

The Review

Hamtramck

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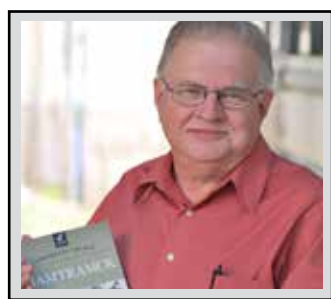
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Quick Hits

Historian to be honored at museum

By Alan Madlane

As the main man behind the Hamtramck Historical Museum, Greg Kowalski has been both the city's biggest fan and its best cheerleader, too.

And now, the city is repaying Kowalski with gratitude of its own.

Wyandotte St., the street on which he lives, has been given the honorific name of Greg Kowalski.

Due to the forecast of inclement winter weather this weekend, the renaming ceremony – scheduled for this Sunday, Jan. 18, at 2 p.m. – will be held inside the museum, located at 9525 Jos. Campau, on the west side of the street between Norwalk and Poland.

Kowalski will be given a duplicate street sign of his own during the ceremony.

The city council OK'd the renaming during a recent meeting last month.

Kowalski has authored a dozen books about various aspects of the city. His most recent book, just released, is called "Modern Hamtramck," and is a photojournal from the 1950s to present.

Other books have focused on the city's most legendary persons, the town's notorious bars and speakeasies, or the city's automotive industry past.

Back in 2018, we interview Kowalski about his passion for writing about Hamtramck and its history.

"I absolutely love researching and writing the books. Hamtramck is an endlessly fascinating city," he said. "I do historical research constantly for the museum, and I am continuously amazed at the things I find out. For decades, Hamtramck turned its back on its own history."

We at The Review would like to offer a tip of the cap to Greg Kowalski, whose love for his city is unbounded – and who has helped build an entire museum to prove it.

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

'Newsmaker of the Year' changed city politics

By Charles Sercombe

As usual, trying to figure out who – or what – is our Newsmaker of the Year offers too many options.

Should it be the firing of City Manager Max Garbarino, police officer Dave Adamczyk, and the dismissal of Police Chief Jamiel Altaheri?

Or the ongoing accusations of election fraud via ballot harvesting by some candidates?

Or the accusation that two city councilmembers were not actually residents of the city?

Or, the unexpected decision of Hamtramck resident state Rep. Abraham Aiyash to not seek re-election? He was a champion of LGBTQ rights who steered millions of dollars back to his hometown.

Or, the decision to get rid of the hated parking meters on Jos. Campau?

Or, the last portion of Caniff being rebuilt and repaved, ending three years of inconvenience?

Heck, that was all just in the first few months of 2025, and the list goes on.

But, in looking back, the number one Newsmaker was Mayor Amer Ghalib – who, four years ago, was the city's first Yemeni-American to be elected as mayor.

And his rise to the position of mayor also ushered in the political strength of the Yemeni community.

Ghalib, who is no longer mayor and who did not seek re-election last year, was the one person whose name appeared most often in The Review.

He was a news-making machine.

First, it was to announce his re-election bid. Here's what Ghalib had to say on Facebook about his decision earlier in the year:

"Without hesitation or fear, I proudly announce my candidacy for Mayor of Hamtramck for a second term, and to continue to serve our community with honesty, dedication and sincerity, through this position, and through other prestigious future positions."

Later, however, Ghalib withdrew from the election after being nominated by President Trump to be ambassador to Kuwait.

That journey took a number of twists and turns, until finally Ghalib got his confirmation hearing in October with the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

However, his dream to become an ambassador hit a wall of resistance from the get-go at his hearing when ranking committee member Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, a Democrat from New Hampshire, introduced all four ambassador nominees, including Ghalib.

Shaheen singled out Ghalib in her introductions by saying:

"I am very concerned about some of the statements that you have made – and, frankly, what appear to be antisemitic views."

During the next 40 minutes, Ghalib faced a barrage of questions from both Democratic and Republic senators about his past comments.

