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Quick Hits

Meet the candidates this Sunday

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck's next city election is just a few weeks away.

The ballot features a race for three city council seats, three city charter changes, and another attempt by the Hamtramck Public School District to have a millage renewed for another 10 years.

In the council race, three incumbents, Mohammed Alsomiri, Nayeem Choudhury and Mohammed Hassan, are facing three challengers.

The challengers are: Lynn Blasey, Muhtasin Sadman and Nasr Hus-sain.

In the August Primary Election, Hassan came in fourth behind Blasey, which might mean he faces a tough battle in the Nov. 7 General Election.

If Blasey is elected, she would be the only woman on the council.

The top three vote-getters in the November election will serve on council, starting in January, for the next four years.

A candidate forum will be held this Sunday, Oct. 8, at 5 p.m. at the Hamtramck Public Library.

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

The public is invited to arrive early, from 4:30 p.m. on, 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 broadcast later on Hamtramck Public TV, Channel 19.

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

HPS boardmember to employees: 'Nobody's forcing you to stay here'

By Charles Sercombe

At the beginning of the year, Hamtramck School Board Vice President Salah Hadwan told teachers and staff that, if they don't like it here, they could leave.

Apparently, a number of Hamtramck Public School teachers and staffers took him up on that offer, and resigned at the next meeting.

And, since January, there has been a steady exodus of teachers, department heads and staffers.

The latest high-profile resignation, according to sources, is Angela Parkman, the Director of Special Education. Parkman was just hired in August.

Many have said, either in resignation letters or privately, they resigned because of what they call a "toxic" work environment created by Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed, some of her appointees, and some of the board members.

(You can read some of those letters on the website: firejaleelah.com.)

Speaking last February about board decisions, Hamtramck president of the teachers' union, Toni Coral, said:

"When people leave because of hostile attitudes from elected officials, we will struggle to fill those vacancies. ... Why would



The Hamtramck Public School Board has come under criticism this year by some teachers and staffers over the work environment in the district. School Board Vice President Salah Hadwan has invited those employees to leave if they don't like working here.

the school board president and board allies essentially tell district employees that they, you, don't care about us?"

The resignations have left the district in a jam in filling vacant teaching positions. Earlier this year, staffers at Hamtramck High School said that there were over 12 teaching positions to be filled, and in the meantime, some students had four classes being taught by substitute teachers.

Also compounding the situation is that a number of paraprofessionals, who assist teachers in the classrooms, have complained about not being paid enough. Para-pros, as they are commonly called, are paid about

\$15 an hour.

Board members seemed to nod in agreement that their pay has to be increased.

At an April 26 meeting, Hadwan responded to recent threats of another wave of resignations.

"Nobody's forcing you to stay here if you do not want to be here for this district and for the students," Hadwan said. "The door is wide open. We are not going to stand here and continue to tolerate threats of mass exodus."

That comment is in stark contrast to what Hadwan said at a February meeting, when he welcomed input from teachers and staff about district operations.

"We want you guys' input," he said. "We want you to reach out if you feel like you want to reach out. Follow the chain of command, of course, but we're always open to hear your concerns, or questions, or comments. We want to make sure our students are getting what they need and what they deserve."

At September's board meeting, Hadwan responded to the growing number of complaints by resigning staffers, saying that the reason for their leaving is not what it appears.

"People who are leaving are not leaving for the reasons we're being told, that they're leaving be-

Continued on page 2

Art and music will be on full display in neighborhood arts festival



This Saturday, Oct. 7, is the 13th Annual Hamtramck Neighborhood Arts Festival, which takes place all over town.

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck's neighborhoods will be alive with art and music this Saturday.

That's when the 13th Annual Hamtramck Neighborhood Arts Festival (HNAF) takes place.

The festival features about 100 artists, musicians, galleries, houses, front porch exhibits and performances, and all sorts of art happenings throughout the city, going on all day.

It's a free festival, and people are encouraged to walk or bike through the

city.

Here's what organizers have to say about this special day:

"This isn't your typical festival; participating creators in the community host the audience in or on their home studios, front porches, parks, coffee shops, or galleries around the city. Traveling between these venues throughout Hamtramck, the audience curates their own experience."

