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Like Us On: Volume 13 No. 13  
March 19, 2021 **50¢**

# The Review

*Hamtramck*

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**PUT YOUR \$  
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**HUSS**  
Hamtramck United Social Services  
Usual monthly meeting 4th Wednesday of each month  
Coordinating & serving the community since 1971!

## Quick Hits

### Student scholarships offered

**By Alan Madlane**  
Hamtramck United Social Services (HUSS) has announced their Scholarship program for local senior high school students.

They are also soliciting donations toward same.

HUSS describes itself as a coalition of area social service agencies, and they have been around for more than 40 years. The group's aim is to continuously analyze, update and share information among their member agencies, in order to maximize efficiency.

But they also actively plan, develop and implement their own programs and/or actions, either directly or indirectly, in response to community needs.

This multifaceted organization will award their yearly scholarship(s) of up to \$500 to one or more grads, who have demonstrated contributions to the city of Hamtramck through their community service and/or their volunteer efforts.

The scholarship application process is open to all 2021-graduating high school seniors who live in Hamtramck.

Application packages must be postmarked  
**Continued on page 8**

## — HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

# School superintendent presents a return to classroom teaching

**By Jaleelah Ahmed**  
**HPS Superintendent**

*Editor's note: Recently, Hamtramck Public Schools Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed sent district parents a letter, notifying them of the district's plan to return to in-person learning. Here is that letter:*

I am pleased to report that on Wednesday, March 10th, the Hamtramck Public Schools Board of Education approved a return to in-person learning plan for April.

This plan was developed in tandem with key stakeholders to support the continued academic, social and emotional growth of our children, while maintaining the district's commitment to the health and well-being of the entire school community.

While online learning will still be available, we believe – in light of decreased local COVID rates and teachers' access to the vaccine – the



**The Hamtramck Public School District recently announced its plan to begin phasing students back into school buildings and return to in-classroom learning.**

time is right to offer an in-person learning option for our students.

With the majority of our students having been out of our school buildings for nearly a year, we have determined a gradual return to in-person learning will be the best option for the children we are privileged to serve.

Thus, we will begin offering half-day in-person instruction for our K-6

students starting April 5, while our 7-12 students may return to their school buildings for half-day instruction beginning on April 19.

We will be limiting the number of students attending in-person school at each building. More information regarding the specifics of the return to in-person learning will be provided in the coming days. Each principal will

send a registration survey with a deadline for responses for the families opting for the in-person learning.

For those who opt in, in-person learning provides daily structure, including normative routines and expectations; access to timely, in-person, academic and emotional support; increased well-being checks completed

**Continued on page 2**



**Author Greg Kowalski has written yet another book about Hamtramck. His new book is called, "Murder in Hamtramck: Historic Crimes of Passion & Cold-blooded Killings."**

## Hamtramck historical author takes aim at crime and murder

**By Alan Madlane**

Greg Kowalski, Executive Director of the Hamtramck Historical Museum and a prolific author sometimes fondly referred to as "The Hemingway of Hamtramck," has yet another city-themed book out, and this one's a dilly.

"Murder in Hamtramck: Historic Crimes of Pas-

sion & Coldblooded Killings" was released in mid-February. It covers some of the more sensational such crimes from between 1884 and 1978 (Kowalski cuts the book off there, out of deference to any potential relatives, friends or survivors of any more-recent violence), and is well-organized, il-

**Continued on page 4**

## Federal bucks are coming

**By Charles Sercombe**

Hamtramck, like dozens of communities in Michigan, is set to receive a financial shot in the arm.

According to a federal breakdown of where stimulus dollars are going, Hamtramck will receive \$2,132,652 million.

But that amount won't go far, said City Manager Kathy Angerer.

She said it will be spent on shoring up budget shortfalls that are due to COVID's impact on the economy.

"This is going to be backfill," she said.

And by that, she meant that the city saw a drastic downturn in revenue from property and income taxes, as well as what comes yearly from the GM Poletown plant.

Usually, the city receives about \$800,000 a year in lieu of GM paying property taxes, in a complicated deal that was worked out when the plant was first built.

That income is tied directly to whether the plant is operating, and how many employees are working there.

For the past several months, and likely for the rest of this year, the plant has been idle – meaning there will be hardly a trickle of dollars coming from GM.

Property and income tax collections are collectively down by \$700,000 because of COVID, which led to a number of residents losing their jobs, or experiencing reduced work hours, which in turn meant many could not afford to pay their taxes.

