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# Vote / /es on May 5th for the school BOND proposal





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# **Quick Hits**

### **Hamtramck Museum closes** temporarily

Due to the continuing threat of the coronavirus (COVID-19) the Hamtramck Historical Museum has temporarily closed to the public. All programs have been postponed.

The museum board of directors will evaluate the situation on a weekly basis and reopen as soon as it is feasible. Even though the museum is closed, renovations will continue on the museum as planned, and regular archiving, cataloging and routine museum operations will continue.

"We will reopen as soon as we are satisfied that the virus has receded to the extent that it is not a threat to our visitors." said Greg Kowalski, executive director. "We are anxious to return to a 'businessas-usual' status."

Check the museum website, www.hamtramckhistory.org, for continuing developments.

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## Hamtramck hunkers down for coronavirus pandemic

**By Charles Sercombe** 

Public officials, concerned about the coronavirus pandemic, continue to close down public gathering places and government offices.

Last week, Gretchen Whiter ordered all kindergarten through 12th grade schools to close for three weeks. through April 5.

A day before that, Hamtramck Public Schools Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed had already announced that our schools would be closing.

and will remain closed on

a week-by-week basis. As of press time, it was not determined if city hall would re-open this Mon-

Hamtramck 31st District Court, located in city hall, is still conducting hearings, but is encouraging the public to interact with the court via its website, email or fax.

The Secretary of State Office has restricted services being offered at all of its branches - including the Hamtramck one and requires people to make appointments.

Hamtramck City Hall Perhaps the closings was closed this week, with the biggest impact

**Continued on page 2** 

**Service** 

**Pickups & Delivery** 

**Available** 



City hall offices are closed to the public, but you can still pay city bills from a kiosk in the front entrance of the building. Hamtramck 31st District Court, located on the third floor of city hall, is still conducting business.

### School meals are still being offered, and so are class lessons

tramck Public Schools breakfast and lunch will be closed for the

By Charles Sercombe next three weeks does-Just because Ham- n't mean the free Continued on page 2



### In this time of a virus outbreak, make your art

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 other events throughout comes?

**By Charles Sercombe** 

What to do, in a time when folks are hunkered down at home while we wait to see just how bad coronavirus this

If you are a musician, **Continued on page 5** 

### **County halts** action on foreclosures

By Alan Madlane

If you're behind on your Hamtramck taxes to the point of foreclosure, don't despair.

The Wayne County Treasurer's Office has decided not to take further action on properties slated to be foreclosed this year.

This news comes as Detroit had already announced its own program, in conjunction with the Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency.

Treasurer Eric Sabree also announced the closing of the office itself through Friday, April

Although properties including several in Hamtramck - will not be facing imminent foreclosure for this year, they will still be accruing current taxes, as well as normal penalties and interest on delinguent taxes from years past.

The treasurer advises that persons continue to stay compliant with their current payment plans, either online, by phone, by mail, through the city's mobile app, or at the DivDat kiosk in the city hall lobby, which at this point remains open

Continued on page 2



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## on May 5th for the school BOND proposal

### Hamtramck hunkers down for coronavirus pandemic continued from front page

for many residents here are the bar and restaurant shutdowns, currently in effect through March

a number of residents who work in the bar and/or restaurant business.

Most of our restaurants are offering carryout service, and many are also offering delivery.

The closings began last week, when the Detroit Zen Center announced that it was closing down its food market as a "preemptive measure."

Public Pool art gallery also cancelled its exhibi-

programs have stopped.

teaching ends.

Nor does it mean that

The district is offering

free meals through April

3, during the weekdays

"HPS will provide an

Outreach Breakfast and

Lunch Program during

the school closure," said

Superintendent Jaleelah

from 9 a.m. to noon.

tion opening last Saturday. Planet Ant Theatre has also postponed performances.

The state is recom-Hamtramck is home to mending gatherings of no more than 50 people.

> The governor recently further extended closings to include: movie theaters, gyms, yoga studios, libraries (including Hamtramck's) and casinos through March 30.

> So far, grocery markets, party stores and other businesses are allowed to remain open.

> But that could change anv dav.

On the plus side of things, the federal gov-

School meals are still being

Ahmed. "The meal distri-

bution will include both

breakfast and lunch

meals to be picked up at

one time. The grab-and-

go meals will make it

easier for families to

Most of Hamtramck's

students qualify for free

breakfast and lunch

pick up the meals."

services.

offered, and so are class

lessons continued from front page

ernment is likely to issue stimulus checks to everyone. At press time, the amount being discussed was \$1,000 per person.

There are no known coronavirus cases in Hamtramck, although the public school district reported an unconfirmed case of someone connected with Tau Beta Elementary School.

On Wednesday the school district announced that the person did not have the virus.

Also at the time we went to press, there were 80 COVID-19 cases in the state with one fatality.

chart on page 3.

ets on March 17.

reached out through so-

cial media to tell parents

to pick up learning pack-

The packet will also in-

and

clude email addresses

teachers staffmembers. Students

will be able to email their teachers, and continue

with their lesson plans. If you missed the pick-

up date, call your child's

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer

ordered all kindergarten

through 12th grade schools to close for the

school principal.

### Prosecutor loses appeal in Hamtramck sexual assault

**By Charles Sercombe** 

It was strike two for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

Last Friday, a Wayne County Circuit Court judge rejected an appeal by the prosecutor's office to reinstate charges against a Hamtramck man who had been accused of sexual assault.

Judge Bruce Morrow upheld a ruling by Hamtramck 31st District Court Judge Alexis Krot, in which she had dismissed charges against Ibrahim Aljahim last November.

Aljahim was charged with assaulting a male student at Oakland International Academy. The special education student was 18 years old at the time, but is now 19.

The Review does not identify the names of alleged sexual assault victims.

Aljahim was the community liaison officer at the school, but no longer

preliminary examina-

tions, Judge Krot refused to send the case to Wayne County Circuit Court because thought the prosecutor had failed to provide "credible" evidence.

She also cited conflicting testimony by the student, who was often confused, appearing unsure how to answer some questions posed by Aljahim's attorney.

Aljahim vehemently denied the accusation. He is a prominent Yemeni-American community activist. Aljahim has been involved in local politics,

and has associated with state and national elected officials and candidates.

There was DNA evidence collected, but according to a source, results are still pending.

A source also said that the prosecutor may further appeal to the Michigan Court of Appeals.



### **County halts action** on foreclosures

**Continued from front page** 

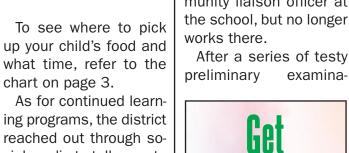
(although they prefer this be a last resort during the pandemic).

The "Pay As You Stay" program for qualifying Detroit city residents is still on track, with its application date of March 28. The office will be contacting eligible appli-

cants in April.

For further information, access the Wayne Co. Treasurer's website at www.treasurer.waynecou nty.com, call (313) 224-5900, or email at:

taxinfo@waynecounty.c



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Hamtramck Housing Commission

### This week at the library...

**Dear Library Patrons,** 

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have made the difficult decision to close the Hamtramck Public Library to the public.

The Library will remain closed Monday, March 16th through Friday, March 20th.

We plan to resume limited library services on Monday, March 23.

In the meantime, we encourage you to try our new service, Hoopla, available through the library website.

We will keep you informed of any changes on the website and on social media.

During this emergency closure no late fees will be assessed.

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.

# Second Front Page



### From the superintendent

Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed shared this message on social media recently concerning the coronavirus and school closings:

"It is times like this, that bring the community together. I applaud the efforts of our central team, school leaders, staff, families, students, school board members,

leaders.

"During the entire time of the COVID-19 situation, everyone came together to understand the situation, create a contingency plan, and ensure that every detail was taken into consideration.

"This is an unpredictable situation as information and guidance from the county, state, and from health organi-

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**The Review** 

union leaders and city zations continues to evolve and so we will plan and prepare accordingly.

> "Everyone's patience is appreciated as the district makes informed decisions to support our students and staff.

> "Coretta Scott King stated that 'the greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionactions of its members.'

> "Hamtramck Community, your compassion is evident during this challenging time. The outpour of volunteers and support from the community has been uplifting."

### **Keeping your student**

Hamtramck schools art teacher Emily Finan has a fun way to keep

your child entertained and busy during the school closing: Improving their drawing skills.

Heck, even adults can learn a new trick, too.

On social media, she said:

"Hello Hamtramck! I am an art teacher for Hamtramck **Public** Schools, and I have a YouTube channel with easy-to-make art projects you can create at home during this break. Make sure to subscribe -- I'll be posting new videos for the next three weeks! Thanks so much.

And what are some of those lessons? The videos included: "simple landscapes," "Polar bear portrait," "Triangle winter Christmas tree," "Hip Hop Do," and "Upgrade your Snowman."

### **LEADERS** in Short-Term

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We are a Multicultural Parish Family Sunday English Mass 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Everyone is Welcome to Worship with Us

All activities and Masses have been temporarily suspended due to COVID-19 and the guidelines of the CDC to socially distance. We pray that everyone will stay safe and healthy by following these guidelines and we will return to normal scheduling soon.

Celebrating 97 Years of Traditional, Catholic, and Democratic Church **Holy Cross Parish Polish National Catholic Church** 2311 Pulaski, Hamtramck • Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak, Pastor 313-365-5191 www.HolyCrossPNCC.com



Community

**Support Your Local Businesses - Get Out** on the Hamtown!

### **Coming events**

MONDAY, April 27, 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.

**SATURDAY, May 30, 10a.m. - 2p.m. - The an**nual Health Hike takes place at Pulaski Park (9625 Lumpkin St.), featuring a 5K and 1 mile fun run, face painting, lunch, yoga, raffle drawing and more.



HAMTRAMCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BREAKFAST AND LUNCH FOOD PROGRAM SCHEDULE DURING SCHOOL CLOSURES

If your child attends the following schools:		Your child's assigned distribution school:	Time of Pick-up for both breakfast and lunch:	Location
•	Early Childhood Elementary	Early Childhood Elementary	9:00 AM- 12:00 PM	Main office door by parking lot (Charest Street)
	Dickinson East Elementary	Dickinson East Elementary	9:00 AM- 12:00 PM	Cafeteria Doors, regular entrance
	Tau Beta Elementary School Holbrook Elementary School	Tau Beta Elementary School	9:00 AM- 12:00 PM	Front Doors of the building
:	Kosciuszko Middle Dickinson West Elementary	Kosciuszko Middle School	9:00 AM- 12:00 PM	Fleming Street door off the parking lot
:	Horizon High School Hamtramek High School	Hamtramek High School	9:00 AM- 12:00 PM	West Doors of HHS

Early Childhood Elementary, 11680 McDougall St, Hamtranck, MI 48212 Dickinson East Elementary, 3385 Norwalk, Hamtramck, MI 48212 Tau Beta School, 3065 Hanley, Hamtramck, MI 48212 Kosciuszko Middle School, 2333 Burger, Hamtramck, MI 48212 Hamtramck High School, 11410 Charest, Hamtramck, MI 48212

The breakfast and lunch program will begin on Tuesday, March 17th-Friday, April 3rd. If you encounter any issues, please contact Mrs. Lynem at slynemehamtramckschools.org.



**People's Community Samaritans Community Food Assistance Program** for Hamtramck Residents and Surrounding Areas Bring proof of income, and picture ID 8625 Jos. Campau 11am-12pm

> **Every 2nd Monday** of the Month

**FROM:** Superintendent Jaleelah Hassan Ahmed

**SUBJECT:** School Bond Election 2020

I would like to say "thank you" to the students, staff, and community members who have raised and shared their concerns regarding the used portables at Dickinson West, the poor conditions of the restrooms in our buildings, the lack of cooling systems in most of our buildings in addition to other concerns. The Board of Education and I have heard you. We have listened to the concerns and the Hamtramck Public Schools' team has reviewed the current learning conditions throughout our schools. An assessment of the needs of each building including the Community Center was done and we are proud to share the outcome of the facility assessments.

As you may know, Michigan is one of 12 states in the nation that <u>does not</u> receive any funding for school infrastructure which leaves school districts to finance capital projects through local millages and bond issues as a financial method to address the crucial infrastructure needs.

The community members have a strong history of supporting HPS and your support is acknowledged and appreciated. Great schools are essential to a strong city and strong community. Our district is on the move, we are seeking to start a Collegiate Academy that would allow students to graduate with a high school diploma and an associate degree. We are seeking world languages in K-12, and seeking to build and maintain strong partnerships with companies, organizations, and educational institutes to prepare our students for a global society. We need you to help us, we need you to support the Bond Proposal 2020 to make these goals possible for our students. These possibilities are great but we must start with the essentials and provide equitable learning conditions and opportunities for all our students to thrive.

As stewards of 8 school buildings, a community center, about 3,500 students and over 400 staff, we are responsible to provide a high quality educational environment for current and future generations. On May 5, 2020, voters of the City of Hamtramck will be asked to consider a bond proposal of \$35,265,000 to upgrade school facilities and sites which will enhance our builds and provide conducive learning and teaching environments for students and staff.

### Hamtramck Public Schools- 2020 Bond Summary

#### **DICKINSON WEST ELEMENTARY**

- Demolish portable classrooms
- Construct New Building (approximately 37,000 SF)
- New furnishings
- New instructional technology
- Minor site improvements

#### **DICKINSON EAST ELEMENTARY**

- Replace mechanical system to provide cooling throughout instructional areas
- Upgrade electrical service
- Replace exterior windows
- Remodel restrooms

### **HOLBROOK ELEMENTARY**

- Replace mechanical system to provide cooling throughout instructional areas
- Upgrade electrical service
- Replace exterior windows
- Remodel restrooms

### **EARLY CHILDHOOD ELEMENTARY**

- Replace mechanical system to provide cooling throughout instructional areas
- Upgrade electrical service
- Replace exterior windows
- Remodel restrooms

### **KOSCIUSZKO MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- Replace mechanical system to provide cooling throughout instructional areas
- Upgrade electrical service
- Remodel restrooms

### **HAMTRAMCK HIGH SCHOOL**

- Replace mechanical system to provide cooling throughout instructional areas
- Upgrade electrical service
- Replace exterior windows
- Remodel restrooms
- Reduce size of locker rooms to allow for (4) new classrooms and (2) smaller remodeled locker rooms
- Construct secure building addition to connect High School with Community Center
- New furnishings for (4) new classrooms

### **TAU BETA SCHOOL**

### Demolish existing house

- **COMMUNITY CENTER** Construct fitness center and multi-purpose room addition
- Demolish and reconfigure main entry ramp and retaining walls
- Site restoration and landscaping
- Fitness room equipment

### **Bars and restaurants** soldiering on through shutdown

#### **By Charles Sercombe**

This closing is hurting a lot of folks in Hamtramck financially.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer ordered all bars and restaurants to close through March 30 because of the coronavirus scare.

However, takeout and delivery service are being allowed to continue.

Several other states and major cities have also closed down these businesses.

Hamtramck is home to a sizeable number of people who work in the food and bar industry.

The state has expanded unemployment to those who can't work during this closure. To sign up or find out more, call (866) 500-0017. At press time, Michi-

gan has 80 cases of confirmed coronavirus cases. Nationwide, there are over 3,600 cases in all states. Some local restau-

rants here in Hamtramck will soldier on in the meantime. The state is allowing restaurants, as well as bars that serve food, to offer takeout and/or deliveries:

Amar Pizza, carryout and delivery

Amicci's Pizza, carryout and delivery

Balkan House, home of the Doner Kabob sandwich, will continue with carryouts

Buddy's Pizzeria, carryout and delivery

Dos Locos, carryout and delivery

Fat Salmon, carryout

**Hamtramck Coney Is**land, carry out only

Kabob House, carryout and delivery

Kelly's Bar, Fish Fridays 11 a.m.-7 p.m., carryout only

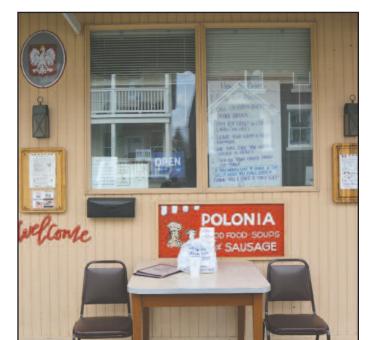
Little Caesar, carryout

Maine Street restaurant is going to offer curbside service for carryouts and also will deliver.

