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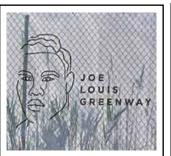
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Quick Hits

Get a sneak peek

Want to get a preview of the Joe Louis Greenway project, coming soon to Hamtramck?

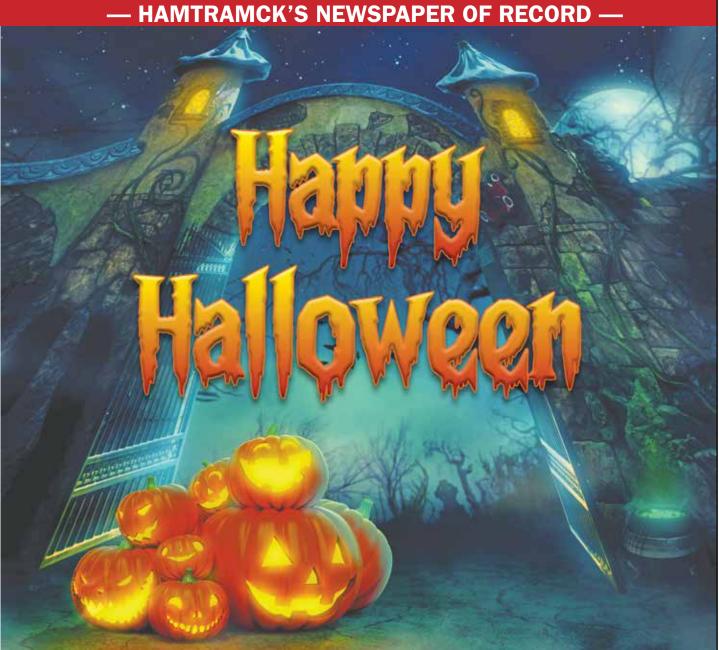
If so, join the Hamtramck Arts & Culture Commission this Saturday (Oct. 30), 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at Jos. Campau alley, between Trowbridge and Belmont (behind Pope Park).

Commission members will be on hand to unveil a design plan for the bike path/walkway, and also to talk about the project in further detail.

To sweeten the offer, there will be games, raffles and prizes.

On Friday, volunteers will be building the proposed design in the alley, using spray chalk and landscaping materials.

And then on Sunday, volunteers will be replanting the Jos. Campau planters.





Hamtramck's Al Ulman poses with Hamtramck Library Director Tamara Sochacka with a book he recently wrote about magicians. Ulman, who goes by the stage name "Al The Only," donated his book to the library.

Hamtramck's 'Al The Only' has one more trick up his sleeve

By Alan Madlane

Who doesn't like magic? Watching a magician ply their trade, one can find questions coming to the fore. Questions such as:

- "How did they just do "Where did that thing
- just go?" "Why do I suddenly
- feel so inadequate as a human being?"

 "How quickly can I learn to do that, so that I

might feel cool again, like I did before but now don't anymore?"

Michigan is such a hotbed of magicians that the small Michigan city of Co-Ion (pronounced koh-LOAN, pop. 1,173 as of the 2010 Census) has its website header proclaiming "Colon Michigan Magic Capital of the World."

Hamtramck has its magic, as well - and not just in

Continued on page 6

Will history be made?

By Charles Sercombe

Political watchers will be paying close attention to next Tuesday's election.

It could be a turning point for Hamtramck.

Mayor Karen Majewski is facing a tough - if not impossible - re-election challenge from candidate Amer Ghalib, who has never held local elective office.

Ghalib came out as the top vote-getter in the primary election last August, pulling 364 votes ahead of second-place finisher, Majewski.

Last August Majewski was optimistic she could recover.

"I'm confident that we can make up the deficit and win the general," Majewski told The Review at that time.

This isn't the first time Majewski has had to come from behind, but in previous elections she had only a handful of votes to overcome.

Ghalib, a Yemeni-American, represents the emerging political muscle of the Yemeni community.

If elected, Ghalib would become Hamtramck's first Yemeni-American to serve as mayor.

After the August election, he told The Review he expected to win.

"It's not a coincidence, it's the fruit of many years of serving the community and building good relationships with Hamtramck residents," Ghalib said.

While that vote gap looks like it's insurmountable, Majewski is counting on

Continued on page 2



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Dan Rohn enjoys a lunch with Gjoka Nikollaj and Nick Sherevan, who is also a football coach for St. Anne High School.

School Bell

Celebrating National Principals Month

HPS Acting Superintendents Nabil Nagi and Sherry Lynem have this message about the role of principals in the district:

Principals are the driving force of our schools – working closely with teachers and families and serving as role models for children. In the last full week of National Principals Month, we want to reflect on and celebrate the value principals bring to the schools they serve.

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A principal's career, while oftentimes challenging, can be quite rewarding – as they witness firsthand the academic, social and emotional growth of their students, and can take pride in knowing the role they played in their development.

