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Volume 17 No. 40

October 3, 2025

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Quick Hits

County Treasurer hits the road to offer services

By Charles Sercombe

Need to do business with the Wayne County Treasury's Office, but don't have time to visit its downtown office?

Wayne County Treasurer Eric Sabree is now making doing business with his office a whole lot easier.

Recently, Sabree announced a mobile office you can go to without the hassle of finding parking downtown.

"The new mobile unit will provide Wayne County residents easier access to taxpayer services year-round, by traveling to communities across Wayne County and making it more convenient for property owners to pay their taxes and enroll in taxpayer-assistance programs designed to help properties owners with financial challenges in this tough economy," said Sabree in a press release. "The new mobile office can provide county property tax services and information to people right in their own communities."

The mobile office will travel county-wide to community centers and local events, so that Taxpayer Assistance teams can provide services to local residents close to home.

"Our goal is to make Wayne County Treasurer's services and information easily available, and the new mobile office is another way we can help Wayne County residents keep their properties and stay in their homes," said Sabree.

To learn more about scheduling a mobile office visit to your community, or to find out when the mobile office will be in your area, go to waynecounty.mi.gov/treasurer.

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

An alley is reborn and Hamtramck throws a party

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck might be the only city in the whole U.S.A. that would think to celebrate the repaving of an alley with a party.

Or, as the old saying goes: "Only in Hamtramck."

But, to be fair – and not make it seem silly – this is no ordinary alley.

The alley in question runs along Goodson next to Veterans Park, and serves as a thoroughway for neighborhood residents to get into the park. For years, it's been potholed and dicey for pedestrians to walk on without, perhaps, spraining an ankle.

The host of Tuesday's celebration was the Hamtramck Parks Conservancy, who described it as a way to "bring this alley back to life."

The two-hour party featured chess games from members of Bumbo's Chess Club (Hamtramck's Bumbo's bar) and the Wise Guy's Chess Club (from Highland Park).

Also to be enjoyed were lessons on Frisbee throwing and a jump rope station.

The only thing missing? How about a marching band? Or maybe jugglers, because who doesn't like jugglers?

We kid, sort of.

In all seriousness, the alley still has that "new cement scent," and, as one Frisbee-loving kid said, "It's smooth."

For those wondering as to the cost of the repaving effort, hold onto your wallets: \$525,000, paid for out of the city's water and sewer fund.

Three join election as write-ins

By Charles Sercombe

The upcoming Nov. 4 city election just got a whole lot more interesting.

Two city council candidates who didn't make the final cut in the August Primary Election, Joe Strzalka and Diane Elizabeth Frkan, are running write-in campaigns to give it one more shot.

Also, former city council candidate Lynn Blasey, who failed to win a seat on council two times in other years, is now seeking the top job as mayor, also as a write-in candidate.

Strzalka, who is a former councilmember and now retired from the U.S. State Department, said he is getting feedback from some voters that they were going to write his name in anyway.

That would not have counted, because candidates have to register as a write-in in order for the votes to be legitimate.

So, with that in mind, Strzalka said he was "honored" – and filed.

"In some ways, it's a protest vote," Strzalka said.

Strzalka continued: "There are many people who feel there were irregularities in the primary, and they have no legitimate candidate to vote for. This way, people can still vote in the general election without voting for a person believed to have committed election fraud."

Although write-in candidates are usually considered longshots, it does sometimes work. Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan is a prime example of running as a successful write-in candidate, as he did for his first term.

Frkan, who was the only woman on the August ballot, told The Review that the reason she is running again is "because our community deserves a stronger, independent leadership that puts its residents first. I refuse to sit back, when I know that I can contribute to posi-

