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**April 26, 2019**  
**50¢**

# The Review

Hamtramck

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## Quick Hits

### Planet Ant cooks up plenty

**By Alan Madlane**

Those wily "pismires" over at the Big Purple House of Entertainment (better known as Planet Ant) have devised more "stuff," as they used to say on The Gong Show, for our general amusement.

First on their agenda is an original spoof of the much-beloved musical Grease – except, in their hands it has become "Greece," and is set at "Mt. Olympus High," as in, School.

Here, Sandy has a presumably meet-cute with Zeus, that well-chronicled cad, and the sparks fly. The question is, will sweet young Sandy get burned?

Both written and directed by Nuvarre Naami, the cast was kept a secret for this

**Continued on page 6**

**— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —**

# Vandalism and its costs plow under Hamtown Farms

"To everything (turn, turn, turn)  
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)  
And a time to every purpose ..."  
"Turn! Turn! Turn! (To Everything There Is a Season)" by Pete Seeger

**By Charles Sercombe**

Hamtramck's community garden won't go through another growing season.

Michael Davis, a co-organizer of Hamtown Farms, a registered non-profit organization, announced the end of the

garden this week.

In a post on the Hamtown Farms Facebook page, Davis said:

"We have some sad news to share. Unfortunately, due to a recent rash of vandalism and destruction (and seven years of continued vandalism and destruction), Hamtown Farms will be closing.

"We feel it is no longer prudent to continue to apply our money, time and effort, nor is right to ask others for their money, time and effort to support

**Continued on page 2**

**Hamtown Farms is permanently closing, and the tools and equipment the organization has will be donated this Saturday to fellow non-profit groups.**

## Few sign up for election

**By Charles Sercombe**

Some familiar names have entered this year's city council race.

As expected, the three incumbents, Anam Miah, Abu Musa and Saad Al-masmari are seeking re-election.

Former councilmember Mohammed Hassan and former city clerk Robert Zwolak are among the familiar challengers. Other candidates include Nayeem Choudhury, Carrie Beth Lasley, Mohammed Alsomiri and Justin Jessop.

Candidates who decide to back out of the election had until today, Friday (April 26) to withdraw. The Review went to press on Thursday.

A primary election will be held on Aug. 6 to whittle the nine candidates down to six. If at least three candidates drop out by Friday (April 26), there will not be a need for a primary election.

The top three vote-getters in the November General Election will serve four-year terms.

Hassan decided to

**Continued on page 2**

**A rotation of DJs performed at Detroit Threads during Record Store Day.**

## TOAST of the TOWN

**By Charles Sercombe**

It's been a few years since we last talked with Cathy Gordon over at New Dodge Lounge.

The former city councilmember reminded us recently that she has the distinct title of owning a bar in Hamtramck for the longest continuous time.

She's right.

Lili's 21 Club is long gone – although new owners took over the bar and renamed it Painted Lady.

Hippo's is gone. Jean's is gone. Paycheck's closed and is now called Sanctuary.

Head Coach closed for a

**Continued on page 4**

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# Vandalism and its costs plow under Hamtown Farms

Continued from front page

our mission of providing accessible green space for the community.

“We thank everyone who, for the past seven years, have supported us in our efforts.”

Some of the damages over the years included people ruining trees, garden beds being destroyed and the water collection system being vandalized.

Davis and Hamtown Farms co-organizer Andy Rice will be donating the garden's tools and equipment this Saturday (April 27) starting at 10 a.m.

Hamtown Farms is located at 9026 Lumpkin, just south of Holbrook.

Donations will only be given to fellow non-profit organizations. Proof of



Hundreds of volunteers have helped out at Hamtown Farms over the past seven years.

your organization's non-profit status must be provided before a donation can be made.

Davis told The Review that the garden lots will eventually be sold, ac-

cording to the rules governing non-profit organizations.

Hamtown Farms allowed residents to plant their own garden and also allowed people to pick

fruits and vegetables that were grown in the communal area.

The site also hosted a number of weddings and picnics.

