

# The Review

Hamtramck

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— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

## Future of school district superintendent is still unknown

By Charles Sercombe

Did Hamtramck Public Schools Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed return to her job this week?

That was the week's burning question.

According to sources, Ahmed was expected to return from her paid medical leave this week, after having been on it for the past two months.

The Review reached out to Interim Superintendent Michael Williamson as to whether he knows when – or even if – Ahmed will return, but he did not respond to an email.

Neither Ahmed nor school board president Jihan Aiyash responded to an email.

Toni Coral, President of the Hamtramck Federation of Teachers, said she was not aware of Ahmed returning.

Ahmed took a leave after getting a poor work performance review by the board of education last February. The board did not say why they gave Ahmed a poor review.

This is the second medical leave Ahmed has ta-

ken since becoming superintendent in 2019.

In October of 2022, Ahmed took her first paid medical leave, citing pressure from dealing with the covid pandemic.

That leave turned into a paid suspension that lasted until January of 2023, when the board not only brought her back, but also gave her a salary raise and extended her contract.

It was never explained by the board why Ahmed was suspended, other than to say there was an ongoing investigation. The board never explained the nature of the investigation.

During that suspension, Ahmed filed a federal lawsuit against some school board members, claiming discrimination, while suing the teachers' union for allegedly trying to get her fired.

Ahmed's tenure has been rocky. A number of veteran teachers and staff members resigned during her time as superintendent, saying that Ahmed and some of her ad-



HPS officials are not saying what the status is about whether Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed has returned to work from her paid two-month medical leave. In the meantime, there is still an interim superintendent working for the district.

ministrators had created a "toxic" work environment.

Several of those former staff members subsequently filed lawsuits against the district, which are still pending – as is Ahmed's.

On top of that, the school board has become increasingly divided over a number of issues, and one boardmember, Regan Watson, has not attended a meeting for about a year

since her fellow board members removed her as treasurer.

The board itself struggled last year to even hold their state-mandated monthly meetings. During last year, the board did not hold its monthly meeting in three separate months.

The board was scheduled, this month, to hold its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, after The Review went press.

## Rapper puts a humorous spin in his music

By Alan Madlane

Hamtramck can be said to have been inspiration to any number of musicians, filmmakers, comedians and more.

Films like "Hoffa," "Polish Wedding," "Vamps," "Whip It," "Detroit," and "No Sudden Move" were all filmed, at least partially, here. The list of musicians, actors and comics who've played in, or even originated from, venues in this area is far, far too long to go into here.

Jacob Plante is a fellow with quite a history, including, full disclosure here, a small shared one with yours truly, on a Detroit stage production a decade or so back.

It's gratifying, then, to see Plante making a bit of noise on, perhaps

unexpectedly, the hip-hop circuit, armed with a debut song he hopes will become a city staple, "The Kosher Pepperoni."

Originally from Midland, Plante is also a long-time Hamtramckan and a bit of a journeyman and person-of-all-trades, as so many artistic people are somewhat forced to be, or simply become over time.

He's collected a few college degrees along the way, including a bachelor's degree in theater from the University of Detroit-Mercy, as well as twin master's degrees: a master's in marketing, from Yeshiva University in New York City, and a masters in fine arts, in creative writing, from Concordia University in St. Paul.

That's impressive in



Rapper Jacob Plante is a former Hamtramck resident who specializes in making humorous rap tunes with a Jewish edge.

and of itself, but he's also a published author, with poetry and fiction books available on Amazon; an actor who's appeared on the Amazon Prime show "A Billion to One"; and

a stand-up comic who's played Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle.

He's a native son who recently landed in Oak Park, and he found that

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## Pride flag fight seeks support

By Charles Sercombe

It's flag season in Hamtramck.

Last week, the city once again raised flags on the 18 flagpoles on Jos. Campau, between Caniff and Carpenter.

And once again, the city is displaying only the American flag.

But two former members of the city's Human Relations Commission want the city to also go back to displaying the flags of those countries from which Hamtramckans originally came.

Catrina Stackpoole and Russ Gordon are hosting a GoFundMe to raise money for the legal fees for their lawsuit against the city. Their campaign is called "Celebrate all of us. Raise all the flags."

Both were removed from the Commission after defying a city council resolution last year banning the display of pride flags, as well as international flags, on city property.

They were protesting the city council's decision to allow only the American flag, the city and state flags and the prisoner of war flag to be displayed on public property.

