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## Quick Hits

## School district celebrates MLK Day

By Alan Madlane

The spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr., will be hovering over Hamtramck again.

Those Concerned Women of Hamtramck, in conjunction with the Hamtramck Public School District, are once again sponsoring the Annual Prayer Breakfast on MLK, Jr., Day, this coming Monday, Jan. 15.

It goes from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on that date, at the Hamtramck Community Center, 11350 Charest St.

This being the 26th year for the district's celebration means that the event has been going since approximately the late 1990s. As in prior years, the breakfast will be followed by a talent show put on by students from the district, any age K-12. The showcase's theme this year is, "A Change is Gonna Come."

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students ages 13-18, and ages 12 and under are free. Tickets can be purchased through Eventbrite, but also from the HPSPD Administrative Office or from the main offices of each individual school.

The idea behind the event's theme and title this year is to promote better futures for all HPSPD students.

## — HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

# The year ahead: more of the same that happened last year

By Charles Sercombe

Now that we completed our look back at the news for 2023, it's time once again to take a look into the next 12 months.

Let's clear off our crystal ball and take a look.

For starters, there will be a lot of carry-over projects that got underway last year.

For example, development-wise, there continues to be a steady stream of small businesses opening.

On a related note, vacant city lots have been selling at a pretty good clip, and that trend will continue.

What's exciting about this is that the lots must be developed into housing – preferably multi-family. It's proven to be an attractive offer, considering the ongoing housing shortage in the region, as well as nationwide.

All of this means more housing, more people, and more people paying property and income taxes.



**The last portion of the repaving of Caniff, from Jos. Campau to Conant, will take place this spring and summer. That's just one of many developments that will take place in the year ahead.**

Veterans Park will continue to see major renovations and improvements. The city is gearing up to transform the structures adjacent to the historic baseball stadium.

For the first time in decades, come this summer, there will be functional restrooms.

Also, the Hamtramck Parks Conservancy now has a director, Tom Habitz, who has some exciting ideas on further im-

provements.

Hamtramck has been able to attract millions of dollars in various grants to make the park a family destination.

Hamtramck's bike lanes will likely be finalized, creating a permanent route on Jos. Campau between Caniff and Holbrook. It's likely the route will travel down the alley west of Jos. Campau, and then, if that does come to fruition, there will be a trans-

formation of the alley that will make it pedestrian, bike and vehicle friendly.

It's all part of a regional connector project called the Joe Louis Greenway. The project calls for connecting Hamtramck, Highland Park, Detroit and even Dearborn via 27 miles worth of an urban trail.

Health-wise, the city will continue to be aggressive in replacing old lead wa-

**Continued on page 2**

# City council kicks off the new year with a new face



**City Councilmembers and the mayor pose for a photo in last Sunday's inauguration ceremony for three newly-elected councilmembers.**

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck's newly-elected city councilmember summed up his inauguration with just a few words.

"Today is the best day of my life," said Muhtasin Sadman.

The political newcomer joined Councilmembers Mohammed Hassan and Mohammed Alsomiri in being sworn into office on Sunday, at a ceremony held at the Hamtramck Public Library.

Following a Hamtramck tradition, the ceremony

featured live music performances, a reading of poetry and a special guest – first-term U. S. Congressman Shri Thanedar.

Thanedar gave a brief sketch of his journey from his native India to America, and the five attempts it took to get the OK to emigrate here.

He went on to earn a doctorate in chemistry and start a business. He said his achievements here completed his "American dream."

(Thanedar is up for **Continued on page 2**

## Election season for president

By Charles Sercombe

Michigan's presidential primary election has been moved up.

Instead of the traditional primary being held in March for the nominees of the country's political parties, that election is now going to be on Feb. 27.

Those of you who vote by absentee ballot should have received an application for an AV ballot by now. The application must be filled out and returned to the city clerk's office in order to get a ballot.

The primary was moved up by Democrats, who currently control the state legislature, in an effort to give state voters a bigger voice in shaping the November election.

Two other states hold their primaries in February: Nevada and South Carolina.

In media reports, state Sen. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield) explained why Democrats made the move.