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) was particularly cutting, and pressured Ghalib to explain why he called former Iraq leader Saddam Hussain a "martyr."

It took Ghalib a few tries to clarify why he said that, finally saying: "In a moment of anger, I complimented Saddam because he kept Iran in check, and he – probably that's the only positive thing he did in his life."

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New postal rule could affect elections

By Charles Sercombe

Heads up, voters. For those who vote by absentee ballot and mail it in, there has been an important change in postal regulations.

From now on, the post office will no longer date any mail on the day they receive it. Instead, mail will now be postmarked when it is processed by the post office's sorting machine – not on the actual date it was dropped off.

The implication for voters is that their ballots may be postmarked after the election date – meaning that they will be disqualified from being counted. In Michigan, absentee ballots that are postmarked on election day are still counted, even if they come in late.

This new rule change could affect election results.

But there is one way for voters – or anyone whose mail, such as bills, are time sensitive – to avoid not having their ballots postmarked in time to qualify for being counted or verified.

You can ask the post office clerk to time stamp your mail, which goes by the technical name of getting a "round date stamp." Yes, that will mean standing in line and waiting – which could be a major inconvenience for some.

Another option is to drop off your absentee ballot at the Hamtramck city clerk's office in city hall, or place it in a drop box in front of city hall.

Critics of this new rule say it is meant to harm liberal cities and states.

President Trump has claimed, without proof, that absentee ballots are a way for people to cheat, and that these ballots should be discontinued – despite the fact that he has, himself, voted by absentee ballot in the past.

However, the use of absentee ballots in Hamtramck has been controversial. There were accusations of ballot harvesting by some candidates and their associates in the August primary election, and in prior elections.

A city hall surveillance camera recorded a number of people dropping off handfuls of absentee ballots at a drop box in front of city hall.

And there is also the matter of councilmember Mohammed Hassan facing the following felony

Continued on page 2

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'Newsmaker of the Year' changed city politics

Continued from front page

He continued: "No question, he was a dictator. He committed a lot of crimes, including the invasion of Kuwait. And if that description in a moment of anger offended anybody, I'm willing to apologize, especially to the Kuwaiti people. I'm not very adamant about it."

Cruz also took issue with Ghalib "liking" a comment on social media that compared Jews to "monkeys."

Ghalib did not deny that he "liked" the comment, but said he had a "bad habit" of liking comments as a way of "acknowledging" that he received them.

"I don't agree with it, senator," Ghalib said. "Clicking on it doesn't mean I endorse it."

Cruz wasn't buying that explanation, saying: "Well,

actually, it means exactly that."

Finally, Cruz said he wouldn't vote for Ghalib to be ambassador, saying:

"For the record, your long-standing public positions are directly contrary to President Trump's, and I will not be supporting your nomination."

Ghalib later blamed the press for the resistance by the Senate committee, saying that the media reports were "very, very biased articles. You can tell when you read them. ... The only thing left out is cussing me out. ... But I want to send a message to the people – you know, the radical media."

Ghalib also cryptically warned that those who were critical of his conservative cultural views will experience consequences, saying: "The future will hide a lot of surprises for you, and you are going to keep paying the prices."

Since then, the Senate has never held a vote on his confirmation, and, in January, his nomination was returned to President Trump.

It wasn't entirely over for Ghalib, who has said he still expects to get a job with the administration, presumably one that doesn't require Senate confirmation. That job is expected to be announced sometime soon, if not this week after The Review went to press.

Ghalib's association with, and endorsement of, Trump seemed like an odd pairing, considering Trump's past anti-Muslim comments. Ghalib is a Muslim.

The mayor teamed up with Trump after bitterly complaining about President Joe Biden's continued financial support of Israel while they were – and still are – bombing Gaza.

Trump has actually continued that same support, and, when pressed about it, Ghalib explained that his alignment with Trump has more to do with "family values."

He stressed that, while

he disagrees with Trump's support of Israel, he has more in common with the Republican Party and its anti-LGBTQ positions.

