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### Quick Hits

Looking for something to do in these trying COVID times?

Let's face it, we are all getting bored just hanging around the house, maybe too afraid to go mingle anywhere indoors.

Well, here's a reminder that the Hamtramck Historical Museum has reopened to allow visitors.

Of course, proper safety procedures are in effect. All visitors must wear a mask, and practice social distancing.

Although the museum has been closed, the good folks there have been active in installing new exhibits.

According to a recent press release from the Friends of Historical Hamtramck, here's the latest update:

"A major step forward was taken with the completion of the 'Coming to Hamtramck' mural by artist Dennis Orlowski.

"The final sets of panels featuring some of the smaller ethnic groups who have played a role in forming Hamtramck, such as the Jewish community, the Koreans, the Lebanese and others, are highlighted.

"A proper dedication ceremony will be held when it is deemed entirely safe to have a large crowd gathered there.

"In addition, the museum has now opened  
**Continued on page 6**

## HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD

# Study finds Hamtramck housing values are still on the increase

By Alan Madlane

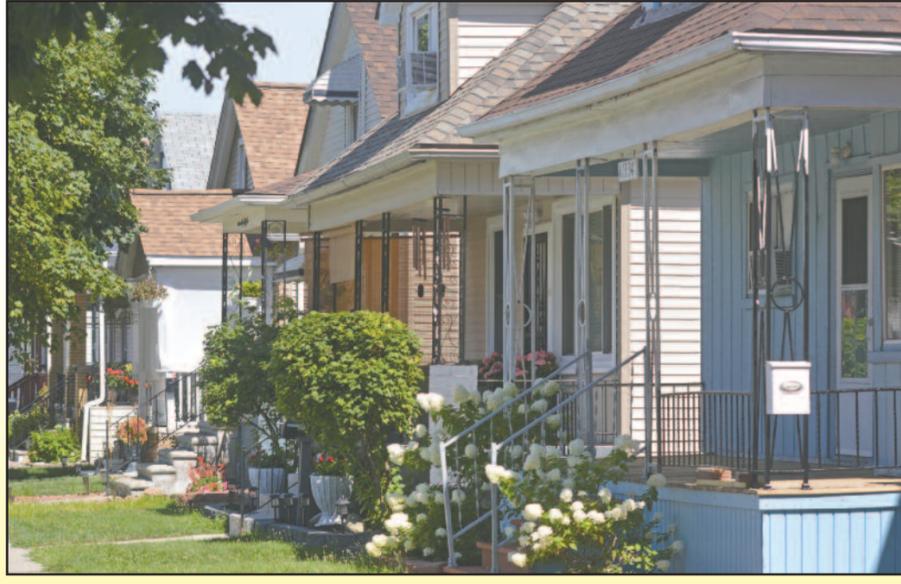
Well, here's some of the best news for the city in quite some time.

At least, if you're a property owner – or, thinking of becoming one soon.

According to Insurify, an insurance comparison shopping website, has named Hamtramck as its top up-and-coming city for the entire state, with regard to property values.

Congrats, Hamtramckians, that's kind of a big deal.

Factors driving the nation's surprisingly robust real estate market during the coronavirus pandemic include some wanting to move out of urban centers for safety-related reasons, and others now working more from home, who either desire more workspace, or who no longer care as much about being close to their jobs.



Looking to sell your house? Good news, according to a recent study, Hamtramck house values are not only solid, they are on the increase.

Insurify's cutoff was for cities with a population over 1,500. Using the real estate website Zillow for their research, they created an algorithm that consolidated several factors: Change in home values from 2010 to 2020; monthly trends in housing value from last year

to this one; monthly trend in sales volumes for last year and this; and Zillow's 2021 predictive forecast.

The poll plunks Hamtramck in the midst of other cities both well-known (Richmond, Virginia; Trenton, New Jersey), historically pricey

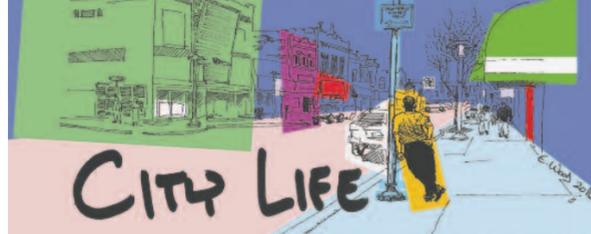
(Provincetown, Rhode Island), relatively obscure (Joplin, Missouri; Pigeon Forge, Tennessee) or truly obscure (Caldwell, Idaho, anyone? Ludlow, Kentucky?).

In fact, most of the towns on this list, you've likely never heard of.

**Continued on page 2**



Claes Oldenburg's Free Stamp, in a park next to Cleveland City Hall, is an example of how public space is underscored by public art.



## Reporter's notebook: wandering with my thoughts from the road

By Walter Wasacz

Travel, for me, is about lessons learned, applied and practiced.

It's fun, too, of course, to experience people and places, both familiar and

new.

