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State considers

cannabis use

for students

By Charles Sercombe If some state legislators have it their way, students will be able to legal-

ly use cannabis products

The state legislature

is considering a bill that

will allow eligible kinder-

garteners and students

through 12th grade to

use low-THC medical mar-

ijuana products, including

edibles and beverages,

Democrats in the House

of Representatives are

backing the bill, which

was introduced last Sep-

tember. State Sen. Jeff

Irwin (D-Ann Arbor) told

"Most of those stu-

dents who have autism or

have chronic pain or epi-

lepsy have to take time

out of the school day,

miss instructional hours,

and go off campus to

take medicine, and then

People magazine:

on school premises.

at school.



Quick Hits

New parks director is named

By Charles Sercombe

The Hamtramck Parks Conservancy (HPC) has a new executive director, and he's no stranger to the city.

Thomas Habitz, Jr., of Hamtramck, became executive director in September, after a several-month search. He has also served on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

"Our parks are the lifeblood of our community in many ways," Habitz said in a press release. "They are places that bring us together, honor our heritage, and create new memories. It is a privilege to steward these indispensable assets, and it is an exciting time in Hamtramck as we chart our future course together."

Habitz has played roles in planning and economic development in the Detroit area, and spent a lengthy career with Henry Ford Health, developing and executing strategy.

The HPC is responsible for the implementation of the Hamtramck Recreation District plan, which proposes to transform the 26 acres of recreation and open space on the city's southend.

Goals of the plan include new and improved fields recreation equipment, enhancements to accessibility, and raising the profile of the site's historic venues.

Habitz holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan, and a master's degree in **Continued on page 5**



City council candidates talk about their goals and objectives

Bv Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck voters had a rare chance to meet the candidates vying for three city council seats.

On Sunday, Hamtramck Public TV and the public library hosted a candidate forum.

All six candidates were invited to attend, and all six submitted written confirmation that they would be there.

Well, almost.

Incumbents Mohammed Hassan and Mohammed Alsomiri were no-shows, and candidate Muhtasin Sadman missed the first hour of the forum arriving for the last 30 minutes.

In the past, candidate forums were popular in the city, and attracted huge numbers of residents. That tradition has faded away over the last 10-15 years.

About 50 people attended this event.

Hassan, Alsomiri and Councilmember Nayeem Choudhury are seeking re-election, and are being challenged by Nasr Hussain, Lynn Blasey and Sadman.



A candidate forum was held last Sunday where city council candidates had an opportunity to talk about their priorities for the city. From left to right: Nasr Hussain, Nayeem Choudhury and Lynn Blasey. They were introduced by Kamal Rahman (at the lectern).

The top three vote-getters in the Nov. 7 General Election will take office in January for a four-year

Each candidate was invited to start off with introductions to themselves and talk about their goals for office.

Blasey, who is a teacher, said her priorities are: public safety and dealing with the number of hitand-run accidents the city experiences, and the continued problem with basement flooding during hard rains.

Choudhury owns an independent insurance company in Hamtramck and also deals with shipping and accounting. His priorities also include public safety issues, improving city infrastructure and addressing the new parking meters that have stirred up angry opposi-

Hussain owns a print and graphics shop in the city, and said he's running for office as a way to give voters an option."

The current councilmembers, Hussain said, "are just a rubber stamp and do whatever the city tells them what to do. You need somebody in the council who's critical and who gives them the opposite viewpoint."

Hussain views his role on council as someone "who enlightens" his fellow members.

Sadman is a real estate agent, and going to law school. He, and the other candidates, frequently Continued on page 2

The marijuana products would be administered by school personnel. Irwin's name might be familiar to those in

come back."

Hamtramck: he recently backed a \$500,000 state grant to the organization NAYA (the National Association of Yemeni Ameri-

NAYA has an office on Jos. Campau, and it offers a variety of social services including "social, educational, and cultural services and activities, all focused on empowering and supporting women, children, and families," according to its website.

The NAYA space is also where State Rep. Abraham Aiyash (D-Hamtramck) and State Sen. Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit) have a shared office.

The Review asked Aiyash if he supports the bill. Aiyash, who is the majority floor leader, asked which bill specifically was

Continued on page 2

The city council continues to tweak its policy on how long the public can comment at council meetings.

