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Hamtramck

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Quick Hits

It's a new year and there are some new changes in city council.

At a special meeting on Tuesday, the council elected a new mayor pro tem. Anam Miah now has the honor of serving in that position, which he will hold for the next two years.

As mayor pro tem he will fill in for the mayor when she is not available, including chairing council meetings in her absence.

The council also agreed to reset meeting times a little earlier. Instead of meeting at 7 p.m. the council will now meet at 6:30 p.m.

The change in time means council work sessions, held before the regular meetings, will start sooner at 5:30 p.m.

Council meetings are still on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

The next council meeting is this coming Tuesday, Jan. 12, held on the second floor of city hall.

Both regular council meetings and the work sessions are open to the public. The work sessions are held on the third floor of city hall.

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

‘Story of the Year’ is about the spirit of Hamtramck and its residents

By Charles Sercombe

Please excuse our tardiness.

Normally when we announce our Story of the Year, it's done before the new year starts.

So, without the usual fanfare let us unveil the Story of the Year (the year being 2015, of course):

Potholes.

This was no easy choice because there were some heavy-hitters this topic competed against.

There were major renovation of three city-owned parks – a multi-million event that did not cost the city anything, thanks to various grants and donations. The city's three parks (Pulaski is owned by the school district) have not had this much attention in several decades.

And there was this year's city council election that drew national and international media attention, some of it good, much of it bad.

For the first time, as far as anyone knows, an American city elected a Muslim majority city council.

Out of the six seats on council there are now four councilmembers of the Muslim faith. All of them have insisted that their faith has no bearing on their decision-making process.

As the top vote-getter, Saad Almasmari said: “We are going to represent everybody. We are going to serve everybody, Christians, Jewish, Muslims, everybody.”

There were dozens of stories on the election

Continued on page 2



Above: The Hamtramck Guerilla Road Repair group took matters into their own hands last summer and began repairing potholes. Below: Last winter's bitter cold temperatures and ice and snow created a large number of potholes throughout the city.



‘Hamtrivia’ night will test your knowledge of Hamtramck bars



Think you know all about Hamtramck bars? Test your knowledge at this Saturday's “Hamtrivia Night.”

By Greg Kowalski

Name one bar that operated in Hamtramck before Prohibition?

That might – just might – be one of the questions that will be asked at the next installment of Hamtrivia.

Sponsored by the Hamtramck Historical Museum, Hamtrivia is the local version of trivia. Not all of the questions will be on Hamtramck, but one category will focus on Hamtramck bars.

Why? Because that will serve

as a promo for the next Hungry for History program on Hamtramck bars, also sponsored by the Historical Museum.

But first things first: Hamtrivia will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, at the Hamtramck Moose Lodge, 9421 Conant. Admission is \$10 and snacks will be provided. And of course there's a bar at the lodge. City official Kathy Angerer will serve as the trivia master.

Previous Hamtrivia

Continued on page 2

A new year, a new era

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck ushered in a new political era last Sunday afternoon.

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.

Almasmari, the highest vote-getter in November's election, almost missed taking the oath of office. The ceremony was held up 10 minutes because he was a no-show, and then after he still failed to arrive the ceremony went on without him.

He arrived about 20 minutes late, but still in time to be sworn into office.

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

That historic moment received national and international media attention. But on Sunday, mysteriously, there were only two local media outlets (including The Review) on hand.

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 Hamtramck's 102-year-old police department: The first-ever female chief was sworn into office.

For the past several months Anne Moise had

Continued on page 3

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‘Story of the Year’ is about the spirit of Hamtramck and its residents

Continued from front page

and the city’s diverse ethnic and religious make-up. It appears the media frenzy is over with, but it does raise the question of whether they will return to report on just what happens with a Muslim majority city council.

Stay tuned to this one. There were plenty of other stories worthy of being the most important of the year, including the city transitioning out of the control of a state-appointed emergency manager, and the appointment of the police department’s first-ever female police chief (although her swearing-into office took place in January).

But when you sift through all the major events of the year, the issue of pothole repair hung in there the longest, and there was also plenty of media attention that made Hamtramck ground zero for the larger issue of road repairs in the state.

Or to be more clear, the state’s lawmakers and voters’ inability to come up with a solution to fund it.

