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# The Review

Hamtramck

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— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

## Alharbi gains a handful of votes in mayoral ballot recount

By Charles Sercombe

Mayoral candidate Muhith Mahmood's call for a recount of ballots turned out to cost him votes.

Instead of losing by six-votes, he has now lost by 11 votes.

As of this moment, Adam Alharbi is the mayor-elect. He said he is ready to move on.

"Now I will focus on improving Hamtramck," he told a gathering of reporters.

Alharbi will be the city's second Yemeni-American and Muslim to hold the position of mayor in Hamtramck. Hamtramck's majority voting bloc appears to be Yemeni-American.

The official mayoral election results are now: Alharbi, 2,071; Mahmood, 2,060.

Mahmood is a Bangladeshi-American.

The recount revealed something that could be of major concern: three of the city's five precincts could not be recounted because of discrepancies between the number of ballots and the number of voters.

The results of those three precincts remained the same and have not changed.

The revelation of the



Mayor-elect Adam Alharbi faces questions from media outlets after the recount of the mayoral election revealed that he won by a slightly larger vote margin of 11 votes. The recount revealed larger questions about how the election was supervised.

three precincts in question raised further concerns about City Clerk Rana Faraj's supervision of the election, and the fact that 37 ballots were discovered after the election that were not counted.

Faraj was put on paid suspension after the 37 ballots were discovered in her office that were not counted.

The Board of Canvassers was asked to count the ballots, but the Board's vote on the matter was split 2-2, which effectively meant that the ballots

could not be counted since it takes at least three votes in favor of a resolution.

At Tuesday's recount, overseen by the Wayne County Board of Canvassers, Mahmood's attorney, Mark Brewer, had harsh words for Faraj's handling of the election.

"I've never seen a more mismanaged election," Brewer said. "That office is not serving the citizens of Hamtramck. It needs to be fixed."

Mahmood, whose first term on city council expired at the end of this year, has since filed a lawsuit to have those ballots counted. A court hearing on the matter will be heard today, Friday, Dec. 5, the day after The Review went to press.

Mahmood said he will not file a lawsuit against the city over the election, but on Facebook he was critical over how the election was conducted.

"It's not about winning; it's about the election

being mishandled. Today, 30 percent of the ballots were not counted due to the clerk's mismatched numbers," Mahmood said. "Any of us could have gained more votes, and the outcome could have been completely different. ... Altogether, this election has become a complete joke and an embarrassment to the process."

Mahmood told The Review that Faraj "must be held accountable."

The Board has referred the handling of the election to the Wayne County Prosecutor's office and the State Attorney General for further review.

It is unclear what will ultimately happen in terms of Faraj's employment status. Faraj had demanded \$500,000 after being put on paid suspension, even though she had not been fired.

The council rejected that request.



Councilmember Muhith Mahmood lost his bid to overturn the mayoral election results, but he still has a pending court challenge over the election.

## Passenger Recovery travels to a new location, expand services

By Alan Madlane

"I am a passenger and I ride and I ride"

Iggy Pop, "Passenger"  
Hamtramck's Passenger Recovery recently outgrew its location on Caniff and opened a new community center at 3901 Christopher St. — near the Fowling Warehouse.

We caught up with Christopher Tait, one of the directors, to get an update.

**The Review: Your organization has been active for almost a decade now. Remind us — were the founders of Passenger Recovery inspired**



Passenger Recovery recently moved to a larger facility and has expanded its programming.

**by another like group that came before, or was yours an entirely new concept or idea; that is, the focus on musicians and artists, and the use of their own familiar environments of music and art (and the people who make it) to help them begin the road to recovery?**

Tait: Passenger was born out of my own experience as a touring musician struggling to find support for recovery from substance use while on the road. I live in Hamtramck and played my very first Detroit show at Paychecks many years

Continued on page 2

## It's not over until it's over

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck's mayoral election took yet another twist and turn.

Although the recount of the election is now over and Adam Alharbi remains the mayor-elect, his opponent, Muhith Mahmood, is not totally conceding yet.

Mahmood has filed a lawsuit to have 37 ballots, that the Wayne County Board of Canvassers prevented from being counted, to now be counted.

The ballots were set aside because they were left unsecured in the Hamtramck City Clerk's Office and were not counted on election day.

City Clerk Rana Faraj says the ballots weren't discovered until after the election was over and all the other election ballots were tabulated.

She later reported the ballots to the county for tabulation. But the Board of Canvassers split their vote 2-2 on whether the ballots should be counted.

To count the ballots, at least three Board members had to vote in favor of it. The two Republicans on the Board said the ballots could not be counted because they were left unsecured in the Clerk's Office and thus could have been tampered with.

The two Democrats on the Board insisted the ballots have to be counted, or otherwise those 37 voters would be disenfranchised.

The 37 ballots could swing the election in favor of Mahmood, who, as of now, has lost the election by a slim 11-vote margin.

