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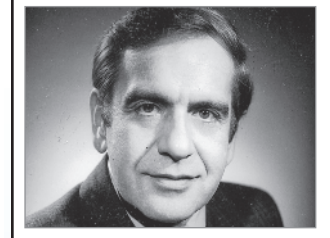


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— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —



**Quick Hits**

**Former mayor dies**

**Breaking news...** As we went to press Thursday, it was announced that former Hamtramck mayor and former Wayne County treasurer Raymond Wojtowicz died on Wednesday, Jan. 8.

He was 90 years old.

Our condolences go out to the Wojtowicz family. He served as mayor from 1970 to 1973, and went on to be county treasurer for 39 years before retiring in 2015.

For funeral information, go to page 6.

Current county treasurer Eric Sabree had this to say about Wojtowicz's passing:

"I was saddened to hear of the passing of former Wayne County Treasurer Raymond J. Wojtowicz.

"In 2011, Treasurer Wojtowicz gave me the opportunity to work under his leadership in the Treasurer's Office. My condolences and prayers go out to the entire Wojtowicz family during this difficult time."

And Wayne County

**Continued on page 3**

**'Story of the Year' revolved around a key financial source**

**By Charles Sercombe**

Now that 2019 has come to pass, it's time for our annual "Story of the Year."

And what a year it was: there was the city's long-standing housing discrimination lawsuit that was buttoned up by the final three houses, out of 200, that were built, or about to be built.

Longtime educator Tom Niczay retired as school superintendent, and his replacement was a first for the district and the nation: Jaleelah Ahmed became the first Yemeni-American woman to hold such a position.

In politics, there was a seismic shift on city council, with the election of three new councilmembers and the ousting of



The future of the GM Poletown plant is our "Story of the Year" for 2019. GM had threatened to close the plant, which would have been financially devastating to Hamtramck.

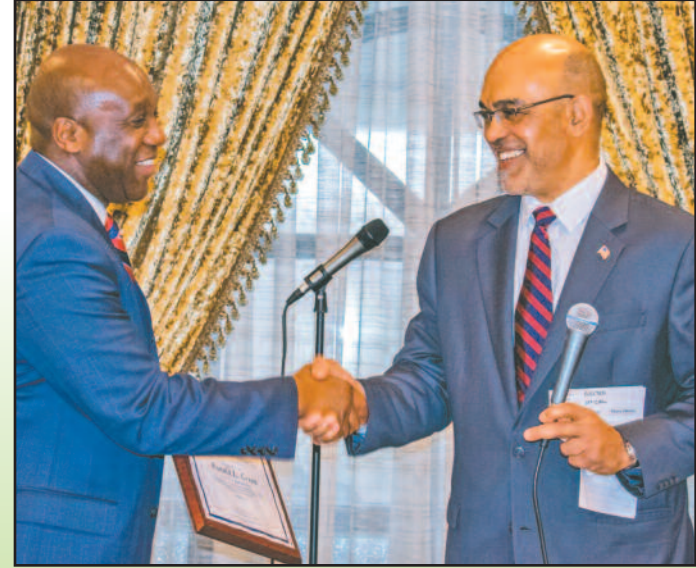
three incumbents.

Former Police Chief Max Garbarino made a dramatic – and for some, controversial – comeback in a newly-created position, a sort of liaison officer for the police department and the community.

But the number one story, the one that had the biggest impact – at least financially for the city – was that of the GM Poletown plant.

What a wild roller-coaster ride it was over

**Continued on page 2**



Wayne County Treasurer Eric Sabree (right) introduces Marine Corps Sergeant Major Ronald L. Green of the Marine Corps at a recent veterans event.

**County treasurer hosts resource fair for local veterans**

**By Alan Madlane**

Back in November, exactly one week before Thanksgiving, the Wayne County Treasurer Eric Sabree once again gave thanks to area veterans, via the hosting of their third annual Veteran's Resource Fair.

The all-afternoon event was held at the Bellagio Banquet & Conference Center in Dearborn Heights.

The Nov. 21 event was labeled a success, attended by some 400 veterans and their families.

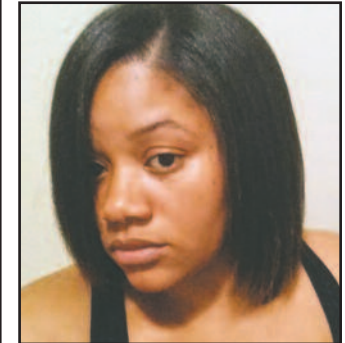
The purpose of the fair was to again provide assistance and information on healthcare, employment,

**Continued on page 2**

**Family searching for daughter**

**By Charles Sercombe**

The family of a 25-year-old Hamtramck woman is desperately seeking her whereabouts.



