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The Review

Hamtramck

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Quick Hits

Water drive being held

By Alan Madlane

There's always some good going on in the world, and there's some good happening right now, and close to home.

The gracious souls at the Second Ebenezer Church – that's the mega-church you see from I-75 if you look right as you're headed northbound, just before McNichols – are partnering up with the Living Waters Church in Detroit (W. Chicago and Hubbell), as well as Meijer and the United Way for Southeastern Michigan, to deliver drinkable water to the people of Jackson, Mississippi after the terrible flooding down there recently that has compromised theirs.

The church is hosting a water bottle donation drive.

Second Ebenezer's address is 14601 Dequindre St., and you can drop off cases of water to them on Saturday or Sunday, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Tuesday or Thursday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.; or Wednesday or Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. through Sept. 23.

"The water crisis in Jackson, Mississippi is an ongoing tragedy that isn't over," said Bishop Edgar Vann, Senior Pastor of Second Ebenezer.

"There is a great need to provide safe drinking water as challenges persist with long-term infrastructure damage.

"Detroiters have always had hearts open to help when people are in crisis," he continued.

"Let's help them in their time of need."

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

City council finds itself in a mess over tax abatement vote

By Charles Sercombe

After weeks of delays, the city council finally voted Tuesday night to OK a 10-year tax abatement for development at the former Missant site.

But, as the city council meeting was ending, a serious problem arose: The council did not have enough members attending the meeting for a quorum.

As it turns out, since there was no quorum, every vote that happened at the meeting is now "null and void," said Interim City Manager Max Garbarino.

That meant a special meeting was scheduled to be held Thursday, Sept. 15, after The Review went to press, to re-do most of the votes on resolutions that happened at Tuesday's meeting.

The one item missing on Thursday's special meeting agenda, as of Thursday morning, was the tax abatement issue.

Garbarino told The Review the abatement issue will be taken up on the next regular council meeting on Sept. 27.

So how did Tuesday's



The city council appears to be divided and unable to decide whether to grant a tax abatement request to redevelop the Missant site on Conant. Three councilmembers who oppose the deal did not show up for a vote on the issue at Tuesday's council meeting, causing a delay until the next council meeting.

city council meeting ever happen?

That's not so clear, but apparently there was an initial thought that the three councilmembers who showed up, Amanda Jaczkowski, Nayeem Choudhury and Mohamed Hassan, along with Mayor Ameer Ghalib, constituted the bare number of members to hold a meeting.

In other words, a quorum.

The only problem with that equation, it was later

realized, is that the mayor is not considered a part of the city council. The mayor merely presides over the meeting, and in some specific matters can vote, such as on ordinances, and in case there is a need to break a tie vote.

The City Charter, Section 7-09 part (b), is specific about what qualifies as a council quorum, and it states that the mayor is not included in that head count.

Here is the entire sec-

tion:

"The majority of the council-elect, excluding the mayor, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; a less number may adjourn from time to time, and compel the attendance of absent members in such manner as shall be prescribed by ordinance or resolution of the council; and all pending business and business noticed or set down for hearing at any meetings at which

Continued on page 2

State beefs up election security

By Charles Sercombe

All across the country there is growing concern about the safety of election workers for the upcoming Nov. 8 General Election.

There is particular worry over some poll watchers attempting to disrupt voters and the counting of ballots.

Michigan is no exception.

To beef up election security in the state, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson has created an \$8 million fund for local and county communities to tap into to prepare for the election.

"My administration has worked with election clerks and law enforcement across the state to ensure they have the information and resources they need to protect voters and their rights, and voters can cast their ballot tomorrow confident they will be safe and their vote will be counted," Benson said in a recent press release.

"We will not tolerate any voter suppression or election interference attempts in Michigan."

In Hamtramck, City Clerk Rana Faraj said that security has not been much of an issue – at least so far.

"Other than some campaigners harassing my door people, I can't think of anything at the moment," Faraj told The Review.

Hamtramck has been no stranger when it comes to poll challengers confronting voters.