Stackpoole and Gordon raised a pride flag on one flagpole on a Sunday afternoon, which was removed by the city about an hour after it went up.

That council resolution came after heated debate in the community over the display of a pride flag on a Jos. Campau flagpole earlier last year.

Those opposed to the display of a pride flag objected on moral and religious grounds. The issue attracted substantial media attention, here and nationally.

Both Stackpoole and Gordon were subsequently fired, by Mayor Amer Ghalib and city council, from their unpaid positions on the commission for their act of defiance.

Up until then, Gordon volunteered to collect donations for the flags, and put them up each year, for no charge to the city.

Stackpoole and Gordon are saying the mayor's and

Continued on page 2

### Quick Hits

#### Time to work off winter pounds

By Alan Madlane

After a long winter in your mukluks, it's time to dust off those running shoes again.

In fact, you don't even have to run to participate meaningfully in the latest 5K event – you can merely jog. Or, walk, speedwalk, crawl; well, you get the idea.

It all takes place on Saturday, May 18, from 9:30 a.m. until noon, rain or shine.

It's actually the 15th annual Hamtramck Health Hike, and it's being put on, once again, by the Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition (HDFCC), itself a subsidiary program of the Piast Institute here in town.

The course for the run both begins, and ends, at Zussman Park, right in front of City Hall at 3401 Evaline. All ages are welcome to attend and participate, and it is free to either run, or simply watch others do so.

A fun perk is in store for the first 400 people to register and attend, where a limited number of prizes await, including T-shirts, lunches, ice cream, and more.

There will be face painting, henna tattoos, and then a photo booth to preserve that new, er, hip look for the ages; also, an inflatable slide, entertainment – it all adds up to what should be a fun, well-attended day.

And for a good cause – being, to help folks get in touch with the inner most-healthy selves.

HDFCC Director Shannon Schafer said, "We're grateful for the support of our community leaders and partners in making this event possible."

"Together, we're working to promote healthy lifestyles, and prevent substance abuse disorders among our youth."

The HDFCC was founded in 2007. Check out their website for more details.

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## Rapper puts a humorous spin in his music

Continued from front page

his natural comedic patter translated to filling up parties and pass the mic and have so much fun. That, and while Sublime, Matisyahu, Dirty Heads, Reggae, Alternative Rock, and Punk are my favorite genres, I've also always had in my collection of tunes Beastie Boys and other groups.

We caught up with the busy Plante to get the lowdown on his music career.

**Review: What inspired you to rap?**

Plante: When I started going to school at University of Detroit-Mercy, my friends from Detroit got me into freestyle and taught me how to bust a flow, we

would sit on the porches at parties and pass the mic and have so much fun.

And trying to do all that on the spot, while free styling is oh so joyous fun. Also, as a single dad and starving artist, Hip Hop is the most economically feasible music to make. All you need is a beat and a voice.

**Review: Are people getting the humor in your rap?**

Plante: I perform through-

ing is oh so joyous fun. Also, as a single dad and starving artist, Hip Hop is the most economically feasible music to make. All you need is a beat and a voice.

**Review: Are people getting the humor in your rap?**

Plante: Yes, and from what I gather most of them love it, I'm making rap like 2% milk, wholesome, and it's fun and silly, even in the nitty gritty Motor City.

**Review: Where do you perform?**

Plante: I perform through-

hout the Metro D, and I have some concerts on the horizon this summer – if people sign up for my email list on my website, they will be the first to know, and (will) get special VIP perks.

**Review: Any plans to tour?**

Plante: Possibly, after metro Detroit this summer, I'm looking at performing in Chicago, St. Louis, St. Paul; Midland; and a few other spots where I like to chill the most.

You can contact Plante at [jacob.d.plante@gmail.com](mailto:jacob.d.plante@gmail.com).

## Pride flag fight seeks support

Continued from front page

council's action is unconstitutional, and that the city's decision was based on religious beliefs.

The mayor and council are all Muslim, and currently all-male. They justified their ban as a way for the city to remain "neutral" in the debate of pride flags, as well as other potentially controversial ones.

On the fundraising site for Stackpoole and Gordon, they say:

"One of Hamtramck's greatest strengths is its unique diverse population, from all over the United States and the world. In recent years, as Hamtramck's population shifted from mostly eastern European immigrants to inclu-

de folks from Asia, Africa and the Middle East, we have enjoyed great food and culture and made new friends."

