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3236 Caniff St. · Hamtramck 48212



Quick Hits

Here's one way to forget about winter and think of spring.

The Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium and the Hamtramck Stadium Grounds Crew are joining together this Saturday Feb. 2, at 1 p.m., for the annual meeting of the Detroit chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research at the Detroit Public Library.

Don't worry, it's not as stuffy as it sounds. If you are fan of baseball, this is going to be a lively discussion about the 1969 Tigers, Negro League baseball cards, Lenny Green, Bud Fowler, the SABR Detroit Chapter newsletter ("The Catcher's Mitt"), and the 100th anniversarv of the birth of Jackie Robinson (which was Jan. 31).

After that talk, head on over to the afterparty at Nemo's Bar & Grill for Tom Derry's 32nd Annual Babe Ruth Birthday Party. Now that's going to be a party.

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

It's been a year of growth for the Hamtramck Historical Museum

www.hamtramckreview.com · e-mail news@thehamtramckreview.com

By Charles Sercombe

For the past 20 years the Hamtramck Historical Commission has been preserving and collecting the city's history.

This week, the commission, a non-profit organization, issued its annual report for 2018.

Here is an excerpt of the commission's 2018 report:

Operations

Regarding museum operations, 2018 was an incredibly busy productive year. Key capital improvements include the installation of the "Coming to Hamtramck" mural, ceiling restoration on the first-floor gallery area, painting of the main the mural received ingallery walls, start of ternational media covrestoration of the bathroom and reconfiguration of gallery floor space

"Coming to Hamtramck" is a mural done by Hamtramck artist Dennis Orlowski. It measures 146-feet in length by 6 ½feet in height and is made up of 10 panels, each featuring a prominent ethnic group that has immigrated to Hamtramck through the centuries: American Indian, French, German, Poles, Africa-Americans, Ukrainians, Al-Yeminis, banians, Bosnians Bangladeshi.

It was funded through a \$15,000 grant from the

Michigan Humanities Council and was formally dedicated in July at a ceremony attended by nearly 180 people.

Its purpose is not only to acknowledge the immigrants who have and continue to make up the city of Hamtramck but also to open lines of communication with the new immigrants coming to

Hamtramck now. In essence, this is a crossover project that physically improved the building while serving as a means to involve members of the immigrant community in the project.

The dedication of erage. The story was covered in The Detroit News and Detroit Free Press and picked up and distributed by the Associated Press news service. It was carried in newspapers as far away as Arizona, California and in Canada.

Programs

Public programs held in the museum were somewhat curtailed in 2018 because of construction work that forced the closing of the buildings for some extended periods. Even so, a number of

Continued on page 2

Brrrr ... **Need we** say more? **By Charles Sercombe**

If you are reading this,

you survived.

Survived, that is, the polar vortex that caused a historic deep freeze for the past few days.

How cold was it?



An arctic winter blast put Hamtramck into a deep freeze this week.

Temperature-wise, about minus 14 degrees, with windchills reaching about minus 30.

It was so cold it was actually warmer in the South Pole - yes, the South Pole.

It was so cold schools canceled statewide classes for most of the week.

It was so cold the State of Michigan declared a state of emergency. Even Hamtramck's City Hall closed, although the first floor of the building was turned into a warming center.

(The Hamtramck Senior Plaza also acts as a warming center during ex-

Continued on page 3







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It's been a year of growth for the Hamtramck Historical Museum

Continued from front page

programs were held.

"Hungry for History" is a dinner program that features a catered meal and a PowerPoint lecture on a specific topic. One of the most popular ones offered in 2018 was the program on "J.L. Hudson's at Christmas," conducted by author and historian Michael Hauser. It drew 79 persons and was so popular it will be repeated annually.

Additionally, the museum has served as a meeting venue for other organizations. The Ushers of the Detroit Institute of Arts Film Theatre have now held their annual meeting twice at the mu-

Hamtramck United Social Services also has met at the museum. It is our intent to expand the use of the museum for other groups in the future.

Archives

When the Hamtramck Historical Commission was formed in 1998 it did not have a single document in its files.

In fact, there were no files. Today they are approximately 5,000 files covering people, places, events, ethnicity, immigration, crime, elections and a host of other topics. There is a reference now to virtually every aspect of Hamtramck's history and the archives are growing weekly as new files are added.

• 24 Hour Security

Also, there are an estimated 15,000 objects, ranging from pencils to wooden ice boxes in the museum collection of items. This also is growing on a weekly basis.

The oldest item in the collection dates from 1793 and in the past year we have acquired some especially rare items dating from 1880 when Hamtramck was a township. People continue to donate items to the museum reg-

Our collections of items now include: maps (several hundred); books relating to Hamtramck (about 400); movies, records/tapes/CDs, audio interviews, newspapers, and much more.

The museum is also the official repository of de-accessed official city documents, including old court records, city council minutes, obsolete city conassessment tracts. records and various commission meeting minutes and related documents.

Attendance

In 2018 the Hamtramck Historical Museum welcomed 3,163 visitors. This number was slightly less than previous years, but that was to be expected because closed for several weeks to complete renovations in the building.

Here is a comparison of attendance since the museum opened in 2013:



The Hamtramck Historic Museum made huge strides in development last year.

· 2013 (September to

December): 1,502

· 2014: 3,185 · 2015: 3,390

· 2016: 2,744

· 2017: 2,746

· 2018: 3,163

· Total: 16,730

Community outreach

The Hamtramck Historical Museum was never designed to be a typical community museum that often are no more than repositories of old things.