Whether it's just walking alone around the perimeter of Hamtramck as the sun rises above the eastern edges of the city; nav-  
**Continued on page 4**

## Lawsuit says state agency discriminated

By Charles Sercombe

Despite protests against allowing a recycling center located just outside of Hamtramck to handle radioactive waste, the state cleared the way for the company.

Protestors are still fighting back.

Recently, the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center filed a lawsuit against the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for giving the US Ecology North facility the go-ahead.

The facility is located about a mile east of Hamtramck.

The law center noted that these types of facilities are usually located near neighborhoods where a large percentage of the population consists of minorities.

According to the law center, seven out of eight such facilities in the state that handle hazardous and toxic waste are located in predominantly minority areas.

The lawsuit seeks to end this practice, and "seeks not only to ensure compliance with the federal civil rights law to which it is bound but also to aid EGLE in achieving its mission of assuring environmental justice for all Michiganders," the law center said in a press release.

The law center also pointed out that the state agency "granted a license alteration that allows the facility to expand its storage capacity from 76,118 tons to 676,939 tons, a nearly 9-fold increase. Additionally, the license enables U.S. Ecology to  
**Continued on page 2**

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# Coronavirus Safety

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# Lawsuit says state agency discriminated

Continued from front page

convert three 30,000-gallon pits for the treatment of hazardous waste."

People who protested against the facility included several Hamtramck residents. Former state Representative Isaac Robinson, who died in office from COVID-19, had led the charge against the facility.

Hamtramck resident Sharon Buttry is one of several complainants in the lawsuit.

"I decided to sign on as a complainant because cancer and asthma are life and death matters, as I well know in my own family. I hope that my participation will save lives in the future, and make environmental justice a hall-

mark of our state," Buttry said.

She said that the state agency ignored complaints about the location of the facility. Buttry said the decision to allow the plant to operate here was "discriminatory."

"Michigan has the worst possible record of any state for allowing hazardous waste processing in communities of color," Buttry said.

With this lawsuit, the law center said it seeks "to be one step closer to standing side-by-side with EGLE and state leadership in unwaveringly putting into practice a deeply held belief that black and brown lives do matter."



Despite protests from the public a state environmental agency is allowing a nearby recycling center to handle thousands of tons of toxic and radioactive waste.

# Study finds Hamtramck housing values are still on the increase

Continued from front page

Of course, Hamtramck's had its brushes with fame before. One need only recall the infamous Rolling Stone Magazine article of yore, proclaiming Hamtramck a burgeoning hipster heaven in the heady days of Motor Lounge and the world-renowned techno music scene.

But this one feels a little more substantial,

based as it is on data and trends. Of course, much can happen between now and that glorious prediction coming to fruition.

And that trend of people exiting urban areas would seem to portend an opposite fate, but hey. Let's look on the bright side.

We could all stand a bright side right now.

# A matter of mixed signals regarding the police?

By Charles Sercombe

You could say that there

are some mixed messages coming out of city hall about the police department.

Recently, a majority on city council adopted a resolution to ask voters this November to decide whether to make a major change in the city charter.

And that change would be to eliminate the positions of the police and fire chiefs, as well as the police and fire departments. If voters actually approve this, it would then be up to the city council to figure out how to provide those services.

But before that action was taken, at an earlier council meeting, a majority of a split council adopted the following resolution:

"Supporting and recognizing the Hamtramck Police Department for their efforts toward community safety, suppressing crime, increasing transparency, increasing community partnerships, continued commitment to depart-

ment training and to officially adopt all of State of Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's proposed police reforms."

So first praise the police department, and then ask voters to eliminate it? For those who follow city council meetings, consistency has always remained, let's say, problematic.

There was still more to that resolution in its second part.

Some residents raised a concern over directing the city manager to enter into partnerships with state and federal agencies.

Kit Parks said the city should not be partnering with some federal agencies like ICE and the DEA, which she said are "violent and dangerous."

Bill Meyer, of OneHamtramck, also spoke out against the resolution, saying that the police department has had numerous lawsuits accusing officers of misconduct.

"Policing is the problem," Meyer said.

Even Councilmembers Ian Perrotta and Andrea Karpinski objected to giving the city manager authority to enter into partnerships without council oversight.

Karpinski said the resolution is "giving up our (council's) power."

Perrotta said it also is "obtuse and tone deaf" at a time when many in the country are looking police reforms, and even defunding departments.

As for partnering with other agencies, both Police Chief Anne Moise and City Manager Kathy Angerer said they have already been doing that.

That didn't sit too well with Councilmember Perrotta, who said that if these partnerships are being made, the council needs to be included in those decisions.

Despite those objections, the resolution was passed.

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# Second Front Page

## Suspect charged in Hamtramck pharmacy robbery

By Charles Sercombe

A Clinton Twp. man is charged with robbing Hoover Pharmacy on Holbrook in June, in addition to a number of other related felonies, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Detroit.

According to a press release issued by the Department of Justice, Marcus McBride, 27, entered the pharmacy and waved a gun, demanding store customers to "Get down."

