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— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Time to take a break and look back: Year in Review – Part One

By Charles Sercombe

Here it is, the end of 2022.

It was a year in which we were still going through the covid pandemic, although that seems to be at, or nearing, its end phase (or is it?).

As usual, it was a whirlwind, action-packed year – just like every other year in this little city.

So, find a comfortable seat, grab a warm drink, and get ready to take a trip back through the first six months of the year 2022 in our “Part One of the Year in Review.”

JANUARY

The new year started with a new political era in Hamtramck.

And that new era was ushered in with some showbiz pizzazz.

About 200 people came to the Hamtramck High School Community Center to witness the inauguration of newly-elected Mayor Amer Ghalib and newly-elected City Councilmembers Adam Albarmaki, Amanda Jaczkowski and Khalil Refai.

But, before they were sworn into office, the audience was treated to musical performances by Anamika Roy, a radio and recording artist from Bangladesh, and Maria Saad, a 14-year-old 9th grade student in Dearborn.

Saad belted out the national anthem with a voice beyond her years.

The new crop of elected officials was of historical importance. The city council and mayor were now all Muslim – a first for Hamtramck – and the entire nation.

Ghalib also became the first Yemeni-American mayor of Hamtramck.

His election put an end to Polish-Americans holding that position for the

past 100 years – since back when Hamtramck first became a city.

Outgoing Mayor Karen Majewski lost her re-election bid in a landslide defeat. Majewski had been mayor for 16 years, and a member of city council for two years before that.

Ghalib, who had never held elective office, came



The inauguration of Mayor Amer Ghalib and an all-Muslim city council ushered in a new political era in Hamtramck.

to this country when he was 18. He graduated from Hamtramck High School 21 years ago. He is a licensed nurse in Michigan, and is working to become a medical doctor.

When he stepped up to the lectern to speak, he was greeted with a rock star's standing ovation, and whistles from the largely Yemeni-American audience.

He reminisced about advice he had received from a school counselor, while in his graduate year at the high school, who had convinced him to go into the medical field.

Ghalib said he actually had wanted to pursue a life in politics. As such, he said that running for mayor was a return to his “first love.”

Ghalib also said that his victory represented “An opportunity that was once a dream becoming reality ... This is a victory for all.”

He said his adminis-

tration would be a “new chapter,” and that it wouldn't be one of “division, favoritism and exclusivity.”

He also promised to “not make decisions behind closed doors.”

The inauguration of Ghalib became one option for out “Newsmaker of the Year” choice.

He had plenty of competition for that distinction, however.

Among the other top stories of the year were: the covid pandemic, and an amazing new Census count for the city that said our population had



The city's marijuana dispensaries proved to be a financial windfall for the city from taxes and fees.

jumped up by 28 percent.

Also, much talked about was the influx of recreational marijuana dispensaries. The city is now capped at four outlets.

Covid still had its grip on the city, forcing Hamtramck Public District students to wait for a few more weeks before coming back from their holiday break.

The school year began in a cloud of mystery in the Hamtramck Public School District.

Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed did not return to her job, after taking a medical leave for several weeks, and Interim Superintendent Nabil Nagi therefore continued in that role.

Both Nagi and the school board were tightlipped about Ahmed's future with the district.

Ahmed, the district's first Yemeni-American to be appointed to that position almost two years ago, had come under heavy criticism from both teachers and administrators over her management style.

A wave of experienced teachers and staff had resigned during her tenure, which then created a critical shortage of staff members.

Since that time, Ahmed has filed a lawsuit against the district, but has still not returned to her job. The board later extended Ahmed's leave of absence, and so Nagi remains on as interim



HPS Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed did not return to her job as expected in January after taking a medical leave, and eventually she was placed on indefinite leave. She remains on leave.

superintendent.

Later in the year, the board announced that Ahmed was under investigation, but no details were ever provided about the nature of that investigation.

The matter is still pending.

FEBRUARY

“Dignity” was the word of the day for Hamtramck Public School District teachers, who held a rally outside the district's administration building to kick off new contract negotiations that took place afterward.

While no one said that this year's negotiations were going to be hostile, there had been plenty of complaints heard about the administration over the past two years.

Interim Superintendent Nagi told The Review that he looked forward to working with the teachers, and settling on a contract that is fair.