Speaking of LGBTQ matters, a federal judge dealt a death blow to those seeking to have the pride flag displayed again on a city flagpole.

Federal judge David Lawson said the city was within its rights to ban the pride flag.

The mayor and council, who are all-male and all-Muslim, said they banned the flag in order for the city to remain "neutral" in matters that could be considered politically divisive or socially controversial.

Mayor Ghalib called the court ruling a "great victory" for the city.

"Your mayor and council were on the bright (sic) side of history," Ghalib said on his Facebook page.

He also said that this

court decision was a defeat of Hamtramck's "deep state."

Ghalib did not elaborate on who or what constituted the "deep state," but he has often criticized former Mayor Karen Majewski and her supporters for, in his view, trying to undermine the city administration and his position as mayor.

Ghalib continued on Facebook: "And we will triumph in other cases against the lying, deception, and incendiary falsification from centers of influence, the deep city state, etc!"

He continued: "Trust your leadership and don't be fooled by the fake media that works to discredit all accomplishments in our city."

While Ghalib's political rise and tenure are over in Hamtramck, there's a good chance he will continue to make news in 2026.

New postal rule could affect elections

Continued from front page

election fraud charges:

- Count 1: Forging a signature on an absentee ballot application
- Count 2: Election law forgery
- Count 3: False state-

ment on an absentee ballot application

Hassan is scheduled to go to trial in April in Wayne County Circuit Court. He is denying the charges.

SAVE THE DATE

City of Hamtramck

2026 Property Auction Begins On:

03

10

26

Auction End Date: 04/01/26

Full list of available properties, bidding requirements, & application will be posted in late February @ <https://hamtramckcity.gov/community/property-for-sale/>



This week at the Library . . .

January 16, 2026

Questions about Medicare: Wednesday, January 28, at 12 noon, you will be able to get helpful information about Medicare coverage. A representative from Priority Health will explain your options and provide information about various plans that fit your requirements and budget.

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

Phil Hale Jazz Concert: This popular jazz group will play a concert at the library on Friday, February 27, 2026. Everyone is invited, free to the Public.

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

Preservation of Jazz: Continuing into the autumn and winter season, the Jazz Masterclass program will take place on Thursday evenings from 5 to 7 pm. Participants will cultivate a deeper understanding of this elegant artform through guided discussions, curated listening experiences, documentary screenings, and more. For more information about the program, 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.

OverDrive: What more can your library card get you? How about OverDrive's enormous collection of digital materials. Whether searching overdrive.com or using their Libby Ap, you will have quite the selection of ebooks, online periodicals and audio books to pick from. Plus, Kanopy, with its smorgasbord of foreign and classic films, documentaries, and educational series, is now under the OverDrive umbrella. Find links to both of these media repositories on our website www.hamtramck.lib.mi.us.

Kanopy: Have you watched absolutely everything on your streaming services and are still in need of thoughtful entertainment? Give Kanopy a try. Dive into the humongous collection of critically acclaimed films both foreign and domestic, as well as documentaries and educational series that Kanopy has on offer. Stream titles anywhere on your personal smart device for free after signing up with your library card info. Find a link to this awesome resource on our website www.hamtramck.lib.mi.us by checking under the eResources tab.

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Library is located at 2360 Caniff Avenue, Phone (313) 733-6822
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The Hamtramck Historical Museum is now offering free public tours of the museum the last Saturday of EVERY month. No need to preregister.

01 | 31 | 2026

1:00pm to 2:00 p.m.



HAMTRAMCK
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9525 Jos Campau
hamtramckhistory.com

Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

A new year calls for a fresh start for city council

A new year has ushered in a new political era for Hamtramck.

We have a new mayor now, as well as a new city councilmember and two veteran councilmembers who are returning after time away.

Unfortunately, the new year got off to a rough start, judging by the council's first meeting that, for some reason, dragged on for two hours. What makes this remarkable is that the council had only one task to perform, and that was selecting a councilmember to be the mayor pro tem – the person who chairs council meetings when the mayor is absent.