It is a vibrant, active organization that operates inside its building and outside in the community.

In 2018 the museum sponsored the first official historical dig ever conducted in Hamtramck in association with Wayne State University.

Dr. Krysta Ryzewski and her students spent approximately five months carefully gathering material from the site of the old Village Hall on Jos. Campau between Grayling and Alice streets.

The material was presented to the community at a special program on December 10 and will be placed on display at the museum. The museum and WSU are exploring other joint projects to work on in 2019.

The museum is now working with the Hamtramck Public Schools and Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency to develop а local history/civics curriculum to help students develop a sense of community and better understand how the American system

It is anticipated this will be implemented in the fall of 2019, and may serve as a countywide model for other school districts.

Tours

One of the most important activities of the museum is conducting tours of Hamtramck. Walking, bus and personalized car tours and separate tours of St. Florian Church are offered to groups and individuals. The numbers vary from having one tour a month to as many as three in a week.

These tours have proven to be especially popular with groups who have come to Hamtramck from as far away as Cleveland, Toledo, Lansing, and across southeast Michigan.

The tours help the local economy (nearly everyone shops and has lunch in town) and they help create ambassadors for Hamtramck. People who take the tours almost always leave with a favorable impression of the city and tell others in their home towns about their trip. That leads to many more visits.

Friends members

The museum derives the majority of its income from donations and memberships in the Friends of Historical Hamtramck. Annual memberships range from \$10 and up.

Membership level fluctuates yearly but is in the area of about 75 regular members. Several of these are \$1,000-level members.

The Friends of Historical Hamtramck is a 501(c)(3)organization and memberships/donations are tax deductible. The Friends is governed by an eightmember board, which will ultimately expand to 13 members. No board member is paid any sum in money, gifts or items. All board members are volunteers and the museum

has no paid staff. The museum receives no tax dol-

Conclusion

2018 was an extremely productive year for the Hamtramck Historical Museum and the Hamtramck Historical Commission. Much was accomplished in terms of building renovations, museum operations and community outreach.

The focus of the next few years will be on further building renovations and on ensuring that the museum will be a selfsustaining organization for generations to come. We have laid a solid groundwork for the future; now we will concentrate on building on that foundation.

Respectfully submitted, Hamtramck Historical Commission members;

Friends of Historical Hamtramck board mem-

Greg Kowalski - chairman (HHC/Friends) Joe Kochut - vice chair-

man (HHC/Friends) Sarah Cook - secretary

(Friends) Cindy Cervenak - treas-

urer (HHC/Friends) Christopher Betleja – di-

rector (Friends) Joan Bittner - director

(HHC/Friends) Lisa Straske - director

(HHC/Friends)

Darla Swint - director (Friends)

ple Machines

and Drawing

February 21st

duino Programming

March Youth Art

Month - Wednesday

March 13th 3:30 p.m.

Thursday March 21st

5:30 p.m. Architecture

Hamtramck Music

Festival - Friday March

8th, Saturday March 9th.

Join the Library for the

THE GIRL IN THE

ALLEY Reading and Dis-

cussion - Tuesday Febru-

ary 26th 5:30 p.m.

Detroit mother, family ad-

vocate inspires community conversations by

sharing her own captivat-

ing tale of surviving sex-

ual assault and battles

The pass will enable Li-

Activity

with depression.

Michigan

Community Event

Code

February 28th





Library

2620 Holbrook St • Hamtramck • (313) 873-787

This week at the library...

ESL Class - Monday February 4th, 9:00 am and 12:00 pm. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required

ESL Class - Tuesday February 5th, 12:00 pm. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required

ESL Class - Wednesday February 6th, 9:00 am and 12:00 pm. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required. **ESL Class** - Thursday

February 7th, @ 12:00 pm. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required

Citizenship Classes-Tuesdays, 5:00-7:00 pm, February 12th-April 2nd. Classes are held at the Hamtramck Public Library. The classes and all materials are presented in English. Free and Open to the Public!

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discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, na-

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Monday, February 4-March 25, 10am-4pm. Closed February 18th

and March 18th, 2019. Call (313) 388-9799 or (734) 284-6999 for an appointment

Toddler Time - Through | Sphero March 14, Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Children up to age 5 and their parents and caregivers are invited for songs, storytelling and playtime.

Movie Night - Tuesdays at 4 p.m. Family friendly movies, snacks provided.

Prime Time Family Reading - Thursdays, March 28th-May 2nd, 5:30-7 p.m. Join us for a six-week reading experience for families with children 6 to 12 years old. Adults and children will participate together, sharing a meal, reading excellent books, discussing big ideas and learning tips for reading at home. Pre-registration is required. **Tech Club**

Thursdays 5:30-6:45

January 24th Intro to **Arduino**

January 31st Makey Music February 7th Sphero

cultural institutions. Ask at the circulation desk

Pass

brary card holders to obtain a one-time free entry into any Michigan State park or recreation area, and free entry into over 100 participating

for more details.

Maze February 14th

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.

Second Front Page

The lore of Hamtramck ...

'The Evil Belch of Mars'

By Greg Kowalski

Thaddeus Machrowicz was a well-known figure in Hamtramck from the 1930s to 1970 when he died. He served as Hamtramck city attorney from 1934 to 1936 and as a municipal judge from 1942 to 1950.

But he is probably best remembered as a Congressman, holding office from 1950 to 1961. It was during this period that he did something that relatively few people have ever done before -and hopefully will never do again.