In a 1999 general election, a group of challengers called "Citizens for a Better Hamtramck" made a number of improper challenges to Arab and Bengali voters that the US Justice Department

Continued on page 3

Hamtramck's LGBTQ community creates its own Facebook page

By Alan Madlane

Josh Hansknecht is a local activist who took it upon himself, when he saw a need for such, to create a Facebook page that aims to bring together the city's LGBTQ persons in solidarity and, hopefully, in being better understood.

The Review asked Hansknecht to talk about what he hopes to accomplish.

The Review: So, can we get a little personal background to start – for example, what is your connection to Hamtramck (born here, or moved here, or just discovered it)?

Josh Hansknecht: My name is Josh Hansknecht, and while a southeast Michigan native, I had never heard of Ham-

Continued on page 4



Hamtramck's LGBTQ community participated in the Hamtramck Labor Day Parade recently.



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City council finds itself in a mess over tax abatement vote Cont. from front page

there shall not be a quorum present shall be taken up and heard at such adjourned meeting, or at the next regular meeting.”

A simple majority for the Hamtramck council is at least four members.

For weeks, the city council has been evenly divided over whether to grant a 10-year tax abatement for the Missant site, located on Conant near the county jail. Unlike most abatement requests that ask for a temporary 50-percent reduction in property taxes, this one seeks to freeze its current tax payment for 10 years.

A developer plans to invest over \$18 million to tear down some decrepit buildings and develop the site for an online sales company. The 24-acre site also has environmental issues from when plastic auto parts were manufactured there.

The councilmembers who showed up for the meeting were unanimous in granting the abatement, saying the city needs to welcome development.

The councilmembers who did not show up, Mohammed Alsomiri, Adam Albarmaki and Khalil Refai, are opposed to the abatement, saying that 10 years is too long. Councilmember Refai offered a counter-proposal to limit it to six years.

However, the developer has let it be known that Refai’s proposal would be a deal breaker, and that the development would not move forward.

The Review reached out for comment via email to the councilmembers who were absent from Tuesday’s meeting as to why they did not attend, and whether it had anything to do with the abatement vote.

None of them responded to The Review.

The Review also reached out to Mayor Ghalib over whether he thought there was a quorum, and why he voted on the abatement issue along with voting on other resolutions.

The abatement issue, which the mayor abstained on, is not a resolution that the mayor would normally vote on unless there is a tie vote that requires breaking.

In an email, Ghalib said: “I knew that I only have to vote if my vote breaks the tie or makes a difference, or on ordinances, and I questioned that before the meeting, but all the city officials who were in the meeting, and whom I trusted and I still do trust, they agreed otherwise, including on the issue of the quorum. There was some confusion but it can be fixed.”

“I want every city council member to take responsibility when it comes to big decisions. I will break the tie if enough city council members are there, and when there is a tie, I’ll vote in the best interest of the city. Last night, regardless of the quorum issue, my vote wouldn’t have made any difference so I abstained.”

Abstaining on a vote is reserved for special circumstances.

According to Robert’s Rule of Order, which the council follows, the following reasons are listed as to why elected and appointed officials abstain from voting:

- They don’t want to reveal what they’re thinking about an issue
- They disagree with one or more board members, and don’t want to air their disagreement
- They’re too conflicted on an issue to cast a meaningful vote
- They have failed to research the matter sufficiently, and don’t feel right about voting on it
- They’re simply not focused enough on board activities

In the past, Ghalib has not offered his opinion on the abatement matter, but did reference concern over a past tax abatement with American Axle & Manufacturing.

When that abatement ended, the company shut down its plants and moved operations to a plant in Mexico – a move that burned a number of city officials.

But at Tuesday’s council meeting, Ghalib did point out that the development at the Missant site would create 75 new jobs. Those jobs would generate additional income tax revenue for the city.

Previous to Tuesday’s meeting, the council had pulled the proposal from the Aug. 23 meeting agenda for no apparent reason. At that time, it was the second delay in putting the matter forward for a vote.

