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Volume 17 No. 14

April 4, 2025

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Hamtramck Parks Conservancy

Quick Hits

Earth Week celebrations at Veterans Park

By Alan Madlane

Now that warm weather has returned (well, sort of) it's time to get outdoors and enjoy the city's largest park.

And the Hamtramck Parks Conservancy has plenty of activities scheduled for this month.

As part of Earth Week for 2025, which is Tuesday-Sunday, April 22-27, the Parks Conservancy is hosting a number of events. All events will be located on the western half of Veterans Park (8648 Joseph Campau Ave).

- Tuesday, April 22 (10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 2-4 p.m.) VOLUNTEER to help prepare the bed for our future pollinator garden – removing grass, amending with compost, and adding mulch for protection. Other activities will support beautification landscaping throughout the park. Please pre-register on Eventbrite.
- Thursday, April 24 (6-8 p.m.) Resist fast fashion, and update your wardrobe, at our CLOTHING SWAP! As you spring clean, set aside your lightly used, clean clothing items to bring to the park. Free, and open to everyone.
- Friday, April 25 (7 p.m.) Join us for a COMMUNITY BIKE RIDE starting at Veterans Park. Let's make cycling friends and build excitement around biking – for health, and also as an alternative, non-polluting mode of transportation. Wear a helmet, make yourself visible with lights. All ages and skill levels welcome.
- Saturday, April 26 (9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) Friends of the Rouge and the City of Hamtramck are kicking

Continued on page 6

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Promised funding to school district suddenly withdrawn

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck Public Schools have been dealt a huge financial setback.

This week, it was announced by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) that President Trump's administration is pulling back \$42 million promised to over two dozen Michigan school districts – Hamtramck included – for pre-approved improvement projects.

The districts had previously been given a year extension to seek the reimbursement.

According to the MDE, Hamtramck will have to absorb \$7.2 million in promised funding no longer coming. That award had been, by far, the second largest for a district in the state, behind only Flint's \$15.6 million.

It's not clear if the district has already performed the improvement projects, and Trump's administration has said the districts involved can appeal the decisions.

However, in an interview with WXYZ-Channel 7, Toni Coral, the president of the Hamtramck teachers' union, said that work had been performed, and that work is continuing.

Coral told The Review that the financial cut will



Kosciuszko Middle School had its windows replaced thanks to a past federal covid pandemic relief grant. A number of other district buildings underwent repairs as well from the funding. But now, the federal government is clawing back a promised \$7.2 million in that funding. File photo

impact students, and questioned whether the Trump administration can claim to be “pro-life.”

“You can't call yourself pro-life and take away funding that is meant for improving air quality in schools. That type of behavior is the opposite of pro-life.”

That funding, initially arranged under President Biden's administration, went to districts to do infrastructure repairs in response to the covid pandemic.

Trump's administration abruptly reduced the one-year extension for

Continued on page 2

HPS Board president responds to loss of federal funding

By Charles Sercombe

On Wednesday, at about 8 p.m., the Hamtramck School Board president posted his response on social media to President Trump's administration pulling back \$7.2 million in covid response funding to the district.

HPS Board President Abdulmalik Algahaim did not respond to The

Review's inquiry about the Trump administration's plan to cancel promised funding but posted his response on his own Facebook page but not the district's Facebook page.

(Algahaim endorsed Trump for president in November's election.)

HPS Interim Superintendent James Lar-

Continued on page 5

A novel idea for pedestrian safety gets the thumbs down



In Europe, the concept of pedestrian safety has taken a novel approach. Some communities are now installing 3-D sidewalk crossings that have proven to be effective in making drivers slow down and stop. Can it be done in Hamtramck?

By Charles Sercombe

Joan Bittner of the Hamtramck Downtown Development Authority recently posted a novel way to make it safer for pedestrians to cross a street.

In Europe, some communities are installing 3-D images of floating crosswalk stripes to fool drivers into slowing down.

Bittner posted an illustration of the concept on a Hamtramck Facebook page, saying: “Idea!!!”

Others were not too keen on the concept.

“Wow, that's trippy. I fo-

resee many rear-end collisions, lol,” said Diane English.

Cheryl Lynn seems to know how stubborn Hamtramck drivers can be, saying, “Traffic doesn't even slow down for the elderly or kids, doubt they'll slow for this.”

While it may be a new idea for some in the community, former Review writer Walter Wasacz floated the concept back in 2019 in his “City Life” column.