What really caught the eye of the media was how a band of Hamtramck res-

idents got fed up waiting for repairs and took matters into their own hands. And it is that can-do spirit that speaks to the core of what it means to be a Hamtramckan.

Can you imagine residents in any other city in the metro area getting this involved? That is what makes living in Hamtramck so special, and underscores why this was the most important story of the year.

This past spring we saw the birth of an outfit called Hamtramck Guerilla Road Repair.

Over a dozen volunteers bought their own cold patch and began filling in potholes wherever it was needed. Initially, city officials weren’t too happy about residents working on city-owned streets, but a deal was worked out and the volunteers continued on.

We talked to one organizer, Jonathan Weier, who said the idea to begin this DIY project came up the usual Hamtramck way: a bunch of buddies at a bar drinking beer and conjuring up a solution to a problem.

“I guess the tipping point was when on Facebook I got feedback,”

Weier told us back in July.

The feedback that got things going came from Mayor Karen Majewski, who gave her blessing. “It was enough to proceed to do this,” Weier said.

Armed with \$150, Weier and crew bought some pothole filler and took care of several potholes on Lumpkin.

They then set up an online fundraiser, with a goal to raise \$5,000. They reached that goal and then some, and chances are this band of merry workers will be at it again this spring.

They may not have that big of a chore ahead of them if this winter continues to be gentle. So far, this has been the warmest winter on record. And that means there has been less wear and tear on our roads from freezing temperatures and ice and snow.

The city is also in a better position this year to tackle pothole repairs with the hiring of several part-time workers over the last few months.

So, it looks like 2016 won’t be quite the bumpy ride we experienced last year.

But Hamtramck’s DIY spirit will surely live on.

‘Hamtrivia’ night will test your knowledge of Hamtramck bars

Continued from front page

events have proven to be loads of fun and this one should not be any different.

“Cheers: The Story of Hamtramck’s Bars,” will be held on Thursday, Jan. 28, at the Hamtramck Historical Museum, 9525 Jos. Campau.

It’s reputed that Hamtramck once had more bars per capita than any town in America. How many did this town of 2.1 square miles host? No one knows for sure, but there were at least 200 operating at one time. And during Prohibition, when bars were outlawed, there were many more.

How did this come about?

Find out at the first 2016 Hungry for History program, “Cheers! The Story of Hamtramck’s Bars,” hosted by the Hamtramck Historical Museum, on Thursday, Jan. 28, at the Museum, 9525 Jos. Campau. This PowerPoint presentation will feature photos of a raft of bars that might surprise you and maybe stir up some memories.

Saloons came in all shapes, sizes and forms in Hamtramck going back to the days when the “stammgasts” frequented such places as Buhr’s and Muchinger’s. They were replaced by a massive amount of shot-and-a-beer Polish bars, which in time morphed into swinging night spots and even more upscale clubs (horrors!) that have become favorites of the suburbanites.

The stories associated

with these places are as colorful as the characters who frequented them.

You may even meet some of them at the presentation. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with a catered dinner served at 6 p.m. Cost of the dinner is \$15. The program is presented at 7 p.m. and is free. All proceeds ben-

efit the Hamtramck Historical Museum.

To make a reservation call (313) 893-5027, or email hamtramckhistory@gmail.com.

A full schedule of Hungry for History programs for the year will be announced later this month.

Until then, Na zdrowie!



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This week at the library...

ESL Class – Monday, Jan. 11 at 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

Family Movie Night – Tuesday, January 12 at 4 p.m., “Zarafa.”

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

Movie Night – Wednesday, January 13 at 6:30 p.m., “The Martian.”

ESL Class – Friday, January 15 at 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

Movie Night – Wednesday, January 20 at 6:30 p.m., “Straight Outta Compton.”

Tax program – Mondays, January 25-April 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wayne Metro's Free Tax Program offers accessible services throughout Wayne County, with different times and locations. While ap-

pointments are encouraged, walk-ins are also accepted. To make an appointment please call: 313-388-9799.

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

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

Second Front Page



School Bell

Hamtramck Public Schools is proud to announce that Mrs. Joanne McBryar, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, has been awarded MIEM School Administrative Professional Certification (SAPC).

This is a voluntary certification program sponsored by the Michigan Institute for Educational Management (MIEM), which is co-owned and operated by the Michigan Association of School Administrators and Michigan School Business Officials.