"Our electorate has a lot to offer. Michigan is important and it is way more reflective of the mix of urban, suburban and rural residents around the country, and has a more complex economy than other traditional early states," Moss said.

State Republicans, however, said the action was about political gamesmanship.

State Sen. Jim Runestad (R-White Lake) said the change is a "blatant political ploy."

However, in the past, both Democrats and Republicans were in agreement to move up Michigan's presidential primary.



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# The year ahead: more of the same that happened last year

Continued from front page

ter lines at homes.

Here's one project that will be the source of a major headache for commuters: The repaving of Caniff, from Jos. Campau to Conant. Folks, this is going to be really painful – but, that's the temporary price of civic improvement.

Brace yourself, the project could take up to four months to complete.

Last year, it was fuzzy about whether there would be another Hamtramck Labor Day Festival but, now, word is that there will be a major announcement coming.

Well, on Wednesday, that announcement came, and festival organizers say they are bringing back the citywide music festival that had been held in early March for a number of years before it ran out of juice to continue.

So, look for thousands of music fans to be walking the streets in March as they go from one venue to another.

In other development news, Mayor Amer Ghalib has alluded to a major project that will see a multi-million dollar investment coming. We're

crossing our fingers on this one.

Last March, American Axle also announced that it is contemplating redeveloping its site where factories once stood (before the work was shipped out of the country). If it does happen, the company said it will invest over \$400 million.

There has been no update since March, but city officials are optimistic it will happen in the near future. If it does, Hamtramck will see additional property taxes coming in.

While there are some exciting potentials waiting

to happen, the city could take a huge hit in revenue – about \$1 million – if Wayne County moves its Hamtramck jail operation to a new jail facility being built just outside of the city in Detroit.

Also on the downside, there will likely be a continued cultural divide in the city between the religious conservative members of the community and those on the progressive side of the political spectrum.

All in all, there's one thing for sure about the year ahead – it will be uniquely Hamtramck.

## City council kicks off the new year with a new face

Continued from front page

re-election this year. His Congressional district includes Hamtramck.)

Thanedar presented the freshly-elected councilmembers with a certificate from Congress, which made Mayor Amer Ghalib joke:

“Looks like I'll have to win another election to get one like that.”

Councilmember Hassan was first elected in 2009 – making him the longest serving councilmember.

Hassan said he puts the community first, and never serves “for my personal interests.”

The council went to

work on Tuesday for its regular monthly meeting.

Mayor Ghalib used the event to give an overview of what has happened in the city since he took office two years ago.

(We'll have more about what Ghalib said in next week's issue. You can watch the inauguration ceremony on the public library's website.)

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## This week at the Library . . .

January 12, 2024

**Dr. Martin Luther King:** He was born in Atlanta, Georgia on January 15, 1929. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. As an African American civil rights leader he spoke eloquently and stressed nonviolent methods to achieve equality. The Hamtramck Library will be closed on Monday, January 15, 2024.

**Chess Club:** Something new just for you. Games held on this Thursdays at 3:30 pm right here in the library. Open to newbies, experienced pros, and all those in between.

**Story Time:** Get you kids together and drop in on our Monday afternoon Story Time at 3:45 pm and Wednesday Story Time at 12:00 noon. Presented by guest readers from Hamtramck Federation of Teachers.

**Game Night:** We are moving to Wednesdays. Join us for Game Night at the library. We are serving up something fun each Wednesday at 4 pm. Stop by and let us know that you have come to play. Everyone is invited.

**Dudley Randall:** This author and poet was born on January 14, 1914 and was appointed Poet of the City of Detroit during the Coleman Young administration. Moreover, he established his own publishing house, Broadside Press, as a means to promote the work of his fellow African American Writers. All that, and he was a librarian to boot! You can find his bio, overview of his work, and a few of his poems at

[www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/dudley-randall](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/dudley-randall).

**National Days:** There is a day for everything and January 12th packs a wallop, being both Stick to Your New Year's Resolution Day and Work Harder Day. But if that is not enough, worry not. It is also Quitter's Day. Then on January 18th we will also be celebrating Michigan Day. In addition it will also be Winnie the Pooh Day, so why not pick up a storybook about the loveable bear, Christopher Robin, and all their friends to read with our children. The original stories were written by Allen Alexander Milne, who just so happens to have been born on January 18, 1882.

**Hoopla:** We would like to remind you about the BingePass. Score yourself access to popular digital content for a full server days and it only counts as a single borrow! On the menu, are an ample selection of Hallmark movies, Curiosity Stream videos, various magazine titles, kids' series like Pinkalicious and Fancy Nancy, and more. Grab your library card and head on over to our website [www.hamtramck.lib.mi.us](http://www.hamtramck.lib.mi.us) to find a link to this spectacular service under the eResources tab.

**Democrat Party Donkey:** The first use of a donkey to symbolize the Democratic Party in America appeared in a cartoon in Harper's Weekly, criticizing former secretary of war Edwin Stanton with the caption, "A Live Jackass Kicking a Dead Lion".

Library is located at 2360 Caniff Avenue, Phone (313) 733-6822  
Or visit its website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us> for on line catalog  
Attachments for printing, faxing or scanning send to [hamtramcklibrary@gmail.com](mailto:hamtramcklibrary@gmail.com)



# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### With caution, license plate readers will help

In December, the city council OK'd the purchase of 15 cameras that will be used by the Police Department to read license plates.

The department said the cameras will come in handy when identifying vehicles used in the commission of a crime.

The department insists that the cameras will not be used to spy on people or to profile individuals; nor will the information be shared with other police agencies.

It's going to cost the city a little over \$53,000 to purchase and install

the cameras throughout town.

Critics, which include the American Civil Liberties Union, are not buying that assurance by the police department, and suggest photos will, indeed, be used to profile innocent people. They also say other police agencies could overrule Hamtramck, and view recordings for their own purposes.

We share that same concern.

But we also believe the cameras can be valuable tools in identifying the vehicles that criminals use, and thus

be helpful in solving cases that could otherwise leave investigators empty-handed.

One of the hurdles investigators have to clear is getting witnesses to talk. There's a "no snitch" ethos among many. Part of that refusing to cooperate with investigators stems from witnesses who fear being harmed by the suspects.

The cameras are worth a shot for proving they can indeed be useful tools, and not be used to abuse the privacy of individuals.



## School Bell

### Early Childhood Elementary

Teacher Janice Rakoczy from ECE recounted the student activities during the holiday season.

Leading up to winter break, students and staff got in the festive mood.

Students learned about holidays celebrated

around the world, traditions with different cultures, stories, writing and many art projects.

During Spirit Week students had many fun activities. The students did a S.T.E.A.M. activity constructing gingerbread houses. As the students "glued" the walls and roof with yummy frosting, you could see their little lips covered in the sweet-

ness.

They decorated with candies and shared how they each made their own house unique. It was a very fun day! Other activities included Mix Match Clothes Day, Polar Express Day and Grinch Day. What a great way to end 2023!

**From Janice Rakoczy**



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## Odds & Ends

**Retiring...** At Tuesday's city council meeting, Police Chief Anne Moise announced her upcoming retirement at the end of the month.

She is a 25-year veteran, and we wish her the very best in retirement.

We hope to have more details next week.

The chief put out this message on social media:

"As many of you may have heard, I have announced my intent to retire from the Hamtramck Police Department. I have had a long and rewarding career here.

"It has been an honor to serve as your police chief! I will miss everyone and wish the city and the police department much success going forward!"

Reaction on social media was immediate.

Stella Szczesny, who is well known in the community, had this to say:

"Thank you for your many years of service and dedication to the city. Your professionalism and commitment to the highest standards is outstanding. You are leaving a great legacy and will truly be missed. Wishing you the best in retirement."

**Reminder...** With a huge snowfall predicted this weekend, perhaps even a blizzard, volunteers are still needed to shovel snow for those who can't here in the city.

Plus, if you need help in shoveling snow, you can contact the city.

To volunteer or in need of assistance, you can fill out the form on the city's website, or call Max Gilgins at (313) 800-5233, extension 326.

**Big news...** For the past week or so, the good folks who organize the annual Hamtramck Labor Day Festival have teased us with something big is coming this way.

On Wednesday, the cat was out of the bag.

And that is: the return of the early march city-wide music festival.

Way back when, the Metro Times sponsored the event, but it eventually ran out of gas or maybe enthusiasm.

Volunteers with the Hamtramck Music Festival pick up the ball, but

when the covid pandemic hit, the music ended.

Music fans were bummed.

So, no further details have been released, but the sound of music is coming back to Hamtramck – which is a huge business boost for all of our bars and venues and restaurants.

Look for more details in the coming weeks.

**City notice...** Recently, the city posted this message to residents, and it's worth repeating:

"When you receive your property taxes or water bill there may be an Illinois address on it. Please do not panic. That is the correct address for the new lockbox."

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CITY OF HAMTRAMCK – Water

PO Box 8326

Carol Stream, IL 60197- 8326

If you have any further questions or concerns please call us at 313-800-5223 (ext. 361) or email us at othabet@hamtramckcity.com.

**New Year's resolutions...** Still looking for something to change in your life in the new year?

We found some interesting suggestions from a blog called "Treehugger."

Some of them include, and we quote:

Never buy bottled water again

Trade your bottled water habit for an at-home filtering pitcher and you can help make a dent in the 17 million barrels of oil used to make plastic water bottles each year; pair it with a reusable bottle (like one made of glass, aluminum or recycled plastic), and you'll

always be prepared to tackle your thirst.

Cut back on paper towels

Instead, invest in a few cotton cloths and some fabric napkins; then drop them in the wash when you run a load of laundry. Using the cloth alternatives is just as easy as using the paper versions, and you only need to buy them once. According to Ocean Conservancy, you can help eliminate the 13 billion pounds of paper towels that end up landfills every day.

Remember your reusable bags

According to Ocean Crusaders, more than 1 million plastic bags ending up in the trash every minute, taking reusable bags to the store is one of the easiest and most effective ways to reduce your carbon footprint – but the hardest part about using them is simply remembering to take them with you.

Use a bike for short trips

Ride your bike for trips shorter than 2 miles and you could cut your carbon footprint significantly, save money on gasoline and car maintenance, and increase your fitness level—all at the same time.

Become a part-time vegetarian

Cutting your meat intake in half can decrease your carbon footprint by about a ton each year – and coming up with meat-free meals isn't as hard as it sounds. Try

Replace your lightbulbs

Replacing your incandescent or CFL lightbulbs with efficient LEDs.

Since CFLs last longer than traditional bulbs, you'll be saving time for years down the road while cutting your energy use by as much as 80%. Can't even face the hardware store? Order your bulbs online and have them come straight to your door.



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2008 Mercury Mountaineer vin: 4M2EU48817UJ03839  
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Deadline for classifieds for next week is Thursday at Noon

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January 12, 2024

Hamtramck Public TV-19

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

What's on this coming week?

Inauguration of City Government Ceremony  
Holiday Special produced by Horizon School,  
Motivate Me Interviews, Music programs  
ESL Classes for the 2023-24 school year  
Local events, Library programs,  
Interviews, Council meeting highlights,  
Evenings with authors, and more.....

BECOME A LOCAL REPORTER: If you know how to take photos or make film clips on your phone, you can download them to Hamtramck TV along with a news story, to be aired the same day. Send in event announcements, comments to city officials, facts you want to share with the community, etc.

Hamtramck Public TV is broadcasting from Hamtramck Public Library  
On Comcast Channel 19 and streaming on YouTube Live (24/7) Google "Hamtramck Public TV", and click on link "Hamtramck Public TV"  
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To place community announcement call the Library at 313-733-6822  
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Announcements submitted by 10 am  
Will go on air the same day (evening)  
To send large video files (TINYurl.com/hpl-tv)



By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Jan. 2-8.

Tuesday, Jan. 2

- A theft was reported in the 2600 block of Holmes.
- A theft was reported in the 1900 block of Yemans.
- A theft from a vehicle was reported in the 10000 block of Jos. Campau.
- An illegal dumping was reported on Belmont.
- A suspect was arrested, on Doremus, for violating a personal protection order.

Wednesday, Jan. 3

- At almost midnight, officers conducting a traffic stop arrested two suspects for being in possession of a stolen vehicle and for having open intoxicants.
- Officers responded to a call at 1 a.m., from the 2000 block of Belmont, about a child choking.
- An assault was reported in the 11400 block of Dequindre.
- A vehicle was stolen in the 9400 block of Charrest.

