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Quick Hits

It's been busy, busy at museum

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck's Historical Museum is apparently the place to be lately.

Here's a round-up of happenings at the museum, supplied by museum volunteers, for the past week:

We had about 80 visitors and took in about \$420. Visitors included about 44 school kids for the History Day project.

History Day went very well. The students were enthusiastic and engaged. David Hales, from the Michigan Historical Society, said we are the model for school districts across the state and are now recognized as ground breakers in this project.

People are signing up for the Hungry for History program on movie palaces, set for Oct. 5.

We are also going to do a program at 1 p.m. on Oct. 5 on the renaissance of Detroit. This is part of a Society of Active Retirees program series.

A really important event will take place 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 8, when the Wayne State University crew introduces the Deep Mapping program at the museum. This is a major event for us. Please try to stop by that day.

We have been approached by an anthropologist to do a story on Hamtramck's Bangladeshi history of immigration and culture. She has contacts in the community.

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Mayor Ghalib and former Trump official: joining political forces?

By Charles Sercombe

They say that politics can make strange bedfellows.

And for those unfamiliar with the phrase, it means "that political alliances in a common cause may bring together those of widely differing views," according to oxfordreference.com.

And that appears to be the case with Hamtramck Mayor Amer Ghalib, a Muslim, and Michael Flynn, the former National Security Advisor for President Trump, a QAnon follower and Christian nationalist.

Consider too, Flynn once said "Islam is a cancer" and that America needs to become a one-religion country – a Christian nation.

Despite these glaring differences, Ghalib has apparently found common ground with Flynn, and has met with him twice – most recently at Azal Hall in Hamtramck (on Holbrook) where about 20-30 Yemeni-American community leaders, GOP



Hamtramck community leaders recently met with former General Michael Flynn and conservative activist at a meeting held in Hamtramck where Flynn was a guest speaker. From left to right: City Councilmember Mohammed Alsomiri, Mayor Amer Ghalib, Michael Flynn, City Councilmember Khalil Refai and Hamtramck Public School Boardmember Abdulmalik Algahaim. Photo taken from Amer Ghalib's Facebook page.

members, and others were invited.

And just what is this common ground?

Flynn talked for over an hour about the issue of LGBTQ rights and how schools are supposedly indoctrinating children, as well as on "woke" culture, critical race theory, immigration and the catch-all "family values."

This is the second time that Ghalib has met with Flynn. He had earlier gone to a rally Flynn was at in Sterling Heights.

Flynn, 64, a right-wing conservative who has been associated with the Proud Boys, served under Trump for just a few weeks – before being fired for lying to Vice President Pence regarding interactions with Russians.

The former three-star Army general was then convicted of lying to the FBI about those interactions he had with Russia, and that country's meddling in the 2016 president election.

Trump later pardoned Flynn.

Ghalib started the meeting by saying that he is not a member of any political party, and stressed more than once to "focus on what unites us, and rise above what is trying to divide us."

Also speaking at the meeting was Republican Ethnic Vice Chair Bernadette Smith, who said the meeting "is a history

Continued on page 5

Crime Watch:

Hot weather spell saw a spike in domestic assaults

By Charles Sercombe

For those who follow the weekly incident reports issued by the Hamtramck Police Department, you may have noticed an increase in domestic assaults three weeks ago.

There is a good chance that uptick was due to the extremely hot weather during that period, which usually goes hand-in-hand with that type of assault.

We have reported on this phenomenon before, and here are a few tips on how to deal with tensions at home that can

escalate to domestic assaults:

- Going outside is one way to catch a break from one another, but there are also other techniques to diffuse tensions.
- Develop a code word to cool off an argument that is beginning to escalate in anger. That word, which can be any word, gives a signal to a partner that it is time to separate and cool off for a period.
- Look out for triggers, such as certain times of the year that are known to prompt emotional outbursts – for example, an anniversary of something tragic that happened, or bill-paying times.

For those who are in an abusive relationship, there is help available at YWCA/Interim House Metro Detroit. You can call them at (313) 862-3580.

Also, in Wayne County, First Step is an organization for victims of domestic violence. They can be reached 24 hours a day, at (734) 722-6800 or (888) 453-5900.