He saw an atomic bomb blast.

It happened in April 1953, when he was part of a Congressional contingent invited to witness an A-bomb test at Yucca Flat, about 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Nev.

Those were the days when atomic bombs were seemingly popping like firecrackers in open air tests. They would light up the Nevada sky, and even became somewhat of a tourist attraction before the full dangers of nuclear fallout were understood.

When he returned from Machrowicz Nevada. wrote an eyewitness account of the experience for The Citizen newspa-

per. It provides a fascinating glimpse into a different time, deep in the Cold War when the threat of nuclear war was real and frightening.

"I was selected as a member of a group of 14 members of Congress, who together with about 35 official representatives of the Atomic Energy Commission, the Department of Defense and the Civil Defense Administration, were privileged to be the only eve-witnesses an of atomic bomb explosion which probably passed in frightful magnitude the size of any that have been previously land," dropped on Machrowicz wrote.

He described how he had arrived at Indian Springs Air Force Base on a Thursday night, then spent all day Friday in briefings, lectures and watching films on "the device," which the scientists preferred to call the bomb.

He and his group were awakened at 1:30 a.m. Saturday, and then driven to the blast site at Yucca

"At 4:15 a.m. sharp we were warned the explosion would take place at exactly 4:30 in the morning. Ina few minutes the first streaks of daylight began appearing over the mountains on the east side of the proving grounds. Then the dramatic droning of the announcer: "Ten second before zero hour."

"Suddenly through the dark glasses (all had to wear) was a brilliant white light. Ina split second there appeared an angry red and orange tremendous ball flame. One of my colleagues properly referred to it as 'the evil belch of Mars.'

"After three seconds, most of us...took off our goggles. I was actually spellbound as I watched the fireball grow, becoming larger and dimmer, gradually disappearing into a boiling, dirty brown column of dust which became the familiar mushroom. It was beautiful to watch, with its many colors, but scientists later told us it was not as beautiful as some of those that preceded it. The reason for that was because it was more powerful than any other. As it struck the ground, it raised the earth and created a dirty brown column of dust which became part of the mushroom. The cloud reached a height which has been estimate at

The blast was followed by a strong shock wave. "Hats flew Machrowicz wrote.

Windows on the buses that brought them to the site were shattered and the noise was so loud it injured Machrowicz's ears and he had to see a doctor.

"The atomic bomb is a powerful instrument of war which could destroy civilization." Machrowicz wrote. "But it is also a potent deterrent which I hope will prevent our Communist enemy from every starting a war."

In 1963, the United States, Soviet Union and Great Britain signed a treaty that banned above ground A-bomb tests. But as late as 1980, higher incidents of cancer were found in the area downwind from the Nevada test site.

But that was not on the minds of anyone on that day in the Nevada desert.

You can see and authentic Civil Defense warden's helmet and booklet on how to survive nuclear war on display at the Hamtramck Historical Museum, 9525 Jos. Campau. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 pm. Saturday and Sunday and by appointment. Call 313-893-5027.

Parish Serving the

Community

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

February 9 -

Soup Kitchen 2-4 pm, **Everyone Welcome!**

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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, February 9, 2-4 p.m. - Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski St. at Fleming. Everyone is welcome.

Brrrr ... Need we say more? continued from front page

treme cold weather.)

It was so cold mail delivery was canceled in 11 states for Wednesday and Thursday. Yes, the folks who we expect to brave any kind of weather just so we can get junk mail and bills decided it was too dangerous to venture

Remember, these are the same folks whose unofficial motto is:

"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion their appointed rounds."

Notice it doesn't say anything about arctic blasts of cold that even a penguin would squawk over.

And finally, it was so cold, our friend and former Hamtramckan Al Ulman, Jr. – who goes by the stage name of "Al the Only" (he's an amazing magician) was forced to do the unthinkable for people who live in Hawaii.

Yes, that's where he now lives, in Hawaii. Let that sink in for a moment.

Ulman said on his Facebook page that because it dipped down to an insane temperature of 72 and

that there was also a "cool wind" (and for gosh shut down. Hardly anyone sakes is was "cloudy") he had to put on "slacks and a sweater."

Al lives on Maui, just so you know the level of suffering he experienced.

He may have redeemed himself by saying: "You're either laughing or swearing at me, but for us, that's cold." (We're done swearing at you Al! Kidding, Al, just kidding. But on the other hand, since you're a magician, can't you make this vortex thing "disappear"?)

On a serious note, the metro region got a taste of what was to come starting on Sunday when about five inches of snow fell. Another dumping happened on Monday.

The snowstorm claimed one victim here in town. A Botsford St. resident was found lying on the ground and unresponsive, apparently having suffered a heart attack while shoveling.

The resident was treated at Detroit Receiving Hospital. At press time Thursday their condition was not known.

On Wednesday Thursday, the coldest days of the week, Hamtramck appeared to have was out walking and traffic was unusually light.

about 40,000 feet."

This past week's arctic blast affected most of the country, especially the Midwest, the South and the East Coast.

The worst appears over, and by this Monday it'll be time to break out your

That's because it's going to reach a balmy 45 degrees.

And it looks like the "heat wave" will last for a few more days next week.

As of today, Friday (Feb. 1) there are just 47 days until the first day of spring.

Get Yourself NOTICED!

