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Volume 18 No. 33

August 14, 2026

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The

Review

Hamtramck

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Quick Hits

A birthday celebration for the colonel

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck is about to celebrate a special birthday – and a pretty big cake will be needed to hold all the candles.

We’re talking about a birthday celebration for the city’s namesake, Col. Jean-François (John Francis) Hamtramck, who was born 270 years ago on Aug. 16, 1756.

To celebrate the occasion, the Hamtramck Historical Museum is opening its doors today (Friday, Aug. 14) from 6 to 8 p.m. and dishing out ice cream.

There will also be an appearance by a “special visitor.”

Organizers might want to think about getting another tub of ice cream, because Friday’s get-together will also celebrate our nation’s 250th anniversary.

Soccer clinic

Switching gears from birthdays to soccer – yes, soccer – here’s a reminder that the HPC is partnering with the Hamtramck Recreation Department to offer a morning/afternoon Girls Soccer Clinic this Monday, Aug. 17.

Registration for the event has already passed, but you can still try to be a part of the fun by reaching out to them at: info@hamtramckparks.com.

Tell them that Col. Hamtramck sent you.

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

— HAMTRAMCK’S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Taking a dive into Hamtramck’s election results

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck voters were somewhat out of step with other voters in the state.

But, keeping with the Hamtramck tradition, voters here still strongly supported the Democratic Party.

To the likely surprise of few, considering Hamtramck’s majority Muslim voting and progressive blocs, voters here overwhelmingly supported candidate Abdul El-Sayed to become Michigan’s Democratic U.S. Senate candidate.

According to unofficial election results supplied to The Review by the city clerk’s office, 2,575 voters cast their ballots for El-Sayed, compared to only 473 for his Democratic rival, Haley Stevens.

Statewide, El-Sayed went on to squeak by Stevens in the election, by only about one full percentage point.

Hamtramck’s support for El-Sayed from the Muslim community was surprising in the sense that he is a progressive who supports LGBTQ rights.

In 2024, Muslim voters here supported President Trump in that elec-

Hamtramck voters stayed true to their Democratic roots in the recent primary election. A majority of the voters supported Democratic candidate Abdul El-Sayed to represent Michigan in the U.S. Senate, assuming he beats his Republican challenger, Mike Rogers, in November’s election.

tion. Trump’s policies are largely in direct opposition to what El-Sayed stands for.

In other election races, voters here went against the grain compared to others in the city’s state Senate District 3 race, by throwing their support to Mohammed Alam over John Conyers III.

Conyers, the son of the longtime Detroit Congressman John Conyers, went on to win the support of the voters in District 3.

Hamtramck voters also threw their support to Democratic challenger

Seema Ahmad for State Representative District 7 over incumbent Tonya Phillips, who nevertheless succeeded in winning the primary thanks to the support of other voters in her district.

Voters here were in agreement with others in the state in supporting the Democratic candidate for governor, Jocelyn Benson, who is the current secretary of state, but who has been termed out of that office.

Despite an anti-tax movement in Hamtramck, voters here supported a Wayne County public

transportation millage by a margin of 1,667 votes to 1,107.

And, locally, the recreation tax renewal was also supported.

In all, 3,597 votes were cast, out of the city’s 15,513 total registered voters, or 23 percent.

In a continuing trend, more voters here participated in the election by absentee ballot, with 1,910 choosing that method. Those who physically showed up at the polls totaled 1,521.

Only 166 voters came to city hall early to vote.

City council undoes a censure of Councilman Choudhury

By Charles Sercombe

Once again, Hamtramck City Councilmembers reversed themselves on censuring one of their own.

This time, the censure involved Councilmember Nayeem Choudhury for using “profane and inappropriate language” during an alleged confrontation with an independent journalist, Ahmed Aldeen.

That initial resolution, sponsored by Councilmember Mohammed Hassan, turned into an explosive council discussion, with Choudhury angrily defending his actions.

At one point in the council meeting discussion, Choudhury erupted, pounded the table top in front of him, and said, “I am speaking. ... You are dealing with a very smart

City Councilmembers reversed their prior decision to censure Councilmember Nayeem Choudhury (right).

man here and (I) understand those things. I can’t disrespect people, but I like to understand. I’d like to get an explanation as to why you are censuring me. What is the reason?

He then accused Hassan of causing “chaos.”

The incident in question involved an alleged confrontation Choudhury had in a city hall hallway with Aldeen after a council meeting.

Aldeen accused Choudhury of assaultive behavior, and filed a police report with the Hamtramck Police Department, which was then turned over to the state police for further investigation.

