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The Review

Hamtramck

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CWA COMMON WORD ALLIANCE

Quick Hits

Thanksgiving ... The Common Word Alliance will be celebrating Thanksgiving and its 5th year anniversary at the Hamtramck Public Library on Nov. 25.

Religious leaders from various faiths will be on hand. Guest speakers include Mayor Karen Majewski, Hamtramck Public Schools Superintendent Thomas Niczay, Rev. Gregory Roberts and Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray.

After the program a light dinner will be served. The program starts at 5 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m.

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.

“Let’s give people an opportunity to state their case.”

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Hamtramck voters kick out one incumbent city councilmember

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck’s city council now has a new member. Councilmember Robert Zwolak lost his bid for re-election to Saad Almasmari.

Almasmari, who came in first place, was part of a slate that included incumbents Anam Miah and Abu Musa. That was the only slate in this election.

Both Miah and Musa were re-elected.

The unofficial results for Tuesday’s General Election are:

Saad Almasmari: 1,176
Abu Musa: 1,141
Anam Miah: 1,002
Susan Dunn: 696
Robert Zwolak: 636
Cathie Gordon: 622

Upon hearing the election results in city hall, Almasmari was ecstatic.

“I expected this (sic) results,” he said. “I asked God to help me, and I promise to serve the com-



Newly elected City Councilmember Saad Almasmari celebrates the news of his victory on election night at city hall.

munity.”

This was Almasmari’s first attempt to win a seat on council. He previously ran unsuccessfully for a position on the Hamtramck Public School Board.

Councilmember Robert Zwolak, who is 74-years-old and has previously served as city clerk and worn a number of hats as a city official, was one of three incumbent councilmembers seeking re-

election. He came in fifth place out of six candidates.

Zwolak, who has increasingly become at odds with City Manager Katrina Powell, took his loss in stride.

Continued on page 2

Once dominated by Polish-Americans, Hamtramck’s city government takes a turn



Ibrahim Algahim: “Today, we showed the Polish and everybody else that we are united.”

By Charles Sercombe

You can sum up Tuesday’s election results in one word: Historic.

For the first time ever in Hamtramck – and possibly in the nation – a Muslim majority will be in control of city government.

And for the second time in the city’s history a Yemeni-American will hold a seat on council.

Saad Almasmari, a Yemeni-American businessman who owns an ice cream supply company, came out as the top

vote-getter in his first attempt to win a seat on council. He follows fellow Yemeni-American Abdul Algazali, who served on council until his death earlier this year.

The council now has three Bangladeshi-Americans, two of whom, Anam Miah and Abu Musa, won re-election on Tuesday.

The Bangladesh and Yemeni communities have been growing in recent years. For decades Hamtramck has been a predominately Polish town,

Continued on page 4

City expands DPW to take over snow plowing

By Charles Sercombe

The city is getting back into the snow plowing business.

Last year City Manager Katrina Powell said she was concerned about the cost of using a private contractor for the service and vowed that this year the city would take it over.



Omar Nakash

She made good on that word recently after getting the OK from city council to purchase four trucks, including a dumpster truck for salting, and snow plowing equipment. The cost of the purchase is being paid for by a state fund, called Act 84, that came unexpectedly, Powell said.

The check from the state is for \$190,000 – which is more than enough to cover the total purchase price of \$133,000.

“This is a windfall for us,” Powell told the council. “Essentially we won the lottery.”

During the past three years the city has paid Platinum Landscaping, Inc. over \$863,000 for snow plowing and street salting.

In 2013 the city paid the company \$154,486, in 2014 – a record breaking snowfall year – it was \$612,191, and last winter

Continued on page 2

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Internationally Known Teacher, Violetta Kuzniar, joins Faculty of Academy of International Studies in Hamtramck


Violetta Kuzniar (pictured), has joined the faculty of Academy of International Studies tuition free, public academy as third grade teacher. “Violetta is an extraordinary dedicated teacher who will bring world focus on educating the children of our community. She taught the American and British curriculum, developed instructional materials. Her focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) is the key component of education today in preparation for the future”, said Beata Chochla, President and Founder of The Hanley Harper Group, management for the academy.