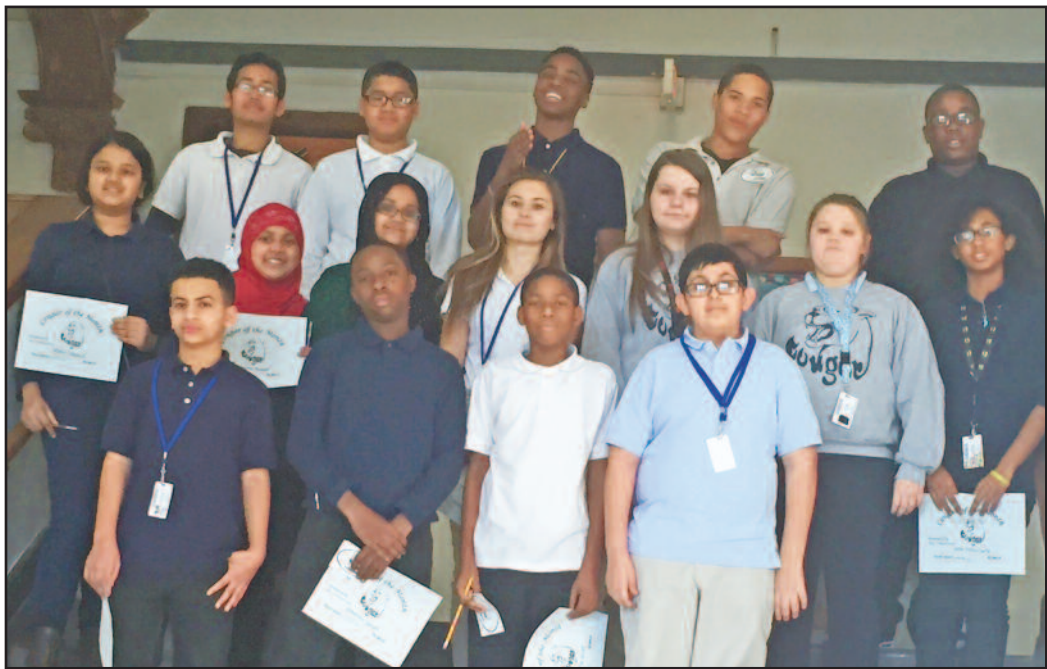
The purpose of the program is to expand knowledge, skills and confidence, and to provide Michigan school districts with a tool to identify skilled administrative professionals.

Mrs. Joanne McBryar will be recognized in the achievement gallery, which can be accessed at www.gomiem.org.

Congratulations to Joanne!

Kosciuszko Middle School News

Kosciuszko Middle School is pleased to announce the students of the month for January: Nuha Ahmed, Zacaria Aldais, Amir Alreyashi, Rudra Barua, Justin Collins, Jasmina Dedic, Tahmin Fathmee, Telia Fisher-Curly, Larry Gill, Emaunie Green, Lily Morgan, DaShaun Morris, Fardeen Nur, Juan Rhodes, Ahana Roy and



“Students of the Month” at Kosciuszko Middle School pose for a photo. Congratulations kids!

Neyra Salkic.

Hamtramck High School News

Monday, January 11 at 5 p.m. Hamtramck High School is hosting FAFSA Night: Getting Money for College, in the school auditorium. Parents and students will learn how to apply for financial aid and scholarships for college.

Holbrook Elementary School News

ESL classes will begin the second week of January. Please contact Holbrook School if you are interested in signing up at (313) 872-3203.
Wednesday, January 13 PTSA (Parent Teacher School Association) meeting at 8:30 a.m. All parents are welcome to attend.
Tuesday, January 19 Parents of Great Students (P.O.G.S.) meeting

will be held at 10 a.m.

All Schools

Monday, January 18 - No school for students due to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
The Concerned Women of Hamtramck will host the 19th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast.

It will be held from 9-11 a.m. at the Hamtramck High School Community Center located at 11530 Charest. The theme of the breakfast is “Hamtramck’s Got Talent.”

Student performances will be centered around Dr. King’s speech “A Look To The Future.” Ticket prices are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children. There is no admission fee for students performing in the program.

