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— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Bugging out in Veterans Park ...

By Charles Sercombe

Things got awfully buggy last week in Veterans Park.

But, in a good way.

The Hamtramck Parks Conservancy teamed up with the Wayne County Parks Nankin Mills Interpretive Center to make a presentation about bugs and the important roles they play in the planet's ecosystems.

Of course, it wouldn't be much of a presentation without actual creepy crawlies for the 30 or so kids who attended to handle, including one that has a fondness for ... dung.

In case you were wondering, there was no dung on that bug, and the kids were offered hand wipes after handling each different bug.

Perhaps a little-known fact, as presented by Nankin Mills educator Matt Noble-Richardson: "Beetles are the most successful insect."

According to the folks at Caltech, the famed science and engineering institute, beetles are in fact "the poster child of evolutionary success" mainly because they can adapt to so many various environments.

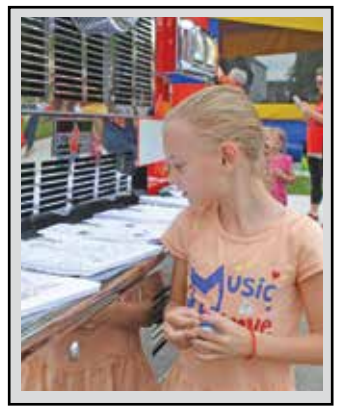
One beetle variety stands out because of its beautiful blue hue, and also its name: the Blue Death Feigning Beetle (*Asbolus verucosus*), which is not a bug to be feared – even if the name might imply otherwise.

Instead, the name comes from a sound they make when mating, which comes across as sort of like a death rattle.

(OK, we are tempted to make a lame joke about the 1960s cultural phenomena The Beatles, but we are grown adults and won't sink to the obvious.)

Besides that, the kids got to handle more bugs that were not actually insects but, instead, big fuzzy reproductions.

Also, kids were introduced to a newly created, bug-friendly garden that, at this point, while still small, will be growing in the years to come – just like how the improvements have been steady and ongoing in Veterans Park.



Quick Hits

Fire Dept. hosts an open house

By Alan Madlane

This place is on fire!

And by this place, we mean – all together now – Hamtramck (surprise!), and by "on fire," we mean that we've got it all going on.

And one of those things "going on" is the Annual Fire Prevention Open House happening again this Sunday, Sept. 28, from noon until 2 p.m. at the Hamtramck Fire Department's station-house, 2625 Caniff.

They'll do their usual "Touch a Truck" deal for the kids (and the adults who, well, always wanted to touch a fire truck, we suppose). But it won't be just fire trucks; there will also be police vehicles, ambulances, vehicles belonging to the Dept. of Public Services – lots to choose from.

And some refreshments, such as some good, old-fashioned all-beef hot dogs, and something to wash them down.

See some of the firefighting equipment explained and, maybe, even in use.

Plus, you can learn how to prevent fires in the home and elsewhere; how to deal with lithium cell phone batteries and the heat they can generate; and how to prepare for emergencies.

It's always a good time, and the little ones usually love it.

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS



Investment deal not for Hamtramck

By Charles Sercombe

Recently, Mayor Amer Ghalib posted on social media about his meeting with White House officials to arrange big-money foreign investments he helped orchestrate.

There was speculation that such foreign infusion of money and investments might include some dollars coming to Hamtramck.

No such luck.

Mayor Ghalib said he worked with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick and others in arranging the investments, but he said Hamtramck is not part of the deal.

"There are no investments in Hamtramck included in the project I discussed with Secretary Lutnick," Ghalib told The Review.

"It's a big multi-billion dollar project in the petrochemical industry in different states, and I'm proud that it came through my connections and relationships.

"I informed the president about this project and he spoke to Secretary Lutnick to take care of this and to address any possible barriers, and he did. He provided all the support needed to move forward with this investment."

That doesn't mean Hamtramck is totally out of luck.

At the Aug. 26 city council meeting, Ghalib said there is the possibility of a financial package heading our way which would include money he asked for "a lot of resources" for the city.