What prolonged the meeting is the result of a bad habit that has become more and more common: adding items to the meeting agenda. Normally, any item added at the start of council meetings should be something that is needed to be addressed immediately.

Instead, we are seeing frivolous items being added at the start of meetings – items that could easily wait for another meeting. In this case, it was whether to allow two honorific street names – the names being those of two foreign politicians who have zero connection to Hamtramck.

These items were ob-

viously not urgent matters – nor should they even be considered at all.

This particular situation is an abuse of power, and it certainly doesn't treat the public with respect.

Going forward, this practice needs to be halted. The public has a right to know what will be addressed before council meetings start.

With this being a new year, it's time to get rid of prior bad habits and practices, and instead remain true to the spirit of the state's Open Meetings Act – a law that our elected officials need to actually read.

Odds & Ends

Reminder ... Hamtramck's annual ceremony honoring Martin Luther King, Jr., will once again hold court in the Hamtramck High School Community Center this Monday, Jan.19.

The Concerned Women of Hamtramck are hosting the annual Prayer Breakfast, with a Student Talent Show thrown in for good measure.

Remarkably, this will be the 28th year in a row for the event.

Dubbed, this year, "Faith, Courage and the Dream," the event will be held on MLK Day, Monday, Jan. 19, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Community Center, 11350 Charest.

With a tagline that reads, "Inspiring Our Children, Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future," you might expect there to be some involvement with local youth, and, just as in other past years, there will be.

The student talent showcase, called "Hamtramck's Got Talent," will commence promptly after the remnants of breakfast are cleared. No word, as yet, on how many youth will be participating to show off their skills.

Tickets for adults are \$20; for kids, a mere \$10; and you can even reserve an entire table for eight hungry souls for only \$150.

You can score those tickets through the Eventrite webpage, or through installing their app.

If that doesn't work for you, you might also try contacting either Madelyn Porter at (313) 573-0782 or Vanessa Grey at (313) 772-5097 to arrange another way to get your tickets.

Crime Watch ... On the evening of Dec. 28, a male resident of Edwin St. was shot during an armed robbery.

The victim survived his wounds, and the police department immediately swung into action to track down the suspect.

As a result of their quick work, Eric Jonathan Speller, Jr., 32, of Eastpointe, faces a number of felonies, including assault with intent to murder.

On social media, Deputy Chief Andy Mileski credited the work of the detective bureau and police officers.

"Their dedication was instrumental in identifying and apprehending the suspect," he said.

On the ICE killing ... Michigan State Sen. Stephanie Chang, whose district includes Hamtramck, released a statement on ICE agent Jonathan Ross shooting and killing Renee Nicole Good in Minneapolis.

"I could fill a whole op-ed with my thoughts about this and the current compounding crisis at the intersection of immigration and criminal justice, but for now I will just say this:

"The killing by ICE today was horrifying and preventable.

Trump's mass deportation and detention effort is harming public safety and the fabric of our communities, not improving Americans' wellbeing.

"The constant dehumanization of immigrants and refugees by the right combined with a multitude of problems with current immigration enforcement practices has led to too many deaths – in detention centers and now in the streets.

"Sending love and strength to Minnesotans advocating for dignity."

Tunnel charge ... If you are heading to Windsor via the Detroit Windsor Tunnel, better save up some money.

There has been yet another increase in the charge to use the tunnel, and it is now a whopping \$9 one way.

That, to us, is insane. It is somewhat cheaper, though, to pay by signing up with Nexpress, which now costs \$6.75 one way to use the tunnel.

According to the company that operates the tunnel on the U.S. side, the price increase is

needed to keep it "running safely, reliably, and efficiently as we manage higher operating and maintenance costs," according to a press release issued by Regine Beauboeuf, CEO of American Roads.

"Even with this change, the tunnel is still the most affordable way to cross the border, and continues to offer a safe and dependable experience for our customers."

To sign up for a Nexpress Account, go online to: <https://nexpress.dwtunnel.com>.

Art party ... