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Quick Hits

The Hamtramck Historical Museum has some exciting news.

The Friends of Historical Hamtramck received a \$15,000 grant from the Michigan Humanities Council to hire local artist Dennis Orlowski who will be painting a huge mural in the coming year at the

The mural will depict the many ethnic communities in Hamtramck.

This is where you come in. On Jan. 11 at 6:30 p.m. the museum is hosting a get-together of community folks to coordinate who will pose for the painting, and also to put together the history of your ethnic community.

Call the museum at (313) 893-5027 to let them know you are coming. The museum is located at 9525 Jos.

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.

> "We've seen an explosion in this in recent years."

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD

Alhambra group donates 100 turkeys to needy families

By Charles Sercombe

The good folks from Alhambra Caravan 261 of Warren went an extra mile once again to make sure needy families have a nice turkey meal for the holiday. Here's a recap of the

good work they do: For over a dozen years

the group has distributed free turkeys to the families of special needs students.

It all started many years ago by retired public schools bus driver John "Hippo" Hypnarowicz, who specialized in driving those students to and from school.

low-income and have a hard time scraping by. Over



Members of Alhambra Caravan 261 of Warren and other volunteers helped purchase and distribute 100 turkeys to local needy families this holiday season.

Many of the families are 100 families recently received a free turkey.

The Alhambra group also Hamtramck's

gets a huge helping hand from the generosity of

Srodek's Sausage Co. which supplies the turkeys at a special low cost.

Year in review: A look back at the first half of 2016



By Charles Sercombe

Every year at this time we take a break from the normal week-to-week coverage to look back during the past 12 months.

And once again we are amazed at the amount of

Hamtramck voters said yes to a recreation millage renewal, which will ensure the program continues for another 10 years.

news this little town pro-

So, grab a coffee, tea or a beverage of your choice and enjoy this stroll through the first six months of 2016.

JANUARY

Hamtramck ushered in a new political era with the new year.

Cont. on next column

Three city councilmembers were sworn into office at the public library by Hamtramck 31st District Court Judge Paul Paruk: Anam Miah and Abu Musa, who were both incumbents, and the city's newest member, Saad Almasmari.

With Almasmari's election to city council, Hamtramck had the distinction of being the first American city council with a Muslim majority.

The library was packed with over 100 spectators and a large group of police officers who were on hand to witness another historical moment for Ham-102-year-old tramck's police department: The first-ever female chief was sworn into office.

For several months Anne Moise had been the acting police chief. City Manager Katrina Powell announced in December that she had appointed her as the permanent chief of police.

Moise first came onto the Hamtramck force in 1999.

In her opening remarks Mayor Karen Majewski noted that despite Hamtramck's often contentious elections, the community has a deep bond.

"We are lucky to live in a place where we know that we are part of such a community, where we can know our neighbors, our council members, and the person who bakes our bread; where we can walk

Continued on page 5





11667 Jos Campau • Hamtramck • 313-334-5124 11am-2am

Coming events

SATURDAY, Jan. 14, 9-3 p.m. - Hamtramck's Recycle Center is open at Caniff and McDougall. Drop off your recyclables for free.

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HOLIDAY HOURS Tuesday - Friday 10 to 6pm Saturday 10 to 3pm Closed Sunday/ Monday

For every \$100 spent in locally owned business, \$68 returns to the community

source: the350project.net



Year in review: A look back at the first half of 2016

to our favorite spot for cof- and your failure to follow fee and be sure we'll run into friends; where we know we are part of something bigger than ourselves," Majewski said.

But not everyone was pleased with Moise's appointment. Councilmember Miah took issue with City Manager Katrina Powell making that appointment without involving the city council.

In a letter he submitted to The Review, Miah said:

"My concern involves the process (or the apparent lack of one) by which you arrived at your decision to make a permanent hire the mandate of the Hamtramck Charter to appoint a police chief subject to a majority vote of the mayor and council.

"Not more than two weeks ago, the council made it quite clear that it was looking to you to demonstrate transparency in your decision making. Instead, without providing any notice (except for the program you created for the New Year's Day swearing in of new city officers), you scheduled a ceremony to swear in a permanent chief.

"As a councilmember, I

would have liked to know what other candidates you had for the position. In addition to their relative qualifications, I would have liked to know the process by which you identified alternative candidates."

City Manager Powell responded by saying she followed the directives laid down by the former stateappointed emergency manager, and to not follow that procedure would have violated state law. The directive gave the

city manager sole authority in hiring a department head.

In her response, she

"I do not know why the former Emergency Manager chose to deliberately exclude Council from the decision making process, and it is not my position to guess at her motives. My job is to follow the law and the Emergency Manager's Orders in an effort to guide the City completely out of receivership. Violating such Orders, as is being publicly advocated by Councilman Miah, would only serve as a significant

setback for the City." Tension between Miah and Powell continued to

Continued on page 3

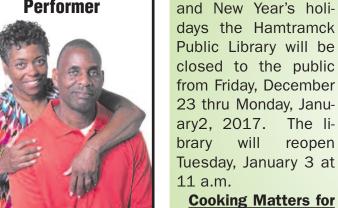






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Sun closed

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.