**Continued on page 2**

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Coming Events

**ONGOING** – The Hamtramck Health Center, 9021 Jos. Campau, is providing the free COVID-19 vaccination services for those 50 and older with pre-existing conditions. Call (313) 871-1926 to make an appointment.

Every Tuesday 11-45am

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Hamtramck Housing Commission (HHC) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap or familial status

# School superintendent presents a return to classroom teaching

Continued from front page

by staff; access to face-to-face meetings with social workers and school counselors; and frequent follow-up to ensure students are safely acclimating to the new school reality.

Throughout the last year, we have demonstrated an abundance of caution rooted in our commitment to our students, families, teachers and staff. We are proud to report we safely and successfully reopened our learning labs last week.

Across our schools, we continue to have COVID-19 protocols in place, including social distancing, masks for all students and staff and a restriction on visitors to our buildings.

Additionally, we also have continued our regular cleaning and sanitizing protocols.

As we look to expand our in-person learning options, we will not force parents to bring their children to the schools. During these challenging times, we want our parents and families to have a choice. Across Michigan, 98% of schools have safely returned to some form of in-person instruction.

We recently surveyed our families, and 40% indicated they are interested in in-person learning.

Thus, we are committed to offering in-person learning opportunities to those families that choose this option, while also ensuring that those families interested in continuing with remote learning are able to do so.

We know this is not an easy time for our families. That's why we have taken every necessary precaution to promote the safe return for our children, including engaging Three Sixty Safety, an external company specializing in workplace safety and safety team-building development.

It's why we've gone through every building to review safety protocols and to ensure the ventilation systems are working as they should. We hope being one of the last schools in Michigan to implement in-person learning this school year reinforces how seriously we have vetted the process to return.

As always, if you require assistance, please contact our office at (313) 892-2038. You may also reach the following individuals for additional support:

- Amra Poskovic (Bosnian), School and Community Facilitator: aposkovic@hamtramckschools.org; Phone: (313) 912-4502.
- Aiysha Shamim (Bangla), Parent engagement Liaison: ashamim@hamtramckschools.org; Phone: (313) 365-5861 Ext. 6852.
- Rasmia Alnajjar (Arabic), Parent Engagement Facilitator: ralnajjar@hamtramckschools.org; Phone: (313) 717-2259.
- Corlis Brown-Lloyd, Parent Engagement Facilitator: cbrown-lloyd@hamtramckschools.org, Phone: (313) 365-5861 Ext 6852
- Marc Wilkinson, Technology Director: mwilkinson@hamtramckschools.org; Phone: (313) 892-7505 Ext. 3205.
- Technology Center Support Days/Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Phone: (313) 305-6976
- District Nurse Pieknik, mpieknik@hamtramckschools.org
- Sarah Peslar LMSW, Clinical Social Worker, speslar@hamtramckschools.org; Phone (313) 891-9473

We cannot wait to see all of our students back in our schools – whether it happens this school year or next – and we are working diligently to facilitate the return to in-person learning for all.

Until then, we appreciate the continued patience and understanding of our families throughout the pandemic, and we are grateful for the hard work and dedication our teachers and staff have demonstrated in their commitment to the students and families we are privileged to serve.

Working together, we will support the academic, social and emotional growth of the community's children.

## Federal bucks are coming

Continued from front page

"This barely helps make up what we lost," Angerer said.

Even with this financial boost, it's been projected by financial auditors that Hamtramck will continue to remain in deficit spending going forward, due to high pension costs that keep increasing.

Hamtramck's portion of the stimulus package pales in comparison to what Detroit will receive: \$879 million.

Just north of Hamtramck, the City of Ferndale (which has a smaller population than Hamtramck, at about 20,000) is getting just a little less: \$1.98 million.

In comparison to Hamtramck, which has a population of 22,000, Ferndale is affluent. Yet that city also suffered a financial loss in the last year of \$1.5 million, due to COVID's financial impact on that city's once-thriving restaurant scene.

The national stimulus money is part of the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan. The total package for 1,500 Michigan communities is \$4.22 billion.

PROUD TO BE LOCAL

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## This week at the Library . . .

**Condolences:** The Library Board of Directors and the Library Staff would like to express their deepest condolences to the family of former Councilman, Robert Zwolak. Bob was a dear friend and supporter of the Library for many years and we all shall miss him tremendously.

