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Quick Hits

Friendship House needs a helping hand

By Alan Madlane

Detroit Friendship House is just made for this giving time of year.

You see, giving is what they are all about.

And give they did, last year as in years past. And they have the statistics to prove it.

Volunteers at the food pantry have it on record that they served 4,393 individuals in 1,758 different families last year. That's quite a few.

To put that into perspective, if all of those persons were here in Hamtramck, it would represent more than 16 percent of the city's estimated 27,000-plus citizenry.

Just at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas alone, they doled out food or other gifts to 180 or more separate families. More than 300 kids were "impacted" by their Santa Toy Shop effort.

They provided over 320 people with needed nutrition education.

Now, they're setting an ambitious latest donor drive goal of \$45,000. They've already passed the \$40,000 mark, but just need that little but more.

Times have been a bit rough on everyone, what with inflation persisting, as companies are forced to pony up more competitive wages and, well, as they see other companies goosing their prices to the max.

Everything from eggs to paper towels to lumber to cat litter costs more than we've ever seen it cost before.

Certain politicians believe they have easy-fix solutions. Others are just as sure that they don't. Who will prove correct?

Of course, sometimes these situations seem to almost "autocorrect" of their own free will.

Continued on page 6

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

A look back on the last half of 'Year in Review'

By Charles Sercombe

Welcome back to our annual "Year in Review."

Last week, we looked at the first six months of the year; now, here's what was notable, locally, about the second half of 2024.

Enjoy.

JULY

St. Ladislaus' last Mass was likely the best attended in decades.

News of the church's closing attracted hundreds of worshippers, many of whom had to stand for the two-hour service.

In many ways, the sermon was more like a funeral service, and, in a sense, it was. St. Lad's, as it has been affectionately known, was Hamtramck's oldest Catholic Church. The parish was created 104 years ago.

There is a lot of history packed into this parish. On one notable occasion decades ago, then-Pope John Paul II visited here, when he was still Cardinal Karol Wojtylo. Little did anyone know then that he would later be appointed Pope, let alone one who, in some ways, helped the Solidarity movement in Poland topple that nation's communist regime.

Monsignor Charles Kosanke said that, just like in the case of a death, those who loved the church will go through the five stages of mourning: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and, finally, acceptance.

Grief, he said, "is at play when we close a parish."

One thing you can say about State Rep. Abraham Aiyash (D-Hamtramck): he knows how to bring home the bacon to his district. This year, Aiyash, who has also championed expanding the civil rights of the LGBTQ community during his tenure, brought home to Hamtramck \$7.3 million for various projects.

Those projects included:

- \$2 million for the enhancement of Veterans Park, to improve recreational facilities and

make general infrastructure upgrades in the area

- \$2 million for up-

resulted in businesses suffering a loss of customers by anywhere from



Hate the city's parking meters? You're not alone, and city officials say they will get rid of them.

grades to the Hamtramck Public Services Department, to provide safer and more efficient public services

- \$1.5 million allocated for alley and sidewalk repairs throughout the city
- \$1 million for infrastructure improvements to Hamtramck Public Schools
- \$800,000 for the Hamtramck Fire Department for the purchase of a new fire truck, due to critical problems with the existing trucks

Last year, according to state records, Aiyash brought in \$1 million for the Detroit Opera House and \$260,000 for sidewalk and alley repairs here in Hamtramck.

Hamtramck likely won't fare so well in the coming years. Aiyash decided not to seek re-election.

Hamtramck was not alone in being frustrated – heck, even angered – by the city's Jos. Campau parking meters.

The City of Royal Oak, that trendy suburb just north of Hamtramck, also had the same parking meters and parking meter contractor, Municipal Parking Services, Inc.

People there had been bitterly complaining about how complex it is to use the meters, and how, despite when the meter system is not working, they still get tickets.

The upshot: Royal Oak officials booted the meters out.

But the damage had been done, and word was to avoid Royal Oak. That

20 to 50 percent.

