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# The Review

## Hamtramck



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## Quick Hits

### Preserve your Hamtramck memory

Hamtramck's Historical Museum wants you to share your memories of Hamtramck.

Here's what the museum has to say about the project:

"You can preserve your favorite memories of Hamtramck as part of the city's 100th anniversary celebration.

"The Hamtramck Historical Museum has set up a new display at the front window of the museum called 'Somewhere in Time.'

"This is made up of short stories featuring favorite memories of residents, past residents and guests to Hamtramck over the years. It also includes a map when a specific site is mentioned in a memory.

"Anyone can submit a memory to this project. The items should be no more than 300 words and can include a non-returnable photo.

"Items can be sent to the museum by email at [hamtramckhistory@gmail.com](mailto:hamtramckhistory@gmail.com), or mailed to the museum at 9525 Jos. Campau, Hamtramck, MI 48212.

"The Somewhere in Time display will grow throughout the year and at the end of 2022 will be preserved in the museum archives for future generations to see and read.

"Other historical displays and programs will be presented at the museum through 2022, which marks 100 years since Hamtramck incorporated as a city."

For more information, email the museum, or call (313) 690-9390.

## — HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

# Polish community says farewell to the mayor

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck's Polish community gave outgoing Mayor Karen Majewski a tribute party last Friday evening.

The setting for the evening was at the Hamtramck Historical Museum, which was a fitting place considering the historical significance of the moment: Majewski is the last Polish-American to serve as mayor in Hamtramck's almost 100 years being an incorporated city.

Majewski, 66, sought another term in the November election, but was defeated by a political newcomer, Amer Ghalib, 43, who will become the city's first Yemeni-American to serve as mayor when he takes office next month.

History was made on a couple of levels in that election.

Majewski exits office at the end of the year, which will mark her 16th year as mayor. Prior to that, she served on city council for two years.

At the tribute Friday, she received several proclamations of appre-



Mayor Karen Majewski receives a proclamation of appreciation at a tribute party held in her honor last Friday evening. Majewski is finishing out the last year in her 16 years as mayor.

ciation from various local Polish fraternal organizations, as well as from others, including U.S. Sen. Gary Peters.

Included in the 80 guests who attended were Mayor-Elect Ghalib, and former councilmembers Joe Strzalka, Scott Klein, Shahab Ahmed and current Council-elect newcomers Amanda Jaczkowski and Khalil Refai.

Majewski credited Klein with encouraging her to run for office.

She also remembered crying when she first won

the election for mayor.

"I knew my life would be turned upside down," she said.

Majewski said she didn't shed tears when she lost her re-election bid because she has confidence in the new mayor. "I'm happy to see the city placed in good hands," she said.

Looking back, she added: "We did a tremendous job ... It's been a heavy load."

And what's ahead now? "I'm looking forward to the next stage of my life," Majewski said.

That stage includes continuing to run her vintage retail shop, Tekla, on Jos. Campau, and continuing her research into history. She does, after all, has a doctorate degree in history from University of Michigan, where she also once worked.

So, history, once again, plays a role in this saga.

Majewski also had a final fond thought to those who attended:

"All of you played a role in my life ... one way or another."

# School district opens its virtual doors to Cranbrook classes

By Alan Madlane

Hamtramck Public Schools just upped their curriculum offerings.

Unless you have a student who has benefited from these programs, you may be unaware that classes in the district have been able to receive some key outreach-type programming from the esteemed Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills.



Karen Swords

These programs would seem to be extremely successful, engaging students in ways that a lot of the more-traditional programming can sometimes struggle to do.

We caught up with one of the HPS teachers who is on the front lines of this effort, Karen Swords, to discuss the project.

**The Review: Can you first give our readership a bit of background on**

**yourself and how you came to be a teacher in the district? What was your own educational background? Which school(s) do you, or have you, taught for in the district, including at present, and what subjects?**

Karen Swords: For nearly 12 years, I was a social worker at a domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse center.

**Continued on page 2**

# A wave of school closings

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck Public School District students got an unscheduled day off last Friday.

A wave of schools across the metro area also closed last week, following the shooting deaths of four Oxford High School students by a fellow student.

