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HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD



# **Quick Hits**

# Be a good neighbor and volunteer

Attention all able-bodied residents! Hamtramck needs you

in this season of need. How so?

Glad you asked, and we'll let the city's Community and Economic Development explain their "Every Neighbor" gram, and we quote:

This project helps residents who cannot keep their yards up to the City's code due to age or disability by providing emergency lawn care and yard clean up to those in

Currently "Every Neighbor" needs volunteers each weekend to help mow lawns and clear vards of tree branches and other small debris.

- Volunteers meet at Hamtramck Stadium and are assigned to specific addresses;
- Equipment such as gloves, mowers, trash bags, hedge trimmers, etc. will be provided for each site:
- · If the resident requires help taking the refuse to the curb on trash days, volunteers can assist with that too.
- · Additionally, an AmeriCorps member will try to determine if the resident has other needs, such as housing, tax or food assistance, and then connect them with resources to help meet those

Some residents need assistance during the week, so if you can't vol-

Continued on page 5

# City's pride flag controversy attracts

# attention beyond city borders

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck's pride flag controversy doesn't appear to be going away any time soon.

In fact, local, national and international reaction to the city council's unanimous vote to ban the pride flag (or others) from being "flown on the city's public properties" keeps increasing.

On the pro-pride flag side of the debate, a rally is scheduled for this Saturday (June 24) in Zussman Park, located in front of city hall.

That demonstration will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Those opposed to the display of pride flags have said, on social media, that there will be counter-protestors.

Extra police presence is planned for the event, in case of confrontations.

All of this continued back-and-forth about the pride flag follows a threetion - including one full hour of the city clerk reading emails - at last Tuesday's city council meeting.

To call it an impassioned discussion is an understatement.

Hamtramck's simmering culture war between socially conservative residents and progressive/ liberal minded residents - and those who align with either side from outside the city - is now fully on

There is no sign that a bridge between this ever-growing divide will ever be built anytime soon.

In fact, both sides have become even more emboldened.

To back up, the issue of whether the city should allow the display of a pride flag on a city-owned flagpole goes back a couple of years, to when one first appeared on a city flagpole in Zussman Park.

A year later, a pride flag appeared on a city flagpole on Jos. Campau, although how that happened has been debated, and resulted in fingers being pointed at one or another person and the word "liar" being

tossed around. This year, in a failed effort to end a dispute over hour public comment por- whether to allow a pride flag to be flown, the city council passed a resolution, against the advice of some, to ban a number of flags, including those of "any religious, ethnic, racial, political, or sexual orientation group ... to be flown on the city's public

**Continued on page 2** 



A controversy over the city council's action to ban the display of pride flags appears to be growing. A rally in protest of the ban will be held on Saturday, June 24, starting at 10 a.m. in Zussman Park.

# **Updates from the Hamtramck Historical** Museum....

**Bv the Hamtramck Historical Museum** 

Here's a roundup of the held at the museum. latest happenings from the Hamtramck museum:

More than 50 Hamtramck merchants and guests gathered at the Museum on Thursday, May 11, for the annual Downtown Development Authority Merchants

Meeting. This was the first time the event was

Dominic Romano, senior Community Development manager with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, was keynote speaker. He gave those attending an update on grants, loans Continued on page 2

# **Celebrating Juneteenth** in Hamtramck

**By Charles Sercombe** 

Juneteenth did not go uncelebrated in Hamtramck.

A handful of residents first gathered at the newly-created Sarah Garrett Park on the morning of Monday, June 19, and then marched over to Veterans Park where another Juneteenth celebration was taking place.

This is the first year, post-pandemic, that residents were able to get together to enjoy the national holiday.

Juneteenth was created in celebration of the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. It is now officially recognized as being in reference to the date of June 19, 1865.

It was not until 2021 when President Biden officially signed into law Juneteenth as a national holiday. You may have noticed that mail was not delivered that day, nor were banks open.

Sarah Garrett was named in honor of a resident who was part of a housing discrimination lawsuit filed against Hamtramck in the early 1970s.

About 200 African-American residents were part of a class action lawsuit. Garrett's was the lead plaintiff name in that lawsuit.

The lawsuit charged that city officials, back in the 1960s, purposely targeted African-American neighborhoods for demolition in the name of supposed urban renewal.

Sarah Garrett Park has yet to be officially dedicated, but that will happen soon - next Wednesday, June 28, at 5 p.m. to be

The park is located on the southbound service drive of I-75, just north of

Continued on page 2



A recent meeting of merchants at the Hamtramck Historical Museum was a hit.

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homemade sausage.



# City's pride flag controversy attracts attention beyond city borders

**Continued from front page** 

properties."

prohibition That cludes the pride flag, although it was not specifically named.

What the all-male, all-Muslim city council will allow to be flown includes the American, state and city flags, as well as the "prisoner of war" flag. Also included are the flags of nations that represent where many residents once called home.

The reasoning behind this resolution, it says, "is (to) serve and treat its residents equally, with no discrimination, or special treatment to any group of people."

The resolution goes on to say: "the City does not want to open the door for radical or racist groups to ask for their flags to be flown, and this action is being taken to ensure the city's neutrality."

Criticism of the council's action also focused on Mayor Amer Ghalib, who was not required to vote on the matter, but who has come out supporting the resolution.

The blowback against him resulted in this statement he made on his Facebook page:

"I continue to receive hundreds of emails full of hate, aggression and threats, attacking and degrading me, my religion, my culture and the country that I grew up in. ...