**Camay Lowe**

According to a report by WXYZ Channel 7, Camay Lowe left her mother's house on Trowbridge St. over three weeks ago – on the morning of Dec. 17.

At the time, the last thing she said is that she would be "right back."

That never happened.

The family is not aware of her being in trouble or being in a relationship.

She is described as being 5-feet, 5-inches tall, weighing about 115-125 pounds, and having a light complexion with long black hair. She was wearing black stretch pants, a hooded jacket and Timberland boots.

There is a cash reward of up to \$2,500 for information that leads to finding her. To do so, call 1-800-SPEAK-UP, or go online to [www.1800SPEAKUP.org](http://www.1800SPEAKUP.org).

You can also call the Hamtramck Police Department at (313) 800-5269, or 911.



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# ‘Story of the Year’ revolved around a key financial source

Continued from front page

the plant’s future.

The saga actually began in November of 2018, when GM suddenly – and unexpectedly – announced it was closing five north American plants – including the Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly plant, as it is formerly known.

Why did this matter so much?

GM had been paying Hamtramck about \$700,000 a year, in a special payment plan, in lieu of paying property taxes.

If the plant were to close, the city would no longer have that revenue stream coming in each year. Hamtramck’s annual operating budget is

about \$16 million, and the loss of \$700,000 a year would have been a huge financial blow.

City Manager Kathy Angerer didn’t varnish the truth.

“The GM plant closure is devastating financially to the city,” Angerer said. “This doesn’t include the impact on local businesses or families in our community.”

But as the year progressed, GM suddenly announced it was going to spare the plant (which had just been built in the early 1980s) and would produce electric vehicles there.

Great news, right? Well, then the proverbial monkey wrench was

thrown into the mix.

UAW workers went on strike at all of GM’s plants and facilities, in order to get a new employment contract.

Contract negotiations with the union had broken down, and the union used the age-old tactic of going on strike.

As the strike continued for a few weeks, GM did another turnaround, and announced it was going to close down the Poletown plant.

For city officials, it was “hello” financial crisis, once again.

Our head spinning didn’t stop there, however.

Once the strike was settled, GM announced that the Poletown plant will remain open after all. Got all that?

Of course, that was not going to be the end of the story.

In short, it was “hello” financial crisis, redux.

The catch was, GM would need up to two years to retool and reconfigure the plant to be able to produce electric vehicles.

That means all of the union employees are going to be laid off.

And that means, the special deal with paying the city about \$700,000 a year will be suspended until production returns.

So, once again, city officials have to figure out a way to carry on without this important revenue stream, albeit it only temporarily.

The solution to this challenge has yet to be hammered out.

But a key to this balancing act just might be the ongoing labor negotiations with the city’s firefighters.

Watch this developing story closely, folks.

# County treasurer hosts resource fair for local veterans

Continued from front page

housing and utility assistance, and more.

Sponsors included two area banks, First Independence and PNC, as well as ICNAR Relief, a Muslim charitable organization.

Attendees were able to socialize as well as pick and choose from among roughly 50 informational booths.

While Congressperson, and former Southfield Mayor, Brenda Lawrence was helping establish the central information table, honorary Co-chairpersons Debbie Dingell and Rashida Tlaib were making their presences felt too.

Some local elected officials were also present, and recognized, including Dearborn Heights Councilperson Bill Bazzi, 19th District Court Judge Gene Hunt, and Wayne County veteran services official



Veterans gather at a recent event to help them get in touch with various resources for healthcare, employment and housing.

Kwesi Betserai.

The keynote speaker was Sgt. Major Ronald L. Green; Executive Director of the Michigan Veteran’s Foundation Tyrone Chatman served as emcee, and welcomed everyone; and Wayne County Treasurer Eric Sabree himself led off with some opening remarks.

After all the schmoozing, there was a follow-up tal-

ent show for the second year, but to see it you had to make your way over to the John Dingell VA Medical Center at 4646 John R St. on Wayne State’s campus.

If you missed it all, take heart – as successful as it was this time around, they’ll almost certainly be back next year about the same date for another go.

# Annual cat rescue fundraiser was a ‘purrfect’ night out

By Alan Madlane

Cat fans came out in droves recently, as local cat rescue charity HCAT once again served up its annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser.

And they were licking their paws by evening’s end, as small servings of red velvet cake and M&M cookies were dished out.

The group again held their dinner at the Moose Lodge on Conant at Doremus.

The group has been active for decades.

The dinner is typically held on the first Friday of December at the lodge, and consists of all-you-can

eat spaghetti (meat sauce or vegetarian), salad, rolls and butter, and desserts. Soft drinks may be included as well. The suggested donation was \$10.

And every bit goes toward the beasties.

The large round tables were fairly full on this night. A call to co-founder Chris Wilinski wasn’t yet returned by the time we had to go to press, to get the actual numbers, but attendance appeared to have been strong as of around 6 p.m. (the dinner was scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m.).

If you missed this one, well, judging from the re-

sults it would seem pretty likely that they will do it all again next year.

If you missed out, never fear, there’s still a way for you to help them out, of course, and that’s by simply donating. It’s a bit tricky, because when you put the search term “HCAT” into Google, you get a ticker symbol for a stock, so make sure to put “Hamtramck” into your search as well.

Sounds like a purr-fect holiday idea to us.

Get Out on  
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This week at the library...

Toddler Time

Thursdays

11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Stories and songs for children 5 and younger followed by playtime.

Parent Hub and Grub

Wednesday, Jan. 15

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Hear about resources that support our families and enjoy a free lunch! Childcare provided Presented by GREAT START WAYNE

Please call 313-410-4588 to register for this important event.

Movie Night

Tuesdays @ 4:00 pm

Family friendly movies and free snacks.

Building Club

Wednesday, January 15 and 22

3:30 – 4:45 pm

Creative play with lego, zoob, megablocks, and more! Ages 3 and up

Homework Help and SAT Test Prep

Fridays, 3:00-5:00 pm

Local DECA students will be offering free homework help and SAT preparation. Sign up by calling the library: 313-733-6822

Book Talk

Thursday, February 13 @ 6 pm

Despite It All We Never Learn With author Kenny Karpov Save the date!

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.

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# Second Front Page

## At this ‘jail cell,’ it’s not made for people – just toys

**By Joe Myrick**  
*The Review Special Writer*  
What happens when you throw a children’s toy into a prison cell?

Same thing that happens to a prisoner inside of a prison cell: nothing. Like a prisoner, the toy just sits on the cold, hard, steel ground of a gray, dreary four-sided room away from the bulk of civilization and, eventually, decays.

But what if you turn the prison cell itself into a “toy cell”? Cover that cold, hard, steel ground with dozens of toy artifacts from yesteryear?

Lace that same gray, dreary four-sided room with silly string hanging above an array of vibrant colors? Well, if you’re Allison Runyan, you just brought those toys to life.

On Nov. 2, Hamtramck’s Hatch Art Gallery held its Uprising art show opening reception. The works included in the exhibit remained on display until November 30 (except for one special piece, which will remain on display through January).

That work is titled “If You Throw a Toy in Jail” (aka “The Jail Cell”), by artist and art teacher Allison Runyan.

This “toy jail” takes viewers down on a nostalgia trip featuring decades’ upon decades’ worth of history shared between beloved toys, plush dolls, and action figures all interconnected and, in some ways, trapped in an intricate, colorful web of string.

Much like how a spider traps its prey in a web, or a prisoner is trapped inside of a jail cell.

The toy jail breathes a whole new life of its own when we consider that Hatch’s building itself used to be the local police station, while the room Toy Jail sits in used to be an actual jail cell.

That information did not directly inspire Runyan’s intentions to create the toy jail, though she admits in this exclusive interview it was hard to remove herself from that information



**Artist Allison Runyan has an exhibit at the Hatch Art Gallery.**

once the creative process commenced.

Runyan – an artist and art teacher who comes from a long line of artists, teachers, musicians, and entertainers in her family – was first approached by Chris Schneider (who runs Hatch) to bring her artistic prowess to the Uprising exhibit back in May. Uprising was established to highlight artists promoting social commentary through their art work and Scheneider felt that Run-

yan would make a perfect candidate. Schenider originally extended the offer to Runyan on May 11 at 11:30 p.m. (yes, she recalls the exact date and time from memory) via a Facebook message.

Without hesitation, Runyan gave an enthusiastic “yes” before even asking for the full details, or even asking why Schneider thought she’d make such a great fit. Once she finally understood the parameters of the event, she was ready to get to work.

After much planning and brain-storming (with assistance from friend and art



**What happens when toys are sent to jail? You’ll have to find out for yourself.**

techniques are painting, crayons, printmaking, drawings, collage, sculpture, molding and even live performance art, notably with her Princess Penelope character who Runyan is in the process of adapting into a children’s book.

Apart from being born to artists and teachers herself, Runyan admits she entered her fields of work so that she could help children connect to art the same way she has ever since the age of 7.

“I wanted to be that kind of person for another kid,” she says, while explaining her double life as an artist and an art teacher. “I can inspire ... Kind of guide that journey for other students.”

Runyan’s child-like enthusiasm for her craft, combined with an enviable energy level, has driven a consistent style in her art that is always bursting with colors, humor, and an eclectic simplicity that both children and adults can relate

to. Which is, after all, the whole point of her art.

She says she wants to produce art for all ages. Nothing too “serious” or “overwhelming,” but down-to-earth and fun in a way that stimulates the eyes as much as it does the mind. This latest effort, “If You Throw a Toy in Jail,” is no different.

Again, Allison Runyan’s toy jail exhibit will be featured at Hatch Art through the end of January, so be sure to go and give it a look if you haven’t already.

Also, for anyone interested in inquiring about her services, or wanting to feature her work in your own exhibition, she can be contacted via Instagram: @AllRunyan23, by email: @allison.runyan23, @gmail.com, or on her website at allisonrunyan.com.

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Quick Hits

Continued front page

Commissioner Alisha Bell sent us an email saying:  
“Mr. Wojtowicz served the County of Wayne with distinction from 1976 to 2015. He was a dedicated fiscal steward, over-

seeing billions of County tax dollars during his long run as Wayne County Treasurer.  
“He was a steady and stabilizing hand, helping guide Wayne County through some very tough financial times during his tenure. Our prayers go out to his family.”



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# School Bell

### Kosciuszko Middle School News

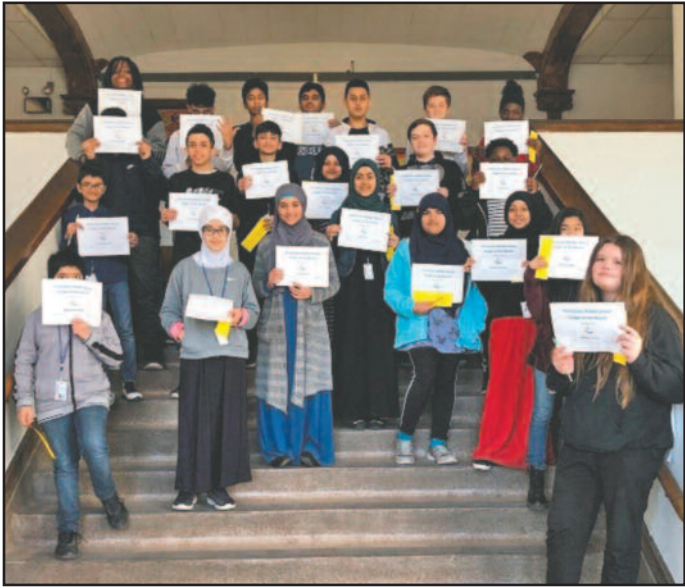
The PBIS theme for the month of December was to be safe.

Congratulations to the students of the month who explemfied being safe: Ibrahim Musaed, Abu Sabith, Md. Safwan Sadi, Lemuel Sawyer, Iris Cerimovic, Shinha Chanda, Ashraf Alduais, Derrick Wells, Shahadat Hussain, Abeer Rahimee, Waeal Dhaifullah, Alaa Omar, Marissa Vukaj, Antwon Green, Benjamin Arnautovic, Mohammed Zilani, Abir Chakraborty, Arnel Musanovic, Shayma’a Kassem, Jasmine Begum, Suhaib Saleh, Ali Al-Ghazali, Aisha Almas-mari, and Ishrat Rahman. Keep up the good work!

### Upcoming Events

- January 20 – No school for students and staff. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
  - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Breakfast sponsored by HPS and The Concerned Women of Hamtramck.
- The breakfast will take

place at the Hamtramck Community Center from 9-11:30 a.m. The adult ticket prices are \$20,



Kosciuszko Middle School students of the month pose for a photo.

children ticket prices \$10 and a table for 8 people will be \$150.

Tickets are available at HPS district office or any HPS public school. HPS students will be performing at the breakfast.

- January 22 – Hamtramck High School Semester Exams. Half day for Hamtramck High School (HHS.)

- January 23 – Hamtramck High School and

Kosciuszko Middle School (KMS) Semester Exams- Half day for HHS and KMS. Records day in

afternoon for HHS and KMS.

- January 24 – Hamtramck High School, Horizon and Kosciuszko Middle School (KMS) Semester Exams- Half day for HHS, Horizon and KMS. Records day in afternoon for HHS, Horizon and KMS.

- January 24 – Half day for all elementary schools. Records day in afternoon for all elementary schools.

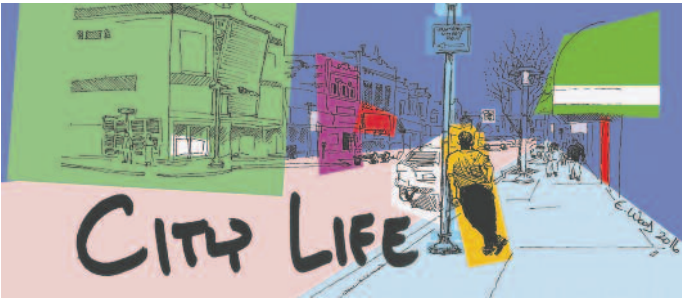
- January 24 – End of 2nd Quarter and 1st semester.

- January 30 – Report Card #2 distributed.

### Recreation Department

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](https://www.facebook.com/HamtramckRecreationDepartment).

Compiled by  
Janice Gandelman



## Together we rise: lessons from Berlin

By Walter Wasacz

I recently spent three weeks in Europe, where I walked a lot – and talked nearly as much as a panelist and moderator at conferences in two German cities, Dortmund and Berlin.

I also spent a weekend in Hamburg and two days in Amsterdam. My time spent was intense and fulfilling. The panels on which I participated were about night culture and creative, after-dark economics: largely following a model set by Berlin, a free-thinking, no curfew, 24/7 city since 1949.

(Ironically, it began as an American cold war strategy to keep late-night drinkers in the British/French/U.S. sectors in West Berlin rather than lose them to bars in the Soviet sector. Ironical because U.S. cities currently lag far behind in tolerance for the kind of night culture economy practiced in Berlin, Amsterdam and growing number of European cities.)

Detroit’s role in the Berlin story of the past 30 years - roughly since the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989 – is significant.

It begins in the cultural underground, where Detroit techno artists provided the perfect soundtrack for reunification: a propulsive, wordless, seemingly endless electronic dance music experience that brought a

divided city (and country and continent) together in disused, forgotten spaces. No closing times meant the party could last the entire weekend, sometimes even longer.

In “Der Klang der Familie (The Family of Sound),” a fascinating oral history of the emergence of techno lifestyle in the Berlin of the early 1990s, one participant said these euphoric weekends would begin ‘on Thursday and end on Wednesday.’ Yes, if you’re counting,



In Berlin, the nighttime economy plays a key role.

that’s a seven-day weekend. Another said the future, then symbolized by the fast approaching year 2000, “glittered” in the imagination.

Today, Berlin is a vastly different place. Popula-

tion is increasing at a rate faster than any major city in Europe, tourists come by the tens of thousands to visit every weekend for art, music and food; and to see exhibitions of cultural, political and social history – even in cold, rainy late-November and early December, when the sun is rarely seen and sets by 4 in the afternoon.

The local economy is booming, nearly all of it on a walkable (or cycleable) street level. The quality of daily living in the former tattered and worn East Berlin – in Mitte and Prenzlauer Berg, where I stayed in a friend’s flat – is approaching London and Paris equivalency. It is not yet as expensive but it’s getting there, which causes worry among long-time residents that a still bigger squeeze of gentrifica-

tion is inevitable.

I could walk in any direction and within blocks get strong coffee and delicious cakes, breads and fruits for breakfast; Vietnamese, Syrian, French, Palestinian, Spanish, Turkish, Greek, Italian, Polish, Hungarian, Austrian, Georgian (from the Caucasus, not southern U.S.) food for dinner.

German food?

Yes, that too, but the quarters in redevelopment are more international and multicultural than national; in fact, non-German first language speakers are very likely the majority in these inner-city neighborhoods.

Markets, large and small, corner shops and pharmacies are also accessed easily on foot or bike. For longer trips, the underground and above ground (U-Bahn and S-Bahn) rapid transit network will get you most anywhere in this 340 sq. mile city (more than double the size of Detroit, including Hamtramck and Highland Park) with crackling efficiency.

Trams and buses are equally efficient. Driving a

Continued on page 5

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The Review is celebrating  
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HAMTRAMCK

Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

A new year, and a reason to be optimistic

It looks like the new year, 2020, has started off with quite a bang. The country still remains deeply politically divided, and it now looks like it is possible there are further complications in the Mideast. But in Hamtramck, things are looking basically optimistic: The GM Poletown plant has been saved, which will mean the city will continue to collect a sizeable revenue stream each year, at least in a couple of years when the plant gets back to fully running. We also have three new councilmembers on city council, and it will be interesting to see how that plays out. If there is one thing we can count on, Hamtramckans know how to survive. No matter how gloomy things might appear – especially when it comes to finances – the city manages to work its way through. And no matter how politically divided we can be here in town, in general we manage to rise above our differences. There is a lot going on in the world today. That can be a distraction for many of us. But our focus should always be on making Hamtramck a better place to live. We are confident our elected officials can see past any differences they may have, and, in the end, work together. Residents deserve the best.

Odds & Ends

**Identified...** The nation's Defense Department recently announced that it identified a 19-year-old soldier killed during the Korean War is Army Pfc. John A. Shelemba of Hamtramck. He was killed July 20, 1950 in a battle at Taejon, South Korea. He could not be identified then, and was eventually buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu. The Defense Department has been disintering unidentified soldiers in recent years, and through extensive tests made an identification. Our thoughts go out to his family. And speaking of his family, does anyone know if they still live in the area? If so, give us a call at (313) 874-2100, or email us at: news@the-hamtramckreview.com.

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Together we rise: lessons from Berlin

Continued from page 4

car and parking it are the least appealing options. People's bodies – fit, trim, lean – reflect a lifestyle based around constant urban activity. So what can Hamtramck and our bigger neighbor Detroit (the non-profit Detroit-Berlin Connection is the group I represented at the conferences) learn from 2019/2020 Berlin? Plenty. I would avoid apples and oranges comparisons often made between the decline and depopulation of our region in the last half of the 20th century and Berlin's hot and cold war history of the last 100 years. Instead focusing on smart, simple and universal things that can be applied here, some immediately without much cost, others with forethought and planning.

- Soft lights. It's a pleasure to walk in Berlin at all hours in part because of warm lighting illuminating the sidewalks and streets. This comes from overhead city lighting and from shops and residential buildings. This is in contrast to the absence of any lighting in these same areas when I first visited in 2004. Application to Hamtramck: all the harsh bright lights that line Jos. Campau, Caniff and Conant can be replaced by softer lighting. Amsterdam's red-light district, strewn with neon red, blue and yellow hues, also provides healthy examples to complement night time walking.
- Houses in residential sections of Hamtramck should be encouraged to keep the lights on (or on motion-activated timers) for safe walking at all hours. Warm light translates into “you are welcome here, you're in a safe space.”
- Parallel sidewalks, one for walking, one for cycling. This is important in Berlin because there is a critical mass of both foot and bicycle traffic using the main avenues and side streets throughout the day and night. Walkers and cyclists can crash into each other easily (you learn the rules of sidewalk separation quickly in Berlin and Amsterdam). How to apply locally: when construction begins on the Joe Louis Greenway next year the lanes must be protected, not only from potential car-bicycle conflicts, but the interaction of both with foot traffic. The stretch of Jos. Campau north of Caniff has plenty of width to run protected lanes to Carpenter and north into Detroit to McNichols, where the greenway begins to head west. To see all modes of urban transit in their proper lanes can be a beautiful thing.
- Winter markets. Sure, we have the Winter Glow, but why not organize the business community and insert a commercial element to the holiday party? Or do it in combination with Paczki Day or during the Hamtramck Music Festival (this year held the last week of February)? Winter markets in Berlin, Hamburg and Amsterdam are plentiful this time of year, brightening the darkest months of the season with lights, food, drink and music, attracting people of all ages.
- Togetherness. It may seem quaint, even naive, to suggest an idea so fundamental to human growth is likely the essence of Berlin's success story. The city appears to have captured this genie in a bottle during its 30-year journey of self-discovery and recovery. Detroit helped, uncannily, by bringing its own healing, creative spirit to a divided, dispirited Berlin 30 years ago. The discussion I moderated, between Detroiters and Berliners, showed this spirit of togetherness remains part of the city's living history. The challenge ahead is to keep this spirit alive as the population and economy grow, no easy task. How to apply here: build leadership, stability and unity by creating community partnerships across multiple generations, races, languages, religions, genders, sexual orientations: all human resources rich with possibilities to move us forward in bold, adventurous ways. The future will be productive if we rise in it together. Divided, we fall.

Walter Wasacz is a Hamtramck native and co-founder of the nonprofit night economy advocacy group the Detroit-Berlin Connection

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source: the350project.net

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The Review

Hamtramck

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*Thank You*  
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## Obituaries

### WOJTOWICZ



Raymond J. Wojtowicz, 90, died January 8, 2020.

Mr. Wojtowicz was the husband of the late Delphine Wojtowicz; brother of Norman Daniel, the late John Wojtowicz, and Don Michael; father of Susan (John) Liska, Christopher Wojtowicz, Dean (Sheila) Wojtowicz, the late Wesley

Wojtowicz, and Renee (Mark) Dudek; grandfather of Jacob (Rebecca) Liska, Nathan Liska, Ashley (Thomas John) Marlin, Evan Wojtowicz, Griffin (Erin) Wojtowicz, Joseph Wojtowicz, Alexandra Wojtowicz, Marcella Dudek and Marcus Dudek; great-grandfather of Julianna, Jaxon, Jameson, Nora and October Liska; Jubilee, Felix and Fiona Wojtowicz.

