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Vote *Yes* on Aug. 4th for the school **BOND** proposal



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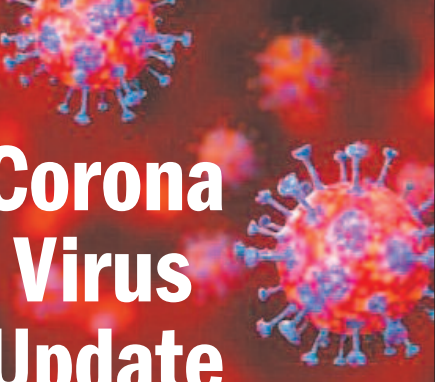
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The Review

Hamtramck



www.hamtramckreview.com • e-mail news@thehamtramckreview.com



Corona Virus Update

see page 5



Quick Hits

Donations needed for Campau

By Alan Madlane

Like virtually everyone (person) and everything (business) in the past few months, this year's Hamtramck Flagpole Project is struggling financially.

In fact, some of the 18 international flagpoles this year will stand empty, as it is now.

And that's all due to the fact that most of the sponsoring businesses of recent years have been shut down for some time now this year, and as a result, only three sponsors have stepped forward so far: Al-Haramain Market (Ghamdan Alshugaa), Sterling Services Ltd. (Jason Eddleston), and Franklin Electric Corporation (Russ Gordon).

Gordon is an organizer of the project.

The flags scheduled to be ordered new are those of Albania,

Continued on page 8

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Coming soon, brand new hi-tech parking meters

By Charles Sercombe

Be prepared to pay more for parking in the city's main business district.

The city council agreed to have all existing parking meters, many of which are currently broken down, replaced with new meters.

Instead of paying 25 cents for 30 minutes, the new fees will be a minimum charge of \$1 per hour.

Another increase agreed on is for parking tickets. Instead of paying \$5, you will be paying \$25, which is better than the original proposal of \$45.

Enforcement was going to be from 8 a.m. to midnight, but the council balked at that.

"Do we really want to be ticketed at 11 at night?" said Mayor Karen Majewski.

Councilmember Andrea Karpinski agreed, saying Hamtramck doesn't attract the night crowd like Royal Oak.

So, the hours of enforcement were scaled back to 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

A private company, Municipal Parking Services, will be installing the meters at no charge to the city, but it will collect 50 percent of parking revenue.

Continued on page 2



The city's old parking meters will be replaced sometime this summer with new ones that allow you to pay for parking via your cellphone.



Someone in town who calls himself the "Plaguedoctor Trashman" can be seen picking up litter throughout the neighborhoods. Photo by Phill Kwik

For once, a 'plague doctor' that you want to see

By Alan Madlane

Hamtramck, in its best moments, has always been creative, original and often-times downright strange.

And this moment is right up there.

If you've been tooling around the city's south side, in particular, you

may have suddenly felt a bit of a chill, or had an eldritch sense of being out of time or place.

What could be the cause?

Perhaps you've sensed the presence of... the Plaguedoctor Trashman!

Dressed in a head-and-

Continued on page 2

Crime Watch: Warmer temps, more crime

By Charles Sercombe

There was one positive about the coronavirus quarantine for these past few months.

Crime went down – at least, crime that was reported to the police department.

That respite may have ended.

Now that warmer weather has arrived, crime is starting to see an uptick. That makes



The return of warm weather is welcomed, but it also has resulted in more street crime.

File photo

sense, to a point, since more of us are getting outside again.

The crimes reported include property damage, drunk driving, and various thefts.

While the governor has ordered all of us to "stay

Continued on page 2



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- GIVE SICK FAMILY MEMBERS A CONFINED SPACE
- HAVE ONLY ONE PERSON CARE FOR THEM

HOUSEHOLDS WITH VULNERABLE SENIORS OR OTHERS WITH SIGNIFICANT UNDERLYING CONDITIONS

- HEALTHY PEOPLE CONDUCT THEMSELVES AS IF YOU'RE AT RISK OF INFECTING VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS
- WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY BEFORE INTERACTING WITH THE VULNERABLE PERSON
- PROVIDE PROTECTED CONTAINED SPACE FOR VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS
- ENSURE ALL UTENSILS & SURFACES ARE KEPT CLEAN

Vote *Yes* on Aug. 4th for the school BOND proposal

For once, a ‘plague doctor’ that you want to see

Continued from front page

shoulders covering of mask, hat and cape, this steampunk-ish entity creeps silently about (in broad daylight, terrifyingly unexpected!), garbage bag in hand, stealing away with the city’s street refuse in some macabre ritual gone, well, right.