Continued on page 2



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Oct 8 - Holy Mass 9 am
Oct 11 – Holy Mass 9 am
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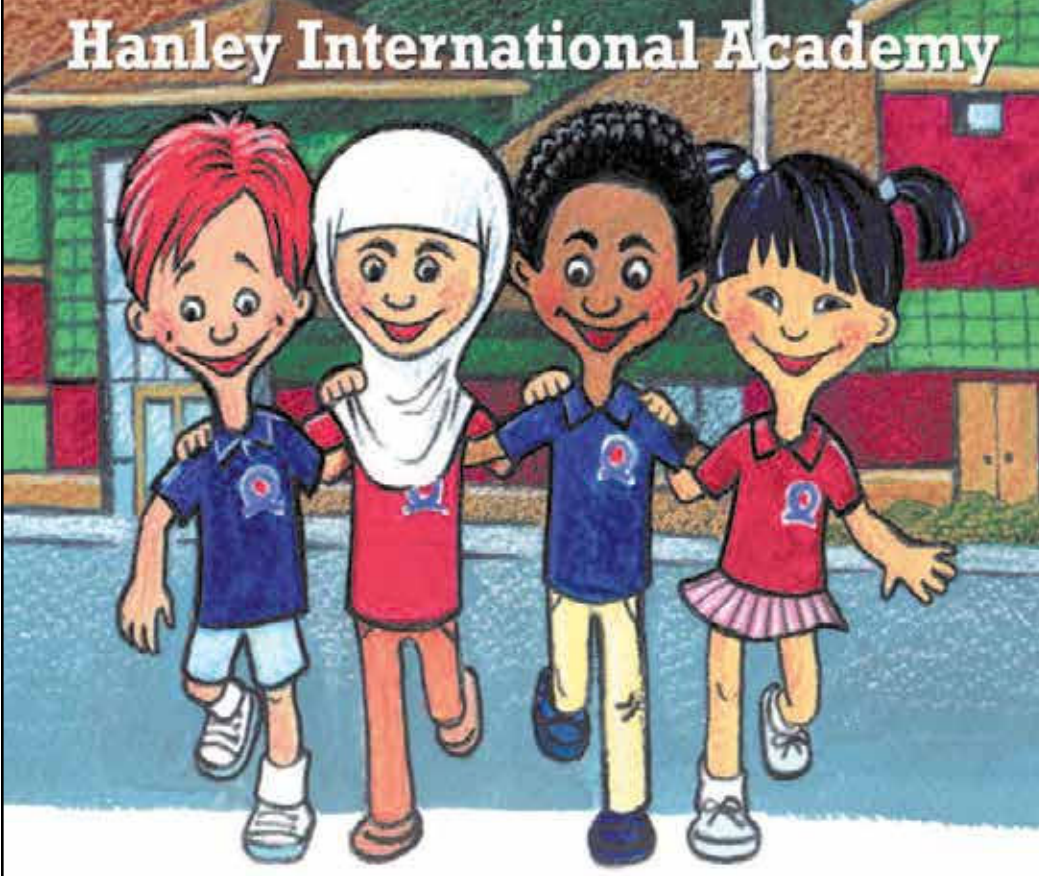
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Three join election as write-ins

Continued from front page

tive change, to be a part of a City Council rooted in accountability, transparency, and responsibility for a better future for Hamtramck.”

Blasey said she is seeking the mayor’s seat because there were “several community members, from all backgrounds, who weren’t planning on voting or (would be) turning in a ballot without any vote for mayor because they didn’t feel comfortable voting for either of our mayoral candidates.

“I’m running to encourage continued participation in our democratic process, and to give folks a choice they can feel good about.”

The mayor’s seat is wide-open due to Mayor Amer Ghalib not seeking re-election while he awaits being confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be the next ambassador to Kuwait.

Blasey will be joined by mayoral candidates Muhih Mahmood and Adam Alharbi.

Mahmood decided not to seek re-election to council, and instead is seeking the city’s top elected job.

Alharbi is a supporter of Ghalib, and has been endorsed by the mayor. He appears to be the leading candidate.

In the city council race, Strzalka and Frkan are up against the following candidates:

Current Councilmember Abu Musa, former Councilmember Nayeem Choudhury and newcomers, Yousuf Saed, Motahar Fadhel, Abdulmalik Kassim, and Luqman Saleh.

In other election news, absentee ballots are now available. There is still plenty of time for those who are not registered voters to sign up, and you can even register on the day of election and be able to vote.

To qualify to vote in Hamtramck, you must be a resident and at least 18 years old.

At Dickinson East Elementary, a sewage odor raises a stink

By Charles Sercombe

A mysterious foul odor wafted through Dickinson East Elementary School last week, that raised health concerns and questions about the school district’s response.

A teacher at the school, who asked not to be named for fear of reprisal, brought media attention last week over a sewer stench that caused a number of teachers and students to complain.

According to the teacher, going to the media was a last resort, after being frustrated that no one from the district office took timely action to remedy the issue.

According to a Channel 2 Fox News report, district Interim Superintendent James Larson-Shidler said that the odor came from a malfunctioning sump pump in the school’s boiler room, but that it was only temporary.

Larson-Shidler told the news station that the problem had been taken care of, and that repair crews acted on the matter promptly.

On Monday of this week, the teacher told The Review that, while the odor had largely been abated, it still lingered.

“The smell is not as bad,” the teacher said. “It’s to the point where we can actually work in the office.”

But the teacher said this issue highlighted more than just a problem with the building, it also illustrated a “lack of transparency” from the administration.

“They told us we were making a big deal out of a small issue. We weren’t taken seriously” the teacher told The Review. “They haven’t been transparent with the staff or the parents.”

