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**November 15, 2019**  
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# The Review

*Hamtramck*

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## Quick Hits

### Stupor takes to the stage

**By Alan Madlane**  
 Literati, assemble!  
 This Saturday, Nov. 16, is your chance to be dazzled by a rather fascinating-sounding show happening at Ant Hall, 2320 Caniff, at 7 p.m.  
 It's being billed as a combined "Issue Release and Staged Reading" for the newest issue of Stupor Magazine.  
 Actors allied with Planet Ant, the theater across the street from the hall, will collaborate with publisher Steve Hughes of Stupor (celebrating its 25th year) to perform some of the 'zines stories as monologues, under the direction of Kaitlyn Valor Bourque.  
 But before there was this collaboration, there was ... another.

**Continued on page 5**

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

# Winter season blows in with a huge dumping of snow

**By Charles Sercombe**  
 Monday's snowstorm is one for the history books. Approximately 7 inches of snow fell in Hamtramck and the surrounding metro area, and because the snow was wet and heavy, that led to tricky driving for many.  
 For those shoveling the snow, it poised a potential heart attack risk.  
 The temperatures this week are also some of the coldest we have had for November. Tuesday's low of 5 degrees smashed the old record low of 12 degrees.  
 Despite the snow and bitter cold temperatures, the public schools remained open.  
 The last time we had a record snow fall in No-



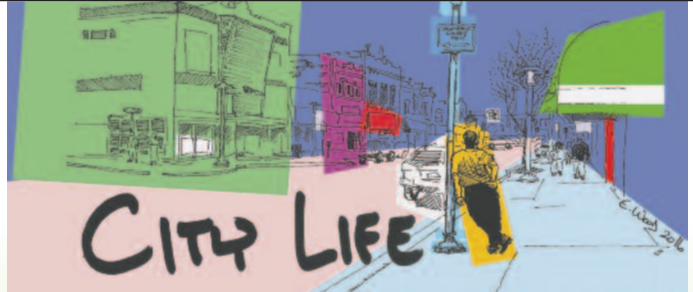
**For Hamtramck and the metro area, winter came a month early on Monday when about 7 inches of snow blanketed the area.** Photo by Emily Pokoj

vember happened in 1984 – oddly enough, also on Nov. 11. On that day, a little over 4 inches fell.  
 The snow here brought back an old tradition that was thought largely extinct: the use of crates and old chairs to save parking spaces.  
 At one time this was a common sight, and caused a number of

**Continued on page 2**



**Co-founders and curators Josh Gardner and Lara Sfire in lobby of the Film Lab.**



## Lights! Projections! Action! Belly up to new neighborhood microcinema headline

**By Walter Wasacz**  
 On a crisp early November afternoon, we sip drinks and talk about the movie theater-slash-bar in which we sit, a freshly renovated front room of a former veterans hall on Holbrook.  
 Mine is called "The Exterminating Angel" – a long, cool cocktail made with rye, green chilies,  
**Continued on page 4**

## AV ballots were the winner

**By Charles Sercombe**  
 Hamtramck elections may have turned a new corner.  
 The results of last week's city council election had a number of local political observers talking.  
 The top three vote-getters, Nayeem Choudhury, Mohammed Hassan and Mohammed Alsomiri, also garnered the most absentee ballot votes.  
 Choudhury was not only the top vote-getter, he received the most absentee at 643. The next highest was Hassan, a former city councilmember with 638, and then Alsomiri with 533.  
 Fourth-place finisher, Saad Almasari, who lost his bid for re-election, received 334 absentee votes, followed by Carrie Beth Lasley with 329 and Robert Zwolak with 325.  
 The use of absentee ballots is nothing new. But the rules to apply for one did get easier. The state no longer requires a reason for voting by this method.  
 Hamtramck is no stranger to candidates using absentee ballots to tip elections results in their favor. But for some Hamtramck candidates and others, that effort came at a price. They got into legal trouble by im-

**Continued on page 3**



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# Winter season blows in with a huge dumping of snow

Continued from front page

neighbor wars. Hamtramck is a city where parking is limited and becomes fiercely territorial.

The city aggressively sought an end to the practice back when a state-appointed emergency manager was in charge of running things in the year 2000.

City crews would drive down the streets and collect the chairs. Apparently, residents ran out of broken-down chairs and eventually gave up on the custom.

