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Volume 9 No. 17  
**April 28, 2017**  
**50¢**

# The Review

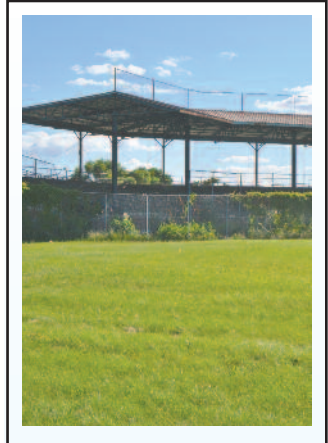
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## Quick Hits

Need to hone your baseball and soccer skills? If so, you're in luck. Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium is hosting a sports clinic for kids 7 to 14 years old on Saturday, April 29 at the historic stadium site in Veterans Memorial Park. It's being called "Spring Into Action In H-Town," and the event will feature lessons in soccer, baseball and softball. Guests include former Detroit Tiger Ike Blesst and the Hamtramck Warriors soccer team. There is no charge and a free lunch will also be provided. The fun starts at 10:30 a.m. and runs to 2:30 p.m. Kids can also sign up for this summer's programs offered by the Hamtramck Recreation Department. For more information, call (248) 355-3710.

## 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.

**"The theme this year was 'First Steamworks' – kind of a steampunk feel."**

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

# State ready to step in and make a decision on city manager's job

**By Charles Sercombe**

It looks like City Manager Katrina Powell will get a contract extension. That appeared to be the case at Tuesday's monthly Receivership Transition Advisory Board meeting, when Board-member Mark Stema asked if there was a way to extend Powell's contract by adding to the Emergency Manager's Final Orders. "I know the Board needs to do something if the council doesn't step up," Stema said. The city has been under the financial supervision of the RTAB ever since former Emergency Manager Cathy Square left her post over two years ago. A bare majority of the city council has refused to extend Powell's contract even though it expires June 30 and there



**The state-appointed Receivership Transition Advisory Board and state Treasury Department will likely extend the contract of City Manager Katrina Powell (left). Her contract with the city expires June 30.**

is no replacement lined up. With no contract extension in place, the council agreed to seek bids from search firms to look for candidates for the city manager's job. That was over a month ago and the request for bids continues. Considering it usually takes four to six months for a field of candidates to be rounded up, the council would have to appoint an interim city manager after June 30. But that could trigger the state to call in a \$2 million loan because the loan conditions require a full-time, professional city manager to be in place at all times. This predicament has prompted the RTAB and

# And the race is on...

**By Charles Sercombe**


This year's mayoral and city council election is almost set to go. On Tuesday, 10 candidates signed up for the city council, including incumbents Andrea Karpinski and Ian Perrotta. Running for Mayor is incumbent Karen Majewski, who is seeking her fourth term. Candidates have until the end of today, Friday (April 28), to drop out. In the council race, there is an open seat vacated by Mohammed Hassan, who opted to run for mayor. The council election also features Saiida Miah, the daughter of current Councilmember Anam Miah. Also running are: Gias Talukder, Mohammed Al-Somirir, Akil Al-Halemi, Nayeem Choudhury, Fadel Almarsoumi, Monzurul Karim and Showkat Choudhury.

Showkat Choudhury is currently a member of the Hamtramck School Board. If he were elected to council, he wouldn't be the first to hold dual elected positions. Former School Board President Titus Walters also served on the board and council. Running for mayor, besides Majewski and Hassan, are John (Gjon) Ulaj, Asm (Kamal) Rahman and Cathie Gordon. Ulaj is the Publisher of The Review newspaper and the owner of Villa Realty and Associates, where he is also a li-

**Continued on page 4**



**Muralist Dennis Orlowski has been busy at the city's Historical Museum sketching Hamtramck residents for a mural that will reflect the many ethnic communities living here.**



## TOAST of the TOWN

When it comes to good food and great times, Hamtramck has plenty to offer. In this column, we'll talk about what's happening at our bars, restaurants and other events throughout the city.

**By Charles Sercombe**

If you haven't stopped by the Hamtramck Historical Museum, set some time aside on any Saturday and stop by. Greg Kowalski, the Di-

rector of the museum and Chairman of the Hamtramck Historical Commission, has collected a ton of artifacts. Hamtramck has been around since the beginning of Detroit, and as you would guess, there are plenty of historical items out there. I don't think we are biased to say that outside of Detroit, Hamtramck has the most interesting

**Continued on page 2**



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# State ready to step in and make a decision on city manager’s job

Continued from front page

Treasury Department to take the unprecedented task of stepping in to make sure the city manager’s position is filled.