Here's what Wasacz wrote in his column:

How important are hig-

Continued on page 5

At the White House, mayor is praised

By Charles Sercombe

Mayor Amer Ghalib got a special shoutout by President Trump at a recent iftar dinner at the White House.

Trump, who spoke for 10 minutes, heaped praise on Ghalib and Dearborn Heights Mayor Bill Bazzi, both of whom endorsed Trump in the presidential election, calling them “two great gentlemen.”

About Ghalib, Trump went on to say “he's done a great job as mayor, and he's doing a great job with his support of us. Mr. Ghalib, thank you very much, was such a tremendous endorsement right at the right time. Your timing was excellent, and you'll be the next ambassador to Kuwait.”

Trump is also nominating Bazzi to be ambassador to Tunisia.

As for the Muslim community in the country, Trump said “We're going to keep our promise to the Muslim community. My administration is engaged in the relentless diplomacy to forge a lasting peace in the Middle East, building on the historic Abraham Accords.”

Trump campaigned on a promise of being the “peace” president, and ending the war between Israel and Hamas, as well as the war in Ukraine.

When Trump took office, Israel and Hamas had reached a ceasefire, but recently Israel resumed bombing Palestine, and even Beirut. Ukraine has continued to defend against Russia's invasion.

Ghalib was among other Muslim leaders from various communities in the country to attend the dinner.

An iftar dinner is the meal that Muslims have to break their daylong fast in observance of the holy month of Ramadan, which ended last Saturday evening or early Sunday.

During Trump's remarks, he also touched on the economy, saying that it is in a state of transition. He also noted that the price of eggs have been “slashed” by 50

Continued on page 6

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Sunday, April 6, Holy Mass
9:00 am Passion Sunday
Apr 7 – Holy Mass 9 am
Apr 8 – For all people on our Prayer List
Holy Mass 7 pm
Apr 9 – The Stations of the Cross) 7 pm
Apr 5 – Drive-thru only Polish Dinner 4-6 pm
Menu: Pork Chop, Smoked Kielbasa,
Pierogi w/sour cream, Bigos (sauerkraut),
Mashed Potatoes w/gravy, Dessert
\$15 Adult / \$8 Child 12 & under
Apr 12 – Take-out only Soup Kitchen 2-4 pm
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9:00am and confession before
mass and ending with the ex-
position and benediction with
the Blessed Sacrament.

**Saturday, 4:30pm
(English) Mass**

**Sunday, 8:00am (English)
9:30am (Polish) Mass**

Mass Schedule



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Promised funding to school district suddenly withdrawn

Continued from front page

the program, giving districts mere days’ notice.

The Review reached out to Hamtramck Interim Superintendent James Larson-Shidler for comment, and for explanation on how the \$7.2 million was spent, but he did not respond.

It is likely, however, that the district spent the money on improving heating and cooling systems and installing new windows in one or more school buildings.

The district had been planning on renovating the bathrooms in the high school this summer, but now it’s unclear if that project will be affected by the financial cut.

The Review also reached out to Board of Education President Abdulmalik Algahaim and Vice President Moortadha Obaid, via their district emails, for comment, but they also did not respond, and have not responded to past inquiries for comment from The Review.

Both of them supported Trump for president.

However, on Wednesday evening, Board President Algahaim posted a comment on his Facebook page disputing how much the district is owed in reimbursement, saying it’s roughly half the \$7.2 million the federal government is claiming.

(His press release is included in this issue.)

Algahaim also told WXYZ-Channel 7 that if the district does not receive a reimbursement, the work will be paid from the district’s general budget.

Also, according to the MDE, per a letter sent by the U.S. Department of

Education Secretary Linda McMahon, the 27 districts’ requests for money “were not justified,” and that there was no need for any extensions, as districts had “ample time” to submit their requests for the money.

It is not known why the HPS district waited to seek the reimbursement, although there has been continuous upheaval in the district, with various interim superintendents coming and going all the while Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed has spent most of her tenure here on paid medical leave or unexplained paid suspension.

The Board of Education has continuously refused to explain why Ahmed continues to collect her yearly \$224,000 salary while not performing work for the district. Her contract runs through 2027.

The MDE’s Superintendent, Michael Rice issued a press release on the matter, saying: “Walking back a federal commitment to pandemic relief funds...is unacceptable.”

He continued: “Twenty-seven districts across the state have preapproved financial obligations that met criteria set by the U.S. Department of Education for extending the districts’ deadlines to request reimbursement of these funds. Instead, Secretary McMahon and the Trump Administration abruptly withdrew approval.”