They're mentors to teachers and students, and they aid in the professional and personal development of their employees. Principals are also master problem solvers, tasked with handling any conflict that comes their way with em-



Left to right: Demarz Brown, Jaya Kennedy and Fattah Chowdhury collaborate on their app design.

pathy and compassion.

A principal's role is vital to the success of the district. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they provided essential leadership and guidance throughout as students transitioned from in-person to virtual learning, while also ensuring a

safe, warm and engaging learning environment when students headed back to in-person instruction this school year.

At Hamtramck Public Schools, our principals meet every day with an enthusiasm to become better leaders and passionately represent their schools. We recognize the impact principals make in our district and our community, and the necessity to reciprocate all the encouragement and support they give us.

Celebrating your principal is something you can do before, during and after October. For ideas on how to say "thank you" to your student's principal, visit https://www.principalsmonth.org/.

Kosciuszko Middle School

KMS Computer Literacy Teacher LeAnn Horne has this update about her program:

Kosciuszko Middle School students are learning about the Problem Solving Process (PCP). This is the process used by engineers to solve problems. It contains four steps: Define, Prepare, Try, and Reflect. Students used this process to develop paper prototypes for an app.

Once they drew out their apps, they presented their apps to the class, and then their peers gave them feedback about the app, and also gave suggestions to improve the app.

The students are now digitizing their apps using JavaScript and HTML. At the end of this process, they will have an app that they can share with family and friends.

Students may also qualify to compete in the Henry Ford Invention Convention, which takes place in March of next year.

Will history be made? continued from front page

support from the Bengali community to push her ahead. She has been mayor for 16 years, something her challenger and his supporters say is a detriment.

Ghalib has called for a fresh perspective to tackle the city's many challenges, but he has not yet offered any specifics.

The Review reached out to him via his campaign's Facebook page for further clarification, but he did not respond.

Majewski has countered her critics by promoting the city's advances during her tenure, including various state and federal grants that have helped fund needed infrastructure repairs, such as the rebuilding of Holbrook and part of Caniff.

In the city council race, there is a good chance three new faces will come on board.

There are six candidates vying for three open seats on council. They are: Amanda Jaczkowski, Adam Albarmaki, Lynn Blasey, Khalil A. Refai, Muhith Mahmood, and former councilmember Abu Musa.

Refai was the top vote-getter in the primary election, with Jaczkowski in second place and Mahmood in third. None of the three have any prior experience in holding office.

In the general election,

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mission (HHC) does not discriminate on the basis

of race, color, religion, na-



Mayor Karen Majewski and her challenger Amer Ghalib were part of a debate on a podcast hosted by local journalist Omar Thabet.

it's common for the order of council candidates to shift dramatically from the primary election, so anything can happen next Tuesday. However, the top vote-getter in the primary usually is guaranteed a seat on council.

Also on the ballot for voters to consider are two city charter changes. Proposal 1 would require future candidates for local office to have been a resident in the city at least one year at the time they register to run for office.

Proposal 2 is another brates its 100th year of election-related issue that being an incorporated city would set term limits for in 2022.

council and mayor office holders. They would be termed out after holding office for three terms.

That proposal, if it passes, would not disqualify Majewski from taking office, but she would be termed out going forward after three more terms.

Each term is for four years.

Majewski has told her supporters that this would be her last term if she is re-elected. Majewski said she wants to hold office while Hamtramck celebrates its 100th year of being an incorporated city in 2022.

Haven't registered to vote yet? No problem, Michigan allows those eligible to vote to register on election day. If you need to register, you must do so at the city clerk's office in city hall.

The city clerk's office will be open this Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There has been an issue recently with people who have asked for an absentee ballot but never received one. City Clerk Rana Faraj said those voters must request to have that ballot "spoiled" – or disqualified – so they can still vote.

If you still have not returned your absentee ballot, it is advised that you not mail it at this point, because it might not get to city hall in time to be counted. Instead, voters are encouraged to drop off their ballots at city hall.

Election polling stations will open at 7 a.m. next Tuesday (Nov. 2), and close at 8 p.m.



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This week at the Library . . .

Big Read: The next Big Library Read is on from November 1st to 15th Take part in this digital book club by reading Natalie D. Richards' YA thriller "Five Total Strangers". Then, join up with other members for engaging virtual chats. Get all the details, including title preview and author bio, by visiting (www.big/libraryread.com).

Meet up Event: Join us for a Read Up & Meet Up event on Monday, November 15th at 4 pm. Mary Doria Russel's novel "The Women of the Copper County: is the Great Michigan Read title. Get a free copy to keep and read while supplies last. Then meet up with other book lovers for an engaging conversation about the book.

Michigan Learning Channel: Preschool to 3rd grade readers from now until the end of November can take part in the Michigan Learning Channel's 1000 minute reading challenge. Teachers and parents keep track and you can win awesome prizes. Visit (www.michigan/learning.org/resource/etsread/) for full details.

British Crime Novelist: October 31 is the birthday of Dick Francis (1920). En-

joying a successful career as a jumpjockey, going so far as to race horses for the Queen of England, Francis developed a new international audience with his stories about the shadier side of the racing world. The interesting thing is that these works were crafted in collaboration with his wife, Many. Her penchant for taking up new skills and hobbies afforded Francis a rich well from which to draw inspiration for characters, backgrounds, etc. One could say that she was the research branch of the operation. On you next visit to the library consider giving one of these novels

ESL Classes: The classes are held four days a week, from Monday to Thursday, from 9 am to 2:30 pm, The program is free to all Hamtramck residents.

Hamtramck Library has expended operating services: - to provide for book pick-ups, copying, printing, faxing, scanning, limited use of computers (with proper distancing) and limited stay in the library (with proper distancing). To print files ahead of time please send attachments for printing to <a href="mailto:hamtramcklibrary@nailto:hamtr



Library

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Library is located at 2360 Caniff Avenue, Phone (313) 733-6822

Or visit its website at http://hamtramck.Lib.mi.us for on line catalog Attachments for printing, faxing or scanning send to hamtramcklibrary@gmail.com

Second Front Page

Mayor: Covid cases are still going down in Hamtramck

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck, keep doing what you're doing.

COVID-19-wise that is. No one is saying Hamtramck has turned a definitive corner in the fight against Covid outbreaks, but there continues to be a drop in the number of new cases.

In her weekly talk with the community, via Facebook, Mayor Karen Majewski reported on Monday that the past week's number of cases went down to 16, compared to 28 the prior week.

"Hamtramck, I'm happy to say, is declining," Majewski said, referring to the decreasing Covid numbers.

The new weekly update brings the total number of cases, during the past couple of years or so, to

Hamtramck's continued good news in the weekly decrease in cases is in direct contrast to what's happening statewide. Michigan is one of five states reporting a sharp increase in cases recent-

This all coincides with the news that booster shots are recommended for those who are vaccinated – plus, you can now get any vaccine booster you want.

For those under the age of 65, or who don't have an immune system issue, it is recommended that you wait for at least six months to pass from the time you received your last vaccine shot.

For many, that is basically... now.

Local pharmacies are

offering shots, and there is also a medical mobile unit parked in front of city hall where you can get a vaccine. Remember, it's all free.

Moving on to the recent flap over an excess amount of lead found in six of the houses tested during a routine annual check of a small sample (42 to be exact), Majewski said there is no need to panic.

She reminded residents that, if you have lead service lines - the ones that go from the street to your house – you are advised to let the water run three to five minutes before drinking it or using it to cook.

"You want to fully flush out water that accumulates in the pipes," Majewski said.

News of these high lead

levels, which were actually just a smidgeon above that is deemed acceptable - no more that 15 parts per billion - resulted in traffic bottlenecks last Thursday at the Hamtramck Town Center shopping strip, where the city was handing out free water filters.

"It's consuming us all in the last week," Majewski said.

Concerned about the lead level at your residence? You can call (844) 834-1315 to allow a state agency to test your water for free.

You can also get your own blood lead level tested by calling a county health clinic (Wayne County Healthy Communities, located in the Hamtramck Town Center), at (313) 871-1926.



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Tuesday, November 2 - Observance of All Souls Mass 9 am Remembrance Services (Wypominki) 7 pm

Tuesday, November 9 - Mass for all People on our Prayer List 7 pm

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Mayor and her challenger spar in final debate

By Charles Sercombe

Politically, the talk of the town this election year is who will win the mayoral race.

Voters will be making that decision next Tuesday in the General Election. That's Nov. 2, for those who want to mark their calendars.

Despite the Covid threat, there have been public debates among the candidates - both for the mayor's race, and the city council.

Recently, local journalist Omar Thabet hosted the two mayoral candidates current mayor, Karen Majewski, and challenger Amer Ghalib - on his "Table Talk" podcast that you can see on YouTube.

Thabet was joined by Abeer Thabet and Shayma Ghaleb who pitched questions to the candidates. It was a fast-moving one hour, and worth tracking down.

So, let's roll the digital tape, so to speak.

The first question was about their passion to become mayor, noting that it is not a paid position - although it sort of is: there is about a \$6,000 stipend per year.

Majewski said that being mayor ties into her profession of being a historian. She has a doctorate degree in history.

She also said that being mayor allows her to expand on that training.

"For me, leading the city and telling its story throughout the world has been an adventure. ... This position is an expansion of my profession."

As for money, she said she has "never been motivated" by that.

"My only aspiration has been to serve Hamtramck. It's an American



Karen Majewski

tradition of serving your city," she said.

Ghalib countered with a light-hearted jab at Majewski's four terms in office:

"I'm sure there is some thing good about it. That's why the mayor doesn't want to leave after 16 years."

On a serious note, though, he said that some residents "feel disconnected and not represented" in city hall.

City government, said Ghalib, who is a Yemeni-American, "does not reflect the demographics of the city."

He says that he is running to "create more positive change," and is going to dedicate 20 hours a week to the job.

Ghalib, who was referred to as a medical doctor, is a licensed nurse, according to state records. He graduated from an overseas medical school, he has said.

Both were asked how having that degree, albeit in different fields, will benefit the city.

Majewski said her degree has helped her develop "critical thinking," but also stressed that she comes from a working-class background.

Ghalib said he can use his skills to communicate with different cultures, and with those of various

education levels.



Amer Ghalib

Next up: the city's new parking meter system. There has been criticism about it, with some folks saying it's just not work-

Majewski noted that the city's former "old" parking meters weren't working either, "for decades."

Under the new system, she said, the city is expecting to receive \$100,000 a year in revenue.

As for the new, high-tech system, she said some bugs are still being worked out. The meters were just recently installed.

Majewski said that, if it were up to her, there would be some changes, including shortening the hours of having to pay, from 8 p.m. to 6 p.m., and also bumping up to allow people to dash in and out of businesses before having to pay from five minutes to 10 minutes.

She would also allow businesses to reimburse customers for their parking fees.

However, she stressed, the mayor alone cannot make these changes.

Ghalib was blunt about the new parking meters: "It's really bad."

How bad?

Ghalib said that business owners have told him that the number of customers who normally patronize their store has been reduced 25-30 percent ever since the meters began operating.

Here's a perennial question that has been posed to candidates in the past: what to do about the city's trash problem.

Ghalib said this is "an easy problem to solve."

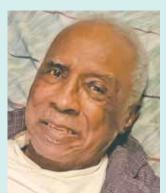
How's that?

Educate residents, he said, about how to properly dispose their household garbage. And, he added, increase code enforce-

Majewski said that educating the public is indeed

Continued on page 5

Edward Conner Sr. Happy 100th Birthday to our Patriarch.



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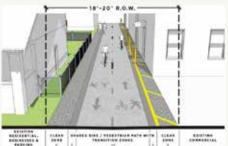
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Piast Institute welcomes a new volunteer

By Alan Madlane

The Piast Institute has hired a new member to their board of directors.

The institute, a national non-profit research and social organization promoting Polish and Polish-American heritage and unanimously concerns, elected Stella Szczesny to its board on Sept. 29.

Szczesny was wellknown to the board through her prior efforts with the Institute on their Polish Womens Hall of Fame project, their Dekaban Committee, and most recently their Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition, or HDFCC.

Szczesny had earned her B.A. in Social Science from Madonna University. and her M.B.A. from the University of Detroit-Mercy. She also had studied at Eastern Michigan University (Education and Reading Instruction) and Marygrove College (Business and Accounting).

She has, according to the Piast Institute's press release on the matter, previously been an active member of the Polish



Stella Szczesny

community on both the local and national levels, serving on the Polish American Congress, The Friends of Polish Art, the Polish Womens Alliance / First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, and the Central Citizens Committee.

She also served as President of both the Polish National Alliance (PNA) Lodge 1758 and Council 122.

For more on the Piast Institute, check out their website at www.piastinstitute.org, or call them at (313) 733-4535. They are located at 11633 Jos. Campau Ave., north of Whalen St. (across from Little Caesar's).

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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Beware of vague promises for change

Next Tuesday is election day and, here in Hamtramck, this could be a historical moment.

There will definitely be three new councilmembers, although there is a chance that a former councilmember, Musa, could return.

The race everyone is watching is for mayor. Mayor Karen Majewski is in the political fight for her life in seeking a fifth term, which if successful would make her the longest serving mayor in Hamtramck's history.

But she is facing a mighty big challenge. Her opponent, political newcomer Amer Ghalib, beat her by over 350 votes in the primary election last August.

That's a huge gap for Majewski to close.

We understand the support for Ghalib. He is a Yemeni-American, and that community has grown in recent years, enough to wield significant political clout. There is not only ethnic pride working for him, but a call for someone new to lead the city.

Majewski has been here for 16 years and, like so many others who have held office for a long time, there is a sudden urgency for someone

That's just the way it works.

But Majewski's critics are taking a lot of cheap potshots at her. They blame her for such things as basements flooding and the city's longstanding financial problems.

What they don't offer are clear-cut solutions. Instead, we hear of "bold" new plans, and cutting "waste" from the city budget.

If we had a dollar for every time we have heard candidates make similar promises, with no specific details, there'd be

enough money to... solve the city's financial shortcomings.

It's easy to make vague promises, and it's always frustrating when voters buy into this sales pitch.

There is one and only one solution: A huge amount of money.

Also on the ballot are two city charter proposals, one to require wouldbe candidates for local office to have lived here for at least one year, and the other to set term limits for city councilmembers and the mayor.