“We will be working with our partners to find common ground that gets all stakeholders to a better place,” Nagi said. “Our table is not going to leave anyone behind. We have amazing partners, and look forward to cooperation, collaboration, and commitment throughout our conversations.”

Hamtramck was about to get a financial windfall from its marijuana dispensaries.

Cities that allow dispensaries to operate within their city limits get tax monies from the state each year, based on how much the state took in in taxes and fees from the dispensaries operating in each city.

The issue of dispensaries has been – and still is – a hot-button one here, and some city officials have wrestled back and forth, pro and con, with the very concept of allowing them to operate.

This year's estimated revenue is at least \$100,000 from the city's four dispensaries.

That money came at a time of need for the city.

The title for the year's budget review painted a fairly grim financial picture of the city.

It was called:

“A Tale of One City: The Worst of Times, and the Worst of Times.”

The overview basically laid out a pattern of declining revenue streams, dating back to 2003.

For instance, income tax collection had gone down – despite the city experiencing a surge in population, from about 22,000 to over 28,000, in the last 10 years.

Continued on page 2



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Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord
9:00 am Holy Mass
12-Midnight Shepherd Mass (Pasterka)
Christmas Day Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord
9:00 am Holy Mass

Monday, Dec. 26th
Feast of St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr (Msza Św. w j. polskim)
10:00 am Holy Mass

Tuesday, Dec. 27th
Solemnity of Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist
7:00 pm Holy Mass (Blessing of Wine)
Observance of Holy Innocents, Martyrs
7:00 pm Holy Mass

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Time to take a break and look back: Year in Review – Part One

Cont. from front page

The report said that, in 2003, the city collected over \$2.7 million, while in the year 2020, it was a little over \$2.6 million.

While the city's budget has remained at about \$16 million since 2003,

place of the Polish Parade.

Paczki Day was back in full swing this year.

Hamtramck's very own holiday returned, in conjunction with the covid

hit home.

She wrote:

“My family in Kyiv huddles in their apartment, and we can hear a loud boom in the distance as we talk to them in a video call. Their faces are ashen, and they have aged in the space of a few days.

“My 79-year-old mother-in-law tells us that she never imagined living through something like this. When we end the call, she speaks as though it may be for the last time. Another friend and her family flee the capital and sit in their car for hours, trying to get to safety. ...

“Ukrainians are resilient and courageous. They will continue to fight. It is heartbreaking to see the horrors currently being inflicted on Ukraine while battling Putin's invaders on their own.”



The organizers of the Polish Day Parade pulled the plug on their event during the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival. They now hold the parade in Warren.

state revenue sharing shrunk from \$4.5 million to \$3.2 million.

It was the same story with property tax collection, which is the where the city gets the bulk of its money to operate. In 2003, the city collected \$7.1 million, but by 2020, that figure was down to \$6.8 million.

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 sometime in the next few years.

pandemic having receded.

Also coming back was: the paczki eating contest.



Paczki Day came back with a roar after two years of covid.

A decades-long tradition came to an end.

The Polish Day Parade Committee announced that, going forward, the parade will be held in the City of Warren.

The parade has been tied, traditionally, to the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival.

Festival organizers said that they will organize a city parade to take the

MARCH

The ongoing Russian war on Ukraine had many connections to the metro area's Ukrainian community.

Former Hamtramckan Ksenia Rychtycka, who is an award-winning poetry author, wrote an article about how that war had

Sometimes, the bad guys wear blue.

A former Hamtramck police officer faced bribery charges in federal court over his dealings with a tow company.

Mike Stout, 60, was charged in federal district court with receiving over \$9,000 in bribes, which

Continued on page 3

December 23, 2022

This week at the Library . . .

Adoptive Yoga and Thai Chi: The group exercise sessions at the library are finished for this year, but they will start up again in the second half of January 2023. Check the library column for exercise schedule for the coming year.

Book Suggestion: Romance? Check, Drama? Check, Happy ending? You will have to read it to find out for yourself. Grab a copy of Oliver Higgins Prouty's novel. “Now, Voyager”, enjoy the emotional crescendos that run throughout and join us on Friday, February 24th at 11:30 am for our Read Up and Meet Up book chat. Sure, that is months away, however, it is a great title for some late night winter reading.