Hamtramck Housing Commission (HHC) does not

Second Front Page

Year in review: A look back at the first half of 2016

Hamtramck School Boardmember Mohammad Huda's residency status finally caught up with him.

At the monthly board

flare up throughout the cancy exists then 'the remaining school board members shall fill each vacant office by appointpursuant ment' Michigan Election Law, MCL 168.311(1)."



Paczki Day rolled around in February and once again attracted thousands of visitors.

meeting, Huda's seat was declared vacant, which allowed the board to seek a replacement.

In the prior year the board authorized an investigation into Huda's residency after a Review investigation revealed he was claiming a 100-percent Homestead tax exemption for a Warren house. That exemption meant Huda lived in that house.

Huda had claimed to live in a house on Fleming, but in repeated visits to that house there was never anyone home.

The school district's investigation, conducted by private investigator David Adamczyk, confirmed The Review's findings and uncovered more evidence that Huda did not live in the city.

the Governor's Office. The district had asked the governor to remove Huda.

A representative from the governor's office sent the district a letter saying removing Huda was not necessary because technically the seat was vacant.

"On the advice of the Attorney General, we will not pursue removal action because, if all the allegations you provided are true, then

Will local control ever re-

That was the question we posed regarding the continuation of a state-appointed financial advisory board's supervision of the city's financial decisions.

When the state appointed the Transition Advisory Board there were no guidelines given on how to gauge when local control can return.

Terry Stanton, spokesman for the state's Treasury Department, told The Review that while the TABs were never meant to be "here for years and years and years," there are a number of factors to consider.

Hamtramck's financial crisis a couple of years ago was one thing, but the state pointed to another problem when the city ap-The findings were sent to plied for state intervention: The city's culture of disruptive politics had to change.

> Mayor Karen Majewski said that was still a prob-

"I'm alarmed by the statements of some council members who, with not one iota of understanding of sound municipal management principles and with a questionable commitment to the city's overall well-being, still seem

less desirable to investors and residents," Majewski said without identifying who those councilmembers were.

Former Emergency Manager Cathy Square agreed that the city's political culture - which some have said is more in line with a wrestling show - is still toxic and would only plunge the city back into crisis if local control was restored today.

"One of the major things is cooperation," Square said. "Everybody has to get on the same page. It's one of the things the state looks at: Are they getting along?"

FEBRUARY

Just as winter's icy grip was getting tighter, Hamtramckans knew how to beat the deep freeze.

Celebrate Paczki Day.

Hamtramck bakeries began working around the clock to prepare for the onslaught of thousands of visitors looking to buy the Lental pastry treats.

Many came here to party down at the local bars as well. In all, it was another successful Paczki Day.

Hamtramck joined dozens of other cities in helping Flint residents survive their water crisis.

Since January there were a handful of water bottle drives and deliveries from here to Flint. Councilmember Anam Miah made a delivery as well as the folks at Al-Haramain International Foods.

Councilmember Saad Almasmari delivered over 22,000 bottles of water.

The Common Word Alliance kicked in its share a 53-foot-long tractor trailer stuffed with pallets of bottled water. The water was donated by a former Hamtramckan who now owns a trucking firm, Velic Transportation.

The company also donated a truck and service of a driver to deliver the water.

The driver, Elvedin Paric, emigrated from who Bosnia 20 years ago, said the company was moved by an old saying in Bosnia.

"Your neighbor is more important that your own brother."

How's that?

"Because if your house catches on fire who are you to run to? Your neighbor," he said.

A rogue tow truck operator was on the prowl in the city.

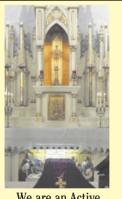
Police officials said it was a "gypsy" tow truck operator who had been possibly illegally hooking up cars that were parked in business lots that have signs designating parking for customers only.

The tow truck operator was working after business hours and apparently without permission from business owners.

Several customers who parked in the US Fish lot to grab an order of paczki at New Martha Washington Bakery were forced to pay the tow driver \$400 to get

Continued on page 4

As the church bells ring proclaiming the birth of Christ we at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Parish wish you a Merry Christmas and for the coming New Year health, happiness and prosperity. Pastor Fr. Janusz Iwan and Parish Staff **Christmas Season 2016** 3851 Prescott, Hamtramck, MI 48212 · 313-891-1520 Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Vigil Family Mass (English)4:00 pm Solemn Midnight Mass (Polish & English)12:00 am Preceeded by the singing of Christmas Carols11:30 pm Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day Mass (Polish & English)9:30 am Saturday, December 31 - New Year's Eve Mass (English)......5:30 pm Sunday, January 1 - New Years Day, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - Mass (English) Solemnity of Mary (Polish) Saturday, January 7 - Mass (English)5:30 pm Sunday, January 8 Feast of the Epiphany (Three Kings) Mass (English).....8:00 am Blessed chalk and Incense available



We are an Active Parish Serving the Community

It's Time to Pray, Please Join Us

We are a Multicultural Parish Family Sunday English Mass 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m.

