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Volume 9 No. 23
June 16, 2017
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The Review

Hamtramck



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Tartarsauce Jazz Band



Quick Hits

Nothing goes hand-in-hand better than summer and an outdoor concert series. Especially when it's free.

Zussman Park, across from city hall, continues to be a family gathering spot this summer with a concert series starting there next Thursday, June 22.

The event is being sponsored by the city's Downtown Development Authority. First up in the series is the Tartarsauce Traditional Jazz Band, which is the official band for the Detroit Tigers, and they also play at the Detroit Jazz Festival and Greenfield Village's Ragtime Street Fair.

The concert starts at 6:30 p.m. Other dates include July 27 and Aug. 24. Be sure to bring a lawn chair or a blanket to spread out.

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.

“As long they are following the law.”

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

A familiar face returns to take over role of city manager

By Charles Sercombe

If the state approves, Hamtramck will have a new city manager.

And he is no stranger to Hamtramck. At a special meeting held on Wednesday, a bare majority of the city council voted to hire Kyle Tertzag to be the interim city manager.

He will replace City Manager Katrina Powell when her contract expires after June 30.

But his hiring first has to be approved by the state Receivership Transition Advisory Board, which could decide on the matter at its next meeting on June 27. The board has final approval of all city contracts and expenses.

The RTAB has been in place for over two years since the city is still considered under a financial emergency.

The hiring is the result of several prolonged and heated disputes among city councilmembers over

which direction to go with Powell.

Councilmembers Andrea Karpinski and Ian Perrotta have been in the minority in wanting to extend Powell's contract.

Councilmembers Anam Miah, Abu Musa, Saad Al-masmari and Mohammed Hassan have refused to

keep Powell on and were behind the hiring of Tertzag. They have bristled over Powell's management style, and have accused her of leaving the council out of decision making.

Powell has insisted she has followed the rules set down by the final orders

of the emergency manager and the role restrictions of the city manager and council the city charter lays down.

Tertzag was an acting city manager for Hamtramck in 2012 and lasted over a year until the state declared a financial emergency.

Continued on page 2


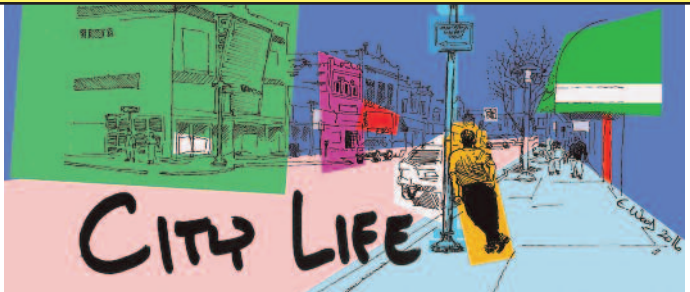


Illustration of southend house by Emily Wood



CITY LIFE

Strolling into memories

By Walter Wasacz

One of the top destinations for my walks, which I call adventures close to home, is my own memory.

As my body glides through neighborhood streets in the here and now, internally I find connections to other times

throughout my life that I've traveled these same routes. I give no conscious direction to these thoughts and feelings, they just appear and disappear with the pace of my walk. The longer and farther I go, the richer and clearer my memories become.

Continued on page 4


Election season's first stirring

By Charles Sercombe

This year's election season just sparked to life.

And it involves an issue that has long been a part of past elections: the tearing down of candidate signs.

But there was a new twist to this old-age complaint. A cellphone recording circulated on the Facebook pages of local elected officials showing one of Hamtramck's biggest property owners, Henry Velleman, being confronted by Steve Perri, a social studies teacher who works for a local charter school, for taking down



Henry Velleman
Photo by Steve Perri

campaign signs from one of his Jos. Campau lots.

Perri can be heard saying: "It's against the law for taking people's signs."

Velleman, carrying away campaign signs for Mohammed Hassan, a current councilmember running for mayor, can be heard denying doing anything illegal.

In an ongoing Facebook discussion about

Continued on page 6



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A familiar face returns to take over role of city manager Cont. from front

cial emergency and appointed an emergency manager.

Prior to Tertzag being here, the city council at that time had asked the state to declare a financial emergency in the city. Tertzag played no role in that decision.

