-rock jams with accompanying projections on the wall behind them. Each member of the group was bathed in glitter, silver masks or other eye-catching attire. It was a fabulously hypnotic little concert on a different plane. They do it every year in the same location. It's worth catching up to this at future festivals. I walked home to change again then went back out to Lo & Behold! after midnight. A soggy day and night might have kept numbers down at the closing dance party, but it was still going strong when I left around 1:30 a.m., shop owner and DJ Richie Wohlfeil's northern soul cuts following me as I walked south on Jos. Campau before turning the corner at Yemans and heading home. *Walter Wasacz's walkable discoveries of the Hamtramck day and night are a regular feature in the Review. Read more about his work here: <http://nospectacle.tumblr.com/>*

Scenes from the 8th Annual Neighborhood Arts Festival.



Get Out on the Hamtown!

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLAN COMMISSION CITY OF HAMTRAMCK

The Plan Commission will conduct a public hearing in the 2nd Floor Council Chambers of Hamtramck City Hall, 3401 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212, on November 8, 2017, at 6:30 p.m., to consider and afford the opportunity for input to be recorded on proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance as described below. The public is invited to attend and comment at the public hearing or to make written comments on or before the date of the meeting. Written comments should be made to the attention of Melanie A. Markowicz, City Planner, ATTN: Plan Commission, 3401 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212.

A. **Public Hearing** – Proposed amendment to Zoning Ordinance 497, Article VI. Commercial Zones. Section 1. Multi-Use District (C2). Paragraph 1.02. Permitted Uses. Paragraph 1.03. Uses Subject to Special Land Use Approval. Section 2. Central Business District (CBD). Paragraph 2.02. Permitted Uses. Paragraph 2.03. Uses Subject to Special Land Use Approval. Consideration of Mixed-use Commercial and Residential Uses as a Permitted Use by right.

B. **Public Hearing**– Proposed amendment to Zoning Ordinance 497, Article VI. Commercial Zones. Section 1. Multi-Use District (C2). Paragraph 1.03 Uses Subject to Special Land Use Approval. Section 2. Central Business District (CBD). Paragraph 2.03. Uses Subject to Special Land Use Approval. Consideration of a Vehicle Dealer Use as a Use Subject to Special Land Use Approval.

C. **Public Hearing** – Proposed amendment to Zoning Ordinance 497, Article VI. Commercial Zones. Section 1. Multi-Use District (C2). Paragraph 1.02. Permitted Uses. Paragraph 1.03. Uses Subject to Special Land Use Approval. Section 2. Central Business District (CBD). Paragraph 2.02. Permitted Uses. Paragraph 2.03. Uses Subject to Special Land Use Approval. Consideration of a Banquet Hall Use as a Permitted Use and/or as a Use Subject to Special Land Use Approval.

PLEASE NOTE: This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.71 a (2) (3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The City of Hamtramck will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the Meeting to individuals with disabilities at the Meeting or Public Hearing upon 10 day notice to the City Clerk's Office. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Hamtramck City Clerk by writing or calling the Clerk's Office at (313) 800-5233 x 821.

School Bell

Continued from page 3

aimed at improving the students' skills in writing, editing, photography, video, yearbook, design, social media and more.

- Thursday, October 26 – Hamtramck High School Parent Association presents a special evening for students and parents with Dr. Patrick O'Connor, Associate Dean of College Counseling at Cranbrook Schools, author of "College Is Yours 2.0."
- Dr. O'Connor will speak about applying for college, writing a stand out application essay and scholarships. This program will be held in the HHS auditorium from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. Light refreshments will be available. The event is hosted by the HHS National Honor Society.

All Schools

- Tuesday, November 7 – No school for students. Professional Development Day for staff.
- Wednesday, November 8 – End of 1st Quarter.
- Thursday, November 16 – Half day for elementary and middle school students. Parent Teacher Conferences from 12:30 – 3 p.m. and 5 - 7 p.m. (all grades except for High School.)
- Friday, November 17 - Half day for students. P.M. Professional Development Day for staff.
- Wednesday, November 22 – Half day for students and staff.
- Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24 – No school for students and staff. Thanksgiving Break.
- Monday, November 27 – School resumes.

