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Quick Hits

Get ready to spring forward

By Charles Sercombe

It's that time of the year again.

Daylight Saving Time.

That's that thing we all can't agree on. You have the heck yes side, and the H-E-Double Hockey Sticks side.

No matter, it still happens, and it's this Sunday at 2 a.m. when clocks will be set forward - "spring forward" as they say - an

So, yes, we "lose" an hour of sleep that day and for many of us, that drag lasts a week.

There is growing talk about abolishing Daylight Saving Time, and also talk of keeping our clocks permanently set at DST.

The U.S. Senate in 2021 passed the Sunshine Protection Act, which would keep it DST year-round. The bill is now awaiting approval by the U.S. House.

Some states are moving ahead of congress and making the change on their own. Michigan currently has no law to permanently change to

The next time the clocks are reset to go back an hour is Nov. 5, at 2 a.m.

Until then, enjoy the extra hour of sunlight - of course once they gray-old winter passes and allows the return of the sun.

There's some interesting history about DLS. According to AARP, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization that focus-Continued on page 2



City collects big bucks from marijuana retail shops

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck's marijuana dispensaries continue to be a money pot for the

According to the Michigan Department of Treasury, the four recreational retail shops contributed \$207,364 to the city's coffers from taxes and fees in 2022.

In all, over \$59 million was distributed by the state to 224 cities and counties. That breaks down to \$51,800 that each retail outlet paid, according to the state.

On top of that, \$69.4 million was sent to the School Aid Fund for K-12 education and another \$69.4 million to the Michigan Transportation Fund.

More than \$1.8 billion in marijuana sales was reported last year, although there was no revenue breakdown for Hamtramck's dispensaries individually.

fees Hamtramck collects are impressive, other nearby cities received even more, in some cas-



The city's four marijuana dispensaries continue to be a cash cow. The four outlets paid over \$200,000 last year in taxes and fees, according to the state.

es considerably so:

Hazel Park issued eight licenses and collected over \$414,000.

Ferndale has five licenses, and it earned over \$259,000.

Ann Arbor has 27 licenses, and it earned over \$1.4 million.

Bay City has 13 licens-While the taxes and es, and it earned over \$674,000.

Hamtramck's revenue is not earmarked for anything specific, but rather is put into the general budget.

Despite the revenue produced by the dispensaries, there are some in town who would like to close them down, or not allow the licenses to be transferred to new owners if any plan to sell their

pensaries lead to more crime, although daily police incident reports do not bear this out.

While the marijuana revenue stream looks impressive, the parking meters are doing even better.

According to City Manager Max Garbarino, the city's share of meter revenue from August 2021 to December 2022 was over \$488,000. That sum rep-They claim the dis-resents both money from the meters and tickets issued for meter violations.

The parking meter com-

Continued on page 2

HPS health program offered to all students, especially immigrants

By Alan Madlane

Sarah Peslar is a clinician with the Hamtramck School-Based Health Center, a DMC program that helps students in a number of health-related areas, particularly those students that are part of newly immigrated families.

We came to her with some questions about the program, and she made time to answer them for

The Review: First, let's

talk about the program that you are involved with. Tell us a bit about the 20-plus-year history of the **Hamtramck School-Based Health Center (HSBHC)** and its relationship with **DMC Children's Hospital** of Michigan, please?

Sarah Peslar: HSBHC started in 2000. At that time, the school district was awarded a grant from the Michigan Department of Education to address the needs of the large ref-

Continued on page 2

Local real estate still a hot market

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck property still attracts top dollar.

In a recent auction of eight city properties, which included lots and houses, the city netted \$442,601.

Two of the winning bids went to local elected officials: a Hamtramck councilmember and state representative.

Councilmember hammed Alsomiri purchased two industrial lots for \$81,000 combined, which are next to the Hamtramck Recycling facility; one at 2930 Denton and one at 7901 Jos. Campau. That business submitted the lowest bid for the lots, at \$62,699.

State Rep. Abraham Aiyash purchased two-family house at 5008 Yemans for \$65,601.The house will require extensive repairs.

Alsomiri had some stipulations tied to his purchase. The city is requiring that he do the following:

- · Remove contaminated soils on the site.
- Update the screening and fencing around the parcel.
- · Cooperate with the city to revitalize the corner of Jos. Campau, as it is the entrance to the city and adjacent to the new Joe Louis Greenway.

The cost to remediate the lots could run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Alsomiri is also the owner of Hamtramck's largest retail building - the former Shopper's World - located in the heart of the city's Jos. Campau business district.

He has been making ongoing renovations to that building for several years. So far, no business is operating there.

Here's the list of properties and their sale prices, as well as the winning Continued on page 4



Sarah Peslar is part of the public school district's health center. Photo provided by Sarah Peslar

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City collects big bucks from marijuana retail shops

Continued from front page

pany received a similar amount in a deal with the city that splits revenue 50-50.