The following Michigan school districts that are affected by the financial withdrawal include:

- Battle Creek Public Schools - \$3,389,571
- Benton Harbor Area Schools - \$4,579,396
- Bridgeport-Spaulding Schools - \$543,527
- Brighton Area Schools - \$1,190,714
- Chandler Park Academy - \$1,017,396
- Flint City School District - \$15,603,029
- Hamtramck School District - \$7,248,920
- Lincoln Park School District - \$1,394,178
- Pontiac School District - \$3,294,052
- Port Huron Area Schools - \$497,205
- Reed City Area Schools - \$58,469
- Woodhaven-Brownstown Schools - \$1,253,299
- Adrian Public Schools - \$7,281
- Carman-Ainsworth Comm. Schools - \$234,818
- Grandville Public Schools - \$24,545
- Greenville Public Schools - \$24,022
- Insight School of Michigan - \$33,363
- Marquette Area Public Schools - \$9,912
- Marysville Public Schools - \$367,159
- Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy - \$79,928
- Northville Public Schools - \$62,650
- River Rouge, City School District - \$28,772
- Royal Oak Schools - \$44,398
- Van Buren Public Schools - \$90,000
- Wayland Union Schools - \$66,135
- West Bloomfield School District - \$734,015
- Whiteford Agricultural School District - \$98,143

hools - \$1,190,714

• Greenville Public Schools - \$24,022

• Insight School of Michigan - \$33,363

• Marquette Area Public Schools - \$9,912

• Marysville Public Schools - \$367,159

• Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy - \$79,928

• Northville Public Schools - \$62,650

• River Rouge, City School District - \$28,772

• Royal Oak Schools - \$44,398

• Van Buren Public Schools - \$90,000

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This week at the Library . . .

April 4, 2025

Story Time: Get your kids together and drop in on our Wednesday noon programs with library staff, and on first Mondays of the month at 3:45 pm (usually) with members of the Hamtramck Federation of Teachers.

Booker T. Washington: This African American educator was born on April 5, 1856 a slave in Franklin County, Virginia. Freed by the Civil War, he taught himself the alphabet and eventually graduated from an agricultural institute. In June of 1881, he was asked to become the principal of a new training school for blacks at Tuskegee, Alabama. The Tuskegee Institute began in single building with 30 students but through his efforts grew into a modern university.

Exercise in the Library: The Yoga classes returned on Tuesdays at 2:30 p. The Tai Chi classes will return in February. The program is sponsored by the RIM Foundation.

Birthday of Buddha: April 8th is celebrated among Buddhists as the birthday of Buddha (563-483 B.C.). An estimated 350 million persons currently profess the Buddhist faith.

The 17th Amendment: On April 8, 1913 this amendment was ratified requiring direct popular election of U.S. senators. Previously, they had been chosen by state legislatures.

ESL Classes: The Horizon school is sponsoring ESL classes at the library, held Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday at 9:00 am and 12:00 noon. They are free of charge to Hamtramck residents. Registration required. There is an additional class on Thursdays at 9 am and 12 noon that is conducted by ESL assistant.

Joseph Pulitzer: This publisher was born on April 10, 1847 in Budapest, Hungary. He came to America in 1864 and fought briefly in the Civil War for the Union. He then began a remarkable career in journalism and publishing. His newspapers included the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and the New York World. He also endowed the journalism school at Columbia University and established a fund for the Pulitzer Prizes, awarded annually for excellence in journalism.

Stream on Hoopla: There are tons of shows and movies available for you to stream on Hoopla. Cooking competitions, rom-coms, thrillers, and comfy holiday classics. Selection is massive. If that is not enough, give Kanopy a try. They provide a specially curated collection of foreign films, domestic cinema classics, award winning documentaries, and educational media that is topnotch. Look to the eResources tab on our website for a quick link to all this awesome content.

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

American Civil War: It begun on April 12, 1861 at Fort Sumter.

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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Deadline for classifieds for next week is Thursday at Noon

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April 4, 2025

Hamtramck Public TV-19

Broadcasting on Comcast Channel 19 in Hamtramck area and YouTube Live world wide (Hamtramck Library Channel)

What’s on this coming week?

Mayor Amer Ghalib at the White House Iftar 2025
Iftar 2025 organized by Common Word Alliance
Call for GA to complete voter fraud investigation
Apology by Councilman Hassan
Mayor’s update of upcoming Senate Hearings
Public Comment exchange with Councilman Hassan
& more

BECOME A LOCAL REPORTER: If you know how to take photos or make film clips on your phone, you can download them to Hamtramck TV along with a news story, to be aired the same day. Send in event announcements, comments to city officials, facts you want to share with the community, etc.

