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The Review

Hamtramck

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Quick Hits

Well, rainy weather last Saturday canceled a special old-timey baseball game at Hamtramck Stadium, but this Saturday's free soccer and cricket clinic is still scheduled to go on.

The Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium are sponsoring the clinic, which goes from 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday (Oct. 13).

It is limited to kids who are 7 to 14 years old. Expect to learn some new skills and fitness exercises as well as go through some drills. But more importantly, it will be a fun day.

There will also be free snacks and beverages.

On hand will be soccer coach Hesham Arobye and cricket coach Ali Ahmed who will go through the fundamentals of the game.

You can register on site at the day of the clinic. For more information, call (313) 982-7520.

Also rained out last Saturday was the one-pot chili cook-off. It's back on for this Saturday (Oct. 13), starting at 1 p.m. and goes to 4 p.m.

Continued on page 5

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Neighborhood Arts Festival will be celebrated throughout the city

By Alan Madlane

Get your walking shoes ready.

It's time again for the Hamtramck Neighborhood Arts Festival.

The annual one-day event is this Saturday, Oct. 13. This will be the festival's ninth year.

Early risers and the hungry can swarm to Bumbo's, the fine craft cocktail bar on Holbrook and Mitchell's northeast corner, for an opening brunch and free maps, starting at 11 a.m.

Wheelhouse Detroit (9401 Jos. Campau at Florian) is offering complimentary cruiser bike rentals beginning at 11 a.m. so that folks can more easily traverse Hamtramck's



There will be a lot of people walking around town this Saturday. That's when the 9th annual Hamtramck Neighborhood Arts Festival is taking place. Galleries and studios as well as performance spaces will be open to the public. Many porches and front yards will be hosting displays too. Check it out.

“daunting” 2.2 square miles. You must have a photo I.D. to borrow a bike.

There isn't space to list descriptions of all 30 activities in this article, but you can learn more at the website: hamtramckneighborhoodartsfestival.com

Or you can go to their Facebook page.

Some of the more intriguing offerings include several demonstrations throughout the day at:

- Studio House, 3405

Continued on page 2



This past week was the 50th anniversary of the 1968 Detroit Tigers World Series win. In downtown Detroit, there was widespread spontaneous celebrations. In Hamtramck, not so much.

Between the lines...

Looking back at the Tigers of 1968

By Charles Sercombe

This week marked the 50th anniversary of the Detroit Tigers clinching the 1968 World Series.

For those of a certain age, the day – Oct. 10 – is forever ingrained in our memory.

Hamtramck resident John Kovach recently saw an exhibit about the 1968

Tigers at the Detroit Historical Museum. That exhibit is now over, but take Kovach's word for it – it was amazing.

That year produced several 50th anniversaries. It was most notable for the murders of Dr. Martin Luther King in April and a few months later of

Continued on page 5

Medical pot ordinance hits a snag

By Charles Sercombe

For a moment, it looked like Hamtramck was on its way to begin the first step in allowing medical marijuana dispensaries to operate here.

But seemingly out of nowhere, the city council was faced with impassioned opposition to the proposal at Tuesday's council meeting.

An overflow of mostly Bengali- and Yemeni-Americans spoke out against it. Several speakers repeated basically the same message: Allowing dispensaries to operate here will mean kids will gain increased access to marijuana, the city is too small, it will attract crime, marijuana – legal or not – is not good for people and those who need it can go to any nearby Detroit dispensary.

Kamal Rahman said the city needs to first conduct an “impact study” on allowing dispensaries.

He added that without a doubt, access to medical marijuana will eventually trickle down to younger people.

“This is no benefit to the youth,” he said.

Abraham Aiyash, who recently ran unsuccessfully for state senator for the district that represents Hamtramck, said that even though he is in favor of

Continued on page 4



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Neighborhood Arts Festival will be celebrated throughout the city

Continued from front page

Doremus

- Puppet shows at CMAP's Puppet House, 2221 Carpenter
- Torch on the Porch glass blower at 2643 Caniff
- No Label Audio Studio's Live Music at 11833 Jos. Campau

Many of the events are also being held on front porches, backyards, store-

fronts and empty lots.

As far as the weather goes, as of Thursday, the day The Review went to press, the morning will start out unseasonably chilly and warm up to tempearutres in the mid-50s. So far, no showers are expected.

Several residences will become mini-art galleries for the arts festival this Saturday.



New mural will celebrate the Bengali community

By Alan Madlane

A new and very large artwork will soon be looking down on Hamtramck's northend by next weekend, if all (finally) goes according to plan.

The local community-based organization OneHamtramck LLC ambitiously announced the unveiling date for a Bangladesh-themed mural, to be revealed Sunday, Oct. 21.