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Hamtramck voters kick out one incumbent city councilmember

“I’m relieved,” he said. “It puts me in a position to where I can back off. It’s good to see new dynamics.”

The voter turnout for the election was 2,230 voters. This general election was unusual in that there were no other political races or state, county, or local proposals on the ballot.

City expands DPW to take over snow plowing

Continued from front page

the cost was \$96,550.

Powell said she will still keep Platinum on contract in case the city needs a backup.

Not everyone was pleased with this new arrangement. City Councilmember Robert Zwolak questioned whether the city can handle the work and how good of a job it will do. He ended up being the only vote against purchasing the equipment.

Former Councilmember Cathie Gordon said at a recent council meeting that there was “something fishy” about the new deal. She also said that the city has to first adjust its general fund before making the purchase.

In 2012, both Gordon and Zwolak blocked a proposal to rebid Platinum’s contract as well as two other city contractors.

The owner of Platinum, Omar Nakash, was also at the council meeting and objected to the new arrangement. He said he already bought three years’ worth of

The weather on election day was picture-perfect: Sunny and in the mid-70s in temperature.

Hamtramck, for the first time in its history, now has a Muslim majority on council. It may also be a first for any community in the nation.

The new term for council starts on Jan. 1, 2016.

road salt and made improvements to his equipment. He also said that he has turned down offers to service other accounts because of his contract with the city.

Platinum won the city contract several years ago after Gordon and some other councilmembers complained about the plowing service of another company that was contracted with the city, and then convinced the city administration to hire Platinum.

Platinum eventually entered into an agreement with the city that has no end date on the contract.

(Editor’s note: Platinum’s owner, Omar Nakash, is appealing a decision by a Wayne County Circuit judge last winter who threw out a defamation lawsuit he filed against Review Publisher John Ulaj.)

The last time the city provided its own snow plow service through the Department of Public Works was about 15 years ago when state-appointed Emergency Manager Lou Schimmel outsourced many city services to cut costs.

Schimmel sold all of the equipment from the DPW as well as the building the department was located in.

Powell is now leasing a building to house the new equipment.

Continued from front page

Hamtramck, once a predominantly Polish-Catholic community, is now home to a growing Bangladeshi and Yemeni community. Both communities are mostly Muslim, and they now represent about 50-55 percent of the city’s population, according to recent U.S. Census figures. There are about a dozen mosques located in the city and in the surrounding neighborhoods in Detroit.

Despite the election results the role of the council

is still extremely limited, with the state still providing oversight on all decisions of the city. Hamtramck only recently came out of a financial crisis last December when a state-appointed emergency manager left her position after being here for 18 months.

A state-appointed Transition Advisory Board still has control of all financial decisions of the city. There is no end date to that oversight.

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This week at the library...

ESL Class - Monday, November 9 at 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

Tutoring Service - Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, children can take advantage of tutoring service provided by the South Asian Student Society and the Hamtramck Library. The program is free of charge to Hamtramck residents and open to students and adults.

Citizenship Classes - Tuesday, November 10 at 5 p.m. Hamtramck residents can get help in preparing for their citizenship exam. The classes are free. Registration is required.

Children's Movie Night - Tuesday, November 10 at 4 p.m. - All children are invited for after school movie and popcorn. This week's feature is "Defendants."

Photo Workshop - Tuesday, November 10 at 4 p.m. Tom Zenek from the Museum of Gdansk will conduct a photo workshop on select photos for the "People of Hamtramck" exhibit. All participants who turned in pho-

tos are invited.

Movie Night for Adults - Wednesday, November 11 at 6:30 p.m. - Everyone is invited to screening of selected movies on the big screen in the Library. For this week's movie selection call the library at 365-7050. Free to the public.

Book Club Meeting - Thursday, November 19 at 5 p.m. Everyone is invited to join the Hamtramck Book Club at the Library.

ESL Class - Friday, November 13 at 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

Polish Fairy Tales - Friday, November 13 at 4 p.m. Joan Bittner will conduct a story time program featuring Polish Fairy Tales. All children are invited.

