



Former county jail nurses file whistleblower's lawsuit

Quick Hits School board members are no-shows

By Charles Sercombe The Hamtramck Board of Education has once again

failed to hold a meeting. board's regular The monthly meeting was scheduled for this past Wednesday, but only three boardmembers showed up, meaning there were not enough members present, in other words a "quorum," to hold a meeting.

Boardmembers Victor Farris, Moortadha Obaid, Regan Watson and Board Vice President Salah Hadwan were no-shows.

boardmem-Those bers who attended were Daz'shavon Hall, Abdulmalik Algahaim and Board President Jihan Aiyash. They waited for 45 minutes before announcing the meeting could not be held.

By Charles Sercombe Allegations of wrongdoing keep piling up at Wayne County's Dickerson Jail here in Hamtramck. In the latest development, two former nurse employees, Tanzy Huddleston and Shermanstine Morrow, have filed a whistleblower's lawsuit claiming that the facility allowed outdated prescription drugs to be given to juveniles, and also noted:

· blatant violations of **HIPAA** laws

· broken medical devices

 insufficient resources inadequate medical supplies

· glaring security issues, with medications left unsecured

• the defying of basic safety protocols

According to the lawsuit, filed in Wayne County Circuit Court, "the nurses assert that the management's lax oversight opened the floodgates to fraudulent practices, theft, and the increased vulnerability of the already at-risk youth."



Two former nurses at Wayne County's Dickerson Jail have filed a whistleblower's lawsuit alleging mishandling of medicine and a host of other issues. The jail has been rocked with allegations of sexual assaults of juveniles being housed there.

sued by the attorney for the nurses, Huddleston said she was "an eyewitness to a life-threatening emergency, recounts a harrowing incident where a young inmate struggled to breathe and complained of chest pains.

"Shockingly, the nursing staff callously ignored the situation, forcing Huddleston to step in to provide life-saving care. Instead of reprimanding the negligent staff, the facility turned a blind eye, callously putting the lives risk."

As for Morrow, she said there is "a sinister culture of fear within the facility, where inmates were afraid to take their prescribed medication due to threats. Morrow's attempt to intervene in a potential assault on a young inmate fell on deaf ears, leading to the child harming himself in

of the young inmates at supervisors of the shortcomings soon after they were hired.

> They claim a doctor overseeing them "weaponized" their employee evaluations, which led to the nurses losing their jobs.

The Review reached out to the office of Wayne County Sheriff Raphael Washington, but his office

City officials take a stand on Palestine **By Charles Sercombe**

In an act of solidarity with the people of Palestine, the Hamtramck City Council voted to rename Holbrook as "Palestine Avenue."

But that vote did not come easy at Tuesday's last council meeting of the year.

At first, Councilmembers Mohammed Alsomiri, Mohammed Hassan, Muhith Mahmood and Abu Musa voted to remove the item from the agenda.

Mayor Amer Ghalib then intervened, and asked the council to reconsider the proposed resolution, which was introduced by Councilmember Khalil Refai.

The council agreed to bring the resolution back on the agenda.

The resolution was prompted by the Oct. 7 attack, by Hamas, on Israel, where Hamas killed 1,400 people and took over 200 more as hostages.

Since then, Israel has retaliated by invading Gaza and, according to media reports, the Israeli military has (so far) killed about 20,000 people, including about 8,000 children. As of the day The Review went to press on Thursday, Israel has not let up on its attack, despite worldwide calls for a ceasefire, vowing instead to eradicate Hamas leadership in the area. President Joe Biden has also become critical of Israel, saying that more and more people are coming out against the war in Gaza. Later in Tuesday's meeting, Councilmember Mahmood explained why he is opposed to the honorific renaming. "My personal opinion is stay away from renaming streets. It's not taking us

The board was supposed to conduct its yearly evaluation of Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed in a closed session during this meeting.

If the board fails to perform an evaluation of Ahmed before the year ends, her contract is automatically extended one more year and she is also eligible to receive an additional 6 percent "merit pay" (\$11.700) on top of her \$195.000 salary. Ahmed also receives an additional \$24,000 per year for overseeing the district's Recreation Department.

This isn't the first time the board has failed to meet. During the past year, the board has canceled four of their regular monthly meetings, and six of their monthly committee of the whole meetings. In both July and November, the board failed to meet at all during those months, which appears to **Continued on page 6**

In a press release is-

desperation to escape the unit."

Both nurses had started their jobs this year, and began alerting their did not respond.

The county has come under criticism for alleged sexual assaults involving

Continued on page 2

of classic concession-re-

lated items for attendees

Some 43 students from

Hamtramck schools, with

the helpful direction of

teacher Amy Bielat, came

in on Oct. 10 to get ideas

for the annual "History

Day" projects. Students

may choose to, for exam-

ple, produce a panel, write

a paper, create a perfor-

mance or even make a

video on this year's na-

tional theme, "Turning

Continued on page 4

Points in History.

to ooh and ahh over.

Continued on page 2

WSU partnership continues to pay off for Historical Museum brought along a collection

By Alan Madlane

The Hamtramck Historical Museum keeps making a little history of its um on Oct. 8 with WSU own.

They sent out their monthly newsletter for November, and it had some hot new info for the people.

First off, they're improving access to the past by engaging with the future: They've partnered with Wayne State University and Michigan Technological University to create the "Hamtramck Explorer," an interactive website

that reveals the history of the area in visual style.

Unveiled at the muse-Anthropology Department Head Dr. Krysta Ryzewski and MTU associate professor Dan Trepal alongside museum Executive Director Greg Kowalski, the map is an interactive work that highlights sites of historical interest around the city.

The map can be found at www.mappinghamtramck.com.

The interactive part comes in where users

can upload their own photos, written memories, ephemera etc. to add to the sites. "The public has a lot of information," Trepal said.

"This has been a community creation," added Ryzewski.

There was a recent Hungry for History presentation, on Oct. 5, by historian Michael Hauser about the area's fabulous movie palaces, many of them from the 1920s when the area grew to be regarded as "The Paris of the Midwest." Hauser even



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Hamtramck Review

Former county jail nurses file whistleblower's lawsuit Cont. from front page

juvenile inmates, along with a host of other problems that critics say go back to the 1990s.

The two nurses are seeking legal fees and financial compensation.

The jail has been a major revenue source for the city, generating about \$1 million a year in payment in lieu of property taxes. It's believed that the county will no longer use this facility once its new jail, located just outside of Hamtramck off of I-75, has completed construction. If that happens, the city will lose that \$1 million a year revenue, which would be a huge financial hit.



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

Sunday, December 17, Holy Mass 9:00 Third Sunday in Advent

Dec 19 - Holy Mass for People on our Prayer List 7 pm

Dec 20 – Rorate Mass 7 pm

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Traditional, Catholic, and Democratic Church

Dec 21 – Feast of Saint Thomas 7 pm

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Phone (313) 874-2100 Friday, December 15, 2023 **City officials take a stand on Palestine**

Continued from front page

anywhere," he said.

Mayor Ghalib said that, at first, he was undecided about this proposal, "but the more I think about it, this is the last country in the world that's occupied. It's the hottest and most pressing topic that's going on now."

Later in the meeting, Ghalib said that passing the resolution "will not hurt us. It will hurt us if we reject this resolution within our community. I am not worried about what's going to happen outside of our community."

In the vote on the resolution, the council deadlocked with Councilmembers Alsomiri, Mahmood and Musa voting against it, and Councilmembers Hassan, Refai and Nayeem Choudhury voting in favor of it.

The tie vote required Mayor Ghalib to cast his vote, which he did in favor of the resolution.

The resolution read, in part:

"The mayor and city council acknowledge the profound impact of the recent and ongoing events in Gaza resulting in the loss of almost 20,000 people since October 7, 2023...."

Also, in the resolution, the council said it took this action "as a gesture of solidarity."

Earlier in the week, on Monday, there was a worldwide call for people to strike for Palestine by not going to work or go shopping.

According to sources, hundreds of Hamtramck Public School District students stayed home for the day.

The street renaming issue drew a number of comments on social media.

