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**January 17, 2020**  
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# The Review

*Hamtramck*



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## Quick Hits

### MLK Day celebration at HHS center

**By Alan Madlane**

If you're looking for a way to celebrate, honor or remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. or his legacy, Hamtramck's got your back.

The Concerned Women of Hamtramck has once again arranged for a prayer breakfast on MLK day, this coming Monday, January 20, from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

It will be their 23rd annual such event, this time titled "Legacy Past & Present." It will be held at the Hamtramck Community Center at 11350 Charest St., the building just south of Hamtramck High School.

In addition to the breakfast, there will be a talent contest for students of the eight Hamtramck public schools (Hamtramck High, Kosciuszko Middle School, Dickinson West, Dickinson East, Holbrook Elementary, Tau Beta School, Early Childhood Elementary, and Horizon School).

**Continued on page 2**

# What's in store for the coming year? Just look back to last

**By Charles Sercombe**

Now that 2019 is behind us, it's time once again to dust off our crystal ball and gaze into the future – the year 2020, to be exact.

Just what news and issues can we expect in the coming 12 months?

As usual, plenty of the issues that will remain ongoing are leftovers from 2019.

One issue that received a lot of attention last year was the future of the GM Poletown plant, and its financial impact to the city. It's still on the top of the list of things to watch.

Last year, there was a scare that GM would actually follow through on its announcement of closing the plant, along with four other North American plants.

That was truly a bombshell, considering GM

just recently built the plant in the 1980s – to much controversy and fanfare. For Hamtramck, it would have been a financially devastating blow because, under the terms of a special deal, GM paid the city about \$700,000 a year in lieu of property taxes.

A small portion of the plant straddles the Hamtramck side of the Detroit border.

Losing that amount of money might seem like a drop in the bucket for the City of Detroit, but in Hamtramck, it would have crippled us.

GM eventually did a turnabout on the plant and saved it.

But... and in this case, but is not a good thing... the plant will be closed for up to two years while it retools in order to eventually produce electric-fu-

**Continued on page 2**



**Will 2020 be the year that city and school officials secure a multi-million-dollar grant to renovate Hamtramck Stadium? That's just one of many issues the city will face this year.**

## City manager outlines her goals for the new year

You've read what we think will be the top issues for this year, and now it's City Manager Kathy Angerer's turn.

Here are her top issues:

- Bringing jobs back to the Detroit-Hamtramck GM Assembly Plant
- Adopting a bal-

anced budget for 2020-21

- Solving MERS pension obligation increase
- Infrastructure improvements: Road, water and sewer lines on Holbrook from Jos. Campau to Lumpkin, and on Caniff from I-75 to Jos. Campau

**Continued on page 2**

## Raymond Wojtowicz: A voice of reason

**By Greg Kowalski**

"Where did the money go?"

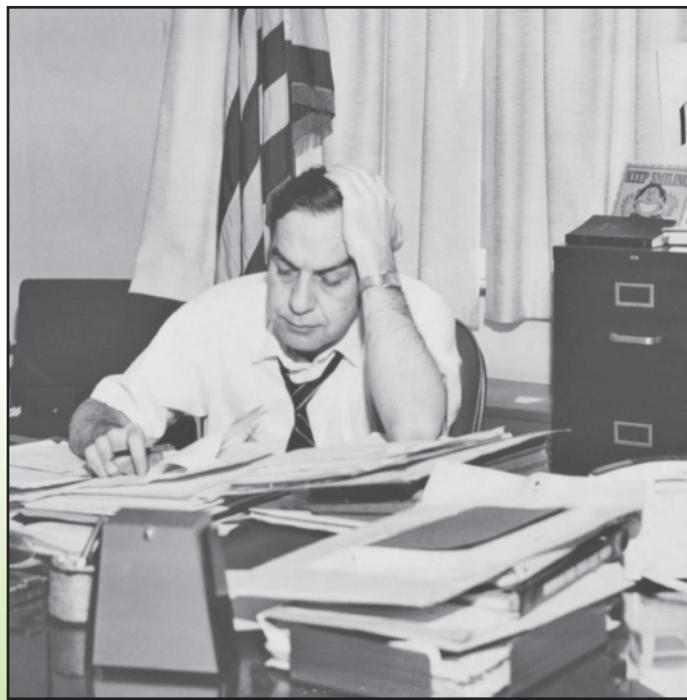
If you were in Hamtramck exactly 50 years ago, you would be familiar with that question. It was the slogan that propelled Raymond Wojtowicz into the mayor's chair in Hamtramck.

