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 December 22, 2023 **50¢**

The Review

Hamtramck

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Quick Hits

There's more to do at city hall

By Charles Sercombe

City Hall has a new service it's offering: It's become an art gallery, of sorts.

In a project that started out as an idea by City Manager Max Garbarino, city hall is now displaying, on its first floor, art created by local artists.

"We're interested in helping our local artists succeed," Garbarino said, in a press release.

"As an added bonus to that, we believe displaying the art in the city hall will give our residents something to look at and appreciate while they are visiting us. We hope that it would actually become an attraction for the city as well. It's a win-win on all levels."

So far, three local artists are displaying their works: Emily Wood, Kate Murphy and Dennis Orłowski, with more artists coming soon.

Omar Thabet, the city's Administrative Generalist, said the goal of the program is "to make the city hall a more vibrant place for residents, all while supporting local artists."

City Clerk Rana Faraj agreed, saying:

"Art has the incredible power to weave the vibrant tapestry of our community, and the local artists of Hamtramck have beautifully enriched City Hall with their creative expressions.

"Their work not only adds visual splendor but also reflects the di-

Continued on page 2

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Merry Christmas

A peaceful pause for Christmas ...

By John Ulaj
 Review Publisher

It's no secret that the world is in turmoil in many places – The Ukraine, the Gaza Strip and West Bank, South Sudan, the Venezuela-Guyana border, and many other areas are experiencing war, strife, famine, misery, or, as with China and Taiwan, building up toward what may seem as inevitable and imminent conflict.

In our cherished homeland, America, is caught up in fierce political division, to the point that some are losing faith in government.

Christmas time, at its heart, is a time for peace, family, warmth and reflection. It is a time to celebrate the Savior, even as we mingle with our favorite people – family, friends, and all of our loved ones.

It is not supposed to be about frenzied and frazzled mental states, urgent and stressful shopping mall excursions, or the like. Jesus cherished peace, and He carried it with Him like a lit lamp wherever he went.

If there was ever a time right for supernatural intervention, it is now – before the world goes into an unsalvageable tailspin.

Governments throughout the world can only dream of one day bringing balance and civility to the world order. As Christians, we need a pause from life's distresses, and to keep our eyes focused on our true calling.

CHRISTMAS IS A TIME OF REST AND CALM, NOT ONE OF A FRENZIED STATE OF MIND.

Christmas is a reminder that God understands the pain and sufferings of us all, and He became Man to demonstrate his power and unconditional love – his ultimate gift to humanity, giving us all another chance to come to Him. That whosoever believeth in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

We live in a world where living in the present is often overshadowed by concern about our future years ahead.

Stay in the precious present moment. We tend to think that man is in control of the world, and that he has the final say. But then, we're reminded of God's loving dominion by the book of Daniel, 4:17, where it is stated "that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men. And giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men."

It was once famously said by Benjamin Franklin that God must be applying His will in the unfolding of American history: "The longer I live," he said to his fellow delegates during a debate in Philadelphia, "the more convincing Proofs I see this Truth, that

Continued on page 4

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Take a look back on the first six months of the year

By Charles Sercombe

Well, here we are at the end of 2023. With the year largely in our review mirror, we once again follow our tradition of presenting a two-part “Year in Review.” This week, we’ll take a look back at the first six months of 2023. What a year it was.

JANUARY

In an expected move, a majority of city councilmembers, along with the mayor, voted in favor of allowing ritual animal slaughtering to be conducted at homes. The council had been wrestling with this issue for several months. The practice of animal slaughtering is allowed in the context of a religious ob-

servance. At a council meeting, which ran for over three hours, a number of residents spoke out both for, and against, the practice. Those who are for it argue that it’s their First Amendment right to practice their religion. For those of the Muslim faith, animal slaughtering happens at Eid, the festival held at the end of the Ramadan fasting month, and the sacrificed animal’s meat is consumed. The general practice among Muslims is to slaughter lambs or goats, but there is nothing in the city ordinance that bars the slaughter of cows or pigs. The new city ordinance thus opens it to those of other faiths to likewise be allowed to slaughter animals, which could conceivably happen at any time of the year.

The issue also helped to usher in a heightened era of ongoing national – and international – media attention for Hamtramck. Hamtramck’s search for a new city manager resulted in a roster of many candidates, albeit with few coming anywhere near being qualified for the job. In fact, only one person came close, and that was the city’s current interim city manager, Max Garbarino. Over 130 applications were submitted. Garbarino said that most of the applicants were weeded out by the city’s Human Resource Department because they had even fewer qualifications than those being considered.

As it turned out, to no one’s surprise, Garbarino was selected for the job. FEBRUARY Not everyone welcomed the city’s new bike lane on Jos. Campau. First, some background: Hamtramck’s portion of the Joe Louis Greenway bike path had been continuing to take shape more or less on schedule. Street markings for the

bike path were laid down on Jos. Campau, starting at Holbrook and running south to Hamtramck Dr. The path is intended to be only for bikes, and there is no parking in that lane. It’s all part of the ongoing installation of the 30-mile path that will ultimately connect Hamtramck to Highland Park, Detroit, and Dearborn. Eventually Hamtramck Dr., starting at Jos. Campau

and proceeding west, will get repaved and have its own pathway. Part of the path runs through the Jos. Campau alley on the west side, from Caniff to Holbrook. Funding for the project is coming from several sources, but the main source is the federal government. It is expected to be completed within several years. Reaction to the project

Continued on page 3



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Sunday, December 24th, Holy Mass 9:00
4th Sunday in Advent - Christmas Eve
Dec 25 – Christmas Day Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord
Shepherds Mass (Pasterka) 12 Midnight
Holy Mass 9 am
Dec 26 – Feast of St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr (Msza Św. w j. polskim)
Holy Mass 10 am
Dec 27 – Feast of Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist
Blessing of Wine Holy Mass 7 pm
Dec 28 – Observance of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs • Holy Mass 7 pm
Dec 30 – Solemnity of the Holy Trinity
Holy Mass 10 am

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PNC Bank robbed by lone suspect

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck police are seeking information about a bank robbery that happened on Tuesday (Dec. 19) at PNC Bank. The robbery was reported at about 4 p.m., and so far the police department is being tight-lipped about the details of what happened.

According to a press release issued on Wednesday, the suspect, who had fled from the scene before officers arrived, is described as a light-skinned black male, approximately 5-foot, 10-inches tall, to 6-foot, 3-inches tall.

The suspect was wearing black clothing, a surgi-

cal mask and gloves.

No photo of the suspect was released.

Police did not say whether a gun was involved, but did say that no one was injured.

The bank, located at Jos. Campau and Caniff, was last robbed in 2013 by a lone suspect.

Also, in 2013, four black males approached two people at the ATM machine at PNC. One of the suspects had a shotgun. They robbed the pair of \$500.

Anyone with information about Tuesday’s robbery is asked to call (313) 800-5281.

Quick Hits

Cont. from front page

verse and dynamic spirit of our city. We are proud to showcase the talent of our local artists, turning City Hall into a canvas that echoes the unique

voices of Hamtramck’s creative community.”

Artists who are interested in participating may inquire about doing so by emailing Thabet at otha-bet@hamtramckcity.com, or by calling (313) 800-5223 (extension 361).

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Sunday, Dec. 24th	Christmas Eve – Fourth Sunday in Advent 9:00 am Holy Mass
Monday, Dec. 25th	Christmas Day - Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord 12 Midnight Shepherds’ Mass (Pasterka) 9:00 am Holy Mass
Tuesday, Dec. 26th	Feast of St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr (Msza Św. w j. polskim) 10:00 am Holy Mass
Wednesday, Dec. 27th	Solemnity of Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist 7:00 pm Holy Mass (Blessing of Wine)
Thursday, Dec. 28th	Observance of Holy Innocents, Martyrs 7:00 pm Holy Mass
Saturday, Dec. 30th	Solemnity of the Holy Family 10:00 am Holy Mass

December 22, 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.

Hoopla: Enjoy the winter season 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.

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: We are moving to Wednesdays. Join us for Game Night at the library. We are serving up something fun each Wednesday at 4 pm. Stop by and let us know that you have come to play. Everyone is invited.

Edwin Arlington Robinson: This week the spotlight in on this author born on December 22, 1869. After a cursory look at his biography (especially that part about him being spurned by the woman he loved, beat out for her affection by his older brother), it is no surprise that he had end up as a poet. If your teenager notebooks were full of angsty poetry, see how hey did it in the 19th century. Check out www.poetryfoundaion.org/poets/edwin-arlington-robinson for a quick bio and a few selected poems. Then, visit us to pick up a book by or about Robinson.

American Red Cross: Clara Barton, American nurse and philanthropist was born on December 25, 1821 in Oxford Massachusetts. She served as a nurse during the Civil War and founded the American Red Cross.

Kwanza: This African American family observance was established in 1966 celebrating traditional African harvest festivals, focusing on family unity, with a community harvest feast on the seventh day. Kwanza means “first fruit” in Swahili,

IMF: The international Monetary Fund was established on December 27, 1945 in Washington D.C.

Louisiana Territory: The Stars and Stripes flag was raised over New Orleans as the United States took formal possession of that area of 885,000 square miles, nearly doubling the size of the United States. The territory had been purchased from France for approximately \$1.5 million on December 30, 1803.

Library is located at 2360 Caniff Avenue, Phone (313) 733-6822
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Attachments for printing, faxing or scanning send to hamtramcklibrary@gmail.com

Take a look back on the first six months of the year

Cont. from page 2

was mixed on social media.

Former City Councilmember Phill Kwik praised the project.

“This is wonderful news. Congratulations. It is the culmination of decades of hard work by a lot of people,” Kwik said on the city’s Facebook page.

For some Yemeni-owned businesses on the south-end, the bike lane threatened a loss of customers, because parking has been lost in front of their markets.

Nasr Hussain says it’s “racism” at work.

The city council started the wheels in motion to triple their own annual salaries, as well as double that of the mayor.

The council approved a resolution to have voters change the city charter to allow the increase.

City council members are currently paid \$3,249 each year, but the proposed increase would have raised their pay to \$9,749.

That would come out to a total of \$32,500 more for five of the councilmembers.

For the sixth councilmember, who is the mayor pro tem, the increase would have gone from \$4,874 to \$11,374 a year. That’s an increase of \$6,500.

And for the mayor, the current yearly salary of \$6,499 would have gone up to \$12,998, which would have also been a \$6,500 increase for the year.

The total increase for the council and mayor would have totaled \$45,500 for the year.

However, later in the year, voters would reject the proposal, along with two other city charter revision proposals.

This year’s Paczki Day festivities had one uninvited guest: a bitter cold, gusty wind that could, for example, freeze your forehead while walking northward on Jos. Campau.

After a couple weeks of unseasonably warmish weather, it was a rude reminder that winter was not done with us yet.

But for those ... ah ... fortified with spirits, it probably didn’t faze them all that

much.

A familiar group of gawkers crushed into PLAV Post 10 for the annual paczki eating contest, held on the second floor of this classic old hall.

There, at high noon, several contestants arranged



At the beginning of the year the city council was looking for a new city manager. After considering some candidates, the council decided to go with Max Garbarino who had been interim city manager.

themselves at a long table and punished their bodies by stuffing down as many of those lard-infused pastry bombs as a human stomach can hold – well, if a human had the multiple stomachs of a cow.

As it would happen, the winner turned out to be that guy-about-town, the one-and-only STEVE-O (Steve Paljusevic).

Yes, Steve-O, Hamtramck’s top pop culture observer, scarfed down 12-1/2 paczki. It was, truly, a baffling sight, since last year he could only manage to get a few of them down.

Even more amazing, he scarcely seemed punished by the pastry onslaught.

MARCH

Another freshman city councilmember resigned from the council.

This time, it was Amanda Jaczkowski, the only woman on the city council.

She left because of health issues.

“As many people know in 2017, I was seriously injured in a bicycle crash. Part of my healing process has been recognizing my new limitations in life,” Jaczkowski said, on a Hamtramck-focused Facebook page.

“It has become apparent over the past year as your councilwoman that I am not able to balance the professional obligations to my

standard and maintain my physical health, and therefore I have made the extremely difficult decision to resign as councilwoman.

