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 Volume 11 No. 30  
**July 26, 2019**  
**50¢**

# The Review

*Hamtramck*

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## Quick Hits

This weekend starts the festival season in Hamtramck.

The annual Hamtramck Diversity Festival will be held this Friday through Sunday on Conant, up to Casmere St.

It's a cultural celebration of the Bangladeshi community, featuring some amazing singers and performers, crafts and great food.

Be sure to check it out.

The opening ceremony is on Saturday at 5 p.m.

Next Thursday (Aug. 1) the Hamtramck police and fire departments are throwing a party.

It's part of the National Night Out, when communities celebrate their public safety personnel.

The departments are inviting the public out to Zussman Park for an evening of family fun.

The festivities kick off at 4 p.m., when police officers will play a soccer match against the Hamtramck Warriors.

The family activities start at 5 p.m. and go to 7 p.m.

**Continued on page 5**

## — HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

# Hamtramck is down and out? Not so, counters the mayor

**By Alan Madlane**

"I coulda had class. I coulda been a contender. I coulda been somebody, instead of a bum, which is what I am, let's face it." — Marlon Brando as boxer Terry Malloy in *On the Waterfront*.

Cut to the early 1910s. It is Hamtramck, and the Dodge Brothers are just opening their new car manufacturing plant.

This would usher in an economic boom for the city that would last (discounting the Great Depression decade), arguably, into the 1970s, perhaps even the 1980s.

Then, quick as you could say "Dodge Dart," the



**Recently, an online publication listed Hamtramck among several other cities nationwide as once being well off, to now being not so well off. Mayor Karen Majewski took issue with that characterization.**

plant shuttered up, and the apparent decline began.

Down through the abandonment of the American Axle plant.

Ending with a city in receivership for a good part of the middle of this current decade, until March of last year.

There is even scuttlebutt of another potential receivership situation if the city cannot manage to navigate.

**Continued on page 2**



**Strong winds downed a power line on Trowbridge St. Saturday evening, which then caused several houses and garages to catch on fire.**

## Downed electric line sparks multiple house fires

**By Charles Sercombe**

A fierce storm with high winds knocked down a power line, which sparked a house fire on Trowbridge Saturday evening.

Residents on the scene, which was located on Trowbridge between Jos. Campau and Gallagher, say the fire started when a power line fell down on a two-family house and quickly spread to other houses.

Three houses were severely damaged, while others sustained various degrees of damages.

All of the residents in the area were evacuated.

**Continued on page 4**

## Charges pending in assault case

**By Charles Sercombe**

A suspect is in custody for two sexual assaults that recently happened in the city.

At press time Thursday, the police department declined to identify the suspect pending a warrant being issued by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

A couple of weeks ago, two women reported they were followed by a black male and sexually assaulted.

The assaults happened on two different days at different locations.

Police previously said they did not know whether it was the same suspect, or two individuals.

Few details of the assaults were released.

"Each case involves a female victim that was approached by a suspect while walking alone," said Police Chief Anne Moise in a press release.

The department is still warning women that if you have to be alone while out on the streets to pay attention to your surroundings.

"If you feel unsafe or are concerned about suspicious activity, please go to a safe location, preferably somewhere open to the public. Contact police immediately by dialing 911 or calling direct to (313) 800-5280," police said.

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Thank You  
HAMTRAMCK

# Hamtramck is down and out? Not so, counters the mayor

Continued from front page

igate the next looming budget crisis. Again, due to an auto plant closure –

this time, the GM plant on the city's south edge. None of this is the fault

of the current administration.

It's "just business" – the sad way things often work in today's business world, when people and the cities they inhabit are shunted aside, in favor of profits for rich stockholders.

And it overlooks a lot of the positives that are happening (or have already happened, or will soon happen) in this town.

Still, perceptions can be difficult to combat. Witness an Msn.com "Money" online piece (www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/amer-

ican-towns-that-used-to-be-rich-but-are-now-poor) that lists Hamtramck – alongside nine other towns – among their "used-to-be" rich, that are now, well, not so much.

Most other places that went from rags to riches in the article are southern, perhaps surprisingly – three (Ville Platte, Springhill and Bogalusa) in Louisiana, and one each in Florida (Brownsville), Georgia (Brunswick), North Carolina (Laurinberg) and Arkansas (Camden).

The other two are Rust Belt cousins: Johnstown, Pennsylvania and East Cleveland, Ohio.

