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 June 4, 2021 **50¢**

# The Review

## Hamtramck

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**PUT YOUR \$  
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## Quick Hits

### Get your walking shoes on

**By Charles Sercombe**

OK, we all gained about 15 pounds during the past year, no thanks to the Covid pandemic and being quarantined at home for most of the year.

To help you get back in shape, the annual Health Hike will be held tomorrow, Saturday, June 5.

It's a 5K walk/run, and it has staggered starting times to ensure social distancing, starting at 10 a.m. and going until 2 p.m.

To register, go to: [tinyurl.com/healthhike2021](http://tinyurl.com/healthhike2021)

There is also this tempting offer to come out and join in the fun: The first 350 people who show up get a free T-shirt and "a bag of swag," said Mayor Karen Majewski in her recent regular Monday morning Covid update on Facebook.

Those participating will meet up outside the Piast Institute office, located at 16333 Jos. Campau.

The event is co-sponsored by the Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition.

## — HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

# Get ready to dish out more money to park in the business district

**By Charles Sercombe**

Better save up your quarters if you plan to park in the city's Jos. Campau business district.

Actually, make that dollars – lots of them.

New hi-tech parking meters are being installed along Jos. Campau, and the side streets leading up alleys, as well as in all city-owned parking lots.

The cost of hourly parking will likely come as a shock to many in Hamtramck.

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

How about getting a monthly pass? You'll have to cough up \$75 each month.

Another increase is for parking tickets. Instead of paying \$5, you will be paying \$25, which is better than the originally proposed \$45.

The hours of operation will now be 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Think you can chance it and park without paying, and dash around doing errands?

Nice try.

The meters are equipped with cameras that will record your license plate and automatically send you a ticket.

It has not yet been determined when the meters will be activated and the parking fees go into effect. The installation of the meters began a few



**New hi-tech parking meters are being installed in the Jos. Campau business district. Prepare yourself for the new parking fees.**

weeks ago, and is ongoing.

All of this came about last summer, when the city administration brought forward a proposal for city council approval to hire a company, Municipal Parking Services, inc., which is based in Minnesota, to

install the meters.

The deal is, the company gets 50 percent of the proceeds, and the city receives the other half. The contract with the company is good for five years, and after that it can be renewed or canceled.

If the city does decide, **Continued on page 4**

## No protest this time around

**By Charles Sercombe**

For the first time ever, Hamtramck city officials recognized June as "Hamtramck Pride Month."

Last week, the city council unanimously – and without comment – approved a proclamation recognizing the designation.

Hamtramck's relationship with the gay and LGBTQ+ community hasn't always been so smooth.

Back in 2008 – 13 years ago – the city council approved an ordinance regarding human rights – specifically, guaranteeing the civil rights of the gay and LGBTQ+ community.

There was an immediate backlash organized by outside conservative groups the Thomas More Legal Center and the American Family Association of Michigan.

The groups teamed up with conservative members of the local Catholic and Muslim faiths to hold an election to overturn the ordinance.

Included in that effort against the ordinance is current mayoral candidate Kamal Asm Rahman, who at that time had resurrected the Hamtramck branch of the NAACP.

Rahman, a Bangladeshi-American who works for the City of Detroit, said this about the ordinance in 2008:

"The terms sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. Those **Continued on page 2**

## An author's 'love letter' to the City of Detroit

**By Alan Madlane**

Elisa Sinnett is a teacher with the Hamtramck Public Schools, who also happens to be a writer.

Her newest book is called "Detroit Fairy Tales," and, true to its title, it is a compendium of relatively short pieces centered around those beloved environs.

We sent her some questions, and she generously sent 'em back with great answers, and here's how that all looks:



**Elisa Sinnett**

**The Review: Your book "Detroit Fairy Tales" sounds very intriguing. There was a lot of info about the book already on your website, but perhaps we could kind of synthesize it down for a short article for our readers. To that end, here are a few questions:**

**How did the book evolve? Did you have a deliberate concept for it, or did it sort of fall together?**

Elisa Sinnett: Evolution

really is the right word, but it took a few years before I realized that I was writing to a pattern – unconscious(ly) at first.

There are a lot of stories written about Detroit from a really disparaging point of view, but Detroit Fairy Tales has been called a "love letter to Detroit" by some people. I think it is.

**The Review: Were you following the style of any**  
**Continued on page 6**



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# No protest this time around

Continued from front page

are the words we are opposing because, sexual orientation, the meaning is limitless. Sexual orientation does not limit ... orientation toward whom? It could be an animal; it could be children. Not just man-to-man, but man-to-animal...I know it sounds crude, but this is the fact...

"Get rid of it [Human Rights Ordinance] altogether. Get rid of the discussion. ... This law will discriminate against people who are non-homosexual. Heterosexual people will be discriminated against."

Ultimately, the anti-gay forces were successful in getting voters to repeal the ordinance.

The Review asked Kamal if he still stood by the comments he made in 2008, and he said that after those comments were published, he had clarified what he meant.

Kamal was asked what those clarifications were, and he said: "I'll have a statement from the campaign later."

But he did say, initially: "That was a bad comment to make."

He further said: "I'm for everybody's rights period – if you're gay, Muslim it doesn't matter. Hamtramck celebrates everybody."

With 2008 far in the rearview mirror, last week's city council meeting unanimously supported a proclamation recognizing June as "Hamtramck Pride Month."

The proposal came from the city's newly formed Arts and Culture Commission. In a draft of a press release

from the commission, it said:

"For the first time in its history, the City of Hamtramck shall officially commemorate Hamtramck Pride for the month of June 2021, not only in this inaugural year but henceforth each June in future years in conjunction with global Pride Month celebrations.

"In recognition of the experiences of LGBTQ+ residents, visitors, and queer communities across the globe, the city will fly the 11-color Progress Pride flag at Zussman Park throughout the month of June with a celebratory commemoration. ..."

The date of the commemoration has not yet been announced.

Former City Councilmember Scott Klein, who back in 2008 was behind the human rights ordinance, said the proclamation was "a long-overdue acknowledgement of their (LGBTQ+) contributions."

"Plans are already underway to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community's important contributions to Hamtramck with a first-ever Gay Pride Festival next year."

The city's proclamation

last week also recognized June as Black Lives Matter Month, adding the recognition of the Juneteenth

celebration, as well as the recognition of Flag Day on June 14.

## Friendship House is conducting a survey of community needs

By Alan Madlane

Local charitable organization Detroit Friendship House is hoping you'll help them help you.

And it's a simple matter of filling out a short online survey to do so.

In a project called "Together We Can Overcome," Friendship House is seeking folks to participate in their community needs assessment, which aims to identify the resources that are strengthening the community to recover most effectively from this past, pandemic-filled, year.

They "want to hear your story," the goal of which is to determine the areas of greatest concern, with the aim of setting up "avenues" to help folks have access to appropriate resources.

The survey asks, for example, whether the respondent has faced Covid-related food shortages, or have

had trouble paying rent or on their mortgage, and if so, whether it was known where to begin to look for help.

The results can absolutely help Detroit Friendship House improve their services to the needy.

You don't have to answer anything that makes you uncomfortable for any reason; your information, while kept at least three years, is confidential and anonymous; and you may change your mind and refuse to continue participation at any time, even after signing the release part of the form.

So why not give them a hand? They're trying to be there for you.

It's a neighborly thing to do, if you ask us.

To find out how to participate in this survey, call Friendship House at (313) 871-7443.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Hanley International Academy will be holding a public hearing on its 2021-2022 proposed budget directly followed by its Annual Organization Meeting in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

Date of Meeting:	June 25, 2021
Place of Meeting:	Virtual – see information below for access
Hour of Meeting:	9:00 A.M.
Join by Video:	<a href="https://meet.google.com/kjt-qtv-yd-gq">meet.google.com/kjt-qtv-yd-gq</a>
Join by Phone:	1-567-318-0151; pin 551 061 432#
Telephone Number of Board Offices:	313.875.8888
Board Documents are Located at:	2400 Denton Street, Hamtramck, Michigan, 48212

For additional board document information please email Steve Paddock at [SPaddock@TheRomineGroup.com](mailto:SPaddock@TheRomineGroup.com)

## This week at the Library . . .

June 4, 2021

**Summer Reading Program:** Summer is on its way and that means frolicking, free time and fun. That being said we would not want the reading skills of our younger patrons to stagnate until school starts back up again. Well, they will be in for a treat. Our Summer Reading Program is really something wild this time. Check back here for more details soon.