Everyone is Welcome to Worship with Us Dec. 24 - Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long 11:45pm, Christmas Midnight Mass,

English Dec. 25 - Christmas Day Mass, 9am, English

Dec. 26 - Feast of St. Stephen Mass,

10am, Polish Dec. 27 - Feast of St. John, Blessing of Wine, Mass 10am

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Canadian Ham/Poledwica Cottage Ham/Baleron Smoked Spare Ribs/Zeberka Blood Sausage/Kiszka Smoked Bacon/Boczek

Jellied Pigs Feet/Zimne Nogi Baked Liver Sausage/Pasztet Head Cheese/Salceson (4 Types) Smoked Kielbasa (5 Types) Crepes/Nalesniki

Pickle Soup, Czarnina and many more... Potato Dumplings/Kopytka Fresh Polish Kielbasa/ Biala Kielbasa

Available! ,



The Hamtramck School Board voted to declare **Boardmember Mohammad Huda's seat vacant after** they determined he was not a resident of the city.

Mr. Huda does not reside in the district and thus has voluntarily vacated his seat immediately," effective said Travis Weber, a Deputy

Legal Counsel. "If the office is vacant, then removal proceedings are neither proper or nec-

essary. Instead, if a va-

intent on outsourcing our fire department, among other actions that, rather than making Hamtramck more attractive and desirable as a place to live, work, and play, would actually walk back the progress the city has made and make us less viable and



Year in review: A look back at the first half of 2016 Cont. from page 3

their cars released.

Sue Briskey, who owns Suzy's Bar, witnessed the encounters.

"The tow truck driver was circling the area like a shark," she said.

In an expected move, former Hamtramck School **Boardmember Mohammad** Huda filed a lawsuit against the public school district to get his job back.

Huda's seat was declared vacant in January after a majority on the board agreed that he did not live in the city. The board replaced Huda with Salah Hadwan.

In his lawsuit, Huda insisted he is a resident and that the board overstepped its authority to remove him.

Huda was seeking reinstatement as well as reimbursement for attorney fees and "disbursement" to himself.

If you were one of those people who finagled your water bill to keep it right the minimum below threshold to avoid a shutoff, the city was on to you and put a stop to the prac-

"Previously, customers would just pay portions of their bill and allow it to accumulate until it met a certain 'shut off' threshold and then they would pay another portion, never paying the entire bill," said City Manager Katrina Powell.

"Unfortunately, the city doesn't get the option of paying a portion of its bill

to the Great Lakes Water Authority. It must pay its bill in its entirety, monthly."

Transfiguration Church in Detroit.

Both churches were part



Parishioners at St. Ladislau protested the possible closing of their church. As it turned out, the church was spared, but services were greatly reduced.

Powell said the city had reduced the threshold over the past year to \$500, then \$200 and once again to \$50. In each instance, the threshold level was abused by too many customers.

So, now the new threshold level is \$5.

If you are even a few cents short, the city will threaten to end water serv-

Back in 2014 it was announced that St. Ladislaus Church would be closing.

That turned out to be premature.

But suddenly it appeared that day was coming. On a Sunday about 40 parishioners demonstrated in front of the church over what looked to be an impending closing.

Protest organizer Walter Bankowski said the parish council had voted to close the church. The plan called for merging the Parish with of what's called the Pope John Paul II Parish.

Bankowski said a decision on whether to close the church was expected to be made by the Detroit Archdiocese in the coming weeks. The parish council vote, he stressed, was only an advisory vote

Despite that vote, which close was а one. Bankowski said the church is on solid financial ground.

"This is a financially viable church," he said.

As it turned out later in the year, St. Lad's was spared and allowed to remain open. However, church services there were greatly reduced.

Hamtramck cracked down on claims of financial hardship when homeowners appealed the value of their house.

City Assessor Jay Singh said that for a number of years some homeowners were claiming they were too poor to pay their property taxes during the annual Assessment Board of Appeals.

Before Singh took over the job as assessor a few years ago, they were granted that exemption for several years running, he said, which is not allowed by law.

The city council adopted the federal guide of what's considered to be in poverty. Plus, if a homeowner

meets that threshold, the maximum they can receive that claim is three years, Singh said.

But it got even tougher. Singh says he reviews all income tax returns to verify

advantage of for many years. The changing of the rules led to a budget surplus for the city.

MARCH

Hamtramck began seeing more men and women

Earlier in the month Gov. Rick Snyder asked the state legislators to set aside \$1.5 million so he could assign state police officers to several distressed cities, including Hamtramck.

