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**LIHEAP**  
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

**Quick Hits**

**For some, heating help may be delayed**

By Alan Madlane

The government shutdown may be over, but its impact continues to be felt, particularly among the nation's middle- and lower-income people.

The shutdown is being blamed for the fed's failure to release funds to support the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, a program that helps these demographics make sure they can keep their utilities on.

The delay may push assistance back into December, or even January of next year.

About six million households received assistance in fiscal year 2024 across the country. Many Hamtramckans rely on their portion of this money to help fight off high utility bills, especially during the more extreme hot and cold spells of the year.

According to Detroit's Sugar Law Center this is because President Trump used the shutdown as an excuse to cut staffing at the LIHEAP Program Office of the Department of Health and Human Services.

"As a result, many may find themselves falling behind on their energy bills, just as the coldest months of winter slam into Michigan," said Liz Jacob, an attorney with Sugar Law.

These additional burdens come as energy costs are soaring across Michigan and causing families to fall behind on their monthly bills and face devastating shut offs of their electric and heating services.

Beyond that, resources like the United Way 211 help line may become overwhelmed with calls from those seeking any avenue of relief they can find as a way to protect themselves and their families.



**HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD**

**Mayoral election is still a close one but is it over?**

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck mayor-elect Adam Alharbi is still the winner of the mayoral election.

That is the determination of the Wayne County Board of Canvassers after the city's ballots were retabulated – including 120 absentee ballots that had needed to be "cured" first.

According to Wayne County election officials, Alharbi ended up beating his opponent, Muhith Mahmood, by just six votes – narrowing his initial victory down from 11 votes.

Although the official count is settled for the moment, this mayoral election appears to be far from over.

Mahmood told The Review that he will seek a recount, which is not uncommon in an election with results this close.

"Everybody, my supporters, is pressuring me to do the recount," he said.

However, Mahmood concedes that the cost of an attorney – which could amount to thousands of dollars – could limit how far he will go in challenging the election outcome.

He has hired one of the state's top election law attorneys, Mark Brewer, who is the former chairman of the Michigan Democratic Party.

Alharbi told The Review that he will still seek to address Mahmood's residency and his legal ability to hold elective office in Hamtramck.

Alharbi is relying on a prior internal investigation done by the city that accuses Mahmood of living in Troy with his family.

"We shall set a precedent that if you don't live here and hold office, there are consequences," Alharbi said.

Mahmood has admitted his wife and children live in Troy, but says that he lives in Hamtramck. He said that he and his wife are not separated or divorced.

Mahmood has not been charged with being a non-resident of the city.

As for his win, Alharbi said that despite the razor-thin margin of that victory, "I'm happy with the results, considering we ran a clean campaign where people made their own choices."

Alharbi was alluding to allegations of ballot harvesting by some candidates and their supporters both in this election and in prior elections.

Councilmember Mohammed Hassan is facing felony charges of election fraud.

Mahmood has denied ballot harvesting or election fraud.

Alharbi and Mahmood also traded barbs on social media prior to the election.

Alharbi said, of Mahmood: "We are now pursuing felony charges for candidates who lied about their residency to steal a position. If you don't live in Hamtramck, you will be removed from the ballot, removed from office, and charged for your crime."

Mahmood countered:

"A hypocrite has no place in our community. You can't shout about 'voter fraud' and spread lies while casting hundreds of votes for people who are in Yemen or outside the country – and even exchanging ballots at your own dining table. What a complete joke."

As for the "cured" ballots, there were 150 absentee ballots that originally either did not have the voter's signature, or else the voter's signature did not match what was on file.

Apparently, 30 of those original 150 voters either didn't clear up the matter with the city clerk's office



Mayor-elect Adam Alharbi



Mayoral candidate Muhith Mahmood, above and below



City Clerk Rana Faraj

**State expands free food distributions**

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramckans facing a food crisis now have another helping hand.

While the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) fund has been restored, there are still a number of residents who are struggling to purchase food each week.

A number of those in need in Hamtramck have been relying on Detroit Friendship House and its food pantry.

Now, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has expanded its On-the-Go pop-up food distribution events in partnership with Forgotten Harvest by adding a second distribution site in Hamtramck.