**Gwendolyn Brooks (1917):** June 7 is the birthday of influential poet, author and teacher, Gwendolyn Brooks. Having the distinction of being the first African American to receive the Pulitzer Prize, Brooks' talent for crafting evocative pieces was recognized from an early age, having written and published approximately 75 poems by the time she was 16. Her works spanned the range of styles, yet the lives and voices of the individuals she portrayed echoed the reality she witnessed in the U.S. at that time. The Poetry Foundation has a wonderful overview of her career and offers a number of Brooks' poems for visitors to read. Go to [poetryfoundation.org/poems/Gwendolyn-brooks](https://poetryfoundation.org/poems/Gwendolyn-brooks) to check it all out. There is also a number of interviews with Gwendolyn available on You Tube. Of course, while

you are at it, why not borrow some of her works from the library.

**GetSetUp.io:** As a reminder, Get-SetUp.io and the Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services have teamed up to provide seniors with tech literacy skills. Learn how to navigate the online world, set up and use electronic devices, and so much more. There is even virtual social hour on offer. Find out the full details by visiting [getsetup.io/partners/michigan](https://getsetup.io/partners/michigan) and use promo code MICHIGANHEALTH to waive any course fees.

**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.

**Mini Football:** With days warming up where better to play than outside? Start your own outdoor fun with a mini football from the library. Stop by to get one.

**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: Weekly Covid report includes a message for those who served

By Charles Sercombe

One day looking back, we may see Hamtramck’s recovery from the Covid crisis as two steps forward, one step back.

Such was the case this past week, when the number of new Covid cases increased to 35, compared to last week’s new case count of 21, according to Mayor Karen Majewski in her weekly Facebook talk with the community on Monday morning.

There was also another Covid-related death that was reported, but that death occurred on April 22. The total number of deaths in Hamtramck is now at 49, and the total number of cases for the past year is 2,595 – or about 11 percent of the city’s population.

The latest casualty was a 72-year-old woman.

“Our numbers are up, and that concerns me – as it should everyone,” Majewski said.

While there was a bump up in Hamtramck’s numbers, statewide the numbers are still going down, which has allowed for the lifting of restrictions on outside public gatherings.

In other words, there is no limit to how many people can go to the ball park. Also, capacity limits have been raised to 50 percent for inside gatherings, such as at bars and restaurants.

But bars can now go back to closing at 2 a.m. instead of 11 p.m.

However, Majewski noted that each venue can set their own capacity limit lower than the state mandate.

Speaking of outdoor public gatherings, the annual Health Hike has returned to Hamtramck, next Saturday, June 5. There will be staggered starting times for this 5K run/walk, which starts at 10 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m.

Meet up at the Piast Institute, located at 11633 Jos. Campau.

This week also marks the first week in over a year that Hamtramck City Hall is now open to the public – but only on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

But Majewski cautioned to limit doing business inside city hall if you can do it online instead.

“We don’t want to flood city hall with people,” the mayor said.

The Hamtramck 31st District Court will also be open when city hall is open.

Majewski said that Wayne County officials have allowed municipal public bodies, such as the city council and commissions, to continue meeting via Zoom, as opposed to live in person, until the end of the month.

If it were up to Majewski,

she said, the council would continue meeting only by Zoom indefinitely.

“Personally, I think it works really well for residents,” she said. “It opens up the opportunity for more and more residents to participate in these meetings.”

Still need a vaccine?

There are plenty of local locations where you can get one. The best way to find out where to go is to search online at vaccines.gov, where you just type in your postal zip code.

He’s back.

Or is it, she’s back?

We just don’t know, but Hamtramck’s own mysterious Plaguedoctor Trashman has been spotted around town picking up litter. The good doctor first started appearing during the pandemic shutdown, hence the Plague Doctor-era mask that he/she wears.

Majewski encouraged residents to thank whoever this masked person is, and if you can, donate some trash bags to him/her.

You can find out more at the Plaguedoctor Trashman’s Facebook page.

Once again, Hamtramck was forced to cancel the usual Memorial Day observance because of Covid. Majewski devoted most of her 20-minute discussion to talk about the sacrifices our vets have made over the years.

Here’s what she had to say:

“Good morning everyone—veterans, Hamtramck residents, families and loved ones. I thank you, and the City of Hamtramck thanks you, for being mindful of this Memorial Day commemoration, when we come together – at least in spirit – to think about our obligations to each other, and to hold in our memory those who met those obligations by giving their lives.

“Today we turn our thoughts to our fallen servicemen and servicewomen. We remember their commitment; we pay tribute to their sacrifice. We stand together in recognition of their lives, and in sorrow at the loss of their talents, their potential, and their presence among us.

“We remember together as Americans, as neighbors, as family members, and as part of this Hamtramck community. But while this act of remembrance is something we share together, many of you feel it deeply and personally in your own way.

“For the veterans, you remember fallen comrades with whom you shared experiences that only other service members can understand. You remember those with whom you grew to manhood and womanhood, with whom you

fought, and served, and suffered.

“You may remember a fallen husband, father, brother, sister, cousin, aunt, or uncle. You are remembering today how dearly they are still loved, and how painfully they will always be missed. Some of you remember classmates or coworkers or neighbors whose promise and potential were cut so sadly short.

“But even those of us not touched personally are left wondering what the world might have been, had these fallen remained among us to contribute to our community and our nation not their blood, but the work of their hearts, minds, and hands.

“What a better world they and their children might have helped create. These potentials we can never know, but only try to carry on in their place.

“So it would also be a disservice to those we honor today if we allow our countrymen and – women – to be put too readily at the same risk, if we were to follow our leaders or those who would manipulate us from the sidelines into any conflict, on foreign shores or on our own soil, using the violence of arms or of propaganda, that is not in

the service of humanity and nation, but manipulated by human vanity, ambition, greed, ignorance, or political expediency.

“The highest act of respect to those we remember today, is that we realize that not all struggles for our nation’s security and survival take place on the traditional battlefield; that when it comes to reaffirming, reforming, and protecting this great democratic experiment, we all have a role to play.

“Let the memory of our honored fallen remind us today that, as co-creators of a nation built on noble but all too vulnerable ideals, and as members of a common human family, for all our imperfections we are still so much more than the fragile bodies we inhabit.

“The human spirit strives for a higher meaning to our struggles; our better natures yearn to leave behind something good in this beautiful and troubled place from which we are all sooner or later called home. So on this Memorial Day, grief is tempered by our belief that, against all the collective indifference, Machiavellian manipulation, and mercenary evil we face, against all personal fear and anxiety, the

impulse to step forward, to sacrifice, and to serve, remains the emblem of our shared humanity.

“The fallen we honor today leave a legacy of belief in something great and noble. May that inspiration guide our work, our relationships with our neighbors

and families, and may it help shape the community and country that it is our job to build together.

“And finally, may we all be together in body – as well as in spirit – next year, to renew this commitment to our nation and each other.”

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# Get ready to dish out more money to park in the business district

down the road, to back off from the deal, the company takes ownership of the meters.

Last June, City Manager Kathy Angerer told the city that the anticipated yearly revenue from the

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

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

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

If you overstay what you paid for, a photo of your license plate will be sent to the police department for review, and then a determination will be made whether to issue a ticket.

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

There is a plus side to this.

If someone’s car gets damaged while parked, the security camera in the meters will record the incident. The police department can use this information to track down the culprit.

Cont. from front page



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Follow updates at [HamtramckDrugFree.com](https://HamtramckDrugFree.com) or [Facebook.com/HamtramckDrugFree](https://Facebook.com/HamtramckDrugFree)

## School Bell

### HHS graduation ceremony

This year’s graduation ceremony will take place on June 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Keyworth Stadium.

Each graduate will receive four tickets. Social distancing and masks will both be mandatory and monitored. A projected view of the stage will be set up on screens. The event will also be live-streamed.

In the event of bad weather, graduation will be moved to Saturday, June 12. In the event that Saturday is also rained out, we will hold the event on Sunday, and so on.

### Early Childhood Elementary

Early Childhood Elementary School students who attended the ESL beginner’s class with Mr. Sawka used their engineering skills to build their own trucks

Materials for the trucks were donated from Home Depot.

Students read directions, measured, assembled, and designed their own trucks using skills from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

Afterwards, students

wrote a summary in their journal regarding the process of building their trucks. Students were very excited to test their trucks upon completion.



Above ECE students recently learned how to build their own toy truck. Below: The HHS graduation ceremony will be held on June 11 at Keyworth Stadium.





## Place an Ad in The Review Today

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# Polonia

Polish Cuisine



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# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### Term limits don't make sense locally

Should Hamtramck impose term limits for the mayor and city council? That question will be going forward to Hamtramck voters in the near future.

We think that is a terrible idea. The elected officials would be limited to no more than three terms.

It seems to us that it is hard enough to find qualified candidates, and removing an experienced person just because they are termed out is a wasted opportunity. Besides, most Hamtramck elected officials really don't hold office for terribly long.

The only person who has remained in office for a good length of time is Mayor Karen Majewski, who is in her 15th year.

She has been challenged by a number of candidates in the past, and has managed to remain in office.

Seems to us that a number of voters still support her.

And why shouldn't they? Majewski has a wealth of knowledge, and has been an excellent ambassador for Hamtramck.

Ultimately, it's up for voters to decide who remains in office.

Term limits are an artificial invention that serve no purpose at the local level.

If it were up to us, we would also get rid of term limits in the state legislature. All that has accomplished is to create a revolving door of candidates who have no experience, and are susceptible to the influence of lobbyists.

There is no problem with Hamtramck's political structure – so why "fix" something that isn't broken?

## Other Voices: Guest Editorial

### Enrollment season is here and kindergarten readiness is a must

**By: Jaleelah Ahmed Superintendent, Hamtramck Public Schools**

Kindergarten is an exciting time for young students to learn and grow, while starting their academic journey.

However, kindergarten can be an overwhelming step for both parents and children, especially in the context of this past year.

With the 2021-22 school year approaching swiftly, parents are eager to ensure their child is prepared for kindergarten. Educators, at Hamtramck Public Schools (HPS) understand these challenges and want to provide incoming parents across the community with the best resources and advice possible to ensure a smooth transition for their child.

While there is no "one-size fits all" learning method, there are some key areas in which parents and guardians can help prepare their child for the skills they will build upon throughout kindergarten. To that end, here are three tips for ensuring your child is kindergarten-ready:

- Help your child develop independence at home: This includes encouraging your child to use the bathroom without assistance, dress and clean-up after themselves, as well as wash their hands independently.
- Develop and follow routines: Set up morning routines that are transferable to a school setting, such as waking up around the same time every morning. Having a set morning routine will help your child transition to daily school more smoothly.
- Engage in meaningful activities that promote literacy: This may include reading aloud to your child or asking them to help you with writing notes and grocery lists. Incorporating these daily opportunities for engagement helps to promote literacy at an impressionable age, as well as introduce students to the type of activities they can expect in the classroom.

Each of these tactics are great starting-points for families to support the academic and social-emotional success of their children before they enter the classroom.

We look forward to welcoming the newest members of the HPS community in September. If you'd like more information on our schools or wish to enroll your child, visit HamtramckSchools.org. To contact our parent engagement team and nurses, please reach out to one of the people below:

- Amra Poskovic School & Community Facilitator [aposkovic@hamtramckschools.org](mailto:aposkovic@hamtramckschools.org); (313) 912-4502
- Elizabeth Alpert School & Community Facilitator [ealpert@hamtramckschools.org](mailto:ealpert@hamtramckschools.org); (313) 598-9083
- Corlis Brown-Lloyd Parent Engagement Facilitator [cbrown-lloyd@hamtramckschools.org](mailto:cbrown-lloyd@hamtramckschools.org); (313) 365-5861, extension 6852
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- Melanie Pieknik District School Nurse [mpieknik@hamtramckschools.org](mailto:mpieknik@hamtramckschools.org); (313) 454-1645
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— PUBLIC NOTICE —

Please note that the Hamtramck Health Center on 9021 Joseph Campau is providing the **FREE Covid 19 vaccination services for those 65+.** Exceptions can be made if under 65, but you need to call first.

All must call **313-871-1926** to make an appointment.

Letters • Letters • Letters

### Don't mess with city's historic look

I wanted to comment regarding the May 21 front page article "Is Hamtramck coming closer to looking like a suburb?"

I am OPPOSED to the proposals put forth by former School Board member Nasr Hussain regarding curb cuts for driveways and for enclosing porches.

First, Hamtramck is a historic city – 99 years old with mostly intact historic architecture. The most significant historic fabric of our city is the houses on 30-foot lot lines, no driveways and large porches on the homes.

The safety and "eyes on the street" in our neighborhoods will result from open porches and people using them. By adding driveways and enclosing porches, the historic fabric of the city of Hamtramck will be diminished.

Creating a car-centric culture in Hamtramck will eliminate the character-defining feature of Hamtramck: its pedestrian accessibility. I am in agreement with Zoning Board of Appeals member Thomas Habitz.

**Rebecca Savage Hamtramck**

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The Hamtramck Review

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# An author’s ‘love letter’ to the City of Detroit

Continued from front page

**writer(s) you admire, or consciously trying to chart your own path? Who do you read, or look up to, as far as other writers?**

Sinnett: Weirdly, I love a lot of male authors who cover some really rough topics, like Sherman Alexie, Junot Diaz, Frank McCourt, Jess Walter, Jonathan Kozol, Pat Conroy. There’s something really open and no-BS about these writers. Super direct.

I also like that about Dorothy Allison, Octavia Butler, Margaret Atwood and Jeannette Walls. They aren’t pulling any punches when they write stories about people experiencing poverty/murder/trauma.

But lately I’ve been trying to bring a little less violence in my life with writers like Ariel Gore, Jesmyn Ward, Thea Lim, Emily St. John Mandel, Lisa See. I think there’s so much explore about gender and the way people write.

**The Review: Are the tales mostly autobiographical? If so, are they heightened at all, as in magic realism, or more straight-forward? Would you say that the book is, more or less, a fiction book, then?**

Sinnett: (To your first question,) all the characters are a mashup of many people I’ve known, or versions of family members. Really, like

any fiction, since authors usually draw on their own experiences.

I use some techniques – for example there’s this one fictional piece – but then, it has historical police reports where one of my family members was a witness.

I write about Detroit, as an eye witness, but before I was born. There’s clearly emotional truth from my perspective throughout the book.

Above all, I was trying to create empathy for people going through trauma and poverty. I want to foster acceptance and empathy, because my family didn’t always get it from people.

Some of the families I’ve worked with through my 25 years as a teacher could use some of that same understanding and acceptance as well. Above all, I love a good story, and I want to get better at writing those.

to her.

She’s a fantastic painter. She did a whole painting for the book, and there’s a key to her art on my website (elisasinnett.com).

**The Review: You teach in the Hamtramck school system, right? How long have you been there, and what approach(es) do you use in your teaching? Do your classes involve creative writing?**

Sinnett: I teach Spanish at Hamtramck High School. I’ve been here for five years, and before that I worked for 20 years at Detroit Public Schools.

I mainly teach Spanish through storytelling, where the students listen and read – A LOT – in Spanish. When we were (doing) in-person (learning), the students also did a lot of storytelling, writing, illustrating, acting, singing, interviewing, even dancing.

My basic philosophy is that we all connect through stories, art, comics, laughter, games; and it makes learning effortless and fun. I have a blast with the students.

**anything else might come out of the book? Netflix come calling yet?**

Sinnett: I would love to watch a movie based on my stories! Those are my favorite kinds of (movies). But not yet!

I know all the writers who reviewed my book except for Junot Diaz, but he just really likes helping people, and unfortunately, there’s a thread of trauma in the book that I’m sure he could relate to, and he just wanted to lift up another person with the same kinds of issues he had growing up.

I really thank you for this interview, because if this book can stay in the public eye a bit longer than the typical book (from a small, but awesome, independent press like Flexible Press: <https://www.flexiblepub.com/>), then maybe it will reach more eyes and ears.

Oh, and I forget to mention that I split my USA proceeds from the book with a nonprofit, AFSC (<https://www.afsc.org/>), that deals with human rights issues.

**The Review: Any plans for a follow-up, and if so, will it be something along the same lines, or something entirely different, or have you even decided yet? Will you be able to get an advance on the next one?**

Sinnett: I’m working on two projects right now: one is working with my Dad’s writings, and the

other is doing a community story project.

But as to my own writing? I’m working on short stories, just in between teaching, and all those kinds of responsibilities. I’m pretty sure I want to go more deeply into fiction. I like reading well-known writers’ first AND second books, because it seems like a lot of people’s first books are short story collections.

**The Review: How have sales been so far? What are all the avenues that your book is available to be purchased, for interested parties?**

Sinnett: Sales have been pretty steady!

Of course, the book is available at Amazon (everything is, isn’t it?). But I like to encourage people to check out independent sellers like Detroit Specials Used Books on John R, The Source Book-sellers on Cass, and Book Beat in Oak Park, as well as Bookshop.org.

**The Review: Feel free to add anything else you’d like, and thanks for your time!**

Sinnett: Sure. Cosmos today, Cosmos tomorrow, Cosmos forever! And a big shout out to the Hamtramck Public Schools Class of 2021 – YOU DID IT! See you on graduation day! (Also, that’s my birthday, so your successes are a wonderful birthday gift!)

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**By Charles Sercombe**  
This week's Crime Log covers May 25-31.

- Tuesday, May 25**
- A resident reported that his gun was stolen from his house.
  - A suspicious situation was reported on Klinger St.
  - Officers attempted to pull over two vehicles, but the drivers sped off.
  - A resident was arrested for an assault that happened in the 2700 block of Florian St.
  - A resident reported being the victim of identity theft.
  - A resident reported a theft that happened in the 12100 block of Gallagher St.

- Wednesday, May 26**
- At about midnight, a resident was arrested during a traffic stop for domestic violence, carrying a concealed weapon without a permit, and for a weapons violation.
  - An agent for a Jos. Campau business issued a trespassing warning to a customer.
  - A Doremus St. resident reported being the victim of an assault.
- Thursday, May 27**
- A trailer was stolen from the 11800 block of Conant Ave.
  - A resident reported an incident of malicious de-

- struction of property that occurred in the 2300 block of Neibel St.
- A resident was arrested for an assault that happened in the 1900 block of Norwalk St.
- Friday, May 28**
- A resident reported a domestic assault.
  - A Detroit resident was arrested for drunk driving.
  - A resident was arrested for an assault that took place in the 3400 block of Doremus St.
- Saturday, May 29**
- A Botsford St. resident was ticketed for violating the city's noise ordinance.
  - An Edwin St. resident

- reported an incident of fraud.
- A Caniff Ave. resident was arrested during a police investigation.
  - A Norwalk St. resident reported that someone damaged his car.
  - An Evaline St. resident reported a garage break-in.
- Sunday, May 30**
- A Whalen St. resident reported an incident of malicious destruction of property.
  - A Klinger St. resident reported an incident of theft.
  - A hit-and-run accident occurred in the area of Mackay and Holmes.
- Monday, May 31**
- A suspicious incident occurred on Evaline St.

Coming Events

**ONGOING** – The Hamtramck Health Center, 9021 Jos. Campau, is providing the free COVID-19 vaccination services. Call (313) 871-1926 to make an appointment.

**SATURDAY, June 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.** – The Hamtramck Health Hike 5K Walk/Run returns this year. Register online at [tinyurl.com](https://tinyurl.com). There will be staggered starting times. The Hike starts at the Piast Institute, 11633 Jos. Campau.

**SATURDAY, June 12, 2-4 p.m.** –Take-out Only Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. Everyone is welcome.

**MONDAY, July 26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.** – American Red Cross will host a blood donation drive at the Hamtramck High School Community Center (11350 Charest St.). Those who donate will receive a complimentary Doner sandwich from The Balkan House. Register for your appointment online, [www.redcrossblood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) (sponsor code: hamtramckhrc), or call 1-800-733-2767.

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