

# The Review

## Hamtramck



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## Quick Hits

### Mayor says his farewell

By Charles Sercombe

Four years ago, Mayor Amer Ghalib made Hamtramck history by being the first Yemeni-American voted into the city's top elective office.

And last week marked the end of his term – at least in the role of chairing city council meetings. His official last day in office is Dec. 31.

He did not seek re-election, and instead opted to wait for a possible confirmation as the U.S. ambassador to Kuwait, or for another job with the Trump administration.

At this point, it looks doubtful that Ghalib will be confirmed by the U.S. Senate for the ambassador job, but he says he is finalizing details of a yet-to-be disclosed job with the administration.

At last week's city council meeting, he gave a short farewell to the community.

"I enjoyed serving the residents of Hamtramck," Ghalib said. "I learned so much through the past four years."

The mayor also thanked his supporters, as well as "everyone who criticized me, constructive criticism, that told me what I'm doing wrong and be able to fix it."

He also called for the community to become more united.

"Our ultimate common goal is to serve the community and do what's best," he said. "I have always acted positive to anyone who reached out to me, whether I agree or disagree with them. We respect our different political views."

As for his colleagues on city council, Ghalib acknowledged there were moments of disagreements, "but we never took it personal. ... We were the most peaceful city council. We never had a fight or punch each other here like what happened in the past. That's a positive thing we should be proud of."

Also ending his term on city council is Khalil Refai, who did not seek re-election.

"It was a pleasure for me to be serving and be their voice here in the City of Hamtramck," he said.

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

# Flappy Holidays

## A new beginning in a new land

By C.V. Samuel

Special to The Review

More than 50 years have passed since I first set foot in America, yet the memory of my first Christmas remains vivid and deeply meaningful. I arrived in Harrisonburg, Virginia, just 35 days before Christmas of 1971.

What unfolded during that Christmas season became one of the most unforgettable experiences of God's providence and provision in my life. I share this story for my family, friends, and my community, because even simple stories can reveal the extraordinary grace of God.

### Early Days in Harrisonburg, Virginia

I arrived in America on Sunday, November 21, 1971, as a graduate student at Eastern Mennonite University (EMU).

I lived in the college dormitory and ate my meals in the campus cafeteria. My first day of classes was November 22. That morning, I witnessed something entirely new to me: snowflakes falling quietly from the sky. The world looked transfor-



C.V. Samuel

med, and so did my life.

I had only ten dollars with me when I arrived in America, the maximum allowed for foreign travelers from the Government of India at the time. I spent five dollars on winter gloves and a few essentials.

Later, I received seven dollars in the mail from a friend's parents in New Jersey, a small but unexpected blessing. That brought my total savings to twelve dollars.

### A call from Operation Mobilization

Not long after I settled in, I received a call from Operation Mobilization (OM) headquarters in New Jersey. The OM office invited me to join the Mexico City Christmas

Crusade, but, as always, without offering any travel assistance.

Having lived that way for about three years in India with OM, I decided again to step out in faith. "If it is the Lord's will," I thought, "He will provide the way and the means" for me to go to Mexico City, Mexico.

OM is a faith-based Christian missionary organization with a principle that was simple: pray, trust, and depend on the Lord for all your needs.

Around the same time, the college's Foreign Student Advisor, Dr. Ira Miller, informed me that the dormitory and cafeteria would close for the Christmas holiday break. I would need to find somewhere to stay for two weeks.

When I told Dr. Miller about my plan to go to Mexico City, he was surprised but said nothing. My Indian friends at college laughed and thought I was unrealistic, perhaps even crazy. But I committed the whole matter to God in prayer, trusting that God would provide a way.

Continued on page 2

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

We are a Multicultural Parish Family  
Sunday English Mass 9 a.m.  
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Everyone is Welcome to Worship with Us

### Sunday December 28, Holy Mass 9:00 am Solemnity of Humble Shepherds

Dec 30 – For People on our Prayer List  
Holy Mass 7 pm

Jan 1 – Solemnity of Circumcision of  
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Jan 2 – Solemnity of Holy Name of  
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# A new beginning in a new land

## Continued from front page

As the Christmas break approached, I waited, sometimes anxiously – but not without hope.

