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Volume 10 No. 45

**November 9, 2018**

**50¢**

# The Review

## Hamtramck

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## Quick Hits

This Sunday is extra special.

Nov. 11 is Veterans Day, although the holiday is officially observed by government offices and banks on Monday.

As usual, PLAV Post 10 (11824 Jos. Campau.) will hold a ceremony on the actual Veterans Day. Folks will start gathering at 10:30 a.m. and a toast will take place at 11 a.m., sharp.

Hamtramck's group of veterans has been decreasing each year as they get older.

There will be food, music and singing. It's a fun time, and it's also a chance to say thanks to our local vets.

Stop by and say hello and raise a glass.

Our country's first president, George Washington, had this to say about veterans:

“The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.”

And there is this old chestnut, the origin of which is unknown, that transcends the ages.

“Freedom is never free.”

## — HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

# A public shaming: Food stamp schemers must admit guilt

## NOTICE

To Readers, listen to us.

If you cheat on food stamps you are committing a federal crime and will be punished for doing so. We know: We have been punished for cheating on food stamps.

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাঠকদের কাছে, আমাদের কথা শুনুন। আপনি যদি খাদ্য স্ট্যাম্প প্রতারণা করেন তবে আপনি একটি ফেডারেল অপরাধ করছেন এবং এটি করার জন্য শাস্তি পাবেন। আমরা জানি: আমাদের খাদ্য স্ট্যাম্প প্রতারণার জন্য শাস্তি দেওয়া হয়েছে।

Ali Ahmed      Nazar Ahmed

Mustak Ahmed      Mohammed Ahmed

**By Charles Sercombe**

Four Bangladeshi market owners who were convicted of food stamp fraud were ordered to place a letter admitting their guilt in this newspaper.

Federal Judge Avern Cohn told The Review he did this for one reason.

“I want them to be shamed,” Cohn said in a brief telephone conversation.

Cohn ordered the four, who are brothers, to have the letter printed in both English and Bangladesh and that it be published in The Review newspaper for three weeks.

The brothers, Ali, Nazar, Mustak and Mohammed Ahmed, must also pay for the publication of the letter.

The letter of admission is on the front page of this issue.

In the letter, the brothers say:

“To readers, listen to us:

“If you cheat on food stamps you are committing a federal crime and will be punished for doing so. We know: We have been punished for cheating on food stamps.”

The four were part of 11 mostly Bangladeshi market owners who were charged with food stamp fraud in 2014 by the US Justice Department.

At press time Thursday it was not known what happened to the other seven people who were charged. A spokesman for the Detroit Justice Department promised to look into the matter.

At the time of the 2014 charges, the government said the fraud scheme was netting the suspects millions of dollars.

The four brothers, who operated Deshi Bazar on Conant, reaped over \$500,000. They have each been ordered to pay

**Continued on page 2**

# Hamtramck election results ...

**By Charles Sercombe**

Hamtramck voters came out in droves on Election Day (Nov. 6) Tuesday, and remained firmly in support of Democratic candidates – just as they have done for decades.

Voters here also elected Hamtramck 31st District Court Judge Alexis Krot over her opponent John Gorniak, an attorney who moved here last year to enter the race.

Krot won overwhelmingly with 3,390 votes over Gorniak's 855 votes.

Krot was appointed to the position a year ago by Gov. Rick Snyder after former Judge Paul Paruk resigned to take a new job. She will serve out the remaining two years of Paruk's term.

That means she will be up for re-election again when the term expires in 2020.

The only other local election was for two seats on the Hamtramck Public School Board.

Incumbent Board President Magdalena Srodek coasted into victory, with 3,105 votes, and write-in candidate Jihan Aiyash pulled an upset over current Boardmember Ataur Khan.

Aiyash beat Khan 542 to 290.

Khan initially decided to not seek re-election, but just a few weeks before Tuesday's vote he changed his mind and registered as a write-in candidate. No one else registered to be a candidate by the deadline to have their name printed on the November ballot.

Aiyash also jumped into the election as a write-in

**Continued on page 2**



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# A public shaming: Food stamp schemers must admit guilt

Continued from front page

restitution amounting between \$500,000 and \$700,000.

In addition, Ali Ahmed will serve nine months in prison, and the others will serve one day and be on probation for two years.

All of them were born in Bangladesh and became US citizens.

Prosecutors had sought to have Mohammed Ahmed serve additional prison time because he was also guilty of collecting welfare even though he was not qualified to do so.

Prosecutors also said

the other brothers had improperly received public assistance.

The food stamp scheme was simple. People would exchange the cards for cash, usually for at least half their worth or a bit less, or for items that cannot be purchased using an EBT card, such as cigarettes and phone cards.

Reaction to the convictions and sentencing on social media has been mixed.

