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July 14, 2023 **50¢**

# The Review

*Hamtramck*

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## Quick Hits

### Hamtramck trees need some love

By Charles Sercombe

Tree lovers, here's a word for the wise.

Well, actually, a few words.

This past spring was awfully dry, dry, dry.

We've since had some pretty heavy rains, but according to the tree folks at Michigan State University, that's not good news.

According to MSU, here's why:

"Drought-stressed trees grow roots deeper into the soil, where rising water tables may drown them, or grow roots closer to the surface, which makes them vulnerable to being burned when the next growing season becomes hot and dry. This cycle of extreme wet-dry conditions causes many trees to die."

Also, a drought can lead to an infestation of insects, so you might want to inspect your trees (or, have an expert take a look).

In the future, be sure to regularly water your trees – especially newly-planted ones, and there are many of those in the city.

If you follow a regular water maintenance schedule, there is a better chance your trees will survive the next drought.

## — HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

# The raising of the pride flag as a call for 'tolerance' and acceptance

By Charles Sercombe

The LGBTQ pride flag flew once again on a Jos. Campau flagpole.

But that lasted for just a short while before a city crew, including at least four officers providing security, took it down.

Last Sunday, a group of about 20 LGBTQ-rights supporters gathered at 3 p.m., in a demonstration of sorts, and watched Russ Gordon, the chairman of the Hamtramck Human Relations Commission, raise the pride flag.

It was a moment of defiance in the aftermath of the city council and mayor backing a ban on flying pride flags on city-owned property.

The Jos. Campau flagpoles, all 18 of them, are city-owned. In the past, just one pride flag has been flown.

The council's decision has caused nationwide media coverage, and spurred a debate on whether communities should allow pride flags – and there is more than one design, but most in-

corporate rainbow colors – to be flown on government property.

Gordon has previously caused friction with the current council and mayor, who are all-Muslim and all-male, when he put up a pride flag over a year ago.

This latest act, Gordon predicted, will likely result in Mayor Amer Ghalib removing him from the commission he chairs. The mayor appoints Human Relations Commission members.

As for why he did it, Gordon read from a prepared statement to those gathered on Sunday.

"For me, the raising of this flag is less about defiance and more about protest, and a plea for tolerance," he said.

Gordon added that the resolution to ban the pride flag stems from religious "bigotry," and that "ordering the removal of this flag will just fan the flames."

The flag was indeed removed – about two-and-a-half hours after it was raised.



**Russ Gordon raises a pride flag on a Jos. Campau flagpole Sunday afternoon in defiance of a city council resolution prohibiting that flag from being on display on public property. Gordon, the Chairman of the Hamtramck Human Relations Commission, was removed from the commission because of this act.**

City Manager Max Garbarino said the mayor and councilmembers demanded it come down, and so a city crew was dispatched to remove it.

The city also removed two other flags that do not fit the definition of acceptable flags – the pan-African flag and one

**Continued on page 6**

## Tax man cometh this summer

*"Let me tell you how it will be*

*There's one for you, nineteen for me*

*'Cause I'm the taxman*

*Yeah, I'm the taxman"*

*–The Beatles*

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck homeowners may have noticed by now that their summer property tax bills went up by almost 4.5 mills.

The extra mills are a one-time only hike, and the extra money will go to settle some outstanding bills.

The city is obligated, under a court-agreed-upon tax judgment, to pay for the following three issues:

- Legal fees for the Sarah Garrett housing discrimination lawsuit.

- Settlement in a lawsuit over sewer flooding that caused home damages.

- Settlement for a police brutality case.

In all, the tax will generate a little over \$1 million, and will cost the average homeowner anywhere from an extra \$50 to \$200, or perhaps the cost of a couple – or three – family barbecues.

However, commercial property owners will face a much steeper hit, as high as \$1,000 more.

It's thought that this latest payment for the housing discrimination lawsuit will finally end the decades-long legal fees that have been costing around \$400,000 a year.

The city is putting the final button on that lawsuit with the construction of the last three housing units (out of 200 that had been required, in a settlement with the plaintiffs of the case).

It took millions of dollars to fund the housing, but the city was able to get various federal, state

**Continued on page 2**



**After a long absence, City Councilmember Khalil Refai recently returned to the city and resumed his duties on council.**

## After over a five-month absence, councilmember finally returns

By Charles Sercombe

After missing nine straight city council meetings since January, Councilmember Khalil Refai has returned.

His absence was never fully explained, but his colleagues on council agreed to excuse his missed meetings in advance, and with no knowledge as to when he would return.