It's easy for outsiders to read certain economic statistical indicators and jump to conclusions.

One of the formulas used was Average Family

Income, which at roughly \$24,000 per year in Hamtramck, is considered to be around poverty level.

On the business side of it, Hamtramck's commercial building vacancy rate would appear to be relatively low to the casual observer (who actually bothers to come to the city and check).

And that's in spite of a certain persnickety commercial property owner here, a dozen or so storefronts on Jos. Campau remain persistently vacant, perhaps almost on purpose?

Nevertheless, new businesses of all stripes continue to pop up. Hamtramck may not have full-flowered into the hipster mecca that the Utne Reader predicted a decade or so ago, but neither did it

curl up and die like many doomsayers thought it would.

Mayor Karen Majewski naturally felt compelled to weigh in.

"That (article) really stung, but there is no stigma to being poor," she said. Hamtramck may be low-income, she acknowledged, but "I think of us as a vibrant, interesting place."

She questioned the methodology as well.

"Damn, we're doing pretty good – for being poor," she added, with more than a bit of sarcasm.

Well, they can hurl all the sticks and stones they want at Hamtramck, but it won't hurt a town built out of brick and sweat so much.

"Used to be." Our eye.

## Hamtramck needs you. Various commissions have vacancies

By Alan Madlane

They're looking for a few good people. Maybe you're some of them?

The City of Hamtramck is reviving a number of dormant boards and commissions – most of them inactive for some number of years, since they were disbanded by one of the state-appointed emergency managers – and most have positions to be filled.

Some of them are volunteer posts, but others offer a stipend. They nevertheless carry with them opportunities for civic activism, a sense of community, and, if that isn't enough, some cachet ("Hi there, I'm on the city's In-

come Tax Review Board").

Well okay, maybe not that much cachet.

But they do need you.

According to a notice send from the City Clerk's office, there are 10 different boards and commissions seeking anywhere from a single added member to a dozen.

The Human Relations Commission is actually seeking 12 new people; the Youth Advisory Council has nine vacancies; the Arts and Culture Commission and the Beautification Commission need seven people apiece; the Recycling Commission, six, and the Parks Advisory Commission and Library Board, five each.

The Plan Commission and the Downtown Development Authority have two openings each they seek to fill, and the Historical Commission has a single vacancy.

The Income Tax Review Board, the Housing Commission and the Assessor Board of Review are currently at capacity, as of the time of the info release.

For more information, call the Clerk's Department at (313) 800-5233, stop in at 3401 Evaline, or go online to www.hamtramck.us/government/boards-and-commissions.

## This week at the library...

**Toddler Time** - June 6th-August 8th, Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Toddler time is for Children up to age 5 and their parents and caregivers. This program includes stories and songs and is followed by unstructured playtime.

**A UNIVERSE OF STORIES SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM 2019** - Registration opens Monday June 17th! Come to the Library to sign up and get your activity log! Guest performer, activities, prizes, and lots of fun! **Program runs weekly on Wednesdays, June 26-August 7.** This is a Free Program. Open to all youth ages 4-12.

**Free Time Fridays** - Friday July 26th, 2019 1:00 p.m. American Red Cross Emergency Prep Pillowcase Project. Ages 4-12.

**A Universe of Stories TEEN CLUB** - Mondays June 24-August 5, 2-4 p.m. Registration opens June 17th. Grades 6 and up are welcome. Join us for workshops, guest speakers and hands-on events!

**ANIME CLUB** - Every Thursday 5-7 p.m. Begins June 27. Hang out, share and discover Anime and Manga. Grades 6 and up. Adults are also welcome

**ESL CONVERSATION CAFÉ** - 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Weekly on Mondays. Program is

free and open to adults and teens who want to improve their English language skills. Interested in volunteering? Contact the library for more information

**A Universe of Stories - (Movies at the Library)** - Tuesdays 4 p.m. July 2- August 27. Adults and Teens are welcome. Light refreshments will be served

**Dinosaur Party!!** - Hamtramck Public Library, Friday August 9th, 2:30 p.m. Join us for a Dinosaur Storytime Event Featuring: snacks, stories, crafts and more that's all about Dinosaurs!!!! (This is an all ages event, and children must be accompanied by an adult)

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.

*Happy 50th!!*

**Congratulations to Michael and Barbara Zebrowski on their 50th Wedding Anniversary!**

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The Review is celebrating  
our 10-year anniversary!



