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The Review

Hamtramck



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DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

Quick Hits

This Sunday morning (Nov. 3), at 2 a.m. to be exact, we all kiss daylight saving time good-bye.

Yes, that's when the clock rolls back one hour. In other words, at 2 a.m., it suddenly becomes 1 a.m. – which is good news for the bar folks.

For morning creatures among us, the changeover means say “hello” to more light in the morning, and then say “ugh” to the day getting dark sooner, by late afternoon.

And expect to be groggy for school or work come this Monday, because the time shift is always hard on the body and mind.

For those who like sunlight sticking around longer in the evening, you'll have to wait until March 8, when we once again “spring forward” by setting our clocks one hour ahead.

Changing gears – not clocks – since today is Friday (Nov. 1), it's time to talk turkey.

Friendship House is looking for donations, to make sure our less fortunate neighbors can enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.

Continued on page 5

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Poletown plant is saved, but it comes at a price for the city

By Charles Sercombe

The UAW strike at GM is now over.

And the Poletown plant will remain open.

That's the good news.

The bad news? It's complicated.

Although the Poletown plant was spared from being shut down, it will be out of commission for 18 to 24 months while it re-tools for the production of electric-fueled pick-up trucks.

That means there will be a major financial setback for the city.

Why?

GM has a special arrangement with the city whereby, in lieu of paying taxes, it has a payment formula that is based on the number of workers em-



Although the Poletown plant has been saved, it will be shut down for as long as two years for retooling. That will result in a financial pinch for Hamtramck.

ployed at the plant and the number of hours they work.

For the last five years, Hamtramck has received about \$700,000 a year,

according to the terms of that deal. That's not a bad chunk of change for a plant that has only a small portion located on the Hamtramck side of the De-

troit border.

But this past year has been different. There have been fewer workers employed at the plant. GM

Continued on page 2



Kaitlin Noelle likes to paint Hamtramck landscapes.

Artist follows her own path in the cliquey art world

By Joe Myrick

The Review Special Writer

“Talent is pursued interest. Anything that you're willing to practice, you can do.”

Those words originated from the mouth of one Bob Ross – the famed Brillo-haired television artist who taught generations the basics of painting – and those same

words resonated strongly with one Kaitlin Noelle.

They are words that Kaitlin Noelle, 26, lives by, as she continues to dive head first into the wondrous world of art.

Kaitlin Noelle spends most of her time crafting custom prints and paintings, which mostly consist of either pet portraits

Continued on page 2

Council election coming up

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck voters will be heading to the polls next Tuesday (Nov. 5).

The only item on the ballot is the race for city council. Six candidates are lined up. The top three vote-getters will serve a four-year term, starting on Jan. 1.

So far, it's been an almost non-existent election season, with barely a peep coming from candidates.

Even two candidate forums failed to generate much interest. The first one, held before the August primary election, attracted only three candidates.

The same turnout resulted at another forum last week, with candidates Carrie Beth Lasley, Robert Zwolak (a former councilmember and former city clerk) and Nayeem Choudhury the only ones to show up.

Candidates Mohammed Hassan (a former councilmember), Mohammed Alsomiri (the highest vote-getter in the August primary) and council incumbent Saad Almas-mari were no-shows.

Candidates not participating in these forums is nothing new. It's a trend that started several years ago. Why a candidate would pass up an opportunity to meet with voters is not entirely clear, al-

Continued on page 4



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The Review is celebrating our 10-year anniversary!

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

Thank You HAMTRAMCK

Poletown plant is saved, but it comes at a price for the city

Continued from front page

pays the city every June, and the 2019 payment was about \$100,000 less than usual because shifts were reduced. Next June's payment will be even less because of the UAW strike, and the up-

coming new production system that has to be installed. After that, there won't be much collected while retooling is underway.

GM is investing \$3 billion into the plant.

The delay in production means Hamtramck will likely not receive significant payments from GM until 2022.

In the meantime, the city has to brace for a major financial hit to the budget.

Angerer said her staff has adjusted this year's city budget to absorb the financial setback – which so far meant going into deficit spending.

How the city will absorb the future financial setback is not clear. It's also not known how many workers will be employed at the newly retooled plant.

For UAW members, the financial picture is better. The new labor contract gives them a 3-percent pay raise, and also an \$11,000 bonus for ratifying the contract.

The deal also offers a pathway for temporary workers to become full-time.

Artist follows her own path in the cliquey art world

Continued from front page

or landscapes of Hamtramck.

"It's just such a little gem," she says about her love for our city. "You wouldn't think that you would find a two-square mile town with just a goofy collection of alley cats and people and everything."