Boston-based Mexican-American muralist Marka27, whose website (marka27.com) showcases some of his amazing work, has been hired to execute the mural. He is set to begin the piece this Monday, October 15, giving him a six-day window to completion.

He must be a quick worker. Hopefully, everyone accounted for potential weather issues as well.

OneHamtramck has previously commissioned one

other mural in the city. Entitled "The Middle East: Coming to Hamtramck," the Yemeni-themed work graces a wall at Goodson and Jos. Campau.

According to OneHamtramck's website, this particular project has long been in the fermenting process. The saga began roughly five years ago, with the initial idea for a Bangladeshi-themed mural stalling when a muralist of Bangladeshi origin who could complete such a large-scale work proved too difficult to find.

A year later, upon the death of Abu Hanif, a close friend of the folks at OneHamtramck, they redoubled their efforts - but were stymied this time in finding a suitable locale where a wall owner would commit to a 20-year retention of the artwork on their building.

The artist they eventually found caused their planned budget to double. But a

group of diligent fundraisers saw that the money came in, and in short order. The project got a major puzzle piece put into place when organizers were able to agree with the muralist on what image they ideally wanted.

The massive 55-foot by 45-foot wall of Bridge Acad-

emy on Carpenter was secured for the mural's home, and so it has finally come down to this impending work-and-play week, from Monday the 15th to the middle of Sunday the 18th. The final finishing touches and official presentation to the community is set for 2 p.m. on that Sunday.



**Attention:
Hamtramck High
School graduates,
Class of 1968**

We are attempting to organize a reunion for sometime this year. Please give us a call so we can find out how many fellow students would be interested. Cut-off date has been extended.

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- Increasing the length of the amnesty program and adding an online option
- Adding an online ability to pay/payment plan request tool
- Scheduling a community docket with Arabic and Bengali interpreters



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Director, UAW Region 1



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Kenneth A. Grabowski
Legislative Director, POAM

Second Front Page



School Bell

Early Childhood Elementary News

Mrs. Larc Bogdan's kindergarten class at the Early Childhood Elementary is busy learning reading skills. Students are learning the Daily 5 Reading Program and using the Lexia Reading Program on the computer.

Mrs. Liz Kochut, paraprofessional, aids students in word making with magnetic letters.

Students love reading to themselves as well as listening to stories in the listening center. There are many future authors working on stories in the writing center. The students are very creative in their writing. Some of the students are writing about unicorns and visits to the park.

Students at ECE are anticipating with eagerness their visit to the Hamtramck Fire Station next week. Preschool students are also excited because the firefighters will be bringing their fire engine to the school for the students to learn about fire safety.

Remember, October is Fire Prevention Month. Just a reminder for everyone to review your fire es-



Above and below: Early Childhood Elementary School students were treated to a special reading skills program.



cape plan for your family and identify a safe place to meet in case of a fire.

Upcoming Calendar:

- November 2 – End of 1st Quarter.
- November 2 – Half Day for Horizon High School. Final exams.
- November 5 – Grading window closed.
- November 6 – Professional Development Day for staff. No school for students.
- November 8 – Report

Card #1 distributed.

- November 8 – Half day for Elementary and Middle School Students. Parent teacher conferences (all grades except High School) 12:30-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m.
- November 9 – Half day for all students. Professional Development in the afternoon.
- November 21 – Half day for students and staff.
- November 22 and November 23 – No school for students and staff.

Thanksgiving Break.
• November 26 – School resumes.

Athletic Events

- Friday, October 12 – HHS Varsity Football vs. Harper Woods at 4:30 p.m. Away.
- Monday, October 15 – HHS Boys' Soccer vs. Center Line at 6 p.m. Home. Districts.
- Wednesday, October 17 – HHS Girls' Volleyball vs. Pontiac Academy of Excellence at 5:30 p.m. Home.
- Thursday, October 18 – HHS Boys' Soccer vs. South Lake at 6 p.m. Away. District Finals.
- Friday, October 19 – HHS Varsity Football vs. Melvindale ABT at 7 p.m. Home.

Recreation Department News

For more information give us a call at (313) 892-2635, or check out the 2018 Fall/Winter Brochure. Follow us on Facebook for the most up-to-date information at: [www.Facebook.com/HamtramckRecreationDepartment](https://www.facebook.com/HamtramckRecreationDepartment)

Compiled by
Janice Gandelman



It's Time to Pray, Please Join Us

We are a Multicultural Parish Family
Sunday English Mass 9 a.m.
Sunday School 10 a.m.

Everyone is Welcome to Worship with Us
October 13 - Soup Kitchen 2-4 pm
October 14 - YMSofR Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser 10:15 am following 9 am Mass, \$7.00 donation, children eat free

October 20 - Polish Dinner Fundraiser 4-7 pm, Featuring Mike Zawojksy, Grammy Nominated Accordionist

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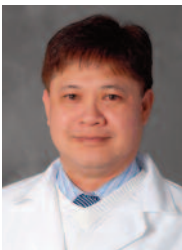
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Medical pot ordinance hits a snag Continued from front page

medical marijuana, the council has to listen to the community.