Jaczkowski followed former Councilmember Adam Albarmaki to the exit door. Albarmaki, who was also in

his first term, quit because of his work obligations.

Hamtramck’s marijuana dispensaries continued to be a money pot for the city.

According to the Michigan Department of Treasury, the city’s four recreational retail shops contributed \$207,364 to the city’s coffers from taxes and fees in 2022.

In all, over \$59 million was distributed by the state to 224 cities and counties. That breaks down to about \$51,800, on average, that each retail outlet paid, according to the state.

Hamtramck’s revenue is not earmarked for anything specific, but rather is put into the general budget.

Despite the revenue produced by the dispensaries, there are some in town who would like to close them down, or not allow the licenses to be transferred to new owners if any plan to sell their businesses.

They claim the dispensaries lead to more crime, although daily police incident reports do not bear this out.

Hamtramck property still attracted top dollar.

In an auction of eight city properties, which included both empty lots and houses, the city netted \$442,601.

Two of the winning bids went to local elected officials: a Hamtramck councilmember and state representative.

Councilmember Moham-

med Alsomiri purchased two industrial lots for \$81,000 combined, which are next to the Hamtramck Recycling facility; one at 2930 Denton and one at 7901 Jos. Campau. That business submitted the lowest bid for the lots, at \$62,699.

State Rep. Abraham Aiyash purchased a two-family house at 5008 Yemens for \$65,601. The house will require extensive repairs.

Michigan Democratic legislators promised voters that, if they became the majority in the state legislature, they would take swift action to make changes.

One of those changes included amending the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include protections for the LGBTQ community.

In other words, gay and transgender citizens will be legally protected from discrimination.

Predictably, this led to pushback from conservatives, including from some in Hamtramck’s religious community.

And, taking some of that heat was Hamtramck native State Rep. Abraham Aiyash (D), who was a co-sponsor



There was talk of American Axle redeveloping its site which could have meant more tax revenue coming to the city. Those plans never came to fruition.

for the amendment.

Aiyash is the first Yemeni-American from Hamtramck to be elected to the state house, and he is the first Arab-American to be the floor leader.

Hamtramck Public School Boardmembers gave themselves a salary boost.

But the pay raise caused division among some board members, and pushback

from teachers.

The initial proposal was to increase boardmembers’ salaries to \$5,000, and \$6,000 for the board president. But the board later agreed with new member Victor Farris, who suggested upping it to \$6,000 per board members and \$7,000 for the president.

His reason?

He said that, after doing some research, he concluded that the current pay rate is “probably why the board might not be so good,” and added that better pay would attract more “serious” members.

Boardmembers Moortadha Obaid and Regan Watson voted against the increase, saying that the positions are largely voluntary.

“We all came to this position as a volunteer job,” said Obaid.

Earlier in the year, city officials received some sobering financial news.

At that time, the financial projections for the city were that there will be less money coming into the city, and more money going out.

The city received millions more in revenue than pro-

an increase in income tax collection (also thanks to an increase in population); marijuana dispensary revenue; parking meter revenue; and more property taxes being collected.

APRIL

There was potential big development news.

American Axle & Manufacturing was considering a plan that would have returned a portion of their business back onto Hamtramck soil.

According to a Crain’s Detroit Business report, American Axle was looking at a plan to create a \$460 million electric vehicle research and supply park next to its headquarters.

To date, it appears to be a pipe dream. But, if that plan had gone forward, Hamtramck would have once again benefitted from collecting property and income taxes from the company.

Quite a while ago, American Axle moved its plant, from here in Hamtramck to Mexico, and then leveled the site, which meant a huge loss in taxes for the city.

It’s Showtime! As in, the return of a favorite metro area retailer, Showtime Clothing, which was a preferred shop for rock-n-rollers and club kids.

Owner Dan Tatarian reopened his store here on Jos. Campau, much to the delight of his many fans.

Asked why he chose Hamtramck to make his return, he said:

“I like the different ethnic groups, Blacks, Arabs, Asian, Polish – I love them all.”

Hamtramck’s fourth cannabis retail outlet was back in business.

3Fifteen, on Jos. Campau near Zinow, was temporarily closed for a few weeks while a court case was settled over who currently controls ownership of the company.