He-or-she’s even got his-or-her own Facebook page. And he-or-she’s a prolific poster.

They (let’s just go with “they” – and yes, it does say “TrashMAN,” but, we can’t fully assume yet, can we? There are pronoun police everywhere these days) do have their needs, you know.

Garbage bags, gloves, and hand sanitizer, they call out for. And when these needs are met, it’s gratitude that flows,

not... anything gory.

Residents are having fun with the concept. Even the mayor has given a thumbs-up “like” here and there.

The concept of the plague doctor dates back as far as the mid-6th century, when the first documented European bubonic plague, dubbed “the Plague of Justinian,” took hold.

The costume, on the other hand, was invented by one Charles de L’Orme in 1630, and first used in Naples, Italy. It consisted of a light waxed fabric overcoat and a unique and creepy mask, with the eyeholes covered in clear glass and a long beak the wearer would stuff with herbs such as juniper

berry, clove, camphor, mint, rose, myrrh and even ambergris.

Wonder how that worked out for the docs?

Usually, these doctors were second-rate practitioners desperate to make a living, even at risk to their own health.

Meanwhile, Hamtramck’s own Plaguedoctor Trashman has called out for others willing to join them in their rubbish ridding quest – costumed, or not.

Although without the costumes, it’s just, well, picking up trash, isn’t it? I mean, needed and all, yes, but.

Not nearly as interesting.

So, think twice before spreading your flyaway filth on the green, green grass of Hamtown, litterbug boys and girls.

You might be angling for a dream visit from a certain beaky apparition, who may well whisper not-so-sweet somethings in your guilty ear.

Clean up your act, on the other hand, and the only place you need to see ol’ P. T. is on the street – where he belongs.

Crime Watch: Warmer temps, more crime

Continued from front page

home, stay safe” except for essential work or essential chores, such as going to the grocery store, we were simultaneously being encouraged to go outside and get some exercise and recreation.

Provided that we practice social distancing, and that we wear masks while in enclosed public spaces: such as markets.

That includes when going out for a walk. Unfortunately, this means that criminals who are on the prowl to steal things

can now easily blend in with others outside.

Have packages being delivered at home? Beware, porch pirates have come out of quarantine.

There have also been an increasing number of assaults as more people go outside.

During the Memorial Day weekend, there were a number of complaints about fireworks going off late at night. Also, one Memorial Day reveler apparently got a little too much into the celebratory mood and fired a gun into the air. The bullet ended

up striking a person’s car.

No injuries were reported in that incident, and it was unknown who fired the gun.

One crime trend that was persistent during colder weather was domestic assault.

The quarantine hasn’t helped matters. Even though warmer temperatures are allowing us to go out, tensions are still running high.

The number of domestic assault cases have seen a spike in recent weeks.

Coming soon, brand new hi-tech parking meters

Continued from front page

enue in exchange.

The company has a five-year contract with the city. If the city or the company decides to end the arrangement, the company would take possession of their meters.

Meters will be installed over the entire length of Jos. Campau and at all city-owned parking lots. That includes the lots between Evaline and Yemans, just east of Jos. Campau Ave., and the Caniff and McDougall lot.

The city is currently not charging for parking in any of its lots.

City Manager Kathy Angerer said she is seeking cost estimates to repave the Caniff lot.

She said the anticipated yearly revenue from the meters and fines will be over

\$100,000 per year. As of now, she said, the city receives little money from the meters.

“Having working meters allows shoppers to visit establishments to conduct business, and encourages them to move their vehicles once that business is complete,” Angerer said in a note to the city council.

Another change coming with the new meters is enforcement. The meters have the ability to take a photo of your license plate when you pull into a parking space.

There will be a five-minute grace period when you first pull in just in case you are dropping off something. But once the meter starts up, you will be responsible for paying for your parking.

If you overstay what you paid for, a photo of your license plate will be sent to the police department for review and determination if a ticket is warranted.

Don’t have any money on you to feed the meter? No problem. There is an application you can download onto your phone to pay remotely.

For those who work in businesses along Jos. Campau, there will be monthly passes that you can purchase. The cost of those passes has not been determined yet.

Installation of the meters is expected to begin sometime this summer.

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Governor Whitmer Executive Order 2020-59

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such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief

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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 until further notice.

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



School Bell

Kosciuszko Middle School

Recently on a Facebook page called “I love Hamtramck,” KMS art teacher Emily Finan, posted this note:

“Hello Hamtramck, I am the art teacher at KMS! Thanks to the donations of so many community members, I was able to put together 50 additional art kits for our wonderful children.