As of Thursday, when The Review went to press, it looks like the metro area is heading for a warm up – into the 40s.

Winter, by the way, officially begins on Dec. 21.

So, what do the weather prognosticators have to say about our

coming winter?

According the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Michigan may experience a colder and wetter winter season this year. Then again, the agency also said we have an equal chance of it being normal or even warmer than usual.

The folks over at AccuWeather.com have a bleaker prediction for Michigan. Button up, they say, because we are heading for a bitter cold winter, and the “cold air will encourage a number of lake-effect snow events,” they say. “Residents will want to stock up on shovels, as an above-normal season for snowfall is in the offing.”

Or as our office weather expert says: Who knows?!



Above and below: Hamtramckans spent the week digging out from Monday's snowstorm.



# Attorney calls for sexual assault charges to be dismissed

By Charles Sercombe

The court hearing for a

well-known community activist who is charged with sexually assaulting a student took a not-unexpected twist.

The attorney for Ibrahim Aljahim has filed a motion to have the case dismissed.

The reasons cited for the dismissal are that the alleged victim is not credible and – despite the student being enrolled in a special education program – does not have mental issues.

The motion has delayed court proceedings for the third time, this time in order to allow the Wayne County Prosecutor's office to respond to the motion.

Aljahim's preliminary examination will continue in Hamtramck 31st District Court on Thursday, Nov. 21, at noon.

He is facing two counts of first degree criminal sexual assault of a male special education student on Sept. 18, when the student was 18 years old. The student, who attends Oakland International Academy, has since turned 19.

The Review does not identify the name of sexual assault victims.

Aljahim, 37, was the community liaison officer at the charter school, located in the former St. Florian High School building.

He has since been fired from the school.

According to the student's testimony, Aljahim escorted him to his car in order to get some school books. The student said that, while in his car, Aljahim performed oral sex on him, and then the student was told to perform oral sex on Aljahim.

He said he did it because, according to his religion, Islam, he must do what his elders tell him to do.

At Thursday's hearing, it once again started off with a Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor, on this day it was Kristen

Continued on page 6

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## This week at the library...

**Toddler Time** - Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. September 12 – December 19. Children up to age 5 and their parents and caregivers are invited for stories & songs followed by playtime.

**Movie Night** - Tuesdays @4:00 p.m. September 10 – December 17. Family Friendly Movies. Snacks provided!

**November is Family Literacy Month** - Wednesdays 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. November 6 – November 27.

**Computer Science Week** - December 9-15, 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Grades 3 and up are invited to Tech Club.

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**Santa at the Library** - Thursday, December 12, 5:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

**ANIME CLUB** - Every Thursday 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. September 6 – December 20. Hang out, share and discover Anime and Manga. Grades 6 and up. Adults are also welcome

**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

## Other Voices: Guest Editorial

### City has moral obligation to retain health insurance for retirees

(Editor's note: The following letter was sent to the city council and city manager.)

By Michael J. Szymanski  
President, Hamtramck Police & Fire Retiree Association

As the president of the Hamtramck Police and Fire Retiree Association, I come to you today to express concern with the city's decision to stop providing health care benefits to retirees and their families.

Besides being morally wrong, the financial impact to retirees, surviving spouses and their families will be devastating to the point where some retirees will not be able to provide for their families.

We have several members that cannot work due to medical issues and for these members to now pay for health care coverage, it will be the difference between providing food and shelter for their families or paying for medical coverage.

Many retirees in our group suffered physical and psychological injury while performing their duties as police and firefighters for the City of

Hamtramck.

Retirees are aware that the city has financial obligations that must be met. Retirees also have financial obligations that must be met to maintain life for their families. I do not believe that cutting retiree benefits is the answer.

Why didn't the city approach the retirees and present reasonable compromise, such as cost sharing, or some type of monthly stipend for retirees to be used to obtain coverage on the open market, or suggestions on how the city could float a bond to help maintain health care coverage for retirees.

Just because retirees no longer work for the city doesn't mean that we are not amicable to speaking, or working with the city, to address serious matters such as cancelling retiree health care.

It appeared to retirees that it was easy for the city to make this decision because you don't know us. You don't understand the sacrifices that we made daily for 25 or more years, putting our lives on the line every day to protect the citizens of Hamtramck.

Each of us proudly served with honor and dignity for the City of Hamtramck, knowing that at the end of our careers, our health care coverage would be in place.