Place an Ad in The Review Today

Call (313) 874-2100

The Hamtramck Public School District is in the process of searching for a new Superintendent to replace Mr. Thomas Niczay when he retires effective this June. Michigan Leadership Institute, through Mr. John Silveri, has been contracted to conduct the search on behalf of HPS.

Mr. John Silveri will be holding community & staff input sessions per the following schedule. There is also an electronic survey on the District's webpage for those who wish to provide input but cannot attend one of the scheduled meeting times.

Monday, February 4th

2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Community Center 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Community Center 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Community Center (Recreation Staff) (Teaching Staff – Secondary) (Community Members & Parents)

Tuesday, February 5th

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Tau Beta School 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Admin Bldg 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. HHS Cafeteria 12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Horizon Cafeteria 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Admin Bldg

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Admin Bldg

(Parents) (Central Office Staff/Union Leaders) (HHS Students) (Horizon Students) (Administration/City Leaders) (Teaching Staff – Elementary)

School Bell

Kosciuszko Middle **School News**

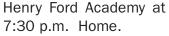
The following students are students of the month Kaise Aziz, January: Nagi Aziz, Ava Baldoumas, Naima Begum, Dwayne Brown, Terayah Carpenter, Taikila Grove. MD Islam, Maliha Jamal, Shania Jackson, Shawna Lewis, Fida Mahim, Rana Mohamed. Gamal Mozeb, Tanver Rahman, Ghaida Saleh, Keila Sanders, Andrii Semyrozum, MD Montashir Shah, Maysha Tasnim and Mohammed Thabet. Congratulation to these

 February 4 – KMS Basketball vs. UPSM at 4:30 p.m. Home.

students.

February 5 - JV Boys Basketball vs. Henry Ford Academy at 4:30 p.m. Home.

- February 5 Varsity Girls Basketball vs. Henry Ford Academy at 6 p.m. Home.
- February 5 Varsity Boys Basketball vs.



- February 6 HHS wrestling team districts, 5 p.m. Home.
- February 6 KMS Girls Basketball vs. Henry Ford Academy at 4:30 p.m. Away.
- February 8 JV Boys Basketball vs. Detroit Voyager, 4:30 p.m. Away.
- February 8 Varsity Girls Basketball vs. Detroit Voyager, 6 p.m. Away.
- February 8 Varsity Boys Basketball vs. Detroit Voyager, 7:30 p.m. Away.

Recreation Department

For more information give us a call at (313) 892-2635. Follow us on Facebook for the most up-to-date information: www.Facebook.com/Ha mtramckRecreationDepartment.

Compiled by Janice Gandelman



January honor students at Kosciuszko Middle School pose for a photo.

Metro news...

It's said that whatever happens to Detroit, so goes Hamtramck. Our friends over at modeldmedia.com have been reporting on fascinating development projects for the past several years.

This week, with their permission, we are sharing one of their features:

Hamtramck once had bars on almost every block.

Those days are long gone, but we are still home to some fun dives. Detroit, too, still has its

share of neighborhood bars - including one of our favorites, the Two Way Inn on Mound.

Several of Detroit's oldest neighborhood hangouts are still holding steady after 100-plus years. And in the last few vears, while themed extravaganzas may have hogged much of the reporting, some true gems showed up to prove that there is still room in Detroit's bar scene for a solid, old-fashioned, elbows-down bar.

"neighborhood The vibe" of a great bar is an elusive concept, easy to imitate but tough to maintain. It's not a simple matter of age, location, or décor. Ultimately, the neighborhood bars that stand the test of time create an alchemy unique to their place, one that offers novelty and comfort in equal amounts.

Take Kiesling, for instance. Industrial Milwaukee Junction doesn't have a whole lot of housing, and what is there consists of sparsely settled lofts.

But despite this, Kies-

ling managed to nail every aspect of a quality bar without overt fussiness. It's hip enough for a first date, but not intimidating. It's chill enough for serious conversations serious enough about their drinks that a Pisco Sour and a beerand-whiskey special meet the bartender's approval with the same nod. The crowd there is pleasantly diverse, too. and has a smart vibe, similar to the décor in the 100-year-old former auto parts plant.

While Kiesling might have its work cut out for it crafting a neighborhood hangout in an area that doesn't have a whole lot of neighbors (yet), Detroit's oldest bars have different challenges. Staying at the top of patrons' minds is crucial, which is easy enough if those patrons have been visiting for decades.

No one knows this better that the Raven Lounge's Tommy Stephens, whose friends (old and new) make pilgrimages from far away or around the corner to experience the club's legendary blues and Tommy's equally legendary hospitality. It's an old-school temple of

music, and patrons dress accordingly — to the nines. But the impressive style on display doesn't make the place any less welcoming, and the folks who've been going to The Raven for decades know that well.

For centenary spots like Abick's and the Two Way Inn, patrons come from the immediate neighborhood as well as from miles away. The draw for their customers is the tradition of friendly service, no-frills drinks, and companions.

"[These spots] will always be relevant bewe've something that all the new kids in town don't have: history," says Kit Lindamood, regular bartender at Abick's. "There's simply nothing like settling your elbows into 112-year-old grooves on the bar top with a cold beer."

Being part of the neighborhood for so long makes it a natural fit for older bars like these to host fundraisers when a regular needs assistance, or to help out a cause that impacts their customers. Doing so has definitely helped relative newcomer Ghost Light in Hamtramck to quickly become a staple in what could be а crowded scene.

With revered spots like Whiskey in the Jar. Painted Lady, and other recent addition Bumbo's all commanding a solid core of devotees, Ghost Light draws its enthusiasts with improv and open mic nights, local music acts and karaoke.

