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December 11, 2020  
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# The Review

## Hamtramck

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**SUPPORT Small Business**

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— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

## Coming soon to Hamtramck: A bike path to downtown and beyond

By Charles Sercombe

That new bike lane you see on Jos. Campau between Carpenter and 6 Mile will, indeed, extend into Hamtramck.

It's just a matter of how it will cut through the city, said City Manager Kathy Angerer.

While Jos. Campau is wide enough going south from Carpenter to Caniff, past that intersection there's a bump in the road, so to speak.

That bump is what to do with the bike lane as it continues south of Caniff, where Campau becomes much narrower.

There are a couple of options: slim the lane down greatly, or wind it through an alley running adjacent to Campau.

Since the street is owned by Wayne County, it will be the county's final design decision going forward.

In total, the path is over 27 miles that is set aside for biking and walking,



**A bike path on Jos. Campau that stops at Carpenter will be coming into Hamtramck sometime next year. One sticking point is what to do with it when Campau narrows south of Caniff.**

and it extends from downtown Detroit's Dequindre Cut, up to Highland Park, then Hamtramck. It also spikes west to Dearborn.

The bike path is being called in honor of Detroit boxing legend, Joe Louis – the Joe Louis Greenway.

Funding comes from a variety of sources that

include state grants and grants from non-profit organizations.

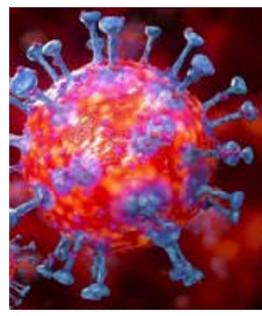
Adding to the delay in completing the project has been the onset of COVID-19 – which derailed a number of projects and developments this year.

Final plans for Hamtramck's portion of the

trail will be decided over the winter, and work on the lane is expected to pick up in spring.

When it's completed the folks at Detroit Greenways Coalition say on their website:

"... It will provide a place for people of all  
**Continued on page 2**



## Quick Hits

### COVID restrictions extended

By Alan Madlane

As many have no doubt already heard, Governor Whitmer extended the state's COVID-19 restrictions for 12 more days, from Dec. 8 through Dec. 20.

This impacts numerous businesses, as well as public behaviors, through the duration of the given time period.

Restaurants and bars continue to be banned from offering indoor dining or drinking. They are allowed to offer outside dining or carryout/curbside pickup meals, but many eateries are saying that their sales are scant fractions of what they were once doing. Even when allowed to be open, most eateries were not nearly as crowded as they were pre-pandemic.

Too many folks, too leary about this awful disease.

High schools and colleges/universities are banned from holding in-person classes. Workplaces are mandated to have employees work from home, unless it is essential that certain workers come in.

Also still forbidden to be open, under the extended order: Movie the-  
**Continued on page 8**

## Future pot stores are snuffed out

By Charles Sercombe

In a close vote, city council shut the door on allowing any more marijuana retail outlets to open in Hamtramck.

At least, the vote put a stop to any investor who has yet to file paperwork with both the state and city to get a shop up and running.

The rush to halt recreational marijuana sales began just a few weeks ago, when a shop unexpectedly opened on Holbrook Ave.

Some city officials and residents were shocked to see the opening, and took immediate action to adopt an ordinance preventing any more from opening.

Apparently, though, there are two or three more in the works, and they have possibly beat the cutoff.

Not only has an ordinance to ban sales here been adopted, it also goes into effect once it's published in this week's issue of The Review, which is Dec. 11.

City Councilmembers Fadel Al-Marsoumi, Mohammed Hassan, Nayeem Choudhury and Mohammed Alsomiri pushed up from the usual lag time in making the ordinance go into effect, from 14 days after its publication to taking effect on the date of publication.

They took this action at Tuesday's council meeting after hearing over two hours of comments from residents, most of whom were opposed to allowing marijuana sales.

Their opposition was  
**Continued on page 2**



**Author Michael Hurtt (right) poses with Fortune label recording star Tony Valla who played at the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival a few years ago. Hurtt, of Hamtramck, co-wrote a book about the famous record label.**

## TOAST of the TOWN

### A deep dive into Detroit's music history

By Charles Sercombe

Since most of us are semi-quarantined in our houses, without much to do during this COVID time, may we recommend a book to dig into?

Go get yourself a copy of "Mind Over Matter: The Myths and Mysteries of Detroit's Fortune Records."

This incredible music tome of 500-plus pages pays homage to the legendary Fortune record company label, which during the heyday of Detroit rock and soul music in the 1950s and 1960s, was an incredible well of talent.  
**Continued on page 4**

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The general public should wear cloth face coverings

Maintain distance (6 feet)

Follow Food Safety Guidelines

Donate Blood and Plasma

Report Fraudulent COVID-19 Tests, Vaccines and Treatments

# Coming soon to Hamtramck: A bike path to downtown and beyond

abilities to safely walk, bike, and run while connecting neighborhoods, parks, schools, jobs, historic sites, commercial corridors and public transit.”