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Su M Tu W Tł Sa

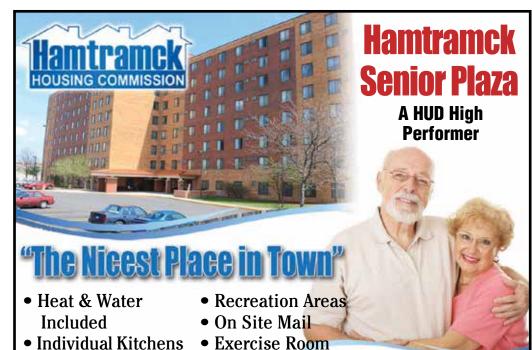
On the Facebook page "Hamtramck Square," Robert Bajer said:

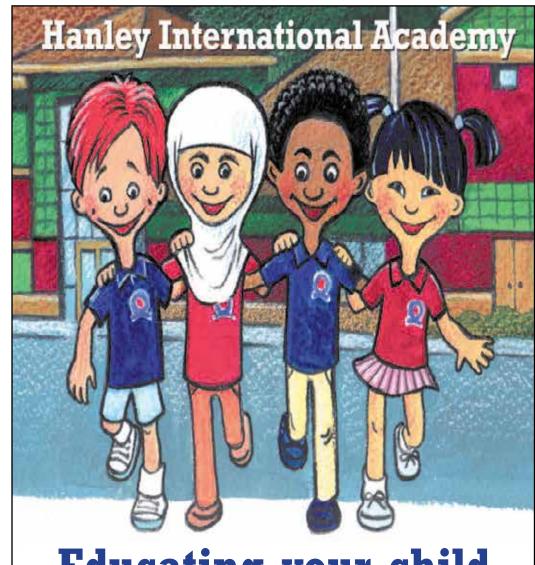
"I'm all for Palestine. But let's not start changing street names. Very, very pointless."

An administrator of that Facebook page, who goes by the pseudonym "Himahh Klaham," supported the resolution, saying:

"It is not a name change. It is an honorary name addition. Just like Bangladeshi Ave.or Mayor Karen Majewski St., Algazali St., etc. This is a solidarity move, nothing more."

| unday, Dec. 24th | Christmas Eve – Fourth Sunday in Advent | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| | 9:00 am Holy Mass | |
| <u>Ionday, Dec. 25th</u> | Christmas Day - Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord | |
| | 12 Midnight Shepherds' Mass (Pasterka) | |
| | 9:00 am Holy Mass | |
| <u>uesday, Dec. 26th</u> | Feast of St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr (Msza Św. w j. polskim) | |
| | 10:00 am Holy Mass | |
| <u>Vednesday, Dec. 27th</u> | 27th Solemnity of Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist | |
| | 7:00 pm Holy Mass (Blessing of Wine) | |
| <u> 'hursday, Dec. 28th</u> | Observance of Holy Innocents, Martyrs | |
| | 7:00 pm Holy Mass | |
| <u>aturday, Dec. 30th</u> | Solemnity of the Holy Family | |
| | 10:00 am Holy Mass | |





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December 15, 2023 This week at the Library ...

Inaugural Ceremony: The Oath of Office for the city government will take place on January 7, 2024 at the Hamtramck Public Library. Registration and social hour will start at 1 pm, ceremonies will start at 2 pm. Light snacks and refreshments will be served from 1 pm to 4 pm. Everyone is invited to witness oath of office and meet with the new city officials.

Enjoy the winter season Hoopla: with a little help from Hoopla. There is a curated collection of holiday themed books, music, movies and more waiting to be unwrapped by you. Find a link to this awesome resource on website www.hamtramck.lib.mi.us by checking under the eResources tab.

Paracelsus: Seeking to add to your store of worldly knowledge? Might we suggest taking on the challenge of learning more about the Renaissance figure known to us as Paracelsus. This Swiss thinker sought to cultivate an expansive learned mind, and his travels and firsthand educational in the field served him well at that. Leaving behind numerous writings on topics relating to medicine, philosophy, theology, mysticism, chemistry, and He has seen somewhat of a more. revival in popularity recently. So, be sure to be in the know by giving us a visit and reading up on Paracelsus.

Chess Club: Something new just for you. Games held on this Thursdays at 3:30 pm right here in the library. Open to newbies, experienced pros, and all those in between.

Story Time: Get you kids together and drop in on our Wednesday afternoon Story Time at 12 noon and on Mondays at 3:45 pm. 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.

Gone with the Wind: On December 15, 1939 was the movie's world premiere in Atlanta, introduced by producer David O. Selznick and featuring appearances by Vivien Leight and Clark Gable.

Wright Brothers: On December 17, 1903, after three years of experimentation, Orville and Wilbur Wright achieved the first powered, controlled airplane flights. They made four flights near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the longest lasing about a minute.

John Greenleaf Whittier: This poet and abolitionist was born on December 17, 1807 in Haverhill, Massachusetts. His books of poetry include "Legend of New England" and "Snowbound"

Expedition: On December 20, 1606 the Virginia Company expedition to America began as three small ships, departed London under command captain Newport. In May of 1607 the royally chartered company established the first permanent English settlement in American at Jamestown, Virginia.

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

In Our Opinion A tradition will continue next week

the vear. there is a lot to reflect on from the past 12 months.

Starting next week, we will once again take a look back on the local news for the year 2023, starting with the first six months. This is a tradition we've done for many years, and one thing always astounds us: for a small town of 2.2 square miles, Hamtramck produces a ton of news.

It's a testament to Hamtramck's rich cultural life, along with the many challenges facing such an urban city.

Unfortunately, Hamtramck has been rocked

As we near the end of with an increasing cultural divide between some elected officials and some members of the community.

> It's a divide that seems to only deepen and widen.

Will there be an eventual bridge between the religious conservative members of the community and the politically progressive folks?

At the moment, that seems unlikely.

But one thing that does show promise is the vigorous debate that continues between the two groups.

In other words, at least the conversation contin-

ues.

Review: Opinion Page

We hope that, with the holiday season now in full swing, everyone can re-examine their views and priorities, and come toward some kind of understanding.

At the same time, the city administration continues to make great strides in making improvements to our roads and alleys, as well as to other infrastructure matters that often don't get the attention they deserve.

Hamtramck has a lot to offer, and it remains a vibrant city. For that, we are all enriched.

Happy holidays, dear



Free parking... The city is in the holiday spirit by offering free parking at all meters, starting on Monday, Dec. 18 and running through New Year's Day on Jan. 1.

That means that, on Jan. 2, it's back to paying for parking and cursing those same meters.

Also, you probably noticed that the holiday decorations and lights went up on Jos. Campau this week.

Reminder... Everyone loves a good neighbor.

And the City of Hamtramck is looking for volunteers to help out with some winter duties for those in need.

We'll let Max Gilginas, Hamtramck Community Involvement Coordinator, explain:

"It's been quite a year in our little town. With the help of the City of Hamtramck, The Rotary Club of Detroit, and our dedicated volunteers, the Every Neighbor program aided 25 households in keeping up to code this summer, doubling our previous summer.

"We are now shifting to winter, and to caring for our neighbors who are unable to keep their walkways free of snow and ice. This means keeping their sidewalks and cars cleaned, shoveled and salted, and it takes a lot of coordination and volunteer energy.

"We are seeking volunteers and donations, and hope you can find a few hours or dollars to make a difference. Salt. shovmunity. "You can find a sign up

on https://forms.gle/jSk-JtwjPHvYE1U5b8 or on Facebook.

"You can also call (313) extension 800-5233, 326, or email mgilginas@ hamtramckcity.com if you need help signing up, or have questions."

That's why God made snowbird... Who the doesn't love a good list? We certainly do; why heck, we make'em up all the time ourselves, and we absolutely (Banned Word Alert) don't mind when others do it as well. A list can bring people together; a list can tear them asunder.

The website Thrillist (Thrill-list?) recently came forth with their own hot take on a cool subject: Which state has the worst winters? An engrossing topic, one could conclude, and we did.

We're not going to reprint all 50 states' positions on the list here you can just go to thrillist. com, but we will recap a few of the high points.

Their worst state for the worst winter (that would make it the one with the best winter) is, at #50, tadaa, Hawaii.

Little surprise there.

Nor did they hammer frequent snow-bound victim Colorado, instead suggesting that they actually had the fifth best winters because well, they're pretty, the inhabitants are used to them, they're economically productive, and so on.

If you get our "drift."

outreach... Health

We've all heard that high blood pressure is a silent killer.

And the most affected in our population are minorities.

Well, the Detroit Association of Black Organizations (DABO) is doing something about this.

It has a program call "Blood Pressure Matters," and it is targeting folks who live in the following communities:

- Hamtramck
- Highland Park
- River Rouge
- Wayne
- Westland
- Harper Woods
- Inkster • Ecorse
- Romulus
- Trenton
- Taylor
- · Dearborn
- Dearborn Heights
- Southwest Detroit

The Blood Pressure Matters campaign will partner with members of the non-profit sector and faith-based community.

This project will serve Wayne County residents of all genders between the ages of 18 and 65, including people from racial/ethnic minority groups (Black, Latino, Arab, and Bengali individuals), people with behavioral health issues who use tobacco, and people with lower incomes.

Community members with high blood pressure values (that which is greater than 130/80) or with uncontrolled hyper-On the other hand, the tension who are out of care will be linked with a medical provider to conduct a clinical screening and help manage hypertension.

Make your reservation now for annual MLK breakfast

By Madelyn Porter

The Concerned Women of Hamtramck in collaboration with Hamtramck Public School District presents Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 26th Annual Prayer Breakfast on Jan. 15, 2024.

In light of a brighter future, this year's theme is "A Change is Gonna Come."

We are asking community leaders, organizations, businesses, and neighbors to help make this year's celebration a success.

workers, and buy a table or iust come commune with us. Tickets are available through Eventbrite, Hamtramck Public School District Administrative Office, and in the main office of each school building in the district.

The HAMTRAMCK'S GOT TALENT (HGT) showcase is always the highlight of this annual event. The showcase theme is "A CHANGE IS GONNA COME."

Essays, skits (short scene), poetry, visual art, music, and more are allowed (HPS students only).

prizes for contestants, and a great breakfast is served for all (Halal food provided).

Let's come together and celebrate the change to come. All proceeds go to HPS Scholarship(s) and the Hamtramck Family Emergency Fund.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me anytime, (313) 573-0782. or Ms. Grav at (313) 772-5097.

Happy Holiday!

(Madelyn Porter is the President of Concerned Women of Hamtramck.)

readers. **Other Voices:** Guest Editorial

Come join us!

Our K-12 students are Bring family, friends, co- amazingly talented. Cash

Looking ahead – inside and out

By Greg Kowalski

It's been a busy year at the Hamtramck historical Museum - inside and out. Outside we've improved the appearance of the museum building by removing the old metal sign that ran across the front

of the building. We feel that if you want to be considered a professional organization you have to look like one.

Inside, we've been working on the new "Hamtramck Explorer" Deep Mapping project. This was established by Wayne State University and Michigan Technological University working with the museum to create an interactive map that will reveal the city in tremendous detail.

But now, as the new year approaches, it is

time to look ahead. We're planning to bring in more new programs as we enhance the Hamtramck Explorer map. As the museum has grown, so has the complexity and number of things that have to be done to maintain it. We've made some progress in building a volunteer cadre but now we are focusing on that with a greater understanding of the role they will play in the museum's future.

Back outside, we're planning to do more major renovations to the museum building. This is badly needed, and we are serious when we say we want the museum to be the Jewel of Jos. Campau.

Of course, all of you have played a key role in making this possible.

Without your support there simply would not be a Hamtramck Historical Museum. Your memberships in the Friends of Historical Hamtramck and additional donations have been essential to our existence.

Money aside, as we have developed we have learned that while we are accomplishing much there is so much more that we can do. We barely have stepped into the realm of possibilities. It is extremely exciting to realize that we are doing meaningful important, things at and through the museum. And it's thrilling, almost overwhelming, to see how many possibilities are open to us.

And you are going to part of that journey into tomorrow.

The Hamtramck Review Published every Friday

3020 Caniff, Hamtramck, MI 48212 Phone: 313-874-2100 Fax: 313-874-2101 www.hamtramckreview.com · email news@thehamtramckreview.com

Publisher: John Ulaj · (248) 866-1110 · julaj@thehamtramckreview.com Editor: Charles Sercombe Sales Manager: Dave Sweet

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This newspaper is not responsible for mistakes in advertising beyond the cost of the space involved.

els, snacks, rewards for volunteers, and businesses that will allow our volunteers to warm up are also very much needed and can be donated directly. All benefits go directly to Hamtramck Mutual Aid and this program.

"If you need help, please don't hesitate to contact us. In order to reach as many of those in need as possible, we limit this to owner occupied homes.