It continues:

"Sadly, in 2023, Hamtramck's new Mayor and Council decided to reverse all our hard work to make Hamtramck a welcoming city. The Council, with the Mayor's approval, passed a resolution prohibiting

flying the pride flag on city property.

"We believe this law is both unconstitutional and goes against the spirit and intent of the flag project on Joseph Campau, that was meant to celebrate our diversity, recognize the beauty of our different backgrounds and make everyone feel welcome and included here in Hamtramck."

They hope to raise at least \$5,000. You can find the site by going to [gofundme.com](http://gofundme.com) and searching for "Raise all the flags."

Currently, depositions for the lawsuits are being conducted.

The city has, for now, taken over the purchasing, maintenance, and raising of the flags.



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## This week at the Library . . .

April 26, 2024

**Dan Grajek:** Hitting the road was just what this Metro Detroit author did. Criss-crossing the country multiple times by way of hitchhiking, these experiences served him well creatively, eventually leading him to develop his two novels, "The Last Hobo" and more recently "Moon People". Catch an exciting chat with the wandering wordsmith that is Dan Grajek on Friday, April 26th at 6 pm.

**Big Library Read** is making a comeback. There is a new title to talk about "Wild New World" by Dan Flores. Chronicling the widespread changes to ecology following humanity's entry into Americas, borrow a digital audiobook or ebook copy of this award-winning new release at [www.biglibraryread.com](http://www.biglibraryread.com) and be a part of the chats when they go live May 9-23rd.

**Library Garden Volunteers:** Calling all volunteers with green thumbs. Plan for this year's community garden are on the way. The new project coordinator is looking for some helping hands. If you are looking for a patch of land to work your magic, sign up for a plot or two. Stop by the front desk and register.

**Story Time:** Get you kids together and drop in on our Monday afternoon Story Time at 3:45 pm and Wednesday Story Time at 12:00 noon. The programs are 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.

**Exercise in the Library:** Adaptive Yoga is back on Tuesdays at 2:30 pm and Tai Chi on Fridays at 10 am. These beginner friendly, weekly exercise sessions are sponsored by the RIM Foundation. Please wear comfy shoes and stretchy clothing for maximum enjoyment.

**NERF Games:** Experience the NERF energy boost on Wednesday, May 15th at 5 pm with team based NERF blaster madness. We move the furniture out of the way, set up obstacles for cover, and let the foam darts fly. A summertime favorite, get an early taste now and be sure to come back when we do it all again during our Summer Reading Program.

**Birthdays:** Children's authors who would be celebrating birthdays were they still with us today are Maud Hart Lovelace (B. April 25, 1892) and Ludwig Bemelmans (b. April 27, 1898). The Betsy-Tacy book series grew out of the true life experiences of Hart Lovelace, the stories and characters maturing with each book. While not as well known today as they were in the past the Betsy Tacy books make for a good read (as do others by Hart Lovelace). However, we are sure that many of us are familiar with some of Bemelmans's writings.

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# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### Look at the bigger picture about bike lanes

The concept of bike lanes in Hamtramck continues to spur debate.

Recently, one Review reader offered a comment that got us scratching our heads.

The reader said that, when immigrants come to this country, they not only want to own a car, but also they will refuse to give up their auto.

That is a curious thing to say, considering that no one is demanding car owners give up their cars. Where did that notion come from?

The reader also said that it's "artsy" types who want, and will use, bike lanes. Hmm. That one is a brain twister. It never occurred to us that only "artsy" people – whoever they are – like to ride bikes.

From what we have witnessed, all types of

folks ride bikes.

Others have suggested that very few residents ride bikes. Again, how does anyone know this?

The bike lane in Hamtramck was only installed this year, right before cold weather settled in, and even then, some portion of that was completed in colder weather, when few would be out riding bikes.

This outlook misses the bigger picture about bike lanes here in town. They are part of a 27-mile path that will link up Hamtramck with Detroit, Dearborn and Highland Park.

The thinking is, this will attract folks from outside the city to explore our town. And hopefully, this will result in a positives economic

impact for local businesses.

Seriously, what is all the fuss about?

Do bike lanes really inconvenience anyone?

One can still drive their car and park in the street. Bike lanes are not here to replace autos, although it would be nice if the region had a real public transportation system that actually works – instead of the present broken bus system – to help reduce our dependency on autos.

Promoting bike travel is also a health message to folks to get out and exercise more, instead of motoring around constantly.

Get back on a bike some time – you might even find that biking brings out the happy, carefree kid in you once more.

## Odds & Ends

**Reminder...** The city is giving its citizenry a chance to weigh in on the ambitious Hamtramck Recreation District (HRD) Plan.

Well, two chances, actually: the easiest way, by far, is to attend an open house on the matter, on this Saturday, April 27, from 2-5 p.m., at the Kitab Café, 2727 Holbrook Ave. (on the first block west of Jos. Campau).

The other way is to go online and take the survey at: [hamtramckparks.com](http://hamtramckparks.com).

The HRD is a proposal to "radically transform 26 acres of under-utilized open space, recreation fields, and disconnected historic sites into a community-invested, inclusive, and world-class park."

The artist's rendition of the area looks quite beautiful, the old historic stadium separated from what would be the new "arena" area, with a half-mile-long greenway path connecting it all.

The plan was actually developed in 2020, but of course the pandemic added time to its implementation schedule. Feedback had also been sought from the public at that time, with 436 community members having been engaged over a seven-month stretch.

Five themes emerged from that first feedback session as most-important to the respondents: Care and attention for the park; Safety throughout the park; Space and programs for women; Visibility, branding and signage; and the celebration of all cultures through events to be held there.

**Helping hand...** The good folks at Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN) are part of the exciting NFL Draft happening in downtown Detroit.

They have set up response teams with Detroit police to deal with those suffering a mental health crisis.

"DWIHN is actively playing our position by providing critical supports and services during such an historic time in Detroit history and Detroit sports," said Eric Doeh, DWIHN President and CEO, in a press release.

Also DWIHN's mobile

crisis units will be stationed in hot spots like Ford Field, and various hotels, restaurants and bars.

DWIHN will be spreading the word of their services to people attending a number of other events including "Party off Park," a three-day NFL Draft party that the agency is sponsoring, by raising awareness and providing access to services while attendees enjoy the event.

DWIHN also joins a host of community leaders and organizations to honor Wally Triplett, the first African American drafted in the National Football League by the Detroit Lions in 1949. DWIHN is sponsoring the tribute event happening today, Friday, April 26, at Beatrice Buck/Paradise Valley Park.

"Trailblazers like Triplett are why we are here doing what we do, in sports and in life," said Doeh.

**Federal assistance...** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) wants to give you money. Maybe.

Reminders keep coming in from the FEMA office that they have extended the deadline to apply for federal monies to compensate those who suffered damage from the severe storm outbreak of Aug. 24-26, 2023.

That deadline is looming, with no guarantee that it will be extended again: As of right now, you need to have your application in by Wednesday, May 8, which is in less than two weeks.

These monies may cover home repair bills and property losses, but also bills that resulted from needing to be re-homed, whether temporarily, long-term or permanently. Other disaster-related needs may also qualify – you won't know for sure until you ask.

To apply for disaster assistance call FEMA at (800) 621-3362.

**NFL happenings...** As most of us have likely heard by now, there's a big to-do in downtown Detroit this weekend: the annual NFL Draft.

Hundreds of thousands of visitors are expected to swarm here this weekend, and that will mean the closing of several

streets in downtown Detroit.

For some in Hamtramck this might be an inconvenience. If you need to go to the Wayne County Treasurer's office downtown today, Friday, April 26, forget about it.

The office will be closed, but will be open once again for business on Monday.

In the meantime, enjoy the festivities.

**In the news...** According to media reports, a 27-year-old man from Detroit was spotted driving a stolen vehicle on 8 Mile in Detroit when a Michigan State Police helicopter unit spotted him.

All of this was unbeknown to the suspect, and he was seen going into a fast food drive-in and ordering a meal here in Hamtramck.

Well, Michigan State Troopers caught up with him at the restaurant, which was not named but it had to be the only one in town, Checker's on Jos. Campau on the southend.

The troopers were obliging though. They allowed the suspect to eat his meal while he was being detained, because, heck, he already paid for it.

May we suggest a slight change to the universal police motto of "To Protect and Serve," to now be: "To Protect and Serve, and do you want some fries with that order?"

**Drug take back...** Have any unused or outdated prescription drugs you don't need?

Whatever you do, don't throw them away or flush them down the toilet.

Instead, The Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition (HDFCC), and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Hamtramck Police Department, are sponsoring the National Prescription Take Back Day on Saturday, April 27.

We'll let the Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition fill in the details

"This initiative aims to provide a safe and convenient way for individuals to dispose of their unused or expired medications, helping to prevent misuse and abuse while safeguarding the environment.

**Continued on page 4**

## Other Voices: Guest Editorial

### A caring community project

By Greg Kowalski

I get a lot of credit for founding the Hamtramck Historical Museum. Too much, really, because I didn't found the museum. No one person could accomplish something that complicated.

In fact, the museum has been a collective community project from the start and a variety of people have played a role in its creation and growth. They rarely get the credit they deserve, and I have embarked on an ongoing project to highlight them in this newsletter.

This time around I must

ask Marcus Colona to take a big bow. Marcus is a professional architect who actually has designed museums. For years he has been working largely behind the scenes helping design the Hamtramck Historical Museum in a variety of whys ranging from floor space layout to complex structural improvements.

This is highly specialized work that frankly is not cheap. Yet Marcus has done his tremendous work on a volunteer basis. I don't know how we could have achieved what we have done without his services. But I do know that we would not be nearly as far along in creating a professional museum without him.

I can't stress enough that we have a professional, experienced architect who works for a major New York-based firm helping us in Hamtramck. Marcus is a Hamtramckan who has been active in the community for years, even though he largely is in New York. But he has our community at heart, and you can see that every time you walk

into the museum.

It's that kind of spirit that has made this museum a reality. When the museum opened 10 years ago I remember being told by a local politician that we would be bankrupt and closed in two years. And he would have been right, except that he didn't take into account the dedication of a host of people who were determined to make the museum successful.

I have to admit that sometimes even I am surprised at the great support we have received. But I never stop appreciating all that they have done and continue to do. We can hang a plaque a museum wall thanking Marcus and the others who have helped us. But the real tribute to their efforts is the museum itself. The museum will outlast all of us.

And if it could, it too would say Thank You.

(Mr. Kowalski is the Executive Director of the museum. The museum is located at 9525 Jos. Campau. For more information, go online to: <http://hamtramckhistory.com>)



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# Odds & Ends

Continued from page 3

"Residents are encouraged to bring their unwanted prescription medications to the lobby of the Hamtramck Police Department on April 27. A disposal box is available to collect and properly dispose of all medications in a secure and confidential manner. This

event is free and anonymous, with no questions asked."

For more information about National Prescription Take Back go online to: [www.dea.gov/takebackday](http://www.dea.gov/takebackday), or contact HDFCC at (313) 733-4535.

You can also visit the website at: [HamtramckD-](http://HamtramckD-)



## 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 March 26, and all councilmembers were in attendance.

A proclamation was read in recognition of April being Arab-American Heritage Month. It went, in part:

"...Arab American Heritage Month provides an opportunity to honor and recognize the achievements, resilience, and diversity of Arab Americans, highlighting their positive impact on American society and their enduring commitment to the principles of equality, justice, and democracy; and the City of Hamtramck is home to a vibrant Arab American community, whose members have made significant contributions to the city's cultural heritage, economic vitality, and civic engagement; and Arab American Heritage Month serves as a reminder of the importance of embracing diversity, fostering inclusion, and promoting understanding and appreciation of all cultures within our society. ..."

Another proclamation was also read in to the record, and it was for "Autism Awareness and Acceptance."

During public comment, several residents complained about a hike they received in property taxes.

One resident said he did an extension of his house, resulting in his tax bill went from \$1,800 a year to \$6,500. He said the city manager reduced that to \$5,000, but that is "still a lot of money."

Mayor Amer Ghalib said that he has talked with the city manager and city assessor to adjust the housing values "to make it reasonable."

Ghalib also noted that he talked with officials in Dearborn and Dearborn Heights and that they are

experiencing the same issue.

"You just don't hear those complaints," Ghalib said.

Phill Kwik, a former city councilmember, said that a proposed city plan to cut space into Veterans Park to create diagonal parking will require 3/5ths of voter approval, per a city ordinance requirement.

A few residents spoke in favor of a proposal to create Neighborhood Enterprise Zones (NED) in some areas of the city. NEDs would greatly reduce property taxes for new housing construction or renovation of existing housing.

"This is going to be a great benefit to the city," said one resident.

A Jos. Campau commercial property owner complained about her buildings getting marred with graffiti.

"It's a consistent problem," she said. "It doesn't stop."

Nasr Hussain questioned how much revenue the city's parking meters generate.

Hassan Khan of Warren complained about the delay in charging a suspect who assaulted a person during a recent Bangladeshi event in front of city hall.

He said a suspect was arrested and released without being charged.

It was explained to him, and to several others in the council chambers with the same concern, that evidence was turned over the Wayne County's Prosecutor's Office, and that it's up to the prosecutor to file charges.

It was also explained that the Prosecutor's Office is greatly backlogged.

Later in the meeting, Councilmember Abu Musa

said the delay in charges is making some believe Hamtramck is no longer a safe community. Musa also said that there might be a protest staged in front of city hall.

It was again explained to Musa that the matter is in the hands of the Prosecutor's Office, and that there is nothing the city can do about the matter.

It was suggested that a protest would be better served if it was held in front of the Prosecutor's Office in Detroit.

Mayor Ghalib said the matter involved a single incident over a dispute about politics.

Bill Meyer said the city should print a notice for residents that explain how taxes work.

"It's a problem happening across the country," he said.

Regarding the new police chief, who is a Yemeni-American, his hiring "will make a big change" in the city, said Meyer.

In new business, the council approved an employment contract with Jamiel Altaheri, who will be the city's new chief of police.

He has been employed with the New York City Police Department, and is an "at will" employee here in Hamtramck. Altaheer will be paid a salary of \$118,000 per year.

Altaheer has not started employment yet with the city.

Moving on to an update on the city's budget, City Controller Syef Hamir Ahsan said the budget is on track to meet earlier projections.

Councilmember Mohamed Hassan questioned if there were any concerns about projected revenues.

Ahsan said he over-esti-

mated how much revenue income tax would generate, and that the city spent \$1 million more than expected on alley repaving.

But other than that, the city has a financial surplus, he said.

The council agreed to cancel the April 9 council meeting in order to celebrate the end of Ramadan.

A number of items were given approval, which included:

- Awarding a contract for technology services to VC3, worth about \$79,000.

- Approving a grant contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation regarding the sidewalk and alley repairs near Hamtramck City Hall, between Evaline and Yemans. The grant is worth \$260,000.

- OK'ing the purchase of fire gear at a cost of \$17,589.

- Approving the purchase and installation of cooling units and a heat pump for the Department of Public Services office. The cost is \$13,395.

- Approving the purchase of (45) M17 Sig 9mm Duty guns and (45) SigM400 patrol rifles for the Hamtramck Police Department. The cost of this purchase is \$124,837, which will be paid from the department's drug forfeiture fund.

- Also approving, for the police department, the purchase of portable radios, at a cost of \$48,482, which will also be paid from the drug forfeiture fund.

- Approving the purchase of a utility vehicle for the Building Department, at a cost of \$25,649.

- Allowing the city to sell three lots -2237 Andrus, 2471 Faber, and 11332 Lumpkin - for \$30,000, to developers. The developers are Dorota Maternia and Andrew Kotlarz. They plan to construct two-family units on each lot.

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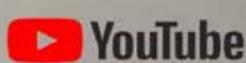
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## School Bell

### Book giveaway

The Hamtramck Federation of Teachers are sponsoring a free book fair this Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hamtramck Community Center, located at 11350 Charest.

There will be 10,000-plus books that kids can choose from. But come early because it's first-come, first-serve.

Kids are limited to up to five books to take home. Parents and guardians are welcome to choose books for their child.

Educators and school staff can also load up on free books, and will be limited to 30 books each. School and community program staff must be registered with First Book to receive free books.

Registration for staff is free and can be done at the community center the day of, or online at: [www.firstbook.org/aft](http://www.firstbook.org/aft).

There will also be family-oriented activities at the community center, including a bounce house, face painting, ice cream and more.

For more information email at: [hft1052president@gmail.com](mailto:hft1052president@gmail.com).

### Health fair

On Wednesday, the high school's Medical Explorers Club co-hosted a free community health fair

that was also sponsored by the Hamtramck Drug Free Coalition, the Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network and the HPS District.

The fair offered health information, mental health services and other community resources.

Participants also were invited to drop off unused or expired prescriptions so they could be safely disposed.



