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A message from the Head Coach George Juncaj, "If anyone wants to watch a good European football/soccer game, come out and show your support, May 4th, at 7:00 pm at the Ultimate Soccer Arena

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# The Review

Hamtramck

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## Quick Hits

Weather-wise, lately, you'd hardly know it's May. But it is, and in fact, it's the first weekend of the month. You know what that means, right?

Yes, it's time for the St. Florian Strawberry Festival. The fun starts Saturday evening and runs through Sunday.

To kick off the festival, the Hamtramck firefighters will host their annual march to St. Florian Church, where a special Mass will be held.

Firefighters will first assemble at the fire station, and the march begins at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday. They will march down Brombach to the church.

St. Florian, by the way, is the Patron Saint of firefighters.

Another highlight this weekend at the festival will be a performance by the town favorites, The Polish Muslims, also on Saturday, starting at 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

As usual, there will be plenty of Polish food and drink available, and, of course, strawberry pie.

Come on out and celebrate spring!

## HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD

# At Hamtramck Stadium, it will be a brand new season ahead

**By Charles Sercombe**

Some time in the next few months, you're going to once again hear "play ball" at Hamtramck's historic baseball stadium.

Thanks to a successful online fundraising campaign, the Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium now has \$100,000 to spend on upgrades for the field and on other features.

The 30-day fundraising campaign's goal was to raise at least \$50,000, after which that point the Michigan Economic Development Corporation com-

mitted to kicking in another \$50,000.

Detroit rocker Jack White was the first to step up to the plate, with his donation of \$10,000.

The stadium is one of only a handful left that hosted Negro League teams. Hamtramck Stadium was built in the 1930s.

The Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium recently rolled out its plans at a press conference held at the Hamtramck Historical Museum.

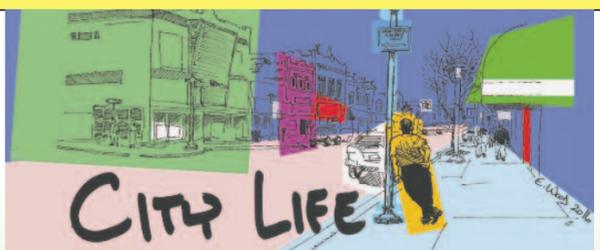
Those plans include:  
Ripping out the current



**A new field will be installed at the historic Hamtramck Stadium this season, along with a number of other renovations. The cost of the project is \$100,000, half of which came from online donations and the other half from the State of Michigan.**

field and replacing it to accommodate not only baseball, but also soccer

and cricket. The cost of maintenance for the **Continued on page 2**



## We are all influencers

**By Walter Wasacz**

Finding adventures close to home in Hamtramck is easy. You just step outside, pick a direction and start walking.

Early Saturday after-

noon, I headed out from my house on Edwin at Gallagher and onto residential streets west of Jos. Campau.

The city had begun to turn green, if tentatively,

during the last days of April. I could see new life budding on trees and in patches in front of houses on Trowbridge near Brombach.

Springtime strolls might be the best strolls, or at least the most invigorating after the grind of a long winter. The body seems lighter (of course it is with less clothes), but with more people moving around outdoors the heart and soul of the city

seem lighter as well.

As I glided through these streets I thought about the benefits of walking versus driving in a city like ours, which stretches end to end slightly more than 2 miles squared.

It's a perfect size for local destination travel (shopping, dining, meetings in cafes and bars, sporting events) or for wanderings like mine - **Continued on page 5**

## And they're off and running

**By Charles Sercombe**

This year's city council election is all set to go.

None of the nine candidates who filed last week dropped out of the race by Friday's deadline.

Three incumbents, Anam Miah, Abu Musa and Saad Almasmari, are defending their seats.

Their challengers are: Robert Zwolak, Nayeem Choudhury, Carrie Beth Lasley, Mohammed Hassan, Mohammed Alsomiri and Justin Jessop.

They will all face off in the Aug. 3 Primary Election. The top six finishers in that election will move on to the November Election.

Some of the names should be familiar to voters.

Zwolak is a former city clerk for Hamtramck, and has also served before on city council. Hassan is also a former councilmember.

Both Choudhury and Alsomiri have run before for council. Alsomiri is renovating the former Shopper's World building on Jos. Campau and Yemans.

Lasley kicked off the campaign season with a protest outside of city hall last Tuesday before the council meeting. **Continued on page 4**

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## At Hamtramck Stadium, it will be a brand new season ahead

Continued from front page

2019 season is also factored in.

There are other stages of development planned, but those costs run as high as \$18 million.

But this first step will allow the preparation for the landscaping and preparing for a plaza at the main entrance to the rear of the grandstand, facing Dan St.

Outdoor educational and interpretative exhibits

will be installed in the new plaza telling the story of the stadium, of the Detroit Stars and Detroit Wolves, of the Negro Leagues in Detroit, of Hamtramck's world championship youth baseball teams, and of the stadium's connections to the African-American and Polish-American communities.

