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INTERNATIONAL
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21 FEBRUARY

Quick Hits

Bengali Celebration on Sunday

By Charles Sercombe

The annual observance of International Mother Language Day will take place at midnight on February 21.

As usual, residents will gather at Zussman Park this Sunday (Feb. 20) at 11:45.

So just what is this about?

International Mother Language Day originated in Bangladesh when folks there fought to preserve, and be allowed to speak, Bangla.

That was no small thing. At the time Bangladesh was under the thumb of Pakistan, and back in 1952, students protested to preserve their language.

Some of the them paid with their lives for that right.

The day has since come to represent the value of native languages, and the promotion of cultural diversity. Hamtramck has been home to several thousand Bengalis for some years now.

The Hamtramck City Council yearly passes a proclamation, honoring the day. That proclamation read, in part:

"All moves to promote

Continued on page 2

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

During the bitter cold, you can bet on water main breaks

By Charles Sercombe

There's one guarantee about winter in Hamtramck.

The city's ancient and fragile water lines are going to bust here and there when it gets bitter cold.

It's been happening several times for the past few weeks, as the temperatures dip down to the teens, and even single digits at night.

Sometimes there are several that break in the same day, which means that work crews have to start with trying to fix the worst and then move on to the next worse, and so on.

For residents, that often means a disruption to their service.

For some residents, there is no excuse for this happening and point fingers at city hall.

The city administration, in turn, has taken to its Facebook page to assuage those tempers.

"Water main breaks are more common during these frigid temperatures. ... The Department of Public Services is handling these issues in order of severity. Please be patient as we work through these problems," was the latest message.

In some parts of the city, the waters lines are about 100 years old. For many years, work crews have patched together whatever they can of the old system, but the only remedy is for the state and federal government to pump in hundreds of millions of dollars into replacing every single line.

Cross your fingers, you never know.

In the meantime, the city recently sent out a message for homeowners, to make sure their sidewalks are clear of snow and ice – which is their responsibility.

Max Garbarino, a member of the city administration, sent out the following:

Continued on page 2



A work crew repairs a water main break recently. In the bitter cold, Hamtramck's aging water lines are susceptible to breaks, which in turn disrupts water service for some.



After calling Hamtramck home for decades, organizers of the Polish Day Parade are saying goodbye and moving the event to Warren.

Polish Day Parade will no longer call Hamtramck home

By Alan Madlane

The Polish Day Parade has marched its last through the streets of Hamtramck.

In yet another sign of the city's changing demographics – although parade planners openly cite other reasons for making the change – the fabled and much-loved parade has followed the typical exit trail north to the City of Warren.

Warren will now become the parade's new home.

The news had a bit of a soft landing anyway, as it had been cancelled the past two years due to the pandemic.

In a letter dated Dec. 6, 2021, the Polish Day Parade Committee (a function of the Polish American Club) announced the move.

Continued on page 4


Mayor clarifies comments

By Charles Sercombe

Last week we reported on an initial budget meeting with the mayor and city council, and the grim financial picture that was presented.

We asked Mayor Amer Ghalib for comments about the budget news, and we had some follow-up questions.

Last week we posed the question about what ideas he had to address the budget concerns, and he replied:



Mayor Amer Ghalib

"... There are some decisions and changes on the way that will benefit our city on the short and long terms. We will not announce it until it's the right time."

He was asked for clarification as to when "it's the right time."

Ghalib replied:

"It will be announced at the right time, and the right time is when we finalize our studies and research on some decisions, and make sure that they will benefit the city. If we find out that it may

Continued on page 2



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During the bitter cold, you can bet on water main breaks

Cont. from front page

ing reminder this week: “Just a friendly reminder that all snow and ice must be removed from sidewalks completely to allow for baby strollers and wheel chairs to pass,” Garbarino said. “Code enforcement will be out all week checking on snow and ice violations. Let’s keep Hamtramck safe. Thank you!”

Mayor clarifies comments

Continued from front page

not benefit the city, then it’s subject to review and modification, so I can’t give you a timeline!”

As for who he is referring to as “we,” he said:

“The city government is the We! We work as a team: legislative and executive branches. And I know that no one has the absolute power to act alone.”

Ghalib made another comment that had us wondering what he meant when he said:

“I’m still working with the former mayor’s team and administration ...”

The mayor does not appoint or hire city administrators, although the mayor does vote with the city council on contracts.

Ghalib clarified his statement:

“What I meant by the former mayor’s team is the boards and commissions that she appointed. I get along with them well, and I may continue to work with them as long as everyone is doing his/her job duties to the best of their abilities.