"If it gets approved, we see some positive signs it's going to solve some chronic issues for the city that we have been suffering the last decade."

He said this would include funding for shoring up city finances, public safety and infrastructure.

If his request is OK'd, Ghalib said "I'll consider this visit the most productive visit in the history of Hamtramck, and I would be happy to accomplish something for the community before I leave."

Ghalib did not seek re-election this year, and instead, is hoping to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate to become ambassador to Kuwait.

President Trump nominated Ghalib to the ambassadorship for his support in the 2024 presidential election, and

Continued on page 4

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Sunday, September 28,
Holy Mass 9:00 am
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Sept 29 – Feast of Michael, Archangel
Holy Mass 9 am

Oct 2 – Feast of Guardian Angels Holy Mass
9 am

Oct 4 – Drive-thru Take-out only
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Top presidential advisor warns against confirming mayor

By Charles Sercombe

Mayor Amer Ghalib has one key influential advisor to President Trump who is opposed to his nomination to be ambassador to Kuwait.

And that's right-wing conservative Laura Loomer, who reportedly has unique access to Trump, and was previously successful in convincing him to fire several top aides, suspend Palestinian visitor visas and remove a surgeon general nominee.

She recently posted on social media that Ghalib "needs to be stopped by US Senators ahead of his Senate confirmation hearing."

She also urged the public to "call your Senators and tell them to oppose the nomination of radical Muslim Amer Ghalib ..."

Loomer also characterized Hamtramck as "one of the most radical Islamic cities in America."

It didn't stop there, as Loomer went on to criticize Ghalib for being anti-LGBTQ, allowing animal slaughtering at homes and for being critical of Israel and supporting Hamas.

"Amer Ghalib's ambassadorship should be revoked. We can't allow Islamification of the West to be supported from within the White House," Loomer added.

Mayor Ghalib told The Re-

view that he is aware of critics and "of all the emails/messages about me, sent by local residents, officials and reporters, to some senators and to Laura Loomer."

Ghalib continued: "I understand the desperate attempts of those locals to disqualify me, because they have failed to defeat me in elections, through their games, or in courts, or on the ground. Their only hope is to defeat me through spreading hate speech, misinformation, and deception, which is unethical and shameful behavior."

Ghalib said that, if he does not get confirmed, there is an "alternative" plan.

"In case I don't get confirmed, my political career will never end the way my opponents wish for," Ghalib said.

"Worst-case scenario is to come back and run for a higher public office such as Congress or something else, which will give me more flexibility and more freedom to express my political views. However, I trust that President Trump will continue to be loyal and supportive."

Seemingly adding fuel to the fire, President Trump was recently quoted as saying that people from other countries should not be allowed to serve in U.S. government.

Ghalib is a Muslim immigrant from Yemen, which Trump has re-imposed a travel ban on.

Trump particularly took aim at U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN), a Muslim im-

migrant from Somalia.

Immigrants like Omar, Trump said, "come from a place with nothing... and then they tell us how to run our country."

Trump's own grandfather, Friedrich, immigrated to the U.S. in October of 1885 at the age of 16, fleeing Germany to escape their then-compulsory three-year military service; Germans were welcomed at that time, according to History.com.

Trump nominated Ghalib to be ambassador to

Kuwait, apparently in return for Ghalib's support of him to again become president in the 2024 election.

Ghalib said he had previously supported Democrats, but this time backed Trump because of his campaign promise to end the wars in Ukraine and in Gaza, among other reasons.

Since being in office, those wars have only worsened, and Trump has even encouraged Israel to "finish the job" in clearing out Gaza of Palestinians.

SUPPORT OUR FOOD PANTRY

Our Pantry Program is a testament to our community's strength and resilience. Together, we can help our community members in finding their path towards stability and self-sufficiency.

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Sept. 27, 2025

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This week at the Library . . .

September 26, 2025

Yoga at the Library: The exercise program featuring Yoga will start again on Tuesday's at 2:30 pm starting September 2, 2025. The class is limited to 10 participants, so please register early to secure your place.

