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The Review

Hamtramck



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Quick Hits

Above is a landscape painting of Jos. Campau by Hamtramck-based artist Sanda Cook.

You can see more of her works, described as abstracts, on display at Hatch Gallery, 3456 Evaline, starting this Saturday, July 8.

The Romanian native will also talk about her art at the gallery at 2 p.m. The opening reception of her show starts later at 6 p.m. and runs until 10 p.m.

You can make it an evening of art by also stopping by at Public Pool (3309 Caniff), which will also host a new art exhibit. The opening runs from 7 to 11 p.m.

The theme for this show is cherries.

Hey, in Hamtramck, as the saying goes, life is indeed a bowl of cherries.

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.

"I really do want to go back to teaching and serve the city."

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

For many kids, playtime and physical activity are a challenge

By Charles Sercombe

It's been said for a number of years that today's kids don't get enough exercise.

That's about to change, if the Ralph C. Wilson. Jr. Foundation and Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan are successful in rolling out programs to get more kids active.

Representatives from the foundations kicked off their program last Wednesday morning at Keyworth Stadium.

The statistics, compiled by the Aspen Institute and available in a study called "Project Play," are pretty grim.

Nationally, only 27 percent of kids play at least one hour a day, which is considered the minimum amount needed for kids to be healthy and in shape. In Detroit, it's worse at just 10 percent.

"We're in a health cri-



A nationwide effort that was launched in Keyworth Stadium last week aims to get more kids physically active. In Hamtramck, many youngsters are able to join soccer clubs.

sis in this country," said David Egner, President and CEO of the Wilson Foundation. "It's only going to get worse if we don't do something about it now."

Egner and several other speakers talked about youth sports and

activities at a gathering of about 100 people from various local agencies and foundations. The Hamtramck Public School District hosted the get-together.

Ralph Wilson, Jr. is the former owner of the Buffalo Bills football team.

He died a few years ago, but his wife, Mary, is carrying on the foundation's mission. She was also on hand and said her husband's foundation is prepared to donate millions of dollars to local programs across the

Continued on page 3

For now, police chief is in charge

By Charles Sercombe

As of this week, Police Chief Anne Moise is the city's acting city manager.

But that status is expected to change at next Tuesday's regular council meeting.

Or maybe not.

You would not be alone in being confused over who's in charge. Within one week the city went through two temporary city managers. A bare majority of the city council – Councilmembers Anam Miah, Saad Almasari, Mohammed Hassan and Abu Musa – first appointed Kyle Tertzag to the job.



Police Chief Anne Moise is now acting city manager.

Tertzag is no stranger to the city. He served as acting city manager in 2012 and part of 2013 when a state-appointed emergency manager took over.

Tertzag's appointment was rejected by the state-appointed Receivership Transition Advisory Board during its regular monthly meeting in June. Although the board did not specify why it considered Tertzag unqualified, a spokesman for the state Treasury Department said it was be-

Continued on page 2

Voices of Hamtramck...

Voices of Hamtramck is a new series that takes a close look at the people who live and work in the city.

Who he is: Jamal Jawany, owner of Delite Café & Deli

By Alex Francia
The Review Special Writer

Jamal Jawany came to the U.S. from Yemen in 1991, when he was about 9 years old.

Like many immigrants, his family sought better opportunities in America. He describes the compar-

ative ease of his family's transition – they waited only two months to get citizenship. Since then, Jawany has called Hamtramck home. He attended Dickinson East Elementary School, Kosciuszko Middle School, and Hamtramck High School.

About one year after graduating from college, Jawany found that he had developed a new passion: teaching. At Hamtramck High, Jawany started two new business classes

Continued on page 2



Jamal Jawany is the owner of Delite Café & Deli on Caniff.



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For now, police chief is in charge

Continued from front page

cause he did not have experience as a city manager for the required minimum length of time. With that rejection, the same councilmembers came back with an appointment of city Treasurer John Gabor. But that appointment had problems. By city charter, only the city manager can appoint an acting city manager. City Manager Katrina Powell did just that, a day before her last day of employment with the city, which was on Friday, June 30. Powell made her appointment known on Thursday, around 5 p.m. She did not confer with the city council about the appointment.