"And my response to that kind of behavior will be announcing from this day that I'll run again ei-

ther for this position or for another one in the future. unless something personal happens for me not to do so, in order to continue our mission in fighting for equality and justice for all, and against discrimination and preferential treatment."

As for the attention aimed at Hamtramck over this issue, Ghalib said in a statement:

"You do not know our city more than we do, and you will not know the consequences of opening the door for every group to fly their flag on city properties. Our residents are all equally important to us, and we will continue to serve them equally without discrimination, favoritism or preferential treatment to any group. The city government will stay NEUTRAL and IMPARTIAL toward its residents."

His critics include resident Gracie Cadieux. who was interviewed by Channel 7 WXYZ and who called out Ghalib, saying: "The mayor's a liar; the mayor has been on a tirade about the pride flag and only the pride flag."

In a Detroit Free Press article published shortly after he was elected, Ghalib assured the public he was not anti-LGBTQ, say-

"People think because of my background and my religious beliefs that I will be anti-LGBT or something, but we are in Amer-

"The same constitu-

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tion that allowed me to practice my religion here, to pray the way I want, it gives others the same freedom to practice their beliefs and express their values the way they want."

Ghalib campaigned for mayor over a year ago, coming out against allowing the pride flag being displayed. He won that election, beating Mayor Karen Majewski, who supported LBGTQ rights and the flag. She had been mayor for 16 years.

As for this Saturday's demonstration, Ghalib further attracted criticism for saying:

"In the coming days, you will notice strangers demonstrating in your city and disturbing the public peace by provoking you with their actions and behaviors. I ask everyone to commit to calmness, wisdom, and not to friction with them, and I also ask everyone not to incite against one another, and not to vandalize private property whatever it may be, and not to trespass on public property or use it for one party against another.

"The strangers leave, and you will stay in your city, build and shape it as you wish. ..."

What disturbed some people is the mayor appearing to reference those who will be in attendance not as residents, but as "strangers."

Reaction about the city council's action also included other elected officials.

Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan:

"The City of Detroit proudly raises our Pride Flag at the start of every Pride Month and allows it to fly throughout the year to show our unwavering support for the LGBTQ+ community and the diversity within. It's the role of city officials to ensure everyone feels welcome in their community, and everyone is welcome here in Detroit."

U.S Congressman Shri Thanedar (D-Detroit), whose district includes ""Standing Hamtramck: with Hamtramck & MI-13's LGBTQ+ community

Continued on page 6



হ্যামট্রামিক হাউসিং কমিশন (এইচ্ এইচ্ এস্) বর্ণ, গোত্র, ধর্ম , জাতীয় উৎস, লিঙ্গ, বিকলাঙ্গ বা পারিবারিক অবস্থানের ভিত্তিতে কারেও অবজ্ঞা করেনা । সেকশান ৩ এর যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন আগ্রহীদের র্ািমিযঁফ.মড়া এ নিবন্ধন কর্তে অনুরোধ করা যাচেছ ।

# ২৬২০ হলক্রুক স্ট্রীট, হ্যামট্রামিক ঙ ৩১৩ ৮৭৩ ৭৭৮৭ basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap or familial status

Hamtramck Housing Commission (HHC) does not discriminate on the

# **Celebrating Juneteenth in Hamtramck**

**Continued from front page** 

In a press release regarding the upcoming ceremony, Vera Burk, a resident who was a member of the GHDDC, or Grand Haven-Dyar-Dequindre Corporation (which collaborated with the city in working out a settlement to the lawsuit), said this about the memorial:

"(It) helps in a positive way to confront some of the negative tactics and racism that have occurred in Hamtramck."

The lawsuit settlement called for the city to construct 200 housing units, and then offer them to the plaintiffs and their survivors. The last three housing units will finally be constructed this year.

Also on Juneteenth, a 100th anniversary celebration was held at Hamtramck's historic baseball

stadium in honor of Turkey Stearnes' debut with the Detroit Stars.

Stearnes was part of the Negro League back in the 1930s, an era where African-Americans not permitted to play in all-White Major League Baseball.

Hamtramck Stadium was the home stadium for the Detroit Stars.

# **Updates from the Hamtramck** Historical Museum....

**Continued from front page** 

and other economic assistance programs available to help local businesses.

Numerous merchants and organizations participated in the event, including the Yemeni American Chamber of Commerce, ACCESS, Global Detroit, Prospectus Detroit and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. It was sponsored by the Hamtramck Downtown Development Au-

An assortment of delicious food added some extra spice to the event.

But most importantly, local merchants had an opportunity to "showcase what they have to offer and learn about resources to help their businesses thrive.

# **Coming in July**

"Hamtramck Through the Years" is being printed now and will be on sale on July 3.

The new book by museum Executive Director Greg Kowalski explores what it was like to live in Hamtramck in 1890, 1901. 1910. 1922, 1935,1945 and 1959 in great detail.

You will get an insight into what Hamtramck was like, plus get detailed views of the day that Pope John Paul II visited Hamtramck in 1987 and when the city was struck by a tornado in 1997.

The book will be on sale at the Hamtramck Historical Museum, mailing will be available; email for shipping cost. The museum also will host a special program and book signing later this summer.

### From the Executive Director... Placing nostalgia in perspective

Whenever a plane flies low overhead I look up.