The city's financial problems are not the fault of retirees. Over the years, Hamtramck made several poor decisions that cost the city millions of dollars.

To name a few: Freezer Services property lawsuit, failing to provide short term tax abatement's to big business that would have set up shop in Hamtramck, thus the business setting up shop in a different city, failing to promote the city to bring in new business, cutting pay and benefits to working police and fire fighters, thus resulting in the city constantly training new police and fire fighters, and restructuring the employees MERS contributions during recent CBA talks that is now part of the MERS under-funding problems.

We are not blaming the city, making mistakes is part of life. What's important is: how you identify the problem, come up with a solution and take

action to correct the problem that's important.

Anyone can make cuts to fix a problem, that's the easy way out. Addressing the problem and coming up with a fair solution takes work.

City officials need to understand that during our employment with the City of Hamtramck, we negotiated numerous collective bargaining agreements with the city and on many occasions agreed to concessions in order to maintain our health care coverage while working, as well as once retired.

We always negotiated in good faith and believed that the city also negotiated in good faith and would honor their word once we retired.

We understand that the current city management team did not play a role in negotiating these prior collective bargaining agreements, however, that does not give you the right to disregard those agreements and treat retirees as a financial liability.

We are not numbers, we are people that dedicated our lives to the City of Hamtramck.

Continued on page 4

### AV ballots were the winner

Continued from front page

properly handling ballots.

Even Choudhury was no stranger to this issue. The last time he ran for council, the state police investigated how he handled absentee ballots.

He was never charged with an election crime, and it is unclear whether the investigation has been dropped, or is still ongoing.

Zwolak, who has served in a number of local elected positions, including council, city clerk and a charter revision commission, said that no matter the legal pitfalls of relying on absentee ballots, this will likely be the go-to method to drum up votes in future elections.

"They really built a machine," Zwolak said in reference to the top vote-getters.

But was that all?

Both Hassan and Choudhury distributed campaign flyers and postcards promising to lower taxes and water

bills.

Those are promises that Zwolak said are nearly impossible to accomplish, and which may end up prompting a backlash from their supporters.

"There are going to be consequences for that," Zwolak said. "They made promises that they won't be able to produce."

Councilmember Anam Miah agreed that making undeliverable promises swayed a number of voters.

He said it's a matter of educating voters about the limits of what the city council can do and deliver.

"That lack of knowledge can be an opportunity for some candidates to exploit," Miah said.

Another twist to this election was that three incumbent councilmembers were knocked out. In the August Primary Election, Councilmembers Miah and Abu Musa

failed to survive the cut for the November General Election.

And then on Tuesday, Almasmari lost by 47 votes.

It is rare for an incumbent elected official in Hamtramck to lose an election – but it does happen.

It is also rare for those who get kicked out to make a political comeback. But there are always exceptions, and Hassan proved to be one.

Three years ago, he chose not to seek reelection on city council, and instead took on Mayor Karen Majewski.

That didn't work out for him.

And so now, here he is returning to a seat on the council.

While absentee ballots have become a focal point, at least in this election, there is another element to consider – especially for those who lost.



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**November 29** - Mass for all Departed from Remembrance Service 7 pm

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# Veterans Day once again celebrated at PLAV Post 10 hall



**By Charles Sercombe**  
A walloping snowstorm couldn't keep Hamtramck veterans down on Monday. Vets and their families, friends and supporters, all met up as usual at PLAV Post 10 hall on Veterans Day to celebrate the holiday. The annual champagne toast was held, and once

again everyone present sang a rousing version of "God Bless America." After a few words were spoken, those gathered enjoyed a free lunch, and watched with amazement as the heavy snow blanketed the city.

**Scenes from Monday's celebration of Veterans Day at P.L.A.V. Post 10 hall.**



# Lights! Projections! Action! Belly up to new neighborhood microcinema

Continued from front page

banana, lime and grapefruit juice – named for an early '60s film by the Spanish surrealist Luis Bunuel. It's sharp, sweet and sour (which might begin to describe Bunuel's long body of work), an ideal lubricant for the stimulating film talk that followed. I walked here, down the block and around the corner from my house, to join the co-founders and curators of this new hybrid art/business project, where you can enjoy a cinema-themed drink – others on the menu include, with filmmakers in parentheses: "Dead Ringers" (David Cronenberg), "35 Shots of Rum" (Claire Denis) and "Whip and the Body" (cult horror auteur Mario Bava, known as a pre-digital special effects innovator) – grab a bag of popcorn and watch cool smart films originating from

around the world. The Film Lab is its name and Josh Gardner and Lara Sfire are the creative duo behind it. The two met in 2017 at a Knight Foundation Challenge Awards ceremony. Gardner is the founder of Cinema Lamont, a non-profit that has also received Knight Foundation and Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs grants. Sfire is a filmmaker and founder of Film Shop Detroit, a collective that shares film works in progress; and a member of the Final Girls, also a previous Knight Foundation awardee. Earlier this fall Knight awarded the Film Lab a \$100,000 matching grant for its Hamtramck project. The pair seems an ideal project match: they each have a keen eye for detail, know film past and

present, have a flair for design, lighting, programming and presentation and are effective grant writers: critical anymore to getting creative work off the ground; and sustaining it. The downstairs lounge doubles as an intimate "microcinema." The space – which includes,

chairs, benches and church pews – can hold around 40 people. When the entire project is completed the upstairs of the former P.L.A.V. Post 1 (the name remains on the front of the building) will have two more screening rooms sharing a single projection booth, with seating for 75 in a larger area facing an existing stage, as well as a smaller room for around 20 people.



**Built in the 1920s, the P.L.A.V. Post 1 hall has been repurposed by Hamtramck-based architect Steve Flum to house a microcinema with bar.**

movies," Lara says, "or a (destination) movie theater with a bar." So far, she says, people are coming for the movies and leaving directly after. "We're looking for ways to keep the programming going beyond the end of the film," Josh says. One idea is to screen a film meant for serious, dedicated viewing, but also show lighter content before and after that could be talked over while people do what they do in a bar: drink and socialize. Behind us, an example of what they are talking about glitters (literally) on the screen: it's a video mix of David Bowie videos, leftover from a Halloween night screening of "The Hunger," a 1983 film in which Bowie and Catherine Deneuve play aging vampires in a love triangle with their doctor, played by Susan Sarandon.

By the way, beer and wine lovers, also non-alcoholic drinkers, need not fret: there are ample selections of all of the above, including drafts from Eastern Market Brewing Company and PBR, reds, whites and roses', and Mexican Coke and Topo Chico, the Mexican mineral water that comes in original, grapefruit and lime flavors. If Cinema Lamont has a familiar ring to Hamtramck readers it's because the series has had a home here, since 2017, at Oloman Next Door on Jos. Campau. Oloman Cafe & Gallery owner Zlatan Sadikovic continues to be a big

supporter of the Film Lab and helped Gardner and Sfire match up with Steve Flum, the architect who bought the Post 1 building several years ago with the intention of repurposing it for creative use. Flum has a studio in the back of the building and is the lead architect on its redevelopment. The upcoming schedule includes a series of Pedro Almodovar films (including "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown," "Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!"), the Polish comedy/drama "Mug" and a crime drama, "High Life," set in outer space starring Robert Pattinson and Juliette Binoche. Films are shown Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, with matinees every Sunday featuring Bloody Marys and pop-up food made by local chefs. Find the schedule and learn more about the fundraising campaign and progress on renovations here: <https://thefilmclub.org/> Then take a walk to Hamtramck's only walk-in movie theater – the city's last continuously running movie house, the Martha Washington (later renamed The Campau), was in operation from the mid-1920s until the late-1970s/early-1980s – and enjoy the show. The Film Lab is at 3105 Holbrook (at the corner of McDougall St.). *Hamtramck native Walter Wasacz's walkable discovery column follows his adventures close to home.*

# City has moral obligation to retain health insurance for retirees

**Continued from page 3**  
We are also aware that there are a few court decisions out there that give you the right to stop providing health care coverage to retirees. Just because you have that right, doesn't mean it's the right course of action to take. Again, that's the easy way out. Representing the City of Hamtramck isn't just showing up to work every day, or attending a council meeting. You are responsible for rolling up your sleeves and tackling the hard issues with an open mind, then coming up with a fair

solution that doesn't devastate retirees. If you reviewed the recent court decisions regarding retiree health care coverage, you would know that the Tackett decision was the courts determining factor in recent case law. In short, the Tackett decision indicates that a collective bargaining agreement is only good for the dates listed on the face of the agreement. This determination seems plausible; however, we all know that once retired, retirees no longer can negotiate a

collective bargaining agreement. Further, the collective bargaining agreement that we retired under clearly states that upon retirement, retirees will receive health care plan until age 65, at which time the city will provide a Medicare rider to retirees that will bring their Medicare coverage up to health care plan. The CBA states that the city could in fact change retiree health care coverage, however, if changes were made by the City, the new plan would have

**Continued on page 8**

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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Election results come  
as a surprise for many

Hamtramck's political winds have once again shifted.