The Review reached out to Larson-Shidler, who said that, as of Monday of this week, “No odor issues were observed at that time.”

He also said that the original problem was caused by heavy rains that created a high water level in the sewer system next to the school. That led to a failure in being able to pump all the water out.

Shidler said the sump pump is now working.

In another matter, at the Sept. 10 school board meeting, a parent complained that there are no nearby restrooms for the special education students who are taught in the basement.

The parent said students have to go up a flight of stairs to use the nearest restrooms.

Also, another parent complained about the smoke bombs that are deployed at soccer games by the Detroit City Football Club in Keyworth Stadium. He said the smoke is “suffocating” the neighborhood next to the stadium.

“We have kids around the blocks who have asthma,” Shukri Kassim said. “Two kids ended up in the hospital because of that last month. We are asking for cooperation from you guys before this season ends so we can start smoothly next season, otherwise it’s going to escalate.”

Kassim said attorneys have been contacted to take action against the district.

School board members did not respond because it is the board’s policy to refer all questions and concerns to the appropriate department.

In the past, residents have complained that there is no follow-up from the district on matters that are brought up at board meetings.

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

October 3, 2025

This week at the Library . . .

Exercise at the Library: The RIM Foundation was begun exercise classes again this fall. On Tuesdays, its back to Yoga at 2:30 pm. and on Fridays, it is Tai Chi at 10:00 am. To register for the program, stop by the library circulation desk.

Jazz at the Library: Sky Covington is coming back with Jazz classes starting in the mid October. More information coming soon.

Great Fire of Chicago: According to legend, it started on October 8, 1871, when Mrs. O’Leary’s cow kicked over a lantern in her barn on DeKoven Street. Over 300 persons died and 90,000 were left homeless as the fire leveled 3.5 square miles, destroying 17,450 buildings. Financial losses totaled over \$200 million.

Albert Einstein: On October 11, 1939, he warned President Franklin D. Roosevelt that his theories could lead to Nazi Germany’s development of an atomic bomb. Einstein suggested the U.S. develop its own bomb. This resulted in the top secret “Manhattan Project”.

Columbus: On October 12, 1492, after a 33 day voyage, Christopher Columbus made his first landfall in the New World in the Bahamas. He named the first land sighted as El Salvador, claiming it in the name of the Spanish Crown. Columbus was seeking a western sea route from Europe to Asia and believed he had found an island of the Indies. He thus called the first island natives he met

“Indians”.

White House: On October 13, 1792, the cornerstone of the White House was laid by George Washington. The building, located at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, is three stories tall with over 100 rooms, and was designed by James Hoban. In November of 1800, President John Adams and his family moved in. The building was first known as the “Presidential Palace”, but acquired the name “White House” about 10 years after its completion. It was burned by British troops in 1814, then reconstructed, refurbished and reoccupied in 1817.

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

Greenwich: On October 13, 1884 it was established as the universal time from which standard times throughout the world are calculated.

Roosevelt: Former President Theodore Roosevelt was shot on October 1, 1912, by a fanatic while campaigning in Milwaukee. Roosevelt was saved by his thick overcoat, a glasses case and folded speech in his breast pocket, all of which slowed the bullet. Although wounded he delivered the speech. He recovered in two weeks.

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

State owes it to the city to insure fair elections

We know the wheels of justice can grind ever-so slowly.

But Hamtramck has serious issues surrounding our election integrity, and an important upcoming election on Nov. 4 – just a few weeks away.

Word has come down that there may be no additional investigations into some very suspicious ballot handling issues. An ongoing question about the residency of two city councilmembers may also be failing to gain further legal traction.

We are crossing our fingers these are still active investigations going forward. But it would behoove Hamtramck residents, and all supporters of free and fair elections, to get involved and

let the powers that be know that Hamtramck matters.

This city is tired of the games being played come election times, as some see this as a sport and Hamtramck as a political playground.

To state the obvious: All elections matter, no matter how large or small the city or the ledger of candidates.

That's because corruption can spread, and turn things rotten quickly.

Right now, the city has a not-rosy financial picture for the coming years, according to a recent independent financial report. In other words, the city is now in deficit spending, and will continue in this direction.

That means we have burned through our bud-

get surplus, and we are on track to soon be in a position where that extra cash is gone. At that point, the city will not be able to pay its bills.

And that would be a recipe for another state takeover, unless some critical and unpopular financial decisions are made. Either we do it ourselves, or someone appointed by the state will come here to make those decisions.

We've seen these state takeovers happen twice before, and those have not been pleasant times for Hamtramck.

Speak up, people, and let those who are looking into any election fraud know that the public has a right to be able to fully trust in its elections results.