MiLibrary Quest: For parents and teachers of restless teens, we want to let you know that the MiLibraryQuest will be returning this winter with a new theme, a new interactive puzzle to solve, and (of course) some new prizes to win. Sponsored by the Library of Michigan.

Big Library Read: Looking for a tory with a bit more action? Give the writings of Elmore Leonard a shot. Although not a Michigan native himself, his family relocated to the Detroit area during his youth and it would be a shame for locals with a taste of crime, thriller, and western fiction to not be familiar with this prolific writer. A number of his stories have been adapted to the big screen or been developed into a series. From “3:10 to Yuma”, and “Justified to Out of

Sight” and “Get Shorty”. Nothing says the holidays like a book with bit of grit.

Story Time: Where can you find live, in-person, story time entertainment for your kids? The library, of course! Beginning on January 9th at 4 pm on Mondays, we will be offering up a selection of silly tales that will make your little one's day.

Game Night: What is better than sitting alone, being bored? Joining us for Game Night at the library, of course. We are serving up something fun each Friday starting January 6th at 4 pm. Stop by and let us know that you have come to play.

Jerry Pinkney: Perhaps you are looking for books suitable for younger readers? Seeing as we have come up-on his birthday (December 22nd) why not check out the works of this author and illustrator. His detailed watercolors have not only graced the USPS Black Heritage Stamp Series and they adorn the covers and pages of a few items in our collection. Pick one up for your children to enjoy this winter break.

ESL Classes in the Library: There be no ESL classes from December 26th to January 5th. They will start up again on January 9th for the rest of the 2022-23 school year. The ESL classes organized by Horizon School and are held in the library four days a week (Monday to Thursday). There are two sessions with the first starting at 9 am and the second at 11:30 am

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Second Front Page

Time to take a break and look back: Year in Review – Part One

Continued from page 2

included cash and a car. Stout, of St Clair Shores, faced up to 10 years in prison and up to \$250,000 in fines if convicted. He was released on a \$10,000 unsecured bond. This wasn't the first

The Michigan Department of Treasury issued a report on how much money was distributed to the 38 communities and counties that host marijuana dispensaries. According to the press release:



City Attorney James Allen was dismissed for a lawsuit filed against him. Later in the year, he resigned as city attorney and went into private practice.

time Stout has come under scrutiny. He and other law enforcement officers were named in prior lawsuits for their handling of past investigations that ended up costing Hamtramck over \$1 million in damages, some of which was covered by insurance. Stout was part of a controversial joint task force with Highland Park to investigate auto thefts. That unit has been dissolved. Stout left the department in 2019, and was stripped of his police powers and also decertified as a police officer.

The recreational marijuana business turned out to be a major money-maker in the state. And Hamtramck was in line to receive a minor windfall in taxes and fees from the city's three operating dispensaries. That will be to the tune of \$28,000 per outlet – or, in other words, \$84,000. At this time, there were three marijuana outlets in the city with a fourth on the way. In total, all four will bring in a total of at least \$112,000.

For the state of Michigan's 2020 fiscal year, more than \$31 million was collected from the 10% adult-use marijuana excise tax. Combined with fees, there was a total of \$45.7 million available for distribution from the fund.

Michigan schools also got a piece of the pie – or make that a piece of a gummy. "Aside from the nearly \$10 million in disbursements to municipalities and counties, around \$11.6 million will be sent to the School Aid Fund



The Cosmos boy basketball team had their championship dreams nipped. Could 2023 be their year?

for K-12 education, and another \$11.6 million to the Michigan Transportation Fund, upon appropri-

ation," the press release said.

"In total, more than \$341 million in adult-use marijuana sales was reported for fiscal year 2020."

A federal lawsuit filed against Hamtramck City Attorney James Allen and the City of Hamtramck was thrown out.

The lawsuit was filed by Charles Blackwell, a self-described "activist" and government watchdog.

Blackwell, who was paralyzed from the waist down in a drive-by shooting, had been filing various Freedom of Information Act requests with the City of Inkster, which Allen's law firm also represents, and in Hamtramck.

Some of the FOIA's had been denied and others were complied with.

The lawsuit claimed that Allen violated the Americans with Disabilities Act, and that he attempted to suppress Blackwell's First Amendment right.

Bad blood eventually developed between Allen and Blackwell, and that led to Allen sending Blackwell a series of what the court described as "vulgar" messages.

