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**Quick Hits**

**Museum displays locally crafted music instruments**

By Alan Madlane

Hamtramck has seen its share of characters over the years.

And we mean that in the fondest way possible.

But we'd also bet that this little berg has birthed more eccentrics per capita than old London town, or Bohemian Czechoslovakia, or whatever part of Spain Salvador Dali was from, or whichever part of Japan all those film directors who made black and white ghost movies originated in.

If you've spent as much time here as we have, you know what we're talking about. It's a treasure trove of lovely weirdness here, and we wouldn't have it any other way.

And, if you ever need a reminder of this fact, you can always check out the local repository for all things weird and wonderful, the Hamtramck Historical Museum.

Which brings us to our point (finally, finally): There's a new exhibit there, through Jan. 11, all about homemade musical instruments.

And some of them are pretty, well, weird.

Weird looking, or weird playing, or both, but they've all been lovingly brought to life by one person, Micheal F. Copado.

Copado's specialty, or the one we're concerned with here anyway, is the making of homemade musical instruments, you see, or if not, you can, because some of them are currently on display at the museum.

It's a tradition that has a long history throughout the world.

Continued on page 2

**HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD**

**Is Hamtramck a target of ICE for a crackdown on immigrants?**

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck, the city of immigrants, may be the target of ICE agents soon.

According to a Facebook post by a retired Hamtramck police officer, Walt Tripp, who is also a former investigator for the state Department of Health and Human Services, he has signed up for work with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to work in the 48212 zip code – which includes all of Hamtramck.

And, according to the officer, the DHS is seeking others with law enforcement experience and who are familiar with Hamtramck to patrol here.

Hamtramck, once a Polish-American majority city, is currently home to a large number of residents who emigrated from Bangladesh and Yemen. According to the U.S. Census, about 44 percent of the city's approximate 27,000 residents were born outside the U.S.

The census does not question whether residents are legal citizens.

The immigrant crackdown by ICE, which is under the auspices of the



**A retired Hamtramck officer says the Department of Homeland Security is seeking people with law enforcement experience to patrol in Hamtramck, presumably to focus on illegal immigrants. Hamtramck has long been an immigrant destination. File photo**

DHS, has alarmed a number of people here and across the country for its aggressive rounding up of suspected illegal immigrants.

Mayor Amer Ghalib, who endorsed President Trump in the 2024 presidential election, downplayed the chances of ICE coming here, telling The Review: "I don't think they have any interest in Hamtramck, simply because we don't have illegal immigrants here."

"They would have to use the microscope to find

them because they don't exist in our community; at least, to my knowledge."

Back in 2018, the Michigan chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), a Muslim rights group, warned that ICE agents were active in the city.

Amy Doukoure, an attorney for CAIR, told WXYZ Channel 7 news back then that ICE agents are "fishing to see if they can find undocumented individuals out in the community."

But, at that time, the Hamtramck Police De-

partment said it had no knowledge of ICE agents being active in the city.

Ghalib told The Review that his issue is that "some people in our community who claim that they watch out for their neighbors, are trying hard to prove that we are illegal immigrants, and I have seen some posts and articles with a lot of misinformation directed against certain individuals. This is the hypocrisy and unethical behavior that we see in some of our community members."

Continued on page 2

**Later, gator: A close encounter on Detroit's Belle Isle**



**An alligator in Detroit's Belle Isle? That's what Hamtramckan Lynn Blasey says she witnessed recently while visiting there. The gator was eventually captured by the Michigan DNR. Photo by Lynn Blasey**

By Alan Madlane

Lynn Blasey is well-known around town, a frequenter of city council meetings, a write-in candidate for mayor and a generally concerned Hamtramck citizen.

She recently had a rather extraordinary encounter while out on Belle Isle, observing a creature not totally suited for the Michigan climate year 'round – we're talking about an alligator, here.

Press reports have mentioned that it's since been captured. More on that at article's end, but for now, let's hear from

Lynn herself about her unusual day in the park.

**The Review: Let's talk alligator. Where were you, exactly, when you spotted this fella?**

Lynn Blasey: Paddleboarding in Blue Heron Lagoon on Belle Isle.