Once Emergency Manager Cathy Square was on board, she fired Tertzag. She kept the position of city manager vacant until she was near the end of her 18-month term here. At the time Square said it was “redundant” to have a city manager on hand.

Tertzag is a former Allen Park councilmember and city administrator for Woodhaven.

His experiences in both cities were clouded in controversy.

In Allen Park, he and all of the councilmembers unanimously approved a \$31 million development deal for a film studio with-

out seeking voter approval. That deal flopped, leaving taxpayers on the hook and sent the city into a financial crisis that led to an emergency manager taking over.

But Tertzag has pointed out in the past that the deal did not require or even meet the guidelines for voter approval, and that the city administrator, economic development department and the state were behind it.

In Woodhaven, he was let go suddenly under what some said were mysterious circumstances. Both the city and Tertzag entered into an agreement not to disclose the details of his leaving. Tertzag it was a mutual falling out, and that it is common for non-disclosures to be agreed on.

“City managers come and go,” he told The Review. “We decided to handle it like adults.”

In contrast, Hamtramck’s current city manager, Katrina Powell, was also let go by two previous communities after serving about two years in each.

Hamtramck city councils have fired two previous city managers, and then went through several for very short terms – sometimes lasting just a few weeks – before hiring Tertzag back in 2012.

Tertzag’s history was brought to the attention of the city council at Tuesday’s special meeting by several residents.

No one asked him to explain those situations.

Others complained the process of hiring Tertzag was cloaked in secrecy by the bare majority of councilmembers and had the effect of taking the city backwards.

“A majority of you is making our city disgusting,” said Rachel Srodek, sister of Councilmember Andrea Karpinski. “You make our city look like poop.”

While in Hamtramck, Tertzag’s tenure went relatively smoothly, considering the city went through several city managers prior to his arrival.

Since his leaving Tertzag was asked by Mayor Karen Majewski if he was still in municipal administration. Tertzag said he has been acting as a consultant and doing polling work for his own company, Strategic Solu-

tions.

On his Facebook page he also promotes himself as DJ Maverick.

Tertzag said he only wanted to be interim city manager here until the end of next January.

“I’m fine in the public sector,” Tertzag said.

He declined to talk about any discussions with city or elected officials that led to his hiring, saying those were “private.”

That response elicited a loud groan from the packed city council chambers.

But he did say he has kept up with Hamtramck’s situation and only recently reached out to Councilmember Miah about the position of interim city manager.

There had been accusations that the four councilmembers who brought Tertzag forth of acting secretly in collusion and in violation of the state’s Open Meetings Act.

The four called for the special meeting at Tuesday’s regular meeting. It was at that meeting Miah revealed the purpose for the special meeting was to hire Tertzag.

Much shouting among the council and audience members erupted after that announcement.

Councilmember Ian Perrotta pointed out that the four did not offer the exact wording of the resolution hiring Tertzag at Tuesday’s meeting. He said Miah provided the resolution after he asked for it via email to all councilmembers.

In an effort to boost Tertzag’s hiring – and perhaps embarrass the

mayor – Councilmember Miah read a letter by Majewski praising his work as city manager in Hamtramck, saying it brought “stability” to the city.

The letter was from 2013, and it complimented Tertzag for his “even-handed approach” which she said had a “calming effect” on the city.

The mayor conceded that she did indeed sign the letter, but that she did not write it. She said she has signed other letters of recommendation for former city employees.

“That’s standard procedure” she said.

Despite that glowing

recommendation, Majewski said “it’s a different situation today.”

By that she meant the achievements of Powell have surpassed others who were in the position of city manager in Hamtramck. Majewski has been a strong supporter of Powell.

To no one’s surprise, the four majority councilmembers agreed to hire Tertzag by the end of the meeting. He was given a salary of \$8,000 a month, which is not to exceed \$108,000 for one year’s service.

He will start on July 1 provided the RTAB approves his contract.

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This week at the library...

Wayne Metro’s Free Tax Program – Free prior year tax services, **Mondays, June 19 and 26, 10 a.m-3 p.m.** The service offers accessible services throughout Wayne County, with different times and locations. While appointments are encouraged, walk-ins are also accepted. To make an appointment, please call (313) 388-9799 or 1 (734) 284-6999.