"Food insecurity impacts the health and well-being of thousands of Michigan families," said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director, in a recent press release.

"We are offering these mobile food pantries at our local offices to help ensure access to healthy, nutritious food. We appreciate the partnership with Forgotten Harvest as we work together to end hunger in Michigan."

On-the-Go pantries allow individuals to schedule appointments, and select groceries from fresh produce to grains to proteins.

Additionally, culturally appropriate food options are offered when available – such as halal- and kosher-friendly items – when serving communities with specific dietary needs.

MDHHS plans to offer these mobile food pantries on a monthly basis at select MDHHS offices in Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties.

In Hamtramck, food will be available on Tuesday, Nov. 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the MDHHS office at 12140 Jos. Campau.

Food pantries will be offered at this location on the fourth Tuesday of each month. To reduce your wait time and ensure you'll get enough food supplies, make an appointment by emailing: MDHHS-FH-WC-Hamtramck@michigan.gov

To find additional resources:

• Dial 211 or visit Michigan 211 for free, confidential assistance and referrals to local food programs and support services.

Continued on page 2

## It's Time to Pray, Please Join Us

We are a Multicultural Parish Family  
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**Solemnity of Christ the King**  
Nov 25 – For All People on our Prayer List  
Holy Mass 7 pm  
Nov 26 – Holy Mass 9 am  
Nov 27 – Thanksgiving Day Holy Mass 9 am  
Nov 28 – For All Departed read during  
Wypominki Holy Mass 7 pm  
Nov 22 – Drive-thru Take-out only Polish  
Dinner 3:30 - 5:30 pm (Pull into lot, pick  
up in front of church) Menu: Pork Chop,  
Kielbasa, Pierogi w/sour cream, Bigos  
(Sauerkraut), Mashed Potatoes w/gravy,  
Dessert. Adult \$15 / Child 12 & under \$8



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# Mayoral election is still a close one but is it over?

Continued from front page

in time, or failed to rectify their ballot. That left 120 ballots to be counted.

But, there was also another matter in this election – one that has many layers of complexity.

Some 37 ballots – separate from the 150 unsigned/non-matching signature ballots – were found to be not counted at all. The reason for this is not entirely clear. City Clerk Rana Faraj told the Wayne County Board of Canvassers:

“Now, many times, we have older machines. There's a lot of jams. So, we weren't sure what the issue was. We looked around,” she explained.

“The next day, when we were retaining the envelopes, is when one of my clerks realized that there were still ballots inside of the envelopes.”

Faraj has since been placed on paid administrative leave, and there is now a question of why over 20 unauthorized people were allowed in her office where the uncounted ballots were located.

Those 37 ballots were

discussed recently by the Wayne County Board of Canvassers.

The four board members, two Democrats and two Republicans, were tasked with deciding whether to count the 37 ballots. After two days of passionate public input, the board split 2-2, with the two Democratic members voting to count them, but the two Republican members voting against doing so.

The reason the ballots should not be counted, the Republican board members said, was because they were left in an unsecured area of the city clerk's office, thus exposing the ballots to possible tampering.

Democratic members of the board argued that not counting the ballots would disenfranchise those 37 voters.

The tie vote meant that the ballots could not be counted. That begs the question whether those 37 uncounted ballots would have swung the election results in Mahmood's favor?

The ballots in question

are from Precinct 2 in the city, which is populated mostly by Bengali voters who, theoretically, would support Mahmood (who is a Bengali-American).

Mahmood said those ballots should not be thrown out.

“People have a constitutional right to cast their ballot,” he said. “They voted for hope and change.”

There is also an allegation that Faraj had a punching bag in her office with either Mahmood's name and/or picture.

Mahmood said that he is offended over the matter.

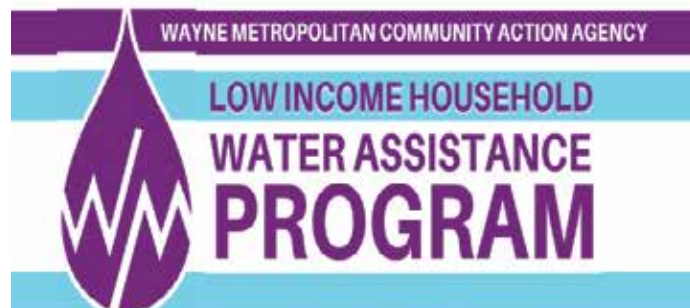
“How would you feel?” he told The Review. “It's a hate crime.”