The program was part of the "Michigan's Secured Cities Initiative."

State police began boosting the city's regular patrols during the month,



The Jos. Campau alley near Caniff became a magnet for illegal dumping. City officials said there is little they can do to stop the practice because it often happens at night when no one is around.

claims of poverty.

Guess what?

Things aren't what they always seem to be.

"Often I find their tax return is wrong," he said.

This move was part of the overall effort by the city to cut various loopholes residents had been taking but they weren't here every day.

Instead, the patrols robetween tramck, Highland Park and Harper Woods.

For what appeared to be an indefinite period of time, the idea of allowing medical marijuana dispensaries to operate in Hamtramck went up in smoke.

City Manager Powell was asked a year earlier when she first came on board to tweak an ordinance to regulate the industry.

"The issue was tabled by

the city to observe pending litigation in other cities and proposed legislation," Powell told the city council when she was asked about a follow-up.

Hamtramck voters weren't quite feeling the "Bern" like other Michigan voters.

In the presidential primary vote, voters here gave Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton the slight edge over her main competitor, Bernie Sanders. But Clinton won by just a hair here, edging out Sanders 1002 to 953.

Statewide, Sanders barely beat out Clinton in what was called an upset win.

On the Republican side of the presidential primary ballot, frontrunner Donald Trump left his challengers in the dust with 192 votes compared to second runner-up John Kasich, who garnered 55 votes.

Trump also won in the statewide election results.

Trump and Clinton eventually squared off in the November General Election. That election proved to be historical.

What a difference a few years made for the public school district.

About six years ago the Hamtramck Public School District had a \$5 million budget deficit and was facing state intervention unless the financial crisis was cleared up.

It was a huge challenge, but Superintendent Tom Niczay and his staff promised they would tackle it.

And they did.

At the monthly school board meeting, it was noted that the district had

Continued on page 5

Hamtramck Recreation Department



Saturday, January 21, 2017 - Saturday, April 8, 2017 Location: Community Center Game Day: Saturdays

Time: 2:30 p.m. Fee: \$10/R \$20/NR by Dec 27 Ages: 8-13 \$15/R \$25/NR After Dec 27

Basketball

NO GAME FEBRUARY 18



Saturday, January 21, 2017 - Saturday, February 11, 2017

Time: 1:15 p.m/Ages 4-6

2:00 p.m./Ages 7-12 3:00 p.m./Ages 13+

Location: Community Center Days: Saturdays

> Fee: \$10/R \$20/NR Ages: 4 and Up

NO PRACTICE FEBRUARY 18

\$35/NR



Tennis

Saturday, January 21, 2017 - Saturday, March 11, 2017 Days: Saturdays

Location: Community Center Time: 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Ages: 5 - 18

Fee: \$10/R \$20/NR NO PRACTICE FEBRUARY 18

Soccer



Tuesday, January 10, 2017 - Thursday, February 16, 2017 Location: Community Center Days: Tuesdays & Thursdays

Fee: \$25/R Time: 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Ages: 7 and Up

REGISTER NOW

For more information visit the Community Center or check out the Fall/Winter Activities Guide.

Hamtramck High School Community Center 11350 Charest St. Hamtramck (313) 893-5520 x3





Cont. from page 4

Year in review: A look back at the first half of 2016

made a 180-degree turnaround. Instead of a \$5 million deficit, the district had a \$5 million budget surplus.

"That's amazing," said Board President Magdalena Srodek.

Srodek credited the district administration for its effort, but warned the district must remain vigilant in its financial dealings.

"We can't go down that road again," she said.

Hamtramck's attempt at adopting a law forbidding marijuana use busted down in a haze of differing opinions on where to go with this issue.

City officials were not attempting to alter or change the legal use of pot by those with medical marijuana cards.

Instead, they attempted to update its enforcement book on cracking down on the recreational use of pot. It came to light that the city never adopted a local ordinance outlawing marijuana possession or use. Instead, officers relied on a local ordinance for possessing narcotic paraphernalia and the state law on possessing marijuana.

That resulted in most of the fines and fees going to the state instead of the local district court.

City Attorney Travis Mihelick fired up the issue by introducing a local ordinance that criminalized marijuana possession and use for those who do not have a medical card.

His proposal was stonewalled, however, when some city councilmembers and the mayor objected, saying they would rather see it decriminalized.

Round two of the citywide street repair program was rolled out.

The city had set aside money from a state grant, called Act 51, to begin an extensive road repair program this year. The program is part of a five-year plan.

The following streets were scheduled for repairs:

- Botsford from Jos. Campau to MacKay (full width)
- Trowbridge from Jos. Campau to Gallagher (center lane only except for full width from Jos. Campau to alley)
- Casmere from Jos. Campau to Conant (full width)

APRIL

As it turns out, even top law enforcers are vulnerable to identity theft.