“The mayor can appoint boards and commissions with the approval of the

council. The mayor can remove any of them in the first 90 days without cause, and after that with a valid cause.

“And when I say, the ‘mayor’s team,’ that means the people who worked with her, or during her time. It doesn’t necessarily mean that the team was formed by her. I spoke to the former mayor and clarified things to her.

“I do have a great relationship with the city administration and with all the council members, and we coordinate and collaborate every step on the way, and yes, we can make the changes we want, whenever we want, if we all believe it’s for the benefit of the city.”

And on the dire budget

news, here is a recap of what was presented to the mayor and council in their first budget work session:

The overview basically laid out a pattern of declining revenue streams from 2003 to 2020, and increasing expenses. The bulk of the city’s expenses are paying employees. Those salaries are set by contracts.

The bad news was not unexpected. The city has been in deficit spending for the past two years, and at the rate it’s going, the budget surplus will run out during this fiscal year, which ends June 30.

The council and mayor will meet on March 1 to continue the budget overview.

Quick Hits

Cont. from front page

the dissemination of native languages will serve not only to encourage linguistic diversity and multilingual education but also to develop fuller awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions throughout

the world and to inspire solidarity based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue.”

Participants at Zussman Park are encouraged to wear masks, and if the weather gets bad, the event will move inside city hall, which is located across from the park.

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February 18, 2022

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Heroes in Black History: February is full of heroes at the library. Kids can earn a ticket for an end of the month prize raffle in two ways: 1. LEARN about the many African American heroes who helped to shape our nation by checking out at least one book about their lives or work. 2. CREATE your own customizable mini figure to show off you inner hero. Ask for more info at the main desk.

Meena Alexander: This author and poet was born on February 17, 1951. A native of India, she began writing poetry as a child, even having some of her early work translated and printed in languages she did not yet speak or read. Her educational path took her from her homeland to Sudan, England and eventually the U.S.

where she worked as a professor at a number of Universities including Fordham, CUNY and Columbia.

Game Night: If you are tired of screens and virtual meetings, we would like to welcome you to a different kind of social scene. Drop in on a Friday Game Night, starting at 4 pm (open to all ages).

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.

First American in Space: On February 20, 1962 astronaut John Glenn became the first American launched into orbit. Traveling aboard the “Friendship 7” spacecraft, Glenn reached an altitude of 162 miles and completed three orbits in a flight lasting just under five hours.

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Second Front Page

Mayor: “extreme’ cold requires extra precautions

By Charles Sercombe

Covid cases continue to decline, but the Covid grim reaper took its toll this past week.

Hamtramck recorded three new deaths from the disease, increasing the total number of deaths over the past two years, since when the pandemic started, to 67.

That was the news Mayor Amer Ghalib had to share during his weekly update to the community through the city’s Facebook page.

One of those residents who died, Ghalib said, was a patient at the clinic where he works as a nurse. He said the man was in his early 50s.

“He was a great guy,” the mayor said.

Ghalib urged residents to get vaxxed and boosted to avoid getting seriously ill – or worse – from Covid.

The number of new cases, according to Wayne County health officials, came to 20 for the past week. That brings the total number of cases for the

past two years to 4,593.

Ghalib started out his talk commenting on the Sunday snowfall. He was not pleased with the city’s response to clearing the streets.

The mayor said that he drove around the city and “found it risky.” His recommendation to the city is to concentrate more on intersections, which were dangerously icy.

“Please, if you could add more salt ... to make it safe for driving,” he said.

Once again, Ghalib kept

his update short, totaling a little less than eight minutes.

His condolences went out Dearborn residents who suffered a fire bombing of a well-known mosque there, Al-Huda Islamic Center, located at Warren and Lonyo.

For those affected, he said Hamtramck “stands in solidarity.”

Ghalib also cautioned residents to take precautions “in this extreme weather.”

Steady work has paid off for this 100-year-old

By Charles Sercombe

Every few years we touch base with Frania (aka Frances) Furmaniak.

The first time was when she turned 93, and then again when she turned 95.

On Feb. 2, she celebrated her 100th birthday, and last Sunday, her family, friends and well-wishers gathered at the Our Lady Queen of Apostles Activity Center to celebrate the milestone.

She is just as spry as ever, although she now



Frania Furmaniak

gets around with the aid of a walker.

For years, Furmaniak ran the parish soup kitchen, which has been a lifesaver for the area needy. At age 95, she was still shopping, on Saturdays for groceries for the kitchen.

She has since retired from those kitchen duties.

As to what keeps her going, Furmaniak still adheres to the adage: “Work all the time and keep busy.”

