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**April 12, 2019**  
**50¢**

# The Review

Hamtramck

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## Quick Hits

Have any out-of-date prescriptions?  
Or medications you no longer need?  
If so, don't throw them out or flush them down the toilet.  
Instead, the Hamtramck Drug Free Coalition (HDFCC) is partnering with the Hamtramck Police Department for the upcoming National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on April 27.  
According to the Coalition press release:  
A temporary collection box will be located in the Hamtramck Senior Plaza lobby (2620 Holbrook) where community members are encouraged to bring unused or expired medication for proper and safe disposal. The collection will run from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.  
You can drop off prescription medication, over-the-counter medicine, vitamins and medication for pets.

**Continued on page 6**

## — HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

# Photos of legendary Negro League baseball player emerge

(Hamtramck's historic baseball stadium was the home of the Detroit Stars back in the 1930s. The team was part of the Negro National Baseball League. A number of legendary players once graced the field, including Norman "Turkey" Stearnes.)

**By Dave Mesrey  
Special to The Review**

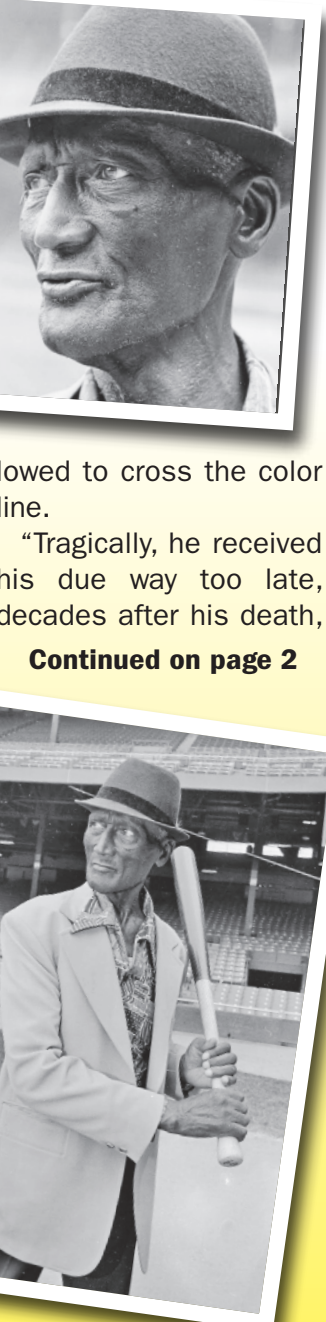
Every picture tells a story, and this one is no exception.  
In the summer of 1979, a group of aging African-American ballplayers gathered in Greenup, Kentucky, at the home of newspaper publisher Tom Stultz for the

**Continued on page 6**

first annual Negro Leagues baseball reunion.  
What started out as a birthday party for Clint "The Hawk" Thomas turned into a full-fledged reunion featuring the likes of Ray Dandridge, Buck Leonard, Buck O'Neil, and Judy Johnson.  
Former Detroit Stars center fielder Norman "Turkey" Stearnes made the trip from Detroit, traveling by plane for just the second time in his life.  
The Nashville native, then 78, had retired to Detroit, where after his baseball career he'd worked for nearly 30 years in the foundry at the Ford Motor Company's storied Rouge complex.  
It was there at the Rouge in the 1950s, long before there was a Motown Records, that Stearnes worked alongside a young Berry Gordy.  
Stearnes, a prolific home-run hitter who starred for the Stars in

the 1920s and '30s (first on the city's east side at Mack Park, and later at Hamtramck Stadium), was a man of few words.  
He let his bat do the talking.  
Stearnes was "one of the greatest hitters we ever had," Satchel Paige once said. "He was as good as Josh [Gibson]. He was as good as anybody who ever played ball."  
"Turkey Stearnes was a five-tool player and one of the greatest power hitters in baseball history — not just Negro League history," says baseball historian Gary Gillette. "There's no doubt that he would have been a superstar in Major League Baseball if he had been al-