City council once again changes course on public comment

By Charles Sercombe

The city council has once again tinkered with its rules for public comment.

few weeks ago the council reversed a long-standing policy allowing public comment to have no time limit.

The council changed it up recently, and restricted the public comment portion of the meeting to 30 minutes at the beginning of the meetings, and 15 minutes at the end of

the meetings - no matter if there are people who did not get a chance to speak.

There was immediate blowback from residents, prompting one, Justin Jessop, to stage a silent protest when his turn to speak came up.

Instead of saying anything, he remained silent while holding up a sign that read: "Hamtramck doesn't want to hear my

Continued on page 5

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City council candidates talk about their goals and objectives cont. from front page

referred to the city's ethnic "diversity" and how it presents unique challeng-

He said his job would be to help bring together the many communities within the community.

Blasey went on to say that, if elected, she would go through all city ordinances to clean up confusing language, and determine which ordinances

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Democratic Church

are no longer relevant and it's unclear what Hus- nomic financial base so "(or) easily understood by all residents."

Choudhury and Hussain both focused on taxes. For Choudhury, his concern is over the high property taxes that some are paying, and for Hussain, he wants voters to decide whether to abolish, or keep, the city income tax.

That tax generates about \$2 million a year,

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Holy Mass 9:00 am

Oct 20 - Holy Mass 7 pm

Oct 14 – Take-out Only Soup Kitchen

2-4 pm. Everyone Welcome!

Oct 21 - Drive-thru Polish Dinner

4-6 pm Menu: Stuffed Cabbage, Kiel-

basa, Pierogi, Green Beans, Mashed

Potatoes, Dessert

\$13 Adult - \$6 Child 12 & under

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sain would suggest to replace that revenue.

The new bike lane on Jos. Campau, specifically south of Holbrook, has generated debate. Some say the lane has taken up needed parking for some businesses, and that hardly anyone uses it.

Hussain said he would propose to re-route the lane off Campau to Lumpkin. There is one catch to that. Wayne County owns the road, and it would be up to the county to make that decision.

While the city is enjoying a balanced budget for now, Wayne County plans to close down its jail on Conant and transfer inmates to the county's soon-to-be open new facility, located just south of Hamtramck.

That closure will result in a \$1 million blow to the city's budget.

Speaking of finances, Choudhury took credit for the city's budget status and boldly claimed: "I turned a deficit into a surplus and secured state grants."

During the past few years, Hamtramck, and many other cities and states, received a massive infusion of funding from the federal government to counteract the economic blow that the covid pandemic caused.

That funding has shored up Hamtramck's budget.

that, when one revenue source dries up, such as the county jail, it won't be such a huge financial hit.

One way to do that, she said, would be to entice local business expansion by offering tax abatements, as long as the reduction in revenue is offset by income tax collection from employees.

There has also been talk of establishing an oversight commission for the police department.

The candidates said they are in favor of establishing one to make sure the department is accountable to the complaints of residents.

Another hot-button issue in the city is whether to allow the display of pride flags on city property. The city council recently decided to ban the flags from city property, although displaying the flags at residences is al-

Hussain said the council made the correct decision by banning the flags, in order to remain "neutral" on the subject.

He said that action was needed in order to not favor "any certain groups. ... Be fair to everybody and treat them equally."

Choudhury gave a confused explanation about why he voted in favor of displaying pride flags in 2021, and then reversed his position this year.

He seemed to explain that his vote in 2021 had something to do about that council meeting being conducted via Zoom. This year, he said, he changed his vote based on his faith.

Choudhury, a Muslim, said that "faith is what drives me," and based his vote to ban the flag on his faith.

Blasey said that the display of the flags was done to make the LGTBQ community feel welcomed.

She said it's been the city's policy to fly flags to represent the backgrounds of residents. The LGTBO community, she

said, has had a history of facing attacks and has "undergone a lot of hardships."

That community has been part of Hamtramck "since its inception," Blasev said.

"The pride flag stands for people who are very

diverse," she said. Banning the flag, she noted, "opened up the door to personal property being attacked."

Since the ban, there has been an ongoing rash of pride flags being vandalized at homes and businesses.

Absentee ballots are now available at the city clerk's office. Included on the ballot are three city charter revision proposals and a school district millage renewal.

State considers Cannabis use for students cont. from front page

being considered, and The Review supplied him with that information.

Aiyash did not follow up with a response to the proposal.

The Review reached out to Hamtramck Public School Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed for comment, but she also did not respond.





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 র্মিযঁফ মড়া এ নিবন্ধন করতে অনুরোধ করা যাচেছ।

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October 13, 2023

This week at the Library . . .

Photographer Bruce Harkness: On October 20th 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.

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.

Spotlight on Fold 2: The Library of Michigan will be putting the spotlight on Fold 3 in its next ZOOM presentation. Learn how to navigate this resource which offers users access to military records, documented personal

stories, photos and more. Premiering

on Thursday, November 2nd, at 6:30

pm, please register for this event by

www.michigan.gov/ Impublicprograms and take a peek at

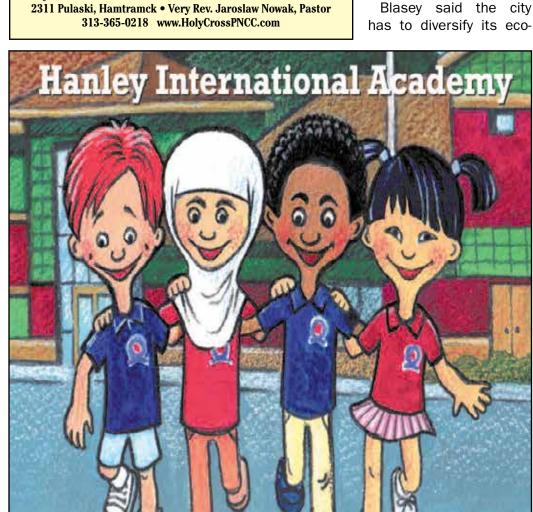
the upcoming presentations. Bugs Bunny's Howl-oween: Bring your young students, after the half a day of school on October 20th, to the library for a hauntingly hilarious classic cartoon screened at 3 pm.

LOTE4Kids: This collection of over 2000 digital books in 50+ languages can be accessed by you anytime from your computer or other smart devices. All this is free with the use of your library card. They even have stories in ASL. Find a link to this awesome resource for kids on our website www.hamtramck.lib.mi.us under the eResources tab.

Westinghouse: On October 6, 1846 inventor George Westinghouse was born at Central Bridge, New York. He was responsible for adoption of alternating current power lines.

Big Library Read: This year's feature is Olivia Stephens' graphic novel for middle graders, "Artie and the Wolf Moon." When your parents tell vou to stay in at night, could it be because they do not want you to discover their secret werewolf identities? Get access to a digital version of this title at www.biglibraryread.com and join the online book discussion when it goes live on November 2 to 16th.

Sound Barrier: U.S. Air Force Captain Chuck Yeager became the first man to break the sound barrier on October 14, 1947,



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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

HPS shows no effort to support its millage

The Nov. 7 General Election is just a few weeks away, and so far, we are seeing little school district support for the district's own millage renewal.

The renewal is modest, seeking just 3 mills for the next 10 years -which produce almost \$800,000 a year.

That money is strictly earmarked for the upkeep of the district's buildings. This is the second attempt to sway voters to continue the millage. It was soundly defeated in the August primary.

The district failed to attract - or even encourage - grassroots support, and has once again been oddly hands-off in this election. While the district can't legally spend money asking voters to vote yes, it can encourage parents and staff to go out and drum up pub-

lic support.

The district's leadership has so far failed spectacularly in whipping up public interest.

In fact, the district appears to be in deep dysfunction, with a school board flailing around without direction.

We don't even know where to start, but consider there are over a dozen lawsuits facing the district, including one filed by their own current superintendent, Jaleelah Ahmed.

That is simply unbeliev-

However, beyond that, not only does Ahmed have a lawsuit against the district, earlier in the year she was given a huge raise and a contract extension without being required to drop her law-

Unbelievable.

And she was given that raise despite be-

ing on paid suspension for 2022. Moreover, the school board, which had a few different boardmembers at the time, never explained why she was suspended.