Website Development Camp – **July 31 – August 3, 2:30-4:30 p.m.** Registration: Hamtramck Public Library Front Desk. Contact: Andrew He (248) 345-6863. Tuition: Free. Have you ever browsed websites and wondered how they’re built? Have you ever dreamed of building a website for your project, business, or even for introducing yourself, your own ideas, and accomplishments?

This camp is to help you learn the basic concepts and skills to build a website. You will be introduced to the basics of

the programming languages HTML, CSS, and you will learn how to build a website using the online website builder, WordPress. The best of all, you will have a website of your own by the end of the class. The class will elect and reward prizes for the best websites built during the class.

What you will learn/do:

- HTML, CSS, WordPress
- Make your own website

Maximum Enrollment: 12 Students (10 – 13 years of age, or 4th – 6th Graders).

Business For Youth – Personal Finance and Entrepreneurship, Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28), 2-3 p.m. Registration: Hamtramck Public Library Front Desk. Contact: Andrew He (248) 345-6863. Tuition: Free. This program is designed to help young students take charge of their own financial life. The Personal Finance and Entrepreneurship class is intended to

teach students the principles of saving and investing in stocks and bonds. The class will discuss credit and investment, the difference between the NYSE and the NADAQ Stock Markets, and how to deal with interest rates in an easy to understand way.

Students will make their own mock stock portfolios, and monitor them throughout the class. Then, take their newly gained investing knowledge and research how to start a business of their own. Maximum Enrollment: 12 Students each class (10 – 13 years old, or 4th – 6th Graders).

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

The following information is from Mrs. Jaleelah Ahmed, ELL Director:

Compared to the national average, southeast Michigan has 182% more jobs for engineers with a 5.7% job growth expected from 2016-2025.

These are some of the facts shared at the English Language Learners Engineering Students' field trip to Henry Ford College on May 30. The students competed in a high school competition at HFC in April, earning 1st place and 3rd place in the competition and the seniors in the teams received a scholarship to HFC.

After the competition, the plans were to have the students visit HFC and in particular the Engineering Department. The visit to the engineering department opened the students' eyes to see the different types of engineering fields, ask questions, and do hands on activities.

They met with instructors in the electrical, civil, mechanical and systems engineering to name a few out of the 20 different types of engineering. The students who are strong in the areas of math and science are excited to pursue the field of engineering while they develop the English language.

This is the direction of the English Language Learner Department's Director, Mrs. Ahmed, honing in on the student's strengths and interests as early as possible, giving opportunities for students to explore the area of interest and support them in a pathway to college program.

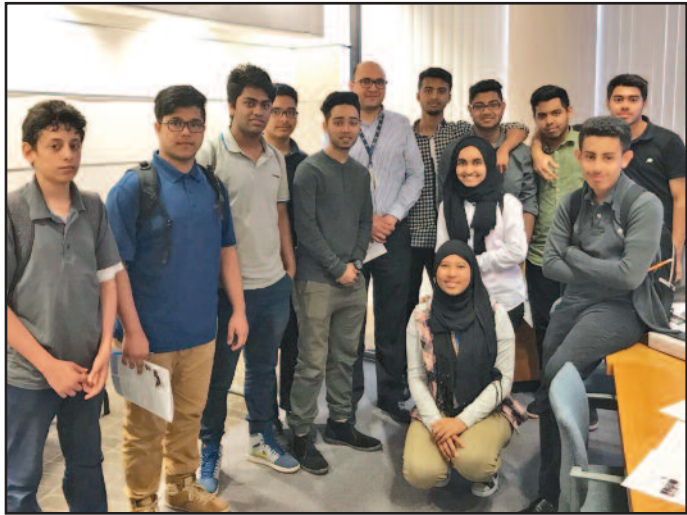
Mrs. Ahmed and Dr. Nameghi, Director at HFC, are working together to develop a partnership between Hamtramck Public Schools' ELL Department and Henry Ford College.

Early Childhood Elementary News

The Hamtramck Police Department visited the Early Childhood Elementary last week. The pre-school classes and kindergarten classes learned about summer safety. Students got to climb into a police car and pretend they were driving with the siren on. Students even had the opportunity to try on a police officer's protective vest. It was a day the students will never forget.

On June 6, the pre-school through second

grade classes at Early Childhood Elementary celebrated the end of the school year with a Fun Fair out on the playground.



Above: Hamtramck High School engineering students recently visited Henry Ford Community College. Below: Early Childhood Elementary School students recently met with Hamtramck police officers who showed off their gear, including this protective vest.



