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The Review

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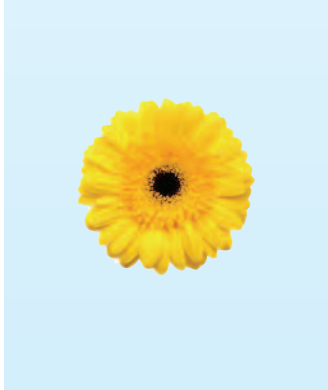
Quick Hits

The month of May features weekend clean-ups throughout town, and this Saturday (May 20) there is a very special call for volunteers.

The city's own Hamtown Farms is looking for some extra hands to get the growing plots in shape for the new season.

Bring some gloves and tools if you can, but mostly bring yourself.

Farm organizers will provide a free light lunch. If you can make it, the clean-up starts at 10 a.m. and goes to 3 p.m. Hamtown Farms is located at 9100 Lumpkin.



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.

“Enough time has passed.”

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

The DCFC experience: ‘Like seeing into the future’

**By Alan Madeleine
 Special to The Review**

Attending a Detroit City Football Club game for the first time makes for a fun Friday night.

And at the same time, it's a delightful throwback to a simpler era of sports.

This past Friday, I ventured into the southend of Hamtramck for a check-in on one of Detroit's more recently crowned hotspots, Keyworth Stadium, the DCFC's current home. Previously, the club had plied their trade on Cass Tech High School's field.

I felt lucky to find a legitimate parking spot on Jacob (timing is indeed everything). The first memorable sight to greet me was a very serious looking police Humvee blocking off Gallagher south of Jacob. An officer on foot monitored the incoming crowd.



The Detroit City Football Club offers a rare opportunity to watch a sports game at a professional stadium setting without the consumer hype. At Hamtramck's Keyworth Stadium, you get to experience the real deal. Photo by Konrad Maziarz

And a formidable crowd it was: announced eventually at 5,041, it was substantially larger than I will admit to expecting. The line just to enter the stadium stretched back down Gallagher in the late day sun.

Note that the club is

punctual in getting this game started. The national anthem was already blaring by 7:27 p.m. for a 7:30 game time.

The hardcore supporters were well in place in their designated area on the east side bleachers, however, and made their

presence felt with a literally non-stop banging of drums and chanting of encouragement.

They unleashed the first of many huge clouds of celebratory smoke from several large canisters; it wafted quickly across the

Continued on page 2

Spring in the city gets a huge kickoff this Friday night

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck is the place to be this Friday evening (May 19).

Two major events will be overlapping a bit. The fun starts with the city-sponsored Art in the Park at 5:30 p.m. in Zussman Park, across from city hall.

The free event, which goes to 7:30 p.m., will feature local artists,

food trucks, activities for kids, music and plenty more.

Artists will not only be displaying their work, but will also have items for sale. The folks from the Fowling Warehouse will have free fowling in front of city hall, and the Detroit City Football Club will host a soccer activity for children.

Continued on page 2

Anger and shouts in city hall

By Charles Sercombe

In a hastily called special city council meeting last Friday afternoon, a bare majority of councilmembers voted to take steps to hire an interim city manager.

But that vote faces some legal hurdles before any action can take place.

The meeting also raised a number of questions about the transparency and motive of those who called for the meeting. On Thursday evening, Mayor Pro Tem Anam Miah, along with the support of Councilmembers Mohammed Hassan, Saad Almasmari and Abu Musa, posted a notice in city hall calling for a special meeting on Friday at noon.

While the posting met the posting guidelines set by the state's Open Meetings Act, there was a question of whether the four councilmembers violated the law by doing a behind-the-scenes “round robin” to discuss the matter.

The OMA forbids elected officials to talk about a pending city issue and come to a decision in private.

During the meeting, Councilmember Miah, who chaired the meeting because Mayor Karen Majewski was absent, refused to let City Attorney Travis Mihelick to speak, despite requests from Councilmembers Andrea Karpinski and Ian Perrotta to allow Mihelick to talk about the pending resolution.