**Join us on ZOOM:** Wednesday, March 24th at 6:00 pm, we will have a ZOOM presentation of "Alice's Ordinary People", directed by Craig Dudnick. It is a Civil Rights documentary and details the efforts of Alice Tregay and her team of everyday heroes to bring about the changes needed to make their community thrive. Please reserve your space by emailing us at hamtramcklibrary@gmail.com with MOVIE in the subject line. The ZOOM link to attend will be emailed shortly before the event.

**Special Woman Story:** Is there a certain special woman who you know personally - one whose story you want to share? We would like to hear it! On one page, describe what makes her great and what she means to you. We will post the submissions up in the library for patrons to read.

**Home Crafts:** The library has Spring-time take home craft kits for children. Get yours while the supplies last!

**First TV Set:** Did you know that the first TV set built by RCA in 1954 has a screen that was only 12.5 inches across and was sold at a price of \$1,000.00, That is over \$15,000.00 in today's money.

**World Youth Day:** In 1985 March 26 was declared World Youth Day the Pope John Paul II.

**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](mailto: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

## Mayor: COVID cases hit a new low, but for how long?

By Charles Sercombe

This past Monday was March 15 – known as the Ides of March – which is either a time of celebration or a day to beware (go look up Julius Caesar).

For Hamtramck, it was a day to celebrate.

That’s because, in May- or Karen Majewski’s weekly community talk on her Facebook page, she had good news to share.

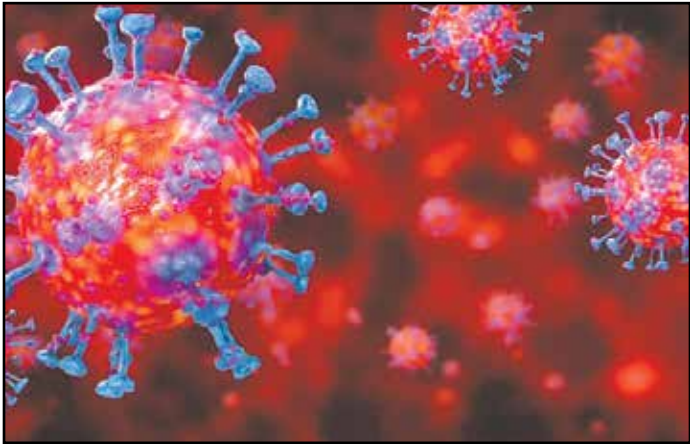
During the past week, there were only six new COVID cases reported in Hamtramck, bringing the total for the past 12 months to 1,898.

“I don’t know if we’ve ever had a week with only six new cases,” Majewski said. “This is great news.”

The number of deaths for the year remains at 43.

But then there was also the “beware” part. The mayor warned, in her weekly COVID update that there are new strains popping up in the country and in Europe.

Italy and Portugal have had to close down and impose quarantines again



because new COVID strains spiked way up.

“We just don’t know what’s going to happen,” Majewski said. “Other countries turned a corner and turned right back.”

So, on that note, the mayor urged residents to continue wearing masks out in public, social distancing, washing your hands and ... well, you know the drill by now.

For those waiting for a vaccination, there is good news: Those who can now get one has expanded.

For now, those 65 and up continue to step to the head of the line, as now also do those 50 and up with preexisting health conditions.

On March 22, that opens up to those 50 and up in general. Also, on that date, those 16 to 49 with pre-existing conditions can get vaccines.

On April 5, those 16 and older can get in line.

Locally, you can schedule an appointment at the Wayne County Healthy Communities clinic in the Hamtramck Town Center strip mall on Jos. Campau and Holbrook.

Call them at (313) 871-1926, extension 6.

You can also schedule a free shot at any Meijer store.

The moratorium on rent evictions runs out at the end of the month, so the mayor suggested that any-

one still having a tough time making ends meet, should check out a new rental financial assistance program being offered.

To find out more, go online to: [michigan.gov/cera](https://michigan.gov/cera)

Also on the way is another round of stimulus checks, worth \$1,400 for each person making less than \$75,000 a year. Some lucky folks have already received their checks.

Additionally, federal unemployment has been extended until September, with \$300 per week payments.

With spring here and the snow melted, the mayor reminded folks that it’s a good time to clean up the trash that accumulated over the winter from around their house.

“I don’t have to tell you how badly we need clean-ups,” Majewski said. “The city is a mess.”

There will also be a city-wide clean up on March 27, at 10 a.m. Meet up at city hall, or just strike out on your own.