I've been doing that since I was a kid, and it's a habit I now seem to do instinctively. My mom (who died 10 years ago) told me that when she was a kid many years ago all the kids would look skyward at passing planes and shout in chorus "aeroplane! aeroplane!"

I don't do that. But I look. It isn't just a habit, it's a link to my now-distant childhood. In a little way it takes me back

in time and leads me to more pleasant childhood memories.

It's nostalgic.

At the museum we have a love-hate relationship with nostalgia. Everyone loves nostalgia, but history can be far less inviting.

In the talks I give I like to describe the difference between nostalgia and history as remembering the days when you were a kid, and they canceled school that week and you had such a great time playing outside and having fun.

That's nostalgia.

What you don't remember is that they canceled school because two kids died of polio that week and there was a real fear that it would spread.

That's history, and it actually happened more than once in Hamtramck. In fact, in 1939 there was a big public stir when the schools delayed opening for the new school year because of a polio threat.

But who remembers polio fondly? We'd rather forget that part of the

At the museum we try to **Continued on page 6** 

# This week at the Library ...

Summer Reading: Our Summer Reading Program starts Wednesday, June 28th at 2 pm with your favorite wildlife expert, Randy Baker and his animals that are native to our state. Following weekly programs will be packed with science wacky games, awesome crafts, and tons of reading. Everyone will get a chance to earn tickets to participate in the end of program raffle with plenty of prizes. Summer adventures await.

Afternoon with Songs and Music: Join us in July on Thursdays at 4 pm for family song and music time. Presented by musicians and teachers, the whole family can learn new songs and a little bit about music theory. You are welcome to share you own traditional songs and bring along your instruments to play along.

Group Exercise: Adaptive Yoga every Tuesday at 3 pm. Tai Chi every Friday at 10 am. The program is conducted by the RIM Foundation. The last meeting for this season will be on June 29th. If enough participants register for the summer sessions, the summer exercise meetings will resume on July 19th to August 15th.

Story Time: Get you kids together and drop in on our Monday afternoon Story Time at 4 pm. Presented by guest readers from Hamtramck Feder-Wednesday afternoon.

ation of Teachers. Starting June 28th the story time will be moving to

**Game Night:** Join us for Game Night

We are serving up

at the library.

something fun each Friday's at 4 pm. Stop by and let us know that you have come to play.

Library of Michigan: Gain some insight into the people and legislation that built the Library of Michigan into what it is today by viewing their next ZOOM presentation on Thursday, July 6th at 6:30 pm. Please visit www.michigan.gov/lmpublicprograms to register, see full details and check out the entire monthly schedule

Pearl Bruck: This American author was born on June 26, 1892 in Hillsbororo, West Virginia. She became a noted authority on China and wrote books including "The Good Earth" which revealed the mysterious Chinese culture to Western readers. She received a Nobel Prize in 1938.

The 26th Amendment: This Amendment to the US Constitution was enacted on June 30, 1971, changing the voting age to 18 years.

Alzheimer's & Dementia: Please join us for a pair of evenings with representatives from the Alzheimer's Association. Give us a visit on Tuesday, July 18th at 6 pm for an overview of the research into diet, nutrition, exercise, social engagement, and cognitive activity that supports healthy aging. Then, consider attending the conversation highlighting differences between Alzheimer's and dementia, stages and factors, current research, and resources available which will take place on Tuesday, August 15th at 6

Library is located at 2360 Caniff Avenue, Phone (313) 733-6822 Or visit its website at <a href="http://hamtramck.Lib.mi.us">http://hamtramck.Lib.mi.us</a> for on line catalog Attachments for printing, faxing or scanning send to hamtramcklibrary@gmail.com

It's Time to Pray,

Please Join Us We are a Multicultural Parish Family Sunday English Mass 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Everyone is Welcome to Worship with Us

Sunday, June 18th,

Holy Mass 9 am

Happy Fathers' Day!

June 20 - Holy Mass 9 am

June 23 – Holy Mass 7 pm

# Second Front Page

# School Bell

# From the **Superintendent**

HPS Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed posted this message on Facebook about the coming months:

As we conclude another remarkable academic year, I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to each and every one of you for your unwavering collaboration, support, and dedication. Together, we have created a vibrant learning community at HPS, and I am incredibly grateful for your continued

partnership. I would like to inform you that several of our school buildings will undergo construction during the summer. Although this may cause temporary inconveniences, please stay tuned for further information regarding the

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temporary relocation of environment for our stustaff.

These construction projects signify significant progress towards improving our facilities, including the installation of HVAC systems, new windows, and various other capital projects.

We are excited about these developments and the positive impact they will have on creating a more comfortable and conducive learning environment for our students and staff.

Moreover, we will be sharing additional details about the sinking funds initiative, which seeks your support to sustain ongoing infrastructure needs. Your continuous support is crucial in ensuring that we continue to provide a safe and well-maintained

Other

nternet bills and relocation costs

dents and staff. Look out future communications where we will provide comprehensive information to help you make an informed decision.

**Hamtramck Review** 

As we embark on the summer break, I encourage you to embrace the spirit of continuous learning. While the structured routines of the school year may pause, the pursuit of knowledge and skill development should not. Engaging in daily reading, practicing academic skills, and establishing routines can help maintain and enhance the progress made throughout the year.

I urge you to take full advantage of the abundant resources available within our community and beyond. The Hamtramck Public Library and the Detroit Public Library offer a wide range of books, educational programs, and engaging activities suitable for learners of all ages.