Recreation Department News

- Saturday, October 21 – Mom 2 Mom sale from 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. at Hamtramck High School Community Center. Attention all Moms, if you are looking for kids toys, clothes, Halloween outfits at a great price then come to

The Hamtramck Recreation Department's Mom 2 Mom sale on Saturday, October 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. held at the Recreation/Community Center at 11350 Charest St.

Come shop around to find your deals. If you are still interested in a table to sell your clothes, please give us a call at (313) 892-2637.

Athletic Events

- Friday, October 20 – HHS Varsity Football vs. Dearborn Heights Crestwood at 7 p.m. Away.

Compiled by Janice Gandelman

The Review
Hamtramck

Call
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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Hamtramck development is on a roll, and more is to come

The good news in Hamtramck continues. Lately, the city has seen a steady progression of new businesses opening up — and city improvement projects, such as the beginning of alley repaving — continue to move forward. Last week we reported on a major development project slated for Caniff that will go a long way toward attracting more investors. George Nosis, a Hamtramck native, recently unveiled his company’s plan to build a four-story structure that will be a combination of office and retail space on the ground floor and loft spaces on the upper three floors. The project is expected to get underway next spring. The development will address a growing need in the city: meeting the demand for rental dwellings. Housing in Hamtramck is becoming critically short as more and more folks are being driven out of midtown Detroit because of rapidly increasing rents. Hamtramck is an attractive destination because of its close proximity to downtown Detroit and all of the area’s cultural hotspots. Plus, Hamtramck is not too shabby in its offering of things to do: our bars and restaurants are some of the best in the area — all within walking distance of each other. By this time next year, Hamtramck will likely be abuzz with new folks and new investments.

Odds & Ends

Breaking news... As we went to press Thursday, we received a notice from Public Schools Superintendent Tom Niczay with some bad news. It came to light in an internal investigation that the district violated a Michigan High School Athletic Association transfer rule. No further details were provided. As a result, the team has to forfeit its entire season. That means the Cosmos won’t be heading to the state playoffs — which would have been a first for the school. No student was responsible for the violation. “Hamtramck Public Schools believes in being honest at all times and we will ensure that this mistake will not happen again. As a district we co-operated with the Michigan High School Athletic Association as soon as we realized that there was an issue,” Niczay said in an email. This also means the game scheduled for today, Friday (Oct. 20) is cancelled.

Drop off... The Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition along with the Hamtramck Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration will once again host a prescription drug drop-off on Saturday, Oct. 28. This is a chance to throw away your outdated or no longer needed prescriptions. Many folks simply throw away their old medicine in the garbage, which sometimes gets into the hands of drug addicts who know to look through garbage. Some folks dispose of their drugs down the toilet, which ends up getting into our water supply and threatening everyone’s health and well-being. On Oct. 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. there will be a drop box at CVS Pharmacy on Jos. Campau and Holbrook. The DEA cannot accept liquids or needles or sharps, only pills or patches. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. There is also a permanent box located in the lobby of the Hamtramck Police Department in city hall, which is available 24 hours a day.

Helping hand... Hamtramck’s Friendship House is seeking food donations for the coming Thanksgiving holiday. You can drop off any of the following items to Friendship House by Nov. 16:

- Turkeys
- Boxes of Stuffing
- Instant Potatoes
- Rice
- Mac & Cheese
- Cans of Gravy
- Green Beans or Corn
- Cranberry Sauce

You can also mail a check directly to: Detroit Friendship House, 9540 Conant, Hamtramck, MI 48212.

City Hall Insider ...

What is our City Council up to these days? We have the highlights of the latest council meeting.

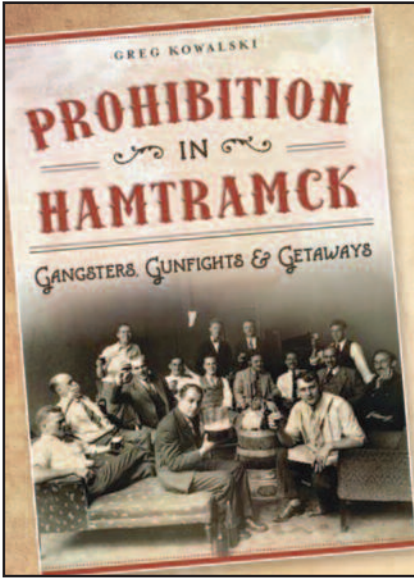
By Charles Sercombe

The city council met on Sept. 11, and all councilmembers were present. Before the meeting a work session was held. At that meeting Councilmember Anam Miah accused Councilmember Ian Perrotta of blaming the city’s loose trash problem on the Bengali and Yemeni communities in a radio interview. Perrotta defended his comments, saying he told the radio reporter that those communities are “not as aware” about proper garbage disposal methods. He said this is no fault of their own, and that those communities need to be educated. Perrotta added that this insight into those communities came from students who participated in an intern program. Later in the meeting, Perrotta lashed out at the report, saying it mischaracterized what he told the reporter. “It was completely false,” he said. In another matter, Perrotta wanted to add a resolution at the regular meeting that night condemning the ongoing war and bombing in Yemen. Mayor Karen Majewski advised against it, saying that resolutions not already on the agenda must only be about emergency situations or items that are time sensitive. Perrotta agreed to hold off on the resolution. It was discussed that the police department is purchasing three new patrol cars — the first since 2014. Funding for the purchase came from a state drug forfeiture fund. Later in the meeting the purchase of Ford Interceptor police patrol cars was agreed on. The cost was \$28,000 for each. It was announced that the city is seeking to partner up with the Great Lakes Water Authority to help low-income families with their water bills. The deal would allow those families who are behind on bills to receive up to \$1,000 and contribute \$25 a month to their regular bills. It would require those households to stay current with their bills going forward. Acting City Manager Kathy Angerer said there is one “downside,” and that is it slows down water bill payment to the city. Councilmember Miah asked if this was a new program. He was told that former City Manager Katrina Powell did not sign up for the program. Miah, who had been a vocal critic of Powell said: “Surprise, surprise.” Councilmember Andrea Karpinski noted that a number of cities did not opt into this program. It was announced that the city is hiring a company to study and analyze the city’s water and sewer rates. The result of this study will help determine a new rate structure next year. Councilmember Perrotta said the city needs to adopt a medical marijuana dispensary ordinance by November because if that is not done the city will have to follow state guidelines. Acting City Manager Angerer said that has been a common misconception on what the state is requiring. She said that according to the Michigan Municipal League, an organization that helps interpret state rules and guidelines, there is no deadline for the city to take action. (*Editor’s note: City officials for various reasons have not taken action on adopting zoning guidelines on where dispensaries can operate. Hamtramck is one of the few communities in the metro area to not have dispensaries.*) During the regular meeting, former city Treasurer and Deputy City Manager John Gabor

Continued on page 8

Notice of Proposed Telecommunications Pole: Public Participation


Mobilitie, LLC is proposing to construct a New Pole at 9317 Buffalo St, Hamtramck, MI, Wayne County, 48212 and 42° 23' 51.943" N, 83° 02' 49.042" W. The height of the tower will be 15.2-meters above ground level. The tower is anticipated to have no FAA Lighting. Specific information regarding the project is available by calling Mobilitie, LLC at 404-978-2457 during normal business hours. Interested persons may review the application for this project at www.fcc.gov/asr/applications by entering Antenna Structure Registration (Form 854) file no. A1088683 and may raise environmental concerns about the project under the National Environmental Policy Act rules of the Federal Communications Commission, 47 CFR §1.1307, by notifying the FCC of the specific reasons that the action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Requests for Environmental Review must be filed within 30 days of the date that notice of the project is published on the FCC’s website and may only raise environmental concerns. The FCC strongly encourages interested parties to file Requests for Environmental Review online at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest, but they may be filed with a paper copy by mailing the Request to FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. A copy of the Request should be provided to Mobilitie, LLC, Attn: Mikhail Razobriadsev, 3475 Piedmont Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30305. Reference 17090027



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Historical museum continues to expand and make improvements

By Alan Madeleine
The Review Special Writer
Hamtramck's Historic Museum has been busy making some history of its own.