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This week at the Library . . .

September 16, 2022

ESL Classes in the Library: For the 2022-23 school year, the ESL classes organized by Horizon School, will be held in the library four days a week (Monday to Thursday). There will be two sessions with the first starting at 9 am and the second at 11:30 am

Adoptive Yoga and Thai Chi: Good news for those awaiting our group practice exercise sessions. Adoptive Yoga returning Tuesdays at 3 pm (starting October 4th) and Thai Chi resumes Fridays at 10 am (starting October 14th). These programs are Senior friendly. Comfortable footwear and clothing recommended. Presented by the RIM Foundation.

Www.hoopladigital.com: With your library card you get access to thousands of ebooks, audio books, magazines, comics, manga, TV series, movies and more.

TV-19: Public service announcements regarding meetings or events of organizations can be places on Channel 19 for FREE. To provide information for broadcast send an email to HamtramckTV@gmail.com or call the library at 313-733-6822.

In Memory of 9/11: The library will display a mural painted by local artists, Dennis Orlowski with assistance of Hamtramck children in memory of all who lost their lives on 9/11.

Game Night: Drop in on a Friday Game Night, starting at 4 pm (open to all ages)

Story Time: Stories are a bridge between generations. Let us learn together from those who came before us. Bring your kids to the library every Monday at 4 pm.

Robert McCloskey: This author and illustrator was born on September 15, 1914. His love for the natural world clearly made its way into his storybooks for children. Have your little ones experience these classic stories and richly detailed illustrations for themselves on the next visit to the library

LOTE Online for Kids: Just in case you did not know, there is a great online resource for children who want to enjoy stories in other languages. LOTE Online for Kids offers 1800 titles to read in over 50 different languages. They feature both classic and modern tales. Plus, it is a neat way for anyone learning a new language to practice their reading skills. This collection is constantly being updated. The best part is that you can access it for free by inputting you library card info. Visit www.lote4kids.com and type us into the library search bar on the right of the screen to get started.

Agatha Christie: This British mystery author was born on September 15, 1890 in Torquay, England. She wrote nearly a hundred books, including mysteries, dramas, poetry and nonfiction.

Mayflower: This ship departed England, bound for American on September 15, 1620 with 102 passengers and a small crew.

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



School Bell

Chromebooks

Attention HPS families: Chromebooks are available for new Hamtramck Public Schools students, as well as Chromebook support and repairs for re-enrolled students.

Please reach out to the HPS Technology Department at 313-591-7450 to schedule an appointment for your child.



ECE

The first week of school at the Early Childhood Elementary started out wonderfully with a lot of smiles and eager students and staff to begin the new school year.

The school has been especially blessed this year with donations from many different places and people.



Two ladies at Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Mary Spillman and Dolores Mularski of Christian Services held a school supply drive for the children. Generous donations from many people came in and filled an SUV to maximum with school supplies for them. Meanwhile, Annette Tash, a retired kindergarten teacher donated hundreds of books for the children.



On Friday, Diane Haacke, cousin to first grade teacher, Rosemary Haacke donated boxes of school supplies as well. The school is so thankful to all these people who opened up their heart to give to the students.



Heather Dorogi

You can feel the positivity in the air as we start the year. Students reading together, sharing ideas, discovering new lessons have laid the foundation for learning.

Diversity program

A big thank also goes out to Bo Sawka, ELL teacher and others at ECE, for creating a garden club beautifying the front of the school, making flower boxes and growing vegetables in hydroponic trays.

It is going to be a wonderful year!

HPS is proud to serve our students through diverse roles and excellent staff leadership.

This year, we are introducing a new position to do exactly that. Heather Dorogi will serve as our Multi-Tiered System of Supports and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (MTSS/DEIJ) Coordinator. In this role, Heather will

help us develop equitable initiatives, solutions and opportunities for all students to feel heard and seen. We are grateful for the role this position will play in our community and how we can continue to best serve our children.

Please join us in welcoming Heather as she steps into this pivotal position at HPS!