Similarly, the Hamtramck Historical Museum provides a glimpse into the rich cultural heritage and history of our city. Exploring these local treasures can be both educational and enjoyable for the whole family.

Additionally, let us embrace the great outdoors during this summer season. Engaging in outdoor activities, visiting local parks, and connecting learning, exploration, and relaxation. Encourage your children to appreciate the beauty of the natural world and deepen their understanding of the environment around them.

Furthermore, pleased to announce that we will be offering breakfast and lunch throughout the summer, from June 26th to August 10th, Monday to Friday. These meals will be served in the school cafeterias at Hamtramck High School and Dickinson East. It is our commitment to ensure that our students have access to nutritious meals during the break, supporting their overall well-being.

As we embark on this summer adventure, I wish each and every one of you a safe, rejuvenating, and memorable vacation. Cherish this time with your loved ones, explore new horizons, and return refreshed for the exciting opportunities that lie ahead in the upcoming academic year.

Thank you for your continued support, partnership, and trust in our educational community. Together, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of our students and strengthen the foundation of HPS.

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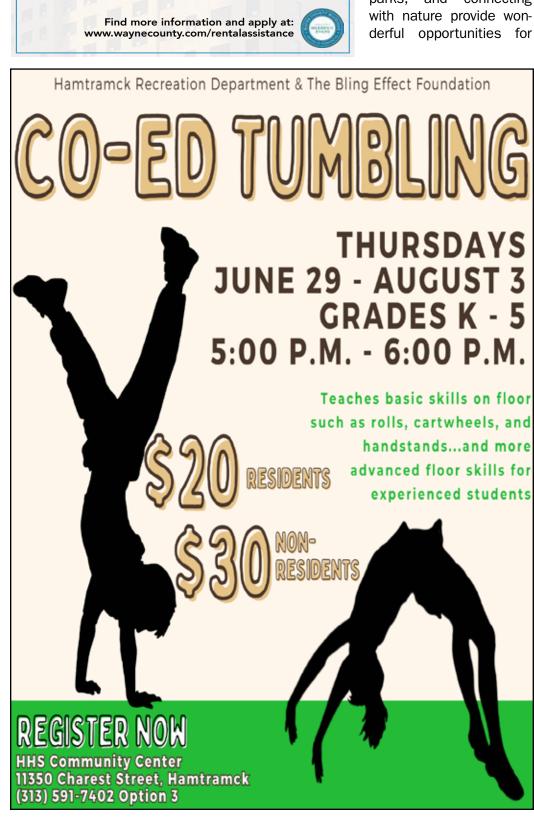
**June 24** – Solemnity of John the Baptist Holy Mass 9 am

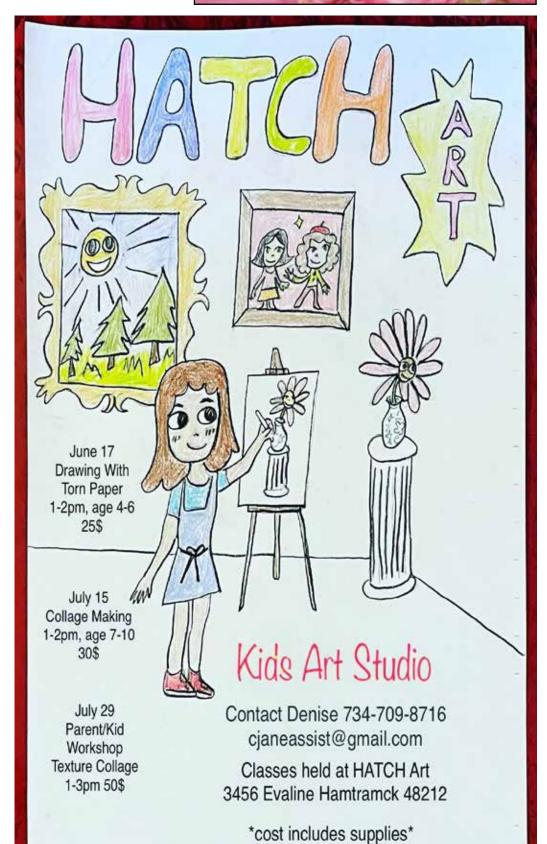
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- Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS)
- Parent Engagement Programs
- Adult Education Program
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# Tau Beta School

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

# **Obituaries**

# **HOGNESS**



Kirk Hogness, 60, died June 16, 2023. Our dearly

beloved, Kirk

Joseph Hogness, peacefully slipped away from us in the early morning Friday, June 16, 2023, at the age of 60. Kirk is preceded in death by his father and mother, Gerald Gordon Hogness and Gloria June Hogness, and his beloved sister Debra Hogness. He is survived by his siblings, Jerry (Becky) Hogness, Frank (Priscilla) Hogness, Mary Hogness, Jackie Hogness and Roy Hogness, his sons, Timothy Lowe, Ryan Lowe, Kyle (Rosaonta) Hogness, Koty Hogness, Nicholas Witucki & Steven Joseph Witucki, their mothers, Julia Lowe & Elizabeth Physician, a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews, extended family and friends who were absolutely his family, as well.

Born Kirk Joseph Hogness, on July 7, 1962, to parents Jerry and Gloria Hogness, Kirk was their third eldest child. He was a proud Detroit native, and in true Motown-fashion, quickly developed a love for music. Though he lived in many places, Detroit would always be his one and only home. Over the years, Kirk came to father amazing sons whom he proclaimed to be his ultimate pride and joy. Like badges of honor, he treasured the affectionate names of Pops, Gramps, and Uncle Kirk. And as a grandfather and uncle, he lived in the moment, building special relationships with each grandchild, niece and nephew, creating memories they will have to cherish for a lifetime.

Kirk never met a stranger. He was the life of the party. And with the heart of a biker, he forged his own path, making the most of every moment life brought him. His genuine love for family, friends, music, dancing, and storytelling, brought laughter and joy to all, making him a larger-than-life soul that we are blessed to have experienced, even if just for a while. We now cherish the memories he gave us, as Kirk will be deeply missed by his family, friends and all who knew Visitation was at Jurk-

iewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, Hamtramck MI and Interment was at Foest Lawn Cemetery Detroit, MI.

# MENDALSKI Mary



Mary Lou Mendalski, age 89 of Port Hope, passed away Thurs-

away Thursday, June 8, 2023, at her home under hospice

Mary Lou was a former

Hamtramck resident and bar owner, (Mary Lou and Archies).

She was born on April 27, 1934, in Port Hope to the late Fred and Laura (Williams) Brining. Mary Lou and Archie Mendalski were united in marriage on April 22, 1950, in Detroit. He preceded her in death on December 21, 2015.

Mary was a member of Our Lady of Lake Huron Catholic Church, a lifetime member the AmVets Auxiliary Post 115 and the VFW Auxiliary, a member of the Grindstone Port Hope Sportsmen Club, and the Red Hatters. She enjoyed visiting with friends and family.

Mary Lou is survived by her daughters: Linda Boqumil of Port Hope, Donna Parlier of Imlay City, a son Archie (Tos') Mendalski of Hamtramck, 12 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her children Cindy, Annette and Kenneth Mendalski; siblings Betty, Irene, Lewis, Joann and Gerry; grandsons, Archie F. Mendalski and Bill Bogumil.

Funeral Services for Mary Lou were Monday and Tuesday, June 12 and 13, at the Ramsey Funeral Home of Harbor Beach. An AmVets Auxiliary Memorial service was also held at the funeral home. Burial was at Our Lady of Lake Huron Church Cemetery in Harbor Beach, MI 48441.

# **POLISUK**



Carolyn Polisuk (nee Bolanowski), 87, died June 2, 2023.

Dear wife of the late Frank, and loving mother of David, Cynthia (Kevin) Balfour, and Kenneth; grandmother of Megan, Trevor, and Caitlin: sister of Elaine and the late Leonard; ister-in- law of Bernadette. Carolyn is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Carolyn was an avid collector of Precious Moments figurines and especially loved their angel collection. Visitation and funeral services were held at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, Hamtramck MI. In lieu of flowers please make donations in Carolyn's name to St. Jude or Boys Town.



# Review: Opinion Page

# In Our Opinion

# Election season spawns the usual inflated claims

Hamtramck's city finances have long been up and down.

But some folks out there are claiming that the city's current balanced budget is a first-ever historical moment.

Bunk.

We know this is an election year, and there are going to be a bunch of inflated claims - that goes with the territory.

The fact is, though, that the city has also experienced a balanced budget in the past – just several years ago, in fact. Hamtramck has lately experienced a number of financial gains that were the result of hard work by previous administrations, as well as by the current

And the city has been the recipient of state and federal grants that have

greatly offset costs some just temporarily.

While those grants are welcome, they are not are also making these permanent solutions.

The future of Hamtramck's financial stability remains in question. For anyone paying attention, it was recently explained that financial projections show that Hamtramck will once again experience deficit spending in a few years.

Another tall tale being peddled is that, "for the first time," development projects are happening in the city, or about to happen. Again, what a load of BS.

Guess what?

Development projects have been steadily going on during the past several years, each one building upon the last.

So, good grief, stop

with the revisionist history - and that goes for certain elected leaders who false claims.

On top of all this, despite Hamtramck's long history of fragile finances, there are some city council candidates promising to lower property taxes. What they don't offer, unsurprisingly, is how they propose to keep the city funded if they are successful in reducing those taxes.

The whole notion of promising to lower taxes is such a tired and worn out cliché that all it does is immediately disqualify someone as fit to help run this city.

Candidates, you can do better than this - but, if you can't, then you have no business seeking public office.

# Odds & Ends

Pandora's box?... There could likely be some unintended consequences to the city council's passing of a resolution banning religious flags from being flown on the "city's public properties."

Several folks on social media made a good point, and that is:

If the council is prohibiting religious flags, and others, such as the pride flag, from being flown, shouldn't that apply to the Christmas and Eid banners displayed on Jos. Campau?

After all, the banners are on city property.

We're sure someone will find some legal words to worm out of this, such as banners are not the same as flags.

To some, that will sound like semantic hairsplitting.

The upshot is, there could be unintended consequences, which especially happens when you rush into something without really thinking it all through.

**Fraud alert...** The state is warning folks and businesses who have past due debts to the state to watch out for a scam going around.

Namely, fraudsters are sending out letters instructing those who owe the state money to call a toll-free number to resolve the matter. The letter threatens some aggressive actions, such as seizing your property - if you do not comply.

According to a state

"The correspondence appears credible to the recipient because it uses personal facts and information pulled directly from the internet and public records. The scammer's letter attempts to lure a person or business into a situation where they could make a payment to a criminal."