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HAMTRAMCK

# Second Front Page

## Detroit Wheelhouse offers a season of bike tours

By Alan Madlane

Four wheels good; two wheels better.

That would seem to be the implied motto of the folks at wily Wheelhouse Detroit, Hamtramck’s very own emporium for all things bicycle.

They’ve got new bike tours. They’re supporting a number of local events with bike options for travel. They’ve got a large stock of used bikes for sale.

And more.

First off, they are up to offering 22 different specific tours. Their monthly Auto Heritage Tour has been selected as a Motorcities National Heritage Area partner tour.

They have put together a tour of the Joe Louis Greenway, which is itself still being realized. For this, they have partnered with the Detroit Greenways Coalition.

And they are newly partnered up with the Fort Wayne Coalition in



Detroit Wheelhouse on Jos. Campau will be hosting several bicycle tours this summer.

order to add more layered interest to their Southwest Detroit tour.

If you’re interested in these, or any of the other, tours, consult their website. They recommend you sign up in advance, as each tour is limited to a maximum of 15 participants, in order to ensure a more personal experience.

Don’t have your own

bike? You can always rent one, for only \$10 additional per tour. The only downer? They make you wear helmets, no doubt for liability reasons.

Still – it’s just plain weird to get passed on the road by a helmet-free guy on his giant Harley while you have to wear noggin protection like a 5-year-old.

We digress.

You can always buy a bike from them too. They’d like that. They have Kona, Giant, Haro, Brooklyn Bicycle Co. Opus and Del Sol brand bikes for you to purchase.

They also have an ever-changing variety of used cycles, starting at \$100, plus all the gear you’d ever want.

Lastly, don’t forget that they supply bike valets to keep a watch on your cycle at nearby events such as the Jazz Fest and Hamtramck Labor Day Fest, DCFC games, and other events. Check their website.

Now get on your bike and ride!

(Detroit Wheelhouse is located at 9401 Jos. Campau. They can be reached at (313) 871-2811.)



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## Reader feedback... Talking little league and politics

By Charles Sercombe

Our website continues to attract readers’ comments.

For those who may have overlooked the comment sections, or for those who do not have internet access, here’s a round-up of the latest comments.

Back in 2011, Walter Wasacz wrote about Hamtramck’s glory years in Little League and the Pony League in the 1950s and 1960s, when Hamtramck won championships.

Hey, the column may be several years old, but it’s nice to know people read our archives.

The latest to “batter up” on the article is Dick “Lefty” Ehart, who wrote:

“This column brought back some great memories. I went to Servite HS and pitched against St. Lads 3-4 times in my high school career.

“They could beat you so many different ways. In my junior year I threw a three-hitter against them with 17 strikeouts, and still lost 1-0. This was a team that featured senior John Paciorek and sophomore Tom Paciorek.

“The guy that did me in was a first baseman named Les Tanana. He hit a home run, and there went the ball game.”

On the recent candidate forum, Fatema Hossain wrote:

“Justin Jessop’s speech that his two opponents are ‘great people’ and are ‘exceptionally qualified’ leads one to conclude that the is an informal ‘slate’ between the three.

“One topic not covered in the article is the ongoing problems with controversies surrounding the police department. What about the allegations against the City of Hamtramck Police Department in the civil rights action filed by Bumbo’s patrons, who have had their cars towed with the claimed complicity of unnamed officers? The city has been incurring huge legal fees in defending that case.

“As for the FBI, yes there has been activity that has resulted in charges – against a Hamtramck officer for his conduct during a traffic stop.”

On the same article, Dennis Nowak noted:

“Bob Zwolak has been an elected officeholder since 1972 and has been likely the most visible member of the Hamtramck community in the last 50 years.

“He has a wealth of knowledge and specific expertise on virtually all facets of municipal opera-

tions. His expertise is needed on city council – many of whom are clueless on how to run a city effectively.”

Regarding the recent guest editorial by former city councilmember Scott Klein, council candidate Carrie Beth Lasley wrote:

“Scott got pissy with me a couple of months ago. Prior to that he was encouraging me to stir the pot, even going as far as to provide me with a political hitman, which I do not need.

“Deeply hypocritical of him to make this attack when he is the biggest pot-stirrer I know.

“The fact that he wrote this is perfect evidence. He doesn’t even live here. It’s time to move on, Scott.

“But, alas, here he is stirring about stirring. It’s like I’m a threat to the Old-Boys network.”