Here’s an interesting tid-

bit: Furmaniak shares the same birthday as the City of Hamtramck, which also turns 100 this year.

There’s a salute the Poles have when celebrating birthdays, and it’s the well-known “Sto Lat.”

Well, both Furmaniak and Hamtramck have reached that goal, and what the heck, “Sto Lat”: here’s to another 100 years.





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Polish Day Parade will no longer call Hamtramck home

Continued from front page

can Congress' Michigan Division) stated that the decision to move the parade was based primarily on two factors: the date it was traditionally held (Labor Day weekend), and the amount of room in the streets.

"Too many potential parade participants were unavailable, due to having other plans over the long, end-of-summer holiday weekend," read the letter, signed by Parade Committee Chairman John Chmura.

Chmura is a district court judge in Warren.

Why not move the date, one might ask?

Well, the obvious answer is that the parade has been traditionally tied into the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival. That arrangement was considered by many as mutually beneficial, as there was a built-in audience.

However, over the years there would be sporadic discussions among city officials and parade organizers as to whether to continue this arrangement.

City officials complained that parade organizers were not compensating the city financially for the extra cost in blocking off streets, and parade organizers have toyed for some time with moving it to Warren.

The new date in Warren this year will be Saturday, Aug. 20 at 2:45 p.m., a date two weeks before Labor Day weekend, and which corresponds to a yearly city "Birthday Bash," a Warren anniversary celebration very much similar-sounding to the Labor Day Festival, but, critically, moved up that couple of weeks.

But it wasn't just the dates that were deemed problematic. The route was also seen as a perpetual issue.

The parade had long travelled a route beginning at Jos. Campau and Holbrook, and then proceeding north on Campau past Caniff Ave. to Casmere St., whereupon it then rather haphazardly dispersed among the booths and crowd in a messy fashion.

The parade will now high-step its way up Van Dyke Ave. beginning at Martin Rd. (basically, 11-and-a-half mile), and venture its usual mile distance north to Common Rd., where the Warren city hall, police station and courthouse are located.

"This also is where the Birthday Bash's festivities are held, and so is the perfect place to end the parade," the committee's letter noted.

"Van Dyke is a wide thoroughfare, providing ample space for the units to operate without interference," they added.

In any case, it marks the end of another familiar city tradition.


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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

An age-old problem once again returns

Hamtramck has a new mayor and a new city council.

Although they may be new, they are now starting at an age-old problem in Hamtramck: finances.

As we reported last week, the city manager recently presented some grim financial news to the mayor and council. In short, the city is spending more money than it is collecting.

Hamtramck is not alone in facing this problem.

Many older communities that have lost their manufacturing tax base from years ago, like Hamtramck, are strapped with expensive employee contracts and pension obligations.

At the same time, tax collection has stagnated. Amazingly, even though our population skyrocketed by about 6,000 since the 2010 Census, the city is actually collecting less money from income taxes than it did in 2003, according to statistics submitted by the city administration.

For the past few years the city has been burning through its budget surplus to make ends meet. This year, that money pot will run dry.

When faced with this issue in the past, the state has stepped in twice, on separate occasions, and appointed emergency managers to take control of the city's finances. All they did was concentrate on the low-hanging fruit of where to save money, and then relied on an emergency state loan to keep the city floating for a few more years.

Yes, they left with a balanced budget on paper, but they never took a hard look at the systemic challenges Hamtramck continues to face.

Our new mayor and new councilmembers campaigned on tackling the city's pressing issues with a fresh perspective. We can't wait to hear what solutions are put forward.

HPS sports round-up

By Brian Anderson
HPS Athletic Director

It was a busy and productive week for the Cosmos' winter sports teams.

On Thursday, Feb. 10, the wrestlers defeated Detroit Mumford in the district semifinals, before falling to Ferndale in the district finals. On Saturday, they participated in individual districts.

In spite of being young, all of the Cosmos wrestlers recorded at least one win, and Abdullah Kayali managed to qualify for the Regional Tournament this Saturday at Adrian High School.

On Friday, Feb. 11, the Lady Cosmos basketball team defeated Ecorse, 70-26.

Kyndal Farver had 20 points and 5 assists, while Aniyasia Lewis and Rakiyah Beal had 16 and 12 points respectively.

The win moves the Lady Cosmos to 13-2 overall, and 6-0 in league play. They can clinch the league championship with a win against River Rouge on Friday evening at 5:30 p.m.

That same night, the Cosmos' boys' basketball team defeated Ecorse, 70-49.

Amari Allen and Hershel Marion each had 19 points, while Robert Davis added 10.