A recent newsletter from the Friends of Historical Hamtramck spoke of numerous improvements, and a few minor changes as well.

One of the most significant uplifts at the museum is brand new lighting. A major project, the work figures to begin paying energy-saving dividends through the use of LED high-efficiency units.

Museum Director and Hamtramck Historical Commission Chairman Greg Kowalski, long an advocate for the preservation of the city's colorful past, noted that the project was able to be done for less money than first expected.

"The work on the lights is being done by the Detroit Electrical Workers Union," Kowalski said. "They are doing all the work for free. Considering these are highly skilled tradespeople, the number of hours would have cost us thousands. They've



The Hamtramck Historical Museum has undergone a number of improvements.

been very generous to us."

Material costs have been offset by membership dues and donations. The building has also been rewired by the workers. New track lighting now enlivens the displays, affording museum-goers a quality experience.

Grants secured by the museum form an impressive list, and include one for \$15,000 from the Michigan Humanities Council to cover the cost

of a Dennis Orlowski mural; a Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs bestowal of \$7,500 for a new furnace; and \$5,000 given by Fiat/Chrysler for shelving and materials for archiving.

The museum continues to emphasize its city tours. Usually conducted by Kowalski himself, the possibilities are numerous, and there is considerable flexibility in the type and scope of the

tours.

"I give walking tours of Hamtramck, bus tours of the city, tours of St. Florian Church – the most common – or specialized tours for specific purposes," said Kowalski. He has also conducted tours for intimate groups of one to three by car, but says the walking tours are the most comprehensive.

"I had a writer who was setting her book in the city in the 20s," Kowalski remembers, sounding amused. "I took her to the oldest area of town."

Walking tours are usually capped at 25 people, as beyond that it becomes noisy, and hard to keep everyone moving in the same direction at the same speed. Buses can accommodate 50 and more. Tours of St. Florian are the exception, as the church can handle up to 150 or so.

There is no set schedule for the tours. Many come for return visits.

Also noted on their latest newsletter was the

forthcoming expansion on the "Hungry for History" programs.

"We suspended the program temporarily while we focused on the renovations," Kowalski said. "We'll resume soon with something we're calling 'Third Thursdays.' These could end up being a 'Hungry for History'-type presentation. Or they could be on a different track altogether – genealogy, for example. Or crafts. Or something else."

One has to appreciate that sense of mystery in chilly October. Check it out.

The Hamtramck Historical Museum is located at 9525 Joseph Campau, on the west side of the street between Norwalk and Poland streets. For more information, hours or to arrange a tour, call (313) 893-5027, or check their website at www.hamtramckhistory.org, where you can subscribe to the museum's newsletter.

Coming events

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.

SATURDAY, November 11, 9-3 p.m. – Hamtramck's Recycle Center is open at Caniff and McDougall. Drop off your recyclables for free.

FRIDAY, November 17, 5-8 p.m. – The Hamtramck Moose Lodge (9421 Conant) will host a Taco Night, all you can eat plus desserts, \$7, sorry no carry outs. Proceeds to aid Hamtramck Friendship House.

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CRIME LOG

By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Oct. 10-16.

Tuesday, October 10

- A resident turned over to the police station an item found in Pope Park.
- A resident reported someone slashed a tire on his car while it was parked in the 12000 block of Dequindre. Another resident on this block reported all four of his car tires were slashed.
- Officers responded to a family trouble call in the 5000 block of Caniff.
- The owner of a rental house in the 2300 block of Wyandotte reported someone stole his two city-issued trash cans. There were three other similar reports regarding rental dwellings in the 2600 block of Norwalk, the 2200 block of Geimer

Continued on page 8

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