That incident spurred numerous copycat threats at other schools, forcing their closures. Over a dozen people in the metro area have been charged for making those threats.

There were no reported threats in Hamtramck.

That meant a number of teachers were forced to stay home with their children, which also meant there was a shortage of substitute teachers.

Hamtramck Interim School Superintendent Nabil Nagi said that the situation caused a crippling shortage of teachers here.

That forced him to announce the closings of all Hamtramck public schools.

But by Monday, the district was back up and running.

The closings also came at a time of increased concern over the spreading Covid crisis.

That prompted The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to issue guidelines for districts, to quickly isolate staffmembers and students who display COVID-19 symptoms.

The agency also is encouraging the public to get vaccinated and/or booster shots.

"Schools have the ability to be safe now that children ages 5 and older can be vaccinated," said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian,

**Continued on page 2**



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# School district opens its virtual doors to Cranbrook classes

Continued from front page

Part of my responsibilities there included training law enforcement, judges, and even members of President Clinton’s cabinet. Group facilitation was something I enjoyed. I realized that my clients who struggled with reading had limited life options, so I decided to switch career paths. Back in 2002, my childhood BFF taught in the district, and they encouraged me to teach summer school. I taught Language Arts K-5 at Dickinson East and Early Childhood Elementary, and have taught sixth grade at East since 2007. When I was laid off from 2004-07, I then subbed

at Dickinson West, lived and taught in Ashville, N.C., and for several months volunteered at a school when I traveled to Varanasi, India. I have a master’s degree in education from U of M-Ann Arbor and started, but did not finish, a PhD. My undergrad degree in sociology with a concentration in criminal justice is from Oakland University. **The Review: What gave you the thought to reach out to the Cranbrook Institute of Science (CIS), in particular – had you had any kind of working relationship with them previously?**

University, the National Museum of the American Indian, the DIA, the Macomb Center, the DSO, and Ford Theater, and secured virtual programming for my students. **The Review: I’ll admit that I wasn’t aware that Cranbrook had this kind of outreach program, as such.** Swords: Having been a partner with CIS for many years, this was an easy “ask.” Virtual (platforming) was not something, for any museum, that was a primary source of interaction. When Covid hit, virtual service delivery was something schools, CIS and many other institutes and museums had to figure out. Given the transportation difficulties experienced by financially strapped districts, the virtual platform makes interacting with experts in the field accessible to many students. **The Review: I was surprised that a financially themed presentation would be on the menu, so to speak, as an offering from a science institute.** Also, can you talk about some of the other previous programs that have taken place before this one?

gy, and CIS’s funder, Ally Bank, knows the importance of financial literacy. Other virtual programs have included “People, Power, Place” (energy resources and use), “Water Shed-Health of the Great Lakes,” “Get to the Point” (the physics of hunting tools), “Sugar with Your Tea” (European exploration, colonization, and commerce spreading around the globe), and “Humankind Emerging.” **The Review: Those sound amazing. Getting to this particular presentation, how did it go? I would think the kids might have generally been rather fascinated to learn about such an adult subject as personal finances; where money comes from, how easily it goes (and for what), etc.?**

Were there other institutes or organizations you also reached out to and, if so, have you engaged with any of them as well? Swords: HPS has a long-standing relationship with Cranbrook Institute of Science (CIS), which has provided programs, experiences, and resources for our students since 2002. Knowing they are a reliable partner in the field of natural history and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics), I asked them to pivot their delivery options to a virtual platform when Covid hit. Cranbrook acknowledged the diverse needs of our student population, and allowed us an opportunity to review and comment on their programs prior to delivery – to insure the optimum engagement experience for our children. Their expertise and situational responsiveness make them a valued resource in the tri-metropolitan area. Last year, I reached out to the Smithsonian Institute, the World Wildlife Fund, The Audubon Society, Michigan State

University, the National Museum of the American Indian, the DIA, the Macomb Center, the DSO, and Ford Theater, and secured virtual programming for my students. Swords: The students loved the program. CIS’s staff are not only knowledgeable, but entertaining, too. Programs are designed by content experts and educators who know how to engage, and facilitate inquiry. Dickinson East fifth- and sixth-grade students learned about needs, wants, value, and what money is; they also viewed artifacts from Ancient Egypt and Medieval England (sixth grade in October, and fifth grade in November).