On Tuesday, Feb. 15, they defeated Dakota, 74-72, in overtime. Davis had 22 points, while Amari Allen had 21 points and 15 rebounds.

Hershel Marion had 10 points, and hit the game winning free throws. The Cosmos now sit at 12-3, and can also clinch the league championship with a win against River Rouge on Friday at 7 p.m.

Other Voices: Guest Editorial

Act now to stop tax foreclosure for Hamtramck's homeowners

By Michele Oberholtzer Zimmerman

For the past two years, Hamtramck homeowners with delinquent taxes have had a reprieve from tax foreclosure.

But, this year, tax foreclosure is back, and the March 31 deadline will soon be upon us. 166 Hamtramck properties are at risk of tax foreclosure this year, including 86 owner-occupied homes (by my best estimation).

The stakes are high, but we have never had such good tools to protect the homes of the most vulnerable. A poverty exemption for low-income homeowners has the power to STOP foreclosure, and reduce tax debt with a new payment plan called "Pay As You Stay."

These tools are nothing if residents aren't aware of them, so please read on and consider becoming an advocate for your neighbors to spread this information before it's too late.

Michigan has some pretty harsh policies when it comes to punishing unpaid property taxes according to state law, the government can foreclose and take full ownership of private property if taxes fall into delinquency for three years.

Fortunately, in addition to these harsh laws, Michigan has some kind ones: for example, every city must offer a "Poverty Tax Exemption" to allow low-income homeowners to waive or reduce these taxes. For many years, the City of Hamtramck has made this exemption all but impossible for residents to get.

In previous years, the City had rules that created a sort of "Catch-22" to prevent applicants from getting approved. They mandated that applicants without earned income file income taxes in order (which is against the state law), and then they said that the results of the income tax prevented the person from getting approved!

They counted the home itself as an asset, meaning that someone would have to lose or sell their house in order to qualify to get a tax break on it! Advocate

Continued on page 6

Odds & Ends

Helping hand... If you're having trouble keeping your house warm or well-lit, or your water turned on, help may very well be available to you.

THAW (The Heat and Warmth fund) is a local 501©(3) non-profit agency that assists people who are in need with these basics.

THAW's homepage states that they've been in the business of helping since 1985; in other words, for about 37 years now. They say that they work with about 40 different "agency partners" to generate their operating funds.

If you are a single person, couple, family, extended family, or even part of a family of your own making, you may very well meet the guidelines for getting some help.

You can find out for sure by going to the THAW website, at thawfund.org. Right there on the homepage, you will see a rectangular red click button. Press it, and begin your journey toward having a warm, bright and functional home.

The next step is to fill out the straightforward form. Follow the directions, and don't leave anything blank.

From there, expect to be contacted about your case in relatively short order – no lollygagging on their part, although they could be backed up with cases, no thanks to the ongoing pandemic and its devastating overall effect on the country's (and world's) economy.

They state that they have generated more than \$216 million dollars for some 300,000 recipients, averaging out to \$720 per case.

So, if you're struggling or in need, why not check them out? They've helped many others, and maybe they can do the same for you.

Reminder... There is still plenty of time to not only enjoy a delicious spaghetti dinner, but also to support a good cause.

On Saturday, March 26, there will be a fundraiser at PLAV Post 10 hall to pay for new American flags for the Jos. Campau Ave. flagpoles.

Organizers are hoping to raise about \$3,500 to replace 18 weather-worn American flags that are flown, at appropriate times, along the city's main north-south street. The old flags are too weather – and sun-beaten to be salvaged.

The date, times and location are as follows: Saturday, March 26, any time from 3-7 p.m., at the Post 10 PLAV Hall, 11824 Joseph Campau (between Casmere and Commor, on the east side of the street).

There will be spaghetti with meat sauce, as well as a vegetarian option and a halal option. They're also planning to get some garlic cheese toast on the bill, and the Moose Lodge will be providing salad as well.

Tickets are \$15 per plate, or \$12 for seniors.

Additionally, there will be a raffle, with some pretty sweet prizes to be had by the winners. How about four box seats for the Detroit Tigers 2022 home opener?

There's also a couple of goodie baskets, and there will be a 50/50 raffle as well. Tickets are \$1 each, or 15 for \$10.

Tickets for the dinner itself are being pre-sold through seven city locations:

- Café 1923 – 22887 Holbrook Ave.
- Tekla Vintage – 9600 Jos. Campau Ave.
- Euro Mini Mart – 11415 Jos. Campau Ave.
- Otoman Café – 10215 Jos. Campau Ave.
- Balkan House Restaurant – 3028 Caniff Ave.
- Post 6 PLAV – 8545 McDougall St.
- Post 10 PLAV – 11824 Jos. Campau Ave.