**Hamtramck High School students in the Medical Explorers Club recently hosted a health fair at the Community Center.**

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April 26, 2024

## Hamtramck Public TV-19

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

What's on this coming week?

Public Service Announcements,  
Special program at Bank Suey, Music programs  
ESL Classes for the 2023-24 school year  
Local events, Library programs, E-Sports  
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, or Live**

**To place community announcement call the Library at 313-733-6822**  
**Or email: HamtramckTV@gmail.com**  
**Announcements submitted by 10 am**  
**Will go on air the same day (evening)**  
**To send large video files (TINYurl.com/hamtramcktv)**



**By Charles Sercombe Friday, April 19**

This week's Crime Log covers April 16-22.

**Tuesday, April 16**

- At 2 a.m., two suspects were arrested in the 12000 block of Selfridge for assault.
- At 5 a.m., family trouble was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
- Customer trouble was reported at a business in the 2000 block of Caniff.
- A complaint was made about an animal in the area of Klinger and Carpenter.
- Following a traffic stop at Chrysler Dr. and Caniff, a woman was arrested for being wanted on a felony warrant on the charge of carrying a concealed weapon.
- An auto was reported stolen in the 2300 block of Commor.
- A break-in was reported in the 2200 block of Bernard.

**Wednesday, April 17**

- A break-in was reported in the 1900 block of Trowbridge.
- Property was damaged in an accident on Falcon.
- An illegal dumping was reported on Roosvelt.
- An assault was reported on Caniff.
- An incident of fraud was reported on Conant.
- A theft was reported in the 3800 block of Trowbridge.
- A fight was reported in the area of Commor and Nagel.
- A theft was reported in the area of 2000 Caniff.
- A male and juvenile female were arrested in the 12000 block of Dequindre for assault and home invasion.

**Thursday, April 18**

- Gunshots were reported in the 12000 block of Dequindre.
- An incident of fraud was reported on Jos. Campau.
- A hit-and-run accident was reported in the 9300 block of Jos. Campau.
- An assault was reported in the 9600 block of Lumpkin.
- A hit-and-run accident happened in the 12000 block of Jos. Campau.
- A fight was reported in the 12000 block of Dequindre.

**Friday, April 19**

- A noise complaint was made in the 2600 block of Carpenter.
- A man attacked a garbage truck in the area of Jos. Campau and Caniff. The suspect was taken to a hospital for treatment.
- An assault was reported in the 5100 block of Belmont.
- Thefts were reported in the 3400 block of Evaline, and in the 3000 block of Hanley.

**Saturday, April 20**

- A female suspect was arrested in the 12000 block of Selfridge for domestic assault.
- A hit-and-run accident happened in the area of Jos. Campau and Danforth.

**Sunday, April 21**

- At 12:30 a.m., a complaint was made about a disorderly customer at a business in the 9800 block of Conant.
- A theft was reported in the 9800 block of Winfield.
- At about 5 a.m., officers responding to a call in the 9200 block of Conant about a break-in observed several suspects who were fleeing from the scene.
- A break-in was reported on Grand Haven.
- A person found a gun on Caniff and reported it. Officers retrieved the weapon.
- A complaint was made about a juvenile in the 2200 block of Andrus.
- Officers investigating family trouble in the 3800 block of Trowbridge arrested a juvenile for domestic assault.

**Monday, April 22**

- At about 12:30 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 12000 block of Oklahoma.
- Customer trouble was reported at a business in the 2000 block of Caniff.
- At 1:30 a.m., officers attempted to pull over a silver motorcycle with no license plate, but the rider sped off.
- A complaint was made about a juvenile in the area of Gallagher and Jacob.
- Family trouble was reported in the 12000 block of Oklahoma.
- A hit-and-run accident was reported at Jos. Campau and Norwalk.

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Subject: name change of Haima Hammam Saleh to Haima Al Najar

DOB: August 5, 2019

We the undersigned are requesting that the name Haima Hammam Al Najar be changed to Haima Al Najar.

Thank you  
Hamman Mosed M. Saleh  
Basmah Abdikarim Saleh Ali Al-Najar  
April 26, 2024

# Crime watch: The sound of breaking glass at St. Florian Parish

By Charles Sercombe

An old crime trend reared its head Friday night.

Someone smashed out about a dozen windows at the former St. Florian school on Poland.

While property damage is still ongoing, and common, in the city, the act of smashing out windows doesn't happen too often. It used to be that a suspect would go down a block and smash out car windows.