Swords: The students loved the program. CIS’s staff are not only knowledgeable, but entertaining, too. Programs are designed by content experts and educators who know how to engage, and facilitate inquiry. Dickinson East fifth- and sixth-grade students learned about needs, wants, value, and what money is; they also viewed artifacts from Ancient Egypt and Medieval England (sixth grade in October, and fifth grade in November).

Continued on page 4

# A wave of school closings

Continued from front page

chief medical executive at MDHHS, in a press release issued by the agency. “We continue to urge all eligible residents to get the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine as

soon as possible as it is our best defense against the virus. Masks, distancing, quarantine and isolation are all additional strategies that keep our schools and public spaces safe.”

## This week at the Library . . .

December 10, 2021

**Checkers Library TV:** Let your imagination run wild as Checkers Library TV explores the magical fun of puzzles and games. This week visit our website ([www.hamtramck.lib.mi.us](http://www.hamtramck.lib.mi.us)) and click on Checkers Library TV under the Programs tab. **Game Night:** Drop by the library on Friday for the Game Night. We will be dusting off the card based party game favorites like One Night Ultimate Werewolf and Exploding Kittens. Don’t be shy, give it a try. Games start at 4 pm. **Christmas Goodies:** If you have youngsters who have behaved themselves well this year, then stop by the library between Monday, December 20th and Thursday, December 23rd to pick up a holiday goodie bag just for them. **Jean de Brunhoff:** This French author was born on December 9, 1899. He was the creator of the beloved Babar the Elephant children’s book series, which his son Laurent continued after his death. Check out some of these classics. **Hoopla Special Event:** Fans of literary murder/mystery take note, Sarah Penner,

author of “The Lost Apothecary, will be sitting down for a virtual chat. Catch it Tuesday, December 14th at 7 pm as part of a hoopla special event. Please visit <https://the.club.hoopladigital.com/> to register and see more info. **Merry Making Idea Kit:** You are invited to take advantage of hoopla’s curated Merry Making idea kit. Enjoy cooking and crafting recipes, holiday music and movies and more. Check it all out by visiting <https://gomidwesttape.com/merry-making> and have yourselves a very merry time. **ESL Classes:** The classes are held four days a week, from Monday to Thursday, from 9 am to 2:30 pm. The program is free to all Hamtramck residents. **Current Library Operating Services:** - Present level of services provides for book pick-ups, copying, printing, faxing, scanning, limited use of computers (with proper distancing) and limited stay in the library (with proper distancing). To print files ahead of time please send attachments for printing to [hamtramcklibrary@gmail.com](mailto:hamtramcklibrary@gmail.com). Face masks are recommended.

Library is located at 2360 Caniff Avenue, Phone (313) 733-6822  
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# Second Front Page

## Mayor: Get vaccinated and continue to mask up

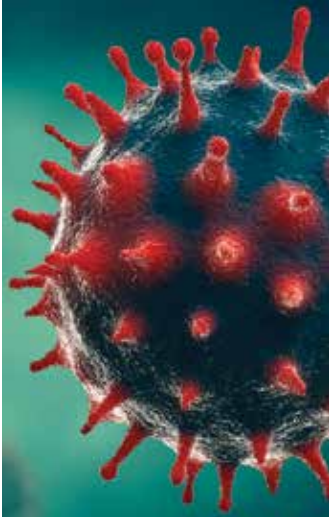
By Charles Sercombe

Covid is still that unwanted guest who refuses to leave.

For the past month, the number of COVID-19 cases have increased each week in Hamtramck.

“Last week was no exception,” said Mayor Karen Majewski, in her weekly Covid update on the city’s Facebook page. “Every week has been progressively higher.”

Two weeks ago, the number of new cases here hit 58. This past week, the city one-upped that number to 59 new cases. Majewski said



there is also reportedly a resident who died recently from Covid, although that death has not yet been officially confirmed by county health authori-

ties.

The total number of cases for the past two years is now at 3,445, with 58 official deaths caused by the disease.