The organization provides shelter for women and children, as well as also providing counseling and legal services.

If you are in immediate danger, call the police emergency line at 911.

In other crime-related developments, there is now a state grant being offered to organizations that are equipped to "advance community violence intervention strategies to enhance community safety in Michigan."

In a press release issued by the Michigan

Continued on page 2

New law has its critics

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck has a new law, aimed at protecting minorities from intimidation.

But not everyone is welcoming the new law.

For the past few weeks, the law came under criticism from some in the community, including an attorney for the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union).

Their objections are based on the idea that the local law is redundant since there is a state law that is almost identical; also, that it is criminalizing certain behaviors instead of trying to build cultural bridges.

Here is what the new law says:

Section 130.010 - Minority or Ethnic Intimidation.

(1) A person is guilty of minority or ethnic intimidation if that person maliciously, and withspecific intent to intimidate or harass another person because of that person's race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or national origin, does any of the following:

(a) Causes physical contact with another person.

(b) Damages, destroys, or defaces any real or personal property of another person.

(i) This can include the placing of any objects upon the vehicle of another of anykind when done as a means of intimidation or with intent to harass.

(c) Threatens, by word or act, to do an act described in subdivision (a) or (b), if there is reasonable cause to believe that an act described in subdivision (a) or (b) will occur.

(2) Minority or Ethnic intimidation is a misdemeanor.

Continued on page 6

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Oct 2 – Feast of Guardian Angels Holy Mass 9 am

Oct 3 – Holy Mass 7 pm

Oct 6 – Holy Mass 9 am

Oct 7 – Solemnity of Holy Mother of the Rosary 9 am

Sept 30 – Drive-thru Polish Dinner 4-6 pm

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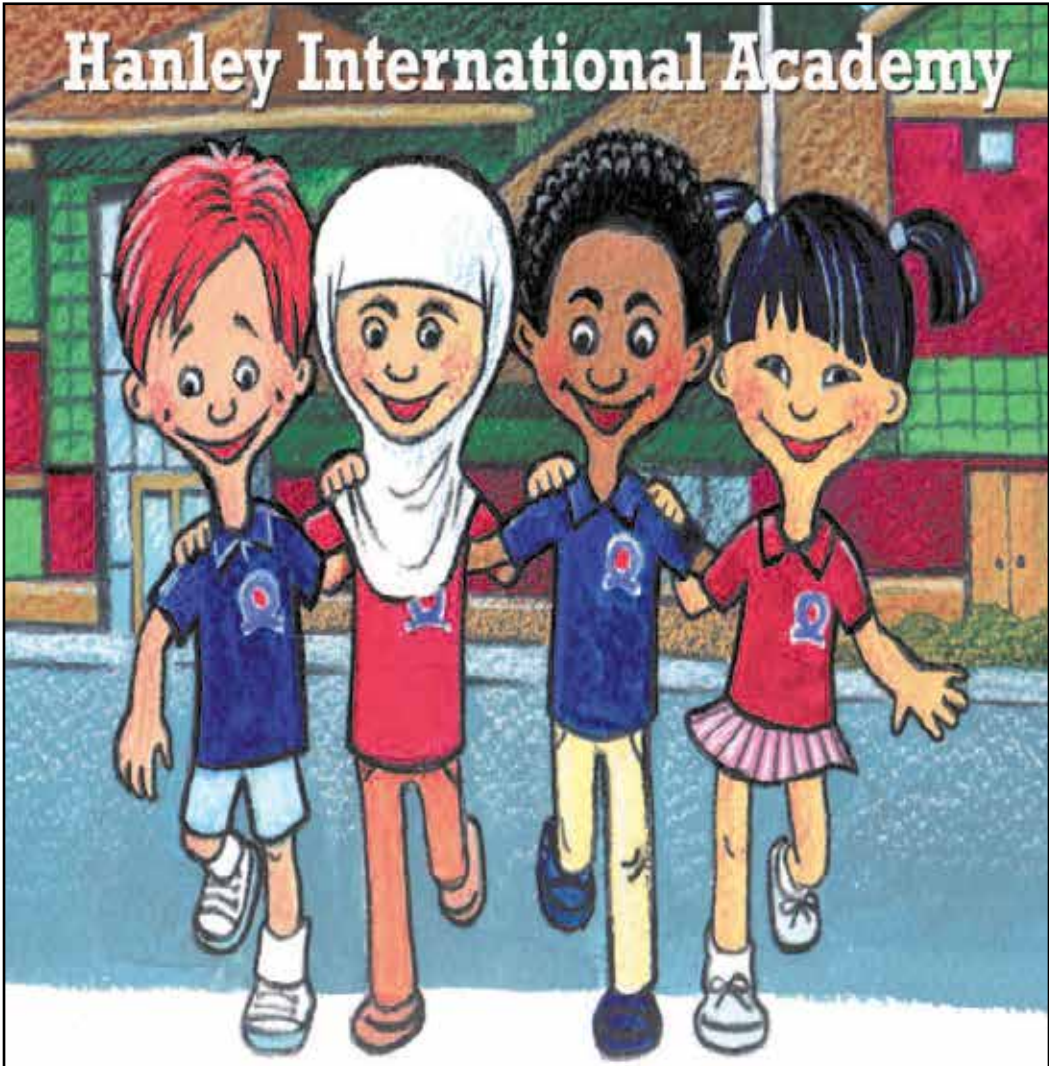
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Crime Watch: Hot weather spell saw a spike in domestic assaults