Recreation

The Hamtramck Recreation Department is sponsoring what they're calling a Fall Harvest.

It'll happen on Friday, Sept. 30, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Pulaski Park, 9625 Lumpkin (at Yemens).

What's there?

Let's start with pumpkins: You can pick one up, priced from \$2 up to \$7, first come, first served. Get yourself your gonna-be Jack O'Lantern, while they last.

Also on the docket? That dynamic duo of cider and donuts, is what!

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State beefs up election security

Continued from front page

said was race-based.

The registration form submitted by Citizens for a Better Hamtramck said that their interest was to keep the election "pure."

In a consent decree with the government, the city agreed to take a number of steps to ensure voters' rights.

There were no further incidents after that election but, for a number of years, Hamtramck elections were monitored by the Justice Department.

In the 2020 election year, there were a number

of incidents both in the metro area and nationwide, where poll watchers and challengers disrupted proceedings.

Hamtramck's 2020 election remained uneventful.

With this grant money being offered by the state, City Clerk Faraj said she will be purchasing new laptops for each precinct.

The state is allocating up to \$1,500 per the current number of precincts in each city.

Hamtramck has seven precincts.



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Hamtramck’s LGBTQ community creates its own Facebook page

Continued from front page

tramck until I moved here five years ago, since getting employment in the city.

However, I am still here, because it has fully captured my heart. This city has the most sensational and diverse people, cuisine, and accessibility that I have ever experienced in my well-traveled life. I don’t want to live anywhere else now, which is why I just bought my very first home here, in the city, back in April.

The Review: What motivated you to start the Hamtramck LGBTQ Alliance Facebook group? Did you model it on any other group, or start it from scratch?

Hansknecht: Hamtramck is a home for everyone, and a place where everyone can say their peace. This includes people who lack experience with Queer people and Queer culture and education on Queer history. Members of our city government have been involved in multiple debates and conflicts surrounding Pride Month and pride flags, and as much as I was reading about people in support of, or against, the “issue,” I did not see the “issue” speaking for themselves. I noticed a resounding lack of a collective Queer voice to reject the idea

that our Queer existence is an “issue” at all.

Unfortunately, the community’s framing of LGBTQ identities as an “issue” to debate – instead of as inalienable human rights – has led to a rash of hateful actions beyond just words, as businesses and even personal homes have had their own symbols of Pride torn down or stolen.

I decided that, if I wanted to improve the situation of harassment and hate crimes in the city that I love, I would need help in bringing together allies and LGBTQ voices to speak up for ourselves, and change the face of the “debate” in this city.

I have served in many LGBTQ organizations in the past, so it is a truth to say that the HQA is modeled from those experiences, but we are just getting the ball rolling, and the final shape of our organization really is yet to be chosen by the people who want to make it.

The Review: You just started the group on July 15, and it already has over 140 members. Are you pleased with the response so far, and did you expect that level of interest?

Hansknecht: Since July 15, when I created the Facebook page, we are up to 154 members, most of whom joined within the first 24 hours.

I was beyond excited to see such a quick response to the group’s creation, which leads me to believe others have felt the same way as I have for a while in this city.

The Review: Do you promote the group anywhere? Or is it mainly

succeeding on word of mouth?

Hansknecht: This group was posted to other Hamtramck Facebook pages, however, beyond the initial posting back in July, it has grown by word of mouth, and by friends inviting friends.

That being said, Facebook is not even close to representing the city, and so we hope to continue spreading awareness of our existence so those who want to find us can, including at this year’s Labor Day festival – and by this news article.

The Review: Do you have any plans for any group activities, or is it meant to be primarily an online forum and safe space?

Hansknecht: We will be marching in the Hamtramck Labor Day parade (Editor’s note: this interview was done prior to the parade), and our group does meet in person, typically twice a month on Thursday evenings; keep an eye on the Facebook page for full details of the meetings and events!

The Review: Do you have any links to any other Detroit area (or elsewhere) groups, or plans to link with, or to, any from your site?