News of the closing shocked a number of residents. Here is just one comment:

“I’m so sorry to hear this. Hamtown Farms is one of the things that makes this community unique. You will be missed,” said Alice Kopecky on the Hamtown Farms’ Facebook page.

Despite the bad news of closing, Davis asked that the community “To not focus on the bad of today, but the good of the past seven years.”

## Few sign up for election

Cont. from front page

seek the mayor's job two years ago instead of attempting re-election to the council. Mayor Karen Majewski easily cruised to a fourth term, beating Hassan by a little over 700 votes.

Zwolak served as city

clerk in the 1980s, and then also served on the Charter Revision Commission in the 1990s.

He has remained active in local politics and is a regular attendee at city council meetings.

Choudhury lost his bid for city council two years ago.

Lasley has been a frequent critic of city officials.

Whoever serves on the council will have some challenging issues to face. The city is bracing for a shock to its budget

this coming year, when GM is expected to shut down its Poletown Plant.

GM pays about \$850,000 a year to the city in lieu of property taxes.

One way the city may save money is to turn the police and fire departments into a public safety department (which would cut down a number of employees), or else to contract fire services with Detroit.

Neither of those two proposals have yet been acted on or even dis-

cussed at length.

Candidate Lasley has gotten out in front of this issue, and is already campaigning against both proposals. She is insisting the city has to keep both departments intact and separate.

The Review  
Hamtramck

Call  
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## This week at the library...

**ESL Class** - Monday April 29th, 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required

**ESL Class** - Tuesday April 30th, 12:00 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required

**ESL Class** - Wednesday May 1st, 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

**ESL Class** - Thursday May 2nd, @ 12:00 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required

**Toddler Time** - April 4th-May 9th, 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.

**Movie Night** - Tuesdays at 4 p.m. Family friendly movies, snacks provided.

**A UNIVERSE OF STORIES SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM 2019** - Regis-

tration 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 @ 2:00 p.m.

**Homeschool Day @ HPL** Friday, May 3 12:30 p.m.

**Do you home school?**

Are you interested in meeting families who home school? Join us for this program highlighting library services and resources and a scavenger hunt! Parents and Caregivers and children of all ages are welcome to attend this informal event.

**#READYTOCODE - Makerspace STEM+ Art** - Youth in 4th to 12th grade are invited for the #ReadyToCode events. Programs are held on Wednesdays in May from 3:45-4:45 p.m., and run from May 1st-May 29th. Projects will include: Animation, Games, Videos, Music, and Art!

Memorial Day Bugle Calls Presentation

Presented by Richard Gadigian

Thursday May 23rd at 6:00 p.m.

Hear how Bugle calls were used during the Civil War and those that continue to be used in our modern Armed Forces.

Special Guests: John Wayne @ Sari Villanueva

**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.



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# Second Front Page



## School Bell

### Dickinson West Elementary School News

Dickinson West Elementary School is a Michigan Green School. Mrs. Jennifer Bradley, 5th grade teacher, helped start the “green initiative” at Dickinson West about seven years ago.

Each year an application needs to be filled out and approved by our Wayne County green director. This application includes a school receiving a certain number of points for doing green activities.

Mrs. Bradley’s 5th grade class has a green school bake sale each month to help raise money. Teachers help by baking items for the sale.

A few teachers have helped create indoor gardens, recycling programs, and other “green” activities for our school.

We celebrated Earth Day on April 22 with a “mud, dirt and worms treat” for everyone.

We cleaned up our school campus, weeded our gardens and planted wildflowers in the classes. We also “adopted” a polar bear from the Detroit Zoo!

The money we raised goes toward a day of medicine, food or whatever the animal may need while living at the zoo.

We also raised money to help plant trees in the rainforest, with the Arbor Day Foundation.

The 5th graders plan on attending a field trip on the Detroit River called the Great Lakes Educational Program, sponsored by the Sea Grant of Michigan and Michigan State University extension of Wayne County.

This will help our students learn more about our great State of Michigan, including plants and animals in Michigan and its watershed. We plan on adding many new activities to our green school program over the next few years.

