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February 19, 2021
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The Review

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MICHIGAN RECONNECT

Quick Hits

State offers free schooling for some

By Alan Madlane

Never got a college degree?

Wanting to go back to school for some training in a hot field, but don't have the income?

The State of Michigan has got your back.

Michigan residents over 25 years old, who have been residents for at least a year and have a high school diploma but no college degree yet, can now apply for funding to cover community college or trade school costs.

The program is known as Michigan Reconnect, and it's being funded by a \$30 million budget appropriation that both Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Republican-majority state legislature got behind. The governor first suggested the program right after beginning her term.

There's a little more to it, however.

The program will only pay any tuition and fees not already covered by any other standard federal or state aid, if any, so those must first be applied for.

Over four million state residents may be eligible for the assistance. As of Feb. 4, there were 19,000 applications that had come in over

Continued on page 2

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Paczki Day carries on despite the pandemic just not the same

By Charles Sercombe

Paczki Day this year got a one-two punch in its jelly gut.

First, there is the ongoing COVID-19 crisis that has crippled social contacting and hours of operation for bars, veteran posts and restaurants.

And then, the evening before the Big Day, the metro area got walloped with several inches of snow — making getting around pretty tough. Oh yeah, also throw in a biting, bone-chilling wind.

Despite all this, paczki revelers are a hardy bunch. They've had too many years of conditioning themselves to bear the worst, and actively embrace those times when the weather is almost downright balmy.

Michigan is weird that way. And so are Hamtramckans, and their fellow paczki partiers.

Bring it on.

Just for the sake of asking,



Social distancing, because of COVID, and frigid temperatures cut into Paczki Day festivities this year, but there was still plenty of holiday spirit in town.

ing, we talked with two women standing outside New Palace Bakery in the arctic wind whether it was worth waiting for this Polish delicacy.

"Yes," they said in unison and, well, that's succinct and what's the point of elaborating. We stopped asking stupid questions.

Over at Whiskey in the Jar — always one of the most popular bars to hang out in on this day, there was a lively bunch — albeit limited in number — carrying on like it was Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

Out in a heated tent on the back patio, a gal was doing a polka-limbo thing. That was mid-afternoon,

and you could tell things were going to ramp up, once more folks got off work.

(Editor's note: Probably when August Gitschlag showed up.)

We stopped in for a carry-out from Polish Village Café — for some reason, Polonia was closed — and

Continued on page 2



The Hamtramck Historical Museum hosted several projects in the past year, but of course COVID curtailed some events.

Historical museum celebrates another year educating the public

By Alan Madlane

So what's happening now, at the local museum dedicated to the city's history?

Well, for starters, Hamtramck's Historical Museum had a bit of excitement on Jan. 10, when a French reporter and their cameraperson from CANAL+ television network, based in Paris, came in for a look-see.

CANAL, perhaps a fa-

miliar name to filmgoers as a distributor of French cinema, was focused on the city's background as a haven for immigrants, and the resulting diversity. The crew reportedly seemed taken with the recently completed "Coming to Hamtramck" mural.

The City of Hamtramck is, of course, named for Col. Jean Francois Hamtramck, born in French

Continued on page 4

Schools taking steps to re-open

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck public schools are getting ready to welcome back students.

But it will be done only a few students at a time, starting March 2.

At a recent School Board meeting, the board agreed to what is being called a "Reconfirmation Plan."

That plan calls for opening classrooms first to students who are just learning the English language, and then expanding next to special education students. According to the district, about 85 percent of Hamtramck students live in households where English is not first language spoken.

There are over 2,000 students in the district who are learning how to speak and read English. A little over 3,000 students total are enrolled in the district.

The next group is what is now being called "at-risk" students, who were formally grouped under what was once termed "at-risk."

These are students who have poor attendance, or who do not engage in their lessons.

"We need to open our schools for the students with the greatest need," said Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed. "Some need direct instruction. A gradual plan is a safe plan."

Parents of these students have a right to turn down the offer for their children to return to schools.

At the beginning of the meeting, the board heard

Continued on page 2

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Paczki Day carries on despite the pandemic just not the same

Cont. from front page

there was a fun group singing “Happy Birthday” to a friend.

The carryout business there was robust, for sure. There is nothing like a hearty Polish meal on a cold, blustery night.

Our bakeries still had long lines of folks snaked around their buildings.

That was a promising sign. Well, it’s been a strange past 12 months, but with any luck this pandemic will run its course before next year’s Paczki Day.

Here’s to next year, and good health (and sweet paczki dreams) to all of you.

Schools taking steps to re-open

Cont. from front page

from several students and parents who said they want in-classroom learning to return.

Students say they miss going to school, and complain that virtual learning is not effective.

Not everyone is on board with returning.

Michelle Cook, the president of the Hamtramck teachers’ union, said

teachers were largely left out in the planning process, and there are concerns that, while teachers received COVID vaccinations, the students have not.

“Plans shared with us left us with more questions,” Cook said.

The risk of COVID is still relatively high in Hamtramck, according to Wayne County health statistics.

However, the number of COVID cases in the county has been coming down, as well as in Hamtramck.

Those students who are returning will be there only Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and will go home after lunch.

At Hamtramck High School, this beginning stage will bring back only 100 students at first. There are over 1,000 students enrolled at the high

school.

For those needing bus service, that will be provided.