She also said that she admires the "grit" of Hamtramck, being a town "landlocked" inside of the confines of Detroit.

As for why she focuses on painting portraits of animals, the reason is simple: to make people happy.

"I want art to be something that makes people happy and that's how I first got into making pet portraits. Painting people's pets for them, you could see the reaction in their face and how much they loved it, so that was an easy in to go right to the heart," Noelle said.

Originally, she was born in Colorado and grew up in Louisiana. With an army dad, her family hopped around from base-to-base until eventually settling on the east-side suburbs of Michigan; where her parents are originally from and most of her family lives.

Like every teenager at 18, Noelle had dreams of moving out of Michigan in hopes of finding sanctuary in a bigger city, like Chicago or New York.

However, after spending time in the Big Apple, she realized how much of an "expensive, huge pool" that city is, and moved back to the Metro Detroit area where she was most comfortable.

Now, with both an apart-

ment and art space studio in Hamtramck, she loves her surroundings, and swears she never wants to leave.

Her art journey began at age 17 when she had a serious brain operation to correct a Chiari one malformation (wherein the bottom part of the brain grows into the spinal cord, cutting off circulation).

In post-recovery, her school told her to take art classes to ease back into the semester. To her surprise, Noelle fell in love with the practice – enough to pursue a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts (Drawing) at Wayne State – and has been painting ever since.

While gravitating to the art realm, Noelle was never a fan of the "exclusivity" that comes with being in the Metro Detroit fine arts community, in that she feels like specific expectations are unfairly thrust upon the average artist (i.e. that your work has to be in a gallery to be legitimized).

"Just a lot of fluff that I don't want to be involved in," Noelle said.

Instead, Noelle prefers her work to be more accessible to the public – and not too expensive to get access to. She wants her work to appear "valuable, but accessible."

Noelle would rather paint every day within her own goals, without feeling the pressures of integrating into the art scene.

She never feels that exclusivity in Hamtramck's art community, and it's another big reason why she loves our little town.

"It seems like it's eas-

ier to talk to people that work as artists around here. They seem more accessible than someone from Detroit or something bigger," Noelle said.

Retracing our steps to Bob Ross' quote, that rings so true and special to Noelle's heart, she managed to find her one true passion during her senior year of high school, and has committed to it ever since.

She may have never found that passion if not for personal tragedy, but she now triumphs by hitting key strides as an artist, including earlier this year when she vendored at Eastern Market for the first time this summer.

In committing to this, and painting every single day, she's made a career out of something she loves.

"Talent is pursued interest. Anything that you're willing to practice, you can do" is the quote Noelle chose to close our interview with. "You can do anything. Anything. You've just got to practice. That's all you gotta do."

You can contact (or hire) Kaitlin Noelle for commissions through either her website (kaitlin-noelle.com), her email (art@kaitlinnoelle.com), or her Instagram page (@Kaitlin.Noelle.Art).

Hamtramck Police Forfeiture Auction

November 9, 2019 at 1:00 PM

In Front of City Hall, 3401 Evaline Hamtramck

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This week at the library...

Toddler Time - Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., September 12-December 19. Children up to age 5 and their parents and caregivers are invited for stories & songs followed by playtime.

Monday 12/9
Wednesday 12/11
Friday 12/13

Explore basic coding, tech & computer science.

Computer Science Week - December 9-15, 3:30-4:45 p.m. Grades 3 and up are invited to Tech Club

Santa at the Library - Thursday, December 12, 5:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

November is Family Literacy Month - Join us for a kick-off event: Friday, November 1, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. November 6 - November 27.

ANIME CLUB - Every Thursday 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., September 6 - December 20. Hang out, share and discover Anime and Manga. Grades 6 and up. Adults are also welcome.

Youth Town Hall Addressing Underage Drinking - Wednesday, November 6, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Presented by the Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition.

Messy Art - Freestyle craft program. Thursday, November 14 @ 5:30 p.m. Grades 6 and up.

Classic Banjo Concert and Album Tour Aaron Jonah Lewis - Friday, November 1 @ 5:30 p.m.

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.

The Review is celebrating
our 10-year anniversary!



Thank You
HAMTRAMCK

Second Front Page



School Bell

Safety tips

SEMCOG, the South-east Michigan Council of Governments, has issued some tips for students and all of us safe while walking and biking.