**Photos courtesy of John Collier/Detroit Free Press**



## It's take two for Holbrook

**By Charles Sercombe**  
The Holbrook repair project is back on the road.  
The intersection at Holbrook and Gallagher is now closed off, as workers begin to tear up the street all the way to Conant.  
At the same time, new sidewalks will also be installed. The work takes up where the project left off last fall. The first phase started last year at Holbrook and Jos. Campau and stopped at Gallagher.  
The water lines running under the street are also being replaced.  
It's not clear how long it will take to complete this leg of the project.  
The project was supposed to be completed last year but both union road workers (Operating Engineers Local 324) and the contractors (the Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association) went on strike for three weeks last summer.  
The workers said they

**Continued on page 2**

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10 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

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HAMTRAMCK

# It’s take two for Holbrook

Continued from front page

had been locked out. Then-Gov. Rick Snyder helped broker a deal to end the labor dispute. Businesses along the road will be open during construction, but obviously it will be a challenge for customers to reach them.

The project, costing \$1 million, is being funded largely through the federal government – although the city has to kick in 20 percent of the costs out of its yearly street repair fund.

PLAV Post 10 & Evaline Street Food Co. present

— Friday, April 12, 2019 —  
**Asian Seafood & Stir Fry Night**  
4:30 - 8:30 PM  
Cantonese Steamed Fish, Japanese Curry w/ Shrimp Tempura, Pad Thai, Pole-Asian Dumplings, Spicy Noodles, Seafood Rangoon & Mandarin Orange Cake.

— Friday, April 19, 2019 —  
**New England Seafood Night**  
4:30-8:30 PM  
Lobster Rolls, Clam Bakes, Crispy Cod & Fries, Peel & Eat Shrimp, Shrimp Tartlets, Cheesecake & Lemon Curd Parfait, Craft Lemonade & Ice Tea.

Proceeds from these events go to support the PLAV and local veteran causes.

Pre-orders for Lobster Rolls & Clam Bakes are available through 4/12/2019.

PLAV Post 10  
11824 Jos Campau • Hamtramck

# Photos of legendary Negro League baseball player emerge

Continued from front page

when he was inducted into the Hall of Fame.”

When Detroit Free Press sportswriter Joe Lapointe got home from the Negro Leagues reunion, he and Freep photographer John Collier invited Stearnes to a photo shoot at Tiger Stadium, where Stearnes was never allowed to play because of the color of his skin.

No one knew it at the time, but in the summer of '79 Turkey Stearnes was gravely ill.

“That was the last time with my dad before he passed,” said Stearnes' daughter Joyce Stearnes Thompson. “He looks so frail, but it was a glorious moment — a moment he had been denied.”

Collier's signature photo from that day eventually made its way to Cooperstown, when Stearnes was posthumously inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2000.

Taking his stance at home plate, his bat softly cradled in his massive

hands, Stearnes cast his gaze deep into the outfield, where he sat as a spectator for so many days in the bleachers in the 1950s and '60s.

“In his eyes, you can see the story of the Negro Leagues,” said Gillette, founder and president of the Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium. “It’s the triumph of determination over discrimination, and the triumph of dignity over despair.”

Standing in the same left-handed batter's box once occupied by his white crosstown contemporary Ty Cobb, a dying Stearnes stares stoically into center field.

He is the luckiest man on the face of the earth.

“I remember his hands — he had very large hands, and the way he gripped the bat, you could tell he was a pro,” said Lapointe. “I remember he was dressed really sharp. He still had an athletic physique, and his clothes brought that out.

more than a lot of photographers, and he sees a picture where some don't.”

“Dad didn't laugh a lot,” Thompson said, “so that visual gives me some closure. It feels good to see my dad smiling.”

“I loved to see Dad smile,” says Brown. “I think he was smiling because he was happy he finally got a chance to swing his bat at Tiger Stadium.”

(Dave Mesrey is a local writer and a huge baseball fan. This story first appeared at the blog: hamtramckstadium.blogspot.com. That was in 2018. It is being reprinted here with his permission.)

The Review  
Hamtramck

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source: the350project.net

This week at the library...

ESL Class - Monday April 15th, 9:00 am and 12:00 pm. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

ESL Class - Tuesday April 16th, 12:00 pm. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

ESL Class - Wednesday April 17th, 9:00 am and 12:00 pm. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

ESL Class - Thursday April 18th, @ 12:00 pm. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

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

Movie Night - Tuesdays at 4 pm. Family friendly movies, snacks provided.