Students will be spaced apart by at least six-feet while in classrooms. They will be required to wear masks, and teachers will be wearing face shields.

Board President Jihan Aiyash said she was satisfied with the district’s plan.

“We’re not gambling with people’s lives,” she

said.

Hamtramck isn’t alone in adopting a plan for gradually bringing back students. Schools across the state, and nation, are taking similar steps.

Students have been out of school since last March, and have been learning through virtual instruction via laptops that the district provided for all households with students.



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Cosmos winter sports schedule			
WEEK 3			
February 15 – Varsity Boys’ Basketball vs. UPAD.	Away.	7 p.m.	
February 17 – Varsity Boys’ Basketball vs. Trillium.	Home.	7 p.m.	
February 19 – Varsity Girls’ Basketball vs. River Rouge.	Away.	5:30 p.m.	
February 19 – Varsity Boys’ Basketball vs. River Rouge.	Away.	7 p.m.	
WEEK 4			
February 22 – Varsity Girls’ Basketball vs. UPSM.	Home.	5:30 p.m.	
February 22 – Varsity Boys’ Basketball vs. UPSM.	Home.	7 p.m.	
February 24 – Varsity Girls’ Basketball vs. UPA.	Away.	5:30 p.m.	
February 24 – Varsity Boys’ Basketball vs. UPA.	Away.	7 p.m.	
February 26 – Varsity Girls’ Basketball vs. Taylor Prep.	Away.	6 p.m.	
February 26 – Varsity Boys’ Basketball vs. Taylor Prep.	Away.	7:30 p.m.	
WEEK 5			
March 1 – Varsity Girls’ Basketball vs. Ecorse.	Home.	5:30 p.m.	
March 1 – Varsity Boys’ Basketball vs. Ecorse.	Home.	7 p.m.	
March 3 – Varsity Boys’ Basketball vs. Detroit Renaissance.	Away.	7 p.m.	
March 5 – Varsity Girls’ Basketball vs. Harper Woods.	Away.	5:30 p.m.	
March 5 – Varsity Boys’ Basketball vs. Harper Woods.	Away.	7 p.m.	
WEEK 6			
March 8 – Varsity Boys’ Basketball vs. UPAD.	Away.	7 p.m.	
March 8 – Varsity Girls’ Basketball vs. Canton Prep.	Away.	6 p.m.	
March 10 – Varsity Boys’ Basketball vs. Trillium.	Away.	7 p.m.	
March 10 – Varsity Girls’ Basketball vs. Robichaud.	Home.	6 p.m.	
March 12 – Varsity Girls’ Basketball vs. River Rouge.	Home.	5:30 p.m.	
March 12 – Varsity Boys’ Basketball vs. River Rouge.	Home.	7 p.m.	
WEEK 7			
March 15 – Varsity Girls’ Basketball vs. UPSM.	Away.	5:30 p.m.	
March 15 – Varsity Boys’ Basketball vs. UPSM.	Away.	7 p.m.	
March 17 – Varsity Girls’ Basketball vs. UPA.	Home.	5:30 p.m.	
March 17 – Varsity Boys’ Basketball vs. UPA.	Home.	7 p.m.	

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Quick Hits

Cont. from front page

the first 24 hours the program was open.

The state has recently offered a pandemic-related incentive program for frontline workers without any degree who were classified as essential. It was called the “Futures for Frontliners” program, and well over 100,000 people took part in it at the time.

In fact, about 30,000 people who signed up for that program, but didn’t qualify, will automatically be made eligible for this new program.

One can assume that you would still be eligible if you had taken some previous community college coursework, but never finished up your degree.

Check the state’s website (Michigan.gov) for updates or more info.

Governor Whitmer Executive Order 2020-59

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J&E Community Relief

This week at the Library . . .

Last Week of the Art Contest: The Library’s multimedia art contest (music, poetry, drawing, etc.) focusing on the engaging and heroic stories of the African American community, will end on February 24th. Please submit your artwork as replies to the Library’s contest posts on Facebook or email to (hamtramcklibrary@gmail.com) with CONTEST in the subject line. Open to all ages.

More Hot Spots Available: Hamtramck Library has more hot spots that can be loaned to Hamtramck resident patrons. The hot spots will provide service for up to eight units such a computer, phone, iPad or any other device that connects to internet.

Black History Month Books: Special editions of books about African Americans have been obtained by the library for distribution to our patrons in celebration of the Black History Month. Stop by and ask for your copies while they last.

Famous Birthdays: George Washington, the first President of United States was born on February 22. Explorer and author of “The Soul of Black Folk”, W.E.B. Du Bois was born on February 23. Librarian

and literary historian, Wilhelm Carl Grimm was born on February 24. Novelists, John Steinbeck and Irwin Shaw were both born on February 27. Poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was also born on February 27 in Portland.

Invention of Printing Press: February 23 is known as the birth of the first moveable printing press, by Gutenberg. It is believed to be one of the most significant and consequential inventions in the history of mankind. Printing press allowed ordinary people to gain access to information and knowledge usually reserved to the privileged. Printing press started the Age of Enlightenment and the scientific revolution.

Hamtramck Library is operating as “Grab and Go” until further notice: - This service includes book pick-ups, remote printing, faxing and scanning. Computers will not be available for use until further notice. Please send attachments you want printed to hamtramcklibrary@gmail.com. Browse our catalog at home, If we have the title, please call 313-733-6822, and we will set it aside for you to pick up.

For more information about events at the library call (313) 733-6822
Or visit its website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us>
When you can also access the online catalog.
The library is located at 2360 Caniff Avenue.

Second Front Page

At Quality Roots, it’s all about educating the customer

By Charles Sercombe
Hamtramck’s second recreational marijuana shop recently opened.

Quality Roots, located at 2024 Caniff Ave. – next to the Mobil gasoline station – opened a few weeks ago.

Unlike the city’s first outlet, Quality Roots allows customers to shop inside their store. Pleasantrees, on Holbrook and Lumpkin, is curbside service only right now due to COVID safety concerns, along with the fact that the store is small.

Quality Roots is one of three outlets that the company owns here in the metro area, with two more coming in Berkley and Westland.

Owner Aric Krol said that an investment of over \$400,000 was made to renovate the former laundry market, which later became a computer store. The building had been vacant for several years.

Although he is the owner, Krol insists on being called “The captain of the sports team.”

Krol, 31, comes from a varied background. His



Quality Roots is the second cannabis shop to open in town. It is located at 2024 Caniff Ave.
Photo supplied by Quality Roots

family once owned Sav-Mor Pharmacy, which was sold to Walgreens.

“I grew up in an environment of compliance,” Krol said, in reference to following state and federal regulations on the sale of prescription drugs.

At age 12, he said, he developed a passion for designing children’s toys – especially ones with an educational twist.

That interest grew into a toy store in Royal Oak called Toyology.

Krol takes his passion for education into the cannabis industry. Education, he admits, on the

surface, “carries over to this business in a weird way.”

He said that his cannabis outlets stress customer education, along with matching the right product, with their desires and needs. It also requires his staff to become knowledgeable, as well.

“We’re not throwing things down people’s throats,” Krol said.

“We’re willing to put in our time to further their educations,” he added, referring both to training his employees, as well as giving customers the best

advice.

So far, there are 14 employees, known as “patient care specialists,” at the Caniff store. Krol hopes to have at least 50 percent of his staff here be Hamtramck residents.

Krol said that, once his marketing campaign ramps up in the coming weeks, he will probably employ a total of 30 people for this outlet.

The business also offers online purchases and curbside delivery at their store.

In this age of COVID, he said safety precautions are taken, and that there is also an hourly wipe-down on surfaces in-store.

Following a state directive to limit occupancy to no more than 25 percent capacity, there is a limit of nine customers in the store at a time.

So how does his line of products differ from competitors?

Quality Roots does not have its own grow facility, unlike Pleasantrees.

Continued on page 4

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February 23 - Mass for People on our Prayer List 7 pm

February 24 - The Bitter Lamentations (Part I) 7 pm

March 3 - The Stations of the Cross 7 pm

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Oakland International Academy is a nonprofit, no-tuition, Michigan public school academy (charter school) offering grades K-12. Please stop by the Academy’s middle school location at 8228 Conant St Detroit, MI (<http://oiacademy.net/>) or contact the Academy’s office by phone at: (313) 925-1000 if you are interested in seeking enrollment or information about the Academy. Re-enrollment for current students and their siblings is from March 1, 2021 through March 16, 2021.

Open enrollment for all new students is from March 17, 2021 through March 31, 2021. Current students and siblings may also apply during open enrollment but will not receive preference based on current enrollment or being a sibling of a current student. If any grade receives applications that exceed class limits, a lottery will be held Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 4:00pm, at the Academy’s Middle school library. Staff will be available to collect enrollment documents and to answer any questions during regular school hours as well as March 17 until 5:00 p.m., and March 20 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The Academy cannot enroll any student who is not a resident of this state, except a foreign student who is not a United States citizen. The Academy is an equal opportunity public educational institution and does not discriminate based on intellect/measures of achievement, race, sex, religion, national origin, and shall comply with all state and federal civil rights laws.

Legal Notice of Open Enrollment

Caniff Liberty Academy is a nonprofit, no-tuition, Michigan public school academy (charter school) offering grades K-8. Please stop by the Academy at 2650 Caniff Street, Hamtramck, MI (<http://www.canifflibertyacademy.com>) or contact the Academy’s office by phone at: (313) 872-2000 if you are interested in seeking enrollment or information about the Academy. Re-enrollment for current students and their siblings is from March 1, 2021 through March 16, 2021.

Open enrollment for all new students is from March 17, 2021 through March 31, 2021. Current students and siblings may also apply during open enrollment but will not receive preference based on current enrollment or being a sibling of a current student. If any grade receives applications that exceed class limits, a lottery will be held Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 4:00pm, at the Academy. Staff will be available to collect enrollment documents and to answer any questions during regular school hours as well as March 17 until 5:00 p.m., and March 20 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The Academy cannot enroll any student who is not a resident of this state, except a foreign student who is not a United States citizen. The Academy is an equal opportunity public educational institution and does not discriminate based on intellect/measures of achievement, race, sex, religion, national origin, and shall comply with all state and federal civil rights laws.