Streetlight banners will be placed on Jos. Cam-

pau and Dan along with large banners depicting the Detroit Stars and the 1959 Little League championship team for the grandstand facade.

There will also be a sign installed saying: "Welcome to Historic Hamtramck Stadium," signage for self-guided tours, plus directional street signs at major intersections on Hamtramck's southend.

## School Board narrows superintendent field of candidates

By Charles Sercombe

The search for a new superintendent for Hamtramck's public schools is down to two candidates.

Dr. Youssef Mosallam and Jaleelah Ahmed made the final cut, after the board interviewed a total of six candidates last week.

Mosallam is the Executive Director of Community Partnerships, College & Career Readiness Achievement for the Dearborn Public Schools.

Ahmed is the Director for English Language Development with the Hamtramck Public Schools.

The vote to whittle down the candidates to two finalists was initially splintered, but once there was an agreement, with a bare majority of the vote, the board was unanimous in moving forward with the final two candidates for further consideration.

Boardmember Showkat Chowdhury was absent during all of the inter-



Jaleelah Ahmed



Dr. Youssef Mosallam

views with the six candidates.

The vote on finalizing the two candidates was held last Friday evening after the final round of candidates were interviewed.

The final interviews were then held this week. Mosallam was interviewed Tuesday, and Ahmed was interviewed Thursday, after The Review went to press.

Both interviews were open to the public.

Before a final decision

is made, the board will visit the Dearborn School District.

The school board is expected to make its decision on who to hire during the week of May 13. The board could also opt to not hire either of the candidates and continue its search.

Current Superintendent Tom Niczay is retiring after 40 years in education, the last 10 of which as superintendent.

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## This week at the library...

**ESL Class** - Monday, May, 6th, 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required

**ESL Class** - Tuesday, May, 7th, 12:00 pm. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

**ESL Class** - Wednesday, May 8th, 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

**ESL Class** - Thursday, May 9th, @ 12:00 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

**Toddler Time** - April 4th-May 9th, Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Children up to age 5 and their parents and caregivers are invited for songs, storytelling and playtime.

**Movie Night** - Tuesdays at 4 p.m. Family friendly movies, snacks provided.

**A UNIVERSE OF STORIES - SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM 2019**

Registration opens Monday June 17th! Come to the Library to sign up and get your activity log!

This is a Free Program Open to all youth ages 4-12

**KICK-OFF EVENT: Animal Astronauts**  
Wednesday, June 26th

@ 2:00pm

**#READYTOCODE - Makerspace STEM+ Art Youth** in 4th to 12th grade are invited for the #ReadyToCode events. Programs are held on Wednesdays in May from 3:45-4:45, and run from May 1st- May 29th. Projects will include: Animation, Games, Videos, Music, and Art!

**Memorial Day Bugle Calls Presentation** - Presented by Richard Gadi-gian. Thursday, May 23rd at 6:00 p.m. Hear how Bugle calls were used during the Civil War and those that continue to be used in our modern Armed Forces. Special Guests: John Wayne @ Sari Villanueva

For more information about events at the library call (313) 733-6822, or visit its website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us> where you can also access the online catalog. The library is located at 2360 Caniff.

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# Second Front Page

## Comedy duo knows all about mixing music with theater

By Joe Anthony Myrick  
Special to The Review

Nobody likes a know-it-all, except when these know-it-alls happen to be partners Alex Meitz and Adam Fuller.

Together, they form the "Alex Knows It All" troupe.

The two are the latest comedic gems emerging from the Planet Ant talent pool. Remember, this is the same Planet Ant that gave us famed actor/comedian Keegan-Michael Key and Sam Richardson.

We recently met up with Alex and Adam to discuss their journey thus far.

In their own words, Alex Knows It All is a "music and comedy-based performance art piece." Through the device of character acting, Alex reads live poetry onstage – submitted from friends and fans – while Adam plays music in the background which he composes himself.

For the stage, Alex accentuates herself as a much more eccentric, brash, exaggerated and goth version of herself.

"Part of our dynamic is that my character, 'Alex,' is this big, crazy, larger than life character who's been described as 'the Queen of Mean.' I don't think me as a person is necessarily mean, but 'Alex' (the character) gets very mean," Alex said.

In the same way that Alex inflates her personality for the stage, both performers inflate their relationship for the stage. On stage, Adam is essentially a nice guy doing everything he can to win Alex's approval, while Alex is – in the actor's own words – this "high-expecta-



Performers Adam Fuller and Alex Meitz mix comedy and music in an act they call "Alex Knows It All."

tion, never satisfied person who takes everything out on Adam."

While that makes for fun chemistry onstage, it is far from who they are as real people. In real life, they couldn't be kinder to one another, and always credit each other for the success of the Alex Knows It All brand.

"People don't understand that just because it's my name on the show, it doesn't mean that I am the only one who is creating all of this content," Alex said.

"Adam puts endless work into each show that we do. Adam helps with all of the writing. He writes all of the music himself, for the most part and he helps with my delivery. We bounce ideas off of each other. I literally could not do the show without Adam."

One thing that has made Alex Knows It All so popular with Hamtramck residents has been that their act is so high-concept. In their creativity, both steer toward "grandiose" ideas, as Adam puts it. "I just have a weirdly obsessive creative brain, where if I get fixated on an idea, I will beat it like a dead horse

since. This year, they will be hosting Planet Ant's Versus Tournament, with Alex being one of its judges.

More recently, Alex Knows It All performed in their first Hamtramck Music Festival. Some critics complained about the comedy duo participating in the festival because they weren't "a real band."

Alex has a reply to those naysayers.

"We wanted to bridge the gap between the Detroit comedy scene and the Detroit music scene because there's so much talent on either side, but they don't really overlap that often," she said.

"You get a few people who do comedy and music, but you don't really see comedy people going to band shows or band people going to comedy shows, and we're kind of in this weird middle ground where we're both. So we wanna try to book shows not only for a comedy theater, but opening for a

Continued on page 6



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

May 4 – Polish Dinner & Annual Raffle  
(Drawing at 7 pm) with Mike Zawojksy, Grammy Nominated Accordionist 4-7 pm  
May 11 – Soup Kitchen – Everyone Welcome! 2-4 pm

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## School Bell

### Early Childhood Elementary School News

With spring here, it seems every day at the Early Childhood Elementary has something special going on.

Students in Ms. Janice Rakoczy's first grade class

are learning about mammals and animal babies. They are learning the life cycle of animals, and what they need to survive in their habitat.

Our resident super scientist, Jupiter Jaye, came to the kindergarten through second grade classes

teaching many different lessons.

Students experimented with making their own snow, and other weather experiments, with plant life and even had a visit from a friendly boa snake named "Slither."

Ms. Amanda Lesko's

students had great fun learning about mixtures and compounds by making their own version of Dr. Seuss' "Oobleck."

On Earth Day, the whole school gathered in the gym to enjoy the magical teaching lessons of "Dumpster Doug."

Dumpster Doug taught the importance of recycling, reusing and of reducing waste in our environment by entertaining us with his skillful magic tricks.

Students were left in wonder, and could be heard throughout the hallways saying, "How did he do that?"

In upcoming weeks, the students will be visiting Schoolcraft College for Science Day. Also, the students will be visiting the Detroit Institute of Arts for a day of art enrichment.

### Dickinson East Elementary School News

Dickinson East fourth graders recently created radial designs inspired by Islamic tiles. To create the designs, students sat in classroom windows and traced their name eight times. The resulting abstract design were colored with markers.

### Hamtramck Health Hike

The Hamtramck Health Hike will be held on Saturday May 4 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. It starts at the Hamtramck Community Center, 11350 Charest St.

Please join us for a day of fun, including free t-shirts, free lunch, prizes, obstacle course, Fowling and other giveaways.

Bring your family and friends for a fun-filled day.

### Enrollment Information

Hamtramck residents may enroll their children in Hamtramck Public Schools at the HPS Business Office, 3201 Roosevelt. School of Choice applications will be accepted during the follow-



Above and below: Early Childhood Elementary School students had a busy week learning a number of subjects.



Below: Dickinson East Elementary School students created special designs.



### Upcoming Events:

- May 9 – Progress Report 4 Distributed.
- May 24 – Half day for students and staff.
- May 27 – No school for students and staff. Memorial Day.
- May 28 – School resumes.
- May 30 – Last day for preschool.
- May 30 – Last day for Hamtramck and Horizon High School Seniors.

### Recreation Department News

For more information, give us a call at (313) 892-2635. Follow us on Facebook for the most up-to-date information:

[www.facebook.com/HamtramckRecreationDepartment](http://www.facebook.com/HamtramckRecreationDepartment)

Compiled by  
Janice Gandelman

## Hamtramck Recreation Department



VS



## TIGERS VS ATHLETICS

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A Celebration of Polish Culture!

May 4 from 12pm-11pm & May 5 from 1pm-10pm

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\*\*Dinners available starting **Saturday @ Noon**  
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### Strawberry Desserts

Pies, Tarts, Sundaes, Pastries, Fresh Belgian Waffles and more!

### Great Attractions

Performances by  
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Sat 7:00pm  
Sun 2pm-3pm  
During band breaks

Main Raffle Drawing  
Sunday, May 5th @ 9:00pm  
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Fun Stuff for Kids

Firefighter's March & Mass  
Saturday @ 3:30pm

Tour Our Historic Church  
Sunday

POLKAS ALL WEEKEND!

### Entertainment

**Saturday**  
Polish Muslims 6:30pm-9:30pm  
All Class Reunion!  
The Ambassadors Polka Band  
6pm-10pm

**Sunday**  
New Generation Polkas  
2pm-6pm  
The Ambassadors Polka Band  
2pm-6pm  
Dance & Dine in our church hall  
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On Facebook @ St. Florian Strawberry Festival & St. Florian Parish Events

St. Florian Parish  
is located  
East of I-75 and South  
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(just north of Holbrook)  
[www.stflorianparish.org](http://www.stflorianparish.org)

## And they're off and running

Cont. from front page

A handful of firefighters and residents gathered at the front door, and held signs protesting against merging the police and fire departments into a single public safety department.