That was the takeaway from a Town Hall Meeting on that very subject held at the Hamtramck Public Li-

Gathered together to talk about their experiences were Michigan Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein, US Attorney Barbara McQuade for the Eastern District of Michigan and FBI agent David Gellos.

State Rep. Rose Mary Robinson organized the event, which attracted about 60 residents.

Calls from those pretending to be from the IRS were on the rise. The callers demanded payments and threatened arrest. They also asked for personal information.

For the record, the IRS never demands payments over the phone or asks for personal information.

Another common scam involves credit cards. Many people have been victims of having their card number stolen and used to make purchases.

Criminals have devised a number of ways to get your credit card info without you knowing it. One common technique is to attach a card reading device to gasoline card swipes.

"We've seen an explosion in this in recent

in the city's demographics.

A 20-year-old Hamtramck

man who went missing for

a week was found safe

Few details were avail-

able about what happened

to Mossa Salleh Almas-

mari who went missing

after he attended a class

at Macomb Community

Almasmari's disappear-

ance prompted a number

of media reports, and a lot

of negative speculation

about his mysterious dis-

and sound.

College.

years," McQuade said.

appearance.

On some media sites a number of commentators guessed that because Almasmari is an Arab male he left the country to join a terrorist organization. Others said the FBI or Homeland Security had detained

FBI Public Affair Agent Jill Washburn told The Review that she could not discuss the matter other than to say he "left voluntarily" and was "found safe out of state."

Several months earlier there were media reports of a police informant claiming he was forced by a Hamtramck detective to illegally dump used tires.

That informant, whose name was not made public and instead used the alias "John Doe," filed a lawsuit against the Hamtramck and Highland Park police departments on April 8 in Wayne County Circuit

The accusations in the lawsuit were lurid and a public relations nightmare for the city.

In a nutshell, the informant claimed he was not paid money he was promised in exchange for providinformation carrying out assignments.

In the course of dealing with a detective from Highland Park and Hamtramck, he claims officers regularly used ethnic and racial hand experience of jail. He was sentenced to 16 months in prison for illegally cashing in over \$70,000 worth of US bonds belonging to St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church located just outside of the Hamtramck border on Buffalo.

Nykoriak's involvement in the church took many twists and turns. According to news reports by WDIV Channel 4, Nykoriak ingraexpenditures.

At the TAB's monthly meeting, the council's rejection puzzled some of the members.

It appears a matter like this had not come up be-

"I guess I feel uncomfortable voting for something when the city council should take responsibility for it," said TAB member Al Bogdan, according to minutes taken at the meeting.

Former School Boardmember and City Councilmember Titus Walters was remembered at a service in front of Piast Institute.

tiated himself with the church starting back in 2014.

He apparently started a division in the church which pitted some newcomers against old-timers. At one point he was living inside the church. At another point, he was presenting himself as a priest to the public.

All during this time, he was also looting the church unbeknown to parishioners.

It used to be that the city council was the first and last stop to get a contract signed for services that are needed.

That was before the state stepped in and declared a financial emergency three years ago. Since then, the council has had zero power to authorize or reject a contract.

But according to a final order left behind by former **Emergency Manager Cathy** Square, the city manager is still supposed to present contracts to the coun-

Such was the case when City Manager Katrina Powell's administration recommended a three-year contract to hire a company to perform water and sewer line repairs.

Normally, it would have been a routine matter.

But a bare majority on council rejected the con-Councilmember Anam Miah led the resistance to immediately apthe contract. proving saying he needed more time to read it.

Despite the council rejection, the contract went forward to the state-appointed Transitional Advisory Board, which has final say on all contracts and

"I would prefer to see it sent back to council and ask them to take action on it before we (do)."

The chairman of the TAB. Deborah Roberts, was also taken aback.

"Well, the way it's supposed to work is they're supposed to take action. And then we approve it," she said. "They failed to take action, and decided to kick it to us. That's the problem. They kicked it to us."

Former School Boardmember Titus Walters had a huge heart for students.

His dedication to the public school district was paid back in a special dedication ceremony on a Saturday morning outside of the Piast Institute.

It was an outpouring he would have basked in. Walters died the year before.

The event was a dedication of a bench installed in front of Piast and the kickoff of the annual Health Hike.

Over 100 adults and Hamtramck public school students were in attendance.

Mayor Karen Majewski spoke of Walters' fiery pas-

"Titus was not afraid not afraid to speak his mind, and to do the hard work that needed to be done."

And the mayor added: "In his absence it's up to all of us to fulfill his legacy." Walters also served on

the city council until his death.

MAY Hamtramck voters over-

whelmingly voted to continue their recreation program.

On May 3 voters agreed to continue the recreation millage for another 10 years by 592 in support to 165 against it.

The turnout was expected to be low, and indeed it was: A total of 757 voters participated.

"It was slow as molasses." was the way City Clerk August Gitschlag described the day's turnout.

This was the third millage the Hamtramck Public School District had successfully fielded within the last year. The district runs the recreation department.