For those who have not yet received a vaccination or a booster, there is a free clinic set up in city hall (across from the city clerk’s office) that operates every day of the week except Sundays, until 7 p.m.

Take it from us, it’s worth checking out: The folks are nice, and there is hardly much of a wait – plus, it’s walk-in, so no need to hassle over scheduling an appointment.

For a while there, Michigan was the leading state in recording outbreaks of Covid, but we are now in the top five category – which might be an indication the virus is about to retreat.

Or maybe not.

Majewski could not stress enough for residents to get their vaccinations and boosters, as well as to wear masks

while out in public.

“This is our best defense,” she said.

On the issue of high lead levels found in a small sample of Hamtramck houses, Majewski noted that Hamtramck has been receiving a lot of attention about the issue.

State and federal financial aid appears to be coming the city’s way to help replace lead water lines leading into houses – which is the culprit for the spike in high lead levels in the drinking water.

“We are expecting an influx of money,” Majewski said, but cautioned: “Nothing is written in stone.”



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**Monday, December 13** – Mass for all those on our Prayer List 7 pm

**Wednesday, December 15** - Rorate Holy Mass 7 pm

**Saturday, December 18** – Take-out Soup Kitchen 2-4 pm All are welcome!

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**FISH FRY** – The Moose Lodge, 9421 Conant Ave., is once again offering a fish fry dinner on the first and third Fridays, 2-7 p.m. Call (313) 871-9115 or (313) 753-2026 to place your order. Free delivery for seniors living in Hamtramck.

**SATURDAY, Dec. 18, 2-4 p.m.**– Take-out only Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. Everyone is welcome! (Please note Soup Kitchen held a week later this month only.)



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# Obituaries

## GUBIN



Paul George Gubin, 49, died December 1, 2021. Paul was born in Detroit, MI and passed away in Royal Oak on December 1. Paul was a loving husband and father of eight beautiful children. Paul was more than a father. He was a friend, confidant, and man of integrity – a man who loved loving people, a man who loved God with all his heart and believed that Jesus died on the cross for our sins so that we

may be saved. Paul G. Gubin is survived by his father, George Gubin. Paul has gone home to be with the Lord, leaving behind his wife, Loretta Gubin of 32 years; two beautiful daughters, Samantha, and Gillian Gubin; and six soldiers, Daniel, Joshua, Jacob, Nicholas, Samuel, and Noah Gubin. Words cannot express the tragic loss, yet Paul left a legacy of love and loyalty behind, qualities few people ever truly walk in. Paul lived his life with an attitude of gratefulness, he worked hard all

the days of his life to provide for his family knowing that hard work, and humility paved the way for his children, not only in this generation but in the generations to come. Paul was an all-American family man with a kingdom mindset, and while he is not present with us today, it is written, “To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.” Services were held at Grace Baptist Church, in Hamtramck, MI. Interment was at Mount Olivet Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to

Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home in Hamtramck.

## WILK



Krissy Wilk, 43, died November 27, 2021. Krissy was the daughter of George and Catherine; sister of Joe and the late Jeffrey (2012); aunt of Destiny Dalkert. Krissy is also survived by many aunts and uncles. Krissy is reunited with her dog, Ice, and will also be missed by her dog Chico, and her many friends in the Ham-

tramck area. A memorial visitation was held by family and friends. Arrangements were entrusted to Jurkiewicz &

Wilk Funeral Home in Hamtramck.

# School district opens its virtual doors to Cranbrook classes

Continued from page 2

CIS challenged students to consider under what circumstances water could be more valued than gold. Students created family budgets that engaged other family members.

The interactive trade game incorporated the impact of Covid and climate change on the imports and exports of major supply chains (produce, oil, automobiles, and technology).

**The Review: Did anything funny stand out from the two days of the “Money” presentation? Any funny stories, any kids surprised by what they learned?**

Swords: When working with children, funny is a given.

A class experienced technical issues. A student commented that the issue needed to be resolved quickly, because “time is money.” Very insightful, given the topic.

Students listed items that are part of a family budget. All mentioned giving money to help those less fortunate than themselves – AND cell phones. This led to a discussion on how cell phones were once a luxury item available to few people.

Funny situations happened to students during the import/export trade games. When many were financially strong, situations like war, hurricanes, Covid, and drought, quickly took away their wealth. “Funny, not funny,” was the student phrase said

most repeatedly during the game.

**The Review: Do you have any other such virtual learning programs scheduled in the near future? Do any programs ever get repeated? This financial one seems like something that would be good for most students.**

Swords: We were again selected as a “service audience,” and will receive programs funded by DTE, Ally Bank, and the Karen and Drew Peslar Foundation. These funders support Hamtramck Public Schools, and will provide us with people power, place, money, and a host of other virtual-content-selected options.

**The Review: How has the feedback been, from students, parents, school administrators, etc.?**

Swords: Students beg for more Cranbrook programs. Staff equally enjoy the experience, and can easily align CIS content with district curriculum. CIS sends a follow-up survey to make sure needs are being met by their services.

Our parents like that a revered resource like Cranbrook partnered with the HPS community.

**The Review: This is great stuff, and very exciting for the students in our district. Hopefully, all this cross-pollination continues to have a long life here in the Hamtramck Schools.**

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# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### Mayor Majewski served the community well

Last Friday, Hamtramck’s Polish community held an appreciation party for outgoing Mayor Karen Majewski.

Majewski is completing her 16th year as mayor, which was preceded by serving on city council for two years. She lost her bid for re-election in November, and will be replaced by the first Yemeni-American, Amer Ghalib, to hold the position.

Majewski is the last Polish-American to serve as mayor in the city’s 100-year history of being incorporated as a city. That is quite a run.

Ghalib’s election is obviously a huge milestone for Hamtramck’s Yemeni community, who now ap-

pear to be the city’s leading political force.

You could say the torch is being passed on. We congratulate Mr. Ghalib, and wish him success.

Mayor Majewski has plenty to be proud of during her tenure. Yes, Hamtramck went through some rocky times, but the city has experienced steady improvements in road repairs, parks, the historic baseball stadium and even the water and sewer system.

The role of mayor is more ceremonial than anything else, since Hamtramck is a city manager form of government.

But from a public relations perspective, Majewski has excelled in repre-

sending Hamtramck. She has been articulate, and sensitive to the needs of community members.

Majewski has also received a fair amount of flak by some constant critics, but that goes with the territory of holding public office.

Majewski’s steady leadership will be missed, but the time has come for change. Change is nothing new to Hamtramck, where we have people constantly coming and going.

We look forward to this new era, and also look back appreciatively at what Majewski did for the city.

## Odds & Ends

**Dedication...** The good folks at PLAV Post 6 and VFW4162 pooled their finances together and created a new display of Hamtramck veterans who lost their lives serving the country over several decades.

The display is in Hamtramck City Hall, near the Treasurer’s Office.

There will be a dedication of the new display next Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 1 p.m. The public is invited.

**Last call...** Former Hamtramck City Clerk August Gitschlag, and one of Hamtramck’s favorite barkeeps (and general bon vivant), is ending his run at Whiskey in the Jar.

Yes, he is.

But there will be one more night to enjoy the sharing of spirits with him, and that’s next Friday, Dec. 17.

Here’s what August had to say, in a Facebook announcement about his retirement:

“After 15 years, and an immeasurable amount of Jezy, it’s time for me to retire from Whiskey in the Jar. ...

“I can’t say enough how lucky I have been to work there for 15 years. I have made so many friends, laughed until I cried, cried until I laughed, and have a scrapbook of memories that I will always cherish.

“I thank all of you for being such a great part of my Hamtramck journey, and would LOVE the chance to see you all there once more before I step away.

“Please join me... Dec. 17, and feel free to post any fun pictures or fond memories of our times at Whiskey here. I can’t wait to see them.”

**Reminder...** The Hamtramck Historical Museum will be hosting a book signing and discussion about interesting Detroit sites.

We’ll let the museum do the talking:

“Detroit has more than its share of ruins. But it also has an abundance of history, which is often buried in the dust of the ages.

“For years Wayne State University anthropologist Dr. Krysta Rzewski has been clearing away that dust and revealing some amazing stories of notable sites in Detroit. She has compiled the stories of six of the most fascinating archeological digs she has led in her new book “Detroit Remains.”