In the winter of 1969-1970, Wojtowicz tapped into the frustrations of many Hamtramckans who were watching their hometown sink into financial ruin.

Wojtowicz, who died last week after serving as mayor and then having a remarkably successful career outside of Hamtramck, was virtually a political outsider in 1970 when he joined the mayoral race. Elections were held in the early spring back then, with the primary election held in February.

It was a time of tremendous political turmoil in Hamtramck as the city teetered on the edge of

**Continued on page 4**



**Raymond Wojtowicz, who died Jan.8, was a former Hamtramck mayor and went on to be Wayne County Treasurer for many years.**

## Crime watch: Armed robbery gangs arrested

**By Charles Sercombe**

Hamtramck police officers once again nabbed armed robbery crews.

Last Friday, there were two incidents involving suspects using a black Chevy Impala as a getaway vehicle.

The first incident involved two suspects attempting an armed robbery in the afternoon in the area of Ellery and Caniff.

They picked on the wrong victim.

That person, when told to hand over his money, explained to them he simply had none. For that, the victim was pistol whipped, and then the suspects fled.

Javan Jackson, 18, of Detroit, was charged with that assault along with other felony charged that include: Armed Robbery involving a serious injury; assault with Intent to do great bodily harm less than murder; carrying a concealed weapon, assault with a dangerous weapon, felony firearm.

Jackson was the only once charged in that attempted robbery and assault.

Later in the day, the four suspects were seen stealing packages from porches in the area of Mackay and Pulaski.

They once again made their getaway in an Impala.

Officers caught up with them and pulled them over.

**Continued on page 2**



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# What’s in store for the coming year? Just look back to last year

Continued from front page

eled vehicles.

According to the payment plan with the city, that means the city will stop receiving \$700,000 a year for that time period, because the plant will be idle.

So, it's back to the financial drawing board for city officials while they brace for the financial blowback.

Could part of this financial puzzle be solved by a new contract with the firefighters' union?

Contract negotiations are underway, and it's a

good bet that something is going to change. Whatever it is, it will take place months from now.

Also, at the end of June the employment contract with police officers expires.

There could be an attempt at cutting corners there as well.

As if all that isn't bad enough, the city's pension obligation for this year shot up by about 47 percent, from a yearly payment of \$1.3 million to around \$2 million.

Needless to say, the

city manager is going to have her work cut out for her this year.

Our suggestion to the manager: You're going to need a big bottle of Tums – and aspirin.

Recreation-wise, the city is seeking a grant to further develop Veterans Park, which has already undergone a substantial transformation. There are now various types of children's play equipment, an outdoor soccer arena, and a volleyball beach area.

If we are lucky, we may even hear back about a possible multi-million-dollar grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation to fix up the historic baseball stadium.

Over at the public school district, the school board is taking steps to seek a \$35 million bond issue to continue building improvements and construct a new school next to Kosciuszko Middle School, as well as add another floor to the administration building.

This ambitious plan would require voter approval. It's likely going to take a herculean effort by school officials and community members to get it passed.

Culturally-speaking, Paczki Day is right around the corner this year, on Feb. 25. That's when the streets of Hamtramck turn into a Mardi Gras of the north, as thousands of paczki-loving fans flock into town to party and dance to live music in our bars.

And then two days later, the annual Hamtramck Music Fest kicks off on Feb. 27 and runs through Feb. 29. A huge number of bands, performers and DJs will be playing in dozens of venues, including bars, veterans halls and even the public library.

Now that's a lot of partying for one week!

It's seems like we barely scratched the surface, but perhaps this is a good place to end – just thinking about all of it is making our heads spin.

# City manager outlines her goals for the new year

Continued from front page

- Settlement of contract with Firefighters – IAFF 750
  - Finalization of the Hamtramck Recreation Plan and Rehabilitation efforts for the historic Hamtramck Stadium
  - Continuous improved services for residents, including the launch of an
- app for reporting city issues and concerns to city administration
- Updating city website
  - Appointment of Community and Economic Development/DDA Manager
- Asked for comment, she said:
- “The city administration is focusing on contin-

uous improvement of the delivery of quality services for our residents, while stabilizing our revenue and carefully examining our expenditures, to make sure we use our resources in the best possible way to achieve excellent results.”

## Crime watch: Armed robbery gangs arrested

Continued from front page

Jackson also was charged with stealing mail.

Also charged with that crime were: Malik Charleston, 19, of Hamtramck, and Taven Snerling, 17, of Detroit.

The stolen packages were retrieved.

Another robbery crew was arrested recently for two robberies from Dec. 30. Two men and a woman reportedly used assault rifles in the incidents.

Arrested were: Larry Bailey, 30, and Allante Williams, 27. Both are Detroit residents, and both are habitual offenders.

The woman was arrested but later released without charges.

Back in November, officers nabbed three suspects who went on a two-day armed robbery spree.

In other crime news, a suspect possibly linked to a number of garage break-ins was arrested last December.

Some residents got a glimpse of the suspect, whose description always

had one key thing in common: His “getaway vehicle” was a bicycle.

On Sunday, Dec. 28, his luck ran out.

In the daily incident report issued by the department, it was noted that the suspect, who is a Detroit resident, was arrested in connection with those break-ins.

The arrested occurred at 11:30 at night. There

were few details released, but it was reported that the suspect was arrested for obstruction, possessing “dangerous drugs,” and possessing burglary tools.

The suspect also attempted to flee on his bicycle but was apprehended in the area of McDougall and Carpenter streets.

## Quick Hits

Continued front page

First place will net a cool \$100, while second place will get \$50 and third \$25.

The general schedule will, more or less, be: An official welcome, a blessing of the food, and the singing of the Black National Anthem and America the Beautiful at about 9:15; breakfast served immediately after; the talent show will follow at approximately 10 or so; then, 20 “Legacy” honorees will be named;

keynote speaker and recently retired School Superintendent Tom Niczay will speak; and finally, a special guest will provide a short musical send-off.

Donations for the event are \$20 for adults and \$10 for those under 18. You can reserve a table for 8 for \$150, a slight savings.

Tickets are now available at the above-mentioned eight Hamtramck schools' offices.

Get Out on the Hamtown!



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### 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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<b>Movie Night</b> Tuesdays @4:00pm Family Friendly Movies Snacks provided!	<b>A Decade of World Cinema</b> 1959-1969 Tuesdays @ 5:30 pm January 23 & February 6	The Phile Hale Trio in Concert <b>Thursday, February 6 @5:30 pm</b> This concert is free and open to the public
<b>Building Club</b> Wednesday, Jan. 22 3:30 pm – 4:45 pm Drop in for unstructured creative play, ages 3 and up Lego, zoob, megablocks, and more!	<b>Brown Bag Book Club</b> Friday, February 7 @12:00 pm The Underground Railroad By Colson Whitehead	<b>Meet the Author</b> Kenny Karpov <b>February 13 @ 6:00pm</b> Stories from theaters of conflict in Iraq, Syria, and Eastern Ukraine
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### For more information about events at the library call (313) 733-6822, or visit its website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us> where you can also access the online catalog.

### The library is located at 2360 Caniff.

# Second Front Page

## New city council year starts off with division

**By Charles Sercombe**

Could there be trouble brewing in city council?

In what is usually a routine matter, the vote to appoint a mayor pro tem at last week's city council meeting was anything but routine.

The council split in a tie whether to appoint Councilmember Ian Perrotta to that position, forcing Mayor Karen Majewski to cast the tie-breaking vote.

She voted in favor of Perrotta, whose main duty as mayor pro tem is to run council meetings when the mayor is absent.

Councilmembers Fadel Al-Marsoumi, Mohammed Alsomiri, and Mohammed Hassan were opposed to appointing Perrotta to the position, but they did not say why.

Alsomiri and Hassan are newly elected to the council, although Hassan has served on council before.

The other newly-elected



The new city council got off to an awkward start at its first meeting of the year over who should be appointed as mayor pro tem.

councilmember, Nayeem Chowdhury, voted in favor of Perrotta.

Mayor Majewski said it's far too early to predict how the council will get along.

"I'm pretty jaded about all this, and not really concerned about divisions – votes will probably align and realign over time," Majewski said.

"Same old, same old. I remember other divided votes over mayor pro tem, including one that went through multiple votes until I finally said enough and broke the tie. I learned from that to end the misery and just vote. Anyway, I think it's just too early to figure out

the lay of the land."

Meanwhile, over at the school board, the annual appointment of who will be president took a new turn.

Board President Maggie Srodek decided to step down from that position. Instead, Board Vice President Evan Major will take on that role.

## Motown stars were in the spotlight at city's Film Lab

**By Alan Madlane**

Were they dancin' in the streets?

Not quite, but the mood was festive nonetheless as State Representative Isaac Robinson (D-Detroit) and others honored a few local Motown heroes a couple of weeks ago on the eve of the record label's 60th year.

The ceremony was an early one, "prying open" the doors of new Hamtramck hotspot The Film Lab at the unaccustomed hour of 10:30 a.m. for the 11 o'clock fete.

Those being lauded included Joe Billingslea, Jr.,

a member of the original Contours, best known for their hits "Do You Love Me" and "First I Look at the Purse" (the latter covered memorably by the J. Geils Band on their 1972 live album "Full House").

Other musicians likewise honored included two members of (former Detroit City Councilmember Martha Reeves' band) the Vandellas, Annette Beard (Simmons, now) and Rosalind Ashford; former Marvelette Katherine Anderson Schaffer; and Carolyn Crawford, who was signed to the label at the

age of 13.

On hand for the ceremony were Hamtramck City Manager Kathy Angerer, (now ex-) Councilmember Anam Miah, Wayne County Commissioner Jewel Ware; President of the Detroit Black Music Awards, Misty Love; President and CEO of WJZZ-FM, Rodger Penzabene, Jr.; choreographer Lisa McCall, who has worked with Aretha, as well as Chaka Khan and Lena Horne; and jazz singer Sky Covington, who herself is a four-time Detroit Music Awards winner.

Each honoree received a large, framed recognition from the state for their contributions.

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# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### The key to Hamtramck’s success this year: Cooperation

In this week’s paper, we explore some of the issues that will be coming up in the new year. Hamtramck’s financial security will continue to take up a lot of space in upcoming issues. That’s because the Story of the Year in 2019 will continue, in 2020, to be the GM Potlertown plant. GM will be closing the plant likely for two years, in order to retool it for the production of electric-fueled vehicles. While the plant is shut down, the city won’t received about \$700,000 a year in a special payment arrangement in lieu of the company paying property taxes. That is going to be a huge hit to the city’s yearly operating budget. We have faith that City Manager Kathy Angerer, and the city council, can steer around this pitfall.

We are also optimistic that the city and school partnership to expand recreation, and secure major grants to improve Veterans Park and the historic baseball stadium will pay off this year – bigtime. The key here is cooperation. Hamtramck politics has a deserved reputation of being brutal and divisive. Sometimes, we are our own worst enemy. We have recently, more or less, had a functioning relationship between the council and the city manager. But the new council was off to a bit of a rough start at their first meeting last week. The council was needlessly divided over whether to vote in support of Councilmember Ian Perrotta to fill the role of Mayor Pro Tem – a title which basically means that he would conduct council meetings in the mayor’s absence. He clearly has the experience to handle the duties of that position. Why in the world did three councilmembers, Mohammed Alsomiri, Fadel Al-Marsoumi and Mohammed Hassan, vote in opposition? The vote resulted in a tie, and required Mayor Karen Majewski to break it. She voted in support of Perrotta. Those voting in opposition did not offer an explanation before the vote, and also did not offer one later in the meeting. That was not an auspicious beginning of the new year. Let’s hope it was a fluke.

## Odds & Ends

**Safe and sound...** A huge sigh of relief could be heard in town on Wednesday afternoon. That’s when the Hamtramck Police Department let it be known that a 25-year old woman missing since Dec. 17 had been located. Police Chief Anne Moise had few details about the woman’s whereabouts, but said she was safe and had left of her own accord. In an email she sent to The Review, Moise said: “The Hamtramck Police Department received information that a person believed to be Camay Lowe had been located and was safe. “Her family was contacted and have confirmed with detectives that it is Camay. She is safe, and appears to have left on her own – no foul play suspected. “That is all the information we are going to release out of respect for the privacy for Camay and her family. “We appreciate all the concern and assistance from the community, and we are very happy to know she was found safe.”

**Brubeck’s son on drums,** and has several recordings out. But what they are is free and open to the public, and you can’t beat that deal with a trumpet mute. The show will be Friday, January 24 at 5:30 p.m. at the library, 2360 Caniff. A fine way to pass some “tempus.” As in, “tempo.” Never mind.

**Artist exhibition...** One of our cultural gems, Public Pool, is hosting yet another off-beat art exhibit. This one, by mystery artist (well, we couldn’t find a Facebook page for them, anyway) “Bumbo,” is called “Smokers, Nudes and Creeps.” The press release features an example of each. Bumbo’s style recalls the German style expressionism of David Bowie’s work. And it all comes with back story. You can help usher this art into the world on Saturday, Jan. 25, at the gallery, 3309 Caniff (on the north side of the street, at the corner of Gallagher). This opening reception will run from 7 to 11 p.m., and will feature DJ Wade presumably pumping the jam. Or such. But still: fun.

**Celebrated...** Last Saturday afternoon there was a reunion of Hamtramck folks at a bar in Warren. The reason for the get-together? To say hello to an old friend of the city, Nick Shamma. Nick coached little league baseball for generations of Hamtramckans, starting in the early 1960s and even through the 1990s, where he coached the St. Florian High School baseball team. A number of old-timers will also remember Nick as the friendly clerk at the Hamtramck Post Office, where he worked for about 30 years. And many others will remember Nick as an usher at Tiger Stadium and later at Comerica Park. He’s still pretty spry, and looking good at age 81.

**Benefit...** As just about everyone knows, City Clerk August Gitschlag moonlights at Whiskey in the Jar as a bartender extraordinaire. He gave us a heads-up about a benefit that is near and dear to many of us: To help out the animals caught up in Australia’s hellish fires. All proceeds collected on Friday, Jan. 31, starting at 8 p.m., will be sent to deserving organizations trying to save these poor animals. Here’s what co-organizer Michelle Slisinger has to say about what’s going on there: “All across Australia, devastating brushfires have left vital habitats (destroyed) and so many animals from koalas to kangaroos to fruit bats have been displaced. “Now as they try to escape the flames, there are not only burn injuries, but also animals coming onto roads, being hit by cars, and attacked by dogs, so it really is a tough situation and it’s going to be something that’s going to take years to recover from. “Australia Zoo Wildlife Warriors was established in 2002 by Steve and Terri Irwin as a way to include and involve other caring people in the protection of injured, threatened or endangered wildlife – from the individual animal to an entire species.” Features of the night include Fosters beer specials, a 50/50 raffle and a kissing booth. Whiskey is located on Yemans, just west of Jos. Campau. Donations will be made to the Steve Irwin’s Foundation, Wildlife Warriors, and the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital. And here is what donations from all over will help accomplish: 1. Purchasing and regenerating crucial habitat for species affected by human impact, drought and wildfires. 2. Planning a ward for flying foxes at the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital. Flying fox (or fruit bat) admissions have skyrocketed this fire season, and the ward will allow care for more while they undergo treatment. 3. Designing a crèche for orphaned flying foxes, where they will learn how to be wild again before being released to a wild colony. 4. Sending medical supplies to wildlife rescuers and caregivers on the frontline of the fire-affected areas. 5. Putting together bat caregiver packs to be sent home with wildlife caregivers. These include bottles, milk formula and bat wraps.

Continued on page 6



Friends of Nick Shamma met last weekend to honor his many years volunteering as a little league coach. Hundreds of Hamtramck kids learned the game thanks to him.

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2020 Hamtramck Business Directory

The Review's 2020 Official City Business Directory is about to hit the streets. It includes the phone numbers of local area businesses from A to Z. Advertisers, get on board for a unique opportunity to have your message delivered to 10,000 households and businesses in Hamtramck and the nearby areas of Detroit in February 2020.

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# Odds & Ends

Continued from page 5

6. Purchasing commercial food preparation equipment for wildlife care groups to cater to a huge number of patients.

7. Constructing a climate-controlled intensive care ward for our ever-growing number of koala patients.

So, please stop by for some fun and donate to a very good cause.

**Lost in the mail...**

Every once and awhile we all get someone else's mail. Usually it's for someone who lives nearby.

And then there are whopping cases of misdirected mail.

Recently, an anonymous resident dropped off a piece of mail that was delivered to their residence here in Hamtramck, but was addressed to a person living in Shelbyville, Michigan – some 170 miles off course.