## An eleventh-hour miracle

On the night of Wednesday, December 15, a remarkable call came. A student from Messiah College in Pennsylvania told me that a team of seven students would be traveling to Mexico City for the OM Crusade.

They had heard about me and were willing to come and pick me up from my college in Harrisonburg, so we could travel together. The next morning, December 16, their van arrived. They had never met me, but our shared faith made us a family. Together, we drove day and night,

reaching Laredo, Texas, on Saturday, December 18.

## A disappointment turned to peace

At the border, the team could cross easily into Mexico since they were American citizens, but my entry was denied due to travel restrictions for Indian citizens. The team refused to leave me alone, so they spent the night in the van with me. The next morning, Sunday, December 19, we worshiped together in that same van.

The team members from Messiah College in Pennsylvania asked if I had money to stay in a motel till they came back. I answered “yes,” though I had only twelve dollars and did not even know what a motel was! One member of the team suggested we attend a nearby church. We found The Heights Baptist Church, just minutes from the border.

## The offering of twelve dollars

Although I felt uncertain and alone, I joined the worship service.

There was a battle in my mind about where I am going to stay. I did not know anyone in Texas, and I came to America a few weeks ago.

In those days, there were no credit cards I could use. During the church service, the offering plate came around, and I placed all twelve dollars inside and prayed quietly: “Lord, show me that You are faithful. Help me in this situation.” Immediately, a deep peace settled over me, and I felt free. Nothing to hold on to for security, only my faith and trust in God.

That evening, the church held a potluck supper for our group. A member of the church invited and insisted that I stay with his family until the team returned from Mexico.

I gladly accepted, silently thanking God for His provision. Though I was a stranger, they treated me with warmth, care, and

generosity. Once again, it strengthened my faith that God was my help in times of need.

## A new journey to Pennsylvania

A few days later, a family friend visited the home where I was staying. They were driving to Worthington, Pennsylvania, to spend Christmas, and invited me to join them. I accepted gratefully, after all, Pennsylvania was much closer to Virginia than the Texas border.

Once again, I found myself in a traveling van with these newly found Christian believers who treated me like a family member. Along the way, we stopped briefly at Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky before arriving in Worthington on Christmas Eve.

## An unexpected Christmas blessing

Worthington is a small town near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, yet for me it became the place of an unforgettable Christmas miracle. On Saturday, December 25, 1971, I spent my first Christmas in America with the warm and welcoming members of the Worthington Fellowship Bible Church.

The next morning, Sunday, December 26, I was invited to preach during the worship service and again to share in the evening gathering. After the service, one of the deacons gently led me to the fellowship hall while the congregation took what they called a love offering, a term that was completely new to me.

I stayed with the pastor and his family for a few days, enjoying their kindness and hospitality. Before I left, the pastor handed me an envelope containing the offering the church had collected.

When I opened it, I found more than a couple of thousand dollars. I was overwhelmed. Throughout my long journey, I had never shared my financial needs with anyone.

The only offering I had given was the twelve dollars I placed in the collection plate at a church near the Texas border. Yet here I was, receiving far more than I ever imagined.

How does the Lord multiply our small acts of faith? Only He knows. But I saw His hand clearly that day. God provided exactly what I needed, in His way and in His time.

## A return filled with gratitude

On Tuesday, December 28, the family who brought me to Worthington, Pennsylvania, prepared to return to Texas. To my surprise, they offered to drive me all the way back to my college in Harrisonburg, Virginia. I gave them a generous cash gift to help with their travel expenses. Later, they told me that my gift had enabled their long-awaited trip to Worthington, Pennsylvania.

My entire journey – from Virginia to Texas, from Texas to Pennsylvania, and back to Virginia – did not cost me a single penny. Through prayer and trust, God provided every step of the way. The Worthington Fellowship Bible Church continued to support me throughout my student years, spiritually and financially.