“Each one has a 12-page sketchbook, a new pack of Crayola crayons, and a mechanical pencil. Most of them have been

dropped off to City Hall, with a few at other Little Free Libraries that community members offered as well.

“Each kit costs about \$2 to assemble, so if you'd like to sponsor another child, you can donate here:

[https://www.gofundme.com/f/art-kits-for-all-kids\](https://www.gofundme.com/f/art-kits-for-all-kids)

“A huge heartfelt thanks to everyone who has donated or offered a little free library for the kits. Distance learning has really shown me how many students have no art supplies at home, and this



Kosciuszko Middle School art teacher Emily Finan has created free art kits for students.

will make a difference for them!

“Thank you, Hamtramck!”

State expands who can get unemployment

By Alan Madlane

Unemployment just got easier to get for many in Michigan.

On May 6, Governor Whitmer issued Executive Order 2020-76, which will expedite benefits for thousands of Michigan filers.

The order expands unemployment eligibility and cost-sharing.

It does the former pri-

marily by paring down the work that the state has to do in order to grant benefits, by stipulating that the state needs to now only review applicants' most recent job separation (many of which have been caused by the coronavirus crisis) in order to determine entitlement.

This is in contrast to past rules, where any job

loss within a prior designated time period could be used to deny benefits.

The new order, spread over 13 sections, also expands the state's work-share program (to help employers reduce the need to lay off workers, and to offer help restarting their businesses); extends most claims that

Continued on page 6

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- A video visit on your computer or smart phone.
- A telephone appointment.
- An in-person appointment at another Henry Ford Medical Center.

Learn how to have a video visit from your home at HenryFord.com/videovisits. For help deciding the best way for you to get care, call us at (313) 972-9000.

يتواجد مركز Henry Ford دائماً هنا من أجلك في أثناء أزمة فيروس كورونا COVID-19

تم إغلاق مركز Henry Ford Medical Center الذي يقع في Hamtramck مؤقتاً في أثناء أزمة فيروس كورونا COVID-19. تم نقل أطبائنا إلى مراكز Henry Ford الطبية الأخرى ويمكنهم رؤيتك هناك. إليك بعض الطرق التي يمكنك من خلالها الحصول على الرعاية مع طبيبك.

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COVID-19 সংকট চলাকালীন Henry Ford Medical Center - Hamtramck সাময়িকভাবে বন্ধ রয়েছে। আমাদের ডাক্তারদের অন্য Henry Ford Medical Centers-এ স্থানান্তরিত করা হয়েছে এবং তারা আপনাকে সেখানে দেখতে পারেন। আপনার ডাক্তারের কাছ থেকে শুশ্রূ পাওয়ার কয়েকটি উপায় এখানে দেয়া হল।

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Let's Stop COVID-19

HAMTRAMCK RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATES

As we enter the summer months and come closer to re-opening, following the Governor's Re-Opening Plan and CDC Guidelines, some things will look a little different once we return to the Community Center.

STAY HOME IF YOU HAVE ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS

FEVER

TROUBLE BREATHING

COUGH

NAUSEA & VOMITING

WHAT'S CANCELLED THIS SUMMER

PLAYGROUND PROGRAM

SPLASH PAD

SPECIAL EVENTS

POOL PROGRAMS

FIELD TRIPS

WHAT'S CHANGING AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

WEAR MASK IN BUILDING

MAX 6 PEOPLE IN WEIGHT ROOM

SANITIZE UPON ENTRY

PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCE

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ADULT FITNESS

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Frequently Asked Questions
about the August 4, 2020 School Bond Election

When is the election?

Tuesday, August 4, 2020.

Why is the purpose of this proposed bond?

The primary purpose of the bond election is to construct a new elementary school (eliminating the Dickinson West portable classrooms), renovate school facilities, and eliminate unnecessary expenditures for maintenance and energy costs.

If approved by voters, the bond proposal will also enhance student safety and security, improve student comfort, provide much needed additional classrooms at the High School and Community Center, as well an expanded fitness center for the whole community.

The bond proposal on the May ballot is an outgrowth of the school district’s strategic planning process, and will affect every Hamtramck student.

Why pursue a bond initiative during a pandemic?

Based on all available data and expert opinions, we know the following things:

- 1. Our community is growing overall, and specifically in school age children
- 2. Many of our facilities are currently at capacity, including 2 schools co-located in one building with temporary portable classrooms.
- 3. The proposed improvements are a bare minimum of what is needed for a quality learning environment.
- 4. In person schooling will resume at some point, and delaying projects only makes them more expensive to complete in the future.
- 5. School districts are currently being encouraged to slash budgets due to decreased funding from the State because of the pandemic.
- 6. Michigan was already one of 12 States to not provide any infrastructure money to districts, requiring them to self-finance infrastructure improvements.