The council has the right to reject that appointment and appoint their own acting city manager. But this is where even more complications set in. By charter an acting city administrator has to be selected from current active city administrators. Gabor's employment also expired on June 30 and he is no longer an active city administrator. Councilmember Anam Miah, who serves as Mayor Pro Tem in the absence of the mayor, told The Review he is conferring with his attorney on what step to take next. (During the past week Mayor Karen Majewski

has been in Poland.) Miah said there is no immediate plan to dismiss Moise as acting city manager, but on the other hand did not rule out that possibility. "I'm still waiting on a legal remedy," Miah said. He has also been in contact with the state Treasury Department. Miah said one option being considered is to reject Moise's appointment and re-appoint Gabor as interim city manager. There is a difference between acting and interim city manager. The acting city manager merely has to be a department head in the city. Interim city manager requires someone with actual experience as a city manager, which Gabor does have. The RTAB, which oversees all contractual and financial decisions, has the ultimate say on who can fill the position. Unless the RTAB holds a special meeting to consider another appointment decision by the council, that appointment won't be considered until its next meeting on July 25. If Moise is rejected by city council, she would resume her duties as police chief. In the meantime, Lieutenant Steven Smisick is serving as acting chief of police.

Voices of Hamtramck...

Continued from front page

through which he helped students develop public speaking skills. He identifies well with the students because he was, in many ways, one of them: "Most of these kids struggle; I was one of those kids who struggled, too. As a teacher, I wanted to show these kids the struggle that I went through. So, I kind of live my story through their stories now." Jawany's background serves as a critical advantage for him. Many students respect him because he once sat in their seats and walked in their shoes. Jawany remembers one of his students who transformed from an introverted wallflower into a confident public speaker: "This student was so shy. One day he took me aside and said, 'Mr. Jawany, I cannot do this.' And I think that happens to all of us at times. So, I encouraged him and shared with him some of my personal stories." Over time, Jawany continued, the student "started improving little by little. ... After that, wow! He really improved." The student later applied for and received a position at GM, having given "one of the best presentations to the GM board." Though Jawany wishes he could have continued teaching, he had to leave after two years to focus more on his business, Delite Café & Deli, located

wants to invest in Hamtramck's future. "I really do want to go back to teaching and serve the city ... You never know, I might go back to teaching a lot more." Jawany also hopes to create a scholarship for HHS students. He believes that "there are some brilliant students out there ..." With enough support and challenging of their potential, Jawany trusts that Hamtramck students can succeed beyond their expectations. What does Jawany want the world to know about Hamtramck? Diversity with love. "Growing up next to a Bengali, a Pole, an Albanian kind of gives you an idea of how small and simple the world is," he said. "And here in Hamtramck, we show love for one another. That's my experience here. And people have to visit here to see it."

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This week at the library...

Website Development Camp – July 31 – August 3, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Hamtramck Public Library, 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. Hamtramck Public Library, 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 NDAQ 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. 12 Students each class (10 – 13 years old, or 4th – 6th Graders).

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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

Election 2017: Candidates talk about issues facing the city

By Charles Sercombe
On Aug. 8 Hamtramck voters will be going to the polls to vote for candidates for mayor and city council.

This is the primary election, and the candidates who survive that first round will square off in the November General Election.

The Review mailed each candidate a survey of questions about some of the issues facing the city.

In the coming weeks The Review will present their responses, in their own words. The Review asked for candidates to respond by June 30, but as of this Friday several of the candidates have not returned the survey.

This week, we present Mayor Karen Majewski, who is seeking a fourth term, and council candidate Fadel Al-Marsoumi.