Moose Lodge is offering carryouts for its Friday fish fry

Polish Village Café, carryout and delivery

Polonia, carryout only



Polonia Restaurant, like most Hamtramck restaurants, is offering carryout service. Simply call in your order, pay by credit card, and your meal will be delivered to you curbside.

and delivery service.

But if you do go into a bar or restaurant to get your carryout, there are restrictions. Only five people can be in an establishment at a time for their pick-up, and they must stay at least six-fee apart while they are there.

Here is a round-up of some – and this is by no means a complete list of the bars and restaurants offering carryout Remas, carryout

Royal Kabob, carryout

Sheeba, carryout

Yeman Café, carryout

Although many of the city's restaurants are offering carryout and deliveries, several restaurant owners have told us privately that business has declined about 50 percent.



# Review: Opinion Page

**Hamtramck Review** 

### In Our Opinion

### In times of trouble don't let panic set in

During the deepest, ing. And the death toll darkest, scariest part of the Great Depression of the 1930s, President Roosevelt famously rose to the occasion, and said this during his very first inaugural ad-

"The only thing we have to fear is fear it- that might provide a self."

It was an inspiring moment. It is also a phrase to keep in mind during this time of a possible catastrophic viral outbreak.

The coronavirus has yet to hit this country at full force, but health officials say that's comof COVID-19 could yet prove to be mindbog-

This country has been through a number of disasters and crises, but we have always sur-

The last pandemic parallel to this one is the famous 1918 influenza when millions of people died worldwide.

Right now, we are nowhere near that. The only thing we are contending with are temporary school closings, and the closing of certain businesses – most notably. bars restaurants.

We know these closings are going to hurt a number of folks financially here in Hamtramck.

This is a time for all of us to come together and help our friends and neighbors.

It's also a time to take this health scare seriously, and follow common-sense hygienic practices - most notably, washing your hands frequently and keeping your distance from others.

We will get through this.

### Other Voices: Guest Editorial

### A message from the Wayne **County Treasurer**

**By Eric Sabree** 

The Wayne County Treasurer's Office is closed to the public beginning today through April 3rd due to the coronavirus COVID-19 crises and our concerns for the health of our employees and taxpayers who visit our office.

This crisis is affecting everyone, and we are not sure how long it will continue as it is changing daily.

In light of the rapidly changing recommendations on social distancing an and the increasing economic uncertainty we are all facing, I have had to make an urgent decision to protect all the taxpayers facing foreclosure in Wayne County.

taxpayers will be facing economic hardships in the coming months, I have made the decision to withhold all properties from the 2020 foreclosure petition. We will continue to work with our State, Wayne County, and Local officials to ensure decisions that are made will keep the health, safety, and financial stability of taxpayers in mind.

Taxpayers must know that although the property is not facing foreclosure, delinquent taxes still must be paid. I advise taxpayers to make regular payments no matter how small and stay compliant with their payment plans.

Interest will continue to accrue on the unpaid Given the fact that all balance. Payments can

be made online, at a DivDat kiosk, through U.S. mail, by phone, or mobile

The new Pay as You Stay (PAYS) program which allows tax-exempt taxpayers with delinquent taxes to eliminate interest, penalties, and fees is on schedule. In April, barring any additional closures our office will be contacting eligible applicants referred by their city or township as planned.

For information including payment options, visit the home page of the Wayne County Treasurers' website: www.treasurer.waynecou nty.com. If you have other questions, email: taxinfo@waynecounty.co m or call: (313) 224-5990.

## Odds & Ends

Coronavirus treatment... For most of us, if we catch the virus, we can seek our own treatment at home.