If you are not able to attend but would like to make a donation please make checks payable to:

The Concerned Women of Hamtramck c/o Madelyn Porter 11411 Lumpkin Hamtramck, MI 48212, or donations may be dropped off at Kosciuszko Middle School.

Compiled by Janice Gandelman



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Feb. 13 - Soup Kitchen, 2-4 p.m.

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A new year, a new era

Continued from front page

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 to our favorite spot for coffee and be sure we’ll run into friends; where we know we are part of something bigger than ourselves,” Majewski

said.

“In Hamtramck we feel this interconnection, and that is a source of personal and collective

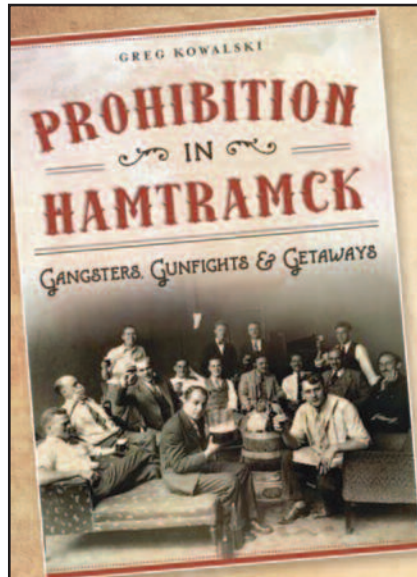
change a life, transform a street, and rebuild a city. And we live in a place where our vote truly matters.”



City Councilmembers Abu Musa, Saad Almasmari and Anam Miah take the oath of office at Sunday's swearing-in ceremony at the library.

power. It makes us all visible agents of our destinies, as individuals and as a city. Because we live in a place where our seemingly small, individual actions can

After the short ceremony a number of well-wishers posed with the elected officials and Moise for photographs.



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Councilmember takes issue with ‘process’ of police chief’s appointment

Recently City Manager Katrina Powell announced that she had hired Acting Police Chief Anne Moise as the new permanent chief.

But at least one city councilmember has an issue with that.

Councilmember Anam Miah, who just won reelection to council, made a public complaint about what he calls the “process” of the appointment.

He says in an open letter that Powell should have first conferred with the council.

Here is his letter in full, without editing:

Dear City Manager Powell:

I am writing to protest your decision to entirely bypass City Council in your selection of a permanent police chief. I want to state from the outset that my objections do not relate in the least to the interim chief.

My concern involves the process (or the apparent lack of one) by which you arrived at your decision to make a permanent hire and your failure to follow 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



City Councilmember Anam Miah

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.

According to the ICMA website, [<http://learning.icma.org/store/seminar/seminar.php?seminar=25406&pc=calendar>], “choosing a fire or police chief is one of the most important decisions a local government manager has to make. The chief not only has to react

during times of crisis, but must have the leadership and vision to shape a department that connects with the community.” For this reason the ICMA and the International Public Management Association for Human Resources have recently collaborated to create a data-driven assessment tool for the selection of police and fire chiefs [See <http://asr.ipma-hr.org/2012/10/police-and-fire-chief-selection/>].

As things stand today, I have absolutely no idea how close you have come to following best practices for the selection of perhaps the most important member of our executive staff.

I do not know whether the residents you have sworn to protect want to find out when a real crisis hits whether you have selected the right person for

the job. That is why the charter mandates that the public hear about the process and the candidates.

We are elected to help frame this sort of discussion and it is Council’s prerogative, after listening to your recommendation and the public’s reaction to it, to make the final call.

This is the best practice. It is mandated by law. It is democracy in action. You have nothing to fear from a fair and open process and we all have much to lose from a closed one.

While it may have been the case in the past that our union contracts mandate appointment of an internal candidate, the city spent years negotiating that provision out of the ROA’s last contract. I would have thought that that hard-fought position would have allowed you to at least entertain interest from external candidates that might have fresh ideas from outside of our own department.

This sort of decision making is not what I had in mind when I said that you needed to be more transparent in the way you make decisions. I do not take kindly to the sort of contempt that you have for the Charter-mandated process. I believe that there may be room for us

to agree on the ultimate result here, but the process exists for good reason.

We are seeing the results elsewhere in this state of what occurs when our unelected leaders refuse to take the public interest into account when they make decisions. I won’t sit silently and wait to find out when it really counts whether you hired the right person to lead our police department.