His attorney, Mark Brewer, the former chairman of the Michigan Democratic Party, argued in the lawsuit that not counting the ballots in question is an "unconstitutional disenfranchisement of 37 Hamtramck citizens and voters. ... The Wayne County Board of Canvassers failed to correct those mistakes. Those ballots should be counted or those voters given the opportunity to cast new ballots."

Mahmood's supporters insisted, at a prior Board meeting, that the ballots be counted.

Alharbi and his supporters disagreed that the ballots should be counted. They argued that, since the ballots were left in an unsecured area where multiple people

Continued on page 6

### Quick Hits

#### Trump to review green card status for many

By Charles Sercombe  
Hamtramck's Yemeni immigrant community might want to take notice.

President Trump's administration has now "paused" its review of pending applications for green cards, citizenship or asylum from Yemen and 18 other countries that are under a travel ban to the U.S.

The clampdown is a result of the shooting of two National Guard members in Washington D.C. by an Afghan immigrant who had worked with the CIA.

Hamtramck has a large Yemeni community, and it's become the majority voting bloc here.

There's more, too.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is also now re-reviewing and re-interviewing Yemeni immigrants, and those who emigrated from those countries affected by the travel ban.

The countries included in the travel ban are: Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, the Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen, Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan and Venezuela.

Interestingly, many in the Hamtramck Yemeni community voted for Trump to be president in the 2024 election. And that's despite Trump once calling those who emigrate from Yemen "terrorists."

Hamtramck Mayor Amer Ghalib is credited for whipping up support for Trump among the Arab-Muslim population in the metro area. After the election, Ghalib was nominated by Trump to be the next ambassador to Kuwait, but Ghalib's confirmation hearing with U.S. Senators went pretty badly.

In other words, it's unlikely he will get the job.

But, Ghalib has hinted that he will be offered a job, in the coming

Continued on page 2

## Quick Hits

Cont. from front page

days or weeks, with the Trump administration.

Ghalib is an immigrant from Yemen, and came

here in 1997 when he was 17 years old.

He is the first Yemeni-American and Muslim to become mayor of Hamtramck.

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**Dec 8 – Solemnity of Conception of  
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**Dec 10 – Rorate Holy Mass 7 pm**

**Dec 13 – Take-out Only  
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# Passenger Recovery travels to a new location, expand services

Continued from front page

ago. It felt like the perfect place to create something that could help other touring artists and music workers on those “tin can” tours passing through the Midwest.

Hamtramck has always been the heartbeat of Detroit's dive-bar scene and a hub for lower-level touring bands. It's also where all the city's freeways cross – a true crossroads for musicians coming and going. For artists searching for change, both locally and while touring, Hamtramck was the natural place to begin.

Passenger's earliest inspiration came from MusiCares, the national organization connected to the GRAMMY Foundation. MusiCares helped me personally get into treatment back in 2011, when I was struggling and needed a lifeline. Nine years later, Passenger emerged

from that same spirit of support – but with a local focus.

Today, Passenger is dedicated to enriching the recovery journey through music and the arts, while offering a supportive space for both our community and those just passing through. In a full-circle moment, we've even been able to collaborate with MusiCares on community events like Humans of Hip Hop, and help connect them with local providers offering dental care to Detroit's musicians and music workers.

Passenger is for everyone – whether you're on the road or finding your rhythm right here at home.

**Review: You've had some changes lately, related to the growth your organization has experienced. Can you tell us briefly about some of these changes, and how they came about: the new digs, etc.?**

Tait: In recent months, Passenger's Recovery Community Center made a big move — relocating from the old convent on Caniff to the administration building next to the Fowling Warehouse. The transition was a major step for us, but it's opened up new opportunities to grow and better serve our community.

The new space offers expanded rooms for support groups and has given life to the Christopher Street Gallery – a mixed-use space that hosts both recovery meetings and community events, while showcasing artwork from Detroit-based talent and artists in recovery.

The move also made it possible to create a proper home for Passenger Radio WHCK, our radio station launched in April. The station serves as a bridge between the arts, mental health, and recovery – amplifying the voices and stories that keep our community connected and inspired.

Passenger Radio WHCK has quickly become a heartbeat of our community. Today, the station features over 20 DJs – a mix of people in recovery and allies – representing the full cultural spectrum of Hamtramck. Broadcasting live 24/7, Passenger Radio runs two public service announcements every hour, sharing information about recovery support and local community events.

We're incredibly proud of how the station has evolved, and continually inspired by what happens when people are given the space – and the nudge – to create.

Some highlights from our growing lineup include:

- Wicked Garden Radio (Jamie Gajewski) – recently aired a powerful Overdose Awareness Special, featuring personal reflec-

tions on loss, harm reduction resources, and music from artists we've lost to overdose.