“Published by the University of Alabama Press, ‘Detroit Remains’ takes readers on a historical journey into, under and around a series of re-

markable sites including Little Harry’s speakeasy, the classic Ransom Gillis House, the Blue Bird Inn, Gordon Park (where the 1967 Detroit riot began), the Grande Ballroom and the Halleck Street log cabin. Some still stand – barely – while others are gone. The Gillis House, however, was reborn in majestic style.

“But all of them will come back to life when Dr. Rzewski holds a book signing and discussion on these lost and liv-

Continued on page 6

## Other Voices: Guest Editorial

### Organization focuses on community needs

By Rebeka Islam

My organization, APIA-Vote MI, is an organization that focuses on civic engagement amongst Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. A lot of the work we do is year-round, and revolves around election years.

We are involved in other efforts, however, as we see ourselves as a community organization. What that means is that we are an organization that sees a community with basic needs that aren’t being met, and we respond to that.

We saw a need here leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday, and we knew that if we were to help AAPI residents celebrate the holiday with a special meal, then we wanted to get a range of organizations and funders to assist us.

We were thrilled when Greg Clark, VP External Affairs for AT&T in Michigan, reached out to us after seeing our work, and asked how AT&T could help.

We wanted to capitalize on the opportunity to partner with AT&T, and I quickly explained the food crisis that exists among AAPIs in our community. They didn’t hesitate in offering support for this event.

“Providing food and nourishment to those in our community in need is important work, and we at AT&T are especially proud to provide funds to support the stocking of culturally appropriate



Rebeka Islam (left), of APIA-Vote MI, accepts a check from a representative from AT&T.

foods for members of the Asian Pacific Islander community,” said David Lewis, President of AT&T Michigan.

“Michigan can be proud of both the diversity and generosity of its people, and the service of this food pantry is a perfect combination of each,” he added.

AAPIs in this community are still feeling the economic ramifications of the pandemic, and what it has done to our workforce here in MI. Many people are still out of jobs.

Many AAPIs work in factories and, unlike workers in other sectors, they are unable to work remotely or do their job online. This community has especially suffered, as it experiences both language barriers and a lack of education

and resources.

The community has been in dire need of assistance, and so we are proud to coordinate this giveaway right before the Thanksgiving holiday, and offer community members a little relief and an opportunity to celebrate.

We’re proud to say that, through this event, we were able to provide appropriate food staples of dal (a lentil) and biryani (a mixed rice dish) to some 300 families.

This effort is important to me because I, myself, am an immigrant who grew up in this community. I know the struggles of not being able to have a full-fledged American Thanksgiving.

I want to give back to the community, and events like this allow me to do that, and it is incredibly satisfying to me as I understand the struggles of the communities we’re serving, and I know how this act of generosity can make a difference for a child and a family.

The holiday season is upon us. Thanksgiving, while a big holiday here in the U.S., is universal, and crosscuts cultures in my opinion. It’s a time of family and generosity and gratitude.

This food giveaway is just our way of saying “thank you” to the community for allowing us to serve them.



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Wed., Dec. 22

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# Odds & Ends

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ing treasures of Detroit at 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, at the Hamtramck Historical Museum, 9525 Jos. Campau.

“Light refreshments will be served, and Dr. Rzewski will be available to sign and sell books. There also will be a round-table discussion on the book,

and the challenges and rewards of archeology in Detroit.”

For more information, call (313) 690-9390 or email hamtramckhistory@gmail.com. To RSVP visit the Hamtramck Historical Museum website www.hamtramckhistory.com.

## Other Voices:

### Guest Editorial

## Seniors: It’s time to get your COVID-19 booster shot

By Gabe Downey

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) officially approved booster doses under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for all three available COVID-19 vaccines for Americans age 18 and older.

Seniors in Michigan should especially receive the booster to help keep them safe during the busy fall and winter months, and holiday season. These booster shots are incredibly important steps in helping seniors protect themselves against disease and in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is understandable that some questions may remain about boosters, their safety and how to access them. Here are some answers to common questions to help keep you informed and make the decision to get your booster.

Why do we need boosters?

Though the COVID-19 vaccines demonstrate strong protection against severe illness, hospitalization and death, there is growing evidence demonstrating that immunity developed after receiving your primary series can

begin to wane the further you get from your original immunization(s).