### Dickinson East Elementary School News

Dickinson East 5th graders have recently completed a metal repousse project during art class.

### Award winners

Hamtramck students have shined this past year. Recently several of them received awards.

The Society of Automotive Engineers-Detroit Section awarded cash prizes to the following stu-



From left to right: Cristian Rodriguez and Nayema Begum are winners of poster contest sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers-Detroit Section. On the right is their graphic arts teacher, Harry Katopodis.



From left to right: Emad Kaid, Thair Mohamed, Bashar Al-Quasimi, Amer Gunic, Nahim Miah, Husnaara Begum and Ermina Karasuljic are this year’s DECA students.



Dickinson West student Cordell Riley is the first-place winner of Sodexo’s Future Chef Contest. Also pictured is Lisa Walker, Operations Manager for Sodexo.



Dickinson West Elementary School students recently celebrated Earth Day.

dents who had participated in the group’s poster contest: Cristian Rodriguez and Nayema Begum.

Cristian won first place and a \$1,500 scholarship. Nayema won \$100 for coming in 9th place.

Two other \$100 winners were: Fahd Hezam 6th place and Sayma Islam 8th place.

Their graphic arts teacher is Harry Katopodis.

The DECA organization, an International Association of High School and College students and teachers of marketing, management and entre-

preneurship in business, finance, hospitality and marketing sales and service, recognized the following finalists: Emad Kaid, Thair Mohamed, Bashar Al-Quasimi, Amer Gunic, Nahim Miah, Husnaara Begum and Ermina Karasuljic.

Dickinson West student Cordell Riley is the first-place winner of Sodexo’s Future Chef Contest.

### Hamtramck Health Hike

The Hamtramck Health Hike will be held on Saturday May 4 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. It starts at the Hamtramck Community Center, located at 11350

Charest St.

Please join us for a day of fun, including free T-shirts, free lunch, prizes, an obstacle course, fowl-ing and other giveaways. Bring your family and friends for a fun-filled day.

### 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 following dates: Kindergarten: Unlimited, through September 5; grades 1st through 12th: Unlimited, 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

Continued on page 4



### 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 30** – Mass for People on our Prayer List 7 pm  
**May 1** – May Devotion & Procession with Youth  
Sponsored Ice Cream Social following 7 pm  
**May 4** – Polish Dinner & Annual Raffle (Drawing at 7 pm) with Mike Zawojky, Grammy Nominated Accordionist 4-7 pm  
**May 11** – Soup Kitchen – Everyone Welcome! 2-4 pm  
ANNUAL RAFFLE for benefit of Holy Cross Parish P.N.C.C.  
- Sponsored by Ladies’ Societies / Tickets \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00 / Drawing May 4, 2019  
Contacts: Nancy Jedynak 906-322-1223 | jedynakn@yahoo.com; Jolanta Nowak 313-505-2862 | jola@netscape.com; Katherine Banicki 248-755-4331 | kbanicki@tctest.com

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School Bell

Continued from page 3

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).

**Upcoming Events:**

- 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**



TOAST  
of the  
TOWN

Continued from front page

while, moved and now has apparently reopened.

The Norwalk closed up many years ago and is no longer operating as a bar.

Hamtramck's only blues bar, the Attic, shut down, got remodeled and reopened several times under new names. Word is it might open as a bar again soon.

Suzy over at Suzy's Bar has not been operating as long as New Dodge. Neither has Whiskey in the Jar been in business as long as Gordon has.

The last time we talked with Gordon was to inquire as to whether the bar was for sale. It was, and it still is.

Last we heard, the asking price was around \$400,000 – which included both the building and liquor license.

New Dodge, located on Jos. Campau just south of Holbrook, is a perfect joint for live bands.

It's the only bar in town that has an open upstairs where you can watch a band perform down below.

It's a New York-style bar – long and narrow, and nice and dark.

We recently caught some friends playing in there, and we were reminded how great the sound level is – not too loud, not too soft. A perfect balance, and no doubt the layout of the place adds to the good acoustics.

Whoever comes along and buys the bar next will only have to open the door and turn on the lights.