There are some expenses the city has to pay out of its share.

Garbarino said that he expects revenue to

Quick Hits

es on the needs of Amer-

icans 50 and older, here

are some facts about the

Time, not Daylight Savings

It's Daylight Saving

practice:

Time

Cont. from front page

increase in the coming years.

"We're not losing from the system, but we're not doing as good as we thought," he said.

There has been criticism over the meters. A number of business own-

· It wasn't invented by

It wasn't implemented

Germany was the first

It's not a worldwide (or

even nationwide) phenom-

country to implement day-

Ben Franklin

for farmers, either

light saving time

ers say the meters have led to a loss of customers. Also, people have complained about getting tickets even though they paid for parking.

If some critics had it their way, the meters would be removed. However, the city has a contract with the company that installed the meters.

Breaking that contract, Garbarino said, "would be devastating" financially to the city.

He said that if the meters are removed, the city would be obligated to pay the company lost revenue for the remainder of its contract.

HPS health program offered to all students, especially immigrants

Continued from front page

ugee population, which, in those days, was primarily people coming in from Bosnia and Kosovo.

Hamtramck Public Schools decided that the students' health needs were the greatest concern, and so a school board member at that time (and veteran nurse at Children's Hospital of Michigan), Mary Renkiewicz, championed the cause.

The Review: Talk about the specific relationship between the program and Hamtramck Public Schools at the different levels. What are some of the more common services that you provide?

Peslar: We provide vaccines to all VFC (Vaccines for Children) Eligible students - Medicaid, Underinsured and Uninsured students.

We provide healthcare services, physical exams, hearing and vision screenings, sick visits, blood tests, lead tests and prescriptions to all uninsured students. We coordinate with school staff when there is a health concern regarding a student.

We have an eyeglass program that provides free eyeglasses for students, and have free therapy services available to high school students as well.

The Review: Has the nature of services changed with the changing demographics of the city over the past two decades? Is any of your work considered controversial, and, if so, how do you navigate that aspect of your service?

Peslar: We have seen children from over 48 different countries at our clinic, and have been able to adjust our services de pending on their needs.

The demographics of our clientele have changed numerous times in our 23year history. Recently, the CDC adapted the guidelines for lead screening in immigrant and refugee children, recommending more extensive screening for those children. We were able to purchase a lead screener that allows us to do on-site lead testing, with results, within a few minutes.

The Review: Tell us a bit about your personal background, and your journey to the position you now

Peslar: I have an art background, and have an undergrad degree in art.

I was attracted to the advocacy aspect of social work, and one of my internships during grad school was at Children's Hospital of Michigan.

My graduation coincided with the opening of this clinic, and I was recommended for the job. It has been an incredibly challenging and rewarding experience.

I have learned so much. I knew nothing about immigration - the process, the struggles - when I started here; now I give lectures on the topic. They are a very underserved community, but yet resilient. I love seeing our families become more established as they continue their journey here, and many move on to better and brighter futures.

The Review: There was recently a rather-sizable award that the organization got from the Children's Foundation. Can you tell us how that came about, and where would you like to see the funds be directed?

Peslar: Unlike most school-based health centers, we are entirely funded by private dollars, which allows us to not bill for any services.

Hamtramck **Public** Schools do supply our housing costs, cleaning, phones, technical support - as well as benefits for staff.

The rest is funded through the Children's Foundation, which both provides us support and solicits support on our behalf. Data is collected throughout the year, and then compiled in a yearend report provided to the Children's Foundation and the HPS school board.

In 2022, we had 1,090 patient visits and 254 new

Continued on page 3

March 10, 2023

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This week at the Library **Zoom Presentation:** For those interested in doing their own research, the Library of Congress without a doubt has tons of materials that would come in handy. Well, our very own Library of Michigan will be showing folks how to find what they might be looking for amongst the nation's digital collections. Tune in to this ZOOM presentation Thursday, April 6th at pm. Please www.michigan.gov/lmpublicprograms for more info and a link to register.

Alice Hoffman: If River Woman, River Demon has given you an appetite for fiction that conjures up the mystical, then why not try out the writings of this author born on March 16, 1952, on your next visit to the library. Ever hear of Practical Magic? Yeah, that was her.

Poletown: Brianne Turczynski, author of "Detroit's Lost Poletown" will make a presentation on Wednesday, March 22nd at 6 pm about the little neighborhood that touches the Nation.

<u>Together we read:</u> There is an online book club that connects participants with others from all over the country. It lets you jump in at any hour. All that is required is your trusty library card. It is Together We Read. See a preview of the upcoming book chat title "River Woman, River Demon" by author Jennifer Givhan before the discussions set for March by giving the website www.togetherweread.com/us/

a visit. It has got a bit of murder, a bit

of mystery, and a bit of magic.