There is no current plan to do that, but the council recently voted on a new contract with the city's police brass to allow for a transition into a public safety department "should (city) management move forward with such implementation in the city's future."

Police officers also recently agreed to a similar clause in their new contract

a few months ago.

Councilmember Andrea Karpinski was the only councilmember to vote against it.

"The city manager and city attorney will tell you that including a unified command clause in the police contract is a bargaining tactic," Lasley said on her campaign Facebook page.

"How effective can a bargaining tactic be if they are saying it is merely a bargaining tactic? It is either the worst bargaining tactic ever rolled out, or the residents are being gaslit. ..."

The Review is celebrating  
our 10-year anniversary!



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# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### Towing lawsuit underscores need to tighten regulatory laws

The expanded federal lawsuit regarding the behavior of a towing company operator underscores a need for local and state officials to step up.

The towing industry in Michigan is known to be notoriously predatory, and to grossly overcharge those unlucky enough to be one of their victims.

Breakthrough Towing, a Detroit company that has rebranded its name due to intensive media coverage, first came to the attention of the metro area when it was called out for pouncing on cars that were parked in the Hamtramck CVS parking lot after business hours.

Despite there being a couple of warning signs

saying folks could get towed after CVS closed for the day, it turned out the company never had a contract with CVS to do that towing.

By this time, dozens of car owners who patronized Bumbo's Bar across the street have had to dish out upwards of \$400 per vehicle to get their cars back, or else unhitched at the site.

As it turned out, while there were some signs posted, there were not enough to meet state regulations.

At the time, some of our police officers did not know the state law, and therefore allowed Breakthrough to continue towing.

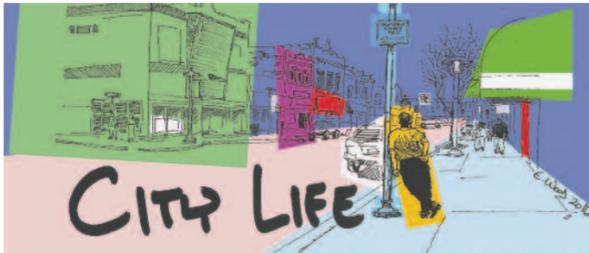
Unnamed Hamtramck police officers have now been added to a class

action lawsuit. The city has also been included.

Breakthrough was also allegedly allowed to operate even though it failed to renew its yearly state license. However, officers have been issuing tickets lately to tow drivers who are not licensed to work here. The lawsuit also spells out some constitutional issues as well.

Hamtramck needs to take a close look at its ordinances, as well as make sure officers are up to speed on laws regulating towing companies.

State legislators also need to tighten up regulations so that towing companies can't get away with charging exorbitant fees to car owners.



Continued from front page

both of which have clear health and wellness benefits.

More people on foot also leads to less street crime and lowers greenhouse gas emissions – the largest percentage of which comes from cars, trucks, buses and planes – making the community safer and cleaner.

Not to mention contributing to a cleaner world.

More pedestrians on the street are also good for economic development: entire commercial districts around the world are built on people who walk versus those who drive. In the future the car

will be a liability not an asset for enlightened cities (London has a plan to reduce car traffic by closing some streets in the central city to motorists and increasing pedestrian and cycling traffic by 2029).

More eyes closer to the ground also has another underrated benefit: people that walk see trash accumulating in the streets and alleys and are more apt to do something about it.

Dedicated periodic community cleanups like the one planned for this Saturday are certainly a good thing, but imagine if cleanups are instead

done as a strolling party, a regularly scheduled work/play event.

In the Netherlands, group walks called wijkwandeling are done every few months, not only for picking up trash but for identifying missing or crooked signage and reporting hot spots for speeding and reckless driving. The group sends its observations to government authorities who can address their concerns and make appropriate changes.

In this way the voices of people become truly engaged in city life – in neighborhoods where they actually live and walk daily – influencing government to do its job properly by keeping the streets clean and managing motor traffic with better signage, innovative crosswalk design and other calming methods now

Continued on page 6

## Other Voices: Guest Editorial

### Remembering Hamtramck's role in the Detroit Stars' centennial

Recently the Friends of Hamtramck Historic Stadium held a press conference commemorating the Detroit Stars Centennial.

The baseball team was part of the Negro League, and played at Hamtramck's own historic stadium.

Here are the remarks made by Gary Gillette, the President of Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium: **By Gary Gillette**

The Detroit Stars played their first game on Easter Sunday, April 20, 1919, at Mack Park on Detroit's East Side.

They defeated the 1918 city champion Maxwell Internationals, a powerful white semi-pro team, in front of 3500 fans. The Maxwells' roster included one former major-leaguer and at least four former minor-leaguers.

Rube Foster of Chicago, the "Father of Black Baseball," attended the Stars' debut. Foster was instrumental in setting up the Stars and may have had an ownership interest in the club, though the named owner was Detroit Tenny Blount.