Refai came back a few weeks ago to the council chambers, to what hap-

pened be one of the most contentious meetings in the last couple of years.

The issue that meeting was whether to ban the display of pride flags, as well as several other flags, on city property, and it prompted a huge public outpouring and commentary on both sides of the issue.

In-person comments, as well as email comments that were read out loud, went on for about

**Continued on page 2**

*you fit in here.*

# HPS

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# Tax man cometh this summer

Continued from front page

and county grants to pay for the bulk of the costs. As for the flooding issue, the city had previously agreed, in an earlier lawsuit settlement, to begin overhauling the city's sewage system, but that will come in stages that could easily end up taking years – and an estimated

\$50 million. As to the police brutality case: this wasn't the first, and likely not the last case involving misconduct by officers. The city has been hit with several in recent years, but all of the officers involved in the various cases have been dismissed, with at

least one officer, convicted of a felony, who is now serving time in prison. Even though there is a vetting process for new hires in the police department, it can be impossible to predict when an officer might go rogue in a particular situation.

# After over a five-month absence, councilmember finally returns

Continued from front page

three hours. Refai voted, along with all of his colleagues, to ban the pride flag, which is a decision that is still causing pushback from the community, as well as largely negative publicity nationally and even internationally. In response to a recent email from The Review asking why he had been gone, Refai said the reason for his absence was because of "family obligations due to medical issues unfortunately, but everything is well now thanks God." However, during the meeting to which he re-

turned, Refai referred to his absence a "great vacation." During his absence, Refai still collected his pay, currently set at \$3,180 a year. The council is now seeking voter approval to change the city charter to allow the salaries of councilmembers to be increased by more than double. Refai was one of three new councilmembers elected in the last city council election. It hasn't gone well for those who were elected in that race, with the other two ending up resign-



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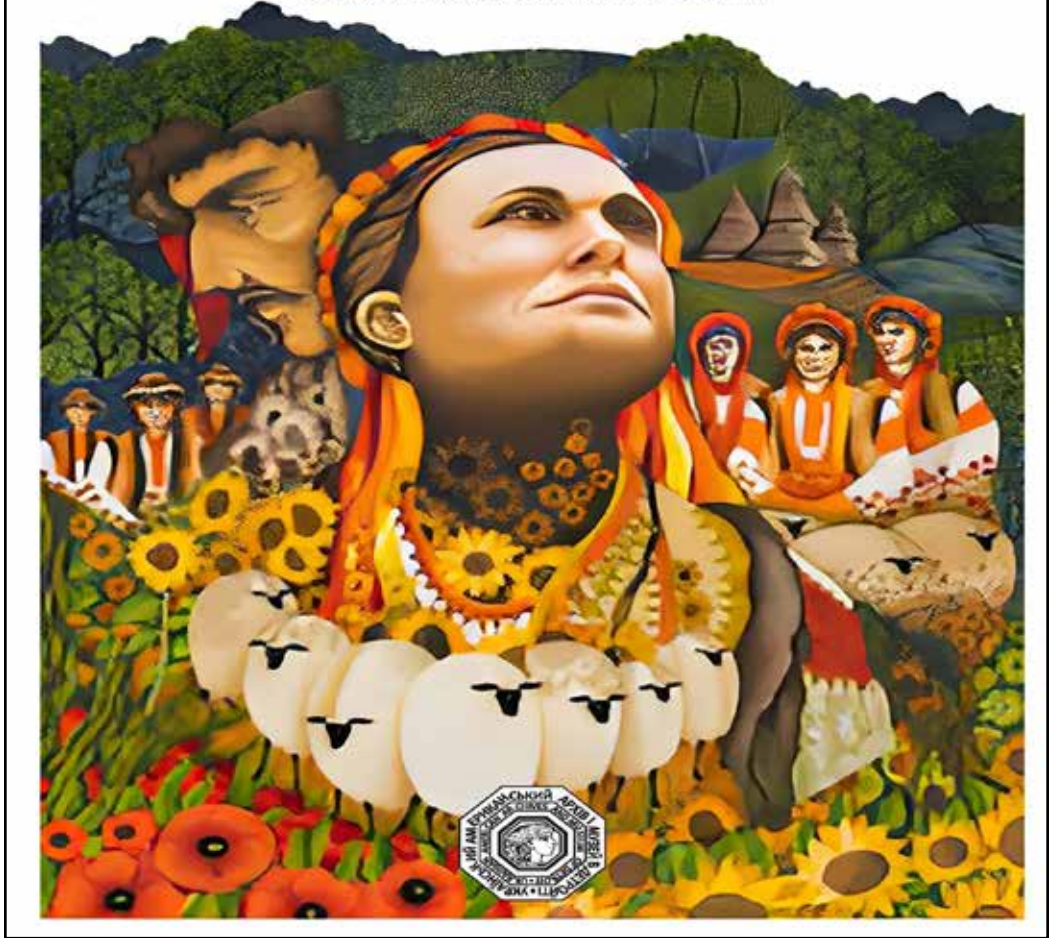
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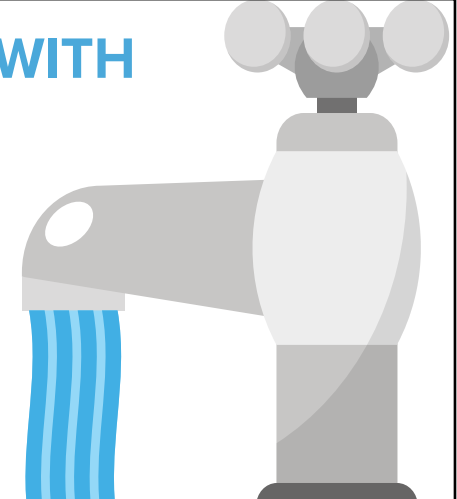
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# This week at the Library . . .