As of now, no charges have been filed against Choudhury.

Aldeen offered to give The Review a copy of the complaint, but he never followed through.

The Review subsequently filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the Hamtramck Police Department, but the copy the department provided was completely redacted – in other words, blacked out.

The Review did not get an explanation for the redaction.

A few weeks after the censure was passed, a resolution was introduced to reverse the censure.

Continued on page 2

Councilman sentenced to community service for election conviction

By Charles Sercombe

Councilmember Mohammed Hassan faces 80 hours of community service for his misdemeanor conviction of forging an absentee ballot in the 2023 election.

Hassan had faced two felony charges of election fraud, but a Wayne County Circuit Court jury found him not guilty of those charges.

The conviction apparently ends a probe into allegations of ballot stuffing from that election. The only other councilmember who was caught up in election-fraud-related charges is Muhtasin Sadman, who also escaped felony election fraud charges.

Councilmember Mohammed Hassan

Sadman, who is in his first term, was convicted of a misdemeanor for “disorderly person loitering about an illegal business.”

Hassan has served on city council for a total of 16 years.

He has recently come under criticism by another councilmember, Nayeem Choudhury, for causing “chaos” during city council meetings, which have become increasingly volatile.

Besides being sentenced to community service, Wayne County Circuit Court Visiting Judge Michael Hathaway ordered him to pay various court fees and fines. Hassan was also placed on a year’s probation.

He could have been sentenced up to 90 days in jail.

Hathaway was highly critical of Hamtramck’s political scene, saying it’s “nonsensical drama,” and he further stated he found it “baffling” that the city has been embroiled in election fraud accusations.

The judge said that he hopes, going forward,

Continued on page 2



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City council undoes a censure of Councilman Choudhury

Continued from front page

roduced, by an unnamed councilmember, to rescind it.

Mayor Adam Alharbi was the first to speak on the matter, and called for unity. In recent months, the relationship between councilmembers has been testy.

“We got to make sure we work together for the best interest of our city – to make sure we move out city forward,” Alharbi

said.

Instead of focusing on the personal issues of fellow councilmembers, Alharbi urged them to “not take anything personal, and try to work together to improve our city.”

Councilmember Hassan, who proposed the censure a few weeks earlier, said that, by Choudhury apologizing for the incident, it’s “not (that)

you’re guilty.”

Choudhury said he still has “no idea why I was being censured when I knew I did not disrespect any officials or any city employees. ...”

He stressed that anything that happens outside the council chambers is his “personal life,” and not open for criticism by the council.

The council eventually agreed to rescind the

censure, with Hassan and Councilmember Yousuf Saed voting in opposition.

Saed was the subject of a censure, prior to Choudhury’s, for a social media post that was interpreted as an attack on Councilmember Mohammed Alsomiri, but the council also had reversed that decision afterward.

Councilman sentenced to community service for election conviction

Continued from front page

Hassan and the city “will improve the political atmosphere and integrity of the good governance in that city.”

Hassan said little during his sentencing, other than that he was “really sorry to be in the court system about these circumstances.”

His conviction centers around forging a resi-

dent’s signature on an absentee ballot. The person in question, Zerin Sultana, testified that she did not sign off on an absentee ballot, and that she did not vote.

The investigation initially involved agents with the state attorney general’s office, but the AG decided to seek a prosecutor from the state to take over the

prosecution.

AG Dana Nessel removed her office from the prosecution, saying she had a conflict of interest because of her past criticism of city officials who had banned the display of a pride flag on public property, and also because she is gay and Jewish, which could appear to be a conflict with an all-Mus-

lim city council.

The Monroe County Assistant Prosecutor’s Office took over the prosecution.

Monroe Assistant Prosecutor Ragan Lake told the court at Hassan’s sentencing that Hassan “has a duty to make sure elections are run fairly, and in accordance with the law.”



School Bell

HPS news

Hamtramck School Board President Abdulmalik Algahaim recently posted this latest news about the district:

“I am proud to share that Hamtramck Public Schools has been awarded an \$11 million competitive State of Michigan infrastructure grant, making our district one of only 31 districts statewide selected to receive this significant funding.

“This investment will allow us to make important improvements across our schools, including enhanced safety and security measures, upgrades to electrical and communication systems, roof repairs, high school auditorium renovations, replacement of Community Center visitor bleachers, and improvements to playground

surfaces. These projects will directly benefit our students and help create safer, more modern learning environments throughout our district.

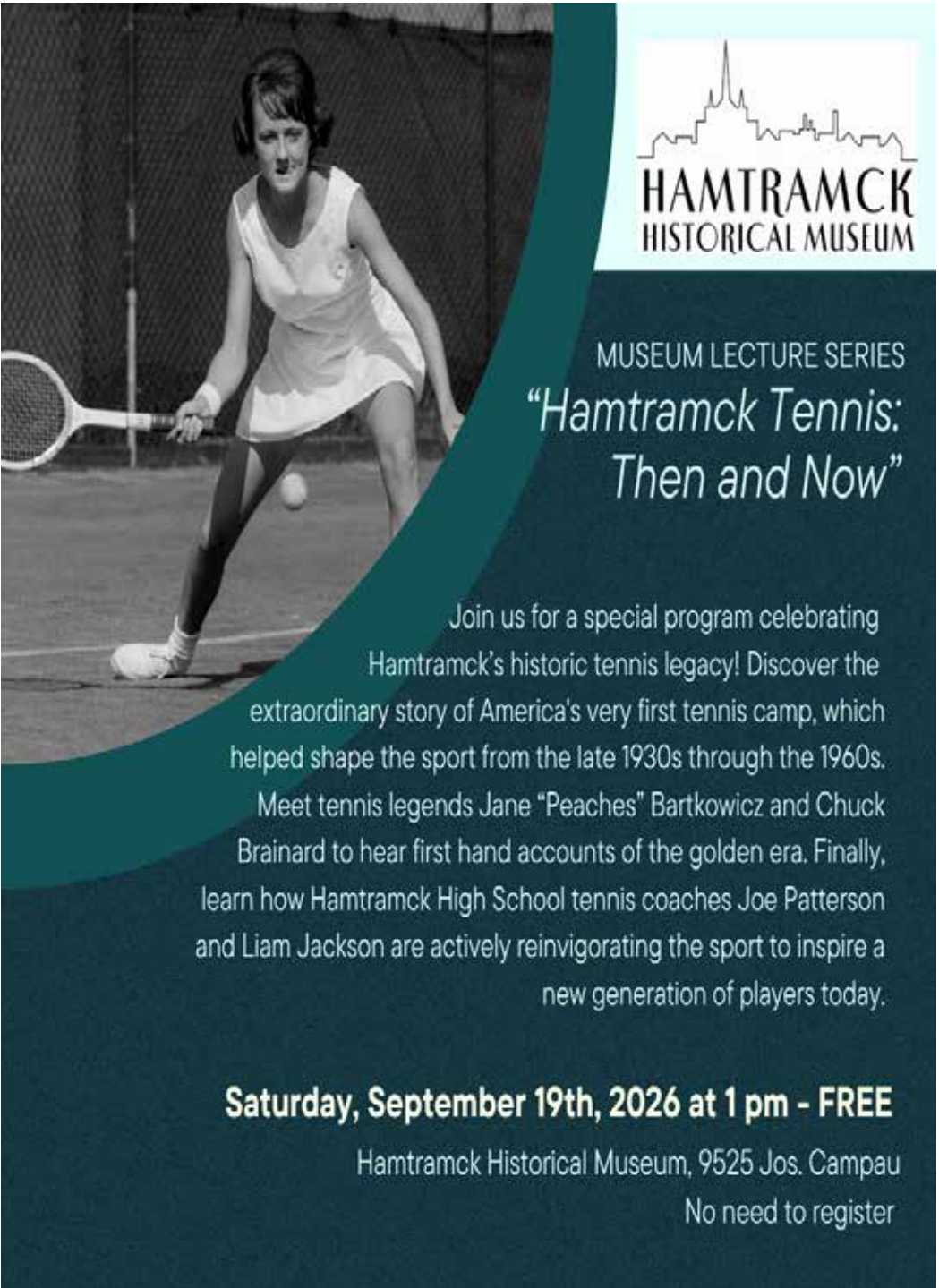
“This achievement reflects the hard work of our administration, staff, and community advocates who continue to pursue state and federal funding opportunities on behalf of our students. Most importantly, these

improvements will be made without adding an additional financial burden on local taxpayers.

“As Board President, I am grateful to the Michigan Department of Education, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, and the Michigan Legislature for their support of public education. This grant is an important step toward addressing our district’s long-term facility needs

and demonstrates confidence in the future of Hamtramck Public Schools.

“Together, we will continue working to ensure our students learn in safe, high-quality facilities that our entire community can be proud of.”