Hansknecht: We will be marching this Labor Day with GM PLUS, which is a pride group amongst GM workers, and we are excited to keep bridging connections across communities in the Detroit area!

The Review: Feel free to add anything else.

Hansknecht: To my friends: remember that Pride cannot be stolen or taken down: it is us.

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September 16, 2022

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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

In this case, a tax abatement is justified

The city council can't seem to make a hard decision on a proposed tax abatement deal that, if approved, would lead to a major re-development.

The council either keeps putting off the issue, or can't even get a quorum to settle the matter. We won't get into the debacle of Tuesday's council meeting that is now null and void.

Maybe it's dawning on some of the councilmembers and mayor that, at times, they will have to make difficult decisions – decisions that some will like and others will strongly oppose.

That's the price of holding public office.

Back to the issue at hand: Tax abatements and Hamtramck have not always worked out for the best.

So, when the owner of the former Misant site recently proposed the abatement request, it opened up old wounds.

But, unlike other requests of this nature, this one is asking to have the current property taxes frozen for 10 years – as opposed to the usual request for a 50-percent reduction in property taxes for 10 or more years.

The site generates \$60,000 in property taxes, of which the city receives about \$19,000.

We're not talking about a great sum of money here.

What the city gets in exchange is a major redevelopment of the site, where there are environmental issues as well from when plastic auto parts were manufactured there.

Once the abatement period comes to an end, then the city can reappraise the site and they likely will adjust the tax value upwards.

If the city declines to grant the request, all we continue to get is the \$60,000 a year in property taxes.

The question is: do we trust the owner of the property to live up to the promise of development?

It seems to us that saying "no" and then continuing to receive relatively little money in taxes doesn't make sense.

We know this is an unpopular decision, but it's in the best interests of the city to grant the request and, thereby, welcome future development.

And while the city council continues to bungle getting to a vote on the matter, it would be wise if they and the mayor actually read the city charter to find out what constitutes an actual quorum to hold a council meeting to vote on this matter.

To the mayor and council: It's time to get serious about your roles or, if you can't stand the heat, let someone else take your place.

Covid: Hamtramck may be part of overall decline

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck's number of new COVID-19 cases continues to slowly edge down.

According to Wayne County health officials, the number of new cases for the past week here (as of Monday) is 21. That brings the total number of cases for the past two years, since when the pandemic started, to 5,487.

That number represents 18.4 percent of Hamtramck's population of about 29,000.

The number of deaths from the disease during that same period remains at 75 – although that total went up by one the week before, from 74 to 75.

Hamtramck's weekly report of covid cases had been trending anywhere from 30-50 for the past two weeks.

This decrease in new cases mirrors what is happening in much of the country, which has experienced fewer cases of this latest covid variant.

As we reported before, there are several states where the rate of new cases continues to trend higher than other states.

Michigan has reported over 2.7 million cases since the pandemic start-

The Hamtramck Review

Published every Friday
3020 Caniff, Hamtramck, MI 48212 Phone: 313-874-2100 Fax: 313-874-2101
www.hamtramckreview.com • email news@thehamtramckreview.com

Publisher: John Ulaj • (248) 866-1110 • julaj@thehamtramckreview.com
Editor: Charles Sercombe Office Manager: Jean Ingenthron
Sales Manager: Dave Sweet Copy Editor: Alan Madlane

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Odds & Ends

Condolences...

Former City Councilmember Ed Rojek recently died.

You can read his obituary elsewhere in this issue. He now joins his loving wife, Lorraine.

Eddie served on council in the 1990s, and, for you old-timers who were here then, those were some rocky political times in the city.

Throughout it all, Ed comported himself as a gentleman, and represented Hamtramck well.

He had a particularly special place in his heart for veterans and working people. He was the salt of the earth, as the saying goes.

One instance, that we think of every now and then, is when the powers-that-be at the time said the city couldn't afford to tear down a rat-infested house in the southend that was beyond being a nuisance – more like a menace.