The students and staff had a great time despite a cloudy day. Students enjoyed face painting, making bubbles, jump roping and many more activities.

Holbrook Elementary School News

The last few weeks of the school year were filled with learning and having fun at Holbrook. The kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade classes learned about famous artists and then took a trip to the Detroit Institute of Arts to experience what they had learned.

On June 14, the kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade classes took a trip to picnic and enjoy Kensington Metro Park. The 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classes spent the day at Playfair Park, playing and enjoying themselves, making use of one of Hamtramck's wonderful parks. The 8th grade promotional ceremony took place on June 14.

Congratulations to all the 8th grade students we are proud of your hard work! Staff and students are looking ahead to the new school year. We know it will be another year of learning, hard work, and of course fun.

Hamtramck High School News

A group of students

from Hamtramck High School visited the Technology and Engineering Building at Henry Ford College. The students had an opportunity to

meet with faculty members and hear about the programs and degrees the college offers in the area of industrial arts and technology.

They also had a chance to visit some of the classrooms that impressed the students with their state-of-the-art equipment and a chance for hands on learning experience. It was a very interesting and resourceful field trip. We hope that more students will have chance to visit this college and make it their next destination on their path to higher education.

All Schools

- Friday, June 16 – Hamtramck High School, Horizon High School and Kosciuszko Middle School Final Semester Exams. Half Day for all schools. Last day of school for all students. Records day for all schools in the afternoon.
- Friday, June 23 – Final report cards mailed.

Compiled by
Janice Gandelman



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June 23 - Solemnity of Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mass 9am

June 25 - Family Day Picnic, Mass 12:30pm

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Zussman Park – across from City Hall

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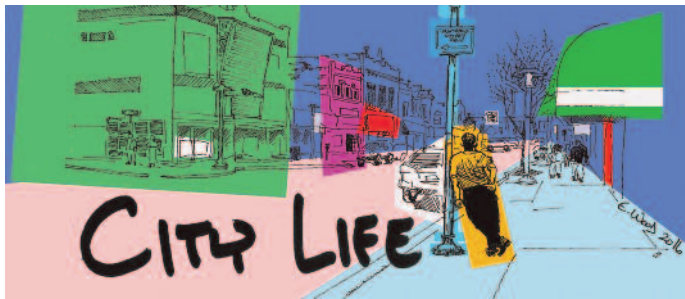
JULY 27

AUGUST 24

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Continued from front page

branches. At the same time I have no real nostalgia for the past, no interest in returning to it, yet I remain sentimentally attached all the same. With fondness I recall playing Little League Baseball at Veterans Park, beginning my collection of 7-inch vinyl 45s at Federal Department Store and Old Town Records, and discovering a unique transportation

network of streets, sidewalks and alleys across the city. Except for a few years spent living away from Hamtramck I have been here my entire life. I was born in St. Francis Hospital (now city hall), around the corner from a house my father bought in 1947. The succession of the house fell to my mother and to me when my dad died in 1974; and when my mom died

in 2012, I took on sole responsibility of the property. The house itself is filled with memories, some vividly beautiful, others murky and ambiguous, all lending themselves to repeated discoveries about my family and myself. Recently, as part of another, more personal writing project, I found my way back to my first memory of consciousness, at age 4 or 5. I'd always marked my entrance into awareness as standing with my mother on Roosevelt St., watching the JFK motorcade roll into Keyworth Stadium, in October 1960. This new discovery of

prior recollections has given me fresh insights into who I am today. When I walk I revisit significant and meaningful (also insignificant and meaningless) experiences I may have had in 1966, 1976, 1986 and other years. I'm no longer as interested in dates – just real life and my participation in it. There are three simple but crucial pieces to my creative work: participation, discovery and experience. They are universal and can be applied wherever I go. But my personal history in Hamtramck, and my relationship to it, both physical and metaphysical, enables an intimacy and emotional richness I doubt I can find anywhere else. Last week, Hamtramck painter, muralist and City Life illustrator Emily Wood and I walked to the city's industrial southend. Our destination was the weed tree forest on Denton, east of Jos. Campau along the railroad tracks that run on a northwest-southwest diagonal line through this edge of town. Emily carried a sketchbook, and I had my camera as we hiked up and down man-made hills, pushing aside long wild green growth until we reached a clearing no longer visible from the road.