The city council has lost three incumbents councilmembers. In the August Primary Election, two incumbents, Anam Miah and Abu Musa, were knocked out of the race.

Last Tuesday's General Election kicked off the third incumbent, Saad Almasmari. This kind of a sweep is almost unheard of in Hamtramck.

Does this mean future Hamtramck elections will be unpredictable

and volatile?

This could be a troubling trend.

To the outgoing incumbents, we thank you for doing your civic duty.

Coming on board will be Nayeem Choudhury, Mohammed Alsomiri and Mohammed Hassan, who, until three years ago, was a city councilmember.

So, what does all this mean?

For a small city, it means a loss of experienced leadership, but it can also mean an injection of new ideas.

We are optimistic that

the city will move forward and succeed.

But there are financial obstacles heading our way.

The important point here is that the city manager, Kathy Angerer, receives support. We are sure that some difficult – and likely unpopular – decisions are coming.

Angerer has proved to be a capable leader.

The role of the city council, according to the city charter, is actually limited. Let's hope the new city council configuration respects the limits of the that role.

Armed robbery suspects are  
identified, face felony charges

By Charles Sercombe

The police department has released the names of the four armed robbery suspects who allegedly conducted a two-day robbery spree.

The department released the names after The Review filed a Freedom of Information Act request.

The following were each charged with two counts of armed robbery and using a weapon in the commission of a felony: Nikoe James, 17, of Detroit; Jamal Warlick, 17, of Detroit; and Nicholas Siml, 19, of Farmington Hills.

A male juvenile, whom the police department declined to identify because he is underage, was also charged with two counts of armed robbery. The juvenile, who is 16 years old and has an extensive criminal record, is from Eastpointe.

Bond for each of the

suspects was set at \$1 million per count.

Their preliminary examination in Hamtramck 31st District Court is scheduled for Nov. 21.

The maximum penalty for armed robbery is life in prison.

According to daily police incident reports for Thursday, Oct. 31, and Friday, Nov.1, there were five robberies in total – spread throughout the city.

There were two incidents that happened Thursday night, one in the area of Hanley and Gallagher, and the other in the 2600 block of Pulaski St.

On Friday, the suspects got greedy and careless.

The first incident occurred around 8 p.m. at Yemans and Fleming, then a second a few minutes later at Nagel and Carpenter, and then the third robbery happened about 30 minutes later

at Neibel and Jos. Campau.

Police officers happened to see the suspect's car while patrolling the city.

“An officer saw a vehicle, a white Jeep, matching the suspect vehicle description in the area,” said Police Chief Anne Moise. “As the officer attempted to stop the vehicle, the suspects fled, but were captured after a short pursuit.”

In each case, victims said three black males, dressed in all-black clothing and driving a white vehicle, approached them with guns drawn.

The reports did not detail what was stolen, but police say they recovered a white Jeep Cherokee the suspects were driving, three guns, and evidence from previous robberies.

There were no reports of injuries.

Odds & Ends

By Alan Madlane and Charles Sercombe

**Welcome aboard...** Hamtramck's newest business received the city's ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday afternoon.

Nina's Place, located at 11625 Jos. Campau, owned by Lazetta Elliot, is a banquet hall.

The building once hosted Capo's bar, and over the last couple of years has been renovated.

Need a place to host your wedding, birthday party or funeral dinner? Check it out.

**Pop-up...** The folks at Suzy's Bar have hooked up with John Lopez, well-known Detroit area restaurateur – think Atlas Global Bistro, Union Street, Agave, Twingo's Eura Café, and more – for pop-up dinners during the remaining Lions football season (which once again, looks to be a bust, after a loss against the Chicago Bears, 20-13, but hey, the food sounds great).

This Sunday's event will run from 3 to 8 p.m. – and no, that's not a typo. Catch the game's end and have a fine pop-up meal.

The menu from a week ago featured “Game Day” Hunters Stew, “Caniff” Buffalo Wings, “Pilgrim” Skins, and something coyly referred to as “It's a wrap,” presumably a dessert of some sort.