Therefore, we see rare “breakthrough” cases of fully vaccinated people becoming infected with COVID-19. Boosters have shown to increase protection against new infections while maintaining strong protection against serious illness and death, and are routinely used with other vaccines such as Tdap, shingles, MMR and more.

Who is eligible for boosters?

All Michiganders age 18 and older are eligible for COVID-19 booster doses. Those who received an mRNA (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) COVID-19 primary vaccine are eligible for a booster shot at six months or more after their initial series.

For the nearly 15 million people who got the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, you are eligible for the booster dose two or more months after receiving your first dose.

More groups may become eligible for boosters in the coming months, as more research is reviewed. Until you are eligible, continue to practice good public health measures like wearing a mask, washing your

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## The Look...

By Suraj Bhamra

Special to The Review

We find ourselves under the perpetually protean grey skies of December, stamped with the die of another year.

The killing cold has crawled through the boreal forests of Arctic Canada and tightened its seasonal grip on the city, occasionally transforming the streets into an unbroken sea of white.

I notice the howling wind against my face as though agitated and voicing apprehensions to me.

Christmas lights shout in protest of sunsets that arrive too early as I drift up and down Joseph

Campau like a tongue wandering in search of a missing tooth.

(Editor’s note: We are pleased to introduce the work of photographer Suraj Bhamra to these pages and to you. We will be highlighting, every month, the many photos he has taken of people here in Hamtramck. We hope you enjoy them as much as we do.)



WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE

Property tax payment plans are available now!

Interest Reduction Stipulated Payment Agreement (IRSPA)

This payment plan reduces the interest rate from 18% to 6% for eligible taxpayers. To sign up, you must own and live in your home, and have a Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) and ID that proves residency.

Distressed Owner Occupant Extension (DOOE)

This program is not available to everyone. If you own and live in the property, and are suffering financial hardship you may qualify for this program. Proof of ownership, occupancy, and hardship are required.

Stipulated Payment Agreement (SPA)

Available to everybody, this plan allows a taxpayer to pay taxes pursuant to a payment schedule. The plan will avoid foreclosure provided that payments are submitted per the agreed upon schedule.

Pay As You Stay Payment Agreement (PAYSPA)

Only for those who have first applied for their local municipality's Poverty Tax Exemption (PTE) and received an approval. Once notified by your local Assessor's office and deemed eligible, our office will mail you a notification letter with your Reduced Amount Due. You will have the option of paying a lump sum (additional 10% off) or enrolling into a PAYSPA.

Many of these plans are available online at [treasurer.waynecounty.com](https://treasurer.waynecounty.com)!

The final date to enter into a payment plan will be **March 14, 2022**, and the last day to pay your forfeited taxes will be **March 31, 2022**.

For more information email [WCTOPaymentPlans@waynecounty.com](mailto:WCTOPaymentPlans@waynecounty.com) or call (313) 224-5990.

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- Up to 12 months of back rent assistance
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Apply online @ [bit.ly/CERAHPHK](https://bit.ly/CERAHPHK)  
or call 866-313-2520



# Seniors: It’s time to get your COVID-19 booster shot

Continued from page 6

hands often, and staying socially distant from anyone who might be exhibiting symptoms.

What booster should I get?

People may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose, once they are eligible. Some people may prefer the vaccine type they originally received, and others may prefer to get a different booster. CDC’s recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots.

Are the COVID-19 vaccinations safe?

The COVID-19 vaccinations are some of the safest and most effective medical breakthroughs in human history. More than 460 million doses have been given in the United States alone with virtually no harmful side effects to anyone.

It’s recommended that you consult with your doctor about any medical decision, though you can rest assured the all the vaccines authorized and approved for use are safe, effective, and our best weapon to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Where can I get my vaccine?

Whether you’ve received one shot, two shots, or no shots so far, there has never been a better and more important time for you to get vaccinated. It’s the best step you can take to keep safe as the COVID-19 pandemic trudges on, and especially as cases once again begin to increase.

You can also receive your annual flu vaccination at the same time, which is important to help protect against outbreaks of another preventable and potentially deadly virus — the flu.