**The Review: What was your first (and second, and any other) reaction(s) to seeing what you thought you saw?**

Blasey: First, I couldn't believe my eyes, and I hastily retrieved my phone out of its waterproof pouch to begin document-

Continued on page 5

**Former police chief and city agree on separation**

By Charles Sercombe

Former Hamtramck Police Chief Jamiel Altaheri and the city have officially parted ways.

At Tuesday's regular city council meeting, a separation agreement was reached with Altaheri that will give him five months' worth of salary and allow him to say he's resigning.

That payout amounts to about \$50,000.

The former chief, in turn, agreed to drop his lawsuit against the city.

The city council agreed to the settlement without comment at Tuesday's council meeting.

The Review asked Altaheri for comment, and he took issue with past reporting by this paper that said he was "officially fired" – insisting he had resigned.

After the city council fired City Manager Max Garbarino, the council then directed the interim city manager to take steps to "terminate" both Altaheri and police officer Dave Adamczyk.

After that council resolution, the city and Altaheri entered into negotiations for a "separation agreement" that termed his departure a resignation.

Altaheri had served in Hamtramck for about a year before he had a falling out with the city manager.

The chief's downfall came after an internal investigation alleged several wrongdoings – including some that have reportedly caught the attention of the FBI, although it cannot be confirmed yet whether he is under investigation.

According to an internal investigation conducted by the law firm Miller Johnson, a number of accusations were looked into, including: driving a city vehicle after consuming alcohol; and reducing another officer's discipline in exchange for the destruction of evidence

Continued on page 2

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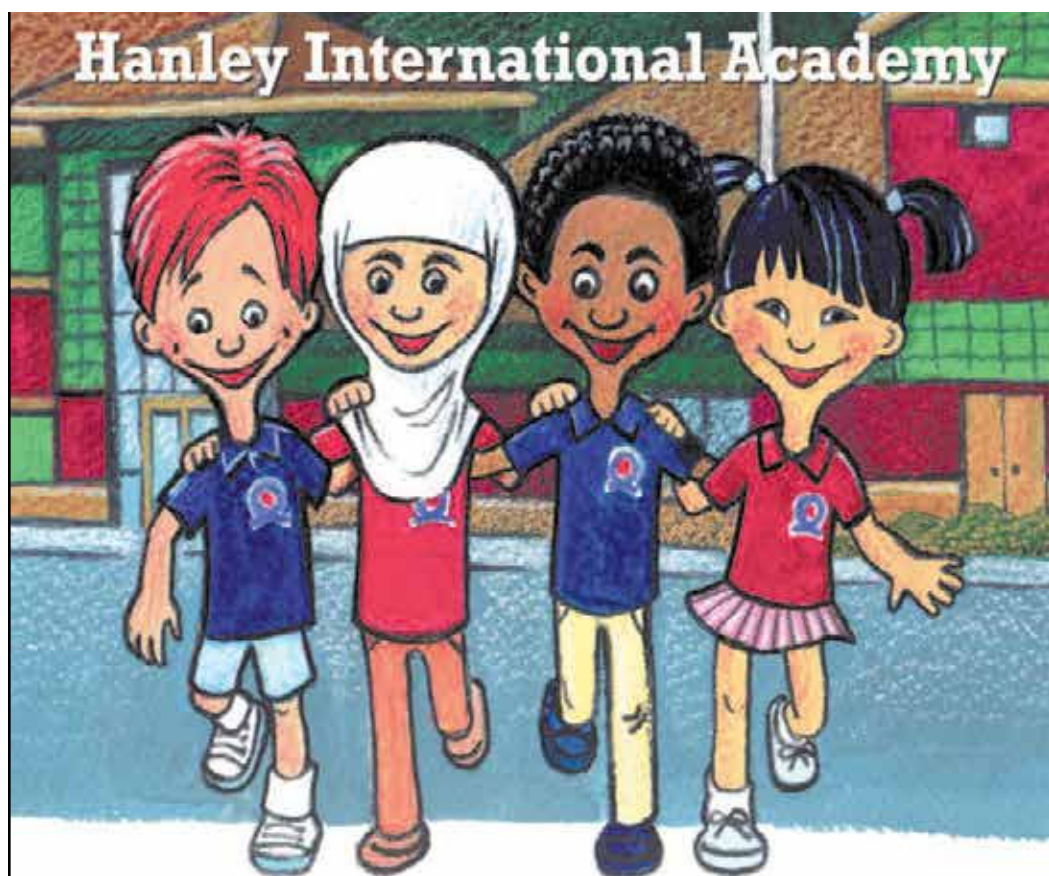
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Holy Mass 9 am