As it turned out, that may have been a fatal

Continued on page 4



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The DCFC experience: ‘Like seeing into the future’

Continued from front page

field toward our section, reeking of firework smell. Subsequent outpourings were hued in red, gold or blue. They looked more festive, but still reeked of firework-like carbon. The large electronic scoreboard and time clock stood at the southend of the stadium, behind the DCFC goalie during the first half of play. A large banner trumpeting the Detroit Area Chevy Dealers as a prime sponsor was split into two around the faithful's noisy section. City, as they are lovingly known in verbal shorthand, were attired in their red "unis," while this night's opponent, the Milwaukee Torrent, competed in blue. The game moved briskly, with the first 45 minutes plus 2:05 of extra time over by 8:19 p.m. City had logged the lone first half goal.

Intermission set the crowd in lively motion toward the food trucks and beer tents, which hawked everything from pizza to brats to meatball subs, and all varieties of potable as well, cans of Stroh's to wine to cocktails. The west stands served informally as the more family-friendly side, it seemed, and there were a surprising number of couples with young children. The whole scene was so much more active than the blase feeling one gets these days at a Red Wings or Pistons game, that it was striking. Moreover, the crowd had a multi-ethnic, modern vibe. I was surrounded by a contingent of about a dozen young folks, seemingly representing many of Hamtramck's ethnic communities, all intermingling freely and easily amid their light horseplay. It felt different. It felt



Watching the interaction of fans with DCFC players at Keyworth is as exciting as what's happening on the field. Photos by Konrad Maziarz



good. There has been recent talk on the sports stations about the prospect of a full-fledged Major League Soccer team returning to Detroit, either in soon-to-be-unveiled Little Caesars Arena, or even in a new stadium of their own, built to the purpose. If this should come to pass, perhaps the future of the DCFC becomes tenuous. Or perhaps not. So many young kids have now grown up with the game in this country, a good generation's worth or more, that perhaps this town could well support two levels of professional soccer. Who can say for sure? All I can report is that, on this perfect chilly mid-spring evening, as the home team thrilled the crowd with a tying goal deep into final extra time, as the last detonation of happy City smoke de-

scended on the satisfied crowd, the Beautiful Game was a beautiful thing to see in good old Hamtown. Like seeing into the future, in fact.

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1998 Volvo V70	SW	YV1LW5649W2432371
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1997 Nis Maxima	4D	JN11CA21D7VM533523
1998 Chev Lumina	4D	2G1WL52K9W9279954

Spring in the city gets a huge kickoff this Friday night

Continued from front page

Music will be provided by Hamtramck's own DJ TopKat. Right in the middle of Art in the Park the annual "Spring Fling," which features Hamtramck's Finest Annual

Awards, hosted by the Hamtramck Community Initiative, will take place at 6:30 p.m. at PNA Hall, 10211 Conant. Tickets are \$25 and \$10 for those under 10 or over 65. Dinner is in-

cluded. The 2017 Awardees are:
• Hamtramck Police Department Officer of the Year: Officer Michael Fedenis
• Hamtramck Reserve

Officer of the Year: Reserve Lt. Jeremy Bist
• Hamtramck Police Department Civilian of the Year: Dispatcher Justin Ash
• Hamtramck Fire Department Firefighter of the Year: Vincent Caporuscio
• Business of the Year: Dr. Ali Thabet, owner, Infinity Drugs Pharmacy
• Residents of the Year: Adnan "Eddy" Gobah and Vanessa Gray
• Community Service Project of the Year: The 3C7 Anti-Littering Project, Blair Arbaugh and the students of Kosciuszko Middle School: Mylitka Grove, Shakira Wheeler and Louis Boyer

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This week at the library...

ESL Class – Monday, May 22, 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 24, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

ESL Class – Friday, May 26, 9 a.m. and 2:30

p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

Special movie – Tuesday, May 30, 4 to 7:30 p.m. Please Join Wayne County Commissioner Martha G. Scott at The Hamtramck Library to present a "Hidden Figures Viewing and Coding Party" (for teen girls 13-18). After viewing the movie, the girls will be asked to participate

in a coding project Google Made with Code.

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.

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Second Front Page



School Bell

Alpha Delta Kappa (ADK) Sorority Hamtramck Chapter celebrates 50 Years

Alpha Delta Kappa (ADK) Sorority is an international organization that recognizes outstanding women educators and promotes educational and charitable projects and activities.

The sorority is comprised of working and retired teachers from the Hamtramck Public Schools. They celebrated the 50th anniversary of the ADK-Beta Nu Chapter with a brunch at the Whitney Restaurant in Detroit.

Elizabeth Pluto, retired teacher and former Director of Federal Programs for HPS and founding member of ADK-Beta Nu, was recognized as a ‘Golden Sister’ for her 50-year tenure with the group.