He said even though dispensaries will bring in added tax revenue for the city, “the economic benefits do not outweigh community concern.”

Making dispensaries legal here has followed a rocky road ever since Michigan voters approved the use and sale of medical marijuana in 2008.

At first city officials seemed gung-ho on it, but as Republican state legislators increasingly looked for ways to limit it – and even abolish it – they backed off on the matter.

It has been several years since anyone in the administration even worked on

the issue.

That was until this past year when councilmembers decided it was time to act on it. State officials have finally come up with regulations that they can live with – although many say it is much too strict and eliminates any “mom and pop” shop from ever opening up.

Hamtramck’s city attorneys have finally produced a proposed ordinance regulating the licensing of would-be operators and also created a zoning plan where dispensaries and grow facilities can set up.

But because of Tuesday’s backlash, Councilmember Andrea Karpinski proposed to postpone the issue until November.

Councilmember Anam

Miah agreed, but only if the city holds a town meeting on the subject.

Miah, who supports dispensaries, said there is too much “bad information” out in the community, and people need to be educated on the matter.

“There is a large amount of misunderstanding,” Miah said.

He added: “Everyone who spoke, you have truly been misinformed.”

All but Councilmembers Saad Almasmari and Fadel Al-Marsoumi agreed to that resolution.

Both wanted to vote on the matter then and there. Almasmari said he is against it.

Al-Marsoumi told The Review he is against dispensaries being located here.

“I’ve always been against it,” he said.

He said dispensaries attract undesirable people and that the city is too small. Plus, he said, it will stretch the city’s police force.

“Based on what I see in Detroit, we don’t need this,” he said.

The city has hosted several public meetings, including most recently a town hall meeting at the public library. Hardly anyone attended that meeting, and there might have been one or two people who said they were against dispensaries.

What happened in the meantime?

It appears word-of-mouth finally activated community

members.

Community activist Bill Meyer, who said his wife is a medical marijuana user and that he has smoked marijuana in the past, said the city has to pay attention to the “majority” of the city. Meyer said most of the community is against dispensaries.

Back in 2008 when legalizing medical marijuana was a state ballot issue there was no public comment locally about the issue. Hamtramck voters voted in favor of legalizing medical marijuana by a whopping two-to-one majority.

That was the year President Obama was elected to office, and Hamtramck voters came out in droves. Some 5,778 voters participated in that election. The medical marijuana ordinance passed 2,968 to 1,814.

Carrie Beth Lasley, a government watchdog, said it doesn’t make economic

sense for the city to get involved.

There have also been threats of a political backlash. On Councilmember Ian Perrotta’s Facebook page, Abdulmalik Kassim, the president of the Yemeni American Leadership Association, warned:

“The City Council Members decision today on the permission of selling marijuana in our city will determine our future support for the council members on their election campaigns. We are absolutely against the sale of marijuana in our city. For those who wish to buy marijuana for medical purposes, Detroit is not so far away.”

Over at Mayor Karen Majewski’s Facebook page, Abu Zane went a bit further, saying:

“We Bangladesh and Yemeni Community promise you that you will never be mayor again in Hamtramck. I promise if it take everything in our power to

do so you will see. You forget we have the majority, we put (you) in that seat and we will get you out of it that I can guarantee. You can choose to keep ignoring our message but I know you see it and I promise you enjoy your seat while you still on it won’t be for long.”

Majewski said she is in favor of dispensaries here. She responded to Zane saying this:

“I serve the entire Hamtramck community, not one constituency, and I base my decisions not on who shouts the loudest or threatens most visibly, but on sound research and a view of the city that looks to our future potential and the entirety of our residents. Bluster and intimidation doesn’t scare me.”

A town hall meeting on the subject will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 30 at the Public Library. Details of the meeting are still being worked out.



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A Wonderful Life In Hamtramck

By Kristine Kaplani-Hartley

Strange isn’t it? Each man’s life touches so many other lives. That’s the story of Ray Klos. Born and raised in Hamtramck one of twelve children, he’s worked at Mostek Paint and Glass Company since High School and has touched so many lives throughout the years.

Our dear Ray is fighting an intense battle with Esophageal Cancer which has recently spread to the spine. The Klos family is asking for your support and prayers in joining us for a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser Saturday, October 13th, 2018 @ 2:00pm at the PLAV Post 10 (11724 Joseph Campau Ave).

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the door. We will be celebrating his wonderful life and courageous spirit with stories from the past and words of encouragement.

If you’re unable to attend please consider donating @Gofundme.com/helpprayklos-fightstage4cancer

We Thank you for your support and prayers, The Klos Family



This week at the library...