Photo Exhibit - Friday, November 13 at 5 p.m. Everyone is invited to the opening of Museum of Gdansk exhibit entitled "People of Hamtramck." Most of the exhibit photos were taken by Hamtramck residents. Refreshments will be provided.

ESL Class - Wednesday, November 18 at 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

Meeting of the Library Board - Thursday, November 12 at 6 p.m. Regular meeting of the Library Board will be held in the auditorium. Open to the public.

Friends of the Library Meeting - Thursday, November 19 at 6 p.m. FHPL President Kathy Kristy and Treasurer George Gorday invite all members and volunteers to participate in the regular monthly meeting.

Michigan Reads Program - Thursday, November 19 at 5:00 p.m. Participats of the Michigan Read program are invited for a storytime.

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, including museums, for up to one week. Ask at the circulation desk for 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

Public invited to speak on proposal to rename city hall in honor of former mayor

By Charles Sercombe
Former Mayor Robert Kozaren will likely go down in history as being one of the most popular mayors of Hamtramck. He is for sure the longest serving mayor, having been in office for 18 years from 1980 to 1997.

And now there are some who want to rename city hall in honor of him. That was one request made by Councilmember Titus Walters before he died last month.

Next Tuesday a hearing on the proposal will be held during the regular city council meeting, which starts at 7 p.m.

If the vote to hold the hearing by council is any indication, this could prove to be a heated debate.

While there are many who say Kozaren was one of the greatest mayors – if not the greatest – the city had, there are detractors who vehemently disagree. Councilmembers Mohammed Hassan and Abu Musa have already come out against renaming city hall in his honor and voted against even holding a hearing to discuss the proposal.

Hassan, who did not live in Hamtramck while Kozaren was mayor, appeared clueless as to who he was at a recent council meeting.

“What is the importance?” Hassan said.

Instead of naming city hall in Kozaren’s honor, Hassan suggested renaming



Former Hamtramck Mayor Robert Kozaren (center) poses with Roger Smith (left), the former Chairman and CEO of General Motors Corporation, and former Detroit Mayor Coleman Young during a groundbreaking ceremony for GM’s Poletown plant in the 1980s.

ing city hall in honor of former Councilmember Abdul Algazali who died earlier in the year.

Algazali was the first Yemeni-American to serve in the city council. While in office he came under scrutiny for being behind in his property taxes and faced foreclosure on his Jos. Campau medical complex.

Standing at 6 foot, 6 inches, Kozaren was hard to miss. He did not drive and regularly walked the city streets every day and greeted residents with a hardy hello and firm handshake.

He won many residents over in 1979 in his first run for mayor “with a message of hope and renewal,” said local historian Greg Kowalski in his book “Hamtramck: A Driven City.”

Kozaren is best known for rallying the spirits of the city after taking office when the city’s top employer and taxpayer, Dodge Main, suddenly an-

nounced it was closing immediately.

Instead of moping, he organized the very first Hamtramck Labor Day Festival, which has continued to this day every Labor Day weekend. That first festival not only boosted local pride, it put Hamtramck on the map in local media and made it a destination spot for visitors all year round.

Kozaren also helped orchestrate a deal with Detroit and GM’s Poletown plant that brought in \$2 million a year in lieu of property taxes to the city. A small portion of the plant is in Hamtramck while most of it is in Detroit.

Kozaren had to deal with former Detroit Mayor Coleman Young – Detroit’s first African-American to hold that position – who was often combative and divisive with other elected officials in the region and in Lansing.

Being a master politician – and an innate peo-

ple person – Kozaren had no qualms with Young, and the two had a mutual respect for each other.