The RTAB was set up to react to city decisions, not take an active role in making decisions for the city.

Patrick Dostine of the Treasury Department confirmed that the final order has been updated and is under review.

While not explicitly saying the change under re-

view dealt with Powell’s employment contract, it was generally understood to be the case given the context of Stema’s question.

City Manager Powell could not be reached for comment.

Dostine said he was not “at liberty” to go into detail.

Deborah Roberts, who chairs the RTAB, said the Board is in an “unfortunate situation.”

She said the Board has

tried to encourage local control by the council, but the council keeps “taking that control and throwing it back to RTAB. ... We tried.”

The RTAB is expected to announce the decision of the Treasury Department at its April meeting.

Councilmember Anam Miah, who has been a critic of Powell, didn’t have kind words for the state’s action.

“If the state wants to keep oppressing and

controlling the city, that’s news to me,” Miah said.

As for the council not transitioning to the responsibilities of local control, Miah said “that doesn’t make any sense.”

“It’s the state doing the opposite.”

*Get Out  
on the  
Hamtown!*



Continued from front page

history of any other city in the tri-county area. And judging by the number of media outlets who continue to report on the amazing cultural diversity of this town, Hamtramck won’t stop being interesting any time soon.

The museum came about through the generosity of the family that owned the building it sits in on Jos. Campau. The family donated it.

But it’s been up to Kowalski and a handful of volunteers to whip this building into shape. Thanks to some grants the building now has a decent heating system.

There is so much more that needs to be done. If any reader out there knows of anyone involved in one of those cable TV makeover shows, send them this way.

One recent grant the museum won is for a mural to be painted inside. With \$15,000 in hand, it was a no-brainer to hire local muralist Dennis Orlowski.

Orlowski has painted numerous murals in the Detroit area, and in Hamtramck he is most well known for the mural in Pope Park, and the one about Hamtramck’s history inside People’s Community Services.

He is now going to paint a mural that will run down the length of one wall and spill over to

another.

We’re talking about a total of 140 feet long and 8 feet high. Officially it’s called “Coming to Hamtramck.”

Here is how Kowalski explained the concept in an article he wrote for The Review a few months ago:

“Each mural panel will highlight a different ethnic group that has immigrated to Hamtramck over the years. And to ensure accuracy as well as make this a community project, nearly two dozen ethnic groups present in Hamtramck have been asked to directly participate in the project by making suggestions for subject matter and posing as figures to be depicted in the mural.”

The project is expected to take several months, and Orlowski is now busy at the museum sketching it out.

On a recent Saturday we caught up with Or-

lowski while doing errands around town.

For the past several weeks Orlowski has been researching the city’s ethnic groups, starting with the Bengali community. Zubacer Akhtar, a Hamtramck High School student, was patiently posing while Orlowski drew.

So far he has four panels sketched out, and he has so much more to go. Considering that the \$15,000 grant has to cover supplies, there won’t be that much left over, and considering the countless hours it will take ... well, you get the picture: Not that much money for the artist.

“You gotta love what you’re doing,” Orlowski said before we could even ask why he does this.

You also have to appreciate people like Orlowski who devote so much time and effort to the community.

We’ll give updates on the mural in the coming weeks and months. In the meantime, stop by the museum at 9525 Jos. Campau. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and by appointment. Call (313) 574-9758.

## This week at the library...

**ESL Class** – Monday, May 1, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. English as a Second Language classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

**ESL Class** – Wednesday, May 3, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes

are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

**ESL Class** – Friday, May 5, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

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

**For more information about events at the library call (313) 733-6822, or visit its website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us> where you can also access the online catalog.**



# Second Front Page

## School Bell

Hamtramck Public Schools (HPS) is having a Welcoming Hamtramck Families event on Friday, May 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hamtramck High School Community Center.

The Community Center is located at 11350 Charest. Please plan to join us at this exciting event to meet Hamtramck Public School educators, student leaders, and community organizations. Free services will be offered.

Some features of this event include individual Hamtramck Public School booths, community and family organizations, HPS art competition winners, educational resources, academic booths, HPS student band, dental care, blood pressure checks, glucose checks, BMI checks, health resources and referrals.