Group Exercise: Yoga and Tai Chi sessions at the library have returned. Get your Yoga fix on Tuesdays at 2:30 pm. Tai Chi makes a comeback on Fridays starting at 10 am. The program is provided by the RIM Foundation. Instructors are health professionals that accommodate the whole range of activity levels. These meet ups are senior friendly. Free to all participants, registration required.

Story Time: Get you kids together and drop in on our Monday afternoon Story Time at 4 pm. It will put a smile on everyone's face, including yours. Presented by guest readers from Hamtramck Federation of Teachers.

Game Night: Join us for Game Night at the library. We are serving up something fun each Friday's at 4 pm. Stop by and let us know that you have come to play.

ESL Classes in the Library: The ESL classes organized by Horizon School are held in the library (Monday to Thursday). There are two sessions with the first staring at 9 am and the second at 11:30 am.

Shetan Noir: Join us on Wednesday, April 19th at 6 pm as we welcome Shetan Noir of Squatch GO Magazine for something else that makes our BIG MITTEN great. We will be diving into the cryptozoology of the Great Lakes region. Attend this presentation & discover what is out there.

Hamtramck Public TV: On air broadcasting 24/7.

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

HPS health program offered to all students, especially immigrants

Continued from page 2

patients. There were 1,181 immunizations provided. And remember, we are only open part time: just Tuesdays and Thursdays, plus every other Monday.

I write the grants and do the reports. The grants include funds to support our patients: providing prescriptions for the uninsured, transportation to medical visits, and helping with the needs of families.

Staff includes: myself, Sarah Peslar, clinical social worker: Courtney Fezzey, nurse practitioner; and Kira Dorr, medical assistant; plus, the Children's Hospital of Michigan employees and our medical director. Dr. Ghada Harsouni, from University Pediatricians.

The Review: How do you see the next 20 years going for the HSBHC, and the programs it brings with it?

Peslar: I'd like to see our program modeled throughout the immigrant communities in Michigan, and bevond.

We really work hard to provide wrap-around services, and to fill in the gaps.If we have a patient that needs specialty care, we will make their appointment for them, ensure they have transportation to it, and arrange for a translator if needed.

I can't tell you how many times people have brought me scraps of paper or little notes with scribbles of things that need to be followed up on, but never are. Clinics like ours are needed - ones that really take the time with families to ensure their needs are being met.

We recently had a family of refugees; the baby was out of critical heart and kidney medication. I escorted the family to the emergency room to ensure they received the medication. We were also able to provide the family with diapers and baby formula that were so desperately needed.

We have many stories that we share, like this one, that encourage our donors to support us. They appreciate our willingness to go above and beyond.

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Covid update: The how-tos and benefits of masking up

By Charles Sercombe

While you don't see many people masking up these days, health experts say it's still one of the best ways to avoid getting or spreading COVID-19.

Both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization stress the wearing of masks when out in public.

"Masking is a critical public health tool, and it is important to remember that any mask is better

than no mask," the CDC is voice. advising on its website.

How masks work includes the following, according to the CDC:

- COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact.
- All of us have droplets in coughs and sneezes that can carry COVID-19 to others.
- Coughs spray droplets at least 6 feet. Sneezes travel as far as 27 feet. Droplets also may spread when we talk or raise our

- · These droplets can land on your face or in your mouth, eyes and nose.
- When you wear a mask, it keeps more of your droplets with you.
- A mask also adds an extra layer of protection between you and other people's droplets. If you do test positive for

covid but have no symptoms, it is advised that you isolate yourself for five days.

If you have symptoms,

isolate yourself for 10 days, with the first day being when symptoms appear.

On a positive note, Wayne County has a low level of infections, according to the CDC.

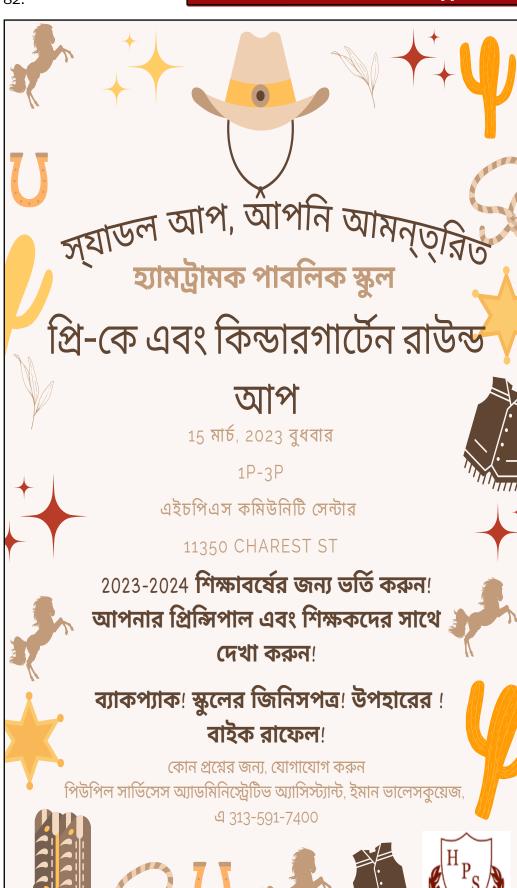
In Hamtramck, there were 18 new covid cases reported last week. That brings the total number of cases for the past three years up to 5,981.