At the very least, you owe council an explanation about your search and, if none was conducted, tell us why you made that decision and according to what objective criteria.

Know this. If you decide to continue down this path, not only will I make note of it for future decisions about your performance, I will make sure that you and the people you report to own each and every outcome that results from your bald refusal to follow the Charter-mandated process.

God forbid something happens to one of our citizens as a result of your failure to even consider alternatives and I will be sure to remind anyone who will listen who authored the outcome. Since we all know that the Governor won’t be held to account for what disas-

ters may follow, you can guess who the public and that same Governor will want to make responsible for your decision to throw caution to the wind and ignore the peoples’ elected representatives.

In closing, I want to reiterate that I bear absolutely no ill will to the interim chief. I support her and the other members of the department in keeping our streets safe. But she deserves to know that she didn’t just get the job by default. The only way that can happen is with a fair and open search using objective and nationally-recognized criteria.

I am asking you to delay your decision until you have provided us with some of the specifics I have requested above. The interim chief has served us in the interim capacity for some time now. She is to be credited for that. But there’s no magic in rushing to a final decision here until you have provided the elected governing body of this city with the sort of details that will, at a later time, let them know that they have hired the right person for this extremely important job.

Respectfully,
Councilman
Anam Miah

City manager responds to councilmember’s criticisms of appointment

To Councilman Miah and the Citizens of Hamtramck:

While I do not intend to respond to all of the inaccuracies and misrepresentations in the “open letter” circulated by Councilman Miah to the media and others, I do intend to clarify a few issues so that the citizens of Hamtramck are not misinformed.

Let me start by saying that it is deeply concerning to me that Councilman Miah would publicly advocate for me to violate the law. Whether it is because he does not know the law or does not care about the law, both are equally unacceptable for an elected public official.

In two separate Emergency Manager Orders, that have been distributed to the Council on several occasions since my arrival, and are accessible on the front page of the City’s website, former Emergency Manager Square clearly and unequivocally dictated the process that was to be followed in hiring city employees and appointing department heads.

In Order S-017, the Emergency Manager mandated that the City Manager shall “Hire, suspend,



City Manager Katrina Powell

or terminate any city employee, appointee, or department head, with the approval of the [Transition Advisory] Board.” Likewise, Order S-020 states that the City Manager “shall be responsible for appointments, hiring, and terminations of department heads and other city employees, subject to approval by the [Transition Advisory] Board.” Under State law, these Emergency Manager Orders supersede the City Charter and the City is required to follow their mandates.

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 Man-

ager’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.

I would encourage Councilman Miah, and all citizens of Hamtramck, to attend the Transition Advisory Board Meetings to see the process that is in place, and to voice any concerns they might have. Like all public meetings, the public is welcome to speak at Transition Advisory Board Meetings and I know that their input is carefully considered by the Board.

I hope that this open response clarifies some of the misinformation provided by Councilman

Miah. As always, if there are any further questions, I would invite any of Hamtramck’s citizens or visitors to take advantage of

my open door policy and set up a time to sit down with me and talk through any issues.

Yours in Service,
Katrina Powell
City Manager
City of Hamtramck

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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

With a new year, it’s time for a new beginning in city hall

It’s a new year and already we are off to a rocky start, politically speaking.

City Councilmember Anam Miah distributed an open letter to the community making scathing comments on how City Manager Katrina Powell went about appointing the city’s new police chief, Anne Moise.

You can read his letter in this issue as well as Powell’s response.

In a nutshell, Miah said Powell disrespected the city council by not first discussing the appointment with the council before announcing it to the state Transition Advisory Board, which has final authority over contracts and finances.

Powell’s counter-argument is that according to the final directives left behind by the former emergency manager, she is not required to seek the council’s OK on the hiring.

That is technically true.

But can we suggest something for the coming year?

Let’s stop the bicker-

ing in city hall.

We are a city that is still transitioning back to full local control. It was a year ago that a state-appointed emergency manager left her position after being on the job for 18 months.

In her place a new city manager was hired, and that position was given special authority and severely limited the role of the mayor and council.

There are some who say this arrangement is deeply anti-democratic and is an insult to the voters of this community.

We would not entirely disagree with that.