The Stars featured future Hall of Famer outfielder/team captain Pete Hill along with veteran stars like pitcher John Donaldson and catcher Bruce Petway.

Future Hall of Fame pitcher Andy Cooper joined the club in 1920, when the Stars became

charter members of Rube Foster's new Negro National League (NNL).

The Stars played at Mack Park through 1929, when a July fire destroyed the main grandstand. Although they finished the season at Mack Park, opposition from white citizens in the neighborhood caused them to relocate in 1930.

Detroit fielded a contending club throughout the 1920s, but never won a pennant. The closest they came was in their first season at Hamtramck Stadium in 1930 when they won the second-half NNL title before losing the league championship series to St. Louis in a hard-fought, seven-game series.

Undoubtedly the greatest black player to spend most of his career in Detroit was Norman "Turkey" Stearnes. A five-tool center fielder from Nashville, Tennessee, Stearnes was a Negro League superstar and one of the greatest home run hitters of all time – black or white.

He was inducted to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown in 2000, 21 years after his death. Stearnes made his major Negro League debut in 1923 with Detroit, playing for the Stars through 1931 as well as in 1937.

Stearnes also starred for the Chicago American Giants and Kansas City

Monarchs in the 1930s and 1940s.

Victims of the Great Depression, the Stars folded along with the league in 1931. In 1932, the Detroit Wolves – featuring five future Hall of Famers – played in Hamtramck for half a season until the new Negro East-West League also failed.

In 1933, the Indianapolis ABCs relocated to Motown to become the reincarnated Negro National League's Detroit Stars, playing in Hamtramck for one year as future Hall of Famer Ray Dandridge made his pro debut.

In 1937, the Titus Detroit Giants semi-pro club became charter members of the new Negro American League (NAL), adopting the storied Detroit Stars' name. They, too, lasted only one summer – the last major Negro League team to hail from Detroit.

In 1954, a Grand Rapids semi-pro club moved to Motown, joined the Negro American League, and rebadged themselves as the Detroit Stars. After 1950, however, the NAL was strictly minor-league in quality. Playing mostly on the road, this version of the Stars folded after 1961 along with the debilitated NAL, marking the end of the Negro League era.

### Most HHS students move on to college after graduating

By Alan Madlane

Hamtramck High School is gaining a lot of love from a non-profit state news source.

Bridge Michigan has just revealed their Academic State Champs designations for 2019. These designations, given as an annual listing of state schools "where college is the norm," are available to view on the Bridge

Michigan website, bridgemi.com.

Broken out into various economic levels, the list honors those state high schools (10 in each of four economic categories) where there is the highest percentage of students going on to either a two-year or four-year college within six months of graduating.

According to the statis-

tics Bridge Michigan is using, Hamtramck High School sent an impressive 73.1% of their graduates on to college within in a half-year from when students graduated.

That places the school 9th overall in their category. It far outpaces the 54% average for the "neediest" schools.

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## Obituaries

### MATTHEWS



Mira Matthews (nee Morszczyzna), 62, died April 27, 2019.

Visitation is Friday, May 3, 2019 from 3-8 p.m., with Rosary at 6 p.m., at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff Hamtramck MI 48212. Mrs. Matthews will lie in state Saturday, at 10:00 a.m. followed by Mass at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Czestochowa Catholic Church, 3100 18 Mile Road, Sterling Heights, MI 48314.

### SPACKOFF

Steven Spackoff, 63, died April 30, 2019.

Mr. Spackoff was the son of the late Samuel and Helen; father of Steven Jr. and Margie; brother of Randy; nephew of Al Spakoff; ex-husband of Deanna.

Visitation is Sunday May 5, 2019 from 2 - 8 p.m. at Bagnasco & Calcaterra Funeral Home, 25800 Harper, St. Clair Shores MI 48081. Burial is Monday, 11 a.m., at

Holy Trinity Old Believers Church Cemetery, 42401 Saal Rd. Sterling Heights MI 48313. Arrangements were made by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, Hamtramck MI.

### WOZNIAK



Walter Wozniak, 65, died April 21, 2019.

Mr. Wozniak was the beloved son of Virginia; father of Michael (Theresa), Christopher, Daniel, Matthew, Jeffery, John, Jennifer (Ted), Amanda, and the late Maryann. He is also survived by 19 grandchildren.

Visitation is Friday, May 3, 2019, from 2-9 p.m. with Prayers at 7 p.m., at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck MI 48212.

Mr. Wozniak will lie in state, Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 9:30 a.m., until the time of the funeral Mass at 10 a.m., at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, 11200 Conant, Hamtramck, MI 48212. Burial will be at Mt Olivet Cemetery, Detroit, MI.

## See the Negro League greats at the Hamtramck museum

By Greg Kowalski

Satchel Paige is there. So is Turkey Stearnes.

These long-gone baseball greats have found a new presence in Hamtramck.

They are part of a special exhibit on the Detroit Stars baseball team, the Negro Baseball League and the Hamtramck stadium at Veterans Memorial Park that once hosted them.

The exhibit is at the Hamtramck Historical Museum, 9525 Jos. Campau, and runs through June. It consists of historical photos and a number of pieces of memorabilia.