(Editor’s note: Klein did not mention who he was talking about in his guest editorial.)

Scott Klein replied: “Gee, I reread the editorial ... no place did I mention anyone ... folks are entitled to an opinion, and to express it.

“And nope, other than casual and infrequent meetings around the

Continued on page 8

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*Thank You*  
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# This year's Hamtramck Labor Day Festival poster makes its debut

**By Charles Sercombe**

The Hamtramck Labor Day Festival is just five weeks away.

Sorry, we don't mean to be a downer, but July is just about done with, and summer is winding down.

Anyway, the festival organizers have released this year's festival poster.

It was done by Hamtramck resident Dave Toennies (aka "Ton Yes"), who is a former automobile designer.

This year's poster features something that has grown to be almost a bigger event than the festival itself: the annual canoe race.



**Dave Toennies**

The race is held on Monday morning (Labor Day) right before the Polish Day Parade.

It has been attracting more and more onlookers in recent years. For those unfamiliar with it, the canoes are sort of shaped like canoes, but which are fitted with wheels and manned with two team members.

One does the pushing, and one does the sitting in the "canoe."

The highlight, though, are the hijinks of the onlookers who are encouraged to throw water balloons at the race participants, and heck, even each other.

It's wet, rowdy and a little boozy.

Pure Hamtramck.

But it is family-oriented, don't get us wrong, and there are plenty of kids who attend and get excited about throwing water balloons at adults.

As for the poster, Ton Yes said he purposely focused on the race.

"I had a couple reasons for wanting to focus on the canoe race for the poster. For one, it's just



**This year's poster for the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival.**

such a unique event. It's iconic, right?" Yes said.

"People see one of

those canoes and they know exactly what it is and where to find it. Obviously, Labor Day is a pretty busy weekend in the Detroit area, and there's a lot of festivals that offer live music and games and food and the like – but none of the others have anything similar to the canoe races.

"I think it's cool that it's something that everyone can enjoy, no matter your age, and it's got the crowd participation aspect going too.

"The other big reason was that I wanted to try to do an image that was different than the subject matter of past fest posters, so that I wasn't just rehashing something we'd done before.

"I went looking through some of the more recent ones, and noticed that the races hadn't been the focus for the poster before, and decided to run with that."

This year's festival is Aug. 31-Sept. 2.

## Downed electric line sparks multiple house fires

**Continued from front page**

the homes were either not home or managed to get out safely.

The most heavily damaged house was the two-family house, which was totally destroyed. Fire Marshal Bill Diamond said the live power lines hampered firefighters, who were getting shocks from the energized houses.

"We had to halt suppression," Diamond said. DTE crews were also delayed in shutting down power to the block because they were on many downed lines reports throughout the metro area.

Many communities suffered severe damages from the high winds.

Even when the power was cut off, Diamond said some of the houses still had stored energy, possibly because they became charged when the lines surged.

Also adding to the challenge was that Hamtramck firefighters were on two other calls when

the Trowbridge fire occurred. One crew was at a house fire on Denton St.

The downed line on Trowbridge also heavily damaged two more homes several houses east of the two-family house. Firefighters rescued two dogs from that house, and volunteers on the scene managed to get them into a cage.

Diamond said a pet cat died at one of the houses.

Most of the firefighters on the scene were from Detroit. Hamtramck has an automatic assistance agreement with Detroit and Highland Park.

A Hamtramck firefighter was treated at a hospital for heat exhaustion, and a Detroit firefighter injured his shoulder.

Hamtramck firefighters continued to have a busy night after the Trowbridge fire. They were called to four other runs after that fire, including house fires in Detroit and Highland Park.



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العامة.



### Summer in the city

School may be out for the summer but that doesn't mean students stop learning.

To help nurture your reading skills and also have some fun, the Hamtramck Public Library is the place to hang out.

The library's summer ticket: the annual Summer Reading Program runs on Mondays in the afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m., through Aug. 5. The program is targeted at grades 6 and up.

There will be guest speakers, workshops, and some hands-on events.

Adults and teens can also fill their time – and beat the heat – while they watch movies on Tuesdays at 4 p.m. through Aug. 27. These screenings are free, and light refreshments will be served.

The library is located at 2360 Caniff.

### Enrollment Information

Hamtramck residents may enroll their children in Hamtramck Public Schools at the HPS Business Office, 3201 Roosevelt. School of Choice applications will be accepted during the following dates: Kindergarten:

Unlimited, through September 5; Grades 1st through 12th.