But Hamtramck has been through the emergency manager process two times now, and maybe something severe needed to take place before local control is fully restored.

But that transition needs to start happening.

In hindsight, maybe the chief’s appointment could have taken a different path, one that included discussing it with the council before making the appointment official.

In fact, one of the final directives seems to say that it is the duty of the mayor and council to be involved in this process.

Look no further than this provision where the EM is talking about the role of the mayor and council:

“Confer with the city manager on the city manager’s selection of and performance evaluation of department heads and other positions designated as key positions of the city by the board.”

I think all will agree the position of police chief is a “key position.”

One could argue that this final directive is a little fuzzy on what it ultimately means. There are other directives that are equally unclear.

But the bottom line is that we need more communication and inclusiveness in city hall.

There is certainly no argument that Anne Moise is a good choice for the position of police chief.

Let’s move on from here, and let’s start building bridges.

School boardmember Evan Major announces engagement

Dearest Friends,

Saving a more lengthy annual review for another time, we wanted to pass on one key development of late - we got engaged! Woohoo! It was a cozy weekend at the yurt, complete with temperate weather, campfires, and unintentional near proposal sabotage (more on this later). Amit took advantage of a moment by the fire to furnish a home-made (by her!) nearly-finished wooden ring and pop the question. We came home to complete two wooden rings, sawing and sanding in the workshop together. And here we are.

We are excited to continue our journey together and potluck, camp, laugh, love, work hard and build with you all. We are deeply grateful for all of

the ways that you have supported us individually and supported our partnership, and can't wait for what's next.

Plans of any kind are still a mystery at this point, but it won't be a rush job, so relax.

**Much love,
Amit and Evan**



The Hamtramck Review

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City Hall Insider ...

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

By Charles Sercombe

The city council met on Nov. 24, and all councilmembers were present.

The regularly scheduled work session before the regular meeting was canceled. During the regular meeting Councilmember Anam Miah requested to add a resolution to the council agenda.

Mayor Karen Majewski said that can’t be done unless the issue is an emergency.

Miah responded: “Is this not a council meeting?”

He insisted that the council has previously made additions and deletions to the agenda.

City Attorney Travis Mihelick said there are limited reasons for allowing additions to the agenda, otherwise the council would be violating the state’s Open Meetings Act.

Later in the meeting Miah said he wanted to propose a resolution to have a performance review of the city manager. He said he wanted to get it done before Councilmember Robert Zwolak’s term was over at the end of December.

Mayor Majewski said if the matter was so important Miah should have contacted her to get the item on the agenda in time.

During the public comment period, a woman “implored” the council to

bring in another market to the former Glory Market space on Jos. Campau.

“We really need a Kroger,” she said.

Kathy Angerer, the Director of Community & Economic Development, said the state of Michigan is putting a print shop in that space.

But, she said, a market might move into the building nextdoor to Glory at the former Value World site.

Angerer added that Glory closed because there was not enough business to support it.

She encouraged people to shop locally.

“That’s the key to attracting business,” Angerer said.

A man complained that the city wants to charge him for fixing a sink hole in the alley behind his house. He said he is 82 years old.

“I’ve never heard of this before,” he said.

Susan Dunn noted that she took a photo of a private van delivering milk to a market on Jos. Campau, which she said violates health safety codes.

In a discussion about approving a court-ordered tax millage, Councilmember Zwolak said he doubts this will be the last payment to settle a longstanding housing discrimination lawsuit.

Zwolak also criticized the federal judge handling the lawsuit, saying

Judge Damon Keith has “created a whole new class of victims.” By that he meant Hamtramck property owners.

In the vote to approve the millage, Councilmembers Zwolak, Mohammed Hassan and Abu Musa voted against it while Councilmembers Miah, Andrea Karpinski and Ian Perrotta voted in favor.

The tie vote required Mayor Majewski to break it. She voted in favor of it.

To those who voted against the court-ordered millage she said: “You dodged a bullet there.”

(Since the tax millage was court-ordered the council could have been held in contempt of court if it refused to pass it.)

The council voted unanimously to allow a neighborhood market on Klinger to expand its business hours. The market had received tickets for operating past its business hours.

The council also OK’d a zoning variance for Caniff Electric, which is expanding its warehouse.