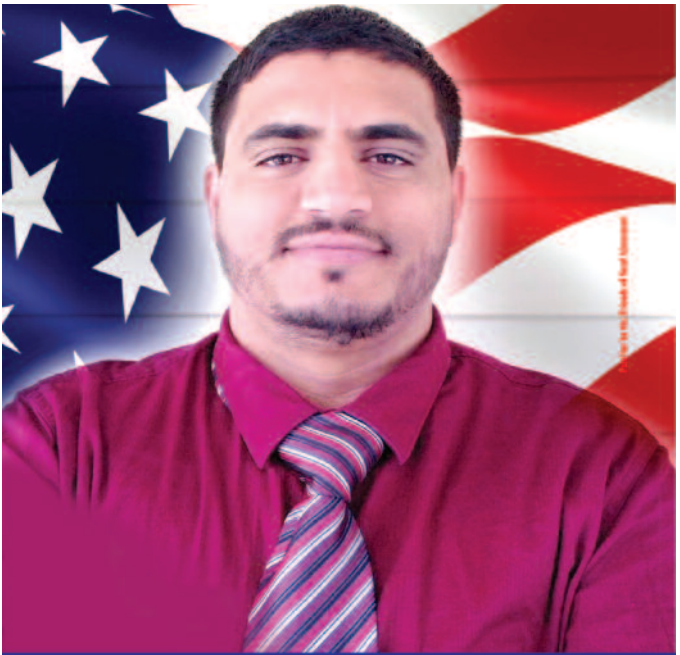
In a city council meeting in 2010 former City Manager William Cooper credited Kozaren for “crafting” the deal.

“I’d like to shake Kozaren’s hand,” Cooper said at the meeting. “It was a hell of a deal.”

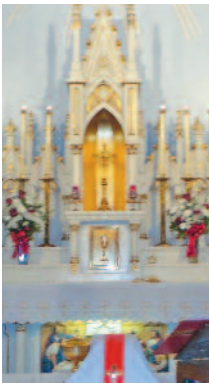
Kozaren died in 2007. A small street off of Conant was named in his honor a few years ago.

His political downfall came after federal investigators raided his city hall office in what was thought to be an investigation of his handling of Labor Day Festival finances. He was eventually charged and convicted of income tax evasion for yearly fundraisers he held to celebrate his birthday.

Supporters were under the impression that the fundraisers were for campaign purposes but instead it turned out they were personal fundraisers which he did not claim as an income on his taxes.



THANK YOU HAMTRAMCK!
Councilman-Elect Saad Almasmari



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School Bell

Kosciuszko Middle School News
Kosciuszko Middle School is proud to announce its students of the month for the month of November:

Nelufa Ahmed, Hadiel Alashwal, Basem Alqusaimi, Haris Cehajic, Jan-natul Choudhury, Nahiy-an Chowdhury, Tony Howard-Smith, Medin Husic, B-smir Jahaj, Nora Mohamed, DaShaun Morris, Derrick Mumford, Maria Nemer, De’Janae Norwood, Shahriar Rahman, Neyra Salkic and Sharmin Siddiquey.

Hamtramck High School News
HHS students Savanna Roark, Kennedy Babicz and Mirela Baltic participated in college application week. During college application week, all HHS seniors apply to at least one college; most apply to several.

Holbrook Elementary School News
Holbrook Elementary School is seeking parent volunteers and involvement on our School Improvement Team/Committee.

We are also looking to create and sustain a PTSA (Parent, Teacher, Student Association). These two groups will assist us in reaching our students and community on a scale much larger than we currently are able to.

Although a date for PTSA

has not been set, parents can inquire by calling our office at 313.872.3203 or emailing Myron Miller, the Principal, directly at MMiller@hamtramck.k12.mi.us.

Typically PTSA meetings are held before or after school and are approximately one hour in length. We are doing a wonderful job assisting our students in being successful, we need you to help us reach many of our goals.

Continued on page 5



HHS students Savanna Roark, Kennedy Babicz and Mirela Baltic are seen here supporting Eastern Michigan University, Jagellonian University, and the University of Michigan.

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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

When is loud officially too loud? City officials seek to answer that question

If you want to stir up passions in Hamtramck, just mention the Muslim call to prayer.

The last time this was a major issue was in 2004 when there was a ballot proposal to regulate the call. Voters passed the ballot, but not first without weeks of heated debate in city hall and an onslaught of inquiries from the international media.

After that, there was relative peace about the issue, although there had been several complaints here and there about the volume level at some of the city's dozen mosques.

