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The Review

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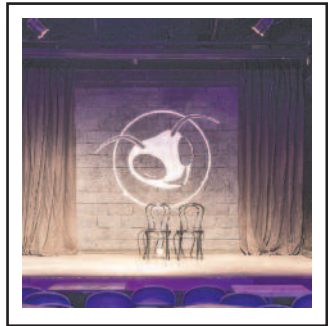
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Quick Hits

The good folks at Planet Ant Hall on Caniff are holding a fundraiser. They are in the midst of renovating their hall, and so far it's coming along splendidly.

The hall has become a cultural beacon in recent months, hosting plays, comedy nights and live music. But there are many costly improvements needed.

The hall needs a new roof, a heating system, lighting, more work on the backstage area and room for classes.

To get things rolling, organizers have a “patron-icity” fundraiser, which is conducted online.

Their goal is to raise \$35,000 by Oct. 31. If they are successful, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation will kick in an additional \$35,000 – but that's only if the goal is met.

To find out more, go on-line to:

www.patronicity.com/project/planet_ant_theatre

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.

“Churches and apartments were often the only places people could go to meet and to speak their minds.”

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

The search is on for the city's next city manager

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck's search for a new city manager kicked off this week.

The search company hired to conduct the head-hunting operation, GovHR, held two public forums this week, the first on Tuesday and the second on Thursday, held after The Review went to press.

The company said it expects to take 12 weeks, starting this week, to come up with a pool of candidates for the city council to pick from.

At Tuesday's public forum, held at 1 p.m. in city hall on a rainy day, only three people showed up (not counting a Review reporter).

Despite the lack of public involvement, the spirited discussion that



Jaymes Vettrano conducts a discussion with members of the public about what qualities they would like to see in the city's next city manager. Two public forums were held this week.

ensued made up for the small number of those attending.

Jaymes Vettrano of govHR walked through the handful of phases the company will take in putting together a list of candidates for the job.

The goal, he said, “is to make a match” – something the city has not been successful in achieving the last several years. If all goes right, he said, the quality of the candidates will “make it very hard for

the city council to decide.”

Part of the process is finding out what attributes and qualities the public wants in a city manager.

Sharon Buttry, of the

Continued on page 2



Hamtramck Public Library Director Tamara Sochacka had an eventful life in Europe before settling in Hamtramck.

Voices of Hamtramck ...

Who she is: Tamara Sochacka, Hamtramck Public Library Director

By Alex Francia
 The Review Special Writer

One word summarizes the story of Tamara Sochacka and her family: perseverance.

During the Second World War, the Soviet Union deported over one million Poles – including Sochacka's grandparents who were among this group, and were separated for years because of it. However, in

fairytale fashion, they reunited in Poland after the war.

Sadly, this picturesque reunion did not end as fairytales are supposed to. After the war, Sochacka's grandparents, who were among this group, struggled to support themselves in communist Poland.

Poverty was pervasive. The government severely limited free

Continued on page 5

Vacation payout is questioned

By Charles Sercombe

The assistant to former City Manager Katrina Powell got a little extra something after she left her job in April.

In May, contrary to the terms of DanNisha Reeder's employment contract, she received a \$2,461 payout for her unused vacation and personal time off (PTO), according to city records obtained by The Review through a Freedom of Information Act request.

According to Reeder's contract, also obtained by The Review through a Freedom of Information Act request, she had to use her vacation time and PTO hours or lose them.

The contract specifically says: “Such vacation and PTO leave, if not utilized, shall be lost and have no value.”

Reeder, who was paid an annual salary of \$40,000, had a total of four weeks off per year. She was hired by Powell in August of 2015.

It is not clear why Reeder received a check for unused time off, but sources say Powell authorized the payment after Reeder left employment with the city.

Powell spoke glowingly of Reeder, describing her as “my ride or die chick always.”

That statement was made during Powell's farewell speech to members of the state-appointed Receivership Transition Advisory Board, which supervises

Continued on page 2



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The search is on for the city’s next city manager

Continued from front page

Hamtramck Community Initiative, said candidates must be made aware that the city’s ethnic demographics have changed in the last 30 years.

Indeed they have. The city was once the home to mostly Polish-Americans, but that ethnic majority has shrunk to a minority. Now, there is a sizeable community of immigrants from Bangladesh and an ever-increasing population of Yemeni-Americans.

What this has resulted in, Buttry said, is elections that are decided by just a handful of votes between candidates.