Late school of choice applications cannot be accepted. School of choice applicants may be denied based on the student's attendance and/or disciplinary records.

You will need to bring with you: an original birth document (raised seal birth certificate, passport, green card, visa), an up-to-date immunization record, a final 2018-2019 report card/transcript, parental identification, two current proofs of residency (utility bill, mortgage statement, formal signed lease, pay stub, etc.) and proof of income (required only for preschool applications).

### Recreation Department News

For more information about recreation activities this summer, give us a call at (313) 892-2635. Follow us on Facebook for the most up-to-date information: [www.Facebook.com/HamtramckRecreationDepartment](http://www.Facebook.com/HamtramckRecreationDepartment)

**Compiled by  
Janice Gandelman**

**Get Out on the Hamtown!**



The Review is celebrating  
our 10-year anniversary!

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ANNIVERSARY

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# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### Talk of eliminating city income tax is reckless

There has been growing talk among some city council candidates and others in the community to eliminate the city's income tax.

There are 23 communities in the state that have such a tax. In Hamtramck, it brings in \$2.2 million a year – which is a significant chunk of change, considering that the city's annual budget is about \$16 million.

While the collection is a major revenue source, it doesn't really hit most folks that hard on their yearly income.

For those living here, the income tax is set at 1 percent. For those who work here, but don't live in the city, it's a mere ½ percent.

The argument for eliminating it is based on the notion that by doing so, it will somehow how spur economic development.

Even if that could be

proven, it would have to basically happen overnight to offset the loss of \$2.2 million a year.

The talk of wiping away the income tax is reckless and ignorant. Only folks who have no idea just how tight our city budget is would be behind this proposal.

As it stands now, the city is in deficit spending mode, and it threatens to erode our \$5 million budget surplus a few years.

Add to that, the city is going to be losing about \$800,000 a year when GM's Poletown plant closes, starting in January.

And, the federal SAFER grant that pays the salaries for 12 firefighters also just went away.

We find it ironic that some of the folks who want to do away with the income tax are against allowing medical and recreational

marijuana sales in town.

Allowing this legal sale of marijuana would allow Hamtramck to tap into monies the state will collect in sales taxes and other fees.

The naysayers argue that allowing marijuana sales – even if the sales locations were confined to remote parts of the city – would somehow influence children.

Or worse, yet, kids would be able to get their hands on pot.

Well, we have liquor stores and a dozen or so pharmacies that sell controlled substances, and there hasn't been a noticeable effect on our youth.

Hamtramck needs more money, not less, if it wants to remain financially sound.

What we would like to hear from candidates are actual, workable plans to bring in more revenue.

## Odds & Ends

By Alan Madlane

**Coming up...** Everybody's digging on the old school music formats again these days.

Half the people at any given estate sale are rooting around for LPs, 45s or cassettes now as well. Heck, even CDs seem to be coming back from the dead.

If vinyl is your thing, check out the #4 official Gimmie! Gimmie! Gimmie! Record Show, hosted once again at The Sanctuary (formerly Paycheck's Lounge, 2932 Caniff, east of Jos. Campau on the south side, more or less across from the post office) on Sunday, Aug. 4.

Admission is free, and that gives you get an easy peek at 30 different vendor tables hawking music in virtually all formats, as well as other music-related items like posters, ephemera (tour books, press kits, etc.), concert DVDs, and so on.

It all starts up at 11 a.m., and it's over by 4 p.m. Adult beverages available for 21 and over. Two buck pizza slices too.

Sounds ginchy.

**Going down...** School kids who rely on school lunch donation programs here in town could use some help in these summer months, when the schools are now closed and there are no school lunches to be had until fall.

Detroit Friendship House has mapped out a couple different ways you can help, and they hope you'll pitch in.

One way is to directly drop off kid-friendly food items – think Lunchables, Spaghetti-O's, bologna, bread, sliced cheese,

PB&J items, juice boxes and bags, chips, fruit cups, and so on.

Take them to DFH's location at 9540 Conant (on the southeast corner at Norwalk). Be sure to call (313) 871-7443 before you go over, to make sure someone is there, as they keep limited hours.

They can also set up a PB&J sandwich drive with you at your workplace or place of worship, etc.

Lastly, you could just straight-up donate cash to the cause. The link is: <https://www.classy.org/give/242387/#!/donation/checkout>. Just copy

and paste that web address into your browser.