It helps them out, in several ways, to buy tickets in advance, so if you think it sounds like a good cause (or, just a good meal), don't delay. They'll be grateful for your patronage.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

CITY OF HAMTRAMCK

The City of Hamtramck is holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. the 2nd Floor Council Chambers of Hamtramck City Hall (3401 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212) to receive comments from the public on the following topics:

The City Council will hold a public hearing on proposed Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments: Definitions (155.007), Residential (155.050), Multi-Use District C2 (155.065), Central Business District CBD (155.066), Site Plan Review Process (155.166), Special Land Use Standards (155.187) and other related provisions.

Full and complete text of the changes is available on the City of Hamtramck's website through Boarddocs (Resolution 2022-17). The public is invited to view and comment on the amendment during the Public Hearing or to make written comments on or before March 7, 2022 to the City Clerk at RFaraj@hamtramckcity.com.

The City of Hamtramck will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids, and services for individuals with disabilities at the public hearing upon advance notice by writing or by calling the Clerk's Office at 313-800-5233 x343. Please contact the Clerk's office at least 10 days in advance.

Rana Faraj
Hamtramck City Clerk

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Stop tax foreclosure for Hamtramck’s homeowners

Continued from page 6

cates at United Community Housing Coalition took these denials to the State Tax Tribunal and won case after case.

One State Magistrate even called Hamtramck’s policies “Invalid and unlawful.” But each victory was a hard battle that made no difference in the overall policies of the City. Fortunately, City leadership and State laws have changed some of these practices for the better.

Following these reforms, what we need most now is to change the income guidelines. Hamtramck’s are extremely low. Whereas a single-person household meets the federal poverty guidelines if they earn \$12,880 per year, the City of Hamtramck only offers a 25% exemption for someone at that income level.

Someone must earn under \$7,405/yr to get a full exemption!

This is the case of a neighbor whom I have assisted with her Poverty Exemption Application for many years. When she wasn’t flatly denied, her approval was only partial, despite her low income. Hamtramck City Council should be commended for making steps toward increasing these income guidelines, but they have a long way to go to even approach the guidelines of our neighboring cities.

Hopefully next year we continue to see these guidelines expand.

No matter what changes we make, a tool is only helpful if it is used. Very few of Hamtramck’s low-income homeowners are aware of the Poverty Tax Exemption.

So let’s fix that:

Where Can I get it?

In Person: At City Hall with the Assessor’s Office or in the foyer next to the Hamtramck Police.

Online: <https://hamtramck.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2022-City-of-Hamtramck-Poverty-Exemption-Application-Packet.pdf>

When Is It Due?

If you need the Poverty Exemption to prevent Tax Foreclosure in 2022, it must be completed and submitted by Monday March 14, 2022. Otherwise, the application can be submitted anytime before the December board of review. Sooner is better so that you can accurately budget for how many taxes you will have to pay.

Who Qualifies?

To qualify, you must:

- Own your home
- Live in it as your principal residence/homestead
- Have a qualifying household income
- Not exceed asset guidelines
- Complete and submit the application!

What If I Need Help?

Call the Tax Foreclosure Hotline at United Community Housing Coalition (313-405-7726). However, their staff capacity is extremely limited so you may have trouble getting help filling out an exemption before March 14.

How Can I Help My neighbors?

If you are not a low-income homeowner but you want to help a neighbor who may be at risk of losing their home, contact me, Michele Oberholtzer Zimmerman at michmobi@gmail.com. I will match you up with a nearby address.

Under THE GENERAL PROPERTY TAX ACT Section 211.7u a homeowner who, “by reason of poverty, is unable to contribute toward the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from the collection of taxes under this act.”

I personally believe that no one who is able to pay their taxes would allow the roof over their head to be seized if they could afford to stop it. So those are the very people this act is referring to.

None of us benefit when our neighbors lose their homes. We cannot assume that people will find the help they need- especially when language barriers, Covid boundaries, and the general complexity of these policies make it difficult for people to “opt in” to the benefits they qualify for.

Let’s lend a hand to make sure that no one loses their homes for taxes they are exempt from!

(Michele Oberholtzer Zimmerman is a Hamtramck resident.)

City of Hamtramck Notice of Public Hearing

Zoning Board of Appeals

NOTICE is hereby given that the city of Hamtramck Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing in the 2nd Floor Council Chambers of Hamtramck City Hall (3401 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212) on March 9th, 2022 at 6 p.m. Public comments will be limited to three minutes. Public comments may also be heard by submitting a written comment to Assistant Community and Economic Development Manager at kfaulkner@hamtramckcity.com.