Ahmed isn't the only one to enjoy a year off with pay. There are currently three staff members also on paid suspension who also have filed lawsuits against the district.

As if this isn't bizarre enough, you have a current school board that gave itself a raise at the beginning of the year, from about \$700 each a year to \$6,000.

We can understand why the public may have little confidence in this school board and superintendent to spend their tax money wisely.

And what a shame because, in the end, it's the kids who are hurt the

Letters • Letters • Letters

City code enforcement is too heavy-handed

I am writing in regards to the drastically increased amount of tickets for trash in the alley over the last two years.

It feels like it is being used as an additional revenue stream and adversely affects your constituents in favor of the city budget or possibly the Safebuilt profit line as I am unclear on who receives the proceeds of the tickets.

As a landlord, we do our into our pockets over and

best to keep our community clean. We regularly remind our tenants of the trash regulations even as

they have quickly evolved.

I love Hamtramck and am always happy to step up when a tenant mistakenly places an item out too early, or too large, but instead of giving us the opportunity to fix things via a quick text or email, the enforcement department has chosen to reach over again.

I own multiple rentals in the community and have encouraged over \$3 million in investment over the last 20 years from outside our community.

My partners and I are considering removing our investment from the community over what we see as consistent predatory practices.

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 Sept. 26, and all councilmembers, except Mohammed Hassan, were in attendance.

The city's Downtown Authority Development submitted its annual report that highlighted the group's accomplishments for the past year.

One of the highlights is a study on trash and litter. It was found out that most of the litter is cigarette butts. Some of the litter that spills out of dumpsters gets carried by the wind, the study found.

Other highlights:

The DDA secured a \$5,000 grant from the Michigan Municipal League to hire local artists to beautify 28 bike racks in our downtown.

The DDA also oversaw the planting, watering, and maintaining of 43 planter boxes on Jos. Campau.

Some goals for the year threw the Monarchy re-

safety and more street lighting, and expanding pedestrian and bike safety.

The following new businesses opened during the year:

- Alamasmari Group
 - Elite Creations
 - · Juice Box Blend
 - Joy Thrift
 - Metro Jobs
 - Platinum Plus Cutz
 - Public Thrift
 - · Soccer Futbol Sutton Drug
- · Ukrainian Self Reliance
- Festive Essentials Jewelry
- Trust Family Care Center
 - Bengal Auto proclamation was

read in recognition of the 1962 Yemeni revolution.

It read, in part: the Yemeni people over-

include improved public gime that kept the country in dark ages for centuries; and the 26th of September marked the birth of the Arab Republic of Yemen in the Northern part of the country; and this paved the way for the revolution of the 14th of October, one year later, in the Southern part of Yemen against the British occupation, which led to its liberation and independence; and the outcome of both revolutions was the reunion of the country on May 22nd, 1990;

> "... And people of Yemen continue to face recurrent waves of counter-revolutions that threaten their republic, unity and sovereignty; and they continue to fight for liberty, unity, democracy, social and economic equity andjustice...."

During public comment "The revolution in which a person who identified

himself as a teacher said Continued on page 6

Odds & Ends

Get'em while last... We've all heard of Smokey the Bear, and now there's Hamtramck Hero Bears - we kid you not.

The Hamtramck Police Department is now selling, at \$20 each, a stuffed bear with an HPD vest on it.

If you'd like one, and show a sign of support, you can buy it at city hall. They come in brown and light pink. Hurry, though, because there are only so many.

To purchase one, go to city hall, go up to the second floor, and lay out 20 bucks (cash only) to the police department's clerk office.

Attention camera bugs... Wayne County is holding a photo contest called: "Fall in Love with Wayne County."

According to the county, the contest is "designed to highlight the beauty of Wayne County as the seasons change."

Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans explains in a press release:

"One thing I truly love about Wayne County is the remarkable colors our fall season brings. From the trees in Hines Park in Westland and Elizabeth Park in Trenton to the beautiful Belle Isle State Park, Wayne County's beauty is all around us."

He added: "I'm challenging you all to enter our photo contest and share your best photos with us. I can't wait to see how residents explore their community and all the photos highlighting the beauty of the autumn season in Wayne County."