## A Christmas to remember

Looking back today, I can only say: How perfect are God's plans. My first Christmas in America was indeed a miracle trip. May this story of God's faithfulness during my first Christmas in America bring hope to your own journey during this Christmas.

Here, let me end my Christmas story with a quote from the Holy Bible. “Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act.” Psalm 37:5.

I wish all the readers of The Hamtramck Review a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2026.

## This week at the Library . . .

December 26, 2025

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year:** The Library Board, Library Director (E. Tamara Sochacka), and the entire staff want to wish all our patrons and residents of Hamtramck all the best for the holidays.

**Inauguration of the City Government:** On January 4th, 2026 at 6 pm the newly elected officials for the city of Hamtramck will be taking oath of office in the library. Door will be open at 5 pm with serving of food and refreshments. The official program will start at 6 pm, followed by a reception and photo opportunity. All Hamtramck residents are invited. Seating space available on first come first serve basis.

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

**Kwanzaa:** From December 26th to January 1 is an African American family observance established in 1966 celebrating traditional African Harvest festivals, focusing on family unity, with a community harvest feast on the seventh day. Kwanzaa means “first Fruit” in Swahili.

**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.

**IMF:** The international Moneraty Fund was established in Washington

D.C. on December 27, 1945.

**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. For more information about the program, please call Sky Covington (248) 383-3385..

**Woodrow Wilson:** This 28th U.S. President was born on December 28, 1856 in Staunton, Virginia (as Thomas Woodrow Wilson). He served two terms from 1912 through 1921. Best remembered for stating, “The world must be made safe for democracy,” while asking Congress for a declaration of war against Germany in 1917. Following the death of his first wife, he married Edith Bolling Galt in 1915. He had suffered a paralytic stroke in 1919 and never regained his health, heading to speculation that his wife was actually running the White House during his illness.

**Louisiana:** On December 30 1803 U.S. flag was raised over New Orleans as the United States took formal possession of territory of Louisiana.

**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)

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**NORMAL HOURS:** Closed Monday, Dec. 1 OPEN starting Tuesday, Dec. 2 8am-5pm, Wednesday, Dec. 3 8am-5pm, Thursday, Dec. 4 8am-5pm, Friday, Dec. 5 8am-5pm, Saturday, Dec. 6 8am-4pm, Sunday, Dec. 7 Closed, Monday, Dec. 8 Closed, Open Tuesday, Dec. 9 8am-5pm, Wednesday, Dec. 10 8am-5pm, Thursday, Dec. 11 8am-5pm, Friday, Dec. 12 8am-5pm, Saturday, Dec. 13 8am-4pm. **HOLIDAY HOURS:** Open Starting Sunday, Dec. 14 10am-4pm, Monday, Dec. 15 8am-5pm, Tuesday, Dec. 16 8am-5pm, Wednesday, Dec. 17 8am-5pm, Thursday, Dec. 18 8am-5pm, Friday, Dec. 19 8am-5pm, Saturday Dec. 20 8am-4pm, Sunday, Dec. 21 10am-4pm, Monday, Dec. 22 8am-5pm, Tuesday, Dec. 23 8am-5pm, Christmas Eve 8am-1pm, Closed Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 26 Closed, Saturday, Dec. 27 Closed, Sunday, Dec. 28 Closed, Monday, Dec. 29 Closed, Open Tuesday, Dec. 30 8am-5pm, Wednesday, Dec. 31 8am-1pm, Jan. 1 Closed, Jan. 2, 3 Reopen Normal Hours

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Angel Wings (Chrusciki), Kolaczki, Assorted Coffee Cakes, Rolls (Poppy, Almond, Walnut), Assorted Babkas and Honey Babkas, Kremówka (Pope's favorite), Assorted Christmas Cookies, Jajecznicza (Holiday Egg Bread with Raisins), Chalkas (Egg Bread with Raisins), Mazurka (Raspberry & Pineapple)

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### Include:

- Include your name
- Phone number
- Preferred appointment time

### Important Information

- Appointments are limited!
- They are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.
- You will receive confirmation once your appointment is scheduled.

# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### The holiday season is a time to reflect

The arrival of the holiday season this week means that our busy lives generally slow down, and allow us time to reflect.

This is not only the season of giving, but it also provides a break from daily routines, and gives time for thanks for the family, friends and people we know and love.

Time is a precious thing.

And, speaking of time, for the next two weeks we will be doing our annual year in review, where we go over all of the city's important events of the past 12 months.

As always, Hamtramck is a fascinating town, and one that is fertile ground for any news organization. That's why this city keeps attracting attention from

media publications from around the world.

We truly are the whole wide world here, in two square miles.

In the past year, Hamtramck experienced a number of highs and lows. And, unfortunately, a lot of political division and shakeups in city hall.

It seems like each week produces surprising new revelations. This year has been a roller-coaster ride.

One can only hope that Hamtramck's political turmoil settles down, especially the constant upheavals in city hall.

Yes, one can hope.

It's true that Hamtramck has experienced plenty of turmoil in the past, and we always manage to move on from it.

Fortunately, Hamtra-

mck is about to enter a new political phase, with a new mayor and a reset of city council.

On the home front, Hamtramck residents know what is truly important, and that is family and safe neighborhoods. The strength of our city is in its people.

And, for generations, it's always been the residents who keep this city humming along.

Take time to recharge your batteries for these couple of weeks, because every new year brings on new challenges.

Of course, The Review owes a big thanks to our readership and advertisers for all your support.

For that, we thank you very much.

## Odds & Ends

**No longer missing ...**  
As many in the community have likely heard by now, Linda Ward has been found after having gone missing for over a week.

She is reportedly safe, and her dogs are safe, but she is now hospitalized. No other details were made public.

The Hamtramck Police

Department issued this press release:

"The Hamtramck Police Department is pleased to report that as of December 18, 2025, at approximately 8:30 p.m., Linda Ward, previously reported as an endangered missing person, has been safely located. Ms. Ward's family has been notified.

"The Department extends its sincere appreciation to the community for the outpouring of concern, information, and assistance provided throughout the search.

"We would also like to recognize the cooperation of other agencies that was instrumental in helping to achieve this positive outcome."

### Firefighters make sure students are warm for the winter

By Charles Sercombe

The holiday gifting season was in full swing last week.

That's when members of the Hamtramck Firefighters Local 750 dropped off a donation of 375 winter coats for Hamtramck Public School students.

Firefighter Chad Kersten said it's part of an ongoing relationship the union has



Hamtramck firefighters recently donated 375 winter coats for students in the Hamtramck Public Schools.

with the school district.

"We have worked with the public schools for the last six years, with different donations. This year they asked for coats, and next year we are planning snow boots," Kersten said.

"We have partnered with Ferrous metals," he added, "and have split the cost between Local 750 and Ferrous, at a cost of \$7,000. All the coats were purchased through Sam's Club."

For a number of years, various charitable groups have been donating clothing to Hamtramck's students.

The donations are needed, too, since many in

Hamtramck are in need.

An estimated 10,000 people here in the city are at, or below, poverty income level.

And most of the students in public schools here qualify for free lunches.

On Friday, the holiday mood was also demonstrated at the Hamtramck Housing Commission's Senior Plaza apartments on Holbrook.

Seniors there enjoyed free holiday meals, donated by the Detroit Area Agency on Aging.

Mayor-elect Adam Alharbi stopped by to offer the seniors his holiday greetings.



## The giving season is here!

The Hamtramck Review tells the stories of a city unlike any other-diverse, determined, and proudly local. Your donation helps preserve independent journalism that reflects Hamtramck's heritage and its future.



At Buried Lede Media, we believe in the power of local news. With your support, that power continues to thrive on every block. Your end-of-year gift is tax-deductible and ensures independent journalism remains a cornerstone of this community.



### 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 Nov. 25, and all councilmembers, except for Khalil Refai, were in attendance.

Isabel Allaway, Hamtramck's Community Economic Department Manager, gave an overview of how her department will market city-owned land to developers.

The strategy, Allaway said, is to seek developments "that align with city goals."

That strategy hinges on developments that will produce income for the city and provide services that residents need.

Councilmember Muhith Mahmood questioned if the city has too many requirements.

"Don't you think we make it harder for people to invest to the city?" he asked. "Sometimes people complain and when we do something, we have to go through too much in this entire city."

Allaway said that is a "good concern."

"We want people to take advantage of the development properties that are available," she said. "This (strategy) offers more of a benefits negotiation

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## The Hamtramck Review

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# CRIME LOG

By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Dec. 16-21.

**Tuesday, Dec. 16**

- A domestic assault was reported in the 3800 block of Yemans.

- A vehicle was reported stolen in the 3900 block of Trowbridge.

- A theft from a vehicle was reported in the 2600 block of Neibel.

- A vehicle was reported stolen on Fleming.

- Property damages were reported on Conant and in the 11600 block of McDougall.

- Family trouble was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.

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

**Wednesday, Dec. 17**

- At 2 a.m., a person in the 12000 block of McDougall reported being harassed.

- A theft from an auto was reported on Moran.

- A business on Jos. Campau reported trouble with a customer.

- An assault was reported on Jos. Campau.

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

- A hit-and-run accident was reported on Norwalk.

- A theft was reported in the 1900 block of Norwalk.

- Family trouble was reported in the 2200 block

of Danforth.

- A person in the 12000 block of Selfridge was reported missing.

**Thursday, Dec. 18**

- Identity theft was reported in the 2400 block of Hewitt.

- A minor in the 12000 block of Selfridge was reported as a runaway.

**Friday, Dec. 19**

- Officers investigating a report of a stolen vehicle in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau arrested a suspect for possessing the vehicle in question.

- Suspicious circumstances were reported in the 3500 block of Caniff.

- A suspect was arrested in the 2900 block of Dan for domestic assault.

- A domestic assault was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.

**Saturday, Dec. 20**

- A fight was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.

- Property Damage was reported in the 9400 block of McDougall.

**Sunday, Dec. 21**

- At about 4:30 a.m., officers responded to a call about something blocking the street in the 9400 block of McDougall.

- A person in the 2200 block of 2200 of Alice reported an incident of fraud.

- A hit-and-run accident was reported in the 2700 block of Caniff.

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1/6/24

December 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?

Christmas Holiday programming

Final City Council meeting of the year 2025,

Holiday music on Fridays in December at the library

Interview with Mayor about past 4 years and the future

Detroit Hamtramck Coalition Press Conference

Veteran's Day Ceremonies at Hamtramck VFW Post 6 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**  
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To upload video files go to ([bit.ly/hamtramcktv](http://bit.ly/hamtramcktv))



## City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 3

process."

Some development projects might also be matched with tax incentives, Allaway said.

The development plan, she said, "makes Hamtramck look, I think, more competitive and professional as a part of the development landscape."

She stressed that a plan is needed because the city has a limited amount of land available for development.

"We have to be really wise about what we do choose to do with it," Allaway said.

During public comment, Nural Islam said there are Hamtramck police officers who are targeting residents, conducting illegal investigations, recording citizens' phone calls without prior consent, and trafficking residents without "judicial authorization."

He urged the city to conduct an independent investigation.

Cheryl Hall complained that the city's code enforcement needs to be stepped up. She said some residences are allowed to be in violation of codes.

"We all should be treated equally," Hall said. "What are we getting for our tax dollars?"

Attorney Mark Koroi said he approves of the council's plan to create a civilian oversight commission for the police department. He said he helped set up one in Ann Arbor and it has proven to be effective.

Ibrahim Aljahim accused some police officers of "going after some council candidates. I don't think that's their job."

He did not elaborate on what officers are allegedly investigating.

(In 2024, Aljahim was convicted of second-degree sexual assault involving a mentally disabled person.)

Mayor Amer Ghalib said the reasons the council is interested in an oversight commission for the police department are to improve community relations, and also to offer guidance.

Moving on to council business, the council approved a grant for \$3,750 from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The grant will be used to purchase 100 trees, which will then be planted throughout the city.

The task of digitizing the city's thousands of documents was given a helping hand with the approval of spending an additional \$15,000 for a company to make the transfers.

To date, the following has been achieved:

- High-Volume Black & White Scans: 204,786 images

- Files Processed: 7,193

- Large-Format Plans: 2,845 images

- Receipts / Small Documents: 3,869 images

The city had initially allocated \$27,000 for the project.

The council OK'd the

purchase of a used Ford F-150 for the Community Economic Development Department. The truck will be used by the department to assist in various clean-up projects in the city, and when it is needed to haul supplies.

The cost of the truck is \$22,379.

The council also OK'd spending \$21,000 to help secure the city's internet system from being attacked.

A lengthy discussion was held on whether to go for a loan of about \$600,000 to further remove lead water lines. The loan would mean an increase in monthly water bills – an increase that would last for 30 years.

However, there is also a chance the city could get grants that would mean the loan would not be needed.

Mayor Ghalib said "people are complaining like crazy" over increases in water bills.

He questioned whether this loan is an essential need.

"Is it that urgent?" he asked.

Ghalib also said he told the interim city manager to remove all "unnecessary costs" on water bills.

"We need to reduce the water bills as soon as possible," Ghalib said.

Ghalib also repeated an offer that President Trump's administration made to him to allocate millions of dollars for the city's many infrastructure repairs – which would include the water and sewer system.

"They are working on it seriously," he said. "So, I'm not going to stop following up even after my term ends. We're going to keep asking. So if we get that money, it's going to be a relief on the residents."

(Ghalib's term in office ends on Dec. 31 of this year. He did not seek re-election, but instead is waiting to get a job with the Trump administration.)

Ghalib noted that many residents are complaining about rising costs.

"I know a lot of people are struggling because of the inflation, the economy," he said. "They're struggling buying groceries and stuff. We don't want to make them responsible to fix our infrastructure."

Despite the concern over possibly increasing water bills, the council approved having the city start the loan process.

In a follow-up, the council discussed whether to allow the former owner of a house at 3381 Doremus, who lost ownership due to a tax foreclosure, to be allowed to purchase the house back from the city.

Isabel Allaway, manager of the city Community Economic Development Department, said the former owner owns multiple houses.

She said he did not keep up with his various property tax bills. After losing the house on Doremus, Al-

Continued on page 6

# Merry Christmas



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Wesolych Swiat*

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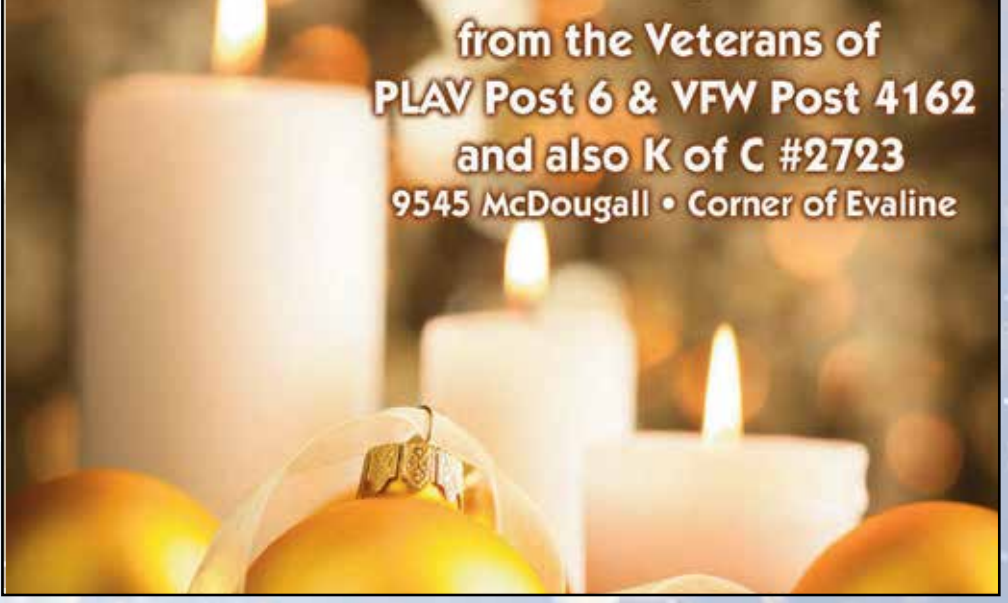


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from everyone at the Hamtramck Recreation Department. We hope your days are filled with joy and laughter through the New Year and beyond!