Applicant Iqbal Chowdhury is seeking multiple variances to the Zoning Ordinance 497 - Article IX Section 2.02 & 2.03 [155.111(B) and 155.111(C)] for 3101 Casmere. Variance request includes expansion of a non-conforming structure - addition to existing home.

The City of Hamtramck will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids, and services for individuals with disabilities at the public hearing upon advance notice by writing or by calling the Clerk’s Office at 313-800-5233 x343. Please contact the Clerk’s office at least 10 days in advance.



City Hall Insider ...

What is our City Council up to these days?
We have the highlights of the latest council meeting.

By Charles Sercombe

The city council met on Jan. 11, and all councilmembers, except for Mohammed Hassan, were present.

During public comment several people spoke out against Hamtramck 31st District Court Judge Alexis Krot and her treatment of a 72-year-old man with cancer over his failure to clear out overgrown weeds around his garage.

One speaker said: “It was very disturbing and dis-

respectful. ... What kind of behavior is this?”

In the consent agenda, the following appointments were approved:

- Lynn Blasey, Arts and Culture Commission
- Peter Buhr, Beautification Commission
- Julie Sailus, Beautification Commission

A public hearing was held on a proposal to install an honorary re-naming of Winfield St., from Yemans to Evaline, to “Mayor Karen Majewski, PhD. Street.”

The street is across from city hall, where Majewski was mayor for 16 years.

Bill Meyer, who had been an outspoken critic of Majewski, said he has nothing against the honorific naming, but questions how city officials determine how streets are renamed.

“How long does it last?” Meyer said. “There needs to be a time limit.”

He also said that the naming of streets is “political.”

(Editor’s note: Meyer had been an advocate for installing an honorific street sign on Jos. Campau for former City Councilmember Abdul Algazali.)

A resident also spoke up, saying the renaming of streets is not an issue of importance.

Instead, he said, “Make our streets safe.”

The council later voted to approve the re-naming.

Councilmember Khalil Refai said the re-naming was a show of appreciation for Majewski, and her many years of service to the community.

City Manager Kathy Angerer said that Councilmember Hassan, who co-sponsored the proposal, has offered to pay for the signs.

In another action, the council approved the first step in receiving a \$4.1 million grant from the state Water Revolving Fund.

The total cost of the infrastructure repair project is \$11 million, which will require seeking bonds (basically a loan) to fund it. At the end of the project, the state will forgive \$4.1 million of the cost.

The following improvement projects include:

- Goodson Street Water Main Replacement (this project will be completed at the same time as the 2022 approved sewer replacement project, which will be bid soon, at an estimated cost of \$5.5 million. The sewer replacement will be paid from City of Hamtramck funds.)
- Caniff Street Water Main Replacement
- Dan Street Water Main Replacement
- Prescott Street Water Main Replacement
- Joseph Campau Water Main Looping Project

City Manager Angerer said, “We need to do major repairs over the next several years.” Otherwise, she said, “we’re just putting Band-Aids on.”

State Rep. Abraham Aiyash spoke, and said that he “made it clear” to Gov. Whitmer that the city needs \$50 million to fund the project.

On the subject of Judge Krot, Aiyash said that she, like other elected officials, has to be held accountable for her treatment of the elderly man.

“You can’t tell somebody they deserve jail time,” when they are suffering and in ill health, Aiyash said. Krot, he said, “stripped a man of his dignity.”

He added that “this was not the first time,” that Krot has disrespected people. “It’s not the last time,” he added.

Councilmember Adam Albarmaki urged the public to view the recording of Krot and her handling of the blight case.

“This is not a way to treat a member of the community,” he said.

Albarmaki added that this was “no justification of the way he was treated.”

During the second public comment portion of the meeting, a woman also criticized Krot, saying she exhibited “shameful behavior.”

Meyer said Krot’s behavior is an example of “white privilege.”

(Editor’s note: Krot issued an apology on Jan. 18. You can see it on the district court’s website. Click on the link that says “Statement.”)

NOTICE

CITY OF HAMTRAMCK
BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of Hamtramck Board of Review will meet in the Hamtramck City Hall located at 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, Michigan 48212.

Meetings by appointment only on the following days:

Tuesday March 8, 2022, at 9:00 am for the organizational meeting (no appeals will be heard).