July 14, 2023

**Summer Reading:** This coming Wednesday, July 19th at 2 pm the theme of the program is "Collaborative Poster Craft". We will be coming together as a team to create a colorful poster using tiny stickers to bring a hidden image to life. 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.

**Adaptive Yoga:** Summer exercise programs begin on Tuesday, July 18th at 3 pm. The summer sessions will end on August 15th. The programs are sponsored by the RIM Foundation.

**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.

**Story Time:** Get you kids together and drop in on our Wednesday afternoon Story Time at 12 noon. 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 at 4 pm. Stop by and let us know that you have come to play.

**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 pm.

**Property Records:** Learning how to access this data is part of the next Library of Michigan ZOOM presentation. Catch this event on Thursday, August 3rd at 6:30 pm. Please visit [www.michigan.gov/Impublicprograms](http://www.michigan.gov/Impublicprograms) to register.

**First Step on the Moon:** On July 20th, 1969 a global audience watched on television as Apollo 11 Astronaut Neil Armstrong took his first step onto the moon. As he stepped onto the moon's surface he proclaimed, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" - inadvertently omitting an "a" before "man" and slightly changing the meaning.

**Amelia Earhart:** This American pilot was born on July 24, 1898 in Atchison, Kansas. She became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic and to fly solo from Hawaii to California. She perished during a flight from New Guinea to Howland Island over the Pacific Ocean on July 3, 1937.

**Library is located at 2360 Caniff Avenue, Phone (313) 733-6822**  
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# Second Front Page

## Crime Watch: Fireworks are still an ongoing complaint

By Charles Sercombe

The beef this week in crime news comes down to one word: Fireworks. With the Eid holiday and the Fourth of July back-to-back this past week, there was bound to be some complaining about fireworks. But the complaints didn't stop during those actual holidays: they are still happening, even as we go to print on Thursday. Yes, fireworks are legal, but there are restrictions on when they can be shot off. The last day for this holiday season was on July 4. After that, it was, and is, considered illegal to use them until the next holiday (the Saturday and Sunday preceding Labor Day and on Labor Day). Of course, just because the law restricts

when fireworks can be used doesn't mean people will obey that law. And, it's nearly impossible for police officers to catch someone in the act when there are multiple calls coming in from all over the city. If you are caught, though, there is a hefty fine of \$1,000 – \$500 of which goes to the police department. In the meantime, a number of residents – especially those with pets – can only bear with it, and try to find ways to soothe their anxiety-ridden pet cats and dogs. While a number of people suffer quietly during the holidays when fireworks are allowed, there is a movement by some state officials and residents of the state to

change the state law. Some want to go back to banning them, while others are seeking to further limit when fireworks can be used. Heather Martin, of Pulaski St., has one way to cope with fireworks and what it does to her pets. “Gotta turn on jams, and forget I live in a place where it's OK for people to be terrorized daily,” Martin said in a post on her Facebook page. In another crime trend for the past week, there were several reports of car thefts – all happening at different times and locations in the city. Preventing your car from being stolen is a challenge, but there are simple things to do to thwart thieves, which we have outlined before:

- Lock your doors
  - Remove your keys from the vehicle
  - Do not leave a spare key near your vehicle
  - Close the windows
  - Park in well-lit areas
  - Install an audible alarm system and anti-theft device
  - Install a vehicle immobilizer system
  - Install a tracking system
- Another crime trend is people stealing items out of vehicles. A determined thief is hard to foil, but these tips might help:
- Secure your vehicle. Roll your car windows up all the way and engage the car alarm.
  - Keep your car free of clutter
  - Park in well-lighted areas, if possible
- As always, be observant of the goings-on in your neighborhood, and don't hesitate to call 911 if you see someone, or something, suspicious.



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**Friday, June 16, 2023**

**Puss in Boots: The Last Wish - PG**  
1 hr 40m

When Puss in Boots discovers that his passion for adventure has taken its toll and he has burned through eight of his nine lives, he launches an epic journey to restore them by finding the mythical Last Wish



**Friday, July 14, 2023**

**Minions: The Rise of Gru - PG**  
1 hr 27m

The untold story of one twelve-year-old's dream to become the world's greatest supervillain.



**Friday, August 11, 2023**

**Tom & Jerry: The Movie - PG**  
1 hr 41m

A chaotic battle ensues between Jerry Mouse, who has taken refuge in the Royal Gate Hotel, and Tom Cat, who is hired to drive him away before the day of a big wedding arrives.

All shows are weather permitting. Bring your own chair or blanket, bug spray, and snacks you would like to have. No alcohol, tobacco, or fireworks allowed in the park. Playground and pavilions are closed during the movie. Movie begins at dusk. **If postponed movie will show the following Friday.**

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

Please take notice that the public testing of the equipment and the program to be used for tallying the results of the Primary Election of Tuesday, August 8, 2023, will be held on July 20, 2023, at 3 p.m. The test will take place in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall located at 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, MI 48212. All interested parties are invited to observe.

হামট্রামেক শহর  
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## 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 June 27, and all councilmembers, except for Mohammed Hassan and Nayeem Choudhury, were in attendance.

A proclamation was read that recognized the 28th anniversary of “the genocide that the Serbian forces perpetrated in Srebrenica, and all of Bosnia from 1992 to 1995.”

The proclamation read, in part: “... At least 8,372 innocent Bosniak civilians were summarily executed and 30,000 were expelled from their homes in the worst atrocity in Europe since the holocaust.”

During public comment, several people sent emails criticizing a council proposal to not accept email comments.

The proposal, said Eric Welsby, the Advocacy Director for Detroit Disability Power, will “create massive barriers for people with disabilities and their abilities to have their voices heard by this council.”

George Elkind, a resident, said the prohibition will “dramatically restrict the ability of residents and community stakeholders to make their voices heard.

“Council is meant to represent the community’s needs, and should

thus be open to hearing their views.”

Julia Sosin said emails will “increase participation in democracy.”

“They are extremely convenient for me, a busy working mom ...”

Matthew Isopi accused the council of being motivated to not accept emails because of the number of emails that were sent to the council at a previous meeting in opposition to the council’s ban on allowing pride flags to be flown on public property.

“You didn’t like it when your constituents overwhelmingly made their voice heard ...,” Isopi said.

On the subject of the pride flag ban, Meghan Navoy said she is against the council’s decision, saying it “encourages homophobia.”

“I am opening a retail store and art space in Hamtramck, and my business is welcoming and accepting of all people,” Navoy said. “I do not want to be operating in a place that encourages homophobia via the city’s banning of hanging the pride flag, especially during Pride Month.”

Justin Jessop, speaking in person at the meeting, said the display of the pride flag is meant to show diversity.

Lynn Blasey, who is a candidate for city council, said she is against banning emails. She said that, had that policy been in place when Councilmember Khalil Refai was absent for several months, his emails to the council to comment on matters would not have been read into the record.

Darren Shelton of Ant Hall, a performance theater on Caniff, said the council’s ban on displaying a pride flag on public places suppresses “the voices of this community.”

He said his theater has received many calls from people saying they will no longer patronize Hamtramck, and he is also receiving a lot of hate mail.

Shelton said that, despite the council’s stated reason to ban pride flags to remain “neutral,” the effect has been the opposite.

In reaction to the council’s action, he said Planet Ant will host a pride event on July 28 at 6 p.m. He invited the mayor and council to be there.

“We will be loud, and we will have fun,” Shelton said.

He also invited the mayor and council to meet with community leaders and business owners “to address this growing divide and violence and hatred here as a result of the pride resolution.”

Bill Meyer said that the council “chose the only way out” in banning pride flags.

Mayor Amer Ghalib said the decision about pride flags was the city’s way of trying to “make everybody happy.”