Well, Ed was no one to take no for an answer, and he rose to the occasion. He either called in a favor or spent money out of his own pocket to get a contractor to bulldoze that house and remove the debris.

The powers-that-be didn't take kindly for that good deed and, well, were especially ticked off for having been made to look bad. Ed soldiered on with dignity.

People like Ed are sorely missed these days. Our condolence goes out to his family. Ed, we'll miss your smile and kind words.

Thanks...

The city recently posted a shout-out to GM Cares volunteers for cleaning up Veterans Park and the Veterans' Memorial.

Also pitching in were Hamtramck firefighters who cleared out a massive amount of weeds at the memorial.

The city owes all of them a big thank you.

Clean-up...

And, speaking of pitching in, there will be a "Hamtramck Fall Clean-Up" on Sept. 24, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Here's a post we found announcing the event on a Hamtramck Facebook page:

"It's been a great summer in community involvement! Volunteers all over the city agreed to pick up one bag of trash per week, and the difference was noticeable! Thanks, Trashies! ...

"Come to City Hall for supplies, and join whichever project you like!"

To join, you are encouraged to email or call Max Gilginas with any questions or, to preregister: mgilginas@hamtramckcity.com, or call (313) 800-5233, extension 326.

History night...

The Hamtramck Historical Museum's popular "Hungry for History" program is returning.

Here's what the museum has to say:

"Are you Hungry for History? Well, you won't be hungry much longer. The Hamtramck Historical Museum is resuming the popular program on Thursday, Oct. 20.

"The topic will be 'Nope!,' and will focus on some of the wildest and weirdest things that happen 'Only in Hamtramck.' You will be surprised and amused and shaking your head and wondering 'what were they thinking?'"

The program is \$20 with dinner. Program only with no dinner is \$5. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner is at 6 p.m. and the program is at 7 p.m. You can register by going to the museum's website: www.hamtramckhistory.org. Or call (313) 690-9390.

The museum is at 9525 Jos. Campau. Email hamtramckhistory@gmail.com.

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Notice of Public Hearing – City of Hamtramck

Planning Commission

NOTICE is hereby given that the city of Hamtramck Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing in the 2nd Floor Council Chambers of Hamtramck City Hall (3401 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212) on **Wednesday, October 5th, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.** Public comments will be limited to three minutes. Public comments may also be heard by submitting a written comment to Community and Economic Development Manager at kfaulkner@hamtramckcity.com.

The subject of the hearing is: A request for special land use for an addition of a parking lot at 2411 & 2417 Denton. Parcel # 41-001-0088-000 & 41-001-01-0089-000. Use is Commercial, Light per section 155.050, 155.185 and 155.187.

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.

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The subject of the hearing is: Consider the proposed rezonings of multiple parcels on the south side of Caniff St. between Nagel Ave and Joseph Campau. These parcels are currently zoned R (Residential District) and the City administration seeks rezoning to C2 (Multi-Use District).

Parcel addresses: 1944 Caniff ; 2000 Caniff ; 2016/2024 Caniff ; 2042 Caniff ; 2048 Caniff ; 2054 Caniff ; 2114 Caniff ; 2120 Caniff ; 2132 Caniff ; 2360 Caniff ; 2650 Caniff ; 2600 Caniff

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HAMTRAMCK PUBLIC SHOOOLS

PARTNERS 21-155

Advertisement for Bid

BID TITLE: WINDOW REPLACEMENTS – PHASE 1 – EARLY CHILDHOOD ELEMENTARY

Hamtramck Public Schools will receive single prime sealed bids to furnish all labor and materials and perform all work necessary and incidental for the **Window Replacements – Phase 1 – Early Childhood Elementary** project in accordance with published instructions, specifications, drawings and other contract documents.

Sealed bids must be received no later than, **Thursday, September 29, 2022 at 2:00pm.** Bids received after this date and time will **not** be accepted or considered. The following options are available for submitting Bids:

1. Bids may be submitted via any mail service or carrier or dropped off in person to **PARTNERS in Architecture, 65 Market Street, Mount Clemens, MI 48043**

2. Bids may be submitted electronically by email to Rich Wawrzynski at Rwawrzynski@hamtramckschools.org

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 issued in an Addendum prior to bid day.