The symptoms include: fever, cough, fatigue and shortness of breath. If breathing becomes extremely difficult, seek treatment immediately.

Keep in mind, there is currently no vaccine nor prescription medications.

If symptoms don't escalate, do the following: Consume lots of fluids, rest, and take over-thecounter medications, such as pain relievers.

**Sobering news...** The coronavirus may not have yet hit full-force here in the U.S., but the economic blowback has already begun.

According to the online publication slate.com, several states are reporting huge upticks in those filing for unemployment coverage.

Colorado had 6,800 people file - a week before it was 400.

Connecticut 30,000 file, Normally, there are 3,000 to 3,500 who file per week.

New Jersey clocked in 15,000 filings. with which according slate.com is a record.

Massachusetts had 20,000 filings.

Ohio, where bars and restaurants were shut down, had 48,000 people file in just two days.

### In this time of a virus outbreak, make your art

Instead, like in most

recording situations, every-

one stays focused on the

job at hand - namely, not

screwing up and having to

**Continued from front page** 

the show must go on, as the old showbiz credo goes.

Well, maybe not. A number of musicians have shut down, canceling tours and gigs.

But the Devious Ones soldiered on with their recording commitment at a Hamtramck recording studio.

It's no accident the band chose a Hamtramck studio, since most of the four members have a connection to the city in one way or another. Heck, for most musicians here in the metro area, all roads lead to Hamtramck - it's been home base for many of them at some time or another.

And that includes singer Eric Villa, who last time we had spotlighted him, was waiting out a January Polar Vortex by writing tunes about love gone wrong.

He now writes tunes about love lost and found. And youth.

Anyway, we digress. Driving through town last

Saturday afternoon during this virus scare was a little weird - hardly a soul walking around. The Devious Ones, how-

ever, were focused on recording as many tracks as they could over the weekend. They knocked out eight or nine by Saturday evening. Toast stopped by to see

Œ

how the lads were holding up, and nary a word about

least while we were there.

Maybe it was the whiskey

keeping bad thoughts at

the virus was uttered - at

From what we heard,

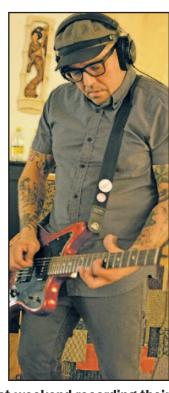
is fickle.

Tangent, had an interest-

ing take on describing the tunes: "Eccentric," he said.

Lesson learned here? Soldier on, folks. Keep your social distance when





The Devious Ones spent last weekend recording their second album.

art burning.

The Devious Ones have been described as a power pop punk outfit, which is right up our alley here at Toast. This will be their second

album, which in the music biz is known as the sophomore effort - one that can make or break a band. By the second time out,

it is said, you either have the goods, or you might as well pack up your guitar and move on to the next project.

these guys are definitely on the "make it" side of things. But the music biz

The drummer, Dougie

called for, wash your hands, blah, blah, blah, you've heard the drill a million times by now. But definitely, keep your

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## Other Voices: Guest Editorial

### Getting through the this virus threat together

### By Barbara Beesley

Medical experts predict that the virus impacts are about to escalate. And that it will last for months.

This fact presents challenges in terms of our ability to continue working and keeping ourselves and our families healthy. For those of us in the high-risk category - over 60 years of age, with chronic health challenges or compromised immune systems - that suggests months of "social distancing" and perhaps social isolation if we experience some symptoms.

As one in that latter category, I was delighted with two wonderful offers of future assistance. One was a call from a fellow member of the Hamtramck Community Initiative board. She offered to provide me with transportation or to pick up groceries if needed.

The second was an email from the Christian Service Committee of a Detroit church offering this kind of assistance to seniors. I had just been concerned about when to safely go out to purchase some pet sup-

As long as possible, I plan to shop independently at off hours and use all the methods of disinfecting myself. But as the virus spreads, I'll need an alternative.

So, I'd like to encourage our local businesses to think about offering some sort of shopping and transportation service for those who need

It could open up some job opportunities and those who could afford to pay for it would undoubtedly be glad to do so - and hopefully to contribute for those who aren't so financially fortunate. And how about our mosques, churches, social groups figuring out their ways of helping

We are many opportunities to be creative here. We have kids who are mostly homebound, and probably a lot of stircrazy folks if the predictions hold true.

As a writer once said: "We were born for these times!"

For myself, I am one who raises questions. Hopefully that translates into being a catalyst for action - my own included - sharing the needs I perceive and opening possibilities.

There are many creative folks in this area who can give ideas on productive ways to use our at-home time. May the conversations continue despite the physical distances!

Together we can face peril, while envisioning opportunity.

So, what's your niche?

Barbara Beesley, IHM, is a Hamtramck resident and a member of both the Hamtramck Community Initiative and the Coalition to Stop the Expansion of U. S. Ecology.

### School officials mull over postponing bond election

#### By Charles Sercombe

The upcoming school bond election on May 5 might be by mail only or even postponed.

According to a press release from Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, she is looking into options because of the potential health risk of the coronavirus.

"I want to ensure Michiganders maintain their democratic right to vote without putting their health or the health of our clerks and election workers at risk," said Benson. "All options are on the table, including conducting the election by mail."

Making voting by-mailonly is just one option.

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"We've heard from some jurisdictions, that they would be happy to consolidate their current issues into the August election," said Benson in her press release.

"We would like to provide them that option, while still ensuring that those jurisdictions that need to hold an election in May are able to do so in a safe manner."

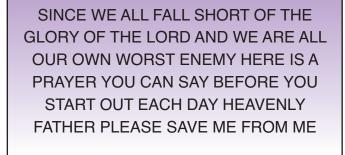
On May 5, voters here will be asked to approve a Hamtramck Public School District bond proposal that would add on 7 mills to their property taxes.

The district wants to make numerous repairs to, and renovations of, its buildings, including the construction of a new, three-story school next to Kosciuszko Middle School.

The amount raised would be about \$35 mil-

The Hamtramck Board of Education scheduled a special meeting for Thursday, after The Review went press, to discuss whether to change the bond election to the August primary election.

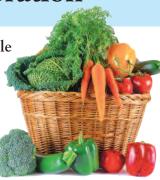
Hamtramck is not alone in holding a special election on that date. Hundreds of other Michigan communities are doing the same thing about various local issues, and also school bonds and millages.





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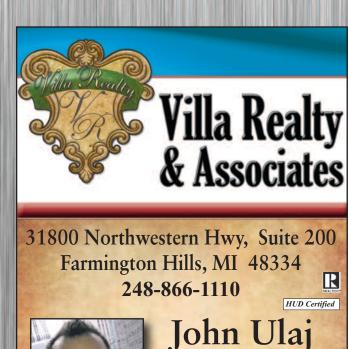




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### **By Charles Sercombe**

This week's Crime Log covers March 10-16.

#### Tuesday, March 10

- A Klinger St. resident reported that his car was stolen, but it was later recovered by Detroit po-
- · A Detroit resident reported that someone snatched their purse.
- A Detroit resident reported that their daughter was assaulted while in the area Florian and Brombach.
- · A Detroit resident was arrested after a traffic stop for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.

#### Wednesday, March 11

- · At a little after midnight, a Detroit resident was arrested for drunk driving.
- A Goodson St. resident was arrested for domestic violence.
- At about 4 a.m., a Mitchell St. resident was arrested during an inves-

tigation for being wanted on a Macomb County warrant.

- A man reported that his license plate was stolen while his car was parked in the area of Lumpkin and Andrus.
- A missing juvenile was located in the 5000 block of Trowbridge St. and was turned over to Dearborn Heights police.

### Thursday, March 12

· No incident report was available for this date.

#### Friday, March 13

- · At almost 3 a.m., a Detroit resident was arrested in the 3900 block of Yemans St. for domestic violence.
- · A woman reported that her car was broken into while it was parked in the 11600 block of Gallagher St.

#### Saturday, March 14

 At 4 a.m., a Sterling Heights resident was ar-

**Continued on page 8** 

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#### **Continued from page 7**

rested for drunk driving.