Individuals who receive a letter from a scammer or have questions about their state debts should call Treasury's Collections Service Center at 517-636-5265. A customer representative service can log the scam, verify outstanding state debts, and provide flexible payment options.

To learn more about Michigan's collections process, go to www.michigan.gov/treasury or follow the state Treasury Department on Twitter at @MITreasury.

Health watch... The American Diabetes Association has some cautionary words of advice.

First some background: over a million people in Michigan are diagnosed with the disease, and it is estimated that an additional 239,000 Michigan residents have diabetes but do not know it.

While having diabetes can cause serious health concerns including heart disease, stroke, and even death, it can be managed. With education, awareness, and positive lifestyle changes, you dramatically reduce the condition's effect on their health.

Besides following a doctor's prescription, here are some healthy tips to follow:

- · Limit starchy vegetables such as potatoes, corn, carrots, and green peas since they can raise blood sugar levels quickly and by large amounts.
- Limit fried foods and those high in saturated fat and trans-fat, such as butter, poultry skin, and many fast foods like french fries.
- Food and drinks with high salt and sugar content should also be avoided when possible. Drink water instead and consider using sugar substitutes to sweeten coffee or tea.

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 Try to avoid processed foods, such as potato chips, breakfast cereals, and meat products like bacon and ham.

 Work to incorporate more whole foods, lean meats and protein, hearthealthy fats and fresh fruits and vegetables into your diet. Broccoli, peppers, and mushrooms as well as avocados, nuts, seeds, salmon, and albacore tuna are good choices. Legumes like black beans and blackeyed peas are packed with fiber and protein. Removing skin from poultry allows you to enjoy it without the added fat.

 Exercise is another important component since physical activity has been shown to reduce blood sugar levels. Walking, stretching and low-intensity weight training can be added to your daily routine one at a time.

Bookfest... For those of us who like to read books in the printed format, mark your calendar for Sunday. July 16.

That's when the 6th Annual Detroit Festival of Books happens at Eastern market's Shed 5.

It's free to attend, and featured with be: Tons of great books, vinyl records, comics, creative arts. food. funk music. and more!

The event goes from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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# Other Voices: Guest Editorial

# Act now to enter county payment plan for taxes

By Eric R. Sabree

Wayne County Treasurer Wayne County residents facing foreclosure can now enter payment plans to take care of back property taxes for 2021 and previous years.

The Wayne County Treasurer's Office offers several payment plan options to help taxpayers avoid foreclosure and pay back property taxes over time periods:

Interest Reduction Stipulated Payment Agreement (IRSPA). This plan reduces the interest rate from 18 to 6 percent. Eligible taxpayers must own and live in the home and have a Principal Residency Exemption (PRE) and identification that proves residency.

Stipulated

Agreement (SPA): This allows a payment plan over a 10-month time period. The taxpayer can avoid foreclosure if payments are made according to the agreed-upon schedule.

Pay As You Stay Payment Agreement (PAYSPA): This is a program offered by municipalities. Residents must apply and be approved for their local municipality's Poverty Tax Exemption (PTE). Eligible participants will be notified of a reduced amount and have the option of paying a lump sum or enrolling in a PAYSPA.

Veterans and first responders may enter a payment plan with no down payment.

In addition to the pay-Payment ment plans, residents can still apply for grant funding through the Michigan Homeowners Assistance Fund (MIHAF).

The program provides American Rescue Act dollars to help Michiganders who were impacted by COVID-19 pay back taxes and for other needs. To date, more than \$20 million has gone to assist 5,500 Wayne County residents pay their property

We strongly urge Wayne County residents to apply as soon as possible because MIHAF funds are limited.

For more information, go to treasurer.waynecounty. com or contact the office by email at taxinfo@waynecounty.com or call (313) 224-5990.

Cont. from front page

unteer on a Saturday or Sunday we still have people who could use your help at other times.

So, if you can help even for just a couple of

hours one or two days a week - call Max Gilginas at Hamtramck City Hall at (313) 800-5233, extension 326, or AmeriCorps Service Member John Jakary via email at jjakary@ hannan.org to sign up.

The "Every Neighbor" program is a pilot project of the Community and Economic Development office and Hamtramck Mutual Aid, and is funded by the City and the Rotary Club of Detroit, with support from the AmeriCorps' "My Neighborhood Connections" program.

When the need arises, these caring professionals are ready to help.

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# City's pride flag controversy attracts attention beyond city

# borders continued from page 2

as your Congressman. Committed to raising your voices & championing your rights. Together, let's foster unity and inclusivi-

U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Hamtramck): "I can't imagine how it feels for our LGBTQ+ neighbors in Hamtramck to watch their own elected reps decide their existence doesn't matter. This is painful to see in a city that has always fought for equal justice for all. This action divides our communities."

State Sen. Stephanie Chang (D-Hamtramck), whose district includes Hamtramck:

"For LGBTQ+ residents in Hamtramck and around Michigan, your state leaders see you and hear you. I would hope that all of us can continue to move Hamtramck forward in a positive direction toward equality and freedom, not move backward toward division and fear."

The only local elected official who did not issue a public response is State Rep. Abraham Aiyash (D-Hamtramck). The Review reached out to him for comment but he has not responded.

Aiyash was recently a co-sponsor of a bill that expanded LGBTQ protection to the state's Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act. For those in favor of

the council's resolution, A Detroit News editorial congratulated their action, saying "Hamtramck has it right."