Owner Darren Shelton says he and his staff "work very hard to be transparent and clear, and to pay artists what they deserve for their work." This, in turn, bolsters the creative community and "supports artists that are pursuing their creative passions."

The openness and creativity, Shelton explains, are the keys to maintaining a community space for artists. "We do not simply have 'Planet Ant People' that come here," he says, referring to the Planet Ant Theater and Hall right next door, which host all variety of theater and musical entertainment. "We have an open door to those who want to create and collaborate. Anyone who wants a home here has one."

By Mickey Lyons

For \$15 a month, FRD Pharmacy can hook you up with a doctor

By Alan Madlane

Ever wake up in the middle of the night and feel sick, but not sick enough to wait hours and hours in a hospital emergency room?

You are now in luck.

local Sav-Mor Pharmacies is an innovative plan called Telehealth. The program is the brainchild of a parent company called My T Health Plus, and is meant to help provide quicker access to health care, particularly during off-hours.

Hamtramck's Sav-More FRD Pharmacy is located at 9811 Conant, which is part of the program. You can call them at (313) 871-1115 if you have questions about the program.

Here is what we can tell you. You agree to pay

\$14.99 per month to cover you and your family members, and in return you all get 24/7/365 Riding to your rescue at coverage that enables you to call a board-certified physician any time you need one, in order to get a diagnosis and, if necessary, a prescription as well - right over the phone.

Yes, you read that right - a prescription over the phone.

Yvonne Gallagher, President of Sav-Mor Pharmacy Services, said in a press release "Our customers are our family, so we are committed to helping them get the re-

sources they need as quickly as possible."

This system would be especially effective in instances where a customer realizes they've run out of an essential medication and needs to refill it "yesterday."

The My T Health Plus e b s i t e (mythealthplus.com) mentions another huge benefit: The service is also meant to protect you when you are travelling.

Think of this program as a helping hand that can prove essential after your doctor's office closes. And the price is a bargain as medical costs go these days.

Three are charged in elaborate money transfer scheme **By Charles Sercombe** scheme in which he funwhether they are immi-

Two Hamtramck men

facing federal charges of money laundering. Fahd Hezam Samaha,

45, and Maged Alsabahi, 29, face multiple charges of sending \$66 million to Yemen and China, and other countries, through a series of complex financial transactions and the use of 25 phony busi-

nesses. A third man, Omar Al-

halmi, 38, also faces

charges in a similar

neled over \$22 million to Yemen. According to US federal

court records and media reports, the men would hire others to create fake businesses in order to make the transfers. What is not immedi-

ately known is the source of the money. It's also

not known who was on the receiving end of the money and what it was used for.

Not much is known

about the men and

grants from Yemen or were born here. Their operation existed

from 2013 to 2015. All three face a maxi-

mum of 10 years in prison.





Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Censure resolution makes all councilmembers look bad

To say that the relationships among some city councilmembers is strained is an understatement.

Normally, the ebb and flow of interpersonal relations among city officials don't rise to something worth reporting about.

But there was a recent incident that occurred during a closed meeting to discuss a pending lawsuit that veered off the rails.

It is said that Councilmembers Ian Perrotta, Saad Almasmari and Anam Miah came close to physical combat. We know Perrotta filed a police report as did Miah and Almas- improve Veterans Park.

There is an investigation into the allegations. In the meantime Councilmembers Almasmari, Miah, Abu Musa and Al-Marsoumi passed a resolution "censuring" Perrotta for his behavior.

That was a reckless thing to do.

Why?

The city is in a partnership with the public school board with a goal to win a major multi-million dollar grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation to fund an extensive renovation of the city's historical baseball stadium and

One of the key conditions of winning the grant is the ability of school and city officials to work together and provide stability.

The censure resolution could sabotage this

Whatever differences councilmembers have with each other, we advise them to work them out behind the scenes. You were elected to better the community - not blow a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity because of your petty differences.

Get your act together,

Odds & Ends

Correction... In last week's issue we incorrectly quoted City Councilmember lan Perrotta's response to a council resolution censuring him.

(Editor's note: Perrotta is a copy editor at The Review but had no role in the editing or proofreading of the story.)

Here is the correct auote:

"The council used the resolution of censure for no purpose other than to destroy my reputation."

We regret any inconvenience the error may have caused.

Got a good story?... We talked about this last

week in our "Quick Hits" front-page column. It's worth a reminder.

Here's what we said:

Got a business in town and have a good tale to tell?

Hey, if you are a Hamtramck entrepreneur, you likely have quite a story,

is Hamtramck.

If so, the folks at the New Economy Initiative (NEI) and Model D are inviting you to submit a submission with chance for four lucky winners to receive one-onone training with host Shannon Cason, a Moth MainStage storyteller and GrandSlam cham-

This is their Third Annual Startup Story Night, a storytelling event for metro Detroit entrepreneurs. This year's theme, "Don't Call It a Comeback!" focuses on taking your business from the brink to triumph over startup woes. Submissions are being accepted now through Friday, Feb. 15, at 11:59 p.m.

entrepre-Interested neurs can submit a brief overview of their startup story online at: newecon-

omyinitiative.org Last year, four local en-

because, you know, this trepreneurs shared their stories on the lengths they go for the love of their businesses in front of a packed audience at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

> Another one... As in another lawsuit has been filed against a multi-jurisdictional police team for alleged wrongdoing by police officers.