Some fellow Bengalis said the public shaming makes the entire Bangladeshi community

look guilty.

“This is so embarrassing. Why people do that? And now cuz of certain people the whole community have to face embarrassment,” said Farzana Begum on a Facebook post in a group called The Hamtramck Community.

“And it's not fair! Our elders are effed up and leaving sh\*tty image for the new generation.”

Others said the punishment was too light.

“A slap on the wrist,” said Lolaa Bunny on the same Facebook page.

# Hamtramck election results ...

Continued from front page

candidate.

In the three state proposals, Hamtramck voters approved two of them – opening up voter registration (proposal 3) and ending gerrymandering (proposal 2).

But voters here defeated legalizing the recreational use of marijuana (proposal 1) by 2,588 to 2,099 votes. That result is curious considering that 10 years ago voters overwhelmingly approved legalizing medical marijuana.

Statewide, all three proposals passed – including the legalization of marijuana for adults 21 years and older. That means despite a majority of Hamtramck voters rejecting recreational use of pot, it will still be legal here in town.

It's not clear when exactly you can legally light up. State officials still have to work out the details on how to roll out the new law will be rolled out.

Political observers say it will take several months or more before state legislators figure out how to allow the sale of marijuana.

All of the state Democratic candidates in the top races – including the governor – won their elections. That means for the first time in decades Democrats will fill the position of governor, attorney general and secretary of state.

The weather Tuesday first started out sunny,

but blustery. As the morning progressed, cloudy skies came in along with rain. And this being Michigan in the fall, the sun broke out occasionally.

But as the day wore on, the weather grew foul.

Despite it all, the Hamtramck voter turnout was over 5,007.

Nationwide, Democrats took control of the US House of Representatives, but Republicans increased their majority in the Senate.

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OLYMPIA

## This week at the library...

**ESL Class – Monday, Nov. 12, 9 a.m. and noon**, ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required

**ESL Class – Tuesday, Nov. 13, noon**, ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required

**ESL Class – Wednesday, Nov. 14, 9 a.m. and noon**, ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

**ESL Class – Thursday, Nov. 15, noon**, ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

**100th Anniversary Dinner Program** – This year the Hamtramck Public Library will be celebrating 100 years of service to the Hamtramck community and the area.

To mark the occasion, a Centennial Dinner Program is planned for **Thursday, November 15, 2018** at PNA Hall. There is a limited number of guests that can be accommodated.

Tickets for the event will be available starting October 15, at the Library (donation \$25 per person).

During the program new nominees will be inducted to the Hamtramck Library Hall of Honor.

The dinner tickets also entitle the holder to door prize drawings, which among other items feature a laptop computer and a 49 inch Ultra High Definition flat screen TV. More details about the program in upcoming news stories.

**Anniversary celebration** – Hamtramck Public Library Centennial Celebrations, OUR LIBRARY: November 1918-November 2018

As part of the Hamtramck Public Library 100th Anniversary Celebrations we invite you to contribute your thoughts on our Library's past, and predictions (or suggestions) for her future.

We would like to video record your brief (up to three minutes long) presentations, but we will also accept other

formats: short essays, poems, paintings, drawings, etc.

The most interesting contributions will be included in the Library's Centennial Time Capsule for future generations to discover.

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts and ideas, please stop by the Library for a recording session on Tuesdays and or Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. For additional information please call us at (313) 733-6802.

**Happy 100th Birthday Hamtramck Public Library**

**Fall Toddler Time – Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Children up to age 5 and their parents and caregivers are invited for songs, storytelling and playtime.

**Happy 100th Birthday!** – Come celebrate the Hamtramck Public Library's 100th anniversary! **Thursday, November 8, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** Birthday treats provided! Children 5 years and younger and their parents and caregivers are welcome to attend.

New Inductees to the Library Hall of Honor:

The Library will be inducting new members to the Hall of Honor during the 100th Anniversary Dinner Program, that will take place on November 15, 2018, at the PNA Hall in Hamtramck.

This year, Mayor Karen Majewski, Mr. Tom Niczay, Ms. Vera Burk and Ms. Cindy Cervenak have been nominated.

Judge Paul Paruk, Administrator for the Region One of the Michigan Supreme Court, will be the Master of Ceremonies.

Greg Kowalski, Chairman of the Hamtramck Historical Commission will be presenting the 100 years of history of the Library Services in Hamtramck.

Polonia Restaurant will be serving dinner (traditional, vegetarian or halal) family style, all you can eat, and local beverage companies

are contributing pop and beer to be served with the dinner.

Let us not forget about the door prizes that are included in the price of the ticket. Laptop computer and a 40-inch HDTV are on the top of the list, among many others.

There is a limited number of tickets available for this event, with a \$25 donation for each ticket. Tickets are available at the Hamtramck Public Library, or can be ordered by phone or mail (Library 313-733-6822, George Gorday 313-365-5310, Greg Kirchner 313-891-6510). Friends of the library invite all to participate in the celebration (please get your tickets early).