You'll be ready to go. And Cathy and her husband, Lew, can finally retire.

After owning and operating a bar for 34 years, Gordon said it's long past time to move on.

"As you get older, you run out of steam," she said. "We'd like to retire."

When it isn't hosting

Advertisement for Bid

PARTNERS 18-146

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BID TITLE: ROOFING UPGRADES – TAU BETA SCHOOL & HORIZON HIGH SCHOOL AND ADULT EDUCATION

Hamtramck Public Schools will receive single prime sealed bids to furnish all labor and materials and perform all work necessary and incidental for the Roofing Upgrades – Tau Beta School & Horizon High School and Adult Education in accordance with published instructions, specifications, drawings and other contract documents.

*There will be a Pre-Bid Meeting and Walkthrough, for all contractors interested in submitting a bid held at Tau Beta School, located at 3056 Hanley, Hamtramck, MI 48212, on Tuesday, April 30th, 2019 at 2:00 PM.*

Sealed bids must be received at the Hamtramck Public Schools Administration Building, located at 3201 Roosevelt, Hamtramck, MI 48212, no later than, Wednesday, May 8th, 2019 at 2:00pm. Bids received after this date and time and bids received electronically or via fax will **not** be accepted or considered. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 2:05pm.

Bidders **MUST** use the bid form(s) in the specification packages. **RETURN TWO COMPLETE COPIES OF EACH BID SUBMITTAL**. Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope, clearly labeled with the bid title, date and time due.

All bids shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship(s) that exist between the owner(s) or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board of Education of the School District or the Superintendent of the School District. The Board of Education shall not accept a bid that does not include a sworn and notarized familial relationship disclosure statement. All bids must also be submitted with a sworn and notarized Affidavit of Compliance regarding Michigan Public Act No. 517 of 2012 – Iran Economic Sanctions Act.

Submit with each bid, a certified check or acceptable bid bond payable to Hamtramck Public Schools, in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid.

Bids submitted shall fully comply in all respects to these instructions, published specifications, drawings, and other contract documents. Bid price shall include all costs associated with this project.

No bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the date of the bid opening. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any formalities in regard thereto. In addition, the Board reserves the right to evaluate bids on any basis determined by the Board to be in the best interest of the Board and to consider alternate bids if the low bidder(s) do not meet the specifications or are otherwise determined to be unqualified.

The Architect will provide the documents to prospective bidders, electronically free of charge or in hard copy format at \$40.00 per set. Checks shall be made payable to: PARTNERS in Architecture, PLC. Bid documents will be available on or about April 24th, 2019. Interested contractors should request documents via email @. [JHoulihan@partnersinarch.com](mailto:JHoulihan@partnersinarch.com) Questions may be directed to PARTNERS in Architecture, PLC, 65 Market Street, Mt. Clemens, MI 48043 (Phone: 586-469-3600).

PARTNERS in Architecture, PLC

St. Florian Parish Strawberry Festival '19

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May 4 from 12pm-11pm & May 5 from 1pm-10pm

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**Strawberry Desserts**

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Sat 7:00pm  
Sun 2pm-3pm  
During band breaks

Main Raffle Drawing Sunday, May 5th @ 9:00pm \$2,250 in prizes! Hourly 50/50, Pull Tabs

Tin Can Auction Gift Baskets Fun Stuff for Kids

Firefighter's March & Mass Saturday @ 3:30pm

Tour Our Historic Church Sunday

**POLKAS ALL WEEKEND!**

**Entertainment**

Saturday

Polish Muslims 6:30pm-9:30pm  
**All Class Reunion!**  
The Ambassadors Polka Band 6pm-10pm

Sunday

New Generation Polkas 2pm-6pm  
The Ambassadors Polka Band 2pm-6pm  
Dance & Dine in our church hall and heated tent

 On Facebook @ St. Florian Strawberry Festival & St. Florian Parish Events

St. Florian Parish is located East of I-75 and South of Davison in Hamtramck (just north of Holbrook) [www.stflorianparish.org](http://www.stflorianparish.org)

Hamtramck Clean Sweep 2019

Join us on Saturday, May 4th to help clean Hamtramck up for spring!



Meet at Hamtramck City Hall (3401 Evaline) from 9:30am-12:00pm to pick up gloves and bags

Dumpsters will be available throughout the city



The Review is celebrating  
our 10-year anniversary!



Thank You  
HAMTRAMCK

Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Filling the role of school superintendent is no easy job

This past week the Hamtramck Board of Education interviewed six candidates for the position of superintendent.

Next week, those who made the cut will be interviewed one more time.

This is no easy job, and certainly, anyone following Superintendent Tom Niczay will have some big shoes to fill.

Niczay has been in education for 40 years, the last 10 of which as superintendent. He took

the position when the district was facing a declining student enrollment and a multi-million dollar budget deficit.

Niczay and his team straightened out the district to where we now have a healthy student enrollment and a \$9.8 million budget surplus.

Choosing the right superintendent is going to be a challenge, to say the least. We do not envy the position school board members are in.

It's important that the

next superintendent be someone who can face the challenges of any inner-city school district – especially one as culturally diverse as Hamtramck.

Boardmembers need to think long and hard before making a decision. And if it turns out there is not one single candidate who would make a good fit here, it's also wise for boardmembers to then start the search all over.

Ask Uncle Stan ...

**By Stanislaw Zwariowany**  
*(Editor's note: A Review reader decided we needed humor in the paper, and is now offering a semi-weekly "advice" column. We suspect the answers may be a little dodgy, but that is to be expected from an elderly "uncle" who may or may not be a former city official – hint: he is ... oops).*

**Dear Uncle Stan,**

I moved to Hamtramck last fall from Grand Rapids with my wife. One of the things we noticed right away was the fact that people liked to keep kitchen chairs in the street.

We assume this is a local custom, so we decided to put our own kitchen chair in the street in front of our apartment. It made us feel like townies.

We still don't know where the tradition originates. Can you help us out, Uncle Stan?

**Sincerely, Baffled**

**Dear Baffled,**

In the olden times, there were no cars. Though Hamtramck was a prosperous village, most of the citizens could not afford to keep horses, let alone eat

them.

They walked, as did many of the peoples who travelled through Hamtramck to Detroit from the untamed Michigan wilderness.

At the time, Hamtramck even lacked the resources to be able to adequately provide accommodate its own walkers, let alone the thousands of immigrants that passed through it every month.

It was so bad, people were often to forced to sit on the ground, where the sidewalks are now. This was a time before sidewalks, and the streets of Hamtramck looked desolate, like a Sterling Heights suburb.

The township fathers got together and passed a law. The law said every resident was required to place at least one kitchen chair "of good working order" in or near the edge of the road so that walkers might have a place to sit while passing through

Agents of the Dodge brothers and Henry Ford implicated council members in 1926, from what became known as the Chair Affair, in which mem-

bers were rewarded with free drinks at their favorite speak-easy for a month.

The council members repealed the law, arguing the chairs impeded autos, and enacted a new law to ban chairs from the street. Stash Shaggy, reporter for the local newspaper, the Hamtramck Resident, first reported the scandal that eventually resulted in the recall of two successive city councils.

In recent years, the anniversary of the Chair Affair has been celebrated with a dinner hosted by a local non-profit.

Hamtramckans are a proud and stubborn people who were not going to let crooks in city hall push them around. So, what was once a law that was meant to help people walking in our city has become an enduring Hamtramck tradition.

**Your loving uncle, Stan Zwariowany**

If you have a question about Hamtramck, Uncle Stanislaw Zwariowany would be happy to answer it for you. You can email your question to: [news@thehamtramckreview.com](mailto:news@thehamtramckreview.com)



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Odds & Ends

**Reminder...** The Hamtramck Drug Free Coalition (HDFCC) is partnering with the Hamtramck Police Department for the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day this Saturday, 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 even medication for pets.

However, they will not accept liquid medications, needles, ointments or inhalers. All personal information on prescription labels should be marked out before disposing of items at the collection.

