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The Review

Hamtramck

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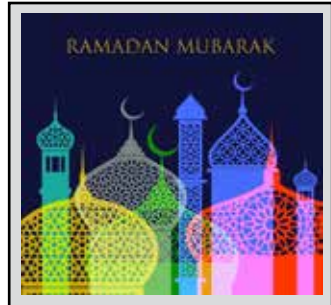
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Quick Hits

Month of Ramadan starts

By Charles Sercombe

This Saturday, March 1, ushers in first day of Ramadan.

To those in our Muslim community, we wish you a happy Ramadan, which will run until March 30.

This Holy Month of the Islamic calendar is capped with an Eid Al-Fitr celebration.

According to CAIR (the Council on American-Islamic Relations), during Ramadan, Muslims “refrain from eating, drinking, sexual relations, and smoking from the break of dawn to sunset.”

CAIR adds that:

“Ramadan is a period of personal restraint and a renewed focus on moral conduct. It is also a time to empathize with those who are less fortunate and to appreciate what one has. Fasting does not mean that Muslims cease to go to school, work, or participate in daily activities.”

Hamtramck Imam Arif Huskic has this to say about Ramadan:

“The month of Ramadan is the Fourth of the Five Pillars of Islam and the 9th month of the Islamic calendar year.

“Ramadan is a time for spiritual purification, increasing care about our family, about our community, Muslim and non-Muslim neighbors. Fasting during Ramadan helps to lose body weight, and to improve Physical and Mental health.”

During this month, the city council will start their two monthly meetings an hour early at 6 p.m. to accommodate those observing Ramadan.

The council meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

— HAMTRAMCK’S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Hamtramck schools says it’s in compliance with DEI order

By Charles Sercombe

School districts across the country had until today (Friday, Feb. 28) to get rid of their DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) programs, or else face having federal funding cut off.

That demand came from President Trump through an executive order. Trump’s administration has been rooting out DEI programs in the federal government, in the belief that DEI promotes less qualified people to job positions.

Critics have blasted those opposing DEI, saying they are racist, sexist or homophobic.

So how does the Hamtramck Public School District, which receives millions of dollars in various forms of federal funding, stand on this issue?

According to HPS Interim Superintendent James Larson-Shidler, he is not “aware” of any DEI program in the district.

The Review reached out, via district email, to both Hamtramck Board of Education President Abdulmalik Algahaim and



President Trump recently ordered schools to eliminate their DEI programming or risk having their federal funding cut off. But just how DEI is defined is up for debate. File photo

Vice President Moortadha Obaid, who supported President Trump for re-election, as to whether they agree with his executive order calling for the elimination of DEI programming.

As of press time Thursday, neither had responded.

Toni Coral, the president of the Hamtramck teachers’ union, says that defining what DEI programming involves is open to interpretation.

“I know that the high

school has offered (not sure about this year) a women’s studies class, and an African-American literature class. Is that DEI, though?” Coral told The Review.

She continued: “As I’ve watched this DEI hysteria unfold since the inauguration, it looks like the goal is to erase (the history, contributions, the representation) of anyone who isn’t a straight white male. That sounds like re-segregation to me.”

Even the district’s website, where it discusses its “literacy vision,” could be viewed as being DEI-oriented.

“Through high-quality instruction and culturally responsive practices, our student-centered approach individually supports students as they go through the phases of reading and writing across multiple disciplines,” the district’s website says.

The district also provides

Continued on page 2

Hamtramck gets ready for it annual Mardi Gras: Paczki Day



Expect plenty of live music, paczki and other festivities on Paczki Day next Tuesday.

By Charles Sercombe

You can already get a whiff of freshly fried paczki in the air.

And it’s only Friday, Feb. 28.

Hamtramck’s own national holiday, Paczki Day, is actually next Tuesday, March 4.

The festive weekend kicks off this Saturday, March 1, with the annual Paczki Run, brought to you by the folks from Tour de Troit.

Why would anyone think physical health and paczki go together? Tour de Troit

explains:

“Feel better about eating those paczki, or run the route to scout out your favorite place to purchase them. The 5K route winds through Hamtramck, highlighting the city that boasts ‘the world in 2 square miles.’ After the race, paczek and beer are served to each finisher, and prizes for age group top finishers!”

For those unfamiliar, the run is held on these very streets of Hamtramck, and starts at 10 a.m. Before

Continued on page 6

Mayor floats idea of being city boss

By Charles Sercombe

Mayor Amer Ghalib is taking another poll on his Facebook page.

This time, it’s not about whether he should seek another term as mayor, but instead it’s about whether to eliminate the city manager’s position and have a full-time mayor run the city.

Prior to the year 2005, the city charter called for a full-time mayor to oversee daily business, and the city council to serve as checks and balances.

That was Hamtramck’s form of government since it incorporated as a city in 1922.