Neither is needed, and will only lead to eliminating otherwise qualified people from running for office. It's hard enough to attract folks to serve the

No matter what, we urge voters to do their civic duty and vote next Tuesday – if you haven't done so already, via absentee ballot.

Mayor and her challenger spar in final debate

Continued from page 3

needed, and is "not rocket science."

But that takes community "influencers to spread the word," she said.

Also, residents, she said, "need to set an example."

She also credited the many community members who have hit the streets during the pandemic and taken it upon themselves to pick up the never-ending amount of daily litter.

Majewski gave a special shoutout to the mysterious "Plague Doctor" who has been seen about town, dressed in a plague era costume, picking up trash. She thanked the anonymous person for "reinvigorating" folks to do the same.

(Editor's note: We need more "Plague Doctors.")

The next question was about two issues that have divided the city: LGBTQ rights and marijuana dispensaries.

Majewski, who has supported both issues, put it in simple terms: as mayor, you will never get "100 percent agreement."

So, she said, she bases her decisions "not on emotions," but says instead that she looks at the facts.

And that, Majewski said, won't get "you the most votes."

Decisions on controversial issues, she said, require considering "multiple sides."

Ultimately, Majewski said, one has to follow "your own moral compass," and "lead with my values."

Ghalib countered, saying: "we have to respect the people. But it's both ways."

He said his job "is not to take both sides."

Pressed further for clarification by Majewski in her allotted time for rebuttal, Ghalib said he would base his decisions on "the opinion of the people who voted for us."

He added that it would come down to "my constituents."

Majewski continued asking Ghalib about the mayor's role in breaking a tie, especially on a controversial issue. Ghalib said he would have to "think about it," and "not decide" against one group against another.

PROUD TO BE LOCA

Instead, he said, he would bring people togeth-

One more question and it's always the usual suspect.

Why should people vote for you?

Ghalib: "It's time for a change. ... Time to give change a chance."

Majewski replied that she can "appreciate that desire for change."

She added that there will be three new councilmembers, and she has the knowledge to "ground" that change with her past experience.

And this is where the two began to spar a bit.

Ghalib said that the city still experiences the same problems "year after year."

"We need to think outside of the box," he added.

Majewski swung back: "All politicians say that."

She also added that solving problems is a complicated matter, takes time and that there are "a lot of moving parts" that must be pieced together, one by one.

Odds & Ends

Congratulations... Recently, the Hamtramck High School Class of 1960-1961 honored one of their own.

Local attorney Gerald M. Kaminski receved a Service Recognition for his 50 years of service, which is still going on strong to this

Class President Dr. Robert Roy presented the award to Kaminksi.

Rent... The footlights have finally come back on.

Broadway in Detroit, the primary booking company for theatrical productions at the Fisher Theatre and the Detroit Opera House, came back to much-anticipated life on Tuesday night, Oct. 19.

The venue had been dark since the pandemic shut down the 2019-20 season in mid-go, before such presumed money makers as Dear Evan Hansen could plow through town. Life was not good for theaterphiles, nor for those who made their livings treading the boards.

But here came venerable stalwart "Rent," that energetic take on Puccini's La Boheme by Jonathan Larson, written a century later.

And this young cast does, in general, have the pipes to pull it off. Several of them have fine



HHS Class of 1960-61 President Class President Dr. Robert Roy (left) hands a Service Recognition to local attorney Gerard Kaminski. Photo by **McHarg Studio**

moments, and if the melodrama comes off a touch overheated, well, they need the heat in that loft

Javon King's take on Angel ignites a technically scaled-down death scene with a muscular and kinetic control that gave this reviewer a genuinely palpable emotional punch.

This show is billed as the last leg of the 25th anniversary tour, and it revved back up this month with single shows in Kentucky and lowa before week-long stops in Chicago and Boston (?) en route to Detroit.

You could do worse to stay warm and see it as the temperatures drop.

Election... There's a lot of good news for voters who like, want or need flexibility with being able to vote.

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson laid out the

good news. For starters, the office strongly suggests that, at this point, you hand deliver your absentee ballots to either our city clerk's office or the drop box in front of city hall. The ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day, which is this

coming Tuesday, Nov. 2. The great news is, you can request a ballot, complete it and submit it all in one trip at the City Clerk's Office. Even if you need to register to vote before you do the actual voting.

Even more good news: The City Clerk's Office will be open on Saturday, Oct. 30 until 4 p.m.

"Whether you choose to vote with an absentee ballot or in person on Election Day," noted Secretary Benson, "you can be confident your ballot will be handled and counted securely."

Consider Reminder... yourself invited.

Invited, that is, to join with others this Saturday (Oct. 30) at 10 a.m. in Pope Park to clean up this town.

Hamtramck's "Trashies" are leading the clean-up effort, and are asking

folks to donate two hours. They ask that, if you have gloves, plastic bags,

Continued on page 6

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This newspaper is not responsible for mistakes in advertising beyond the cost of the space involved.