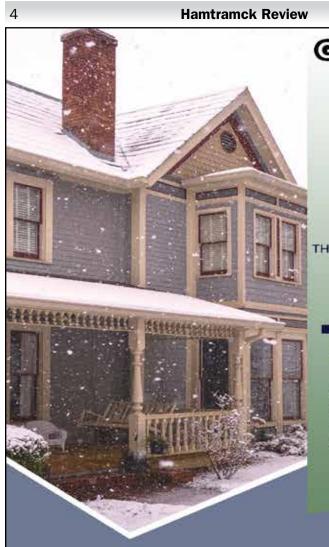
The number of deaths for this time period remains at



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Wayne County Treasurer Eric R. Sabree

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3056 Hanley (313) 591-7409 K – 8th Grades



Kosciuszko Middle School

2333 Burger (313) 591-7405 7th - 8th Grades

Hamtramck High School

11410 Charest (313) 591-7401 9th - 12th Grades

Horizon School

3225 Caniff (313) 591-7404 9th - 12th Grades

Local real estate still a hot market cont. from front page

bidders (not including the aforementioned properties):

- 3891 Doremus, \$21,000. Joseph Gill
- 3971 Yemans, \$15,000, Hazem Samir
 - 3415 Yemans,

\$71,000, Hazem Samir 1983 Yemans,

- \$95,000, Mohammed Alsalehi 9327 Gallagher,
- \$50,000 Hazem Samir 9836 Dequindre, \$44,000, Adnan Komio



From the **Superintendent**

Jaleelah Ahmed has returned as Superintendent of the Hamtramck Public School District and via a press release has laid out a plan on what she will be doing for the remainder of the school year:

"As a lifelong educator committed to supporting the growth of our community's children, I am eager to continue to work in partnership with district families to provide our students with the high-quality education experience they deserve.

"It is my great privilege and honor to serve at Hamtramck Public Schools and I am excited to continue working with families to amplify opportunities available to our students."

Ahmed also plans to establish a Family and Community Engagement (FACE) committee to help strengthen the district-family partnership and keep student needs top of mind. The goal is to identify areas to provide

duced summer programming for K-8 students and after-school tutoring utilizing ESSER funds.

She will look for ways to use ESSER funds to further expand intervention programming and make improvements to technology and renovate the district's aging buildings.

"Providing a safe, warm and engaging environment suitable for next-generation learning is top of mind in every decision we make," Ahmed said.

To learn more about Hamtramck **Public** Schools, please visit HamtramckSchools.org

Tau Beta happenings

Tau Beta Staff recently engaged in an afternoon of professional development that encompassed Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) initiatives. Staff collaboratively reviewed building practices and initiatives and discussed areas which provided opportunities for future implementations.

We hope to continue



Students at Tau Beta enjoy a special reading club.

supplemental support to aid students in their growth and development.

Additionally, Ahmed will also reconvene the Special Education Parent Committee to work together to further strengthen district programs.

the remaining months of the school year, the incredible team of educators and support staff across Hamtramck Public Schools will be focused on ensuring our students have the necessary resources to thrive on their educational journey," Ahmed said.

Ahmed also plans to examine the allocation of COVID-relief funds (ESS-ER) across the district.

To date, Hamtramck Public Schools has introengaging our talented staff in professional development activities to strengthen our collective skill set and ensure the success of our students.

Also, as we continue to celebrate Reading Month, we recognize Tau Beta's Reading Buddies! This program increases student reading achievement and provides an opportunity to expand relationships with peers throughout the building and across grade levels.

Upper grades are partnered with lower grades, and our teachers create activities for students to learn together. Activities are age-appropriate and reiterate reading skills and strategies for students to practice!



Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Councilmember's resignation underscores the burden of the job

The recent resignation job seriously - and those as a reminder that the of City Councilmember Jaczkowski Amanda should serve as a stark reminder to future candidates to do your home-

Running for elected office comes with responsibilities - responsibilities that conscientious elected officials take serious-

Holding office requires an understanding of a number of things, from finances to labor issues.

We've seen elected officials who took their

who were in it simply for the title.

Amanda exemplified a public servant who took the job seriously. The job, however, became too much of a burden, and added to her health issues, she said.

Let her experience serve as a warning to those wishing to be a part of public life: to first figure out how much of your time will be required.