An optional **Pre-Bid Meeting and Walkthrough** for all contractors interested in submitting a bid will be held at the Early Childhood Elementary located at 11680 McDougall Street., Hamtramck, MI 48212, on **Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 3:15pm.** Attendees should gather near the main entrance.

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 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. The Board of Education shall not accept a bid that does not include both forms.

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. Due to the funding for this project, Davis-Bacon requirements will apply to this project as defined in the specifications.

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. **Bid documents will be available on or about September 13th, 2022.** 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).

Other Voices:

Guest Editorial

HPS offers a helping hand to its students

By Sarah Peslar

Nearly 1 in every 5 children is near-sighted or has a vision-impairment requiring glasses to see at school.

While it goes without saying that clear vision is imperative to a student’s success in school, not every child has an opportunity to access resources like eye exams or glasses.

Many students who receive healthcare coverage through Medicaid also cannot access eye care due to low reimbursement rate or lack of locations that accept Medicaid.

Additionally, some plans only cover one pair of glasses every two to three years.

Hamtramck Public Schools is committed to engaging, elevating and empowering students, which includes providing them with the tools they need to be successful and improve school performance, like glasses. Because of this, Hamtramck SEES was born.

Hamtramck SEES, which began in 2017, has an annual operating budget of \$21,000. The program is funded in partnership with The Jewish Fund and the Children’s Foundation.

Students get their eye-wear from a local Pearle Vision franchise. The owner, Ali Thabet, provides the district with a generous discount and range of frames for students to choose from.

Located in Hamtramck and featuring many bilingual staff members, Pearle Vision is easily accessible and welcoming to all families.

One of the best parts about working with students is getting to see their lives change for the

better, whether that’s through the robust academic program at Hamtramck Public Schools or upon receiving new glasses.

“My student was so joyful upon receiving her glasses,” said Kristina Gerstacker, HPS teacher. “The new glasses have not only given her a confidence boost, but they’ve given her the opportunity to clearly see the world around her.”

“During my decades as an educator, I have known many students that have received free glasses,” said Christopher Wilinski, HPS teacher. “The effect is immediate. The students pay more attention and interact more during class discussions.”

Roughly 800 students have benefited from Hamtramck SEES since its inception in 2017. Many of these students never had eyeglasses before and receiving them is a lifechanging event. The school district is proud to support its students in every way it can.

“Each and every student who has received glasses has displayed a huge positive shift in attitude when it comes to learning,” said Samuel Bell, HPS teacher. “Instead of looking withdrawn and frustrated, these students are now happy to be involved with classmates and contribute to the classroom discussion.”

If your child needs help with their vision, learn more about the Hamtramck SEES program by contacting me at SPeslar@hamtramckschools.org.

(Sarah Peslar is a clinical social worker at Children’s Hospital of Michigan.)

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By Charles Sercombe
This week's Crime Log covers Sept. 6-12.
Tuesday, Sept. 6
• A report was made about a runaway from a residence in the 2400 block of Andrus.
• Officers attempted to pull over a vehicle, but the driver sped away and then crashed at Mount Elliot and Miller.
• Family trouble was reported in the 2300 block of Yemans.
• A vehicle was reported stolen.
• A complaint was made about a person who indecently exposed themselves.
• A complaint was made about a reckless driver on Carpenter near Jos. Campau.
• A resident reported losing their passport.
• A hit-and-run accident was reported on Caniff.
• A complaint was made about a loose dog on Caniff.
• A reckless driver was reported on Jos. Campau near Holbrook.
Wednesday, Sept. 7
• Gunshots were reported in the 2200 block of Poland.
• A suspicious incident was reported in the 2400 block of Carpenter.
• A domestic argument was reported on Andrus.
• A theft was reported on Dequindre.
Thursday, Sept. 8
• A complaint about