Here's the rest of what the county says, in a press release, and we quote:

The "Fall in Love with Wayne County" photo contest is open to residents across the county, including employees of Wayne County. All ages are welcome to participate! A parent or legal guardian



You can now purchase vour very own Hamtramck Hero Bears at city hall.

must sign a release form if the winner selected is 17 years of age or younger. Those under 13 years of age can participate under a parent or guardian's social media account.

For entry, participants

- · Be a primary resident of one of the 43 communities (winner must submit proof of residency)
- Follow Wayne County on Instagram and Facebook.
- Submit photos to social media, either Facebook (@waynecountyMI) or Instagram (@waynecountymichigan), or by sending photos to communications@waynecoun-
- Use the hashtag #FallInLoveWC.

The contest will run until Tuesday, Oct. 31, at 11:59 p.m. The firstplace winner will have the option to choose their prize. Prizes available include:

- Suite tickets for a Detroit Lions game
- Two tickets to see "Wicked" at the Fisher Theatre
- Two tickets to see "Mrs. Doubtfire" at the Fisher Theatre

The second-place winner will choose from the two remaining prizes and the third-place winner will receive the remaining

Winners will be announced in November and notified via social media. Winners will have

48 hours to claim their prize. If the winner does not respond in the allotted time, another winner will be selected.

Let there be music...

For those of us who remember the Michigan State Fairgrounds and the fantastic live music groups that played there - and it's legendary there is good news: The old band shell still lives

That old stomping grounds, the State Fairgrounds, for so many of us, is located at 7 Mile and Woodward, and it is now home for an Amazon warehouse exists.

Ugh.

What a waste of a development opportunity, but we know, it's about jobs, jobs, jobs.

Anyway, the classic shell-shaped band shell is now being restored and will live on in Palmer Park - just down the block from the Fairgrounds.

So word is, the band shell is being restored, and will eventually be re-located in the park and accessible off of 7 Mile, west of Woodward.

And once again, music will be played there.

We can't wait.

Let it serve as an inspiration for Hamtramck's own Veterans Park where there are also plans to offer entertainment at the historic Hamtramck Stadium. The imagination runs wild with the possibilities here.

But back to the band shell: Funding for the restoration comes from the American Rescue Plan Act.



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Deadline for classifieds for next week is Thursday at Noon

Call (313) 874-2100 to place your ad

Advertisers should check their ad following first publication. The newspaper shall not be liable for failure to publish an ad, for a typographic error or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first day's insertion. Adjustments for errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. We reserve the right to classify, revise or reject any classified

HELP WANTED

Now hiring at a great Childcare program in Detroit/Southfield. Must love children, will train the right person, 248-557-2629. 9/23

In Hamtramck, cleaning person, handyman, call Julie, 313-570-4242. 9/22

Cook Needed, Tuesday-Fri-9:30am-3:30pm, Ivanhoe Cafe, Call Patti 313-433-7929. 9/22

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11396 Nagel, Hamtramck, almost new, completely remodeled, 3 br. bungalow, with entrance through spacious covered front porch, large spacious living rm. with hardwood flr. for formal dining, master br. on main floor with laminate flr., 2 large brs. on second flr., kitchen with ceramic flr., newer cabinetry, lots of storage, range, refrigerator, washer/dryer included, newer hearing unit w/central air, freshly painted, fenced back yard, maint. free exterior, 1 yr. home warranty included, priced below market value, asking \$149,900, terms cash, new mortgage or land contract, call Sam, 586-

216-0602. 10/13

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October 13, 2023

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What's on this coming week?

City Council Candidate Forum 2023, Exclusive Conversation with Mayor Amer Ghalib, ESL Classes for the 2023-24 school year Local events, Library programs, Interviews, Council meeting highlights,

Event announcements,

Evenings with authors, and more.....

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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 Oct. 3-9.

Tuesday, Oct. 3

- At about midnight, officers responded to a call in the 12000 block of Selfridge, where a male suspect had smashed out the windows of a vehicle belonging to the mother his child.
- · A neighbor dispute was reported in the 3300 block of Caniff.
- A complaint was made about a disorderly juvenile who was bothering customers at a business in the 8700 block of Jos. Campau.
- At about 3:30 a.m., officers investigated a report of three male suspects attempting to jump a fence where Ford trucks were being stored at Holbrook and Lumpkin.
- A missing person was reported in the 11400 block of Jos. Campau. · An assault was re-
- ported in the 2300 block of Zinow. An illegal dumping
- reported on Jos. Campau.
- Following a traffic stop, a male who was driving recklessly was arrested for driving with a suspended license, and another male was arrested for obstruction.
- A trespassing complaint was made in the 2700 block of Holbrook.

Wednesday, Oct. 4

- At 5 a.m., officers were flagged down in the area of Lumpkin and Carpenter about a suspicious situation.
- Officers assisted a construction crew on Evaline concerning multiple parking complaints.
- · Family trouble was reported on Faber.
- · A reckless driver was reported in the area of Burger and Mackay.
- A male was ticketed, in the 3400 block of Evaline, for being disorderly.
- · A complaint was made about a disorderly group of people in the area of Caniff and McDougall.

Thursday, Oct. 5

- Following a traffic stop, a male was arrested for carrying a concealed weapon, and for being wanted on a felony warrant for assault with a deadly weapon. A woman was arrest-
- ed for fleeing and eluding,

and also for driving without a license.

- A male, in the 12000 block of Selfridge, was arrested for misuse of 911
- services. A hit-and-run accident was reported in the 2200 block of Wvandotte.
- · A theft was reported in the 9300 block of Jos. Campau.
- · An assault was reported in the 2300 block of Holmes.

Friday, Oct. 6

- · A loose dog was reported on Poland.
- · A break-in was reported in the 9700 block of Dequindre.
- · A hit-and-run accident occurred in the 8500 block of Jos. Campau.
- A missing person was reported in the 12000 block of Grand Haven.

Saturday, Oct. 7

- · A hit-and-run accident happened at Jos. Campau and Danforth.
- At attempted break-in was reported in the 2300 block of Holmes.
- · A theft was reported on Lumpkin.
- · A reckless driver was reported in the area of Jos. Campau and Holbrook.
- A hit-and-run accident was reported in the 12000 block of Moran. Another hit-and-run accident happened at Conant and Casmere.
- A complaint was made about loud music at Conant and Caniff.

Sunday, Oct. 8

- · Customer trouble was reported at a business in the 12100 block of Carpenter.
- A domestic fight was reported in the 2000 block of Belmont.
- · A hit-and-run accident happened on Belmont.
- · A loose dog was reported on Yemans.

Monday, Oct. 9

- At almost midnight, a report was made about a road rage incident, involving two drivers, at Jos. Campau and Holbrook.
- Officers responded to a residence in the 9300 block of McDougall where there were several 911 hang-up calls.
- Officers, responding to a report of suspicious people looking into vehicles in the 3000 block of Evaline, observed the suspects. The suspects then

Coming Events

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.

SATURDAY, Oct. 14, 2-4 p.m. - Take-out only Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. Everyone is welcome!

SATURDAY, Oct. 21, 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: Stuffed Cabbage, Kielbasa, Pierogi/sour cream, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Dessert. Cars will be staged in park-

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.

ing lot for delivery in front of church.

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City council once again changes course on public comment cont. from front page

Beyond that protest, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Ramos Wadood said the new policy violated the state's Open Meetings Act.

He cited a 1978 opinion by former state Attorney General Frank Kelly that said the restriction of public comment to 30 minutes had the potential to deny someone from addressing the council, which would then be a violation of the OMA.

Wadood told the council that listening to the public

"is the most fundamental requirement" of their job.

While there was outrage over the new policy in Hamtramck, the City of Ferndale also has a 30-minute restriction at the beginning of their city council meetings.

There have been no objections raised in Ferndale.

Mayor Amer Ghalib was against the new restriction from the get-go, and when there were people who had been initially shut out from speaking, he suspended the new At recent council meeting, the 30-minute limit was kept at the beginning of the meeting, but the 15-minute limit at the end

was scrubbed.

As of now, the public can speak on any topic for up to three minutes at the beginning of the meeting, and up to two minutes at the end of

Speakers can ask for an additional minute to talk at the beginning and end of the meetings.

council business.

But there is one new

rule for the public comment portion at the end of meetings, and it reads:

"... If a significant portion of the public comments are related to a specific topic, one member representing each view point must be nominated by each side, and each such person will be allotted five minutes each to express their respective viewpoint...."

The council can also elect to terminate public comment at the end of meetings at any time.

Councilmember Nay

eem Choudhury, who is seeking re-election, said that, while he respects and encourages public comment, there has to be a limit.

"We have to go home," he said.

Hamtramck council meetings can be notoriously long. During one meeting, public comment, including the reading of letters and emails, went on for three hours.

That was concerning a proposal by the mayor and council to ban the display of pride flags on public property. The proposal, which also caused strong backlash, was unanimously supported

by the all-male, all-Muslim council.

Although the city, in the past, had allowed the display of pride flags on city flagpoles, the council then banned them, with the intent to remain "neutral" when it comes to flags that some deem controversial.

Members of the Muslim community here have called pride flags "sin" flags.

The issue is still roiling members of the public on both sides of the issue.

In a related issue regarding pride flags, there is an ongoing rash of pride flags being stolen from residences.

CITY OF HAMTRAMCK 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 General Election of Tuesday, November 7, 2023, will be held on October 17, 2023, at 1 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 পাবলিক নির্ভুলতা প্রীক্ষার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অনুগ্রহ করে লক্ষ্য করুন যে সরঞ্জামগুলির সর্বজনীন পরীক্ষা এবং ৭ই নভেম্বর, ২০২৩ মঙ্গলবারের সাধারণ নির্বাচনের ফলাফলগণনা করার জন্য ব্যবহৃত প্রোগ্রামটি 17 অক্টোবর, ২০২৩ তারিখে বিকাল 1 টায় অনষ্ঠিত হবে। পরীক্ষাটি সিটি হলের দ্বিতীয়তলায় ৩৪০১ এভ্যালাইন স্ট্রিট ,হামট্রামেক, ৪৮২১২ এ অবস্থিত কাউন্সিল চেম্বারে অনষ্ঠিত হবে। সকল আগ্রহী পক্ষকেপর্যবেক্ষণ করার জন্য আমন্ত্রণ জানানো হচ্ছে।

مدينة هامترامك إشعار باختبار عام للدقه

يرجى ملاحظة أن الاختبار العام للمعدات والبرنامج الذي سيتم استخدامه لحساب نتائج الانتخابات الأولية ليوم الثلاثاء, نوفمبر 7 ٢٠٢٣ ، سيعقد في 1, ٢٠٢٣ أكتوبر 1, ٢٠٢٣ مساءً . سيجري الاختبار في قاعة مجلس اعضاء بلدية مدينة هامترامك في الطابق الثاني في مبنى بلدية المدينه الواقع في 48212 (Evaline, 3401 A8212 وكالمراقبة.

Quick Hits

Cont. from front page

urban planning from Wayne State University. His honors include the Detroit Revitalization Fellowship and the Marshall Memorial Fellowship (of the German Marshall Fund of the U.S.).

The Hamtramck Parks Conservancy (HPC) is a collaborative organization of the City of Hamtramck, Hamtramck Public Schools, Hamtramck Recreation Department, and community partners, all seeking to improve green spaces and recreation activities for city and area residents.

The HPC supports the Hamtramck Recreation District, which includes Veterans Park, Keyworth Stadium, Historic Hamtramck Stadium, and Playfair Field, and the many amenities and activities within them.





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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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Extrication

Demonstration

Refreshments



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he "condemns any act that destroys any property."

But, he said he is against the city's new ethnic intimidation law, which he said "criminalizes" young people.

"I don't see how jail time and fines do anything other than furthering a cycle of violence and, therefore, needs to be eliminated," he said.

He suggested the city try a restorative justice approach to young people vandalizing property.

City Attorney Odey Meroueh said he is looking into that approach.

A resident said the ongoing vandalism of pride flags at residences is "scary."

The resident sarcastically "thanked" the city council for "making me feel unsafe in my community."

The reference was to the council's ban on displaying pride flags on public property, which some in the community said has led to vouths in the city vandalizing pride flags being flown at homes.

Mickey Pokoj complained about the condition of an alley behind PLAV Post 6 (located at Evaline and McDougall). He said it's "deteriorating," and this has caused vehicles to get stuck in a giant sinkhole.