NAME: Karen Majewski
Education: Ph.D., University of Michigan 1998, American Culture with focus on immigration and ethnicity
Employment: Business owner
Experience in government/municipal affairs: I have been mayor of Hamtramck since 2006. Previously, I served as City Council President and Mayor Pro Tem, 2004-2005. Before that, I was an appointed member of

the Hamtramck Historical Commission.

I served on the board of the Michigan Municipal League 2007-2011, and as the League President in 2011-2012. I have been a member of the board of the Detroit Metropolitan Alliance, formerly the Michigan Suburbs Alliance, since 2008.

As a challenger or incumbent, explain why you are running for office:

Whether in elected office, as a volunteer, or as an active resident, I have been involved in Hamtramck's civic life for as long as I have lived here (and even before).

As someone who fell in love with Hamtramck at first sight, I feel an obligation to do what I can to help make this city the kind of place its residents deserve: to champion its interests, to develop its many assets, and to encourage and facilitate its progress. In the time I've served in elected office, we've faced many challenges, but we've also made valuable progress.

I'm determined to see that progress continue, with an emphasis on moving forward on our much-needed infrastructure, on following through with the suggestions in our master plan that emphasize our traditional urban neighborhood flavor, and to continue to represent Hamtramck as a model of the American ideal in which people from all over the world work together to create community. I see what makes this city great, I want to help others see it, and I want to make sure that those qualities aren't lost or diminished, but fostered

and encouraged.

What are the city's top three challenges, as you see it?

Finances, of course, have always been our first and foremost challenge, throughout our history, and that especially shows in our crumbling and inadequate infrastructure that needs immediate and continuing attention.

Although we've always been an immigrant city that welcomed people from all over the world and all over the U.S., we now also face an increasingly diverse population, presenting challenges over language, culture, and community identity.

And relatedly, we continue to face the challenge of encouraging economic development that enhances the quality of life and meets the needs of our residents.

How would you solve/meet these challenges?

These challenges are intertwined and interdependent. They also provide the clues to what I believe needs to be our strategy moving forward. We cannot cut our way to financial stability, though we always need to be rethinking our expenses and looking for ways to control them, whether by rebidding contracts, aggressively pursuing grants and other funding opportunities, and carefully considering what services should be done in house to save money, create local jobs, and provide better services.

But our real path to financial stability has to be one of growth. Our diversity, our history as a wel-

coming place for immigrants and migrants, should become one of our selling points for future investment, along with our population density, traditional urban downtown, and strong sense of identity that engages with people all over the state and beyond.

These are the qualities that will enable us to grow our local economy. However, without quality streets, sewers, and alleyways, as well as an attractive downtown and residential neighborhoods, we won't be able to attract the investment—commercial, residential, and human—that will grow us out of financial instability.

So our strategy needs to braid these factors together, realizing that this is a long-term process that we are committed to as a city, and not dependent on shifting political tides.

The city is transitioning back to full local control. What will you do to facilitate this transition if elected?

More than anything, the city needs responsible and well-informed decision making, which I have tried to provide throughout my tenure. The state is looking for signs of this stability, professionalism, and maturity.

I will continue to educate myself on issues and procedures, to maintain good working relationships with other decision and policy makers, to rep-

Continued on page 4

For many kids, playtime and physical activity are a challenge

Continued from front page

country that promote kids being more physically active.

The reasons for the lack of activity among kids have been obvious for years. Many kids are simply glued to their electronic devices, especially cellphones and games.

Parents, too, have become reluctant to allow their children to go outside for unsupervised play out of fear they might be harmed.

For most kids, play and sports activities are organized and require their parents to shuttle them. For many parents, that commitment presents a major time crunch in

their busy lives.

There is another underlying problem for kids living in low-income households: Hunger.

As one speaker pointed out, a kid isn't going to become active when their "stomach is growling."