Blackwell alleged that those demeaning emails curtailed his First Amend-



The Cosmos boy basketball team had their championship dreams nipped. Could 2023 be their year?

ment right. But none of that was a factor in federal district

court Judge Mark Goldsmith's dismissal of the lawsuit.

The judge noted that the federal laws that Blackwell cited did not apply.

Blackwell's lawsuit attracted media attention, mostly because of the comments Allen made.

Allen later apologized for his language.

For the first time since the mid-1980s, the Hamtramck Cosmos boys basketball team won a District Championship.

The team was on its way to taking it all in state competition. They got close.

The Cosmos magical season ended with a loss to number-one ranked Orchard Lake St. Mary's, 83-72, in a regional final played at Detroit Renaissance.

While the season was brought to an abrupt end, it was certainly a successful one. The team won its 2nd league championship in a row, won its first district title in 37 years, and finished with 20 wins overall, leading to a Top-10 ranking in the

Continued on page 5



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Dec. 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE
Holy Mass 9 am
Shepherd's Mass (Pasterka) 12 Midnight
Dec. 26 – Feast of St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr
(Msza Św. w j. Polskim) 10 am
Dec. 27 - Solemnity of Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist – Blessing of Wine 7 pm
Holy Mass for those on our Prayer List
Dec. 28 - Observance of Holy Innocents, Martyrs 7 pm
Dec. 31 – Solemnity of the Holy Family 10 am

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Solemn Midnight Mass12:00 am (Polish & English)

(Preceded by the singing of Christmas Carols (koledy) at 11:30pm)

Sunday, December 25Christmas Day

Mass in Polish & English 9:30am

Sunday, January 1, 2023New Year's Day

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.....8:00am (English)

.....9:30am (Polish)

Sunday, January 8, 2023 Epiphany of the Lord

Mass 8:00am (English) and 9:30am (Polish)

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from Everyone at The Review



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What's on this coming week?

Historical Museum,
Board of Education meetings,
New Kamal Rahman Show "In My Opinion",
Daily ESL classes at 4 pm, Local events,
Library programs, Interviews, Council meeting highlights, Event announcements, Evenings with authors, Citizen's Comments,
Children's programs, Motivate Me 313 programs, Foreign Language Programs,
and more.....

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Time to take a break and look back: Year in Review – Part One

Continued from page 3

state of Michigan.

The Covid pandemic and quarantine had one unexpected effect.

Both the number of crimes and the number of fires in the city were reduced this past year, which may have coincided with many people staying home to quarantine themselves from the pandemic.

During the past two years of the pandemic, there were over 4,600 cases reported here and, so far, 73 deaths.

Did Covid really effect crime and fire incidents? It could be speculative at this point, but Police Chief Anne Moise thinks it had some influence.

"I believe we saw some fluctuations in the numbers as a result of Covid," Moise said.

APRIL

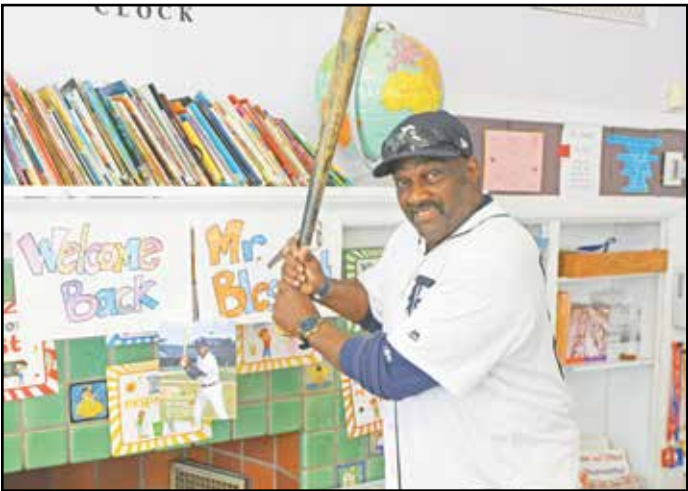
Hamtramck's own Ike Blessitt, a former Detroit Tiger, needed a helping hand.

Ike had hit hard times, and needed financial help to cover a number of medical bills and other things.

A Go Fund Me account was set up for the 72-year-old diabetic who also has a prosthetic leg, and had endured a triple bypass followed by a stroke.

The goal was to raise at least \$50,000.