Boyhood memories of being here before came into focus. Buildings belonging to Polar Brand Ice Cream and the Briggs Company were part of a manufacturing district a block to the north, at Miller and McDougall streets, an intersection now swallowed up by the advancing nature surrounding us. Those buildings were destroyed in separate fires in the 1970s and 1980s. Looking east, I remembered other industrial shops along the Denton-Miller industrial corridor, where the Dickerson County Jail is now, but could not recall their names. The Dodge Main plant, once rising just to the south of where we now stood, was the dominant building in this section of the city. Unlike the GM Pontiac plant that replaced it after it was closed and demolished, what we called “Dodge's” was integrated into the adjacent residential streets, where some workers lived, carrying lunch pails to and from the factory each day. While we walked I told Emily of boyhood encounters with teenage “gangs” that claimed the turf around the tracks. The Park Boys were glue-sniffing bullies who preyed on younger kids like me. They took my football once and wouldn't give it back until

some adults intervened. We would always be wary of them when we went to the marshes and ponds along the tracks looking for crayfish, tadpoles and frogs. I heard stories of kids getting beat up, their frogs stolen by the park gangster crew, but it never happened to me. Other stories were much sadder. One boy I knew collapsed and died after lowering himself into a paint car to huff the fumes inside. Another had part of his foot severed while attempting to jump from a moving train. Those dark memories left me as we walked east into a residential district bordered by Jos. Campau and Lumpkin, Denton and Holbrook. Some of the city's oldest homes are here. Emily sketched one of them, a single house surrounded by natural green spaces on each side, with a factory smokestack looming behind it, as if over its left shoulder. It's a classic Hamtramck image, nestled somewhere between the past and the future, as alive in the real as it is in memory.

Walter Wasacz writes about walkable discovery for the Review. Take a look at Emily Wood's work on her blog emily-janewood.com

Public Notice

Hanley International Academy will be holding a public hearing on its 2017-2018 Proposed Budget. The hearing will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2017 at 7:00 am.

Location:

2400 Denton Street Hamtramck, MI 48212

Public Notice

Hanley International Academy will conduct its Annual Organizational Board meeting on Thursday, June 22, 2017 at 7:10 am. Location:

2400 Denton Street Hamtramck, MI 48212

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: The Detroit Greenways Coalition (DGC) is getting a boost. The non-profit dedicated to improving the quality of non-motorized transportation and recreation in and around Detroit has received a \$5,000 grant from the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's 2017 Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund. The money is to be used to support the development of the Inner Circle Greenway throughout the city of Highland Park. Detroit Greenways Coalition's Inner Circle Greenway is the largest urban trail project in the state. The 26-mile series of bike lanes and greenways will connect the cities of Detroit, Hamtramck, Highland Park, and Dearborn. A 1.4 mile-long abandoned rail corridor runs through Highland Park, and this money could be used to help transform it and fur-

ther develop the Inner Circle Greenway. The local non-profit is one of six nationally to receive a grant from the 2017 Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund. Others include projects in Colorado, Oregon, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, and Nebraska. This is the second grant Detroit Greenways Coalition has recently received, both of which are to be administered in the city of Highland Park. The non-profit also received a grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Fund for Design and Access. That money will used to develop bike lanes along the length of Hamilton Avenue as it runs through Highland Park.

By Mike Galbraith

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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Public School District once again produces top students

Last week’s issue, as many readers noticed, was not an ordinary one. For the past few years we have turned over our pages during this time of the year to the public school district. The district produces its own stories highlighting the achievements of the school year.

And each year we are mightily impressed by the district’s programs and the caliber of the students. We are also amazed at the ethnic make-up of the students — what an astonishing example of the whole wide world living right here in Hamtramck.

Being a student in Hamtramck’s Public Schools is a course on how to get along with the world. That experience alone puts these students way ahead of their peers in other cities.

The public school district has long been an innovator in education and has written the book on how to reach immigrant students. Other school districts should be envious over Hamtramck’s successes.

We salute the students and staff of the public school district for another great year.

We also wish the graduates of 2017 success in their future endeavors. It’s a tough and challenging world out there, but the public schools gave students a great head start. Now it’s their opportunity to go out in the world and show them what being a Cosmo is all about.