There is an eight-point plan for parents and communities to get kids more active, as laid out in the Project Play study:

- Ask Kids What They Want: Understanding the needs of kids by building their voice into the decision-making process around sports
- Reintroduce Free Play: Making room for less-structured activity

- Encourage Sports Sampling: Exposing kids to a variety of sports, and not asking them to specialize early in any one sport

- Revitalize In-Town Leagues: Supporting community-based options

- Think Small: Being creative in the use and development of play spaces

- Design for Development: Delivering age-appropriate programs

- Train All Coaches: Training in key competencies in safety and working with kids

- Emphasize Prevention: Preventing brain and other injuries



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HATCH ART

Election 2017: Candidates talk about issues facing the city

Continued from page 3

resent the city in the public eye in a professional way, and to try to steer the city toward thoughtful leadership.

What will you do to prevent the city from falling into another financial crisis?

Addressing this historical problem requires the cooperation of council, the mayor, and our city manager. It also points to the importance of hiring a city manager who is creative, skilled, and pro-active.

We need to look closely at our existing contracts without regard to personal friendships or political loyalties. We need to aggressively pursue economic development and investment. Key to that is addressing the infrastructure and other issues in our neighborhoods and business districts to guarantee that our community is attractive to investment.

As I said earlier, we cannot cut our way out of financial distress. It will take a combination of financial responsibility and economic development in our business districts and our neighborhoods to bring us to stability over time.

Talk about the city's budget. Do you think there should be some changes to where money is spent or changes to any department or service?

There are several areas in which I believe we should invest that will pay dividends to the city over time. One is, of course, economic development. The city has not had an economic development director in a long time, and we lost the very capable person we just hired when another opportunity came along.

We need to fill that position with someone who is energetic, credentialed, and who understands and is enthused about Hamtramck's unique potential as an intact, densely populated, urban enclave. This is absolutely vital. This department is not the place to cut corners.

In order to attract and retain good employees, we also need to make sure that the benefits we pay are in keeping with professional standards. This is quite a challenge, because of skyrocketing health care costs.

But we need to keep exploring our options so that we aren't bearing the cost of recruiting and training new employees, only to have them leave in short order for greener pastures. We need to invest in our aging infrastructure—streets, sewers, alleys. These should be part of long-term strategies and an ongoing plan that intersects with our Master Plan.

The city has had a prob-

lem in getting along with its city managers. What has been going wrong in this relationship, and how can the city avoid the constant change in management?

The field of professional city management is by its nature tied to the political winds of each municipality, which is one reason city managers—even very good ones—often change jobs frequently. In Hamtramck's case, I think it's been a combination of politics, performance, and individual fit for our unique community.

I don't think it's fair to include our acting city managers in the tally, because these were simply existing city employees who were appointed — reluctantly, I might add — to fill in temporarily to keep city hall running in the absence of a manager.

That said, I think our city council members need to take a close look at the charter and learn from elected officials in other communities. Historically, our council members have had a destructive tendency to try to appropriate the duties of the city manager and to manage departmental functions that are strictly outside their legal authority.

Over the years, some council members have openly courted, and even tried to create, controversy in city hall, which has been destructive to operations

and morale. Until council members understand and accept their role as policy makers, not as managers and meddlers in day to day departmental and personnel matters—these problems will continue.

Unfortunately, it also compounds a reputation that may make attracting the cream of the candidate pool difficult moving forward. We need a city manager who is energized about the city – who is excited about our assets as an urban enclave with a traditional downtown; who understands and can maneuver within the regional, state, and national terrain in terms of funding and policy-making; who appreciates the need to balance investment in our assets — including human assets — and infrastructure — physical and cultural — with fiscal responsibility and cost reduction.

And we need someone who will fight for us, who always has Hamtramck's back, and for whom this is not a 9-5 job. Those add up to a very particular skill set that is hard to find. When we do find it — as I believe we had in city manager Powell — council needs to recognize and support that manager, while maintaining its charter-mandated powers of oversight.

Talk about economic development. How can the city spur economic

growth?

I think most of what I've said so far has touched on this. But once again, the perception that Hamtramck is unstable politically and in terms of its management is a powerful disincentive to potential outside investors.