Continued from front page

Department of Health and Human Services, the need for this program is due to:

“Community violence, which includes homicide and non-fatal shootings, causes substantial harm and trauma to communities across Michigan, especially in racially segregated and historically disinvested neighborhoods.

“Community violence continues to be a significant and growing public health problem. People who live in areas experiencing violence are at a higher risk for developing chronic diseases and may have limited opportunities to engage in healthy behaviors, such as using recreational spaces and accessing healthy food outlets.”

The grant will provide a total of \$12.6 million, which will then be divided among 14 awards.

The state department is seeking what’s called a “Request for Proposal” (RFP).

Of course, this being the state, applying for the grant is a bit complicated.

You’ll need to submit an “EGrAMS,” and you can learn about this way of applying by going online to: egrams-mi.com/mdhhs/user/home.aspx.

Applications must be submitted electronically by no later than 3 p.m. on Oct. 20.

For more information you can call Lynn Sutfin at (517) 241-2112.

Covid update: New booster shots arrive, and free at-home tests offered

By Charles Sercombe

By this week, most pharmacies should have a supply of the latest covid booster shots.

There are two types of vaccinations being offered: Pfizer and Moderna.

As of now, participating pharmacies are the only places you can get a booster. The government is no longer subsidizing the shots, however, if you have insurance, it should be covered.

For those without insurance, the shots cost about \$30.

Covid-19 is on an upswing in the nation, including here in Hamtramck where there have been over 90 cases over the past few weeks. Prior to a new covid variant emerging, the number of new cases here in Hamtramck was in the single digits each week.

The total number of covid cases for the past three years is now up to 6,205, with 82 deaths recorded for this period.

As a reminder, here are the symptoms of having contracted Covid-19:

- fever or chills
- cough
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- fatigue
- muscle or body ache
- headache
- new loss of taste or smell
- sore throat

Just in time, along with the rise in Covid-19 cases, the government is once again offering free at-home covid tests. To order a single set of four tests, go online to: covid-tests.gov.

There is a limit of one order per address. Also, if you have older home tests that are expired, don’t be so quick to dispose of them. Instead, at the same website (covidtests.gov) you can check to see if those expiration dates are still valid.

In some cases, the tests are still usable, and will give accurate results.

For those who did come down with Covid-19 and

were hospitalized within the first days of being diagnosed, there is new evidence that those people face a higher chance of coming down with “long covid.”


The symptoms of long covid include diabetes, lung problems, fatigue, blood clots and disorders affecting the gastrointestinal and musculoskeletal systems.

In an article published in the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, a leading researcher, Ziyad Al-Aly (MD), who is a clinical epidemiologist



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September 29, 2023

This week at the Library . . .

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. Everyone is invited.