He said that without some guidelines on what flags can be flown on city property, there might be someone demanding to fly “some weird flag.”

A lengthy discussion followed on updating how council meetings are conducted. The council agreed to adjust what can be discussed during public comment at the end of the meeting to, moving forward, be on any topic, not just what was on the agenda.

At the suggestion of Councilmember Muhith Mahmood, the council also agreed to allow emails to be accepted and read into the record, but limit it to the first 15 emails to be submitted to the clerk’s office.

Mayor Ghalib questioned whether the city could limit email input to that coming from residents only.

City Attorney Odey Meroueh said that would deny people their First Amendment right.

In what was touted as a cost-saving move, the council agreed to use plastic pipes instead of copper for city water service lines.

City Manager Max Garbarino said this will result in a \$120,000 savings.

After a second attempt at approval, the council agreed to purchase a second street sweeper. John DeAngelis, the Director of Public Services, said there had been confusion among some councilmembers over the source of funding.

He said funding will come from a road fund, not the city’s general budget.

The cost of the sweeper is \$275,000.

During the mayor’s report, Ghalib said he was able to prevent counter-protestors from coming out during the pride flag rally held a few weeks ago in Zussman Park.

“Hopefully, we’ll be able to keep the city safe and calm,” he said.

Councilmember Mahmood said that he supports women on city council. Currently, the council is all male, and there is only one woman candidate, Lynn Blasey, in the upcoming city council election.

(The last time Blasey ran for council, she finished sixth, which was last place.)

As for that controversial vote to ban pride flags on city property that he supported, he said the council’s job “is always difficult.”

SUPPORT LOCAL  
BUSINESS



# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### Pot shops pay more than their fair share

The recent closing of a marijuana dispensary has prompted the usual “hoorays” from folks who wish all four Hamtramck outlets would go away.

These folks claim that dispensaries are magnets for crime and the peddling of drugs – even if the drug in question is legal marijuana.

Just like liquor stores, marijuana dispensaries require one to be at least 21 years old to purchase their product. It’s up to each person whether or not to consume these products – not a group of self-appointed moralists.

Critics also fail to realize the significance of revenue each dispensary pays to the city and state. For the city, each outlet represents about \$50,000 each year.

The state receives over a billion dollars a year in revenue from all the dispensaries and cannabis-related companies in Michigan.

To those critics: show us another type of retail outlet that pays that much money each year in taxes and fees.

Not surprisingly, some of these same critics advocate abolishing the city income tax. We get it, no one likes to pay taxes, but taxes pay for our public services – such as public safety, schools and road repairs – just to name a few things.

Chasing away legitimate retail outlets is not only an act of ignorance, but also sends out a terrible message to those thinking about investing in the city.

The message being heard is: “Hamtramck does not welcome you – go away.”

And, for those who object to dispensaries: don’t go to them – but let other adults decide on their own whether to partake.

## Other Voices: Guest Editorial

### Get on board for a discount ride to AA

The Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan (RTA) announced today the launch of the new D2A2 Frequent Rider Passbook, a discounted pass program that offers significant savings for commuters traveling between Detroit and Ann Arbor on the D2A2 bus route.

Starting immediately, passengers can purchase a passbook containing 50 one-way trips for the price of \$100, offering bus rides as low as \$2 each way.

The frequent rider passbook program offers a 60 percent decrease in cost per ride compared to purchasing each ticket individually. This new purchase option will provide more flexibility and affordability, making it an ideal choice for regular commuters.

“With the success of D2A2 ridership during the last year, we’re happy to be able to offer an even more affordable commute between Ann Arbor and Detroit with this new passbook,” said RTA Program Manager Ben Stupka.

“We encourage commuters to take advantage of this great option for more savings.”

In addition to the new 50-ride passbook, the RTA will continue to offer a book of 10 one-way trips between Detroit Grand Circus Park and Ann Arbor Blake Transit Center for \$50. All passes are valid for one year, starting from the selected date. They are non-refundable and must be utilized by the person named in the transaction.

To purchase a travel passbook, commuters are required to create an account or log into their existing account on the D2A2 website. It is recommended that passengers always log into their account to make travel pass reservations, where they can manage bookings seamlessly.

Other recent D2A2 updates include extended service for the summer season. The first was adding the Midnight Summer Run that began on June 1 and runs through Labor Day (Sept. 4). The second addition was an extra mid-evening round trip added on weekends.