He then ordered the store employees to "Give me 30s and 40s," according to the press release.

The press release then said:

"The pharmacist grabbed a box of medication which contained Oxycodone and Oxymorphone

prescriptions and handed it to the suspect."

Federal investigators say McBride fled with about 4,000 pills, valued at about \$100,000 on the street.

Federal investigators teamed up Hamtramck investigators to find McBride.

It turns out that McBride helped them inadvertently. He is on parole and was wearing a GPS ankle device that helped investigators track where he had been.

He was on parole for a home invasion conviction in 2013.

He also made it easy to identify himself by wearing a blue jacket and pants with a white stripe down the arms and legs, outlined with a yellow/gold

stripe; blue latex gloves, and a black facemask with shark teeth on it. The jacket also had "Billionaire Boys Club" written on the back.

While executing a search warrant, federal investigators found what appeared to be the gun used in the robbery and the clothing believed to be what he was wearing at the time.

This alleged robbery is not McBride's only issue with law enforcement, according to the DOJ press release.

The press release said that McBride and another defendant, Patrick Johnson, are charged with:

"... A previous narcotics trafficking incident that occurred near the Greyhound bus station in

Detroit. McBride was in a vehicle driven by the co-defendant, and had unsuccessfully attempted to board a bus headed to Alabama with a large number of oxycodone pills."

Hamtramck Police Chief Anne Moise praised Hamtramck and federal authorities for their help in the investigation.

"I would like to thank the hardworking men and women of the Hamtramck Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Attorney's office for their hard work on this case," Moise said.

"Our agency appreciates the great partnerships we have with our state and federal agencies."

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## Mayor said she had COVID-19, but is now free of it

By Charles Sercombe

In mid-July, Mayor Karen Majewski was pleased to report at a city council meeting that Hamtramck's COVID-19 outbreak had flatlined.

No new cases were reported, and no new deaths had been reported for a few weeks.

On Monday, Aug. 10, that situation changed.

In a Facebook address to the city on Monday morning, Majewski reported that not only did Hamtramck's numbers shoot up from 188 cases and 22 deaths to 290 cases and 24 deaths, but she was also one of those new cases.

But the next day, Tuesday, the situation had changed. She announced that her second test for COVID-19 came out negative – as in, she is now COVID free.

But – there's another but – Majewski said she has to get tested once again to confirm that result.

So, let's turn back to Monday, when Majewski restarted her community updates via Facebook – something she stopped doing two months ago when stores, restaurants and bars re-opened.

With her voice slightly faltering, she said in her live stream:

"Despite wearing a mask in public, and in open air and on the street, and in closed spaces – avoiding groups as much as possible – I have now tested twice positive for COVID-19."

Although she tested positive for the disease, Majewski said she had been largely asymptomatic, despite some minor symptoms "that normally I wouldn't give a second thought to."

The main symptom, she later told The Review, was a sore throat, which prompted her to see a doctor and get tested.

To prevent from spreading the virus, Majewski said she would limit her contact with people "to a bare minimum," and will be "less visible and less engaged" in the community.

Now that she appears COVID-free, Majewski said that she is still going to limit her public exposure.

Majewski and the city council have limited their interactions, and conduct the twice-monthly city council meetings via Zoom – meaning that they are not meeting in-person in city hall.

She added that she hopes residents take what happened to her as a lesson that no matter what, we all have to take precautions.

"Let's take care of one another," she said.

Residents were quick to add their thoughts to her Facebook page, as well as the City of Hamtramck Facebook page where her address to the city was posted.

On the city's Facebook page, Rick Santman had this to say:

"Well damn. Thinking good thoughts."

Chris Schneider posted on Majewski's Facebook page, and had this to say:

"I'm shocked! I guess I shouldn't be, but I know how careful and intelligent you are. Thank goodness you are asymptomatic. Let me know if I can do anything for you."

Health officials say that 34 percent of those who remain asymptomatic for 14 days will test negative.

After about three weeks, over 70 percent who remain asymptomatic will

test negative.

It can take one to 14 days after coming in contact with someone with the disease before symptoms appear. Not everyone who comes in contact with an infected person will catch the virus.

The following are symptoms of COVID-19:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or

difficulty breathing

- Chills/repeated shaking
- Muscle pains
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Nausea, diarrhea, abdominal pain
- New loss of smell and/or taste
- Some transplant recipients may develop pneumonia
- Rash

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# Outrun COVID-19

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# Reporter's notebook: wandering with my thoughts from the road

Continued from front page

ignating one-lane streets and dodging bicycle traffic while crossing bridges over canals in Amsterdam; or getting lost in old, formerly drab East Berlin districts now booming with colorful commercial and residential redevelopment projects; I learn by keeping my body and mind active - and having good, productive fun at the same time.

Writing a column about city life gives me a chance to convert my travel experience into words.

During the past nine months, before and during the COVID-19 crisis, I have had the opportunity to see how some cities

are applying and practicing various lessons learned.

