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August 25, 2023  
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# The Review

Hamtramck

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## Quick Hits

### Fowling and fun for a good cause

By Charles Sercombe

Here's another opportunity to have a fun night fowling and supporting a worthy cause.

Once again, Hamtramck's own Friendship House, which is a food pantry, and so much more, for thousands of low-income households, is hosting its annual night out at the Fowling Warehouse.

To put things in perspective, 43 percent of Hamtramck residents live below the poverty line, and Friendship House is there to help them.

For those not familiar with the sport of fowling, it's a combination of football (the throwing part) and bowling (the knocking down of bowling pins part) – hence the name “fowling” (which, yes, rhymes with bowling).

This year, the fundraiser is being held on Sept. 15, 6:30-10 p.m.

Tickets are \$30, and that gets you three hours of fowling, food, a T-Shirt at more.

To purchase tickets, contact Friendship House at (313) 871-7433.

Fowling Warehouse is located at 3901 Christopher St. here in Hamtramck.

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

## As the school year approaches, HPS has challenges ahead

By Charles Sercombe

As the new school year approaches, there are a number of issues facing the school district and its students.

Per recent media reports, U.S. school attendance has become a key concern – especially in Michigan, where there a high rate of student absenteeism.

Michigan schools are said to be experiencing some of the highest absentee rates – in some cases, as much as 40 percent on average.

The problem started when the pandemic began three years ago, and it stubbornly continues even though students have returned to in-classroom learning over a year ago.

During the pandemic, many students were forced to attend classes online. Hamtramck teachers



**The Hamtramck Public School District will have a few issues to iron out this year. At this point, ongoing building repairs at Holbrook Elementary School and the Early Childhood Elementary School will delay students returning to the buildings. Instead, they will likely go back to virtual learning for the beginning of the new school year. File photo**

said that, during that time, a number of students were having a hard time focusing on the subjects being discussed, and some would drift off during classes.

Getting students back into regular patterns of

attendance since they returned to schools has been an ongoing challenge, a number of educators have reported.

One reason put forward for the drop-off in attendance has been lingering health concerns that stu-

dents and their parents have about in-classroom learning.

In Hamtramck, however, attendance isn't as much of an issue, according to statistics supplied by the Michigan Department of

**Continued on page 2**

## The lore of Hamtramck ...

### A nearly forgotten presidential visit

By Greg Kowalski

The list of U.S. presidents who have visited Hamtramck is pretty impressive. But it almost never mentions the first one: James Monroe.

Monroe was the fifth man to serve as president, from 1817 to 1825, and he was the last of the original Founding Fathers to hold the title.

He's probably best known for completing the Louisi-



**James Monroe**

ana Purchase, which greatly enlarged the size of the United States, and for the Monroe Doctrine, which essentially told the European governments to stay out of the Western Hemisphere.

Towards the start of his service as president, in August, 1817, he decided to visit Detroit.

It wasn't a social call. At that time, Detroit was still a frontier outpost, with the British just across the

Detroit River. Memories of the War of 1812 were still fresh, and Monroe wanted to demonstrate that the United States was carefully monitoring the presence of the British on the Great Lakes.

The city of Detroit was founded in 1701, and in 1817 it still was a large stockade that stretched from Cass Avenue to Brush Street and from the river-

**Continued on page 2**

## The latest on Al and Lori

By Charles Sercombe

Last week, we featured a story about Hamtramck native Al Ulman and his wife Lori losing their home in the recent Maui fire.

Here is the latest update Al gave a few days ago on his Facebook page:

“First and foremost, thank you all for being here for Lori and me.

“Lori and I are still on Maui; temporarily living on the south shore in Kihei. We've still haven't been to Lahaina.

“The road through town was opened yesterday to all, however, open to residents only between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Many are volunteers with food & supplies. A barricade with members of the National Guard are keeping the public out of the destroyed neighborhoods. So, we haven't been to our burned down site where our condo stood, and the authorities won't let us into our storage unit. ...

“Our plan was to come here, empty the storage unit with what little is in there, have one last good cry at our home site and work our way back to Hamtramck. The plan to move back doesn't appear to happen immediately. I guess it's the old ‘best laid plans of mice and men. ...’