"We also ask that you use us if you haven't any other options. We would also be grateful if you can return some help in any way that you are able - writing letters, making phone calls, (providing) treats for your volunteer, or any other skill you have can be vital to your com-

state, they claim, with the worst-est of all winters? That non-entity North Dakota, of course (couldn't we just off-load it to Canada for a few barrels of rye whiskey and some geese?).

We can't argue their selection.

And just where did Michigan, our beloved home state, slot in in this folly?

Third worst, actually. And boy, do they hit the meteorological nail on the head, noting that "even when spring technically arrives, the giant piles of dirty snow will still be melting for a month."

Our dirty (snowy) little secret appears to be out, folks.

Minnesota, by the way, came in at #2. So at least we're not number two.

To partner with DABO on an event, or to learn more about the campaign, visit: https://www.yourbloodpressurematters.org/.





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December 15, 2023

Hamtramck Public TV-19

Broadcasting on Comcast Channel 19 in Hamtramck area and YouTube Live world wide (Hamtramck Public Library)

What's on this coming week?

Coming soon, History Pod-casts from Museum Motivate Me Interviews, Music programs ESL Classes for the 2023-24 school year Local events, Library programs, Interviews, Council meeting highlights, 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 On Comcast Channel 19 and streaming on YouTube Live (24/7) Google "Hamtramck Public TV", and click on link "Hamtramck Public TV" Or go to YouTube; Hamtramck Public TV; Hamtramck Public Library; videos

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)

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WSU partnership continues to pay off for Historical Museum

Continued from front page

Gary Saganski and Joe Kochut of the museum's Education Committee, and David Hales, History Day Senior Manager for the Michigan Historical Society were on hand to help provide the students with some ideas, and to show some past projects.

The museum's lead role in this project garners it statewide attention.

In other quick items:

 The museum hosted a group of International Relations college students from the University of Findlay, Ohio, along with that institution's Associate Professor of Modern Languages, Hiroaki Kawamura. They took a bus ride through town and learned about Hamtramck's special history of ethnic diversity.

• A drone, currently hanging in the museum at about shoulder height, is actually contributing to the making of a documentary film called "Detroit: The City of Faith" being done by filmmaker Keith Famie. They were at the museum on Oct. 29.

· A bonnet worn in the 1924 by then-infant Zbigniew Kowalski at his christening has been put on display. Kowalski's niece Diane Stachurski wore it 27 years later for her own

Dbituaries

SLABIENSKI



Laura Slabienski (nee Kubik), 76, December 11, 2023.

Dear wife of the late Ronald and mother of Pam (Michael) Guy and Denise (Stan) Garbacz. Grandmother of Michael Jr. (Kayla), Kimberly, and Justin. Great grandmother of Mason and Hadley. Sister of Carol (late Richard) Brzozowski and the late Gerald.

Laura always enjoyed raising her grandchildren and great grandchildren. After her own were raised, she enjoyed being with

the children of her many friends and would seek out children wherever she was.

Visitation is Friday, December 15, 2023, from 2 - 9 p.m. with the Rosary at 7:00 p.m., at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck MI 48212. The funeral arrangements are, lying in state Saturday, December 16, 2023, 9 a.m. until time of funeral mass at 9:30 a.m. at St. Ladislaus Catholic Church, 2730 Caniff, Hamtramck MI 48212. Inurnment TBD at Great Lakes National Cemetery, 4200 Belford Road, Holly MI 48442.





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HHS SIEW news

Students in Hamtramck High School's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program have helped the school win \$2,500 worth of technology and classroom supplies.

The students have helped HHS be named as one of 300 public schools that qualify for a finalist round in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow STEM competition.

The competition eventually will end with three national winners, that will each receive a \$100,000 prize package for their schools.

According to a press release:

"Based on this year's competition entries, some common themes around community issues felt by students all over the U.S. include the climate crisis, mental health

matters like student anxiety and loneliness, food insecurity, cyber security, and aid for the unhoused and migrants."

As for the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow program, it's "a nationwide competition designed to empower students in grades 6-12 to leverage the power of STEM to create innovative solutions addressing critical issues in their local communities.

"The competition engages U.S. Gen Z students to catalyze change by applying Problem-based Learning (PBL) principles, environmental stewardship, and entrepreneurship to address some of society's most pressing challenges. It also promotes active, hands-on learning, making STEM more tangible and showcasing its real-world applications."