As it turned out, Skymint

Continued on page 4

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Marsha told me, "My comfort and joy these days is when I come to Friendship House and they have both milk and eggs! Have you seen the price of milk and eggs these days!"

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Coming Events

SATURDAY, Jan. 13, 2-4 p.m. – Take-out only Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. Everyone is welcome!

December 22, 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?

Special on former Mayor, Robert Kozaren, 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

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Take a look back on the first six months of the year

Cont. from page 3

became the sole owner of the store, although 3Fifteen still holds the business license in Hamtramck.

A spokesman for the company, Jeff Gaunt, told The Review that Skymint holds all of the assets, and is in the process of taking over the business license.

However, the return wouldn't last long – a few months later, it closed its doors for good.

MAY

Hamtramck's budget projection continued to look rosy.

Even if just for the next few years.

At a city council meeting, Brian Camiller, from the city's financial auditing firm, Plante Moran, said the forecast for the next five years predicts that the city will collect more money than it spends, through 2025.

After that, costs go up, and the city will have to go back to dipping into its budget surplus.

The biggest boost in revenue came from an unexpected source: city income tax collection.

Specifically, income tax collection rose by \$1.4 million in 2022, and another \$1 million extra is expected to be collected this tax season.

In total, the city will realize \$5 million this year from taxes, which will continue to increase to over \$6 million a year by 2028.

Although they didn't get to meet one-on-one with President Biden, the mayor and city council did enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime experience visiting the White House as special guests.

Mayor Amer Ghalib and city councilmembers joined other Muslim community leaders across the nation in an Eid celebration at the White House.

"It was a good experience, we walked around and inside the White House, attended the president's speech, and ate after that," Ghalib said.

"He (Biden) just spoke and walked out; on his way out of the room he shook hands with people standing in the front, and walked out. He had no bilateral meetings with anyone due to too many people in the room."

As for those attending, it was a rare opportunity for city officials to meet other officials from different states and "network," Ghalib added.

There are amazing comebacks in sports.

And there are also some pretty amazing ones for sports stadiums.

Case in point: Hamtramck's historical baseball stadium, which went from being a dilapidated eyesore to the city's sparkling new jewel.

The state recognized this comeback, and presented the Governor's Award for Historic Preservation to the Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium in honor of the renovations done there.

The stadium is only one of a handful that still exist that were part of the legendary Negro Baseball League, from a time back when African-Americans were not allowed to play in the all-white Major Leagues.

The stadium was built in 1930. The color barrier in Major League Baseball was finally broken in 1947.

The stadium wasn't the only major improvement happening in the city.

Improvements also continued to happen at Veterans Park, the city's largest park and where the stadium is located.

On the heels of the state issuing the Governor's Award to the Friends of the stadium, there was another project about to get underway.

The city received a federal grant, worth almost \$654,000, to install restrooms at Veterans Park.

It got better.

State Rep Abraham Ayash (D-Hamtramck) announced there is an additional \$300,000 coming from the state to add to the restroom project.

The state grant will go toward installing a drinking fountain; making improvements to the stadium's utility infrastructure; and repaving a pathway from the park's restroom to the stadium's parking lot.

JUNE

Hamtramck's city council added two more holidays for city employees.

The all-Muslim council designated two Eid holidays for city employees to have as paid days off.

The two holidays added are for Eid al-Fitr, which is the celebration for the end of Ramadan, and also for

Continued on page 6

A peaceful pause for Christmas ...

Continued from front page

God governs in the affairs of men."

One can see God's hand everywhere, if one slows down and appreciates the moment.

Don't carry life's burdens on your own. You are uniquely and wonderfully made. God demonstrated it on Christmas through His gift, the birth of Jesus the Son of God, the TRUE GOD and savior who lived a human life, and experienced the pain and sufferings, as well as the joys and hopes, that we also all experience.

Is this not the best Christmas gift one could have ever asked for?

So, remember ... During times of conflict and crisis, optimism can still shine like the sun piercing through the clouds.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas, and a peaceful and healthy New Year!