**City Wide Poets** – Are you a writer? Join Citywide Poets every **Tuesday from 4:30 to 6:30p.m.** at the Hamtramck Public Library. Free and open to all teens. Sessions begin October 9. For more information, please contact justin@insideoutdetroit.org or visit [www.insideoutdetroit.org](http://www.insideoutdetroit.org)

**ABCmouse.com** – Now available at the Hamtramck Public Library, ABCmouse.com is a free digital learning resource for children ages 2-8+ with more than 8,500 Learning Activities and 850 lessons, ABCmouse.com is the most comprehensive early learning curriculum available online. Ask your library staff for more details.

**Michigan Activity Pass** – The pass will enable Library card holders to obtain a one-time free entry into any Michigan State park or recreation area, and free entry into over 100 participating cultural institutions. Ask at the circulation desk for more details.

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.

**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.**

## Thank you Hamtramck!

“Thank you for your support in my race to continue serving as YOUR judge of the 31st District Court.

I look forward to working together in service to our community.”

*Alexis Grace Krot*

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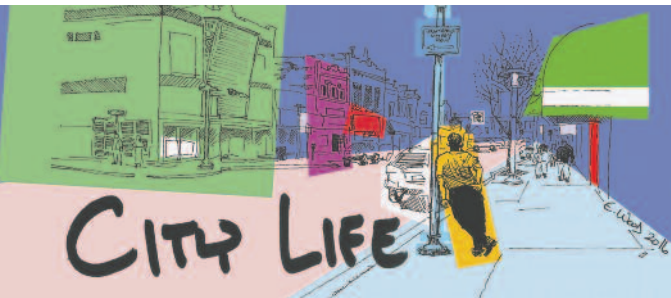
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# Second Front Page



## Prepare to stop at Belmont-Gallagher intersection

By Walter Wasacz

An intersection long considered dangerous to motorists and pedestrians alike has new signage that aims to improve public safety in the city. Three-way stop signs were installed last week at Belmont and Gallagher, a heavily used north-south traffic corridor that runs parallel to Jos. Campau and Conant. Motorists heading east on Belmont, a one-way street, already must stop at Gallagher, a two-way thoroughfare.

Adding to the potential danger at that intersection is that visibility is often impaired by cars parked on the west side of Gallagher, making it difficult for drivers on Belmont to see southbound traffic. The new stop signs are for both southbound and northbound traffic. A man who lives on Belmont told me his car, as well as neighbors' cars, has been sideswiped by motorists taking a hard right turn from Gallagher at high speed. Recently a “no parking fire lane” sign on the east side of Gallagher north of Belmont was leveled by an unknown vehicle. Before it was removed a week later the sharp, jagged edges of the sign lay inches from students that had to walk around it as it lay on the ground. Students walking to and

from Hamtramck High and Dickinson East Elementary schools cross the intersection every day during the school year.



The city recently installed a stop sign at Belmont and Gallagher after a long history of car accidents at the intersection.

Shoppers going to businesses on Caniff also walk through the Belmont intersection daily. Adding a stop sign at Belmont should slow traffic and make that part of Gallagher safer, says a memo issued by the City of Hamtramck. In the memo, Hamtramck Police Chief Anne Moise says: "This intersection is heavily traveled, especially during the school year. Knowing this, the City took action to make it a safer for drivers and pedestrians." The crosswalks at the intersection are also faded and need to be repainted. It's unknown when that will be completed. Related to the installation of stop signs on Belmont and Gallagher is a discussion planned for

the next meeting of the Hamtramck Board of Education, which has invited me to present examples of how other communities are slowing down traffic in crosswalks. Unlike some other states, incredibly Michigan has no law that requires motorists to yield or stop for pedestrians in crosswalks. Instead, the Michigan State Police recommends that municipalities adopt the Michigan Uniform Traffic Code,

which says drivers "shall not enter an intersection or a marked crosswalk unless there is sufficient space on the other side of the intersection or crosswalk to accommodate the vehicle he or she is operating without obstructing the passage of other vehicles or pedestrians, notwithstanding any traffic-control signal indication to proceed." That means that drivers are “recommended” only to yield to pedestrians, not necessarily stop for them, when they are attempting to enter the street from the curb. But cities like Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids and Traverse City have created their own city ordinances that go beyond this ambiguous recommendation, requiring motorists to

come to a full stop for pedestrians in marked crosswalks. There are groups that say a handful of proactive cities is simply not enough and can unnecessarily confuse visiting motorists; instead advocating for a universal crosswalk law that covers all of Michigan. On its website, the Sam Bernstein Law Firm clarifies what state law says – or doesn't say – regarding crosswalks: <https://call-sam.com/resources/what-is-the-law-regarding-crosswalks/>

Hamtramck, which by design is one of the most walkable cities in the state, should join in this advocacy for clarity and, above all, safety. Addressing the Belmont-Gallagher intersection – which is also a four-way crosswalk for pedestrians – is a good place to start. Something else to begin pondering: a good argument can be made that the entire stretch of Gallagher from Carpenter – near where the Bridge Academy charter school is, to Tau Beta and Keyworth Stadium on the southend – is a school zone where lower speed limits should be posted and enforced.