Wasn’t this the point of the sinking fund?

The sinking fund was phase I. Through the commitment of Hamtramck voters, HPS was able to use approximately \$750,000 per year to address some of the most critical infrastructure needs- primarily sealing the envelopes of existing buildings. This meant new roofs and windows for multiple schools. General funds were also used to supplement these projects where needed. However, due to the scale of needs and the rising cost of construction every year, this amount would never allow us to provide the large-scale improvements proposed in the current bond initiative. Just for example, the cost of the new elementary building construction alone is projected at more than \$14,000,000. This one piece of the total project is more than our current general fund balance and could never be accomplished without a bond initiative.

Please see <http://www.hamtramckschools.org/> for a full list of projects completed and funds used.

Is HPS a good steward of public funds?

The auditing firm of Yeo & Yeo have found ZERO material findings in our annual public financial review for 5 years in a row. This puts us in the small minority of districts in the State with such exemplary financial practices.

All construction projects, sinking fund and otherwise, are competitively bid following the state bid threshold guidelines to find the best price for qualified work.

How was the current list of projects determined?

HPS has worked with Partners in Architecture for all our construction planning needs. They are a reputable firm with vast experience in public infrastructure development. The proposed projects are only the most essential and those that align with our strategic plans.

The bond projects fall into six basic categories:

- 1. Construction of a new elementary school to replace the portable classrooms that are currently located at Dickinson West Elementary.
- 2. Renovations at Hamtramck High School to create four (4) new classrooms and construction of a building addition to connect the High School with the Community Center for improved security.
- 3. Mechanical system improvements to provide air conditioning (cooling) to instructional areas at all schools.
- 4. Construction of a building addition onto the Community Center for fitness center with dedicated community entrance separate from daytime school use/access. Additional classrooms will also be created.
- 5. Replacement of exterior windows at multiple school buildings including: Hamtramck High School, Dickinson East, Holbrook and Early Childhood Elementary.
- 6. Restroom renovations at multiple school buildings including: Hamtramck High School, Kosciuszko Middle School, Dickinson East, Holbrook and Early Childhood Elementary.

If approved by voters, the bond proposal will positively impact all current and future generations of Hamtramck students.

How will the bond proposal benefit students and the community?

The bond proposal will benefit students and the community in several ways, including...

- creating an all new modern elementary school
- upgrading school facilities and improving learning environments
- attracting new families to our community
- enhancing residential property values by having up-to-date school facilities
- assuring that school facilities are upgraded, renovated, and kept in good repair
- providing much needed fitness and educational space at the community center

All bond proposal projects are designed to reflect positively on homeowner property values and the community’s “small town-good schools” reputation.

How much are we seeking to raise and what will it cost the average tax payer?

If voters approve the bond proposal, the current tax rate will increase by 7 mills directly from property taxes and the District will borrow \$35,265,000 from a special low interest fund set up by the State to support school districts bridging funding gaps in bond initiatives.

That means \$7 for each \$1,000 of taxable value. According to our city assessor’s office, the average home value in Hamtramck is \$65,000. That means the average taxable value is \$32,500. Therefore, the average homeowner would pay \$227.50, or slightly more than \$4 per week. Some people will pay less. Some people will pay more. Visit <http://www.hamtramckschools.org/> for full cost breakdowns.

What’s included in the bond proposal?

If approved by voters on August 4, 2020, the following projects will be completed at each school:

Hamtramck High School

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

Kosciuszko Middle School

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

New Dickinson West Elementary School

- Demolish portable classrooms (all 10 which currently serve as the elementary building with the exception of a few rooms that are shared in the adjacent Kosciuszko Middle School)
- Construct New Dickinson West Elementary School (approximately 37,000 SF – this building will be constructed to attach to the existing Kosciuszko Middle School).
- New furnishings
- New instructional technology
- Minor site improvements

Dickinson East Elementary School

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

Holbrook Elementary School

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

Early Childhood Elementary

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

Tau Beta School

- Demolish existing house adjacent East of school to prepare for dedicated early education green space without crossing the street.

Community Center

- Construct fitness center and classroom addition
- Demolish and reconfigure main entry ramp and retaining walls
- Site restoration and landscaping
- Modern fitness room equipment

Individual cost breakdowns and complete application submit to the State Treasurer can be found at <http://www.hamtramckschools.org/>.

What will happen if voters do not approve the bond proposal?

The proposed bond projects cannot be addressed because the general fund cannot support them.

What is the schedule for bond proposal projects?

Planning for the new projects will begin immediately after August 4th and all projects are required by the State to be completed within a three (3) year period.

Will all bond proposal revenue stay in the Hamtramck School District?

Yes. All revenue from the bond proposal will stay in the Hamtramck School District. None of the revenue will go to Lansing or to any other school district or political entity. The bond funds can only be used for bond proposal projects and cannot be used for salaries.

If the bond proposal is approved by voters, will property values be affected?

Real estate values tend to be higher in communities with school districts that offer a quality education program and have up-to-date school facilities. Property values tend to be lower in communities that do not offer an adequate curriculum or that have schools that are out-of-date and poorly maintained. Remodeling and upgrading school buildings and facilities will protect the community’s investment in the school district. All bond proposal projects are designed to reflect positively on homeowner property values and the community’s enviable “small, tight-knit-” reputation.

What are the student enrollment projections for the next five years?

According to the Middle Cities Annual Report, HPS enrollment has grown consistently over the last 5 years and is projected to grow more than 15% over the next five years.

What is a bond proposal?

A bond is a State-approved funding process that specifies a set scope of projects. When voters approve a bond, the money specified in the bond proposal is borrowed and the school district makes payments over a period of years, much like a homeowner pays a mortgage. Bonds are usually issued for 20-30 years. If voters approve the August 4th Bond proposal, the Hamtramck School District’s bonds will be issued for 30 years.

Bonds can only be used for long term assets:

- Constructing new school buildings
- Constructing additions to existing school buildings
- Remodeling existing school buildings
- Energy conservation improvements
- Land purchases
- Site development and improvements
- Athletic and physical education facility development and improvements
- Playground development and improvements
- Refunding debt (if new present value savings can be demonstrated)
- Direct bond program costs such as professional fees, election fees, issuance costs, qualification fees, insurance fees, final audit costs
- School bus purchases
- Loose furnishings and equipment purchasing
- Technology purchases limited to hardware and communication devices that transmit, receive or compute information for pupil instructional purposes only. The initial purchase of operating system and customized application software is allowed if purchased with the initial hardware.

Bonds cannot be used for:

- Salaries, supplies, service contracts, lease payments, installment contracts
- Repairs, maintenance, or maintenance agreements
- Purchasing automobiles, trucks, or vans
- Portable classrooms purchased for temporary use
- Uniforms
- Textbooks
- Upgrades to an existing computer operating system or application software
- Computer training, computer consulting, or computer maintenance contracts.

Can any of the bond proposal funds be used for employee salaries or operating expenses?

No. Bond proposal funds cannot be used for staff wages, salaries, or operational costs. They also cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs or other operating expenses. Bond proposal funds must be used only for purposes specified in the ballot language, and, as required by State law, they must be audited.

Who can vote in this bond proposal election?

Residents of the Hamtramck School District who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, and are registered to vote.

Where can I get information about voting (such as how to register, where to vote, and absentee voting?

Go to the Michigan Voter Information website (Michigan.gov/sos) or call the Clerk’s Office where you reside.

Do I need to update my voter registration?

You need to update your voter registration if you have changed your name or address since the last time you voted. You can do this at any Secretary of State Office or at the Clerk’s Office where you reside.

Get more information about the bond election and answers to your questions...

- Go to www.hamtramckschools.org.
- Call Superintendent of Schools Jaleelah Ahmed at (313) 872-9270 or by sending an email to her at jahmed@hamtramckschools.org.
- Call Board President Evan Major at (313) 454-1138 or by sending an email to emajor@hamtramckschools.org.

Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Labor Day festival is another victim of the virus

The year 2020 is without a doubt going to be remembered for a long time.

For many of us, it has meant making sacrifices.

One of those sacrifices for Hamtramck is the cancellation of the annual Labor Day Festival.

Yes, we know, it's not the most earth-shattering setback, but it is a beloved tradition, one that signals the end of summer.

The festival is a way for the community to come together. That

community bonding will be missed.

Also likely to cancel this year is the Polish Day Parade – held on Labor Day – which is one of the most charming parades in the metro area.

We know these were tough decisions to make, but they are in the best interest of public health.

This coronavirus pandemic is deadly serious, and we can't host a festival that could potentially infect hundreds of folks. Even if the events were to go on, organizers had to admit to the possibility that few people would even come out.

That would have meant a huge financial loss. And losing a huge amount of money would have killed any chance of the festival happening again. As it is, the festival survives, financially-speaking, by a thread.

The festival is run by volunteers, and is always in need of extra help. Let us all pitch in and make next year's festival and parade even better.