All participants that attend will have the opportunity for a free lunch, free gift bags, henna and face painting. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Jaleelah Ahmed at (313) 892-2025.

### Hamtramck High School News

Hamtramck High School's Cosmos Times newspaper once again competed in the annual Michigan Inter-scholastic Press Association (MIPA) high school newspaper contest.

The contest is hosted by Michigan State University and over 4,000 entries were received for newspapers or broadcasts published between February 20, 2016 to February 17, 2017. Cosmos Times picked up three awards this year.

Aisha Khanum won 1st place for Audio News Feature interview with Omar Thabet (video) and two class of 2016 graduates won awards also.

Ghadir Mozeb won first

place for Advertising Layout Al-Qamar ad and Mahfuzul Haque won Honorable Mention for Advertising Layout Hoover Pharmacy ad.

Although the Cosmos Times newspaper staff won MIPA awards in the past, this is the first time Hamtramck High School students won first place awards in this competition. Congregations Cosmos Times staff.

### Dickinson East Elementary

Four Dickinson East students competed in the Optimists of Central Detroit's Annual Oratorical Competition on Thursday, April 13.

Nishat Rahman, Shazid Khan, Tarik Custovic, Farisa Zarin, who are all sixth graders, captivated the audience during the dinner event. Following a very successful sweep in March, teacher Rahiel Housey-Johnson was invited to bring students who had not yet competed in a local level competition.

Next, Gold Medalists Nishat Rahman and Tarik Custovic will face off against winners from all over Southeastern Michigan, including two other Dickinson East students.

In March, The Optimists of Downtown Detroit selected Al-Khalil Mashrah and Nazifa Suhail to represent their club. They competed on Saturday, April 22, at Mt Clemens High School.

### Honored

Leaps and Bounds Family Services (LBFS) honored the Hamtramck School District at its Annual Awards Dinner on April 20.

The Hamtramck School District received the Community Partner Award in recognition of the district's commitment to the support of a global learning community, its quality academic programs and

its commitment to families with young learners.

"We are grateful to partner with the District because of their strong commitment to quality service and quality achievements for all their students as well as their commitment to serving the families of the Hamtramck community," said



**Optimist Lt. Governor Stacia Little (left) recently congratulated Dickinson East Elementary School students for their performance at an annual oratorical competition. Next to Little are Nishat Rahman, Shazid Khan, teacher Rahiel Housey-Johnson, Tarik Custovic, Farisa Zarin and Optimist Velma Jones.**



**HHS journalist student Aisha Khanum interviews Omar Thabet on the Cosmos Times virtual set.**

Denise Dorsz, executive director of LBFS. "All of the teaching, administrative, paraprofessional and service staff put the needs of the children first."

At the Annual Awards Dinner, Congressman Sander Levin was also honored. The event was held at the Ukrainian Cultural center in Warren.

### All Schools

• Friday, May 12 – End of Progress Report period 4.

• Thursday, May 18 – Progress Report 4 distributed.

• Friday, May 26 – Half day for students and staff all schools.

• Monday, May 29 – No school for students and staff. Memorial Day.

• Tuesday, May 30 – School resumes.

• Thursday, June 1 – Last day of school for Hamtramck High School and Horizon High School Seniors.

• Thursday, June 8 – Last day for preschool.

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# Annual Health Hike attracts hundreds of kids and adults

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck kids and adults welcomed spring on Saturday with a 5K hike around town.

It was the annual Health Hike, which started at Keyworth Stadium and ended at the High School Community Center for a free lunch and health checkups.

Coming up next is “Wel-

coming Hamtramck Families” at the Community Center on May 12, starting at 9 a.m.

The event will offer more health exams and information on colleges. Once again a free lunch will be served as well as gift bags.

Scenes from last Saturday’s annual Health Hike.



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

source: the350project.net



A citywide clean-up will take place every weekend in May. The kickoff of the campaign will be May 6.

## Volunteers are needed for citywide clean-up campaign

By Charles Sercombe

By the looks of things, Hamtramck could use a good scrubbing.

Or at least a good picking up of loose trash.

And just in time to motivate the community, the City of Hamtramck and Common Word Alliance are jointly hosting weekend clean-ups for the entire month of May.

The kickoff is on Saturday, May 6, 9 a.m. at city hall. Volunteers – which means anyone in the

community and even outside the city – will gather and break into teams to begin cleaning.

Gloves, bags, shovels and brooms will be provided, or you can help out even further by bringing your own.