Co-President Millie Stachowski, a 25-year member, was honored as a “Silver Sister.”

The group honored the school community this year by sponsoring a fundraiser for the Friends of the Hamtramck Public Library during March that garnered donations totaling \$1,040. ADK-Beta Nu also provides a scholarship for a Hamtramck Public Schools Senior whose intention is to become an educator.

Holbrook Elementary School News

The Holbrook Elementary Students put on their annual Spring Concert last Thursday.

Dressed in their finest fashions, the students sang songs in a wide range of styles. From the familiar “Take Me Out to the Ball Game,” to “LaRaspa,” a Mexican folk tune, “Doraji,” a Korean song and rock and roll’s “Rockin’ Robin.”

The students from grades Kindergarten to 5th grade sang their hearts out. Directed by Mr. Maxwell Spayde, the

music teacher, the students put on a wonderful concert which was enjoyed by all.

Upcoming Events at Holbrook

- Tuesday, May 30 – Bake sale after school.
- Wednesday, May 31 – Bake sale after school.

Early Childhood Elementary School News

This week at the Early Childhood Elementary the students are busily applying their skills they have learned this school year in Math and Reading on the NWEA test. Plenty of rest and a good breakfast have been encouraged to help the students do their best on these tests.



Students at the Early Childhood Elementary School learned all about caterpillars and even raised their own, which they eventually released.

In each of their classes, the students have been watching caterpillars in butterfly cages, as the caterpillars have been changing be-



Holbrook students celebrated spring with a concert featuring a wide-range of songs.

fore their eyes into beautiful butterflies. Many classes have released their butterflies into the gardens and neighborhood this week.

Hamtramck High School Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, May 24 – Senior Honors Program at 6 p.m.

All Schools

- 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.
- Friday, June 9 – Hamtramck and Horizon High Schools Graduation Ceremony at 6 p.m.

Athletic Events

- Friday, May 19 – HHS Girls’ Varsity Softball vs. Melvindale ABT at 5 p.m. Home.
- Friday, May 19 – HHS Boys’ Varsity Baseball vs. Melvindale ABT at 5 p.m. Home.
- Saturday, May 20 – HHS Boys’ JV Baseball vs. Cranbrook Kingswood at 11 a.m./1 p.m. Away.
- Saturday, May 20 – HHS Girls’ Varsity Soccer Division 1 Championship TBD.

- Monday, May 22 – HHS Girls’ Varsity Softball vs. Trillium Academy at 5 p.m. Away.
- Monday, May 22 – HHS Boys’ Varsity Baseball vs. Trillium Academy at 5 p.m. Away.
- Wednesday, May 24 – HHS Girls’ Varsity Softball vs. Detroit Community at 5 p.m. Home.
- Wednesday, May 24 – HHS Boys’ Varsity Baseball vs. Detroit Community at 5 p.m. Home.
- Thursday, May 25 – HHS Boys’ JV Baseball vs. Royal Oak at 4 p.m./6 p.m. Away.
- Friday, May 26 – HHS Girls’ Varsity Softball vs. River Rouge at 5 p.m. Away.
- Friday, May 26 – HHS Boys’ Varsity Baseball vs. River Rouge at 5 p.m. Away.

Compiled by
Janice Gandelman



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Metro news...

It's said that whatever happens to Detroit, so goes Hamtramck. Our friends over at modeldmedia.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:

There has been a push in Hamtramck for the owners of empty retail units to consider the “pop-up” business concept.

It's a trend being embraced by Detroit property owners and has stirred up

plenty of buzz.

Here is the latest example of this new development:

Miriam Pranschke's passion for re-use is culminating in the opening of her first business, the consignment re-sale store Boro. The clothing and accessories shop is opening its Eastern Market storefront this Saturday, May 20 – just in time for Flower Day.

Boro is located in a storefront in the Service Street district, a block-long collection of buildings long associated with artist-oc-

cupied lofts and studios. Pranschke lives with her husband there, just three floors above Boro in the historic Atlas Building.

Re-sale is a win-win for Pranschke, helping the environment and her neighbors at the same time. "I'm very interested in keeping things out of landfills," says Pranschke. "And the consignors make 40 percent of the selling price, too."

Items sold at Boro will be hand-selected by Pranschke. She says she'll be

Continued on page 5

Anger and shouts in city hall

Continued from front page

flaw for the resolution. Mihelick said the resolution may have failed despite a bare majority supporting it because there needs to be at least five votes to fire a city manager.

Mihelick later told The Review that the resolution could be interpreted as a firing because it referred to a vacancy of the city manager’s position on June 30.

That date is actually the last day of employment of City Manager Katrina Powell. The vacancy technically occurs on July 1. Mihelick said that had he been allowed to speak, he would have pointed that out.

The resolution further instructed that “appropriate steps be taken to appoint a qualified interim city manager.”

The meeting followed up on an action taken several weeks ago to reject a proposal to have the city attorney negotiate a contract extension with Powell. The same four councilmembers who called for Friday’s meeting also were the bare majority to block a contract extension with Powell.

Another hurdle facing the resolution is that it must be approved by the state-appointed Receivership Transitional Advisory Board. The RTAB does not meet until next Tuesday, May 23.

The meeting lasted for a

little over one hour and at times the filled-to-capacity council chambers erupted into shouting matches between audience members and the council.

Police Chief Anne Moise had to warn some of the more vocal audience members several times that they would be thrown out of the meeting unless they settled down.

Three police officers were in the council chambers and a few others were in the outside hallway.

Councilmembers Karpinski and Perrotta lambasted their four colleagues for calling the meeting at the last minute and trying to ramrod the resolution through. Karpinski repeatedly accused Miah of being “out of order.”

Perrotta chastised the four councilmembers who called the meeting for not having the courtesy of answering his email asking for an explanation for the meeting and to provide a copy of the proposed resolution.

“That was egregious,” he said.

The resolution was not made available until the start of the meeting, and it was two pages of a list of grievances against Powell.

Most of the faults the four councilmembers included were vague at best. For example, one ac-

cused her of refusing to “prosecute certain property owners that she favors.”

Another grievance accused her of hiring a person to “curry support among a certain member of this council.”

The resolution also lashed out at Powell for being “dismissive of and disrespectful to the city council.”

But the worst tongue-lashing came from those who attended the meeting, who directed their criticism to the four councilmembers who called for the meeting.

The call for the meeting, said Carrie Beth Lasley, “reeks of collusion.”

Former city Treasurer Mike Wilk said the resolution and meeting was “a bunch of baloney. Might as well done it in a back alley.”

Susan Dunn was among several who warned the council’s action would result in a lawsuit.

“This city has enough frivolous lawsuits, and you’re creating another one,” she said.

“We’re not going to sit quietly,” she added, and indeed, she was later warned by Chief Moise to quiet down or get escorted out.

Jeremy Duncan demanded to know who the councilmembers had in mind as an interim city manager. He waited for

over a minute for an answer, but there was only silence.

One wiseacre played the “Jeopardy” game show theme on their cell phone while the time passed.

After the long moment of silence and not getting an answer, Duncan said: “The silence was deafening,” and then returned to his seat.

There was at least one supporter of the four councilmembers in audience. Bill Meyer, who heads up a local group that promotes ethnic harmony in the community, called OneHamtramck, said he’s seen other city managers get removed by “stranger methods.”

He said the community has to accept the decision of a majority on council.

“That’s the way it goes,” Meyer said.

He also said that Powell was hired by the former emergency manager without the consent of the council, calling it “an undemocratic process.”

Councilmember Hassan defended his vote by saying he was simply taking steps to fill Powell’s position once her contract runs out.

He insisted that the council – not the state – has the sole authority to hire the next city manager. He said if the council has no authority, “let

the government step up.”

That action could indeed happen.

During the April RTAB meeting it was strongly hinted that the state is considering to extend Powell’s contract.

Discussion among councilmembers came to an abrupt halt by Councilmember Miah, who ended the talk and called for an immediate vote. That prompted Councilmember Perrotta to explode and shout out:

“This is wrong, this is wrong, this is wrong.”

And at another point he looked at Miah and said: “Who’s the dictator now?”

Both Perrotta and Karpinski abstained from the vote in protest to

what they later said was an “illegal” meeting.

At the end of the meeting City Manager Powell said there were many “lies” spoken about her record and that the resolution “didn’t pass.”

Also at the meeting was council candidate Fadel Almarsoumi, a newcomer to city politics, who was taking in the experience.

The meeting, and the process of how the resolution worked its way through, gave him “great insight.”