By appointment to hear appeals,

Monday

March 14, 2022 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Location: 3rd Floor conference room

Thursday

March 17, 2022 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Location: 2nd Floor City Council Chambers

The purpose is to review the assessment rolls of Hamtramck. Matters pertaining to the assessment of property may be brought before the Board of Review. Appointments will be taken until 4:00 pm on Thursday, March 17, 2022. Appeals will also be accepted by letter.

**All letter appeals must be received by 4:00 pm on Thursday, March 17, 2022. **

	TENTATIVE RATIO	TENTATIVE FACTOR
201 – COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
301 – INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
401 – RESIDENTIAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00

THOMAS D. MONCHAK
ASSESSOR,
CITY OF HAMTRAMCK

Publish February 11th, 18th, & 25th 2022 – Hamtramck Review

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By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Feb. 8-14.

Tuesday, Feb. 8

- A woman in the 12000 block of Dequindre St. complained about a man knocking on her door. When officers arrived, the woman said the man is her boyfriend, and that she wanted him to leave. Officers told the man to leave.
- A noise complaint was made in the 9200 block of Conant Ave.
- A suspicious situation was reported in the 2600 block of Holbrook Ave.
- A break-in was reported in the 2000 block of Belmont St.
- A hit-and-run accident occurred at Doremus and Gallagher.
- A Lumpkin St. resident reported that her purse was stolen from her car.
- A trespassing complaint was made on Yemans St.

Wednesday, Feb. 9

- An incident of fraud was reported in the 3900 block of Dorothy St.
- A complaint was made about an animal on Gallagher St.
- A Hanley St. resident reported that their garbage cans were stolen.
- A disorderly person was reported in Conant Ave.
- A complaint was made about an animal on Charest St.
- A hit-and-run accident was reported on Comstock St.

Thursday, Feb. 10

- Officers responded to a report about a woman in the Buffalo/Belmont area who was screaming. After talking with the person who called, officers determined that no crime had happened.
- A report was made about a suspicious male in the area of Conant/Commor.
- A report was made about a theft from a vehicle parked in the 11400 block of Jos. Campau Ave.
- A domestic disturbance was reported on Caniff Ave.

- Officers assisted a person in the area of Jos. Campau and Carpenter who was disoriented and lost. A family friend arrived at the scene and took the person away.
- Officers assisted a stranded motorist at Jos. Campau and Holbrook.
- A theft was reported on Mitchell St.

Friday, Feb. 11

- A report was made about a man attempting to break into a garage in the 12000 block of Klinger St. Officers checked the area but could not find the suspect.
- A complaint was made about loud music coming from a parked car in the 2300 block of Caniff Ave.
- A loose dog was reported on Trowbridge St.
- A report was made about a person screaming on Grand Haven St.
- A woman in distress was reported in the area of Caniff and Mitchell.
- A Botsford St. resident reported having trouble with a neighbor.
- A resident in the 2200 block of Danforth St. reported having trouble with a neighbor.
- A domestic assault was reported in the 3200 block of Evaline St.
- A resident reported being the victim of an armed robbery in the 12000 block of Oklahoma St.

Saturday, Feb. 12

- A fight was reported in the 12000 block of Nagel St.
- A theft was reported in the 9600 block of Conant Ave. A theft was also reported in the 10000 block of Jos. Campau Ave.
- An assault happened in the 2200 block of Danforth St.
- An assault was reported in the 9400 block of Conant Ave.

Sunday, Feb. 13

- An agent for a business in the 2100 block of Caniff Ave. reported that there was trouble with a customer.
- A theft was reported in the 2600 block of Wha-

Continued on page 8

Coming Events

SATURDAY, Feb. 26, 3:30-5:30 p.m. – Drive-thru/ Take-out Polish Dinner at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. \$12 Adult/\$6 Child 12 & under. Menu: Pork chop, Kielbasa, Pierogi/sour cream, Stewed Cabbage (Bigos), Mashed Potatoes/gravy, Desert. Cars will be staged in parking lot for delivery in front of church. Masks to be worn for pick-up.

TUESDAY, March 1, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.— Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency, Wayne Health and ICNA Relief Michigan (Muslim Family Services) have joined forces for a monthly initiative offering residents in need a combination of services from their organizations including COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters, free health screenings, access to a food pantry, and resources for rental and utility assistance, weatherization and home repair. First Tuesday of every month, can accommodate up to 100 people. Health screenings are available free of charge to persons of all ages with or without insurance. Approximately 50 pounds of food, including fresh produce, will be available for persons with ID, ICNA Relief Michigan, 12500 Mitchell St., Detroit.