Thursday, Jan. 4

- A domestic assault was reported, at 1 a.m., in the 11000 block of So-bieski.
- A resident on Goodson reported being the victim of fraud.
- A theft was reported on Selfridge.
- A vehicle was stolen on Hanley.

Friday, Jan. 5

- A neighbor dispute was reported in the 3200 block of Belmont.
- At almost midnight, officers responded to a call in the 12000 block of St. Aubin regarding an intoxicated male who was screaming.
- A domestic assault was reported, at 2:40 a.m., in the 12000 block of Dyar.
- A vehicle was stolen in the 2400 block of Andrus.
- A resident on Jos. Campau reported being

harassed.

- Family trouble was reported in the 3400 block of Evaline.
- A complaint was made about an animal in the 2900 block of Goodson.
- A vehicle was reported stolen in the 2300 block of Faber.
- A complaint was made about noise in the 2700 block of Yemans.

Saturday, Jan. 6

- Family trouble was reported at 4:30 a.m. in the 11300 block at of Fleming.
- A break-in was reported in the 12000 block of Dyar.
- A complaint was made about suspicious people in the 11600 block of Mitchell.
- Customer trouble was reported at a business in the 2200 block of Caniff.
- A fight was reported in the 12000 block of Oklahoma.

Sunday, Jan. 7

- A complaint was made about noise in the area of Trowbridge and Lumpkin.
- A fight was reported in the 11900 block of Conant.
- A car was stolen in the 2400 block of Faber.
- A suspect was arrested on Lumpkin for domestic assault.

Monday, Jan. 8

- At almost 4 a.m., officers responded to a call about an intoxicated person who was inside a business in the 2000 block of Caniff.
- At 4:30 a.m., officers responding to a call about a domestic assault in the 5000 block of Trowbridge arrested a male suspect, after the suspect initially fled to the area of Caniff and Alpena.
- A theft from a vehicle was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
- A resident on Yemans reported a robbery.
- A fight was reported on Yemans.
- An assault was reported on Danforth.

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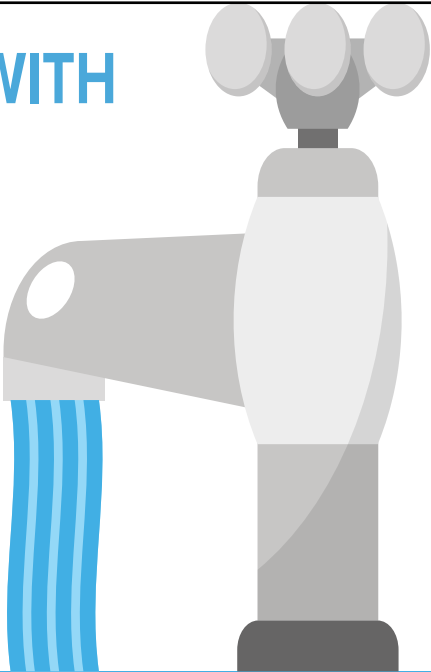
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200% Federal Poverty Chart														
Number of Household Members	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Income Limit (\$)	27,180	36,620	46,060	55,500	64,940	74,380	83,820	93,260	97,980	102,700	107,420	112,140	116,860	121,580



313.386.WRAP (9727)  
www.WayneMetro.org/WRAP



## Crime Watch: Auto thefts are now on the rise

By Charles Sercombe

There's one crime you can count on in Hamtramck.

And that's auto theft.

Auto thefts go up and down over the course of a year, however, in the last few weeks, over the holiday and continuing into last week, car thefts have spiked up.

With cold weather here, street crime usually goes down, and so thieves are now prowling the streets looking for vehicles to steal. You could look at this way: criminals have to make a living, too.

Perhaps not so co-incidentally, there has also been an increase in people calling the police department about "suspicious" cars in the neighborhood. Most car thieves arrive on the scene via someone driving them.

Could these calls about suspicious cars and people have been potential car thieves on the hunt?

Calling the department about suspicious people or cars is one of the most effective preventative measures to put a stop to a potential crime.

The police department encourages folks to call

in suspicious situations.