Oct 23 – Feast of St. Luke, Evangelist  
Holy Mass 9 am

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Holy Mass 9 am

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## Is Hamtramck a target of ICE for a crackdown on immigrants? Continued from front page

Ghalib added: "They call people to watch out for their neighbors but they try hard to label some legal immigrants as illegals. I hope they stop this kind of double standards behavior. We can disagree over some political views as much as we want, but trying to score points by hurting others is so unethical. If we can't help people, at least don't harm them."

Ghalib, a Yemeni immigrant, is also credited with influencing a number of other Arabs and Muslims to abandon the Democratic Party and throw their support behind Trump.

Trump campaigned heavily in 2024 on deporting illegal immigrants, although critics say ICE agents are targeting those who are

here legally, or who are going through the lengthy legal steps to remain in the country.

Trump later nominated Ghalib to be ambassador to Kuwait, apparently in gratitude for his support. Ghalib is waiting to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate to take on that role.

Former Mayor Karen Majewski, who was supportive of a prior city council resolution barring police officers from questioning people about their citizenship status, warned residents on her Facebook page of a possible crackdown here.

"Back in 2008, when we created a policy enjoining our own police from questioning people about their immigrant status, it was because we recognized the

flaws in the U.S. system that placed administrative and financial barriers on establishing legal status," Majewski said, in reference to the city council's resolution that banned police officers from inquiring about a person's immigration status.

Majewski continued: "It was because we honored Hamtramck's reputation as a city that welcomed immigrants and understood their importance to our national ideals and identity. It was because we were committed to keeping our residents safe. The presence of ICE in our city would be a betrayal of the promise we made to our residents, and to the rule of law as enshrined in our Constitution.

"If our elected officials

and our police won't protect us, it's up to our residents – especially those of us at less risk because of our own position of privilege – to stand up for our Constitutional guarantees and to stand up for our vulnerable neighbors."

Also weighing in is Lynn Blasey, who is a write-in candidate for mayor in the upcoming Nov. 4 election.

"We, as a city of immigrants, need to stand together against the kidnapping of our neighbors and friends," Blasey said.

Blasey also said that the 2008 city resolution "is not bold or strong enough for the current environment, especially with the removal of the right to due process for individuals kidnapped by ICE by executive order earlier this year."

## Former police chief and city agree on separation

Continued from front page

damaging to the chief, among other allegations.

Altaheri denies these allegations, and told The Review that the investigation is a "hoax."

Altaheri's fall coincided with the firing of City Manager Garbarino and police officer Adamczyk, all of whom were part of the internal investigation that included Altaheri.

Both Garbarino and Adamczyk still have ongoing lawsuits against the city, city council and

mayor. Both were offered the same deal as Altaheri, but both rejected it.

Altaheri came to Hamtramck after retiring from the New York City Police Department. He was the first Yemeni-American to be appointed as chief, and also one of the few outsiders hired as police chief.

Altaheri was sworn into office in an outside ceremony, held across from city hall in Zussman Park on May 13, 2024.

The day was sunny and the event was festive, with many Yemeni-Americans from both Hamtramck and Dearborn attending the ceremony, where Altaheri was given a rockstar welcome.

In the year-plus that he served, Altaheri initiated a number of community outreach programs, earning him widespread praise.

The police department is now being supervised

by Deputy Police Chief Andy Mileski.

There has been no word on whether a new chief will be hired, or whether Mileski will remain in the post permanently.

## Quick Hits

**Cont. from front page**

It certainly has taken root in the U.S., and flourished, and Copado is one good soul who is helping keep this great tradition alive.

And you can see some of the fruits of his labor by going over to the mu-

seum.

The museum is located at 9525 Jos. Campau, between Norwalk and Poland.