And feel free to share tales of your largess on social media. Giving begets more giving, they say.

You may now feel very good about yourself.



A University of Detroit dental student cleans 9-year-old Michael Walker's teeth at the Hamtramck Housing Administration.

## Quick Hits

Continued front page

Another family-oriented event is coming up this Wednesday, July 31, from noon until 4 p.m., at the Hamtramck High School Community Center building. The building is located at 11350 Charest, adjacent to the school on the south side.

The event is meant primarily as a friendly neighborhood meet-and-greet with school system per-

sonnel, including educators and student leaders.

Various community and family organizations will be on hand, and there will be free voluntary health screenings available as well, including blood pressure checks, a body mass index calculation, glucose level checks, and so forth.

On the more entertaining end, there will be henna temporary tattoos and face painting, free gift bags, and even a free lunch.

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11680 McDougall

(313) 891-3200

Pre K – 2nd Grades

**Holbrook Elementary**

2361 Alice

(313) 872-3203

K – 8th Grades

**Tau Beta School**

3056 Hanley

(313) 892-3811

K – 8th Grades

**Kosciuszko Middle School**

2333 Burger

(313) 365-4625

7th – 8th Grades

**Hamtramck High School**

11410 Charest

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9th – 12th Grades

**Horizon School**

3225 Caniff

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9th – 12th Grades

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The Hamtramck Review

Published every Friday

3020 Caniff, Hamtramck, MI 48212

Phone: 313-874-2100 Fax: 313-874-2101

www.hamtramckreview.com

email news@thehamtramckreview.com

Publisher: John Ulaj • (248) 866-1110

ulaj@thehamtramckreview.com

Editor: Charles Sercombe

Office Manager: Jean Ingenthron

Sales Manager: Dave Sweet

Copy Editor: Alan Madlane

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Obituaries

RYBACZUK



David Rybaczuk, 62, died July 17, 2019. Mr. Rybaczuk was the beloved husband of Rebecca; father of Angela (Justo) Rodriguez, David Jr., Jason (Danielle), and Dorothy (Nick) Sikula; grandfather of Justin, Davin, Natalia, Scarlett, Jayden, Joshua, Ariana, Blaine, Camden, and Abegail. David is also survived by his mother Marie; siblings, Daniel, Richard, Larry, and Barbara.

Mr. Rybaczuk is predeceased by his father, Michael and his brother, James. He was also greatly loved by many nieces, nephews, and friends. Visitation was Thursday at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck MI 48212. Mr. Rybaczuk will lie in state Friday, July 26,

at 9:30 a.m., until the time of the Funeral Mass at 10 a.m., at St Florian Catholic Church, 2626 Poland, Hamtramck MI 48212. Private cremation will follow.

TRANSKI



Walter Transki, 65, died July 20, 2019. Mr. Transki was the beloved husband of Sherry; father of Michael and Shelby; brother of Barbara (Tom) Lebaj and Cindy Maklem.

Visitation was Wednesday, July 24, at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck MI 48212. The Funeral Mass was Thursday, at Saint Florian Catholic Church, 2626 Poland, Hamtramck MI 48212, followed by private cremation.



City Hall Insider ...

What is our City Council up to these days?  
We have the highlights of the latest council meeting.

By Charles Sercombe

The city council met on June 11, and all councilmembers were present, except for Andrea Karpinski.

An attorney gave an overview of an opinion her firm reached, regarding whether Councilmember Saad Almasmari is a defaulter to the city for past overdue water and tax bills.

The attorney, hired by the city, said Almasmari is not in default, according to their interpretation of the city charter.

Later, during public comment, attorney Mark Koroi disagreed, saying the opinion was “not perfectly reasoned.”

Bill Meyer also commented on the matter, saying the “attack” on Almasmari “was shameful.”

City Council candidate Carrie Beth Lasley initially filed the complaint against Almasmari, which triggered the council to hire an outside attorney to look into the matter.

Meyer further said the complaint was “vindictive and vengeful.”

Lasley later defended her complaint, saying it was not vindictive.

Robert Zwolak, who is also a council candidate, said the city should “consider” removing the sanitation fee on the water bills.

He said it’s a “backdoor tax.”

Later in the meeting, the council agreed to take the first step toward issuing revenue bonds in order to raise \$1.1 million to pay for improvements to the city’s water service.