Talking is Teaching - Monday, April 15th at 11:30 am. Do you love and care for a child who is a baby, toddler, or preschooler? Join us for this discussion and information meeting with guest presenter: Greatstart.org

A UNIVERSE OF STORIES, SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM 2019 - Registration opens Monday June 17th! Come to the Library to sign up and get your activity log! This is a Free Program Open to all youth ages 4-12. KICK-OFF EVENT: Animal Astronauts, Wednesday, June 26th @ 2:00pm  
Homeschool Day @ HPL  
Friday, May 3rd @ 12:30 pm  
Join us for program highlighting library re-

sources and services.

#READYTOCODE - Wednesdays May 1st-May 29th 3:45-4:45 pm

Food For Fines - Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeast Michigan is once again teaming up with The Hamtramck Public Library for the annual Food for Fines/Food for Thought campaign. Between March 20 and April 30,2019 The Hamtramck Public Library will be accepting non-perishable food donations on behalf of Gleaners as they work together to help our hungry neighbors in need. To thank you for your donation, you will receive library fine forgiveness for each item you bring!  
(See Library personnel for details. Fine forgiveness cap may apply.)

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.



The Review is celebrating  
our 10-year anniversary!



Thank You  
HAMTRAMCK

# Second Front Page



# TOAST

of the

# TOWN

## Take a spin around town on Record Store Day

**By Alan Madlane**

“The Vinyl Craze” sounds like something that would have occurred in the 1960s, and had to do with people who enjoyed their car seats just... a ... bit ... too ... much...

It really has to do with the by-now well-documented revival of interest in record albums, among both millennial hipsters and nostalgic fogeys alike.

ing \$20 a pop for ‘em on Discogs or Popsike, and then putting pics of ‘em up on Facebook web-

teenie pop or bland “nu metal,” whatever the heck that is. This day is the anti-that.



**Saturday is for crate diggers when independently-owned record stores across the country, including two in Hamtramck, celebrate Record Store Day.**

pages like we just bagged a big stinky fish.

Anyway, it’s the 12th annual version of a day meant to celebrate the independent record store over the conglomerate giant (note to all: most conglomerates have dropped or minimized music sales completely because your average doofuses nowadays prefer to pay for thin air, as in, “downloads,” which is the song with no: cover art, band info, or, you know, fun.

As the president might say: “Sad.” But I suppose it makes perfect sense if you’re trading in disposal

So, head on over to your local shoppes, which are shops spelled like they’re located in ye olde Eng-lande (okay, England, you got me). Hamtrammie’s got a deuce: Detroit Threads on Jos. Campau, and The Record Graveyard up on Carpenter.

Detroit Threads, 10238 Jos. Campau specifically, plans an eleven-hour yelp-a-thon from the moment they open at 11 a.m. to the second they shutter up at 10 p.m. Something ominous their way shall come, and it’s called the Techno Mafia, and it’s who they’ll have hosting all day, so come

ready to “rave.”

And in this corner we have The Record Graveyard, a superior little store at 2610 Carpenter that’s doing ... absolutely nothing. The owner, Jeff Garbus, generally doesn’t deal in new vinyl, only used, so it don’t pay for him to play pretend one day a year.

Check ‘em out anyway, you’ll be happy.

Venturing farther ashore?

You’ll find plenty of disco-tessens scattered about, from Ann Arbor to Lansing to St. Clair Shores. Check out this interactive and useful guide from the folks at Curbed Detroit:

[detroit.curbed.com/maps/detroit-record-stores-mapped](http://detroit.curbed.com/maps/detroit-record-stores-mapped)

And don’t say we didn’t warn you how fun it was, and write us and complain that you have a fun-hangover, ‘cause we’ll just: Something.

Now get out there and be consumers!

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

Our Lady Queen of Apostles Parish

3851 Prescott • Hamtramck

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Easter Schedule

**Palm Sunday - April 13-14**  
5:30pm Saturday (English),  
8:00 am Sunday (English); 9:30am Sunday (Polish)

**Holy Thursday - April 18 - 6:00 pm**  
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper (English & Polish), includes washing of the feet; after Mass the Eucharist will be reserved in the chapel for adoration until 9:00pm

**Good Friday - April 19 - NO MORNING MASS**  
12 noon - 3:00 pm - Gorzkie Żale, Stations of the Cross, Choir Tribute, Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 2pm followed by adoration until 6pm.