Trust us, one can burn out pretty quickly.

But also let this serve

heavy lifting is being done by the city administration. Let the administration do the hard stuff.

City councilmembers are liaisons for the public to have their voice heard.

It's a maddening job at times. The public wants this and that, and no one can please everyone. Sometimes, public life is

Know this, future candidates, before you run for office: it's not a glamorous job at all.

City is seeking an executive director for parks organization

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck is seeking a person to continue the development of the city's two parks.

The Hamtramck Parks Conversancy is seeking to fill the position of executive director.

According to the job description, the director is specifically tasked with "...

revitalizing Veterans Parks and PlayFair into a thriving community hub, overseeing park operations, and shaping the Recreation District's future. In addition, the Executive Director will have the opportunity to bring Keyworth Stadium, home to the DCFC soccer team, and the his-

one of the five remaining Negro League stadiums in the nation, to new heights.

The job description continues:

"The Executive Director will be a critical thinker and problem solver capable of moving Hamtramck Parks Conservancy towards a long-term vision by creat-

Continued on page 6

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS CITY OF HAMTRAMCK

toric Hamtramck Stadium,

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 RFarai@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 Farai **Hamtramck City Clerk**



J&E Afterschool Workshop: National **Nutrition Month**

March 16, 5 pm

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Center for Health Disparities Innovations and Studies

dds & Ends

Reminder... A Homegoing memorial for former Hamtramckan Ella Mae Singer will be held this Sunday, March 12.

Singer was part of the Detroit-Hamtramck poetry scene in the 1990s. She recently passed, after suffering from a long illness.

The memorial will go from 1:30-4:40 p.m., and it will be held at the Cass Corridor Commons UU Detroit Church and Community Social Hall, 4605 Cass Ave., at the corner of Forest, in Detroit.

Enter at the rear parking lot ramp door. Meet in the sanctuary and then go to the community social room for reflections, memories, and open mic poetry from 2:30-4:30 pm.

The memorial is co-sponsored by Detroit-Hamtramck Poets and Broadside Lotus Press.

Legislative update... Hamtramck's own State Rep. Abraham Aiyash, who is also the Democratic Majority Floor Leader, recently co-introduced legislation to assist those leaving prison to be able to get an ID or driver's license.

Also sponsoring the bill, called the Returning Citizens Initiative, are State Felicia Brabec Reps. (D-Pittsfield Township), Kimberly Edwards (D-Eastpointe) and Mike McFall (D-Hazel Park).

Here's what Aiyash's office had to say about the bill:

"The Returning Citizens Initiative is a program established by the Michigan Dept. of Corrections (MDOC) and Michigan Dept. of State (MDOS) to help individuals leaving the state corrections system to reintegrate into their communities by providing them with a driver's license or state ID upon their parole or discharge from prison.

"This initiative expanded from a pilot program in June 2020, and by November 2021 provided over 5,000 returning citizens with the vital documents they need to secure critical needs like housing, a bank account, and employment."

The press release also included a quote by Aiyash:

"This legislation will codify into law a returning citizen's ability to get back on their feet with dignity by giving them the basic tool of an ID or driver's license.

"I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Legislature, Secretary Benson and Gov. Whitmer, to pass the Returning Citizens Initiative and guarantee returning citizens access to these vital documents."

Remembering... Back in 2019, we reflected on the lost world of early morning bars in Hamtramck in our column "Toast of the Town."

Recently, Leonard Lukshaitis sent us an email. where he looked back to his years gone by here and his memory of "Fast Eddie" of the famed Norwalk Bar on Conant. Here's what he had to say:

"I live in Midland, Michigan now. My job took me out of Hamtramck 33 years ago, and I don't drink anymore! However, I spent my first 40 years (minus college) living in Hamwere neighborly hangouts where locals socialized, played pool or cards, and where many guys and gals hooked up and often ended up getting married.

"In those days those bars (and social clubs) were cultural establishments for Eastern European (Polish, Ukrainian, Baltic) people, mostly first or second generation Americans, and for some who never received citizenship. Most were blue collar, hard drinking people.

"My parent's families both arrived prior to World War I, but many came between the two wars, or as displaced persons (DPs) after World War II, or even during the Solidarity period prior to the fall of communism.

"Hamtramck was a halfway house for people to adjust from Europe to America, where people could speak the languages and eat the food they were used to."

Donation... The John W. Smith Old Timers Club has once again given generously. This time the club handed Friendship House



Mike Wilk of the John W. Smith Old Timers Club presents a check worth \$1,000 to Cathy Maher of Detroit Friendship House, which is a food pantry.

tramck and spent (nostal- a check for \$1,000. gically) a lot of time in all of the bars mentioned in your article. (PS: I still visit there periodically and am a member of the Hamtramck Historical Society.)