Hamtramck city officials have entertained the thought of creating a bike path for at least 15 years, but they never managed to get the project moving forward.

# Future pot stores are snuffed out

Continued from front page

based on what has now become the usual list of concerns: a fear of increased crime, of children getting their hands on the products and of property values decreasing.

Those in favor countered by saying that those fears have been debunked, and that the city desperately needs to add tax revenue.

Only Councilmembers Ian Perrotta and Andrea Karpinski, as well as Mayor Karen Majewski, voted against the ban.

Councilmember Al-Marsoumi said he based his decision on what he perceived to be what the majority of the residents want.

“They elected us, we have to listen,” he said.

Tuesday’s meeting was

often contentious, and appears to have been a factor in Councilmember Karpinski abruptly resigning at the end of the meeting.

The same four councilmembers who voted for the ban also shot down Karpinski’s proposed ordinance to regulate the existing retail outlets.

“I didn’t go into the meeting intending to do this,” Karpinski said about resigning, “but I’ve had enough.”

Karpinski and Perrotta have increasingly been on the minority side of issues in recent months.

The issue appears to be the latest in a cultural divide in the city, which has been widening in re-

cent months. Those who oppose allowing marijuana sales are mostly from the Muslim Bengali and Yemeni communities, while those in favor tend to be white young adults.

Every Tuesday 11:45am

## FREE HALAL MEALS

FOR CHILDREN 18 AND YOUNGER. CHILDREN DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT, DESIGNATED PERSON CAN COLLECT MEALS FOR MULTIPLE CHILDREN.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### CITY OF HAMTRAMCK PROPERTY TAXES

The City of Hamtramck Treasurer’s Office is mailing the

#### WINTER 2020 COUNTY TAX STATEMENTS

The 1<sup>st</sup> week of December, 2020. These taxes are due in full by February 15, 2021.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of the 2020 SUMMER CITY AND SCHOOL TAXES

Is due by December 30, 2020.

ALL 2020 Property Taxes are payable to the Treasurer’s Office until

FEBRUARY 28, 2021

**Delinquent 2020 Property Taxes transfer to WAYNE COUNTY on**

**March 1, 2021**

The Treasurer’s Office can be reached at (313) 800-5233 ext 822

### City of Hamtramck Notice of Ordinance Adoptions and Amendments

Public Hearing was held at the Regular City Council Meeting on December 8, 2020 at 7pm via public Zoom for the purpose of hearing public comments on adding Chapter 21 to Title XI to the Hamtramck Code of Ordinances. The changes were all adopted by Council. Summary is as follows. Full text of the ordinance is at the Clerk’s Office and online at Hamtramck.us under BoardDocs.

**AN ORDINANCE TO ADD CHAPTER 121, MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS TO TITLE XI, BUSINESS REGULATIONS, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF HAMTRAMCK, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN; TO PROHIBIT MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS AS DEFINED IN THE MICHIGAN REGULATION AND TAXATION OF MARIJUANA ACT, THE MICHIGAN MEDICAL MARIJUANA ACT and THE MEDICAL MARIJUANA FACILITIES LICENSING ACT; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING OR INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES; AND PRESCRIBE A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS.**

*This ordinance bans Marijuana Establishments in the City of Hamtramck, effective upon the date of this publication.*

A Public Hearing was held at the Regular City Council Meeting on November 24, 2020 at 7pm via public Zoom meeting for the purpose of hearing public comments on removing Article V-1.06 (a) from Zoning Ordinance. The changes were all adopted by Council at the December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting. Full text of the removed language is below.

Remove Article V-1.06 (a)

All new dwelling units shall have an unenclosed front porch located close to the sidewalk, designed as places to sit, socialize, and observe the street.

August R. Gitschlag  
Hamtramck City Clerk



Governor Whitmer Executive Order 2020-59

Any individual able to medically tolerate a face covering

## must wear a covering over his or her nose and mouth

such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief

### when in any enclosed public space.

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- ব্যায়ামাগার
- ২৪ ঘন্টা নিরাপত্তা পাহাড়া
- বিনোদন কেন্দ্র
- শীততাপ নিয়ন্ত্রিত
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হ্যামট্রামিক সিনিয়র প্লাজা

২৬২০ হলব্রুক স্ট্রীট, হ্যামট্রামিক ড ৩১৩ ৮৭৩ ৭৭৮৭

Hamtramck Housing Commission (HHC) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap or familial status

## This week at the library...

**Because of the resurgence of COVID-19 cases and the extension of the “Pause” order from the MDHHS, the Hamtramck Public Library is now operating as “Grab and Go” until further notice.**

Grab and Go includes book pick-ups, remote printing, faxing, and scanning. Computers will not be available for use until further notice. Please send attachments you want printed to hamtramcklibrary at gmail.com.

Browse our catalog at home. If we have the title, please call us at 313-733-6822, and we will set it aside for you to pick up. If the title you want is at another library, you can place a hold on it. It will be sent here for you to pick up. You will be notified when the book has arrived here at the library.