Well, a few weeks ago the issue popped back up, this time as a formal complaint submitted to the city by city council candidate Susan Dunn and some of her neighbors.

A couple of hundred Muslim residents turned out to a council meeting under the mistaken belief that the city was going to ban the call to prayer.

Instead, the only thing city officials were considering was forming a focus group to determine what is an acceptable volume level for the call to prayer as well as for church bells.

The city's so-called "noise" ordinance does not give the city the legal muscle it needs to enforce what is considered an inappropriate volume level.

Hamtramck has long enjoyed being a multi-cultural city. We have worked out our differences in the past, and we can continue to do that. There is no reason to fear an exploration into defining what too loud legally is.

But we must also be sensitive to our constitutionally protected right of freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

Keep in mind, though, we also have a right of freedom from religion.

We all have a right to live in peace, and that requires respecting your neighbors' sensitivities. There is a balance between practicing your religion and respecting the public's peace.

We are confident Hamtramck can find that balance.

Odds & Ends

Correction ... We mistakenly reported a few weeks ago that longtime Wayne County Treasurer Raymond Wojtowicz had retired from his job. Not quite.

He will be retiring this coming December.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

Skate party ... Hamtramck public school kids got a rare treat on Wednesday.

Thanks to connections with Flagstar Bank and Public Schools Superintendent Tom Niczay, Kathy Angerer, the city's Director of Community & Economic Development, was able to bring 100 students down to Joe Louis Arena for some free skate time.



Hamtramck Public School students enjoyed a free outing at Joe Louis Arena where they got to skate in the rink.

The Hamtramck Review Published every Friday


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School Bell

Dickinson West Elementary School News

Dickinson West will begin tutoring after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting on November 5. It will be from 3:10 p.m. - 4:10 p.m.. If you are interested in tutoring for your child, please see your child's teacher.

Early Childhood Elementary School News

Jupiter J from High-Touch-HighTech science came to ECE to share how fun Science can be through experimenting. The first grade students experimented with magnets in all different ways to see how they moved.

Kosciuszko Middle School and Dickinson West Elementary School

Thursday, November 12 – Title One Parent Meeting from 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Come and learn about Title One services provided to students in the schools. Light refreshments will be served.

All Schools
• Wednesday, November 11 – End of 1st quarter.

ber 11 – End of 1st quarter.

• Thursday, November 19 – Half day for all students. Parent Teacher



Students at the Early Childhood Elementary School learned all about magnets.



The students of the month at Kosciuszko Middle School pose for a photo.

City Hall Insider ...

By Charles Sercombe

The city council met on Oct. 13, and all councilmembers were present. Before the regular council meeting a work session was held. During that meeting Councilmember Andrea Karpinski questioned a legal bill of \$10,000 for an attorney she had not heard of before.

City Manager Katrina Powell said it's an attorney for the plaintiffs in a housing discrimination lawsuit. Powell said this attorney did work for the main attorney in the case, Michael Barnhart.

Councilmember Robert Zwolak asked about the status of an audit of finances regarding that attorney. Powell said the audit is only regarding the city's expenses, not the attorney for the plaintiffs. (The city pays Barnhart's legal fees as part of a court order.)

In another matter Zwolak asked about the status of pothole repairs. Powell said repairs are ongoing but not all potholes will be repaired this year.

Mark Ragsdale, the Director of Public Works, said city work crews are cold-patching streets that are "not as bad."

Zwolak noted that there are a number of "blind

spots" at intersections throughout the city. Powell asked if he had called their locations into the administration. Zwolak conceded that he had not.

"That's part of your job as a councilman," Powell replied.

Zwolak said the city should have patrols noticing this. Powell said that Councilmember Karpinski goes on daily walks and is frequently emailing her about concerns and things she has noticed.

Powell said the state Transition Advisory Board has recommended the city seek another contractor for auditing the city's finances. She said the contractor she picked had been fired before by former Emergency Manager Cathy Square, who now sits on the TAB.

Councilmember Karpinski said she noticed the new contractor also works for Highland Park where Square is the city administrator.

"Did Square suggest this?" Karpinski asked.