Hamtramck's 'Al The Only' has one more trick up his sleeve

Continued from front page

the pierogies and the Zywiec porter beer.

No, it's got real live magic persons. And perhaps it's most accomplished is Al The Only.

Al The Only is the stage name of Al Ulman, professional magician. And Al has a new edition of his book out: an impressive, 549-page tome entitled "The Magic Graveyard: The stories and secrets of the magicians resting in a small-town cemetery... and why they're buried there!" (2021 edition).

That cemetery he references is Lakeside Cemetery in Colon, and this book details - with loving care - the numerous magicians, from Harry Blackstone Jr. on down, who now populate its grounds.

We caught up with frequent flyer (and part-time Hawaii resident) Al by email (and then he graced us with a follow-up visit to our office, and gave us a copy of the book!).

Presto! This interview is the result.

The Review: First off, Al The Only, for the uninitiated, can you provide just a couple of quick sentences about your upbringing here in Hamtramck?

Ulman: I was born and raised in Hamtramck, and attended Our Lady Queen of Apostles school (K-8), and still own the family

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homestead in town.

My first "real" job was a paper route, delivering the Polish newspaper, the Dziennik Polski. During summers of my high school years, I worked at the Mc-Donald's on 6 Mile.

Kosinski Hardware was my local magic shop. The guys there, Mr. Chet Kosinski, Joe, Mike and Nick were my go-to guys to repair props and build new ones. They knew what spring, wire or screw size to use to make my magic happen.

Lunch at Genie's Wienies or Al's Corral was always a treat. I feel blessed that I was raised in this wonderful community.

By the way, thank you for capitalizing the "T" in "The" (in Al The Only). The word "The" is part of my professional name; it isn't

The Review: Sure! Any special memories from here that you'd like to relive in print for a moment?

Ulman: My first paid magic show was presented in our garage for kids from around the neighborhood. I remember I made a whopping 85 cents!

I would visit the Hamtramck Library during their summer reading programs, and take out their books on magic. My brother, Fr. Stan, was my biggest promoter. My sister, Carol,

was my biggest fan, and my brother, Joe, was my assistant in my early years.

My mom and dad were supportive of my career decision but early on. I'm sure they would have preferred I got a real job.

The Review: How did you first get interested in magic?

Ulman: Magic was my childhood hobby. I was glued to the TV set whenever there was a magic show.

I saw magicians at the Wayne County Employees Christmas party and at a Detroit Edison Christmas party. I was always fascinated by magic.

In 1969, in Mrs. Rose Galvin's 5th grade class at Q of A, a classmate, Kinga Koscielski, did a small magic show for us from a magic set she received at Christmas. I was blown away.

I also remember my neighbors. Mark and Alan Glazewski, put on a small magic show in their basement. I didn't see that show, but the idea really impressed me.

In the 7th grade, my teacher, Mr. James DiGuiseppe, had me do a couple tricks during a party for our pastor, Fr. Ted Blaszczyk's name's day.

The Review: How long have you been a professional magician? What have been some of your more memorable gigs? And have you ever uttered the words "Presto" or "Abracadabra" in one of your acts?

Ulman: I've been a fulltime professional magician for more than 40 years.

All of the gigs are memorable, some of them for better reasons than others, but here's a short list of some of the usual banquets, tradesnows, association conventions and private parties I've done.

Immediately after graduation from St. Mary's Preparatory in Orchard Lake in 1976, I went to work for the Ken & Roberta Griffin Show, a traveling magic show from Hollywood.

For one year I was a roadie, stage hand and assistant in their two-hour illusion show. Toward the end of my stint, I also did a quick three-and-a-halfminute spot on their show. We covered an area from California to Florida, and all the way to upstate New York. I learned a lot about show business that year.

I went into my field as a full-time professional in 1980.

In 1982, my newlywed wife, Lori, and I did 13 times.

times, and on "Kelly & Co." I've been called the Godfather of Restaurant Magic in Detroit, having been the house magician at Carlos

Steakhouse in Dearborn for 16 years.

The most recent gig, that at this point is my career-topper, is that I had a four-month (Jan.-May 2020) contract in Sanya, China. Sadly, it came to a close at the end on January 30, 2020, due to the COVID virus.

The Review: Your book is very intriguing. You kind of went all-out, producing a 500-plus-page new edition of your book and with so many photos in it! What first gave you the idea?

Ulman: Thank you. The 2021 edition of "The Magic Graveyard" is 549 pages, with more than 350 photos.

In 2010, I was asked to usher a tour of the magicians' gravesites at Lakeside Cemetery - just on the outskirts of Colon, Michigan, "The Magic Capitol of the World" - during the Abbott's Magic Co. "Magic Get Together." I've attended every year for 48

Even though I had heard stories of the magicians buried there, I started to write down notes as a reminder to myself. This resulted in the first printing in 2014. A more detailed account is in the book.