I spent several weeks in Berlin and Amsterdam (also Dortmund and Hamburg, Germany) last fall; took a road trip out west (spending eight days in Southern California, including Santa Monica and Venice) this spring; and this summer I am splitting time between Hamtramck and northeast Ohio, where I am writing this week's column within walking distance of the bluffs above Lake Erie.

I am masked and practicing social distancing - as do the people with whom I am sharing my journey

(however, as proven by Mayor Majewski's recent positive test results for the coronavirus, none of us are bulletproof when it comes to potential exposure).

Like the mayor, I turned 65 this year. I am generally fit and in good health. But I am in a higher risk category simply due to my age. I am careful to the point of vigilance, yet always aware that exposure is only a breath away from any of us.

For the past six years I have been a night economy and creative industries advocate and consultant, helping to found a nonprofit organization connecting artists and social innovators in Detroit and Berlin.

That's on hold at the moment, with no restart yet imaginable in a world under siege by a virus that has officially claimed about 750,000 lives worldwide since the beginning of the year. That number comes from the John Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering.

It's hard now to imagine my pre-COVID life, which afforded me opportunities for travel to European cities like Berlin and Amsterdam, working models for the kind of round the clock economic development strategies that we think could work in Detroit, which has the kind of obsessive-compulsive,

doer-maker nature necessary to sustain a 24-hour economy.

By the way: oddly, in the context of future growth for cities, properly managed OCD tendencies can be a good thing.

Hamtramck, by extension, would benefit from an open and robust expanded-hours economy as well, particularly given the affordable food options that the city has in abundance.

All Conant and Jos. Campau restaurants and markets, not to mention those on Caniff and Holbrook, could be in service and profitable until at least 4 a.m.

Why?

The city has a creative bounce, attracts late night art and music people in droves, and was once called the second most influential 'rock n roll city' in the U.S. (Brooklyn was

number one) in the early '00s; it is blessed with immigrant entrepreneurial passion and desire that is historical, generational and cannot be simply manufactured.

The basic architecture for growth is in place. How to organize and lead it into the future is the challenge.

Hamtramck has qualities, developed organically over time, that can pay dividends in a less socially restrictive future - should we return there after the current crisis abates.

I hope, as I'm sure we all do, that we can get back to some kind of normalcy soon.

We still have a long road ahead to recovery. But it is good to begin thinking, dreaming, planning now, staying ahead of what is a very competitive curve: marketing and selling a

place to people who would embrace it if only they knew where to look for it.

Attraction and retention are two of the primary challenges cities that make it to the future have.

Now is the time for gathering ideas, gleaned from successes - and failures - learned from outside our two-square mile box.

I've begun to compile a list of doable ideas and completed projects, will share the best of what I'm seeing 'out there' during my adventures far from home in my next column.

(Note: In the City Life column in the July 31 edition of the Review the second reference to the last name of Cleveland-based planning consultant Don Lenz was misspelled. We regret the error.)

## Coming events

**FRIDAY, Aug. 28, dusk** - The Hamtramck Recreation Commission will host "Movie in the Park" at Pulaski Park (9625 Lumpkin). The movie will be "Toy Story." Social distancing will be enforced. Bring your own chair or blanket. The restrooms will be open.



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- \*Masks will be required and provided if needed.
- \*Temperatures will be taken before families will be allowed in the building.
- \*Surfaces will be sanitized between visits.

Clinic hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30am-4:30pm  
(every other Monday will start in July)

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## Crime Watch: Harassing communications are now common

By Charles Sercombe

Every week you'll see reports of residents complaining to the police department about receiving "harassing communications."

These communications can come in the form of phone calls, texts and on-line messages, particularly on social media.

So just what is a harassing communication?

It is often a direct threat, or an implied one. Or in a number of cases, one person gets a hold of nude photos of another person who has stored them in their laptop or phone.

Once they hack into an account, they then post these photos on social media without the other person's permission.

(Yes, people take nude photos of themselves and store them as keepsakes.)

Women have also reported unwanted sexual advances, and even nude photos received from men who are cyberstalking them.

Some have even likened these types of messages as a sex crime.

These are not isolated incidents.

According to Privacy Rights Clearinghouse (PRC), 44 percent of Americans report having been a victim of harassing communications at some point, which in most states - including Michigan - is a misdemeanor.

(PRC is a nonprofit organization that describes itself as "protecting privacy for all by empowering individuals and advocating for positive change ...")

If you are the victim of online attacks, the group suggests suspending your social media accounts to let some time pass.

For those on social media platforms, PRC recommends taking the following safeguards (and

we are quoting them here):

- Take advantage of privacy settings. With some social networking sites, you may be able to make your profile completely private simply by checking a box. With others, such as Facebook, privacy settings can be complex to navigate.

- Take advantage of added security settings. One of the best examples is two-factor authentication. When you enable this, your account will require you to provide something you know (like a password) with something you have (like a specific device). Therefore, if someone gets your password, he or she will not be able to log in to the account without the specific code that the service sends to your device. You can find a list of sites offering two-factor authentication at <https://twofactorauth.org/>.