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NOTICE

CITY OF HAMTRAMCK BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of Hamtramck Board of Review will meet in the Hamtramck City Hall located at 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, Michigan 48212, Second Floor Council Chambers, ** **OR** by electronic means if required by M.D.H.H.S. order. If electronic meeting is required public notice will be posted not less than 18 hours prior to the meeting at the City Hall and on the City website. **

Meetings by appointment only on the following days:

Tuesday March 2, 2021 at 9:00 am for the organizational meeting (no appeals will be heard).

By appointment to hear appeals,

Monday	March 08, 2021	1:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Thursday	March 11, 2021	9:00 am to 5:00 pm

The purpose is to review the assessment rolls of Hamtramck. Matters pertaining to the assessment of property may be brought before the Board of Review. Appointments will be taken until 4:00 pm on Thursday, March 11, 2021. Appeals will also be accepted by letter.

All letter appeals must be **received by 4:00 pm on Thursday, March 11, 2021. **

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THOMAS D. MONCHAK
ASSESSOR,
CITY OF HAMTRAMCK

Publish February 5th, 12th, & 19th 2021 – Hamtramck Review

Historical museum celebrates another year educating the public

Continued from front page

Canada in the mid-1700s but who died and was originally buried in Detroit in 1803, and who was then evidently exhumed and placed in a grave in Veterans Park.

The CANAL+ program will first air in France, but then is supposed to become available on YouTube after that.

Bear in mind it will still be in, you guessed right, French.

Beyond that, the museum enumerated several projects or plans for the 2021.

It was noted that next year, 2022, will be the 100th anniversary of the official formation of the city of Hamtramck, before which it was classified as a village and township. It is fervently hoped, by many, that coronavirus control protocols will enable a proper level of celebration by then.

February should be an active month for the museum: A new podcast studio is expected to begin operations, and the 2020 annual reports for the Museum, the Historical Commission and the Friends should be complete and ready for viewing on the website (hamtramckhistory.org).

Newly planned flooring for the main gallery

should have formal plans in place by spring.

And, in an especially exciting development, the museum is in the process of helping to draft both history and art curricula for the Hamtramck Public Schools.

We'd say that's a nice feather in the museum's cap.

The newsletter reminded interested parties that the museum had sent out annual membership renewal notices. Some have been returned already, and the hope is that more will soon make their way in.

Finally, the newsletter contained a heart-felt short message from museum director and local historian par excellence Greg Kowalski, briefly detailing the museum's journey over the past difficult year.

In short, Kowalski called 2021 "perhaps the most important year (for the museum) since (it) opened in 2013."

"By this time next year, I'm hoping to look back on a litany of accomplishments," Kowalski enthused.

We're with him all the way on that, and wish the museum "Bon chance" – or "Good luck," to all you non-French speakers.

At Quality Roots, it's all about educating the customer

Continued from page 3

Instead, Krol said, he has developed relationships with dozens of vendors. Rather than having, say, a half-dozen strains of cannabis to offer, his outlets offer over 30.

One of the guiding principles of his business plan is to give back to the community.

Even before he opened, he donated 500 toys to Friendship House, so that local kids could get something for Christmas.

He also plans to be active in supporting local events and festivals.

Krol said he is keenly aware of the ongoing debate in Hamtramck over whether to ban future marijuana sales outlets.

Some members of the public were outraged to learn that his store would be opening, and initially pressured the city's Zoning Board of Appeals to deny officially rezoning the building as commercial – even though, for years, it has been used and taxed as a commercial property.

The city council backed off on that decision, when it was warned that ZBA denial would lead to an expensive lawsuit that the city would likely lose.

Some of those opposed to the business lived in the neighborhood right behind the store.

Krol said that there has since been no blowback from neighbors. In fact, just the opposite.

"I've been fist-pumping with neighbors over the fence," he said.

While it's too early to say how many of his customers, so far, are residents, he said it's a "healthy amount."

Quality Roots is open seven days a week, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Interested in a job there? Visit their website for more information.



Eric R. Sabree
Wayne County Treasurer

Wayne County Treasurer's Office

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Program will include remarks& special tributes.

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The American Arab and Muslim
Political Action Committee

For more information and advance RSVP,
please Email: office@ampacmi.org
www.ampacmi.org

Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Council handed existing pot stores the gift of monopoly

One of the curious things about the city's new marijuana ordinance is that it gives the existing cannabis dispensaries a virtual monopoly.

A majority of the city council adopted the new ordinance, and it is considered by some as a compromise between those opposing marijuana sales outlets and those in favor of this type of business.

The ordinance caps the number of facilities as of the time the ordinance was published in the paper last Friday.

That appears to be three outlets – possibly others if they managed to get their paperwork in order before last Friday's deadline.

How lucky are those investors?

Imagine if there could only be a couple of gas-line stations, or party stores, or bakeries or pharmacies.

The council has handed these marijuana operators a monopoly. What a gift!

But it begs the question: Why the opposition to allow the free market to determine how many dispensaries can survive?

There is a belief, among some, that the dispensaries will allow marijuana to get into the hands of children and lead an increase in crime. Both of those assertions are absurd, and have been debunked.

Recreational marijuana is tightly controlled, and the dispensaries here have tight security.

Not only that, the dispensaries are located in what were empty buildings. They are now occupied, and the businesses are contributing to the city's tax revenue.

Not only are they occupied, but all have gone through expensive renovations and have made the surrounding areas much improved.

A win-win.

We also find it amusing that some of those who are opposed to marijuana sales outlets also

want to abolish the city's income tax in the belief that by doing so, more businesses will come to Hamtramck.

Except, unless that business is about the sale of marijuana. Who knew Hamtramck could afford to be so picky?

Marijuana sales have been a revenue cash cow for states and cities. It was recently reported that Colorado marijuana dispensaries have racked up a whopping \$10 billion in sales since 2014.

A good chunk of that goes into state coffers too, by way of taxes and fees.

Considering that Hamtramck is financially strapped, it is downright irresponsible for the city councilmembers – and we're talking about Councilmembers Fadel Al-Mar-soumi, Mohammed Al-somiri, Saad Almasmari and Mohammed Hassan – to stick their noses in what kind of businesses can operate here.

Other Voices: Guest Editorial

Help is available for young people with addiction during the pandemic

By the Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network

In the midst of a pandemic, the drug epidemic persists as health experts say fentanyl is still the leading cause of drug overdoses in Wayne County while the number one drug of choice for teens is marijuana, followed by alcohol, and heroin.

As most of us know, substance use is still very prevalent among young people in the country and right here in Wayne County. But help is available – such as treatment, prevention and recovery services offered by the Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN).

The organization manages over 400 Providers in its network of care and many of them offer substance use prevention as a way to help people who are addicted, get the help they need.

DWHN Provider Taylor Teen Health Center is one of those providers who is trying to reach as many young people it can considering the circumstances of the pandemic. It would typically offer in-person prevention services however, now all of its in-school presentations have been virtual.

One particular program is called Botvin's Life Skills Training Program.

It's an evidence-based



curriculum proven to reduce the risks of alcohol, tobacco, drug abuse, and violence by targeting the major social and psychological factors that promote the initiation of substance use and other risky behaviors.

This program provides adolescents and teens with the confidence and skills necessary to successfully handle challenging situations.

"We continuously touch base with our youth asking for feedback on how we can meet their needs during this time of great stress and uncertainty," said Jeff Cook, Director.

Another DWIHN Prevention Provider that has been around for many years is "Livonia Save Our Youth Coalition (LSOY)." Its purpose is to educate and empower the community regarding the health and safety of youth, focusing on alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

This is accomplished by connecting substance use disorder prevention specialists and mental

health resources with community partners. "LSOY is a small coalition but our reach is wide," said Executive Director Karen Bonnano.

"Our community partners include students, parents, educators, law enforcement, health care and mental health professionals, hospitals, elected officials, and local businesses. Over the past year, we have organized several SUD and mental health prevention activities that have reached many people in the Livonia area."

The organization has held prevention events such as Narcan trainings and Run 2 Save Our Youth, a local family event sponsored by the Livonia Police Department in addition to a successful educational series, Addiction: What You Need to Know and What You Can Do, in partnership with St. Mary Mercy hospital. Since then, about 1,000 have participated and about 100 people have asked for information or a referral for treatment.

In these unprecedented times where, young people are also struggling with their mental health, it's good to know help is available. DWIHN is also part of a Detroit COVID-19 Virtual Therapy

Continued on page 6

Odds & Ends

Serve and earn... Have you considered a job as a paid volunteer?

The Piast Institute here in town, which, you may know, is "The Place" for all things Polish, is currently taking applications for an Americorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) position.

The program that the position is attached to is intended to help the area's senior citizens and immigrant populations to avoid opioid overuse or abuse. This program is called the "Education and Reduction of Opioid Use Initiative."

Applicants must be 18, and have general clerical-type skills. VISTA members receive a monthly stipend, health insurance, and either a grant usable toward tuition, or else a monetary bonus, after one year of service.

For more information, please contact CEO/Co-Founder of the Piast Institute, Virginia Skrzyniarz, at either (313) 733-4535, or via her email at skrzyniarz@piastinstitute.org.

Updates will be posted from time to time on the institute's website, at piastinstitute.org/updates.

Documentary... Recently, a French news crew was in town interviewing locals about Hamtramck's changing ethnic make-up.

There have been a dozen, or so, similar documentaries in the past few years – some better than others, of course.

This one is called "Islam City," and while it was reported in French, including overdubs in French of those interviewed, it appeared well produced, nuanced and balanced.

Those interviewed includes Mayor Karen Majewski, City Councilmembers Mohammed Alsomiri and Ian Perrotta, Hamtramck Public Schools Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed and also Review Editor Charles Sercombe.

You can check out the 30-minute doc on Youtube. Do a search for: DOCU-NEWS Islam City.

Tax talk... The Michigan Department of Treasury issued a couple of recent press releases that may be of interest to some residents.

In the first, the Treasury announced that it was to begin processing individual tax returns on the same date as the Federal Government was set to do so, which was Feb. 12.

In fact, both the beginning dates and ending (Apr. 15) dates for the individual income tax filing periods are the same for the IRS and the state.

State Treasurer Rachael Eubanks said, "We coordinate with the IRS to process tax returns and issue refunds."

"This year, the IRS has pushed back the processing date, due to software updating and testing," she continued.

"This means our processing date will also be pushed back. (We) will be ready to process your returns, and issue refunds..." she stated with confidence.

People can file their state returns either online themselves, or through using a tax preparation service or person, or else by mailing in the completed form(s).

Those forms are available at irs.gov.

Be sure you have all of your W-2s or 1099s. Employers were supposed to have sent these out to you by Jan. 31.