Odds & Ends

Soccer tryouts... Hamtramck’s soccer club, the Hamtramck Warriors, is holding tryouts for the team this weekend at Keyworth Stadium.

On Saturday and Sunday (June 17, 18) boys and girls born in the years 2006 through 2010 will meet up at 4:30 p.m.

Those born between 2003 and 2005 meet on those days at 6 p.m. And those born between 1999 and 2002 are asked to arrive at 7:30 p.m.

If you can’t attend this weekend, there will be a make-up tryout on July 1 for all age groups starting at 4 p.m.

You’ll need to bring soccer cleats, shin guards, a ball and sports drink.

These are tryouts for the upcoming 2017-18 season. For more information, call (313) 564-9295, or email the team at hamtramckyouthsc@gmail.com.

Celebration... Long time residents will remember the days when St. Lad’s Parish held festivals each year. Well, the fun returns this Sunday (June 18) at the church’s parking lot.

Now that the Parish has been folded into St. Florian’s, it was decided to bring back the festival.

It’s a perfect day to rekindle the tradition as Sunday also happens to be Father’s Day.

The St. Ladislaus Festival starts at 1 p.m. and goes to 7 p.m. There will be Polish foods, pastries, ice cream and beer. Also on hand will be Polish folk dancers is at 1 p.m.

Let’s hope the predicted thunderstorms hold off.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS CITY OF HAMTRAMCK

The Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing in the 2nd Floor Council Chambers of Hamtramck City Hall, 3401 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212, on July 5, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., to consider and afford the opportunity for input to be recorded on the appeal for a modification under Zoning Ordinance 497 on the premises described below. Any variation or modification granted would have no bearing on private restrictions. The public is invited to attend and comment at the public hearing or to make written comments on or before the date of the hearing. Written comments should be made to the attention of Melanie A. Markowicz, City Planner, ATTN: Zoning Board of Appeals, 3401 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212.

A. **Public Hearing** – Wheelhouse Detroit LLC, 9401 Joseph Campau Avenue Ord. 497. Article XI. Sign Regulations. Section 5. Specific Sign Standards. Paragraph 10. Wall Signs. and Section 7.I. Prohibited Signs. The request is for a variance to allow a sign painted on the exterior of the building which also includes more information than the business name, address and phone number.

PLEASE NOTE: This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.71 a (2) (3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The City of Hamtramck will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the Meeting to individuals with disabilities at the Meeting or Public Hearing upon 10 day notice to the City Clerk’s Office. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Hamtramck City Clerk by writing or calling the Clerk’s Office at (313) 800-5233 x821.



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 May 9, and Mayor Karen Majewski was absent. Before the regular council meeting a work session was held. During that meeting councilmembers discussed an upcoming “Diversity Festival” to be held Aug. 4-6 on Conant.

The festival required the city’s OK to close part of the street. Councilmember Saad Almas-mari said he wanted a representative from the event to make a presentation to the council before voting on it.

Councilmember Mohammed Hassan said he was satisfied with approving it.

“As long they are following the law,” he said.

City Manager Katrina Powell was enthusiastic about the event: “The more festivals the better.”

The street closure was later approved.

A presentation was made on behalf of a project to build or repair seven houses to lodge refugees. The project is being sponsored by Habitat for Humanity and the Wayne County Land Bank, among other organizations.

The project will not cost the city any money, and it would actually bring some properties back on the tax rolls.

The following properties will be developed: 2333 Faber, 2269 Denton, 2300 Danforth, 2217 Andrus, 2424 Faber, 2379 Danforth and 2261 Andrus.

A representative from the Wayne County Land Bank called the project a “huge opportunity to do something amazing.”

The housing will allow refugees to be in a community where they can easily walk to local stores and markets and also speak with people who understand their language.

Refugees will only stay for several months before resettling somewhere else.

Construction on new housing for the refugees will begin this summer or early fall.

City Manager Powell called it a “win-win for everyone.”

She said there is a chance more housing for refugees could be made available in the future.

The council approved the project. After the approval, Councilmember Ian Perrotta said this is an “opportunity for the city to remain a welcoming” community. He added that the partnership is “a start of a beautiful relationship.”

Finance Director Bham Cairns said there will be a small decrease in the city budget. A federal grant to cover 12 salaries in the Fire Department was put on partial hold, resulting in a \$500,000 drop in city revenue.