"It's a community-organized festival that allows anyone in the city and

Continued on page 2

Mayor on Russian TV network

By Charles Sercombe

Another week, another mayoral controversy.

Once again, Mayor Amer Ghalib found himself on the receiving end of criticism, this time for appearing on Russian RT television, a media source that the U.S. government considers to be a Kremlin propaganda outlet existing to create divisions among Americans.

Canada, Britain and the EU have all banned RT from being broadcast in their countries. RT is funded by the Russian government.

Ghalib posted a three-minute excerpt of his interview with the Russian network on his Facebook page.

Ghalib trod familiar territory: the issue of displaying pride flags on public property.

Ghalib and the city council recently banned the display of those flags on public property, which caused a hailstorm of backlash from the LGBTQ community and their supporters.

In the interview, Ghalib was seen in half-screen in his city hall office, while the other half showed scenes of the city and of LGBTQ events that have happened in other cities.

Ghalib described Hamtramck as a place where

"people are very peaceful."

As for the decision to ban the display of pride flags, Ghalib said:

"The city decided to stay neutral because we have different groups in the city; we have conservatives, we have liberals."

He went on to say that "we have groups on the opposite side of the spectrum," although it wasn't clear what he meant by that.

"We support everyone equally. We cannot side with anyone against another," he added

On the decision to ban pride flags, Ghalib said "nobody protested against, except the LGBTQ group because they thought it was tied to them."

The ban was also taken, he said, "so other groups, extremist groups, racist groups would not come and ask us to fly flags be-

Continued on page 7

HPS boardmember to employees: ‘Nobody’s forcing you to stay here’

Continued from front page

cause of admin (administration) blah, blah, blah,” Hadwan said.

“We got people who are leaving for better opportunities that they found. Let’s not take this narrative that they’re leaving because of admin.”

The departures come at a time when the state is experiencing a critical

shortage of teachers.

The HPS district has been struggling for over a year to fill special education positions, and it’s reached a point where some parents are complaining that their children are not getting the needed help they require (and as is required by federal guidelines).

There are also other issues facing the district.

The board’s first meeting of the year, in January, underscored a growing division among boardmembers.

What is usually a routine vote, taken in the beginning of each year, suddenly became a stumbling block. In January, Boardmember Regan Watson was once again voted as board treasurer.

But when it came to a vote on allowing the district’s finance director, Sherry Lynem, (who retired in the summer) to make investments on her own, that then blew up Watson’s nomination.

In past years, the board has unanimously voted to allow the finance director, Lynem, to make investments on her own.

This year, however, that became an issue for some board members, including new member Abdulmalik Algahaim.

Algahaim initially brought forth a resolution, in the same language that has been approved for a number of years, to allow the director to make investments.

However, he then had a change of mind and voted against his own resolution.

The matter didn’t stop there.

Algahaim, whose term started in January, then proposed to remove Wat-

son as treasurer and have himself take over the role, apparently because Watson voted, as she has in previous years, to support the investment resolution.

A majority agreed with him, but it turned out that vote didn’t count because the board failed to follow their own policy on removing members from board officer positions.

The policy requires the removal to be based on “cause” – in other words, for a reason.

In an April 26 meeting, the board did a do-over on removing Watson, and appointing Algahaim as treasurer. The matter passed by a 4-3 majority.

Algahaim said that the reason he called for Watson to be replaced as treasurer was because of her support of the investment resolution.

He said it “wasn’t supposed to be a one-time vote.”

It was not clear what he meant by that.

The Review reached out a few months ago to Watson (via email) for comment, but she did not respond. Watson has also not been attending the last few board meetings.

Art and music will be on full display in neighborhood arts festival

Continued from front page

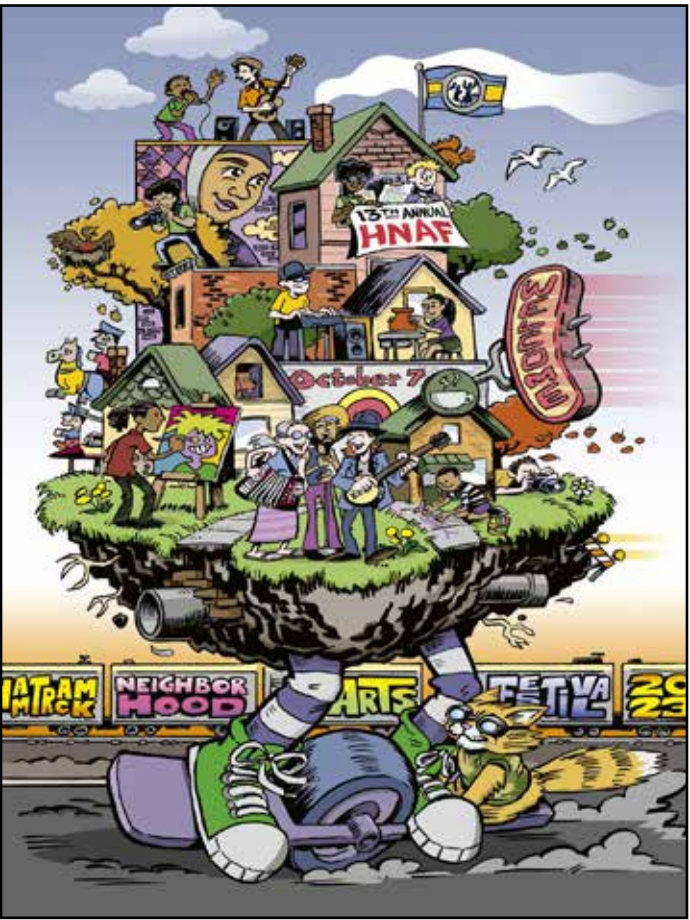
the surrounding neighborhood to contribute to or host an event. The HNAF embraces the idea that art is for everyone – all are welcome to participate, and all are welcome to tour the artists’ workspaces and attend the day-long events.”

You can find a list of events and who is participating by going online to: hnaaf.org.

Also happening on Sat-

urday is a special sidewalk sale, on Jos. Campau, that is sponsored by the city’s Downtown Development Authority.

For those coming in from out of town, plan on Saturday being on the cold side, with a chance of rain. If you need to rest your feet or take a break, the city has a number of restaurants, bars and coffee houses to recharge.





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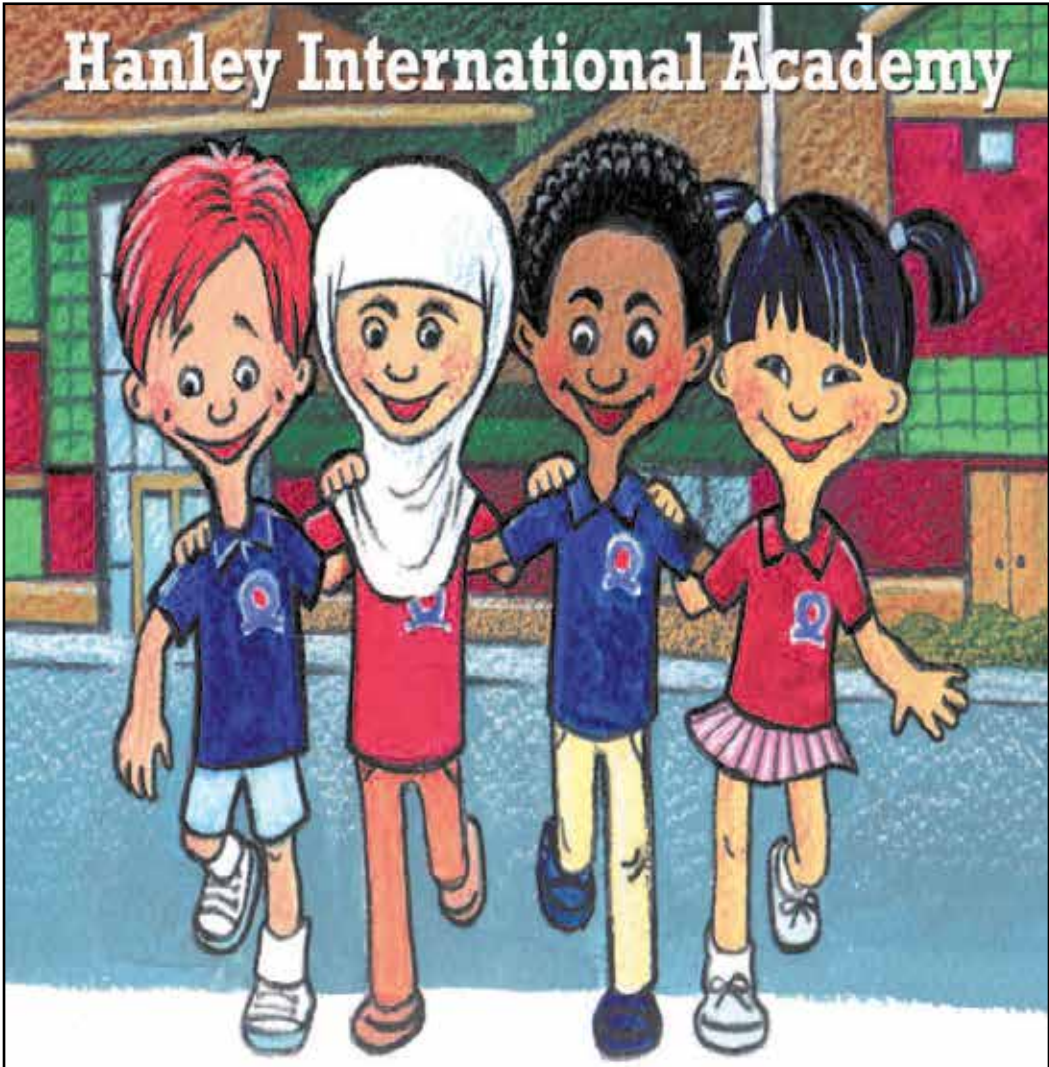
Oct 7 – Solemnity of Holy Mother of the Rosary 9 am

Oct 11 – Holy Mass 9 am

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This week at the Library . . .

October 06, 2023

City Council Candidate Forum: Everyone is invited to the library on Sunday, October 8th at 4:30 pm to a candidate forum. Residents will have a chance to meet the candidates and ask them questions regarding their stand on issues of interest to our community. Debate starts at 5:00 pm. Refreshments will be served prior to program. All candidates confirmed their participation.

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 visiting 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 that will be screened at 3 pm.

Harold Pinter: This author was born on October 10, 1930. Sure, he might not have been able to write a happy play, but that is what makes it drama. With well known titles such as “The French Lieutenant’s Woman” and “Betrayal”, you will have your choice of how best to savor all the scandal: On the page or on the screen.

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Attachments for printing, faxing or scanning send to hamtramcklibrary@gmail.com

Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Mayor Ghalib and the company he keeps

When Mayor Amer Ghalib ran for office, he promised he would be all about unity.

Well, it's been over a year now since he won the election, and there's been anything but unity here.

We won't go over the issues he's been tangled up in, other than to say that it's a little part of the bigger nationwide culture war raging across the land.

What we find curious is the company he's been keeping lately: far-right extremists who are also definitely not about bringing people together.

And now, as if he's doubling down, Ghalib did an interview on Russian RT television – a media outlet that our government deems as a propaganda tool for Putin with the goal of stirring up division among Americans.

His association with these folks now has some people seriously pondering whether Ghalib is a Russian asset, or an unwitting one, or is being groomed to become one.

Why Ghalib is aligning with these characters is unsettling, and perhaps speaks volumes about him. There's a saying, coined by author Maya

Angelou about what people say and the actions they take, and it's fitting: "When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time."

Ghalib's position is that he's the one being attacked and criticized, never mind the words he has spoken or the actions he has taken. Often, we find his explanations ending up in a confusing mass of verbal knots.

We sincerely want the mayor to succeed, but so far, he has a funny way of showing how to be a bridge-builder.



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. 12, and all councilmembers were in attendance. The meeting ran for almost four hours.

A certificate of recognition in honor of Glafira Gordon was read into the record.

It said:

“Glafira has displayed an unwavering commitment to beautification, particularly in the transformation of Pope Park. Her tireless efforts and creative vision have breathed new life into this part of our city, making it a more vibrant and inviting place for all residents and visitors to enjoy.”

During public comment, a woman objected to a proposal to hire a company to install surveillance cameras to take photos of license plates.

The proposal calls for installing 15 cameras and the supporting technology for over \$53,000, with a yearly subscription cost of \$45,000.

In a note to council from the city administration, it was said:

“This technology includes license plate recognition, gathers objective evidence and facts about vehicles, not people, alerts police of wanted vehicles, is used to solve crimes and adheres to all state laws. This will not be used for traffic enforcement and does not involve facial recognition.”

The woman said this technology will affect privacy issues. She added that systems like this have

been known to “misread” plates, which has lead to false accusations.

Former councilmember Carrie Beth Lasley said the use of surveillance cameras has a “history” of “being racist.”

Later, an attorney for the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union), Ramis Wadood, cautioned the city against installing the system.

He said the cameras are known to “not operate perfectly.”

“It will certainly lead to wrongful arrests,” Wadood said.

He said the money it will cost to install the system would be better spent elsewhere.

Gracie Cadieux-Fae also opposed the surveillance cameras.

She said the council should be “engaging with citizens ... not sitting there spying.”

Later in the meeting, the council decided against installing the cameras.

Continuing in public comment, Josh Hansknecht of the Hamtramck Queer Alliance spoke against a proposed ethnic intimidation ordinance being considered later in the meeting.

Hansknecht said the council should not “tailor” ordinances based on the “convenience of council.”

On other issues, Hansknecht said public comment should not be limited at the council meetings.

He said it's the council and mayor's job to listen to the public.

Justin Jessop spent his

allotted three minutes to address the council by remaining silent and holding up a sign that said: “Hamtramck doesn't want to hear my voice.”

It was apparently in protest to the council's new rule to limit public comment to 30 minutes at the beginning of the meetings and 15 minutes at the end, regardless whether citizens didn't get a chance to speak.

State Sen. Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit) and State Rep. Abraham Aiyash (D-Hamtramck), both of whose districts include Hamtramck, gave an update on what's been happening in Lansing.

Aiyash spoke first, saying that the legislature and governor passed “one of the most progressive budgets in history.”

He said that Hamtramck was one of the big winners in the new state budget, and is in line to receive \$15 million for water infrastructure improvements.

Also coming down the pike, Aiyash said, is a one-time-only 2-percent financial hike for public safety, and an increase over the next 10 years in state revenue sharing that will total \$10 million.

He credited this achievement to the all-Democratic Party control of the legislature and the governor's office – the first time Democrats have been in charge of all three branches of the state government since Ronald Reagan was president.

Continued on page 8

Odds & Ends

Warning... Mayor Amer Ghalib has a message to parents about the behavior of some youngsters in town, especially when it comes to vandalizing residents' pride flags being flown on their property.

That crime trend has been ongoing in recent weeks and seems to be ramping up.

On his Facebook page, here's what Ghalib had to say, and we quote:

Dear Hamtramck parents:

Please teach your kids the following:

- Do not vandalize any private properties, such as removing flags from residents' houses. Freedom of speech can be expressed in many ways and it's protected by the American constitution. Vandalism is wrong and can have severe consequences.
- Do not throw trash in streets or public parks and maintain your properties as clean and beautiful as it can be. Place trash in designated trash cans, this is common sense!
- Avoid speeding and reckless driving to protect yourself and the lives of others.

The city will not tolerate any violations or violence against our residents, so please educate your children on what's right and what's wrong, so we all can all live in peace and harmony with each other.

New law... Michigan now no longer allows females under the age of 18 to be married.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer recently signed the final bill in a package of legislation to protect minors in Michigan by raising the minimum age of consent for marriage to 18 years old.

In a press release, Whitmer said:

“I am committed to keeping Michiganders—especially young women—safe and healthy, and today's bipartisan bill fully implements Michigan's ban on child marriage.”

“As a county prosecutor, I went after those who used their power to prey on young people, and as governor, I have proudly signed legislation to keep young people safe and protect sexual assault survivors. Together, we can make Michigan a safe, welcoming place where everyone can en-

vision a bright future for themselves.”

Polish month... October is Polish Heritage Month, and Hamtramck's Piast Institute has this to say:

“Several landmarks depict the major influence of Poles in Hamtramck: St. Florian Roman Catholic Church with Masses said in Polish, St. Ladislaus Chapel, the statue of St. John Paul II to the city, and the Kosciuszko Middle School perpetuate the legacy.

“The Hamtramck Historical Museum pays tribute to Polish heritage and culture with eye-catching exhibits of bygone eras, including a Polish Hamtramck-themed mural, created by muralist Dennis Orlowski, alongside those of other nationalities.

“To reflect the change in the city's demographics over the years, the city's motto has been transformed. From ‘Hamtramck, A Touch of Europe in America,’ the transition has been made to ‘Hamtramck, The World in Two Square Miles.’ Let's all celebrate.”

Non-Partisan Committee to Introduce Candidates For Hamtramck City Council Presents

Candidates Forum 2023

Sunday, October 8, 2023

At Hamtramck Public Library

2360 Caniff, Hamtramck, Michigan

Doors open at 4:00 pm
Refreshments Served at 4:30 pm
Forum starts at 5:00 pm
Conclusion at 6:30 pm

Questions from the public accepted from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm



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Publisher: John Ulaj • (248) 866-1110 • julaj@thehamtramckreview.com
Editor: Charles Sercombe Office Manager: Jean Ingenthron
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October 6, 2023

Hamtramck Public TV-19

Broadcasting on Comcast Channel 19

In the Hamtramck area

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.....

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

Hamtramck Public TV is broadcasting from

Hamtramck Public Library

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Announcements submitted by 10 am

Will go on air the same day (evening)



By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Sept. 26-Oct. 2.

Tuesday, Sept. 26

A suspect was arrested on Norwalk for obstructing officers.

A complaint was made about a juvenile on Jos. Campau.

A disorderly person was reported on Yemens.

Wednesday, Sept. 27

At about 1 a.m., a complaint was made about a disorderly group of people in the 9300 block of Jos. Campau.

A hit-and-run accident occurred on Caniff.

An attempted theft from a vehicle was reported on Edwin.

A hit-and-run accident happened on Holbrook.

Retail fraud was reported at a business on Jos. Campau.

Thursday, Sept. 28

At almost midnight, an assault was reported in the 3500 block of Caniff.

An auto theft was reported in the 12000 block of Dyar.

At about 1 a.m., a complaint was made about an intoxicated male, in the 2000 block of Caniff, who was being disorderly.

A resident on McDougall reported that their property had been damaged.

Friday, Sept. 29

At about 11 p.m., officers responded to a call about two females who were fighting in the 3500 block of Caniff.

Two Ford F-150s were stolen from a lot in the 9600 block of Dequindre.

A woman was arrested for domestic assault in the 3500 block of Caniff.

A complaint was made about disorderly people in the 10300 block of Conant.

Customer trouble was reported at a business in the 8700 block of Jos. Campau.

At attempted robbery was reported at a business in the 12000 block of Conant.

Saturday, Sept. 30

At almost midnight, a business on Conant was warned about loud music coming from their establishment.

A complaint was made about an animal on Jos. Campau. Another animal complaint was made on Danforth.

An assault was reported in the 11600 block of Fleming.

An incident of harassment was reported in the 2600 block of Commor.

A reckless driver was reported in the area of Brombach and Holbrook.

A theft was reported in the 2100 block of Trowbridge.

A neighbor dispute was reported in the 12100 block of Moran.

Sunday, Oct. 1

An attempted auto theft was reported in the 3000 block of Goodson.

A carjacking was reported in the 3900 block of Belmont.

A male was arrested for assault after striking a pedestrian with his vehicle. The assault occurred in the 2000 block of Edwin.

At about 1:30 a.m., officers investigated a complaint about loud music in the 2300 block of Andrus.