The Review: Did you have to get any special permissions for anything in the book?

Ulman: Yes, I have purchased licenses to reprint a cartoon, and for the use of copywritten photos.

Also, when I complete my first draft of each story, I send it to a surviving family member or estate executor for confirmation of names, dates and details. I give the family a chance to make suggestions for corrections or additions.

Even though I have more dirt on some of these folks than they are buried under, it's not my place or desire to expose skeletons. Each story is written like an obituary on steroids.

The Review: Forgive the dark question, but hey, it is October: Do you plan to be buried in Lakeside Cemetery yourself, when the day comes? If not

there, where? Or is that a magician's secret?

Ulman: Mv wife Lori and I have our reservations in at Lakeside. We have our plots waiting for us after our final curtain call.

The Review: I love the idea that you'll have a trick or two planned for anyone who visits your grave. ... Thoughts?

Ulman: That's still in the works. We have discussed ideas for our gravestone, but nothing definite as this

The Review: Do you think you'll do another book in the future, and if so, what might that one be about?

Ulman: Sadly, this book is not finished. As more magicians are buried at Lakeside Cemetery, I will write a chapter about them, their careers and their lives.

The book, in its current evolution, is rather large. We are considering the next step for future editions, with the probability of offering addendums instead of rewrites.

I have two other book projects. The first would be to rewrite my 1984 book, "The Business of Restaurant Magic."

The second book may be about the process of writing a history book. It would be about discovering inconsistent reports of a person's life, contradictory data from different sources, and the detective-like work it takes to print conclusive information.

One of the individuals in "The Magic Graveyard" had three legal names on three government-issued documents, and was called by two more names. There wasn't anything shady or illegal about the man. My researched showed the progression of his name.

The Review: Taking a quite different tack - have you ever seen a copy of the Necronomicon? Please lie about this in the affirmative.

Ulman: Absolutely, but I am bound to secrecy.

The Review: Feel free to add something here if we missed a question you

hoped we'd ask!

Ulman: I can only guess that, because of my longevity in the business, I'm sought after for advice and guidance. Basically, I've graduated to being one of the old-timers.

I am humbled to be the mentor of three magicians. I've been invited to speak at conferences and be interviewed on podcasts, TV shows and Zoom meetings. I'm a performer, entertainer, showman, public speaker, product demonstrator, producer, lecturer, historian, collector, author, magician and a kid-atheart.

Not just a kid, but a kid from Hamtramck!

I have been honored by being inducted into the Michigan Magicians' Hall of Fame; being made a Life Member of the exclusive and prestigious Magic Castle in Hollywood; and I hold the title of the Order of Merlin – Excalibur in The International Brotherhood of Magicians.

My career has taken me around the world; a total of 2.2 million flight miles. Currently, I speak at elementary schools across the country with The R.O.A.R. Show – Respect Others Act Responsibly: a motivational, enrichment presentation about positive behavior, bullying prevention, inclusion, positive self-esteem and the use of good manners.

For the last 21 years, I have made a second home in Maui. They say that "You can take the kid out of Hamtramck, but you can't take the Hamtramck out of the kid."

Review: Thanks The for your time, and all the

(Al The Only very kindly said to us that he was just hoping for a small mention of his book and perhaps a photo, saying that he wasn't so much of a talker, but he was being self-effacing: he clearly is a man with a multitude of stories to tell about a fascinating life lived in a fascinating industry. We're pleased to have been able to pry a few of those nuggets out for this interview.)



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a school assembly tour. We did 340 magic shows in nine months, in seven states, at grade schools and high schools. I was on the "BOZO" TV show four

Murphy's in Southfield for 14 years and the house

magician at Kiernan's

Ends

Continued from page 5 or hand sanitizer, you bring

them with you if you're willing; however, they will have some of this available to you as well. Oh – and they suggest

dressing up in costume, if you're so inclined. Say hello to the Ham-

tramck Plague Doctor, if you see them! FEMA has sent out

another notice to homeowners, reminding them of their program that can help avert future damage due to natural or other disasters.

anyone wanting to prevent

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vere floods that hit the area on June 25 and 26, this Individuals and Households Program, or IHP, encourages homeowners affected by that event to take advantage of the program while it is there.

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winds and water infiltration; the elevating of a replacement or repaired damaged furnace of water heater, to try to avoid future flooding damage; and the elevating of electrical panels.

The maximum repair and improvement costs covered, per the Stafford Act, is \$37,000 currently.

Call FEMA toll-free at (800) 621-3362 seven days a week between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. Multilingual operators are available.

Or, you can visit a Disaster Recovery Center. There is one still on the second floor of city hall that stays open substantially later than the rest of city hall itself.

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By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Oct. 19-25.