Evan Major, the Vice President of the School Board and a member of the campaign committee to promote the millage renewal, said the victory was expected.

"We had every faith that the community believed in this vital resource, and that was confirmed by the overwhelming vote on Tuesday," Major said. "Now we hope the enthusiasm continues with active participation in the recreation committee and resident's voices guiding the development of programs that meet the needs of our community."

The millage has been in place for 20 years. The recreation millage raises over \$800,000 a year.

It used to be that in cases of emergencies at schools, students were instructed to "duck and

In other words, get under their desks and crouch

down. But the world has changed immensely since the 1950s and '60s when that safety program was the lesson of the day on how to protect oneself in cases of natural disasters - or worse, the threat of a

nuclear bomb. Today's main threat is something closer to home: An armed intruder or even fellow students who start

shooting. The thinking nowadays is to teach students and staff how to take a more pro-active approach instead of just cowering in a classroom.

Hamtramck's public school district signed on to be part of a new self-demethod fense called ALICE, which is an acronym that stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate.

The district school teamed up with the police department in training programs.

An increasing number of districts adopted this approach to what's called an "active shooter" situation.

Continued on page 6

DIRE

When the need arises, these caring professionals are ready to help.

uneral Home Cremation from \$895 Adjacent Parking

2687 Caniff, Hamtramck (313) 365-5240 Continuously owned and operated by the Krot Family since 1935

The Polish Market, a retail landmark, abruptly closed

its doors this year, apparently because of a change

slurs.

offices.

The case has yet to be

settled. However, two more

lawsuits were filed later in

the year regarding investi-

gations by this police unit.

For over 10 years Taras

Nykoriak of Hamtramck ran

for Wayne County Sheriff,

as well as for other public

He never stood a chance

of winning, though, consid-

ering he was largely an un-

known running as a

Republican in heavily Dem-

But in April he got a first-

ocratic Wayne County.

Alexandra Krot, Manager

David A. Krot, Public Relations

urkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home MICHAEL A. WILK, DIRECTOR ROBERT A. WILK, DIRECTOR

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The Hamtramck Review

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This newspaper is not responsible for mistakes in advertising beyond the cost of the space involved.

Year in review: A look back at the first half of 2016 cont. from page 5

In Michigan, all schools in the Washtenaw district have been trained.

The philosophy is pretty simple: figure out escape routes from classrooms where students can run to a safe area.

It also trained students and staff to throw desks and other objects at an intruder if they come face-toface – anything to distract and hold up the person on a rampage.

Hamtramck was set to act as a stand in for Detroit in an upcoming major movie production scheduled for the summer.

A portion of Jos. Campau, somewhere between Holbrook and Caniff, was going to be transformed back to 1967 where scenes of the Detroit riot would have been recre-

But as it turned out Michigan lost the production to the City of Boston because of special tax credits offered.

Still, there was some minor filming done here.

So far, the title of the movie has not been chosen but it is still going under the moniker of "Un-



Hamtramck Disneyland was saved thanks to local investors. The city's art collective, Hatch, held an online fundraiser to cover expenses to purchase two houses that support the folk art creation.

titled Detroit Project."

The director of the movie is Kathryn Bigelow who won an Academy Award for her movie, "Zero Dark Thirty" – about the hunt for and killing of Osama bin

A group of investors purchased the two houses on Klinger that have long been owning the properties.

the home of the folk art creation called "Hamtramck Disneyland."

The massive collection of whirligigs, knick knacks

and other whimsical items

are spread out on the top

of two neighboring houses

once owned by the creator

of the piece. Dmvtro Szv-

Szylak died last year at

the age of 92, but his fam-

ily did not wish to continue

away.

But there was still a ways to go to fully secure the property.

Hatch, a Hamtramck art collective, had to repay the investors. To do so, the group created an online to

Chris Schneider, of

That included a novel way to bring in funding in

There was concern among artists and residents that the piece would be dismantled and removed, or worse, just rot

fundraiser \$100,000.

Guess what?

They managed to reach that goal, plus a little extra several hours before their deadline expired.

Hatch, said the purchase was something that took a few months to come together. He said the plan is to "restore the installation and also create a new opportunity."

an ongoing basis.

Professional soccer came to Keyworth Stadium, and it proved to be a spectacular success.

"With the four apartment units, we would like to rent three of them to people who appreciate the artwork, and then use the final unit to invite artists from all over the world who specialize in installations to live and work," Schneider said. "Their work would also be open to the public to view."

The sound of loud chanting and drums banging at Keyworth Stadium became

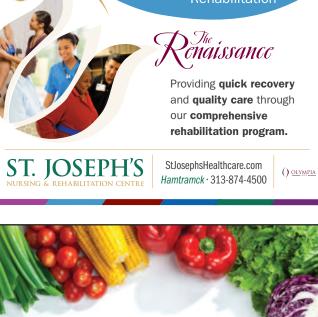
a familiar thing.