Need more info? If so, call (313) 893-5097, email [Hamtramckhistory@gmail.com](mailto:Hamtramckhistory@gmail.com), or check out their website, [www.hamtramckhistory.com](http://www.hamtramckhistory.com).

## This week at the Library . . .

October 17, 2025

**Story Time:** These programs conducted by the library staff are scheduled for Wednesdays afternoon at 4:00 pm. All children are invited.

**KPop Demon Hunters:** Join us on Thursday, October 30 for an evening screening of this movie. This animated production has lots of fans and awesome soundtrack. Audience can sing along when their favorite melodies are played. The screening starts at 5:00 pm. Everyone is invited.

**Halloween:** Friday, October 31st we will be celebrating Halloween at the library. Trick-or-treat will begin at 3:30 pm and last until closing at 5:00 pm.

**Albert Einstein:** He warned President Franklin D. Roosevelt that his theories could lead to Nazi Germany's development of an atomic bomb. Einstein suggested the U.S. develop its own bomb. This resulted in the top secret "Manhattan Project."

**United States Navy:** It was founded after the Second Continental Congress authorized the acquisition of a fleet of ships on October 13, 1775.

**Universal Time:** On October 13, 1884, Greenwich was established as the location for universal time from which standard times throughout the world are calculated.

**Exercise at the Library:** The RIM Foundation was begun exercise classes again this fall. On Tuesdays, its back to Yoga at 2:30 pm. and on Fridays, it is Tai Chi at 10:00 am. To

register for the program, stop by the library circulation desk.

**Preservation of Jazz:** Continuing into the autumn and winter season, the Jazz Masterclass program will take place on Thursday evenings from 5 to 7 pm. Participants will cultivate a deeper understanding of this elegant artform through guided discussions, curated listening experiences, documentary screenings, and more. Heading this class will be Sky Covington, founder of The Preservation of Jazz. The sessions start on October 16th. Class size is limited to 20 individuals. Register on [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com) to secure your place. For more information about the program, please call Sky Covington (248) 383-3385, or stop by the library.

**White House Cornerstone:** On October 13, 1792 the cornerstone of the White House was laid by George Washington. The building located at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, is three stories tall with over 100 rooms, and was designed by James Hoban. In November of 1800, President John Adams and his family moved in. The building was first known as the "Presidential Palace," but acquired the name "White House" about 10 years after its completion. It was burned by British troops in 1814, then reconstructed in 1817.

**ESL Classes:** These classes are held Monday to Thursday at 9 am and 12 noon. To participate, you must register with the Horizon School.

**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  
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[hamtramcklibrary@gmail.com](mailto:hamtramcklibrary@gmail.com)**

# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### Hamtramck's election integrity is at stake

We don't mean to repeat ourselves, but with the Nov. 4 election coming up, we need to protect the integrity of Hamtramck's elections.

We've heard from a number of folks that they feel it's pointless to vote here in town for local offices since there appears to be rampant ballot stuffing by some candidates and their accomplices.

"Why vote when you've got cheaters rigging our election?" is the frequent sentiment.

That's why we again stress that state inves-

tigators need to go after these scoundrels. Instead, the word we hear is that there is no interest in pursuing the matter, despite compelling evidence.

Fortunately, we have a city clerk who is catching the suspicious ballots, but there is nothing she can do other than alert investigators.

Unfortunately, that sense of urgency is falling on deaf ears at the state level.

Hamtramck has become a political playground for certain

people – some of whom may not even live in the city.

We doubt this editorial will stir any renewed interest on the part of the state. That's why the public has to speak out, and call our local state legislators and state Attorney General's Office to take this issue seriously.

We need more public outcry, and to not resign ourselves that voting here is pointless.

Let your voices be heard, folks.

## On the campaign trail ... City council and mayoral election heats up

By Charles Sercombe

Two Hamtramck city council candidates had some sharp words for some of the current councilmembers.

Both Abdulmalik Kassim and Luqman Saleh recently spoke at the Masjid Al Ihsan mosque on Holbrook for about three minutes total.

In a post on a Hamtramck Facebook page, Kassim said the reason they are running is "because of the reputation the city council has accumulated, that Muslims are corrupted. ... That's why we're running, to clean up this

mess."