Other Voices: Guest Editorial

For Fire Prevention Week, follow battery safety guidelines

By Matthew Wyszczelski
Hamtramck Fire Chief

The theme for Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 5–11, is “Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home.” It highlights how important it is to buy, charge, and recycle lithium-ion batteries safely.

Most of the electronics we use in our homes every day — smartphones, tablets, power and lawn tools, laptops, e-cigarettes, headphones, and toys, to name just a few — are powered by lithium-ion batteries. In fact, most everything that's rechargeable uses this type of battery.

If not used correctly or if damaged, lithium-ion batteries can overheat, start a fire, or even explode. To reduce these risks, look around your home — it's important to know which devices are powered by them. Lithium-ion batteries are powerful, convenient, and they're just about everywhere.

This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign helps people understand the importance of using these batteries correctly to prevent fires in the

tion Week (FPW) for more than 100 years — to promote this year's FPW campaign, “Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home.” It highlights how important it is to buy, charge, and recycle lithium-ion batteries safely.

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This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign helps people understand the importance of using these batteries correctly to prevent fires in the

home and to follow the Buy, Charge, and Recycle Safely approach.”

Buy only listed products.

- When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery, take time to research it. Look for a stamp from a nationally recognized testing lab on the packaging and product, which means that it meets important safety standards.
- Many products sold online and in stores may not meet safety standards and could increase the risk of fire.

Charge devices safely.

- Always use the cords that came with the product to charge it. Follow the instructions from the manufacturer.
- If you need a new charger, buy one from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved.
- Charge your device on a hard surface. Don't charge it under a pillow, on a bed, or on a couch. This could cause a fire.
- Don't overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it's fully charged.



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Odds & Ends

Honored ... Friend-to-Hamtramck Wayne County Commissioner Martha G. Scott was recently honored by her home city of Highland Park, Hamtramck's next-door neighbor.

Highland Park has renamed a street in her honor. A celebration was held at that city's historic McGregor Library.

Commissioner Scott has held elected office for a long time, starting with serving on the Highland Park's city council, then as the city's mayor, eventually moving up the political ladder as state legislator and now as Wayne County's commissioner.

Mighty impressive.

As commissioner, Scott has steered hundreds of thousands of dollars here for our parks, and has long been a supporter of the Hamtramck Public School District, sponsoring a yearly essay contest that has awarded students thousands of dollars.

Yes, Commissioner Scott has been a friend indeed to Hamtramck.

The president of the Highland Park NAACP, V. Ricardo Thomas Sr., summed up the feelings of many for Commissioner Scott, saying:

“Congratulations, Queen Servant of the People. Well-deserved.”

Litter bugs ... Attention business owners, the city wants you to know this: pick up the litter.

The litter, that is, in front of your business, and two feet out into the street.

It's actually a city law



Wayne County Commissioner Martha G. Scott was recently honored by her hometown city of Highland Park for her many years of public service. Scott has also been a longtime supporter of Hamtramck Public Schools where she sponsored yearly essay contests. File photo



Business owners are being reminded to clean up litter in front of their buildings, including two feet into the street.

requirement.

Here's what the city recently posted on its Facebook page:

“Business owners, something you think is public property may actually be your responsibility. The City Ordinances hold businesses accountable for all litter on the sidewalk in front of their property, AND in the half of the rear alley closest to their business (if applicable), AND 2 feet into the street past the curb.

“Hamtramck code enforcement will be visiting businesses across the city in the coming weeks to give more information and answer any questions you might have – before enforcement ramps up. We want to make sure everyone knows what is

expected of them, so they aren't caught off guard by a ticket.”

And, in one final note, the city says:

“Nobody wants litter flying around town, and nobody wants a fine. Let's work together to keep our streets beautiful and free of trash.”

Charged ... Hamtramck police officer Saeed Rizvee, 29, of Warren, has found himself on the other side of the law.

He was recently arraigned on a charge of domestic violence by the Macomb County Prosecutor.

Here's what the Prosecutor's Office had to say:

“It is alleged that on

Continued on page 5

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What's on this coming week?

Martha G. Scott street naming ceremony

Fire Department Open House

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

and more

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On Comcast Channel 19 and streaming on YouTube Live (24/7) Google "Hamtramck Public TV", and click on link "Hamtramck Public TV"

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By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Sept. 23-29

Tuesday, Sept. 23

At a little after 11 p.m., a complaint was made about a juvenile in the 12000 block of Dyar violating the city's curfew law.

Gunshots were reported in the area of Dyar and Circle Dr.

A littering complaint was made in the 10300 block of Jos. Campau.

A child was reported missing in the 3200 block of Lehman. The child was later discovered to be in school.