Don’t forget Hoopla (on our website under “eResources”) to find and download e-books and to stream movies and music! And don’t forget all the great resources available on Michigan eLibrary (MeL) for students: Britannica Kids, PebbleGo, and World Book Kids, and for adults: books, audio and video for learning and entertainment. Your library card takes you anywhere you want to go!

Stay safe. Wear a mask, wash your hands frequently, and practice social distancing. Our lives depend on it!

\*\*\*\*\*

Join us online for a fun holiday science show! The Wacky Winter Science Show will be streaming all day long on December 22. Watch this space and our Facebook page telling how to access the show as we get closer to the date!

It will be so much fun!!!!!!

### Virtual Winter Wonder-Lab! Wacky Winter Science Show

Join us virtually with Mad Science of Detroit

Tuesday December 22

Hear how Frosty ate too many cookies and now can't fit through the door of his house - he'll need our scientific magic to help him return home! We'll also have some hair-raising fun as we learn about static electricity with our Van de Graaff generator. Discover how Jack Frost can fill an eight-foot air bag with one breath! Also don't miss out on the mysterious North Pole rock the wacky Mad Scientist has found. What could it be?

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.

# Second Front Page

## Mayor: Don't let the holiday season tempt a visit by COVID

By Charles Sercombe

Mayor Karen Majewski's weekly community chat via Facebook wasn't the usual gloomy report on COVID updates.

Against the backdrop of the Pearl Harbor Day anniversary on Monday, Majewski reported that this week's number of COVID-19 cases was down – a bit – from the week previous.

But not by much.

This week, the number of cases for the year rose to 1,413 – an increase in one week of 98 new cases.

The week before, there was an increase of 137 cases.

The number of deaths so far for this year remains at 29.

The COVID numbers could get worse, the mayor said, based on what national health experts are saying.

Those experts are predicting that the recent Thanksgiving and upcoming Christmas family and

friends gatherings will lead to more cases.

"Experts across the board are predicting an enormous surge. ... We're just beginning to see the effect of that holiday," Majewski said.

At the time of Majewski's Facebook talk, Gov. Whitmer had not announced whether she would extend her partial shutdown order through the Department of Health and Human Services.

Later that day, the governor announced a partial shutdown extension until Dec. 20.

That means, among several restrictions, there will still be no indoor service for restaurant and bar patrons – although carryouts and outdoor-seated dining are still allowed.

It also means that city hall remains closed to the public, except the lobby area – where you can pay city bills via a DivDat machine.

Majewski noted that,

because of COVID, a number of small businesses are struggling financially. She said that business owners can seek financial relief through the Small Business Administration, which you can find out more about online at: [sba.org](http://sba.org).

She also reminded the public to take precautions when going out in public, by wearing masks and keeping a social distance from one another.

The mayor also urged residents to file complaints with the police department if they see a place of business violating COVID safety protocols, which you can do by calling (313) 800-5289.

"If you see a violation, please don't hesitate," Majewski said, in reference to calling the police department.

Once again, the mayor mentioned that there are a number of holiday donation drives going on, which include:

Queen of Apostles Par-

ish, seeking donations of toiletries in order to create 100 giveaway bags. What they need are toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper, paper towels, and other personal care items.

You can drop off your donation at the parish rectory.

Over at Friendship House, a toy drive is underway. They are seeking donations of new, unwrapped toys.

You can bring your contribution to the Moose Lodge (9421 Conant, call ahead at 313-753-2026). Also, the folks at Holy Cross Polish National Catholic Church are pitching in and collecting donations. For more information, call (313) 365-0218.

Also, now that we're in the holiday season, Majewski stressed that there will be temptations for people to visit each other.

Her advice: Don't.

She is staying home with her husband, and urged residents to cancel plans to meet up with family and friends.

"That's the way it's got to be," Majewski said.

"December is going to be rough," she added, in

reference to an expected spike in COVID cases. "Christmas is going to be weird this year. We're holding out for Paczki Day."

Paczki Day is Feb. 16 this coming year. By the looks of it, COVID will likely still be a threat at that time.

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**Sunday Service is now being held MASKS are mandatory – HAND SANITIZER on site**  
Six foot separation seating & social distancing. A complete list of safety guidelines is provided.

**December 12 - Take-out only Soup Kitchen 2-4 pm Everyone Welcome!**



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313-365-0218 [www.HolyCrossPNCC.com](http://www.HolyCrossPNCC.com)

## School Bell

### Sports round-up

The Girls' Volleyball program had a successful season while continuing to grow as a program. For the second year in a row, the Cosmos volleyball program had a JV team in addition to its varsity team.

The JV was able to go 5-4 and the varsity team was able to go 7-6, falling in Districts to state powerhouse, Detroit King. Impressively, the Cosmos were able to win 2 of 5 sets against Detroit King, narrowly losing.

With only one senior graduating from the program, the future of the volleyball program is very bright. Bringing home First Team All League honors for the Cosmos were sophomore Aida

Atic and freshman Sara Sulejmani.