A male was arrested for a domestic assault that happened in the 11600 block of Klinger.

At 3:30 a.m., a complaint was made about reckless drivers in the area of Conant and Holbrook.

A complaint was made, in the 2200 block of Danforth, about a person receiving harassing communications.

A hit-and-run accident was reported on Yemens.

A disorderly customer was reported at a business on Conant.

Monday, Oct. 2

Officers responded to a break-in alarm at a business in the 9300 block of Jos. Campau. A person who was locked inside set off the alarm.

At 3:40 a.m., officers attempted to pull over the driver of a black Dodge Challenger, but the driver sped off.

Officers investigating a report of an auto theft, in the 2000 block of Norwalk, determined that the owner had parked the vehicle down the street from their residence.

A hit-and-run accident happened on Jos. Campau, near Holbrook. Another hit-and-run accident occurred on Casmere, near McDougall.

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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 parking lot for delivery in front of church.

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.

Mayor on Russian TV network Cont. from front page

cause of the LGBTQ flag. So, you have to either fly all or none.”

When the city did permit the display of pride flags on its flagpoles, there was never a request from the groups that Ghalib mentioned asking for their flags to be flown.

On his relationship with the LGBTQ community, Ghalib insisted that “it’s not that we don’t get along with them ... I don’t have anything against them. We may disagree on stuff, but that doesn’t mean we hate each other.”

However, Ghalib said, he has come under attack for his support of the flag ban, saying: “If we disagree, they call me homophobic, bigot and, lately, terrorist.”

Ghalib was referring to a flyer that was found in a trash can that had a picture of Ghalib, with the word “terrorist” printed underneath.

A photo of that flyer was posted by former Mayor Karen Majewski, who lost her re-election to Ghalib. Majewski said the flier was found by a resident. Soon after posting the photo on her Facebook page she deleted it, and apologized.

Ghalib also said that he’s “been getting so many threatening messages, either by email or, some of them are even public comments on my Facebook page.”

“I take it seriously, but it won’t force me to back off or change my stance because I believe we’re doing the right thing. We should treat people equally. We should not give preferential treatment to any group.”

The pushback to Ghalib appearing on the Russian propaganda network was immediate.

Former Mayor Majewski, who has clashed with Ghalib on a number of issues, called his appearance on RT “despicable.”

Former city councilmember, and a retiree from the U.S. State Department, Joe Strzalka, who had been stationed in a number of countries, said on a Hamtramck Facebook page:

“It cannot be understated how serious this is. RT is not a news organization, but rather a Russian state-funded media outlet that uses the guise of conventional international media outlets to provide disinformation and propaganda support for the Kremlin’s foreign policy objectives.”

Strzalka went on to say: “The United States has determined RT must register as a foreign agent due to its ongoing disinformation campaign to undermine our core democratic institutions.

“By willingly submitting to an interview with a foreign agent whose goal is to undermine our democracy, Mayor Ghalib allowed himself to be used in Russia’s disinformation campaign with the objective of undermining our constitution, the very same document all elected officials swore to uphold.

“What started out as a public debate on freedom of expression has now taken a sinister turn and is now being exploited by our foreign adversaries. The question will become, will our other elected officials step up and censure the mayor, or will they support him being used as a propaganda piece to undermine our democracy?”

A former city official, who requested not to be identified, said Ghalib’s appearance on RT is “a win for the Kremlin.”

In an exchange on his Facebook page, Ghalib defended his appearance, saying:

“Hamtramck is now open to the whole world and the former power structure totalitarianism era is gone. You now need to get used to listening to the opposite viewpoint and learn how to respect it even if you don’t like it. I know it’s painful but get used to it.”





Ghalib’s appearance on RT comes on the heels of a meeting he held recently

Continued on page 8

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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City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 3

Sen. Chang mentioned that both she and Aiyash have an office on Jos. Campau that the public can visit, where they can talk with staff members about their concerns.

Mayor Amer Ghalib said he was hoping for more money to repave alleys “but you punished us for no reason.”

Ghalib did not explain that comment.

He added: “Thank you, we still support you.”

A public hearing was held on a proposed ordinance to combat ethnic intimidation.