**Holy Saturday - April 20**  
Blessing of Baskets - 12 noon, 1pm, 2pm;  
Solemn Vigil Mass of Easter - 7pm (Polish/English), new fire will be kindled and blessed, Liturgy of the Word, Blessing of Water, Liturgy of Baptism/ Renewal of Baptismal Promises, Liturgy of the Eucharist

**Easter Sunday - April 21**  
7:00 am Resurrection Procession and Mass (English & Polish)  
9:30 am Easter Mass (Polish)

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~ Halka / Paska

~ Chrucziki

~ Almond, Poppy &  
Nut Rolls

~ Bunnies

~ Layer Cakes

~ Small Bunnies

~ Easter Cupcakes

~ Stefanka (7 Sister  
Cake)

~ Cheesecakes

~ Pies

~ Assorted Cakes by  
the Slice

~ Pound Cakes

~ Butter Lambs

~ Kolaczki

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### It's Time to Pray, Please Join Us

We are a Multicultural Parish Family  
Sunday English Mass 9 a.m. • Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Everyone is Welcome to Worship with Us  
**April 13** - Soup Kitchen 2-4 pm – Everyone Welcome  
**April 14** - Palm Sunday Blessing & Distribution of Palms 9 am; PTO Bake & Butter Lamb Sale after Mass

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313-365-5191 [www.HolyCrossPNCC.com](http://www.HolyCrossPNCC.com)

**April 14** – Palm Sunday Blessing & Distribution of Palms 9 am; PTO Bake & Butter Lamb Sale after Mass  
**April 17** – Wednesday - The Way of the Cross 7 pm  
**April 18** – Maundy Thursday Holy Mass 7 pm  
**April 19** – Good Friday The Liturgy of Passion of our Lord 9 am; Adoration of the Cross and Scripture Reading at half-hour intervals 12- 3 pm; Private Adoration of the Lord's Tomb 7- 8 pm  
**April 20** – Holy Saturday Liturgy with Blessing of Water 9:30 am; Blessing of Food Baskets 11 am, 1 pm, 2 pm, 3 pm  
**April 21** – Easter Sunday Resurrection of our Lord, Procession and Holy Mass 8 am only  
**April 22** – Easter Monday Holy Mass in Polish – (Msza Sw. w.j. Polskim) 10 am



## Fish Fry Fridays

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## School Bell

### Early Childhood Elementary School News

Even though “March is Reading Month” has come to an end, it doesn't mean the students will stop their love for reading.

March was filled with a book give-away, special dress-up days, Round Robin Reading, guest readers from the staff, the Hamtramck firefighters and even a special visit from attorney Mike Morse and his daughter Lexi.

We have thoroughly enjoyed the fun times we had reading to the students and having the students read back to us.

Families can keep that enthusiasm going by going to the local library on Caniff and checking out books for all to read.

### Dickinson East Elementary School News

Ten students received Honor Roll recognition in Ms. Rahiel Housey-Johnson's sixth grade class at Dickinson East for the third quarter.

Congratulations to the following students: Abrar Al-Nahari, Alghaida Alghazali, Yasren Alqasemi, Yazmeen Alwaisi, Hamzah Chowdhury, Jakora Hayes, Fariha Mirza, Alaa Omar, Mahi Rahman, and Maha Uddin.

Keep up the good work.

### Enrollment Information

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

ing dates: Kindergarten: Unlimited, March 14 through September 5; grades 1st through 12th: Unlimited, March 14 through June 28.

Late school of choice applications cannot be accepted. School of choice applicants may be denied based on the student's attendance and/or discipline record.

You will need to bring with you: an original birth document (raised seal birth certificate, passport, green card, visa), an up-to-date immunization record, a final 2018-2019 report card/transcript, parental identification, two current proofs of residency (utility bill, mortgage statement, formal signed lease, pay stub, etc.) and proof of income (required only for preschool applications).