Hamtramck Public TV is broadcasting from Hamtramck Public Library
On Comcast Channel 19 and streaming on YouTube Live (24/7) Google “Hamtramck Public TV”, and click on link “Hamtramck Public TV”
Or go to YouTube; Hamtramck Public TV; Hamtramck Public Library; Videos, or Live

To place community announcement call the Library at 313-733-6822
Or email: HamtramckTV@gmail.com
Announcements submitted by 10 am
Will go on air the same day (evening)
To upload video files go to (bit.ly/hamtramcktv)

CRIME LOG

By Charles Sercombe

This week’s Crime Log covers March 25-April 1.

Tuesday, March 25

- At 4 a.m., a complaint was made about noise in the 3000 block of Belmont.
- A break-in was reported in the 10000 block of Jos. Campau. Also, at about 1:30 a.m., a suspect was arrested in the 10000 block of Jos. Campau for malicious destruction of property.
- A domestic assault was reported in the 11300 block of Moran.
- A landlord/tenant dispute was reported in the 3000 block of Yemans.
- A complaint was made about a juvenile in the 12000 block of McDougall.
- A break-in was reported in the 2100 block of Belmont.

Wednesday, March 26

- No incident report was available for this date.

Thursday, March 27

- A business in the 2000 block of Caniff reported trouble with a customer.
- At almost 3 a.m., a complaint was made about noise in the 3000 block of Goodson.
- At 3 a.m., a male driver was arrested for not having a license, for possessing open intoxicant, and for driving an unregistered vehicle.
- A theft was reported in the 12000 block of Dyar.
- Trouble between neighbors was reported in the 12000 block of Grand Haven.
- An assault was reported in the 12000 block of Gallagher.

Friday, March 28

- A person in the 11500 block of Fleming reported being harassed.
- Following a traffic stop, the driver was arrested for not having a license, for driving an unregistered vehicle, and for having an improper license plate.
- A business in the 10300 block of Conant reported trouble with a customer.

Saturday, March 29

- A complaint was made about noise in the 3000 block of Hanley.
- A business on Jos. Campau reported trouble with a customer.
- A theft from a vehicle was reported in the 8500 block of Lumpkin.
- Trouble between neighbors was reported in the 2600 block of Holbrook.
- A business in the 9700 block of Conant reported trouble with a customer.

Sunday, March 30

- Multiple reports of fireworks throughout the city were reported.
- At about 1 a.m., a complaint was made about a group of disorderly men in the area of Caniff and Mitchell.
- An assault was reported in the 2200 block of Florian.
- A complaint was made about a juvenile on Dan near Jos. Campau.
- An incident of road rage was reported in the 9200 block of Jos. Campau.
- A domestic assault was reported in the 11400 block of Moran.

Monday, April 1

- An incident of identity theft was reported on Yemans.
- A theft was reported on Jacob.
- Officers attempted to pull over a vehicle at Conant and Comstock but the driver sped away.

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- Canned tuna
- Peanut butter
- Fresh fruits and vegetables (share your garden surplus!)
- Water
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- Monday- 10am-1pm
- Tuesday,Thursday and Friday- 9am-4pm
- Saturday - 9am-12pm

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Continued from front page

Surely, we can do much the same in Hamtramck. Modern cities are safely walkable 24/7. This

The trend worldwide is now to see urban streets as pedestrians experience them. A brief has already been written by the mayor of London on how to reduce car access to core parts of the city where people walk and cycle, a plan he hopes can be implemented by 2029; and New York is proposing a 'pay-to-drive' plan that aims to limit the amount of motor traf-

Houses have been hit (including my own) by cars careening out of control after a collision. I recently spoke with the director of the Detroit Zen Center, who told me its properties at Mitchell and Casmere have been struck by cars five times in recent years; and that the nearby building that now houses Woodward Throwbacks has been struck in recent months. Buildings and houses

The public schools have been strong advocates for implementing safety measures around schools. I believe a partnership between the Hamtramck Board of Education and the City of Hamtramck, along with community buy-in and support, can lead to a safer and better place to walk, cycle and drive for

HPS Board president responds to loss of federal funding

“The district had relied on the extension to responsibly award contracts for grant-approved window and HVAC projects across our schools. In accordance with the 120-cal-

We just need to be aware of them, start making smart decisions, and get it done in Hamtramck.

"In addition, there is a reference to a possible opportunity for districts to re-justify late liquidation based on new federal criteria, which is currently under review by both agencies."