All of Brombach, from Caniff to Holbrook, should also be considered a school zone corridor. The whole point is to make city life safer, starting with our kids, with the benefit of increased public safety shared by all. Let's continue a smart discussion about this and make sure good things happen. The Hamtramck Board of Education meets Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the school district's administration building, 3201 Roosevelt St.



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## 100th Anniversary of Library Services in Hamtramck

### Dinner - Program

# November 15, 2018

## Thursday - 6:00 PM

**PNA (Polish National Alliance) Banquet Hall**  
located at 10211 Conant street (between Belmont & Caniff) in Hamtramck

Registration & Refreshments  
6:00 pm to 6:30 pm

\*\*\*

**Program Part One**  
6:30 pm to 7:00 pm  
Greetings and Introductions  
Library History

\*\*\*

**Family Style Dinner**  
(All you can eat)  
Served by Polonia Restaurant  
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

\*\*\*

**Program Part Two**  
8:00 pm to 9:00 pm  
Keynote Speaker  
Induction of new Nominees to the Library's Hall of Honor

Proclamations

Presentation of awards

Door Prize Drawing

#### Nominees to the Hall of Honor

 Vera Burk	 Karen Majewski, Ph.D.
 Cindy Cervenak	 Thomas Niczay

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# School Bell

## Holbrook Elementary School News

Meet the Holbrook Family: Ms. Arwa Obeid has been an active member of the Holbrook family for more than 15 years.

Ever since her eldest child began attending Holbrook, she has been volunteering for many activities. Ms. Obeid helped set up the Santa Shop each year as well as assisting students with their purchases.

She has run bake sales for the parent group, helped with fundraisers and is always happy to assist any staff member, student, or parent that may need her help.

Ms. Obeid is now a member of our lunch staff where she makes sure students eat their lunches, and helps them clean up after themselves.

We are very fortunate to have a person like her as part of our Holbrook Family. We appreciate all she has done for all these years and hopefully many more years to come.

## Early Childhood Elementary School (ECE) News

On October 31, the hallways were filled with children and musical instruments as the kindergarten through second grade students marched up and down the stairs at Early Childhood Elemen-



Above and below: Scenes from a Halloween party at Early Childhood Elementary School. Bottom left: Arwa Obeid has been an active volunteer at Holbrook Elementary School.



tary School.

Students dressed as Captain America, witches, vampires and more joined in the festivities as everyone shared in the spirit of Halloween. Candy, music, dunking for apples and more activities celebrated the fall season.

This week, teachers got ready to welcome parents for parent-teacher conferences on Thursday.

The teachers will share with the parents/guardians their child's progress and what we can do to work together to

make their child's learning experience the best.

## Upcoming Calendar:

- November 9 – Half day for all students. Professional Development in the afternoon.
- November 21 – Half day for students and staff.
- November 22 and November 23 – No school for students and staff. Thanksgiving Break.
- November 26 – School resumes.
- December 7 – End of progress report period #2.
- December 13 –

Progress Report #2 distributed.

## Recreation Department News

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Compiled by Janice Gandelman

# Other Voices: Guest Editorial

## Hamtramck will miss out on taxes from marijuana sales

By Scott Klein

Now that the dust has settled around the election, there are several facts that are relevant to Hamtramck. Marijuana is legal for adult use.

People in Hamtramck will legally grow and use marijuana in their homes. There is nothing, short of federal intervention, that will change these facts.

Extremists in Hamtramck have moved to block an ordinance allowing for the sale or commercial cultivation of marijuana in Hamtramck. This move now could cost Hamtramck much needed revenue.

That's right, the actions of these extremists will cost the city revenue, and most certainly result in higher taxes and fees.

Let's be clear:

1. People will smoke marijuana in Hamtramck.
2. People will grow marijuana in Hamtramck.
3. Extremists want to withhold revenue from Hamtramck resulting in higher taxes and fees because they don't want marijuana to be sold or cultivated in Hamtramck.

One. Two. Three.

How will it affect revenue in Hamtramck? It's simple.

Under the new law, which was approved overwhelmingly by voters despite the claims of rightwing extremists like those in Hamtramck, only cities that allow for the sale, processing and commercial cultivation of marijuana will receive a share of the tax collected.