City services, infrastructure, and appearance of our commercial and residential neighborhoods also have to strive to higher standards. On the other hand, we can see paths to economic growth all around us. Immigrants are investing in businesses that meet the needs of their own communities while also attracting customers from outside their ethnic base.

Other small, independent businesses are cropping up everywhere in the city, and creating a buzz across the region. Our housing market is very tight and values are rising. All this is because people see Hamtramck as a city in which they can be part of a community, in which they can build a business and a good life in an affordable, walkable, diverse, and interesting place.

Those are the qualities that we need to build on to continue to attract the residents and businesses who will invest here not because they see it as an opportunity to exploit, but because they value and believe in Hamtramck.

How can the city encourage commercial property owners to fill their retail spaces?

This has been continuing problem over the years. I think we need a combination of carrot and stick, with careful and transparent code enforcement combined with clearly defined opportunities for flexibility when a property owner is acting in good faith.

However, tweaking our existing ordinances may be necessary to provide the city more leverage in handling uncooperative owners. Stronger consequences for leaving properties vacant are something we should carefully consider, using other cities that have successfully addressed this problem as models.

But we also need to find ways to help property owners feel a part of the community, so that they see the valued role they play in the city's well being and are active participants in its vitality. That includes outreach by the city administration (another reason we so badly need an Economic Development Director) and organizations like the DDA.

For those of you seeking to become the mayor, what do you envision your role as, besides what is in the city charter?

Continued on page 5



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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

City manager dilemma points to one critical flaw

Where do we begin? Hamtramck appears to be stuck in some pretty deep dysfunction. Last week, the city experienced a succession of three city managers.

At this point it's still not known who will be legally in charge of the city, but there is one important lesson to be gleaned from this cluster: Communication.

Or we should say, there has been an awful lack of communication for the past couple of years.

Let's back up a bit.

For the past several months the city council has been divided over whether to extend the employment contract of City Manager Katrina Powell. A bare majority of the council — Saad Almasmari, Anam Miah, Abu Musa and Mohammed Hassan — were against keeping her on.

Her contract expired on June 30.

Those councilmembers first appointed former Acting City Manager Kyle Tertzag, who was last here in 2013. That appointment was rejected last week by the state-appointed Receivership Transition Advisory Board.

The RTAB has ultimate say over contracts and financial decisions.

Next up, the same councilmembers then appointed city Treasurer John Gabor.

A few days later, almost at the 11th hour, City Manager Powell exercised her city charter duty of appointing an acting city manager, in this case Police Chief Anne Moise.

Keeping up, so far?

If you are, pat yourself on the back because this situation is ridiculously messy.

The transition to a temporary city manager should never have come to this, and there is plenty to blame here for making the city look like a mockery.

First, the aforementioned councilmembers used a strong-arm tactic in first declaring Powell's position vacant come June 30 and then another special meeting to appoint Tertzag. In the process they quite possibly violated the state's Open Meetings Act.

They had made their decisions and refused to even share their resolutions prior to the special council meetings with the other two councilmembers, Ian Perrotta and Andrea Karpinski, nor the mayor.

And there is City Manager Powell and her last-minute appointment.

Powell knew months ago she was not going to see her contract renewed. But instead of talking with the council about who to appoint as an acting city manager, she said nothing.

It was not even known if she would make an appointment. This last-minute appointment was a huge show of disrespect to the community.

There is a good guess that the same aforementioned councilmembers will reject Moise's appointment.

The one constant in all this is city officials refusing to communicate and work together.

Let's hope the next full-time city manager can bridge this divide — something Powell failed miserably at and in her final action before exiting only added fuel to the fire.

Election 2017: Candidates talk about issues facing the city

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I've thought about this role a lot over the years. The city charter defines the mayor's actual duties quite narrowly. However, the title of mayor carries weight of its own, and it means that the mayor has leverage that transcends the charter dictates.

As official spokesperson for the city, the mayor has a responsibility to represent the city in public and with the media in a way that protects our reputation and brings us honor, without whitewashing any problems or issues.