"Something needs to be

City Manager Max Garbarino said he will have it investigated.

A man complained about an increase in his property taxes after he added an addition to his

A woman complained about the city's new limit on public comment. She said it makes the public feel like it's a "one-way conversation" between the council and the public.

"A lot of people feel unwelcome," she said.

Later in the meeting, the council agreed to a change the policy regarding public comment.

The new policy keeps in place a 30-minute limit for members of the public to address the council at the beginning of meetings, but will now no longer limit public input to 15 minutes at the end of meetings. There is now no time limit.

However, the council reserved the right to end public comment at the end of meetings at any

Voting against the council's new policy was Councilmember Mohammed Alsomiri, who is seeking re-election in the November election.

Responding to the complaint about property taxes, Mayor Amer Ghalib said he formed a sub-committee to look into the city's property tax system.

Ghalib said he's not

creases, and noted that the city is "doing fine" with its budget without raising taxes.

Councilmember Muhith Mahmood said real estate agents need to be "truthful" and inform home buyers about how their property taxes will likely increase when they buy a house.

A public hearing was held on a proposal to expand development of the Metropolitan Bakery site on Lumpkin.

The company requested to rezone five vacant lots on Lumpkin from residential to industrial, in order to allow an expansion plan to go forward.

George Kordas, the owner of the company, said he has family roots in Hamtramck, going back to 1945.

"We're really proud of where we are." he told the council.

Kordas said the expansion will be funded by the company, and that he is not asking for a tax abatement. The expansion, he said, will allow truck deliveries to be shifted off Lumpkin, a residential area, and onto St. Aubin, the street behind the plant where there are no residential houses.

He also said that the expansion will allow him to hire more employees, and "fend off" out-of-state competition.

The rezoning request was approved.

In a request that has come before the council

cess, the council OK'd the purchase of air conditioning units for city hall's IT room.

The council had previously denied the request, but Mayor Ghalib said he requested for the matter to be brought back up. The reason, he said, jokingly, was because "this group (city council) didn't pay for my dinner, so I said OK."

Moving on, the council approved a request from the police department to purchase 15 defibulators in order to perform CPR when needed.

Police Chief Anne Moise said the police department is usually the first on the scene of an emergency, and that it makes sense for officers to have this life-saving tool on hand.

The devices cost a total of \$24,000, and that funding will come out of the department narcotics forfeiture fund.

Councilmember Mohammed Alsomiri, who is seeking re-election in the November election, was the lone objection in the vote, saying he did not understand what the request was about.

Moving on once again, the council approved an agreement with the county to extend the use of a \$50,000 grant to renovate restrooms at Veterans Park to next Sept. 30 of 2024.

The grant was set to expire on Sept. 30 of 2023.

During the councilmembers' turn to talk on any subject, Nayeem Choudhury, who is seeking re-election this November, said there were 30 auto accidents recorded for the month in Hamtramck, and that "we have to do something."

He said that there are less than 700 auto accidents recorded statewide for the year.

(According to the Michigan State Police, there were over 293,000 auto accidents in 2022.)

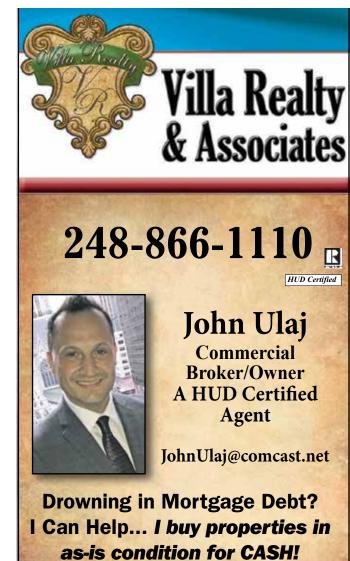
Choudhury questioned why there are so many accidents. suggesting,

as possible factors, traffic signals, immigrant or new drivers, or even the streets not being wide enough.

Choudhury said that a solution might be to make Conant as wide as Holbrook, "where they can park on the sidewalks."

(Editor's note: Parking in sidewalks is not allowed.) He also said that Holbrook "is level, but it's not level."

(It was not clear what he meant by that statement.)



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