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

Officers, responding to a call about a landlord/tenant dispute in the 11500 block of McDougall, arrested a female suspect for resisting and assaulting an officer; officers also arrested a male suspect for obstruction.

A child custody dispute was reported in the 9400 block of McDougall.

A pedestrian was injured in a hit-and-run incident in the 10000 block of Conant.

Wednesday, Sept. 24

A trespassing complaint was made on Jos. Campau.

A theft was reported at Hamtramck Dr. and Conant.

A complaint was made about a juvenile in the 10000 block of Jos. Campau.

A theft was reported in the 9800 block of Conant.

An attempted theft of a vehicle was reported in the 11400 block of Dyar.

A break-in was reported in the 2700 block of Evaline.

A disorderly group of people was reported in the area of Circle Dr. and Dyar.

Thursday, Sept. 25

Family trouble was reported in the 12000 block of Dyar.

A vehicle was reported stolen on Lumpkin.

Officers, responding to gunshots reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge, arrested two male suspects for assault with intent to murder.

Family trouble was reported in the 3500 block of Caniff.

A vehicle that had been reported stolen in the 12000 block of Dyar was later recovered on the southbound service drive of I-75 and Meade St.

A fight was reported in the 2600 block of Poland.

Friday, Sept. 26

An illegal dumping was reported on Klinger.

A hit-and-run accident

was reported on Holmes near Jos. Campau.

A theft was reported on Trowbridge.

A hit-and-run accident was reported in the area of Holbrook and Latham.

Officers, responding to a call about a suspicious circumstance in the 8800 block of Jos. Campau, arrested a male suspect for assault.

A vehicle was reported stolen in the area of Gallagher and Roosevelt.

A fight was reported in the 12000 block of Grand Haven.

Saturday, Sept. 27

A domestic assault was reported in the 3800 block of Doremus.

A hit-and-run accident was reported in the area of Holbrook and Lumpkin.

A vehicle was reported stolen on Commor.

A break-in was reported in the 12000 block of Nagel.

Trouble between neighbors was reported in the 11400 block of Moran.

Officers, responding to a call about a fight in the 12000 block of Conant, arrested a suspect for assault.

A complaint was made about fireworks in the 12000 block of Selfridge.

Sunday, Sept. 28

Family trouble was reported in the 3100 block of Lehman.

At a little after 2 a.m., a fight was reported in the 3500 block of Caniff. Then, at 4 a.m., another fight was reported in the 3500 block of Caniff. A male suspect and female suspect were arrested at the scene.

A business on Jos. Campau reported an incident of retail fraud.

Officers responded to a call about a person who fell and hit his head on Holbrook.

A business in the 2000 block of Caniff reported trouble with a customer.

Officers, responding to a call about shoplifting at a business in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau, arrested a suspect for retail fraud.

Monday, Sept. 29

A complaint was made about a juvenile in the 12000 block of Dyar.

A domestic assault was reported in the area of Norwalk and Gallagher.

A fight was reported in the area of Jos. Campau and Trowbridge.

Family trouble was reported in the 11300 block of Fleming.

A suspect was arrested on Dequindre for obstructing officers.

A suspect was arrested for assault in the area of Jos. Campau and Casmere.

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

Odds & Ends

Continued from page 3

Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025, Rizvee physically assaulted his wife.

“Rizvee is currently suspended from duty. His legally possessed weapons were confiscated as well, according to police.

“On Monday, Sept. 29, 2025, Rizvee was arraigned on one charge of domestic violence, a 93-day misdemeanor, in the 37th District Court in Warren.”

Rizvee was given a \$5,000 bond, of which he had to post 10 percent of that amount. Obviously, he was ordered to have no contact with his wife.

Saying farewell ... And speaking of the police, Hamtramck’s former Chief, Jamiel Altaheri recently posted a farewell to the city on his Facebook page.

“It’s been short but sweet! Saying a farewell to Deputy Chief Andy Mileski. Good luck partner and continue to move the Hamtramck Police Department forward.”

Altaheri was recently fired by the city council over various allegations of wrongdoing.

Protesting ... The Detroit News recently published a story on the growing frustration in the Yemeni community over President Trump’s reinstated travel ban on Yemen.

Obviously, this has frustrated and angered a number of folks in the Yemeni community, and has had a ripple effect among a number of families.

U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Detroit) was quoted in the paper as saying the ban is really about “profiling and targeting certain people based on their ethnicity and their faith and the color of their skin.”

In Hamtramck, which has a sizeable Yemeni population, not much has been said about the travel ban, and, with Mayor Amer Ghalib aligned with the Trump administration, it’s doubtful there will be

much protesting here.

Word is out ... There are certain people going around town pressuring some businesses to stop advertising with The Review, including a certain independent journalist (no, it’s not “Sunglasses Man” as some call him).