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**March 21** - Mass at 9:00 am  
**March 19** - Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary 10 am  
**March 23** - Mass for People on our Prayer List 6 pm  
**March 24** - The Bitter Lamentations (Part 3) 7 pm

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## PROUD TO BE LOCAL

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2021 - 2022 ROUND-UP

**WHEN: THURSDAY, APRIL 8TH, 2021**

**WHERE: THE COMMUNITY CENTER, 11350 CHAREST, HAMTRAMCK, MI 48212**

**TIME: 12:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.**

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### HAMTRAMCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## CONTACT INFORMATION

**PUPIL SERVICES:**

GEORGE BLANKENBAKER, COORDINATOR OF PUPIL SERVICES  
313-892-2035  
[GBLANKENBAKER@HAMTRAMCKSCHOOLS.ORG](mailto:GBLANKENBAKER@HAMTRAMCKSCHOOLS.ORG)

**FOR INTERPRETATION SERVICES PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL FACILITATORS:**

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[APOSKOVIC@HAMTRAMCKSCHOOLS.ORG](mailto:APOSKOVIC@HAMTRAMCKSCHOOLS.ORG)

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# Hamtramck historical author takes aim at crime and murder

lustrated with photos, and just plain fascinating. This is his 10th book about Hamtramck. We cornered Greg (well, by email, well distanced for these COVID times) and solicited his answers to a few burning questions about his latest sure-to-be success.

**The Review: Many readers know of the Hamtramck Historical Museum, even if they have never managed to set foot in it before. They may well also know of**

**you, since we sometimes feature articles in our paper that you have written. Can you give us a very quick sketch bio for our readers’ sake, perhaps where you were born and grew up (specifically, if it was here in town), went to school, worked, etc., and what led you to your current post as the city’s undisputed historian of note?**

Kowalski: I was born in St. Francis Hospital in Hamtramck on Nov. 2, 1950.

I went to St. Florian schools for 12 years, and then on to Highland Park Community College and then to Wayne State University, where I got a degree in journalism. In 1973, I served as an intern at The Citizen newspaper in Hamtramck, and the following year I was hired as sports editor. In 1977, I was named editor of The Citizen, and served in that position until 1981. It was one of the most pivotal times in Hamtramck’s history, as Dodge Main closed and

the GM Poletown plant became a reality. Working for The Citizen was a priceless experience, and made me into a real journalist. But I also worked in corporate communications, including being a writer and editor for Blue Cross/Blue Shield after I left The Citizen. I also was manager of publications for Michigan Health Care Corporation, and I did a ton of freelance work. In 1989, I went back into newspapers, hiring in as a part-time copy editor for the Observer & Eccentric community newspapers. I quickly became a full-time reporter, then was editor of the Southfield, West Bloomfield and Birmingham Eccentric newspapers. In 2013, I was hired as Director of Community Relations for Bloomfield Township, and I stayed in that position until I retired last November. I had no great interest in local history until 1997, when Mayor Bob Kozaren asked me to work on a book to mark Hamtramck’s 75th anniversary as a city. The book (which I did with Charlene Sloan and Joe Sobota) was a huge success. It sold out almost instantly, and made a profit of \$18,000. The following year, I was asked to join the then-new Hamtramck Historical Commission. I became chairman at the first meeting because no one else wanted the job. But I was instantly drawn

toward Hamtramck’s history. The Historical Commission led to us to form the Friends of Historical Hamtramck, a 501 (c) (3) organization in 2004. And ultimately that led to the establishment of the Hamtramck Historical Museum, where I am now executive director. Hamtramck’s history is incredible. After all these years, I am still amazed at what we continue to find out about this amazing city.

**The Review: Your latest book, “Murder in Hamtramck,” features meaty tips of town lore in the murder trade. A blurb in the back of the book states that this is your twelfth book, tenth on Hamtramck: why local murders as a subject, and why now?**

Kowalski: There’s nothing special in the timing, but I’ve been doing a book about every two years since 2000. Murder is a seemingly natural topic. It is loaded with emotion, and endlessly interesting to people. It’s just human nature to be attracted to crime stories. There is a lot of drama in each story. Murders can occur anywhere, and Hamtramck has had its share. Their stories are worth noting. In my years as a journalist, I’ve covered a number of murders, from rushing to a crime scene to being in court when the killer was sentenced. It can be a wrenching experience even as an observer. I wanted to express some of that in the book.