“The RTA is committed to enhancing transportation options and promoting accessible and affordable commuting solutions for residents to fuel growth through mobility in our region,” Stupka added. “The introduction of the D2A2 Frequent Rider Passbook further demonstrates our dedication to providing convenient and cost-effective transportation services.”

D2A2 is the brainchild of the RTA, in partnership with the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (TheRide). The express bus service launched in 2020, shortly before the pandemic. It’s operated by Michigan Flyer.

For any inquiries or assistance, the D2A2 customer service team is available Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and can be reached at (517) 333-0400 or via email at [info@michigan-flyer.com](mailto:info@michigan-flyer.com).

## Odds & Ends

### Calling volunteers...

This Saturday, July 15, is another chance to help clean up this city from the endless amount of litter and debris that gets deposited each and every day.

Hamtramck is one dirty town at times.

If you have an hour or more to spare, volunteers are meeting up at city hall at 10 a.m., and then faning out into the city.

The city will provide garbage bags and gloves. According to organizers, “The purpose and intent of this event is:

“To be visible and joyful as lgbtq+ community members.

“To demonstrate our value to the community by cleaning our shared streets.”

### Consumer suggestion...

We recently had the pleasure of meeting Katy Zatsick who visited our office with an interesting suggestion:

Is there an enterprising market owner in town who can set up a water station, offering lead-free water, where people can refill their own containers for home consumption at a nominal charge?

We were told that the Meijer at 8 Mile and Woodward offers this service, but not everyone, of course, has the ability or means to get there.

Zatsick is especially concerned about the health of children who might be consuming lead-contaminated water at home.

At 80 years old, Zatsick is still able to get around and is a regular walker and participant at the recreation center.

You can take her advice, and get the lead out – in more ways than one.

### Homegrown talent...

Hamtramck has produced a number of successful folks in the arts, and that long history continues.

Case in point: Brenton Freeman, a Hamtramck High School graduate.

He now goes by his stage name “B Free” and he’s become a huge powerhouse in music.

His press agent, Marcus Miller of Menace Media, recently sent us this write-up. Take it away Marcus:

“The tale of B Free, the international artist, and Hamtramck’s pride, is one of extraordinary tenacity, unity, and the transformative power of authenticity. Born and raised in the poorest city in the United States, B Free’s journey from the humble streets of Hamtramck to international stardom stands as an awe-inspiring testament to the power of dreams nurtured by love and camaraderie.

“From an early age, B Free found his tribe within the cultural tapestry that makes Hamtramck unique. A band of brothers from diverse backgrounds - Muslim, Bengali, Black, Albanian, Bosnian, Somali, and Hindu - all residents of Hamtramck, they stood by each other through thick and thin. Together, they built their own record label, Menace in Paradise, embodying unity in diversity.

“The Menaces, as they fondly refer to each other, endured a profound loss in 2021 when their brother Vijay Das tragically passed away. Vijay was an integral part of their brotherhood and business, and his loss was deeply felt. Today, each of their missions and victories is dedicated to his memory, a testament to their unshakeable bond.

“Despite the trials and tribulations, B Free’s star continues to shine brighter than ever. His most recent release, *Menace in Paradise*, is a testament to his resilience and the power of community. It’s a story of triumph over adversity, of a man who refused to let his circumstances define him. B Free’s music is a reflection of his journey, a journey that has inspired countless others in Hamtramck and beyond.

Continued on page 6

## On August 8<sup>th</sup>

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# Odds & Ends

Continued from page 5

cent single “H Town” has made a splash on the international scene, charting in Japan and the UAE. Fresh from a worldwide tour sponsored by Puma, B Free’s message of unity and authenticity echoes across the globe.

“As a brand ambassador for the Detroit Pistons and the driving force behind Menace Media, B Free is creating ripples of change in his hometown. His team is developing a futuristic Media Lab to serve as a creative resource hub for the Detroit and Hamtramck commu-

nities, ensuring that the spirit of creativity that propelled him to stardom is accessible to others. ...

“B Free’s story is a shining example of the power of authenticity and unity. A beacon of hope from Hamtramck’s heart, B Free’s mantra rings true: ‘The truth behind B Free is simple, just be who you are at heart.’ His inspiring journey from Hamtramck to the world stage embodies the spirit of dreams fueled by perseverance and love.”



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## School Bell

### Summer activity

Learning how to swim. This is an important and life-saving skill that every kid needs to know. Fortunately, the Hamtramck Public School District has a pool at the high school.

But first, know this: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an average of 11 people die from drowning per day in the U.S.