- Use marked crosswalks to cross the street whenever possible. If no crosswalk is available, cross at intersections where there are traffic signals. If neither is available, yield to all traffic, including bikes, before crossing.
- If there is no available sidewalk and you must walk along the shoulder of the road, walk against traffic, and stay as far from the road as possible. By walking against traffic, you'll be more aware of vehicles ahead of you.
- Always look left-right-left before crossing a street, and in particular, watch for turning vehicles from all corners and directions.
- Obey all traffic signs and signals as a pedestrian. The figure of a man's silhouette means

you may start crossing (still, be sure to look; don't assume that, just because you have the right of way, drivers will have seen the lights or signs). If you see a flashing hand with a countdown, note how much time it says that you have to finish crossing. Lastly,



Hamtramck is known as a walkable community, but it's not always pedestrian-friendly.

a steady hand means not to cross.

- At this time of year, 70% of vehicle-pedestrian accidents involve people who have been walking in the dark. Wear bright or even reflective

clothing to be seen.

- This also applies to bicyclists; wearing white, bright or reflective clothes, and make sure your bike has both a working white headlight and red tail light.
- SEMCOG also advises you to ride in the same direction as traffic

when you are on your own bike, and says it is a way to reduce the severity of accidents, should one occur.

In short?

Be on your guard and use common sense.

Upcoming events

- November 1 – End of 1st quarter.
- November 1 – Half Day for Horizon High School, final exams.
- November 5 – No school for students.
- November 7 – Report Card #1 distributed.
- November 7 – Half Day for Elementary/Middle School Students- Parent Teacher Conferences, 12:30-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. All grades except the high school.
- November 8 – Half Day for students.

Recreation Department News

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

Compiled by
Janice Gandelman
and **Alan Madlane**



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Sunday School 10 a.m.
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Mass – 7 pm

**November 2 – Observance of All
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November 9 – Soup Kitchen 2-4 pm
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To the Hamtramck Community,
I am asking you the following
request to rehire me as your
Councilman in this current
November 5th city election.
As your former City Clerk,
Councilman and co-author
of our current City Charter,
I am qualified and prepared
for the responsibilities of
Hamtramck City Council.

My priorities are steps to initiate the following:

- ✓ Restore a clean city reputation.
- ✓ Increase police, police presence to protect our community as well as our police.
- ✓ Restore the city Economic Development Department to retain and encourage new businesses.
- ✓ Importantly, also maintain oversight of city responsibilities and fiscal prudence.
- ✓ Strongly, and aggressively, promote a very successful 2020 Census count for significant additional revenues for the City of Hamtramck and schools.
- ✓ Finally, with you and others, I will continue to represent the entire community – not just certain segments of Hamtramck.

I Love Hamtramck — Robert A. Zwolak

Candidate for Hamtramck City Council • (313) 434-3090



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 Sept. 24, and all councilmembers were present except for Fadel Al-Mar-soumi.

City Manager Kathy Angerer talked briefly about the upcoming national Census Count in March of 2020. She said that, as the count date approaches, “there will be a lot more information coming out.”

It has been said that, for every person counted in the city equals \$1,800 per person. That money comes in various federal revenue streams, such as grants and money for road repairs.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, a man complained about noise and profane language coming from Trixie’s Bar on Carpenter. (The bar is owned by Councilmember Ian Perrotta.)

Another neighbor complained of “electric vibrations” coming from the bar. The neighbor said he has called the police several times about noise coming from the bar.

He also complained of the use of profanity he

hears from the bar.

“That seems to be the language when you’re drinking at a bar,” the man said.

Later in the meeting, Perrotta declined to comment on the matter, saying the council meeting was not the appropriate forum to address the complaints.

A contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation was approved. The agency will be overseeing bidding and construction services for the continued repair of Holbrook, starting next year.

The street will be repaved from Lumpkin to Jos. Campau. Repaving of Holbrook from Jos. Campau to Conant has already been completed.

The cost of next year’s project is over \$1.5 million. The project is being funded mostly through federal dollars, and also through a state road repair fund.

In addition to the repaving, new water lines will be installed.

In another matter, the council agreed to accept a Sons of the American Revolution memorial

marker for the grave of Col. Jean-François Hamtramck in Veterans Park.

According to an overview supplied by the city manager, this is the background for the offer: “The Hamtramck Historical Museum was approached by the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) about the possibility of installing an SAR memorial marker at the grave. The marker would be a metal spire, approximately three feet in height, with a medalion/emblem located at the top. A similar marker can be seen in the historical image of Col. Hamtramck’s grave when it was located at Mt. Elliott Cemetery; this original marker has been lost.

“The SAR would pay all costs associated with the acquisition and installation of the marker, and would set it in concrete alongside the existing grave at Veterans Park. SAR would also enclose the marker in a specially designed material that is resistant to tampering. If approved, installation of the marker would occur in spring 2020.”

City Manager Kathy Angerer talked about a new mural in the works. The council agreed to allow a mural to be painted on the side of the Veterans Park storage building. It is called “We are Hamtramck.”

Funding for the project comes from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation.

Mayor Karen Majewski applauded the project.

“I think this is really

Continued on page 8



VETERANS DAY

November 11, 2019

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— God Bless America —



Council election coming up

Continued from front page

though there is plenty of speculation.

The reasons range from candidates just not being serious, or for some of the immigrant candidates, being self-conscious about not speaking English well, or instead, focusing on their own ethnic communities, and lately, concentrating on absentee ballots.

On Facebook, Mayor Karen Majewski suggested that some candidates’ focus on absentee ballots lead to illegal tactics – such as offering voters money for their support.

“It’s common knowledge. Ask residents of the Col. Hamtramck Homes what price they’ve been offered for their blank ballots,” Majewski said on the Facebook page called “I love Ham-

tramck.

“There is horse trading going on, and if some candidates aren’t showing up for public forums, my educated guess is it’s because they’ve already counted up their absen- tees and see no need to address the general public.”

It should be noted that the mayor does not offer proof of this practice. However, in the recent past there have been candidates and residents convicted of illegal handling of AV ballots.

If absentee ballots are an issue of concern, there is no sign yet that there is a significant effort going on to address the issue.

City Clerk August Gitschlag said there have been 1,400 AV ballots mailed out. So far, as of Thursday when The Re-

view went to press, about 700 have been returned.

Since the council race is the only item on the ballot, voter turnout is expected to be low.

Voting absentee has become easier for Michigan voters. You no longer need a reason to ask for an AV ballot, since state election law has been changed.

And you can also register and vote on election day – another change in the election law.

As long as you are at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and prove that you have lived in Hamtramck for at least 30 days, you can register next Tuesday and vote on the same day for the Hamtramck election.

You can also vote this Saturday in city hall from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Reader Feedback: The city’s health care cost cuts and pension salaries

By Charles Sercombe

Our website continues to attract readers’ comments.

For those who may have overlooked the comment sections on our website (hamtramckreview.com), or for those who do not have internet access, here’s a round-up of the latest comments.

This week, the recent story on the city cutting back on health care costs for retirees attracted several comments.

Retired police investigator George Voight (hurray for George having the courage to use his real name!) noted that the city’s contribution is hardly anything.

“The article is misleading. As a retiree under the age of 65 the city is no longer providing myself nor my family health insurance. The city is providing a \$134 monthly towards approximately \$1,200 monthly payment for insurance.

“My out of pocket expenses are \$1,200 per month with a \$4,000 deductible. It’s a shame that Hamtramck has nothing to offset the costs such as a bond or millage.”

We answered back that the article did, indeed, say how much the city is kicking in, and yes, it’s \$134 a month and that retirees will have to pay the rest of the policy.

A reader who goes by

the name “Reese” said the city’s cutback is a slap in the face of public safety officers.

“It’s 3 a.m., smoke is filling your home. The fire department responds within minutes. Fire out, property and all lives saved. One firefighter injured, not a problem, part of their job. Let’s reward them, take away their health care. Thanks firemen.”

A regular commenter, who goes by the moniker “Roadman,” pointed out that the city’s pension costs are an eye-opener. His figures, by the way, are actually a little low, according to the city’s 2018 financial records.

“Andrew Lorio retired on 2/1/2008 and has a monthly gross income as a pensioner of \$6137.33, and a monthly net payment of \$5,394.61 after tax deductions.

“Lorio is the fourth highest paid retiree of the City of Hamtramck and earns more than several police chief retirees such as James Doyle and Marek Kalinowski.

“I salute George Voight and acknowledge the valuable services he provided the public as a police officer in his long career – but he should mention he has been actively working after retiring from the force in 2015, so he has another income source to complement his retiree benefits.”

“Roadman” continues on:

“The highest paid City of Hamtramck retiree is James Szafarczyk who retired on June 1, 2007 and receives a monthly gross of \$9,337.12, reduced by a \$1,577.03 tax deduction leaving a monthly net of \$7,760.09.

“Szafarczyk was an official in the Fire Department.

“Of the top 40 retirees in pay, all are either police or fire department officials or employees. ...

“There are retired sergeants grossing around \$60,000. per annum in pension benefits. Many police retirees earn pay in second careers while collecting their city pensions.”

We’ll let Andrew Lorio have the final comment.

“How is it possible that pensioners earned that much? Is it because they worked overtime – much of it forced – 48 hours straight because the city laid off firefighters.

“Is it because, as a bargaining unit, we deferred pay raises for pension improvements offered by the city instead of insisting on a living wage that precluded working a second and often third job?

“Wish my body would allow me to continue to work but I chose a profession where that’s not possible.”



Need a job? The Census has positions

The U.S. Census count of the country’s population takes place this coming March. For the next few months The Review will highlight features of the Census.

By Alan Madlane

The U.S. Census Bureau kicked off their peak recruiting for jobs related to the 2020 Census this



past week, and they are looking your help.

The Census Bureau is hosting recruiting informational sessions across the country to answer

questions about census jobs and the hiring process. Their goal is to recruit thousands of temporary workers for positions, beginning in the spring of 2020.

These jobs are considered critical to a complete and accurate census.

To apply, go to 2020census.gov.

Paying your city bills, and more, is now open around the clock

By Alan Madlane

There is now another convenient way to pay what you owe the city.

First, the city has a brand-new payment kiosk of its own – think of it as an ATM that only takes your money, doesn’t give it out – for the settling-up of city water bills, property taxes, etc.

The kiosk is located inside the City Hall Building at 3401 Evaline, and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week in the main entrance of the building.

Additionally, Hamtramck is now hooked up to all local Div Dat kiosks around the city. One is within the city limits at Walter’s Party Store, 12197 Carpenter at Caniff; another is just over the border into Detroit near the city’s east end, at the Imperial Fresh Market at 5800 Caniff, west of Mound.

And there are many more, scattered all over the greater Detroit area. You may also pay DTE bills, Wayne County Property Taxes, tickets from 36th District Court, and Detroit water bills at the payment

stations.

Note that these take cash, but also checks and credit or debit cards. There is a three percent charge when paying by card, the same as for any other on-line purchases.

If you do bring cash, bring the exact amount – or, be prepared to donate the remainder toward your account; these machines don’t give out money, not even your due change back.

Don’t fret if you don’t have your bill with you – you can look it up via your name and address. Or, if you do have the bill with you, just scan it and go.

Have your receipt printed out for you on the spot, or emailed to you, or texted.

Available languages include English, Bengali, Arabic, and Spanish, among others.

Be on the lookout for a downloadable app that the city will soon make available for the same purpose.

Which is, to get your money. Of course.

But at least you don’t have to work so hard anymore to get their money to them.



Cracking the mystery of Jos. Campau

By Greg Kowalski

It’s a question that seems to be as old as Hamtramck (but it isn’t).

Why is Jos. Campau narrower between Holbrook and Caniff streets?

Or to rephrase it, why is Jos. Campau wider north of Caniff and south of Holbrook?

Surprisingly, no one seems to know the whole story, but we do have some clues to at least part of it. It comes from a fragile court document dating to June 3, 1918. It is a state Supreme Court decision in the case of the Village of Hamtramck vs. David W. Simons.

It begins:

“On February 27, 1913, the village council of Hamtramck inaugurated by resolution proceedings to condemn a strip of land belonging to defendant (Simons), 11 feet in width and about

2,600 feet long lying adjacent on the east to Jos. Campau, for the purpose of widening that thoroughfare between Caniff Avenue and Carpenter Avenue.”

The document goes on to explain that a jury was summoned and empaneled by a justice of the peace of Hamtramck Township to determine the need and compensation for the acquisition.

In May, 1913, the jury ruled that the taking of the land “for use and benefit of the public” was justified, and set the compensation at \$2,225. Simons objected to the decision claiming the village had not proved the widening was necessary and that the compensation he was to receive was inadequate.

Simons had owned the land for about 28

years at the time, and it was originally part of a tract which had been platted in 1888 and subdivided into lots for future development. After a seemingly extensive trial, the jury ruled that the village was justified in taking the land for public good and the cost was justified.

Interestingly, the Supreme Court noted that “There was a conflict of testimony as to whether a strip of that width and so located could be profitably utilized or had any value for business buildings, should a demand for business locations develop in that locality.”

In any event, the Supreme Court upheld the lower court decisions and the land was taken by the city.

Or was it?

The core of this suit

was a strip of property on the east side of Jos. Campau, but look at the area now. Gauging by the alignment of Jos. Campau north and south of Caniff, it appears it was the west side of the street that was widened.

So what happened?

We don’t know.

The answer may be as simple as a transcription error, where someone typed “east” instead of “west.” Or the answer may be buried in some file somewhere in the court or county records.

But where?

You can find more about Jos. Campau at the Hamtramck Historical Museum, 9525 Jos. Campau. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and by appointment. Call 313-893-5027 or 248-770-8389. Email hamtramckhistory@gmail.com.

The Review is celebrating
our 10-year anniversary!



Thank You
HAMTRAMCK

Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Continued effort to ban pot sales is wrongheaded

Once again, some city councilmembers are determined to prevent Hamtramck from reaping the benefits of a new tax revenue stream.

We are talking about a recent effort to ban recreational and medical marijuana sales and production.

A few weeks ago, Councilmember Saad Almasmari submitted a resolution banning the business. Fortunately, two councilmembers were absent to prevent the resolution from passing.

While we know there are some members of the community who oppose this type of activity, it is wrongheaded to go this route.

Hamtramck needs all the business it can attract. We are in no way, financially, in a position to reject legitimate – and legal – businesses from operating here.

Yes, there is concern that this type of business will attract crime, or possibly lead to kids getting their hands on marijuana.

There is also a possibility that allowing banks to operate could attract bank robberies.

And someone could purchase liquor from a party store and sell it to kids.

Or, pharmacies could deal out opiates.

The list goes on. But none of those businesses are banned. Why marijuana?

The city can benefit from local taxes and fees, as well as get exclusive rights to dip into a state pool of money from marijuana sales

City council rolls up another marijuana proposal

By Charles Sercombe

Some members of the city council tried once again at a recent council meeting to ban the sale of marijuana in Hamtramck.

And once again, it went nowhere.

A couple of years ago, there was an attempt to have the city “opt out” of allowing the sale of medical and recreational marijuana here.

Now that Michigan has legalized recreational use of marijuana for adults, another attempt was made, but with two councilmembers absent, it failed in a 3-2 vote.

The resolution was presented by Councilmember Saad Almasmari and supported by Councilmember Abu Musa.

Mayor Karen Majewski and Councilmembers Ian Perrotta and Andrea Karpinski voted against the resolution.

Almasmari defended his resolution, saying that a majority of Hamtramck voters were against legalizing the use of recreational marijuana, and that also marijuana is still considered illegal by the federal government.

Councilmember Karpinski echoed what many others have said about allowing the sales.

“We lose out on (tax) revenue,” she said.

Besides local taxes that could be collected from sales outlets, the city could also share in a state pool of money that only cities that “opt in” – in other words allow marijuana sales – can dip into.

Some have estimated these fees and sales taxes could result in millions of dollars for the state and participating communities.

Karpinski noted also that, with Hamtramck facing a financial crisis, it can’t afford to miss out on this opportunity.

Absent were Councilmembers Anam Miah and Fadel Al-Marsoumi, who have both said they are against allowing the sale and production of marijuana here.

Both said they had work obligations on that council meeting evening when the latest vote was held, although there was some speculation in the community that they purposely missed the meeting to avoid taking a stand on the issue.

The city has been working its way through this issue for several years. Recently, the city attorney worked up an ordinance allowing sales and production, at the council’s behest, but when word got out to the community about an impending vote on it, dozens of residents, mostly from the Yemeni and Bengali communities, jammed into the council chambers to oppose it.

The council held off on the vote, and instead hosted a town hall meeting, where once again dozens of folks attended, with many urging the rejection of allowing marijuana sales here.

Most of the concern was over a perceived increase in crime that such outlets might attract, and the possibility that marijuana will get into the hands of kids.

Since a new governor has come into power, the laws regulating who can obtain a license to sell marijuana have been loosened.

The new rules, however, have only caused confusion, a number of attorneys have said. In other words, it’s guaranteed that there will be several lawsuits over the meaning of the regulations.

One fuzzy aspect is what happens if a city neither opts in or opts out. The law says that anyone who applies for a license in a community that has not taken action on the matter can still get one if that community decides later to opt out.

In other words, if the applicant is approved for a license, he or she can still operate a sales outlet in the community, even if the community decides later to opt out.

But a state official told The Review, off the record, that this may or may not be the case, because the regulation is both unclear and untested.

The fee to apply for a license is \$6,000, which is non-refundable. The state will begin to accept applications on Nov. 1.

According to recent media reports, a little over half of Michigan’s 1,773 communities have opted out of allowing marijuana operations. However, communities that do opt out can still opt in at a later date.

Some 126 cities have agreed to allow marijuana operations, including Detroit.

Those in favor of allowing sales in Hamtramck have pointed out that a Detroit sales outlet could be located just outside Hamtramck’s borders – meaning its presence would still be noticed here.

The state is lending a helping hand to 19 cities in the state, including Hamtramck, that were hit hard in the nation’s “War on Drugs” program. The state will allow those applying for a license in these cities to jump ahead of the line of applicants.

As for Hamtramck, City Clerk August Gitschlag said that councilmembers can keep coming back with resolutions to ban marijuana sales.

Prior to the recent council vote, it appeared there were four votes against allowing sales, with two in favor.

It appears that Councilmember Miah, who lost his bid for re-election, and whose term expires Dec. 31 of this year, may be a swing vote.