ESL Class – Monday, October 15, 9 a.m. and noon, ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required

ESL Class – Tuesday, October 16, noon, ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required

ESL Class – Wednesday, October 17, 9 a.m. and noon, ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

ESL Class –Thursday, October 18, noon, ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

100th Anniversary Dinner Program – This year the Hamtramck Public Library will be celebrating 100 years of service to the Hamtramck community and the area.

To mark the occasion, a Centennial Dinner Program is planned for Thursday, November 15, 2018 at PNA Hall. There is a limited number of guests that can be accommodated.

Tickets for the event will be available starting October 15, at the Library (donation \$25 per person).

During the program new nominees will be inducted to

the Hamtramck Library Hall of Honor.

The dinner tickets also entitle the holder to door prize drawings, which among other items feature a laptop computer and a 49 inch Ultra High Definition flat screen TV. More details about the program in upcoming news stories.

Anniversary celebration – Hamtramck Public Library Centennial Celebrations, OUR LIBRARY: November 1918- November 2018

As part of the Hamtramck Public Library 100th Anniversary Celebrations we invite you to contribute your thoughts on our Library’s past, and predictions (or suggestions) for her future.

We would like to video record your brief (up to three minutes long) presentations, but we will also accept other formats: short essays, poems, paintings, drawings, etc.

The most interesting contributions will be included in the Library’s Centennial Time Capsule for future generations to discover.

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts and ideas, please stop by the Library for a recording session on Tues-

days and or Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. For additional information please call us at (313) 733-6802.

Happy 100th Birthday Hamtramck Public Library City Wide Poets – Are you a writer? Join Citywide Poets every Tuesday from 4:30 to 6:30p.m. at the Hamtramck Public Library. Free and open to all teens. Sessions begin October 9. For more information, please contact justin@insideoutdetroit.org or visit www.insideoutdetroit.org

ABCmouse.com – Now available at the Hamtramck Public Library, ABCmouse.com is a free digital learning resource for children ages 2-8+ with more than 8,500 Learning Activities and 850 lessons, ABCmouse.com is the most comprehensive early learning curriculum available online. Ask your library staff for more details.

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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. The library is located at 2360 Caniff.

Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

There is plenty of good news at our public schools

Hamtramck’s Public School District has plenty to celebrate lately. A few weeks ago the good folks with the Hamtramck Music Fest donated \$10,000 worth of musical instruments and audio equipment to Hamtramck High School’s music program. The HMF is held in March of each year, and the event draws thousands of music lovers. It’s not only a cultural highlight during the year, it’s a worthy cause. And to top it off, none of the festival organizers are paid for their hard work. Now that is dedication. This week, the district reported another strong student enrollment – a

little over 3,200. The enrollment count is part of a yearly trend the district has enjoyed for the past several years. That’s due in part to the district’s aggressive campaign to attract students. Enrolling and retaining students has been a challenge ever since charter schools have opened here and in neighboring Detroit. The enrollment achievement is even more impressive when you consider how charter schools have drained away students who would have normally gone to the public schools. Charter schools, for the most part, have

proven to be failures. Their student performance record has been dismal at best. With more students enrolled in the district, there will be more state funding coming in. That will allow the district to expand its resources and be able to attract even more students in the coming years. And this week we also learned that the district’s drinking water in all of its schools is safe to consume. That’s something the Detroit Public Schools can’t brag about. To all the teachers, employees and administrators in the district ... Go Cosmos!

Odds & Ends

Donation... Hamtramck Public Schools students were recently treated to free backpacks thanks to the Mike Morse Law Firm. The law firm donated about 3,000 backpacks to several school districts in the area. Out of that, 500 were distributed in Hamtramck. “We began Project Backpack several years ago to help students in Detroit get the school supplies they needed to be successful during the school year,” said Mike Morse, the firm’s founder. “This year we expanded the program with help from Orchards Children’s Services, which identified several districts that had children who would benefit from the program. We jumped at the chance to help.”

Fundraiser... Everyone knows the good folks over at Mostek Paint and Glass Company. Unfortunately, one of their own is suffering

from a serious health issue. The family and friends of Ray Klos are holding a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser this Saturday (Oct. 13) at PLAV Post 10 Hall (11724 Jos. Campau), starting at 2 p.m. Admission is \$20. If you can’t make it but would like to donate, go to the family’s GoFundMe site online at: gofundme.com/helpprayklosfightstage4cancer

Drug takeback... Have some outdated, or not needed, prescription drugs you want to get rid of? Instead of dumping them down the toilet or throwing them out, where folks can get their hands on them, head on over to the Senior Plaza on Oct. 27. The Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition and the Hamtramck Police Department are sponsoring the drug takeback. You can drop off your unneeded prescription drugs at the Plaza from 10 a.m. to

2 p.m. They won’t accept needles, ointments or inhalers. Just prescription drugs and vitamins will be accepted. Be sure to cover up any personal information on your prescriptions. The Senior Plaza is located at 2620 Holbrook.

Condolences... We were shocked and saddened to hear that a good friend of the community recently passed away. Our heart goes out to the family and friends of John Gray Kales, who died last Saturday. He was only 53. Kales was no stranger to city hall. He did IT work for the city and was also chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Funeral services have already been held, but there will be a get-together on Sunday, Oct. 21, from 2 to 6 p.m., at Trixie’s Bar, 2656 Carpenter. It will also be a potluck, so bring a dish to share.

Looking back at the Tigers of 1968

Continued from front page

Robert Kennedy, who was seeking the Democratic nomination to become president and stood a good chance of seeing that happen. And then there was the infamous 1968 Democratic National Convention which turned Chicago upside down. Outside the convention hall, thousands of young people protested the Vietnam War.

Chicago authorities didn’t take the protests lightly, and the skirmishes outside blew up. An official inquiry into the matter laid the blame on the over-the-top force by Chicago police, and even called it a police riot. In Detroit, there was still plenty of tension lingering from the devastating rioting the year before. At the time, the Detroit Riot of 1967 was the nation’s most destructive on record.

The 1968 Tiger season was seen as a healing for Detroiters – well, at least the beginning of a healing process. The day the Tigers won, which was this past Wednesday at a little after 4 p.m., office workers in downtown Detroit streamed out into the streets and threw a party. Hamtramck was and still is a 10-minute drive from downtown Detroit, but apparently the hard-fought victory by the Tigers, which didn’t happen until the seventh and last game against the mighty St. Louis Cardinals, didn’t get Hamtramck folks out on the street. The former Citizen newspaper, which was Hamtramck’s paper of record, hardly gave it a mention the week of the victory or the week after. Instead the front-page headlines for both weeks had to do with the city becoming the first in the



Recently, the Detroit Historical Museum featured an exhibit on the 1968 Detroit Tigers season. Photo by John Kovach

area to offer flu shots, and the possible closing of the city’s only hospital, St. Francis – which eventually did close down and is now serving as city hall. But deep inside the weekly newspaper there was mention of administrators at Hamtramck High School having trouble keeping some students in school because they wanted to go hear the game. And there was a curious story about a nun who taught English at Holy Name School, located in the East McNichols and Van Dyke area. She remembered having Tigers’ star pitcher Denny McLain as a student at a school she taught at in Chicago. Sister Marie Rachel remembered the young McLain being an “outstanding” player. “He would hit the ball straight and far,” she said. “I was always con-

cerned he would damage some window in the neighborhood. I don’t remember if he was a pitcher then.” Sister Rachel got to see McLain win his 30th game at Tiger Stadium, which was not only historical for baseball, but also for Sister Rachel’s order, the Sisters of St. Dominic, Adrian. Until then, none of the sisters of that order had been allowed to attend a baseball game. The Tigers would not experience a World Series win again until 1984. Unlike the joyous revelers of 1968, the 1984 Tigers “fans” – if you can call them that – erupted into a riot, overturning police cars and setting them on fire. Some called it a “White Riot” – since most of the people crowded outside Tigers Stadium were suburban white fans.

Quick Hits

Continued front page

The event is sponsored by the Midtown Block Club, and it will be held in the parking lot across from the Fire Department on Mackay, just north of Caniff. Everyone is invited to

bring their own pot of chili. The Hamtramck firefighters are also sponsoring the event, and you can bet they will have some of their fire-hot chili to sample. According to the hosts: “We’ll have power strips and propane stoves to keep your food warm, while being tested by our judging panel and guests.”

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Obituaries

KALES



John Gray Kales, 53 of Hamtramck, passed away on October 6, 2018.

Dearest son of the late Robert and Shirley Kales. Loving brother of Nancy (John) Kabrovich. Proud uncle of Sarah. Also survived by many other loving family and friends.

John Gray was born March 25, 1965 in Detroit, Michigan to Captain and Mrs. Robert G. Kales of Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan.

He studied at the Electronic Institute of Detroit, Spec Howard School of Broadcasting, Wayne State University and had an ongoing thirst for knowledge. From a young age he was interested in computers, photography and music and started programming at the age of 12.

For many years he was a camera man in the Detroit Metro Area working on movies, commercials, and documentaries. The most notable work he did was during the Mississippi River Floods, where he went behind the lines to document the devastating damage and struggles of everyday people during a natural disaster. One of the things that he remembered the most was how people worked together and would offer what little they had to help others despite of the fact they had lost everything.

He loved life and diversity of cultures and people. That is one of the reasons he loved Hamtramck so much. It is also what lead him to run for School Board and join the Hamtramck Zoning board. As the longest standing member, he eventually became President of the Zoning

Board. While living in Hamtramck he started a block club and was very active in his community.

He was also active in the Native Community in Canada. There he received a National Heritage award from the Canadian Government for his work.

But what he was most know for was computers. He was a genius in his field, working tirelessly to solve problems and bring people together. In his spare time, computers where his hobby. At home he experimented with artificial intelligence.

For many years before the recession he had a successful consulting firm. Eventually he moved to more stable employment working for GTB. There he made many friends and enjoyed working with a team that was like a family.

Memorial contributions may be made to: Hep C Liver Foundation ~ American Liver Foundation National Office 39 Broadway, Suite 2700 New York, NY 10006

FUSTO



Kevin Fusto, 54, died October 4, 2018.

Father of BreAnna and

Dominick, brother of David, and son of the late John and Florence. He is also survived by his niece April and his ex-wife Shelly Gjonaj.

Kevin was a longtime manager at the Hazel Park Race-track and will be missed by his family and many friends including his good friend Claude Hopkins.

Funeral services were held October 11 at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck MI 48212.

Other Voices: Guest Editorial

No matter what, medical marijuana is here to stay in Hamtramck

By Ian Perrotta Hamtramck City Councilmember

At Tuesday's city council meeting a resolution to move forward on the first reading of the city's medical marijuana ordinance was up for discussion.

This was not the first time this issue was discussed – between special meetings, joint sessions of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals, and a town hall meeting there have been several opportunities to publicly consider the issue – but due to false information spread by Councilman Saad Almasmari this particular meeting was packed with those in opposition to the possibility of medical marijuana becoming part of the city.

Let me be clear: whether or not the City of Hamtramck permits medical marijuana to be sold within its borders, medical marijuana will be a presence in the community. Hamtramck is almost entirely surrounded by Detroit, which has permitted the sale of medical marijuana.

The east side of Conant Street is Detroit, and it is more likely than not that a medical marijuana business will open somewhere on Conant. This means that, effectively, medical marijuana will be in Hamtramck.

The question we on the council were faced with was this: In light of the proximity to Detroit, do we want to deny the benefits of medical marijuana to the City of Hamtramck while still absorbing any of the perceived problems it may bring, or do we want to embrace this opportunity and with it the benefits it may bring?

The Headlee Amendment of 1978 and Proposition A of 1994 limit the amount that property taxes can be increased each year to less than 5% (and in reality less than about 1.5%) or the rate of inflation, and as a result of the economic crash a decade ago have severely limited the revenue collected by cities in Michigan.

Additionally, state revenue sharing has been dramatically slashed over the past decade. These two factors combined have made it in-

creasingly difficult for cities across the State of Michigan to provide the level of services necessary for an acceptable quality of life.

Without a new source of revenue, the City of Hamtramck is unable to tackle many of the problems that affect us regularly – problems like flooding basements, aging and deteriorating infrastructure, and a lack of funding to truly grow the services provided by the city, just to name a few.

I believe that medical marijuana can be a new source of revenue which can lead to an increased quality of life for all residents as a result of the taxes collected by its sale.

Moreover, the sale of medical marijuana can also provide additional benefits to the city, as those who purchase the product will also likely spend money in other businesses throughout the city.

Increased tax revenue and increased business is a good thing and something I as an elected official am keenly interested in facilitating.

There seems to be much confusion about what medical marijuana will mean for the city. Some have said that the sale of medical marijuana will lead to its resale on the black market, and because of that it should not be sold in Hamtramck.

This may very well be true, but it ignores a crucial fact: if someone wants to resell medical marijuana on the black market then they can just go across the border to Detroit and bring it back to Hamtramck to sell.

Prohibiting the sale of medical marijuana based on this logic is equivalent to an ostrich burying its head in the sand to avoid a predator.

Councilman Saad Almasmari spoke several lies at Tuesday's council meeting. Among those lies was that medical marijuana dispensaries would not be able to stay in business due to a lack of qualified patient customers and would be forced to sell their products illegally.

This is false. State regulations require that medical marijuana businesses must show between \$150,000 and \$500,000 of capital assets in order to be granted a license. Twenty-five

percent of that amount must be liquid capital. This capital requirement means that businesses which open up will have the wherewithal to weather any financial issues that may result from less-than-anticipated revenue.

It also means that only serious business people will be operating these enterprises. We are not operating under the same grey area that allowed hundreds of dispensaries to pop up throughout Detroit – in fact, to date very few licenses have even been granted by the state. The notion that if we permit the sale of medical marijuana today then we will see a proliferation of businesses tomorrow is entirely false and inaccurate.

Moreover, Councilman Almasmari's statement that there is no limit to the amount of businesses that can operate in Hamtramck and will result in "thousands of dispensaries opening up" is disingenuous and misleading and speaks to his ignorance of the ordinance that the entire council has worked on over the past several months.

While it is technically true that there is no cap on the number of businesses that can open and operate, what Almasmari fails to realize is that restrictions on how close medical marijuana businesses can locate to residential areas, schools, religious institutions and in proximity to each other, combined with the 2.1-square-mile size of the city, creates a constructive cap on the amount of businesses that can viably operate within Hamtramck.

Other false information that seemed to permeate the anti-medical marijuana sentiment included the notion that this ordinance will allow residents to grow marijuana in their backyards, and that marijuana has never helped anyone, ever.

The former assertion is false, as the ordinance we discussed has nothing to do with residential marijuana production. The latter assertion is extremely disconcerting, as it came from John Gorniak, a candidate for the position of 31st District Court Judge.

The fact that a candidate for judge has the gall to stand before the elected body of City Council and a roomful of

residents and deny the veracity of an ever-increasing body of scientific evidence that proves the contrary is entirely disconcerting and calls into question his integrity.

This leads to another troubling aspect of the opposition to medical marijuana: the fact that it is opposed on moral grounds. The decision of a doctor to prescribe a patient a drug is a decision between the doctor and the patient. It is not up for debate in the public sphere.

Stigmatizing a person for seeking medical treatment is reprehensible and has no place in public discourse. There is no relation between a person's illness, how they choose to treat it, and their morality. None. Period.

There is, however, a relationship between other drugs and their detriment to society. The United States is in the midst of an opioid epidemic that transcends race, religion, ethnicity, and age.

If you talk to ten people, it is likely that nine of them know of someone who has been adversely affected by this crisis. Medical marijuana is a non-addictive and safer alternative to many of the prescription drugs that are readily available in pharmacies all across the country.

To deny patients the access to medical marijuana is to steer them in the direction of these dangerous and addictive drugs.

Speaking of dangerous behavior, another reason provided by those in opposition of medical marijuana in the city was the safety of the children. Many believe that medical marijuana facilities in Hamtramck will cause an uptick in the use of marijuana among children in the city.

I find it hypocritical that the issue of the safety of children due to their proximity to available medical drugs has heretofore not been raised in a city with dozens of pharmacies in just two square miles.

Moreover, CDC statistics show that the leading causes of death for youth and young adults are accidents – particularly speeding. The second and third leading causes of death are homicide and suicide.

Despite this fact, there does not seem to be a community effort to curtail the problem of reckless driving among teens, particularly after school and in areas that are heavily populated by

Continued on page 8



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By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Oct. 2-8.

Tuesday, October 2

- At about 3 a.m. a person was arrested after a traffic stop for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.

- A Detroit juvenile was arrested in the 11400 block of Charest for possessing a replica firearm.

- A resident reported that a person who claimed they were with the IRS contacted them and threatened to jail the resident if they didn't pay an outstanding tax bill with Google Play cards.

Wednesday, October 3

- An owner of a business in the 8900 block of Jos. Campau reported an employee intentionally caused damage to his property.

- At 2 a.m. a resident was arrested after a traffic stop for having an improper license plate and driving without a license or insurance.

- A resident said a person they know smashed

a window at their residence in the 12000 block of Selfridge.

- A student was ticketed for violating the city's tobacco ordinance.

- Officers found an extremely intoxicated man sleeping in a parking lot near Holbrook and Gallagher. He was taken to Detroit Receiving Hospital for treatment.

- An assault and battery incident occurred in the 3200 block of Caniff.

- A resident was arrested in the 9300 block of Jos. Campau after a road rage incident. The suspect was charged with felonious assault and being disorderly.

Thursday, October 4

- At about 2:30 a.m. a resident was arrested at Conant and Vincent for assault and robbery.

- A Miller resident reported an incident of fraud.

- A stray dog was found in front of city hall and was taken to the Michigan Humane Society.

Continued on page 8



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CRIME LOG



Continued from page 7

ety.

• A Doremus resident reported someone broke into their car and stole their iPad Pro and a wireless keyboard.

Friday, October 5

• At about 5 a.m. a Detroit resident was arrested after a traffic stop for driving without a license, having an improper license plate and being wanted on Hamtramck warrants.

• A Detroit resident was arrested for domestic violence.

• A Lehman resident reported their motorbike was stolen from their garage. The resident said they found their bike being up for sale at a store in the 10000 block of Jos. Campau.

• At about 9:30 p.m. a report was made involving two female suspects who pulled a pregnant woman out of a car and took turns assaulting her. Two male suspects armed with guns threatened the pregnant woman's boyfriend when

he attempted to intervene. The suspects then stole the pregnant woman's cellphone and fled. One of the female suspects was later arrested.

Saturday, October 6

• A Detroit resident was arrested after a traffic stop for driving without a license (the resident had previously been arrested for this offense 26 times), having improper license plates, and being wanted on 10 Hamtramck warrants.

• A business owner reported a break-in and the theft of their safe.

• A Detroit resident was arrested at a Hamtramck business for obstruction.

• A resident in the 2900 block of Roosevelt reported the theft of their license plate.

• A domestic violence report was taken at a residence in the 12100 block of Dequindre.

Sunday, October 7

• A resident was arrested for having open in-

toxicants in their car. A Detroit resident who was a passenger in the car was also arrested for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.

• At almost 3 a.m. a Grand Rapids resident was arrested for drunk driving and possessing a gun while intoxicated.

• A Detroit resident said he was assaulted in the 12000 block of Grand Haven by a person they know.

Monday, October 8

• An agent for a business in the 11300 block of Jos. Campau reported damage to a window.

• A McDougall resident reported being harassed via the internet.

• A resident was arrested for possessing illegal drugs and obstruction.

• A resident in the 2400 block of Holbrook was arrested for assault and battery in a domestic violence incident.

• At about 4:30 a.m. a Grosse Pointe Park resident was arrested for drunk driving.

• A resident was arrested in the 2600 block of Yemans for disorderly conduct.

No matter what, medical marijuana is here to stay in Hamtramck

Continued from page 6

young children at that time. It is more likely that a child in Hamtramck will die from a traffic accident than the result of medical marijuana use, yet the outcry is against the latter and not the former.

I don't write this to throw shade at those who disagree with my opinions, but rather to educate them on why I feel the way I do. Prohibition does not work, but education does. When I stood up at your mosque or knocked on your door and asked you to vote for me, it was not because I wanted to make a name for myself and subsequently be elected to higher office.

It was because I believe in serving the community in which one lives to the best of one's ability at that given time. It's why I volunteered in high school, why I was a volunteer firefighter in college, and why I continue to volunteer now in addition to my position on city council. I feel that I have the knowledge and ability to lead this community, and I am willing to risk future positions tomorrow based on my present understanding of the city's situation today.

It would be incredibly easy for me to acquiesce to the sentiment displayed at yesterday's council meeting if all I cared about was continuing

my role as an elected public official.

The thing is, I don't care about being re-elected. Maybe I'll run for council or another position in the future, but right now my focus is on what I can do for Hamtramck in the present.

At Tuesday's meeting, while staring at a sign that read in all capital letters "HOW YOU VOTE TODAY WILL DETERMINE HOW WE WILL VOTE IN YOUR NEXT ELECTION", I stated that the situation reminded me of that which was written about by Søren Kierkegaard in "Fear and Trembling", in which he described the intended sacrifice of Isaac by his father Abraham.

To the outsider observing his actions, it would appear Abraham was prepared to murder Isaac. Similarly, to the outsider unaware of the reasons for my own actions, it might appear as though they are to the detriment of the city. Both of those perceptions would prove inaccurate were the respective subjective intentions known.

At the council meeting I read the following passage: "Temporality, finitude – this is what it is all about. I can resign everything by my own strength and find peace and rest in the pain; I can put up with everything – even if that dreadful demon, more horrifying than the skeletal one who

terrifies me, even if madness held its fools costume before my eyes and I understood from its face that it was I who should put it on – I can still save my soul as long as my concern that my love of God conquer within me is greater than my concern that I achieve earthly happiness."

As I also stated at the meeting, if you change a few words in that passage it can directly relate to the situation in which I presently find myself. Substitute "my love of God" with "my love of Hamtramck" and "earthly happiness" with "re-election" and the passage reflects my beliefs.

"I can still save my soul as long as my concern that my love of Hamtramck conquer within me is greater than my concern that I achieve re-election."

I make my decisions based on my love for the City of Hamtramck, not on my desire to be somebody. I am a public servant, not a politician, and I will not forgo the city's best interests for the sake of my own.

If this is the hill that I die on, then maybe I just dug my own grave.

(Editor's note: A version of this editorial originally appeared as a post on Ian Perrotta's Facebook page. Mr. Perrotta is a copy editor at The Review.)

Dodo's CITY CHICKEN Dinner



at MOOSE LODGE

Friday • October 12th

\$9 Includes 2 Pieces City Chicken, Homemade Mashed & Gravy, Veggie, Bread & Butter and Dessert

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Coming events

WEDNESDAYS, 7 p.m., every second Wednesday of the month – The 3C7 and Midtown Block meets at 2339 Caniff PCS Senior Day Center. This block club includes all residents and businesses west of Jos. Campau and north of Holbrook.

SATURDAY, October 13 – Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. Everyone is welcome!

SATURDAY, October 20, 4-7 p.m. – Polish Dinner Fundraiser with Mike Zawojksy, accordionist, at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming.



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