

Quick Hits

Teachers are first up for vaccines

By Alan Madlane

Hamtramck's teachers may soon get their shot.

The Michigan chapter of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) union announced, in a Jan. 6 press release, that the state's Pre-K through 12 teachers would be classed as "frontline workers," and thus eligible for the new coronavirus vaccine.

When it's available in the proper quantities, that is.

After Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) made the announcement. the union announced it. "We are extremely appreciative that Governor Whitmer and (M) DHSS Director (Robert) Gordon have prioritized educators for receiving the COVID vaccine," said David Hecker, the union's president. "The availability of the vaccine will go a long way towards teachers and students being able to safely teach and learn in the classroom."

'Newsmaker of the Year' is not what you think it would be

By Charles Sercombe

Once again, another page has turned on the calendar, and we all recently kissed the year 2020 good-bye.

Or, as some may say: Good riddance.

And once again it's time we, here at The Review, announce the "Newsmaker of the Year."

The obvious choice is COVID.

There were over 1,600 cases reported here in Hamtramck leading up to the new year, and 36 residents were reported dead from the disease.

(There are now over 1,700 cases and 37 deaths reported for the past 10 months.)

While COVID affected just about every aspect of our lives here, nationally and the world over, we like to keep our Newsmaker title for something that was more hyper-local.



The opening of a recreational marijuana sales outlet on Holbrook Ave. a few months ago sparked an ongoing debate on whether to allow more outlets or to ban such businesses. This issue became our "Newsmaker of the Year."

couple months of the year.

You can probably guess just what was stirred up a still-raging debate: Yes, marijuana.

Or more specifically, whether to allow recreational marijuana shops to operate here.

debate that no one saw

months ago when suddenly, seemingly out of nowhere, a marijuana sales shop opened up in a refurbished veterans post on Holbrook near Lumpkin.

Some in the community were immediately outraged that the city So, what started up a allowed this to happen without at least giving the

lem with this argument. In 2018, Michigan voters agreed to allow recreation marijuana to be consumed and sold.

Communities statewide were given the choice to "opt in" - in other words, allow this new type of business; or to "opt out," which would have banned that type of business.

for HPS students **Bv Charles Sercombe**

Although the coronavirus pandemic is still spreading, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is allowing schools to re-open in March for in-person teaching.

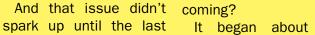
The governor's directive, however, is not mandatory.

For the time being, Hamtramck Public Schools will remain virtual instruction only, said Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed.

In a statement on the district's Facebook page, Ahmed said:

"At Hamtramck Public Schools, the safety and well-being of our school community has been - and will remain - our top priority. While we are eager for students to return to our buildings, we will be continuing with virtual learning for all HPS students out of an abundance of precaution for our school community.

"We are working closely with medical and public health professionals, the Board of Education, district leadership and staff as we plan for our return to in-person learning. "We will keep the community informed as those conversations move forward. In the meantime, we appreciate your continued patience and understanding as we work toward a safe return to face-to-face learning for all students." District students have not been in their schools since last March, when the governor ordered all schools to close because the pandemic was beginning to spread aggres-



Hamtramck High School students who are part of

the school's LEAP organization recently performed a

It began about two

city council a heads-up. But there was a probHamtramck, like a num-**Continued on page 2**

HHS student groups seeks to raise environmental awareness

By Alan Madlane

LEAP is a small group of students doing some big things over at Hamtramck High School.

They've been winning some recognition for their efforts to help bring environmental awareness to those around them.

We conducted an email interview with them, to find out more of what they're all about.

The Review: So, let's start with your organization: What is LEAP all about? Whose idea was it to put together the group? How long has it been together?

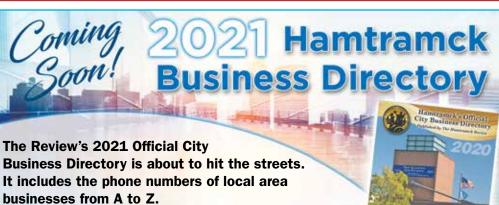
LEAP: LEAP (Leaders of Environmental Awareness and Preservation) is a student-run recycling organization that works to reduce paper and cardboard waste at Ham-

Continued on page 4

Continued on page 2



clean-up in town.



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when in any enclosed public space.



'Newsmaker of the Year' is not what you think it would be continued from front page

ber of other communities, did nothing. Except there was one city council resolution a couple of years ago that came forward recommending to opt out.

But a strange thing happened when that resolution came forward for a vote: two councilmembers who would have voted for it mysteriously didn't show up at the meeting.

The vote still went forward, but there weren't enough votes pass it.

In the absence of neither opting in or out, state law allows a business to open up in a community during that vacuum.

Flash forward to a couple of months ago, and investors took advantage of that loophole.

City officials insisted that they treated the permits involved just like any other legal business wishing to operate here. Officials further stressed that there was no need to cause any fanfare.

The state also has a hand in the permit process involved for marijuana dispensaries.

That led to an outcry, with mostly residents from the Bangladeshi and Yemeni Muslim communities calling for city officials to stop all future sales outlets from opening.

The four current Muslim city councilmembers heeded the call, and rushed through what some say is a hastily drawn-up city ordinance banning marijuana sales.

The issue pried opened wide an already existing cultural divide between the socially conservative Muslim community, and the white non-Muslim community – in this case, mostly younger white adults.

matter ends there, but it

looks like the marijuana debate will linger on in 2021.

A group of residents gathered signatures on a petition to force the city council to reconsider their vote, and to possibly allow city voters to ultimately decide whether to allow sales.