This can be a fine line to walk. And it has increasingly become a part of my job over the years, as Hamtramck has attracted more and more national and international attention.

I now give many media interviews, and am also regularly asked to speak about Hamtramck at conferences. For instance, I recently was on a panel on immigration at a conference in Lansing; I will be in Gdansk, Poland, speaking at a conference on immigrant integration and then meeting with local mayors who are facing what is a relatively new issue for them — an influx of immigrants from other parts of Europe as well as of refugees, many of them Muslims; and in December I will be speaking about emergency management at a conference at Cornell University.

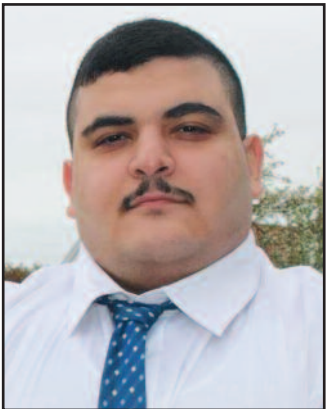
Relatedly, as mayor I have the opportunity to signal Hamtramck's reaction to national events — for instance, on the night of the last presidential election, I reached out to our residents via Facebook to reassure them that the city is committed to their safety and will stand by them if they are threatened by new federal policies.

I was able to sign on with other mayors to upholding the principles of the Paris Accord on climate change. Actions like this are not required of the mayor, but I see them as part of my responsibility in positioning Hamtramck within a wider discourse on America's future. It is part of the mayor's job — as I see it — to make sure Hamtramck's voice is included in the American conversation.

That also means building relationships with community organizations, other governing bodies, and any other groups with which Hamtramck's presence at the table can help the city and its residents.

These duties are much more than public relations — they also can have concrete consequences, including bringing opportunity and resources to the city.

And certainly a large part of the mayor's responsibility includes engaging with Hamtramck residents from across the spectrum, whether by supporting community events, meeting with constituents, trying to help with individual issues, or just being approachable and open.



Name: Fadel Al-Mar-soumi

Education: Master of Science in Information Technology Leadership/ Systems Management, Walsh College, Troy, MI (2017 - Expected Graduation June 2018); Master of Business Administration ,Walsh College Troy, MI (2014 – 2016); Bachelor of Arts in Communications – Major: Public Relations, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI (2010-2014)

Employment: Technology Service Technician - Raymond James Financial (Southfield, MI); Technical Customer Advocate - Audi of America (Auburn Hills, MI)

Experience in government/municipal affairs:

Although I do not have much experience with government and municipal affairs, I'm a member of a few groups that work together to overcome many obstacles to achieve set goals. These groups include:

- Michigan Democratic Party
- Walsh College Master of Business Administration Association
- WSU PRSSA (Public Relations Student Society of America)

As a challenger or incumbent, explain why you are running for office:

Many times, I've been asked to describe the city that I grew up in. Of all the ways I could describe Hamtramck, I feel the simplest is to say that it is a wonderful community that is diverse, but divided. Although we are a community that accepts one another, it's a rare sight that we turn to each other

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Odds & Ends

Family care... An organization called Michigan United will host a talk about a new program to bring about universal family care this evening, Friday, July 7, from 6 to 8 p.m.

The event will be held at Oloman Café, located at 10215 Jos. Campau.

Speaking that night will be State Representatives Stephanie Chang and Justin Johnson, both of Detroit.

According to a press release from the organization, "universal family care is designed to create a broad-based benefit that directly addresses the costs of childcare and elder care. This benefit will be universal, helping poor families and middle class families, young people, and seniors."

School Bell

Enrollment

Hamtramck residents may enroll their children in Hamtramck Public Schools at the HPS Business Office, 3201 Roosevelt. Summer enrollment hours are 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

School of Choice applications will be accepted during the following dates:

Kindergarten: Unlimited, through September 8, 2017

Grades 1-2: 10 seats for each 1st & 2nd grade, enrollment ended

Grades 7-8: 10 seats for each 7th & 8th grade, enrollment ended

Grade 9, HHS: Unlimited, through August 4, 2017

Grades 10-11, HHS: 10 seats for each 10th & 11th grade, enrollment ended

Grades 9-12, Horizon: Through August 4, 2017

Late SOC applications cannot be accepted. School of Choice Applicants may be denied based on the student's attendance and/or discipline record.