- Don't Think I've Forgotten (Jean Khut) – dives deep into forgotten genres from Zamrock to Cambodian Rock and Soul, uncovering music's hidden histories.

- Let's See What Happens (Adam Taub) – blends everything from primal scream experiments to vintage anti-smoking campaigns from the '70s.

- DJs Sunshine and Autumn Maddox share their own recovery journeys live on air, creating space for honesty and connection.

- Program Manager Josh Lange spins new releases every Friday at noon, while Tim Price hosts interviews with artists from Detroit's legendary techno scene every Saturday at 8 p.m.

- DJs Dave Lawson and Jeff Fournier dig deep into the crates, adding rare oldies and hidden gems to the mix while offering deeper insights into each featured artist. And having Detroit legends like Matt Smith and Phat Kat in the mix gives us the hometown cred that'll win over anyone still deciding to tune in.

There are far too many incredible shows to name here – but you can explore our archives anytime at: [mixcloud.com/Passenger\\_Radio\\_WHCK](https://mixcloud.com/Passenger_Radio_WHCK).

Passenger Radio continues to prove that when creativity and recovery intersect, communities thrive.

**Review: What do you see as some of the potential advantages of your new location? Any disadvantages or problems yet?**

Tait: The new location has given us more than twice the space — and something that's often hard to find in Hamtramck: ample parking. At first, we worried about moving away from the more pedestrian-centered heart of the city to the southeast corner. But as it turns out, most of our participants drive to events, and the added parking has been a major benefit.

We've also introduced a transportation component to help improve access for everyone.

The center is now conveniently located next to the Conant Bus Stop, making it easier for those without cars to reach us. With this move, we're able to better serve the community – offering more room for gatherings and creativity, while ensuring transportation is never a barrier to participation.

**Review: You took part in a mental health awareness forum on a recent Saturday. How did that all go? Anything come out of it (that you can talk about) which might impact your mission?**

Tait: Yes, recently I had

the privilege of joining a panel on mental health in the music industry as part of the Michigan Music Alliance's “Songs in the Key of D” event at Wayne State. It was a meaningful opportunity to discuss the challenges that music workers face – both locally and nationally – as they strive to make healthier behavioral choices while touring or performing.

I sat alongside Sasha Gushkin, Judy Banker, Jo Serrapere, and Linden Thoburn – all professionals involved in therapy, music therapy, and neuroarts. It was an honor to share the stage with clinicians and explore how peer support and lived experience with substance use can complement clinical approaches and make recovery more accessible and relatable for others.

Since becoming a Recovery Community Center in 2023, Passenger has worked to highlight that same balance: pairing peer-led recovery with access to detox and treatment services, as well as connections to food assistance, housing, and other vital local supports.

Being part of this conversation reaffirmed our belief in the power of community and collaboration – and it was truly an honor to represent Passenger's role in supporting Detroit's music and recovery communities.

**Review: Now, with the wisdom of almost 10 years of doing this work behind you, why (in your opinion) would you say this is helping people where, perhaps, other methods may not be having your level of success?**

Tait: I can't speak for other folks about what does or doesn't work in recovery – each journey is different. But after years of working in the behavioral health field, I've learned that community outposts – spaces where people can connect and find support close to home – significantly increase the chances of long-term success.

Traditional detox, treatment, and outpatient services are essential for building structure in early recovery. But recovery community centers are equally vital; they help people build recovery capital, sustain momentum, and stay connected once that structure is in place.

In my own life, I've seen how music and the arts can bring people together in powerful ways. With our team's shared backgrounds in both music and recovery – and Hamtramck's incredible musical and cultural history – it felt only natural to use those tools to inspire the community and help lower barriers to better behavioral health choices.

That's what Passenger is all about: connection,

Continued on page 5

As the church bells ring proclaiming the birth of Christ we at

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**Friday, December 26**

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

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

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Holy Mass in English and Polish ..... 4:30pm

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## This week at the Library . . .

December 5, 2025

**Piano Music at the Library:** On Fridays, during the month of December (Dec. 5, Dec. 12, and Dec. 19), and on Tuesday, Dec. 23rd, Tina L. aka Sugar Calzone will be playing holiday music as well as standard tunes for the enjoyment of both, children and adults. Children will have a chance to sing along the tunes they know and adults will be able to enjoy musical selection from 4:00 pm till closing time.

**Sound Recording:** On December 6, 1877 at his laboratory in West Orange, New Jersey, Thomas Edison spoke the children's verse “Mary had a Little Lamb. . .” while demonstrating his newly invented phonograph which utilized a revolving cylinder wrapped in tinfoil to record sound.

**U.S. Constitution:** On December 7, 1787, Delaware became the first state to adopt the new constitution of the United States of America.

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

**Pearl Harbor:** On December 7, 1941 the U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft in a raid that lasted just over one hour and left nearly 3,000 Americans dead.