The Negro Baseball League existed from the 1920s to the 1950s, when professional baseball was segregated and black players were not allowed to play on Major League teams or stadiums.

Turning to small community stadiums, they played at fields around the country including what was origi-

nally called Roesink Stadium at Veterans Memorial Park.

Some of the greatest black baseball players in history played there until the Major Leagues were finally integrated in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Roesink Stadium was eventually acquired by the city, and has since served it in many capacities. Almost all the other stadiums nationally that hosted the Negro League games are gone. The Hamtramck Stadium is now the focus of a major renovation effort, spearheaded by the Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium.

The stadium Friends are sponsoring the exhibit at the museum. It's free. The museum is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and by appointment. Call (313) 893-5027 or (248) 770-8389. Visit our website [www.hamtramckhistory.org](http://www.hamtramckhistory.org).

## Comedy duo knows all about mixing music with theater

Continued from page 3

band."

Even before the HMF and Planet Ant came into their lives, Alex and Adam have always been drawn to Hamtramck in some way or other.

In Adam's case, during his days in a teen band, a friend's dad used to take them to the Hamtramck Blowout. In later years, Adam went on to actually perform at both the Blowout and HMF with his band.

As for Alex, she always kept an eye on Planet Ant, being someone with a theater background. Initially, she was reluctant to try improv, as she wanted to focus more on scripted work, but her and her partner finally "bit the bullet" after seeing her mom do improv, and knowing Adam had friends at the Ant.

So, they signed up for improv classes together. After one class, Alex realized "this isn't just a class. This is very much a com-

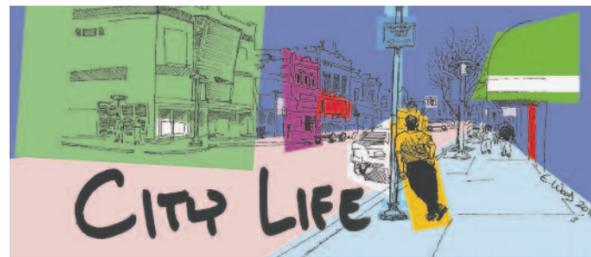
munity. You can get as much out of Planet Ant as you put into it."

Adam added that both Planet Ant and Hamtramck in general "have this feeling of community, because everything's so tightly knit and so close that it's very communal."

You can find Alex Knows It All on Facebook, Bandcamp, Instagram (@Alex-KnowsItAll.jpg) and at least every other week, like - performing at Planet Ant.

If you go to see them, be sure to submit poetry to Alex Knows It All for them to perform on stage, by sending it to them in advance on any one of their social media platforms.

The Planet Ant Versus Tournament as hosted by Alex Knows It All is also accepting submissions. Alex Knows It All will also be performing for the Detroit Women of Comedy Festival on May 31. Alex is serving as a social media director for the festival.



Continued from page 5

being throughout the world.

The true power of cities rests in the hands of the people who live there and thoughtfully engage its elected leaders and managers, pushing for positive change from the bottom up.

I continued walking, turned right on Brombach and then left on Caniff and up to Ant Hall, where Bernie Sanders' local team was kicking off the Vermont Senator's 2020 presidential campaign.

About 20 people were there to watch a filmed rally featuring Sanders with a group of supporters. In the film the message was made clear immediately by campaign manager Faiz Shakir:

Sanders is in the race to win this time.

He won the Michigan Primary by just over one percentage point in 2016, a defeat for Hillary Clinton that foreshadowed her losing the state vote to Donald Trump in the General Election.

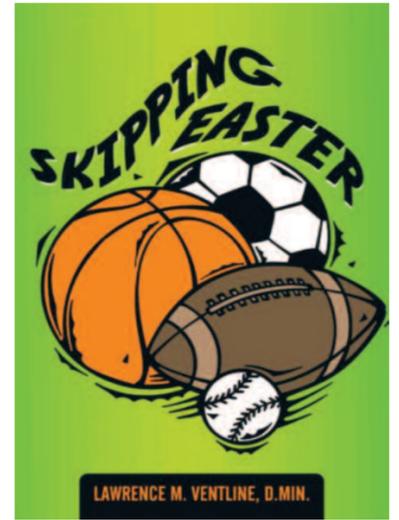
A town as politically "blue" as Hamtramck has been important to national Democratic candidates for decades.

FDR and JFK made historic visits here: as did, to be fair, Reagan and H.W. Bush, who both coveted the city's largely Polish-American voter base, which by the late-1970s/early-1980s had begun drifting away from the Democratic Party.