Despite the charter being out of date for decades, for the most part, the city managed to survive, but by the late 1990s there was deep political division between the mayor and the then-city council that resulted in a deadlock over producing a city budget.

Eventually the governor of the state declared a financial emergency and appointed an emergency financial manager, in 2000, to take over control of the city.

It was during this time that a city charter revision commission was established, and, with voter approval, the city changed to a government with a city manager in charge, and gave the mayor and city council largely ceremonial roles.

So why the call for a possible charter revision?

Mayor Ghalib, who is seeking another term, was challenged by a resident at Tuesday’s council meeting over his motive for doing the poll. He said it was merely “on the table for discussion.”

Here is what the mayor posted on his Facebook page in introducing the poll, and we print his statement verbatim, with grammatical and spelling mistakes.

Continued on page 5



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Obituaries

STACHOWICZ
Rita Stachowicz, 97, died February 15, 2025.
Mrs. Stachowicz was the beloved wife of the late Stanley Sr.; loving mother of Sandra (Richard) Zavislak, Linda (Edward) Wolyniec, Stanley T. Jr. (Lisa Mariano) Stachowicz, and Matthew (Wendy) Stachowicz. She was the proud and adored grandmother of Michael (Helena), Matthew (Michelle), and Rebecca Zavislak, Alyssa, Ivan, Zachary Wolyniec, Jake and Joel Stachowicz, great-grandmother of Roslyn and Jackson Zavislak.
Rita is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her siblings, Harry Detrych, Eleanor Marlinga, Irene Ulatowski, and George Detrych.
Rita was a longtime resident of Hamtramck and a member of the Queen of Apostles community. She was preceded by her husband, Stanley T Stachowicz, Sr.
The funeral Mass was Saturday, February 22, 2025, at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 54045 Schoenherr Rd., Shelby Township. Interment was at Guardian Angel Cemetery. Please share memories with the family at their online guestbook at WujekCalcatterra.com

The Vatican International Exhibition of the Eucharistic Miracles of the World

Church-approved extraordinary events or phenomena which manifest the Real Presence of Jesus Christ

Saturday March 15 , 2025
12:00pm – 7:00pm
(Presentation at 3:00pm)

Sunday, March 16, 2025
8:30am – 1:00pm

Our Lady Queen of Apostles Parish Activities Center
3851 Prescott, Hamtramck (enter off parking lot on Harold St.)
313-891-1520

*There is no charge for the exhibition or the presentation.
Religious items available for suggested donation. No food or drink allowed.
The exhibition was compiled by Blessed Carlo Acutis, who died at age 15 and will be canonized as a saint in April 2025.*



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Box #2: 1 dozen Traditional Paczki \$32.95 4 Custard 4 Lemon 4 Apple	Box #5: 1/2 dozen Paczki \$17.95 6 Strawberry	Box #6: 1/2 dozen Paczki \$17.95 6 Custard
Box #7: 1/2 dozen Paczki \$17.95 6 Prune	NEW FLAVOR FOR 2025! • Cookzki Cookie Batter Buttercream	

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February 24-28 • 8am-5pm
Saturday, March 1 • 8am-4pm
Sunday, March 2 • 10am-4pm
Monday, March 3 • 8am-6pm
Tuesday, March 4 • **PACZKI DAY**
Open 3am until we're out!

Hamtramck schools says it's in compliance with DEI order

Cont. from front page

halal food options for Muslim students that could be argued to be DEI-based.
According to halal-foodwatch.org, “When schools offer meal options that reflect the dietary needs of diverse populations, they send a powerful message of inclusion and respect.”
And, according to the website diversion.com, DEI “in education is shaping the next generation of thinkers, leaders, and global citizens. Barriers like systemic racism and poverty can limit students’ access to equal education. ... Integrating DEI into education brings valuable benefits to students and educators.”
So far, the Michigan Department of Education says it is standing by its DEI support.
In a statement released by State Superintendent Michael Rice, the Michigan Department of Education “continues to support diversity in literature, comprehensive history instruction, and broad recruitment to Grow Your Own programs for students and support staff to become teachers.”
Rice continued: “MDE disagrees that pre-K-12 programs that promote diversity representing all children, regardless of race, and inclusion of all children, regardless of race, inherently harm particular groups of children and are de facto violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.”
In response to Trump’s order, the American Federation of Teachers union and the American Sociological Association have filed a lawsuit saying that it violates the First and Fifth Amendments.
The lawsuit says: “This letter radically upends and re-writes otherwise well-established jurisprudence.”
“No federal law prevents teaching about race and race-related topics, and the Supreme Court has not banned efforts to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in education.”



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Sunday, March 2, Holy Mass 9:00 am Quinquagesima Sunday

Mar 4 – Holy Mass 9 am

Mar 5 – Ash Wednesday Blessing and distribution of Ashes
Holy Mass 10 am & 6 pm

Mar 1 – Drive-thru Take-out only
Polish Dinner 3:30-5:30 pm
Menu: Pork Chop, Smoked Kielbasa, Pierogi/sour cream, Sauerkraut (Bigos), Mashed Potatoes/gravy & Paczek



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ঙভবনের ভেতরে ডাক
ঙব্যায়ামাগার

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ঙবিনোদন কেন্দ্র
ঙশীততাপ নিয়ন্ত্রিত
ঙপাঠাগার

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হ্যামট্রামিক সিনিয়র প্লাজা
২৬২০ হলব্রুক স্ট্রীট, হ্যামট্রামিক ও ৩১৩ ৮৭৩ ৭৭৮৭

Hamtramck Housing Commission (HHC) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap or familial status

This week at the Library . . .

February 28, 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.

Peace Corps: On March 1, 1061, President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps, an organization sending young American volunteers to developing countries to assist with health care, education and other basic human needs.

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.

First Inaugural Address: On March 4, 1933, newly elected President Franklin D. Roosevelt took office and delivered his first inaugural address attempting to restore public confidence during the Great Depression, stating, “Let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” His cabinet appointments included the first woman to a Cabinet post, Secretary of Labor, Frances Perkins.

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 ant 9 am and 12 noon that is conducted by ESL assistant.

Casimir Pulaski: This revolutionary war hero was born on March 4, 1747 in Poland. Before aiding in the American Revolution, he was a military leader in Poland’s struggle against Imperial Russia. He joined the Americans in 1777 and fought alongside General Washington at Brandywine, then served in Germantown and Valley Forge. He was mortally wounded during a heroic charge in the Siege of Savannah, Georgia.

Stream on Hoopla: There are tons of shows and movies available for you to stream on Hoopla. Cooking competitions, rom-coms, thrillers, cand 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.

Paper Money: The first issue of U.S. government paper money occurred on Mach 10, 1862, as \$5, \$10 and \$20 bills began circulation.

Salvation Army: It was founded on March 10, 1880. The social service organization was founded by William Booth and operates in 90 countries.

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
Attachments for printing, faxing or scanning send to hamtramcklibrary@gmail.com

Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

City should look into a new parking meter system

We've said this before, and we'll keep repeating it: The city's parking meter system on Jos. Campau and in its municipal parking lots is a disaster, and needs to go. Recently, three city councilmembers held a town hall meeting about the meter system, and the majority of the business owners attending agreed that the meters have scared away customers because the meters are either too complicated or else don't work properly. Fortunately, the city's contract with the meter company expires in July. If it were up to us, we'd tell the company to prepare to take back their meters and get out of town. The City of Royal Oak had the same meters, but had the good sense to admit they were a failure and removed them. Royal Oak then replaced them with meters that people easily understand and don't erroneously cause tickets to be issued. But should Hamtramck not have any parking meters in its central business district, as some are suggesting? Yes, we do need meters not only for revenue but to make sure people don't hog parking spaces all day. The current parking meters generate about \$200,000 a year in revenue for the city, albeit that a good chunk of that comes from parking tickets. There is a good parking meter system available, and you don't have to look any further than the City of Ferndale to see a system that actually works and is hassle-free for users. And, better yet, there are no unforgiving cameras connected to the meters that penalize you if you run a tiny bit over your allotted meter time. We urge city officials to check it out for themselves. Keep the parking meters, but not this current system.

School Bell

Dr. MLK Breakfast update
These are the winners for the Dr. MLK Breakfast Dickinson West Winners:

- Pusmita Biswas – 1st place winner
- Amina Shordar – 2nd place winner
- Janat Aloudi – 3rd place winner

Winners for Middle and High School

- Nabiha Chowdhury – 1st place winner
- Raisa Sattar – 2nd place winner
- Ashtin Parkman – 3rd place winner

Participants for the Dr. MLK Breakfast: Dickinson West

- Anisa Nuha
- Iyah Alnagar
- Layan Alhaidari
- Krishna Chanda
- Isbah Amin

Kosciusko Middle School

- Kameli Puja
- Angela Drayton
- Fariha Hussen
- Fabeha Hussen
- Camiya Rex
- Zaya McCrary
- Chadni Das
- Victoria Buciek
- Udita Swarupa
- Ahnasa Biswas

- Diana Durdana
- Arisha Mahmood
- Promita Biswas
- MD Ezaz Miah
- Irana Alam
- Ishtiaq Bin Lukman
- Tanisha Rahman
- Tau Beta School
- Anshi Muntaquim
- Somiah Zaukari
- Hizam Obaid
- Mazen Samaha
- Hamad Algahaim
- Mohamed Majhed
- Ali Rageh
- Yasmeen Alshaif
- Rabab Saiban

All participants received an award.

Notice of Auction of City-Owned Property

City of Hamtramck

The City of Hamtramck is conducting a public silent auction to sell 26 residential properties during the 2025 City Auction. Applicants are invited to submit bids between March 10th and April 1st. Bids will be opened publicly on April 1st at 10:00am in the City Council Chambers of Hamtramck City Hall. Late bids will **NOT** be accepted.

Application and list of available properties can be downloaded online at <https://hamtramck.us/community/property-for-sale/> or picked up in person at City Hall in the Clerk's Office or Community and Economic Development Office beginning February 26, 2025.

Bidders will have three (3) weeks to submit a complete auction bid application in a sealed envelope. Bids will be required to be at or above a minimum price listed in the application. A \$50 application fee and a \$500 deposit toward the purchase price of the lot must be included in the sealed bid envelope. The \$500 deposit will be refunded to unsuccessful bidders immediately following the close of the auction.

Sealed bids must be delivered in person at the Clerk's Office in Hamtramck City Hall – 3401 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, MI.

All bidders must meet several qualifications listed in the application. The City will award sales to the highest qualifying bids. The City reserves the right to disqualify bid applications that are not complete.

Odds & Ends

Condolences... Many here in Hamtramck and the metro area were shocked and saddened by the recent death of Andy Rice. Mr. Rice, 49, died of natural causes, we were told. Our heart goes out to his spouse, Michael Davis. There was already a visitation held on Thursday, Feb. 27. Funeral services will be today, Friday, Feb. 28, at Spaulding & Curtin Funeral Home, 500 W. 9 Mile Rd. in Ferndale. The service begins at 4 p.m., with a Celebration of Life at Fowling Warehouse in Hamtramck at 5:30 p.m. Rest in peace, Andy. You will be so very missed.

Reminder... The Hamtown Trashies have an urgent message about helping the city stay clean on Saturday, when the annual Paczki Run takes place: "Paczki Run isn't just for runners. If you want to join the fun and make a difference, join the Hamtown Trashies. We like to dress in attention getting costumes and pick up trash along the route. We will provide supplies. "Join us at St. Florian, on the steps, at 2626 Poland St. We will meet at 7a.m. and head out from there. If you make it later, we will leave a stack of supplies. "If you have questions, or want to donate to our supplies and rewards fund, please email mgilginas@hamtramckcity.gov. "If you want to participate, feel free to call or email to register, or just show up. We will have a goodie bag for those who do register, so please do so if you can, including your T-shirt size. "We will be doing the same, representing Hamtramck at the Marche du Nain Rouge in Detroit on March 23. Please email for more info. Costumes are required for this one!"

Free parking... Speaking of Paczki Day festivities, the city is offering free parking at all meters on Saturday, March 1 for the Paczki Run, and also on Paczki Day, Tuesday, March 4. Be sure to support our local businesses!

Police update... Last year on Feb. 7, a Hamtramck Public School teacher at the Early Childhood Center on Charest was the victim of an armed robbery. Thanks to the work of the Hamtramck Police Department's Detective Bureau,

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 Jan. 28, and all councilmembers were in attendance. A proclamation was made recognizing World Hijab Day, which was on Feb. 1. The proclamation read, in part: "Its stated purpose is to encourage women of all religions and backgrounds to wear and experience the hijab for the day. "World Hijab Day was started to fight discrimination against women in hijab after hate crimes against Muslims hit an all-time high after 9/11. As women around the world gather to celebrate World Hijab Day, support our Muslim sister's freedom to express their belief without fear. ..." A presentation was made by the city's financial auditors, UHY. The city's biggest source of financial revenue is \$16.1 million from various federal and state grants. The next largest revenue stream is \$8.4 million from property taxes. The biggest expense is for public safety, costing the city \$14.7 million. The Fire Department was next up to present its yearly report. The Department's 26 employees responded to 865 service calls in 2024. Highlights of the report:

- There were 1,954 fire inspections, down from 2,251 in 2023. Fire Chief Matthew Wyszczelski said the reduction was due to more compliance by the community.
- The department responded to 299 fires. Detroit firefighters responded to 240 of those fires in an automatic aid agreement that includes Highland Park. Highland Park responded to 49 fires here.
- Hamtramck, in turn, responded to 35 fires in Detroit, and 18 in Highland Park.

During public comment, Ibrahim Aljahim questioned who paid for the mayor and three councilmembers to attend President Trump's inauguration in Washington D.C. It was later explained, by Mayor Amer Ghalib, that the city covered the expenses. He justified the expense, saying that city officials were invited to the event, and that he does not attend seminars on municipal government, and thus saves money that way. Ghalib said such conferences "are not very productive. I learn on my own more than attending and wasting time there. So I saved the city a lot of money when I don't go." The mayor also noted that he and the councilmembers are paid only a few hundred dollars a

Continued on page 4

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2018 CHRYSLER PAC	2C4RC1BG2JR234291	AP
2017 BUICK LAC	G4ZR5SS7HU187892	AP
2022 SEADOO WAVE	YDV54472A222	DEAR HGTS
2015 KOWASAKI NINJA	JKAZXCJ14FA025444	LP
2007 HARLEY DAVIDSON	1HD1FC4107Y691371	TAY
2017 HARLEY DAVIDSON	1HD1MAD10HB860626	TAY
2016 HARLEY DAVIDSON	1HD1MAL14GB856711	TAY
2011 CHERVROLET TRVRS	1GNKVEED5BJ258991	YPSI

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February 28, 2025

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and YouTube Live world wide (Hamtramck Library Channel)

What's on this coming week?

Annual Report from the Hamtramck Police Department
Plante & Moran Financial Analysis of the City
Presentation of City Financial Forecast,
Presentation of Police Department annual report
Town Hall Meeting on Downtown Parking Meters
Public Comments at City Council Meeting,
& more

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announcements, comments to city officials, facts you
want to share with the community, etc.

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Letters • Letters • Letters

Path to citizenship could
be serving in the military

I came to America legally when I was one year old. However, I know many who came to this great country of ours illegally – some were deported, while others turned themselves in and are now living proof of the incredible opportunities this country offers, where dreams can come true. Here, we have the freedom to pursue our dreams and worship God without fear. Yet, this country of ours is not without its needs. The U.S. military has faced low enrollment in recent years. One solution is to offer a path to citizenship for immigrants who enlist. This policy would provide an opportunity for many who love this country and wish to stay. It would also boost the economy and honor military service as a pathway to citizenship. Implementing this policy would help fill a critical gap that the armed forces have struggled with over the past four years. Many of these individuals already see this country as their home – they have families, friends, and contribute to vital sectors of the economy. Many would gladly defend this nation. Historically, non-citizens have served in the military through programs like MAV-NI. Reinstating such programs would benefit both the military and society. By giving immigrants a chance at citizenship and the opportunity to serve a country they already love, we can help address recruitment challenges.

Robert Stanaj
Bloomfield Hills

City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 3

month, and that voters rejected a ballot proposal to give Hamtramck elected officials a pay raise. Ghalib said that few candidates seek public office in Hamtramck because there is hardly any money paid for such civic service. He said potential candidates often find it a “waste of their time” to serve the city. Ghalib said that more candidates would be attracted to run for office if the positions of mayor and city council were full time. During public comment, Bill Meyer said he was “shocked” by the behavior of some councilmembers at a prior council meeting. He said councilmembers showed “a despicable display of animosity between fellow workers, between councilmembers.” He said that type of behavior “creates gossip in the city and tarnishes our image.” Meyer also warned of a “yellow journalist” in the city, and a local newspaper that “loves sensationalism and loves exaggerating what’s happening. We have to avoid feeding this paper with this sort of stuff, or anybody else.” Meyer credited Mayor Ghalib for “steering” the prior meeting in question “through waters and (getting) us out of the meeting alive.” Ghalib, Meyer said, “understands the purpose of unity.” As for the accusation that Councilmember Abu Musa sleeps during the meetings, Meyer said that is not a serious issue. In an email that was read out loud, Charles Blackwell said that the mayor should be blamed for any ICE immigration raids in Hamtramck. He said Ghalib should be blamed because of his support of President Trump’s “cruel and unusual immigration policies.” Moving on to new business, the council agreed to accept a grant for \$800,000 from the state Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity. The grant will be used to purchase a new fire department pumper truck. Credit was given to state Sen. Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit) and former state Rep. Abraham Aiyash (D-Hamtramck) for securing the grant. In another matter, the council agreed to contract with Friends of the Rouge to manage a grant from the U.S. Forest Service that will cover the cost to plant 1,000 trees over the next four years. Friends of the Rouge will be paid \$62,600 over four years. Some of the duties for the group will include:

- Developing and leading “tree planting” and “value of trees” workshops annually for residents, businesses, and property owners in each year of the program (total of eight workshops);
- Hosting three tree planting volunteer events (one in 2025, one in 2026, and one in 2027), which can be combined with the workshops.
- Procuring 50 trees (an estimated 20 in 2025, 20 in 2026, and 10 in 2027) for the above three tree planting events.

The council also agreed to accept a state grant for \$1.5 million to repave alleys. The alleys to be repaved will be identified later. Credit was once again given to Rep. Aiyash for helping secure the grant. Councilmember Mohamed Alsomiri was also thanked for his effort in getting the grant. In a lengthy discussion, the council considered a resolution to give City Manager Max Garbarino a salary increase. Councilmember Muhtasin Sadman proposed giving Garbarino a 15-percent raise. Councilmember Mohamed Hassan argued that, since the council rejected his prior motion to suspend Garbarino for one week with pay, he is now in favor of awarding him a salary increase. Mayor Ghalib took issue with Hassan flip-flopping on the city manager. “Now you come up with a raise,” Ghalib said. “So you make us look like a bunch of clowns running the city. ... We need to run the city in a logical, professional way. The mayor said he supports giving Garbarino a raise “but not through the games you (Hassan) are doing.” Councilmember Muhith Mahmood questioned whether the city can afford a raise. He said the city has lost \$1.4 million a year from Wayne County operating a jail in Hamtramck, and will lose \$200,000 a year if the city stops using parking meters on Jos. Campau. “Where are we going to get this money?” Mahmood said. Mayor Ghalib pointed out that Garbarino’s raise would amount to only an extra \$3,000 or \$4,000 a year. The council eventually agreed to give Garbarino a 7.5-percent pay raise. In his report, the mayor said that he not yet heard about being appointed to a position with the Trump administration, and has not yet decided whether he will seek re-election as mayor. He added that, in his discussions with various Republican officials, “a lot of good things are coming to our community.”

Support
Your Local
Businesses



Mayor floats idea of being city boss

Continued from front page

kes included: “What do you think about changing the mayoral system in Hamtramck to go back to the previous system, a strong full time mayor, rather than city manager system?”

“We can work on putting it on the ballot if the majority of our residents supports this proposal! That way the mayor can utilize his skills and most of his time to serve the city.”

“What do you think if we changed the vertical system in Hamtramk back to normal, full time mayor and scrapping the city manager?”

“Thus the mayor can harness all his means and time to serve the city.”

New Dawn Academy of Warren

Legal Notice of Open Enrollment

New Dawn Academy of Warren is a nonprofit, no-tuition, Michigan public school academy (charter school). Please stop by the Academy at 8200 Irving Street, Sterling Heights, MI 48312 (<https://newdawnacademy.net/>) or contact the Academy's office by phone at: (855) 800-STEM if you are interested in seeking enrollment or information about the Academy. Select weekend dates and evenings are available during the open enrollment window. Enrollment for current students and siblings will be taken beginning March 3, 2025 and ending March 14, 2025. Open enrollment begins March 17, 2025 – April 11, 2025 for all new students. Should any grade receive applications that exceed class limits a lottery will be held Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 4:00 pm, at the Academy. The Academy cannot enroll any student who is not a resident of this state, except a foreign student who is not a United States citizen. The Academy is an equal opportunity public educational institution and does not discriminate based on intellect/measures of achievement, race, sex, religion, national origin, and shall comply with all state and federal civil rights laws.



Oakland International Academy

Legal Notice of Open Enrollment

Oakland International Academy is a nonprofit, no-tuition, Michigan public school academy (charter school) offering grades K-12. Please stop by the Academy's middle school location at 8228 Conant St Detroit, MI (<http://oiacademy.net/>) or contact the Academy's office by phone at: (313) 925-1000 if you are interested in seeking enrollment or information about the Academy. Select weekend dates and evenings are available during the open enrollment window.

Re-enrollment for current students and their siblings is from March 3, 2025 through March 14, 2025.

Open enrollment for all new students is from March 17, 2025 through April 11, 2025. Current students and siblings may also apply during open enrollment but will not receive preference based on current enrollment or being a sibling of a current student. If any grade receives applications that exceed class limits, a lottery will be held Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 4:00 pm, at the Academy's Middle school library. The Academy cannot enroll any student who is not a resident of this state, except a foreign student who is not a United States citizen. The Academy is an equal opportunity public educational institution and does not discriminate based on intellect/measures of achievement, race, sex, religion, national origin, and shall comply with all state and federal civil rights laws.

It needs to be held in the elections to be approved by the residents of the city.”

Here's a sample of some of the comments on Ghalib's Facebook page (so far, about 100 people responded, and the opinions seem to be swinging in favor of reverting back to having the mayor be in charge):

Moe Algumaei: “It would great idea and I don't know why city manager exists anyway.”

Sanad Almadrahi: “I fully support this vision for Hamtramck. A strong, full-time mayor will provide dedicated leadership, direct accountability, and a clear vision for the city's future. ...”

However, there have been others who have questioned the move:

Saleh Sharhon: “This sounds like a power grab. Explain it.”

Fares Alhalemi: “This model needs a video to explain in detail.

But if the city manager has to go through the mayor and take orders from him, then it's best to keep the situation as it is.

...

In 2005, former Hamtramck Emergency Financial Manager Louis Schimmel wrote in the conservative publication Michigan Privatization Report about the pitfalls in the city's past of having untrained elected officials in charge.

“Because of the absence of professional management, past Hamtramck mayors and councils have given the city labor unions excessive pension, healthcare, days off, and numerous other benefits that are far beyond the city's ability to pay. In addition, the lack of good management has cost the city millions of dollars in lawsuits,” Schimmel said.

Changing the city's charter can be a complicated process.

If Hamtramck were to

seek a fundamental change in the charter, such as going with a strong mayoral system, state law requires a charter revision commission to be formed.

The proposed revision would then need the approval of the governor before going to voters for their consideration.

According to the state, there are almost 300 cities in Michigan, and out of those 200 have what's called a council-manager form of government.

The Michigan Municipal League defines that form of government as “the elected council appoints a professionally trained and experienced manager to administer day-to-day operations and make recommendations to the city council.”

Coming Events

SATURDAY, March 1, 3:30-5:30 p.m. – Drive-thru take-out Polish dinner, at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. Menu: Pork Chop, Smoked Kielbasa, Pierogi/sour cream, Sauerkraut (Bigos), Mashed Potatoes/gravy & paczek.

SATURDAY, March 8, 2-4 p.m. – Take-out only Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. Everyone is welcome!



Caniff Liberty Academy

Legal Notice of Open Enrollment

Caniff Liberty Academy is a nonprofit, no-tuition, Michigan public school academy (charter school). Please stop by the Academy at 2650 Caniff Street, Hamtramck, MI (<http://www.canifflibertyacademy.com>) or contact the Academy's office by phone at: (313) 872-2000 if you are interested in seeking enrollment or information about the Academy. Select weekend dates and evenings are available during the open enrollment window. Open enrollment begins March 3, 2025, for current students and their siblings and March 17 – April 11, 2025 for all new students. Current students and siblings may also apply during this window but will not receive preference based on current enrollment or being a sibling of a current student. Should any grade receive applications that exceed class limits a lottery will be held Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 4:00 pm, at the Academy's school library. The Academy cannot enroll any student who is not a resident of this state, except a foreign student who is not a United States citizen. The Academy is an equal opportunity public educational institution and does not discriminate based on intellect/measures of achievement, race, sex, religion, national origin, and shall comply with all state and federal civil rights laws.

CITY OF HAMTRAMCK BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of Hamtramck Board of Review will meet in the Hamtramck City Hall located at 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, Michigan 48212.

Meetings by appointment only on the following days:

Tuesday March 4, 2024, at 1:00 pm for the organizational meeting (no appeals will be heard).

By appointment to hear appeals,
Monday March 10, 2025 12:00pm to 7:30pm
Location: 2nd Floor City Council Chambers

Wednesday March 12, 2025 12:00pm to 7:30pm
Location: 2nd Floor City Council Chambers

The purpose is to review the assessment rolls of Hamtramck. Matters pertaining to the assessment of property may be brought before the Board of Review. Appointments will be taken until 4:00 pm on Wednesday, March 12, 2025. Appeals will also be accepted by letter.

****All letter appeals must be received by 4:00pm on Wednesday, March 12, 2025.**

	TENTATIVE RATIO	TENTATIVE FACTOR
201 – COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
301 – INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
401 – RESIDENTIAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00

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313-891-1520



Tuesday-Friday 9:00am Mass

with First Friday being First Friday devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, with mass at 9:00am and confession before mass and ending with the exposition and benediction with the Blessed Sacrament.

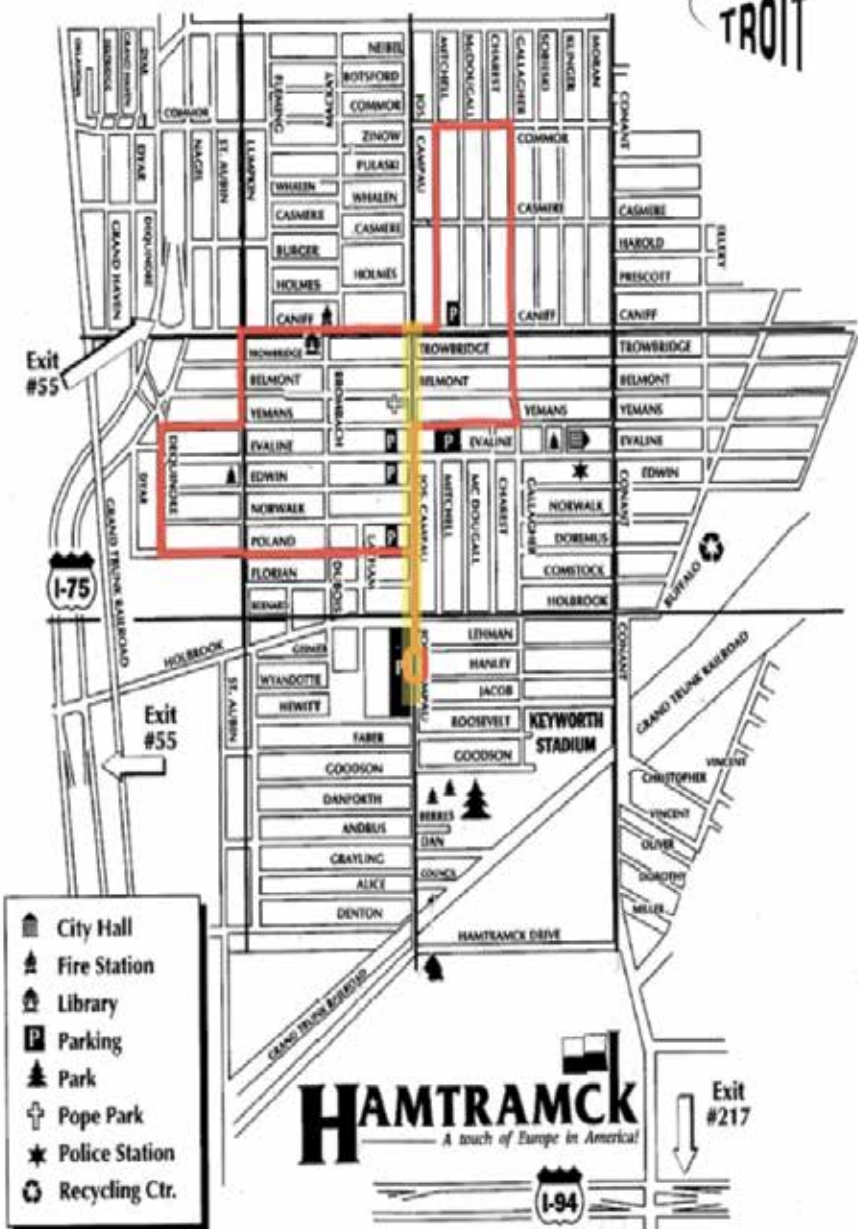
Saturday, 4:30pm (English) Mass

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

Mass Schedule

In addition, NO PARKING will be permitted on the highlighted portion (in yellow) of Joseph Campau from 12:00am on Friday, February 28 to 12:00pm on Saturday, March 1.

Tour de Troit's PaczKi Run Route



Hamtramck gets ready for its annual Mardi Gras: Paczki Day

Continued from front page

that, there's plenty of people-seeing opportunities, and all sorts of hijinks at the strip mall parking lot located at Holbrook and Jos. Campau.

Never been? Just head over there and soak up some beer and paczki.

That, of course, is just a prelude to the main event on Tuesday – also known as Fat Tuesday the world over.

Yes, New Orleans owns that day, but Hamtramck has managed to carve out its own special niche.

Local bars and service halls will be serving up plenty of entertainment, and it's worth it just to walk around town and enjoy the day.

Best yet, it looks like Old Man Winter is giving us a bit of a break. The weather report, as of Thursday, called for temps to be in the 40s.

We're over the worst of winter. Time to celebrate.

For those seeking paczki, New Palace Bakery, on Jos. Campau and Yemans, is the last of the Polish bakeries in town.

Over at Conant and Caniff, there's Family Donuts also serving up the pastry treats – and better yet, no long lines.

And speaking of paczki, on Tuesday, PLAV Post 10 hall on Jos. Campau near Zinow will once again host a paczki eating contest at

high noon.

Warning though: this event is not for the faint of heart, or those with queasy stomachs.

As usual, Hamtramck's favorite party band, the Polish Muslims, will play once again spread their special sauce, first starting off at Ant Hall (2320 Caniff) from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. There is a \$10 donation for this show.

The PM's then move on over to Whiskey in the Jar (2741 Yemans) from 2:30-5 p.m.

New Dodge bar is also back in action in the southend (on Jos. Campau near Roosevelt) and kicks things off early at 7 a.m.

The band Sunnyside Revival strikes up the music at 8:30 a.m., and they are followed by Peanut Butter Mosquito at 10:30 a.m.

Small's bar at Caniff and Conant offers rowdy fun with a continuous line-up of bands, featuring East Side Elvis and the Motor City Mafia, Bill Kozy's Rising Force and East Side Still Alive.

The bar also serves up what they call Paczki Bombs, which is an actual paczki filled with Jezy shots.

After one or two of those, you can belly up for Polish Fried Rice, Pierogi and Kielbasa.

Enjoy, folks!

Paczki Day is almost here
Tuesday March 4th 2025

The Polish Muslims

TWO SHOWS in Hamtramck
the Paczki capital of the world

Show #1 - Ant Hall/Planet Ant
2320 Caniff from 10:30am-12:30pm

Show #2 - Whiskey in the Jar
2741 Yemans from 2:30pm-5:00pm



WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE
WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER *Eric Sabree*

Property Tax Payment Plans are *Available Now!*



Interest Reduction Stipulates Payment Agreement (IRSPA)

This payment plan reduces the interest rate from 18% to 6% per year 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.

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.

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.

Pay As You Stay Payment Agreement (PAYSPA)

Only for taxpayers who live in a community that opted into the PAYS program, have applied for the Poverty Tax Exemption (PTE) at their local assessor's office and were approved. 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.

For more information, Email
wctopaymentplans@waynecountymi.gov
or call **313-224-5990**

Many of these plans are available online at
treasurer.waynecounty.com

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LOUNGE

OPEN AT 7AM
PACZKI DAY
March 4

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Sunnyside
Revival 8:30am

Peanut Butter
Mosquito
10:30am

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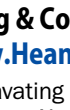
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