So, thanks to the folks at National Public Radio and the American Red Cross, here are five basic skills for beginning swimmers:

- First, make sure you can jump into water, submerge yourself completely and bring yourself to the surface.
- Once you've returned to the surface, float or tread water for one minute. When treading water, stay relaxed so you don't overexert yourself.
- From there, you'll want to be able to turn around in a full circle and find an exit.
- Next, swim 25 yards to an exit without stopping. You can use whichever stroke you're comfortable with
- Finally, make sure you can exit the pool or body of water without a ladder.

## The raising of the pride flag as a call for ‘tolerance’ and acceptance

Continued from front page

representing the Cherokee nation.

The council's resolution permits only the American flag, the state flag, city flag, prisoner of war flag and the flags of nations that represent where Hamtramck residents come from to be flown – all in an effort to remain neutral when it comes any other flag.

Also speaking to those gathered was Catrina Stackpoole, a former city councilmember and a member of the Hamtramck Human Relations Commission.

Stackpoole was recently appointed to the commission by the mayor.

“This flag represents people in this community that, for years, were unable to be openly gay without harassment and worse,” Stackpoole said.

Stackpoole continued: “We now can be open and proud to be gay or trans, or whatever we want. We are able to be who we are and be proud. We are free to be ourselves without religious beliefs telling us to go back into the closet. We will not.

“Hamtramck is a diverse, multi-cultural and welcoming city to all who move here. We need to remind our neighbors that its diversity is its strength, and that we stand for love, not hate. Hamtramck has welcomed many waves of new immigrants.

“We have helped with English and citizen(ship) classes, and formed social service agencies to help with food, clothing and housing for many waves of new immigrants. Many of us defended the call to prayer because we believe in welcoming everyone to our town.

“Our city slogan is ‘The World in Two Square Miles’

“And queer Hamtramckans are members of the world and this community. And we are here to stay.”

Earlier in the week, The Review contacted Mayor Ghalib about his reaction to the raising of the flag, and whether he will remove either, or both, Gordon and Stackpoole from the Human Relations Commission.

“It was a very irresponsible action by a militia that has zero respect for law and order and that



Above: prior the raising of a pride flag on Sunday, a number of people wrote pro-LGBTQ messages in chalk on a sidewalk near the flag raising. Below: Human Relations Commission member Catrina Stackpoole spoke against the city council's recent resolution banning pride flags. She, too, was removed from the commission this week.



once used to lead the city. I haven't decided yet on what way to terminate them,” Ghalib said.

As it turned out, the city council voted at Tuesday's council meeting to remove Gordon and Stackpoole from the commission, and that the commission will no longer be in charge of flying flags.

In the resolution, Gordon and Stackpoole were accused of “blatantly violat(ing) the laws of the City of Hamtramck by flying a flag in contravention of the law designating that no flags of any religious, ethnic, racial, political, or sexual orientation group may be flown on City property. ...”

What law exactly that was broken is unclear.

City Manager Max Garbarino, who has a law degree, said that a council resolution is basically the same as a law.

“Resolution, law, what's the difference?” he said.

However, he admitted that Gordon's action “doesn't carry a criminal penalty.”

No matter what, Garbarino stressed that no one will be charged with a crime.

Mayor Ghalib said at Tuesday's council meeting that “we expect people to follow law and order.”

Garbarino further said that the city is in the process of purchasing American flags to replace the international flags, which will be taken down this

year.

As for the future, Garbarino said that unless the council says otherwise, he will fly just the American flags.

Gracie Cadieux, who helped organize a recent rally in Zussman Park to protest the city's ban on flying a pride flag, said the city and police department shouldn't spend their time taking down the pride flag, but should instead pursue recent incidents of pride flags being torn down at residences.

“People feel emboldened to harass people,” Cadieux said.

Up until this time, Gordon has been privately collecting donations for the Jos. Campau flags, and has also spent money himself on them. He has been the only one raising and taking down the flags each year for the last several years.

Gordon told The Review that the latest matter marks “an end of an era.”

There were those on some Hamtramck-based Facebook pages who applauded the removal of the pride flag, which some called the “shame flag.”

“It is good to see the disgusting flag removed very quickly, but the people who did it must be held accountable,” said a person on the Facebook page “Hamtramck Square” who identifies by the name Fares Alhalemi.

“This law violation by the gang of the former mayor should be doubled or tripled sentence,” Alhalemi added.

The former mayor being referenced is Karen Majewski, who supported LGBTQ rights as well as flying the pride flag. Majewski was also at Sunday's pride flag raising.

After serving for 16 years, she lost to the current mayor, Amer Ghalib, who was against flying the pride flag.