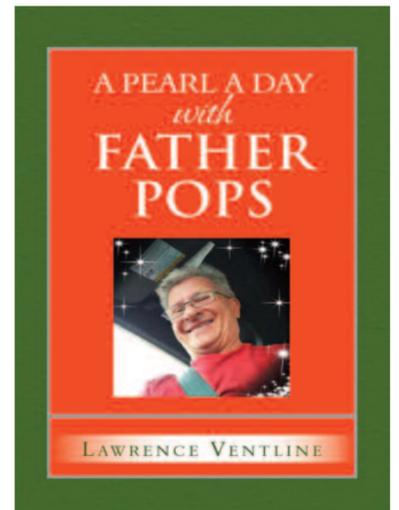
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## 3 New Books by Lawrence Ventline

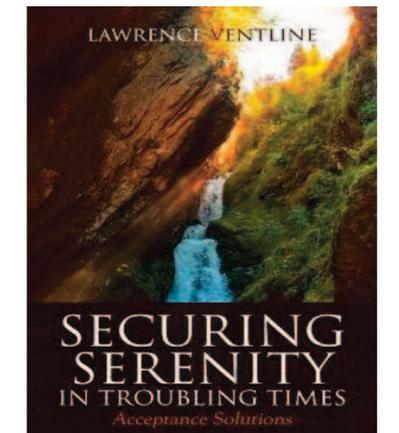
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## LOST DOGS

Two Chihuahuas, one tan and one tan with white markings, were lost on Lumpkin Street in Hamtramck. Reward, call William 313-603-0703. 5/3



**By Charles Sercombe**  
This week's Crime Log covers April 23-29.

### Tuesday, April 23

- A Detroit resident was arrested while in the Oakland County Jail for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.
- A resident was arrested in the 2300 block of Poland St. for being wanted on warrants from Redford and Westland.
- A resident in the 3100 block of Jacob St. reported a break-in and the theft of plumbing accessories.
- A resident in the 2900 block of Trowbridge St. reported that someone kicked in their door and stole items.
- A resident in the 2400 block of Holmes St. reported that someone sprayed graffiti on their garage door.

### Wednesday, April 24

- A resident reported that someone threw a brick at their residence

and broke out two front windows.

- At 2:30 a.m., a woman was arrested at a residence in the Trowbridge-Gallagher area for trespassing, and a man was arrested there as well for assault.

• A resident in the 11300 block of Moran St. reported the theft of their city-issued trash can.

• A Detroit resident with a history of having 24 license suspensions was arrested for that offense once again. The driver was also wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.

• A 911 emergency hang-up call was reported.

• An Inkster resident reported that, while in a building on Jos. Campau, someone stole their cellphone.

### Thursday, April 25

• A resident reported being the victim of a sex

**Continued on page 8**

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## Coming events

**WEDNESDAYS, 7 p.m., every second Wednesday of the month** – The 3C7 and Midtown Block meets at 2339 Caniff PCS Senior Day Center. This block club includes all residents and businesses west of Jos. Campau and north of Holbrook.

**SATURDAY, May 4, 4-7 p.m.** – Polish Dinner & Raffle with Mike Zawojksy, accordionist, at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming

**SATURDAY, May 11, 2-4 p.m.** – Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski Street at Fleming. Everyone is welcome.

**MONDAY, May 27, 9 a.m.** – Wayne County Commissioner Martha Scott hosts a free Community Coffee Hour every fourth Monday of the month at Maine Street Restaurant, 11650 Jos. Campau.





## Continued from page 7

ual assault three weeks prior, at a residence in the area of Dyar and Carpenter.

• A resident reported being struck by a car in a hit-and-run incident.

• Two residents reported that, while in the area of Moran and Carpenter, their brother assaulted them.

• A resident who lives in the area of Jacob and Gallagher reported a break-in and the theft of four doors.

• A false 911 emergency call was reported.

• A resident was arrested during an investigation in the Conant-Caely area for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.

• A resident in the 2000 block of Norwalk St. reported damage to their vehicle.

• A resident in the 2300 block of Norwalk St. reported that their neighbors scared off two

suspects attempting to break into his residence.

• A resident in the 9500 block of McDougall St. reported that a neighbor's dog (a tan pit bull mix) dug a hole under her fence, entered her yard and ripped up a screen door. The dog also broke the door window.

• A resident in the 1900 block of Trowbridge St. reported seeing two suspects cut off his vehicle's catalytic converter and drive away in a red Pontiac.

• A hit-and-run crash was reported at Jacob and Jos. Campau.

• A 911 emergency hang-up call was reported.

## Friday, April 26

• At 10 p.m., a Detroit resident was arrested in the area of Danforth and Lumpkin for being disorderly.

• Officers located an

open door at a structure in the 2400 block of Denton St. and secured it.

• A resident on Oklahoma St. reported she was assaulted by her father.

• A Sterling Heights family reported that their catalytic converter was stolen while their vehicle was parked in the area of Commor and Fleming.

• A resident reported the theft of their vehicle's catalytic converter while it was parked in the 12000 block of Mitchell St.

• An arson report was made for a residence in the 1900 block of Yemans St.

## Saturday, April 27

• A hit-and-run crash was reported at Andrus and Lumpkin.

• At 3 a.m., a resident was arrested in the area of Florian and Jos. Campau for domestic violence.

• At 8 a.m., a Detroit resident reported being assaulted at Conant and

Caniff.

## Sunday, April 29

• In three separate incidents, officers assisted ambulance crews with unresponsive residents.