Those who rush to get their returns in early, in order to expedite their refunds, will need to file an amended return later if the figures were inaccurate because unofficial documents

were used to calculate taxes.

In a second release the state Treasury announced that Michigan residents will not have to pay penalties or interest if they estimated their earnings, but then found their estimates were thrown off because of pandemic-related unemployment payments.

All taxpayers who received unemployment during 2020 will automatically receive this waiver – taxpayers don't need to contact the state Treasury, or provide any additional documentation.

State Treasurer Eubanks said "This is the right thing to do."

"COVID has disrupted our lives in numerous ways – and many Michiganders are depending on unemployment benefits to get them by during this extraordinary time."

"Having to pay penalties and interest on... benefits is the last thing individuals should be worried about when they go to pay their taxes."

To learn more, go to: www.michigan.gov/incometax.

Almost... Monday night's snowfall was pretty bad. Seven, maybe eight, inches?

Hey, it's Michigan. Snow happens.

We found it amusing on Paczki Day, Tuesday, that this guy was trying to plow the snow in a Jos. Campau/Caniff alley with this ... thing.

Hey, word to the wise, probably gonna have to get a bigger plow, dude. (Apologies to the movie "Jaws.")



The Hamtramck Review

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586-354-2044

Frontier International Academy (K-6 and 9-12)
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(313) 462-6300
<https://frontierdetroit.geeacademies.net>

A Michigan Public Charter School open to all Michigan students for a free public education is holding **OPEN ENROLLMENT** for the **2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**
Open Enrollment dates: 2/25/21 – 3/12/21
Monday thru Friday: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm
both campuses
Two Evenings: Wednesday 03/03/2021 and Monday 03/08/2021 3:00-6:00 pm-Warren Campus
Call 586 354-2044 for appointment
Detroit Campus
Saturday: 03/06/2021 09:00 am– 1:00 pm
Both Campuses
Frontier International Academy 28111 Imperial Dr, Warren will be holding Kindergarten Round up March 2, 2021 from 3– 4:00 pm.

Should we receive more applications than we have room for, a random selection drawing will be held in the presence of a third-party official on 03/15/2021, 2021 at 11:00 am at Frontier Intl. Detroit and Warren Campuses. Frontier International Academy is a tuition free public school academy and does not discriminate on the basis of intellectual or athletic ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, handicapped status, religion, creed, race, sex, color, or national origin. For questions, please call the school at the above number. Frontier International Academy welcomes visits from interested applicants. Maximum Enrollment for the 2020-2021 School Year Frontier Warren-350 students.

BRIDGE ACADEMY EAST (PreK– 5)
9600 Buffalo St. Hamtramck, MI 48212
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www.bridge-academy.org

BRIDGE ACADEMY WEST (6th-12th)
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(313) 462-6200
www.bridgewest.gee-edu.com

A Michigan Public Charter School Open to all Michigan Students for a free public education is holding **OPEN ENROLLMENT for the 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**
Open Enrollment dates: 2/25/21 – 3/12/21
Applications are available at Bridge Academy East
Monday thru Friday: 8:00 am–3:00 pm
Two Evenings: 03/09/21 and 03/11/21 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
One Saturday-03/6/21 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Should we receive more applications than we have room for, a random selection drawing will be held in the presence of a third-party official on 03/12/21 at 4:00 pm at Bridge Academy East in the school gym.
Bridge Academy is a tuition free public school academy and does not discriminate on the basis of intellectual or athletic ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, handicapped status, religion, creed, race, sex, color, or national origin. For questions, please call the school at the above number.
Bridge Academy welcomes visits from interested applicants. Maximum enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year-1300 Students

Mayor: COVID cases continue to slow down

By Charles Sercombe
Something is going on with COVID.
It appears to be declining nationally, in Michigan, and, yes, in Hamtramck.
In Mayor Karen Majewski’s weekly talk with the community on her Facebook page this past Monday, she said Hamtramck’s number of cases had dropped dramatically since last reporting.
She said there were only 11 new cases reported for the past week, which now gives us a total for the past year of 1,849.
There were also no new deaths reported for the week. The overall total, so far, is 42.
“That’s the lowest I can remember since, maybe, when we started (counting),” Majewski said. “You’re doing a good job, Hamtramck.”
At the peak of the disease, back in November and December, there were about 70 deaths reported each week in Hamtramck.
While it’s good news that it appears COVID may finally be exiting, there is still no news on when Hamtramck residents can join Detroiters in getting a vaccination.
(President Biden says most Americans can expect to get the vaccine by the end of July.)
Detroit, the mayor said, got a special deal to receive vaccinations for its residents, but the rest of Wayne County was frozen out. Hamtramck city officials, Majewski said, are working on securing a similar deal.
If you are a frontline worker, you can get a shot through Wayne County, and if you are 65 and older, you can arrange to get one through your health provider.
But good luck with that. There is currently a shortage of the vaccine, but President Biden has ordered millions more that should become available in the next few weeks.