Mayor Majewski noted that there are five or six refugee Syrian families who are living in Hamtramck.

“We welcome them and wish them success with their new lives,” Majewski said.

Councilmember Hassan said he is willing to share his house with refugees.

Odds & Ends

Worthy mention...

There were so many important stories in 2015 it was hard to list them all.

But we would be deeply remiss to not mention the fantastic development at Keyworth Stadium.

The public school district has partnered up with the Detroit City Football Club to bring about a rebirth to the historical stadium.

The stadium will now be the home of the club’s professional soccer team. That development, which took some skillful negotiation by the district administration and Superintendent Tom Niczay, will lead to major improvements to the stadium and the influx of thousands of fans to the city.

This is a major win-win for the district and the city’s businesses.

There is an ongoing fundraising effort to help with the renovation which you can learn about by going to the district’s website at: <http://www.hamtramck.k12.mi.us/>

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Obituaries

ZALIWSKI

Stanley “Stash” Zaliwski, 67, died December 23, 2015.

Mr. Zaliwski is survived by his wife, Dolores “Dodo”; daughter, Leanne (Kirk) Conger; son, Daniel (Kimberlee); grandchildren, Sophia, Brock, Daniel, Karina. Mr. Zaliwski

was preceded in death by his son, Brian (2002).

Mr. Zaliwski was a retired business owner and Hamtramck resident.

A Funeral Mass was held December 28, at St. Ladislaus Church. Arrangements were entrusted to Krot Funeral Home in Hamtramck.

Coming events

SATURDAY, Jan. 9, 2-4 p.m. – Holy Cross Parish, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming, hosts its soup kitchen. All are welcome.

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

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 13, 11 a.m. – The Daughters of Isabella Mystical Rose Circle 736 will meet, at Queen of Apostles Activity Center, entrance on Harold, fenced-in parking.

TUESDAY, Jan. 19, noon – Discussion with Fr. Ventline on Dr. Martin Luther King’s “Concept of faith,” at Three Star Restaurant, Jos. Campau and Commor, RSVP only, 313-530-2777.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 17, 7 p.m. – The Hamtramck Midtown Block Club will not meet during December 2015 and January 2016. In 2016, the block club will meet Wednesday, February 17, at 7 p.m. in St. Florian’s Convent, 2626 Florian; please use the side entrance. Share information with your friends and neighbors and listen to guest speakers. Light refreshments will be served. Please invite others to join us.



REFLECTIONS BY FATHER LAWRENCE VENTLINE, D.MIN., ON THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AND, HIS CONCEPT OF FAITH WITH THE DISSENTATION OF FATHER RANDY PHILLIPS, SUNDAY, JAN. 17, 3 pm, in Rose’s Family Kitchen, 31301 Harper Ave., St. Clair Shores, MI., Meeting Room. RSVP at LawrenceMatthewVentline@gmail.com. All are welcome!





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The lore of Hamtramck ...

Oh, no, Canada!

By Greg Kowalski

Some pretty strange ideas have been floated in Hamtramck through the years and a couple of the oddest have to do with mergers.

In 1920 the Hamtramck Republican Club announced plans to put on the ballot in the November election a proposal to annex a portion of Detroit. This was described in The Evening Star newspaper in Washington, D.C., as “a foreign quarter with a population of 50,000.”

The identity of this “foreign quarter” was not explained, although it was supposedly made up of Polish immigrants living in Hamtramck at the time.

It’s unlikely that the measure ever made it on the ballot and the annexation certainly didn’t happen.

But an even more far-fetched idea was tossed out at the Hamtramck Rotary Club meeting in early

December, 1963. There, former Rotary District Governor Charles B. Bell suggested that Canada might become part of the United States.

Bell, an attorney in Windsor, Ontario, said that Canadians might favorably consider becoming 10 or more states of the U.S. After all, he said, Canadians are like and do like Americans.

“If you sustain losses, we suffer them with you. If you succeed in the world, in any line of endeavor, we are elated too. We like you. We have a strong kinship with you,” Bell said.

To bolster his argument, Bell read an editorial that had appeared in a Windsor newspaper. “Can Canada survive as a nation?” it asked. “In 1967 Canada will mark the 100th year of confederation. Will it be around to mark many more? Do Canadians really care whether it does stay independent, or have they

already gone too far in mortgaging their birthright for a higher standard of living? Is political union with the U.S. inevitable? Quite frankly, why don’t we join the U.S. while we are able to negotiate a square deal?”