California: On September 28, 1542 a Portuguese navigator, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo discovered California upon his arrival at San Diego Bay.

Enrico Fermi: This nuclear physicist was born on September 29, 1901 in Rome. While teaching at the University of Chicago, he developed a method of causing nuclear fission, producing a chain reaction releasing explosive nuclear energy which led to the development of the Atomic bombs.

Truman Capote: This American writer was born on September 30, 1924 in New Orleans, Louisiana (as Truman Streckfus Persons). He took the last name of his stepfather, becoming Truman Capote. Best known for "Breakfast at Tiffany" and "In Cold Blood".

Model T: Henry Ford's Model T, a "universal car" designed for the masses, went on sale for the first time on October 1, 1908.

Thurgood Marshall: On October 2, 1967, Marshall was sworn in as the first African American associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. He served until 1991 and was known for opposing discrimination and the death penalty, and for championing free speech and civil liberties.

ESL Classes: These classes are held Monday to Thursday at 9 am and 12 noon. To participate, you must register with the Horizon School.

Redwood National Park: In California, this park was established on October 2, 1968. Redwoods are the tallest of all trees, growing up to 400 feet tall during their lifetime that can span 2,000 years.

Thanksgiving Day: President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation on October 3, 1863, designating the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.

Space Age: It was on October 4, 1957 that the Space Age began as the Russians launched the first satellite into orbit, Sputnik I weighted just 184 lbs., and transmitted a beeping radio signal for 21 days. The remarkable accomplishment by Soviet Russia sent a shockwave through the American political leadership resulting in U.S. efforts to be the first on the moon.

Vaclav Havel: This Czech playwright and political leader was born on October 5, 1936 in Prague. He spent over 5 years in prison for speaking out against government abuses. He went on to lead the peaceful "velvet Revolution" in 1989.

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.

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

Hamtramck's election integrity is at risk

Like many in the community, we are alarmed over what looks like brazen ballot stuffing prior to the August Primary Election.

Recently, more surveillance recordings involving various people who were apparently illegally handling absentee ballots, including Hamtramck City Councilmember Abu Musa, were posted on various social media sites.

While Musa did not directly deposit the ballots, the recordings show him handing ballots to the driver of the vehicle which Musa is in the passenger seat of, who in turn placed them

into a drop box across from city hall.

In one stomach-turning moment, an unidentified person is seen sticking handfuls of ballots into the drop box, even to the point of having a hard time getting them all into the box.

This is beyond outrageous; it's a serious assault on the integrity of our elections.

We've been told by sources that there is an investigation ongoing into this activity, and we've also been told, that no, there is no interest in pursuing the matter.

It's unbelievable that this wouldn't be of inter-

est to investigative authorities. If no charges ever materialize, this would only serve as a green light for candidates to continue illegally rounding up absentee ballots.

Yes, there are two councilmembers, Mohammed Hassan and Muhtasin Sadman, who have already been charged with election fraud, but those charges stem from the 2023 election.

Hamtramck, unfortunately, appears to have attracted a lot of bad actors into its city elections.

It's high time we clean house.

On the campaign trail ... In an immigrant city, the English language can be a challenge

By Charles Sercombe

Local campaigns always have their special quirks, and sometimes, unintentionally, there are moments when things can turn amusing.

With that in mind, and we mean no disrespect, City Councilmember and mayoral hopeful Muhith Mahmood may want to work on his pronunciation and enunciation skills.

In a slick campaign video he posted on Facebook, Mahmood, at times sporting a pale blue sport coat with bursts of yellow highlighting, says the usual things about Hamtramck being a diverse community, and about building an even better community.

But, in the process of that, at about the 1:30 minute mark in his campaign promotion, he says something that might have some scratching their heads and wondering, "Did he just say what I think he said?"

In that brief two-minute clip, Mahmood, an immigrant from Bangladesh, says what sounds like:

"I believe in Hamtramck. I believe in the power of the people. With your trust, we can build an X-rated (unintelligible) City of Hamtra-

mck." It took multiple listens, as well as engaging others to help figure out what he actually did say, and it wasn't easy for anyone.