It is believed that there are two to three other marijuana dispensaries preparing to open in the city, but it's unclear whether they beat the deadline to get their paperwork with the state approved before the ordinance was approved.

Hamtramck is not alone in struggling with this issue.

About 1,400 communities out of the state's 1,773 cities, villages and township have opted out of allowing sales.

Over 80 communities You would think the are allowing sales - including nearby Detroit and several suburban communities in the metro region.

Opponents say they fear that allowing sales will attract crime, and that the products will eventually get in the hands of children - worries that proponents of marijuana sales say are baseless and already debunked.

Proponents also point to the fact that this industry is reaping millions of dollars in sales and, thus, local communities allowing dispensaries are profiting handsomely from additional tax revenue.

If the matter does go to a vote in the community, there is a good chance it would get shot down, since the city's largest voting bloc is Muslim.

For the time being, marijuana sales will remain a hot topic for 2021. And, sadly, so will COVID.

Cosmos winter sports schedule

WEEK 1

January 25 –Varsity Girls' Basketball vs. Taylor Prep. January 25 – Varsity Boys' Basketball vs. Taylor Prep. January 27 – Varsity Girls' Basketball vs. Ecorse. January 27 – Varsity Boys' Basketball vs. Ecorse. January 29 – Varsity Boys' Basketball vs. Catholic Central.	Home. 6 p.m. Home. 7:30 p. Away. 5:30 p.m Away. 7 p.m. Home. 7 p.m.
WEEK 2 February 1 – Varsity Girls' Basketball vs. Harper Woods. February 1 – Varsity Boys' Basketball vs. Harper Woods. February 3 – Varsity Boys' Basketball vs. UPAD. February 5 – Varsity Boys' Basketball vs. Trillium.	Home. 5:30 p. Home. 7 p.m. Home. 7 p.m. Home. 7 p.m.
WEEK 3 February 8 – Varsity Girls' Basketball vs. River Rouge. February 8 – Varsity Boys' Basketball vs. River Rouge. February 10 – Varsity Girls' Basketball vs. UPSM. February 10 – Varsity Boys' Basketball vs. UPSM. February 12 – Varsity Girls' Basketball vs. UPA. February 12 – Varsity Boys' Basketball vs. UPA.	Away. 5:30 p.m Away. 7 p.m. Home. 5:30 p. Home. 7 p.m. Away. 5:30 p.m Away. 7 p.m.
WEEK 4 February 15 – Varsity Girls' Baskethall vs. Taylor Prep	Away 6 n m

February 15 – Varsity Girls' Basketball vs. Taylor Prep. February 15 – Varsity Boys' Basketball vs. Taylor Prep. February 17 – Varsity Girls' Basketball vs. Ecorse. February 17 – Varsity Boys' Basketball vs. Ecorse. February 19 – Varsity Girls' Basketball vs. Dearborn HFA.

0 p.m. p.m. n. m.

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Away. 5:30 p.m.

Away. 7 p.m.

Home. 7 p.m.

Away. 7 p.m.

Home. 6 p.m.

Home. 7 p.m.

Home. 7 p.m.

Home. 5:30 p.m.

Away. 5:30 p.m. Away. 7 p.m.

Home. 5:30 p.m.

Away. 6 p.m. Away. 7:30 p.m. Home. 5:30 p.m. Home. 7 p.m. Home. 6 p.m.

No change for HPS students

Continued from front page

sively. In the past 10 months, Hamtramck has recorded over 1,700 COVID cases and as of this week, 37 deaths.

Hamtramck's population is about 22,000.

Despite the ongoing spread of the disease, there has been a growing call for a return of in-person teaching. For many parents, the responsibility of overseeing virtual classes has been a burden.

It's also been noted that, as students remain at home, their attention spans for virtual learning

have been diminishing. "The value of in-person learning for our kids is immeasurable, and we must do everything we can to help them get a great education safely," said Gov. Whitmer said in a recent

statement. "Over the last 10 months, medical experts and epidemiologists have closely followed the data

and have learned that schools can establish a low risk of transmission by ensuring that everyone wears a mask and adopting careful infection prevention protocols. ... I strongly encourage districts to provide as much face-to-face learning as possible, and my administration will work closely with them to get it done."



WEEK 5

February 22 – Varsity Girls' Basketball vs. Harper Woods. February 22 – Varsity Boys' Basketball vs. Harper Woods. February 24 – Varsity Boys' Basketball vs. UPAD. February 26 – Varsity Boys' Basketball vs. Trillium. February 26 – Varsity Girls' Basketball vs. Fitzgerald.

WEEK 6

March 1 – Varsity Girls' Basketball vs. River Rouge. March 1 -- Varsity Boys' Basketball vs. River Rouge. March 3 -- Varsity Girls' Basketball vs. UPSM. March 3 -- Varsity Boys' Basketball vs. UPSM. March 5 - Varsity Girls' Basketball vs. UPA. March 5 -- Varsity Boys' Basketball vs. UPA.



Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Day: Monday, January 18, 2021, we will be celebrating the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King. The library will be closed in observance of this national holiday.

Winnie the Pooh Day: January 18th commemorates author A.A. Milne's Birthday (1882). He brought the adorable, honey-loving bear to life in his stories, which also featured his son, Christopher Robin. Snuggle up with your favorite Pooh fan, a pot of honey, and take turns reading about the adventures of Winnie the Pooh.

Edgar Allan Poe: He was born on January 20th, 1809. The library has most of his works on hand and you can to request them and pick them up the very same day.

This week at the Library .