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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Councilmembers need to be held accountable for votes

There's one annoying – and growing – habit we've noticed among city councilmembers. And that's the lame way some of them avoid making difficult, or unpopular, decisions by abstaining from a vote. The use of the abstention option is supposed to be narrowly limited. While it's the right for anyone sitting on a public body to abstain from any vote, the conventional rule is that it's done only when one has a conflict of interest in a particular matter. Abstaining from a vote is also sometimes done when an elected official lacks the information to make an informed vote, or when there's an ethical conflict of interest. The most recent egregious example of the abuse of voting abstention is when five (of six) councilmembers were in attendance at a meeting, and two of them abstained as to whether Hamtramck taxpayers should foot the mayor's \$200,000 legal bills. Mayor Adam Alharbi is trying to prevent the inclusion of 37 uncoun- ted absentee ballots from being counted in last November's elec- tion, in which he squeaked to victory by an 11- vote margin. Including the ballots in the election tally could overturn the results, and the mayor could find himself no longer in his position. He started this legal action on his own, without any prior city council authorization. In other words, this is a personal matter – although the mayor argues it should be a concern for the city as well.

Letters • Letters • Letters

Where is the street sweeping schedule?

I am writing as a concerned Hamtramck resident about the condition of our streets, the apparent lack of a clear and publicly available street-sweeping schedule, and the need for stronger and more consistent code enforcement. I live on Hewitt St. and have contacted the City of Hamtramck Public Services Department more than once trying to find out when my street is scheduled for professional street sweeping. The first time I called, I was told that someone would get back to me with information about where Hewitt was on the schedule. No one ever contacted me. When I called again, I was told that street sweeping had started approximately two months ago, but the employee I spoke with could not provide me with a schedule. When I asked to speak with a supervisor, I was told that everyone was out in the field. This raises a simple question: Why doesn't Hamtramck have a regular street-sweeping schedule that residents can easily access? Residents should not have to make repeated telephone calls just to find out when their street will be cleaned. If the city has an established schedule, it should be readily available on the city's website, and Public Services employees should be able to provide residents with that information when they call. If there is no established schedule, I believe one needs to be created. My concerns extend beyond Hewitt. I am particularly concerned about conditions in the Hamtramck Town Center and on the south side residential streets between Lumpkin and Jos. Campau, from Holbrook to Caniff. These areas need consistent professional street sweeping, litter removal, and code enforcement. Another ongoing concern is abandoned shopping carts, particularly carts belonging to Al-Haramain International Foods that are sometimes left throughout south-side neighborhoods. Shopping carts should not remain on sidewalks, streets, or near residential properties for days or weeks. Businesses should have a reliable system for routinely retrieving their property, and the city should enforce applicable ordinances when abandoned carts become a neighborhood nuisance. This is also where stronger code enforcement is needed. Code enforcement should not require residents to make repeated complaints before problems receive attention. Code enforcement should consistently address litter, illegal dumping, abandoned shopping carts, overgrown properties, and other conditions that affect neighborhood appearance and quality of life. Perhaps The Review will look into these concerns and obtain some answers for residents. Does the city have an established written street-sweeping schedule? If so, how often are residential streets supposed to be professionally swept, and why isn't the schedule readily available