- Limit how much personal information you post to your account. For example, you may not want to include contact information, your birth date, the city you were born in or names of family members.

- Do not accept "friend requests" (or "follow requests") from strangers. If you recognize the individual sending the request, contact him or her off-line to verify he or she sent the request.

- Warn your friends and acquaintances not to post personal information about you, especially your contact information and location.

- Avoid online polls or quizzes, particularly those that ask for personal information.

- Don't post photographs of your home that might indicate its location. For example, don't post photographs showing a house number or an identifying landmark in the background.

- Use caution when joining online organizations, groups or "fan pages." Never publicly RSVP to events shown on-line.

- Use caution when connecting your cell phone to your social networking account. If you do decide to connect your cell phone to your online account, use extreme caution in providing live updates on your location or activities.

- Avoid posting information about your current or future locations, or providing information a stalker may later use to hone in on your location, such as a review of a restaurant near your house.

- Always use a strong, unique password for every social networking site.

So what happens if you are a victim of harassing communications?

Definitely report it to your local police department. Although officers may not be able to do much if the harasser is anonymous, you will at least have a paper trail that come in handy at a later date.

Hamtramck Police Chief Anne Moise responded to our inquiry on the department's policy on this matter. In an email, she said:

"Cases are assigned to a detective, and they will follow up with the victim to look at the information they have, whether they are being 'harassed,' and if it falls in the criteria of the statute.

"They obtain any evidence that may be relevant, such as phone records, copies of texts etc.

"If the criteria meets the statute, the information will be forwarded to the Wayne County Prosecutors office for review, and any issuance of a warrant. They will make the final decision."

# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### City charter change proposal raises too many unknowns

From the looks of things, the city council's decision to ask voters to change the city charter is dead on arrival – based on the pushback we have seen on social media during the past couple of weeks.

Recently, a split council (over the objections of Councilmembers Ian Perrotta and Andrea Karpinski) voted in favor to put a charter amendment on the November ballot.

The proposal will ask voters whether the city should eliminate the charter sections that establish the fire and police chiefs' positions, as well as their respective departments.

The problem with this proposal is that the council does not say what would replace those positions and services.

The only hint of what would come, were it to be approved, is that the council would have the authority to come up with a plan to provide fire and police services.

This is all vague and fuzzy – something that will likely unsettle most voters.

Having said all this, there is a real concern over how the city can continue to provide both services at their present levels. The departments eat up about half of the

city's yearly \$17 million budget.

The city is currently in deficit spending, and by next year it will have burned through its budget surplus.

Without taking some kind of drastic action, the city will once again – for the third time in 20 years – head into a financial emergency, which would once again prompt the state to appoint an emergency financial manager.

This is a major budgetary matter, and it needs to be addressed. But this proposal probably won't end up being a way to solve the matter.

### County offers a hand in settling landlord-tenant disputes

By Alan Madlane

Times are tough, but Wayne County residents who rent have a resource on their side.

The Wayne County Dispute Resolution Center (WCDRC) mediates landlord-tenant disputes in, you guessed it, Wayne County, to assist the courts with their over-clogged dockets.

What with further federal financial assistance to Michiganders and all Americans lagging as of this writing (yes, yes, they're working on it – we'll see), a lot of Hamtramckans and others who live on the financial edge may already be battling with landlords to continue living in their rental homes.

Gov. Whitmer has issued several executive orders, the last one from June 26, extending eviction protections through

July 15. After that, her Eviction Diversion Program kicked in.

The city of Detroit had extended its own moratorium on evictions through the middle of this month. Hamtramck has not made any such comparative move as of yet.

The WCDRC thus steps into this fray, handling disputes for the Hamtramck 31st District Court, along with others in the county. It is one of 18 community-based non-profit centers in Michigan that do a wide variety of mediation work for the courts, including domestic-, civil-, and school-related conflicts.

And it can be complicated.

Renters obviously have their own needs. Landlords can be put in the middle too, if the properties they are renting out still have mortgages on them that the landlord is

expected to keep paying, or utility bills that the tenant is not able to keep up on, for example.

The resolution center tries its best to sort situations out and find equitable solutions. They can be of real value as a buffer for renters, who often are not as savvy about landlord-tenant law as experienced landlords, and can therefore be at the mercy of the unscrupulous.

And, with a nod to these Covid times, meetings are increasingly going virtual, meaning persons can participate in the mediations from their own homes.

If it sounds like they could be of help to you, or someone you know, give them a call from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday at (313) 561-3500, or visit their website at [wcdrc.org](http://wcdrc.org).

## Odds & Ends

**Reminder...** This Saturday (Aug. 15), Hamtramck's art gallery Public Pool is the place to be.

The gallery is hosting an exhibit opening, where the theme is "bowls." Yes, those ordinary, everyday objects we take for granted.

But consider the simplicity of design, the limitless possibilities of interpreting their shape.