Ghalib, a licensed nurse, is an immigrant from Yemen, and is the first Yemeni-American to serve as mayor of Hamtramck.

Ghalib has said that, although he is opposed to displaying pride flags on city property, he has no problem with people flying them at their homes.

Prior to the flag raising, several people gathered to draw and write pro-LGBTQ messages in chalk on the sidewalk.

Some of the messages were:

- “Hamtramck will always be gay”
- “Queers fight back”
- “We have always been here”
- “Our existence is resistance”

Sources have told The Review that there is a possibility that the ACLU will step in and take legal action. This issue appears to be far from over.

## On August 8<sup>th</sup> Support your Hamtramck Public School District!

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July 14, 2023

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Announcements submitted by 10 am

Will go on air the same day (evening)

CRIME LOG

By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers July 4-10.

Tuesday, July 4

- A domestic assault was reported in the 12000 block of Dyar.
- A complaint about fireworks was made in the 2400 block of Denton.
- A fireworks complaint was made in the area of Sobieski and Commor.
- Following an investigation, a suspect was arrested for being wanted on a felony assault warrant out of Detroit.
- A theft was reported by a Neibel St. resident.
- At about 12:30 p.m., an attempted car theft was reported in the 11600 block of Gallagher.
- At 4:40 p.m., a fireworks complaint was made in the 12000 block of Dyar.
- A theft was reported in the 3100 block of Hanley.
- A complaint was made about a juvenile in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
- Disorderly juveniles were reported in the 2300 block of Burger.

Wednesday, July 5

- A reckless driver was reported in the area of Jos. Campau and Holbrook at 11 p.m.
- At 11:30 p.m., a fireworks complaint was made in the 1900 block of Norwalk.
- Officers investigated a group of suspicious people at Lumpkin and Evaline.
- At a little after 2 a.m., a littering complaint was made in the 9200 block of Conant.
- At a little after 3 a.m., officers unsuccessfully attempted to stop a vehicle, which then sped off.
- A theft was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
- A complaint was made about a juvenile in the 12000 block of Grand Haven.
- A car theft was reported by a Caniff resident.
- An auto theft was also reported on Danforth.
- A resident on Yemans reported being harassed.
- A Grand Haven St. resident reported that their vehicle was stolen.
- Also, a Mitchell St. resident reported that their car was stolen.
- A person reported missing from a residence in the 3000 block of Roosevelt, was later located and returned home.
- A person reported being harassed while in the 5200 block of Yemans.
- A family disturbance was reported in the 3800 block of Miller.
- A possible fight was reported in the 12000 block of Grand Haven.

Thursday, July 6

- At almost 11 p.m., a fireworks complaint was made in the area of Gallagher and Belmont.
- About the same time, a fireworks complaint was made in the 2300 block of Holmes.
- At about 2 a.m., a car theft was reported in the 5100 block of Caniff.
- A reckless driver was reported in the area of Nagel and Commor.
- An incident of fraud was reported in the 3100 block of Goodson.
- A hit-and-run accident was reported in the 3400 block of Holbrook.
- Another hit-and-run accident was reported on Belmont, near Conant.
- Officers investigated a disorderly group of people on Roosevelt near Gallagher.

Friday, July 7

- At midnight, a fight was reported in the 2400 block of Andrus.
- Officers, investigating a report of family trouble at 2:40 a.m. in the 1900 block of Belmont, arrested a person.
- A theft from a vehicle was reported in the 11600 block of Klinger.
- At 2:40 p.m., officers investigating an assault in the 12000 block of Grand Haven arrested two women.
- A complaint was made about juveniles in the 12000 block of Dyar who were throwing balls.
- A fight was reported in the area of Jos. Campau and Dan.
- Family trouble was reported in the 3100 block of Belmont.
- At 10:20 p.m., gunshots were reported in the area of Evaline and Brombach.

Saturday, July 8

- An assault was reported in the 3100 block of Holbrook.
- A fireworks complaint was made at 12:45 a.m. in the area of Holbrook and Buffalo.
- A theft from a vehicle was reported in the 5000 block of Evaline.
- An assault was reported in the 12000 block of Grand Haven.
- Family trouble was reported in the 5200 block of Belmont.
- A complaint was made about disorderly juveniles in the 12000 block of Dyar.
- A domestic assault was reported in the 12000 block of Dyar.
- A woman reported that, while in the area of Jos. Campau and Caniff, someone jumped into her car.

Sunday, July 9

- Family trouble was reported in the 12000 block of Dyar.
- Officers responded to

Continued on page 8

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