The editorial went on to say:

"It is a principled position that recognizes residents have widely different views on the causes being championed by the various flags, and it's not just the Pride flag at is-

# **Updates from the Hamtramck** Historical Museum... Continued from page 2

strike a balance between nostalgia and history. We offer a lot of detailed written explanations of the material on display. We want visitors to see, know and understand they are looking at and why it means something to them, even if they aren't from Hamtramck.

And we invite viewers to explore the history and meaning of the items in greater depth. That's part of interpretation, which is an essential element in our purpose for being. All of this is designed to give our visitors an accurate

understanding of Hamtramck's history.

And maybe stir some pleasant memories of their own.

So come to the museum and learn more. And don't forget to look when a plane passes by. (By Greg Kowalski, Execu-

tive Director)

### Ongoing... Play Ball!

Have you visited the Play Ball! Baseball in Hamtramck exhibit now on display at the museum?

Even if you have, you should come back again.

That's because the exhibit is a fluid display, By that we mean it is being expanded and revised continuously. So even if you already came by, you likely haven't seen everything.

And a series of events related to the exhibit will be held later this summer and into the fall. Details will be released soon. The exhibit will remain open through the end of the 2023 World Series in November.

### What's new

The International Hall

on Yemans Street was better known as being the home of the local Communist Party.

But even communists can have fun, and every so often the hall hosted social events. The Nuf Sed Dance featured "Those Bilikens" on a wintery night in December, 1933.

This entrance ticket was donated by Dan Rojek, and is part of a much larger collection of dance cards from that era. They offer an unusual insight into history.

# City Hall Insider ...

### **By Charles Sercombe**

The city council met on May 23, and all council members, except for

What is our City Council up to these days? We have the highlights of the latest council meeting. Khalil Refai, were in atten-

During community announcements. Council member Nayeem Choudhury invited the public to his barbecue, which was

happening later in the

week, located in a lot next

dance.

to his Conant business. "Come join us, enjoy the day," said Choudhury, who is seeking re-election this

Mayor Amer Ghalib quipped: "Are your (election) opponents invited, too?"

Choudhury replied: "Yes, everyone."

Council member Mohammed Alsomiri, who is also seeking re-election, warned residents to keep their yards in order or risk getting a code violation ticket.

presentation was made by Flock Safety about the city installing license plate reading cameras throughout the city.

The devices cost \$3,000 each, and will store data for 30 days. The cameras do not provide facial recognition ability.

The council did not take action on the proposal.

Later in the meeting, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) said he is concerned about the installation of license plate readers in the city.

He said a network of cameras could treat everyone as a "potential suspect," and make people feel less safe.

He also said the cameras could also lead to a case of mistaken identity and turn into a needless police confrontation.

A proclamation was read in support of All Star Junior Coalition of Hamtramck, which produced a video on the dangers of vaping.

The proclamation read, in part:

"The youth of Hamtramck have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to promoting public health and preventing substance use and addiction among their peers: and the All Star Junior Coalition of Hamtramck has distinguished itself by creating an outstanding public service video that focuses on the dangers of vaping and substance use, and provides guidance on how to support friends who may be struggling with addiction or mental health issues;

"And the All Star Junior Coalition's video has been recognized as the best in its category, earning first prize in a competition that included many other talented young people from across the region: and the All Star Junior Coalition's success is a testament to the dedication, creativity, and hard work of its members, who have worked tirelessly to raise awareness about the importance of prevention and support."

During public comment, Lynn Blasey, who is a candidate for city council, spoke on a building design that was going to be considered by the council.

The building would be two-stories, and feature retail space on the ground floor and 12 apartments on the second floor.

Blasey said she welcomes the additional housing, but questioned where tenants are going to park their vehicles. The structure does not offer parking for tenants.

The council later approved the design.

Bill Meyer questioned why the city does not have a motel or hotel.

The council approved

the construction of two four-unit housing developments, one at 9509 Gallagher and one at 9466 McDougall.

The council OK'd the purchase of two vehicles for the Fire Department, at a cost of over \$97,000 total, from Berger Chevro-

The council accepted a \$50,000 grant from the Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network for the city to fund its summer youth employment program.

In a note to the council, it was said of the program:

"This program is expected to be both beneficial to youth interns and to the City, and also provide an educational program for youth who otherwise may not have employment or educational opportunities during the summer months. The \$50,000 grant provides funding for the period June 1, 2023 through September 30,

2023." The council agreed to cancel a contract with Xpert Lawn and Snow because the administration said the company was not living up to the terms of their contract.

The council agreed to contract with BCL Contrac-

Speaking about the new contractors, City Manager Max Garbarino said the administration will "hold them to the fire" to make sure the company provides service.

He added that if the company doesn't perform to the city's standards, "they're gone."

During the second portion of public comment, Bill Meyer thanked the ACLU attorney for providing "the other side" on the issue of license plate readers.

He said the cameras present a privacy issue. He also said the council should have challenged the plate reading company more.



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project for a 2-story, 17,766 square foot addition to the middle school building located at 8228 Conant by July 24, 2023 and will be opened on July 26, 2023 with the winning bid announced on July 28, 2023. Work is to commence on August 7, 2023. The full RFP can be requested from Mr. Ehab Hassan at

Oakland International Academy is seeking sealed bids for General Contractor services on a construction Support Street. A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at 11:00 am on July 10, 2023. Sealed bids will be due Businesses ehab.hassan@emanschools.net.