Exercise Classes: You don’t have to wait much longer to get your Adaptive Yoga and Tai Chi fix. The Tai Chi classes at 10 am and adoptive yoga classes are held on Tuesdays at 2:30 pm. As always, these group workout sessions are presented by the RIM Foundation and are open to the public. Check in the next weeks library column for starting time.

MyHeritage Library Edition: The newest ZOOM presentation hosted by the Library of Michigan is MyHeritage Library Edition, a family history database that you can access through the Michigan eLibrary. Catch this event on Thursday, October 5th at 6:30 pm. To register you need to visit www.michigan.gov/Impublicprograms where you will find more information.

Photographer Bruce Harkness: In October the library will host Bruce Harkness who will present an evening program on Metro Detroit memories in pictures. Coupling images from his decades of local documentary work and a smattering of personal stories, it is sure to stoke our collective passion for our little corner of the Big Mitten.

OverDrive: What more can your library card get you? How about OverDrive’s enormous collection of digital materials. Whether searching overdrive.com or using their Libby Ap, you will have quite the selection of ebooks, online periodicals and audio books to pick from. Plus, Kanopy, with its smorgasbord of foreign and classic films, documentaries, and educational series, is now under the OverDrive umbrella. Find links to both of these media repositories on our website www.hamtramck.lib.mi.us.

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Truman Capote: This American writer was born on September 30, 1924 in New Orleans, Louisiana as Truman Streckfus Persons. He took the last name of his stepfather becoming Truman Capote. Best know for “Breakfast at Tiffany” and “Cold Blood”

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

Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Despite some political divisions, the city moves on

While Hamtramck's culture war continues to grow, attracting local and national media attention, there are some good things happening. Most notably, the promised \$16 million coming from the state to shore up the city's pension system finally came through.

This has been in the works since back under the management team put together by former City Manager Kathy Angerer.

As we've pointed out before, Hamtramck has been the beneficiary of various state and federal grants in recent years, and it's all built on previous work done by city administrators, as well as ongoing due diligence by our current administration.

One thing builds upon another. We are fortunate to have a competent administration in place.

While that infusion of money to the pension system will go a long way, there is still a financial concern about how the city can keep up with its pension obligation.

It's a challenge the city has faced for a number of years.

Hamtramck is also the recipient of a major infusion of money from the state to deal with the ongoing basement flooding problem.

And, recently, the federal government assigned \$1 million to have trees planted throughout the city.

Now, if only we had a way to bridge the cultural divide in the community.



Covid and education

The Covid-19 pandemic of a couple of years ago may be over, but health officials say covid is likely here to stay.

During the pandemic when most students were learning at home via internet zoom meetings, education began to fall apart. In other words, many kids fell far behind in their studies.

So how can schools catch up?

According to the Harvard Graduate School of Education, writer Elizabeth M. Ross goes over what researchers are recommending, including for school districts to use pandemic relief funding to do the following, and we quote:

- Find other ways to add extra learning time into afterschool and weekend programs and school vacation weeks. As with

the Boston After School & Beyond model, school districts could reimburse other organizations to add an academic component to their offerings and check student progress on educational software platforms such as Khan Academy, Zearn or iReady.

- Extend the next few school years, which is logistically the easiest way to add instruction time.
- Plan for longer-term changes, such as an optional fifth year of high school or specific "triage grades" for kids who are behind and provide lots of extra help in certain subjects, such as reading and math. Currently schools are struggling to catch up students in all topics and grades simultaneously. Where new legislation is needed, such discussions would have to start now with school boards and

state legislatures.

Other key findings:

- Within school districts, test scores dropped by similar amounts for all groups. Students of color, white students, and students from both higher and lower income families, all fared about the same.
- Extended periods of remote and hybrid learning caused setbacks for students, especially in the poorest districts.
- Community concerns also played a role in missed learning including social and economic disruption for families during the pandemic, levels of parental anxiety and depression, COVID death rates, and levels of "institutional trust," measured by higher voter participation rates and response rates on the decennial census, not only school closures.

Covid update: New booster shots arrive, and free at-home tests offered

Continued from page 2

at Washington University, said:

"For far too many people, the continuing and enduring risk of long COVID and its long-term, adverse effects on health are sober reminders that the pandemic is not in the rearview mirror.

"The continuous struggles of people with long COVID are vivid, daily reminders of the detrimental and long-lasting legacy of COVID-19."

As for going forward in combating the disease, Al-Aly said:

"Reducing the risk of infection and transmission with updated vaccines — including vaccines that block transmission — may be a critical strategy to reduce the risk of long-term health problems," he said.

"We also need an urgent, coordinated approach that matches the scale and gravity of long COVID to find treatments as soon as possible."

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Odds & Ends

Reminder... On Sunday, Oct. 8, at 5 p.m., the Hamtramck Public Library, which hosts Hamtramck's TV outlet, will host a city council candidate forum. There are six candidates vying for three seats on council in the November General Election.

That is the only local race. There is also a public school district tax millage renewal proposal on the ballot.

It will feature a question and answer period. The forum runs to 6 p.m.

The public is invited to arrive early, at 4:30 p.m., for refreshments.

The forum is organized by a non-partisan committee. The library is located at 2360 Caniff.

Can't make it to the forum? You can see it later on Hamtramck Public TV, Channel 19.

Winter worries?... Not so much, or so various media outlets are reporting.

This is going to be an El Nino winter, according to those in the know, which means that the northern states, including Michigan, will have a warmer and drier season.

Of course, we've read all sorts of predictions lately, and they're all over the place.

But this one at least has science behind it.

El Nino refers to the Pacific Ocean being warmer than usual, which affects the jet stream. That, in turn, allows warmer air to move across the U.S.

Keep in mind, when they say it's going to be drier that doesn't mean we won't be walloped by some heavy snow storms. Instead, we're talking a few inches less of snow during the winter.

Enjoy what appears to be a much warmer week ahead of us and savor the sunshine. No matter what, winter around here is too long and too gray.

Art exhibit... A Hamtramck artist, Jojo Diaz-Orsi, is being featured in a Detroit Institute of Arts exhibit called "Ofrendas: Celebrating el Día de Muertos."

According to a DIA press release:

"The exhibition consists of 14 ofrenda altars constructed inside of the museum, commemorating Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead), a heartfelt homage to cherished departed souls."

The exhibit is a little ways off, starting on Sunday, Nov 5.

The DIA press release goes on to say:

"This year marks the 11th consecutive installment of the beloved program and includes an ofrenda altar from Hamtramck artist Jojo Diaz-Orsi.

"Crafted to acquaint visitors with the essence of ofrendas and the rich traditions of the Day of the Dead, the annual exhibition connects visitors with the myriad ways in which people remember and pay tribute to their departed loved ones and highlight other important topics. The exhibition also coincides with Hispanic Heritage Month, honoring the important cultural heritage and celebrations of Hispanic and Latino Americans.

Julie McFarland, Executive Director, Public Affairs and Community Engagement, also says:

"Ofrendas is a popular exhibition at the DIA and just one of the ways we collaborate with local artists and community members to showcase their art at the museum.

"This exhibition builds a sense of community as visitors identify with the reasons and ways people honor the deceased while collectively taking part in the act of remembering."

Hamtramck artist Jojo Diaz-Orsi adds that, "Many families who do not have legal status cannot return to their home countries and attend the funerals of their loved ones.

"In this ofrenda, I wanted to honor my loved ones and undocumented families who were never given the opportunity to mourn and heal authentically."

For more information about the exhibit, go online to:

<https://dia.org/events/exhibitions/ofrendas>

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The Hamtramck Review

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September 29, 2023

Hamtramck Public TV-19

Broadcasting on Comcast Channel 19
In the Hamtramck area

What's on this coming week?

Exclusive Conversation with Mayor Amer Ghalib,
Upcoming Council Candidate Forum announcement,
ESL Classes for the 2023-24 school year
Local events, Library programs,
Interviews, Council meeting highlights,
Event announcements,
Evenings with authors, 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
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**On Comcast Channel 19 and streaming on
YouTube Live (24/7) *Google "Hamtramck Public TV", and click on link "Hamtramck Public TV"***
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| 2019 Ford Fiesta | Vin: 3FADP4BJ9KM158756 |
| 2007 Suz. Boulevard | Vin: JS1VY53AX72101409 |



By Charles Sercombe
This week's Crime Log covered Sept. 19-25.