That approximate percentage of loss in business has also been reported here in Hamtramck.

Hamtramck officials have said they will follow Royal Oak's path and not renew the contract with the meter company when it expires in two years.

If the city follows through with that plan, however, it will represent a loss of about \$250,000 in revenue per year in parking income, unless a suitable replacement is figured out.



After 104 years in service to the community, the St. Ladislaus Parish held its last Mass before closing for good.

Once again, the Hamtramck Board of Education decided to take a summer vacation this month, and not hold its regular monthly meeting in July.

They took this action despite a state law (MCL 380.11a, part 6) that requires all boards of education to meet at least once a month.

Violating this law carries a fine of up to \$500 and/or a \$500 fine for each board member.

So far, the state Michigan Department of Education has taken no action against the district.

The Review reached out to Interim Superintendent James Larson-Shidler and Board President Jihan Aiyash for comment, but neither responded.

Toni Coral, the president of the Hamtramck Federation of Teachers, said, at that time, that the board should meet once this month, at the very least, "so new hires can be approved. That would allow for a more smooth orientation process. The board is making a hefty stipend, and one July meeting would send a small signal that they are earning their pay."

This wasn't the first time the board has violated state law regarding meeting monthly. In 2023, the board failed to meet three months out of the year, including in July.

The Hamtramck Board of Education wasn't the only public body having a hard time getting all its members to attend meetings.

The city council wrestled with the issue of two councilmembers, Khalil

Councilmember Mohammed Hassan took issue with their absences and proposed excusing them, with the provision that, going forward, no other absences by the two would be considered excused.

Hassan said there has to be a limit on absences. "It cannot be unlimited," he said.

The two eventually returned.

AUGUST

Once again, Hamtramck City Councilmembers Mohammed Hassan and Mohammed Alsomiri had their hopes dashed to move up the political ladder.

Both lost their bids to unseat longtime incumbent Martha Scott on the Wayne County Commission, according to election results.

Scott, who turned 89-years-old in November, is a Democrat, and handily won that party's primary.

In other election developments, there were some setbacks for local community leaders in two key races.

Mayor Amer Ghalib and others had endorsed Hill Harper over Elissa Slotkin, who was currently serving in congress, in the Democratic primary race for U.S. senator.

While Harper won here in Hamtramck, Slotkin outperformed him state-wide, winning 76 percent of the state Democratic vote. She also won in the November election.

Community leaders also struck out in their support of Detroit City Councilmember Mary Waters for the Democratic primary for U.S. Congress in the 13th District. Again, she won here, but she soundly lost in the district-wide vote, insuring that incumbent Shri Thanedar would have an easy re-election this fall.

Local leaders here, most of whom are Muslim, declined to back Slotkin and Thanedar over their support of Israel, in light of the ongoing Gaza war.

Continued on page 2

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A look back on the last half of ‘Year in Review’

Continued from front page

Hamtramck Public Schools Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed was dealt a setback in one of two lawsuits she filed against the district and teachers’ union.

Federal Court Judge Gershwin Drain dismissed Ahmed’s lawsuit against the union.

At the time and to this day, Ahmed continues to be paid, but she is not actually doing district work. District officials refuse to discuss her employment status, or why she continues to draw her yearly salary of about \$220,000 per year.

Back in 2021, the Hamtramck Public School District was proud to announce that it had purchased two buildings to help expand services.

At the time, Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed praised the purchases, saying:

“The purchase of these local properties through the district’s general operating fund, in tan-

dem with other improvements we are proposing across Hamtramck Public Schools, brings a sense of renewed hope for the future of our district, and is another step toward

Rocker Jack White made an appearance at the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival, attracting a crowd of about 20,000 people. Photo by Sal Rodriguez

giving our students all of the tools they need to succeed.”

But instead of being a source of pride, or opportunity, the two buildings, one on Conant and the other on Jos. Campau, turned out to be white elephants that were never developed or used.