The Boys Soccer team also had a strong season, finishing 7-3 on the season before losing to a senior laden Grosse Pointe North team in districts.

The highlight of the season was defeating a highly ranked Detroit Western in overtime of the district tournament with Elmedin Arifovic scoring the game winning goal with less than a minute remaining. Arifovic would go on to be named to the All District team for the Cosmos. Also making the All District team for the Cosmos was Omar Nahshal, Saleh Algamal, Karim Ahmed and Aiman Alwajeh.

The Boys and Girls' Cross Country program also had a strong fall. Both teams consistently had new names finishing in the top ten of the league meets leading to 3rd place finishes in the league for both the Boys and the Girls' teams.

Boys' Varsity Football was postponed until spring due to an abundance of caution.

This did not stop the team from continuing to work out and make themselves better while also being active in the community and successful in the classroom.

Senior Ke'Mari Anderson highlighted these efforts by winning Student of the Month for his efforts in his English class.

### State of Michigan, Circuit Court for the County of Ogemaw, Case No. 20-65165-CH: Wendy C. Brown and Michelle L. Tennant, Plaintiffs v. Lela Czach.

An action has been filed against Defendant seeking an order quieting title and/or reformation of a deed given by Defendant to Plaintiffs in fulfillment of a Land Contract; said deed alleged to have inadvertently omitted a portion of the property sold and therefore requiring a correction of the legal description to the real property which was the subject of the land contract. The action seeks to correct the legal description of the deed in fulfillment of Land Contract. The real property that is subject to the litigation is commonly known as 3951 Ogemaw Road, West Branch, MI 48661 and legally described as:

Property situated in the Township of Foster, County of Ogemaw, State of Michigan to wit: The Westerly 330 feet of the Easterly 990 feet of the Northwest ¼ of the Northwest ¼ excepting and reserving a right of way for roadway across the Northerly 33 feet thereof, and the Westerly 330 feet of the Easterly 990 feet excepting the Southerly 1020 feet of the Southwest ¼ of the Northwest ¼, all in Section 35, Town 23 North, Range 1 East; and the Westerly 330 feet of the Easterly 660 feet of the Northwest ¼ of the Northwest ¼ saving and reserving easement for roadway across the Northerly 33 feet thereof, and Westerly 330 feet of Easterly 660 feet, except the Southerly 1020 feet thereof of the Southwest ¼ of Northwest ¼, all in section 35, Town 23 North, Range 1 East, located in Foster Township, Ogemaw County, State of Michigan.

Defendant must answer the complaint or take other action permitted by law within 28 days after the last date of publication. If Defendant does not answer or take other action within the time allowed, a judgment for quiet title and/or reformation may be entered against Defendant in favor of Plaintiffs terminating all of Defendant's interest in the subject property referenced above, together with other relief or order of the court as the court may find just and equitable.

### WESOLYCH SWIAT! MERRY CHRISTMAS!

## Holy Cross Parish Polish National Catholic Church OUR 98th ANNIVERSARY

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**No sing-a-long before midnight mass**  
[www.HolyCrossPNCC.com](http://www.HolyCrossPNCC.com)

**Very Rev. Jaroslaw A. Nowak, Pastor**

#### Thursday, Dec. 24th

**Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord**  
9:00 a.m. Holy Mass  
12 Mid - Shepherds Mass (Pasterka)

#### Friday, Dec. 25th

**Solemnity of Nativity of Our Lord**  
9:00 a.m. - Holy Mass

#### Saturday, Dec. 26th

**Feast of St. Stephen, Proto Martyr**  
10:00 a.m. Polish Holy Mass (Msza Św. w języku polskim)

#### Friday, Dec. 27th

**Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds**  
9:00 a.m. - Holy Mass

~ Serving the Hamtramck Community ~



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# A deep dive into Detroit's music history Cont. from front page

ent that captured multiple musical styles within its cinderblock walls.

You could say they were the small label “standing in the shadows” of Motown.

But this was no roster of “B” acts.

If you haven't heard of singers and groups like Nolan Strong & The Diablos, Nathaniel Mayer, Andre Williams, The York Brothers, Eddie Kirkland, Gino Parks (and so many more), get yourself to youtube.com right now and check them out.

And, there is a Hamtramck connection. Co-author Michael Hurtt is a Hamtramck resident. He, along with writing partner Billy Miller, of New York City, spent over a decade working on, and pondering over, this labor of love.

Miller, unfortunately, passed before the book was completed. RIP, Billy.

It is both a book about the Fortune label, and its mighty roster of artists, as well as a look at the social dynamics of Detroit back in the day.

Lots and lots of informative history here, folks.

One of those Fortune recording stars includes Tony Valla, of Tony Valla and the Alamos fame.

There's another Hamtramck connection with him.

Eric Villa (yes, Villa, not Valla), also of Hamtramck, who has an impressive musical pedigree himself, has been in charge of making The Alamos ride again. He plays bass in

Tony's new band.

Tony is in his 80s now, and he's still sharp as ever. We were at his west-side Detroit home when Michael Hurtt presented him with his own copy of the book, which has a chapter about Tony and his band.