Seems to us that folks should be more focused on the integrity of our city elections instead of harassing local businesses.

Thankfully, our city clerk has been on top of a lot of the shady goings-on, but it takes investigating agencies and local prosecutors to do something about it.

One of the leading critics of this newspaper, by the way, is a felon on probation who was convicted of sexually assaulting a mentally challenged 18-year-old male student a few years ago.

It seems this felon has influence with some elected officials. Go figure.

Trial begins ... The two suspects charged with killing a beloved Hamtramck businessman in a home robbery are now undergoing a trial for their alleged crime.

Joshua Zuazo and Carlos Jose Hernandez are accused of killing Hamtramck businessman Hussein Murray, 72, in his Rochester Hills home.

Hernandez, 37, and Zuazo, 39, are charged with felony murder and two counts of unlawful imprisonment.

It’s a bizarre story, wherein they are accused of posing as utility workers who lied about a gas leak to get inside the house, where they thought they could steal money, or gold, or anything of value.

Instead, they ended up allegedly killing Hussein, and tying up his wife with duct tape.

This incident happened in October of 2024 – a year ago, now.

Experience counts ... Michigan ranks seventh in the country for having the most experienced teachers, according to a new survey.

People with Radius.ac, an artificial intelligence generator, analyzed data from the most recent National Teacher and Principal Survey to determine which states have the most experienced K-12 teachers.

Michigan came in Number 7 (really, Number 8, as two were tied for fifth, and they count funny).

Behind only Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire, Ohio, a tie between Connecticut and Pennsylvania, and Nebraska, Michigan teachers averaged 15.4 years on the job.

That puts the state at 6.21 percent above the national average, with 53.8 percent of our teachers having 15 or more years’ experience.

Contrast that with Number 1 Rhode Island, whose teachers average 16.9 years, or Number 50 Utah, at an average of 12.1 years.

The five states with the least experienced teachers on average were Utah, Mississippi, Arizona, North Dakota and Idaho.

Radius.ac is a teacher support website with a wide variety of lesson plans and organizing resources.

For more about the survey itself, go to the website for the National Center for Education Statistics, at: <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/ntps>.

Education opportunity ... For those fresh out of high school who are trying to figure out a career, the state has a deal for you.

And for many, it comes with a generous financial helping hand.

The Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP) and the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) are encouraging students to take the first steps toward their futures, by submitting college applications

and exploring postsecondary opportunities.

MiLEAP was established by Gov. Whitmer about two years ago, in 2023. MiLEAP offers a multitude of programs to help students access affordable pathways to earn a degree or skill certificate after high school.

MCAN’s work centers on one main goal: To increase Michigan’s post-secondary education attainment.

Some quick, and encouraging, facts:

- 7 in 10 students are eligible to receive up to \$27,500 to attend a Michigan college or university through the Michigan Achievement Scholarship.

- All students are eligible for a tuition-free or low-cost pathway through the Community College Guarantee, allowing them to earn a skill certificate, associate degree or to start taking classes toward a bachelor’s degree at a Michigan community or tribal college.

- All students are eligible for up to \$4,000 – up to \$2,000 per year for two years – through the Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship, to earn an industry-recognized certificate at a qualifying career training program.

- Michigan Reconnect also supports adults ages 25 and older to earn a tuition-free associate degree or skill certificate at their local community college.

“We want students to know it’s not too early for them to start planning their futures, and that we’re here for them when they do,” said Sarah Szurpicki, deputy director of MiLEAP’s Office of Higher Education.

“Applying to college or career training now is the first step, and completing the FAFSA when it opens this fall will be the next.”

For more information on financial aid, FAFSA completion, and other resources to support your college journey, visit [Michigan.gov/MiStudentAid](https://michigan.gov/MiStudentAid).

State Republicans want to make a deep financial cut to city

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck may take a heavy financial hit if state Republicans are successful in passing a new state budget.

State Sen. Stephanie Chang (D-Hamtramck), whose district includes Hamtramck, sent out a social media blast on Facebook saying that communities should brace for “massive cuts to revenue sharing” for communities statewide.

For Hamtramck, the financial hit would be \$2.5 million, which is the second largest cut for communities in her district. Hamtramck’s annual budget is about \$20 million.

The city is already facing a yearly financial loss of \$1.4 million from the operation of a Wayne County jail located here. That jail is no longer operating as a jail.

The heaviest financial blow would come to Detroit, at \$23 million less per year.

Following Hamtramck in third place for a financial loss is Warren – the third largest city in the state – with a population of over 137,000, which dwarfs Hamtramck’s population of 24,424.