### Kindergarten Roundup Dates:

Dickinson East: April 17th at 3:30 p.m., Tau Beta: April 18th at 1:00 p.m.

### Upcoming Events:

- April 19 – No school for students and staff.
- May 1 – End of Progress Report Period 4.
- May 9 – Progress Report 4 Distributed.
- May 24 – Half day for students and staff.
- May 27 – No school for students and staff. Memorial Day.
- May 28 – School resumes.
- May 30 – Last day for preschool.
- May 30 – Last day for Hamtramck and Horizon High School seniors.

### Recreation Department News

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

to-date information: [www.Facebook.com/HamtramckRecreationDepartment](http://www.Facebook.com/HamtramckRecreationDepartment)  
**Compiled by Janice Gandelman**



**Above: Dickinson East Elementary School Honor Roll students pose for a photo. Below: Scenes from “March is Reading Month” at the Early Childhood Elementary School. Bottom photo: Yes, that’s local attorney Mike Morse, famous for his television commercials, and his daughter, Lexi, reading to students.**



## Odds & Ends

**Chat time...** Once again Police Chief Anne Moise is inviting residents to meet with her one-to-one. On Wednesday, April 24, Moise is holding her “Chat with the Chief” meeting, from 2 to 3 p.m.

You can talk with her in the first-floor conference room in city hall. No appointment is required, just stop by. Moise would like to hear what your concerns are in the community.

**Sale away...** It's spring cleaning season, and that includes getting rid

of the junk you've collected inside your house.

And here's an offer you can't refuse from the city to help out. On the weekend of April 27-28, the city is waiving its garage sale license fee and allowing residents to hold a sale for free.

All you have to do is send the address where you will hold a yard sale to the city, and you are good to go.

How to do that? Call the City Clerk's Office at (313) 800-5233, hit extension 5 and then hit extension 7.

### CITY OF HAMTRAMCK Notice of Public Hearing

The City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2019-20 budget on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at 7:00pm in the Hamtramck City Hall, 3401 Evali ne, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, City Council Chambers. The proposed budget is available for public inspection between the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday, at the office of the City Clerk. The property millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.



The Review is celebrating  
our 10-year anniversary!



*Thank You*  
HAMTRAMCK

# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### Hamtramck might be small, but it’s not small-town minded

Recently, a good friend of Hamtramck, journalist Michael Jackman, posted on his Facebook page an article he wrote a couple of years ago that got us thinking.

Jackman is a former editor for the Metro Times, and is a former resident of the city.

In 2017, he wrote a humorous column on area city mottos. They ranged from regal, to bland, to ripe for ridicule (most of them in the latter category).

(Note to Metro Times publisher: What in the world were you thinking of letting such a talented writer go? Someone out there in the publishing world, give Jackman a place to call home.)

Hamtramck’s current motto was credited for being inclusive. It is: “The World in 2 Square Miles.”

Several years ago, the city’s Downtown Development Authority had sponsored a contest, to come up with a new motto to replace the former one: “A Touch of Europe in America.”

The thinking was that the 1980s-inspired motto excluded many new residents who came from, for example, Bangladesh and Yemen.

The new motto, by the way, was the brainchild of former resident Christine Komisarz, who actually came up with the saying in 2008 when the former Citizen newspaper held its own contest.

That had us wondering just what is the actual, official, motto.

According to the Detroit Historical Society, it’s: “A League of Nations.”

There is one problem with that, though. No one has ever heard of it.

Greg Kowalski, the Chairman of the city’s Historical Commission and director of the Historical Museum, confirmed that the motto is suspect for us.

We put a call in to the media representative with the Society, and that person confirmed that the source of that saying cannot be independently verified.

Well, no matter.

The point of all this is that compared to other cities, Hamtramck may be a small town, sure. But, it’s not small-town minded. Its inhabitants have always had a sense that the world is a much bigger place than just this city.

It’s no accident that Hamtramck High School sports teams are known as “The Cosmos.” That’s Cosmos, as in, Cosmopolitans.

The team name suggests that we are not only residents of the great city of Hamtramck, but citizen members of the entire globe.

One of our favorite HHS cheer leader fight team chants includes the refrain: “You could have been a Cosmo.”