The first home game for the Detroit City Football Club, which is part of a semi-pro league, kicked off the season for the team.

The premiere was a couple of years in the making. The football club worked out a deal with the Hamtramck School Board and Superintendent Tom Niczay to relocate their home games here in exchange for fixing up Keyworth.

Continued on page 8

LEADERS in Short-Term Rehabilitation











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Hamtramck Review

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By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Dec. 13-19.

Tuesday, December 13

- A resident in the 3900 block of Prescott reported someone broke out a window of their car while it was parked in their garage.
- A resident in the 8800 block of Lumpkin reported someone broke out their car window and stole a navigation system and a backpack. Another resident on that block reported a similar incident and the theft of a radio.
- A person was arrested for cashing a stolen check at Walter's Party Store on Conant.
- A resident said he was assaulted inside a Jos. Campau business.
- A New Boston resident reported someone broke his car window while it was parked on Commor.

Wednesday, December 14

- · At about 3 a.m. a Detroit resident ran away from officers after being pulled over for a traffic violation. Officers followed his foot prints in the snow to a house where he was hiding.
- · A juvenile was arrested at a residence in the 12000 block of Grand Haven for domestic vio-

Thursday, December 15

 A person was arrested after a traffic stop for a resident was arrested in

being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.

- · A resident in the 2000 block of Yemans reported someone stole a package from her front porch.
- A Fraser resident was arrested after committing an assault at a Holbrook residence.

Friday, December 16

- A Madison Heights resident reported her car was egged while it was parked in the 10000 block of Conant.
- · A resident reported her daughter was missing.
- Two people turned themselves in for being wanted on a Hamtramck felony warrant.

Saturday, December 17

- At almost 3 a.m. a St. Clair Shores resident was arrested after a police chase for committing domestic violence in the Caniff/I-75 area.
- · A St. Aubin resident reported being assaulted by the father of her child. The suspect also violated a personal protection order.
- · A Port Huron resident was arrested after assaulting his ex-wife during an argument at a residence on Hewitt.
- · A West Bloomfield resident reported her disabled son may have been tricked out of money and belongings.

Sunday, December 18

· At a little after 11 p.m.

the area of Carpenter and Conant for being wanted on various felony warrants.

- · A person was arrested for assault following a disturbance in the 3000 block of Evaline.
- · A resident in the 12000 block of Klinger reported the theft of their catalytic convertor.
- · A resident reported someone they know stole \$800 worth of laundry from a coin laundromat in the 12000 block of Conant.
- · A Zinow resident reported someone threw a door knob at their house, causing damage to the siding, and also spread yellow paint on their car.
- · A resident in the 11400 block of Jos. Campau reported a suspect walked into his apartment and stole his wallet, laptop, cellphone and then fled in a Nissan Altima.

Monday, December 19

- · At 5:30 a.m. a Detroit resident was arrested after a traffic stop for possessing narcotics, driving without a license and possessing an open intoxicant.
- An agent for Total Home Solution reported the theft of 16 sheets of plywood at a site in the 11000 block of Klinger.
- · A Caniff resident reported the theft of his license plate.
- · A stray pitbull was captured in the 2300 block of Holmes and taken to the Humane Society.





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Year in review: A look back at the first half of 2016

For several weeks work crews shored up the stadium's infrastructure and put in new seating.

Funding for the makeover came from an online fundraiser the football club sponsored. According to the club, over \$700,000 was collected.

Football club organizers expected anywhere from 3,000 to 6,000 fans to turn out – and they did.

This was the first major makeover for the stadium since it was built in 1936.

This version of football is the European variety – better known on this side of the pond as soccer.

The game was and is only part of the show. Fans play a huge role in the spectacle, often dressing up in the team's color, maroon (which, coincidentally, it's the same color for the Cosmos), and sporting painted faces and armed with noisemakers of all sorts.

For \$7 a month, homeowners were offered a chance to save a bundle of money.

The city partnered with Service Line Warranties of America for a unique protection plan.

The city had recently dusted off an old ordinance that had not been enforced and began charging homeowners for repairing broken sewerage connections. That charge was typically \$4,000, which 12 home-

irst line must be on a \$50 base rate plar

owners had been socked with.

The need for the repair becomes noticeable when the alley pavement behind a house caves in. The likely reason for that depression is a leak in the homeowner's sewer line that causes a washout below the pavement.

"Through this program, homeowners are more likely to report problems without fear of expensive repairs," said City Manager Katrina. "In today's economy, it's important for the City to help homeowners find affordable protection for their own private aging infrastructure."

The insurance program protects against leaks, breaks and clogs due to normal wear and tear, age, ground shifting and tree root intrusion.

JUNE

One thing was for certain in the coming months: City officials needed to have a serious discussion on how to fund the Fire Department

The city's fiscal year was set to wrap up at the end of June, with a new budget year starting on July 1.