Tuesday, Oct. 19

- · At 3 a.m., a woman reported that she was being followed by her boyfriend, who was in a vehicle. After speaking to the woman, officers determined that no crime took place.
- A suspicious person was reported in the Yemans-Alpena area.
- A Klinger St. resident reported that his girlfriend was acting erratic.

· A Trowbridge St. resi-

- dent reported that someone stole items from their car.
- A resident reported being robbed while at a Carpenter Ave. business.
- A complaint was made by a resident in the 3400 block of Edwin St. about their property being damaged.
- A theft was reported in the 11300 block of Jos. Campau Ave.
- · Gunshots were reported in the 2200 block of Danforth St.
- A person reported that, while in the 11700 block of Moran St., they were robbed by four suspects armed with a handgun.

Wednesday, Oct. 20

- · At about 3 a.m., a report was made about a man in the 2600 block of Whalen St. looking into cars with a flashlight.
 - At about 5:30 a.m., a driver was arrested for drunk driving after crashing into a car on Moran
- An agent for a local school reported that a student was missing. Officers located the student and returned them to the school.
- A suspicious incident was reported on Moran, near Carpenter.
- A suspicious situation was reported in the 10200 block of Jos. Campau Ave.
- · A break-in was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge St.
- · A disorderly man was reported in the 11500 block of Conant Ave.

EMERGENCY

Thursday, Oct. 21

- · An agent for a business in the 8900 block of Jos. Campau Ave. reported being the victim of fraud. The suspect fled on a bicycle.
- An agent for a business in the 11600 block of Jos. Campau Ave. complained about a customer causing trouble.
- · An assault was reported in the 12100 block of Conant Ave.
- · A break-in was reported in the 2600 block of Carpenter Ave.
- · A car stolen out of Detroit was recovered.

Friday, Oct. 22

- A report was made about two suspects, in the area of Fleming and Holmes, who were checking whether cars were locked. One of the suspects, a woman, was arrested for stealing items from a car, and for possessing drugs.
- A suspicious situation was reported in the 2600 block of Carpenter Ave.
- · An assault was reported in the 3300 block of Norwalk St.
- A suspicious situation was reported in the Caniff-Gallagher area.
- A hit-and-run accident occurred in the 12000 block of Conant Ave.
- · A report was made about two suspects, in the area of Dan and Jos. Campau, acting suspicious.

Saturday, Oct. 23

- A car was stolen in the 3800 block of Dorothy St.
- · An incident of property damage was reported in the 3900 block of Trowbridge St.
- A theft was reported in the 11700 block of McDougall St.
- A resident of Livonia reported being the victim of a fraud while in the 3500 block of Caniff Ave.

Sunday, Oct. 24

· A large fight was reported in the area of Danforth and Lumpkin. Two men were arrested for fighting in public.

Continued on page 8



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Continued from page 7 ·

- A domestic assault Campau Ave. was reported in the 2400 block of Danforth St. A suspect damaged a residence and then fled.
- A suspicious male was reported in the 12000 block of Jos.

- A complaint about an animal was made in the 11300 block of Fleming
- A suspicious incident was reported in the 2200 block of Danforth St.

 A disorderly person was reported in the 2300 block of Yemans St.

Monday, Oct. 25

- · Officers captured a dog that was loose in the area of Gallagher and Carpenter. The dog was taken to the Michigan Humane Society.
- Officers were called to help with a family hav-

ing trouble.

- · A theft from a vehicle was reported in the area of Mitchell and Carpen-
- · An agent for a business in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau Ave. reported a shoplifter.
- · An assault was reported in the 11400 block of Jos. Campau

HPS sports round-up

It's all over for the Cosmos boys soccer team.

They were able to stretch out their championship run by defeating Melvindale last Tuesday, 1-0, to move onto the District Championship game.

Karim Ahmed was the lone goal scorer for the Cosmos, while Mohamed Thabet had an excellent game in goal and Bashaar Saleh spearheaded a great defensive effort.

But in the district championship game, the Cosmos lost a heartbreaker, 2-1, to Dearborn Divine Child, who scored with 30 seconds left in the game. Elemedin Arifovic scored the lone Cosmos' goal, assisted by Tarik Custovic.

The girls volleyball team had to sit out last week because of a Covid contact tracing issue. They will return to action next Wednesday, at Melvindale High School, in the district tournament.

Look who stopped by Polonia ...



This past week, we were honored to have Jerry Anderson and his daughter, Donna Hernandez, stop by for a meal.

Jerry is Hamtramck High School grad from the Class of 1960. He gave us some background on his life.

"I grew up on Jacob St., and I played on the Hamtramck High School tennis team, graduating in 1960. Nine days later I joined the Marine Corps, where I

spent 21 years, including a tour in Vietnam in 1967-68. I retired in February of 1981 as Master Sergeant.

"I am currently living in Oceanside, California, and I enjoy spending time with my former wife, four daughters and son."

Jerry added that he brought his daughter, Donna, to Polonia in order to "taste some of the Polish food I grew up with and miss."







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