noise was made in the 2700 block of Yemans.
• A theft was reported at a Conant Ave. business.
• A hit-and-run accident was reported at Yemans and Jos. Campau.
• A resident of Roseville reported that property was stolen from their vehicle while it was parked at Yemans.
• A domestic assault was reported in the 12000 block of Grand Haven.
• Family trouble was reported in the 2200 block of Danforth. A woman was arrested at the scene for being wanted on felony warrants.
• A Bernard St. resident reported an illegal dumping.
• Reckless drivers were reported in the 9500 block of Gallagher.
• An assault was reported in the area of Dequindre and Yemans.
Friday, Sept. 9
• A report was made about a male in the 3400 block of Yemans who appeared lost.
• A Yemans business reported property damage.
• A Nagel St. resident complained about an unwanted guest.
• A man was arrested at a business in the 2900 block of Yemans for malicious destruction of property.
Continued on page 8

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Continued from page 7

- A domestic assault was reported in the area of Latham and Holbrook.

Saturday, Sept. 10

 - Following a traffic stop, the driver was arrested for driving on a suspended license.
- A complaint was made about a woman in the 2300 block of Caniff who refused to leave a vehicle.
 - A business in the 12100 block of Conant reported having trouble
- Customer trouble was reported at a business in the 9200 block of Jos. Campau.


Sunday, Sept. 11

 - A complaint about noise was made in the 11300 block of Moran.

- Following a traffic stop a person was arrested for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant, for driving with a suspended license, and for obstruction and being disorderly.
 - A suspicious situation was reported in the 2600 block of Zinow.
 - A problem with neighbors was reported in the 2300 block of Carpenter.
 - A business in the 9600 block of Jos. Campau reported having a dispute with a customer.
 - Family trouble was reported in the 12000 block of Grand Haven.
 - What was described as either a fight or an assault was reported in the 5000 block of Yemans.
 - An assault was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
 - A business in the 2300 block of Carpenter reported having trouble with a customer.
- Monday, Sept. 12**
- Officers responding to a domestic assault in the 12000 block of Dyar determined that no assault took place. Officers said it was only a verbal argument.
 - Property damage was reported in the 8900 block of Jos. Campau.
 - A theft was reported on Florian.
 - A complaint was made about a group of disorderly juveniles who were playing in the street.
 - Following a traffic stop, a suspect was arrested for possessing narcotics.

Obituaries

ALSOMAIRI




Jennifer Alsomairi (nee Nowicki), 42, died September 8, 2022.

Dearest mother of Ali (Alysia), Hannah Kelly, Sameera Alise, Alyssa DeLoof. Loving grandmother of 7 grandchildren. Dear sister of Andria Byers and Kenneth Nowicki Jr. Jenni is also survived by her nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and many friends that loved her dearly. She is preceded in death by her parents, Kenneth and Michelle.

Jenni had a beautiful soul. She was a great person that did anything for anyone and never expected anything in return. She was a listening ear, a shoulder to cry on and had the biggest heart and she will truly be missed.

Visitation is Friday, September 16, 2022, from 3 till 9 p.m. The funeral service is Saturday, September 17, 2022, 11 a.m., Chapel is open at 10 a.m. at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, Hamtramck MI. Entombment will be at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Detroit MI.

ROJEK



Edward Rojek, 91, died September 10, 2022.

Edward was the husband of the late Lorraine and father of Daniel, Carole, and Douglas. Grandfather of Jason, Cheryl (Thomas) Dapkus and great grandfather of Candace, Amber, Amy, and Andrew. Ed is also survived by his brother-in-law Ted (Connie) Lojek.

Edward was the past Commander of the Hamtramck Allied Veterans Council, and a member of PLAV Post #1 in Hamtramck, Amvets in Hamtramck, The American Legion Post #255 in Crosswell, and was a former Hamtramck Councilman.

Visitation was Tuesday, September 13, 2022. The Funeral Mass was Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, 11200 Conant, Hamtramck MI 48212. Entombment at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Detroit MI. Arrangements were entrusted to Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home.



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