Hamtramck Review



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> Monday, January 15, 2024 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Hamtramck Community Center 11350 CHAREST ST. – HAMTRAMCK, MI 48212



A CHANGE IS GONNA COME



By Charles Sercombe

The city council met on Nov. 14, and all councilmembers were in attendance.

A proclamation was read honoring Richard "Rocky" Radtke, who was the head of the code enforcement department for the city. He recently died at age 62.

It read, in part:

"Rocky was a dear friend to many and left an indelible mark on the hearts of those who had the privilege of knowing him; and Rocky's professional journey was marked by his tenure as the department head of code enforcement in the City of Hamtramck, where he dedicated himself to ensuring the well-being and safety of our community; and prior to his dedicated service to the city, Rocky was the former owner of the renowned Baker's Streetcar Bar, where his Alley Cow Grill became a culinary delight for all who visited;

"And Rocky's passion for entertaining and cooking was evident in his love for watching cooking shows, always seeking inspiration for new culinary adventures; and his joyful spirit extended to the bar, where his hearty laugh could be heard from a mile away, filling the establishment with warmth and camaraderie;

"And Rocky, in addition to his contributions to the community, served as a paramedic, demonstrating his commitment to the health and well-being of his fellow residents; and Rocky's legacy is not only defined by his professional achievements but also by the immense love and compassion he shared with everyone he encountered. ..." During public comment, Bill Meyer said that, for the past four meetings, no one from the public addressed the council – which he said is notable after there were a number of complaints about the council's limits on public comments.

What is our City Council up to these days? We have the highlights of the latest council meeting.

about it," Meyer said.

Regarding the recent rally calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, Meyer said that it was one of the largest gatherings in the city. He said that over 1,000 people attended.

He took issue with a report by The Review that had said about 200 people attended.

(The Review has since corrected its reporting on the number of people attending in the online version of the article.)

Meyer said The Review is "Islamophobic," and that the paper is "full of lies."

"We cannot afford this newspaper," Meyer said.

Mayor Amer Ghalib also took issue with a previous report by The Review on his comments about how the state of Israel was created. The Review reported that he had said that the claim (of the right to the land) by those who created Israel was based on Jews having lived there for the past 3,000 years.

Ghalib stated that what he actually said was that the claim made by those creating the Israeli nation was based on distant relatives having once been in the region 3,000 years ago.

Ghalib said the paper "sounds like the opposition."

He did not explain what he meant by the term, "opposition."

A public hearing was held regarding a change to the city's ordinance on fees for allowing buildings and properties to lay dormant. The city is seeking to increase the fee charged to property owners who do nothing with their property. In a note to council by

the city administration, it was said: "At present, the ordinance mandates an overly modest fee along with annual exterior inspections. This does nothing by way of encouraging delinquent

property owners to utilize the property in a positive way to benefit the community.

"In fact, the City has a significant amount of vacant buildings and parcels that have lain dormant for years and in some case decades. We also have significant commercial property that lays dormant to include in our main business district.

"The proposed amendment will now include vacant lots and escalated fees based on the duration of inactivity for the vacant properties. The revenue generated from these fees will be utilized for community and economic development purposes.

"Attached yard lots and community gardens will not be affected."

A lengthy discussion was held on another proposal to modify the city's zoning ordinance to streamline the development review process.

Notably, the final decision would be taken out of the city council's hands, which would then allow site plans to be approved by the Plan Commission.

City Manager Max Garbarino said this revision will "make it easier for people to redevelop."

Councilmember Khalil Refai took issue with the elimination of the city council's role.

He questioned whether it's because there is now a "board" that is now a different color of skin.

Mayor Ghalib emphasized that the revision is "for the sake of time."

Councilmember Mohammed Hassan said he doesn't want to "give up my right," as a member of council, regarding the council's role in site proval.

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He said that, for the first time in a long time, the city has a balanced budget.

"And no one is talking

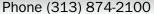
"Residents elected us to oversee," Hassan said.

The council agreed to keep the council's role in-**Continued on page 6**





City Hall Insider ...





Cont. from front page

be a violation of a state law which requires boards of education to meet at least once a month.

Boardmembers could misdemeanor face charges, and, if found guilty, could each be fined \$500, or jailed for up to three months, or both.

The board could still schedule a special meeting before the month ends.