Hamtramck Interim City Manager Syed Aamir Ahsan told The Review he was unaware of the proposed budget cut, but said that, if it does get approved, the city “would have some serious consequences.”

But, he cautioned that as of now, “I think it’s just a discussion.”

However, Chang advised residents on social media:

“If you’re concerned about the proposed cuts to our local communities, contact Speaker Matt Hall and your own state representative’s offices to let them know your thoughts. You can find their contact info here: <https://house.mi.gov/>

Here is a list of communities in Chang’s Senate District 3 that would be impacted by the proposed budget cuts:

- Detroit: \$23 million less
- Hamtramck: \$2.5 million less
- Warren: \$894,000 less
- Sterling Heights: \$754,500 less
- Troy: \$413,500 less

- Royal Oak: \$257,600 less
- Madison Heights: \$104,000 less
- Hazel Park: \$98,000 less
- Highland Park: \$94,900 less
- Clawson: \$47,000 less

On social media, Hamtramck residents weighed in on the proposed cuts.

“Hamtramck is one of the poorest cities in the state. This is terrible,” said Joni Sobczak.

And Hamtramck Public School Board member Linda (Stachowicz) Wolyniec has this question for city officials:

“(Mayor) Amer Ghalib, (Councilmember and mayoral candidate) Muhith Mahmood, (mayoral candidate) Adam Alharbi can any of you as the current and potential mayor please tell us what is being cut and how it will affect the City of Hamtramck?”

Mayor Ghalib took issue with Chang’s interpretation of the proposed budget cuts, saying it isn’t “accurate.”

“I can confirm that we received more money this year than last year, and that our budget is stable despite losing the jail revenue, and I’ll announce details about it soon,” Ghalib said.

“I’m happy with the current state of the city, and hopefully there would be some good surprises for our residents before the end of the year.”

Ghalib’s sunny financial forecast, however, is in direct conflict with a recent assessment by the accounting firm Plant Moran, which is predicting the city is in increased deficit spending – meaning the city is spending more money that it is receiving.

Ghalib did say, at a recent city council meeting, that he has met with White House officials to discuss possible financial aid to the city that could result in millions of dollars being poured into the city.

He has not offered any specifics on what that would entail.

The Review also reached out to mayoral candidates Muhith Mahmood and Adam Alharbi via their Facebook messaging for comment, but they did not reply.

Coming Events

SATURDAY, Oct. 4, 4-6 p.m. – Drive-thru Take-out Polish Dinner 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, Dessert. Cars will be staged in parking lot for delivery in front of church.

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

Notice of Public Hearing – City of Hamtramck

Zoning Board of Appeals

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Hamtramck Zoning Board of Appeals will meet in the 2nd Floor Council Chambers of Hamtramck City Hall (3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, MI 48212) on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of holding a public hearing and considering requests pertaining to the following properties:

- 2442 Andrus Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212, parcel number 41008020060305

Applicant Asma Abbas is requesting a variance subject to section 155.024. Request is for a variance from Residential (R) ordinance 155.137(A)(2) to allow the applicant’s installation of a five-foot privacy screen above an existing six-foot fence.

- 11515 Joseph Campau, Hamtramck, MI 48212, parcel number 41-007-15-0045-300

Applicant Mousa Kaied is requesting a use variance of the property to operate an auto shop, subject to \$155.185 and \$155.187 of the Hamtramck Code of Ordinances. Current use is Central Business District per \$155.066.

Written comments may be submitted to the Assistant Community & Economic Development Manager via email at mmiszczyzak@hamtramckcity.gov. Written comments will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. on October 21, 2025. The City of Hamtramck will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids, and services for individuals with disabilities at the public hearing upon advance notice by writing or by calling the Clerk’s Office at 313-800-5233 x821. Please contact the Clerk’s office at least 10 days in advance.

City Hall Insider ...

By Charles Sercombe

The city council met on Sept. 9, and all councilmembers were in attendance except for Khalil Refai and Muhith Mahmood. Mayor Amer Ghalib was also absent.

City Attorney Odey Merouh announced that Councilmember Refai submitted a letter informing the city that he is stepping down from his position of Mayor Pro Tem.

The first order of business was for councilmembers to appoint a colleague as the new Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmembers unanimously supported Councilmember Abu Musa to the position.

Next up, the Executive Director of the Hamtramck Parks Conservancy, Tom Habitz, said that a “Family Game Night” will be held on Sept. 30 in the newly paved Goodson St. alley that runs next to Veterans Park.

The event, now already past, was a celebration for both the neighborhood and the public for the overall improvements to the park.

Later in the meeting, the council approved the temporary closure of the alley to allow the event to take place.

A proclamation was

read, thanking the volunteers of the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival.