But, it was finally agreed upon that what he said is actually: "...next greater chapter of the City of Hamtramck."

So no, he's not advocating to turn Hamtramck into an adult theater playground. But it did give some of us a chuckle about the possibility.

The Review reached out for comment on Mahmood's Facebook page through his messenger, but he did not reply.

We don't bring this all up to make fun of Mr. Mahmood, but it should be stressed that it is critical, in politics, to be clearly understood, especially when dealing in higher stakes matters.

It should also be pointed out that Hamtramck has long been a home for immigrants who, throughout the decades, have had their issues with the English language.

Heck, even plenty of native-born folks here have struggled with the language, which is one of the hardest languages to learn. And we won't even get into the British (original) version of Eng-

lish. (An old joke goes: America and England are two nations divided by the same language.)

No matter what he said, commenters on Facebook were fast to point out that he is also under investigation of not being a resident of the city.

"He's asking for trust, we're asking for transparency. Live here if you wanna serve the community," said Pedro Torres.

Mahmood has denied the accusation. Councilmember Abu Musa is likewise under investigation for not being a resident, and he, too, denies the accusation.

Both admit that their families live outside of Hamtramck. Mahmood's lives in Troy, and Musa's lives in Warren.

Mahmood, who is in his first term on council, is facing off with Adam Alharbi, who has the endorsement of Mayor Amer Ghalib, in the November General Election.

Alharbi was the top vote-getter in the August Primary Election.

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

Odds & Ends

Business offer ... Are you a budding entrepreneur? Need a financial lift to get a business off the ground?

Well, if so, step right up and reach out to the city's Community & Economic Development Department. They have an exciting offer.

We'll let the city explain: "The City of Hamtramck, in partnership with ProsperUs Detroit, is launching Amanah Financing - a 0% interest, \$0 fee, Islamic-compliant loan program pilot made possible through a \$20,000 grant from the National League of Cities.

"This program is designed to help entrepreneurs who face barriers to traditional financing launch, or grow, their businesses."

Here are the details:

- Small dollar loans up to \$2,500 (Islamic-Compliant design, 0% interest, \$0 fees).

- Open to all entrepreneurs who live in Hamtramck or operate a business in Hamtramck.

- Both start-ups and existing businesses are encouraged to apply.

- Awards made on a rolling basis until funds run out.

The deadline: All funds must be awarded by Dec. 31, 2025, so apply soon.

Apply by going online to: <https://prosperusdetroit.org/amanah/>

For more details, call the Community & Economic Development Director at (313) 800-5233, extension 316 or email at: iallaway@hamtramckcity.gov.

kcity.gov.

You can learn more in person at the Hamtramck Night Bazaar on Saturday, Oct. 4, 4-9 p.m. at Pope Park (10037 Jos. Campau). ProsperUs Detroit will have a booth set up to speak with entrepreneurs about this program.

See how the "sausage is made"... Ever wonder how an artist works at their craft?

Well, you can get some intimate glimpses into the artistic process on, yep, Saturday, Oct. 4 here in Hamtramck - that's going to be one busy day in this town - as the 15th annual Neighborhood Arts Festival emerges into the light once again.

A truly cool idea, volunteer artists, performers and hosts will open up their porches, homes and work studios to entertain the Hamtramck street traveler.

We'll have more on this next week as well, but for now, you can just make an easier "walk" on over to their website (remember how your "fingers did the walking" through the Yellow Pages in those old commercials... Uh, yeah, us neither) at hnaf.org, and get all the info you could ever want.

Get your walking shoes on!

Party like it's 1925! ... Or not, but why not take a trip back a century or so, and party Jazz-age style with some real "swells"?

The Prohibition Era in the U.S. ran from 1920

to 1933. Booze was deemed a social ill that was causing too many problems and too much pain.