A major stumbling block

in fulfilling that promise was that the worst of the covid pandemic hit in 2020 through 2021. For over a year, students were not attending school in person, but instead

shifted to at-home virtual learning.

However, there were now serious discussions on preparing the Conant building to house administrative offices into the one on Conant, and selling the Jos. Campau building.

That move eventually came months later.

SEPTEMBER

Every year, it seems the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival is the best one yet.

This past year was no exception. The verdict was unanimous: the festival was a smash hit, offered the best and most varied music line-up of the weekend (and all for free), and had good vibes that proved infectious.

There was only one complaint heard, and that was: why did the festival have to end?

The city’s own promotional campaign, “Discover Hamtramck,” called it “the most magical weekend in Hamtramck.”

On top of all that, Detroit rocker Jack White made an appearance on Monday, where he shared the stage with local faves The Hentchmen for a few tunes. His rumored appearance attracted an estimated crowd of 20,000 or more fans.

This year’s presidential campaign certainly had

Continued on page 3



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This week at the Library . . .

January 3, 2025

Exercise in the Library: The exercise classes will be on holiday break during December. The program is sponsored by the RIM Foundation. Watch for information with a new schedule for January 2025.

First Flag: On January 1, 1776, during the American Revolution, George Washington unveiled the Grand Union Flag, the first national flag in America.

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Ellis Island: On January 1, 1892 this island in New York Harbor was opened. Over 20 million new arrivals to America were processed there until its closing in 1954.

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 will be no classes during the holidays. They will restart again on January 6th.

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.

Chess Club: Our chess master is returning to play against longtime fans while also welcoming newbies to the brilliant game of strategy. Set aside Monday afternoons for Chess Club at the library., staring at 3:45 pm

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.

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.

Space Shuttle: On January 5, 1972, President Nixon signed a bill approving \$5.5 billion to build space shuttle.

War on Poverty: On January 8, 1964 President Lyndon Johnson declared War on Poverty during his state of the Union message before Congress.

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A look back on the last half of ‘Year in Review’

Continued from page 2

some unexpected twists, particularly with President Joe Biden dropping out of the election.

Instead, Vice President Kamala Harris took up the Democratic torch for the job.

Michigan was considered one of several “swing” states that could determine the outcome of the election, and one voting bloc here was primed to make a significant difference: Arab-Americans.

A number of Arab-Americans, including many here in Hamtramck, voted “uncommitted” in the Presidential Primary Election back in February, in protest of Biden’s continued support of Israel and its brutal invasion of Gaza.

Hamtramck’s largest voting bloc is now those of the Muslim faith. So how did the Muslim vote in Michigan play out?

Stay tuned for November (but we’re guessing you know that outcome already).

There are good neighbors, and then there are really good neighbors.

You can put Hamtramck Police Chief Jamiel Altaheri in the “really good” neighbor category.

How’s that?

A local CBS-TV news affiliate did a short feature on a situation involving the chief and his neighbor, Norbert Revels.

As CBS reporter Alysia Burgio pointed out, in introducing her story, this “showed how compassion can change a person’s life.”

The situation was, Revels’ roof was old and

lend a helping hand.

A local contractor, Ruben Gonzalez became involved, and he, too, got into the spirit.

“I believe in giving back,” he told the CBS reporter.



Former president Trump campaigned in the metro area and met with Mayor Amer Ghalib who gave Trump his endorsement.

Long story made short, the job got done at no expense to Revels.

Chief Altaheri told CBS it’s not necessarily providing financial help to a neighbor or someone you know.

“Sometimes it’s just your words” that make a difference, he said. “Maybe you don’t have the money, but say something; things will happen.”

Like it or not, the 2024 presidential campaign was in motion to swing into town.

Mayor Amer Ghalib met privately with Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump in Flint where there was a campaign rally, and he invited Trump to come to Hamtramck.

“It’s possible,” Ghalib said on his Facebook page. “We will hear from

be further discussion and a possibility of opening an office in Hamtramck. ...”

Previous to Ghalib’s summary of his meeting with Trump, he wrote on his Facebook page about the meeting:

“It’s a new era!

“Today, I had a closed meeting with President Trump for 20 minutes, before the town hall in Flint.

“We discussed many topics. I’ll discuss the details later. ...”

Trump had been courting Muslims for their support, especially in Michigan where that voting bloc could make the difference in who wins the state.

Later in the month, Ghalib came out and fully endorsed Trump for president.

OCTOBER

Mayor Ghalib’s endorsement of former president Donald Trump paid off.

Ghalib met Trump at a campaign rally in Warren, and during that meeting, Trump complimented Ghalib by calling him “The greatest mayor in the world.”

Ghalib also hinted that there was a strong possibility of Trump visiting in Hamtramck.

And, indeed, that came true.

Trump and his entourage pulled up in front of the Hamtramck Trump campaign office at Jos. Campau and Pulaski, where Trump then spoke for about 45 minutes.

On a gorgeously sunny and 70-plus degree Fri-

day afternoon, a crowd of about 100 people showed up to watch the arrival of the Trump motorcade, complete with police cars flashing their lights and sounding their sirens.

Those who attended the private meeting included Mayor Amer Ghalib, City Councilmembers Abu Musa, Khalil Refai and Muhtasin Sadman, and various city officials. A number of city employees were also on the scene, including officers and firefighters.

Ghalib, who had identified as a Democrat, made national news by endorsing Trump, despite Trump’s having instituted a travel ban against some Muslim countries – including Yemen, where Ghalib emigrated from – early on in his first term as president.

In an interview with WXYZ Channel 7, Ghalib seemingly brushed off that history.

“I may disagree with him about that. I know that Yemen was in the ban before, which is the country I came from. I hope that he will consider that the

stipulation: it can’t be used for any “un-becoming use.”

So far, there have been no takers for the 9,200 square foot building.

It’s no secret that Hamtramck has some talented youth at work, and in a wide variety of academic, athletic and practical areas.

Two such youths, Mst Labone Begum and Shuvomita Dey, who are students at Hamtramck High School, successfully wrote and published a book, titled “Sun-kissed.”

It is a children’s book that brings home a message to, literally, save one’s skin, as in, from the ravages of the sun’s UV (ultra-violet) rays.

Mst Begum explained how the book evolved:

“I had never been taught the value of sunscreen, which surprised me as a Bangladeshi woman moving to the United States. I used to get terrible sunburns every summer, and I never realized how many people thought they didn’t need sunscreen, due to their skin tone, until I started



Hamtramck High School students Mst Labone Begum and Shuvomita Dey hold their just-published children’s book that discusses the need for sun protection for all people.

Yemeni people, the Yemeni neighborhoods in the United States, are some of the safest. The crime rates are some of the lowest,” he said.

Ghalib, and many other Muslims in the Detroit area, turned against President Biden because of his ongoing support for Israel, and his providing of military support for Israel’s invasion of Gaza where, at this point, over 40,000 Palestinians have been killed.

Anybody want to buy a used church?

If so, the former St. Ladislaus Church was put up for sale, but with one

questioning them about it.”

The book is available from Amazon, and elsewhere.

City officials found themselves in a rush against time as the last phase of Caniff reconstruction began, from Jos. Campau to Conant.

Why the rush?

With cold weather just around the corner, there was concern that the project would not be completed because of cold weather coming in, making it impossible to pour cement.

They were right to be concerned.

The street was repaved, but only to Gallagher, meaning the last leg of the project will have to wait until spring returns and concrete can be poured.

Hamtramck once again drew unwanted attention.

A 69-year-old man from Ohio, who had a history of mental issues, threatened to kill immigrants here in Hamtramck, according to the Hamtramck Police Department.

Deputy Chief Andrew Mileski said that William Darocha, who had a prior history of run-ins with the police, went to a Catholic Church in Toledo and asked to speak with a priest because “He was thinking of coming to Michigan to kill some immigrants in Hamtramck.”

The suspect was eventually arrested after officers in the downriver community of Taylor spotted his car. No weapons were found in the vehicle.

He was extradited back to Toledo, where he faced a felony charge of making a terrorist threat.

“The threat was neutralized,” Mileski said.

Hamtramck Public Schools settled a lawsuit against a former assistant principal for almost \$1 million.

Former Kosciuszko Middle School Assistant Principal Christina Adamczyk filed a whistleblower’s lawsuit a few years ago, saying that Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed and a district administrator retaliated against her for raising concerns over how the district was complying with covid pandemic requirements.

Because of her criticisms of how they handled the health crisis, Adamczyk was demoted.

The Review received a copy of the settlement by filing a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with the school district. The district continues to face over a dozen other lawsuits filed by former employees.

Hamtramck Muslims’ support of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump waivered a bit when, at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, he called immigrants from

Continued on page 4



The last phase of repaving Caniff from Jos. Campau to Conant could only be partly done. Reconstruction of the street will begin again in spring.

leaky. Despite saving and saving his money, he just couldn’t get near the estimated \$10,000 cost to replace it.

That’s where the chief stepped in, deciding to

them soon. ... We opened a channel of communication with the former president, and it will continue. We thought about the possibility of breaking the wall between the Republi-

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What's on this coming week?

Town Hall meeting with Mayor Ghalib & Tudor Dixon
Mayor's comments on Wayne County hold on payment
Award presented to Arif Huskic, founder of CWA,
Interview with author Mst Begum,
President Trumps visits Hamtramck
Phil Hale Jazz Concert 2024 at the Library,
Meeting of the City Council, Music programs, & more

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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.

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Coming Events

SATURDAY, Jan. 11, 2-4 p.m. – Take-out only Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. Everyone is welcome!

A look back on the
last half of ‘Year in
Review’

Continued from page 3

Yemen “terrorists.”

Hamtramck is home to a large Yemeni population.

City Councilmember Khalil Refai, who is an immigrant from Yemen, said he was reconsidering his

true to its blue Democratic roots.

But just barely.

While a slim majority of Hamtramck voters threw their support to Democrats, there was a sizeable voting bloc that went

Mayor Ghalib and city councilmembers met with former president Trump at a campaign stop in Hamtramck.

endorsement.

“Many members of the Yemeni American community were hurt and disappointed by the former president’s remarks,” Refai said..

“They now question the trust we placed in the Republican Party, feeling betrayed after we assured them that the party shares our conservative values.”

When asked about his reaction to Trump’s “terrorist” comment, Mayor Ghalib, who emigrated from Yemen, responded:

“I said in my endorsement that ‘we do not agree on everything.’ This is part of the disagreement between us.”

Ghalib later met with Trump, and said that the former president apologized for the remark and

Republican.

Hamtramck Mayor Amer Ghalib, who bucked Hamtramck’s long tradition of elected officials being solidly Democratic, was pleased.

“Mission accomplished. Congratulations, Mr. President,” he said on his Facebook page in reference to former President Donald Trump in his nationwide victory.

For decades, Hamtramck has been a Democratic stronghold. That tradition was shattered by a new demographic majority living here: Conservative Muslims.

Locally, the school board now has two new members: Linda Wolyniec and Mohamed Algaheim.

School Board President Jihan Aiyash lost her bid

Wayne State University Anthropology students performed an excavation on Grayling St. to find artifacts from Hamtramck’s past.

promised to not say that again.

NOVEMBER

Hamtramck Public School officials were crossing their fingers as election day neared.

They were concerned that voters would once again reject a millage tax renewal. And this renewal being sought was a big one: at 18 mills, that renewal represented \$2.7 million per year in funding for the district to maintain its basic operations.

As it turned out, voters surprisingly approved the millage, most likely because the property tax is paid only by those who own commercial properties or rental dwellings.

Speaking of the election, Hamtramck stayed

for re-election.

Hamtramck is known for its colorful history.

Just ask Hamtramck Historical Museum Director – and retired journalist – Greg Kowalski.

He’s written over a dozen books about this city’s history. And he has said he has plenty more in him to bring to light.

It turns out that a lot of Hamtramck’s history is buried. As in, underground.

Some of those buried secrets are slowly coming back to the surface, thanks to the Hamtramck Historical Museum’s ongoing relationship with the Anthropology Department of Wayne State University.

That department, and

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A look back on the last half of ‘Year in Review’

Continued from page 4

its participating students, have already performed digs in a few locations in the city, and they were now wrapping up their current one at 2317 Grayling, the former site of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church.

What wonders would be unearthed this time? Check with the museum to see.



There are far fewer military veterans in Hamtramck these days but those who still reside here commemorated Veterans Day with a ceremony and champagne toast.

Back on June 14 of 2021, at about 8 p.m., a group composed of both teens and adults was playing basketball in the street at Yemans and Buffalo.

Such a gathering often happened around that time.

But what happened next was decidedly not typical.

A vehicle pulled up, and suddenly about 30 shots

were fired into the basketball crowd.

Marvin White, Jr., died after being shot in the back. Two other people were injured.

Eventually, Darnell Hill, 23, who had once lived in Hamtramck, was charged in the shooting, and was convicted by a Wayne County jury of first-degree murder and other felony

live here has taken a nosedive.

That’s because the bulk of them who once lived here have mostly either passed away, or moved away. And then the covid pandemic closed down many public gatherings for a while.

At one time, there were thousands of veterans living in the city, representing a powerful voting bloc.

Like Veterans Day, Memorial Day here in the city isn’t recognized in the way it used to be.

For the remaining veterans, and their family members and friends, who do still go out, a small ceremony was held on a Monday morning at PLAV Post 6 at Evaline and McDougall.

A short prayer was given, followed by a champagne toast exactly at 11:11 a.m. – representing the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month – the moment World War 1 officially came to an end in 1918.

A “dark chapter” in the city finally came to its end.

For those who have lived here awhile, this may have seemed like déjà vu.

The city’s longstanding housing discrimination lawsuit came to a close.

Although the final ending of this lawsuit had been touted several times in past years, this time

the lawsuit was truly over, and in fact concluded back in May when U.S. Magistrate Elizabeth A. Stafford issued an order

Wayne County officials hosted a press conference to mark the official end to a housing discrimination lawsuit filed decades ago.

of dismissal, thus ending a legal action that began in 1968. The lawsuit has the distinction of being the longest-running federal lawsuit ever.

Wayne County officials hosted a press conference inside the last-built housing unit.

“It’s never the wrong time to do the right thing,” said Wayne County Director of Economic Development Hassan Sheikh.

The lawsuit goes all the way back to the 1960s, when a couple of hundred African-American residents accused city officials of targeting the homes in their neighborhoods for demolition in the name of “urban renewal.”

Using federal money at the time, city officials razed dozens of houses to make way for this supposed development – development that never came.

That ill-advised ploy by the city would come to haunt city officials, and

taxpayers, for decades.

DECEMBER

Patience, folks.

The last leg of the re-

in the metro area, particularly in Hamtramck, Dearborn and Dearborn Heights, may have helped put Trump over the top in the state.

With the election over, Ghalib spoke at length, at a city council meeting, about the next step forward.

“Now that the election is over, we need to go back to focus on our unity, and working together to serve our people, our community,” Ghalib said.

“In Hamtramck, there is no loser, no winner. We all work as a team.”

Ghalib said the point of the local campaign extended beyond Hamtramck.

“Our mission was statewide, nationwide. It was accomplished,” he said.

Ghalib said his connection to Trump could pay off for the city.

“Hopefully, good stuff will come to our community,” Ghalib said. “Hopefully, we will use this line of communication with the president to serve our community and to help our community.”

We’ve all heard those annoying and ear-shattering modified mufflers that a certain subsection of young males enjoy inflicting on others.

City officials decided to do something about the nuisance, and passed a resolution outlawing those altered mufflers.

The mufflers, costing upwards of \$400, are also illegal in Michigan. The state law states:

“A person shall not modify, repair, replace, or remove a part of an exhaust system causing the motor

Continued on page 6

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Take a look back on the first six months of the year

Continued from page 5

vehicle to which the system is attached to produce noise in excess of the levels established by this act, or operate a motor vehicle so altered on a street or highway.”

So, who likes these mufflers?

Brace yourself.

According to the National Library of Medicine “A desire for a loud car with a modified muffler is predicted by being a man with higher scores on psychopathy and sadism.”

The worst case scenario of the Wayne County Jail

saga here in Hamtramck played out as feared.

Wayne County stopped making its yearly \$1.4 million payments to the city to operate the jail.

The county had been making those annual payments in lieu of paying property taxes.

The county was supposed to make its scheduled partial payment last week, but then city officials were told, two weeks prior, that the county was cutting off the money flow.

City officials are still attempting to negotiate with the county to continue



Wayne County says it is no longer operating its jail in Hamtramck and as a result will stop paying the city \$1.4 million a year.

the payments, but so far there is not much to report on the progress of those talks.

The county has been in

the process of consolidating its prisoners into a new jail facility that just opened, located a few minutes’ drive south of the city.

Mayor Amer Ghalib said the city has a budget surplus that can absorb the hit for the next several years – although there is a deep-dive financial audit underway to determine exactly where the city’s finances currently stand.

Ghalib also accused the county executive of office of playing politics, and exacting revenge for his endorsement of Donald Trump for president.

Wayne County elected officials are largely Democratic.

“It’s one of the consequences of the election, although Hamtramck voted for more Democrats, but it’s a collective punishment not understood at all,” Ghalib said.

What a year, eh?

Plenty of ups and downs and ins and outs. In other words, just another year in Hamtramck.

Next week, it’s back to the weekly grind, and, by the looks of it, 2025 is going to be another eventful year.

Happy New Year

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Smoked Bacon/Boczek	Pickle Soup, Czarmina and many more...	Potato Dumplings/Kopytka
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Obituaries

KROT



Donald Alexander Krot, age 80, formerly of Hamtramck and Royal Oak, passed away on December 30, 2024.

He was born on August 12, 1944 in Detroit to Alexander and Joan Krot.

Don was a graduate of University of Detroit Jesuit High School, and later went on to graduate from Worsham College of Mortuary Science.

He spent many years as a funeral director at his family’s business, Krot Funeral Home, in Hamtramck.

He later transitioned to a career as an insurance agent with Pacific Life. He was a passionate sports fan and shared his love of baseball with his son and granddaughter, following their hometown team, the Detroit Tigers.

He was a man of deep faith and community. He built his community with every person he met.

Don was cherished by his family and friends and will be greatly missed. He is survived by his son, Kevin (Jennifer) Krot, his granddaughter, April Alexandra Krot, as well as step grandchildren, Braden Meadows and Erin (Jacob) Esper and step-great grandchildren, Alexandria Esper and Colton Esper.

He is further survived by his siblings: Alexandra Krot, David Krot, and Alexander (Joy) Krot, as well as his nieces and

nephews: Tom Dempster, John (Jennifer) Dempster, Alexis (David) Salamas, Alexander (Pimjai) Krot, and Melissa (Ryan) Walters.

He was predeceased by his sister, Eunice (survived by Bruce) Dempster.

Visitation for Don will be held on Friday, January 3, from 2 – 8 p.m. at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W. Eleven Mile Rd. (four blocks east of Woodward), Royal Oak. His funeral service will be held on Saturday, January 4, at 10 a.m. at the funeral home. Interment will follow at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Detroit.

If you wish to make a memorial contribution in Don’s honor, please consider donating to either As One Church, 3400 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212 or University of Detroit Jesuit High School.

From the Office of Wayne County Treasurer

Eric R. Sabree



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Quick Hits

Cont. from front page

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