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New housing

ready for

immigrants

By Charles Sercombe Hamtramck's new housing development is ready

Three, two-family houses have been completed on

Faber St., and they are be-

ing dubbed "Freedom Vil-

That's because the hous-

A non-profit group, Sa-

The families will only

stay for several months be-

fore resettling somewhere

else, which will then make

room for another batch of

new refugees to begin to

acclimate to their newly

A main reason Ham-

tramck was selected for

this project is because

it's ethnically diverse and

is a walkable community,

where you can easily do

your shopping close by and

"We are a welcoming

not need transportation.

adopted country.

maritas, will select who

ing is reserved for refugee families who have escaped

from war-torn countries.

for occupancy.

lage."

lives there.



Quick Hits

City seeks housing developers

Hamtramck's housing market is poised to make a major leap forward.

The city has dozens of vacant lots to sell, and city officials have a plan: They want housing developers to snatch up lots and then build multifamily dwellings on them.

That way, city officials say, the city can collect not only additional property and income taxes, but also bring more people into the city.

So, there is now an official Request for Qualifications (RFQ) seeking qualified local residents/ builders/developers to develop and transform vacant, municipal-owned residential lots to build new residential housing within the city.

"This is a great opportunity for the City of Hamtramck and for our residents, present and future. By increasing the amount and diversity of housing available in our city, we can help to make Hamtramck an even better place to live," said Mayor Karen Majewski in a press release issued by the city.

The press release went on to say:

"The aim is to diversify the types of housing available to current and Continued on page 8



In a record turnout, voters soundly reject city ballot proposals

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck voters overwhelmingly rejected all three city ballot propos-

The results were released by the city clerk's office near midnight on Tuesday. Over 7,000 voters participated in this election - making it the highest turnout in decades.

There are over 9,000 registered voters in Hamtramck. Over 5,000 ballots were cast via absentee ballot.

As usual, voters here overwhelmingly supported the Democratic presidential candidate - this time it being Joe Biden's turn. National results at press time on Thursday were not completely

known, but it appears Biden will become the nation's 46th president.

Hamtramck's ballot proposals were as follows:

Proposals 1 and 2 asked voters whether to eliminate from the city charter the language establishing the police and fire departments, as well as their respective chiefs.

Hamtramck firefighters waged a campaign against the proposals, and were out in force at the polling stations on Tuesday.

On their Facebook page, the firefighters' union had this to say about the proposals' defeat:

"Results are in! The Firefighters Hamtramck Association. Local-750 would like to thank the



Voter turnout in Hamtramck was higher than it's been for de cades. Most voters skipped voting in-person and voted early by absentee ballot. A line of voters formed in city hall the day before the election to vote by absentee ballot.

residents of the City of the results. We have a Hamtramck, for their long road ahead of us votes and support. With- and wish to work with the out you, this wouldn't community to continue have been possible. We as a fire department, want the best for our city! "We are so happy for

Continued on page 2

county that derives our strength from the diverproviding the highest levsity of our residents, and el of services possible." the Freedom Village projthird proposal ect epitomizes that core value," said Wayne County Executive Warren Evans.

> The development was made possible through a network of agencies and government funding sources, such as Wayne County, the Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency, Samaritas and also the City of Hamtramck.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held recently, although The Review was not notified in advance about the event.

A public relations company issued a press release after the event.

Continued on page 4



City Councilmember Mohammed Hassan was warned before Tuesday's election to stop recruiting people to help voters with their ballots. Hassan denied any wrongdoing.

Election Day: Councilmember warned by AG Office

By Charles Sercombe

Tuesday's election took an unexpected turn even by Hamtramck stan-

On Monday, City Councilmember Mohammed Hassan received a "cease and desist" notice from the state Attorney General's Office for his campaign activity.

Hassan was promoting support for two city charter revision proposals that, if passed, would eliminate from the city charter the language of the establishment of the police and fire departments, as well as their respective chiefs.

> Those proposals ended Continued on page 2



To date, there is no specific medicine recommended to prevent or treat the new coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

However, those infected with the virus should receive appropriate care to relieve and treat symptoms, and those with severe illness should receive optimized supportive care. Some specific treatments are under investigation, and will be tested through clinical trials.

WHO is helping to accelerate research and development efforts with a range of partners.

#Coronavirus

Are there any specific medicines to prevent or treat the new coronavirus?





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Election Day: Councilmember warned by AG Office

Continued from front page

up failing.

The letter accused Hassan, a Bangladeshi-American, of using social media to recruit people to help voters with their absentee ballots, and also to provide transportation for voters to turn their ballots into the clerk's of-

This is a potential felony violation.

A spokesman for the Attorney General's Office, Ryan Jarvi, told The Review that he did not know who filed the complaint, other than it came from the Secretary of State's Office.

The Secretary of State Office did not return an email to The Review for more information. The Review has since filed a Freedom of Information Act request to find out who made the complaint.

Jarvi also said that there will be a hearing on the matter, but he did not know when that would take place.

Hassan told The Review that he did not seek recruits for people to help voters with their ballots.

The two charter proposals in question, Number 1 and Number 2, caused controversy in the community - mainly on social media. Hamtramck firefighters have been in the forefront of campaigning against the proposals.

Had the voters approved the proposals, the council would have then been tasked with coming up with an alternative way to provide those services.

Proponents of the revisions said that it would save the city a significant amount of money, although no alternative plan was floated before the election to give voters an idea of what an alternative plan would look

Those opposed said that whatever alternative service was proposed would result in inferior service.

In other election news, there was a rally, billed as "Count Every Vote," held on Thursday afternoon.

Hamtramck

Senior Plaza

A HUD High **Performer**

The Review went to press on Thursday.

The rally featured Mayor Karen Majewski and City Clerk August Gitschlag, who spoke on the importance of counting all the

In a press release announcing the event, organizers said:

"This year, Election Day will be more like Election Week. An unprecedented number of absentee ballots were requested and turned in, and these ballots will take a while to count. While it takes patience, we encourage the public to remain both active and faithful in the counting process.

"Unfortunately, some elected officials have attempted to discredit, or create mistrust in, the mail-in ballot system. The prolonged counting period could create an opportunity for individuals to breed distrust and sow discord in the process in order to undermine the validity of the results. That scenario could elicit a contested election.

"To demonstrate our commitment to a transparent and fair electoral process, we encourage community members to gather with us to thank our local election officials, and to show our support until the very end.

"When everyone's vote is counted and the will of the people is truly heard, we can have a better future for everyone. We want to make sure that every valid vote is counted, so that no community has their votes taken from them or their results undermined. ..."

In a record turnout, voters soundly reject city ballot proposals

Continued from front page

asked voters to allow the city to increase a property tax that funds the pension cost of police and fire retirees, from a half mill to up to 10.5 mills.

The state representative race that includes Hamtramck in its district was won easily by Abraham Aiyash. Aiyash fills the seat left vacant by Rep. Isaac Robinson, who died earlier this year of COVID-19.

Aiyash is the first Hamtramck resident since the 1990s to fill that posi-

Since most voters voted by absentee ballot, there were no long lines at the precincts on Tuesday but there was a steady stream of voters for most of the day.

Federal monitors were on hand, in case any outside agitators showed up to intimidate voters.

Friday, November 6, 2020

There were a handful of Republican challengers in the precincts. Hamtramck has been a Democratic stronghold for decades.

Although Hamtramck is heavily Democratic, there are a number of Republican voters here. A little over 1,000 votes were cast for President Trump. Over 6,000 votes went to Biden.

Tuesday's election day could not have been better, weather-wise: It was sunny, and the temperatures were in the mid-



From the Superintendent

Regarding the increase in COVID-19 cases in Michigan, Superintendent had this to say on her Facebook page about what the district is doing:

"I am sure that you are following up on the news and are aware of the CO-VID-19 cases that are on the rise in the nation and in Michigan. ...

"Exercising all measures to ensure the safety of our students and staff we will move the HPS Learning Labs from in person to virtual

effective Monday, Oct. 26. We are working with the Wayne County Health Department regarding the probable cases of students.

"Our schools should continue to remain open to support our students and their families. Our plans to continue to monitor and assess the situation is ongoing and we will make plans that maintain the integrity of teaching and learning while ensuring that all students and staff are safe."

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This week at the library...

The Hamtramck Public Library is open. The following services are available:

Limited Walk-ins: (Ten persons at a time) Book drop-off and pick-up, new cards, replacement cards, etc.

Copying, Printing, and Faxing Computers are available by appointment only until 4:00 PM.

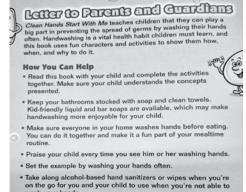
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"Clean Hands Start with Me" – an educational activities book for parents to share with their children has just arrived.

Keep your children safe during this pandemic by teaching them how and when to wash their hands with this fun and informative activities book. Available now at the library. Stop by for your free copy.





Reduce the risk of flu in your home by getting the flu shot. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that all adults and children ages 6 months and older get an annual flu vaccine.

• 24 Hour Security Library mission (HHC) does not For more information about events at the library call (313) 733-6822, or of race, color, religion, na visit its website at http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us where you **2620 Holbrook St • Hamtramck • (313) 873-7**8 tional origin, sex, handicap can also access the online catalog. The library is located at 2360 Caniff.

Hamtramck Housing Com

Second Front Page

City hall COVID scare proves to be false, but raises other issues

By Charles Sercombe

For a moment last Thursday, there was a scare of a COVID-19 case in Hamtramck City Hall.

But before long, it was discovered that there was no such COVID report, and that Councilmember Ian Perrotta put out false information via Facebook about the claim.

Confused?

Well, it's a tangled story. On Thursday, Perrotta said on his Facebook page that he was contacted by someone claiming to be a COVID tracer. He said that person told him that there were attempts to contact the city administration, but that they could not get

through. Perrotta said:

"The person I spoke with said this was a very serious matter, and it did not appear to be taken seriously by the city administration due to their lack of communication and follow-up."

What then followed was City Manager Kathy Angerer and Mayor Karen Majewski calling Perrotta to find out who Perrotta was in contact with, and also to get their phone number. But Perrotta hung up,



Ian Perrotta

and when he was called out for it by the mayor, he admitted it.

"I hung up the phone because I was accused of spreading false information, and I stated that I would get to the bottom of this by calling the person who informed me back," Perrotta said. "The conversation was over with Karen, and Kathy Angerer started talking again and that was when the phone was hung up."

Perrotta also admitted he did not immediately call anyone in the city administration to verify whether there had been a COVID case reported out of city hall.

"Regardless of the legitimacy of the call, based on what I know about the

city's operations there was enough information provided for me to believe it, and due to the dangers presented by coronavirus I felt it was my duty to inform the public," Perrotta said.

Majewski further pressed Perrotta on why he did not call anyone, including her.

Perrotta responded:

"To be perfectly honest I do not feel comfortable reaching out to the city manager, and try to interact with her as little as possible."

Both Angerer and the mayor began making calls to Wayne County health officials.

"The issue here is that information to the councilman was FALSE and the city only found out about it when the councilman posted it on Facebook," Majewski said.

"Once the posting was brought to the city's awareness, we tracked down the county officials who would have this information and discovered that it was not true."

Perrotta later said that he may have been **Continued on page 6**



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More from your Medicare **Bob Evans** 13911 Middlebelt Rd Nov 23, 30, Dec 1, 7 2:00 PM

WESTLAND

More from your Medicare Golden Corral 37101 Warren Rd Dec 3 10:00 AM

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Coming Events

SATURDAY, Nov. 14, 2-4 p.m. - Take-out Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski Street at Fleming. Everyone is welcome!

SATURDAY, Nov. 21, 3:30-5:30 p.m. - Drive-thru/Take-out Polish Dinner at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski Street at Fleming. \$10 Adult/\$5 Child 12 & under. Menu: Pork Chop, Kielbasa, Pierogi/sour cream, Sauerkraut, Mashed potatoes/gravy, Dessert. Cars will be staged in parking lot for delivery in front of church. Masks to be worn for pick-up.

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is provided Nov. 8 - Sunday Mass at 9:00 am Nov. 14 - Soup Kitchen Take-out only 2-4 pm, Everyone welcome!

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New housing ready for immigrants

Continued from front page

The new residents will be assisted, through various agencies, with job training. schooling and eventually moved on to homeownership.

"We've long been a haven for immigrants," said Karen Majewski, mayor of Hamtramck. "This city is a manifestation of the ideals America was built on and a place of opportunity."

The majority of the funding came from a U.S. Department of Housing \$1.2 million grant.

Steven C. Flum, Inc., a Hamtramck-based architect, designed the duplexes, with Interior Designers Coalition for Change designing the units' interiors. Furnishings were acquired through partnerships with Loves Furniture and Ikea.

The Freedom Village project was also made possible by private donors and sponsors, including the following congregations: Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livonia, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Dearborn, Hope Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills, The Synod of the Covenant Presbyterian Church serving lower Michigan and northern Ohio, and St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Grosse Pointe Farms.

The three-bedroom, two full-bath. 1,326-squarefoot duplexes were built on four vacant lots owned jointly by the city of Hamtramck. Wavne County Land Bank, and Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority. Wayne Metro served as property developer and manager.

Samaritas, with a 70year history as the largest Refugee Resettlement organization in the state, facilitates the referrals of New Americans to live in Freedom Village, as well as coordinates the furnishings included in each unit and a welcoming exterior, in collaboration with community partners and spon-

"Freedom Village was made possible because of an incredible partnership and a shared goal of meeting the needs of families who have been forced to flee their home countries due to persecution, war or violence," said Sam Beals, CEO of Samaritas. "These New American families have experienced unimaginable trauma, and we are working with them to ensure they are no longer defined by what has happened to them, but by who they are, and all they have the potential to be."

Hamtramck was chosen to be the host city because

UNOFFICIAL ELECTION

of its long history of being a melting pot of immigrants.

In fact, Hamtramck has the highest percentage of immigrants and refugees of any city in Michigan, at nearly 44%.

For decades, it was largely a Polish community, and in recent years, large populations of immigrants and refugees from other Eastern European countries, South Asia, and the Middle East have settled within its 2 square miles.

Some 30 languages are spoken by residents, and at least four different religions are practiced.



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ner 3:30 - 5:30 pm, \$10.00 Adult / \$5.00 Child Celebrating 98 Years of Traditional, Catholic, and Democratic Church

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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Voters reject proposals; now what happens?

The voters have spo- changing up the way poken, and the three city ballot issues all went down in defeat.

So now what?

The three proposals were placed on the ballot as a way to save the city money, but that's not to say we were in favor of them.

Proposals 1 and 2 would have eliminated the language in the city charter that establishes the police and fire departments. Had they passed, the city council would have been tasked to come up with an alternative way to provide those services

The proposals were placed on the ballot by a majority of city councilmembers, who viewed lice and fire services are provided could reduce the financial burden to the city.

The third proposal would have greatly raised property taxes to fund the city's pension obligation for police and fire retirees.

The increase in property taxes would have busted the finances for many households in Hamtramck.

Meanwhile, the city continues to be in deficit spending, and before long - if it hasn't happened already – the city's budget surplus will be gone.

That means the city will be forced - sooner or later - to turn to the state for help.

The last two times the city did that, the state appointed an emergency manager to take over control of the city.

what Guess pened?

In neither time did the emergency managers address the city's key financial burdens - namely its pension costs, and the costs providing police and fire services.

So, here we are again, on the verge of yet another state intervention. All we can hope is that someone will make the tough decisions that our local elected leaders can't, because of labor union contract constraints or what voters refuse to do.

The Hamtramck Review Published every Friday

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Publisher: John Ulaj · (248) 866-1110 · julaj@thehamtramckreview.com Office Manager: Jean Ingenthron Copy Editor: Alan Madlane

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Odds & Ends

Helping hand... If this whole COVID thing has you feeling a bit out of sorts or more than a bit - rest assured that you are not

And rest assured, too, that the state has your

A shoulder to cry on, if not a leg up.

Their effort is called "Be Kind to Your Mind." It is a campaign to promote the use of the state's free "Stay Well" counseling line. Trained crisis counselors are made available 24/7 to listen and offer assistance.

The service has been operational since mid-May. It is part of a federally funded grant program overseen by the Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Behavioral Health Administration, in partnership with the Michigan State Police.

"Many of us are having a hard time right now. There should be zero shame and zero stigma" about seeking help, MDHHS Director Robert Gordon was quoted as saying.

Simply dial the state's COVID-19 hotline at (888) 535-6136, and then press "8" after the first prompt to be connected.

"While (these counselors) are not licensed mental health professionals, they have undergone training... on how to help people mentally rebound from disasters," MDHHS Medical Director Dr. Debra Pinals assured.

The counselors are taught not to judge anyone's feelings, but rather to listen fully and then help callers develop a coping strategy, reviewing all options, and perhaps even connecting persons with various outside agencies to get more concrete help.

Beat the chill... On this past Devil's Night, Governor Whitmer reminded people about some angels at their service.

The governor was directing our attention to the fact that Oct. 30 was "National Weatherization Day," and also that there's a federal program that could save low-income persons some heating costs this winter.

The U.S. Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program is administered in this state by the Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity.

Whew.

Trained weatherization professionals use computer software and diagnostic equipment to figure out where, and how, your home is less than fully energy efficient. They then create the work order that they pass along to the contractors who will perform the upgrades.

The program is touted as being good for the economy, as it is said to support some 8,500 jobs nationwide.

Health and safety issues such as carbon monoxide, moisture and mold, ventilation, and the heating and duct systems themselves are analyzed. Improvements may include adding insulation, sealing door or window gaps, or water saving measures, for example.

Eligibility is based on income, and also whether the home's current condition will allow for the remedies to be enacted prop-

Check with the MDHHS Bureau of Community Action for more details.

Interested in training for a job doing the work?

Contact the Michigan Training and Education Center: www.MichiganTEC.org.

Survey... The Polish influence in Hamtramck, so prominent from the Jazz Age on down into this newest century, has unquestionably waned significantly in recent years.

It has been largely replaced by Bangladeshi, Yemeni, Bosnian, Ukrainian, and other influences.

Still, the Piast Institute is located here, and it continues its mission to support Polish Americans.

Its latest effort is a second go-round of its massive "Polish Americans Today" survey. The first survey came in 2010, under the direction of former institute head, the late Radzilowski, Thaddeus and Colorado State University researcher Dominik Stecula.

This year's work will provide a needed update to that volume.

Piast CEO/Founder Virginia Skrzyniarz will work, once again, with Stecula on this year's model. The institute gains an advantage in the matter by doubling as the State of Michigan's only Census Information Center, or CIC.

"The value of this work is not completely academic, but it has implications for our understanding of who we are as a community, and where we are headed," Stecula said.

You can take the survey at www.polishamericanstudy.com. Note that all information will be kept confidential, and will not be linked to you in any way.

If you have any questions, contact the Piast Institute at: info@piastinstitute.org, or (313) 733-4535.

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 Oct. 27, and all councilmembers were present.

Councilmember Andrea Karpinski commended Councilmember Ian Perrotta for recently saving a man who was choking.

(Perrotta announced on his Facebook page that a man walking by his bar, Trixie's, on Carpenter, started choking, and

he used the Heimlich maneuver to dislodge a chicken bone.)

Mayor Karen Majewski also commended Perrot-

"You'll probably remember that all your life," she said. "Good job."

During the public comment portion of the meeting, Nasr Hussain said he is in favor of a proposal, facing the council

in this meeting, to not require front porches to be unenclosed in new housing construction.

people wish to enclose their porches for privacy.

Hussain said some

"This isn't a dictatorship," Hussain said.

Bill Meyer noted that this land once belonged to native Americans, who knew how to take care of

Continued on page 8

When the need arises, these caring professionals are ready to help.

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()bituaries

CHILDRESS



Erica" E-Boogie" Childress, 27. died October 18, 2020. Ms. Chil-

dress was the daughter of Debbie Polas; granddaughter of Richard & Barbara Polas; niece of Donna Clark: cousin of Donnie and Barb Covell. Erica is also survived by her boyfriend, Gerald Watson.

Memorial visitation will be Saturday November 7, 2020 from 2 - 8 p.m., at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck MI 48212.

PANCHESAN



Mary (Kachovee) Pancheshan, 86. died October 31, 2020.

Pancheshan passed away peacefully, surrounded by her familv. She was born on May 30, 1934 in Hamtramck, Michigan. Mary Ann was an avid reader, well-traveled, enjoyed word searches, listening to music and spending time with her family. Mary Ann was a dedicated, hard-working, generous and strong mother that treasured her family and friends. She had a vivacious personality and made friends everywhere she went.

Mary Ann graduated

from Girls Catholic Central High School in Detroit, received a degree in Education from Marygrove College, and earned her law degree from the University of Detroit-Mercy. She was in education for 40 years and taught fourth grade at Dickinson West in Hamtramck for most of her career. She valued education and had a passion for teaching children.

When Mary Ann was not teaching or at church, she spent her time volunteering in her community at the Capuchin and St. Ladislaus soup kitchens, as giving back was something she took pride in. Her life was a living example of her favorite Bible verse, Ephesians 4:32 - "And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ."

Mary Ann was preceded in death by her husband, Alex Pancheshan; sister, Kathleen Hoeft. She is survived by her son, Gary Pancheshan: (Melissa) daughter, Anne Marie (Joe) Vecchio; sister, Jackie; her grandchildren, Brandon, Gillian, Alex and Nicolas; great-grandchildren, cas and Madison; many nieces and nephews; and a circle of lifelong friends who cherish her memory and celebrate her love for

Visitation was Tuesday,

November 3, at Jurkiewicz and Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck. The funeral Mass was Wednesday, November 4, at Saint Ladislaus Church, 2730 Caniff Street, Hamtramck MI 48212. Interment was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Detroit. A donation may be made in memory of Mary Ann to: Bishop Foley High School, Madison Heights, Michigan, to support Catholic Education, or to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

TOMAKA



Pawel Tomaka died October 27, 2020. Pawel passed away

suddenly. He was the husband of Renata Sikorska; father of Dominik Sikorski, Anna Sikorska; proud son of Barbara and the late Czeslaw. Pawel is also survived by his brothers, Piotr and Marcin.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady Czestochowa Catholic Church on Saturday,

November 14, 2020 at 11 a.m. The family will receive guests at 10:30 am. Inurnment will follow at Resurrection Cemetery immediately following the Arrangements were made by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home.

ZANKE



Frances Marie Zanke (nee Zwierzchowski), 77, died November

2020.

Mrs. Zanke was the wife of the late Joseph; mother of Sharon (Stephen) Fritz, Denise Lawson, and Brian; grandmother of Beth Bardy, Amanda Parry, Alyssa Lawson and the late Logan. Frances is one of fifteen children and one of two sets of twins in the family.

Visitation is Sunday, November 8, 2020 from 1 - 7 p.m. at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home 2396 Caniff. Hamtramck Mi 48212. Private Cremation will follow per Frances's wishes.

City hall COVID scare proves to be false, but raises other issues

Continued from page 3

spoofed, and that he would "get to the bottom" of the matter.

In the meantime, accusations were made by Perrotta supporters that former City Councilmember Scott Klein was somehow involved.

Klein, who is no longer a resident, had been promoting the passing of two city charter ballot issues that appeared on the Nov. 3 ballot.

Both proposals were rejected by voters on Tues-

If the proposals had passed, the language for the establishment of the police and fire departments, along with their respective chiefs, would have been eliminated from the charter, and the city council would then have been tasked with finding an alternative way to provide those services.

Klein is also in support of a recall effort underway against Perrotta.

Klein denied he has anything to do with the COVID matter, and told The Review that he has filed a report with the Hamtramck Police Department.

Perrotta said he has filed reports with the FBI and state Attorney General's Office.

This is not the first time that Perrotta has been the center of controversy.

Besides facing a potential recall, Perrotta has been censured by a majority of his council colleagues over verbally abusing city employees.

Perrotta has gized for some of the accusations made against him, saying he did lose his "cool" with one city hall employee, and used "cuss words."

Perrotta recently became an attorney.

(Perrotta was previously a copy editor with The Review, but he is no longer associated with the newspaper.)

Mayor has bad news about the spread of COVID-19

By Charles Sercombe

Mayor Karen Majewski took on a more somber tone during her weekly Monday Facebook chat with the community.

"I'm going to be short not-so-sweet," mayor said, in what was, indeed, her shortest address to residents, clocking in under 10 minutes.

The not-so-sweet part was because the number of COVID-19 cases shot up dramatically since she last spoke to the community. Even worse. Hamtramck reported one more death from the disease for this year – a 74-year-old male.

Since last week, the of cases number creased by 61 to a total for the year, so far, of 898. The new total of deaths in Hamtramck for the year is 28.

Since Monday, another COVID-19 death was reported. The new total for the year is now 29.

Nationally, the coronavirus is surging, with many hospitals operating at full capacity.

Majewski – like many health professionals - is not optimistic about what the winter season will bring on, COVID-wise.

"It's clear we're heading into a difficult season," the mayor said. "The risk is not going down. ... We have to be extra careful,

extra vigilant."

news, Majewski reminded folks that, as of Monday, restaurants and bars are now required - per a state order - to take down their customers' names and phone numbers in case health officials have to do contact tracing.

Before signing off, Majewski once again reminded the public about the various food banks that are operating each week in Hamtramck.

Friendship House on Conant Ave. operates on every Tuesday and Thursday, starting at 2 p.m. Frugal on the Fly sets up

in the Hamtramck Town Center, at Jos. Campau and Holbrook, every Friday from 8 to 11:30 a.m.

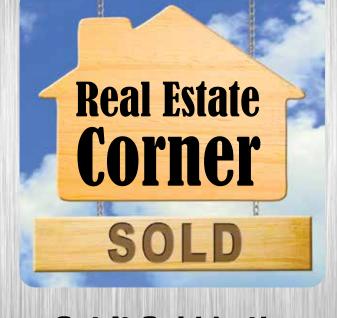
Queen of Apostles offers food packages every Thursday, starting at noon.

Monday, of course, was the day before the presidential election, and Majewski noted that it looks like Hamtramck will have an exceptionally high turnout, judging by the absentee ballots already submit-

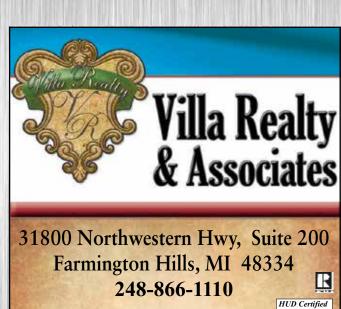
(She was correct. There were over 7,000 - out of over 9,000 registered voters - Hamtramck voters who participated.)

She reminded the public to be courteous to election workers, who will be on duty for many hours on Tuesday.

"We thank them for all In other COVID-related their work," she said.



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By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log

covers Oct. 27-Nov.2

Tuesday, Oct. 27

- · At 4 a.m., a resident reported that, while at Buffalo and Holbrook, they were robbed and their car was stolen.
- · An Alice St. resident reported that they lost their passport.
- · A Detroit resident was arrested after a traffic stop for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant and for a misdemeanor traffic offense.
- · A resident reported being the victim of identity theft.

Wednesday, Oct. 28

· No incident report was available for this date.

Thursday, Oct. 29

- At about 11:30 p.m., a resident reported an incident of domestic assault that happened in the area of Grand Haven and Carpenter.
- · At 1:30 a.m., a resident reported that, while

in the area of Faber and Jos. Campau, they were robbed at gunpoint by three men.

· An agent for a busines in the area of Yemans and Jos. Campau reported being the victim of fraud.

Friday, Oct. 30

- · At almost 1 a.m., a resident of Chesterfield Twp. was arrested for possessing narcotics, after being found passed out in their vehicle.
- · A resident of Warren reported being the victim of fraud while in the 12000 block of Conant Ave.

Saturday, Oct. 31

- · A Detroit resident was arrested for drunk driving.
- · A Detroit resident was arrested for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.
- A Detroit resident was arrested after a traffic stop for carrying a concealed weapon without a permit.
- · A resident was arrested at 3:30 a.m. after

Continued on page 8





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the environment.

"It's our job to keep this land going," Meyer

He then went on to say that Hamtramck is a Muslim majority city, and denounced the "white power structure" which does not recognize this

Included in the local "white power structure," Meyer said, are The Review newspaper, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), both the police and fire departments and also city government.

He then criticized those call Councilmembers Mohammed Hassan, Fadel Al-Marsoumi, Mohammed Alsomiri and Nayeem Choudhury as the "gang of four."

Next up was Greg Kirchner, who said that he was recently attacked by a dog while he was in his backvard, and noted that there have been other dog attacks in the city.

Tom Habitz spoke in favor of requiring front porches to remain unenclosed. He said this zoning requirement is there to help public safety and visibility.

"This is an urban design issue that needs a lot of care," Habitz said.

Moving on, there was a public hearing on approving a tax exemption for the expansion of an industrial facility on Conant.

The plant, a food facility, plans to expand, and create 50 to 100 local

This was the first of two hearings before the council votes on a final approval, which is expected to happen.

In a discussion to eliminate a requirement to have front porches remain unenclosed in future new housing, Councilmember Karpinski said open porches create a "sense of community."

"If we eliminate the need for (open) porches, that's going to eliminate the need for community," Karpinski said.