While he didn’t have an opinion on the resolution, he said that despite the chaotic moments of the meeting, “it’s always darkest before dawn.”

Councilmember talks about why a special meeting was held

By Charles Sercombe

Several days after last Friday’s special city council meeting, we asked the architect of that meeting, Councilmember Anam Miah, to clear up some of the issues raised.

Many questioned why there was a sudden need to hold a special meeting, especially one that just met the minimum advance posting deadline set by the state’s Open Meetings Act.

Miah said the meeting was called because City Manager Katrina Powell had not followed up at the council’s regular meeting the Tuesday before about hiring a search firm to find her replacement.

“We had to take the next step,” Miah told The Review.

By “we” he meant himself and Councilmembers Abu Musa, Mohammed Hassan and Saad Almasmari.

(Powell’s employment contract with the city expires on June 30. After a bare majority on council refused to seek a contract with her, the council agreed to seek bids from companies that specialize in searches for city managers. It has been two months since that proposal was agreed on.)

Miah further accused

Powell of “wasting” time in presenting search firms for the council to consider hiring.

“Enough time has passed,” he said. “I didn’t want to waste any more time that Ms. Powell wasted.”

The resolution, which covered two pages, was thought by some, including initially City Attorney Travis Mihelick, to be tantamount to a firing of Powell. Miah said that is a misinterpretation. He said the resolution only acknowledged that there would be a vacancy in the city manager’s position once Powell’s contract expires.

Miah also denied he and Councilmembers Musa, Hassan and Almasmari “colluded” together to draft the resolution. There have been accusations that the four councilmembers violated the Open Meetings Act by reaching their decision in private in a “round robin” fashion, which is forbidden by the OMA.

Some have also accused the four councilmembers of purposely waiting for Mayor Karen Majewski to be out of town, which she was last Friday, to hold the meeting.

Continued on page 5



Hamtramck Allied Veterans Council MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Special city council meeting raises a number of questions

Let's put aside for a moment the passions running high regarding City Manager Katrina Powell.

Last Friday a bare majority of city councilmembers called for a special meeting to discuss the upcoming end of her employment contract with the city on June 30.

That is a fact.

Whether you agree or not, at this point Powell's contract is ending. And there was a meeting held to discuss taking an action to find someone to fill her position on an interim – or temporary – basis.

There are some who think Powell should be given a contract extension, but the same bare majority who called for the special meeting also rejected that proposal.

Those councilmembers are Anam Miah, Mohammed Hassan, Saad Almasmari and Abu Musa.

Councilmembers Ian Perrotta and Andrea Karpinski are in favor of retaining Powell – just in case anyone is keeping score.

With that factual background – that is to say

there is no extension of Powell's contract – something had to be done to fill the position of city manager. How that process came about – namely the calling of a special meeting that some say may have violated the state's Open Meetings Act – is the subject of debate.

We admit it didn't look good and that a case may be made for some kind of collusion between the bare majority members of council who called for the meeting.

There is also a worrisome question as to why the city attorney was not allowed to speak at the special meeting. Regardless, City Attorney Travis Mihelick did manage to blurt out that the resolution likely failed because it required at least five – not four – votes to fire the city manager.

The resolution did not say anything about firing Powell, but Mihelick said the language in the lengthy resolution alluded to that. Councilmember Miah, who organized the meeting, said that is not what the resolution says.

In our reading, the

meeting only called to "declare" that vacancy will happen come June 30, and that the city's human resources director was instructed to post the job for an interim city manager. It could be that technically the city manager's position isn't vacant until July 1. Powell's last day is June 30.

In the meantime, the state-appointed Receivership Transition Advisory Board has strongly said in so many words that it might step in and extend Powell's contract.

What a mess.

At some point local elected officials will have local control returned. At some point, the state has to allow the majority will of those elected officials to make their own decisions.

Hamtramck may have not reached that point yet, but sooner or later it will. Keep that in mind, readers, when the Aug. 8 Primary Election is held and voters take the first step in electing three candidates to city council.

As the saying goes: Elections have consequences.

Councilmember talks about why a special meeting was held

Continued from page 4

Miah is Mayor Pro Tem and in the mayor's absence chairs the meeting. Some argued that Majewski would not have allowed the resolution to go forward.

Miah said the mayor's absence had nothing to do with scheduling the meeting and that he did not know she was out of town.