The street name (4th St.) on the envelope is not a Hamtramck street, so there was no mistake based on that.

Our resident wrote us a note, in exasperation, saying:

“I guess it could qualify for the Guinness Book of World Records. ... I don't use the word ‘unbelievable’ very often, but in this case, it's perfectly justified: UNBELIEVABLE!!!”

Indeed.

And yes, we turned the piece of mail in to the post office.



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SINCE WE ALL FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF THE LORD AND WE ARE ALL OUR OWN WORST ENEMY HERE IS A PRAYER YOU CAN SAY BEFORE YOU START OUT EACH DAY HEAVENLY FATHER PLEASE SAVE ME FROM ME



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To make a tax deductible donation send to:

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*P.S. Send copy to friends*





# 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 Dec. 10, and all councilmembers were present.

Included in the council agenda packet was a University of Michigan study of Banglatown, concerning how the city can further develop it.

The study recommended that the city look into numerous state and federal grants and tax incentives, among several other suggestions.

The study is available for viewing online at the city's webpage.

During public comment, Justin Jessop had this message for the three councilmembers, Anam Miah, Abu Musa and Saad Almasmari, who were leaving public office at the end of the month: “Good riddance, god speed and good luck.”

Bill Meyer said

that, in regard to the new employment contract for City Manager Kathy Angerer, he has been “impressed” with her job performance. And as for hiring former Police Chief Max Garbarino as a liaison officer, he said Garbarino had done an “excellent job” as chief.

But he took issue with the two contracts being submitted for approval just before a recent council meeting.

He said that move showed a “lack of transparency.”

Kit Parks said that the city needs to create a police oversight commission.

During regular business, a discussion was held on whether to hire a company to install new parking meters.

In an overview presented to the council by City Manager Angerer,

she had this to say about the meters:

“For several years, the parking meter equipment throughout the City has not been functioning as intended in Hamtramck. The existing equipment that is in place is obsolete, and in many instances the parking equipment is not working or missing.

“The city not only suffers loss of revenue, but parking spaces in our central business district do not turn over when meters are missing. Having working meters will allow shoppers to visit establishments to conduct business and then vehicles will move when the business is complete.

“Working meters will not allow vehicles to remain parked for hours without putting funds into a meter. Non-working

meters are a disincentive to a vibrant shopping district when cars remain parked for reasons that do not include visiting the establishments in the business district.

“Having a viable parking system will be an incentive to help businesses to thrive in our downtown.”

A private company, Michigan Parking Services, would install the meters at no charge, but the company would receive 50 percent of the fees and fines collected for five years.

The new meters will be installed on Jos. Campau between Holbrook and Caniff, and in municipal parking lots located in that area, as well as the city parking lot on Caniff and McDougall.

City Manager Angerer said the council has the

Continued on page 8



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2 br., possible 3, no pets, good for mature tenant, fenced in yard, utilities not included, \$600/mo. + \$600 sec. dep., 1 year minimum lease, call 313-743-4554. <sup>1/24</sup>

Hamtramck, Caniff + I75 area, small, 2 br., base-ment, call Mike at 313-516-5178. <sup>1/24</sup>

Advertisers should check their ad following first publication. The newspaper shall not be liable for failure to publish an ad, for a typographic error or errors in publica-tion except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first day’s inser-tion. Adjustments for errors is lim-ited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. We reserve the right to classify, revise or reject any classified ad-vertisement.

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

3967 Evaline, 4 br., living room, dining room, kitchen, remodeled base-ment, 1-1/2 baths, email:Rena@evaline3967@yahoo.com. <sup>1/17</sup>



By owner, 2 family, 3br. up, 2 br. down needs total renovation as is, 11740 Mitchell St., Hamtramck \$78,500 Cash, Ask for John, 248-866-1110. <sup>2/7</sup>

STORE FRONT  
FOR LEASE

New Al-Baraka, call 313-366-0500 or 202-664-2756.

Michigan Anti-Cruelty So-ciety is seeking a kennel assistant to help w/care and cleaning of animals. Must be at least 18 years old, with a valid driver's li-cense. Apply in person at 13569 Joseph Campau, Detroit. <sup>1/31</sup>

HELP  
WANTED

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

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Deadline for classifieds  
for next week is  
Thursday at Noon  
Call (313) 874-2100  
to place your ad



By Charles Sercombe  
This week’s Crime Log covers Jan. 7-12.