> Hamtramck was part of an investigative team called COBRA, which was created to go after car thefts. However, officers in the squad went way off the rails in their pursuit, and their bad behavior cost Hamtramck hundreds of thousands of dollars to settle several lawsuits.

> The good news is the unit was disbanded last year after funding dried up. The bad news is we are all still paying for their sins.

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Other Voices: Guest Editorial

Resolution of censure raises questions of competency on multiple fronts

By Ian Perrotta

The resolution of censure passed against me by the Hamtramck City Council – and the subsequent coverage (or lack thereof) by The Hamtramck Review - marks a low point in my time serving this great city.

First and foremost, the resolution of censure was not passed for the betterment of the city. Rather, it was a blatant attempt to sully my reputation. The resolution was completely unnecessary and only serves those individuals who wish to harm my standing in the community and limit my future professional opportunities.

The members of city council who passed this resolution failed to recognize that passing it will undoubtedly bring ridicule and scorn to Hamtramck. The lack of competence displayed by the passage of this resolution is astounding and is likely to jeopardize future projects that would otherwise be easily achieved.

Second, the fact that this resolution seeks to reprimand me for statements made to the media in 2017 by admonishing me in 2019 to "guard

against making such ... remarks in the future" raises constitutional serious questions regarding the governmental limitation of my right to the freedom of speech.

Third, this resolution raises questions about the city attorney's objectivity. The original version of this resolution was written by the now city attorney in 2017 prior to him obtaining his current employment contract with the city, and this current resolution references events in which the city attorney was directly involved.

As such, he should have recused himself from being involved with this resolution. Alternatively, if he was not involved in creating this version of the resolution he should have urged the council to be judicious with its actions something he did not do, despite multiple people providing reasons this resolution could have significant legal consequences.

Fourth, in addition to being false, the allegations made against me within this resolution are entirely hypocritical, and if my alleged actions truly do merit a resolution of censure

then other members of council should be subject to the same fate.

Whereas I may have reacted inappropriately by merely swearing when the city attorney accused me of making decisions for the community "based on who drinks at [my] bar," I did not react with threats of violence - something Councilman Anam Miah did do in response to my reac-

Mr. Miah also called me a racial slur while he invaded my personal space and aggressively threatened to "beat [my] ass." This is particularly egregious, as the inclusive nature of Hamtramck is specifically mentioned in Councilman Saad Almasmari's resolution of censure against me – an irony that should not be lost on anyone familiar with Mr. Almasmari's bigoted reaction to the publication of a photo that showed his presence at a wedding between two gay Hamtramck residents in 2016.

Finally, the reporting on this incident by The Hamtramck Review has been factually inaccurate and

failed to capture the palpa-Continued on page 8

Mayor sees a much bigger problem among councilmembers

By Charles Sercombe

The worst problem confronting the city council is other.

Instead, said Mayor Karen Majewski at last Tuesday's emotional council meeting, it's councilmembers not keeping their word.

"Our word is the basis our constituents trust and allows us to work together," Majewski said during a lengthy discussion on a resolution to censure Councilmember Ian Perrotta.

The resolution was submitted by Councilmember Saad Almasmari, who said Perrotta assaulted him during a recent closed meeting.

Perrotta filed a police report charging Almasmari with assault. Almasmari filed a counter-charge of assault.

The resolution also took Perrotta to task for com-

ments he made during a council meeting in 2017. At that time Perrotta not whether councilmem- talked about designing an residents on how to properly dispose their household garbage.

Some councilmembers took offense over his comments, saying he disparaged the city's immigrant community. That led to a resolution to censure Perrotta, but it was withdrawn.

Perrotta insisted then that he did not intend to demean anyone but did offer an apology.

Mayor Majewski said she had earlier talked with Almasmari to withdraw that part of the resolution, saying it was an old issue that had been dealt with and had nothing to do with what happened in the closed-door meeting.

Majewski said she thought she had an agreement with Almasmari, and was surprised to see it was not deleted in his resolution.

Almasmari did not dispute that they had bers are assaulting each educational program for reached an agreement to take that accusation out of his resolution.

> Majewski also went lineby-line in the resolution, saying it unfairly characterized Perrotta and implied further bad behavior without any basis or proof.

> The resolution passed 4-0 with Councilmembers Almasmari, Abu Musa, Anam Miah and Fadel Al-Marsoumi voting in favor. Councilmembers Perrotta and Andrea Karpinski declined to vote on the mat-

> Majewski also took aim at Perrotta, criticizing him for telling his brother about the physical altercation.

> Perrotta stood ground.

"My word is my bond," he said. "I take my integrity very seriously."

Continued on page 8

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Censure resolution in its own words

By Charles Sercombe

Since last week's story about City Councilmember Ian Perrotta being subjected to a council censure, we have received requests to print the actual resolution.

The resolution contains references to a number issues, but specifics are given.

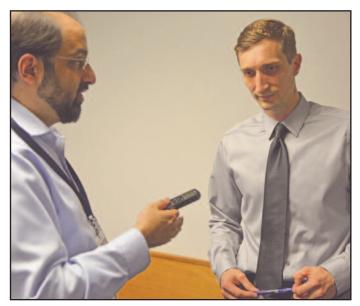
For example, Perrotta, who is in his second term, is accused of verbally abusing a female city employee. The resolution does not specify what he allegedly said nor did it identify the em-

Perrotta has denied the allegations, and has said the resolution is an attempt to smear him.