**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.

**INF Treaty:** On December 8, 1987, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Russia's General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev signed the UNF Treaty eliminating all intermedia-range and shorter-range nuclear missiles.

**The USSR:** On December 8, 1991 the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) ceased to exist, as the leaders of Russia, Belorussia and the Ukraine signed an agreement ceating the Commonwealth of Independent States. The remaining republics of the former USSR, with the exception of Georgia, joined the new Commonwealth.

**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](https://www.eventbrite.com) to secure your place. For more information about the program, please call Sky Covington (248) 383-3385..

**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)

# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### Oversight for police department is overdue

As the cliché goes: Better late than never.

What we're talking about is the establishment of an oversight commission for the city's police department.

It's an idea that's been kicked around for over 10 years, and for some reason it never went further than discussions about the proposal by the city council.

Last week, the council finally went one step further than just talking about the concept to calling for a council sub-committee to explore the issue more.

Hey, forming a sub-committee is not much progress, but at least it's a step – albeit a baby step – toward having a board of civilians taking some form of oversight of the department.

Hamtramck's police department doesn't have the best history, but it's certainly come a long way in recent years. Having civilian oversight is much needed to make sure the department and its officers are held to the highest standards of professionalism.

Again, we don't mean to imply that the department is out of control, or needs massive reform.

But having separate eyes outside of government officials is always a good thing. After all, it is our tax dollars that pay for the department, and residents have a right to at least have a voice in department policies and conduct.

The challenge, though, will be to make sure the oversight board does not micro-manage the department.



## 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. 28, and all council members, except for Khalil Refai, were in attendance.

Congressman Shri Thanedar, whose 13th District includes Hamtramck, spoke. But before he was about to speak, Ibrahim Aljahim could be heard saying: "You only come during election. ... He's against Palestine."

Thanedar spoke about the government shutdown at the time, which put a temporary stop on SNAP food payments to low-income recipients.

"These are difficult times right now," he said. "People are hurting. They use SNAP benefits. This is only \$6 a day per person, which is not a lot."

He said that negotiations between Democratic and Republican Congress members were not going well, and hinged on saving health care for millions of Americans.

Thanedar said Republicans wanted to cut spending for Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act.

"Healthcare is a fundamental human rights issue," he said.

Mayor Amer Ghalib joked that, while Republicans and Democrats are divided, they were

"united against me in the hearing."

(Ghalib was referring to his U.S. Senate hearing to be approved as ambassador to Kuwait. He faced tough grilling over his past social media likes and activities, and there was concern about past comments that were considered antisemitic. Ghalib spoke more at length about the experience later in the meeting.)

Councilmember Mohammed Hassan urged Thanedar to funnel more grants to Hamtramck to help fix the city's aging water and sewer system.

"Water is second life," Hassan said. "I want you to support justice."

Thanedar said he directed \$25 million in grants to his district, and that he is allotted at least \$15 million in grants each year for his district.

During public comment, a resident emailed a complaint about some police officers and detectives being abusive and discriminatory while investigating sexual assault threats.

The resident said she has filed numerous complaints, and even has a state investigator looking into the matter. The resident said the city has repeatedly failed to answer inquiries by the state in-

vestigator.

"Are these your tactics when your officers break the law?" the woman said.

Naji Chowdhury, the host of the podcast "Made in Banglatown," said that there is "growing disconnect and miscommunication between city staff and the community."

He said residents don't know where to go to get information about the city and updates.

Former Councilmember Nayeem Choudhury, who at this time was seeking re-election, said he wants to serve the public "because I live here, I work here; I'm always seeing our beloved residents daytime, nighttime, any time."

Choudhury, who later won a seat on city council, said the city needs to hire more "police force," and expand city services.

He said the city is "not engaging in our communities. ... That's what I hear on the streets."

Also, Choudhury said there are a lot of complaints about water bills continuing to increase.

"We need to come up with a plan," he said.

Attorney Mark Koroi noted that Congressman Thanedar is more pro-Israel than pro-Palestine.

Continued on page 5

## Odds & Ends

**Up in the air ...** Has the age of flying cars finally arrived?

After numerous false starts for the fledgling industry, could we finally be inching closer to a Jetsons-style realization of cars that actually fly?

The notion of flying cars has a long history that we aren't even going to attempt to get into here. Suffice to say, it's a concept virtually synonymous with the very concept of "the future."

And many are the jokes that have crossed comedians' lips about the failure of technology to make it happen.

If the latest pieces of legislation are any indication, maybe we're closer than we think: For one, Pennsylvania State Sen. Marty Flynn has just re-introduced legislation to legalize flying cars in his state, proposing to allow drivers to legally pilot them both on existing roadways as well as through the air.

A couple of the obvious issues that could eventually arise with this: there aren't any designated lanes in the sky, so once there's a lot of traffic up there, how does everyone keep from crashing into one another?

Also: How do you make sure they stay out of the paths of airplanes?