The Review reached out to Faraj for comment. She said that she won't comment at this time.

At the end of the Wayne County Board of Canvasser's meeting, Chairwoman Lisa Capatina sensed the frustration of some voters in Hamtramck, saying:

“Some of you even stated that, because of your disgust, you may not vote in the future. Volunteer, use your voice, and don't stop voting.”

In other election updates, the county's tabulation of ballots resulted in slight adjustments to the city council race, which did not change who won.



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## State expands free food distributions

Continued from front page

Visit the Food Bank Council of Michigan to locate nearby food banks and learn about additional hunger relief efforts.

Explore MI Bridges to learn more about SNAP, which offers tem-

porary food assistance to eligible families.

Call the Double Up Food Bucks program hotline at (866) 586-2796, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Until Wednesday, Dec. 31, the program, which matches SNAP purchases of fruits and vegetables, will expand access so families can build up savings on their Double Up cards.

To find a participating location near you go online to:

DoubleUpFoodBucks.org/find-a-location.

## RECYCLE IN HAMTRAMCK

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Finally: Recycle when you cannot use those materials anymore.

## This week at the Library . . .

November 21, 2025

**Thanksgiving:** On November 26, 1789 the first American holiday occurred, proclaimed by President George Washington to be Thanksgiving Day, a day of prayer and public thanksgiving in gratitude for the successful establishment of the new American republic. The library board of directors and staff would like to extend their best wishes for Thanksgiving Holidays. In celebration of this day, the library will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 27 & 28th.

**First Presidential Library:** On November 19, 1939 the construction of the first presidential library began as President Franklin D. Roosevelt laid the cornerstone next to his home in Hyde Park, New York. Roosevelt donated the land, but public donations funded the library building which was dedicated on June 30, 1941.

**Edwin Hubble:** This American astronomer was born on November 20 1889, in Marshfield, Missouri. He pioneered the concept of expanding universe. The Hubble Space Telescope was named in his honor. It was deployed from the Space Shuttle Discovery in 1990, allowing astronomers to see farther into space than they had ever seen from telescopes on Earth.

**Story Time:** These programs conducted by the library staff are scheduled for Wednesdays afternoon at 4:00 pm. All children are invited.

**Charles Darwin:** His book "On the Origins of Species by Means of Natu-

ral Selection" was first published on November 24, 1863, theorizing that all the living creatures descended from a common ancestor.

**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.

**Preservation of Jazz:** Continuing into the autumn and winter season, the Jazz Masterclass program will take place on Thursday evenings from 5 to 7 pm. Participants will cultivate a deeper understanding of this elegant artform through guided discussions, curated listening experiences, documentary screenings, and more. Heading this class will be Sky Covington, founder of The Preservation of Jazz. The sessions start on October 16th. Class size is limited to 20 individuals. Register on [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com) to secure your place. For more information about the program, please call Sky Covington (248) 383-3385..

**Streetcars:** The first horse-drawn streetcar carried passengers in New York City along Fourth Avenue, between Prince Street and 14th Street on November 26, 1832.

**Bill Clinton:** First American President to visit Northern Ireland.

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

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](mailto:hamtramcklibrary@gmail.com)

## 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.

### FOOD ITEMS NEEDED:

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# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### Hamtramck elections still cry out for state intervention

We hate to sound like a broken record, but if the city's latest election doesn't get the attention of state authorities, what does it take?

This election is beyond messed up.

It's at the point now where a number of Hamtramck residents think the results are illegitimate, and that there ought to be a "do-over."

Unfortunately, it rarely works that way. The election results will now be in the hands of the courts and a likely ballot recount. In the meantime, it's the residents

who are the biggest losers in this debacle.

We're at the point now where it appears a lot of dirty deals were done, and there are allegations of some candidates who aren't even residents, on top of others who may have committed ballot harvesting.

All of this comes at a time when voters nationwide are losing their trust in elections, believing that they are rigged in one way or another.

How did we, as a nation, reach this point?

Obviously, Hamtramck elections, even if fixed,

won't likely affect the way the national ones go, but we do have a right to demand that our own city elections are fair and honest.

Is it too much to ask for the state to take a closer look at what's going on here?

Well – we won't hold our breath waiting for the state to intervene since they seem to have ignored all the numerous pleas to this point.

In the meantime, Hamtramck voters, try not to lose faith.

## 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 Oct. 14, and all councilmembers were in attendance.

During public comment, The Islamic Center on Jos. Campau asked the council to have the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival move its main stage one or two blocks away from their building.

(The Center had complained that amplified music from the stage interrupted their services.)

The Center said that Councilmembers Mohammed Hassan and Abu Musa had assured them that the issue had been resolved. But festival organizers told the Center that they were not told to move the stage.

The Center stressed that it is not against the festival. "We never say 'no,'" a spokesman said.

Attorney Mark Koroï advised city officials "keep an eye" on any election fraud for the November General Election.

"We don't want to see that in our election," he said. "We want to see a clean election. ... I know everybody here is going to honor that, and we have full compliance with Michigan law with all the absentee ballots and election day activities."

He added: "People are watching."

Bill Meyer said that, at

a prior council meeting, "some folks" tried to "steal" a resolution to kill the Yemen Mural at Jos. Campau and Goodson.

"So I'm here tonight to make sure it doesn't happen again," Meyer said.

He urged the council to not "sneak stuff on the agenda," and reminded the council about their pledge for "transparency."

Meyer also took issue with allowing a retail building to be constructed in a lot next to the mural that will block it from view.

He asked what would benefit the city more: a "world class piece of art" or a building the city can collect taxes on and someone be able to get an income from?

"Is it greed we're talking about? Is this about making money?" Meyer said.

He said the developer of the proposed retail outlet can build somewhere else.

"Let's give the city a work of art that it really loves and that has been here awhile," Meyer said.

A resident thanked President Trump for helping to negotiate a peace deal between Israel and Hamas to end the war in Gaza.

"I just hope and pray that this lasts," the man

said.

Former State Rep. Abraham Aiyash (D-Hamtramck) said he's been involved in the discussion to save the Yemen Mural. He said there is a need for the mural, and that it makes visiting Hamtramck "attractive for people who come and visit our very dynamic city, for lack of a better word."

He continued, saying the city needs to take a "holistic approach" to development.

That, Aiyash said, makes "the most sense for economic output, for tourism, for people coming into a city, especially at a time where we've received a lot of negative headlines over the last several years."

He reminded the council that he is "heading" the discussion of saving the mural, and that any discussion about it that does not involve him "is a disservice to the actual project."

As for the mayor saying that the Trump administration is considering his request for massive financial assistance to the city, Aiyash added that, if that effort does pay off, "I would be the first person to help" in creating a statue of the mayor.

And as for state funding for the city, Aiyash said the new state budget de-

Continued on page 5

## Odds & Ends

**Message from the mayor ...** Mayor Amer Ghalib, whose term ends this year, posted his comment on Facebook to all those who were just elected to office.

Here's what the mayor had to say:

"Congratulations to all the winners. My friend Adam Alharbi, new mayor for Hamtramck.

"Abu Musa, Nayeem Choudhury for city council.

"A special congratulations to the first elected African-American city council member in decades, my friend Yousef Saed.

"This can only happen in Hamtramck. To all those who ran for public offices but couldn't make it this time, thanks for your courage and for your passion to serve. Good luck in the future."

**Closing up ...** Chris Schnieder, the founder of Hamtramck's own Hatch Art Center, recently commented on Facebook about the loss of local eateries California Burgerz, Balkan House, and Hello Shwarma.

This prompted a lively back-and-forth discussion on the state of business in the city.

Former city councilmember Joe Strzalka said it comes down to it being too expensive for many folks to eat out.

He blames it on "the current real estate market skewering to landlords who put multiple low-income families in one house, as opposed to smaller families who own the property and have disposable income."

But Michael Grijak puts the blame on "the overhead requirements of running a brick and mortar restaurant including rent, utilities and payroll among other things like business insurance and food establishment compliance fees and costs. Food service and sales is already a razor-thin margin business to begin with and if you aren't doing a significant amount of daily turn, you are losing money fast."