Miah has told The Review that he is open to reviewing the issue, but isn’t saying how he would vote.

Odds & Ends

Fundraiser... If you missed last Friday’s benefit for Recycled Treasures, word is you missed a fun time.

A whole bunch of folks turned out at the Moose Lodge to pitch in for the closing costs for the super low-priced second-hand goods retail store that closed up.

Catrina Stackpoole, who chaired the non-profit enterprise, said the evening raised a “fair amount of money.”

“We still have some outstanding bills to pay off,” she said.

Overall, Stackpoole said it was a “great party.”

“The food was fabulous,” she added.

As for future plans, Stackpoole is considering

hosting monthly “community exchange” swaps, and is looking for a building to hold them in.

Found... We received an email this week from Lynn Bloom from San Francisco, who said she found a 1968 Hamtramck tennis trophy cup for Lawrie Jailliam, or so we believe the name to be since the name is heavily scratched.

Hamtramckans are known to travel far and wide, but it still came as a surprise that this trophy was found by Bloom in front of an Ace Hardware store in San Francisco.

If you know of Lawrie, Bloom would like to return the trophy to her. You can contact Bloom via email at:

Lbloomsf@sbcglobal.net.

Don’t have access to email? No problem. Call The Review at (313) 874-2100.

Music Fest... The deadline for bands and performers to apply to be a part of the upcoming Hamtramck Music Fest is fast approaching.

The annual festival will be Feb. 27-29. Dozens of local bars and halls will be opening their doors for the weekend of fun.

You have until Nov. 24 to submit your application. Go to their website at:

www.hamtramckmusicfest.com

Job fair... Need a job or

Continued on page 8

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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
julaj@thehamtramckreview.com
Editor: Charles Sercombe
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Sales Manager: Dave Sweet
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Obituaries

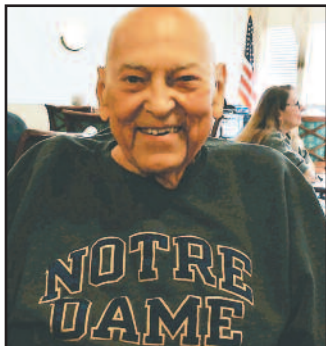
LEON

Stanley Leon, 90, died October 27, 2019.

Mr. Leon was the husband of the late Theresa; father of Michael (Toni); grandfather of Michael. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Stan was retired from the Chrysler Corporation and was very active in the Sancho Caravan of the Alhambra, Saint Florian's, and sung in the original Saint Florian Men's Choir and later, Saint Hyacinth Men's Choir. As a member of The Saint Florian Men's Choir he sang for the visit of Pope Paul John II. He loved cheering on his Notre Dame Irish Football team with his son, grandson and the rest of the family.

Visitation is Friday from 2 - 9 p.m. at E. J. Mandziuk Funeral Home 3801 18 Mile Road, Sterling Heights MI 48314. Mr. Leon will lie



in state at 9:30 a.m. until the time of the Funeral Mass at 10 a.m. at Saint Florian Catholic Church, Hamtramck MI. Interment will be at Resurrection Cemetery, Clinton Township, MI. The family requests that donations be made to Saint Florian Catholic Church or Sancho Caravan #261 of the International Order of the Alhambra. Arrangements were made by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home.



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MOHAMMED ALSOMIRI
FOR HAMTRAMCK CITY COUNCIL

Paid For By CTE Mohamed Al-Somiri

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VOTE FOR MOHAMMED ALSOMIRI FOR HAMTRAMCK CITY COUNCIL

- ✓ Lifelong Hamtramck resident and owner of multiple businesses
- ✓ Supports the Hamtramck Fire and Police Departments
- ✓ For improving aesthetics to stimulate business growth
- ✓ In favor of offering incentives to attract new business
- ✓ Owner/developer of former Shopper's World
- ✓ Promotes strong family values
- ✓ Promotes unity and cooperation within the community

VOTE! Tuesday Nov. 5

Music festival donates a new soundboard to HHS

“We have the power People have the power” “People have the power” by Patti Smith

By Charles Sercombe

The annual Hamtramck Music Fest continues to boost the Hamtramck Public School District. Last year, festival organizers donated \$10,000 worth of musical equipment and arts supplies. This year, the same amount was donated in the form of a \$5,000 audio upgrade for the Hamtramck High School auditorium, as well as instruments for the marching band, music instruction media and art supplies. The new sound board is state-of-the-art, and offers a unique opportunity for students to learn a trade. The donation comes with free training for interested

students.

“The training is worth its weight in gold,” said High School Principal Chris Vraniak.