And: We've seen how drunkenly, distractedly, or just plain stupidly some people drive on the ground.

But then, with the increasing computerization of ground vehicles, and the advent of self-driving cars in particular, one could easily surmise that it might just be a matter of programming: keeping all westbound air traffic at a slightly lower altitude, say, or some such.

Sen. Flynn tried to push this through before, and it failed to pass. This time, he wrote that, although the technology might not yet be "fully realized," there was still a "significant need" for groundwork legislation to anticipate the eventuality of flying vehicles.

Two other states have actually beaten them to the punch: Minnesota and New Hampshire have already recognized flying cars as legal vehicles. Florida is also pushing the idea.

Personally, we're drea-

ding flying semi trucks: if one of them rolls over and loses a load of live pigs, it's going to be rainin' bacon.

Ugh. Or, come to think of it, yum.

**Reminder ...** 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.

These additional burdens come as energy



Mayor Amer Ghalib speaks at a pro-Palestinian rally in front of city hall.

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.

**Volunteers needed ...** Former City Councilmember Phill Kwik recently posted on social media that he and other volunteers in the community have been working with the "Every Neighbor" program, which is a joint operation of Hamtramck Mutual Aid and the city.

Here's what Phill has to say about the program:

"In the summer, we mow lawns and maintain gardens, and in the winter we shovel snow for seniors and disabled in our community. Our goal is to help all our neighbors stay safe, secure, and comfortable in their homes.

"We need volunteers for this year's winter. ... If you live in, or near, Hamtramck and want to help build community with much needed physical labor."

To lend a hand, send an email to: [everyneighbor-hamtramck@gmail.com](mailto:everyneighbor-hamtramck@gmail.com).

**Two-faced? ...** U.S. Rep. Shri Thanedar (D-Detroit), whose 13th District includes Hamtramck, has recently attracted media attention.

Thanedar has been criticized by Mayor Amer Ghalib and city councilmembers for being a supporter of Israel over the Palestinians.

Back in 2024, Ghalib said Thanedar's support of Israel in its war on Gaza "stands on the dark side of history, supports genocide, and does not

support the establishment of a Palestinian state. ..."

Ghalib further justified his opposition to Thanedar and his support of Israel, saying:

"We are used to standing for our principles, no matter what the consequences are. We always stand on the right side of history."

He also had a warning to those who serve in elected office, saying that

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## Coming Events

**SATURDAY, December 13, 2-4 p.m.** – Take-out only Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. Everyone is welcome! (Please come in person to pick up your meal.)



### By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Nov. 25-Dec. 1.

#### Tuesday, Nov. 25

- Trouble between neighbors was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.

- A complaint was made about noise in the 3800 block of Yemans.

- An assault was reported on Yemans.

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

- An assault was reported at Grand Haven and Circle Dr.

- A theft was reported in the 3300 block of Norwalk.

- An incident of fraud was reported in the 11300 block of Fleming.

#### Wednesday, Nov. 26

- A suspicious incident was reported on Dorothy.

- A suspect was arrested in the area of Gallagher and Trowbridge for possessing a stolen vehicle.

- Trouble between neighbors was reported in the 5100 block of Yemans.

- A complaint was made about an animal in the area of Wyandotte and Lumpkin.

- A suspicious person was reported in the 2200 block of Danforth.

- Family trouble was reported in the 2400 block of Grayling.

#### Thursday, Nov. 27

- Family trouble was reported in the 12000

block of Selfridge.

- A suspicious person was reported in the 11300 block of Dyar.

#### Friday, Nov. 28

- A complaint was made about noise in the 5000 block of Trowbridge.

- A person in the 3200 block of Roosevelt reported receiving harassing calls.

#### Saturday, Nov. 29

- At 2:30 a.m., a domestic assault was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.

- A theft was reported in the 11600 block of Sobieski.

- A person in the 3200 block of Holbrook reported being harassed.

- An assault was reported in the 2900 block of Yemans.

- Trouble between neighbors was reported in the 11600 block of Sobieski.

#### Sunday, Nov. 30

- At 1:40 a.m., property damage from accident was reported on Alpena.

- A stolen vehicle was recovered in the 5000 block of Yemans.

- A hit-and-run accident was reported in the 2100 block of Caniff.

#### Monday, Dec. 1

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

- A suspect was arrested for attempted retail fraud, and for obstruction.

# Odds & Ends

## Continued from page 3

“those who ignore us” will suffer at election time. That’s when, Ghalib said, voters can withhold their support “as a punishment tool.”

Thanedar won re-election in 2024 despite opposition from the mayor and city council.

Also, President Trump has been a strong supporter of Israel and its war in Gaza. In a twist, Ghalib ended up endorsing Trump for president back in 2024, and is waiting to hear back from the Trump administration about a job.

As for Thanedar and the issue of who he accepts campaign donations from, he has claimed in the past that he does not accept donations from corporate political action committees or from billionaires.

The thing is, media outlets have discovered that Thanedar does indeed accept donations from those sources.

In a statement, Thanedar has said:

“Over 99% of my campaign funds are from individuals and my own funds. We were rounding up. Anyone who thinks corporations have any influence on me is ignorant and misinformed.”

We have no idea what he means by “rounding up,” nor how this explains why he takes money from billionaires and corporations.

Thanedar will be facing several Democratic challengers in the 2026 mid-term elections.

### Winter pet safety tips

... From the Animal Legal Defense Fund:

With winter – and low temperatures – upon us, it’s important to think about how we’ll keep all our family members safe, warm, and healthy, including the four-legged ones. Dogs, cats, and other companion animals are not equipped to handle the cold much better than humans, so it’s important to pay close attention to signals they may be getting uncomfortable.

- First and foremost, bring your companion animals indoors, where it is warm. If it’s too cold for you to be outside, it’s too cold – and potentially deadly – for them, unless they are arctic breed dogs that can withstand colder weather, such as a husky or malamute.

- Watch for signs of hypothermia – shivering, weak pulse, dilated pupils, stupor, and unconsciousness. If an animal exhibits these symptoms, get them to a veterinarian right away.

- “Salts” that melt snow can be a serious irritant for an animal’s paws – and some are toxic if eaten. Make sure to wipe or rinse their feet when back indoors. Consider a pet-safe de-icing agent.

- Don’t leave antifreeze in open containers. Antifreeze is deadly – its sweet taste attracts al-

most any animal, and will kill them.

- Bang on the hood of your car before starting it – small animals, including cats, may crawl under the hood to find warmth.

Companion animals give us unconditional love, but they can’t tell us when they get too cold. A little care and caution will go a long way toward keeping all our family members healthy this winter.

If you see an animal in distress outdoors, call 911.

It is not uncommon for dogs and cats left outdoors in the brutal cold to suffer severe frostbite, or even to freeze to death. Some areas, like North Dakota and Minnesota, have recorded temperatures as low as 40 degrees below zero.

State laws differ dramatically when it comes to defining the standards of care required for animals. Some states fail to expressly include a requirement to provide adequate “shelter” as an element of the crime of animal neglect. It is illegal to knowingly cause a companion animal to freeze to death in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

ALDF is frequently contacted regarding animal cruelty charges filed against people who have left animals out in the cold. Public scrutiny and law enforcement are our best tools to enforce animal cruelty laws, and that is why we make exposing such neglect –like leaving dogs outdoors to freeze to death – a priority and make sure violators of these laws are held accountable.

### Older drivers, take note

... From Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson’s office:

To mark the beginning of Older Driver Safety Awareness Week, Dec. 1-5, Secretary of State Benson is highlighting resources that help drivers of all ages stay safe behind the wheel, and maintain their mobility and independence.

“As we age, our physical abilities, vision, and health can change,” Secretary Benson said.

“Whether you are an active driver, or considering the transition toward retirement, it’s important to stay educated on safe driving strategies. Older Driver Safety Awareness Week is a good time to have conversations with your loved ones about next steps, start planning for change, and review the resources available on our ‘Safe Drivers Smart Options’ website.”

The “Safe Drivers Smart Options” website, found online at Michigan.gov/AgingDriver, has resources and information to educate, empower, and guide older drivers and their families so they can stay active and safe behind the wheel; decide when it may be time to re-

**Continued on page 6**

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December 5, 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?

Interview with Mayor about past 4 years and the future

Detroit Hamtramck Coalition Press Conference

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](https://bit.ly/hamtramcktv))

# Passenger Recovery travels to a new location, expand services

Continued from page 2

creativity, and the belief that recovery and the arts can thrive together.

### Review: Any plans on the horizon for future expansion – in any sense of the word?

Right now, our focus is on the exciting expansions already underway – Passenger Radio WHCK and the Christopher Street Gallery – both of which continue to grow as creative, recovery-centered spaces for the community.

Looking ahead, we're hoping to expand our music therapy program and contribute to broader research exploring how music and the arts can help restore neural pathways affected by substance use. While Passenger is, at its core,

a peer recovery organization, we're fortunate to have dedicated clinical advisors who help guide our efforts. One of these advisors, Ed Roth, recently launched the HEAR-4Fam Foundation, aimed at supporting exactly this kind of research.

Our goal is to build on what we already offer – integrating creative expression, peer connection, and scientific study – to not only serve individuals here in our community, but also contribute to long-term, measurable solutions for recovery and behavioral health.

### Review: Please use this space to add anything we haven't yet touched on.

Just our mission statement and availability: Pas-

senger Recovery, 3901 Christopher Street, Suite D (Right Hand Side of Building)

- Wednesday - Saturday 12-8 p.m.

- Sunday – 1-8 p.m.

- [passengerrecovery.com](http://passengerrecovery.com) - [passengerradio.com](http://passengerradio.com) 313-288-0062

Passenger Recovery began in 2016 as a support network for music industry workers pursuing recovery while on the road. As our mission has evolved, we've expanded to include anyone seeking to explore recovery, creating events and programs that bring our local community together through music, art, and connection.

Just as the music industry brings together people from diverse backgrounds and experiences, so too does the journey of recovery. Music and the arts – like recovery itself – act as unifying forces, helping individuals from all walks of life find common ground and shared purpose.

Our work now includes recovery coaching, translation services, creative writing, music meditations, and a variety of support groups. Each of these programs reflects our dedication to using creativity, culture, and community as tools to support and inspire those on the path to recovery.



## City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 3

Councilmember Hassan said Thanedar “has to be on the Palestinian side.”

In new business, the council OK'd a new contract with city hall employees who are members of the union AFSCME Local 666.

The four-year contract will cost the city an additional \$80,000 a year over the next four years. The union has 26 members.

Mayor Ghalib asked whether it is a good deal. Finance Director Syed Amir Hassan said it was a “fair agreement.”

At the urging of Councilmember Mohammed Alsomiri, the council discussed whether to allow a property owner to buy back a house he once owned that was foreclosed on by the city.

The house in question is a rental dwelling at 3381 Doremus.

Alsomiri said the property owner was confused because he was given several tax bills from Wayne County for different addresses.

But Isabel Allaway, the Director of Community and Economic Development, said that the property owner owns several rental dwellings, and it is his fault for not keeping track of his tax bills.

Allaway said the city does allow homeowners who lost it due to delinquent taxes to purchase their houses back from the city if there was financial hardship and they actually lived in the house.

Allaway also noted that the former owner of the Doremus house continued to collect rent even though he no longer owned the house.

She said the fair thing to do is put it up for auction and allow the former owner to bid on it.

In the mayor's report, he spoke at length about his confirmation hearing with U.S. senators.

He said the hearing was “Not fair. Like there was a lot of misinformation and deception by the media that was every question based on. I don't think I was given the opportunity to express my knowledge about the main subject, which is the Kuwait-American relationship.

“I prepared myself very well to impress them of how much I know of even small, little details, statistics and names – everything. There was zero questions about that. ... It was all about the media, the social media, which is biased. Every senator would ask a question and say ‘This year you like the comment,’ while the fact is like seven-eight years ago.”

Ghalib said he had been trained “to say this is misinterpretation, taken out of context and it doesn't really represent my sentiment.”

At the hearing, Ghalib was grilled about why he “liked” a comment on Facebook from a person who compared Jews to monkeys.

Ghalib said he has a “bad habit of clicking on likes to everybody who comes to my page. I would click on this comment as a ‘welcome.’ It doesn't mean I agree with you, especially when I'm arguing with you and telling him things that we are against.”

(During the Senate hearing, Sen. Ted Cruz, a Republican from Texas, didn't buy that explanation, saying that clicking on “like” to a comment “Actually... means exactly that.”)

Ghalib said that, if the Senate fails to confirm him “based on this, I think it's a shameful point on history of the United States of America because it's not great. The information are inaccurate, taken out of context.”

Regardless of getting confirmed, Ghalib said it was an “honor” to be considered.

“I'm not mad about if I don't get confirmed as long as I maintain the support of the community, and I found tremendous support of the community because everybody thinks the hearing was not fair, the questions were not fair,” Ghalib said.

Ghalib continued: “As long as I don't lose the support of the community, I'm still a winner. ... I think it's history for us as Hamtramckans. The journey is not finished yet.”

Ghalib also said that President Trump called him after the hearing and told him “I will have something better for you.”

Mayor Pro Tem Abu Musa said he's “really proud” of Ghalib, and that the Senate committee “was very united to put you down. The whole community with you.”

Councilmember Hassan called for a “freeze” on water bill increases. He said that, in the next few years, “we can do it and then we can go from there.”

It was not immediately clear what he meant.

As for the upcoming Nov. 4 election, Hassan said voters will support candidates “who can take care of Hamtramck, not who you like or family member or friend mem-

ber because no matter what, finance showing the budget things you're going to see reality very soon. So it's not's easy day coming.”

Councilmember Muhtasin Sadman commented on the plight of Palestinians in Gaza.

“As long as our innocent affiliate brother giving blood we will not support Israel,” Sadman said.

Speaking about Ghalib and his confirmation hearing, Sadman said, verbatim: “If for what reason, like, if you give up the ambassador position it's OK like we will not support Israel as long as our innocent blood of Palestinian brother is taken out.”

Ghalib responded, saying: “We are enjoying the value of freedom of speech in this country and, at this point, the people of Hamtramck tell me what to do. I'm an elected official by the people of Hamtramck. So there was a lot of stuff that I was asked about which is the decision of the people here, not even my decision as a person.