"Fast Eddie actually was a tenant in my maternal grand-parents house prior to marrying the daughter of the owner of the Norwalk Bar.

"I knew many of the owners or barkeeps personally in all of those establishments, and I remember that most of those places served me drinks before I was of legal age. They

Friendship House is a food pantry - and much more - that serves thousands of low-income families and individuals here in Hamtramck and in Detroit.

The John W. Smith Old Timers Club is based in Hazel Park and has a long history of donating to worthy causes.

John W Smith, by the way, is a former Detroit mayor, from 1924 to 1928. He was known for helping those who were less fortu-

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Hamtramck Review Phone (313) 874-2100 Friday, March 10, 2023

City is seeking an executive director for parks organization cont. from page 5

ing innovative strategies and leading through the organization's start-up period. In addition, the ED will bring a highly focused racial and social justice lens and be a champion of and exhibit an abiding passion and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion values and to the role that public space can play in creating healthy, safe, and dynamic outcomes in the community. The ED will also support, sustain, and grow a collaborative work environment that attracts and retains a motivated, diverse, and mission-driven staff and board."

The job duties include:

 $\boldsymbol{\cdot}$ Serve as an external ambassador, promoting its

(the Parks Conservancy's) values and mission to media, donors, partners, and constituents

- Drive fundraising efforts and explore new revenue-generating strategies
- Ensure the financial stability of the Hamtramck Parks Conservancy by presenting a proposed budget and financial reports to the board, reflecting the organization's financial status accurately
- Manage financial, operational, and administrative aspects with the support of the Hamtramck Parks Conservancy Board and partners
- Assemble a passionate, dedicated, and diverse mission-driven team

- Emphasize professional development opportunities for team members at all levels, and promote growth and success within the organization
- Cultivate a strong working relationship with the Hamtramck Parks Conservancy Board
- Create a harmonious strategy to enhance all initiatives within the Hamtramck Parks Conservancy.

The salary for the position ranges from \$85,000 up to \$120,000 a year, based on experience.

To find out more, go online to quatrrobss.applytojob.com and search for Hamtramck Parks Conservancy.



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 Feb. 28, and all councilmembers, except for Khalil Refai, were present.

A presentation was made about design options for the Joe Louis Greenway biking/walking path that connects Hamtramck to Detroit and Dearborn.

The path will be 27 miles long. The projected cost for the entire project is \$240 million, of which \$143 million has already been committed by a variety of financial sources, including federal, state and county grants.

Grants from private sources have also been contributed.

Mayor Amer Ghalib said there are some business owners on Jos. Campau who have complained about losing parking spaces for bike lanes.

City Manager Max Garbarino suggested the council form a subcommittee to study the design proposals

Garbarino said the project began several years ago, and he realizes that some business owners "are taking exception with

City Clerk Rana Faraj gave her department's annual report for 2022. Here are the highlights:

The city issued 128 new business licenses. In total, there were 545 business licenses issued.

There are 14,107 registered voters. I nth e last general election, 4,516 voters participated. The city now prints ballots in three languages: English, Bengali and Arabic.

The state recently passed a proposal that has made some changes in elections, which included:

- There will be a nine-day early voting period.
- Military and overseas ballots will be counted if postmarked by or on election day.
- Securing polling places and preventing intimidating or harassing behaviors inside and in the vicinity of them, as well as continuing to provide a voting opportunity absent

practices that have "the intent or effect of denying, abridging, interfering with, or unreasonably burdening the fundamental right to vote."

The Building Department also presented its annual report for 2022. Highlights include:

were issued, mostly to residential locations – or in other words, home improvements.

Some 1,609 permits

- Those permits generated \$410,581 in fees
- There were 726 residential rental dwellings registered, down from 929 registered in 2019.
- Fees from those permits totaled \$248,135. The total revenue from all services is \$753,380.

The department wants to take the following steps to increase rental registration with the following:

- Coordinate with the assessor's office
- Water service recordsReviewing rental ser-
- vices, such as Zillow
 Building code enforce-
- ment patrolsUse interns to catalog dwellings with multiple ad-

dresses

A proclamation was read honoring Women's History Month. It said, in part:

"Hamtramck women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our city, State and Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and Hamtramck women have played and continue to play critical political, economic, cultural, and social roles by constituting a significant portion of our labor force working inside and outside of the home;

"... and in Hamtramck, women have played a unique role throughout the history of the nation by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force, and when called upon, the manufacturing labor force; and women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in Hamtramck and across the country. ..."

Another proclamation was read that opposed U.S. military aid being provided to "repressive governments."

Before reading the proclamation, Mayor Ghalib said that there had been discussion among councilmembers over the wording of it, but he did not go into specifics.

He said he tried to "modify the language but it didn't work out."

Again, he did not elaborate, although some in the community believed it had something to do with Councilmember Amanda Jaczkowski resigning.