Mayor Ameer Ghalib began living up to a campaign promise to make the city's various boards and commissions more



Former Detroit Tiger Ike Blessitt, who grew up in Hamtramck, had some serious financial and health setbacks. A number of people helped him out in an online fundraiser.

ethnically and racially diverse.

He notified three Hamtramck Public Housing Commissioners, Tom Stackpoole, Richard Hyska and Isaac Reeves, that they are being replaced.

Stackpoole and Hyska are white, and Reeves is an African-American.

Ghalib also noted in his campaign that he would be replacing various board and commission members who have spotty attendance records, which Reeves apparently had.

The new appointees were: Kamal Rahman, Motahar Fadhel and Frances Ann-Tyler Sims.

Ghalib said that some people had questioned

his authority to make the changes without cause, but in his weekly address to the community, on Facebook, he cited the

can-American to serve on the school board.

Retired HPS Superintendent Tom Niczay praised Myrick's legacy.

"Yvonne Myrick was a smart, strong, generous, God-fearing woman. A lady who fought injustice on the local level with conviction.," Niczay said.

The city lost one of its iconic bakeries, New Martha Washington on Jos. Campau near Caniff.

The family-run business stretched back for decades, and across generations.

Sunca Bakic, known to most as Sandy, put the blame right where you might expect it: age.

Her father Petar, 87, and mother Ivanka, 84, were still the owners – and still worked there too, on occasion. They would have owned the place by themselves for 50 years, come fall.



Paczki Day marked the end of New Martha Washington bakery. The owners decided it was time to retire. The store has since been turned into a taco diner.

the city council.

Housing Commission Executive Director Kevin Kondrat said he accepts the mayor's decision.

"We've worked with new commissioners before, and we will work to be our best," he said.

The sound of music will be heard once again this summer. That was the announcement from the organizers of the Hamtramck Music Fest. Covid had forced the

Sandy had these parting words:

"Farewell, and thanks for years of support. We will cherish the memories, and miss you all to heck."

Hamtramck joined Dearborn in seeking to have all future election ballots be printed in Arabic, as well as in their standard English.

But there was a bit of a roadblock. Dearborn's plan to have



Hamtramck lost one of its African-American pioneers, Yvonne Myrick.

cancellation of the March festival, but it was now scheduled to return in August.

Hamtramck lost a pioneer for women and minorities.

Yvonne Myrick, the founder of The Concerned Women of

Hamtramck, former Hamtramck Water Department Director and President of the Hamtramck Public School Board, died April 9. Myrick was the first Afri-

ballots translated into Arabic faced hurdles from Wayne County Clerk Cathy M. Garrett, who questioned whether the ballots would be read accurately by voting machines, and who cited the need for a "procedure and process" to be followed.

Just what specific "procedure and process" Garrett was looking for was not explained.

Garrett also said that the county election commission must approve the

Continued on page 5



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9th – 12th Grades

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3225 Caniff
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9th - 12th Grades



Time to take a break and look back: Year in Review – Part One

Cont. from page 4

ballot translation plan.

The federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 does not list Arabic as one of a handful of recognized languages spoken by minorities.

The matter was eventually cleared up, and Arabic language ballots were indeed made available.

A top administrator in the Hamtramck Public School District, who had been put on administrative leave, found out that she would not be returning to her job.

The Hamtramck School Board voted not to renew the contract for former Human Resources Director Michelle Imbrunone.

Both Imbrunone and Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed have been on leave since October.

Ahmed took a family medical leave, citing the stress caused by dealing with covid. Ahmed had planned to come back in January, but the board placed her on indefinite leave, pending an investigation.

In the March board meeting, Imbrunone’s position was eliminated, and a new position was created, called Executive Director of Human Resources, which was combined with another new position, called Director of District Support Services.

She has since filed a lawsuit against the district.

City officials hoped that new adjustments to the rules governing the city’s

controversial parking meters would win over critics.

But that proved to be a tough wish.

The backlash against



After years of complaining by drivers, the powers that be started the reconstruction of Hamtramck Dr. which had long been pockmarked by potholes.

the meters had been growing. The complaints included: confusion over which parking space to punch in at the pay stations; paying, but still getting a ticket; the download app not working; and general confusion on just how to use the hi-tech digital meters.

The meters are located



The city’s new parking meter system got a huge thumbs down from the community.

in the Jos. Campau Ave. business district and city-owned parking lots servicing that district.

A number of Jos. Campau business owners

complained about losing customers because of the meters.

Hussain Murray, the owner of a pawn shop on Jos. Campau, said he has lost many customers because of the meters.

“Jos. Campau is empty now,” Murray said.

His business has since closed down.

To this day, complaints about the meters continue.

MAY

After years of complaining – even almost immediately after the road was paved years ago – Hamtramck Dr. was being torn up and repaved, from Conant to Jos. Campau.

The road had long been plagued by potholes from heavy trucks serving the various industrial businesses on this outpost of

the city.

Getting that road repaved was no easy task, as different sections of it are owned separately by Wayne County, Detroit and Hamtramck.

How that arrangement came about was not immediately known, but, as anyone who understands about getting different government agencies to coordinate projects can tell you, well, the less said, the better.

Detroit is planning to continue repaving the road from Jos. Campau all the way around to the other side of the GM plant.

The road is part of the ongoing Joe Louis Greenway project, which aims to create a bike/walking path from Hamtramck to Dearborn and Detroit.

The return of spring and warm temperatures also heralded a spike in the number of local crimes – most of them of the misdemeanor variety.

We’re talking about upticks in reports of disorderly people, porch pirates stealing packages, unwanted house guests, reckless drivers, people fighting, thefts from yards, break-ins, stolen cars, runaways, noisy house pets (such as dogs barking), noisy people (parties, people arguing), scam utility sales people, fraud cases, hit-and-runs, people causing property damage, suspicious people; heck, even suspicious cars... and the list went on.

So, what is it about the relationship between heat and crime?

Look no further than a 2017 study by researchers from Drexel University, a private research university out of Philadelphia, which scientifically confirmed that crime increases from May through September.

Those are the warmer months for most of the country, and the study also found that the hotter and more humid it gets, the more crime increases. This is especially true for domestic assault and other violent crimes.

So, what to do?

Well, drink plenty of cold beverages, but lay off the

booze. Can’t afford an AC unit? Buy some fans – any little breeze can do wonders (and cool off tempers).

In general, if you feel anger coming on, take some deep breaths and walk away from trouble. Try a cool bath or shower.

Also, keep on the lookout for suspicious behavior, and don’t hold back reporting something to the police department – no matter how trivial it may seem.

The growing number of registered voters during the past few years resulted in a need to move 600 voters who had been in precinct 4 over to precinct 5 – which meant that they had a new building at which to go vote: the Senior Plaza on Holbrook.

City Clerk Rana Faraj announced the change at a council meeting, and the council OK’d that move.

The city really didn’t have a choice. According to state election law, no single precinct can exceed 2,999 registered voters.



Hamtramck’s population grew so much that a number of voters had to be shifted to another voting precinct.

Faraj said it is likely the city will soon have to create a new precinct to handle the growing overflow.

Hamtramck has over 13,000 registered voters – up from about 11,000 in recent years. At best, though, there has been a 60-percent turnout.

The usual voter turnout is about 30 percent.

A citywide “Centennial” cleanup didn’t have a large turnout, but it certainly made a start in tackling the endless amount of litter in Hamtramck.

About 30 volunteers turned out on a sunny

and warm Saturday morning (including several firefighters) to begin the work.

It was promoted as a centennial cleanup because Hamtramck was observing a special anniversary in 2022, celebrating being incorporated as a city 100 years ago.

No doubt, litter was not an issue 100 years ago. In fact, Hamtramck long enjoyed a reputation of being exceptionally clean for an urban area.

In the mid-1950s, one of the leading national magazines dubbed Hamtramck as the cleanest city in America.

Unfortunately, the city has a long way to go before reclaiming that distinction. As Hamtramck became more of a transient community, folks apparently started caring less about how it looked.

On Saturday, volunteers were given specific locations on which to zero-in but, really, there was no shortage of trash to be found in the city.

From what we saw, the most common item was

discarded face masks.

After a two-year hiatus from shutting off water service to households that fell far behind on their service bills, the city geared up for shutoffs.

Households had enjoyed a two-year reprieve on shut-offs, due to the covid pandemic.

The city reminded residents that there were – and still are – ways to avoid those shut-offs.