**Tuesday, Jan. 7**

- At about 12:30 a.m., officers noticed an unat-tended car in the area of Dequindre and Commor. It was later identified as being stolen out of De-troit.
- At 1 a.m., a man was walking in the area of the 2000 block of Caniff Ave. when a suspect appeared and attempted to rob him. The victim ran away but was shot in the right leg by the suspect.
- A hit-and-run accident occurred at Yemans and Alpena.
- Officers checking on a house break-in alarm in the 2300 block of Pulaski St. found an unlocked window. There were no signs of a break-in.
- A resident in the 2200 block of Andrus St. reported the theft of their license plate (CPM-0999-MI).
- A resident in the 3100 block of Holbrook Ave. reported that some-

**Wednesday, Jan. 8**

- At almost 1 a.m., an agent for a business in the 2100 block of Caniff Ave. reported that a woman walked out of the store with a basket of items without paying for them.
- A resident of Clark-ston reported being as-saulted while at a Jos. Campau business.
- A break-in occurred at a business on Carpenter Ave.
- A resident of Evaline St. reported a theft.
- A resident of Pulaski St. reported that their cat-alytic converter was stolen from their vehicle.
- Officers responding to a malicious destruction of property case in the 3100 block of Holbrook Ave. ar-ested a suspect. The suspect was also linked to four other similar inci-dents.

**Thursday, Jan. 9**

- A Jacob St. resident

one damaged their prop-erty.

**Continued on page 8**

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Coming events

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

**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.

Let Our  
Service  
Directory  
Do the Work  
For You!  
Call Dave  
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Continued from page 7

reported being the victim of fraud.

- A person reported that someone broke into his car and stole several items.
- A Detroit resident was cited for possessing open intoxicants in his car. The car was impounded.

Friday, Jan. 10

- At about 2 p.m., a Detroit resident was the victim of an attempted robbery at Ellery and Caniff. The victim told the two male suspects that they did not have any money, and one suspect then pistol whipped the victim before fleeing in a black Chevy Impala with front end damage.
- A Charest St. resident reported a garage break-in and the theft of a vac-

uum and shovels.

- A resident reported that their passport was stolen after it had been mailed to the Bangladesh Embassy.
- A hit-and-run accident occurred in the 9300 block of Jos. Campau.
- At a little after 5 p.m., officers investigating a group of males stealing packages from porches in the area of Mackay and Zinow arrested four males, three Detroit residents and one Hamtramck resident. The suspects had been seen fleeing in a black Chevy Impala and were stopped by officers at Jos. Campau and Belmont. One suspect possessed a stolen gun. Numerous packages were retrieved. The suspects were also

thought to be related to the attempted street robbery that resulted in a pistol whipping.

- A hit-and-run accident occurred at Holbrook and Lumpkin.

Saturday, Jan. 11

No incident report was available for this date.

Sunday, Jan. 12

- At midnight, a person was arrested for drunk driving.
- A resident reported that they were receiving threatening text messages from an unknown person.
- At 2:30 a.m., a person was arrested for drunk driving after being involved in an accident.
- A resident reported that they were receiving harassing messages.
- A person driving a black Mercedes Benz crashed into a building on Hanley and then drove off.

Monday, Jan. 13

- A resident reported being the victim of fraud.
- A resident in the 11600 block of St. Aubin St. reported a break-in and the theft of jewelry

and money.

- A landlord dropped off an urn of ashes and a U.S. flag that were left behind at their rental dwelling where the renter had died.

Get Out on the Hamtown!



# City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 6

option to continue with “our current broken system.”

The council agreed to go with the new meters, which will be installed this spring.

In another matter, the council accepted a \$10,000 from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) to conduct a study on about 9 miles worth of infrastructure under some streets.

The actual study will cost about \$38,000, which the city will have to pay the balance of.

The study will also help identify possible sources of federal funding for repairs and upgrades.

A lengthy discussion was held on whether to adopt an employee handbook for city employees.

In an overview for the council, it said:

“(The) Administration determined that the City of Hamtramck did not have a document that is shared with employees that outlines the expectations of employment with the city.

“The City of Hamtramck Employee Manual was drafted to set forth expectations for city employees and, upon adoption, will be given out to new employees upon hiring, and distributed to employees who are already working at the City of Hamtramck.

“The Employee Manual will be utilized in conjunction with any labor contract (and) individual contracts.”

Councilmember Andrea Karpinski questioned who would enforce what is outlined in the handbook.

Angerer said the “appropriate person,” will do that.

Karpinski said that, “technically” the hiring of

Garbarino violates what is outlined in the handbook.

City Attorney James Allen said that is not true, but he did not elaborate.

Karpinski also noted that there is no job description for the new position that Garbarino was hired to fill.

Councilmember Miah defended the handbook, saying there is a reason why the city charter created a strong city manager position.

Councilmember Ian Perrotta said that, if the council OK’s the handbook, it would be “adopting rules we have already broken.”

The council approved the adoption of the handbook, with Karpinski being the sole objection.

A lengthy discussion was held on whether to set aside a portion of Veterans Park to honor the Yemeni community.

Councilmember Almasmari proposed the resolution, and said that Hamtramck is the appropriate community to host this site, since there is a large Yemeni community here.

But there were some objections raised.

It was pointed out that a Yemeni-dedicated park is being created next to the Yemeni mural, which is just a few buildings away from the proposed Veterans Park site.

It was argued that creating two parks honoring the Yemeni community is redundant, and would undermine the mural site.

Karpinski also said that the city has to get permission to make changes in Veterans Park because it is a historical site.

She also said that there need to be more specifics about what is

being planned for that area of the park.


Angerer said that all this resolution does is allow a committee to continue planning for the site.

In the vote to approve the proposal, Councilmembers Perrotta and Karpinski objected.

## 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.

#### 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!




#### Movie Night

Tuesdays @ 4:00 pm  
**Begins January 7**

Family Friendly Movies  
Snacks Provided

Hamtramck Public Library  
2360 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck MI 48212 313-733-6822 hamtramck.lib.mi.us

## HAMTRAMCK RECREATION DEPARTMENT



# BASKETBALL CLINIC

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JANUARY 25 - MARCH 14  
12:30 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.  
\$10 RESIDENTS  
\$15 NON-RESIDENTS  
AGES 7-9

## HAMTRAMCK RECREATION DEPARTMENT



# SOCCER CLINIC

LEARN THE FUNDAMENTALS TO PREPARE FOR THE SPRING COMPETITIVE LEAGUE

## STARTS

**SATURDAYS ONLY**  
**JANUARY 25, 2020**  
**TIME: 12:00 P.M.**  
**COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**R/NR: \$15/\$25**  
**AGES 7-13**

## REGISTER NOW

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## HAMTRAMCK RECREATION DEPARTMENT



# JUNIOR BASKETBALL LEAGUE

PRACTICE WILL BE HELD ONCE A WEEK AT EACH SCHOOL FOR 1.5 HOURS. COACH WILL DETERMINE PRACTICE DAY/TIME. SATURDAY GAMES AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

**AGES 10-13**  
FIRST PRACTICE FOR ALL SCHOOLS  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2020  
2:00 P.M. AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

**LOCATIONS**  
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DICKINSON EAST: 3385 NORWALK ST  
HOLBROOK: 2361 ALICE ST  
TAU BETA: 3056 HANLEY ST

**REGISTER NOW**  
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## Hamtramck Recreation Department



# Swim Lessons

Registration Begins  
Winter 2 - Tuesday, January 7th  
Winter 3 - Tuesday, February 11th

Swim card must be purchased before registration begins. No cards will be issued on registration day. No exceptions. Practice twice a week. Call for class options.

Level 1: Getting comfortable in the water  
Level 2: Basic swim skills, stroke and proper kicking  
Level 3: Focuses on technique and distance  
Level 4: Learning new advanced strokes  
Level 5: Perfecting all 4 major strokes  
Adult: Ages 15 and Up - All Levels techniques

**\$15<sup>00</sup>**  
Youth Resident Swim Lesson  
Must purchase a swim card first.  
Youth \$15 - Adult \$25

Session Starts  
Monday, Jan. 13 - Feb. 7  
Monday, Feb. 18 - Mar. 13

**Non-Residents**  
Youth Lessons: \$25  
Youth Swim Card: \$25  
Adult Lessons: \$25  
Adult Swim Card: \$45

**Water Aerobics**  
Runs on the same fee schedule as swim lessons. Monday - Wednesday 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. Swim Card Required.

Lessons are held next door at Hamtramck High School.

## Register Now!

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