cause there are so many sources of material. The Library of Congress has many newspapers on-line that relate the story of murders in Hamtramck, going back to the 1880s. Then there were the local newspapers – The Citizen, the New Deal, the Plain Dealer and more. Also, I was able to draw on my own experiences with The Citizen. I still remember vividly the murders I covered, and the impact that seeing a murder victim had on me as a reporter. There also are some police records of some from the earlier days, although many of those have been lost. In any case, when I chose a case for inclusion, I looked for some unusual angle. The case of Roman Usondek, who led an amazing life of crime, is an example. I ended the coverage at 1980 because I did not want to upset any survivors of murders committed less than 40 years ago. I did not want to aggravate painful memories, which really never fade. Some murders were left out because they were not unusual, relatively speaking, like (for instance) a robbery gone wrong. Further, I didn’t just want to just do a recounting of crime stories. I wanted to put them in context: how social pressures influenced people, and in some cases contributed to what they did.

**The Review: Out of all the murders in your book, do any in particular stand out to you for any reason?**

Kowalski: The one that really hit me the hardest was a fairly short story of the woman who hung her three children, and then herself, in their flat on St. Aubin Street. Her surviving son at first couldn’t convince an upstairs neighbor of what the mom had done. The sheer horror of this was mind-boggling. Of course, she had gone insane. The story of Bernice Onisko is still intriguing. This was the most notorious murder in Hamtramck’s history.

**Continued on page 6**

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# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### Let the market decide about businesses

We often hear residents complain about the empty storefronts on Jos. Campau, and the supposed failure of city leaders to attract businesses.

Some folks believe that big-name companies are just waiting for a special invitation to open a business here. That's not how it works, people.

Businesses locate here when they find it in their best interest to do so.

It's also up to the people who own these empty storefronts to market themselves.

The city can't force building owners to find someone to lease to.

What we find even more confounding is that, while these very same people complain about the city not doing its job to attract businesses, when a certain type of business wants to open here, they complain.

Case in point: Recreational marijuana dispensaries.

There was a huge cry from people who opposed this type of business, with unfounded fears that dispensaries would lead to increased crime and kids getting their hands on marijuana.

Hamtramck now has three dispensaries, and a fourth possibly coming.

There have been no reports of problems at any of them, but like any business, sooner or later there may be an incident. Let's face it, banks occasionally get robbed, shootings can happen at gas stations; you name it, crime happens.

There is one thing about dispensaries that

critics fail to acknowledge: They are bringing in impressive tax and fee revenue for cities.

According to the Michigan Department of Treasury, each dispensary contributes \$28,000 in taxes and fees. Do local pharmacies bring in that kind of revenue? Do gas stations? How about markets?

No, no and no.

Marijuana, whether you approve of it or not, has been a good fit for cash-strapped Hamtramck.

The point of all this is, you can't criticize city officials for Hamtramck's empty storefronts, but then complain when a legal business you don't happen to approve of wants to open here.

Let the market decide which businesses will survive here.

## Odds & Ends

**Vaccinations...** A COVID vaccination site will be setting up in Hamtramck's "Banglatown" (11945 Conant). The first date was yesterday, March 18, but there is another opportunity to get a first dose next Thursday, March 25, from 11 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Second doses will be Thursday, April 15 and Thursday, April 22. This is a mobile unit for anyone 60 and older, or 50 and older, who have preexisting conditions. Call (313) 448-9850 to set up an appointment time.

The race is on ... It's election season in Hamtramck, and you can hardly tell.

So far, there is only one person who has filed for the upcoming mayoral and city council races. And that's current Councilmember Saad Almasmari who is now running for mayor.

There are also three council seats up for election. All the positions are four-year terms.

The deadline to file is fast approaching: Friday, April 20 at 4 p.m.

You have to be at least 18 years old, and a resident and a voter in Hamtramck, to file.

To get an application form, go the city's website (<https://hamtramck.us/>) and click on "Clerk" under the Departments tab.

**Marijuana money...** In last week's issue, we reported that the city will be receiving a minor windfall in taxes and fees from the marijuana dispensaries operating here in town.

The state treasury department says each one will be paying \$28,000 a year in taxes and special state fees. There are three in town already and a fourth will possibly open.

Hamtramck won't be seeing any of that money until the end of the year,



**Free COVID vaccinations came to Banglatown on Thursday, and will return next Thursday, March 25, at 11945 Conant, 11 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.**

because the three current operating ones just opened in the past several weeks.

**SOS news...** The Secretary of State will soon be offering a bevy of new options for online and lobby kiosk services.

Additionally, on March 16, after two years of preparing for it, the state's newly upgraded driver records system was to have been unveiled.

New online customer services will include renewing or replacing an enhanced driver's license or state ID (if no new photo is required), in addition to being able to view the status of that process; requesting a driver's record; adding a motorcycle endorsement to an eligible driver's license, and more.

At self-service kiosks, one may now do the same (other than viewing the process), and also may request (and print out, if the request is granted) a temporary license or state ID, as well as sign up for the state's organ donor registry.

There are about 135 of these self-service kiosk stations across the state of Michigan, including some found at Meijer, Kroger, or other large stores.

All accept credit cards, and some also take cash.

There have been other changes to make lien and title information available electronically. The gradu-

ated driver's licensing process was to be simplified. For more info on these and other services, call your local SOS office.

**Helping hand...** According to a press release from the Michigan Department of Treasury, Michiganders who need help with their winter energy bills can now apply for the Home Heating Credit.

Low-income, deaf, disabled or blind persons, disabled veterans and senior citizens may qualify. Applicants are not required to file a Michigan individual income tax return to receive the credit, per the press release.

Forms and instructional materials are available on the internet at [Michigan.gov/IncomeTax](http://Michigan.gov/IncomeTax) or by calling (517) 636-4486. Forms are also available at many libraries (call first, as many are not yet back to their normal hours), or state Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) offices across the state (ditto).

All applications for the credit must be received by Sept. 30.

During 2020, the state Treasury Department took in more than 270,000 Home Heating Credit claims, and the average credit came out to \$216.

Additional information can be found on the Home Heating Credit website. Go to Michigan.

**Continued on page 6**

## School Bell

### Speech contest

Kosciusko Middle School teacher Rahiel Housey-Johnson has been coaching students in speech contests for many years. Here is the latest news:

Five Hamtramck Public Schools students worked diligently on their speeches in preparation for the March 17 Optimists of Downtown Detroit's Annual Oratorical Competition. It took place via Zoom.

Kosciusko Middle School students Taufiq Islam, Shayera Chowdhury, Nura Uddin, and Maha Uddin and Dickinson East student Karima Ahmed competed.

The topic was "Healing the World with Optimism."

First-place winner Nura Uddin will receive \$300 and a gold medal; the second-place winner Taufiq Islam will receive \$200 and a silver medal; and the third-place winner Shayera Chowdhury will receive \$100 and a bronze medal.

All students will receive certificates. Nura will advance to the next level of competition, which is to be announced.

On May 5, Optimists of Downtown Detroit's essay and oratorical winners will celebrate with a Winners' Circle event, details to be announced.

Learning about bias

HPS Superintendent, Jaleelah Hassan Ahmed recently participated in WXYZ's virtual panel, where she discussed hidden bias.

Also known as implicit bias, hidden bias is when people make decisions or take actions based on preferences one might have toward a person or group of people.

Learn more about the complex topic of implicit bias, why it's important to acknowledge and how it should be addressed within education by watching this panel discussion online at:

<https://www.wxyz.com/.../live-at-8-wxyz-virtual-town-hall...>



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# Hamtramck historical author takes aim at crime and murder

She was 17 years old when she was raped and strangled in an alley in Hamtramck in 1937. Despite a massive investigation, her case was never solved – and technically remains active today. I had at one time seen the original police photos of the crime scene.

But even if I had access to them now, I would not have included them in the book. They were heart-breaking.

**The Review: Have you had any response yet to the book? Publicity, reviews on or off Amazon? Has anyone written to you through the publisher, offering tips on solving an unsolved case, or their psychic services, or etc.? Any comments from the local police force?**

Kowalski: Haven't got any comments yet, but the book just came out. The pandemic has limited book signings and presentations.

And no, I haven't been

able to solve any old cases that are still pending.

**The Review: You mentioned that you end the book in the late '70s, out of deference to the victims or their families from any of the more recent incidents of the past 40 years plus. So, what will your next book project be, assuming you've decided (or maybe it's already in process, hmm)? Will this one concern Hamtramck too?**

Kowalski: There are still plenty of topics relating to Hamtramck that can be addressed. But it all depends on the publisher.

I'd love to do something a little more in-depth. I do have an idea, to do a work on what it was like to live in Hamtramck at certain specific times. This would be highly detailed, to the point it would note what the air smelled like and what sounds the people heard in their neighborhoods.