That narrowness in election results has intensified local politics.

“Democracy really matters here,” Buttry said.

This demands that the next city manager become “aware of the political dynamics.”

A common fault, she said, is that past city managers made “snap judgments” about elected officials and wrote them off. To overcome this, Buttry stressed, it’s important for the next city manager to be endlessly curious about the community

and what makes it tick.

While this ethnic/political makeup could be a challenge for even the most seasoned city manager, Hamtramck offers a unique chance to study the “laboratory of American civic life,” she said.

At the same time, Hamtramck, like many small towns, can also be wary of outsiders. Buttry said she has lived here for over 20 years but still feels shunned, to a degree, by longtime residents.

“Hamtramck is a very parochial place,” she said.

Buttry’s intern at the Hamtramck Community Initiative, Shaheda Ferdose, who is a student at Wayne State University, said her wish list for a new city manager would include someone who is “more cultural.”

The ideal candidate, she said, will “know the hardships immigrants face.”

One way to embed within the community, Ferdose said, is to work closely with young residents.

Robert Zwolak, who has played several roles in city positions in the past, said the job of

rounding up candidates – given the city’s diversity and other challenges – is an “impossible task.”

One of the key challenges includes getting the city out of state oversight, which he expects will take at least another two years.

Hamtramck had been under the control of a state-appointed emergency manager for 18 months after it hit a financial crisis. Before the EM left office, a city manager was hired. Her contract expired at the end of June.

A majority of city councilmembers voted to not extend that city manager’s contract.

Zwolak said the constant change in city management has been part of the city’s problem.

The next city manager, he said, has to allow city hall department heads to be able to freely interact with the public and elected officials – something that the former city manager clamped down on.

“They (department heads) were afraid to speak out,” Zwolak said.

Vacation payout is questioned

Continued from front page

all financial matters and contracts of the city.

The issue of Reeder’s payment came to light at last week’s city council meeting when former city Treasurer and Deputy City Manager John Gabor threatened legal action unless the city pays him for vacation time that he did not use.

He said that the withholding of the payment is an act of “discrimination.”

Gabor, who was paid \$105,000 a year plus \$10,000 toward his life insurance, had the same contract terms Reeder had regarding unused time off. Gabor initially submitted his request for payment of 128 hours of unused personal time off to Acting City Manager Kathy Angerer.

Angerer told The Review she denied the request because his contract does not permit it.

mulate up to 180 hours of unused PTO.

However, it is not clear whether she is allowed to cash out those unused hours. There is no language in her contract that speaks specifically on what happens with those unused hours at the end of her employment.

Her contract only says that anything above 180 hours cannot be “credited and the hours are lost.”

Powell’s yearly salary was \$115,000 plus \$500 a month for vehicle allowance.

Powell was hired by former state-appointed Emergency Manager Cathy Square, who left here when Powell came on board two-and-a-half years ago. Square is now the city administrator for Highland Park.

Square told The Review it was her intent for Powell to be paid for unused time off.

“Vacation is usually paid out,” Square said. “That’s not unusual.”

Gabor, who was also hired by Square at the same time Powell was, said he asked to have his unused vacation time to be paid out included in the terms of his contract. He said Square and City Attorney John Clark both rejected that request.

“They told me we don’t do that,” Gabor said.

Acting City Manager Kathy Angerer declined further comment on the entire matter, saying it is being reviewed by the city attorney. However, she said the issue will be addressed with city councilmembers and the mayor.

It is unclear if that will be in an open meeting or one closed to the public. Closed meetings are allowed under specific exemptions in the state’s Open Meetings Act.



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This week at the library...

Book sale – Friends of the Hamtramck Public Library Annual Fall Book Sale, **September 25-29**, come for great deals on gently used hardcover and paperback books. We will be selling fiction and non-fiction books for adults, children, and teens. Foreign language books (mostly Czech and Polish), as well as beautiful al-

bums and vinyl records. Hamtramck Public Library, 2360 Caniff, (313) 733-6821

Film/discussion – **Thursday, October 5, 6:30 p.m.**, the Hamtramck Community Initiative invites the public to a viewing and discussion of the documentary “Immigrants for sale.”

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

Hamtramck residents may enroll their children in Hamtramck Public Schools at the Residency Office at 3201 Roosevelt from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Parents/Guardians please bring your Michigan Driver's License or Michigan State I.D. For proof of residency, please bring from the following list two items: a current gas, electric, phone, water, cable or property tax bill, mortgage payment book or monthly mortgage statement, home/renters insurance statement, rent receipt, formal signed lease/rental agreement, verification of tenants through management of rental unit, closing statement of the domicile (home), prior year Hamtramck resident income tax return, paycheck indicating home address or official letter from Social Services verifying home address.

The name and address on either the Michigan Driver's License or the Michigan State I.D. must match the name and address of the proofs of residency. Student information needed is birth certificate (must be translated into English), Passport, Visa or Green card, Social Security card, up to date immunization records, current transcripts/report card from previous school.

If you have any questions, please call 872-9270 ext. 2036.

Early Childhood Elementary School

Students started the new school year with new headphones in the computer lab. The headphones were made pos-

sible through a grant written by Ms. Janice Rakoczy, first grade teacher.

The grant money was donated from Advent Lutheran Church in Manhattan, New York. The students have been working on such websites as Lexia Reading and Connected Math.

On September 15 it was hat day for staff and students. The students and staff wore many different types of hats. Mrs. Rosemary Haacke, first grade teacher, wore a birthday hat that day to celebrate her birthday.

Hamtramck High School

- Thursday, October 19 – Staff vs. Student basketball game. The game will be held in the Community Center after school from 3:45-5 p.m. Admission to the game is \$3, and all proceeds will go to the Senior class. There will also be concessions sold during the game as well.

Athletic Events

- Friday, September 22 – HHS Varsity Football vs. Ecorse at 7 p.m. Away.
- Tuesday, September 26 – HHS Boys' Soccer vs. Harper Woods at 4:30 p.m. Away.
- Tuesday, September 26 – KMS Girls' Volleyball vs. UPSM at 4:30 p.m. Away.
- Tuesday, September 26 – HHS Girls' Volleyball vs. UPSM at 5:30 p.m. Away.
- Wednesday, September 27 – HHS Co-ed Cross Country MMAC #2 at 4:30 Away at Heritage Park in Taylor.
- Thursday, September 28 – KMS Girls' Volley-



Above and below: Early Childhood Elementary School students recently had fun at the school's computer lab.



ball vs. Henry Ford Academy at 4:30 p.m. Home.

- Thursday, September 28 – HHS Girls' Volleyball vs. Henry Ford Academy at 5:30 p.m. Home.
- Thursday, September 28 – HHS Boys' Soccer vs. River Rouge at 4:30 p.m. Away.
- Friday, September 29 – HHS Varsity Football vs. University Prep at 7 p.m. Home.

Compiled by
Janice Gandelman

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:

Detroit has a well-deserved reputation as one of the country's music capitals. And as it should be, there are plenty of theaters, clubs, and bars around the region. Lately, in some parts of the metro Detroit, it seems like there's a new music venue opening up every month.

But for all of the legendary clubs and hip

new bars, there's a lot of music happening out on the fringes, well outside the radar of casual music fans. DIY spots, secret after-hours hide-outs, and seemingly unlikely venues are just as important in nurturing a healthy music scene, if not moreso. While this is nowhere near a complete grouping, here are a few of them.

For others, you'll have to dig a little deeper.

Lo & Behold! Records and Books: "A weirdo cosmic healing shack"

In breaking the rules, Richie Wohlfiel has learned how to do things the right way.

Wohlfiel owns and operates Lo & Behold! Records and Books on

Hamtramck's main drag, Joseph Campau Avenue. On the surface, Lo & Behold! is an eclectic record store. Cassettes and vinyl records, both new and used, and many of them from local artists, line the walls. Small run books and zines are tucked away on shelves. A record player spins while the shop cat lounges about.

But for anyone who's been to the small but mighty store, Lo & Behold! offers more than retail. Numerous musicians and bands, be they local, national, or international touring acts, have given performances here. Raucous parties like Folk Blues Night and

Continued on page 4



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Two charged in hit-and-run injury of a 5 year old

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck’s ongoing problem with reckless drivers played out as many predicted it would. Someone got hurt.

Last Saturday, the Hamtramck Police Department issued a press release about a speeding driver who hit a 5-year-old boy on Zinow at around 4:30 p.m.

The boy is in critical care at Children’s Hospital. His identity has not been released.

Thanks to many tips, the driver of the car has been identified, and he and his passenger were arraigned on several felony charges on Wednesday in Hamtramck 31st District Court.

Neither suspect was identified, but police said the driver is a 22-year-old male and the passenger is a 23-year-old female. Both are Detroit residents.

The driver is charged

with:

- Failure to stop at scene of an accident resulting in serious impairment or death (maximum penalty of five years in prison)
- Operating while license suspended, revoked or denied causing serious injury (maximum penalty of five years)
- Tampering with evidence (maximum penalty of four years in prison)

The passenger is charged with:

- Failure to stop at scene of an accident resulting in serious impairment or death
- Tampering with evidence

Bond for the suspects was set at \$50,000. As of Wednesday afternoon, no bond was posted. The suspects’ preliminary exam is scheduled for Oct. 5 at 8:30 a.m.

In a press release, Police Chief Anne Moise credited the public with

providing tips leading to the suspects’ arrest.

“Crucial to solving this case were the tips provided after exposure through local news sources. The Hamtramck Police Department would like to thank media outlets for their assistance and the public response,” Moise said.

Complaints about reckless and speeding drivers have been a growing concern over the summer. Residents near Pulaske Park complained of young drivers speeding down their streets around the park.

Many residents said it was only a matter of time before a child was struck and severely injured.

Police officials vowed to crack down, but conceded there is a severe shortage of officers on patrol.

Metro news...

Continued from page 3

Stoke-on-Campau Soul Club, a northern soul dance party, have become community anchoring points over the years.

On any given day you might find a local band rehearsing, a class meditating, or an Alcoholics Anonymous group geared toward local musicians meeting.

Wohlfiel records and edits at the shop, running his Lo & Behold! label to publish music and literature. For Wohlfiel, a fan of the "poetics and politics" of Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Lo & Behold! is an opportunity to create something akin to the aforemen-

tioned poet's City Lights Booksellers & Publishers in San Francisco. It's a community hub, a destination.

It's a development that's surprised even him. "I thought this was a record store, but did I create some weirdo cosmic healing shack?" he asks.

It didn't start that way. He thought he'd only be here for a couple months as a sort of pop-up shop to unload the records and books accumulated throughout the years. Having first moved to the shop in late 2010, Wohlfiel had no intentions of building a performance space. But after hiring a pianist to perform the following Paczki Day holiday, Wohlfiel says he heard how good music sounded in this particular space. Looking back, it seems almost inevitable.

Lo & Behold! became an official storefront in the fall of 2011. Performances soon became a big part of what they do. Friends' shows would get cancelled, and

he'd offer up his space. An out-of-town band would struggle to find a local venue, and he'd say, why not just have it here.

An accomplished musician himself—he's currently playing with the Detroit Cobras as well as leading his own projects, the Belle Isles and Richie Wohlfiel & the New Wild Mountain Thyme—Wohlfiel says that the space he provides is a reaction against bar culture and the negative things he's experienced playing throughout the years. He wanted to provide a venue that treats musicians more fairly, a place not so concerned with the bottom line.

Wohlfiel has taken a few months off from hosting shows to focus on recording, editing, and releasing new music. This fall, Lo & Behold! is releasing new records from Timmy's Organism and Detroit Pleasure Society, and also his archival Folk Blues Night Volume 3.

Crossword

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66					67					68				
69					70					71				

ACROSS

- Instrument indicators
- Took flight
- Actors in a show
- Metal bar
- Back
- Double-reed woodwind
- Platform
- Kitty (poker)
- Not a single one
- Watchmaker
- Resign
- Climax
- Grasp
- Misled
- Poetic dusk
- Hasten
- Unit of land
- Against
- Candid
- A movement downward
- Daytime performance
- Prevent legally
- Tastes
- Prying
- Japanese apricot
- Short sleep

- Handguns
- Slept briefly
- Goulash
- Smell
- Marine invertebrate
- Mouselike animal
- Found in some lotions
- Bog hemp
- Boats
- Ripped
- Motionless
- Oceans
- Visual organs
- Dog-__

DOWN

- Plate
- Within
- Food thickener
- Corporate image
- Grave marker
- Shards
- Not strict
- Dines
- Poor devil
- Vanquishing
- More or less
- Relating to audible sound

- Fangs
- Sea
- Elevator (British)
- Stow, as cargo
- Frosts
- At one time (archaic)
- Relax
- Balsam or touch-me-not
- Dwarf buffalo
- Where a bird lives
- Lock openers
- Type of sword
- Type of poplar tree
- Coastal
- Conceive
- Exploded stars
- Love intensely
- A type of dance
- More awful
- Cause surfeit through excess
- Information
- Arab chieftain
- Anger
- Blend

Solution on page 7

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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Our two cents in what to look for in a new city manager

This week a search company held two public forums to find out what qualities we would like in our next city manager.

Considering that for the past 10 years the city went through several city managers and many rocky moments, it's a process that should have been undertaken years ago.

Hamtramck has had bad luck in its run of city managers. There has been equal blame for this. Some city managers had a deaf ear to the needs of elected officials and the community, and in other instances elected officials crossed many lines of conduct and public discourse.

Some qualities we seek and advice we have for our next city manager includes:

The city charter has very specific rules about the roles of the city manager, city council and the mayor. Some of the rules regarding elected officials are built in to guarantee discord.

In other words, the city charter treats our elected officials as second-class citizens.

For example, councilmembers are told to not interact with department heads, and that any information needed should go only through the city manager.

Why in the world would councilmembers have less access to department heads than residents?

One of the city's earliest city managers was wise when he said that he knows what the charter rules are, but he would be insane to follow them to the letter.

What we need in a city manager is someone who engages elected officials, who seeks their input.

In another example, the city's current acting city manager is starting up contract negotiations with police officers. It would be prudent for the acting city manager to first ask councilmembers and the mayor what they would like see in the new contract.

That wasn't done during contract talks between the former city manager and firefighters, and it caused resentment among some councilmembers who had a different vision for that department.

Even if the city manager disregards the advice of elected officials, at least they should be able to voice their concerns.

In other instances, department heads would be hired without discussion with elected officials about who the person is and their background, and why the city manager thought that appointee was a good fit.

That, too, caused resentment, and as time went by this resentment built up and up, eventually turning into open hostility.

So what it all comes down to is open communication.

City managers have to remember who their bosses are – who ultimately decides on whether they continue employment here.

Elected officials have to also remember to back off and not attempt to coerce city managers or micro-manage them.

It's a two-way street. And it's good to remember government is not a business. Government is a democracy, and sometimes democracy can be awfully messy, loud, rude and inconsistent.

A good city manager needs to be flexible, and be able to read the ever-changing moods of elected officials and the public.

Voices of Hamtramck ...

Continued from front page

speech.

These conditions motivated Sochacka to do something for Poland. So, even though the USSR virtually treated vocal opposition as blasphemy, Sochacka joined the anti-communist opposition movement.

"In the beginning, it was just a game," Sochacka says. "It was just great to be against something."

But as time went on, she became more seriously involved. While attending the University of Gdansk, she joined the Independent Student Association, a group which confronted Soviet propaganda and contended for Polish independence.

Opposing the USSR was dangerous, even at universities, since many professors supported the occupying power and squelched opposing voices.

"Churches and apartments were often the only places people could go to meet and to speak their minds," she said.

As time went on, the repression grew stronger. Poland came under martial law. One day, military police imprisoned Sochacka and her opposition partners for protesting at a shipyard.

For Sochacka, the worst part of the experience was not knowing what would happen next.

"They took us in those cars without windows, with plenty of us inside. Some told us that we were 'going to the white bears,' which, of course, means Siberia," she said.

One day in the prison, a few soldiers were listening to a radio speech, which Sochacka and her partners could also hear. It was President Ronald Reagan speaking in favor of a free Poland. To this day, Sochacka feels that the guards turned up the volume on the radio because they felt a level of compassion for her and her fellow prisoners, and were secretly sympathetic to their cause.

After three weeks in prison, the Catholic Church paid bond for Sochacka and other students taken from the shipyard. From that point on, every university had a special agent responsible for investigating opposition activities.

The agent at the University of Gdansk ordered Sochacka to sign a loyalty paper stating that she would not take part in opposition activities. She refused to sign, so the university expelled her just before she finished her master's thesis.

Despite the setback, Sochacka continued to contend for Poland's independence. Conditions worsened, and food became scarce. To combat this epidemic, Sochacka helped destitute families by distributing food sent from the West.

After this, Sochacka spent some time in France and Germany to study. But, despite the hardships, she still longed to return to her native Poland. That is, until conditions climaxed in October 1984, when agents assassinated Jerzy Popieluszko, a Catholic priest and supporter of the Solidarity movement.

When Sochacka's parents learned of the murder, they strongly advised that she not return. In 1985, she applied for political refugee status and went to the United States where a church in North Carolina agreed to sponsor her. Sochacka remembers a few comical incidents when her sponsors were showing her technology with which they thought she was completely unfamiliar – a light switch and a telephone. Sochacka chuckled, "they thought it was really high technology for me!"

After one year in North Carolina, a friend of Sochacka invited her to live in Detroit, and her sponsors agreed that this was a good idea. After moving to Detroit, Sochacka had an opportunity to see her father, but not in the United States or Poland.

Since Sochacka was a political refugee, she could not return to Poland. And with Poland barring any of its citizens from travelling to America, her father could not come to Detroit.

So, they each made a trip to Spain to see each other for the first time in five years. After this trip, Sochacka began studying political science at Wayne State University. She then met her husband, Greg, and they found a home together in Hamtramck.

Sochacka has enjoyed working at the Hamtramck Public Library since 1997, where she has overseen several major improvements.

"When I started, there were bullet holes in the windows. Since then, there have been many renovations," she said.

Sochacka has also seen the library host a few notable guests.

"We had a concert with a famous Serbian piano player, famous writers from Europe, poet Adam Zagajewski, Ryszard Kapuscinski, many, many writers, artists, and exhibits related to the part of European history which is not so well known in the U.S.," Sochacka said.

In recent years, however, Sochacka says that the library has often had difficulties receiving funds and support for its needs. The library used to have a reading program every year, which "takes a lot of organization and a lot of support. One person alone can't do it."

The subject of literacy, not surprisingly, is something Sochacka champions. There are several reasons why one of the missions of the library is to promote reading. Some of the benefits, she said, include that people who don't read are often more susceptible to following others' opinions without evidence. Second, reading improves character, making people "more creative, better citizens, better people, better family members."

And third, overall, Sochacka finds that "people who can't read are often not happy people."

As for the City of Hamtramck – her adoptive home – Sochacka is a heartfelt civic booster.

"It's a dynamic place. It will surprise you every single day. There are great people here," she said.

"People of all walks of life and all kinds of fields live together here. I tell people to not believe what they may hear about Hamtramck in the news."

Instead, Sochacka says that people should visit Hamtramck to see what it is like for themselves, and they will be surprised by how great a place it really is.

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source: the350project.net

The Hamtramck Review

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SEPTEMBER 25-28, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. – Free dental clinic at the International Hope Center, 12101 Jos. Campau.

TUESDAY, Sept. 26, 6:30-8 p.m. – “Be A Good Neighbor Project.” Youths can earn community service hours at Bank Suey (corner of Caniff and Jos. Campau). Current Projects: Recycling and STOP Bullying/Street Harassment. Sponsored by Bank Suey and the Hamtramck Community Initiative.

FRIDAY, Sept. 29, 7 p.m. – Interfaith Revival International Beginning Ministries, 2335 Grayling, daily revival at 11 a.m., Bishop Barnes.

THURSDAY, Oct. 5, 6:30 p.m. – The Hamtramck Community Initiative presents a viewing of the documentary “Immigrants for Sale.” At the Hamtramck Public Library. After the movie, a conversation will be held.

SATURDAY, October 14, 9-3 p.m. – Hamtramck’s Recycle Center is open at Caniff and McDougall. Drop off your recyclables for free.

Obituaries

MAJCHER



Marion Majcher, 76, died September 14, 2017.

Ms. Majcher was the daughter of the late Martin and Laura Lobeck; sister of Laurine Kwiatkowski, Donna (late James) Wood, Alan (Becky) Lobeck, Lynne Lobeck. Many nieces and nephews also survive.

Services were held on Monday, September 18, at Bagnasco & Calcaterra Funeral Home, with arrangements by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home.

SMITH



Rosaline Ruth Smith (Dean), 82, died September 13, 2017.

Rosaline was born on April 18, 1935 to the union of the late Albert and Kathleen (Freeman) Dean of Hamtramck, Michigan. Rose was the sixth of fourteen children.

She was preceded in death by brothers, Albert C., Edward M., Richard D., and George J.

Rosaline confessed her belief in Jesus Christ and was baptized at an early age. She became a member of Lomax AME Zion Church in Detroit, Michigan.

Rosaline was united in marriage with Harold T. Smith in 1958. To this union were born Harold A., Irving A., Richard E., and Russell C. In addition to her husband and sons, she leaves to cherish her memory, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; her sisters, Dolores, Lorraine, Alice, Betty and Barbara; brothers, Irvin, Carl (Voncile), James (Iris) and Harold (Rosemary); many cousins (United States and Canada); nieces, nephews, and a host of friends.

Rosaline attended the Hamtramck Public School system. She graduated from Hamtramck High School in 1953. After high school, Rosaline

worked at Friendship House Community Center. She had a passion for working with children and the elderly. After a few years, she began working with the Hamtramck School system in the Cafeteria/Food Service Department. She was the Head Dietician and Supervisor of Food Services. Rosaline created many delicious meals for the children and school employees. In the mornings at school, you could smell homemade coffee cake, cornbread and other side dishes. If a child couldn’t afford a meal, she ensured that no child would be turned away hungry. In addition, she taught Sunday school at Lomax AME Zion Church. Rosaline was a dedicated and loyal follower of Christ.

Rosaline was an avid cook who everyone turned to for pies, cakes, cookies (especially Christmas) and a variety of other meals. She enjoyed feeding family, friends and many associates.

Rosaline departed this life on September 13, 2017. She will be missed by all who knew her. God Bless her and may she rest in Heavenly peace.

WOJTOWICZ



Veronica Wojtowicz, 94, died September 17, 2017.

Ms. Wojtowicz was the daughter of the late Fred and Catherine. She is survived by her sister, Jane Jurkiewicz; brother, Raymond Wojtowicz, and was preceded in death by her sister, Virginia Czoykowski. She is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews.

Private services were held by the family. Arrangements were made by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home.



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By Charles Sercombe
This week's Crime Log covers Sept. 12-18.

Tuesday, September 12

- A Detroit resident was arrested for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.
- At about 3 a.m. a Goodson resident was arrested after he was seen entering vehicles and stealing items.
- A Detroit resident reported she had been followed on foot from Prescott, along Caniff to Jos. Campau, by a male wearing a red and black hoodie.

Wednesday, September 13

- An Edwin resident was taken to Henry Ford Hospital for evaluation after she damaged a car at Conant and Harold.
- A Dyar resident reported being robbed and assaulted by a friend of her ex-boyfriend.

Thursday, September 14

- Two residents were arrested in the 2000 block of Denton for assault and battery.
- A business owner in the 12000 block of Conant reported someone broke his front window.
- A business owner in the 9800 block of Conant reported someone caused heavy damage to his business.
- A driver suspected in a hit-and-run accident was arrested in a parking lot near Edwin and Alpena. The driver was arrested on numerous charges, including driving without a license, which he had previously been charged with 25 other times.
- A Trowbridge resident reported receiving a threat on Facebook.
- A Trowbridge resident reported someone broke a window at his residence.

Continued on page 8

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Continued from page 7

Friday, September 15

- Two residents and a Highland Park resident were arrested in the 12000 block of Grand Haven for domestic violence.
- At about 3:30 a.m. a Detroit resident was arrested for drunk driving and possessing an open intoxicant.
- A Trowbridge resident was arrested for fraud.
- A Trowbridge resident reported being bitten by a dog.

Saturday, September 16

- No incident report was available for this date.

Sunday, September 17

- A resident was arrested in the 9300 block of Charest for assault and domestic violence.
- At a little after 2 a.m. a resident was arrested for drunk driving after a traffic stop at Gallagher and Carpenter.
- A Detroit resident was arrested after a traffic stop for driving without a license, probation violation and being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.
- A person called officers and said a woman who had just been assaulted by her husband was hiding with her children inside a business

in the 2200 block of Caniff. The husband was later arrested for domestic violence at the couple's residence, which was located above the Caniff business.

Monday, September 18

- A Detroit resident was arrested in the 12100 block of Jos. Campau for disorderly conduct after threatening staff members at an establishment that he was armed with a gun.
- A Jos. Campau business reported an embezzlement.

The lore of Hamtramck ...

Smokestacks made a mark on Hamtramck

By Greg Kowalski

At one time there were about 23 factories in Hamtramck. That's an impressive number for a town of 2.1 square miles, especially considering that one of those plants – Dodge Main – was one of the biggest factories in the world.

A hallmark of almost all those factories was smokestacks. In Hamtramck's early industrial days, beginning in about 1910, smokestacks had a big presence in Hamtramck.

At that time, long before air pollution standards were set, the sky over Hamtramck could be stained with smoke and foul smells would settle over neighbor-

hoods.

In fact, in 1961 the Chevrolet Gear and Axle plant smokestacks were put under surveillance by the Hamtramck Fire Department because of complaints from nearby residents about “excessive smoke and dirt.”

Fire Marshal Adam Starr later reported to the common council that the smoke and odors weren't excessive except in certain weather conditions.

"It is only when the air is heavy and dense that the smoke settles on the immediate neighborhood," Starr said.

By that time the city of Detroit had a Smoke Abatement Department, and Starr said he would continue to monitor the plant and report any concerns to the department.

The year 1961 was also memorable for smokestacks in Hamtramck, for that is when the granddaddy of them all was condemned to destruction. The 254-foot tall smokestack at the front of the Dodge Main plant along Jos. Campau was finally slated for demolition. It had been built in 1916 at the Dodge plant's old powerhouse but had been out of service since 1937.

It was a sturdy brick structure with sides nearly four feet thick at the base and 12 feet wide at the top. The smokestack, however, had been put out of service by four even

more massive smokestacks atop the newer powerhouse at the southeast corner of the plant site. Those stood in place until 1981 when they were demolished – along with the rest of the massive factory – to make room for the General Motors Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly Plant.

The smokestack at the GM plant powerhouse still stands tall over Hamtramck. But despite its impressive presence it is just a faint reminder of the smokestacks that pierced the sky all over town.

Almost all are gone now, but in a way their presence was responsible for the greatest, most prominent, of all the structures in Hamtramck. When architect Ralph Adams Cram designed St. Florian Church in 1926 smokestacks littered the city.

He hated industrial architecture, particularly smokestacks, and he designed St. Florian with a massive steeple that would stand in stark contrast to the ugly smokestacks. He wanted it to be a counterpoint to the town's heavy industry.

He succeeded magnificently.

You can learn more about Hamtramck's history at the Hamtramck Historical Museum, 9525 Jos. Campau. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Or call for an appointment at (313) 574-9758. Visit us at www.hamtramckhistory.org.

City of Hamtramck Notice of Ordinance Amendment

Public Hearings were held at the Regular City Council Meeting on May 9, 2017 at 7pm in the Second Floor City Council Chambers for the purpose of hearing public comments on the following Ordinances 2017-02 and 2017-03. The changes were adopted by unanimous vote. Summary is as follows.

Public Hearings were held at the Regular City Council Meeting on June 23, 2017 at 7pm in the Second Floor City Council Chambers for the purpose of hearing public comments on Ordinance 2017-04. Summary is as follows.

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-02

An Ordinance to amend the Hamtramck City Code, Title V, Chapter 50, Sections 50.001 through 50.015 and Sections 50.030 through 50.035, to establish policies and procedures to regulate the collection of trash and solid waste within the city and to provide a means for the city to promote, protect and safeguard the public health, safety and welfare of its citizens.

- Sets forth, in Section 50.007 of the ordinance, the existing rules regarding the collection of trash, the type of containers, and when containers may be placed out for collection, etc.
- Eliminates the requirement for annual promulgation and approval of rules.
- Requires rubber tired trash trailers over eight cubic yards, which are left in the right-of-way overnight, to obtain permits. These units are currently exempt and the City has no way to enforce violations on them.
- Enhances and clarifies several definitions. The intent of the definitions remains the same.
- Changes the language in 50.034 to provide for the fees to be set by Council Resolution.
- Makes other minor language changes for clarity that do not change the intent of the ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-03

An Ordinance to amend the Hamtramck City Code, Title XV, Chapter 150, Sections 150.076 and 150.176, to establish policies and procedures to regulate the maintenance of property within the city and to provide a means for the city to promote, protect and safeguard the public health, safety and welfare of its citizens.

- Deletes language that is in conflict with, or replaced by, the Property Maintenance Code. The Property Maintenance Code is updated and adopted every three years. The language being deleted was adopted and in effect before the City had a Property Maintenance Code and was not removed upon adoption of the new code.
- This change will not affect the property maintenance requirements and only serves to consolidate them under one ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-04

An Ordinance to amend the Hamtramck Zoning Ordinance 497, Article III, Sections 4.01 through 4.07, to establish the City Plan Commission, their duties and responsibilities, and the administration of the Zoning Ordinance by controlling the design, location, use, or occupancy of all buildings and structures within the City of Hamtramck through the regulated and orderly development of land and land uses and to promote economic stability and aesthetic design in as much as it safeguards the public health, safety, and welfare.

- This amendment would change the Plan Commission membership composition to nine (9) total members, of which seven (7) are regular members and two (2) are ex officio (Mayor and Councilperson).

August R. Gitschlag
Hamtramck City Clerk

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