Forty-one artists are listed as providing bowl-shaped objects for the installation, which on Saturday goes from 1 to 6 p.m. The exhibit will continue Saturdays at the same times, through Sept. 26.

This will be no ordinary art opening. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the gallery will be letting three persons in at a time during those Saturday hours, in half-hour blocks.

Sign up at: <https://calendly.com/publicpoolart/bowls>.

**New mural...** A few weeks ago, we wrote about Hamtramck dentist Sami Bilani's memorial garden to those frontline responders who died fighting the COVID-19 outbreak.

Recently, he put the finishing touches to his creation, with a mural he commissioned that honors those frontliners. The mural is on the back of

his building at Brombach, just north of Holbrook.

The mural was painted by local artist Jake Dwyer. Check it out.

**Police action...** Residents were questioning why federal officers – possibly ICE agents – were at a building on the southend this week.

So far, there have not been any media reports on what appeared to be some kind of raid.

We asked Police Chief Anne Moise if she was aware of what happened, and she told us that she had not been informed of their presence in town.

In the past, it's been customary for outside police agencies to give a courtesy heads up to local departments if they are coming into their town.

The ICE agency, however, appears to play by a different set of rules.

**Health Hike...** The coronavirus pandemic still out there, but that's not going to stop the annual Health Hike from happening here in Hamtramck.

Organizers are taking extra precautions for the event, which is on Saturday, Aug. 22. This year's 5K hike, is being called "Outrun COVID-19."

Participants will have to wear masks at all times and practice social distancing. To ensure proper distancing, there will be staggered start times for hikers (and those who chose to run).

Starting times vary from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

You have to register to get your time to start at: <http://tiny.cc/617/ksz>

There is no fee to register.

Participants will meet up at the Piast Institute, located 11663 Jos. Campau Ave.



**A new mural has joined Hamtramck's ever-growing mural movement. This one is on the back of a dental office owned by Sami Bilani on Bromberg, just north of Holbrook.**



## School Bell

The new fall school season is just around the corner.

The Hamtramck Public School District has opted to focus mainly on virtual learning – meaning students will be staying at home.

But the district will have its schools open for special services and added instruction.

In the meantime, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has these tips for parents:

- Check in with your child each morning for signs of illness. If your child has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, they should not go to school.

- Make sure your child does not have a sore throat or other signs of illness, like a cough, diarrhea, severe headache, vomiting, or body aches.

- If your child has had close contact to a COVID-19 case, they should not go to school. Follow guidance on what to do when someone has known exposure.

- Identify your school point person(s) to contact if your child gets sick.

- Be familiar with local

COVID-19 testing external icon sites in the event you or your child develops symptoms. These may include sites with free testing available.

- Make sure your child is up-to-date with all recommended vaccines, including for flu. All school-aged children should get an influenza flu vaccine every season, with rare exceptions. This is especially important this year because we do not yet know if being sick with COVID-19 at the same time as the flu will result in more severe illness.

- Review and practice proper hand washing techniques at home, especially before and after eating, sneezing, coughing, and adjusting a mask or cloth face covering. Make hand washing fun and explain to your child why it's important.

- Talk to your child about precautions to take at school. Children may be advised to:
  - Wash and sanitize their hands more often.
  - Keep physical distance from other students.
  - Wear a mask.
  - Avoid sharing objects with other students, including water bottles, de-

vices, writing instruments, and books.

- Use hand sanitizer (that contains at least 60% alcohol.) Make sure you're using a safe product. FDA recalled products external icon that contain toxic methanol. Monitor how they feel and tell an adult if they are not feeling well.

- Be familiar with your school's plan for how they will communicate with families when a positive case or exposure to someone with COVID-19 is identified and ensure student privacy is upheld.

- You may need to consider the feasibility of teleworking, taking leave from work, or identifying someone who can supervise your child in the event of school building closures or quarantine.

- If your child receives speech, occupational or physical therapy or other related services from the school, ask your school how these services will continue.

- If your child receives mental health or behavioral services (e.g., social skills training, counseling), ask your school how these services will continue.

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## The Hamtramck Review

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## Obituaries

### RYBACZUK



Marie Rybaczuk, 91, died August 8, 2020.

Marie was the mother of Daniel, Richard, Lawrence (Barb) the late David (Rebecca), and James; sister of Jean Zazula; grandmother of eight; many great grandchildren also survive.

Marie will lie in state Saturday, August 15, 2020 at 9:30 a.m., at Our

Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church until time of Funeral Mass at 10:30 a.m. Burial will be at Mount Olivet Cemetery. Arrangements were made by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home in Hamtramck.



## Quick Hits

Continued front page

its research library. This section of the museum is being set aside for persons who need access to books and other materi-

als about Hamtramck. Initially, about 100 books, all relating to Hamtramck, have been placed on the shelves. More will be added over time."

The museum is located at 9525 Joseph Campau Ave.



## 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 July 14, and all councilmembers were present, except for Mohammed Hassan.