The game itself will be shown, of course, at the same time as everyone is enjoying the home-style cooking.

Your job? Keep the meal down while watching.

Good thing Suzy's Bar is an entertaining place.

**Winterize your pets...** Some tips for keeping your pets safe and happy this winter (the list is somewhat long, so for the sake of space, we've done our best to synthesize it down):

First up are the more obvious tips related to the cold weather extremes, and the things we humans do to deal with them.

Obviously, don't leave animals outside when the temps get below freezing. Any animal rescue can tell you dozens of horror stories about dogs literally frozen solid dead. A wooden, unlined doghouse will not be shelter enough; not nearly so.

Consider a dog sweater, and even boots, if your pet will tolerate them, when letting Fido out to relieve himself.

The salt and other deicers we put out can burn paws, or cake up in longer hair. Keep pets' fur trimmed between the paws. Try to use a pet-safe salt, although some of these can be pricey.

Watch for your car leaking antifreeze. It tastes sweet to pets, and they'll lap it up. It can shut down their kidneys and kill them. Vets keep vodka on hand to try to get pets so afflicted to regurgitate the offending matter, but many times it's too little and/or too late.

If your pet travels with you, consider securing them in a crate and then

using a seatbelt to keep the crate from sliding all over. Keep your traveling pet tagged and microchipped in the event of an accident where the pet might escape the vehicle after the wreck or during the confusion afterward.

Watch that your dog doesn't chase a smaller animal out onto ice while off the leash, and break through. It happens more often than you'd think. Wooden decks with stairs and other walkways can be icy; be aware whether your pet seems to be having a hard time navigating icy stairs, and maybe accompany them next time with a leash.

Bang on the hood of your car or open it to check for, or roust, stray or wandering cats that might've crawled up in the engine compartment for overnight warmth or shelter.

If your pet's skin gets dry, try a humidifier in the house. Pet safe lotion or oil may help cracked paw pads.

Lastly, if they aren't getting as much walking in, or sunlight, or exercise, put their basket in a sunny spot on the floor. Provide food puzzles or other mental stimulation. Give them a bit of extra floor-level playtime. An extra treat or tasty wet food is okay too.

Some of these tips were provided by Drs. Bethany Wheat and Dr. Nicole Werner of VCA Animal Hospitals in Farmington Hills and Clinton Township, respectively.

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our 10-year anniversary!

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# Attorney calls for sexual assault charges to be dismissed

Continued from page 2

Cartwright, bickering with defense attorney Roger Farinha.

And once again Judge Alexis Krot admonished both attorneys to behave, or else face sanctions.

“This behavior in the courtroom is the worst I’ve seen since I’ve been here,” Krot said.

There were two witnesses who were called to testify by the prosecutor’s office: an aunt of the student, and a Hamtramck police officer who took the student’s complaint.

The student now lives with his aunt. The Review also does not identify relatives of sexual assault victims.

She gave a general background on the student’s learning problems and special needs. She said the student has a problem articulating his thoughts, and is often forgetful.

The student, indeed, struggled to explain what happened to him during his testimony, and often became tongue-tied.

During a series of questions posed by Farinha, in the form of a double-negative, the student appeared confused, answering “yes” when he may have meant to say “no.”

Surprisingly, the assistant prosecutor for that day’s hearing, Nida Samona, did not raise an objection to that form of questioning.

The aunt said she became aware of something wrong with her nephew when she got a call on Sept. 18 after school was out. The student was at his grandparent’s home, and when the aunt got there, the student gave her the “tightest hug” ever and

kept repeating “I’m glad you guys are here.”

He was then taken to Henry Ford Hospital, but they were told the hospital did not have a sexual assault kit. That’s when the Hamtramck police were called.

Officer Anthony Gonzalez testified that evidence was taken, but did not go into detail.

The prosecutor’s office has not submitted DNA evidence in this case, but previously submitted a certified medical report that says the student is “mentally incapacitated.”

Gonzalez had earlier contact with the student on Sept. 18. He was initially called to the school to investigate students who took a picture of the student’s genitals and shared them with others.

This incident is still under investigation, he said.

Gonzalez said that when he got to the school, the principal told him of the alleged sexual assault. He said that when he asked the student if there had been an assault, the student said there had not been one.

It wasn’t until the student went to the hospital that he reported the alleged assault.