Those motives often range from looking for items to steal, or even to steal the car itself, to doing it just for kicks.

As of now, the police department is still investigating the matter.

The pastor of St. Florian, Fr. Tomasz Pietrzak, didn't have much to say about the matter, other than calling the situation "very sad."

Pietrzak said he has not determined the cost of replacing the windows, most of which have been bordered up.

Although there is no good time for such a thing to happen, the parish is getting ready to host its annual Strawberry Festival on May 4-5, when thousands of parishioners, former students and friends will be attending to dine on home-cooked Polish dinners, dance to polkas and enjoy each other's company.

With the return of warmer weather, crimes like this tend to return, along with a few other weather-related trends.



A vandal smashed out about a dozen windows Friday night at St. Florian Parish.

This past week, there were numerous complaints about noise in town, although the exact nature of the noise is never explained in a police log. But it could include:

- Loud music
- Loud people
- Kids making a ruckus
- Dogs barking
- Loud cars

Anyone who has lived in Hamtramck for a certain length of time also knows that there is usually a neighborhood crank on your block who can't stand to hear anything fun – or otherwise – going on.

If there is anyone new to city living – where people live in houses that are just a few feet apart – get used to it. You are going to hear a lot of pleasant and unpleasant things.

The daily incident reports also never go into detail about what police officers do about the complaints. But, every once and awhile, there is an arrest made in such a matter.

Also, with more people outside, there is always an increased chance that some hot heads will get into fights.

This past week, there were several separate complaints about assaults, gunshots, family trouble, and even a home invasion – all happening in the 12000 block of Selfridge.

That block contains the Col. Hamtramck housing project, which has long been a source of various kinds of trouble.

The Hamtramck Housing agency has a stern policy, however, of kicking out troublemakers fast.

Rounding out the week were a number of reported thefts, which, in warmer weather, usually translates to people stealing things out of garages, or from backyards; or, of course, the return of porch pirates stealing packages.

We've known people who have had to chain down their AC units and their barbecue grills after being repeatedly hit by these bandits.

Sometimes, that's just part of city living.

## Obituaries

### CENSIER



Christine Censier, 77, died April 23, 2024. She was the daughter of the late Francis and Rita Censier and sister of Alice. She is also survived by her long-time loving friend

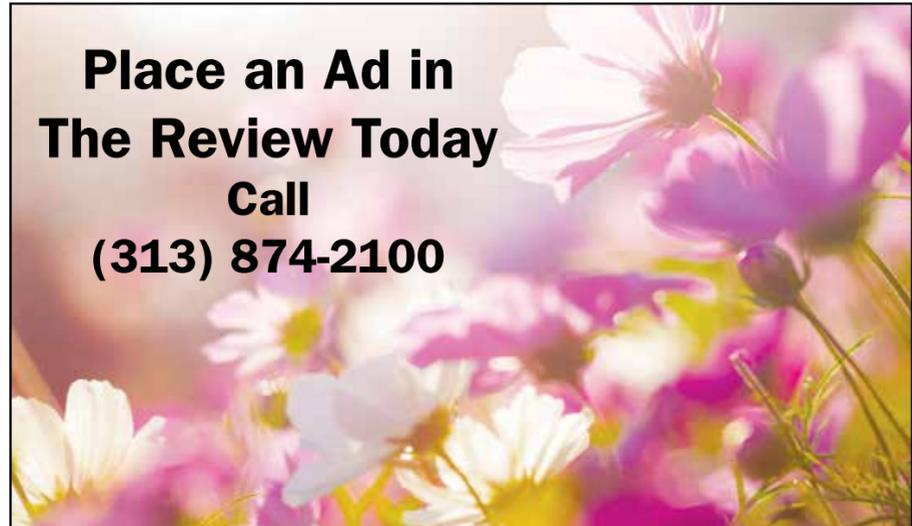
Gerald Kaminski.

Christine was the Vice President of Peoples State Bank.

Visitation is Friday April 26, 2024, from 1 – 9 p.m. at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck MI 48212. The funeral service is Saturday April 27,

2024, lying in state at 10 a.m. until the time of the funeral Mass at 11 a.m. at Holy Cross Polish National Catholic Church, 2311 Pulaski, Hamtramck MI 48212. Interment will be at Roseland Park Cemetery, Berkley MI.

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