Councilmember Al-Marsoumi said allowing residents to have an option will suit cultural needs.

Mayor Majewski said she is "strongly opposed" to allowing residents to close off their porches.

Open porches, she said, "helps make us a community."

She also said that the Plan Commission was united in saying it was opposed to allowing the enclosures of porches.

The matter will be further discussed in the Nov. 24 meeting.

In another matter, the council approved accepting a federal grant worth \$9,375 to allow the police department to purchase bullet proof vests.

In another quick action, the council OK'd allowing a parking meter holiday on Jos. Campau from Nov. 25 to Dec. 31. This is allowed each year to help boost retail sales in the city's main business district.

Vince Szymborski, the chairman of the DDA, said the organization reimburses the city for lost meter revenue for this period.

A lengthy discussion was held on making appointments to the city's Zoning Board of Appeals Commission.

Councilmember Hassan moved to not re-appoint Carrie Beth Lasley. He said he was doing so for "personal reasons."

Councilmember Perrotta pressed Hassan to explain his reason.

"You didn't say anything specific," Perrotta

Hassan replied: don't have to."

Perrotta said Hassan needs to present facts about why he is opposed to re-appointing Lasley, who has a background in urban planning and a doctorate degree.

Councilmember Karpinski said it would be "foolish" not to re-appoint Lasley.

"Her experience is worth millions," Karpinski said.

Councilmember Choudhury had little to say, other than that he liked Lasley and wished her well.

Councilmember Perrotta said that the council can't let personal reasons to interfere with decision making. Other-

wise, he said, the council will "chase away" qualified residents from serving on boards and commissions.

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In the vote to not re-appoint Lasley, only Councilmembers Perrotta and Karpinski voted in opposition.

The rest of the appointees were approved to serve on the ZBA.

In another controversial appointment, Councilmember Karpinski questioned the appointment of fellow Councilmember Alsomiri to the Plan Commission. She said he poses a conflict of interest by being the owner of the largest retail building in the city – the former Shoppers World.

Karpinski also noted that Alsomiri has been working on the building for several years.

She said his building could be the subject of a request submitted to the Plan Commission.

Mayor Majewski noted that a number of people on council and on commissions own properties and that, when a conflict comes up, they recuse themselves from the decision-making process.

Karpinski also questioned why she has never been considered for the appointment, having been on council for several years.

The appointment is made by the mayor. Majewski said she is looking for diversity on the commission and believes Alsomiri "will make a good addition."

Councilmember Perrotta said he also has issues with the appointment. He asked Alsomiri to explain the role of the Plan Commission.

Councilmember Hassan objected to the question, calling it "insulting."

Perrotta responded: "Hassan, you know all about insulting your colleagues."

In the vote to appoint Alsomiri, Councilmembers Perrotta and Karpinski objected.

In another public comment portion of the meeting, a resident criticized Hassan's handling of the re-appointment of Carrie Beth Lasley to the ZBA. He said it was "extremely inappropriate" and that it was "insulting' to the public.

"We deserve a reason," the resident said.

Robert Zwolak said that the council is "going in the wrong direction." He

also criticized the "majority" of the council for not promoting the Census.

Carrie Beth Lasley criti-Councilmember cized Hassan because she has called him out for being a

"tax deadbeat." She also said that she is "coming after" Hassan on other issues, including campaign finance

matters. She also said that she finds Hassan "personally unqualified" to serve on council.

Bill Meyer spoke again, saying that this council meeting shows a "racial divide."

"White people are attacking people of color," Meyer said.

He later said that people of color are "the majority folks - that's how it works."

He also said that for those who don't like it. they should move out.



Continued from page 7

a traffic stop for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.

 A possible sexual assault was reported by a resident.

Sunday, Nov. 1

- A business in the 9100 block of Jos. Campau was robbed by a person with a weapon.
 - · A resident of War-

ren said that her car was damaged while it was

Monday, Nov. 2

 A resident reported that they were the victim

parked on Conant Ave. ERIC R. SABREE

- A Detroit resident was arrested after a traffic stop on I-75 for carrying a concealed weapon without a permit.
- of identity theft.

Quick Hits

Cont. from front page

future residents, including detached traditional houses, cottages as accessory dwellings, townhouses, urban lofts in the downtown. ... For the purposes of this process, a qualified partner does not necessarily need to be a company and could be a private individual."

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