“So this should be recognized that in the Unites States, in local government, every person, every mayor or elected official has to do what the people tell them to do.”

He said that, if President Trump appoints him to a position in his administration, “he (Trump) is my boss. But this time my boss are the people of Hamtramck. I don't understand how some people don't understand this equation. It's very simple and I cannot be held responsible for people's statements.

“I was asked about one of our commissions, that I disagree with, which is a very aggressive statement, and I kept telling them (the senators at his confirmation hearing) I'm not responsible for a commissioner who is a volunteer position.”

Ghalib was referring to a comment from a member of the city's Planning Commission, Nasr Hussain, who said that Jews were punished in advance during the Holocaust for their actions decades later against Palestinians.

Ghalib was asked by Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Connecticut) whether he “condemned” that statement by Hussain, and Ghalib said “I did tell the media that I don't agree with them.”



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# It's not over until it's over

Continued from front page

had access to the Clerk's Office, the ballots could have been tampered with.

Even if Mahmood does prevail in his lawsuit, he is still facing a lawsuit filed by Alharbi.

Alharbi's suit says that an internal city investigation indicated that Mahmood is not actually a resident of Hamtramck, which disqualifies him from holding elected office in the city.

The same investigation found that Councilmember Abu Musa, who was the top vote-getter in the

November council election, also does not live in the city.

Both Mahmood and Musa deny the allegations.

Mahmood has admitted that his wife and family live in Troy, but said that he resides in Hamtramck.

Musa has also admitted that his wife and family live in Warren, but likewise claims that he lives here in town.

Both say they are neither divorced nor separated from their wives.

# Odds & Ends

Continued from page 4

tire from driving; and find local transportation options. These include:

- Older driver self-assessment tools and videos
- Links to driving skill refresher courses
- Ways specific medications and health problems may affect driving
- Connections to local agencies that provide transportation and other services for aging Michiganders
- Application and information for a no-fee Michigan ID card

Strategies for initiating conversations about when and how to transition to a non-driving lifestyle

Procedures for referring an unsafe driver for a driver reexamination

Information for law enforcement officers, healthcare providers and other professionals

Aging drivers, family members or community organizations can also order copies of the booklet "Michigan's Guide for Aging Drivers and Their Families" through

the "Safe Drivers Smart Options" website.

Driving laws in Michigan do not require seniors to retake the driving test strictly based on age. The state can mandate a driver take a reassessment test only if there is concern of a medical condition impairing safe driving, involvement in a fatal crash, three or more

at-fault crashes within two years, accumulation of 12 or more points within two years, or conviction for violating license terms or restrictions.

Visit [Michigan.gov/AgingDriver](http://Michigan.gov/AgingDriver) to find resources that may help you or your loved ones stay safe, mobile, and independent.

## Obituaries

### KACZMAREK



Carolyn Ann Kaczmarek, 81, died November 27, 2025.

Carolyn Ann Kaczmarek, longtime resident of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away Thursday November 27th, 2025, after a long illness. She is survived by her sister Kate Schuch, her three sons Paul, Jason, and Dan Fontella, her granddaughters Danielle Huffman and Amelia Fontella, and 2 great-grandsons Preston Huffman and Barron Huffman. She was preceded in death by her parents Chester and Irene, her brother Chet, and friend Gene Perye.

Carolyn loved family and the holidays, enjoyed travelling, and occasional trips to the casinos. After she retired as a contract specialist with US Army TACOM she enjoyed playing bridge, and spending time in her back yard gardening. There were frequent bus trips around the country with her friend Gene, and a Mediterranean cruise with her sister Kate. She rescued several greyhounds from the tracks, giving them loving homes in their retirement. Carolyn was happiest surrounded by family. There were frequent family dinners, as well as game days, playing cards and board games with her sons and sister. She was a happy outgoing person, always smiling and willing to chat with anyone about

almost anything. She was generous and giving, supportive of her sons as they made their way through the world.

Memorial Mass is Friday, December 12, 2025. The family will be receiving guests at 9 a.m. with Mass starting at 10 a.m. at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 22412 Overlake St, Saint Clair Shores MI 48080. Arrangements were entrusted to Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home.

### ZACHARIAS



Margaret Zacharias, 91, (née Patalon), died December 3, 2025.

Margaret was the loving wife of Frank and mother of Amy, Marty (Erin), Julie, and the late Janice. She was the grandmother of Kristopher Cassidy, Jake, Ryan, Connor, Shane Zacharias, Carolyn and Rachel Pasquinella. Margaret was predeceased by her brothers Ralph and George. She is also survived by her Godson Brian Patalon.

Memorial visitation is Friday, December 12, 2025, from 2 - 7 p.m., Rosary TBD at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck MI 48212. Memorial Mass is Saturday, December 13, 2025, TBD at St. Florian Catholic Church, 2626 Florian, Hamtramck MI 48212.



# New Palace Bakery

**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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## 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**

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