According to Hamtramck Police Chief Anne Moise, who presented the department's annual report to city council this week, auto thefts are on the rise.

"But this is consistent with national statistics," Moise said.

Nationally, according to FBI crime statistics, auto thefts are up by about 11 percent. About one million vehicles are stolen each year.

Worse, auto theft cases are rarely solved.

There are some preventative steps you can take.

However, Moise warned that "nothing is bullet-proof."

By now, most folks have alarms on their cars, but thieves—at least the more tech-oriented – seem to always manage to keep one step ahead, and know how to work around alarms.

What's a car owner to


do?

Here are some basic tips to follow in order to avoid becoming a car theft victim:

- Lock your doors
- Remove your keys from the vehicle
- Do not leave a spare key near your vehicle
- Close the windows
- Park in well-lit areas
- Install an audible alarm system and anti-theft device
- Install a vehicle immobilizer system
- Install a tracking system

Another crime trend is people stealing items out of vehicles. A determined thief is hard to foil, but these tips might help:

- Secure your vehicle. Roll your car windows up all the way and engage the car alarm.
- Keep your car free of clutter.
- Park in well-lighted areas, if possible.



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The Review Today  
Call (313) 874-2100

Coming Events


**SATURDAY, Jan. 13, 2-4 p.m.** – Take-out only Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. Everyone is welcome!

CONCERNED WOMEN OF HAMTRAMCK AND HAMTRAMCK PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PRESENTS

REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
26<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

Monday, January 15, 2024  
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Hamtramck Community Center  
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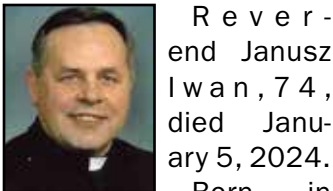
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# Obituaries

## IWAN



Reverend Janusz Iwan, 74, died January 5, 2024. Born in Debica, Poland, he was ordained a priest in the Jesuit order in Warsaw in 1976. He continued his studies and earned a master's in theology and philosophy in 1979. Fr. Janusz was sent to Chicago IL in 1992 to be the radio director to broadcast Holy Mass for Chicago Polonia. In 2000 Father Janusz became a United States Citizen.

In the year 2000 Fr. Janusz was incardinated to the Archdiocese of Detroit. His first assignment was the assoc. pastor of Saint Veronica, in Eastpointe, then Immaculate Concep-

tion, in Lapeer. He was then appointed pastor of St. Stanislaus Kostka, Wyandotte, in 2005, Saint Hyacinth, Detroit, in 2006, and Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Hamtramck, in 2013. After serving both Saint Hyacinth and Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Fr. Janusz retired in 2023.

Visitation is Friday, January 12, 2024, from 2 – 8 p.m. with services at 7 p.m. at Saint Hyacinth Catholic Church, 3151 Farnsworth, Detroit MI 48211. Lying in state at 9 a.m. until the time of the Funeral Mass at 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 13, 2024, at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, 11200 Conant, Hamtramck MI 48212. Interment will be at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funer-

al Home.

## PURSER



Fred Purser, 50, died January 8, 2024.

Visitation is Saturday, January 13, 2024, from 4 – 8 p.m. at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck MI 48212.

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## Moose Member Reunion Dinner

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Hamtramck Recreation Department

# SNOW FEST

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### Distressed Owner Occupant Extension (DOOE)

This program is not available to everyone. If you own and live in the property, and are suffering financial hardship you may qualify for this program. Proof of ownership, occupancy, and hardship are required.

### Stipulated Payment Agreement (SPA)

Available to everybody, this plan allows a taxpayer to pay taxes pursuant to a payment schedule. The plan will avoid foreclosure provided that payments are submitted per the agreed upon schedule.

### Pay As You Stay Payment Agreement (PAYSPA)

Only for those who have first applied for their local municipality's Poverty Tax Exemption (PTE) and received an approval. Once notified by your local Assessor's office and deemed eligible, our office will mail you a notification letter with your Reduced Amount Due. You will have the option of paying a lump sum (additional 10% off) or enrolling into a PAYSPA.

## Many of these plans are available online at

# treasurer.waynecounty.com!

For more information, email WCTOPaymentPlans@waynecounty.com or call (313) 224-5990.