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Consul General of Pakistan

5th Anniversary Convention

262nd Healing Prayer for Humanity

FRIDAY, April 4th, 2025, at 3 PM ET, 2 PM CT

ZOOM Meeting ID: 205 074 5624 Passcode: 3Uu6yk

 Imam Arif Huskic Islam, Michigan	 Apostle St. John Chisum Christianity, Illinois	 Rev. Rober Baer Judaism, New York	 Jasbir Bhatta Sikhism, Florida	 Imam Abdul Latif Azom Islam, Michigan	 Imam Ali Siddiqui Islam, California
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 Dr. Farhat Abbasi Islam, Michigan	 Sister Dr. Nancy M. Jamroz Catholic, Michigan	 Rabbi Dorit Edut Judaism, Michigan	 Rev. Narayana Seemmy Hinduism, Michigan	 Rev. Marguerite Jensen Christianity, Florida	 Jaumori Art Project Group , Japan
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At the White House, mayor is praised

Continued from front page

percent.

(Egg prices have come down, consumer experts say, because the industry has recuperated from the loss of 30 million egg-laying chickens from the avian flu, and also because there has been lower consumer demand.)

Trump said that what has united him with the Muslim community is his opposition to LGBTQ material in schools.

“We’re fighting for parents’ rights in school choice,” he said. “We’re stopping schools from indoctrinating children with transgender ideology – something people in this room are not happy about.”

During his presidential campaign, Trump falsely claimed that children were having sex change operations in schools.

Trump added that his



Mayor Amer Ghalib (center and sitting) recently attended an iftar dinner at the White House along with other Muslim community leaders from across the country. Photo: Facebook

administration has moved to keep “men out of women’s sports.”

He ended, saying: “You have somebody in the White House that loves you.”

This isn’t the first time that Mayor Ghalib was invited to the White House

for an iftar dinner. He and some city councilmembers were invited a few years ago when President Biden was in office.

Ghalib said that, unlike on the previous visit, he paid for his travel expenses instead of having the city foot the bill.

On his Facebook page, Ghalib had this to say about his experience at this dinner:

“President Trump responds to the yellow and fake press, praises as usual for my role that helped him win the elections, my successes as mayor of Hamtramck, and the historic settlement that made the difference and came at the right time.”

As for his potential nomination, Ghalib said:

‘I will work diligently if the Senate confirms my appointment, using my powers as ambassador and commissioner above the ordinary, to strengthen and improve bilateral relations between Kuwait and the United States, and I will place the interests of our great country, the United States, above all considerations.’

Coming Events

- SATURDAY, April 5, 4-6 p.m.** – Drive-thru only Polish Dinner at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. \$15 Adult/\$8 Child 12 & under. Menu: Pork Chop, Smoked Kielbasa, Pierogi w/sour cream, Sauerkraut (Bigos), Potatoes w/ gravy, Dessert. Cars will be staged in the parking lot for delivery in front of church.
- SATURDAY, April 12, 2-4 p.m.** – Take-out only Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. Everyone is welcome!

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS



School Bell

Board of Education

The next Hamtramck Public Schools Board of Education meeting is Wednesday, April 9, at 6 p.m.

As usual, the meeting takes places in the HPS administration building, at 3201Roosevelt next to

Keyworth Stadium.

It’s expected that the board will discuss a financial audit of the district.

Although the public is allowed to comment at the meeting, it’s the board’s policy not to answer questions, but instead refer all matters to appropriate administrators.



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SCAN ME!





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🌐 www.detroitfriendshiphouse.org

📞 **313-871-7443**



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Quick Hits

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off Grow Hamtramck’s 1,000-tree project with a TREE PLANTING. Learn about the benefits of trees, their maintenance, and how to plant. All are welcome, and instruction and tools are provided.

- Saturday, April 26 (1:30 - 3 p.m.) Exercise your design creativity and learn about the “7Rs” in sustainable consumption through a giant BOX FORT BUILD. Construction will include the use of interlocking joints and tape. Please be advised that participants may be using boxcutters, so younger participants should be accompanied by an adult.
- Saturday, April 26 (3-4 p.m.) Youth are invited to learn about responsible waste disposal through BEAUTIFUL TRASH, an activity led by Hamtramck’s Community Involvement Coordinator. This participatory event will reference a study conducted on litter in the City.
- Sunday, April 27 (noon-4 p.m.) Bring in soil samples to be screened for lead in real time, during our SoilSHOP conducted by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.
- Sunday, April 27 (12:30-1:30 p.m.) Youth are invited to an educational POLLINATORS & NATIVE PLANTS ACTIVITY by our partner, Huron-Clin-



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