For those not lucky enough to have grown up here, dang, that has a nice ring.

Don’t we all wish we could have been a Cosmo?

## Wheelhouse Detroit celebrates its 12th anniversary and gears up for tours

**By Alan Madlane**

The offers are rolling in. Wheelhouse Detroit (and Hamtramck!) has rolled out their 12th season’s schedule of guided city bike tours, and it’s pumped all full of cool.

They’ve also got a sort of bicycle version of Uber/Lyft going on again for certain local warmer weather events. And lots more. But let’s put in it reverse for a moment.

Wheelhouse Detroit has been in our pages a lot recently. That’s because they’re very active in both the immediate Hamtramck community and beyond, and because they’re always adding new ideas and concepts to their basic one.

Independently- and female-owned and operated by Kelli Kavanaugh, they’ve been named one of America’s Best Bike Shops for four years in a row by the National Bicycle Dealers Association.

Their original Detroit location came to be in 2008, and the Hamtramck one opened in 2016. They also have a seasonal riverfront location that opens today, April 5.

The 2019 bike tours begin on April 15, and include dozens of locations.

To summarize: the tours begin on April 15; occur exclusively on Saturdays and Sundays with just a couple of exceptions; are mostly morning and afternoon affairs, again with a couple of exceptions; and cost \$30 to \$40 (\$10 more if you want to rent one of their bikes for the journey).

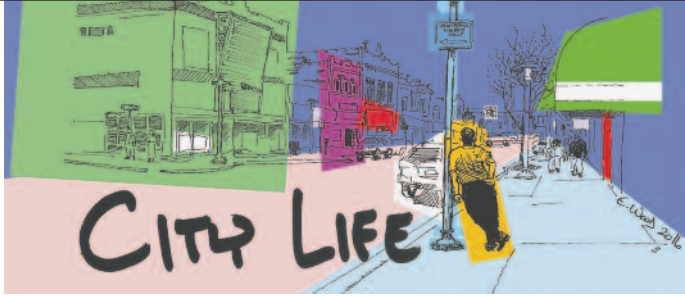
No-doubt popular should be the Haunted Detroit tours in October, including on Devil’s Night and Halloween; Eastern Market; Belle Isle; Palmer Park; the Music Heritage and Sports Heritage tours; and ones focused on architecture, churches or cemeteries. New for this season are “Heads Up!” a look at easy-to-miss architecture on June 22 and July 6; and a tour of, and fundraiser for, the Joe Louis Greenway, on Aug. 24 and Sept. 28.

Experienced guides lead the tours, and you’re also accompanied by a “sweeper” who’s there to help with any mechanical repair issues. For the full schedule of dates, times and prices, see their website: wheelhousedetroit.com.

The ride service takes folks to and back from a variety of events as diverse as Detroit City Football Club games, the Rouge-a-Thlon, and the Ride of Silence. Again, refer to the website (www.for more details).

Other things to mention are that they’re working with HPS and the Detroit River Conservancy to put up repair stands and air pumps around the area; that they house First Friday Happy Hour benefits at their 9401 Jos. Campau location (at the NE corner of Florian); and that they are now a Detroit Football Club retail outlet for tickets, scarves and t-shirts.

We love ‘em!



## April does want it wants

**By Walter Wasacz**

“Well, it’s April,” a friend wrote me recently in a WhatsApp message from Munich, “the best month and the most surprising. You never know what you get, from snow to summer heat. It’s the only month of the year where you can have it all.”

She grew up in southeast Germany, not far from the Czech and Polish borders, where the patterns of weather often seem comparable to ours. “Der April macht was er will,” she said her grandmother told her. “April does what it wants.”

That phrase jumped out at me earlier this week as I was sitting at Oloman Cafe thinking about the unpredictability of Hamtramck city life, how not knowing what comes next is one of our biggest community assets.

Owner Zlatan Sadikovic said I just missed meeting a group of about 15 Arabic-speaking educators, who were in town to observe how the community serves its large Yemeni student population. “They were from everywhere,” Sadikovic said, “one of them said she was from Qatar.”