Returning expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs to proper receptacles helps prevent water supply contamination and prescription abuse.

A permanent prescription drug drop box is also available 24 hours, seven days a week at the Police Department in the lobby in Hamtramck City Hall.

**Clean sweep...** Show your love for the community by participating in the annual Hamtramck Clean Sweep, which will be Saturday, May 4.

Volunteers are asked to stop off at Hamtramck City Hall between 9:30 a.m. and noon to pick up free gloves and garbage bags, and before venturing out to start cleaning.

Have to stick around your house? No problem, take some time to pick up trash that collected during the winter – or maybe also get some neighbors to help sweep up your street.

And our alleys sure need some attention, too.

Dumpsters will be available in various locations around Hamtramck for use during the Clean Sweep.

**Celebrate...** This Saturday (April 27) is Independent Bookstore Day, and our local bookstore, Bank Suey (located at Jos. Campau and Caniff), is holding several events for both kids and adults.

The store will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. There will be special offers tailored to the day, as well as special events. Here's a rundown of their events:

- 10 a.m.: Book Suey opens. Earlybirds get first pick of exclusive IBD merchandise!
- Noon-8 p.m.: Kids are invited to plant their very own fairy tale pollinator seeds in take-home pots. Hosted by Tiny Acres.
- Noon-8 p.m.: Kids are invited to make book page origami with artist Fiala Salatrik.
- 1-2 p.m.: Makey Makey workshop for kids of all ages.
- 2-3 p.m.: Literary mustache painting by local artist Alice V. Schneider.
- 3-4 p.m.: Drag Queen Story Hour with local drag goddess AphroditeQween
- 4-5:30 p.m.: Take-home 'zine workshop with local print and bookmaker (and Book Suey member-owner) Laura Beyer.
- 4-5:30 p.m.: Perform-

ance by Hamtramck's own Honest to God Jug Band.

**Author, author ...** Speaking of Bank Suey, Hamtramck's very own Steve Hughes will be there as part of the Storytellers series on Saturday, May 4 at 2 p.m.

Steve recently had his book, "Stiff," released (which is published by Wayne State University Press).

The book features stories inspired by – well, let Steve tell you:

"I kept the setting for most of the stories in Hamtramck and Detroit. Many of them take place either in our neighborhood houses and streets, or at various bars around town like Motor City Sports Bar, New Dodge Lounge, Kelly's, and Baker's Streetcar."

**Congratulations...** Longtime police officer Luigi Gjokaj has taken a step up in his law enforcement career, and was promoted to lieutenant this past week.

Also newly sworn in officers Ben Wright, David Allison, Aaron Gatzi, and Adelajda Shehu joined the department this week.

We wish them all the best of luck, and good health.



Above: Luigi Gjokaj was promoted from police officer to detective this past week. Below: Hamtramck's newest officers to join the department are Ben Wright, David Allison, Aaron Gatzi, and Adelajda Shehu.



The Hamtramck Review

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# Polish-born American war hero is in the ultimate ‘He said/She said’ dispute

**By Charles Sercombe**  
Will history books have to be rewritten about Revolutionary War hero Casimir Pulaski?

Researchers are now saying the famous Polish general may have actually been a woman, or even what’s called an “intersex” individual.

That type of person shares biological characteristic of both a male and a female.

The Smithsonian Channel recently presented a documentary called: "America's Hidden Stories: The General Was Female?"

Last October, President Trump officially proclaimed Pulaski as the “Father of the American Cavalry.”

Maybe: Not so fast? Pulaski was born in Poland in 1745, and later came to America to help with the founding of the country. He played a key role in several Revolutionary battles, and ended up wounded at age 34.

So why do researchers believe Pulaski may have actually been female?

His skeletal remains were examined after being excavated in the 1990s, and it was determined that “his” pelvis was actually female – having an oval shape.

That’s unusual, and in the U.S., there are about 2,000 children who are born intersex each year.

Some online observers, of course were skeptical of the news. Wrote one person: “What’s neat about the story is that, as far as

Pulaski knew, he was just a dude the same as any other dude he knew, but he happened to be famous enough that people would want to look at his bones and find out that it was more complicated than that.”