Although Kassim and Saleh avoided naming specific councilmembers, there are two on council, Mohammed Hassan and Muhammasin Sadman, facing felony election fraud charges.

Two other councilmembers, Abu Musa and Muhith Mahmood, are alleged to not actually live in the city and thus are non-residents. They are not facing criminal charges, and sources have told The Review that it's unlikely they will be charged.

Kassim continued: "We are running to help everybody. We are running also to bring back the respect to city council. We Muslims are people of faith and ethics. We have manners."

Saleh continued on the theme, and said that it's important to "keep our Muslim community united."

He also warned voters to not let anyone handle or fill out their ballots, presumably meaning absentee ballots.

"Don't give it to nobody else," Saleh said. "No fraud. We should do it the right way."

Saleh said the public deserves the "best" elected officials. "Not the worst like what we have right now. They make us look so bad," Saleh said.

The next election is in about two and a half weeks, on Nov. 4, from which the top three vote-getters in the council race will fill three seats, and one of the two mayoral candidates will get the job.

In other election news, mayoral candidate Adam Alharbi took a verbal swipe against his sole opponent Muhith Mahmood for allegedly not being a resident.

Alharbi told the Detroit News this week: "It's a competition between someone who has lived here since he was a kid and someone who doesn't live here."

Mahmood, who is finishing up his first term on city council, has admitted that his wife and children live in Troy, but says that he became committed to Hamtramck and lives in an apartment here, on Holbrook.

He has also stressed that he does indeed visit his wife and children frequently, but insists he eats and sleeps here.

According to an investigator who looked into the issue of residency, Councilmember Abu Musa allegedly lives in Warren with his wife and children.

Musa also insists he lives in a house on Mitchell, and only visits his wife and children in Warren.

## Odds & Ends

**From the mayor ...** Mayor Amer Ghalib, among many others, joined in the celebration of the Israel-Hamas peace deal that President Trump's administration helped broker.

On his Facebook page Ghalib, who is a supporter of Trump, said:

"The war is over!

"THE WAR IS OVER!"

"The only president who can accomplish an everlasting peace in the Middle East.

"The only President who can achieve lasting peace in the Middle East."

That celebration now seems premature, as news reports indicate that Hamas, the militants who controlled Gaza before Israel invaded it, have once again reasserted themselves and have started killing perceived collaborators, and taking control of Gaza.

And there are reports that Israel has continued to fire at, and kill, Palestinians during this so-called time of peace.

Israel has also accused Hamas of not keeping up its end of the bargain to return all the remains of the deceased hostages it had been holding.

It has been pointed out that this peace deal is far from complete, as the deal is only in its first phase, and the likelihood of other phases falling into place now seems less sure by the day.

This is an ever-changing situation, which

holds true to the history of this troubled region of the world.

You may want to recork those champagne bottles.

**Cleaning up ...** Time once again to get out there and do your civic duty, Hamtramck citizens!

We're talking about a city-wide cleanup.

The Hamtramck Beautification Commission is hosting the event, which is coming up on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Here's what the group has to say about the event:

"The main meeting place will be at our City Hall, but there will be additional clean-up zones in the Sarah Garrett neighborhood and Veterans Park.

"Volunteers will pickup supplies from the city hall, then make their way to their clean-up areas."

You can register via email at [mgilginas@hamtramckcity.com](mailto:mgilginas@hamtramckcity.com).

Also, snacks, water, and supplies are provided, and the commission is looking for businesses to reward volunteers.

Can't make it on Nov. 1? At the very least, you can clean up around your property and neighborhood at your convenience.

As the old advertisement slogan went: Be a good neighbor.

**Sweet tooth ...** Halloween is right around

the corner, and the city is getting into the spirit of the season.

Once again, the city and public school district will host a "Trunk or Treat" at Zussman Park on Wednesday, Oct. 29, starting at 5 p.m. and going until 6:30.

The trunk part of the party refers to the trunks of vehicles where volunteers offer all sorts of treats for Hamtramck's little goblins to enjoy.

The city is looking for folks to volunteer and be "host cars."

To sign up, email your full name and phone number to [ccdeskstaff@hamtramckschools.org](mailto:ccdeskstaff@hamtramckschools.org).