June 23, 2023

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announcements, comments to city officials, facts you want to share with the community, etc.

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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)



### By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers June 14-19.

# Wednesday, June 14

- Family trouble was reported in the 12000 block of St. Aubin.
- An attempted car theft was reported in the 11000 block of Klinger.
- · A possible robbery was reported in the area of Dequindre and Circle Dr.
- An illegal dumping was reported in the 3100 block of Roosevelt.
- · A complaint was made about a disorderly customer at a business in the 2700 block of Carpenter.
- A complaint was made about a group of disorderly juveniles in the 2200 block of Holbrook.
- · A loose dog was reported in the 2200 block of Geimer.
- A person was arrested in the 2400 block of Zinow for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant and for multiple misdemeanor offenses.
- An assault was reported on Edwin near Lumpkin.

### Thursday, June 15

- A complaint was made about a male, in the 1900 block of Edwin, who was banging on a front door.
- Customer trouble was reported at a business in the 2000 block of Caniff.
- · A trespassing complaint was made in the 1900 block of Edwin.
- A downed power line was reported at Casmere and Mackay.
- An illegal dumping was reported on Yemans.
- · An auto theft was reported in the 11800 block of Conant.
- · A carjacking was reported on Dequindre, near Yemans. The suspect was a male who brandished a black gun, and who then drove off in a dark gray Ford 150 pickup.

# Friday, June 16

- A complaint was made about an incident of harassment in the 9500 block of Charest.
- A noise complaint was made in the area of Jos. Campau and Holbrook.
- · Officers recovered a stolen vehicle in the area of Commor and Grand Ha-
- A complaint was made about loud music at a Jos. Campau business.
- · A theft occurred in the 9300 block of Jos. Campau.
- A domestic assault occurred in the 5200 block of Belmont.
  - An auto was stolen in the 2200 block of Faber.
- Reckless driving was reported in the 3500 block of Hamtramck Dr. Reckless driving was also reported in the area of Charest and Carpenter.

 A suspicious person was reported in the area of Jos. Campau and Can-

### Saturday, June 17

- · A fight was reported in the 2600 block of Holmes.
- A domestic assault was reported in the 11400 block of Moran.
- An auto theft was reported in the area of Yemans and Conant.
- · Family trouble was reported in the 2300 block of Yemans. · An assault was re-
- ported in the 9800 block of Conant. Customer trouble was
- reported at a business in the 3500 block of Caniff. A complaint was
- made about squatters in the 9500 block of Conant. A male was arrested
- after an investigation of an assault in the area of Mackay and Burger. · Reckless drivers were
- reported in the 3500 block of Hamtramck Dr. · Neighbor trouble was
- reported in the 12000 block of Dyar.

### Sunday, June 18

· A complaint was made about a disorderly person in the area of Brombach and Edwin.

· Family trouble was reported in the 2300 block of Yemans.

- Officers investigating property damage in the area of Caniff and Gallagher arrested a male. The reason for the arrest was not provided.
- An animal complaint was made in the 9500
- block of Gallagher. · Family trouble was reported in the 3400 block

of Doremus.

- · A disorderly person was reported in the 8500 block of Jos. Campau.
- · A break-in was reported in the 2900 block of Hanley.
- Officers responding to a call about a loose dog in the 3400 block of Edwin captured the dog and took it to the Westland Humane Society.
- A complaint was made about a disorderly customer at a business on Conant near Caniff.

# Monday, June 19

- · An assault was reported at Conant and Caely.
- A theft was reported in the 10200 block of Conant.
- A theft was reported in the 2300 block of Botsford.
- · An assault was reported in the 2000 block of Belmont.
- A domestic assault was reported in the
- 12000 block of Grand Haven. A complaint was
- made about suspicious vehicles and individuals who were causing a disturbance in the 5200 block of Yemans.



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# Police say pride flag vandal will meet with Piast Institute

**By Charles Sercombe** 

Hamtramck police identified, and talked with, the suspect who ripped down a pride flag that had been displayed by the Piast Institute a couple of weeks ago.

The suspect is described as a male juvenile, and his identity will not be released because of his age.

Piast, located on Jos. Campau just north of Caniff, has said it does not intend to prosecute the youth. A surveillance camera recorded the incident.

Police Chief Anne Moise released this statement last week, after The Review went to press:

"A juvenile male was identified as being involved in the incident involving the flag at the Piast Institute.

"A voluntary meeting has been arranged between the juvenile and his parents and members of the Piast staff. purpose of the meeting is for the juvenile to offer an apology to the Piast.

"The staff from Piast has stated, from the beginning, once it was determined that a juvenile may have been involved, that they did not want to prosecute and then have the charge go on the juvenile's record.

"Their only request, from the beginning, has been to have a meeting to discuss the situation, to express the way it makes people feel when property."

The vandalism came at a time of deep division in the community about displaying a pride flag on city-owned flagpoles.

Last week, the city council unanimously voted to allow only the American flag, state flag, city flag, and "prisoner of war" flag, as well as the international flags of nations "that represent the international character of

someone damages their our city," according to a resolution.

> The resolution also specifically prohibits "any religious, ethnic, racial, political, or sexual orientation group flags to be flown on the city's public properties."

> That vote - which thus bans the pride flag, among others - has stirred ongoing controversy that has, in turn, generated local, national and international press coverage.





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