This week featured Paczki Day on Tuesday, and naturally Majewski took note of this. Despite limits being in place because of COVID, Majewski said folks were “still working to make this a holiday.”
And a holiday it is, for residents and many thousands of others, who jam into our bakeries for this once-a-year delicacy, and later on into our bars for drinks and dancing to live bands.
Oh, Hamtramck knows how to have fun.
In past years, Paczki

Day has not only been about fun, it’s also been a huge money-maker for many of our local businesses.
“Normally, this is a big sales day,” Majewski said.
This week also brought in winter, full-blast. Snow, more snow, and bitter cold.
Majewski reminded residents that they must clear their sidewalks of snow. But, she said, if you can’t physically do it, there is a way to get free help.
And for those who would like to volunteer, there is a Facebook link from which to seek help, or to volunteer to help.

It’s here at:
www.facebook.com/HamtramckFirst
As of press time Thursday, there were 6 to 8 inches of snow that fell, with possibly several more inches coming our way later in the week.
For many folks, these past few months have been rough financially. If you need free food, Hamtramck is here to help:
Friendship House at 9540 Conant has a pantry open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-4 p.m.
The mayor ended her 17-minute weekly address with a warning to stay warm, and drive safely.

Help is available for young people with addiction during the pandemic

Continued from page 5
Collaborative where youth can receive up to 12 free counseling sessions with trained clinicians regardless of insurance.
You can call or text, 313-488-HOPE, or visit ReachUsDetroit.org for more information.
As always you can call the 24/7 Access Helpline at 800-241-2929. DWIHN is Here to Talk, Here to Help.



City of Hamtramck Notice of Public Hearing
Zoning Board of Appeals

The City of Hamtramck ZBA will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 6:00pm via Zoom and streaming live on the city’s Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CityofHamtramck/>) due to the inability to gather in person because of COVID-19 concerns. The public is invited to virtually attend and comment or to make written comments before the date of the hearing. Address written comments to Mara Braciszewski, ATTN: ZBA, 3401 Evaline St., Hamtramck, MI 48212. Information about how to log on to the Zoom meeting can be found at Hamtramck.us or by calling Mara Braciszewski at (313) 800-5233 ext. 316.

The subject of the hearing is:

- 8610 Conant seeking a variance for a new curb cut from the following section of the Hamtramck Zoning Ordinance
 - VI-1.06 g. No new driveways, service drives, or curb cuts shall be permitted off of any public road.

Please note: This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.71 a (2) (3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The City of Hamtramck will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the Meeting to Individuals with disabilities at the Meeting or Public Hearing upon 10 day notice to the City Clerk’s Office. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Hamtramck City Clerk by writing or calling the Clerk’s Office at 313-800-5233 x. 342.

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12829 St. Louis, 2 story, 5 BR, upper and lower each have kitchen, bath, dining and living rm, Palo and Diane 248-659-2325.

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Multiple Homes for Rent 3 bedroom upper flat/2 bedroom single, homes for rent, tenant to pay all utilities, both \$950/mo, text John 248-579-3872. ^{2/5}

HOUSE FOR SALE

Detroit, 3904 Eldridge, 2 family, garage, lower level, 2 br., living, dining, kitchen. Upstairs 1 br., living rm., kitchen, 586-634-2502.

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2339 Caniff, across from Hamtramck Library, 2 lofts at \$1,500 each/mo, floor \$3,000/mo. full basement, boiler system for whole building, 3,000 sq. ft. 248-866-1110. ^{3/15}

Commercial unit available for sale or lease, 2339 Caniff, across from the Hamtramck Library, beautiful location, 3 units, full basement, boiler system for whole building, 3,000 sq. ft. 248-866-1110. ^{2/19}

Advertisers should check their ad following first publication. The newspaper shall not be liable for failure to publish an ad, for a typographic error or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first day's insertion. Adjustments for errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. We reserve the right to classify, revise or reject any classified advertisement.

HELP WANTED

Cook needed, Ivanhoe Café, Tues. – Fri., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., call Patti, 313-433-7929. ^{3/5}

Part-time Office Manager for a nonprofit food pantry in Hamtramck. Duties include managing client in-take, bookkeeping, Payroll, data entry, written correspondence, monthly reports, answer phone, assist in supervising volunteers. Qualifications include high school plus 1 year in an office environment and computer skills. Must have Strong interpersonal skills. Bilingual in English and Bangla preferred. Contact Cathy at 313-874-7443 or cathymaher@att.net.

Position available as an Americorps VISTA at the Piast Institute located in Hamtramck, ages 18+. Call 313-733-4535 for more information. ^{3/12}

LOST PASSPORT

Lost passport and green card, from Yemen. If found, please call Mahyooob Alqaderi at 313-413-1992. ^{3/5}

OFFICE EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Hewlett-Packard copier, good working order, 5 trays, includes legal size, \$550, 248-866-1110. ^{3/19}



YOUR AD HERE (313) 874-2100

Deadline for classifieds for next week is Thursday at Noon

Call (313) 874-2100



By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Feb. 9-15.

Tuesday, Feb. 9

• A hit-and run accident occurred at Jos. Campau and Goodson, and another one happened at Conant and Belmont.

• A Yemans St. resident reported being a victim of fraud. A Florian St. resident also reported being a victim of fraud.

• A suspect wanted in connection with several thefts of dirtbikes and all-terrain vehicles was arrested after a brief pursuit. The suspect was attempting to steal a four-wheeler from a parking lot at Buffalo and Doremus.

Wednesday, Feb. 10

• A resident was arrested, for fleeing from officers in a previous encounter.