Hurtt is no stranger to Hamtramck. His band, the Haunted Hearts, annually plays at the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival. He's a mighty fine singer and guitar strummer as well, and has a number of recordings out there to enjoy.

We sent questions to Hurtt, for him to say a few words about his book. As it turned out, Hurtt has more than a few words – and it's all a good read.

Here's what he emailed back to us:

## Your background?

I grew up in South Bend, Indiana, but moved to my “adopted home town” of New Orleans when I was in my early twenties. Growing up in Indiana, I was always fascinated by Detroit.

The blend of music, manufacturing and amazing architecture led me to view it as something of a Mecca of the Midwest. South Bend was kind of a mini-Detroit, in that it was also a faded auto town – its main industry was Studebaker – and there was a lot of under-appreciated urban history amongst the rust belt ruins.

I first visited Detroit just before moving to New Or-

leans. My brothers' band, the Church Key Five, was playing at the Old Miami for a Fourth of July bash with the Gories, the Covingtons and the 3-D Invisibles.

At the time, Fortune Records was actually still fully intact a few blocks away on Third Avenue!!

But I didn't find out about it until a few months later, when Fred from the Covingtons came to visit me in Indiana with some tapes that (late Detroit taste maker) Tony Fusco had made for him.

From the moment I heard them, I was obsessed!! Sandwiched between such hillbilly madness as Roy Hall's “Dirty Boogie” and Rufus Shoffner and Joyce Songer's “Every Little Raindrop” was a song by the York Brothers called “Hamtramck Mama”!!

Little did I know that a few decades later I'd be co-authoring a book on Fortune Records while living in Hamtramck! (For the most part that is, although we started it when I lived in Corktown. I moved to Hamtramck after getting a Kresge Grant in 2012).

I began playing music in high school, and formed a garage R&B band, the Royal Pendletons, upon moving to New Orleans. Detroit was a spiritual destination for our first tour, and remained a continued stop over the years.

I then formed the Haunted Hearts, in order to branch out into more countrified sounds like

honky-tonk, western swing and hillbilly blues and, between the two bands, Fortune's disparate genres and sounds have been a big influence.

When I landed in Detroit in 2005, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina – and then wound up staying here, because my house was flooded, and I lost nearly everything – the Haunted Hearts became a “band of two cities,” so to speak, with lineups in both places that often worked with one another.

As a guitar player, I've been very lucky to have backed up a handful of my favorite Fortune artists, including Andre Williams, Nathaniel Mayer, Eddie Kirkland, Melvin Davis and Spyder Turner. Each and every one of these guys have taught me so much, and playing music with them definitely gave me a more immersive angle when it came to the book.

In the case of Andre, Nathaniel and Eddie, I played with them in both New Orleans and Detroit, so there were years of incredible experiences that I treasure with those cats.

## What is the book about, and why is it so important?

The book is about Fortune Records, a tiny mom-and-pop label founded in Detroit in 1946, that not only had its own, one-of-a-kind sound (and was active for 40 years) but released hundreds of records in a variety of genres, including risqué hillbilly, be-bop-

pin' jazz, and rock 'n' roll of all stripes and colors – from doo-wop to rockabilly – as well as gospel, soul, bluegrass and even Gypsy and polka music.

Despite being a proving ground for Motown's Funk Brothers, and having a direct influence on almost all of Detroit's early rock 'n' soul pioneers – including Smokey Robinson and Mitch Ryder – Fortune is still relatively unknown.

Hopefully this book will kick start the conversation about a part of Detroit's history that is still very much alive, not only through its recordings, but through the stories we bring to life within its pages.

## How long did it take to write and compile?

The book took 10 years to write, but many of the interviews were done prior to that.

Both Billy and I had such a longstanding fascination with Fortune, and all the underground and “lost” Detroit music scenes in its orbit, that we were researching and digging up info, and talking to people, long before we made the hard decision to actually do a book.

This gave us a good pathway when we started, because we could both bring a lot to the table.

Almost right away, we realized that there were so many musical tributaries that ran across the threshold of Fortune, that rather than write a straight history of the label, we should write a love letter to the essence of Detroit music, told through the prism of Fortune Records.

It was also important that every photo, record label and shred of ephemera that we could get our hands on be integrated with the text in full color. Hence the five-pound, hardcover, 550-plus page finished product, which has also been nicknamed “The Brick.”

## On Billy Miller (co-author):

Billy was the perfect partner in this project, because we were on such a similar wavelength when it came to music—how we experienced it and how we thought its history should be presented—that we were really of a singular mind every step of the way.

Billy and his wife Miriam Linna, our publisher, were very inspiring influences on my writing style, from the moment I picked up my first copy of their incredible rock 'n' roll magazine, KICKS, back in the '80s, so our approaches dovetailed perfectly with one another.

Billy and I both loved to dig for unknown records, and then dig for the stories behind them.