From the 10% tax levied on marijuana sales, only cities that allow for commercial marijuana activity will receive a split of that money.

Cash-strapped cities like Hamtramck will be left out in the cold facing higher

Continued on page 8

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# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### City councilmembers were elected to lead – now is the time

At this point, it appears city officials will vote down allowing medical marijuana dispensaries and grow facilities to operate here in Hamtramck.

Or, they may simply shelve the proposal that the city attorney and the administration have been working on for the past year – with the city council’s consent.

This is all because a portion of the city’s population – mostly the Bengali and Yemeni communities – is objecting to allowing this type of legal business to open up here.

They are objecting on the grounds that they fear children will gain access to legal medical marijuana and that the businesses will attract crime.

In our opinion, in light of what other communities have gone through, these objections are hogwash.

There is no question that people who need medical marijuana truly benefit from it. It’s not a matter of getting their kicks.

This is a serious issue, and it’s a shame it got hijacked by irrational fear and ignorance from a small sample of residents.

Some opponents, including Councilmember

Saad Almasmari, wrongly assume that allowing dispensaries to open up will lead to one on every block. Again, this is nonsense.

The city’s proposed zoning restriction will allow no more than a handful. And you also have to consider the highly restrictive licensing requirements of the state.

Any would-be operator has to come up with a boatload of money to qualify for a license. That alone will severely limit who can get into this business. Basically, it’s rigged only for the very rich and corporations.

This isn’t going to be a party store-like operation. And for those firmly against allowing these types of business to open within the Hamtramck borders – what happens if a dispensary opens up, say, on Conant but on the Detroit side, right next to Hamtramck?

Then what?

Medical marijuana patients will be able to go there, but Hamtramck won’t collect a dime in tax revenue.

We have said before that Hamtramck medical marijuana users should be able to shop locally. Just like you can choose

from any 20 or so local pharmacies here in town to fill your prescriptions – including for the biggest drug abused out there, opioids.

City officials who are re-considering allowing medical marijuana businesses to open are likely feeling under a lot of pressure to back off. This is when we expect you to lead, despite whatever imagined political consequences you think will happen.

And besides, why did councilmembers who are now against dispensaries never raise an objection when the city administration was working on putting together an ordinance?

There was not one peep said against the ordinance. In fact, the council encouraged the administration to go ahead with the ordinances. Now, all of a sudden, they get a little pushback and they chicken out.

What a waste of time.

We can guarantee that when the two or three dispensaries open up here, nothing will happen. People will forget why they objected in the first place, and the issue will blow over.

### Chili cook-off may become a Hamtramck tradition

**By Charles Sercombe**

For chili lovers, Hamtramck was the place to be last Saturday.

PLAV Post 10 hosted a chili cook-off in its upstairs hall where 14 chefs (one of whom had two entries, technically making it a competition of 15) vied for being the top spot.

The competitors included:

Double D and the Harold Street Express  
FRN's  
VFW 4162  
Beaver's Cleavers  
Crack Heads  
Hamtramck Fire Department  
Nosh Pit Detroit  
Detropia.com  
Jessica Wendt  
Evaline Street Food Co.  
Kelly's Bar  
Loch Bend Degenerates  
Lockhart's Daughter  
Lockharts

For a mere \$5 you could sample all 15 of the chilis – a couple of Tums for afterward were not included.

The variety was indeed spicy, but sooo good. We were told by one chili chef that his secret ingredient was Viagra. That was a joke, of course.

So, the winner was ... well, there were two winners: the “People’s Choice” award went to Loch Bend Degenerates, and the “Celebrity Judges” Grand Prize went to Kelly’s Bar.

The celebrity judges included Hamtramck 31st District Court Judge Alexis

Krot, City Councilmember Ian Perrotta, Marty Kmiecik and Danny D.

It should be noted the above judges did a blind sampling.

The event may turn into an annual thing, said co-

organizer Joy Gargano.

“It turned out to be a really fun time, and people are already trying to get on the list for next year, so I guess this will become an annual event,” she said.



Above: Brad Ruff of Kelly’s Bar won the chili cook-off last Saturday at PLAV Post 10. Below: Scenes from the chili cook-off, including celebrity judge “Danny D” in the bottom photo.



## Odds & Ends

**Presentation...** Good things continue to take place at the Hamtramck Historical Museum.

Museum Director Greg Kowalski sent us this press release:

“Remember the world’s largest American flag? The nine-story tree of lights? Maurice salads? The home of the real Santa Claus?

“Those are just a few of the memories that will come alive at the special

program ‘The Holidays at Detroit’s Legendary J.L. Hudson Co.’ on Thursday, Nov. 29, at the Hamtramck Historical Museum, 9525 Jos. Campau.

“Hudson’s historian Michael Hauser will present photos of the great old store, which glowed during the holiday season with a special kind of magic you just don’t see today.