Continued on page 5

Odds & Ends

Tax assistance ... Good news for those who have fallen behind on paying their property taxes. The Wayne County Treasurer's Office, under the guidance of County Treasurer Eric Sabree, announced that the county's repayment programs – which have allowed thousands of Wayne County property owners to keep their homes as they worked to pay off delinquent taxes – have resumed. That extension is because a new state law was passed by the legislature as part of 2026 budget negotiations. "The new state law means that we can continue offering these important programs which have already helped thousands of property owners in Wayne County to stay in their homes and keep their property," said Eric Sabree in a press release. "Enrollment in the IRSPA (Interest Reduction Stipulated Payment Agreement) plan is open right now and we anticipate that enrollment in the PAYS (Pay As You Stay) program will start in September with local government partners in communities that decide to participate." The Tax Foreclosure Agreements allow county treasurers to enter into installment payment agreements with eligible residential property owners who are delinquent on their taxes. The Delinquent Tax Reduction programs also allow county foreclosing units to reduce the total amount owed (including interest, penalties, and fees) for property owners who qualify for a local poverty exemption. In Wayne County, those two programs are PAYS (Pay As You Stay) and IRSPA (Interest Reduction Stipulated Payment Agreement). Wayne County property owners can learn more about enrollment and eligibility for IRSPA and PAYS by contacting the Treasurer's office at (313) 224-5990, or by visiting waynecountymi.gov/treasurer. **Thanks ...** Hamtramck Police Chief Hussein Farhat sent out a huge "Thank you" to the community. We'll let the chief take it from here: "The Hamtramck Police Department had the privilege of hosting our school donation drive, and I could not be more proud of what our community accomplished together. "As Chief of Police, I extend my sincere gratitude to every business, organization, family, and individual who stepped forward to support our children. "Your generosity was truly inspiring. "A special thank-you to Xebec International, 12008 Jos. Campau, for donating hundreds of backpacks. Your support is a meaningful investment in the future of our community. "We are also grateful to WOW Dental for providing hundreds of hygiene and dental kits, helping ensure our children start the school year healthy and confident. "To everyone who contributed supplies and essentials, thank you. Together, you provided hundreds of backpacks and countless items that will make a real difference for local families. "It was about more than donations. It was about community, officers and residents standing together, businesses investing in our youth, and neighbors helping neighbors. Most importantly, it showed our children that they are supported. "I am proud of the men and women of the Hamtramck Police Department who made this event possible. Community policing means building relationships, earning trust, and serving with compassion. Our donation drive will continue through the start of the school year. "Donations can be dropped off at the police station, and every contribution, big or small, matters. "This is only the beginning. Our commitment to this community will continue year-round. We are here not just to serve, but to stand with you. ..."

Survey time ... The Hamtramck Parks Conservancy (HPC) wants your feedback to help shape the city's Parks & Recreation Master Plan Community. To get a sense of what the community would like, a survey is being taken that focuses on parks programming and communication. "The survey is being conducted to: help shape future parks programming, better serve park users through broader participation, better communicate park opportunities, and fulfill the needs of the upcoming Hamtramck Parks & Recreation Master Plan," the HPC said. "The Master Plan will be submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, making us eligible to pursue grant funding for further park development in the city." To take the survey, go online to: <https://survey.sogolytics.com/r/HamtramckParks> The survey is open to all park users (kids, adults, residents, visitors). It is available in multiple languages. Responses will be collected until Aug. 23. If you prefer to fill out a survey in-person, find HPC tables throughout Hamtramck Parks, Aug. 19-21. Follow their social media for times and locations. **Taste of Hamtramck ...** The good folks at Friendship House, which provides free food for many local low-income residents, is holding a fundraiser on Aug. 30 that will fill your tummy with Hamtramck goodness. It's being called "Taste of Hamtramck: Take a Bite Out of Hunger," and is described as a "one-of-a-kind walking tasting experience celebrating the restaurants, cultures, and flavors that make Hamtramck one of Michigan's most vibrant culinary destinations." Restaurants and food outlets that are offering tastings include: New Palace Bakery, Polish Village Cafe, Srodek's Campau Quality Sausage, Rima's Restaurant, and Florian East. Friendship House is inviting folks to "(these) signature tastings from five beloved Hamtramck restaurants — meet the people behind the food, and experience the rich cultures that make our city unlike anywhere else. Continued on page 5

The Hamtramck Review

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Obituaries

DZON



Betty Lou Dzon (néé Maghinay), 91, died August 7, 2026. Wife of the late Jerome (1997) and loving mother of Debra Bergin, Ashley (Ed) Grace-Lynd, Daniel (Laura) Allen, Jerome, Timothy, Michael, John (Kristina), Terry (Tina), Michelle (Carl), Tracy (Michelle) and Don.

Betty Lou also was survived by many grandchildren, great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial visitation is Sunday August 16, 2026, from 1 – 8 p.m. Services TBD at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck MI 48212. Inurnment Monday, August 17, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Mount Olivet Cemetery, 17100 Van Dyke, Detroit, MI 48234.



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CRIME LOG

By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers July 29-Aug. 6.

Wednesday, July 29

- A domestic assault was reported in the 3000 block of Trowbridge.
- Family trouble was reported in the 2300 block of Danforth.
- A business in the 9800 block of Conant reported trouble with a customer.
- An incident of fraud was reported in the 11700 block of Grand Haven.
- A theft was reported in the 11300 block of Klinger.
- An assault was reported in the area of Norwalk and Lumpkin.

Thursday, July 30

- A reckless driver was reported in the 9200 block of Conant.
- A theft from an auto was reported on Fleming.
- A missing person was reported on Hanley.
- A hit-and-run accident was reported in the area of Carpenter and Conant.
- A theft was reported in the 11500 block of Jos. Campau.
- An assault was reported in the 9400 block of Mitchell.
- A complaint was made about a juvenile in the 11300 block of Moran. In a separate incident, a complaint was made about a juvenile in the area of Burger and Fleming.
- A break-in was reported in the 2300 block of Poland.