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Merry Christmas

**Warm Holiday Greetings
from the Hamtramck
Parks Conservancy**



**Hamtramck
Parks Conservancy**

Keep CHRIST in Christmas!
*Merry Christmas "Wesolych Swiat"
& Happy New Year!*



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Happy New Year*



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and also K of C #2723
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*Happy
Holidays*

*from everyone at the
Hamtramck Recreation
Department. We hope your
holidays are filled with joy and
laughter through the New Year
and beyond.*

**Hamtramck High School
Community Center
11350 Charest Street
Hamtramck, MI 48212**

*Happy
Holidays*



*From
Everyone
at*

Hamtramck
HOUSING COMMISSION



Take a look back on the first six months of the year Cont. from page 4

Eid al-Adha, which happens in June and celebrates individual sacrifice.

City officials passed the Eid holidays about a week after the City of Dearborn made the holidays paid days off for its city employees.

At the time, Dearborn was the first community to take this action in the U.S, and their new policy attracted national media attention.

The display of an LGBTQIA+ pride flag has once again stirred controversy in Hamtramck.

This time, it was about the vandalism of a pride flag that was displayed outside of the Piast Institute office on Jos. Campau.

Someone tore down the flag and placed it in a garbage can outside the office.

The issue with the flag underscored the heated discussions, on some Hamtramck-centric Facebook pages, about June being la-

beled as "Pride Month."

Some consider Pride Month to be "Sin Month."

The issue has pitted religious conservatives in town against those who are progressive and liberal.

The issue only deepened when the city council and mayor supported a resolution to ban the display of pride flags on city property in the name of being "neutral."

In one intense council

meeting, public debate on the matter extended for three hours.

That ban led to a rally in Zussman Park, in protest of the ban. Among those attending the rally was state Attorney General Dana Nessel, who is openly gay.

Nessel said:

"Take down the wall you have now built that has made this proud city into a national embarrassment, and raise the flag of equality."

The rally attracted about 50-100 people in support of the LGBTQ community. Several people spoke after Nessel, all of them aiming criticism at city officials.

"When you say one group of people are not welcomed, to the community, it communicates that it's OK to beat up on them," said the Rev. Roland Stringfellow, who also said that he, too, is gay.

As for the city council saying they passed the pride flag ban in order to remain neutral, Stringfellow said:

"That's not 'neutral,' that's taking sides, and it gives people a license to be hateful towards other folks."

Area refugees had a special picnic. Right here in Hamtramck.

In conjunction with "World Refugee Day," the non-profit organization Samaritas, which operates one of Michigan's largest refugee resettlement programs, hosted a picnic at Veterans Memorial Park.

Hamtramck has, of course, long been a welcoming home to immigrants and refugees.

A couple of years ago, the city was chosen as a host site for several refugee families, some from Yemen, in a federally-funded program that built three two-family housing units.

In all, six families relocated here.

The \$1.2 million project was dubbed "Freedom Village."

The plan is that refugees would only stay for several months before resettling somewhere else, which will then make room for another batch of new refugees to begin to acclimate to their adopted country.

And there we have it, the first six months of 2023. What a year, eh?

Be sure to come back next week for the winter-upper of July through December.



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wish you a Merry Christmas and for the coming New Year - health, happiness and prosperity.

Christmas Season 2023

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Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve Vigil

Family Mass.....4pm (English)

Solemn Midnight Mass12:00 am (Polish & English)

(Preceded by the singing of Christmas Carols (koledy) at 11:30pm)

Monday, December 25 Christmas Day

Mass in Polish & English9:30am

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

Mass8:00am (English) and 9:30am (Polish)

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This program is not available to everyone. If you own and live in the property, and are suffering financial hardship you may qualify for this program. Proof of ownership, occupancy, and hardship are required.

Stipulated Payment Agreement (SPA)

Available to everybody, this plan allows a taxpayer to pay taxes pursuant to a payment schedule. The plan will avoid foreclosure provided that payments are submitted per the agreed upon schedule.

Pay As You Stay Payment Agreement (PAYSPA)

Only for those who have first applied for their local municipality's Poverty Tax Exemption (PTE) and received an approval. Once notified by your local Assessor's office and deemed eligible, our office will mail you a notification letter with your Reduced Amount Due. You will have the option of paying a lump sum (additional 10% off) or enrolling into a PAYSPA.

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treasurer.waynecounty.com

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