Mr. Wojtowicz served

as the Wayne County Treasurer for 39 years and as the Mayor of Hamtramck from 1970 to 1973.

Visitation will be Monday, January 13, 2020, 1 - 9 p.m., at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck, MI 48212. Mr. Wojtowicz will lie in-state Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. until the time of Mass at 10 a.m. at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, 11200 Conant Ave., Hamtramck, MI 48212. Private burial will be at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Detroit, MI.

The family asks that donations be made to the Soup Kitchen at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church.

## Keep busy this winter with the recreation department

**By Alan Madlane**

Don't let yourself succumb to the winter blues or blahs.

Why not enjoy what your local city recreation department has to offer? Some of it is free, and all of it is at least a little bit interesting.

Beats another night binge-watching Mayberry RFD on your couch with your pet iguana, I bet. Not to say that's not a valid lifestyle choice.

For ages 16-plus, there are fitness classes, something each week-night from 6 to 7 p.m. Monday, it's Zumba; Tuesday, how about a Step Class, along with some ab work; Wednesday it's cardio and toning, along with some work on the old sitter, aka glute work; and Thursday, why not give

Belly Dance a try.

They promise the classes will cater to all levels of fitness, and best of all, the fee is only \$5, and that's the same for residents and non-alike. Get a 10-class punchcard for \$35 and save 30 percent.

Over 55 years of age? Try their free 8:30 a.m. Monday-Wednesday-Friday "Kick Fit" classes on for size, tailored to your age group.

Or why not put together an 18-and-over men's basketball team? \$225 for the season gets your team four hours of action on Saturday nights from 6 to 10 p.m.

Prefer to just work out on your own? If you're a resident, you simply pay a once-annual \$7 building access fee (\$0 if you're

over 55; \$10 if you're a non-resident) and then \$2 per day to use the facility. Save money by purchasing a monthly pass for \$20, or better yet an annual one for \$100.

It's just \$1 to use the sauna.

Prefer racquetball or volleyball as a recreational outlet? Rent courts for racquetball for \$5 per hour before 2 p.m. (\$7 after) or volleyball courts for \$12 per hour. Group rentals are available too.

Next time, we'll go over the pool and open swim pricing.

There are a couple of trips coming up to mention.

Registration begins January 13 for a trip to see the Pistons play LeBron

**Continued on page 8**

## GALA HOLIDAY CONCERT Saturday, January 25

**at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church,** the Polonaise Chorale of Hamtramck will perform Polish and English Christmas carols during the 5:30 p.m. Mass and after Mass, under the direction of Antoni Maczka, organist at St. Florian Parish. According to Polish custom, carols are sung every year from Christmas Eve right up to Candlemas on February 2. Admission is free.

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Hamtramck, 9709 Dequindre, 3 br. lower, clean, \$550/mo. + sec. deposit, 313-640-8243. <sup>1/17</sup>

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## HOUSE FOR SALE

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Detroit, 3904 Eldridge, 2 family, garage, lower level, 2 br., living, dining, kitchen. Upstairs 1 br., living rm., kitchen, 586-634-2502.

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Handyman for home modernization and repair, Hamtramck area, 313-919-1241. <sup>1/31</sup>

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By Charles Sercombe

This week's crime Log covers Dec. 31-Jan. 6.

### Tuesday, Dec. 31

- At about 1 a.m., a person was arrested after leaving the scene of a pedestrian accident that occurred in the area of Jos. Campau and Yemans.
- At almost 3 a.m., a person was arrested after a traffic stop for drunk driving, and for being wanted on a Hamtramck misdemeanor warrant.
- A resident in the 11600 block of Gallagher St. reported that four tires being stored in their backyard were stolen.
- A resident in the 3200 block of Jacob St. reported that their license plate was stolen from their vehicle.
- A Holbrook Ave. resident reported that their property was damaged.
- A resident in the 11600 block of Gallagher reported the theft of their 2002 Chevy Malibu with a Michigan license plate: DMC-3278.