Carrie Nation (her real, albeit second married, name), the "Hatchet Granny" who once described herself as "a bulldog running along at the feet of Jesus, barking at what He doesn't like," - now there's an image that might even turn you to drink. Under political pressure at the time, although just how much pressure is debatable, Congress made it illegal to manufacture, distribute and consume alcohol.

Which, of course, led to criminals keeping it all going strong. And that ushered in the era of organized crime.

You'll probably hear a cool batch of such fun facts at the Hamtramck Historical Museum on Saturday, Oct. 4, as they host their second Prohibition Fundraiser. It's a 1920s-themed party, and last year it was one of the events of the season for sure.

We've mentioned it before and we'll have more on it next week, but for now, just go to their website at hamtramckhistory.com and read all about it.

Last chance for some out-of-the-box shopping ... A week from tomorrow, Saturday, Oct. 4, will be your last chance to attend a Hamtramck Night Bazaar for the rest of this year.

A brainchild of Discover **Continued on page 6**

GOOD NEWS

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Deadline for classifieds for next week is Thursday at Noon

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September 26, 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?

Garbarino v/s City of Hamtramck (is lawsuit filed?)
Interview with Mayor of Warren, Lori Stone
Councilman Abu Musa elected Mayor Pro Tem
ESL Classes start a new school year at the library
Hamtramck Labor Day Parade 2025
Termination of Hamtramck City Manager by Council and 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



By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Sept. 16-22.

Tuesday, Sept. 16

- A theft was reported in the 1900 block of Trowbridge.
- A person was reported missing in the 2600 block of Poland.
- A theft from a vehicle was reported in the 3200 block of Caniff.
- A vehicle was stolen on Dequindre.
- A business on Conant reported trouble with a customer.
- Trouble between neighbors was reported in the 3900 block of Doremus.
- A fight was reported at Lumpkin and Yemans.

Wednesday, Sept. 17

- A business on Jos. Campau reported a disorderly customer.
- A theft from a vehicle was reported on Jos. Campau.
- A male suspect was arrested for driving with a suspended license, and for having a fraudulent tab on a license plate.
- A business in the 2000 block of Caniff reported trouble with a customer.

Thursday, Sept. 18

- A business on Conant reported an incident of fraud.
- A complaint was made about a juvenile on Conant.
- A suspect was arrested on Danforth for domestic assault.
- A fight was reported in the 9200 block of Jos. Campau.
- A hit-and-run accident was reported in the 2400 block of Holmes.

Friday, Sept. 19

- At about 4 a.m., a hit-and-run accident was reported at Holbrook and St. Aubin.
- A gun was reported lost on Hanley.
- A fight was reported at Sobieski and Caniff.
- A theft was reported at Jos. Campau and Council.
- Family trouble was reported in the 12000

block of Dyar.

- A male suspect was arrested for sexual assault in the 11400 block of Dyar.

Saturday, Sept. 20

- Officers, investigating a call about suspicious circumstances in the area of Jos. Campau and Zinow, arrested a suspect for assault.
- Officers, responding to a call about a fight in the 3800 block of Evaline, arrested a male suspect for domestic assault, and also arrested a juvenile for carrying a concealed weapon and for possessing stolen property.
- A complaint was made about noise on Carpenter.
- Officers, responding to a call about a fight in the area of Edwin and Dequindre, arrested a suspect for assault.

Sunday, Sept. 21

- At 3:30 a.m., officers, responding to a call about suspicious circumstances in the area of Conant and Jacob, arrested a male suspect for assault, obstruction, and for being disorderly.
- A complaint was made about a person trespassing on Holbrook.
- A theft from a vehicle was reported.
- A complaint was made about a juvenile in the area of Fleming and Commor.
- A break-in was reported in the 5000 block of Belmont.
- Officers, responding to a call about a fight in the 12000 block of Grand Haven, arrested a suspect for assault.

Monday, Sept. 22

- A fight was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
- A theft from a vehicle was reported on McDougall.
- A vehicle was reported stolen on Jos. Campau.
- Trouble was reported between neighbors on Selfridge.