We had a lot of kindred spirits in Detroit, and two in particular that I miss so much are Jim Shaw and Larry Ray, who were as fascinated with Fortune and its entire Detroit mi-

lieu as Billy and I were. I met Jim before I moved here – and had already known his brother Steve for years previous to that – but upon my arrival in Detroit, he and his wife Sandy were so welcoming to me in so many ways.

I met Larry at the long-lamented (and now legendary) Roseville record show within weeks of arriving in Detroit. He was truly one of my favorite things about the city, as was Jim, and I wish these guys could have lived to see this book.

The fact that Billy passed away before the book could be finished was an absolutely brutal part of the journey, but we had discussed every element of what we'd planned in such detail that I never had any doubt about how it should be completed.

Even after he left the physical plane, Billy's spirit presided over this book in a truly cosmic way, and made its publication even more important to all involved.

## On Tony Valla:

Tony was a perfect example, in a way, of how Billy and I worked together.

First, we enthused over what made the guy so special, how cool his records were and the fact that he'd done so much behind-the-scenes work at Fortune, with his bands the Orbits and Alamos backing some of the label's most iconic artists: Nolan Strong, Doctor Ross, Nathaniel Mayer, the Delteens and the Creators.

Then Billy, who'd just joined Facebook, contacted his very first Facebook friend, Tony's daughter Florrie. She gave him Tony's number, and Billy called him up and interviewed him.

Then I went over to Tony's house and interviewed him as well.

So we had two very long and detailed interviews to draw from, which fit our vision of the book perfectly, because one of our first rules of thumb was to let the artists tell the stories in their own words whenever possible. To basically get out of the way and let these folks have the floor.

One thing that fascinated us about Tony, that we didn't know until I visited him, were the details of his musical heritage in San Antonio, and the teenage band he had with Flaco Jimenez.

There's this whole incredible Tejano-fueled rock 'n' roll and R&B scene from San Antonio that Doug Sahm (later of the Sir Douglas Quintet) came out of, and Tony had left Texas right before that took off, but he talked about one of the earliest bands that fused this stuff together, Conjuto San Antonio Alegre, who started playing rock 'n' roll, and took the name Mando and the Chili Peppers.

So we were able to use that world, as well as his arrival in Southwest Detroit and early exploits in

**Continued on page 6**



Eric R. Sabree  
Wayne County Treasurer

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# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### Zoning Board barely avoided a costly lawsuit

Thank goodness that cooler heads prevailed during a recent Zoning Board of Appeals decision.

A few weeks ago, a bare majority of ZBA members voted to reject a variance request for a commercial building on Caniff Ave.

Due to the city's records, the building is listed as being in a residential section of the city, even though the building is clearly built for commercial purposes.

The owner of the property was seeking a variance to allow a business to operate there.

That should have been easy decision, but instead it led to a passionate debate.

The reason?

The owner plans to operate a recreational marijuana retail outlet there. Recreational marijuana is legal in the state, and there is a growing movement to legalize – or decriminalize – it on a federal level.

Some ZBA members had the erroneous belief that, since they are opposed to marijuana, they could reject the variance.

They were warned by city attorneys that they couldn't discriminate against a legal business, and that rejecting the request would lead to a costly lawsuit.

And sure enough, the owner of the property wasted no time in filing a lawsuit seeking hun-

dreds of thousands of dollars after the initial rejection.

Fortunately, the ZBA met again and reversed its decision. The lawsuit will likely be withdrawn.

But the issue raises a concern about whether residents serving on city commissions should be allowed to make such decisions. Clearly, this was an instance where their prejudices got in the way of good judgment.

At the very least, the city council, which appoints ZBA members, ought to look at this matter, and consider removing ZBA members who would expose the city to expensive lawsuits.

## Odds & Ends

**Freebies...** The City of Hamtramck recently announced a free offering on its Facebook page.

Here's what the city had to say:

"The City of Hamtramck worked with Wayne County, and other partners to provide free face masks (five per person) in the lobby of city hall.

"Keep your family safe by always wearing a mask, social distancing, and washing your hands regularly. Stop by the entryway/ lobby to pick up masks to protect your family.

"EXAMPLE: Four (4) family members, please take four (4) packages. Thank you for staying safe by wearing a mask

when out in public!"

**Dollars and sense...**

The debate over allowing marijuana facilities, including retail stores, has been raging in Hamtramck for quite a while now.

Some of those who are opposed to allowing pot sales here say that the tax revenue generated from this business is overrated.

Well, they may want to take a look over at the Metro Times, where journalist Steve Neavling has some interesting facts to point out.

Namely, the business is beyond booming. In its first year, Neavling reports, the industry has

reaped over \$440 million in sales – and we're talking just in Michigan.

That, in turn, has resulted in \$73 million in excise and sales tax for local communities.

Unfortunately, just this week, a bare majority of councilmembers voted to ban further retail outlets from operating here.

Everyone, head over to the Metro Times, to see for yourself some eye-popping financial numbers this industry is generating.

And for you councilmembers who just voted to ban marijuana operations here, take special note. You can always reconsider your short-sighted vote.