First Macintosh computer: On January 24th, 1984, the very first Macintosh computer, the precursor of today's Apple computers, was introduced to the consumer market.

National Thesaurus Day: January 18th also honors Peter Mark Roget, the author of Roget's Thesaurus, who was born on this day in 1779.

Hamtramck Library is operating as "Grab and Go" until further **notice:** - This service includes book pick-ups, remote printing, faxing and scanning. Computers will not be available for use until further notice. Please send attachments you want printed to hamtramcklibrary at gmail.com. Browse our catalog at home, If we have the title, please call 313-733-6822, and we will set it aside for you to pick up.

For more information about events at the library call (313) 733-6822 Or visit its website at http://hamtramck. Lib.mi.us When you can also access the online catalog.

The library is located at 2360 Caniff Avenue.

Second Front Page

Mayor: COVID increases amid a 'wild, wild week'

was

By Charles Sercombe

Not only was Mayor Karen Majewski shaken by the ongoing increase in COVID cases in Hamtramck, but also by what happened in the nation's capital last week.

In her weekly address to the community this past Monday on Facebook, Majewski started out her 17-minute talk with a reference to the insurrection in the capitol building by angry Trump supporters who claim the presidential election was stolen.

"This has been a wild, wild week, and it may be wilder over the next week



at 36.

Elect Joe Biden.

Hamtramck.

COVID-wise, it

another week of more

cases being reported in

Since she last talked

with the community the

week before, there were

49 new cases. The num-

ber of deaths for the past

several months stands

the same as last week,

Since her Mondav chat.

there was another death

9517 Jos. Campau • Hamtramck 586-879-8058 Call for Appt.

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- if that's imaginable," of 1,740 COVID cases recorded in Hamtramck Majewski said, in reference to the Jan. 20 infor the past year. auguration of President-

As with many other communities, Hamtramck City Hall remains closed the public, but Majewski reminded folks that business can still be done either online, or through a DivDat machine located in the lobby of city hall.

Over at the post office on Caniff Ave, the mayor said it appears the staffing problem has stabilized, and it has remained open on regular business days for the past week.

The branch had a temporary problem finding enough employees to staff it because of CO-VID.

It had been closed sporadically for the past few weeks. Also, rumors began to fly that it was closing, after two mailboxes were removed.

As it turned out, they were removed because someone crashed their car into them.

Small businesses that are trying to remain open are once again getting a helping hand, Majewski said.

The state's Payroll Protection Program has been renewed, she said, and it is offering small grants. For more information, go to the state's website.

Now that there are two types of COVID vaccines available, the state is able to distribute more shots. Majewski said the state is inviting teachers and those 65 and older to be the first in line.

We have several more weeks of winter weather. but in the meantime, Majewski said, the city is developing a new fiveyear parks and recreation plan, and wants to hear feedback from the public about it.

Go to the city's website to read the proposed plan.

Until then, think spring!



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We are a Multicultural Parish Family Sunday English Mass 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Everyone is Welcome to Worship with Us

Sunday Service is now being held MASKS are mandatory - HAND SANITIZER on site. Six foot separation seating & social distancing. A complete list of safety guidelines is provided

January 17 - Mass at 9:00 am

January 26 - Mass for people on our Prayer List 7 pm

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HENRY FORD MEDICAL CENTER Hamtramck

Henry Ford is here for you during COVID-19

The Henry Ford Medical Center - Hamtramck is temporarily closed during the COVID-19 crisis. Our doctors have been moved to other Henry Ford Medical Centers and can see you there. Here are some ways you can get care with your doctor.

A video visit on your computer or smart phone.

- A telephone appointment.
- An in-person appointment at another Henry Ford Medical Center.

Learn how to have a video visit from your home at HenryFord.com/videovisits. For help deciding the best way for you to get care, call us at (313) 972-9000.

يتواجد مركز Henry Ford دائمًا هنا من أجلك في أثناء أزمة فيروس كورونا COVID-19

تم إغلاق مركز Henry Ford Medical Center الذي يقع في Hamtramck مؤقتًا في أثناء أزمة فيروس كورونا COVID-19. تم نقل أطبائنا إلى مراكز Henry Ford الطبية الأخرى ويمكنهم رؤيتك هناك إليك بعض الطرق التي يمكنك من خلالها الحصول على الرعاية مع طبيبك.

- · زيارة بالفيديو على جهاز الكمبيوتر الخاص بك أو هاتفك الذكي.
 - موعد عبر المهاتف
- · موعد عن طريق الحضور شخصيًا في أحد مراكز Henry Ford الطبية الأخرى.

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COVID-19 চলাকালীন Henry Ford আপনার জন্য রয়েছে

COVID-19 সঙ্কট চলাকালীন Henry Ford Medical Center - Hamtramck সাময়িকভাবে বন্ধ রয়েছে। আমাদের ডাক্তারদের অন্য Henry Ford Medical Centers-এ স্থানান্তরিত করা হয়েছে এবং তারা আপনাকে সেখানে দেখতে পারেন। আপনার ডাক্তারের কাছ থেকে শুশ্রুষা পাওয়ার কয়েকটি উপায় এখানে দেয়া হল।

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- একটি টেলিফোন সাক্ষাৎ।
- অন্য Henry Ford Medical Center-এ গিয়ে দেখানো।

কীভাবে আপনার বাড়ি থেকে HenryFord.com/videovisits-এ ভিডিওর মাধ্যমে দেখানো যায় তা জানুন। আপনার শুশ্রুষা পাওয়ার উত্তম উপায়ের বিষয়ে সিদ্ধান্ত নেওয়ার বিষয়ে সহায়তার জন্য (313) 972-9000-তে ফোন করুন।

PROGRAMS

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The Hamtramck Recreation Department is following the Govenor's orders and CDC guidelines. All programs are subject to be changed, postponed, or cancelled. 1 parent allowed to wait inside building. No extra kids allowed.