### Wednesday, Jan. 1

- A Detroit resident was ticketed for obstructing police officers.
- A hit-and-run accident occurred at Buffalo and Trowbridge.
- A three-vehicle crash happened on Roosevelt St.
- At about 4:30 a.m., a vehicle struck two parked cars in the 3100 block of Trowbridge St. The driver and passenger switched seats and attempted to flee the scene, but couldn't drive off because their car lost a wheel in the crash. A Detroit resident was arrested for drunk driving, not having a driver's license (with 24 previous convictions for this infraction) and for driving with an improper license plate. A Southgate resident was also arrested for drunk driving and driving without a license.
- A Caniff Ave. resident reported being the victim of domestic violence. The suspect fled the scene.
- Another domestic assault took place in the

Continued on page 8

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## Coming events

**MONDAY, Jan. 27, 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.

**SATURDAY, Jan. 25, 5:30 p.m.** – GALA HOLIDAY CONCERT at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church, the Polonaise Chorale of Hamtramck will perform Polish and English Christmas carols during the 5:30 p.m. Mass and after Mass, under the direction of Antoni Maczka, organist at St. Florian Parish. According to Polish custom, carols are sung every year from Christmas Eve right up to Candlemas on February 2. Admission is free.

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Continued from page 7

3900 block of Evaline St.  
**Thursday, Jan. 2**

No incident report was available for this date.

**Friday, Jan. 3**

No incident report was available for this date.

**Saturday, Jan. 4**

• A Detroit resident was arrested after a traffic stop for being wanted on a Hamtramck misdemeanor warrant.

• At a little after 2 a.m., four Hamtramck residents and one Detroit resident were arrested in the area of Holmes and Mackay for possessing open intoxi-

cants in public, providing false information to police officers, for obstruction and for being wanted on various warrants.

• A Conant Ave. resident reported being assaulted by their neighbor.

• A resident from Ypsilanti was arrested for drunk driving.

• A resident in the 12000 block of Oklahoma St. reported that someone broke out a window at their residence.

• A Detroit resident was arrested in the 5000 block of Caniff Ave. for as-

sault.

• A person was arrested in the area of Jos. Campau and Jacob for being disorderly.

**Sunday, Jan. 5**

• A Charest St. resident reported a break-in.

**Monday, Jan. 6**

• A resident of Rochester Hills was arrested by Troy police officers for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.

• A Detroit resident was arrested after a traffic stop for driving without a license and for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.

• A Trowbridge St. resident reported that their city-issued trash can was stolen.

# Keep busy this winter with the recreation department

Continued from page 6

James, Anthony Davis and the L.A. Lakers at Little Caesar's Arena on March 22. Cost is \$25 for an upper level seat. Shuttle in from the community center at 5 p.m.

The Daddy-Daughter Dance, for girls 13 and younger and their fathers, will register from January 6 through 31. The actual date of the dance will be Saturday, February 8. The price and location are yet to be determined, but obviously should be set by the time registration begins.

There are also a couple of trips planned for the

55-and-over set. In January, spend a day at the Plymouth Ice Festival, with a late lunch from the Whitney warming your belly.

Registration began on November 11, so not sure how many spots are still open for this, but it's set for Friday, January 10 from 2 p.m. until 9 p.m. – a long day, but you'll sleep like a baby, we're guessing. It's \$25 for residents, \$35 for others.

In February, join your neighbors on a fun junket to the Henry Ford, as in Museum. Registration starts January 6 for a Tuesday, February 11

date, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A mere \$20 (for residents; add \$5 for non-) gets you in to one of the films playing their beautiful theater, plus gets you a tour of the museum, with time out for you to buy yourself lunch.

Both of these functions will depart from the Senior Plaza apartments on Holbrook west of Jos. Campau.

For more on all this, contact the Rec Department directly at (313) 893-5520, extension 3.

## Hamtramck Public Library Events & Programs January 2020



### Toddler Time

Thursdays  
11:30 am- 12:30 pm

**Begins January 9**

Children up to age 5 and their parents and caregivers are invited for stories & songs followed by playtime.

### Parent Hub & Grub

**Wednesday, January 15**  
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Real talk on resources for programs supporting families

Guest presenter Great Start Wayne offers this free lunch program!

Childcare provided.

For information and to register:  
313-410-4588

### Movie Night

Tuesdays @ 4:00 pm

**Begins January 7**

Family Friendly Movies  
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### Building Club

Wednesdays  
3:30 - 4:45 pm

**1/8, 1/15, 1/22**

Drop-in for unstructured, creative play. Ages 3 and up.

Try out the library's new STEAM materials:  
Lego, zoob, megablocks & more!

### Homework Help & SAT Test Prep

Fridays, 3-5 pm  
Begins January 10

Local DECA students will be offering free homework help and SAT preparation

Call the library to sign up!



# Snow and Ice Removal

## City of Hamtramck

Ordinance 50.013

The owner-occupant or responsible agent is required to keep the sidewalks in front of and adjacent to such property cleared of snow and ice to facilitate pedestrian use within 12 hours after it has fallen or accumulated.

**Failure to comply may result in the issuance of a misdemeanor ticket.**

If you have questions, please contact City of Hamtramck Code Enforcement at (313) 800-5233 ext. 328