The state is forcing communities to change out lead water pipes, but has not provided funding for this.

In another matter, the council agreed to hire the National Communications Corporation to upgrade the audio-visual equipment that broadcasts the city council meetings.

The contract was for a little over \$26,000.

City Clerk August

Gitschlag, who organized the bid process, said six companies reviewed the city’s proposal, and National Communications was the lowest bidder.

He said he is “absolutely thrilled for the bang for the buck” the city will be getting. He added that people will soon be able to view council meetings from their laptops.

The city will also archive the meetings so the public can view previous ones.

Councilmember Ian Perrotta was the only councilmember to vote against the contract.

In another contract matter, the council agreed to hire PK Contracting to repaint crosswalks and all intersection traffic markings. The contract is worth \$85,000, and is being paid by a state-funded street repair grant.

Repairs are also in the works for Hamtramck Drive, which has many potholes.

The council agreed to hire Hennessey Engineers

to conduct a study on how to go about those repairs. The cost of the study is not to exceed \$70,000.

Reconstruction on the street is expected to begin in 2020.

City Manager Kathy Angerer asked to speed up the hiring of a new contractor for sanitation services, which had already been awarded but wasn’t scheduled to go into effect yet.

Angerer said the city needs to bring in the new company immediately, because she was getting many complaints about the current contractor missing a number of streets during the weekly collection.

During a second public comment section, Bill Meyer said the city’s contract to hire a company to install new audio-visual equipment was “crazy.”

In another matter, he noted that there had been an Eid Festival over the weekend, which featured no alcohol nor “wild behavior.”

He said Hamtramck is fortunate to have Yemenis living here. He urged the public to read up on the crisis happening in Yemen.



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CRIME LOG

**By Charles Sercombe**  
This week's Crime Log covers July 16-22.

**Tuesday, July 16**  
• At a little after 1 a.m., officers took a resident to Detroit Receiving Hospital Crisis Center for a mental evaluation.  
• A Detroit resident was arrested for being wanted on a warrant.

**Wednesday, July 17**  
No incident report was available for this date.

**Thursday, July 18**  
No incident report was available for this date.

**Friday, July 19**  
• A resident reported that, while his car was parked in the area of Jacob and Gallagher, someone broke the car's window and stole various items.  
• A Detroit resident was arrested after a traffic stop for driving without a license and for carrying a concealed weapon with-out a permit.  
• A resident in the 3100 block of Lehman St. reported the theft of their expired license plate from a vehicle parked on pri-vate property.

• A resident was tick-eted in the 12000 block of Conant for urinating in public.

• A Madison Heights resident reported a theft.

• Three young adults were ticketed for mali-cious destruction of prop-erty after they were seen kicking and damaging a door at Veterans Park.

• Officers responded to a report of a large fight in the area of Selfridge and Circle Dr. The suspects were gone when officers arrived on the scene.

• A resident in the 2300 block of Caniff re-ported the theft of their Huffy mountain bike. The bike is green and has a Cloud 9 maroon seat.

**Saturday, July 20**  
• A resident in the Self-ridge and Carpenter area reported that a woman broke out a window at their residence.

• A resident in the Bel-mont and Alpena area re-ported that two males stole their pet duck.

• At a little after 2:30

**Continued on page 8**

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Coming events

WEDNESDAYS, 7 p.m., every second Wednesday of the month

– The 3C7 and Mid-town Block meets at 2339 Caniff PCS Senior Day Center. This block club includes all resi-dents and businesses west of Jos. Campau and north of Holbrook.

WEDNESDAY, July 31, noon-4 p.m.

– The Hamtramck Public School District will host a family event at the HHS Community Center (11350 Charest) that will feature free health check-ups, information on educational re-sources and much more.

SATURDAY, Aug. 24, 1-5 p.m.

– Free event, “Making It To The Finish Line, 1st Annual Girls Makeup Expo,” for girls ages 12-18, at Ears Showplace, 2140 Holbrook, Hamtramck (Inside the former UAW Local 235 Bldg.). Advance reg-istration required. Visit our website for more in-formation: [www.mittfl.org](http://www.mittfl.org)

MONDAY, Aug. 26, 9 a.m.

– Wayne County Commissioner Martha G. Scott hosts a free Community Coffee Hour every fourth Monday of the month at Maine Street Restaurant, 11650 Jos. Campau.





*Thank You* **HAMTRAMCK**



## Zussman Park (across from Hamtramck City Hall)