Below is the resolution: RESOLUTION 2019-07 APPROVING CENSURE OF COUNCILMAN IAN **PERROTTA** FOR AS-SAULTIVE, ABUSIVE AND **UNCIVIL CONDUCT**

WHEREAS, Hamtramck takes pride in its history as a community that welcomes immigrants from all parts of the world;

WHEREAS, Hamtramck



City Councilmember Ian Perrotta (right) was the subject of a council censure recently.

currently has one of the most diverse populations of any city in the United

WHEREAS, elected and appointed officials of the City of Hamtramck serve at the pleasure of all residents of the city regardless of their respective gender, sexual orientation, ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds and should set an example of how people of different backgrounds should interact with one another without regard to these characteristics:

WHEREAS, Councilman Perrotta made several disparaging remarks to CBS Detroit that were published on September 11, 2017, about recent immigrant arrivals to Hamtramck insinuating that, as a group, they lacked basic knowledge of and adherence to community norms related to sanitation and property maintenance;

WHEREAS, Councilman Perrotta's bigoted comments relied upon and furthered harmful and hurtful stereotypes about European and Western cultural superiority over many of the immigrant cultures represented by members of this Council and the broader commu-

WHEREAS, Councilman Perrotta's bigoted comments brought disrepute upon this body, held up members of this community and the city itself for ridicule and scorn, are demonstrably false, and have no place in civil public discourse;

WHEREAS, Councilman Perrotta apologized for these comments on September 26, 2017, most of which were direct quotes, while still relying upon the tired excuse that he was "taken out of context" or misquoted;

WHEREAS, his fellow members of Council accepted his apology and, as a gesture of good will, withdrew a resolution of censure from the September 26, 2017 City Council agenda;

WHEREAS, his fellow members of Council have included Councilman Perrotta in cultural and community events as a further effort to build a good working relationship with him;

WHEREAS, Councilman Perrotta has continued to show contempt for some of his fellow members of Council and members of the community with uncivil comments that mock and demean them:

WHEREAS, Councilman Perrotta has shown further contempt for this body on December 11, 2018 by physically assaulting a member with whom he disagreed and by attempting to provoke physical altercations with other members;

WHEREAS, Councilman Perrotta's abusive language toward a female employee on December 11, 2018 and communications with this employee since that time have the potential of creating a hostile work environment for her as well

as any other employees subjected to it;

NOW THEREFORE, **HAMTRAMCK** CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. That Councilman Ian Perrotta be and hereby is publically censured for remarks he made in the above referenced CBS report from September 11, 2017 as well as his hostile and abusive behavior since that time including, but not limited to. his conduct at the December 11, 2018 city council meeting;

2. That Councilman lan Perrotta be and hereby is admonished to guard against making such biased, abusive and impertinent remarks in the future:

3. That Councilman Ian Perrotta be and hereby is warned that the sergeant-at-arms will remove him from any future proceedings in which he engages in or threatens to engage in assaultive con-

Obituaries

SLEZAK

Delphine Slezak, 72, died January 27, 2019.

Delphine was the sister of Michael (Marcy) and Robert "Bob" (Sharon) Slezak. Delphine is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Private services were

by the family. Arrangements were entrusted to Jurkiewicz &













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3920 Garvin, single family 2 br., half basement, new roof, gutters, furnace and hot water tank, fully furnished, by appt. only, 734-915-7888. 1/25

2954 Goodson, 4 br., living, dining rm., kitchen, full basement, 2 car garage, turn-key house, \$125,000, 248-879-2521, ask for Pete.

This first level has 2 br., 1 bath, big living rm., spacious kitchen, appl. inc., forced air heating, Goodson St., 1 block from Hamtramck shopping center, \$700/mo. + sec. dep., tenant resp. for utilities, Shawn, 313-415-1767. 2/15

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Hamtramck Review

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By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Jan. 23-28.

Wednesday, January 23

- · A pedestrian was injured in a car crash in the 9500 block of Conant.
- A pedestrian who was struck by a car retaliated by striking the car with a hammer.
- · A resident was arrested for driving without a license, and a passenger was arrested for assault in an earlier incident in which he pointed a gun at a tow truck driver. The gun was recovered.

Thursday, January 24

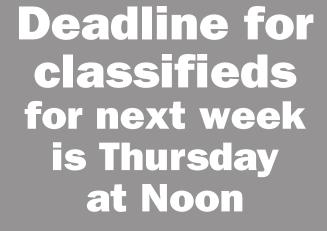
- At midnight a Detroit resident was arrested in the 11500 block of St. Aubin for assault.
- · At about 1:30 a.m. a Detroit resident was arrested in the 2200 block of Danforth St. for being disorderly.
- A resident in the 2200 block of Evaline St. reported the theft of their car, a 2008 Pontiac with a Michigan license plate of DFY9157.
- · Officers responded to a fight between two stu-

dents at Oakland International Academy. The students were ticketed.

- · A resident reported his PlayStation 4 was stolen by a male posing as a buyer from an online application.
- · A Detroit resident was arrested for driving without a license and being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.

Friday, January 25

- · At about 1 a.m. a resident was assaulted while visiting a person on Mc-Dougall St.
- · A Charest St. resident reported the theft of their city-issued trash can.
- A Gallagher St. resident reported their vehicle was broken into.
- A Detroit resident was arrested for drunk driving after being involved in an accident at Jos. Campau and Hanley.
- · A Detroit resident was arrested for driving without a license (with eight previous convictions) and being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.
- · A resident in the **Continued on page 8**



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Mayor sees a much bigger problem among councilmembers Cont. from page 5

Perrotta also pointed out that the only thing he is obligated to keep confidential is the subject of the closed-door meeting, which had to do with a lawsuit.

Anything that is said or any activity not related to that topic, he said, is fair game.

According to the Open Meetings Act, during a closed meeting public officials can only discuss matters related to that meeting. In other words, if the reason for the meeting is about a specific lawsuit, officials can't launch into a discussion about upcoming labor negotiations.

What apparently stirred up the bad blood in that closed meeting was when City Attorney James Allen said he would not discuss labor issues with Perrotta and Karpinski because he perceives them of being too close to firefighters.

How did he arrive at that conclusion? Perrotta said Allen called them out by claiming firefighters drink at the bars they own.

Perrotta owns Trixie's Bar and Karpinski's family owns the Polish Sea League.

Perrotta says that's an incorrect assumption because firefighters do not

go to his bar. Karpinski stressed that while some firefighters frequent her family's bar she would never discuss confidential contract matters "for the price of a \$3 beer."

Karpinski was not at the closed meeting that the physical assaults legedly occurred.

With Perrotta Karpinski apparently on the rocks with Allen, Perrotta suggested another attorney from Allen's law firm take over his duties in dealing with the council.

Allen did not comment on that suggestion. The next council meeting is Feb. 12.

Hamtramck

Continued from page 7

Tues: 10am-6pm • Wed: 10am-6pm

Friday: 8am-1pm • Sat: 4pm-8pm

11400 block of Jos. Campau reported the theft of their Michigan license plate (BWL943).

· A Detroit resident was arrested for driving without a license (with 28 previous convictions) and possessing heroin and crack cocaine.

Saturday, January 26

- · A resident in the 2300 block of Botsford St. reported a theft.
- Two Detroit residents were arrested after a traffic stop for driving without a license and both possessing an open intoxicant.
 - A resident reported

his garage door was dam-

· A Harper Woods resident reported he was assaulted with a bat during a fight.

· A person was treated for an overdose but refused to be taken to a hospital.

Sunday, January 27

- · A Roseville resident was arrested in the 11400 block of Jos. Campau for being disorderly.
- Officers performed CPR on a Botsford St. res-

ident who was found unresponsive on top of the snow. Apparently, the resident suffered a heart attack while shoveling. They were treated at Detroit Receiving Hospital.

 A Yemans resident was arrested for domestic violence.

Monday, January 28

- Highland Park police turned over to Hamtramck police a Southfield resident wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.
- · Two people told officers they were victims of a domestic assault. The suspect had fled the scene of the assault.

Resolution of censure raises questions of competency on multiple fronts

Cont. from page 5

ble opposition to the resolution of censure. This raises serious questions of journalistic integrity.

For example, I wrote on my Facebook page that "[t]he council used the resolution of censure for no purpose other than to destroy my reputation," yet, the Hamtramck Review published the following quote: "They censored [sic] me for no other purpose than destroy me [sic]." If a simple quote can't be accurately represented, what else is wrong with the reporting?

The answer, unfortunately, is a lot. For instance, despite going line-by-line through the censure resolution for a period of 20 minutes and pointing out factual issues and unsupported conclusions,

one of the only mentions The Review article gave to Mayor Karen Majewski was that she "said she did not see what happened because she is shorter than the others." The article also failed to capture any of the problems I raised regarding the resolution, despite me also speaking on the topic for a period of 20 minutes.

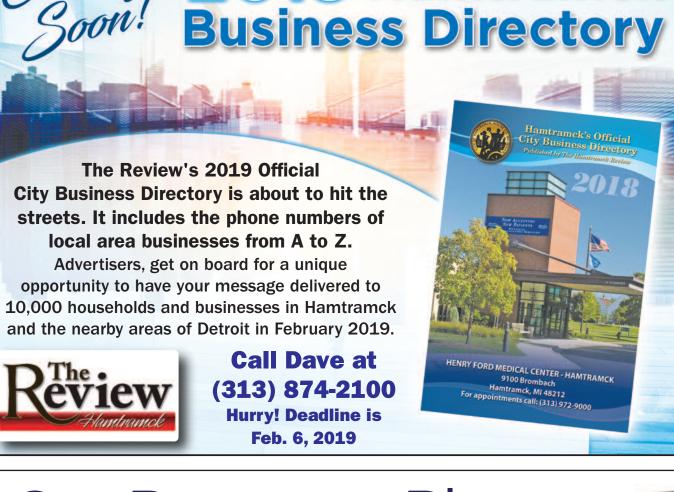
There is much more to say about this issue than can fit in this editorial, and I encourage readers to do their own research on the matter and form their own conclusions. This is a nuanced and complicated situation that goes back years, and very few residents are aware of how the parts and players are interconnected.

My Facebook page has videos of the last four council meetings and I also broadcast a live feed of meetings for those who are unable to watch them at home.

Regardless of this needlessly inflicted blemish to my record of public service, I will not choose to engage in the same type of retaliatory behavior by bringing my own resolutions of censure against other members of council, even though I believe that action would be objectively warranted.

Doing so would only further the enormous divide already present on council and exacerbate tensions. Instead, I will continue to serve the community with the same vigor and zeal I always have, and I will choose to look forward rather than backward as I work to make Hamtramck the best community it can

possibly be. (Mr. Perrotta is a copy editor at The Review.)





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