Bell added that the majority of Canada’s population lives close to its border with the U.S.

“Most of our people live within a short distance from the border. Canada is a narrow strip of land stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific and closely related to the state or states adjoining to the south,” he said.

Bell said he had heard no opposition to such a union.

Maybe he wasn’t listening closely enough. It’s hard to imagine today that anyone in Canada would take such a merger so lightly. Canadians are not known for collective emotional outbursts, but it’s a good bet that if someone made that proposal today


the Canadians might have something to say about it. And it’s not likely our borders would change.

And like the earlier plan to annex a part of Detroit, this proposal seemed to die a swift death, although there was one last hint of a merger back in 1980 when the Dodge Main factory closed and Hamtramck stood on the brink of financial collapse.

At the time, a reporter asked then-Hamtramck Mayor Robert Kozaren if Hamtramck should consider dissolving its borders with Detroit.

Kozaren humorously responded, “No. I don’t think we’re ready to have Detroit become a part of Hamtramck.”

You can learn more about Hamtramck’s history at the Hamtramck Historical Museum, 9525 Jos. Campau. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and by appointment. Call 313-893-5027. Visit our website www.hamtramckhistory.org.




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By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Dec. 29-Jan. 4.

Tuesday, December 29

- At 8 p.m. an assault was reported at Jos. Campau and Holbrook.
- At 2 a.m. a Detroit resident was arrested for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.
- A resident was arrested following a traffic stop for possessing fraudulent proof of insurance and improper plates.

Wednesday, December 30

- A man reported someone fraudulently accessed his debit card.
- A woman reported someone damaged her Christmas ornaments in front of her residence.
- At 1 p.m. two people were arrested following a disturbance at Jos. Campau and Holbrook.
- A Commor resident reported someone shot out a window in their house with a BB gun.
- A Detroit resident reported the theft of their 1999 Buick Park Avenue in the area of Hanley and Conant.
- A resident was arrested for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant and possessing narcotic paraphernalia.
- A Detroit resident was arrested for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant and driving without a license.

Thursday, December 31

- Two Detroit residents

were arrested following a traffic stop for carrying a concealed weapon, possessing open intoxicants and violating the city's knife ordinance.

- At 11:30 p.m. officers assisted firefighters with putting out a trash can fire that had spread to a garage door in the 2600 block of Commor.

- At about 2:30 a.m. officers noticed an open door at a business in the 9100 block of Jos. Campau. Officers secured the building.

- Two Danforth residents were arrested for assaulting each other during a domestic argument.

- A person reported someone damaged the driver's side door lock of their car while it was parked in the 3300 block of Yemans.

- A Detroit resident was arrested following a traffic accident for being wanted on a felony warrant for assault with a deadly weapon.

Friday, January 1

- At a little after 2 a.m. a resident was seen running half naked across Conant and then collapsing on the ground. The person refused to answer questions and was taken to Detroit Receiving Hospital.
- At a little after 3 a.m. officers responded to complaints about a loud party in the 12000 block of Moran. Upon arrival of-

ficers noticed a number of windows broken but no one at home. Officers secured the house.

- At 3:30 a.m. a resident in the 9400 block of Mitchell reported she allowed an unknown man and woman in her house. After they left, she noticed her purse was stolen.

- At noon a woman reported being robbed at gunpoint while sitting in her car at Circle Dr. and Dyar. Her iPhone was stolen.

- A Detroit resident who failed his drivers training test retaliated by kicking out a glass door at a business in the 3000 block of Caniff.

Saturday, January 2

- A resident reported the theft of their 2000 Honda Civic while it was parked in the 11400 block of Conant.

- Officers recovered parking meters on Yemans and Jos. Campau that had been damaged by the weather.

- A resident reported a relative stole her laptop at a residence in the 3200 block of Belmont.

- A resident was arrested for assaulting a juvenile in the 2000 block of Belmont.

- Two men stole cell-phone cases from a cell-phone store in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau. The men fled in a vehicle but struck a parked car.

- A Yemans resident reported a break-in and the theft of an Xbox 360.

- A person turned in a rifle that was found.

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