“Hauser was a sales associate for Hudson’s for

over a decade at the company’s Southfield store and worked many of the Hudson’s Downtown Warehouse Sales.

“He is also the author of five books including ‘Hudson’s – Detroit’s Legendary Department Store and Remembering Hudson’s – The Grand Dame of Detroit Retailing.’

“Hauser knows Hudson’s and will bring back a flood

Continued on page 6

### Little by little, secrets of old city hall are being revealed

**By Charles Sercombe**

Hamtramck got a peek at its past on a recent Saturday.

Archaeology students from Wayne State University are excavating the site of the old Village Hall on Jos. Campau between Alice and Grayling streets. This is the first comprehensive excavation ever in the city.

The former municipal building housed city offices, the fire and police departments and a horse stable for the police department.

Hamtramck historian Greg Kowalski, who has written several books about Hamtramck’s past, said there have been some “interesting items” found.

“A bullet casing, some animal bones that apparently were butchered on site, some broken bottles, and apparently a piece of the old wooden floor,” Kowalski said. “We also got some molding sand used when there was a tin shop on site.”

And this being Hamtramck, strangely enough, not one beer bottle has yet to be recovered – or buried

bodies (hey, it was city hall after all).

At this point it is unclear when exactly the city tore down the former city building. There are several photos of police officers posing in front of the building, back in the 1920s or so.

“We are still not sure when the building was torn down, but it was likely the late 1970s,” Kowalski said. “It was built in 1914-

15. George Haas, a village trustee at one point, was the architect.”

The lot has been vacant for decades, and it is now owned by one of the city’s biggest property owners, Henry Velleman, of Progressive Poletown Properties.

The public is welcome to stop by and observe the dig in process, which will be on Monday afternoons through November.



Wayne State University students are excavating the site of the city’s former municipal building, located at Jos. Campau and Alice.



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# In Hamtramck, not all rats are bad news

By Joe Anthony Myrick  
The Review Special  
Writer

What do you get when you put a rat inside of a pharmacy?

You get Hamtramck's brand new dual shop, courtesy of Joanna Komajda-Smith and Monique Given.

On Smith's half of the shop, you've got Rat Queen Vintage, and on Given's, you have 3-Ring Traveling Apothecary – both located at 10031 Jos. Campau.

Together, they bring to Hamtramck a wide assortment of rare books, clothes, medical supplies, teas, prop skulls, and an entire subcategory which Smith proudly identifies as “creepy weird sh\*t.”

The Review got a chance to sit down with Joanna to discuss why they chose Hamtramck as their place of work, and why they opened the store together to begin with.

“We were introduced by mutual friends at El Club two years ago,” Joanna said about meeting her business partner for the first time at the local southwest Detroit venue. “We totally hit it off immediately. Just similar interests and we just started talking and we realized that we had a lot in common.”

Monique Givens moved to Detroit with her son all the way from Alabama. She had visited the city for her personal art shows, and

after taking in the atmosphere that the area has to offer, she fell in love with Detroit and decided to take a permanent residence here.

She originally opened a shop in the Jefferson Chalmers area, but didn't find much foot traffic over there. Upon meeting Joanna Komajda-Smith, the two teamed up to organize some joint pop-up events at the Tangent Gallery and during the 2017 Hamtramck Labor Day Festival.

After discovering there was some magical chemistry between them, they realized they would make great business partners.

Komajda-Smith, meanwhile, has lived in Hamtramck for the past 17 years and is more than happy to not only represent her city, but run her establishment here.

“I love Hamtramck,” Komajda-Smith said. “I like the closeness of the community. I lived here for 17 years, so the thought of me having a job five minutes from home was super appealing and this space was available. We bit the bullet and said ‘Yeah, let's do it.’”

Komajda-Smith added that “there's so much going on right now in Hamtramck. You can virtually get almost any kind of food you want here. It's amazing, in just two square miles. It's incredible, and of course, there's other vintage shops,



One of Hamtramck's newest shops, Rat Queen Vintage and 3-Ring Traveling Apothecary, is two businesses in one location. The vintage side of the story offers unique items for sale, and on the apothecary side there is a wide variety of scents, essential oils, perfumes and much, much more.

which we thought would also be good to create a destination for vintage (products).

“I think it's helpful to have a bunch of little places you can bop around to. When you start to see a lot of new activity, it's super encouraging that something's happening, and Hamtramck's kinda badass. I love it here. I love this spot. I absolutely love it.”

When asked why they sell these odd collectibles, Komajda-Smith said that “they reflect our personalities. We figured if we like it, there's other people who

like creepy weird sh\*t,” she said with a laugh.

Komajda-Smith said there is one thing you can consistently expect at their shop.

“We don't want to be too mainstream. We want to have certain specialties and that's the beauty of vintage,” Komajda-Smith said.