Others simply marveled at the complexity of the human body.

“The human body is a ramshackle miracle,” said another commenter.

Hamtramck, once a predominantly Polish enclave, has a few connections to Pulaski. There is a street named after him, and there was an elementary school named after him that was located in what is now called Pulaski Park.

Hamtramck’s ethnic makeup has changed in recent years, and it is now no longer Polish-centric. According to the 2010 Census, almost 20 percent of the population are Bengali, 11 percent Pakistani and only 10 percent Polish.

The Yemeni population, at that time, was thought to comprise 9.2 percent – although it is believed that population has jumped up in the last 10 years.

According to the 2010 Census, there were almost 23,000 people living in Hamtramck at that time – down now by about 500 according to the 2010 Census.

The next Census, which takes place nationally every 10 years, starts again several months from now.

oil and not much else? But I digress. The show is paired with their latest improv-based piece, directed by very funny fellow Shawn Handlon and titled “Pizza Rolls Burning.”

I know it’s probably not about pizza rolls, really, but gosh I wish it were.

The show opens tonight and runs for several weekends. Check out the web-

Continued on page 8

# City gets hitched to towing lawsuit in federal court

**By Charles Sercombe**  
The City of Hamtramck is now on the receiving end of a federal class action lawsuit regarding the towing practices of a Detroit company.

As reported last February in The Review, a lawsuit was filed in federal court regarding Breakthrough Towing.

The company first came to the attention of the public for towing cars from the CVS parking lot on Jos. Campau and Holbrook after the store closed for the day.

Patrons at Bumbo’s Bar, which is across the street from CVS, complained that Breakthrough targeted their cars, and were charged upwards of \$400 (in cash only) to give their cars back.

Although there were some parking signs posted by Breakthrough at the CVS lot, there was

no contract with the company and CVS. And technically, the state’s signage law was not fully followed.

Tony Paris, one of several attorneys behind the lawsuit, said that, for one thing, there are supposed to be a warning signs posted at all entrances, which there were not.

After The Review broke the story, the few parking signs that were posted were removed from the lot.

Breakthrough was also accused of predatory towing at two locations in midtown Detroit.

The lawsuit accuses CVS of being part of – or at least responsible for, the towing scheme. Also accused is the Hamtramck Police Department.

The City of Detroit and several Detroit businesses as well as unnamed Detroit police officers were also added

to the lawsuit. Paris said the cities and police departments were added because of questions about the cities’ policies when it comes to allowing towing companies to operate here.

He said Breakthrough had been operating without a state license for about a year, but neither city called out the company on the matter.

Hamtramck City Attorney James Allen issued this press release in response to the lawsuit:

“The serious allegations in the complaint against unnamed members of the Hamtramck Police Department completely lack merit. Hamtramck does not contract with the defendant towing company and, under state law, cannot interfere with private property owners who choose to do so. Hamtramck has, however,

taken appropriate measures to enforce state law as it relates to towing companies operating within the city. Hamtramck selected its own (different) towing company in a thorough competitive bidding process.

“That company is the exclusive provider of towing services to the city and the only vendor HPD is authorized to call for towing services. Hamtramck and its provider follow state law regulating towing. Hamtramck will vigorously defend this meritless lawsuit.”

Paris dismissed Allen’s contention that the city can’t interfere on matters that happen on private property.

“Somebody could steal from me on a private lot and the police can’t interfere?” Paris said. “I hope that’s not what Jim Allen thinks.”

## Quick Hits

Continued front page

one on the press release, but expect songs you know paired with words you don’t, and the feel of a real toga party. Alright, okay, togas are Roman and this is Greece, and ... what the heck did they wear in Greece anyway, other than wrestling

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Continued from page 7

block of Conant.

- A hit-and-run accident occurred at Jos. Campau and Holbrook.

**Saturday, April 20**

- At 2 a.m., a Detroit resident was arrested after a traffic stop for driving with an expired driver's license.
- Officers were dispatched to a break-in alarm at a business in the area of Jos. Campau and Goodson. An open back door was discovered and secured.

ered and secured.