Mike Petrack, who owns Dos Locos Tacos on Jos. Campau, says Hamtramck took a hit to its businesses due to the city's anti-gay mes-

saging when it banned the display of pride flags on public property.

"The tide started turning when the flag bull—happened," he said.

Petrack continued: "They might as well have hung a sign on the freeway that said 'disposable income not welcome.'"

"That coupled with the sharp increase in rents has made Hamtramck less attractive to the type of people who go out to eat. Why live in a noisy, homophobic place when you can live in Corktown for the same price?"

What's your opinion on the issue? Email your thoughts to us at: news@thehamtramckreview.com.

**Crime update ...** A 22-year-old Hamtramck man faces sentencing for sexually assaulting a teenage girl he hooked up with in Port Huron back in May of 2024.

According to Port Huron police, Mansoor Obaid connected with the teenage girl through Instagram and picked her up along with two other teens. He proceeded to drop off two of the teens, and then drove the victim to a parking lot where he assaulted her in the backseat of his car.

Obaid also forced her to perform sex acts on him while he made a recording of the assault, according to police.

He was initially charged with three counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct involving a victim between the ages of 13 and 17, each punishable with up to life in prison.

On Oct. 27, he took a deal to plead to two counts of 2nd degree criminal sexual conduct and one count of 3rd degree criminal sexual conduct. He is scheduled to be sentenced on Dec. 1.

Obaid faces a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison.

**Plugged in? ...** Remember all that hoopla over GM reinventing the Poletown plant, which is partly in Hamtramck, by renaming it and converting it to produce EV

vehicles?

As it turns out, funding for the so-dubbed Factory Zero is now being almost zeroed out.

GM recently announced it is laying off 1,200 employees there, and the plant is now down to one shift.

In all, 3,400 employees tasked with EV production at Factory Zero and other facilities were laid off.

Why? President Trump and the Republican-controlled Congress, in their so-called "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," ended the \$7,500 tax credits for buyers and lessees of electronic vehicles.

We won't get into the politics of this or that, but Hamtramck does receive revenue from the GM plant while it's in production. No word yet how these layoffs will affect the city financially.

**Stock up ...** Enjoy pasta much?

If so, better start stocking up now because the Trump administration recently placed a 107-percent duty on Italian pasta imports.

That means brands like La Molisana, Garofalo, and Rummo will most likely be hard to find once the tariff kicks in by January. The Italian pasta makers say they can't afford the tariffs, and they are threatening to pull out of the U.S. market.

**Peace in our time? ...** The fragile peace agreement between Israel and Hamas militants in Gaza appears to be mostly on-paper only.

Israel continues to bomb Gaza, and has even expanded into bombing Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

They are not using any ordinary bombs, either. Israel has unleashed what's called a "thermobaric" weapon that is described as being a "mini-nuke."

Meanwhile, we will wait patiently for the protestors to once again take to Hamtramck's streets to demand that the U.S. cease sending military aid to Israel like they did when former President Biden was in office.

And we will wait for

Continued on page 5

## The Hamtramck Review

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## HOUSE FOR RENT

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Advertisers should check their ad following first publication. The newspaper shall not be liable for failure to publish an ad, for a typographic error or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first day's insertion. Adjustments for errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. We reserve the right to classify, revise or reject any classified advertisement.

## Coming Events

**SATURDAY, Nov. 22, 3:30-5:30 p.m.** – Drive-Thru Take-Out Polish Dinner at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski Street 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.

# Service Directory

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November 21, 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?

Attorney Mark Koroi comments on Hamtramck election Special City Council Meeting of November 18, 2025  
Veteran's Day Ceremonies at Hamtramck VFW Post 6  
Congressman Thanedar addresses City Council Senate Hearings with Mayor Amer Ghalib  
Preservation of Jazz Lecture by Sky Covington 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](http://bit.ly/hamtramcktv))



### By Charles Sercombe

The week's Crime Log covers Nov. 11-17.

#### Tuesday, Nov. 11

- A vehicle was reported to be in the process of being stolen on Lumpkin. Officers later recovered the vehicle.
- Family trouble was reported on Selfridge.
- Property damage was reported on Dorothy.
- A fight was reported in the area of Danforth and Lumpkin.

#### Wednesday, Nov. 12

- A suspicious situation was reported on Caniff.
- A complaint was made about a juvenile in the 3000 block of Hanley.
- A suspicious person was reported in the 3300 block of Holbrook.
- A business in the 11800 block of Dequindre reported a dispute with a customer.

#### Thursday, Nov. 13

- Trouble between neighbors was reported in the 12000 block of Gallagher.
  - An attempted auto theft was reported in the area of Lumpkin and Andrus.
  - At 2 a.m., an unknown problem was reported in the 3000 block of Belmont.
  - Property damage from an accident was reported on Caniff.
  - A runaway was reported in the 3800 block of Norwalk.
  - A domestic dispute was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
  - A complaint was made about a juvenile in the 11800 block of Dequindre.
  - A vehicle was stolen in the 2400 block of Danforth.
- Friday, Nov. 14**
- A hit-and-run accident

- was reported in the 12100 block of Sobieski.
- A domestic assault was reported in the 12000 block of Lumpkin.
- A domestic disturbance was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
- A hit-and-run accident was reported in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau.
- A complaint was made about a juvenile in the area of Jos. Campau and Casmere.
- A business in the 10300 block of Conant reported trouble with a customer.

#### Saturday, Nov. 15

- An assault was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
- A theft from an auto was reported in the 9800 block of Conant.
- A break-in was reported in the 2300 block of Holmes.
- A complaint about noise was made in the 11400 block of Jos. Campau.

#### Sunday, Nov. 16

- A fight was reported in the area of Grand Haven and Circle Dr.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported at Norwalk and Jos. Campau.
- A suspect was arrested on Yemens for domestic assault.
- A hit-and-run accident was reported on Caniff.

#### Monday, Nov. 17

- At 1 a.m., a suspect was arrested for an assault that happened in the 1900 block of Norwalk.
- A suspect was arrested for an assault on Jos. Campau.
- A dispute was reported in the 12000 block of Oklahoma. Disputes were also reported in the 2200 block of Oklahoma, the 2200 block of Danforth, and the 3100 block of Hanley.

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## Did You Know?



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### Grant winner

Dickinson West Elementary School fifth grade teacher Tiffany Stano was recently awarded \$500 for a literacy program.

The grant comes from Community Choice Credit Union and focuses on a hands-on financial literacy project that will empower students to explore entrepreneurship, budgeting, and real-world money management.

Stano's classroom initiative will guide students through the process of planning, launching, and running a simulated marketplace. Students will learn key economic concepts such as supply and demand, profit, goods and services, and customer service. Each student or team will develop a business plan, create advertisements, and sell handmade goods or services using classroom currency.

The project includes designing and printing custom classroom money, hosting a guest speaker from the local business community, and organizing a market day where students will take on roles as both vendors and consumers. After the event, students will reflect on their experience, calculate profits, and assess their business strategies—reinforcing math, communication, and critical thinking skills.

The grant will help fund materials for student-created products, such as arts and crafts supplies, gardening items, and promotional materials. With 30 students participating, the project is expected to have a ripple effect, sparking conversations about financial literacy among families and younger peers.



## City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 3

dedicated financial assistance for road repairs. He urged the council to think of long-range plans for road repairs here.

Mayor Amer Ghalib said that he just got a call from the Trump administration about funneling money to the city, and that "they are taking it very serious, and it's moving forward."

Moving on to business, the council agreed to hire a new interim city manager, Alexander Lagrou.

Councilmember Has-san said the current interim city manager needs to get back to his full-time job with the city as finance director, and concentrate on those duties.

Councilmember Muhith Mahmood questioned hiring someone else.

"I don't know why we're playing musical chairs," he said.

Mahmood said he would rather seek a permanent city manager.

Mayor Amer Ghalib said he's more concerned about the transparency of this hiring.

In the vote to hire Lagrou, only Councilmember Mahmood objected.

There was no mention of what Lagrou's salary will be.

In other business, the council OK'd two contracts, one regarding the replacement of lead water lines and another for sewer repairs.

The sewer repair resolution was for engineering services. It is estimated that repairing several damaged sewers

will cost up to \$1 million.

Mayor Ghalib questioned why the city continues to rely on Hennessey Engineers for its services.