• A resident was arrested after being pulled over in a traffic stop and fleeing on foot, for driving without license, obstruction, and reckless driving.

• A hit-and-run accident occurred at Fleming and Commor.

• A resident reported that someone opened an account in her name.

• Detroit police recovered a vehicle stolen out of Hamtramck.

• A resident in the Grand Haven and Commor area

reported that their child ran away from home.

• A hit-and-run accident occurred at Caniff and St. Aubin St.

Thursday, Feb. 11

• A resident reported losing their Green Card.

• A missing juvenile was found.

Friday, Feb. 12

• A Detroit resident was arrested for drunk driving after crashing their car.

• Officers recovered a stolen vehicle in the area of Moenart and Sobieski.

• A McDougal St. resident reported receiving threatening phone calls.

• A hit-and-run accident occurred at Belmont and Jos. Campau.

Saturday, Feb. 13

• A Yemans St. resident was arrested for assault.

• A Detroit resident trespassed at a business on Caniff Ave.

• A Yemans St. resident reported that their stolen vehicle was returned.

• A driver was arrested for multiple traffic offenses.

Sunday, Feb. 14

• An agent for a Jos. Campau Ave. business reported a suspicious situation.

Monday, Feb. 15

• A domestic assault was reported in the 2200 block of Yemans St.

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School Bell

A message from Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed

State Superintendent Dr. Rice is calling for additional instruction time for students next year during a meeting yesterday with Michigan policy makers, I am concerned

about the impact the announcement may have on the teaching profession.

While I agree with Dr. Rice that students need more additional time, it is important to see how we can preserve the academic time now. Having the high stakes assessments waived would be a

start.

This would preserve valuable instructional time for our students, build morale among the educators, and minimize the learning loss.

In a time where there is a teacher shortage, it is important to ask ourselves:

Will this very much needed initiative drive teachers to retire or resign? As of December, a study indicated that there are 27% of teachers considering quitting because of COVID.

According to the report by Mann Educator, 77% of educators are working more today than a year ago, 60% enjoy their job less and 59% do not feel secure in their school district's health and safety precautions.

Is this something we want to risk in a time of teacher shortage? Will this deter people from going into the teaching profession?

Teaching in a pandemic has been exhausting and emotionally draining on teachers everywhere.

Many have lost loved ones while trying to navigate the virtual platform. It is important that we are mindful of our students and the adults' social and emotional needs.

So how will we address the needs of our students? Hamtramck Public Schools is fortunate to have a Recreational Center that we oversee, we are planning to give opportunities for our students to engage in field trips, sports and activities during the summer considering it is safe.

Rather than asking teachers to put in even more time, we are exploring opportunities for credit recovery, enrichment and summer school programs to meet student needs without further taxing the state's exhausted teachers.

The productivity of our employees is essential and having them refreshed and ready for 2021-22 is best especially during more uncertainties.

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

FREE NEIGHBORHOOD TESTING

Wayne County Community College District Northwest Campus
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Detroit, MI 48219



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Southwestern Church of God
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Detroit, MI 48217





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MEET UP and EAT UP

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SEPTEMBER 8 – JUNE 30

BREAKFAST, LUNCH, SNACK & SUPPER

9:30 am – 12:45 pm Mon-Fri



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MEET UP and EAT UP

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SEPTEMBER 8 – JUNE 30


BREAKFAST, LUNCH, SNACK & SUPPER

9:30 am – 12:45 pm Mon-Fri



Distribution Location: MAIN DOORS ENTRANCE

This is an equal opportunity provider.



MEET UP and EAT UP

Healthy food served here!


EARLY CHILDHOOD ELEMENTARY

11680 McDOUGALL, HAMTRAMCK, MI 48212

SEPTEMBER 8 – JUNE 30

BREAKFAST, LUNCH, SNACK & SUPPER

9:30 am – 12:45 pm Mon-Fri



Distribution Location: MAIN OFFICE DOOR BY PARKING LOT ON CHAREST STREET

This is an equal opportunity provider.



MEET UP and EAT UP

Healthy food served here!

HAMTRAMCK HIGH SCHOOL

11410 CHAREST, HAMTRAMCK, MI 48212

SEPTEMBER 8 – JUNE 30


BREAKFAST, LUNCH, SNACK & SUPPER

9:30 am – 12:45 pm Mon-Fri



Distribution Location: WEST FRONT DOOR OF HIGH SCHOOL ON CHAREST STREET

This is an equal opportunity provider.



MEET UP and EAT UP

Healthy food served here!

HAMTRAMCK HOUSING COMMISSION

12025 DEQUINDRE, HAMTRAMCK, MI 48212

SEPTEMBER 8 – JUNE 30

BREAKFAST, LUNCH, SNACK & SUPPER

9:30 am – 12:45 pm Mon-Fri



Distribution Location: COMMON AREA IN FRONT OF ADMINSTRATIVE BUILDING MAIN ENTRANCE

This is an equal opportunity provider.



MEET UP and EAT UP

Healthy food served here!

SITES

Hamtramck High School, Kosciuszko Middle School,
Hamtramck Housing Commission, Early Childhood Elementary
Tau Beta Elementary, Dickinson East Elementary

BREAKFAST, LUNCH, SNACK & SUPPER

9:30 am – 12:45 pm Mon-Fri



This is an equal opportunity provider.