HHS Community Center 11350 Charest St. Hamt

Phone (313) 874-2100

HHS student groups seeks to raise environmental awareness

Continued from front page

tramck High School.

Our goal is to help our school and community become more environmentally friendly. We team up with other community organizations, such as the Be a Good Neighbor Project, and we help out at Bandhu Gardens.

Around Hamtramck, we have picked up litter, planted trees, made a rain garden, and helped with the recycling commission. We spread awareness by working on

HAMTRAMCK PUBLIC SHOOLS

community projects, such as air quality monitoring, and making funny videos to promote being environmentally friendly.

Tahmim Siddiquee, an HHS alum, formed the group in 2015 to spread awareness about climate change, and what we can do about it. We have been running ever since.

The Review: When and where do you meet presumably over Zoom, or another online meet-

group "leader," or do you all have titles and specific duties within the group?

LEAP: Currently, LEAP meets over Google Meet around once or twice a month. But things this school year have been very different for us. In a normal school year, we would be conducting recycling pickups around the school, and having meetings every week in our sponsor's classroom.

We have an E-Board that consists of: Mira Hughes,

ing platform? Is there a President; Nadija Basic, Vice President; Thamanna Begum, Secretary; Iftehaj Mahdi, Treasurer; and Sabera Begum, Recycling Manager. We are supervised by our sponsor, Mr. Albrecht, our school's new biology teacher.

The E-Board leads the group, and organizes/ looks over all the events and projects that LEAP participates in. The rest of the club members are considered general members, of which we currentlv have 23.

PARTNERS 20-146



Above and below: Scenes from a recent city clean-up by HHS LEAP students.



The Review: What are you working on right now? How do you finance your projects? Are you working with any grant organizations, for example?

LEAP: Currently, we have multiple projects and ideas that we are working on.

Some of them include: clean sweeps, volunteering at Bandhu Gardens, figuring out how to safely recycle during the pandemic, and creating fliers and videos during the winter months, to help spread awareness about the environment.

We held three clean sweeps this fall, and we plan on doing even more in the spring. At the Bandhu Gardens, LEAP members have harvested fruits and vegetables, prepared and planted plots in the garden, and mulched trees.

We have received a few donations throughout the years, and we won H-Soup, as in 2018. (Editor's note: H-Soup was a meeting of community members who would meet annually for a soup luncheon and then vote on a worthy project to fund for the year.)

fundraise as well.

The Review: How do you choose which projects you will devote your time to? Does someone come up with an idea, and then the rest of you vote on it, for example? What if there are competing ideas put forth, but not enough time to do both?

LEAP: We have a set list of projects we work on each year, such as getting the recycling up and running again, volunteering at Bandhu Gardens, making videos and posters, and doing clean sweeps around Hamtramck.

Other projects are opportunities that come to us through Be a Good Neighbor and the Bandhu Gardens, like tree planting and rain garden making.

We have a long-running list of things we would like to accomplish. Our members, E-board, and sponsor all contribute to that list, but ultimately, the E-board decides what we will work on next.

Advertisement for Bid

BID TITLE: HAMTRAMCK HIGH SCHOOL INTERIOR CLASSROOM RENOVATIONS

Hamtramck Public Schools will receive single prime sealed bids to furnish all labor and materials and perform all work necessary and incidental for the Hamtramck High School Interior Classroom Renovations in accordance with published instructions, specifications, drawings and other contract documents.

Sealed bids must be received no later than, Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 10:00am. Bids received after this date and time will **not** be accepted or considered. The following options are available for submitting Bids:

- Bids may be submitted via any mail service or carrier or dropped off in person to PARTNERS in Architecture, 65 1. Market Street, Mount Clemens, MI 48043
- Bids may be submitted electronically by email to Rich Wawrzynski at Rwawrzynski@hamtramckschools.org 2.

Bids will be opened and read aloud by use of a virtual meeting shortly after receipt of bids. A link to the virtual meeting will be forwarded to plan-holders prior to bid day.

An optional **Pre-Bid Meeting and Walkthrough** for all contractors interested in submitting a bid will be held at Hamtramck High School, located at 11410 Charest St., Hamtramck, MI 48212, on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 9:30am. Attendees should gather near the main entrance and will be expected to wear masks and follow State recommended COVID safety guidelines.

Bidders MUST USE THE BID FORM(S) in the specification package: Bidders may either return (2) COMPLETE COPIES OF EACH BID SUBMITTAL in a sealed envelope, clearly labeled with the bid title, date and time due or return (1) COMPLETE COPY OF EACH BID SUBMITTAL via electronically to the email listed above with the bid title, date and time due in the subject line.

All bids shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship(s) that exist between the owner(s) or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board of Education of the School District or the Superintendent of the School District. The Board of Education shall not accept a bid that does not include a sworn and notarized familial relationship disclosure statement. All bids must also be submitted with a sworn and notarized Affidavit of Compliance regarding Michigan Public Act No. 517 of 2012 - Iran Economic Sanctions Act.

Submit with each bid, a certified check or acceptable bid bond payable to Hamtramck Public Schools, in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid. Bids submitted shall fully comply in all respects to these instructions, published specifications, drawings, and other contract documents. Bid price shall include all costs associated with this project.

No bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the date of the bid opening. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any formalities in regard thereto. In addition, the Board reserves the right to evaluate bids on any basis determined by the Board to be in the best interest of the Board and to consider alternate bids if the low bidder(s) do not meet the specifications or are otherwise determined to be unqualified.

The Architect will provide the documents to prospective bidders, electronically free of charge or in hard copy format at \$40.00 per set. Checks shall be made payable to: PARTNERS in Architecture, PLC. Bid documents will be available on or about January 13th, 2021. Interested contractors should request documents via email @. JHoulihan@partnersinarch.com. Questions may be directed to PARTNERS in Architecture PLC, 65 Market Street, Mt. Clemens, MI 48043 (Phone: 586-469-3600), attn Pam Elderkin (pelderkin@partnersinarch.com).

PARTNERS in Architecture, PLC

Priority Waste donated four recycling containers to us in 2019. Bake sales have been a way for us to

LEAP is all about teamwork. We work on our projects together to get them done, so we don't have many competing or conflicting goals.

The Review: Tell us about the recognition **Continued on page 8**



In Our Opinion **Banning marijuana shops**

makes absolutely no sense

Recently, four city councilmembers made a reckless decision.

Those councilmembers rushed through an ordinance banning any more recreational marijuana outlets from setting up shop in Hamtramck.

They pushed this ordinance through because one retail outlet opened on Holbrook Ave., and there were reportedly two or more in the works.

While we understand that there are some in the community who are strongly opposed to marijuana sales, the ban is short-sighted.

Why?

Because recreational marijuana outlets are major money-makers when it comes to generating tax revenue.

It has recently been reported that the businesses paid \$73 million in excise and sales tax for local communities that allow the sales. There are about 80 communities that currently allow marijuana sales. Do the math.

Hamtramck is headed

toward a financial crisis. The city is in deficit spending, because the costs of running the city - including, especially, pensions - outstrip the tax dollars coming in.

The most head-spinning moment at the council meeting was when one councilmember started questioning the city attorney about the legal ramifications the city could find itself in if the ordinance goes through.

This was asked moments before the councilmembers voted on the matter.

The councilmember didn't even think about the legal consequences until the night the council was set to vote on the ordinance. That shows that this ordinance was not well-thought-out, and that there is a legitimate concern the city could face multi-million-dollar lawsuits.

Another councilmember noted that his decision was based on what he thinks the majority of residents want. He said it's his job to do as the

community asks.

That is not leadership. Leadership is making a decision that is right for the community despite public pressure to do otherwise. And the objections voiced by the public at the meeting sounded more like mob rule.

Making hard decisions - even perceived unpopular ones - is what true leaders do.

And, in another instance, one Zoning Board of Appeals member proved that he doesn't understand logic by arguing, on one hand, that the city can't tell homeowners what to do with their houses, while on the other hand, saying that the city can tell people what kind of business they are allowed to operate.

No wonder Councilmember Andrea Karpinski resigned after this ugly debacle.

Our city council is heading down a dangerous path. One shudders to think what else is coming down the pike in the new year.

Other Voices: Guest Editorial

Parent Support in a COVID World

By Jaren Roberts

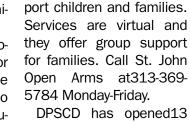
Parent support has never been more important during this time of distance learning and working remotely in a COVID world.

While this time of the year is already difficult for many people due to the holidays, grief and loss, and Seasonal Affective Disorder, it is now magnified because of COVID.

Add the increased isolation, loss of income or loved ones, having to be parent and teacher, it's no wonder parents and students are stressed out. When you take all of these elements into consideration, a perfect storm is brewing.

However, there is help and hope. Many services are available through the school districts and Wayne County. In the city of Detroit and surrounding Metro areas. schools have mental health therapists, clinics, telehealth options, and if your student attends a school within the Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD), there are Family Resource Hubs.

"St. John Open Arms, a grief and loss program, offers counseling for children and adults. Children may show signs of grief as anger, depression, anxiety and also being withdrawn," said Dr. Cynthia Taueg, a professional in community health with over 30 years of experience who also sits on the Full Board for the Detroit Wayne Integrated



Technology and Family Resource Hubs across the city, which provide direct resources to students and families ranging from digital device repair and replacement, general online learning support, medical and mental health support as well as utility assistance and mobile CO-VID-19 testing.

Breakfast and lunch continue to be served at each district school on Mondays and Thursdays. Most of the Technology and Family Resource Hubs are open two days a week from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. to help working families attain needed services. For more information, visit https://www. detroitk12.org/hubs.

"Parents should not feel embarrassed about calling or reaching out for help. If you need help, you need help.

The good thing is there are resources out there," said Dr. Iris Taylor who sits

on the Board of Directors for DWIHN and DPSCD.

5

"It's a difficult time for a lot of people, but we can get through this." DWIHN, the largest Community Mental Health Agency in Wayne County is doing something to address the issues for the people. DWIHN has ReachUsDetroit.org, a 24/7 collaborative call center specifically geared toward young black males however open to anyone, with our without insurance.

Call or text the 24/7helpline at 313-488-Hope or call 855-966-3313. DWIHN is also offering yet another tool to help with vour mental wellness.

The Mindwise "Mental Health Check-Up" is on the homepage of the website and is an anonymous, free assessment tool that anyone can take which will review your mental health and connect you to resources and assistance, www.dwihn.org.

Parents can also download their free COVID-19 Resource Guide from their website at https://www. dwihn.org/covid-dwihnresource-guide.pdf.To parents and families and those feeling the loss, don't lose hope.

We will get through this together. There is light at the end of the tunnel.