Tuesday, Sept. 19

- Officers investigating a report of domestic assault in the 5000 block of Trowbridge determined that no crime occurred.
- Officers investigating a break-in reported in the 3300 block of Caniff determined it was a fake call.
- A suspicious situation was reported in the 1500 block of Commor.
- Officers arrested a suspect involved in a domestic assault that happened on Carpenter.
- A neighbor dispute was reported on Danforth.
- Officers investigating an auto theft in the 2000 block of Caniff arrested a suspect who was wanted on an Oakland County warrant.

Friday, Sept. 22

- At about midnight, a complaint was made about a disorderly group of people causing a disturbance in the 2600 block of Carpenter.
- At about 12:30 a.m., a male in the 9400 block of Conant reported being held against his will.
- Officers responding to a noise complaint in the 2600 block of Carpenter issued a ticket to the owner of the establishment in question.
- A theft was reported on Faber.
- A neighbor dispute was reported in the 12100 block of Mitchell.
- A hit-and-run accident was reported in the 11600 block of Lumpkin.

Saturday, Sept. 23

- A hit-and-run accident happened at Lumpkin and Casmere.
- A theft was reported in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau.
- Neighbor trouble was reported in the 3300 block of Norwalk.

Wednesday, Sept. 20

- A report was made about suspects looking into vehicles in the area of Florian and Lumpkin.
- An auto theft was reported in progress in the 2400 block of Hewitt.
- A hit-and-run accident was reported in the 12000 block of Fleming.
- An illegal dumping was reported in the 2200 block of Andrus.
- A complaint was made about animal on Goodson.
- A theft was reported on Doremus.
- Customer trouble was reported at a business at Conant and Caniff.

Thursday, Sept. 21

- Officers investigating a complaint about a customer at a business at Conant and Caniff arrested a suspect for trespassing.
- A noise complaint was made in the area of Jos. Campau and Florian.
- A theft was reported on Trowbridge.
- Officers impounded several vehicles that were parked in a construction zone.
- Family trouble was reported on Holbrook.
- A theft was reported on Jos. Campau.
- A juvenile was arrested after an incident on Brombach.
- A loose dog was reported on Caniff.

Friday, Sept. 22

- At about 12:30 a.m., officers issued tickets to vehicles parked in a bike lane at Jos. Campau and Goodson.
- At 1:42 a.m., officers broke up a fight at Yemans and Conant.
- At about 3 a.m., gunshots were reported in the area of Circle Dr. and Oklahoma.
- A theft from a vehicle was reported in the 2600 block of Holbrook.
- Family trouble was reported in the 11700 block of Sobieski.
- A fight was reported in the 2400 block of Casmere.
- An assault was reported on Dequindre.
- An auto theft was reported on Gallagher.

Monday, Sept. 25

- At 2:30 a.m., a complaint was made in the 11000 block of Mitchell about a female who refused to leave.
- At 3:30 a.m., officers investigating a suspicious person at Conant and Caniff arrested a male suspect for breaking into an auto, and for possessing narcotics.
- A complaint was made about a disorderly customer at a business on Conant.

Coming Events

SATURDAY, Sept. 30, 4-6 p.m. – Drive-thru Take-out Polish Dinner at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. \$13 Adult/\$6 Child 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.

SATURDAY, Oct. 14, noon-3 p.m. – The Hamtramck Fire Department will hold an Open House where the public is invited to visit the fire station, 2625 Caniff, and tour the station, learn about fire prevention, view firefighting equipment and more. Refreshments will be available.

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 25, 5-6:30 p.m. – Stop by Zussman Park, 3401 Evaline, for the annual Hamtramck Public Safety Trunk or Treat, featuring activities and treats and view police and fire vehicles. Costumes are encouraged.

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October 14, 2023

HAMTRAMCK
FIRE DEPARTMENT
OPEN HOUSE

On Saturday, October 14, 2023, from Noon until 3 PM, the Hamtramck Fire Department will host an open house at the fire station to celebrate Fire Prevention Week. We invite you to attend and learn about fire prevention and see what the Fire Department is all about. There will be refreshments and activities for the kids. We will also demonstrate using fire extinguishers, hose lines, and extrication equipment. We hope to see you there!