Volunteer efforts won’t go unrewarded. A light lunch will be provided.

The clean-up continues on Sunday, May 7, and then each Saturday and Sunday for the remainder of the month.

## And the race is on...

Cont. from front page

censed broker.

Gordon served on the city council and has been an active critic of Mayor Majewski.

This will be Gordon’s and Ulaj’s second attempt to win the mayor’s job. They both lost out in the August Primary Election four years ago.

Mayor Majewski finished second in that election, but managed to hang on in the General Election.

The Primary Election is Aug. 8.

Both the mayor and council terms are for four years. The Primary Election will whittle down the council race from 10 candidates to six. The November General Election will determine the top three candidates who will serve on council.

In the mayor’s race, the Primary Election will reduce the candidates to two for the General Election held in November.

If you are not a registered voter and want to participate in the Primary

Election, you must register no later than July 10.

This election year could prove to be historical. There is a chance that the council and mayor’s position will be filled by those of the Muslim faith – which would be a first for an American city.

Two years ago national and international media swooped into town when a Muslim majority were elected to the council.

For decades Hamtramck’s government was dominated by Polish-Americans. The city’s population has undergone a sea change with the arrival of immigrants from Bangladesh, Yemen and Bosnia.

The Poles left in droves in the 1980s and 1990s for the northern suburbs.

It is now believed that a majority of the city’s population is of the Muslim faith. There are now about a dozen mosques in the city and just outside the Hamtramck-Detroit border.

## Metro news...

It’s said that whatever happens to Detroit, so goes Hamtramck. Our friends over at modeld-media.com have been reporting on fascinating development projects for the past several years.

With their permission, here is an edited version of this week’s story:

Young startups across Michigan will get a helping hand from a new multi-million-dollar fund managed by Invest Detroit Ventures and supported by the Michigan Economic Development

Corporation and the New Economy Initiative (NEI).

The First Capital Fund’s goal is to raise \$4.2 million in two years and offer up to \$150,000 in capital to tech companies in the earliest stages. MEDC has made an initial \$2 million investment in the fund, which Invest Detroit aims to double by bringing private capital into the fund. NEI will support the fund with \$800,000.

Adrian Ohmer, principal

Continued on page 8

### Advertisement for Bid

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#### BID TITLE: ROOFING REPLACEMENT – HAMTRAMCK HIGH SCHOOL

Hamtramck Public Schools will receive single prime sealed bids to furnish all labor and materials and perform all work necessary and incidental for the Roofing Replacement – Hamtramck High School in accordance with published instructions, specifications, drawings and other contract documents.

**There will be a Pre-Bid Meeting and Walkthrough**, for all contractors interested in submitting a bid at Hamtramck High School, located at 11410 Charest, Hamtramck, MI 48212 - **Contact Partners in Architecture; at the bottom of this page.** Sealed bids must be received at the Hamtramck Public Schools Administration Building, located at 3201 Roosevelt, Hamtramck, MI 48212, no later than, **Wednesday, May 10th, 2017 at 2:00pm.** Bids received after this date and time and bids received electronically or via fax will **not** be accepted or considered. **Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the May 10<sup>th</sup> School board: 6:30 pm.**

Bidders **MUST** use the bid form(s) in the specification packages. **RETURN TWO COMPLETE COPIES OF EACH BID SUBMITTAL.** Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope, clearly labeled with the bid title, date and time due.

All bids shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship(s) that exist between the owner(s) or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board of Education of the School District or the Superintendent of the School District. The Board of Education shall not accept a bid that does not include a sworn and notarized familial relationship disclosure statement. All bids must also be submitted with a sworn and notarized Affidavit of Compliance regarding Michigan Public Act No. 517 of 2012 – Iran Economic Sanctions Act.

Submit with each bid, a certified check or acceptable bid bond payable to Hamtramck Public Schools, in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid.

Bids submitted shall fully comply in all respects to these instructions, published specifications, drawings, and other contract documents. **Bid price shall include all costs associated with this project.**

No bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the date of the bid opening. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any formalities in regard thereto. In addition, the Board reserves the right to evaluate bids on any basis determined by the Board to be in the best interest of the Board and to consider alternate bids if the low bidder(s) do not meet the specifications or are otherwise determined to be unqualified.

The Architect will provide the documents to prospective bidders, electronically free of charge or in hard copy format at \$50.00 per set. Checks shall be made payable to: PARTNERS in Architecture, PLC. Bid documents will be available on or about April 25, 2017. Interested contractors should request documents via email @ [epacella@partnersinarch.com](mailto:epacella@partnersinarch.com). Questions may be directed to PARTNERS in Architecture, PLC, 65 Market Street, Mt. Clemens, MI 48043 (Phone: 586-469-3600).

PARTNERS in Architecture, PLC



# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### Election season is officially on and voters need to stay informed

Hamtramck's election year is shaping up to be one of the most diverse in the city's history.

As of press time Thursday, the August Primary will include several candidates who are from the Bengali and Yemeni communities.

Mayor Karen Majewski will face four challengers. By the looks of things, this will be her toughest fight to gain another term.

Candidates had until today, Friday (April 28) to withdraw. The Review went to press Thursday.

We wish all the candidates well, and we look forward to hearing what ideas and goals they have for the city.

Unfortunately, in recent years candidate forums have gone away. We're hoping an organization out there will host one before the primary. The public deserves a chance to hear what candidates have to offer.

Those who survive the primary will once again square off in the November General Election. Another unfortunate in this election year is that there are no other races or ballot questions to attract more voter interest.

That means a very low percentage of the city's voters could end up deciding who serves the public. That being said, we encourage voters to stay aware this election year, and remember to come out to vote.

Hamtramck is still transitioning back to local control, and until then is under the watchful eye of a state-appointed Receivership Transition Advisory Board. The RTAB will be looking at this election closely, and depending on the outcome could either speed up or delay the return of local control.

Think wisely voters. This is going to be a high stakes election.

## Odds & Ends

**Celebration...** Lately, there have been a number of 100th anniversaries in town in the past few years.

Now it's Our Lady Queen of Apostles Parish's turn to celebrate its 100th anniversary.

The Parish will have a special Mass this Sunday, April 30 at 1 p.m. with Archbishop Allen Vigneron as the main celebrant.

Afterward there is a banquet at PNA Hall, but that is already sold out.

The Amazing CYNICALMAN®

by Matt Feazell

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BETTER JUST STAY INSIDE. IT'S ALWAYS A NICE DAY TO WATCH TV.

UGH. MORE STAR TREK RE-RUNS BLEH. BEAM ME UP.

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School Bell

Continued from page 3

Girls' Varsity Softball vs. Trillium Academy at 5 p.m. Home.

- Monday, May 1 – HHS Boys' Varsity Baseball vs. Trillium Academy at 5 p.m. Home.
- Tuesday, May 2 – KMS Boys' Baseball vs. Melvindale ABT at 4:30 p.m. Home.
- Wednesday, May 3 – HHS Girls' Varsity Softball vs. Detroit Community at 5 p.m. Away.
- Wednesday, May 3 – HHS Boys' Varsity Baseball vs. Detroit Community at 5 p.m. Away.
- Wednesday, May 3 – HHS Girls' Varsity Soccer vs. Cesar Chavez at 4:30 p.m. Home.
- Wednesday, May 3 – HHS Boys' JV Baseball vs. Algonac at 5 p.m. Home.
- Thursday, May 4 – KMS Boys' Baseball vs. Ecorse at 4:30 p.m. Away.
- Friday, May 5 – HHS Girls' Varsity Softball vs. River Rouge at 5 p.m. Home.
- Friday, May 5 – HHS Boys' Varsity Baseball vs. River Rouge at 5 p.m. Home.
- Friday, May 5 – HHS Girls' Varsity Soccer vs. Henry Ford Academy at 4:30 p.m. Home.

**Compiled by Janice Gandelman**

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 March 14, and all councilmembers were present, but Mayor Karen Majewski was absent. Before the regular council meeting a work session was held. During that meeting a discussion was held on hiring a landscaping company, American Dream Landscaping, LLC.

City Manager Katrina Powell said the company would take care of city grounds. She said that in previous years the city piecemealed the work out to several companies.

The company was hired before the contract approval to clean up Veterans Park after a windstorm.

"They did an excellent job," said Kathy Angerer, the city's Director of Community and Governmental Affairs.

Powell informed the council that the state-appointed Receivership Transition Advisory Board rejected the council's appointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The council's appointee Mohammed A. Rahman told the city administration after the RTAB rejected him as an appointee that he is no longer interested in the position.

Councilmember Mohammed Hassan said the RTAB does not have a right to overrule the council.