Odds & Ends

Correction... In last week's story about the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival being canceled this year, The Review incorrectly identified the gender of a festival volunteer.

Mickey Lyons was referred to by the pronoun "he." Lyons is female.

The Review apologizes

for the error, and for any inconvenience it may have caused.

Closed... Bad luck struck again at Royal Kabob restaurant.

For the second time in recent weeks, a fire broke out at the Caniff Ave. eatery.

No details were available at press time Thursday, but according to the owner, he will be forced to close for an indefinite period of time.

There were no reported injuries.

A previous fire broke out in the building's exhaust system.

Virus update: Quarantine rules are loosening up

By Charles Sercombe

As many of you have already heard, bars and restaurants can reopen this Monday (June 8).

But they can seat no more than 50 percent capacity. For Hamtramck businesses, this could be a stumbling block.

Considering how small the city's bars and restaurants are, how will this work out?

Even if they do open, who will go?

From what we have heard, several bar owners are hemming and hawing whether it is worth opening this summer at all.

Other changes coming will be the lifting of the "stay home, stay safe" quarantine, with public pools to be allowed to open and gatherings of up to 100 people OK'd.

Although the quarantine rules are loosening up, social distancing and the wearing of masks are still advised.

For many of us, what's even more important is ... when can we get haircuts?!

So far, there is no word on when hair salons and barbers will be allowed to operate.

There is other welcome news.

As of July 15, you can finally start to return your

Emmina Ferizovic, the



The J&E Community Relief agency has been offering free food on weekdays at their Jos. Campau location.

bottles and cans.

But – there's that word again – businesses that accept returns can limit your returns to no more than \$25 worth per day.

Locally, food giveaway programs continue.

One in particular has attracted a number of people. Over at J & E Community Relief (11916 Jos. Campau Ave.), they run a food pantry that has been feeding households with children breakfast and lunch, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Also, the non-profit organization distributes food items to families every first and third Tuesday of the month, starting at 11:30 a.m. until the food runs out.

From what we observed this past Tuesday, the food runs out pretty fast.

Emmina Ferizovic, the

Check out these faces of Hamtramck history

You can get a daily dose of Hamtramck's history in a new feature being offered by the Hamtramck Historical Museum.

Every day the museum is placing a different historical photo on the museum's Facebook page. These range from the early years of the 19th century to scenes you may recall from your childhood.

Remember Federal's department store, playing tennis at the park, Sweetland's ice cream parlor and so much more?

They are all being featured on the Facebook page. And just for fun, every so often the page features a What Is It? photo of an item on display at the museum.

See if you can guess what it is. But don't fret if you can't. The answer is printed in the next day's Facebook posting.

"The museum has thousands of historical photos on file," said Greg Kowalski, executive director of the museum. "This is an opportunity to share them with everyone."



The Hamtramck Historical Museum is posting historical photos every day on its Facebook page. The goal is to raise money for the museum.

It's also a chance for the museum to raise money. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the museum is currently closed, and its ability to raise funds has been severely curtailed.

The museum has been successful in getting some operational grants, which have helped weather this storm, but the bills never stop coming. There is a place within the Facebook postings to make donations.

They can also be made to the museum's website, www.hamtramckhistory.org.

Or they can be mailed to the museum at 9525 Jos. Campau, Hamtramck, MI 48212.

"We are not in danger of closing our doors permanently," Kowalski said, "but we do need, and appreciate, continued support."

The museum is expected to be open to the public later this summer.

In the meantime, check out the museum Facebook page.

(The Hamtramck Historical Museum is located at 9525 Joseph Campau Ave.)

Obituaries

GOLOS

Louise Susan Golos, 62, died May 29, 2020.

Ms. Golos was the sister of Barbara Myroniuk; dear aunt of Michelle, Joseph, Steven, and Genevieve Rutkowski, and Ashley Bart; great-aunt of Amber Rutkowski, Ibraheim, Jibreel, Zakaria, and Jacob Alagi.

Visitation is Friday, June 5, 2020 from 2 - 8 p.m. with the Funeral Service on Saturday, June 6, at 10 a.m., Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck MI 48212. Interment will be at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Detroit, MI.



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State expands who can get unemployment

Continued from page 3

occurred before the pandemic hit, if the pandemic prolonged the inability to find work; and expands cost-sharing with employers to reduce layoffs, among its highlights.

In a press release, it says Michigan is on the vanguard of helping its citizens get benefits quickly. It is one of only a few states that have begun issuing the additional \$600 per week federal money in conjunction with the

state's payments.