I'm not really interested in doing a non-Hamtramck book anymore. There's still so much here to "mine,"

and I want to leave a thorough chronicle of this city before I die.

Incidentally, I have stated in my will that, when I do die, I want to be cremated, and have my ashes spread on the railroad tracks in Hamtramck. They are the real roads to Hamtramck's past.

**The Review: Does the museum have a specific area dedicated to such seedier matters as those your new book recounts? If not, any plans for a special exhibit along those lines, to correspond to the book? Any plans for any public readings, signings, etc, eventually?**

Kowalski: There are many references to Hamtramck's wild days in the museum, including a genuine Prohibition-era still. We also have Paddy McGraw's violin, and if you don't know who he is, you have to come and learn his story at the museum.

We will be doing some programs and exhibits on the book later in the year,

when the pandemic lifts. We also will do a podcast about it in the near future.

**The Review: Feel free to add anything else.**

Kowalski: The only thing I would like to add is, to please come visit the Hamtramck Historical Museum. We are doing some amazing things there, despite the pandemic. Come and see. You won't be disappointed.

**The Review: Well, thanks for taking the time to (further) entertain our readership.**

*Greg Kowalski's book is available here in town at the Hamtramck Historical Museum (9525 Jos. Campau Ave.), at online sellers such as Amazon, and wherever finer text is peddled.*

SUPPORT  
LOCAL  
BUSINESS

## Odds & Ends

**Continued from page 5**

gov/HeatingAssistance.

**Crowdsourcing...** Russell Street Deli fans – and we know there are many of you here – listen up.

The former owner now wants to relocate to Hamtramck – at the current site of Baker Streetcar Bar, to be exact.

Yes, Baker's owner Rocky wants to retire, according to Melody Baetens of the Detroit News.

But, there's a "but". And that is Russell owner Ben Hall and wife Arielle Laws need to raise \$175,000

to make renovations, and to make this plan come about.

There's another "but" in this story as well: They plan to dish up pizza and pasta – not the sandwiches and soup that made the deli a former hotspot in Eastern Market.

We know one thing: Ben knows food, and whatever he offers, it's gonna be good.

Got a few bucks to spare? Go online to [www.indiegogo.com](http://www.indiegogo.com) and search for Russell Street Deli.

## Obituaries

### KURZAWA


Bernice Kurzawa, 89, died February 12, 2021.

Mrs. Kurzawa was a long-time resident of Hamtramck and passed away at her home. She was born in Detroit, to Marianne (Samsel) and Ignacy Baldyga on May 27th, 1931.

Bernice is survived by her son, David Kurzawa; her daughter, Mary Ann Villemaire; and her grandchildren, Nicole Villemaire and Kim Kurzawa.

Per Bernice's last wishes, she was cremated, and no funeral services will be held.

### SUWALKOWSKI

A n a s - t a s i a "Ann" Suwalkowski (nee Zaluski), 77, died March 15, 2021.

Mrs. Suwalkowski was the loving wife of the late Lawrence; mother of Derek, Lawrence (Tricia), and Donna (Rob) Grech; grandmother of Alison (Chris), Katelin, Jaimee, Nikki, Andy, and the late Ryan and Jacob; great Grandmother of Sophie. Ann was also survived by many cousins, nieces, and nephews. She loved spending time with her family and was also a grandmother to many that were not family by blood.

Ann enjoyed bowling, fishing, was a die-hard Detroit sports fan, and enjoyed the slot machines at the casino. Her and her late husband Lawrence prayed to Fr. Solanus Casey and were devout supporters of the Capuchin's.


Private services were held by the family and inurnment will be at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Detroit, Michigan.

Ann had been battling pancreatic cancer for the past 17 months and was in hospice at the time of his death. He died peacefully with his children by his side.

There will be a memorial visitation in honor of Mr. Zwolak on March 19, from 2-7 p.m. with prayers at 6 p.m., at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home. March 19 would have been his 80th birthday.

The family has requested donations be made to the American Cancer Society in his honor. <https://www.facebook.com/donate/491875181804016/>

### ZWOLAK

R o b - e r t "Bob" Z w o l a k , 79, died March 3, 2021, just 16 days shy of his 80th birthday.

Bob is survived by his beloved family, Kari (Glenn) Shepley, Robert (Carole), Andrea (aka DeeDee), Diana, and Dan-

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**By Charles Sercombe**  
This week's Crime Log covers March 9-15.