During the public comment section of the regular council meeting, Arif Huskic announced that the Common Word Alliance will host Saturday clean-ups during the month of May.

It was noted that Fire Chief Danny Hagen received a certificate of excellence for participating in the annual "Fight for Air Climb." He and other firefighters participated in the event.

Hagen, who describes himself as a fitness buff who is in his 50s, "smoked the younger guys in the department," said City Manager Powell.

Hagen climbed 71 stair flights in 17 minutes – wearing full firefighting gear.

Amy Duncan, who lives on the southend, complained that there are too few public garbage cans on Jos. Campau, between Holbrook and Denton. Jeremy Duncan also complained that there is little code enforcement in the area. He said lots are often overgrown and strewn with trash.

City Manager Powell said that all complaints are addressed with property owners. However, she said, that doesn't mean there is immediate action.

Councilmember Anam Miah thanked the Duncans, saying the city needs "more people like you."

Robert Zwolak urged the council once again to renew City Manager Powell's employment contract, which will expire on June 30. He said there are serious financial issues coming up, and that searching for a new city manager "is no easy task."

He added that anyone new coming into the job will have a lot to catch up on.

Bill Meyer asked for extra time to address the council and was given it. He said that although the city is diverse, it's "divided."

Kamal Rahman, who recently announced he is running for mayor, said that the only way to end state supervision of the city's finances is for the city to become stable.

The council reconsidered appointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals, which the RTAB had rejected.

Councilmember Miah said that the reason he initially supported Mohammed A. Rahman was that he wanted to be part of the "democratic process." He said Rahman, who had been an alternate to the ZBA and was voted by a bare majority on council to be a full member, deserved to "move up."

(Editor's note: Rahman was not recommended by the city planner to be a full member because he attended only one meeting for the last three years.)

Councilmember Mohammed Hassan said he "tried to give him (Rahman) a chance."

The council unanimously agreed to support the recommendation of the city planner on who to appoint to the ZBA.

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# HHS student looks back at a historical moment for the Robotics Team

By Alan Madeleine

If you ask most people on the street, they'll probably guess that the average high school senior's thoughts, come spring, are probably on a lot of things not closely related to actual school.

But for one graduating senior and her school club teammates, it's all about robots.

Meet Alyssa Spillman, Hamtramck High's first female "drive team" member in the Robotics Team's 21-year history.

Destined for the far north come this fall – Lake



Alyssa Spillman

Superior State University, as a Mechanical Engineering degree student – Spillman discussed this past

season's state robotics competition.

"The season started back in January," Spillman said. "The theme this year was 'First Steamworks' – kind of a steampunk feel."

There was a six-week "build season" in the beginning, where the robot that would attempt this year's required feats was first designed and assembled.

In this particular event, the robots were required to pick up various loose gears and "fuel pellets," Spillman said.

Two from the four-person team maneuvered the robot, while a third – Spillman – sat inside the field of play, collecting what the robot brought to her while she was inside the target destination, referred to as

the "air ship." The fourth helped from the far side, opposite the two primary "drivers."

Spillman's interest in robotics undoubtedly stemmed from her having played with Legos and Lincoln Logs as a child. She then took a camp class in robotics one summer.

"I excelled at it, but I also really enjoyed it," Spillman recalls.

She followed up on her interest with a couple years' worth of Lego Robotics while in middle school. She's now been a part of Hamtramck High's Robotics Team all four years of high school.

Her mentor at the high school, John Stofflett, gives a feel for the scope of the popularity of robotics competitions.

"When this first got going, there were about 250 teams worldwide, maybe 25 of those in Michigan," Stofflett said. "Now there are 450 teams in Michigan alone, more than in any other state or country, out of about 3,000 to maybe 3,500 teams total."

From those 450 statewide squads, 160 are well-regarded enough to merit invitation to the State Championships.

The team photo on the team's school website reveals a surprising number of young women participating, at least at this school. Previously, Spillman says, they preferred to work such aspects as the Awards Team or the Spirit Team, but this year several approached her about her

experience being a part of the more dynamic aspect of the event.

The team came in 50th this year, placing it in the top third – good, but not quite good enough to qualify this time for the national competition. Spillman still feels a sense of pride in their achievement.

"We reached the semi-finals in both (brackets)" last month, leading up to the championships, she points out, while adding that they should do well next year without her.

Will she apply her Mechanical Engineering schooling to the robotics field after graduation?