#### Sunday, March 15

 At almost 2 a.m., a woman reported that she had been followed home on two occasions by a male driving a silver van

- A resident reported that she lost her purse, which contained her Green Card.
- Two residents were kicked out of a business in the area of Caniff and Conant for trespassing.
- A resident reported that juveniles threw a brick at a window of their residence, breaking the

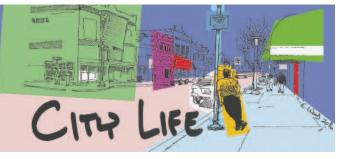
window.

 A resident reported that someone broke into their car while it was parked in the area of Jos. Campau and Holbrook, and stole an item.

#### Monday, March 16

- A resident reported the theft of their purse, which contained personal information, from their unlocked vehicle.
- A resident reported that they were assaulted in the area of Jos. Campau and Yemans by a person they know.





### **Keeping social distance necessary for community health**

#### **By Walter Wasacz**

As of last weekend, I have been in self-quarantine at my house, only going out for essentials (food, medicine) and keeping physically active with solo walks around my increasingly depopulated neighborhood.

I am asymptomatic but have some recent history of respiratory illness, requiring a trip to the ER in 2018 for an acute asthma episode and bronchial infection. I also had a flu earlier this winter that produced fever and chills over a two-week period.

I am also 64, on the cusp of our most vulnerable population.

I feel healthy now, but I am acting under an abundance of caution.

There is very little good news during this fast-moving global pandemic. But the fact that most local residents appear to have taken the advice of public health officials

and staying home is heartening.

The flip side is that Hamtramck relies heavily on keeping community life active, its bars and restaurants open and flowing with customers.

Our already fragile, grassroots economy is in for some real pain in the coming months. Incredibly, public health experts are now saying the duration of the health crisis might last 18 months or longer.

In what seemed like a snap of the fingers, everything changed. The entire world is at risk during an infectious disease outbreak like COVID-19.

Italy, France, Spain are all still peaking with cases, with national lockdowns in place. In this country we are still weeks if not months away from the peak of the outbreak.

The most vulnerable among us – the elderly

and others of all ages with immuno-compromised conditions – are at highest risk.

But all humans are potential hosts and can spread the virus, even if we might be asymptomatic and "feel" healthy.

A proper rational response is to assume you have the virus and can unknowingly spread it in your community; or, conversely, that you can become infected simply by participating in "normal" city life.

But these are not normal times.

Here are a few "must-do's": Keep reasonable physical distance. The World Health Organization recommends people keeping at least six feet from each other is needed to help mitigate the spread. Wash your hands and sanitize them often. Avoid shaking hands with others or touching your face.

Even in my self-isola-

tion, with no regular human contact, I have begun a habit of washing my hands several times throughout the day.

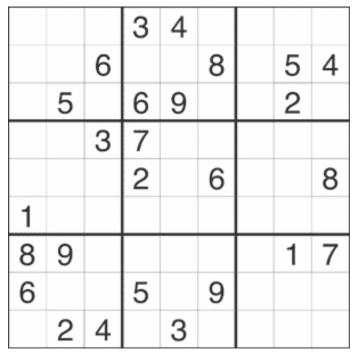
Staying mentally healthy is also critically important. I am re-starting my solo yoga practice, rediscovering my personal libraries (books/music/movies), reaching out to talk to friends near and far, becoming more creative with my cooking, and starting a #selfquarantine journal on Instagram:

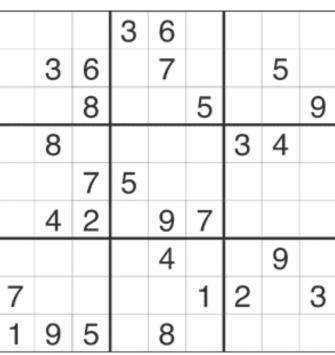
https://www.instagram.com/nospectacle/

All of those things seem small, even microscopic, during a global health crisis, but we should all own the responsibility of beginning the healing by – first and foremost - not contributing to the spread of this virus.

That's exactly what I plan to do for as long as it takes.

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