The board had previously cancelled their monthly committee of the whole meeting for December.

After waiting 45 minutes, teachers and district staff members filed out of the board's meeting room, uttering comments like "this is a joke" and "unbelievable."

The Review has previously reached out to Aiyash, who is the sister of State Rep. Abraham Aiyash (D) who is from Hamtramck. and Hadwan about the board's previous cancelled meetings, but they did not

Aiyash missed just about every board meeting in 2022 without an explanation. and Boardmember Watson has not attended a meeting since February.

Friday, December 15, 2023

Earlier in the year, the board awarded itself pay raise of over 700 percent. For most of them, that equals \$6,000 a year.

Farris said that by increasing the board's pay, more qualified candidates will seek office. This is his first year as a boardmember.

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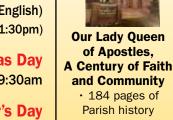
313-891-1520

| Sunday, December 24 | Christmas Eve Vigil |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Family Mass | 4pm (English) |
| Solemn Midnight Mass | 12:00 am (Polish & English) |
| (Preceded by the singing of Christ | tmas Carols (koledy) at 11:30pm) |
| Monday, December 25 | Christmas Day |
| Mass in Polish & English | 9:30am |

Monday, January 1, 2023New Year's Day No Masses, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Not a Holy Day of obligation this year)

Sunday, January 6, 2023 Epiphany of the Lord Blessed chalk and incense available

WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE Eric R. Sabree - Wayne County Treasurer



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Boardmember

Continued from page 5

where the city's historic baseball stadium is located.

Councilmember Refai said he's noticed that there is "a lot of dog poop" on the field. Konrad Maziarz, of the Parks Conservancy, said there has been a problem of geese using the field, but the group is working on a solution.

In his mayoral report, Mayor Ghalib guestioned why there was so much attention regarding the recent lawsuit filed against the city over the banning of pride flags on public property.

"I received so many questions from the media regarding the recent lawsuit against the city for the flag issue. ... It was expected. There was already multiple ones (lawsuits) filed against the city. I don't know why this one made it to the news that bad," Ghalib said.

He said the lawsuit's claim that a majority of people who spoke about allowing pride flags to be flown on public property, at a previous council meeting, were in favor of the idea does not reflect a true "sampling" of the city.

Ghalib said that, in order to get a more accurate gauge on public opinion on the issue, a wider survey needs to be conducted.

Councilmember Refai thanked people who attended the recent rally for Palestine, and lambasted

The Review for saying 200 people attended instead of a more accurate counting of over 1,000.

He referred to the paper as a "nonsense newsletter" that has not "supported us."

"Since we came into power, it's (The Review) been working against us. It has not supported this body at all," Refai said.

Ghalib said there is "so much to say" about The Review, accusing the newspaper of being "a voice of the former power structure."

He said the city needs to reconsider using the paper for public notices.

Councilmember Nayeem Choudhury congratulated the winners in the recent city council election. Choudhury did not get re-elected in the November election.

"It all comes down to absentee ballots," he said.

Councilmember Muhith Mahmood said demand for a ceasefire in Gaza should be a "wake-up call" to politicians.

Councilmember Abu Musa said he hopes President Joe Biden will "wake up ... and he'll do a ceasefire for the people."

(Since that meeting, President Biden played a significant role in getting a temporary ceasefire. That ceasefire last for just a few days.)

Musa also "condemned" The Review for its coverage of the Palestine rally, and he then ripped up a copy of the paper.



visited at a future meeting. In another lengthy discussion, the council considered whether to award a contract to Hennessey Engineers for the design and construction of a Jos.

Councilmember Refai took issue with the city having discovered that, at some time in the past, someone filled the old water main with concrete. That discovery was made several months ago, and Refai said the council should have been informed of the fact at that time.

Campau water main.

The proposal will be re-

tact.

City Manager Garbarino said, of that discovery: "We're going to discover things ... that make you scratch your head."

He said the point is to move forward.

The contract was approved, but Councilmembers Refai and Mohammed Alsomiri voted in opposition.

An ambulance contract was approved for the citv's current contractor Rapid Response. Councilmember Refai once again objected.

The price for the service will increase slightly for the next three years.

In another matter, the council approved a proposal to have the city's Parks Conservancy take over the scheduling of events at the Turkey Stearnes Field,



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