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2625 Caniff
Hamtramck, Mi 48212

313-305-4503

firechief@hamtramckcity.com

www.hamtramck.us

Mayor Ghalib and former Trump official: joining political forces?

Continued from front page

maker today, and we’re going to give our God all the glory and honor for this meeting.”

Smith, who was convicted of a felony in 2011 for welfare fraud, further stressed that the Muslim community can join with Christians to “take down what the enemy is trying to do to all of us.”

She was also aligned with Trump, and at one time claimed that Mexican immigrants are trying to “destroy the United States from within.”

During the two-hour meeting, Flynn talked about 20 minutes, and then invited questions.

In a curious verbal tick, Flynn often punctuated the ending of sentences with the rhetorical question: “Right?”

Flynn started out his talk by complimenting Ghalib, who is Hamtramck’s first Yemeni-American to become mayor, by saying:

“I saw something in this young man. He’s really sharp. He’s a leader,” and also that Ghalib, 42, “has a strategic view of what’s going on in this country.”

Flynn then launched into what’s being “done to children,” referencing LGBTQ reading materials in schools, and children being allowed to become transgender.

That, he repeatedly stressed, is a “red line”

for him.

“How did the U.S. get here?” he said. He likened LGBTQ reading material for students to “pornography.”

One question that was repeatedly asked by some of the Muslim attendees was how they could trust the Republican Party, since it has a history of

to reclaim their power over government, they must vote, although he also said that “I just don’t buy that we have fair elections anymore.”

Flynn did not explain what he meant by that. Flynn, a convicted felon, also said, without a hint of irony, that 80 percent of the country “doesn’t

Mayor Amer Ghalib introduces Michael Flynn at a recent meeting held at a hall in Hamtramck. Photo taken from Amer Ghalib’s Facebook page.

Muslim bashing.

Flynn did not directly answer that question, and said that he is not a Democrat and that he is “not a fan of the Republican Party.”

As for the Democratic Party, Flynn said it “no longer exists.”

“People who have taken over the Democratic Party ... (are) moving us toward a decline, a decline of democracy.”

According to the Arab American Institute, 40 percent of the country’s Arab-Americans vote Democratic, and 30 percent prefer Republicans, with the rest uncommitted.

The Review reached out to State Rep. Abraham Aiyash, a Democrat and the first Yemeni-American from Hamtramck to be elected to the state legislature, about this growing alliance between Muslims and Republicans, and what he thinks of Ghalib aligning with Flynn, but he did not respond. He did, however, respond as to whether he endorsed Ghalib during his mayoral campaign.

“For the record, I did not endorse anyone in the 2021 Hamtramck municipal elections,” Aiyash said, ignoring the other two questions asked by The Review.

Aiyash has received backlash from Hamtramck’s Muslim community for his co-sponsorship of the state’s expansion of civil rights for the LGBTQ community.

Conservatives aligned with the Republican Party have been actively courting Arab-Americans over so-called “family values” issues.

Flynn went on to stress that, in order for people

trust the rule of law.”

Flynn also touched on the hot-button issue of drag queen reading programs for kids, saying: “Trump didn’t cause drag queen hour. This is the road to cultural decline.”

Drag queen reading hours long-preceded the Trump administration.

Near the end of the meeting, Flynn circled back to the political power the Muslim community has – or could have.

“Don’t allow yourself to be used,” he said. “It’s not up to me what the Muslim community will do in America.”

As for the difference between Democrats and Republicans, Flynn said “That ain’t the Republican Party going after children.”

It was not clear what he meant by that.

After the meeting, Mayor Ghalib posted photos of the meeting, including photos of Flynn with him and Councilmembers Mohammed Alsomiri and Khalil Refai, as well as Hamtramck School Boardmember Abdulmalik Algahaim.

Ghalib went on to say, on his Facebook page, that Democrats were not invited to the meeting—or, as he said it:

“We chose those who want to attend, and avoid inviting those who are organically or ideologically associated with the other party, and maintain good relationships with them without causing them or us any embarrassment.

“I think we represent the views of a majority of those who chose us and trust our leadership and hold us accountable, and we will only be as they think of us.”

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