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*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*



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*Season's greetings*

Wishing our community peace and joy into the next year

From your friends at  
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As the church bells ring proclaiming the birth of Christ we at  
**Our Lady Queen of Apostles Parish**

wish you a Merry Christmas and for the coming New Year - health, happiness and prosperity.

**Christmas Season 2025**

**3851 Prescott, Hamtramck, MI 48212  
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**Wednesday, December 24 ..... Christmas Eve Vigil**

Family Mass.....4pm (English)  
Solemn Midnight Mass.....12:00 am  
Celebrated in English and Polish  
Preceded by the singing of Christmas Carols at 11:30 pm

**Thursday, December 25.....Christmas Day**

Mass in Polish and English ..... 9:30am

**Friday, December 26**

**Poland 2nd Day of Christmas, St. Stephen's Day**

Mass in English and Polish .....10:00am

**Wednesday, December 31 .....New Year's Eve**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament ..... 3:30pm  
Holy Mass in English and Polish ..... 4:30pm

**Thursday, January 1 ..... New Year's Day**

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.....9:30am (English and Polish)

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**Wednesday, Dec. 24th**

*Christmas Eve – Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord*  
9:00 am Holy Mass

**Thursday, Dec. 25th**

*Christmas Day - Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord*  
11:45 Group Carol Singing

12 Midnight Shepherds' Mass (Pasterka)

9:00 am Holy Mass

*Feast of St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr (Msza Św. w j. polskim)*

7:00 pm Holy Mass

**Friday, Dec. 26th**

*Solemnity of Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist*

10:00 am Holy Mass (Blessing of Wine)

**Saturday, Dec. 27th**

*Solemnity of Humble Shepherds*

9:00 am Holy Mass

**Sunday, Dec. 28th**

*Solemnity of Circumcision of Our Lord*

10:00 am Holy Mass





## City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 4

lay said the former owner continued to collect rent from those living there.

"Which we consider dishonest, if not fraudulent," she said. "So I have concerns about making any award of this home back to that owner. I think the most fair thing to do, as I recommended at the last meeting, is to auction the house to the general public."

Mayor Ghalib asked: "Did he (the former owner) think that the city forgot about the tax or what?"

Councilmember Moham-

med Hassan said that, if the owner agrees to pay the city a "reasonable" amount of money for the property, "I don't have any issue to give it back to him."

Councilmember Mohammed Alsomiri, who brought up this request to the council at a prior meeting, said Wayne County kept sending tax bills to an old address of the former owner.

Allaway countered, saying it was the former owner's responsibility "to make sure the taxes were

paid on the home. He knows that the tax is due. He owns a lot of properties."

She also added that the former owner, Mohammed Alzam Zamin, told her he lives in New York. Alsomiri insisted that he lives at the Doremus house.

Allaway reminded the council that the former owner had been collecting rent at the house despite no longer owning it.

Despite being told all of that, the council agreed to sell the house back to the former owner.

In another similar matter, the council discussed whether to sell the properties at 11405, 11409 and 11415 Conant, which involves a single building and a lot, back to the former owner, Shaker Sadeak, who also lost the building in a tax foreclosure.

The property in question is the former site of the restaurant Kabob House, which was also a former funeral home. The property was heavily damaged in a fire a few years ago.

The matter was brought up by Councilmember Muhtasin Sadman.

(Sadman was connected to the property when a business there submitted articles of incorporation to the state.)