Friday, July 31

- Family trouble was reported in the 5000 block of Evaline.
- Complaints about juveniles were made in the 2000 block of Edwin, and in the 12000 block of Oklahoma.

Saturday, Aug. 1

- Suspicious circumstances were reported in the 11600 block of Mitchell, and in the area of St. Aubin and Casmere.
- A person in the 9800 block of Conant reported being harassed.

Sunday, Aug. 2

- A complaint was made about fireworks on Klinger. A fireworks complaint was also made on Hewitt.
- A missing person was reported on Klinger.

- A domestic incident was reported on Grand Haven.
- A disorderly person was reported in the 3000 block of Belmont.
- A theft was reported in the 9700 block of Dequindre.
- A business in the 2100 block of Caniff reported an incident of fraud and trespassing.
- A disorderly person was reported in the area of Lumpkin and Evaline.

Monday, Aug. 3

- A disorderly person was reported on Caniff.
- A suspect was arrested on Comstock for domestic assault.
- Trouble between neighbors was reported on McDougall.
- An incident of mail tampering was reported on Caniff.
- Trespassing was reported in the 11500 block of Jos. Campau.

Tuesday, Aug. 4

- A suspicious person was reported on Caniff.
- A vehicle was reported stolen on Casmere.
- Numerous miscellaneous complaints were made in the 3400 block of Evaline.
- A parking complaint was made in the area of McDougall and Casmere.

Wednesday, Aug. 5

- A hit-and-run accident was reported in the area of Conant and Harold. A hit-and-run accident was also reported in the 2000 block of Trowbridge.
- Property damage was reported in the area of Jos. Campau and Denton.
- Trespassing complaints were made in the 2000 block of Caniff and in the 9300 block of Conant.
- A theft was reported in the 2300 block of Burger. A theft was also reported in the 11300 block of McDougall.

Thursday, Aug. 6

- A disturbance was reported in the 12000 block of Dyar.
- A suspect was arrested for domestic assault.
- A house break-in was reported on Klinger.
- Trespassing was reported in the 8600 block of Jos. Campau.
- A missing child was reported in the 8600 block of Jos. Campau.

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City Hall Insider ...

By Charles Sercombe

The city council met on June 9, and all councilmembers were in attendance. The meeting ran for five hours. This is the second, and final, part of the meeting summary.

In new business, the council approved several items related to the city's ongoing project of replacing old lead water lines to residences.

The first item was to OK the annual renewal of investment bonds worth \$5.6 million to fund this year's portion of the project. Some 50 percent of that amount will be paid by the state. The other half will be paid from the city's water and sewer fund.

The funding will allow the city to replace about 600 lead water lines this year.

Councilmember Mohamed Hassan and Yousuf Saed voted against the funding, but they did not explain why they were opposed.

In a related matter, the council unanimously approved hiring a contractor to do the water line replacement. Both Hassan and Saed, who voted against the funding, joined the majority "yes" vote to approve the contractor.

The council also OK'd the purchase of a sewer line replacement machine, known as a "proowler," for \$83,500, along with other related costs, for a total of almost \$168,000.

The council then approved purchasing 17 planter boxes, to be installed at major intersections throughout the city.

Mayor Adam Alharbi said he was part of the planning process behind investing in the planter boxes, and that they are part of a citywide beautification project.

He said the city's goal is to "make sure the (city's) corridors are attractive and welcoming."

He added that this was the least expensive way "to make our city look nicer."

The planters cost \$52,300, and there is a yearly \$25,000 cost to maintain the boxes from May through September. The cost of the project will be added to the city's new fiscal year – which started on July 1 – because the current city budget at the time couldn't accommodate the cost.

Councilmember Nayeem Choudhury conceded that, "We're spending so much money on other things." He did not elaborate on what he meant by "other things," specifically.

In another matter, the council accepted a \$223,000 grant from the Ralph C. Wilson Foundation, to assist in a project to transform the west Jos. Campau alley (from Caniff, going south several blocks) that will "allow for the installation of traffic

calming measures, pedestrian amenities, and public art that prioritizes safety for pedestrians."

A lengthy discussion was held on a proposal by Councilmember Choudhury to change Wednesday hours in city hall from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Choudhury said this would allow those who work past 4 p.m. to still be able to go to city hall and conduct essential business.