The student had previously testified that the reason he did not immediately report the alleged assault is because he was “praying inside” about what to do.

There are no more witnesses expected to be

called to testify. On Nov. 21, the court will consider whether the case should be dismissed or instead to bind Aljahim over to the Wayne County Circuit Court where a trial could take place.

It is unusual for a district court judge to not bind over a suspect to circuit court. However, there have been two high-profile cases in recent months, one involving a murder suspect, that Judge Krot did not bind over to circuit court.

If Aljahim is found guilty, he could face a maximum penalty of life in prison.

Aljahim, a Yemeni-American, has not responded to requests for comment, but his supporters, mostly fellow Yemeni-Americans, have been active on a Facebook page called “I Love Hamtramck.”

They insist Aljahim is innocent, and that that the prosecutor’s case is falling apart.

Saleh Mosleh Almadrahi said Aljahim is the victim of a “witch-hunt.”

Another supporter, Fakhruddin Abdullah Malahi, said there is an effort “to ruin him (Aljahim) by this false accusation.”

Aljahim is well-connected in local, state and national political circles, mostly with Democratic politicians and candidates.

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By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Nov. 5-11.

Tuesday, Nov. 5

- At 2 a.m., a resident reported someone shattered a window on their car, which was parked in the area of Gallagher and Caniff.
- A Yemans St. resident reported that their car was stolen.
- A Pulaski St. resident reported being a victim of fraud.
- An Evaline St. resident reported that they lost an item.
- Detroit police reported that they recovered a car stolen out of Hamtramck. The owner of the car was notified.
- At 5 p.m., two juveniles were seen racing mini-bikes northbound on Jos. Campau toward Holbrook. The teens drove into traffic, cutting off some vehicles, and then fled when officers pursued them. One of the teens dumped their bike in a Jos. Campau alley. Both teens escaped.

Wednesday, Nov. 6

- Farmington Hills police arrested a person who was wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.
- A Yemans St. resident reported that they were the victim of fraud.
- A hit-and-run crash happened at Conant and Belmont.
- An agent for a business in the 3600 block of Caniff reported that someone attempted to pry open their front door.
- An agent for a business in the 3600 block of Caniff reported an incident of retail fraud.
- A Sobieski St. resident turned over to the police department property that they found.

Thursday, Nov. 7

- At about 3:30 a.m., a resident was arrested for a domestic assault that occurred on Dyar St.
- At about 8 a.m., a resident was arrested for domestic assault and possessing narcotics paraphernalia.
- Officers checked on an open door at a resi-

Continued on page 8

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**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.

**WEDNESDAYS, Nov. 20, Dec. 4, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.** – Free health screenings at People's Community Services, 8625 Jos. Campau. All ages welcome. Blood pressure, chronic conditions, diabetes, nutrition management, etc.

**MONDAY, Nov. 25, 9 a.m.** – Wayne County Commissioner Martha G. Scott hosts a free Community Coffee Hour every fourth Monday of the month at Maine Street Restaurant, 11650 Jos. Campau.



The Review is celebrating  
our 10-year anniversary!

10 YEARS  
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Continued from page 7

dence on Dubois St.

- A Detroit resident reported that they left their cellphone in a friend’s car, where it was stolen. The resident said their social media account was hacked.
- A McDougall St. resident reported being the victim of a domestic assault.

**Friday, Nov. 8**

- A person said that their Moped was stolen out of a backyard.
- A hit-and-run accident happened at Casmere and Gallagher.
- An agent for a business in the 9100 block of Jos. Campau reported damage to their property.
- An agent for a business in the 12100 block of Jos. Campau reported a theft.
- At almost 8 p.m., a resident reported that, while in the 2600 block of Norwalk St., three suspects produced a handgun and tried to rob them. But when someone opened a door, the suspects got into a waiting get-away car and fled. One of the suspects was described as a male about

6-foot tall and wearing black pants and a black hoodie.

- A hit-and-run crash happened at Evaline and Ellery.

**Saturday, Nov. 9**

- At a little after 3 a.m., a Detroit resident was arrested after a traffic stop for having an open intoxicant in the car and for driving without a license.
- A hit-and-run crash happened at Charest and Carpenter.
- A resident of Roseville was arrested during an accident investigation.