The sign-up deadline to participate in this event is Friday, Oct. 24.

Note: You must provide your own goodies to distribute.

**Know your rights ...**

State Sen. Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit), whose district includes Hamtramck, is hosting a meeting on immigration rights.

The event is this Sunday, Oct. 19, from 2-5 p.m. at a location that will be provided only to those who register.

And, to register, you can call (313) 922-6949, or send an email to [abohn@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:abohn@senate.michigan.gov).

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Published every Friday

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Publisher Lonnie Scott, [Lonnie@BuriedLedeMedia.com](mailto:Lonnie@BuriedLedeMedia.com), 734-489-1773  
Editor-in-Chief - Sarah Leach, [Sarah@BuriedLedeMedia.com](mailto:Sarah@BuriedLedeMedia.com)

Editor: Charles Sercombe Office Manager: Jean Ingenthron  
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7/9/25

October 17, 2025

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### What's on this coming week?

October 14, 2025 Council Meeting  
Preservation of Jazz - Concert at the Library  
Martha G. Scott street naming ceremony  
Fire Department Open House  
Interview with Mayor of Warren, Lori Stone  
Councilman Abu Musa elected Mayor Pro Tem  
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.

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### By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Oct. 7-13.

#### Tuesday, Oct. 7

- A theft was reported in the 11000 block of Charest.
- Officers attempted to pull over a stolen vehicle, but the driver sped off.
- An assault was reported in the 3000 block of Hanley.
- A business in the area of Jos. Campau and Hanley reported an incident of retail fraud.
- A stolen vehicle was recovered in the 12000 block of Grand Haven.
- A business in the 2000 block of Caniff reported trouble with a customer.

#### Wednesday, Oct. 8

- A break-in was reported in the 11700 block of McDougall.
- A theft from a vehicle was reported in the 3000 block of Jacob.
- Officers, responding to a call about shoplifting at a business in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau, arrested one suspect for retail fraud, and another suspect for being wanted on a Detroit warrant.
- A complaint was made about a juvenile in the area of Caniff and I-75.
- A theft from a vehicle was reported in the 11400 block of Conant.
- A suspect in the 3900 block of Prescott was arrested for being disorderly.
- A fight was reported in the 12000 block of Dyar.
- A hit-and-run accident was reported in the 11900 block of Jos. Campau.
- A complaint was made about a juvenile in the area of Lumpkin and Norwalk.
- A theft was reported in the 5200 block of Trowbridge.
- A hit-and-run accident was reported at Holbrook

#### Thursday, Oct. 9

- A break-in was reported in the 3300 block of Evaline.
- Family trouble was reported on Dequindre.
- A business on Caniff reported trouble with a customer.
- A domestic fight was reported on Holmes.
- An incident of fraud was reported in the 2900 block of Jacob.
- Gunshots were reported in the area of Circle Dr. and Grand Haven.

#### Friday, Oct. 10

- A hit-and-run accident was reported at Holbrook



### Michigan schools budget

Recently, state legislators and the governor passed a new state budget that provides additional funding for schools.

Here are some highlights:

#### Free school meals

\$248.1 million to continue providing free breakfast and lunch to Michigan's 1.4 million public school students.

#### Per-Pupil Funding

Per-pupil funding received

and Brombach.

• A theft was reported on Klinger.

• Family trouble was reported in the 3900 block of Trowbridge. A theft was also reported in the 12100 block of Klinger.

• Family trouble was reported in the 3200 block of Lehman.

• An assault was reported at Jos. Campau and Roosevelt.

#### Saturday, Oct. 11

• Trouble between neighbors was reported in the 3030 block of Holbrook.

• A domestic assault was reported in the 11700 block of Grand Haven.

• A theft was reported in the 3800 block of Dorothy.

• A business in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau reported an incident of fraud.

• Gunshots were reported in the 12000 block of Dyar.

#### Sunday, Oct. 12

• At 1 a.m., gunshots were reported in the 12039 block of Selfridge.

• A trespassing complaint was made in the 9500 block of Conant.

• A suspect was arrested on Caniff for domestic assault, and for obstructing an officer.

• Trouble between neighbors was reported in the 12100 block of Charest.