The proclamation did not name any specific country, but it did mention the plight of Palestinians and to some, implied Israel. The proclamation read, in

nart:

"The City of Hamtramck believes that the Palestinian people should enjoy the right of self-determination that comes with having a free, peaceful and secure homeland of their own; and the City of Hamtramck stands against occupation of any country and supports the right of every occupied nation to gain freedom, sovereignty and independence;

"... and U.S. military aid to foreign governments has enriched defense contractors at the expense of struggling cities like Hamtramck while threatening the safety and security of the people in the region and elsewhere."

Later in the meeting, during public comment, former Councilmember Carrie Beth Lasley said the proclamation is "anti-Semitic."

She said the action is proving the accusation of "Islamaphobes" about how the council would act. She said the council is "playing into the stereotypes" of an all Muslim city government.

Lasley questioned what comes next: the closing of bars and the imposition of Sharia law?

Bill Meyer took issue with those observations, saying criticizing the actions of the state of Israel is not anti-Semitic. He also noted that he does not approve of people from outside of the city urging the council to make the proclamation.

Activists from Ann Arbor had urged the council to pass a resolution calling for the end of military aid being sent to Israel because of its treatment of Palestinians.

Lasley also said she opposes the salary being proposed to pay City Manager Garbarino. She said it's \$20,000 more than what the job posting said the salary would be.

A man said the council should now include Israel in its proclamation about "repressive governments" since Councilmember Jaczkowski resigned.

Another man said the city needs to plant more trees despite some opposition in the city, and also install more bike racks.

City Manager Garbarino said the city is working on a major grant for tree planting.

Two members of the city's Downtown Development Authority urged the council to approve a proposed tax abatement deal for the renovation of a Jos. Campau building that has long been vacant and dilapidated.

Bill Meyer said he is against a proposal to increase city council's annual stipend. He said Hamtramck is a poor city and can't afford this increase.

He also noted that councilmembers knew what the city paid when they ran for

Continued on page 7



Legal Notice

Attention: Vended Meal Companies

Oakland International Academy is requesting proposals for vended school meals. The Vendor will provide meals according to United States Department of Agriculture regulations and guidelines, as well as State of Michigan Department of Education policies and guidelines.

A copy of the RFP will be available by email at ahmad.hariri@emanschools.net by March 31, 2023. The pre-bid meeting will be held on April 7, 2023. All proposals must be submitted **electronically** no later than 12:00 pm on April 28, 2023. Hard copy proposals must also be submitted to:

Ahmad Hariri Oakland International Academy 6111 Miller Detroit, MI 48211

The Oakland International Academy's Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals or to accept the proposal that it finds, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the school district.

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Hamtramck Review

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Ms. Crystal is doing psychic readings at Painted Lady Bar, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck, call for appt., 313-518-3103, **During Happy Hour** Monday - Friday 4:30 to 9 p.m.

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Coming Events

SATURDAY, March 11, 2-4 p.m. - Take-out Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. Everyone is welcome!

SATURDAY, March 25, 4-6 p.m. - Drive-thru Takeout Polish Dinner at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. \$12 Adult/\$6 Children 12 & under. Menu: Pork chop, Kielbasa, Pierogi/ sour cream, Stewed Cabbage (Bigos), Mashed Potatoes/gravy, Dessert. Cars will be staged in parking lot for delivery in front of church.

March 10, 2023

Hamtramck Public TV-19

& streaming on YouTube Live Worldwide On Hamtramck Public Library YouTube Channel

What's on this coming week?

Knowledge games for kids, Book Club discussion, Star Talk, Public Comments to City Council, Daily ESL classes at 4 pm, Local events, Library programs, Interviews, Council meeting highlights, Event announcements, Evenings with authors, Citizen's Comments,

and more.....

BECOME A LOCAL REPORTER: If you know how to take photos or make film clips on your phone, you can download them to Hamtramck TV along with a news story, to be aired the same day. Send in event announcements, comments to city officials, facts you want to share with the community, etc.

Hamtramck Public TV is broadcasting from Hamtramck Public Library

On Comcast Channel 19 and streaming on YouTube Live (24/7) Google "Hamtramck Public TV", and click on link "Hamtramck Public TV"

> To place community announcement call the Library at 313-733-6822 Or email: HamtramckTV@gmail.com Announcements submitted by 10 am Will go on air the same day (evening)

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By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Feb. 28-March 6.

Tuesday, Feb. 28

- · A business in the 3500 block of Caniff reported a disorderly customer.
- An unwanted guest was reported in the 2400 block of Carpenter.
- Officers responding to a disturbance involving a gun arrested a male, after a standoff, for domestic violence, obstruction and for possessing cocaine.
- An assault was reported in the 3800 block of Belmont.
- A complaint was made about a disorderly person in the 9500 block of Conant.
- A male was arrested, in the 9200 block of Conant, for trespassing,
- A disorderly customer was reported at a business on Jos. Campau.

Wednesday, March 1

- Officers investigated a suspicious vehicle in the 9100 block of Jos. Campau.
 - · An assault was reported in the 3200 block of Lehman. A person reported
- receiving harassing communications while Yemans. Officers reunited
- a lost child, found on Conant, with their par-
- Possible gunshots were reported on Caniff, near Buffalo.

Thursday, March 2

- Officers assisted a person who was having a panic attack.
- Officers investigated a suspicious vehicle in Veterans Park.
- Officers attempted to pull over a white Infinity G37, but the driver sped
- · A Dequindre St. resident reported damaged property.
- A resident on Alice St. reported being the victim of fraud.
 - A juvenile was arrest-

ed following a traffic stop.

Friday, March 3

- · Family trouble was reported in the 2300 block of Yemans.
- Officers investigated a domestic assault on Dyar.
- Customer trouble was reported at a Conant business.
- · A theft from an auto was reported in the 9100 block of Jos. Campau.

Saturday, March 4 Officers investigated

- a suspicious vehicle in the 11300 block of Sobieski. · A car theft was report-
- ed in the 12000 block of Grand Haven. A domestic assault
- was reported in the 3800 block of Carpenter. A resident of Lehman

reported that they lost

- their wallet. Neighbor trouble was reported in the 3100
- A complaint was made about a disorderly person in the 3900 block of Christopher.

Sunday, March 5

block of Lehman.

- · Officers attempted to pull over a GMC Terrain, but the driver sped off.
- Officers investigated a report of people arguing at McDougall and Casmere.
- · A complaint about an animal was made in the area of Belmont and Buf-
- Property damage was reported on Yemans.

Monday, March 6

· A man was arrested for a domestic assault that happened in the area of Caniff and Mackay.

· A hit-and-run accident

- occurred in the 9800 block of Dequindre. The suspect fled before officers arrived. It was reported that the suspect, a male, threatened several people with a knife and intentionally struck their vehicles.
- An illegal dumping was reported on Miller.





On the tax abatement

office.

proposal a public hearing was held. It was explained that a major state grant to help renovate the building requires the city to grant the abatement. The abatement would

freeze the current tax rate of over \$3,000 a year for up to 12 years. Once the abetment period ends, the city would collect over \$8,000 a year in property taxes.

The building, at 9350 Jos. Campau, will be a mi-

cro-beer brewery and tap-

room. The project would

tion workers and workers at the taproom. The council decided to

result in jobs for construc-

limit the abatement to four years. Nasr Hussain spoke

against the tax abatement, saying if the current building owner can't afford to pay for the repairs, he should sell it to someone who can.

The council accepted the resignation of Councilmember Jaczkowski. The council also postponed voting on a proposed employment contract for City Manager Garbarino.



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The Look...

By Suraj Bhamra

In February the days break in the same cold, grey way with barely a moment of sunlight other than an occasional dim glow dressed in clouds.

The dull gloom makes the afternoons dark, mixing with shadows, the fingers of one running its hands through the hair of the other.

For a week straight I watched the spectral outline of a man in a long coat walk to the

bus stop, pacing for a few minutes before boarding the 6pm bus headed east on Caniff, one evening suddenly disappearing and taking the night with him before the first days of late winter sun.

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













Obituaries

SIERZAN



Kenneth Sierzan, 80, died March 5, 2023.

Kenneth
Sierzan, Dad, Grandpa,
Coach, passed away at
home in hospice, surrounded by his family. He
died of stage 4 bladder
cancer.

Kenny was born January 23, 1943, in Detroit, MI. The son of late Adolph and Virginia Sierzan. He was the dear husband of Catherine (nee Kudla), loving father to Leann (Joseph) Piechocki, Pamela Sierzan, Michelle (Jim) Livingston, and Gregory (Michelle) Sierzan. Adored Grandpa to Samantha Ryner, Joseph, Carrie Ann, Julie Ann, and Breann Piechocki and Maxwell Livingston. Grandpa will always be remembered for his tractor rides. Dear brother to Marlene (Dennis) Makowski.

Before they were even dating, Kenny drove down

the street, saw Catherine (Kudla) walking down the street and said, "one day I'm going to marry that girl." On April 14, 1967, he did just that! Last April Ken and Catherine celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary.

Kenny truly loved his family! But his second love was basketball! He played in high school in Hamtramck and was named All-city. Kenny played ball in the parks and alleys. Kenny started coaching in 1967 at St. Veronica's. He has coached at many schools for 53 years. Basketball was definitely in his heart and in his blood.

Kenny retired from General Motors (Chevy Gear and Axel), on Holbrook, in Detroit after 33 years of employment.

There will be a private, family memorial to respect Ken's wishes. Arrangements were entrusted to Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck MI 48212.