I saw a poster on the window announcing an upcoming art exhibition at the cafe, which doubles as a gallery. The show, opening April 20, is called “Proof of Identity” by a Bulgarian artist, Dessislava Terzieva.

It reminded me of the keen attention Sadikovic pays to multicultural programming, how artists from Estonia, Montenegro, France, Germany, Romania and Poland have been featured along with African American locals Sheefy McFly and Darrel Ellis.

The next day, when sitting at a table across from the coffee bar and writing, I heard a familiar voice greeting me from behind. It was Alex Wilcox, who is in the process of moving to Hamtramck from Los Angeles. “I think I’m closing on the house on a Monday,” he said. “That’s cool. I’m excited, so ready to leave the Airbnb where I’ve been staying for the past two months.”

I met Alex, an electronic music producer, through my cousin Aleksandra, a young Polish woman who attended art college in England before landing a



**Bulgarian artist Dessislava Terzieva will have an exhibit starting April 20 at Oloman Café on Jos. Campau.**

job as a fashion photographer in LA. Like many creative people I’ve met over the years her friend was drawn to Detroit for the music and the community life that surrounds it.

Some people fit in here hand in glove. Alex appears to be one of them. I met him last November at Outer Limits, where I was DJing a book-release party for local author Steve Hughes. I introduced him to several people that night, could tell immediately he had the sort of character that does well in this environment.

Why is that? What does it take?

A combination of curiosity and humility, an intuitive knack for knowing you are part of something bigger than yourself.

The culture here is about blending together not spotlight-seeking alone. There are opportunities to build and grow communities based on grounded mutual interests, which might be art and music as much as it could be friendship and family.

All co-exist rather nicely in the Hamtramck of right now, April 2019.

I walked from the cafe south on Jos. Campau to CVS, where I looked for a birthday card for a friend. There were dozens and dozens but none matched what I had in mind, deciding instead to use a blank card I have at home and write my own message.

I continued east down the alley until I reached Holbrook Market, where I got a box of yellow rice to mix with the dinner I would prepare later, pan-fried ocean perch and steamed broccoli I bought while shopping at Bozek’s a few days earlier. I also

**Continued on page 8**

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City Hall Insider ...

**By Charles Sercombe**

The city council met on Jan. 22, and all councilmembers were present.

A resident who lives near the New Head Coach Bar on Carpenter complained that the bar has been staying open until 4 a.m., and has allowed garbage to accumulate around the building.

The resident also said there are loud noises coming from the bar.

In another issue, a resident said he supports a council proposal to prohibit the sales of recreational marijuana in the city.

“If other cities have opted out, why can’t we do it?” he said.

The resident noted that a majority of Hamtramck voters opposed the November state ballot proposal to legalize the

recreational use of marijuana.

(State voters, however, approved the ballot proposal.)

Another resident spoke against banning legal marijuana sales.

“It’s an economic mistake,” he said.

Later in the meeting, a bare majority of councilmembers approved a resolution directing the city attorney to draft an ordinance prohibiting the sale of marijuana citywide.

Councilmembers Ian Perrotta and Andrea Karpinski voted against the resolution. Karpinski said the city will miss out on an opportunity to bring in tax revenue.

“We’re dropping the ball in bringing money into the city,” she said.

She said having the city

opt out on sales is “irresponsible.”

Councilmember Perrotta argued that the council needed more time to consider the proposal and its impact on the city.

“We are being capricious and short-sighted,” he said.

Councilmember Anam Miah, who voted for the resolution, said this was just the first step in considering whether to opt out.

“It’s not a cut-and-done deal at this time,” Miah said.

Mayor Karen Majewski, who does not get to vote on such resolutions, said preventing the sale of medical and recreational marijuana “stigmatizes” those who use it.

Plus, she said, the city

will miss out on collecting tax revenue.

“We have an opportunity here,” Majewski said.

In another controversial resolution, several residents spoke out against censoring Councilmember Perrotta.

The resolution accused Perrotta of making culturally insensitive remarks, assaulting a fellow councilmember and using “abusive language” against a female city employee, and thus “potentially” creating a “hostile work environment.”

Susan Dunn took issue with the resolution, saying it should not be allowed on the agenda. Dunn also questioned why Mayor Majewski had not commented on the matter, saying her silence is “completely unacceptable.”