• Disorderly juveniles were reported in the 12000 block of Dyar.

#### Monday, Oct. 13

• A break-in was reported in the 3300 block of Evaline.

• Family trouble was reported on Dequindre.

• A business on Caniff reported trouble with a customer.

• A domestic fight was reported on Holmes.

• An incident of fraud was reported in the 2900 block of Jacob.

• Gunshots were reported in the area of Circle Dr. and Grand Haven.

ved a 4.6 percent increase now totaling \$10,050.

#### Literacy

\$122 million to increase literacy rates across Michigan.

#### Pre-K

\$657 million to continue expanding free pre-K to every 4-year-old in Michigan, regardless of family income.

#### Recruitment and retention of educators

\$203 million for an educator stipend program to recruit and retain teachers.

## Coming Events

**SUNDAY, Oct. 19, 11:30 a.m.-7p.m.** – St. Florian Roman Catholic Church will again be hosting its Polish Soup Festival in the church hall, 2626 Poland. Free admission and parking are available. Soups, food and a bar are featured along with the accompaniment of music and performances. For more information, call the church office at (313) 871-2778.

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# Later, gator: A close encounter on Detroit's Belle Isle

Continued from front page

ting.

My second thought process, as I circled back around for another look, was to provide the DNR with everything they'd need to positively identify the animal (such as close-up pics) and find it, to capture and rehome it (context pictures with more shoreline and tree-line, plus a screenshot of my map app so they knew exactly where I saw it).

I made a few passes, taking videos and photos, as I was still in disbelief at what I was seeing.

**The Review: Where would you guess he/she/they came from?**

Blasey: I'm assuming someone didn't want it as a pet anymore, so they dumped it on the island.

**The Review: Did you try to engage the animal in any way – say, feed it, or capture it yourself?**

Blasey: I did not. I was on an inflatable paddleboard and, while it wasn't huge, I didn't want to pop by (on my) watercraft, and I also have zero experience handling that type of animal.

**The Review: Did you call it in immediately to the authorities?**

Blasey: I wasn't sure (as to) the correct process to call it in. My gut reaction was to find a DNR officer on the island and report it to them directly.

We found one by the beach, and showed him the videos, photos, and location screenshot. He said there had been a few reports, but officers hadn't had enough information (come in) fast enough to successfully capture it yet.

(They) thanked me for my report.

**The Review: Did you think up a name for the gator? For that matter, are you sure it was a gator – or could it have been a (caiman, croc, etc)?**

Blasey: I am notoriously bad at naming things – I'm content calling it "gator." I am not very experienced with this type of animal, and am not 100% sure if it was, indeed, a gator, croc, or caiman.

(It turns out, according to the DNR who caught it and then rehomed it to the Westland Serpentarium, to be a perhaps two-year-old, foot-and-a-half long young alligator.)

**The Review: I heard a brief news bite yesterday, later in the day, that they had caught this gator – what is your hope for him?**

Blasey: The animal that was reported captured doesn't seem to be the same animal I saw (the coloring and markings don't look the same to me), but I hope I'm wrong and it is safe and well-

cared-for moving forward.

**The Review: What do you think you'll see out there next? What do you hope you'll see out there next? And – what do you most fear you'll see out there next?**

Blasey: We see a lot of wildlife on the waterways inside Belle Isle, from pike to trout, carp to snapping turtles to goldfish. I love nature, and don't really have any fears about animal encounters.

**The Review: Any last thoughts on the matter?**

Blasey: I think this is a good opportunity to remind folks that pets grow up and, if (the pet owners become) unable to care for their pets for whatever reason, it is important to find a rescue or other party to surrender them to.

Releasing domestic, especially non-native, animals into the wild can have severe consequences on the ecosystem, and pose a threat to humans and other pets alike.

**The Review: And, may we add, whether domesticated or otherwise, the animal in question doesn't usually fare well or last long in an environment that is often quite different from their native one – as with this case.**



## 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. 23, and all councilmembers were in attendance except for Abu Musa.

Proclamations were made to honor the following: Yemeni Revolution Day, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and Fire Prevention Week.

Hamtramck is home to a sizable Yemeni community. The revolution anniversary acknowledges a key revolution that happened in Yemen on Sept. 26, 1962, which eventually led to the unification of the country in 1990.