Compiled by Janice Gandelman

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Obituaries

KIJEK

 Genevieve “Jean” Kijek, 93, died July 1, 2017. Mrs. Kijek was preceded into God’s care by her husband, Frank (2002); son-in-law Larry (2015). She was the beloved mother of Diane Roslinski, Frank Kijek, Corinne (David) Brown; loving grandmother of Lauren (John) Hosko, Dana Dunn, Kevin (Michelle) Roslinski, D.B. (Angie) Brown, Matthew (Christi) Brown, Melissa (Dan) Velk, Jessica Kijek; cherished great-grandmother “GiGi” of Alex Hosko, Stephanie Hosko, Grant Roslinski, Grayson Roslinski, Dane

Roslinski, Jenavieve Dunn, Evan Brown; dear sister-in-law of Antoinette Kolo, Lillian Wiczorek. Jean was a very active parishioner at Our Lady of Help of Christians Parish and former president of the St. Monica Guild. Visitation was Monday and Tuesday at Krot Funeral Home in Hamtramck. The Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Ladislaus Wednesday. The family requests bequests in Jean’s name to the Capuchins.



Election 2017: Candidates talk about issues facing the city

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for guidance. The error in this is that we limit the perspectives in which we see a problem, which in turn limits the possibility for finding a solution.

As a dynamic community that has been evolving rapidly in the past years, it's important to address the issues that throttle our development. We must come together as a group of people looking to better the city that we call home. As a person who was raised in Hamtramck, I feel the need to give back to the city that gave me so much.

Bringing about change is difficult and at times it may be that only so much can be done. By knowing what needs to be addressed, we can set achievable goals and compromise when needed for the greater good of the community as a whole.

What are the city’s top three challenges, as you see it?

• Not getting along with our city manager and

council members not working together/neglecting one another.

• Demographics, diversity and inclusiveness. We are a diverse city, but we seem to form barriers between one another. We should embrace our backgrounds and teach our fellow community members of our roots while simultaneously learning about theirs.

• The city’s budget and economic development. We have been struggling with the city’s finances and are not seeking other means of generating annual revenue or cutting unnecessary costs.

How would you solve/meet these challenges?

• I would design a plan of action that defines a clear purpose while shedding light on a common pain that we all are exposed to. I would hope to inspire togetherness by defining issues that affect us all. My goal would be to establish common ground

and encourage working through our differences for the greater good.

• I would seek to educate our community about the elements of culture while establishing events that allow all community members to partake in. I would try to provide a friendly environment for community members to voice their learnings about cultures, religions and ethnicities and to ask questions freely.

• We must educate the community about the financial position that our city is in and inspire progress by allowing city members to contribute to a positive change. We need to seek out budget balancing strategies and pursue alternative service methods that save on our operational costs.

The city is transitioning back to full local control. What will you do to facilitate this transition if elected?

There has always been tension between local and

state governments. A lack of problem articulation seems to cause misunderstandings. I will do my best to ensure that fellow council and community members focus on implications of the transition and work together to determine the most logical and rational solution to make for a smooth transition.

What will you do to prevent the city from falling into another financial crisis?

Whether we speak about the great depression of 1929 or the financial crisis of 2008, we see that steps could have been taken to prevent the situations that our country has been put in.

I would get together with the city manager, mayor and my fellow council members to create a realistic budget. City purchases should be prioritized while high-risk investments will be avoided.

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Although it may seem controversial, we should discuss the possibility of increasing taxes on retail spaces that have been vacant for longer than a set amount of time, say three years or so. If this is too extreme, we can instead provide tax incentives for commercial property owners that fill their spaces. These savings can be passed down to potential business investors so as to encourage development.