That amount, she said, will be paid later to the city.

Councilmember Anam Miah sharply questioned why the council wasn’t informed about this earlier.

Cairns also said revenue is up from income tax due to more aggressive collection.

During the regular meeting State Sen. Bert Johnson addressed the council. Johnson started off saying: “Let me address the obvious elephant.”

By that he was referring to a recent felony charge that accuses him of diverting the public’s money for private use. He is specifically charged with hiring a “ghost” employee – an employee who gets paid but performs no work.

The amount of money in question is \$23,000.

Johnson said he expects to be “OK” in beating the charge.

“But you never know,” he added.

He then went on to discuss the making of the new state budget. He said he and fellow Democrats are attempting to make sure there is enough revenue being diverted to cities.

Johnson also urged local officials to be “more vigilant and vocal” about making sure the legislature takes care of the needs of cities.

During public comment, Robert Zwolak warned that unless the council renews the employment contract of City Manager Powell, “there will be a dilemma.”

If that doesn’t happen he said, Powell should extend City Treasurer John Gabor’s contract so he could take over.

Both of their contracts are set to expire on June 30.

(Editor’s note: Since that meeting, Powell placed Gabor on paid administrative leave until his contract expires.)

A paving contract was approved with Hutch Paving for the city’s upcoming street resurfacing project. This year, the following streets will be repaved:

- Charest from Holbrook to Evaline (full width)
- Lehman from Conant to Jos. Campau (travel lane only)
- Lumpkin from Caniff to Commor (travel lane only)
- Pulaski from MacKay St. to Jos. Campau (full width)

The cost of the project is \$517,000, which will be paid through an annual state road repair grant.

During a discussion to amend the city’s budget, Councilmember Mohammed Hassan lashed out at the former emergency manager, who he said “did not do anything” toward improving the city’s financial condition.

He said the city needs to reduce costs. The council, except for Hassan, approved the budget amendment.

A discussion was held on an upcoming alley reconstruction project that will begin in June. The project will focus on portions of alleys on Jos. Campau and Conant.

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Election season's first stirring

Continued from front page

the encounter a debate rose whether Velleman was in his right to remove the signs since it was put on his property without permission.

According to the city's sign ordinance, you cannot place a candidate sign on vacant lots – even with permission from the owner. That was the case in this matter.

There is no law forbidding a person from removing a sign from their property.

The Review reached

out to Velleman for comment, but he did not return a call, nor has he returned past calls for comment on other issues. Velleman has been in the news lately for keeping most of his three dozen Jos. Campau storefronts and lots empty.

He has refused to explain why he does not seek businesses to lease his commercial spaces. Other business owners have complained that Velleman is making

the city's main business strip look like a ghost town.

Velleman has also faced criticism for not maintaining his lots, and allowing them to collect trash and become overgrown. He has since fenced in his lots to prevent trash accumulating, but a quick inspection this week found several of them needing a mowing.

Perri told The Review he is more upset that Velleman allows other candidates to post their signs on his properties, which he said is unfair and undemocratic.

"The problem is he owns like 90% of the property in Hamtramck. If he can claim he does not want certain signs on his property but allows others he can unfairly and unjustly influence the results of the election," Perri said.

"I have no stance one way or another in the election for Hamtramck as I only work and do not

live here, however I do believe in the sanctity of the electoral process. Every candidate should have equal access and equal representation so the outcome of the election can be fair and accurate to the will of the electorate."

While there might have been other political signs on his lots, when The Review checked on the situation Wednesday, there were no signs to be found.

There is no law in the books restricting who or how many candidates a property owner can promote in an election.

In most instances, candidates complain that rivals or vandals have stolen their legally placed signs. It is rare that anyone is caught in the act.

There are three candidates, including Hassan, Asm (Kamal) Rahman and former Councilmember Cathie Gordon, challenging Mayor Karen Majewski for her job.

In the city council race,

there are three seats up for election, including those occupied by incumbents Andrea Karpinski and Ian Perrotta.

Councilmember Hassan has opted to run for mayor instead of seeking re-election to council, which leaves his seat wide open.

The council candidates include: Saiida Miah, Gias Talukder, Mohammed Al-Somirir, Akil Al-Halemi, Nayeem Choudhury, Fadel Almar-soumi, Monzurul Karim and Showkat Choudhury.