If you or anyone you know needs assistance, call DWIHN 24/7/365 at 800-241-4949. They are here to talk. Here to help.

Odds & Ends

Convicted... Former Hamtramck police officer Ryan McInerney pled guilty recently to pistol whipping a driver he pulled over.

McInerney, 44, was facing a federal civil rights being held virtually. Madelyn Porter, of Concerned Women, tells us that the theme this year is "Surviving the Pandemic."

Hamtramck Public School students are always invit-

ports of taxpayers receiving these letters." said Deputy State Treasurer Ann Good, who oversees Treasury's Financial and Administrative Services programs.

The piece of correspon-

Obituaries

DWIHN Health Network (DWIHN).

These programs sup-

charge. The incident happened six years ago.

He resigned from the Hamtramck force after the incident.

According to media reports, he faces sentencing in April, and is looking at possibly three years in prison.

McInerney's assault resulted in the driver suffering broken facial bones. He was accused of then covering up the incident, by filing a false report.

He also admitted to pistol whipping a second person on the same day during a traffic stop in an unrelated incident. That person suffered broken teeth.

In a statement issued by Eric Dreiband, an assistant attorney general for the Civil Rights Division, he said:

"Officers are supposed to serve as role models for upholding the law. It is disheartening to hear of a police officer taking such actions."

Donations needed... Be-

cause of COVID, this year's celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday in the public schools will not take place in person.

Instead, the event, sponsored by the Concerned Women of Hamtramck, is ed to explore each year's theme in a variety of artistic ways, such as through song, dance or poetry. Contestants will perform on Jan. 18 via ZOOM invite.

The group also is in need of donations to put the event together. To do so, make checks payable to CONCERNED WOMEN OF HAMTRAMCK – 11411 Ham-Lumpkin Street, tramck, MI 48212.

alert... Ham-Scam tramck, beware - the scammers are up to no-good once again.

Michigan taxpayers with past-due tax debts should be aware of an aggressive scam that's making the rounds through the U.S. Postal Service, according to the Michigan Department of Treasury.

In the scheme, taxpayers receive a letter about an overdue tax bill, asking individuals to immediately contact a toll-free number to resolve the debt. The letter aggressively threatens to seize a taxpayer's property — including bank accounts, wages, business assets, cars, real estate and cash — if the debt is not settled.

"Over the last week, we have seen an uptick in re-

appears credible dence to the taxpayer because it uses specific personal facts that are pulled directly from publicly available information. These scam letters attempt to lure taxpayers into paying – but those payments won't go toward any tax debts.

They'll go to the scammers, of course.

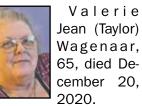
A real letter from the Department Treasury would come on officially embossed state of Michigan letterhead, and would include both the names of the governor and state treasurer.

If you think you've been targeted by one of these creeps, or if you have questions about any tax debts you think you may owe to the state, you should call the Treasury's Collections Service Center at (517) 636-5265.

A customer service representative can log the scam, and/or verify your outstanding state debts, while providing flexible payment options.

To learn more about Michigan's taxes and the collections process, go www.michigan.gov/taxto es, or follow the state Treasury Department on Twitter at @MITreasury.

WAGENAAR



Jean (Taylor) Wagenaar, 65, died December 20, 2020.

Valerie J. Wagenaar, the daughter of RC Taylor and Frances (Hoxie) Taylor, was born on March 22, 1955 and unexpectedly passed away on December 20, 2020. She was a lifelong resident of Hamtramck, Michigan.

In addition to her parents, she was prede-

ceased by her brother William Taylor, and her husband William Wagenaar. Valerie was a loving mother to her oldest daughter Michelle (Wagenaar) Mohamed, and her husband Abdulaziz Mohamed, and her youngest daughter Cheryl (Wagenaar) Al-Shame. Valerie was also a very proud grandmother to her seven grandchildren, Crystal Jackson, Joseph Al-Shame, Jacob Al-Shame, Marissa Vukaj, Nicholas Gregory, Laith Mohamed, and Haythem Mohamed. Valerie was also a very loving great-grandmother to her two great-granddaughters, Serenity Rodriguez and Jade McColloch. Valerie is also survived by five of her siblings, Debra (Taylor) Gubin, Peggy (Taylor) Zdonkiewicz, Cathy (Taylor) Haynes, Robert Taylor, RC Taylor Jr. and many beautiful nieces and nephews.

There will be no memorial services held per the request of Valerie prior to her passing.

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(•];} When the need arises, these caring professionals are ready to help.





By Charles Sercombe

The city council met on Nov. 24, and all councilmembers were present.

A certificate of appreciation was given to City Clerk August Gitschlag and his staff and election workers. It read:

"2020 has been a year of unique challenges. The City Clerk and staff have shown great dedication to the City of Hamtramck and its residents, working long hours to ensure the August Primary Election and November General Election went smoothly for Hamtramck's residents with the unprecedented numbers of AV ballots cast.

"For all the added responsibilities and stresses of election season, the other daily tasks of the Clerk's Office continue. From business licenses to City Council meetings, the City Clerk and his staff have provided a high level of superior service to our residents and business owners in these unusual and unprecedented times.

"On November 24, 2020 we recognize City Clerk August Gitschlag and his staff, including all election workers, for their vital role in and contributions to the City of Hamtramck and publicly acknowledge and thank them for their hard work and dedication throughout the 2020 election season."

During the first public comment portion of the meeting, Carrie Beth Lasley urged the council to approve a resolution to have city employees anonymously give their review of City Manager Kathy Angerer's job performance.

That proposal was put forth by Councilmember Andrea Karpinski.

troduced himself as a resident and a "citizen of the world."