Michigan, the release notes, has the second lowest national percentage of claimants still waiting for a decision on their benefits, after only New York.

Michigan is also third, behind only Vermont and West Virginia, in percentage of claimants who succeed in getting benefits; in other words, we have the third lowest percentage of denials of claims.



City Hall Insider ...

What is our City Council up to these days?
We have the highlights of the latest council meeting.

By Charles Sercombe

The city council met on May 12, and all councilmembers were present.

City Manager Kathy Angerer gave an update on the Census count now underway nationwide. She said 51 percent of Hamtramck households have responded to the survey.

"Which is excellent, but we have a lot to do," Angerer said.

Regarding city finances, Angerer said the city will be a recipient of COVID-19 relief funding.

During public comment, Bill Meyer said he found it "strange" that the council is focusing on installing new parking meters in a time of crisis.

He also questioned the need to regulate smoking lounges.

Later in the meeting, the council took the first step toward adopting the ordinance regulating smoking lounges.

In a note to the council, Angerer said why there is a need for this.

"For several years, the City of Hamtramck has had various smoking lounge establishments. During this time, the City's administration has had no effective means of safely regulating this type of business. City administration wishes to provide guidance for such businesses, as it is common for cities to establish ordinances dealing with various types of businesses with a unique nature," she said.

The council also took the first step in rezoning a vacant piece of land at

8610 Conant Ave. from residential to a multi-use designation.

The property is in the middle of two commercial buildings. It is hoped that it can now be developed.

The council agreed to spend \$5,500 to "quiet title" 11 properties.

The properties became city-owned due to tax foreclosures, but the title of their ownership needed to be cleaned up. The lots will be marketed for housing development. The city wants developers to begin building multi-dwelling units to meet the increased housing need.

In a note to the council, the city manager said:

"... Making these properties available to developers for residential development is advantageous for a number of reasons. First, by returning the property to private ownership, it ensures that the property will be returned to the tax rolls.

"Second, it allows the city the latitude to guide each property's development. Purchase agreements will be used to ensure that developers are held accountable and that the housing units that are built reflect the findings of the housing study, and meet the standards of local consumers."

In another matter, the council agreed to allocate \$20,000 for code enforcement, using a Community Development Block Grant. That allocation will help the city save money in its general

budget.

In another first step in adopting new guidelines, the council agreed to replace all parking meters with new ones. This is expected to bring in additional revenue for the city.

In a note to council justifying the meters, which a private company will install at their own cost, Angerer said:

"For several years, the parking meter equipment throughout the City of Hamtramck has not functioned as intended. The existing equipment in place is obsolete, and in many instances not working or missing.

"As a result, the City not only suffers a loss of revenue, but parking spaces in the Central Business District do not turn over. Having working meters allows shoppers to visit establishments to conduct business, and encourages them to move their vehicles once that business is complete.

"Working meters prevent cars from remaining parked for hours without putting additional funds into the meter. Non-working meters are a disincentive to a vibrant shopping district, as cars remain parked for reasons other than visiting an establishment in the district.

"A viable parking system will help businesses thrive in our downtown. Council previously approved the installation of a new meter system in the area of Joseph Campau between Holbrook and Caniff and parking

lots in that area."

Mayor Karen Majewski took issue with expanding the enforcement hours to midnight.

"Do we really want to be ticketed at 11 at night?" she said.

Councilmember Andrea Karpinski motioned to limit enforcement hours from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

She said that Hamtramck doesn't attract enough people late at night, like Royal Oak does.

"We're not that," she said, in reference to Royal Oak.

Councilmember Mohammed Alsomiri said he was against installing meters in the city parking lot behind the former Shoppers World building on Jos. Campau.

He owns the building and has been developing it as a banquet hall.

"Business is bad," he said. "Maybe we can do it later."

Alsomiri was the lone vote against the meters.

A lengthy discussion was held on whether to ask voters to approve a ballot proposal to raise the existing ½ millage for funding the pension costs for police and fire employees up to 10-1/2 mills.

Finance Director Susan Hendricks said the current cost for the pensions is \$2.2 million. The current millage pays only a fraction of these costs.

The new millage would meet the entire cost of the pensions.

Councilmember Karpinski said she realizes that no one wants to have

Continued on page 8

NEW DODGE BAR

RE-OPENING 12:01 am Monday (Sunday Night) JUNE 8

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We will continuously sanitize all contact surfaces.

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Continued from page 7

tic assault.

- At 7 p.m., a man was found in the area of Caniff and Moran with a head injury. A witness said that the man had possibly been in a fight at Caniff and Conant.

Saturday, May 30

- A resident in the 2600 block of Casmere St. reported the theft of their two city-issued garbage cans.