Tuesday, March 9

- A Caniff Ave. resident reported being the victim of a theft.
- A Pulaski St. resident reported being assaulted.
- A Detroit resident was arrested, after a traffic stop, for being wanted on a warrant.
- Officers attempted to stop a white Dodge Charger, but the driver sped off.
- A resident reported that they were receiving harassing communications.
- A driver was arrested for drunk driving.

Wednesday, March 10

- Royal Oak police arrested a person wanted on a Hamtramck felony warrant.
- At 3 a.m., a Detroit resident was arrested for possessing dangerous drugs.
- A resident reported being a victim of fraud.
- A Belmont St. resident reported a break-in.
- A Belmont St. resident reported being assaulted.
- A loose dog was captured, and taken to the Westland Humane Soci-

ety.

Thursday, March 11

- A resident reported being bitten by a loose dog while in the 2400 block of Andrus St.
- A resident reported that, while in the 11300 block of Conant Ave., they were the victim of a theft.
- A Detroit resident was arrested for carrying a concealed weapon without a permit.

Friday, March 12

- A person reported that, while in the 11400 block of Lumpkin St., they were the victim of a theft.
- A suspicious situation was reported in the 2400 block of Grayling St.
- A person in the 5000 block of Belmont St. reported being the victim of a theft.

Saturday, March 13

- A resident in the 3400 block of Evaline St. reported a suspicious situation.
- At about 3 a.m., two Detroit residents were arrested at Belmont and Lumpkin for assault and obstructing officers.
- An agent for a Jos. Campau business report-

Continued on page 8

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**Continued from page 7**

ed a theft.

- A Detroit resident reported being the victim of a theft.

**Sunday, March 14**

- Officers attempted to pull over a driver during a traffic stop, but the driver fled. The vehicle was later recovered.
- At about 12:30 a.m., a resident reported being assaulted while in the 1900 block of Evaline St.
- A Grand Haven St. resident reported that someone damaged her property.
- A person was taken to Detroit Receiving Hospital for a mental evaluation after defrauding a business in the 11000 block of Conant Ave.
- A hit-and-run accident occurred at Holbrook and St. Aubin.

**Monday, March 15**

A resident reported being sexually assaulted.

A Detroit resident was arrested for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.



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Cont. from front page

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The application package must include the application itself (signed by both the student, and by a high school guidance counselor or principal, verifying proof of the student's residency in the city as well as their school attendance); a minimum of one letter of recommendation from a teacher or community member; a typed essay of no more than 500 words attesting to the student's positive community service and its effect on the city; and a school transcript demonstrating a 2.0 GPA or higher.

The winning recipient(s) will be notified, by phone or mail, by May 28.

There will then be an award luncheon on June 23, honoring the winners, which will include invited guests.

Any questions? Try calling the Hamtramck Public Schools office during normal business hours, at (313) 872-9270.



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first arrearage payment made at initial enrollment



**\$25 MONTHLY**  
bill credit & help with arrears

### WRAP QUALIFICATIONS

PROVIDE PROOF OF

- Residency & income
- Renter's proof of responsibility for water on lease



Have income at or below 200% of poverty level




Stay current on monthly bill payment

Number of Household Members	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Income Limit (\$)	25,520	34,480	43,440	52,400	61,360	70,320	79,280	88,240	96,600	100,980



**CALL 313-386-WRAP (9727)**  
or scan this code to apply today!





# MEET UP and EAT UP

Healthy food served here!


**DICKINSON EAST**

3385 NORWALK, HAMTRAMCK, MI 48212

SEPTEMBER 8 – JUNE 30

BREAKFAST, LUNCH, SNACK & SUPPER

9:30 am – 12:45 pm Mon-Fri



MEET UP and EAT UP

Distribution Location: CAFETERIA DOORS, MAIN ENTRANCE

This is an equal opportunity provider.



# MEET UP and EAT UP

Healthy food served here!

**TAU BETA ELEMENTARY**

3056 HANLEY, HAMTRAMCK, MI 48212

SEPTEMBER 8 – JUNE 30

BREAKFAST, LUNCH, SNACK & SUPPER


9:30 am – 12:45 pm Mon-Fri



MEET UP and EAT UP

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



MEET UP and EAT UP

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



MEET UP and EAT UP

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



MEET UP and EAT UP

Distribution Location: COMMON AREA IN FRONT OF ADMINISTRATIVE 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



MEET UP and EAT UP

This is an equal opportunity provider.