Showkat Chowdhury is currently a member of the Hamtramck School Board. Saiida Miah is the daughter of current Councilmember Anam Miah.

The Aug. 8 Primary Election will whittle the mayoral race down to the top two finishers. In the council race, the field will be reduced to six candidates.

In both races, the final election will be in November. At this point, the only race on the ballot will be

the Hamtramck election. If past elections are a guide, that will likely mean a very light voter turnout will decide who will fill local seats.

Hamtramck already has received national and international attention for having a city council where the majority members are of the Muslim faith.

It is believed the city's population is now at least 50 to 80 percent of the Muslim faith. For almost 100 years the city has been known as a Polish enclave.

This election year could likely be the turning point for a sweeping change in city government, with Muslim candidates taking all elected positions.

That will also result in huge changeovers in commissions that the mayor and council appoint.

There is at least one documentary crew recording this possible historic shift in city government.

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By Charles Sercombe
This week's Crime Log covers June 6-12.

Tuesday, June 6
• A Burger resident reported being assaulted by a family member.
• At 11:30 p.m. an Evaline resident reported a UPS package was stolen from his porch.
• A student was cited for possessing narcotics. The student's parent was also ticketed under the Parental Responsibility law.

Wednesday, June 7
• At 12:30 a.m. several youths were cited for vagrancy after being found on top of a vacant business building in the 9100 block of Jos. Campau.
• At 11:45 p.m. a woman reported her boyfriend assaulted her.

Thursday, June 8
• At a little after 11:30

p.m. a resident was arrested for fleeing and eluding after officers attempted a traffic stop.
• At 11:50 p.m. a resident was arrested for drunk driving in the area of Casmere and Mackay.
• At 12:15 a.m. a Detroit resident was arrested for possessing an open intoxicant while in the area of Conant and Commor. Officers were initially dispatched to the area about a disorderly person fighting with patrons at a business in the area.
• A resident reported an incident of fraud.
• A woman reported being shoved by a suspect who then grabbed her cellphone while in the area of Evaline and Winfield. A nearby person then grabbed the cell phone back, and the suspect then ran away.
• At about 5 a.m. a resident in the 2200 block of Evaline reported

Continued on page 8

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Continued from page 7

that when he arrived home he saw two men inside his home. The suspects fled before officers arrived.

- A resident in the 2600 block of Trowbridge reported the theft of her mountain bike.
- A Jos. Campau business owner reported a suspect attempted to steal assorted items and in the process damaged a display case.

Friday, June 9

- A Westland resident was arrested after a traffic stop for being wanted on a felony warrant.
- A resident reported his son was bitten in the leg by a dog in the 3800 block of Evaline.
- A Sterling Heights resident was arrested for reckless driving.
- A Belmont resident

was arrested for domestic violence.

Saturday, June 10

- A resident in the 12000 block of Moran reported being harassed by a person they know.
- A person was arrested for domestic violence at a residence in the 3200 block of Hanley.
- A person was arrested after a traffic stop for driving with a suspended license and possessing marijuana.
- A woman reported her ex-boyfriend broke in through the rear door of her residence in the 11600 block of St. Aubin.
- A person was arrested after a traffic stop for driving with a stolen license plate.

Sunday, June 11

- At 2 a.m. a Rochester Hills resident was arrested at a business in the area of Holbrook and Mitchell for being disorderly.
- A female reported her backpack was stolen while she was at Pulaski Park.
- A person was arrested in the 12100 block of Lumpkin for

being drunk and disorderly.

- A woman reported being assaulted by her ex-boyfriend while in the area of Belmont and Lumpkin.

Monday, June 12

- A Dyar resident reported his vehicle stolen.
- A Faber resident reported someone broke out a window of his ice cream truck and then stole ice cream products.
- A Detroit resident reported being robbed at gunpoint by two males while in the area of Trowbridge and Jos. Campau.
- A resident reported that someone fraudulently used their credit card.
- A Detroit resident reported someone illegally dumped lawn waste in his rental house's yard.
- A Grand Haven resident reported being assaulted inside of her apartment by a person she knows.
- A resident reported her passport was lost.
- A resident reported she was scammed out of \$1,050.

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5	6					9	2	
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2		8			7			5
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9				2				4
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		7	8	9				

Solutions on page 7