“You'd never go into two, or three, or four vintage stores and find the exact same thing ever. It's fun to find something that's 70 years old and it's so incredible still. Finding new old stock items blows my mind – like it was made and

pressed yesterday.”

Many of these vintage collectibles are sold alongside handmade products crafted by Givens herself. In the comfort of her own home, Givens creates candles, eco-friendly soy wax, scents, essential oils, perfumes, room fresheners, liquid and bar soaps, bath oils, face and body creams and scrubs, bath salts, and bath oils. She makes it all from scratch and sells it all at a reasonable price.

After being open for the past seven months, Komajda-Smith is happy to report that business is slowly starting to pick up.

“We knew it would take a while to pick up the pace and get the word out that we're here, but I think that it's working out really well,” Komajda-Smith said.

“We're definitely seeing more business and more foot traffic organically. We get a lot of word of mouth referrals. It's nice to know

that people have similar likes, and they like what we're doing.”

For any readers wondering if this shop would be a good fit for them and if they should make a stop inside, Smith said that their services are perfect for “people who have an eclectic taste, whether it's an eclectic taste in wanting to decorate their homes with wall art, taxidermy, or the collectible creepy dolls. We really try to focus on things that strike us, and hope that other people like it as much as we do.”

(Rat Queen Vintage and the 3-Ring Travelling Apothecary is open seven days a week at 10031 Jos. Campau – just a couple of doors down from Jet's Pizza. Komajda-Smith can be contacted through the Rat Queen Vintage Google and Facebook pages, while Givens can be found at the 3-Ring Travelling Apothecary Instagram page.)

## Obituaries

### PACK



Donna Sue Pack, 29, died October 24, 2018.

Donna was the granddaughter of Anna Glegola; daughter of Robert and Ursula; mother of Jaden, Harmoni, and Hope. She is also survived by siblings, Angela, Helen (David) Livi, Daral; niece Rajlane; uncles, Mark Nowalinski, Edward (Elizabeth) Glegola.

Visitation is Saturday, November 10, 2018, from 6-9 p.m., at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff Hamtramck MI 48212. Private cremation will follow.

### SMITH



Theresa K. Smith (nee Damron), 62, died November 1, 2018.

Theresa was the beloved wife of William; mother of Angela, Lewis, Lola, and Christian; sister of Betty Simkins, the late Billie, Norman, and Herman; grandmother of Rebecca, Mickie, Ashley,

Ronnie, Cynthia, Duke, Joshua, Jeremy, Jaden, Jameson, Jordan, and the late Ariel. Mrs. Smith is also survived by six great grandchildren; many nieces and nephews.

Memorial visitation is Saturday, November 10, 2018, from 12 noon - 4 p.m. at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff Hamtramck MI 48212.

### SZUMANSKI



Gary Szumanski, 65, died October 28, 2018.

Mr. Szumanski was the dear husband of Lynda; father of Lori, Jacob, and Gary Jr.; grandfather of Bradley, Jordan, Bryant, Sadah, and Bobby; brother of Dennis and Corrine. Visitation is Sunday, November 11, 2018 from 2-8 p.m., with prayers at 6 p.m., at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff Hamtramck MI 48212. Private cremation will follow.





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By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Oct. 30-Nov. 5.

**Tuesday, October 30**

• The driver of a white Lincoln MKZ fled from officers attempting a traffic stop.

• A Detroit resident was arrested for driving without a license.

• A resident in the 11700 block of Mitchell reported their catalytic convertor was stolen.

• A Botsford resident reported the theft of their city-issued trash can.

• An attempted break-in was reported in the 11600 block of St. Aubin.

• A suspect crashed their car into another person's car and then threatened to kill the victim with a black handgun. The suspect was driving a dark-colored Ford F-150.

• A resident was arrested in the 3300 block of Comstock for domestic violence.

**Wednesday, October 31**

• A Prescott resident reported someone broke into their shed.

• At a little after midnight a resident was arrested in the 2600 block of Zinow for malicious destruction of property and stalking.

• At 2 a.m. officers drove a resident and two children to a Detroit residence as a courtesy.

• A resident reported their catalytic converter was stolen in the 3400 block of Edwin.

• A resident was arrested for drunk driving.

• A resident reported their kitchen window was broken with a piece of concrete.

**Thursday, November 1**

• At 11:45 p.m. a resident was ticketed for driving with expired license plates, no insurance and possessing narcotics.

• A resident reported their 27-year-old son failed to return home.

• A juvenile reported he was assaulted by two people he knows.

**Friday, November 2**

• A Lehman resident chased away a man who

**Continued on page 8**

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Continued from page 7

broke into their home.