"Yes, I will," she smiles.

Did the Earth stand still just then, for a moment?

Obituaries

SCHAAL

Marvin C. Schaal, 80, died April 22, 2017.

Mr. Schaal was the beloved husband of the late Monique. He is survived by children, Gregory (Rebeca), Mary; grandchildren, Austin, Savannah, Leannah.

Mr. Schaal proudly served in the United States Air Force in Vietnam. Private services were held by the family. Arrangements were entrusted to Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home in Hamtramck.

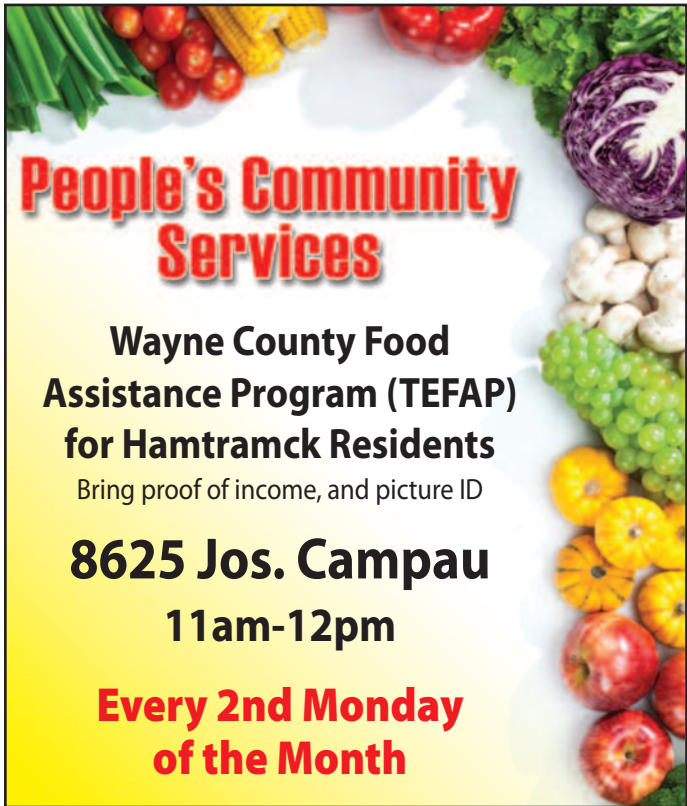
VANDEVELDE

Irene J. Vandeveld, 87, died April 20, 2017.

Mrs. Vandeveld was preceded into God's care by her husband, Thomas; sister, Leocadia Romanski. Mrs. Vandeveld is survived by her sister, Marie Romanski.

Mrs. Vandeveld was a medical secretary. She loved gardening and had many friends.

Private services were held. Friends are invited to the inurnment Saturday at 12:30 at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to Krot Funeral Home in Hamtramck, MI.



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CRIME LOG

**By Charles Sercombe**  
This week's Crime Log covers April 18-24.

**Tuesday, April 18**

- At about 2 a.m. a Hamtramck resident was arrested after breaking into a residence in the 12000 block of Nagel.

**Wednesday, April 19**

- A resident in the 3100 block of Lehman reported someone broke out their living room window.
- A Farmington Hills auto sales agent said someone he knows fraudulently obtained his semi-truck and title to it.
- At 1 p.m. three juveniles were arrested in the area of Jacob and Jos. Campau for not being in school.
- Two suspects were arrested for fighting on Charest.

**Thursday, April 20**

- At about 9 p.m. a resident in the 3100 block of Lehman re-

ported that an unknown suspect opened their kitchen window and entered the house. The suspect fled after stealing a video camera.

- A resident reported someone opened an unemployment account in their name.
- A resident reported being harassed on Facebook.
- A resident in the 3100 block of Jacob reported her purse and various items were stolen from her car while it was parked in front of her residence.
- Two suspects were arrested after being observed entering a vehicle.
- A resident in the 2600 block of Yemans reported a garage break-in and several items stolen.

**Friday, April 21**

- A resident in the 2600 block of Norwalk reported a neighbor re-

**Continued on page 8**

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Coming events

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– The Hamtramck Moose Lodge, 9421 Conant, will host a Taco Night, \$7. All proceeds will go to the Friendship house.

SATURDAY, May 13, 9-3 p.m.

– Hamtramck's Recycle Center is open at Caniff and McDougall. Drop off your recyclables for free.

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- A Jos. Campau resident was arrested for disorderly conduct.