The donation was presented in the school auditorium, with music and drama students in attendance.

The music festival features hundreds of bands and performers, offering a variety of music. Some of the showcases are in alcohol-free environments to allow kids and teens to experience them.


Festival organizers are also seeking to include more ethnic performers – especially those who live in Hamtramck.

“We’ve all seen rock-n-roll dudes before,” said organizer Andrew Perrotta to the students. “We’d like to get the whole community.”

This year’s festival is Feb. 27-29. In the festival’s mission statement, they say it is “powered by the people.”

“Through pro-active citizenry, music, and culture, the HMF is determined to celebrate and enrich our community in Hamtramck and the surrounding Metropolitan Detroit area. We strive to provide a safe, diverse, and enjoyable festival for all.”

For more information, go online at: www.hamtramckmusicfest.com.



VOTE TUESDAY NOV. 5

VOTE NAYEEM CHOUDHURY


FOR HAMTRAMCK CITY COUNCIL

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- or
- Carnitas with mango Jumex, Queso, and Slaw
- **Personal Hawaiian Pizza** - Fried Spam, Pineapple, Caramelized Red Onions, and BBQ Sauce
- **Purple Haze Salad (Veggie/Vegan)** - Beets, Red Cabbage, Purple Onion, Red Quinoa, Crumbled Queso Fresco, and Citrus-Dill Vinaigrette

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Mohammed HASSAN FOR CITY COUNCIL

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3. Create a better environment for businesses to invest in Hamtramck.
4. Lower water rates to a similar level of other cities
5. Work with school district to retain students and improve quality of education.
6. Work to fairly assess all Hamtramck properties' values.
7. Improve police & fire services in the city.

My Experience & Education:

1. A former council member in Hamtramck who served for 8 years.
2. Currently an employee with the Ford Motor Company.
3. Former superintendent for FAUREACIA interior systems.
4. Former superintendent for Yanfeng Global Automotive Interiors.
5. Masters of Science Degree in Applied Math.

Paid by the Committee Friends of Mohammed Hassan 2425 Neibel St., Hamtramck, MI 48212



Continued from page 7

windows of their vehicle while it was parked in the area of Yemans and Bufalo.

- At a little after 8 a.m., a resident was arrested in the 12000 block of Oklahoma St. for being wanted on two warrants.
- A resident in the 11300 block of Mitchell St. reported a theft.
- A hit-and-run accident happened on a private parking lot in the 11300 block of Conant.

Saturday, Oct. 26

- A resident of Oak Park was arrested after a traffic stop for being wanted on a Hamtramck misdemeanor warrant.
- An Edwin St. resident reported that they lost their passport.
- An agent for a business on Holmes St. reported that an employee who had been fired took a company credit card and used it to make personal purchases.

Sunday, Oct. 27

- No incident report was available for this date.

Monday, Oct. 28

- At 6:15 a.m., officers discovered a break-in at a Jos. Campau business.
- A resident of East-pointe said a person they know assaulted them at a gasoline station in the 10300 block of Conant. The suspect was later arrested.
- A landlord of a residence in the 9500 block of Mitchell St. reported the theft of their city-issued trash can.
- A report was made about an illegal dumping in the 3800 block of Dorothy St.
- A Neibel St. resident reported a stalker outside their residence.

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City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 3

cool,” she said.

In response to a recent article in The Review about pedestrian safety and speeding motorists, City Manager Angerer said the city has taken numerous actions on both matters.

She said 86 speed limit signs have been installed recently, and there have been 94 curbs and corners repaired.

“We’re very concerned about the walkability of our community,” Angerer said. “There’s more to come.”

Odds & Ends

Continued from page 5

looking for a career change?

The City of Hamtramck is teaming up with Mi-Works!, ACCESS, Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation, Health Management Systems of America, and Samaritas, to host a job fair on Thursday, Nov. 7, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the People’s Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit at 8625 Jos. Campau Ave.

According to a press release issued by the city:

“This job fair is open to everyone in the community hoping to find a fresh start, a better job, or a new career direction. Job seekers will find a wealth of exciting opportunities at this free event.

“Local and regional employers from a variety of sectors will be happy to discuss openings, partic-

ularly for the upcoming holiday season.

“This event will also feature information on employment and job training-related resources and services designed for immigrants, veterans, and returning citizens.

“The attending partners will provide support for individuals looking to overcome barriers to the employment process, helping to provide access to education, training, and much more.”

Also, if you are a business and want to participate may contact JobFair@SEMCA.org.

For more information, contact the city’s Community Development Associate, Casey Copp, at (313) 800-5208 extension 332, or CCopp@hamtramckcity.com.

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