- An employee at a business located in the 3500 block of Caniff reported suspicious activity that occurred there.
- Officers responded to the 2600 block of Casmere regarding a Detroit resident who had overdosed on narcotics. The resident was taken to Detroit Receiving Hospital for treatment.
- A Detroit resident was arrested for drunk driving and driving with a suspended license.

- An employee at a business in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau reported two males stole two demonstration phones and then fled.
- A Detroit resident was taken to Detroit Receiving Hospital for being highly intoxicated.

**Saturday, November 3**

- At almost 2:30 a.m. a person was arrested in the Yemans-Conant area after a brief foot chase for obstructing officers.
- At about 2:30 a.m. a resident reported her

purse was missing after visiting a business in the 9600 block of Jos. Campau.

- A resident in the 2400 block of Faber reported the theft of his license plate.
- A resident in the 3800 block of Comstock reported the theft of their lawnmower.

**Sunday, November 4**

- At 2:30 a.m. a person was arrested after a traffic stop for drunk driving and obstruction.
- At almost 6 a.m. a suspect was arrested in the 2400 block of Florian for being wanted on a City of Warren felony warrant.
- A Lansing resident

was arrested after a traffic stop for possessing an open intoxicant.

- An Adrian resident was arrested in the 2300 block of Carpenter for assault and possessing narcotics.

**Monday, November 5**

- A resident reported a fraudulent incident when they bought a cellphone.
- A resident reported her car was stolen in the Evaline-McDougall area. Officers later found the vehicle and a juvenile driver was arrested.
- A Danforth resident was arrested in the Yemans city parking lot for attempting to steal an item from an auto.

## Hamtramck will miss out on taxes from marijuana sales

Continued from page 4

taxes and fees in the future.

It's time to tell rightwing extremists led by councilman Saad Almasmari to stop putting Hamtramck at risk for higher taxes and fees, face the facts, and allow Hamtramck to be a leader.

It's time to say, marijuana is legal and we embrace the economic benefits of this new development.

(Mr. Klein is a former city councilmember.)

## Coming events

**WEDNESDAYS, 7 p.m., every second**

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

**SATURDAY, November 10, 2-4 p.m.** – Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. Everyone is welcome.



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VETERANS DAY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, Nov. 11, 2018

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ASSEMBLY 10:30 AM

TOAST 11:00 AM Sharp

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

FOOD ★ MUSIC ★ SINGING

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



P.L.A.V. Post #10  
11824 Jos Campau  
Hamtramck, MI

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Get Out on  
the Hamtown!

Hamtramck Academy


11420 Conant St, Hamtramck, MI 48212-3134  
313-368-7312 PHONE x 313-477-2869 FAX

OPEN ENROLLMENT NOTICE

Open enrollment for the 2019-2020 academic school year ends on 2/28/2019 at 5 p.m. Applications are available for grades K - 8 and can be obtained at the school, at [www.NHASchools.com](http://www.NHASchools.com) or by calling 866-NHA-ENROLL. Should the number of applications received during open enrollment exceed available seats, a random-selection drawing will be necessary. The drawing, if needed, will be held on 3/15/2019 at 1:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room. Applications received after open enrollment will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for remaining open seats. Waiting lists will be formed accordingly.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

Hamtramck Academy admits students of any race, color, and nationality or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of intellectual or athletic abilities, measures of achievement or aptitude, disability, status as a handicapped person, homeless status, English proficiency, religion, creed, race, sex, color, or national origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies and athletic or other school-administered programs.



VETERANS DAY

November 11, 2018  
P.L.A.V. Post 6  
VFW 4162 and  
K of C #2723

Thank You Veterans

— God Bless America —

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS  
OF LIBRARY SERVICE



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

11/5

Kick-Off

Sign the Guest Book and pick up some library memorabilia. Enter the raffle for your chance to win our giveaway!

All Day

11/6

Movie Night

Join us for a showing of a family friendly film. Snacks provided. Enter the raffle for your chance to win our giveaway!

4:30-6:30 pm

11/7

100 Years of History

Check out the display celebrating Hamtramck History. Enter the raffle for your chance to win our giveaway!

All Day

11/8

Game Night

Drop in and play some games with your family and friends. Snacks provided. Enter the raffle for your chance to win our giveaway!

3:30-6:30 pm

11/9

Pizza Party!

100 years party! Enjoy some pizza and treats. Snap some pictures at our photo booth. Raffle Drawing at 4:30!

3:00-4:30 pm

Hamtramck Public Library

2360 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck MI 48212 313-733-6822 [hamtramck.tn.lib.us](http://hamtramck.tn.lib.us)



TACO NIGHT Buffet

To benefit Hamtown Farms

Friday, Nov. 9 4-8pm

Vegan Options Available

Guest Bartenders:  
Mike & Andy from 5pm-7pm

Hamtramck Moose Lodge  
9421 Conant Hamtramck • 313-871-9115