Powell said the recommendation came from another TAB member and that Square was not part of that decision.

"I know what it looks like," Powell said.

Karpinski questioned why some of the new side-

walks being replaced at street corners are not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Powell said that's because the space available at some corners make it impossible to be in compliance with the act, which is an acceptable exemption under the act.

During the regular council meeting, Kathy Angerer, the Director of Community & Economic Development, said the Carpenters Council donated \$15,000 and the labor of their members to build a new picnic shed at Veterans Memorial Park.

Powell said Angerer deserves a round of applause for her work on improving the city's parks.

From the public, Bill Meyer complained about the council's rule that limits the time for individual members of the public to address the council to no more than two minutes.

"Are you trying to ace the public out?" he asked.

Attorney Mark Koroj asked the council to officially declare the seat that had been held by Titus Walters officially vacant. He said there will be a hearing on Oct. 23 about who should fill that vacancy.

"It's going to be his-

Conferences 12:30- 3 p.m. and 5- 7 p.m. Report Card #1 distributed.

• Wednesday, November 25 – Half day for all students.

• Thursday, November 26-29 –No school for all students. Thanksgiving break.

Athletic Events

• Monday, November 9 – KMS Boys' Basketball vs. Highland Park Barber at 4:30 p.m. Away.

• Wednesday, November 11 – KMS Boys' Basketball vs. Ecorse at 4:30 p.m. Home.

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By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Oct. 27-Nov. 2.

Tuesday, October 27

- A car was impounded at Carpenter and Fleming after an investigation showed it had a fraudulent license plate tab.
- A Detroit resident was arrested for being in possession of a stolen license plate.
- Officers responded to a residence on Faber where a domestic situation was reported between a father and his son. No assault had taken place and the two were told to go their separate ways.

Wednesday, October 28

- A juvenile reported another juvenile robbed his cellphone while he was at Oklahoma and Circle Dr.
- At a little after 2 a.m. a resident in the 11600 block of Lumpkin reported a domestic violence incident.
- At about 3 a.m. residents in the 11500 block of Lumpkin reported seeing a male about 18 to 20 years old trying to open car doors. The suspect was gone when officers arrived. One car had been ransacked but nothing was stolen.
- An agent for Talmer Bank reported a man appeared to be casing the bank, but then fled in a car.
- A Yemans resident reported that a person known to her has been having packages sent to her residence. The person told the woman that the items were purchased with stolen credit card information. The woman turned over a laptop computer and a sealed box that had been fraudulently purchased.

chased.

Thursday, October 29

- A Belmont resident reported her 15-year-old son did not return home, but he returned a few hours after the police were called.
- A Norwalk resident reported the theft of her taxi license from the inside of her cab.
- A Lumpkin resident reported the theft of several items from her van.
- A Dequindre resident reported receiving numerous harassing phone calls from an ex-girlfriend.
- A Yemans resident dropped off a suspicious package at the police station.
- A Belmont resident reported her garage was broken into and several items were stolen.
- A resident reported someone opened a Comcast account in her name.
- A Jos. Campau resident reported suspicious Facebook activity.
- A Commor resident reported recovering items that he previously thought were stolen.

Friday, October 30

- At about 4 a.m. officers responded to a disturbance in the 3200 block of Lehman. A man was taken to Detroit Receiving Hospital, and his family petitioned to have him undergo a psychological examination.
- A Comstock resident was arrested for domestic violence after assaulting his wife.

Saturday, October 31

- Officers attempted to arrest a suspect who lives in the 2400 block of Holmes for being wanted on a warrant.

The suspect, however, managed to run away. He was mailed a ticket for obstruction.

- An agent for the Hamtramck Housing Commission reported someone broke into an empty apartment at the Col. Hamtramck Homes and stole assorted power tools.
- A Detroit resident was arrested following a traffic stop for driving without a license and being wanted on three warrants.
- At 6 p.m. a man wearing a sock mask, black jacket and gray snow pants knocked on the backdoor of a residence in the 2900 block of Evaline. A 12-year-old resident of the house checked who was at the door, and the suspect then pushed through the door, knocking the child to the floor. The suspect attempted to steal the victim's Playstation 4, but the family dog attacked the suspect, forcing the suspect to flee the home without any property.