"That's why we can't negotiate - because there's no competition from anybody else," he said. "We always get the bills. We never question them. We never review them. We never evaluate them. We just pay."

(It's the city council's job to review and authorize the payment for all bills for services.)

In another matter, the council agreed to accept

a grant for \$552,000 that will fund improvements to the lighting and scoreboard at the historic Hamtramck Baseball Stadium.

The separation agreement of former police chief Jamiel Altaheri was approved, which will allow him to resign, and be given five months' of severance payment.

In exchange, Altaheri agreed to drop his lawsuit against the city.

In the vote to approve the agreement, both Councilmembers Mahmood and Khalil Refai abstained. They did not explain their reasons for abstaining in the vote.

(Abstaining in a vote is usually, primarily, reserved for those with conflicts of interest.)

In the mayor's report, Ghalib said the most "significant" event of the past two weeks was that President Trump called him and stressed his support of Ghalib to become ambassador to Kuwait.

Trump nominated Ghalib for the position, and at this point Ghalib was still waiting for his confirmation hearing with the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Commission.

(Since this council meeting, he did have that hearing, where he was questioned heavily about past comments and social media activities that some senators deemed antisemitic. Ghalib denied he was antisemitic. The Senate has yet

to vote on his confirmation.)

As for Ghalib's call with Trump, he said the president "was showing his support for my nomination, because there's some serious attempts to blocking my hearing and it's going to happen soon."

As for the recent peace deal reached between Israel and Hamas, Ghalib said he hopes it will be a "lasting deal. We all want to see peace in the Middle East to stop the killing and end the war."

"This is going to be a historic thing for the region," Ghalib said. "It's something we demanded and requested over the past two years."

(Since that deal was announced, Israel has continued to bomb Gaza and fight with Hamas militants.)

Ghalib also spoke more about the possible financial help from the Trump administration for the city. He said he asked for hundreds of millions of dollars.

"If we even get half of what we requested, it's going to be significant for the city - especially the pension obligations. ... I hope we can accomplish that before I leave."

Ghalib then joked: "And then Abe (Aiyash) will build a statue of me as he promised."

Mayor Pro Tem Musa said, of the possible financial help: "This community will never forget it."

### 2025 Property Tax Notice

Notice is hereby given that The City of Hamtramck property tax bills are being mailed the first week of December 2025. The Winter Hamtramck Tax Bill must be paid from December 1, 2025, through and including February 17, 2026 to avoid additional charges. All payments must be physically received by the Treasurer on or before due date- NOT POSTMARKED AS SUCH. To pay your property tax bill, you have several options:

**MAIL PAYMENTS TO:** CITY OF HAMTRAMCK TAXES

3401 EVALINE ST  
HAMTRAMCK, MI 48212

**DROP BOX:** Place check or money order payments in an envelope and drop them off in the drive-up drop box, conveniently located in front of City Hall.

**WEB PAYMENTS:** WWW.HAMTRAMCKCITY.GOV

**MOBILE PAYMENTS:** DivDat app on Smart Phones

**KIOSK PAYMENTS:** Visit divdat.com for locations other than City Hall

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## Thanksgiving Food Distribution

**Tuesday November 25<sup>th</sup> 2025**  
**10 am - 12 pm or until supplies last**  
**9540 Conant St. Hamtramck, MI 48212**

**To participate:**

- **Must be a DFH client-Resident of 48212**
- **No new registrations or profile updates will be completed day of.**
- **Bring state ID/driver's license & green client service card**
- **Limit one package/turkey per Household**

থ্যাংকসগিভিং খাবার বিতরণ হবে মঙ্গলবার, ২৫ নভেম্বর, সকাল ১০টা থেকে দুপুর ১২টা পর্যন্ত—  
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অংশ নিতে হলে আপনাকে ডেট্রয়েট ফ্রেন্ডশিপ হাউসের ক্লায়েন্ট হতে হবে, অথবা ৪৮২১২ এরিয়াতে থাকতে হবে।

পিকআপের জন্য আপনার আইডি আর সবুজ ক্লায়েন্ট সার্ভিস কার্ড সঙ্গে আনবেন।  
ঠিকানা: ৯৫৪০ কনান্ট স্ট্রিট, হ্যামট্রামেক, মিশিগান ৪৮২১২।

توزيع أكل عيد الشكر سيكون يوم الثلاثاء، ٢٥ نوفمبر، من الساعة ١٠ الصبح لحد ١٢ الظهر، أو لحد ما تخلص الكمية.