“With the uncertainty of everything on the west shore (Lahaina) we are taking baby steps waiting to find out what our next step will be.

“As an aside, Lori and I arrived on Maui 23 years

**Continued on page 4**

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# As the school year approaches, HPS has challenges ahead

Continued from front page

Education (MDE). According to the MDE, here are the following attendance records for the last four years:

|          |               |
|----------|---------------|
| 2021-22: | 87.90 percent |
| 2020-21: | 98.66 percent |
| 2019-20: | 92.97 percent |
| 2018-19: | 93.03 percent |

While those stats are impressive, there is a concern once some students reach high school. At that level, there are, on average, over 100 students who are chronically absent, according to the MDE.

The district, which had about 3,100 students enrolled last year, does have its other challenges.

For many students who are immigrants, or whose parents are immigrants, there is a language barrier that educators must first overcome.

That challenge has been blamed for leading to low proficiency rates in the school district – the bottom 50 percent in math and reading, as well in other subjects.

This year, some Hamtramck students may have to return to online classroom lessons. At the August school board meeting, HPS Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed said students at the Early Childhood Center and at Holbrook Elementary might have to temporarily go back to virtual learning.

That’s because of ongoing construction and other improvements being done at the schools.

On Monday, The Review asked Superintendent Ahmed for an update on the status of those schools, but as of Thursday, the day The Review went to press, she had not responded.

At the August school board meeting, Ahmed did say that her “team” is “prepared for that event.”

According to sources, it appears those schools

will be resorting to virtual learning. It was not immediately known if parents of students who go to those schools have been informed.

(The school board cancelled its monthly Committee of the Whole meeting on Wednesday. The new school year starts on Tuesday, Sept. 5 – just a little over a week away.)

On the plus side, the state is now funding free meals for all public school students starting this school year.

The state has carved out \$235 million for the program, which offers free breakfasts and lunches every school day.

The meals are being offered to pre-schoolers through 12th grade. Students up to 26 years old who are enrolled in special education courses are also qualified for the program.

Some districts may require a form to be filled out, but the program is not based on household income.

The Review again reached out to Superintendent Ahmed on how the district is preparing for the program, but she again did not respond.

## A nearly forgotten presidential visit

Continued from front page

front to Fort Shelby, which stood at what is now the intersection of Fort and Shelby streets.

Several hundred people lived there, as well as on the “ribbon farms” created by French settlers in the 18th century along the river. And that’s how Hamtramck figures into this tale.

Hamtramck was formed as a township in 1798, and spanned a vast area from Base Line (now Eight Mile Road) to the river, and roughly from Woodward Avenue to Lake St. Clair.

It took four days for President Monroe to cross Lake Erie aboard the schooner Porcupine but, on Aug. 13, when he finally made it to Detroit (actually Ecorse, as strong winds cut short plans to land at Detroit), he was met by a committee that included the most prominent figures in the area, including Lewis Cass, who was governor of the Michigan Territory, and Maj. Gen. Alexander Macomb, commander of the Military District of Detroit. The president traveled to Detroit by coach, where the cannons at Fort Shelby were fired in a salute.

The president then was honored at a banquet at Cass’ house, which stood at the foot of what is now Cass Avenue. A huge fireworks display lit up the night sky, and a crowd carried signs illuminated

by burning lamps that proclaimed “Welcome to Our Nation’s Chief.” Similar signs were placed in houses throughout the area.

President Monroe met with citizens at Cass’ house. One described him as “A man a little above middle height, with a compact muscular figure.” He had a “large mouth and firmly set lips.”

The following day was filled with ceremonies and speeches and another banquet. But the day after that, President Monroe took a long horseback ride along Jefferson Avenue and, in the process, passed through Hamtramck Township.

On Monday, Aug. 18, President Monroe left the area, and made his way back to Washington, D.C., via Ohio, Pennsylvania and Maryland. It would be more than a century before another president would visit Hamtramck, when President Franklin Roosevelt would come here to dedicate Keyworth Stadium in 1936.

While that event is well-documented, we should remember that President Monroe holds the titles as both the fifth president – and the first one here.

(Greg Kowalski is Executive Director of the Hamtramck Historical Museum.)

## Our Lady Queen of Apostles



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Aug 29 – Solemnity of Beheading of John the Baptist Holy Mass 7pm

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Sept 1 – Holy Mass 7 pm

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**City of Hamtramck**  
**Notice of Public Hearings**

The City Council will have a public hearing scheduled for September 12, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Council Chambers of Hamtramck City Hall (3401 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212) on the following topics:

1. A proposed ordinance - Minority or Ethnic Intimidation Ordinance; Title XIII; CHAPTER 130, SECTION 130.010

Full and complete text is available on the City of Hamtramck’s website through Boarddocs. The public is invited to view and comment during the Public Hearing or to make written comments on or before 4 p.m. September 12, 2023 to the City Clerk at RFaraj@hamtramckcity.com.

The City of Hamtramck will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids, and services for individuals with disabilities at the public hearing upon advance notice by writing or by calling the Clerk’s Office at 313-800-5233 x343. Please contact the Clerk’s office at least 10 days in advance.



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## This week at the Library . . .

**August 25, 2023**

**Summer Reading:** This coming Wednesday, August 30th at 2 pm. The library will host the last program of this summer, “The Drum Circle”. Then on Thursday, August 31st at 2 pm. the “Prize Raffle” will be held where all participants will be able to use their tickets that they received for reading, to win some amazing prizes. Must be present to win.

**LOM Presentation:** This is for diehard Historical newspaper aficionados. It will serve as an overview of the extensive collection of local Michigan newspapers. You can view it on Thursday, September 7th at 6:30 pm. Please visit [www.michigan.gov/lmpublicprograms](http://www.michigan.gov/lmpublicprograms) to register and get info about upcoming presentations.

**Story Time:** Get you kids together and drop in on our Wednesday afternoon Story Time at 12 noon. Presented by guest readers from Hamtramck Federation of Teachers.

**Game Night:** Join us for Game Night at the library. We are serving up something fun each Friday at 4 pm. Stop by and let us know that you have come to play.

**Exercise Classes:** You don’t have to wait much longer to get your Adaptive Yoga and Tai Chi fix. The classes are coming back on September 15th. As always, these group workout sessions are presented by the RIM Foundation and are open to the public. Check in the next weeks library column for starting time.

**Phil Hale Quartet:** Our next music concert is scheduled for Wednesday, September 20th at 6 pm. Everyone is invited, free admission.

**August Birthdays:** The end of August just so happens to be the time when literary stars like novelist & playwright Christopher Isherwood, mystery writer Margaret Maron, poet Charles Wright, and perhaps even the philosopher Confucius were born. Spend some time with some of their writings this week.

**Oliver Wendell Homes:** This physician was born on August 29, 1809 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He once wrote, “A moment’s insight is sometimes worth a life’s experience”. His poem “Old Ironside” aroused popular sentiment in the 1830’s which helped to save the historic frigate USS Constitution from destruction.

**Edgar Rice Burroughs:** This author, creator of “Tarzan of the Apes” was born on September 1, 1875 in Chicago, Illinois. Before becoming a novelist he was a correspondent for the Los Angeles Times.

**Gregorian Calendar:** On September 2, 1752 the use of Julian calendar ended and the Gregorian calendar came to being. The resulting major adjustment, when Wednesday, September 2 was followed by Thursday September 14 occurred. The correction resulted in rioting by people whole felt cheated and demanded the missing eleven days back.

**Library is located at 2360 Caniff Avenue, Phone (313) 733-6822**  
**Or visit its website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us> for on line catalog**  
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# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### Police surveillance cameras are not to be taken lightly

Lately, the city council has been considering to have surveillance cameras installed throughout the city in order for the police department to detect stolen vehicles, or cars that are connected with crimes.

As one might guess, there has been push-back by some in the community who are concerned about the “Big Brother” implications of this system.

We don’t blame them. There has been a recent uproar about the Detroit Police Department’s use of facial recognition cameras that resulted in the wrongful arrest of a pregnant woman.

Obviously, technology for police departments can be a useful tool, but at the same time, one ripe for abuse.

Having said that, it’s worth a try to see how this surveillance program will be carried out and how effective it is. We say this with great reservation.

We suggest a trial period to make sure there won’t be abuse.

Stolen vehicles are no small matter.

Hamtramck residents are reporting thefts and attempted thefts every week. This surveillance tool could prove to be valuable.

But at the first sign of trouble or abuse, the city should abandon this idea.

## Crime Watch: Social media hookups can lead to foul play

**By Charles Sercombe**

It’s a jungle out there in the singles dating world.

It’s always been a chancy thing to meet up on a blind date, and some folks are using social media to weed out the losers.

That plan is not fool-proof.

Such was the case last week, when a Hamtramck police report was made about a woman meeting up with a date through the Facebook Marketplace meet-up service.

The date turned into an armed robbery. The daily police incident report does not provide details, so that is pretty much the extent of what we know has happened.

This woman is not alone.

According to various media reports, local police departments are reporting similar incidents happening through the Facebook selling and dating site.

For those in the dating world, the organization RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) offers these safety tips when looking online for Mr. or Ms. Right:

- Does a person’s dating profile seem suspicious? Trust your instincts and avoid that person.
- Avoid those who ask for financial assistance, gives vague answers, are way too romantic and complimentary, pressure you for information, ask for your home address in order to send flowers, or tell suspiciously tall tales.
- Don’t offer personal information right away.

If your potential date passes the above “smell test,” and you do set up a meeting time, follow these tips:

- Before meeting, chat online with your potential date. This is a good way to detect whether they are telling the truth. If your potential date resists or refuses to chat online, ditch them.
- If you have arranged a meet-up, be sure to tell a friend where you are going. If your meeting place changes, be sure to keep your friend up to date.
- Always meet in a public place, such as a coffee house, bar, restaurant, etc.
- Drive or use other ways to get yourself to the meeting place on your own. Do not accept a ride from the date.
- If you feel uncomfortable once you meet up, be sure to let someone who works at the establishment know your concern.
- Above all, trust your instincts.

You can learn more safety tips by going online to [rainn.org](http://rainn.org).

## Coming Events

**SATURDAY, Sept. 9, 2-4 p.m.** – Take-out only Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. Everyone is welcome.

## The Hamtramck Review

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## Odds & Ends

**Thank you, GM...** We’re going to go to the city’s Facebook page and acknowledge the generous, and ongoing, help of our General Motors volunteers.

Thanks, folks:

“We were delighted to have GM Cares volunteers surprise us with this beautiful repair to the Little Free Library in Holbrook Gardens on Alice.


“They also took care of some tree trimming and fence repair.

The Summer Youth Team planted, weeded the flowerbeds, planted flowers, mulched, cleaned up trash and the pavilion and did a fantastic job.

“Thank you to everyone who volunteered their valuable time this week. We couldn’t do it without you!! Every little thing makes a difference here.

“Take some time to relax outdoors in this beautified park!

“If you would like to know about volunteer opportunities, email Max Gilginas at [mgilginas@hamtramckcity.com](mailto:mgilginas@hamtramckcity.com).”



## City Hall Insider ...

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

**By Charles Sercombe**

The city council met on July 25, and all councilmembers, except for Mohammed Hassan, were in attendance.

City Manager Max Garbarino gave a brief update on various street resurfacing projects.

The Caniff repaving happening between Conant and Buffalo is still ongoing.

“We appreciate everyone’s patience,” Garbarino said. “The end product will be a brand new street and sidewalks.”

A series of alley repavings will be happening soon. The city is also continuing to replace water lines that go into businesses and homes, Garbarino said. He added that the plan is to complete 500 replacements this year.

In a review of parking meter revenues, it was said that about \$32,000 a month is being generated for the city. Prior to the new parking meters installed by MPS, the city was earning only about \$7,000 per month.

Moving on, a lengthy discussion was held on the city’s pension fund, which is administrated by the Municipal Employees’ Retirement System (MERS).

A proposal was made to change over to a new pension system that will also include non-union employees. The Hamtramck 31st District Court, it was said, would be signing up for the new pension program.