"She (Majewski) doesn't inform us when she is not going to be here," Miah said.

Miah also came under criticism for not allowing the city attorney to speak on the resolution, saying by the time Mihelick began to talk, a call for the vote to take place prevented any more discussion.

The resolution was passed by the four councilmembers who called for the special meeting.

Councilmembers Andrea Karpinski and Ian Perrotta abstained. Perrotta said they abstained in protest of what they considered an illegal meeting.

One of the issues raised in the resolution accused Powell of improperly selling "valuable commercial property to a property owner she favors."

Asked what property was sold and to whom, Miah initially couldn't answer the question because he didn't have that information "in front of me." One day later he told The Review the sale involved a city-owned lot on Caniff that was sold to one of the city's major property owners, Henry Velleman.

Velleman's company Poletown Properties owns a couple dozen

buildings on Jos. Campau as well as several vacant lots. He has come under criticism for keeping his retail buildings empty.

Velleman could not be reached for comment.

Powell told The Review the sale was set in motion before she became city manager. She said the former emergency manager arranged the deal.

It was not immediately clear how the alleged sale of city-owned property would be considered improper on the part of Powell.

As to who put together the lengthy resolution, which appeared to be the handiwork of an attorney, Miah declined to answer.

"I won't say who my help is," Miah said.



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 28, and Councilmembers Anam Miah and Mohammed Hassan were absent. Before the regular council meeting a work session was held. During that meeting city expenses were discussed.

It was noted that \$4,000 is being spent to purchase new fire hoses for the Fire Department. Some of the hoses being replaced have been in service since 1987.

In the regular meeting, Hamtramck 31st District Court Judge Alexis Krot announced an amnesty program for overdue parking and civil infraction tickets. That program expired on April 28.

City Manager Katrina Powell and City Planner Melanie Markowicz made a presentation of a possible changeover for the design of Jos. Campau. The city is applying for a \$1.4 million grant to fund the makeover. The city would have to kick in 20 percent, which could be drawn from

an annual state grant to fix and improve roads and sidewalks.

Design plans call for putting in a bike lane and new planters. The corner at Jos. Campau and Caniff would have sidewalk bump-outs to allow pedestrians to cross quicker.

As it is now, the length to cross from one side of the street to the other is too long, and can be a hazard to pedestrians.

Mayor Karen Majewski said this is "exactly" the kind of project that Hamtramck needs.

During public comment, a resident questioned why homeowners are being held financially liable for sewer line repairs in the alley. City Manager Powell said there is a city ordinance that makes homeowners responsible for repairs for the line that runs from the city line into the house.

She urged him and other homeowners to sign up for special insurance that covers these repairs. The typical cost of repair is

\$4,000, while the cost of insurance is a little less than \$8 per month.

Kathy Angerer, the city's Governmental Affairs Director, said there will be another summer youth employment program. She said this year high school kids will be painting curbs at intersections, among other duties.

Some 14 students and four adults will be employed.

City Manager Powell read a note from the state Treasury Department warning the council that a full-time, professional city manager has to be in place at all times.

A bare majority of the council previously voted to not negotiate an extension to Powell's contract, which expires on June 30.

The Treasury Department said if there is no full-time city manager in place, the state may call in a \$2 million loan, or raise the interest rates. The city currently pays a 2-percent interest rate.

Metro news...

Continued from page 3

focusing on independent, designer, and vintage high-quality clothing and accessories. Items range from clothing to shoes, purses to jewelery, and items for both women and men.

"I grew up going to thrift stores. It's what I've always done and what I've known," says Pranschke.

"And then I learned about consignment stores, which are more curated. You spend less time looking through the racks."

While the storefront required some work, Pranschke says she tried to retain much of the building's historic details. High ceilings and original crown

moldings remain. Marble from the original facade has been re-purposed as the Boro cash stand.

The look, though, is minimal. Pranschke wants the focus to be on the clothing.

By MJ Galbraith



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Obituaries

SADZINSKI

Thomas John Sadzinski, 71, died April 29, 2017.

Mr. Sadzinski was the loving father of Kimberly (David) Zaborowski, Michele (Fred) Haenlein, Thomas Jr.; brother of Patsy (Anthony) Jozwiak, the late Stanley; many nieces and nephews also survived.

Thomas served in the United States Air Force in Germany during the Vietnam era.