He noted that Secretary of State offices also offer similar extended hours for the convenience of the public.

Councilmember Hassan said that there are both "good and bad" aspects to the plan. He said the plan would depend on the cooperation of city hall employees.

City Attorney Odey Meroueh said he would have to negotiate any change in the work schedule with city employees.

The proposal was ultimately defeated, with Councilmembers Saed, Abu Musa and Mohamed Alsomiri opposed, and Councilmember Muhtasin Sadman abstaining.

In voting, Councilmember Alsomiri said the change would "bring a lot of confusion."

A proposal by the fire department for the purchase of a communication software system to alert the public about emergencies was approved. The cost is \$25,000 for a package subscription for five years.

Acting Police Chief Hussein Farhat was hired as the city's permanent chief. Mayor Alharbi said that, since he's been on the job for the past several months, Farhat has made a "positive change in our city. Things are improving with our police department."

Councilmember Choudhury said he "tested" Farhat and his response to resident concerns. He said that Farhat "went above and beyond" in his response.

"That's the kind of service we need," Choudhury said.

The employment agreement did not mention what the chief is being paid, nor the benefits package included.

Farhat said he has focused on a number of needed improvements, including make sure command officers receive training – something they were not offered prior to his arrival.

"So, we are working on (getting) our leaders into training programs, universities, staff and command schools," Farhat said.

He said it will take the department a few years to get up to speed on this.

A lengthy discussion was held on whether to sell three commercial properties at 11405, 11409 and 11415 Conant that were forfeited because of

delinquent property taxes.

One of the properties is the former Kabob House restaurant, which was damaged in a fire.

(The building was also once a funeral home, previously.)

The city proposed selling the properties back to the prior owners, Musammat J. Begum, Nehar Begum Nessa, and Shaker Uddin Sadeak. The council's proposal was to sell the properties for \$95,000. The city purchased the properties from Wayne County, which had ownership, before they went to a tax auction for a minimum bid of \$86,127.

The city's other option was to put the properties up for auction to the general public.

Councilmember Choudhury said there is confusion whether the prior owners are disputing the selling prices.

The discussion became confused, with a lot of cross-talking among councilmembers.

The proposal was rejected by Councilmembers Musa, Sadman and Hassan.

Councilmember Choudhury declined to vote, saying he was "skipping" the vote. City Attorney Meroueh was asked if a councilmember can actually opt to "skip" voting on an issue.

Meroueh said he needed to research the matter, and later in the meeting confirmed that it is not a recognized option.

Choudhury defended his indecision because he felt rushed, and accused councilmember Musa of "gaining" on the matter and "trying to pass (the) resolution to gain yourself. ... You didn't give other people (a chance) to discuss."

Councilmember Musa, sometimes standing up and shouting, replied: "You just trying to change your face."

Choudhury: "You are shouting. Very unprofessional. ... Please, there's been so much chaos tonight."

(Later in the meeting, Councilmember Musa opted to "skip" voting on a few issues in an apparent protest. Also, at a later meeting, the council reversed its initial decision not to sell the Conant properties back to the former owners, and instead approved it.)

The meeting then broke down into a shouting match over a resolution to censure Councilmember Choudhury.

Choudhury erupted, pounded the table top in front of him, and said, "I am speaking. ... You are dealing with a very smart man here and (I) understand those things. I can't disrespect people, but I like to understand. I'd like to get an explanation as to why you are censuring

Continued on page 6

Odds & Ends

Continued from page 3

"Along the way, you'll discover the stories, traditions, and flavors that make our city so unique."

The tour includes:

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- Signature tastings from five local restaurant partners
- One beer at Florian East (21+ with valid ID)
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Tree planting ... Hamtramck's ongoing effort to make the city more green will be coming to neighborhoods.

Grow Hamtramck is the City of Hamtramck's tree-planting and tree-ca-

re program, focused on creating a greener, healthier, and more sustainable community.

The goal is to plant 1,000 new trees throughout the City, and make sure they receive the care they need to grow strong.

A crew will be watering trees block by block to help keep the newly planted trees healthy and thriving.

You can learn more about the program by going online to: <https://hamtramckcity.gov/grow-hamtramck/>

Where is the street sweeping schedule?

Continued from page 3

to the public? If there is no schedule, how does Public Services determine which streets are swept and when?

I would also appreciate The Review looking into the city's policies and ordinances regarding abandoned shopping carts, including what responsibility businesses have for retrieving their carts and what enforcement action the city can take when carts are repeatedly left in residential neighborhoods.