At this point both years were about a million dollars short of their projected budget. That forced the city to draw down from its budget surplus of \$4 million – \$1 million for this year and \$1 million for next

metroPCS

vear.

The cause of this was that a federal grant for the Fire Department had not come in – although it was expected to. And it eventually did just that.



Fire Chief Paul Wilk retired this year after serving in the department for 26 years.

But what city officials had to wrestle with was what to do when the SAFER grant - which pays for the salaries of 12 firefighters - runs out in three years.

The Fire Department is the second most expensive department in the city with a budget of about \$3 million.

The city's total budget for this current fiscal year is \$15.7 million, while next year it is going down a bit to \$15.4 million.

Speaking of the Fire Department, in an unexpected move, Fire Chief Paul Wilk announced his retirement.

Wilk was likely the city's youngest serving fire chief. He started in the depart-

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ment when he was 22 and retired at the age of 48.

"It's just time to go," Wilk said about his retirement. 'It's time to be with my family."

Wilk steered the department into a historical agreement with Detroit's Fire Department. The deal he helped strike actually kept the department busier: The two cities agreed to help each other when fires occur within a few miles of Hamtramck.

In return, Detroit now automatically sends a crew to help out with Hamtramck firefighters.

After 26 years on the bench, Hamtramck 31st District Court Judge Paul Paruk stepped down to take a new job with the State Supreme Court in an administrative position.

Paruk was temporarily replaced with local attorney Alexis Krot. Gov. Rick Snyder made the appointment.

Paruk's departure ended a legacy for his family. His father, Walter, was the district court judge for many years before Paul won election in 1990 after his father retired.

Paul Paruk made international news several years ago when he required a Muslim woman to remove her face veil, commonly known as a niqab, in order to testify.

He insisted that he needed to see the face of witnesses as one way to determine if they are telling the truth.

The woman, who had a lawsuit pending against an auto rental company, refused to remove her veil and Paruk dismissed her case.

The woman filed a lawsuit in federal court claiming a civil rights violation, but a federal judge dismissed it, saying it is up to the State Supreme Court to establish rules about appearances.

Attorney Nick Frontczak, a friend of Paruk and a former city attorney for Hamtramck, said Paruk was a "credit to the city and the judicial system."

well on the bench and made reasoned decisions," he said.

A Hamtramck shopping landmark became history.

During one weekend the Polish Market on Jos. Campau and Belmont abruptly announced it was closing.

A notice, printed in English and Polish, said that "due to circumstances beyond our control we are forced to close ..."

The notice told customers to visit their other store at 15 Mile and Dequindre in Troy and listed a phone number to call.

peated calls to that number but no one ever answered or returned messages.

Although there had been

The Review made re-

Although there had been ongoing rumors that the store was going to close, it still came as a shock to many.

Kathy Angerer, the city's Director of Community & Economic Development, said the store's closing represented "a huge void in our central business district."

Angerer said she talked with the owner of the building, who leased the space to the store, and said it appeared there was financial hardship. She said the building owner told her

could solve.

For some reason, one location in the center of the city became a magnet over the years as a place for illegal dumpings.

Cont. from page 6

It was in the alley on the east side of Jos. Campau at Caniff. On most days you could see loose garbage and large items deposited there – usually pieces of furniture.

In one week The Review spotted two couches and a large pile of trash dumped at the site.

Kathy Angerer, the Director of Community & Economic Development and head of the city's code enforcement, said she had been aware of this hotspot.

She says the dumpings happen at night when few people are around to witness it.

"Catching illegal dumping after-hours is hard," Angerer said.

No matter how the trash gets there, it's up to the building's owner to remove it. Angerer said her office works with owners who are the victim of illegal dumpings, but ultimately they have to clean it up.

"They need to monitor their property," she said.

There were other hot



Hamtramck 31st District Court Judge Paul Paruk resigned to take an administrative position with the state Supreme Court.

"that the store was losing money every month with the demographic change to the city."

Hamtramck has indeed

experienced a major shift in recent years from its decade's long identity as a Polish city. The majority of the city's population is now made up of immigrants from Bangladesh and Yemen.

Another sizable population is from Bosnia.

It was a mystery no one

spots in the city as well.

Angerer said dumpers often target the outskirts of the city, such as on Hamtramck Dr., Denton, Conant and empty lots.

"We try to stay on top of it but it's not easy," Angerer said.

Well, that's it for our first part in the year in review. Come back next week for a look at the highlights for the second half of 2016.



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11:30 p.m. - Christmas Carol Sing-a-12 Mid - Shepherds Mass (Pasterka)

9:00 a.m. - Solemnity of Nativity of Our Lord

Holy Mass 10:00 a.m. Feas

10:00 a.m. Feast of of St. Stephen, Proto Martyr - Holy Mass (Msza Św. w języku polskim)

 $10{:}00\ a.m.$ - Feast of Saint John the Apostle - Blessing of Wine

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