The proposal reads as follows:

Section 130.010 - Minority or Ethnic Intimidation.

(1) A person is guilty of minority or ethnic intimidation if that person maliciously, and with specific 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 any kind 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 punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days in jail, or by a fine of not more than \$500.00, or both.

(3) This offense shall be considered a separate offense from other crimes against persons or property under the laws of the City of Hamtramck and may be charged as an additional offense to such offense.

Council candidate Lynn Blasey spoke, questioning whether those who commit property damage on purpose will now be double-charged by both a local and an existing state law regarding malicious destruction of property.

Blasey said that, instead of passing this ordinance, money and time would be better spent “on building bridges and creating activities across the city that bring people together.”

The council and mayor, she said, should be “role models.”

ACLU attorney Wadood said the ordinance is unneeded because it is “word-for-word, for the most part” identical to a state law.

As for the vandalism of property, Wadood said

there are already existing laws that address the issue.

“This ordinance really isn’t doing much at all,” Wadood said. “All the ordinance is accomplishing is expanding the power of the City of Hamtramck to criminalize its residents and its visitors for conduct that is already criminalized on the state level.”

Wadood went on to say that the ordinance “poses serious constitutional issues” by criminalizing “any threats by word or act.” That, he said, violates the First Amendment right of the constitution.

Wadood said similar laws are used against protestors criticizing government.

“But time and time again, the courts have found the protestors’ speech is protected.”

Wadood added that he has “serious concerns how this ordinance came up in the first place.”

He was referencing “the placing of any objects upon the vehicle of another of any kind when done as a means of intimidation or with intent to harass” part of the ordinance.

This apparently came about after Mayor Ghalib complained about an unpeeled sticker of a pride flag that was placed on his car.

“Turning a personal vendetta into a law that carries jail time is extremely inappropriate. ... This ordinance only further divides the city,” Wadood said.

Mayor Ghalib responded,

saying that city officials had been accused of doing nothing about minority and ethnic intimidation.

“We just want to stop it from both sides,” Ghalib said, in reference to placing intimidating material on vehicles.

Ghalib said that what the ACLU is saying is it’s OK to punish acts against the LGBTQ community “but leave it open for them (the LGBTQ community) to do any kind of vandalism to other people?”

Gracie Cadieux-Fae said this ordinance came about because of the council and mayor supporting a ban on displaying pride flags on public property, and that they were warned:

“If you choose to brand your hate as civic government, we would resist, we would protest you.”

If the ordinance does meet the approval of the council and mayor (who votes on ordinances), Cadieux-Fae said she will “call on the queers of Hamtramck to paper the f— out of this city with stickers, with protests, with outright dissent to what you’re doing.”

Cadieux-Fae also warned that this law has the potential to “harm” the Muslim community.

“I’m here to say it: white people are not your friends, gentlemen. They’re not here to support you. They don’t like what you’ve built

here.”

She warned that if the political tables are ever turned, this law will be “weaponized against you.”

As for the Muslim and “queer” communities, Cadieux-Fae said, “We can exist together but you have to stop being dicks.”

Mayor Ghalib responded, saying: “Thank you for that threatening language.”

He added that the city is not trying to prevent protests, but that “you have to compromise. You are the one causing all this tension, not us. ... You can’t come and threaten us like that.”

The council later approved the ordinance.

Mayor on Russian TV network Cont. from page 7

at a hall in town featuring Michael Flynn, Trump’s former National Security Advisor.

Flynn has been talking with various rightwing conservatives across the country since Trump pardoned him after being convicted of lying to the FBI about his involvement with Russians and their interference in the 2016 presidential election.

Trump pardoned Flynn before he left office.

Flynn, a follower of the conspiracy group QAnon, has described Islam as a “cancer,” and has openly been seeking to mandate a single national religion in the U.S. – that is, to make it a Christian nation.

Ghalib is both a Muslim

and an immigrant from Trump once instituted a travel ban on.



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AMER GHALIB

MAYOR, CITY OF HAMTRAMCK, MICHIGAN

CANADIAN PARLIAMENT'S OVATION FOR NAZI DR

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