City Manager Kathy Angerer gave her bi-monthly update on the Census, and how residents were responding. At this meeting, she didn't have much to say, other than that there is still time for residents to fill out a Census form if they haven't already.

Hamtramck residents' participation is still lower than the state average.

During the announcements portion of the meeting, Councilmember Andrea Karpinski expressed condolences to the family of Roberta Olko, who had recently died, and who was a longtime resident. She was once a regular attendee at council meetings.

Karpinski also thanked the Gwiazda dance troupe for bringing out volunteers

recently at Veterans Memorial Park to pick up litter. Some 20 bags of trash were collected.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, Kit Parks commented on a resolution entitled:

"RESOLUTION 2020-55, Supporting and recognizing the Hamtramck Police Department for their efforts toward community safety, suppressing crime, increasing transparency, increasing community partnerships, continued commitment to department training and to officially adopt all of State of Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's proposed police reforms."

Parks said that although she supports the police department, she took issue with one part of the resolution that said:

"... the City of Hamtramck directs the City Manager to seek grants, alternative funding options, federal partnerships,

state partnerships, and other means to increase appropriate staffing and training within the Hamtramck Police Department, increasing volunteerism through the Police Reserve Program, increasing and developing the chaplain program, and any other available and appropriate means to better service to our community."

Parks said she is opposed to partnering with such federal agencies as ICE and the DEA, which she said are "violent and dangerous" agencies.

Plus, she said, the resolution gives the city manager too much broad authority without council input.

Bill Meyer, agreed, and added that the city's police department has a history of "misconduct" and attracting lawsuits.

He said more attention needs to be paid to hiring more social workers and programs.

"Policing is the problem," Meyer said.

Plus, he said, the resolution is merely "slapping our backs" in self-appreciation.

Also adding to the discussion was Mark Koroj, an attorney who has sued the city over past police conduct, who said that the department needs an "oversight board."

Later in the meeting, there was a lively discussion on the resolution.

Councilmembers Ian Perrotta and Karpinski both opposed it because it directs the city manager to enter into partnerships with federal and state agencies without council input.

Karpinski said she supports the police department, but found the part about directing the city manager to make partnerships "kind of funny."

She said that the effect of the resolution would be "giving up our (council's)

Continued from page 8

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## By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Aug. 4-10.

### Tuesday, Aug. 4

- A Detroit resident reported that their vehicle was stolen in the area of Carpenter and Mackay.
- A resident reported receiving harassing communications.
- A resident reported that their purse was stolen in the 12100 block of Conant Ave.
- A resident reported that, while in the 3800 block of Belmont St., their car keys were stolen.

### Wednesday, Aug. 5

- An agent for a business on Denton St. reported that someone maliciously damaged their building.
- At about 2 p.m., officers responded to a call about an assault happening at Conant and Caniff. At the scene they found a resident with injuries to their head. The victim was treated for their injuries.
- A resident reported

that someone opened a bank checking account in their name without permission. The bank closed the account.

- A resident in the area of Carpenter and Fleming reported that their teenager went missing.
- A resident was taken to Detroit Receiving Hospital for a mental evaluation.

### Thursday, Aug. 6

- A driver of a silver Nissan Rogue fled from officers who were attempting a traffic stop.
- A resident in the 2300 block of Botsford St. reported that someone stole their car license plate.
- A resident was arrested for an assault that happened in the 2200 block of Danforth St.
- A driver of a silver Audi fled from officers who attempted a traffic stop.

### Friday, Aug. 7

- At about 1:30 a.m., a
- Continued on page 8**

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### Continued from page 7

resident was arrested after a traffic stop for drinking and driving.

- A person said that, while his car was parked in the 3400 block of Edwin St., someone slashed all of the tires.

- A resident was arrested for an assault that happened in the 2200 block of Danforth St.

- A resident in the 9500 block of Charest St. reported that someone maliciously damaged their car.

### Saturday, Aug. 8

- No criminal activity was reported for this date.

### Sunday, Aug. 9

- A Lumpkin St. resident reported an assault.

- A Caniff Ave. resident reported a domestic assault.

- A resident reported a theft that happened, by a person they know, in the area of Jos. Campau and Goodson.

- A resident reported a domestic assault that happened in the area of Caniff and Lumpkin.

- A hit-and-run accident occurred at Carpenter and Dyar.

- A resident reported that their child was assaulted by another child

while in the area of Carpenter and Dyar.

### Monday, Aug. 10

- At about 11:30 p.m., a resident reported that someone damaged their car while it was parked in the 12000 block of Selfridge St.

- At 1 a.m., a resident reported that they were assaulted in their residence in the 5100 block of Belmont St.

- At 4 a.m., a cellphone was found in the 10300 block of Jos. Campau Ave.

- An agent for a Caniff Ave. reported someone maliciously damaged their property.

- A resident was found in the area of Trowbridge and Lumpkin deceased from an apparent narcotic overdose.

- A resident reported that her purse was stolen from her car.

- A resident reported that a person they know violated a court-ordered bond requirement.