City Manager Garbarino said there are currently three separate programs for city employees, and this new program would “standardize” the programs into one.

He stressed that the changeover is needed to attract new employees.

Later in the meeting, the council approved the new plan.

During public comment, a resident complained about his property tax bill. He said that new homeowners are paying three times more than other homeowners.

“This is ridiculous, and needs attention,” the resident said. “How does city council expect us to stay here if we are being taxed more than people living in Canton, West Bloomfield and Sterling Heights? This is unfair and unjust.”

Nasr Hussain, who was a candidate for city council, said homeowners can lower their property taxes by not renewing the school millage renewal.

Lynn Blasey, who was also a candidate for city council, questioned a proposal for the city to purchase a house on Evaline in order to raze it and create more parking for city hall.

“I don’t think that’s a wise use of our money,” Blasey said.

Later in the meeting, the council agreed to purchase the house for \$120,000.

City Manager Garbarino said the parking problem has become critical.

“We are constantly hearing it from visitors,” he said.

Garbarino also noted that residents who live near city hall complain that their parking spaces are being taken by people going to city hall.

Josh Hansknecht, who said he was speaking on behalf of Hamtramck’s Queer Alliance, said that, since the council and mayor “opened a wound that has not been healed,” there have been ongoing threats against the LGBTQ community, as well as repeated thefts of pride flags from homes and businesses.

(The mayor and council recently banned the display of pride flags on public property, which has caused an ongoing protest.)

Hansknecht questioned what the council and mayor plan to do about this crime trend, and whether the city will label these criminal acts as hate crimes.

Ghalib promised that “there will be some kind of punishment” for those caught committing those crimes.

A resident complained about how high her property tax bill is. She said The Review newspaper incorrectly reported the increase would be 4.5 mills.

(The Review reported that the 4.5 mills were court-ordered and OK’d by the city council. The report did not include other increases that individual property owners may be subject to.)

One of the mill increases includes paying legal fees for the city’s decades-long housing discrimination lawsuit, Sarah Garrett. The resident said she is a plaintiff in the case and that plaintiffs should not be required to pay this bill.

Mayor Ghalib said that there is a council subcommittee looking at the property tax issue, and he is waiting for its findings.

“They (the subcommittee) will do everything to decrease” property taxes, Ghalib said.

Catrina Stackpoole read from a prepared statement criticizing the mayor for his stand on LGBTQ rights:

“I want to thank the Mayor for going on the Tudor Dixon podcast and admitting your plans to join the national campaign to attack gays and drive them out of town. You said there is a big shift coming and only the militia of the former mayor is standing in your way.

“So first you target the gays – easy pickin’s right? Then what, drive out the progressives, the youngsters, the artists, the blacks, the drinkers of beer and those who love pork or rock-n-roll, or the blues or Polish pastries or trees and good public schools, not segregated charter schools. Those who love diversity and sharing of food and culture. (Who) are you going to drive out next? The Buddhists? The Hindus?

“The progressive people of this city are not leaving. We were the ones who welcomed you, protected you, stood up against the Islamophobia of the right-wing; we defended your right to broadcast the call to prayer. We have been your allies and now we feel betrayed. ...”

Bill Meyer questioned the various proposals on the agenda for purchases for such things as windows in city hall.

“I hope you know what you’re doing,” Meyer said.

He also blamed the high cost of housing in Ham-

**Continued on page 6**



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CRIME LOG

By Charles Sercombe

This week’s Crime Log covers Aug. 15-21.

Tuesday, Aug. 15

At 11:40 p.m., following a traffic stop, a driver was arrested for driving under the influence.

At a little after 2 a.m., a noise complaint was made in the 11000 block of Klinger.

A theft was reported in the 9500 block of Charest.

A runaway juvenile was reported in the 12000 block of Grand Haven.

Gunshots were reported in the area of Poland and Brombach.

Wednesday, Aug. 16

At about midnight, an unarmed robbery was reported in the 3600 block of Caniff.

At 5 a.m., officers investigated suspects in a white Ford Escape who were looking into vehicles in the 2200 block of Hewitt.

A complaint was made about an animal in the 9500 block of Conant.

A person on Lumpkin, near Caniff, was ticketed for a liquor violation.