Finally, what is Code Enforcement's responsibility for routinely addressing litter, illegal dumping, abandoned shopping carts, overgrown properties, and similar neighborhood conditions?

Are inspections conduc-

ted proactively, or does enforcement primarily depend on residents filing complaints?

These are basic municipal-service questions that residents should not have to make repeated telephone calls to get answered. Hopefully, The Review can help bring some clarity and accountability to these issues.

Residents pay taxes and should be able to expect clean streets, responsive public services, consistent code enforcement, and clear information from their city government.

Keeping Hamtramck clean requires responsibility and accountability from residents, businesses, and city government.

Everyone has a part to play, and the city must ensure its standards are consistently enforced throughout every neighborhood.

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City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 5

me. What is the reason? What is the main cause of this? It needs to be addressed live, in front of the people, and we are live and everybody can hear loud and clear.”

Choudhury admonished Hassan at one point, saying:

“I am speaking, excuse me. I have done enough from your behavior (it) is very bad. You are a very disrespectful man. You are the one reason everybody is chaos. You cannot keep on getting a good person to the dog house. You are the one reason why everybody is chaos. ... You are slamming a good man. Your personal attack. This isn’t related to the city business or anything. You can’t cen-

sure me if I’ve (not) done something wrong. ...”

Choudhury continued, speaking in the third person: “A person who is trying to serve this community. This is your personal attack. This isn’t related to the city business or anything. You can’t censure me if I’ve (not) done something wrong.”

Choudhury insisted that Councilmember Hassan, who proposed the resolution of censure: “Give me a valid reason. You’re defaming (defaming) me.”

Choudhury then threatened to take legal action against Hassan. He also said that the city attorney would be held accountable, but he did not give a reason.

Councilmember Hassan explained he brought up the resolution based on a police complaint filed by an independent journalist, Ahmed Sharaf Aldeen.

He said the alleged incident happened outside of the council chambers after a recent council meeting. Hassan said there is a “video pool record showing there is (where) the misbehave happened. The what I don’t want to say here, and the very aggressive way you approach him, and that time I was outside.”

At this point Hassan held up an alleged copy of a police report of the incident in question.

Councilmember Choudhury said that anyone can make a complaint at anytime “and then make statement. This is America. I can go and (file a complaint) against him right now downstairs (to the police station), make any complaint and they will have to dock it. They will have to record it, right? ... I have a professional email sent to the city (police) chief and a city administration about his (Aldeen) misbehavior and conduct. All of these things you are saying are not true.”

Choudhury continued: “Outside is my own personal matter. He (Aldeen) could have taken me to the court, not bring this to (the) council meeting.”

To Hassan, Choudhury said: “You are not my father to censure me like outside businesses. Are you my parenting? Are you parenting me for a 49-year-old man? You are censoring me like a child. Like I’m a kid. Like I’m here to get censured because my business. What I done in my business or outside.”

In the vote to censure Choudhury, only Choudhury voted in opposition. (At a future meeting, the censure was then reversed.)

After this, Mayor Alharbi reacted to what had happened at the meeting overall.

“I think we should try to get to a point where we respect each other,” he said.

Choudhury replied: “It’s not going to happen.”

Mayor Alharbi continued: “It’s at a point where it’s like out of control. It’s not now (how) it’s supposed to be. ... Everybody makes a mistake. ... We shouldn’t be jumping into censoring people like we first did with (Councilmember) Saed.”

(The council did censure Saed at a previous meeting, but that decision was later reversed. During the vote to censure Saed, Councilmember Choud-

hury was the only one to vote in opposition.)

Councilmember Choudhury continued criticizing fellow councilmembers for censoring him, saying his reputation had been attacked and that they had “ganged up” on him.

He said he was treated “like a third-class citizen.”

“We are Muslim,” Choudhury said. “We are brotherhood. We are family men. We have respect for each other. We have dignity.”

Choudhury also said he’s “glad” the Conant property deal was rejected, because that meant it could now go to auction. He also warned that people will move out of the city because of the “chaos, and unethical decision(s), that the city council makes.”

During public comment, Ibrahim Aljahim called for the council to “start a new chapter in Hamtramck, with the mayor, the council, the (police) chief and the city attorney and the acting city manager and the city workers. Let’s start fresh.”

(Aljahim was once employed by Oakland International Academy. In 2024, he pleaded guilty to a second degree sexual assault charge involving an 18-year-old mentally disabled male student at the academy.)

The meeting finally ended, some five-plus hours after it had begun.

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