مسموح فقط حزمة وحدة لكل أسرة.

لازم تكون زبون مع ديترويت فريندشيب هاوس، أو ساكن في منطقة 48212.  
لما تجي تستلم، لازم تجيب هويتك وبطاقة الخدمة الخضراء.  
العنوان: 9540 شارع كونانت، هامترامك، ميشيغان 48212.



Podjela hrane za Dan zahvalnosti biće u utorak, 25. novembra, od 10 ujutro do 12 sati ili dok zalihe traju. Ograničeno na jedan paket po porodici. Morate biti klijent Detroit Friendship House-a ili stanovnik područja 48212. Ponesite ličnu kartu i svoju zelenu karticu klijentske službe prilikom preuzimanja. Adresa: 9540 Conant St., Hamtramck, MI, 48212.

Officemanager@detroitfriendshiphouse.org

313-871-7443

## Odds & Ends

Continued from page 3

Hamtramck Mayor Amer Ghalib to make another impassioned speech in front of city hall about the right for Palestinians to defend themselves against Israel.

Or will that not happen because Ghalib and many other Hamtra-

mck Muslim residents supported Trump for president?

Or is it a coincidence that Ghalib is silent because he will reportedly soon go on to work in the Trump administration?

We are waiting.

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### Resident Tree Planting Request Form



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hamtramckcity.gov



Tree requests will be reviewed by the City's contracted arborist for the Grow Hamtramck initiative, and you will receive a response within 3 business days. The City's goal is to plant the 1,000 trees funded by Grow Hamtramck in as many viable requested locations as possible over the next four years.

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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

**We are here to help!**

[www.Treasurer.WayneCounty.com](http://www.Treasurer.WayneCounty.com)  
313-224-5990



## Obituaries

### BARRIOS



Joan Ann Barrios (nee Kessler), 82, died, November 14, 2025.

Joan was the loving mother of Michael (Crisy), Anita (Keith), and Maria (Jimmy) Studer; dear grandmother of Angelo, Tyler, Louise, and Pinkney; great grandmother of Paisley. Joan is also survived by her sister Geri Kessler. Joan is preceded in death by her siblings Barbara, Susan, and Larry. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Joan served in the United States Navy and was a bus driver and custodian for the Hamtramck Public School System. She was a past Commander at PLAV Post #1 in Hamtramck. Joan loved to travel and went to Maine, Alaska, and Italy. She also loved dancing and loved Paczki Day and her annual Polka with Mayor Majewski. She was involved in her civic duties and in her retirement fell in love with doing crosswords and would be seen at her table at Café 1923 working on her NY Times or Wall Street Journal crossword puzzles. She will be missed by her family and friends around Hamtramck.

In lieu of flowers please donate to the Alzheimer's Association or to the Military Women's Memorial in Joan's name

Visitation was Wednesday, November 19, 2025, and services were Thursday, November 20, 2025,

at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, Hamtramck MI. Inurnment is on Friday, November 28, 2025, at 2 p.m. with military honors at Great Lakes National Cemetery, 4200 Belford Road, Holly MI 48442.

## sudoku

The rules to play Sudoku are quite simple. Fill in the blanks so that each row, each column, and each of the nine 3x3 grids contain one instance of each of the numbers 1 through 9.

		8				9	7	
		7		3				2
		3		8	4			
6			2					
			4				2	
	3				9	6		5
1			8					
	7			9				4
		5						9

5		6		7				
	2	8			9		7	
4			5		1			
6					2			4
	3			9				
								5
			1	5				6
9		1	6				4	
		7			8	1		2

2	1	8	4	6	5	8	3	8
4	8	2	7	9	3	9	7	6
6	9	3	2	1	4	2	4	1
2	5	6	9	1	6	7	6	8
7	7	3	3	1	2	8	8	8
6	4	1	2	5	8	3	6	8
6	9	2	8	4	5	7	3	7
7	3	4	8	2	1	4	8	2
8	1	2	7	3	4	8	1	5

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