City Hall Insider ...

We have the highlights of the latest council meeting.

What is our City Council up to these days?

He said he recently watched a newly-released documentary on Hamtramck and the 2018 election year. He called the documentary a "Disneyland version" of the city, which failed to show the cultural divisions.

"We have serious problems," Meyer said, such as: racism.

He likened city council meetings to "simmering cauldrons of negativity, boiling just underneath."

After public comment, a public hearing was held on various proposed changes to the city's zoning ordinance, including allowing new housing to have enclosed porches.

Bill Meyer questioned whether to allow six-unit housing. He said there is not enough parking to handle large dwellings like that.

As for the porch issue, he said it should be up to a "person whose house it is."

Carrie Beth Lasley spoke on the enclosed porch issue. She said that allowing enclosed porches creates a safety hazard. She said intruders could get into the closed-in space, and attack residents as they come home, in which case neighbors would not be able to witness it.

Nasr Hussain said all of the state's cities allow enclosed porches.

He said it "doesn't make any sense to force your ideas."

Kit Parks questioned whether the city can address requiring some new housing units to be affordable to low-income residents Tom Habitz spoke at length on the enclosed porch issue. He raised a number of public safety issues, and also stressed that cities have all sorts of zoning regulations for housing.

twice snapped at Councilmember Fadel Al-Marsoumi for interrupting him.

Twice in a row he told Al-Marsoumi to "shut up." The second time Perrotta was interrupted he said: "Hey, shut up, I'm talking."

That prompted Councilmember Nayeem Choudhury to chastise Perrotta for harsh language.

Ultimately, upon the recommendation of Councilmember Perrotta, the council agreed to table the issue for further study and consideration.

Moving on in the agenda, a lengthy discussion was held on whether to approve a resolution submitted by Councilmember Karpinski, to have all city employees submit their anonymous opinion on the job performance of City Manager Angerer.

Karpinski explained that the only ones currently giving the city manager a job performance evaluation are councilmembers.

That opinion, she said, "is kind of biased." She said that having all

city employees give their anonymous reviews would be a "learning experience" for Angerer.

"There might be some positive things," Karpinski said.

Karpinski stressed that this wasn't meant to be "anything negative."

Councilmember Perrotta said such an evaluation is "designed to improve the functionality of the city."

He said that those opposed to the resolution are against hearing criticism.

Councilmember Mohammed Hassan said the city charter states that the council is the boss of the

city manager. He said employees can give their opinions to the city's human resources department at any time.

Perrotta stressed that the city manager should welcome hearing both good and negative things said about her job performance.

Councilmember Al-Marsoumi said he would imagine disgruntled employees or those seeking arbitration, such as the firefighters' union, would have nothing but negative things to say.

He said he doesn't see **Continued on page 8**

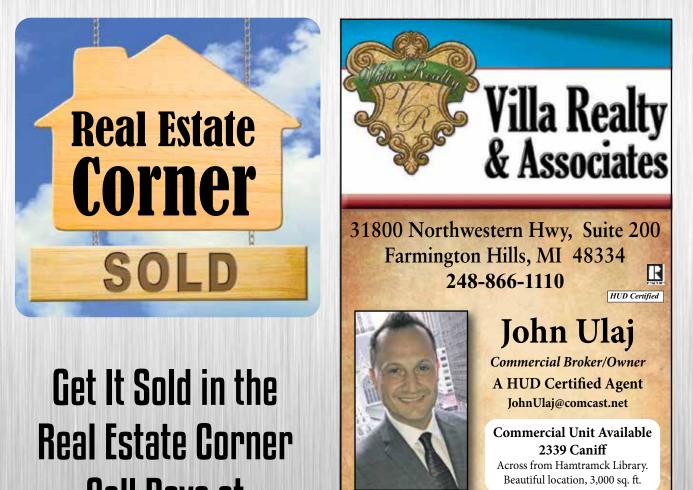
Notice of Public Hearing

City of Hamtramck – Department of Community and Economic Development

Notice is given to any and all interested parties that a public hearing will take place at the January 26th City Council Meeting. This is the final public hearing before the Council votes on the plan. The topic of the public hearing is in regards to the 2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The draft 2021 Parks and

Recreation Master Plan for the City of Hamtramck, Wayne County, Michigan has been available for review and comment since Thursday, December 24th. The City of Hamtramck Department of Community and Economic Development is preparing this five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan in accordance

with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements. When completed, the plan will serve as a guide for the acquisition and development of community recreation facilities and programs over the next five (5) years. The plan is available for viewing on our website at <u>www.hamtramck.us/</u>. All interested parties may submit comments via email to ccopp@hamtramckcity.com or by filling out the form at https://forms.gle/QG71VmM8v1HSvLaS8. Hard copies of the plan are available at City Hall. Any input is greatly appreciated.



"It shouldn't be controversial," Lasley said.

Later in the meeting, a lively discussion was held on the proposal, which ultimately failed, with only Councilmembers Karpinski and Ian Perrotta voting in favor.

Rebecca Savage urged the council to reject a proposal changing the city's zoning ordinance that requires open porches. A proposal was submitted by Councilmember Mohammed Alsomiri to allow new housing to have enclosed porches.

Savage said the city's open porches are part of the "uniqueness of Hamtramck."

Aziz Saleh, on the other hand, said allowing homeowners to enclose their front porches "is a good thing.'

"It's the homeowner's house," he said.

Lynn Blasey disagreed with Saleh, saying open porches is "one of the real attractive qualities of Hamtramck."

"It makes us a more welcoming, inviting city," she added.

Bill Meyer, a frequent commentator at council meetings, once again in-

He said that allowing homeowners to do whatever they want to do "holds no water."

Habitz further said that it is "simplistic" to think that homeowners can do what they want.

He also noted that the Plan Commission, which he is a member of, as well as the Zoning Board Board of Appeals, voted unanimously against allowing new housing to have enclosed porches.

He said that having the council reject that recommendation makes the role of the commission questionable.

After the public hearing, the council voted on the two zoning amendments. The first one, containing a number of changes, had no objections and passed.

The second one, about allowing new housing to have enclosed porches, had a vigorous debate. During that discussion, Councilmember Perrotta

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By Charles Sercombe This week's Crime Log covers Jan. 5-11. Tuesday, Jan. 5

• A resident reported being assaulted while in the 2900 block of Goodson St.

· A Sobieski St. resident reported that someone attempted to break into their residence. The suspect fled after being scared off.

· A suspect stole money from a cash register at a business in the 2200 block of Caniff Ave.

· A black Yamaha fourwheeler with an orange grille was stolen from a parking lot at Buffalo and Doremus.

Wednesday, Jan. 6

· A theft from a vehicle parked in the area of Conant and Commor was reported.

· A resident of Inkster was arrested for carrying a concealed weapon. The suspect is a convicted felon.

· A resident was arrested in the area of Grand Haven and Commor for trespassing.

Thursday, Jan. 7

• A resident in the 12000 block of Grand Haven St. reported damage

to a window.

· A resident reported being stalked while in the 12000 block of Grand Haven St.

7

• At about 1:30 a.m., a resident in the 2200 block of Hewitt St. reported a theft. While officers were at the scene. a suspect fled.

 A person reported that while his vehicles were parked in the driveway in the 11400 block of Mitchell St., someone slashed his vehicles' tires.

Friday, Jan. 8

• A resident reported being assaulted while in the 11400 block of Sobieski St.

 A resident was arrested in the 3200 block of Lehman St. for assaulting his wife.

· A resident reported that someone cashed her income tax check.

Saturday, Jan. 9

 A Detroit resident and a Highland Park resident were arrested, after a traffic stop, for possessing an open intoxicant and for obstruction.

· A Dequindre St. resident reported being assaulted by a neighbor.

• A Moran St. resident

Continued on page 8

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WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE



Continued from page 7

reported a suspicious incident at their residence. Sunday, Jan. 10

• At about 11:30 p.m., officers broke up a loud party in the 9400 block of Jos. Campau Ave. The incident was turned over to state investigators because of a violation of prohibiting large gatherings during the pandemic.

· At about 1 a.m., officers responded to gunshots in the 9400 block of Jos. Campau Ave.

• A Fleming St. resident was arrested for multiple Hamtramck felony warrants.

occurred in the 2600 block of Caniff Ave.

Monday, Jan. 11

• At 2 a.m., an Andrus St. resident was ticketed for loitering.

· A woman said she lost her wallet while inside a business in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau Ave.

• An agent for a business in the 12100 block of Conant Ave. reported receiving a fraudulent check.

· A Detroit resident reported that their wallet was stolen while in the 12000 block of Conant Ave.

• A hit-and-run accident

City Hall Insider... **Continued from page 6**

this as a constructive step it. to take.

Mavor Majewski asked Councilmember Karpinski whether she has been offered to give a similar review of the public school superintendent where she works.

Karpinski said there is no such review at her work place in the public school district.

Karpinski said that such a review of the city manager might be useful in preventing the high turnover of city employees. She said that when she used to work for the city, there were employees who had worked there for 20 years.

"There was a legacy," she said. "This is information we can build on."

The resolution failed, with only Karpinski and Perrotta voting in favor of

During the second public comment portion of the meeting, Kit Parks took issue with Councilmember Perrotta "attacking" the Muslim members of council.

She said that such behavior will lead to a discrimination lawsuit filed against the city.

Andrew Perrotta, brother of Councilmember Perrotta, commented that his brother telling Councilmember Al-Marsoumi to "shut up" was not a "big deal."

Andrew Perrotta said that, when Joe Biden told President Trump to shut up during a debate, it was considered OK.

But when his brother said it, "suddenly, we're going to get a lawsuit."

HHS student groups seeks to raise environmental awareness

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Continued from page 4

your group has received so far? Was any of it a surprise to you, or were you expecting it? Do you have any thoughts of becoming a full-fledged non-profit, or is that not practical, since it is a school-based group?

LEAP: We have presented in front of the school board, and we won H-Soup in 2018. Our teachers and administrators have commended us for our work in the school and in the community.

We are very proud of how far our group has come over the years, and how excited our members are to do more. Ultimately though, the most important thing for us is making a difference, no matter who notices.

We considered becoming a non-profit in 2019, but we ended up deciding that would not benefit us as a student-based high school club. It would take up a lot of our valuable time to establish our club as a non-profit, and that would leave less time for us to work on our other goals.

The Review: Where do you see the group going after your current members graduate? Could you arrange to keep it going by, for example, returning to mentor younger students who would like to keep the group going within Hamtramck High?

LEAP: Ever since our group started in 2015. E-Board members have chosen students to keep the club running after the current ones have graduated.

We get HHS underclassmen involved in our club early on, in hopes that our club will continue forward in years to come. Alumni that were in our club often connect us with resources, and offer us helpful advice.

The Review: Please take this space to address anything else you can think of that you would like to!

LEAP: If you would like to keep up with us, we are @leaphhs on Instagram. To get in contact with us, our email is leaphhs@ gmail.com.