SATURDAY, March 26, 3-7 p.m. – A spaghetti dinner fundraiser will be held to purchase 18 new American flags for the Jos. Campau flagpoles, at PLAV Post 10, 11824 Jos. Campau. Tickets are \$15, \$12 for seniors, and add \$1 for carry-outs. There will be meat and meatless dinners, as well as optional halal and vegetarian dishes. Tickets are at Post 10 and other locations.





Continued from page 7

len St.

- An assault was reported in the 2700 block of Norwalk St.
- A hit-and-run accident occurred in the area of Holbrook and Charest.
- A hit-and-run accident occurred on Caniff Ave.

Monday, Feb. 14

- People were reported riding all terrain vehicles in

the 9000 block of Conant Ave.

- Officers noticed an unknown person inside a business in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau Ave. Upon making contact, officers found out that the person in question was the owner of the business.

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School Bell

MLD Day update

Madelyn Porter, a teacher at HPS and president of the Concerned Women of Hamtramck, passed on this message to us:

The Concerned Women of Hamtramck wish to thank all the participants and viewers of the 24th Annual MLK Prayer Breakfast 2022. We are proud to announce the following winners of the Hamtramck's Got Talent contest:

- Grades K-6:
- Phoenix Goddard – 1st place (\$100) 1st grade - Holbrook Elementary
 - Promita Biswas – 2nd place (\$50) 5th grade - Dickinson West
 - Mellak Alhajaji – 3rd Place (\$25) 5th grade- Dickinson West
- Grades 7-12 (KMS

showed up and showed out! All winners from this category are from KMS. Bravo.

- Nura Uddin – 1st Place (\$200)
 - Soumitra Roy – 2nd Place (\$100)
 - Rashard Birdsong-Nealey – 3rd Place (\$50)
- All students will receive a Certificate of Participation.

Appreciation

The HPS Facebook page had this shoutout to two staffers:

Two of our teachers here at Hamtramck Public Schools, Ms. Vaillencourt and Mr. Wilinski, are Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) certified.

At Hamtramck, we prior-

itize our students' safety above all else and will continue to practice regularly scheduled safety conduct, such as fire, tornado and lockdown drills.

Congratulations, Ms. Vaillencourt and Mr. Wilinski!

Also, the district had more to share about its staff:

The staff members at HPS are a dedicated group, and they remain committed to the growth and success of our students every day.

Ms. Farqad Alfatlawy, assistant principal at Hamtramck High School says, "I'm really excited to help our students achieve their life-long dreams. Whatever they wish to do as a career, we're here to guide them.

The Look...

By Suraj Bhamra

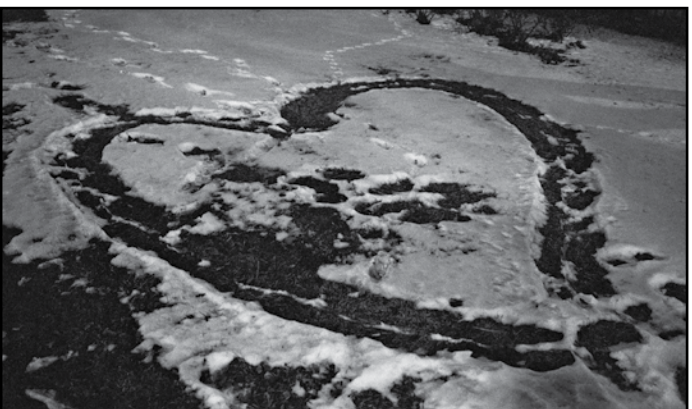
Despite the cruel fist of winter refusing to open and offer the gift of spring in its outstretched palm, I catch my frozen reflection incessantly photographing the same spaces in a frantic attempt to revisit and make sense of dissonant memories.

I indulge in a fiction where I'm able to whirl him around on the sidewalk and grip his lapels with the power of a wild

animal.

I want to pull him close so he can see the whites of my eyes and hear the urgency of my words while I shake him like a cheap paper doll.

(Suraj Bhamra is a Detroit-area photographer who specializes in street photography.)



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3385 Norwalk
(313) 873-9437
K – 6th Grades

Dickinson West Elementary
2333 Burger
(313) 365-5861
K – 6th Grades

Early Childhood Elementary
11680 McDougall
(313) 891-3200
Pre K – 2nd Grades

Holbrook Elementary
2361 Alice
(313) 872-3203
K – 8th Grades

Tau Beta School
3056 Hanley
(313) 892-3811
K – 8th Grades

Kosciuszko Middle School
2333 Burger
(313) 365-4625
7th – 8th Grades

Hamtramck High School
11410 Charest
(313) 892-7505
9th – 12th Grades

Horizon School
3225 Caniff
(313) 893-2214
9th - 12th Grades