- A resident reported receiving threatening phone calls.

- A resident reported that, while in the 11600 block of Moran St., they were the victim of fraud.



## City Hall Insider...

Continued from page 6

power.”

Perrotta agreed, saying further that the resolution is “obtuse and tone deaf” at a time people are calling for police reforms.

He also said that, while he believes in the Black Lives Matter movement, “not all cops are bastards.”

Councilmember Fadel Al-Marsoumi, who presented the resolution, said both councilmembers are misinterpreting the resolution. He said the emphasis is on training and securing funding.

“Now, more than ever, we need training for police,” he said. “How does that not make sense?”

City Manager Kathy Angerer was asked to clarify the issue. She said the department has already been partnering with other agencies.

Perrotta asked why, then, it was necessary to include that in the resolution. He also pointed out that, if these partnerships are being made, then the council needs to be included in those decisions.

Police Chief Anne Moise said that the department has made valuable partnerships, such as the one with the FBI’s violent crime task force, which has helped investigate pharmacy robberies.

The resolution passed over the objections of Perrotta and Karpinski.

Back to public comment.

Several people spoke in favor of a resolution, presented by Councilmember Nayeem Chowdhury, that called for “Reaffirming Hamtramck as a Welcoming City and Expressing Solidarity with Hamtramck’s South Asian Community.”

The resolution also opposes the government of India’s national registry of citizens.

Sharmin Hossain said the current administration of India is committing genocide against Muslims and other minorities in that country.

The actions of India’s Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, “are very terrifying,” Hossain said.

Another speaker said that the actions of the prime minister will create millions of non-citizens, and that they will be forced to flee as refugees to neighboring Bangladesh – thus creating a huge humanitarian crisis, as well as likely leading to genocide.

Moving on, Andrew Perrotta, brother of Councilmember Perrotta, said he doesn’t think the police department is doing their job.

He also said that the city should consider a previous suggestion he made, to supply the public with language translation machines so the city’s many ethnic groups can understand what they are saying

to each other.

“Our neighbors can’t even talk to each other,” he said.

Moving on to new business, the council supported a resolution which promised that the city would distribute grant funding to the city’s firefighters and police officers for their work in the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

In a note to the council, City Manager Angerer explained the grant:

“Federal dollars have been distributed to the State of Michigan to reimburse/pay for qualifying first responder hazard pay premiums provided or to be provided to first responders who have performed hazardous duty or work involving physical hardship related to COVID-19.

“There is \$100,000,000 available to be distributed. The maximum available limit is \$1,000 per eligible employee. The funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis. When the funding runs out, eligible communities who did not apply quickly may not receive funds.

“The City of Hamtramck applied quickly for the funds for our first responders. These men and women have worked diligently in our community, and continue to do so daily throughout the COVID-19 crisis. We expect that we will receive the full amount (\$1,000) for our first responders, however if the fund is exhausted, the possibility exists that we may not receive funds.

“This resolution acknowledges the intent to distribute funds when the grant award is received.”

In another matter, the council agreed to waive permit fees for businesses to hold sidewalk sales. (Pawn shops are not allowed to hold sidewalk sales.)

In a note to the council, the reason for this action was explained:

“Encouraging these types of sales will also allow visitors to fully appreciate the community’s vitality and dynamism, and having the retailers’ wares on display outdoors will make our businesses more inviting to casual shoppers.

“This is especially important in a walkable community like Hamtramck, as it will create a more engaging, more dynamic experience, in as much as window shoppers will no longer have to look through windows at displays. Instead, they will be able to see products up close.”

In Mayor Karen Majewski’s bi-monthly report, she noted that the number of COVID-19 cases has “remained flat.”

“Hamtramck is doing something right, and we need to continue it and not let our guard down,” Majewski said.

(Editor’s note: A month later, Mayor Majewski revealed that she had COVID-19, but after a second test a few weeks later, it appeared she had recuperated and tested negative for the disease.)

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**BREAKFAST**

**LUNCH**

9:00am - 12:00



Healthy food to fuel your summer.

Distribution Location:

**WEST FRONT DOOR OF HIGH SCHOOL ON CHAREST STREET**




Healthy food to fuel your summer.



Eat smart. It's a healthy start.

**EARLYCHILDHOOD**

11680 McDougall, Hamtramck, MI 48212

June 15 - August 28, 2020

**BREAKFAST**

**LUNCH**

9:00am - 12:00 Mon-Fri



Healthy food to fuel your summer.

Distribution Location:

**MAIN OFFICE DOOR BY PARKING LOT ON CHAREST STREET**




Healthy food to fuel your summer.



Eat smart. It's a healthy start.

**J & E COMMUNITY RELIEF**

11816 Joseph Campau, Hamtramck, MI 48212

June 15 - August 28, 2020

**BREAKFAST**

**LUNCH**

9:00am - 12:00 Mon-Fri



Healthy food to fuel your summer.

Distribution Location:

**FRONT ENTRANCE OF BUILDING**

On Joseph Campau