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Investment deal not for Hamtramck

Continued from front page

for Ghalib's influence in bringing other Arab-Americans on board the Trump bandwagon.

Previously a backer of Democratic candidates, Ghalib threw his support behind Trump in the 2024 presidential election because Trump promised to end the wars in Ukraine and Gaza in one day. That campaign boast

was widely discredited, and the wars have only gotten worse since Trump has been president.

Ghalib is still unwavering in his support of Trump, despite the latter encouraging Israel to "finish the job" in Gaza, and his backing a plan to relocate Palestinians out of Gaza to neighboring countries.

Coming Events

SATURDAY, Oct. 4, 2-4 p.m. – Take-out only Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. \$15 Adult/\$8 Child 12 & under. Menu: Pork Chop, Kielbasa, Pierogi/sour cream, Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes/gravy, Desert. Cars will be staged in parking lot for delivery in front of church.



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 Aug. 26, and all councilmembers were in attendance.

Community Economic Development Director Isabel Allaway gave an update on the Downtown Development Authority's application to be part of a state program that "provides technical assistance, training, and resources to strengthen downtowns and commercial districts. Participation in the program will help support

Hamtramck's small businesses, attract new investment, and promote revitalization of the city's core commercial area."

The program is officially called the Select Level of the Michigan Main Street.

In public comment, an email was read that was from a community organizer from Jackson Heights in Queens, New York, who praised Hamtramck Police Chief Jamiel Altaheri.

The activist said Altahe-

ri did a "phenomenal job serving our community," when he was a police officer. The activist went on to say that Altaheri had "a unique way of serving the people."

A resident complained about Hamtramck police conducting high-speed chases, which they said endanger the public.

"Please do better, Hamtramck Police Department," the resident said.

Charles Blackwell said that the "election fraudsters will look good in a

Wayne County jail jump-suit."

He did not specify to whom he was referring.

Another commenter said that, according to an internal investigation by the law firm Miller Johnson into allegations of wrongdoing by the police chief, a police investigator and City Manager Garbarino, the city will expose itself to financial liability if Garbarino is fired.

And that financial liability, as the result of a successful lawsuit, would "fall on residents," the person said.

Later in the meeting, and after an hour-long closed meeting, the council voted to fire Garbarino, with Councilmember Khalil Refai abstaining (Refai has never explained why he abstained in the vote.).

Mayor Amer Ghalib said that, since the council does not have the authority to fire the police chief and the police investigator, he recommended that the interim city manager fire them.

The interim city manager, Syed Aamir Ahsan, eventually did fire the police chief, and also took steps to fire the police investigator (per union rules).

Continuing in public comment, Jozef Slanda urged the council to "go after the criminals, not the whistleblowers," and not fire City Manager Garbarino.

Russ Gordon, who is a former chairman of the Hamtramck Human Relations Commission, said he is "disgusted by the corruption in this town right now. This council is like nothing I've seen in the 30 years I've been here."

On City Manager Garbarino, Gordon said "He's done more here than any other city manager I've seen since I've been in town for 30 years."

Bill Meyer said that the law firm Miller Johnson's report on alleged wrongdoing was "not biased."

As for City Manager Garbarino, Meyer said he's "always been a great city manager, he's committed to the people of the city, and he's just made some mistakes - like getting in-

involved with certain people that he shouldn't have - but that doesn't make him a bad person."

(Meyer did not elaborate on the identity of the "certain people" he referenced.)

As for those accused or suspected of ballot harvesting, Meyer said "you can still find that person to be a human person. He's a human being that might be doing something wrong."

Diane Frkan said she is "disturbed" by the Miller Johnson report that the police chief allegedly drove drunk.

Frkan said the chief endangered the public.

"What message does that send about our police department, when officers did not intervene and allowed their chief to drive intoxicated?" Frkan said.

"Such activities are not only unacceptable but disgraceful, and they undermine the very integrity of our public safety system. Our police department should stand as a symbol of professionalism, accountability and public trust."

As for the two councilmembers charged with election law violations, Frkan said they should resign "or be removed from their positions."