## Other Voices: Guest Editorial

### Councilmember Andrea Karpinski's resignation letter

By Andrea Karpinski

It is not without careful consideration that I write this Letter of Resignation from my position as Hamtramck City Councilwoman.

Over the last seven years, I have learned a lot about myself, and more about Hamtramck politics than I care to know.

I have been involved in many things: Veteran's Park renovations, Pope Park renovations, welcoming new businesses, saying goodbye to businesses that have closed, passionate arguments, sensible arguments, downright uncalled-for arguments, enlightening moments, proud moments, and completely disheartening moments.

There have been many ups and downs in the City of Hamtramck over the last seven years, and as an elected official I fought hard to do what was right for the city as a whole – for its residents, visitors, business owners and city employees.

During the last year, I did an incredible amount of soul searching on whether or not to continue in my role. I know that I was elected by the voters to do a job, a very thankless job at that.

However, I knew I owed it to the community to

keep fighting for what was right. In the end, I have decided to resign, because I cannot keep fighting a losing battle.

While I always tried to make decisions based on the best interest of the community, my ideas were rarely regarded or respected by my colleagues.

I was born and raised in Hamtramck. I started my professional career in 2003, working for the City of Hamtramck as a part-time Building Clerk in the mornings and for the 31st District Court as a Parking Ticket Clerk in the afternoons.

I was hired full time by the city in 2004 and, although I left in 2011 to pursue a career elsewhere, in 2013 I decided to run for City Council.

Of the past 17 years, 15 have been spent dedicating my time and energy to helping the Hamtramck community.

My family has a legacy of public service for this amazing city; my grandfather and mother dedicated their careers to the community as well. Unfortunately, that legacy is

now coming to an end.

While I promise to stay involved, I need time to spend with my family, and work to rebuild my broken spirit. The disrespect, constant fighting, name calling, personal attacks, lying, and lack of transparency on both the city council's and the city administrator's parts have not only broken my spirit, but are slowly destroying the city.

I hope that my resignation will open up some eyes, and encourage people to fight for what is right.

Lately, everything has been "majority/minority" and that is disgraceful. Instead, let's work on what is best for the community as a whole, no matter your religious background, skin color, race, ethnicity, gender, sex, or age.

It seems really simple, but this current council and the previous council have really seemed to screw up that way of thinking. Unfortunately, the city manager and city attorney play into those games as well, instead of running the city

Continued on page 6

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# MIND OVER MATTER

The Myths and Mysteries of Detroit's Fortune Records



BILLY MILLER AND MICHAEL HURTT

"Mind Over Matter: The Myths and Mysteries of Detroit's Fortune Records" explores the history of Detroit's Fortune record label. It is co-written by Michael Hurtt, a Hamtramck resident.

## A deep dive into Detroit's music history

Continued from page 4

Mexicantown, as jumping off points — and reference points — to his story.

In this way, so many fascinating yet disparate worlds connected together, which in a nutshell is not only the story of so many of his fellow Fortune artists, but the story of Fortune Records itself — and on a grander scale, the story of Detroit music.

Detroit Threads, as well as in the metro area at Street Corner Music, Book Beat, Third Man Records, Peoples Records, Solo Records and Cold Truth Soft Serve Ice Cream.

It can also be ordered online from Kicks Books/Norton Records at nortonrecords.com, where everything on the website is 20% off through New Year's Eve.

### Where can the book be purchased?

"Mind Over Matter: The Myths and Mysteries of Detroit's Fortune Records" by Billy Miller and Michael Hurtt is available at all record stores in Hamtramck: Lo and Behold, The Record Graveyard,

When it comes to good food and great times, Hamtramck has plenty to offer. In this column, we talk about the people who live here, and what's happening at our bars, restaurants and other events throughout the city.

## Councilmember Andrea Karpinski's resignation letter

Continued from page 5

based on knowledge, experience, and decency.

I do wish those remaining on council, and those that will come after my departure, will come to their senses and start running the city as it should be — solely on what is best for the community as a whole!!!

I apologize to those who voted for me, if you feel that I have let you down. I know most of you know how hard I have been fighting for what's right, and believe I need to do what is best for me at this time, and I appreciate your understanding.

I will forever be grateful for your support and encouragement along the way. I would especially like to thank the city labor unions for their support, and I hope they know that I always had their backs.

COVID-19 has been tough on all of us, but one thing it has shown me is the importance of self-

care, and spending time with my family. Both of which I intend to do.

To the city, county, and state officials, I really hope you start paying at-

tention to what is happening in Hamtramck, and step in to offer guidance, support, and reprimand as needed.

Some Hamtramck of-

ficials are overstepping their power, and are not being good representatives of our beloved City of Hamtramck.

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#### Friday, December 25

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#### Friday, January 1, 2021 New Year's Day

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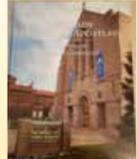
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**By Charles Sercombe**

This week's Crime Log covers Dec. 1-7.

### Tuesday, Dec. 1

• A hit-and-run accident occurred at Caniff and So-bieski.

• A Selfridge St. resi-dent reported that they re-ceived harassing commu-nications over the phone.