City Attorney Odey Meroueh said that, since the council agreed to sell back the Doremus property, the same deal has to be offered to this former owner.

Councilmember Hassan noted that this property is part commercial, but ad-

ded that the former owner lives in an apartment upstairs and considers it his principle residence despite the fire damage.

The council, including Sadman, unanimously voted to sell the property back to the former owner.

In the last piece of business, the council agreed to allocate \$14,300 to install a new broadcasting system for the council chambers after numerous problems had recently occurred because of outdated equipment.

Mayor Ghalib gave a lengthy report, noting that he has only one more meeting to chair before his term ends in December.

He said it's "exciting" that his term is ending. As for the future, Ghalib said he will continue to focus on "uniting our community. I've been calling for unity. No matter what your background is ... we all belong to this community and we should care about each other despite all the differences in our community between different groups. We are a good community. We are a peaceful community. We don't have any kind of violence even though our differences can be extreme sometimes, but we care about each other."

Ghalib continued: "We condemn any kind of violence, not only in our community but also in other communities, like what happened in Dearborn. That's unacceptable. We can't have outsiders to come and instigate

violence and spread hate in our community."

(It was not immediately clear what incident Ghalib was referring to in Dearborn. There have been several incidents of outsiders coming to Dearborn protesting Islam and promoting Christianity. One such protester threatened to blow up a mosque. In the most recent incident, Jake Lang, a right-wing activist from Florida who also participated in the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capital building, held an anti-Muslim rally in the city, where he tried to burn a Koran.)

Ghalib said this kind of violence is "condemned in all languages, and we stand in solidarity with everyone in our community no matter what your background is and what your religion is, whether you are Muslim, Christian, Jew, Hindu, Buddha, Buddhist, whatever."

"We are one community," Ghalib said. "Two or three years ago, when the media from outside of our community was attacking us and spreading hate and division in our community, I called these people opportunistic parasites because they only flourish and shine with the nasty things and hatred and violence. So we reject these kind of people and we again call for unity to care about each other."

"We will continue to have that as our main goal and main mission whether we are elected officials or not."

As for his future of possibly working in the Trump administration, Ghalib said he hopes to find out what position he will be offered and "where I'll end up, whether here locally or overseas or in (Washington) D.C. But I'm sure I will be somewhere where I can utilize my skills and my relationships to continue serving this community."

"I think we have a bright future for the city. I can see that we'll continue to thrive. The city's infrastructure will be fixed, hopefully. ..."

Ghalib also encouraged residents to seek serving as an elected official.

"It's hard to find good, qualified people," he said. "Our city is small but we have complicated issues in our city. It's not easy to be in the spotlight and put your life as an open book in front of everyone. That's not easy for an elected official - especially when you run to serve in a voluntary position. You are not compensated for the service that you provide, and that's a plus and it's not an easy thing to do."

(The mayor's position currently pays \$6,499 a year and councilmembers are currently paid \$3,249 each year. The council's mayor pro tem is paid \$4,874.)

Mayor Pro Tem Abu Musa followed up, and said that councilmembers "try our best, from our knowledge, to serve the community and we put - especially I put - Hamtramck first."

(According to an internal city investigation, it is alleged that Musa and Councilmember Mahmood are not actually residents of the city. It is alleged that Musa lives in Warren with his family, and that Mahmood lives in Troy also with his family. Both deny the allegations of being non-residents of Hamtramck.)

During public comment, attorney Mark Koroi said that there was "large scale" voter fraud in the city. He said that there were 1,000 city income tax bills sent to people, but 200 came back from people who said they don't live here. However, Koroi said, those 200 people voted here.

"They're living outside the city, but voting in our elections," Koroi said.

Mayor-elect Adam Alharbi said the council has to be careful about voting on issues that will raise water bills for households. He said residents are not pleased with increasing water bills.

"Throughout the campaign, I've listened to people and they complain about how much the water bill is increasing every time," Alharbi said.

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## From the Office of Wayne County Treasurer Eric R. Sabree



## PROBATE ASSISTANCE

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**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:  
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