A domestic assault was reported in the 12000 block of Lumpkin.

Gunshots were reported on Belmont.

Thursday, Aug. 17

A noise complaint was made in the 12100 block of Dequindre.

A suspicious incident was reported in the 3400 block of Evaline.

A harassment complaint was made in the 2200 block of Danforth.

Family trouble was reported in the 3000 block of Belmont.

An incident of fraud was reported in the 11600 block of Lumpkin.

A disorderly person was reported in the 10000 block of Jos. Campau.

An incident of fraud was reported by a resident on Belmont.

A resident on Pulaski reported that they were receiving harassing messages.

A suspect was arrested for a domestic assault that happened in the 2600 block of Commor.

Friday, Aug. 18

Family trouble was reported in the 2600 block of Trowbridge. Family trouble was also reported in the 3400 block of Commor.

A theft from an auto was reported in the 3600 block of Caniff.

A resident in the 3800 block of Doremus reported that someone was looking through their window.

Disorderly juveniles were reported in the 12000 block of Grand Haven.

Family trouble was reported in the 2900 block of Jacob. Family trouble was also reported in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau.

Saturday, Aug. 19

Family trouble was reported in the 3100 block of Holbrook.

At 2 a.m., two people were reported missing from a residence in the 12000 block of Dyar.

At 3:45 a.m., a missing juvenile was found.

A customer dispute was reported at a business in the Commor and Fleming area. The dispute was later resolved.

A complaint was made about loud music coming from a car in the 12000 block of Grand Haven. Officers advised the owner of the car.

Officers responded to a report of a domestic fight, but found out it was only an argument.

A complaint was made about a disorderly person in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau who was disturbing the peace.

A complaint was made about an animal in the 5000 block of Evaline.

Following a traffic stop, a male was arrested for carrying a concealed handgun, and for possessing open intoxicants. A female was also arrested for possessing open intoxicants.

A complaint was made about disorderly juveniles in the 12000 block of Dyar.

Sunday, Aug. 20

At about 1:30 a.m., a complaint was made about a person, in the area of Holbrook and Jos. Campau, who was disturbing the peace.

Officers responding to a call about a disorderly person, in the 9400 block of McDougall, arrested the suspect for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.

At about 1:30 a.m., an assault was reported at Jos. Campau and Hewitt.

At 2:30 a.m., a male and female in the 8900 block of Lumpkin were arrested for possessing drugs.

At 3:30 a.m., officers responded to a call about a large fight in the 9700 block of Conant. Two males were arrested at the scene.

At 4:30 a.m., another fight was reported in the

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The latest on Al and Lori Cont. from front page

ago with two suitcases, a vehicle waiting for us, no place reserved to live on Maui, and no jobs. We didn't know anyone here either.

“Fast forward 23 years, 360 degree turn: we will be leaving with a travel pod, a lease vehicle (which we have to return but still pay the balance of the lease), no place to live on Maui,

(Lori) no jobs and now two acquired cats.

“It seems we have come full circle. But we also sadly leave behind the many friends who have become our Maui Ohana.

“At least we know where we’re going and we have friends and family ready to greet us with open arms.”

“Thank you for being here for us.”



# Hamtramck

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Wayne County Treasurer  
**Eric R. Sabree**

THE WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE PRESENTS

## ASK THE TREASURER


Agencies providing resources for  
delinquent taxes, payment plans,  
and utility assistance.


## Wednesday, August 30th, 2023 6:00 P.M.

### Join the conversation:

**Zoom Information:**  
Webinar ID: 824 6919 6321

**Call In:**  
1 (215) 446-3657  
1 (888) 363-4735  
Conference Code: 445666





**Wayne County Treasurer's Office-  
Eric R. Sabree**

**Treasurer.waynecounty.com**

WCTOCommunity@waynecounty.com | (313) 224-5990 | 400 Monroe Street 5th Floor Detroit, MI 48226

Memorial Mass is Saturday, September 9th, 2023, at 11 a.m. at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, 11200 Conant, Hamtramck MI 48212. Arrangements entrusted to Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home.

The number of deaths in the city during this period remains at 82.