Inurnment of ashes will be Friday, June 2,

2017 at 2 p.m., at Great Lakes National Cemetery, 4200 Belford Rd., Holly MI, 48441. Arrangements were made by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home.

WITKOWSKI

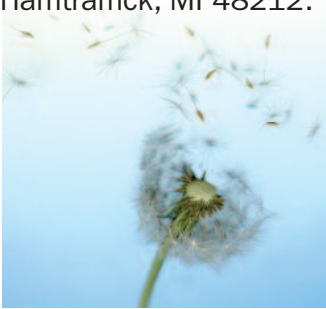


Geraldine Witkowski (nee Schall) died May 13, 2017.

Mrs. Witkowski passed away after a courageous fight with cancer. Mrs. Witkowski is survived by

brother, David J. Schall; sister, Leona Durecki; children, Brenda Krotak (Jim), Barry Witkowski (Tomas); grandchildren, Jason Krotak (Stacy), Cari Dixon, Brandon Krotak (Jessica), Ryan Krotak (Tei), Kyle Krotak (Amanda), Mandi Bowen (Steven), Brooke Przybyliski (Brad); great-grandmother of Mia, Eve, Ari, Ever, Tevin, Julius, Nya, Fione, Madison, McKenzie, Harper. Mrs. Witkowski is predeceased by her husband, Bruno Witkowski; son, Gregory Witkowski.

Memorial visitation is Saturday, May 20, 2017, from 1-4 p.m. at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck, MI 48212.



The lore of Hamtramck ... Peddlers present a powerful case

By Greg Kowalski

“Potatoes... tomatoes... strawberries... watermelons...”

If it was Saturday afternoon you were likely to hear that litany delivered in a singsong fashion across town all the way into the 1970s.

For decades peddlers carrying mainly fruit and vegetables made the rounds around the city in their trucks. They’d pull to the curb, the driver would get out and he’d sing out the names of his products. People would come out of their houses to make their purchases. The peddlers were an institution and made shopping easier for many.

But it almost didn’t happen. They were almost outlawed by the city, but were saved by a chorus of rowdy Hamtramck women – 1,400

of them.

That’s how many signed a petition protesting the city’s intention in September, 1951, to deny the peddlers licenses to operate. The official reason for the denial was that they didn’t pay property taxes like store owners did and they were taking business away from the neighborhood stores.

Both things were true, but that didn’t stop about 50 particularly boisterous women from going to the Common Council chambers to raise a ruckus in support of the peddlers.

As the measure to deny licenses to the peddlers came up, so did the noise level, and “When the shouting, hollering and applauding died down the peddlers were legally in business again” the Hamtramck

Citizen reported.

It was hardly a surprise. The women made it clear they strongly supported the peddlers and they let the council know it. The peddlers present didn’t say a word, but their attorney, Michael A. Guest, did.

“Your action in refusing these licenses is enhancing the pockets of chain stores and not helping the small operators,” Guest said.

Only one man spoke up in support of the license denial and he probably wished he hadn’t.

“In a town where the horse and buggy days are gone, it’s ridiculous to allow peddlers on the streets,” he said.

He got away with that but when he warned of the threat of slow moving trucks hitting kids, they crowd laid into him with

Continued on page 8

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By Charles Sercombe
This week's Crime Loge covered May 9-15.

Tuesday, May 9

- A St. Clair Shores resident reported a theft from his car while it was parked in the area of Charest and Caniff.
- A business owner in the 2900 block of Holbrook reported an employee had been stealing pharmaceuticals from his business.
- A Warren resident reported his car was damaged when a tree fell on it while parked in the 11600 block of Gallagher.

Wednesday, May 10

- A Detroit resident was arrested during a traffic stop for carrying a concealed weapon without a permit and driving with a fraudulent license plate and driving without a license.
- The driver of a silver Jeep Cherokee fled while

being pulled over. Officers said the vehicle did not have a license plate.

- A resident in the 2600 block of Casmere reported the theft of a UPS package from their porch.
- Two men robbed a person of their cellphone in the area of Caniff and Mackay.

Thursday, May 11

- Officers retrieved a dog in the area of Caniff and Mackay, and soon after the owner came to the police station to pick it up.
- A resident in the 9500 block of Mitchell reported an attempted break-in.
- A Grayling resident reported an incident of fraud.
- A man in his 30s exposed himself to a teen in the area of Jos. Campau and Casmere. The suspect fled in black four-door car.

Continued on page 8

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