• A juvenile was reported missing from a residence in the 2400 block of Burger St.

• A Holmes St. resident reported being assaulted.

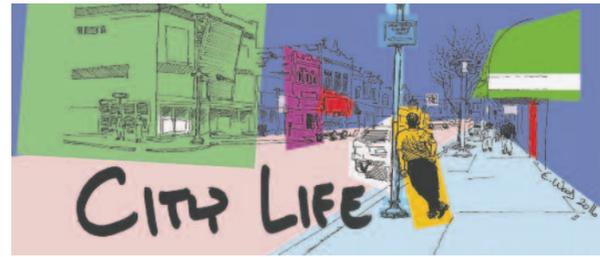
• Officers attempted to pull over the driver of a Dodge Charger, but stopped their pursuit after a short chase.

• A Detroit resident was arrested for possessing an unlicensed and stolen gun.

## Monday, April 29

• No criminal incidents were reported for this date.

Get Out  
on the  
Hamtown!



## Continued from page 6

A good argument could be made that it was blue collar constituencies like Hamtramck's where the so-called "Reagan-Democrats" movement was birthed.

Few are left: most continued drifting up to Macomb County, which helped tilt Michigan to Trump in the last election.

As we go forward it will be interesting to see what kind of presence Joe Biden will have in Hamtramck, or even more progressive politicians like Elizabeth Warren, Kamala Harris, Corey Booker and Pete Buttigieg, the first openly gay presidential candidate from one of the two major parties.

From Ant Hall I walked back down Caniff to Bank Suey, where its pop up shop, Book Suey, was hosting a daylong series of events for Independent Book Store Day.

There were hands-on presentations by local urban farm Tiny Acres, a performance by the Honest to God Jug Band and a drag queen story hour, the first of its kind in Hamtramck.

I arrived just as the reader, Queen Aphrodite, was beginning her program. About a dozen children spread across the floor or sat with adults a bit further back near the bookcases.

Aphrodite read stories about inclusion, gender equity and the importance of being yourself.

She took questions from kids and their parents, answering one about what a drag queen

is by saying it is dressing up like a lady but "wearing way more makeup than mom."

Asked what pronoun she prefers when in drag, Aphrodite answered "she." Otherwise, the gender neutral singular "they" was her preference, Aphrodite said.

One parent questioned why she occasionally referred to the children as "you guys," even though there was mix of males and females in the room. Aphrodite said it was something done out of habit, but she should be more conscious of what she is saying.

It was a good question, not a bad answer.

Afterward, people stood around and talked as the jug band set up. I browsed and found a couple books. I ran into old friends from Model D, the online magazine where I worked for several years; and new friends Kimara and Ricardo, documentary filmmakers from Germany I met last fall, in town again for another month of filming.

There were individuals of all ages: moms, dads and both straight and same-sex couples.

I left thinking how calmly Hamtramck expresses its hospitality, how normal is its extreme diversity, how everyone is welcome to simply be themselves, how all in that room are quietly influencing life in the city.

(Walter Wasacz's column about walkable discovery appears twice monthly in the Review.)

The Early Riser BBC of Detroit, The VBBA, and the Hamtramck Stadium Grounds Crew Present:

## Hamtramck Stadium Vintage Baseball Exhibition

Open to All Vintage Ballists!

DATE	May 11, 2019
TIME	11:00 AM - 2:30 PM
ADMISSION	Base Ballists: \$10 Suggested Donation Spectators: \$5 Suggested Donation
ADDRESS	3201 Dan St, Hamtramck, MI 48212

**Silent Auction 50/50**

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS TEAM JAKE**

For more info on Team Jake, please visit <https://www.getundme.com/help-jake-fight-a-brain-tumor> or the QR code to the right

To sign up, or for questions, please email [CJanutol@gmail.com](mailto:CJanutol@gmail.com) or contact the Early Risers Facebook Page

## 5K WALK/RUN HAMTRAMCK HEALTH HIKE

# RESPECT

FIND OUT WHAT IT MEANS TO ME

First 400 Participants will receive a FREE T-shirt RAIN OR SHINE EVENT  
Meet at Hamtramck Community Center 11350 Charest

Saturday Morning **May 4** Health Hike Begins: **9:00AM**

5K Run Hatal Lunches Games Prizes Obstacle Course Free Tshirts

HAMTRAMCKDRUGFREE.COM  
313-733-4535X.105

## 1 in 5 Americans Suffer from Mental Illness

### DWMHA Helps Nearly 80,000 People

- Children's Services
- Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- Severe Mental Illness
- Substance Use Disorders

[www.dwmha.com](http://www.dwmha.com)

f t y

Here to Talk. Here to Help.

# 24-Hour HelpLine 800-241-4949

## Get Yourself NOTICED!

### Place an Ad in The Review

Call (313)874-2100

## Hamtramck Clean Sweep 2019

Join us on Saturday, May 4th to help clean Hamtramck up for spring!

Meet at Hamtramck City Hall (3401 Evaline) from 9:30am-12:00pm to pick up gloves and bags

Dumpsters will be available throughout the city