She also said that Councilmembers Abu Musa and Muhith Mahmood, who are under investigation for being non-residents, "should withdraw from the primary election."

But, instead of doing this, the council is "retaliating against our city manager."

Former city councilmember Cathy Gordon spoke out against the council and mayor.

"It breaks my heart to see what's going on here," Gordon said. "Mayor Ghalib, I shake my head every time I look at you. I think your heart is in Kuwait, not Hamtramck."

(Mayor Ghalib is waiting to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate to become the next ambassador to Kuwait. Gordon is no longer a resident of the city.)

Gordon added that the council has made decisions that violate the city's charter, and have also violated the charter by talking directly with department heads instead of strictly through the city manager.

"You can't go around telling people what to do," Gordon said.

Mike Petrack, who owns Dos Locos Tacos on Jos. Campau, said that "As far as I'm concerned, this council doesn't have enough legitimate members to make a quorum right now. You would be doing the city a favor if you sat down."

Joan Bittner, who owns the Polish Art Center on Jos. Campau, said the media attention on Hamtramck has been "embarrassing."

To the council and mayor, she said: "You

all need to behave and conduct yourselves in a much more professional manner."

Bittner also supported City Manager Garbarino, saying that he resolved problems, and that the council and mayor should "Let him do his job from the beginning, and hire the police chief."

Garbarino had favored hiring an officer within the police department instead of hiring Police Chief Altaheri.

Former councilmember Adam Albarmaki said he is "disappointed" about the various allegations "and drama happening in the city, and I hope the mayor and council and new city manager would do something about it."

Moving on to new business, the council OK'd site plans for a new development at 9401 Conant. The development will be a two-story building to be constructed on an empty lot. The ground floor will be for retail and the upper floor will have three apartments.

In another new development, the council approved a plan to build a two-story building at 9327 Gallagher that will be used for a medical clinic and commercial rental space.

The police department was given the go-ahead to purchase four Dell laptops for patrol cars as part of an upgrade. The purchase cost is \$16,253, and will come from the department's narcotic forfeiture fund.

In unfinished business, the council approved a development at 8760 Jos. Campau where a one-story building will be constructed. The space will be for retail.

In Mayor Ghalib's report, he said that he and the council had to make "some difficult decisions today, based on the recommendation" of the internal investigation conducted by the law firm Miller Johnson regarding the city manager, police chief and a police investigator.

He said he and the council did not want to fire anyone, "but it seems like the only solution at this time, or the safest one."

Ghalib also said that he met with White House officials with the Trump administration, where he asked for "a lot of resources" for the city.

"If it gets approved, we see some positive signs it's going to solve some chronic issues for the city that we have been suffering the last decade."

He said this would include funding for shoring up city finances, public safety and infrastructure.

If his request is OK'd, Ghalib said "I'll consider this visit the most productive visit in the history of Hamtramck, and I would be happy to accomplish something for the community before I leave."

Regarding allegations **Continued on page 6**



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CITY OF HAMTRAMCK NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

Please take notice that the public testing of the equipment and the program to be used for tallying the results of the General Election of Tuesday, November 4, 2025, will be held on October 6, 2025, at 2 p.m. The test will take place in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall located at 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, MI 48212. All interested parties are invited to observe.

হামট্রামেক শহর

পাবলিক নির্ভুলতা পরীক্ষার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অনুগ্রহ করে লক্ষ্য করুন যে সরঞ্জামগুলির সর্বজনীন পরীক্ষা এবং মঙ্গলবার, নভেম্বর ৪, ২০২৫ প্রাথমিক নির্বাচনের ফলাফলগণনা করার জন্য ব্যবহৃত প্রোগ্রামটি ৬ অক্টোবর, ২০২৫, বিকাল ২ টায় অনশ্চিত হবে। পরীক্ষাটি সিটি হলের দ্বিতীয়তলায় ৩৪০১ এভ্যালাইন স্ট্রিট, হামট্রামেক, ৪৮২১২ এ অবস্থিত কাউন্সিল চেম্বারে অনশ্চিত হবে। সকল আগ্রহী পক্ষকে পর্যবেক্ষণ করার জন্য আমন্ত্রণ জানানো হচ্ছে।