### Wednesday, Dec. 2

• A Danforth St. resi-dent reported being as-saulted.

• A resident was arrest-ed for a domestic assault that occurred in the 2200 block of Florian St.

### Thursday, Dec. 3

• A resident was arrest-ed after a traffic stop for driving without a license and for obstruction.

### Friday, Dec. 4

• A resident was arrest-ed for drunk driving.

• A hit-and-run accident occurred in the area of Dyar and Woodland.

• Child Protective Ser-vices notified the police department of a possible

sexual assault involving a minor.

• A man approached a group of teens in the 10300 block of Conant Ave. and then attempted to chase them.

### Saturday, Dec. 5

• No incident report was available for this date.

### Sunday, Dec. 6

• A resident reported being the victim of iden-tity theft, where someone used her identity to make purchases.

• A Yemans St. resident was arrested for domestic assault.

• A Norwalk St. resident reported being the victim of harassing phone calls.

• A driver of a Dodge Magnum struck two parked vehicles on Jos. Campau near Caniff, and then fled the scene.

• A resident was ar-ested for a domestic as-sault that happened in the 2400 block of Andrus St.

• A resident was ar-ested for a domestic as-sault that happened in the

**Continued on page 8**

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Continued from page 7

3900 block of Prescott St.

Monday, Dec. 7

At 3 a.m., a resident from Arkansas reported that someone attempted to steal items from their vehicle while it was parked in the 3000 block of Jacob St.

- A St. Aubin St. resident reported a break-in.
- A Dyar St. resident reported that someone damaged their property.
- A Dyar St. resident reported being the victim of harassing phone calls.




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# Crime Watch: Holiday stress can increase domestic abuse

By Charles Sercombe

In any week, Hamtramck police take reports of two to three domestic abuse cases.

This past week, there appeared to be a spike in the cases, and it's not surprising, since domestic violence tends to increase during the holiday season.

Add in the fact that many folks have been cooped up at home for several months now because of COVID, and there has been an ongoing problem with domestic assaults.

We last addressed this issue back in April, when the pandemic shutdown had been in effect for only just a couple of weeks.

That was back when the state had its "stay home, stay safe" policy in place.

Back then, we reported on various ways for couples to deal with tensions at home:

- Going outside is one way to catch a break from one another, but there are also other techniques to diffuse tensions.
- Develop a code word to cool off an argument that is beginning to escalate in anger. That word, which can be any word, gives a signal to a partner that it is time to separate and cool off for a period.
- Look out for triggers,

such as certain times of the year that are known to prompt emotional outbursts – for example, an anniversary of something tragic that happened.

During the holiday, the stress can be even greater.

According to an online publication called womenagainstcrime.com, here more tips to consider:

## Quick Hits

Cont. from front page

aters (except for drive-ins), concert venues and live theaters, sports stadiums and arenas, casinos (other than those operated by native American tribes), group fitness classes, organized sports outside of college and professional teams (and those, with only minimal crowds), bowling alleys, water parks, ice rinks, trampoline parks and other entertainment centers (indoor miniature golf/laser tag/bumper cars, etc.).

Also restricted: private gatherings, to 10 persons from a maximum two households, and outdoor gatherings, to 25 persons from a maximum three households. All persons are required to wear masks at such gatherings. Outdoor diners must

Stress from holiday shopping, finances, and planning can aggravate volatile personalities.

Abusers are more likely to consume alcohol or drugs when they don't have to work.

Simple opportunity: abusers are more likely to be home alone with their victims than at other times of the year.

For those who are in an abusive relationship, there is help available at YWCA/Interim House Metro Detroit. You can call them at (313) 862-3580.

The organization provides shelter for women and children, as well as counseling and legal services.

be seated no more than six to a table and, at minimum, six feet apart from other tables.

Churches formerly fell onto this list as well, but a court ruling clipped that restriction as a violation of religious freedoms. Still, it presents as a very bad idea to attend a church where there is any audience participation, such as singing hymns or group responses.

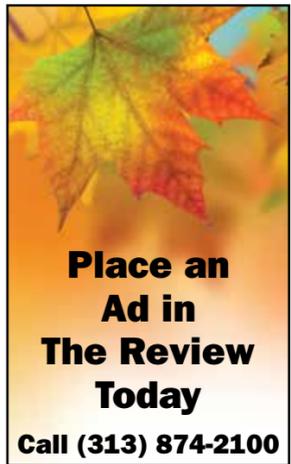
The governor has followed the science and data number projections from experts. The main fear is the over-running of hospitals and their staffing. Already, many area hospitals are nearing capacity, and a few have reported reaching it. Staffing is short, due to exhaustion or quarantining.

If people don't behave during the Christmas and New Year's season, January and February could

prove to be all-out chaos all across the country, a true public health meltdown.

So let's rein in our impulses this year, just this once, with vaccines just over the horizon, and hope that, with spring's warmer weather, we'll see this horrible, awful virus start to recede permanently in the rear-view mirror.

You can do this, Hamtramck.



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