The Wayne Metro agency offers two programs, the Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP) and Low-Income House-

Continued on page 6

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Time to take a break and look back: Year in Review – Part One

Cont. from page 5

hold Water Program (LI-WHAP), that may be able to help. Learn more at www.waynometro.org/programs.

Hamtramck’s crack-down on speeding and reckless drivers stepped up a notch. The city and public school district partnered on installing speed humps throughout the city, after a trial run in two locations proved successful.

The plan called for installing permanent asphalt speed humps at 18 locations. Each location would have three speed humps. The cost of the project was \$32,266, and the

contract was awarded to Century Cement Co., Inc., of Riverview, Michigan. The humps are made of

trict pitched in 50 percent of the cost. In a note to the city council, the city administration said that it



The city cracked down on speeders around the public school buildings by installing speed humps.

asphalt. The public school district is reaching out to charter schools to also participate

in installing speed humps near their buildings. The locations of the installed speed humps included:

- Pulaski Park (which is owned by the school district)
- Holbrook Elementary School
- Dickinson East elementary School
- Kosciuszko Middle School
- Early Elementary School

JUNE

The roar of canon fire could be heard throughout Hamtramck on Memorial Day. A special Memorial Day celebration was held in Veterans Park, but this was no ordinary Memorial Day event. This was a re-dedication ceremony for the gravesite of Col. Francis Hamtramck. Guests from the Michigan Society of Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution Michigan, the Michigan Society of Children of the American Revolution, Sons of the Revolution and the California Society Sons of the American Revolution were just some of the people that turned out for the dedication. The hour-long event drew about 100 people to the park on a sunny and blazing-hot afternoon. Adding color to the backdrop of the event

were men dressed in Revolutionary War-era military clothing. A brass marker was installed in front of the grave. The marker is a replica of the original one that disappeared a number of years ago. Hamtramck was a French-Canadian, who fought with valor during the war.

Hamtramck Public School District Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed was fighting back. Ahmed, who has been placed on leave, filed a lawsuit in federal court accusing five board members and the teachers’ union of conspiring to get her fired. She also accusing them of discrimination and def-



The sound of a canon could be heard throughout town in a rededication ceremony for the Col. Francis Hamtramck memorial. The ceremony coincided with the city’s centennial celebration in 2022.

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Obituaries

ZULKA



Marie Zulka, 86, died December 18, 2022.

Marie was born on August 2, 1936, in Minden City, Michigan to the late Peter and Lucy (Mairzek) Stomack. She married the love of her life, Herbert Zulka on June 23, 1956. They never spent a single day without seeing each other for a marriage that lasted 55 years until his passing. Marie was a graduate of Ubly High School. After marriage, she lived most of her life in Hamtramck, Michigan where she worked several years as a secretary at Dodge Main and then

as a homemaker. Marie loved spending her time gardening, reading, and doing word search puzzles.

Marie is survived by her son, Kevin Zulka of Warren, two sisters, Theresa Bailey of St. Charles and Lucille "Lucy" Daykin of Midland, several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Herbert Zulka, two brothers, Clarence Stomack Sr. and Peter D. Stomack, two sisters, Alice Stomack and Joanne Grates.

A private cremation and private services were held per her request. Arrangements by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home.

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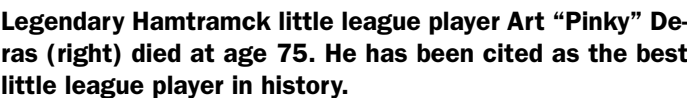
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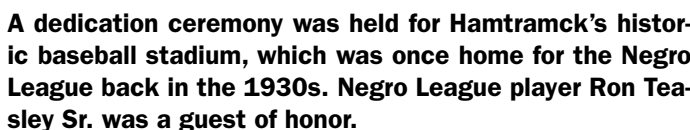
Cont. from page 6

There's more ahead in next week's Part Two, which will cover July through December.



“At 12 years old, he was bigger, taller and stronger

Teasley was there with his family, and sat front-row center by the lectern



Once the stadium's historical significance was discovered, the city was able to attract various government and private grants. Over \$2 million has been spend on rebuilding the stadium and grandstands, as well as

"It's unfortunate to see her leave," Ghalib said. "We worked well with her over the past five months or so, but I guess she found a better opportu-







WRAP funding is made possible by the Great Lakes Water Authority.

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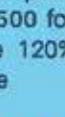
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