إشعار باختبار عام للدقة

يرجى ملاحظة أن الاختبار العام للمعدات والبرنامج الذي سيتم استخدامه لحساب نتائج الانتخابات العامة اليوم الثلاثاء 4 نوفمبر 2025، سيعقد في أكتوبر 6، 2025، مساءً. سيجري الاختبار في قاعة مجلس أعضاء بلدية مدينة هامت رامك في الطابق الثاني في مبنى بلدية المدينة الواقع في 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, MI جميع الأطراف المهتمة مدعوة للمراقبة.

Odds & Ends

Continued from page 3

Hamtramck and the city's Downtown Development Authority (DDA), these are fun and family-friendly events held in Pope Park, 10037 Jos. Campau at Belmont. Hours are from 4 p.m. – 9 p.m.

In the past, vendors have signed up to have booths that offer everything from food to clothing to hen-

na body designs; used books, flowers, and more. Vendors can, and do, change from month to month.

These events are generally held on the first Saturdays of the month from June through October. There will be a bathroom on site. Walking to the event is a great idea, alt-

hough there should be ample street parking during those hours.

They may or may not have already filled their slate of vendors for this final one. You can check with Discover Hamtramck by emailing them: discoverhamtramck@gmail.com, or direct messaging them: @DiscoverHamtramck.

Last chance 'til next June!

A warning to candidates about the city's shaky financial picture

By Charles Sercombe

Although former city councilmember Joe Strzalka lost his bid to come back to council after many years working overseas with the State Department, he has some friendly advice for those who will serve.

And that's to read the financial projection that the auditing firm Plante Moran put together in 2022.

"Hamtramck's fiscal health should be a major issue as we enter the general election," Strzalka said in a Facebook post.

"The financial forecast report ... predicts a shortfall every year starting in 2026, with a general fund balance of negative \$1.2 million in 2029.

"Each candidate should address the budget projections and exactly which taxes they will raise, or which services will be cut. If the answer is to seek grants, they should be asked to name the grant, how much is the grant, and what can the money be used for.

"If the answer is to reduce spending, they should specifically state which department will be cut, and which positions will be eliminated. Failure to address the situation will once again result in a

state takeover of Hamtramck.

"It is reasonable to believe that another takeover of Hamtramck will lead to a merger with Detroit. This would likely involve some sort of bankruptcy proceeding to eliminate our pension obligation, as Detroit would not be willing to take on our debt.

"Any proceeding would involve selling off city assets including parks and buildings. Is this what the elected officials want?"

Hamtramck has enjoyed the financial benefits of various federal and covid-era grants to cover its costs in recent years – especially, a \$16 million grant from the state to stabilize the city's

pension fund.

But, those grants were largely one-time only, and the city is back to the reality of dealing with cost obligations outweighing revenue – in other words deficit spending.

At the same time, city hall has been weathering a number of scandals, including election fraud allegations some city councilmembers are currently facing.

There could potentially be three new councilmembers who come on board in January who have no prior experience in city government, and there will also be a new mayor, but again, without government experience.

City Hall Insider ...



Continued from page 5

of corruption among some council members, Councilmember Mohamed Hassan, who has been charged with election fraud, said that "people are not guilty."

Hassan said the internal investigation by Miller Johnson proved that no elected person was to blame.

(Miller Johnson investigated allegations of wrongdoing by the city manager, police chief and a police investigator – not elected officials.)

He urged the media

to take notice and said, "Please, corruption (has) nothing to do with us. You can blame the election thing on us, no problem, but it's not corruption. Corruption is them, not us."

He did not identify who is "them."

In public comment, Bill Meyer said that there was "a lot of hate in this city, and that's being eliminated by the levelheadedness that you people (the council and mayor) are trying to bring to the city."

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From the Office of Wayne County Treasurer Eric R. Sabree



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