Majewski later did comment on the resolution at length. She took issue with the wording of the resolu-

tion, and said it takes comments Perrotta made at one time “woefully” out of context.

She also said she saw no assault that allegedly happened in a closed-door meeting that she attended.

Majewski said, though, comments made at that closed-door meeting were “disturbing and shocking from all sides.”

She added that Perrotta’s conduct was “inappropriate and aggressive ... and appeared, to me, purposely provocative.”

Perrotta read from a prepared statement that went on for 20 minutes.

He denied the allegations and said he was basically being blackmailed.

He added that passing the resolution could jeopardize a possible multi-million dollar grant to renovate the city’s historic baseball stadium and Veterans Park.

Councilmember Saad Al-

masmari said that while it is “unfortunate” the resolution is being considered, Perrotta has been “disrespectful.”

He said the resolution is the only way for Perrotta to change his behavior.

“It’s a good lesson for Mr. Perrotta to fix his attitude,” Almasmari said.

The council passed the resolution 4-2, with Perrotta and Karpinski voting against it.

Later in the meeting, resident Carrie Beth Lasley said there should be a censure against Almasmari for past comments he made.

Perrotta’s brother, Andrew, said that passing the censure resolution will result in a defamation lawsuit against the city.

Resident Nayeem Choudhury wondered why there was such division among city councilmembers.

“My gosh, what is going on in this city?” he said.

Quick Hits

Continued front page

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abuse.

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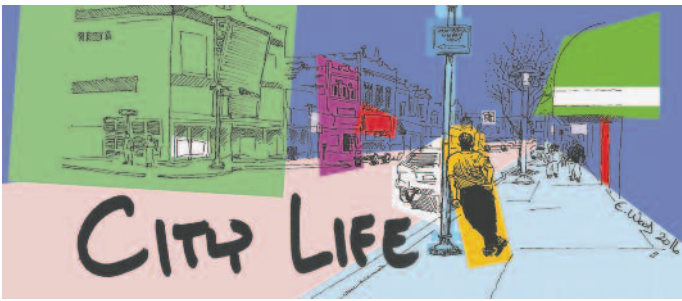


Continued from page 7

ing Hospital.  
**Friday, April 5**  
• A landlord who owns a dwelling in the 2100 block of Trowbridge St. reported a break-in and the theft of various tools.  
**Saturday, April 6**  
• A resident in the 11500 block of Nagel St. reported that someone damaged her car window.  
• A Warren resident reported a break-in at his property in the 2100 block of Trowbridge St.  
• A hit-and-run accident was reported in the 3900 block of Caniff.  
• Another hit-and-run accident occurred at Christopher and Conant.

**Sunday, April 7**  
• A break-in was reported in the 12000 block of Gallagher.  
• At about 11:30 p.m., a Detroit resident reported being assaulted in the 11400 block of Jos. Campau by four males after his car was struck by a black Chrysler.  
• A loose dog was located in the 2600 block of Commor.  
• A Norwalk St. resident reported that his car was stolen.  
• A McDougall St. resident was arrested for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.  
• A hit-and-run accident

was reported at Ellery and Belmont.  
**Monday, April 8**  
• At 12:40 a.m., a Detroit resident was arrested in the area of Circle Dr. and Grand Haven for being disorderly.  
• At 2:30 a.m., a Detroit resident was arrested after a traffic stop for driving without a license and for possessing an open intoxicant.  
• An agent for the Detroit Zen Center reported that someone damaged their fence.  
• A resident dropped off a dog at the police station. The dog, a brown pit bull/mastiff mix, had walked into a bar on Evaline St. The animal was taken to the Westland Humane Society.



Continued from page 5  
had fruits from Al-Haramain to add to the meal if I chose.  
It was warmer hours earlier, when I started my

walk. Now it was cold. I carried a pullover cap in my bag all winter, was glad it was still there when I reached for it.

I put it on.  
The wind had a bite to it and snow showers were predicted for later tonight. It's April, I thought, as I turned up Gallagher towards home, it's best to be prepared for anything.  
*Hamtramck native Walter Wasacz writes about walkable discovery and adventures close to home for the Review*

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