**Sunday, Nov. 10**

- At about 12:30 a.m., a resident was arrested after getting into a domestic fight in the area of Evaline and Jos. Campau.
- A resident reported that someone stole an item out of their car while it was parked in the 9300 block of Jos. Campau.
- An agent for a business in the 9800 block of Jos. Campau reported a theft.

**Monday, Nov. 11**

- A damage report was made in the 3500 block of Caniff.



School Bell

**Winter tips ...**

Now that winter has made an early appearance, the folks at Seattle Pacific University offer these tips to make sure you student remains safe and healthy for the season”

- Encourage regular sleep. Students enjoy the freedom of establishing their own schedule, which can mean late nights. Establishing a regular bedtime to get seven to eight hours of sleep per night promotes general health, helps us heal from illness, and improves concentration throughout the day.
- Eat a well-balanced diet. Many students wake up late, rush from one class to the next,

skipping breakfast or lunch. Quick foods to eat while on the run are often full of carbohydrates and lack protein. Teach your student the importance of eating regular meals with protein, fresh fruits, and veggies.

- Encourage exercise. Regular activity increases the circulation of antibodies and white blood cells that fight infection. The deep breaths we take during exercise flush bacteria out of our lungs. Stress increases our risk of infection, making exercise all the more important.
- Take vitamin D. Low vitamin D can contribute to the winter blues. Our bodies naturally make vitamin D in the sunshine; however Michigan does

not see much sun through the winter months. Supplementing with 2,000 IU of vitamin D can ease fatigue and low mood in the winter.

- Wash hands. What is the easiest way to stay healthy? Wash your hands – especially before you eat! Encourage your student to avoid touching his or her eyes, mouth, or nose. Nail-biting or chewing on the ends of pens and pencils transmits infection.
- Gargle with salt water. This easy tip can help prevent a variety of upper-respiratory infections. Adding a half teaspoon of salt to 8 ounces of warm water, then gargling two to three times per day, can prevent infections and has-

ten healing when your student gets sick.

- Drink water. Hydration supports the body’s ability to fight off infection. Dehydration can be caused by fevers, salty diets, and caffeine. Recommend sipping on a water bottle throughout the day.

**Recreation Department**

For information about recreation activities, give us a call at (313) 892-2635. Follow us on Facebook for the most up-to-date information: [www.facebook.com/HamtramckRecreationDepartment](https://www.facebook.com/HamtramckRecreationDepartment)

Compiled by  
Charles Sercombe

## City has moral obligation to retain health insurance for retirees

Continued from page 4

to be as good as, or better than the plan we retired under.

Based on the above information, any reasonable person would ask; if retirees could no longer negotiate CBA’s once retired, had CBA language that states that retirees would retain the health care coverage plan in effect when they retired, and the past practice of the city providing health care to retirees, surviving spouses and families for decades, why would the city choose to cancel retiree health care now?

Further, the recent court decisions do not mandate that city’s stop providing health care coverage to retirees, it merely states that they can. Once again, is this the right action to take, or the easy way out?

Many municipalities are now recovering and giving back health care benefits to retirees.

I would ask each of you how you would feel if you entered into an agreement, upheld your end of the agreement for 25+ years, then 15 years into the agreement, the other party decided not to hold up their part of that agreement.

I’m quite confident that none of you would be happy with this scenario.

In close, we are not asking for a hand out, we are merely asking to retain the benefits that we earned and agreed upon, after serving the City of Hamtramck for 25 or more years.

I would ask that the city not take the easy way out on this issue and that each of you roll up those sleeves and address this

problem head on to come up with an equitable solution for all parties involved.

Retirees would ask that the city prepare a letter to all retirees indicating that the city’s management team will roll up their sleeves and research other avenues in an attempt to continue health care coverage for retirees, that once the city’s financial status is in the blue, the city will reinstate retiree health care coverage, and that moving forward, the city will work

with retirees when city decisions will affect us.

If in fact the city moves forward with cancelling retiree health care effective 1/1/2020, retirees would request that the city update the health care cancellation letter, so that the verbiage is clear that retirees under 65 years of age are no longer entitled to health care coverage effective 1/1/2020.

The current letter is vague and appears that retirees are still provided

health care coverage from the city. This verbiage is causing some retirees to have difficulties obtaining health care coverage from other resources.

For retirees to obtain health care coverage from other resources, they need to be able to show a significant change in coverage status, and the revised letter from the city would accommodate the significant change of no longer having retiree health care coverage from the City of Hamtramck.



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