It said, in part: “... In recent years, the Labor Day Festival has been thoughtfully organized and successfully carried out under the leadership of Konrad Maziarz and Shannon Lowell, along with a dedicated team of volunteers, whose tireless work, creativity, and commitment have ensured its continued success, and the Festival provides invaluable opportunities for local businesses, community organizations, artists, and performers to share their contributions and highlight the unique spirit of Hamtramck.

“And, the event not only enhances the city’s cultural vibrancy but also fosters civic pride, strengthens community bonds, and supports local economic vitality.”

During public comment, Shaker Sakead spoke about the pending election fraud allegations and other election allegations.

“I have been in this city’s politics for a long time,” Sakead said. “Some of our city officials have used the law enforcement of the City of Hamtramck and media to be weaponized against

the citizens, and the vote fraud thing has become a joke.”

Sakead complained that police investigators have been knocking on residents’ doors to inquire about election issues, but they fail to tell the people being interviewed that they don’t have to say anything.

He said the investigations have intimidated voters, which will possibly cause some to not vote.

Sakead asked for an independent investigation into the matter.

“People have been misguided,” he said.

He also accused authorities of unfairly focusing on Councilmember Mohammed Hassan, who has been charged, along with Councilmember Muh-tasin Sadman, of various election law violations stemming from the 2023 election.

Investigators, Sakead said, have an “agenda” “to take Hassan down, and I’ve been part of it.”

Back in January, the state Attorney General’s Office sought warrants for Hassan and Sadman, as well as for Sakead.

At the time, the state alleged Sakead of the following: Impersonating another (person) to vote at an election, absentee ballot tampering, and in-

ducing an unqualified voter to apply for an absentee ballot.

Ultimately, no charges were ever filed against Sakead.

The council OK’d another step for the city to become a part of the state’s Michigan Main Street Program.

The program would allow the city to “gain access to a range of resources, including design and business assistance, organizational support, and promotional strategies.”

The council also OK’d renewing its liability and property insurance policy through the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority.

Interim City Manager Syed Aamir Ahsan said there is a 3 percent increase from last year in cost, but it’s also about half of what the city paid two years ago.

The cost for the policy is about \$400,000. Ahsan said the slight increase is due to increased property values.

In the segment for councilmembers to comment, Councilmember Musa praised Mayor Ghalib.

“Our beloved mayor is in Washington, D.C. ... I wish him very, very good luck, and don’t forget us. Bring some special funding for the City of Hamtramck,” Musa said.

Councilmember Hassan spoke about the ongoing election investigation and

the charges he faces.

“The truth will come out very soon,” Hassan said. “Please be patient and pay attention to what you speak, what you do. Don’t listen to the people and make the comment on what maybe is not truth.”

Regarding the mayor’s effort with President Trump’s administration to channel funding to Hamtramck, Hassan said “he is still working very hard in the White House. Try to get some fund for Hamtramck city. Hopefully we’re going to get it and we’ll work together make a better one Hamtramck.”

As for accusations of

corruption in the city, Hassan again said “the truth will come out who is the corrupted, where is the corruption. I don’t have to speak. Please be patient.”

Hassan closed with a request on an update on city finances, such as the revenue coming in and the city’s expenses and retirement costs.

“People have a right to know where we stand,” Hassan said.

Councilmember Mohammed Alsomiri said that “Hamtramck will stand for years and years. It’s not going to be bad.”

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From the Office of Wayne County Treasurer

Eric R. Sabree



PROBATE ASSISTANCE

If you are facing foreclosure and need assistance in starting a Wayne County Probate Court Case because a property is in the name of a deceased family member, please contact one of the following community partners for assistance:

Michigan Legal Services: 313-774-1527 | 313-725-4890

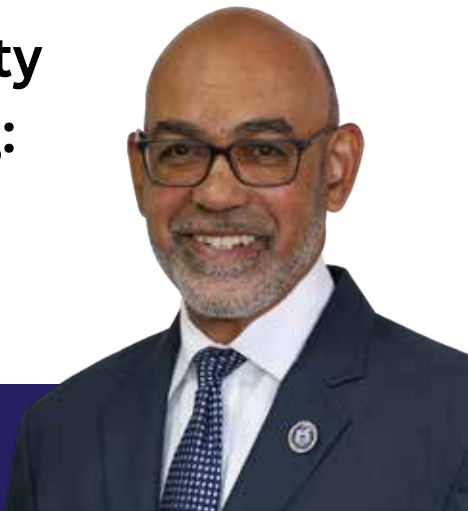
United Community Housing Coalition: 313-405-7726

Legal Aid & Defender: 313-967-5800

Contact the Wayne County Probate Court by calling: 313-224-5706

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