Sunday, November 1

- At about 10:30 p.m. a break-in was reported in the 12000 block of Moran.
- A man was arrested for obstruction following a traffic stop.
- A man was robbed of his cellphone while waiting for a bus at Jos. Campau and Commor.

Monday, November 2

- A resident was arrested for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.
- Three Detroit residents were assaulted in the area of Conant and Commor.
- At 10:30 p.m. a suspect in a domestic assault incident that took place in the 2200 block of Danforth was arrested in the 2200 block of Faber.



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City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 5

toric,” Koroï said.

(Editor’s note: Koroï represented Rashad Almas-mari’s challenge to the city administration on its interpretation of the charter regarding the filling of the vacancy. Koroï and Almas-mari lost their challenge.)

Rashad Almasmari spoke on his challenge of the city administration’s interpretation of the city charter over who should fill the council vacancy. He said this interpretation was “the mayor’s decision with her allies.”

(Editor’s note: The mayor has no role in filling a vacancy on council, according to the city charter.)

He said this is a “violation” of the law and it will bring on a “bad view” of the city. He said the city’s interpretation of the vacancy makes the city “look like one of those third world countries.”

He added that the decision should not be based on “self interest.”

Susan Dunn responded to the comments by Koroï and Almasmari, saying their opinions “are based solely on their interests.”

She also played a recording she made of the

call to prayer from inside her house. She said the mosque’s call to prayer was audible inside her house despite all of her windows and doors being shut. She said the volume violates the city’s noise ordinance.

A public hearing was held on changes to the city’s zoning laws.

Bill Meyer protested that the public did not get enough information on this topic prior to the meeting.

City Clerk August Gitschlag said a notice of the hearing was published in The Review. Meyer said he shouldn’t be “forced” to get the paper to find out about the hearing.

In a motion to hold a public hearing on the “intent” to rename city hall after former Mayor Robert

Kozaren, Councilmember Mohammed Hassan objected, saying: “What is the importance?”

Hassan said that since the city went into receivership twice before the city hall should not be named after Kozaren. Hassan suggested renaming city hall in honor of former Councilmember Abdul Al-gazali, who died earlier this year.

(Editor’s note: The city did not go into receivership while Kozaren was mayor.)

Councilmember Abu Musa noted that the city rejected a prior proposal to name a street after a Bangladeshi official.

Councilmember Karpinski noted the motion at hand is only to consider and discuss a proposal, not to go ahead with re-naming city hall.

Zwolak also stressed the motion is only for a hearing on the topic.

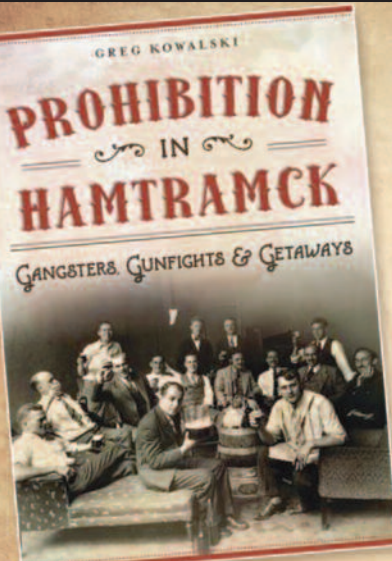
“Let’s give people an opportunity to state their case,” he said.

Musa said any renaming of a street or a city building should be in honor of someone who contributed to the “whole world” – not just Hamtramck.

Councilmember Anam Miah said there are “pros and cons” to the proposal and that the public should be able to speak on it.

In the vote to hold the hearing, Councilmembers Hassan and Musa voted against it.

In a vote to close off Craig St. for a recycling company, Councilmembers Hassan and Musa also voted against it, although they did not say why they objected to it.



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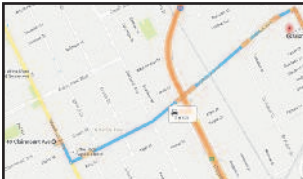
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