Sunday, May 31

- Officers conducting an investigation in the area of Charest and Casmere confiscated a semi-automatic gun from a licensed owner.
- A Detroit resident reported that, while in the 9600 block of Jos. Campau Ave., a suspect

robbed him of two gold chains. The suspect was described as a black male, in his mid-20s, about 6-foot tall and weighing about 150 pounds. The suspect ran away, and then got into a black Saturn.

- Officers were dispatched to the area of Goodson and Gallagher, where they found an unresponsive man with no pulse. Officers performed CPR until an ambulance crew arrived.

Monday, June 1

- A cellphone that was found in the 2400 block of Pulaski St. was turned over to the police station.
- A hit-and-run accident occurred at Lumpkin and Caniff.



City Hall Insider...

Continued from page 6

their taxes raised, but it will be up to voters to decide.

Councilmember Mohammed Hassan was opposed to the ballot proposal, saying the city’s pension plan is “luxurious.”

The city, he said, “has already given enough.”

Councilmember Ian Perrotta said he supports allowing voters to decide, saying, “We need

to put options on the table.”

The proposal passed, with Councilmembers Alsomiri and Hassan voting in opposition.

During the second public comment portion of the meeting, Bill Meyer said the city shouldn’t rely on parking meter revenue. He said the city should be encouraging hotels and motels to operate here.

Quick Hits

Continued front page

Bangladesh, Jamaica, the Philippines, Poland, South Korea, and Yemen.

A flag for Bosnia will also be raised, and last year’s flag was deemed to still be in good enough shape that it doesn’t need replacing this year.

Two flags for the U. S. are also on hand, and will be raised.

The cost of the seven new flags is \$1,800, which works out to almost \$260 per flag.

Each of the three supporting businesses has

pledged \$300, meaning that they are still hoping some other business(es), who could afford it, might step up to cover the remaining costs for the planned flags.

If you have the ability to help, or know someone who might, please contact Russ Gordon at (248) 442-8000 (his office), or (248) 842-7373 (his cell).

Time is of the essence – the flags will go up the week of June 22, as soon as they arrive.

So, step on up, good Samaritans. Fingers crossed.


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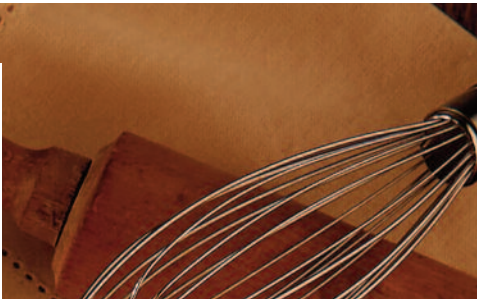


Please call 833 882 7766 if you need water while living in a residence in which you have no running water, would like to donate water or volunteer to help deliver water to those who do not have a vehicle.

The People's Water Board would like to acknowledge J&E Community Relief and Detroit Friendship House for their service in the community.



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[www. peopleswaterboard.org](http://www.peopleswaterboard.org)



If your child attends the following schools:	Your child’s assigned distribution school:	Time of Pick-up for both breakfast and lunch:	Location
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dickinson East Elementary	Dickinson East Elementary <i>or</i> <i>*New location</i>	9:00 am- 12:00 pm	Cafeteria Doors, regular entrance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kosciuszko MiddleDickinson West Elementary	Kosciuszko Middle School <i>or</i> <i>*New location</i>	9:00 am- 12:00 pm	North side of the building doors
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tau Beta Elementary SchoolHolbrook Elementary School	Holbrook Elementary School <i>or</i> <i>*New location</i>	9:00 am- 12:00 pm	Front Doors of the building
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Early Childhood Elementary (ECE)	ECE <i>or</i> <i>*New location</i>	9:00 am- 12:00 pm	Main office door by parking lot (Charest Street)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Horizon High SchoolHamtramck High School	Hamtramck High School <i>or</i> <i>*New location</i>	9:00 am- 12:00 pm	West Doors of HHS

Early Childhood Elementary, 11680 McDougall St., Hamtramck, MI 48212
Dickinson East Elementary, 3385 Norwalk, Hamtramck, MI 48212
Kosciuszko Middle School, 2333 Burger, Hamtramck, MI 48212
Holbrook Elementary School, 2361 Alice St., Hamtramck, MI 48212
Hamtramck High School, 11410 Charest, Hamtramck, MI 48212
NEW LOCATION:
12025 Dequindre, Hamtramck, MI 48212

If you encounter any issues, please contact Mrs. Lynem at slynem@hamtramckschools.org