Previously, the country had been split into North Yemen, or the Yemen Arab Republic, and South Yemen, or the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

In public comment, an email was read in which a neighbor near Trixie's Bar on Carpenter complained about noise from the bar.

"Some of their events can be heard a couple blocks away," the neighbor said.

The neighbor also complained that officers do not do anything when they complain.

Councilmember Mohammed Hassan said the city does have a noise ordinance. Deputy Police Chief Andy Mileski said the department is aware of the matter and is working on it.

Attorney Mark Koro congratulated the city for winning a lawsuit filed against the city for its ban on displaying a pride flag on public property.

Shaker Sakead spoke about the allegations of election fraud by some councilmembers and others.

He said the investigations into the matter are a way to intimidate residents and are "unlawful, and a direct attack on our democracy. Certain city officials have overstepped every ethical and legal boundaries in their attempt to control the city."

As for the charges, Sakead said they are "fabricated," and residents were pressured into making "false testimony."

"This is an assault on our community and democratic right," Sakead said.

He also noted that he has asked the state attorney general and FBI to look into the investigations.

A lengthy discussion was held on a complaint by a Goodson resident whose property was damaged during the repaving of the alley behind his house.

He said the city failed to respond to his complaints and concerns.

Mayor Amer Ghalib said that making those repairs "has to be prioritized" by city officials.

Another resident questioned why water bills

keep increasing.

Interim City Manager Syed Aamir Ahsan said it's because the city's supplier of water and sewerage services keeps passing on their cost increases.

A resident on Jacob complained about the condition of the street and how bumpy it has become.

It was explained that, when lead water lines were replaced at houses on the street, portions of the street had to be dug up and repaved.

"We pay taxes. Where's my tax dollars going?" the resident said.

In new business, the council agreed to a state lawsuit settlement with Purdue Pharma with regard to what is perceived as the city's opioid crisis.

The exact financial payout is not yet determined, but once the city receives the funding it is earmarked for "approved opioid remediation strategies, including prevention, treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and related public health initiatives. ..."

The council OK'd a contract with the police department's command officers. Councilmember Mohammed Alsomiri voted against the resolution, but he did not explain why he did so.

The 11 command officers received an extra \$1,000 each.

Mayor Ghalib noted that there are ongoing complaints about how officers interact with the public.

"We have a lot of issues in the police department we need to address," Ghalib said.

The mayor said that, while he appreciates police officers, the council has heard about certain behavioral allegations that "need to be addressed."

"We cannot continue the same behavior that we heard about from some officers, including the morale, the work ethics, stuff about overtime."

In another matter, the council approved site plans for the construction of a new building at 8760 Jos. Campau, which is located at the corner of Goodson.

The agreement also calls for compensation for

an artist, who created a mural that celebrates the Yemeni community that is located at the side of an existing next-door building, to recreate that mural on the side of the new building.

The reason for that stipulation is that the new building will block the view of the existing mural.

Councilmember Alsomiri voted against the agreement, but he did not provide an explanation for his objection.

Later, it turned out that there are ongoing negotiations regarding the mural. Former State Rep. Abraham Aiyash (D-Hamtramck) said at a later meeting that he is leading the negotiations.

In Mayor Ghalib's report, he said he has been in contact with the Trump administration about getting financial help to pay for the city's pension obligation.

"I had some promises from the White House that they will try their best to do that for us," Ghalib said. "If we can accomplish that we will save \$6 million a year."

Ghalib said this financial funding will solve "the most chronic and complicated issue for the city."

Ghalib said he has also requested financial help for other issues, such as infrastructure repair.

"If we only get half of what we requested ... that would be a historic accomplishment," he said.

In the second portion for public comments, Ibrahim Aljahim said he noticed a Hamtramck police officer driving while holding a cellphone and talking to someone, despite a state law forbidding that.

He said the city needs a "citizen oversight commission" for the police department.

Aljahim said Hamtramck police officers are not respectful and "they're not nicer."

A resident complained about a police officer who was observed by her daughter "taunting" her dog "deliberately" when the dog was in her backyard.

Officers, she said, are "not nice. They are mean."

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