To find out where you can receive your vaccination or booster shot in your area, contact your local health department, Area Agency on Aging, or call 211 on your landline or cell phone.

There are more than enough vaccinations to go around, so be sure to schedule your appointment or home visit today so you can be protected as soon as possible.

*(Gabe Downey is a member of the Protect Michigan Commission Seniors Workgroup.)*

EMERGENCY  
RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Wayne County’s **Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)** makes funding available to assist households that are unable to pay rent or utility bills.

To be eligible:

1 Experiencing financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic

2 Experiencing Housing instability

3 Household income at or below 80% of area median income

\*Open to all communities in Wayne County excluding the City of Detroit.  
\*For Detroit’s program, visit this link: <https://bit.ly/3hHUT66>

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Internet bills and relocation costs

Find more information and apply at:  
[www.waynecounty.com/rentalassistance](http://www.waynecounty.com/rentalassistance)



### HPS news

Attention families: We are seeking input on our district’s new website to ensure it continues to be an important and reliable resource the Hamtramck community.

Consider sharing your input with the district by filling out our Google Form: <https://bit.ly/3D-bJ686>.

The questionnaire takes no more than 10 minutes, and your feedback will help us ensure that our website is easy to navigate while meeting our community’s needs and preferences. Please fill out the survey by Friday, Dec.10.

### Covid update

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) issued streamlined quarantine recommendations for schools designed to help prevent transmission of COVID-19 among the school-aged population while reducing disruptions to in-person learning.

In addition to vaccination, which is approved for ages 5 and up, layered prevention measures, including masking, should be put in place for consistent in-person learning to keep kids, staff and families safe.

MDHHS recommends local health departments and schools work together to quickly isolate COVID-19 cases among students and staff, identify close contacts of those cases, and adopt quarantine policies that reduce the risk of transmission in schools while allowing in-person learning.

When evidence-based prevention measures are utilized, such as vaccination, masking, and testing, students exposed to COVID-19 cases may not have to quarantine at home and can stay in the classroom.

“Schools have the ability to be safe now that children ages 5 and older can be vaccinated,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, chief medical executive at MDHHS.

MDHHS “We continue to urge all eligible residents to get the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible as it is our best defense against the virus. Masks, distancing, quarantine and isolation are all additional strategies that keep our schools and public spaces safe.”

MDHHS continues to recommend universal masking in all K-12 school settings.

Quarantine and isolation are determined by the local health department and are used as important tools to prevent the spread of disease.

- You isolate when you are infected with COVID-19 and have tested positive, even if you do not have symptoms. Isolation is used to separate people who are infected with COVID-19 from those who are not infected.
- You quarantine when you might have been exposed to COVID-19. This is because you might become infected with COVID-19 and could spread COVID-19 to others.
- Any individual that displays COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of vaccination status, should not attend school and should be tested for COVID-19.

### COVID-19 School Quarantine Guidelines for Asymptomatic Students

- Fully vaccinated contacts without symptoms do not need to quarantine.
- Contacts that are not fully vaccinated and do not have symptoms:
- If masking was maintained, contacts can participate in school activities if wearing a mask for 14 days after exposure and using a “Test to Stay” strategy\*
- If masking was not maintained, if additional testing and mitigation strategies are used, contacts may participate in school activities at the discretion of the local health department.

MI Safer Schools Testing Program

MDHHS is providing schools antigen testing supplies free of charge through the MI Safe Schools Testing program. Schools and individual school districts can request antigen test kits through the Mi Safer Schools: School Antigen COVID Test Ordering form. MDHHS will be leveraging our partnership with Intermediate School Districts to help distribute COVID-19 antigen tests based on the orders placed in the School Antigen COVID Test Ordering Form.

Questions about test supply orders can be sent to your Intermediate School District and any other school testing related questions can be sent directly to MDHHS at [MDHHS-COVIDtesting-support@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-COVIDtesting-support@michigan.gov)

To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit [Michigan.gov/COVID-Vaccine](http://Michigan.gov/COVID-Vaccine).

For more information about COVID-19 in Michigan, visit [Michigan.gov/coronavirus](http://Michigan.gov/coronavirus).

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