- Two 911 hang up calls were reported.

**Sunday, April 21**

- At 2 a.m., a Detroit resident was arrested in the 11800 block of Jos. Campau for being disorderly.
- A resident in the 2300 block of Poland reported a break-in.
- A Trowbridge St. resident was arrested for assault and for being

disorderly.

**Monday, April 22**

- An agent for Oakland International Academy reported a break-in, and the theft of cash and an iPad.
- A driver was arrested after a traffic stop for driving without a license and for possessing cocaine.
- A resident of the 3400 block of Doremus St. reported damage to their car.
- Detroit police recovered a car stolen out of Hamtramck.

## Quick Hits

Continued front page 6

site (planetant.com) for prices and etc.

Thing number two on their list of soon-to-be-a-thing is a Mother's Day weekend food freak-out.

Nick George from Dr. Sushi and Carlos Parisi of Khana, two giants, we'll call them, in the local food pop-up scene, combine for a pop-up food festival and Mom's Day brunch in the

Ant Hall across from the purple house, 2320 Caniff St.

The whole thing kicks off Saturday afternoon at 3 p.m. with food rotating in and out from 15 or more additional local pop-up food purveyors.

They are too numerous to list here, but anticipate everything from pierogis to Middle Eastern to whatever constitutes Felony Provisions, and personally I can't wait to find out.

A DJ and late-night menu

keep things percolating 'til 2 a.m., and it all gets rolling again later on Sunday morning, at 11, with the afore-mentioned brunch for moms.

A humble donation of \$3 is requested at the door, and individual vendor prices, menus and time slots are still in the finalizing process, so keep glued to their website for more on this delicious notion, and we'll see you there with bibs on.

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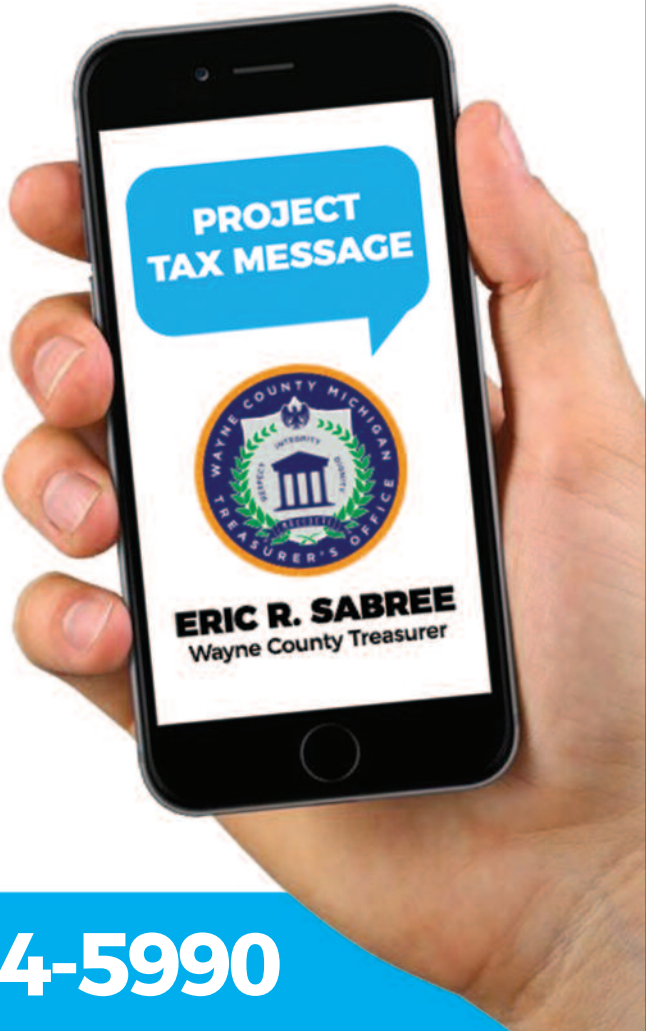
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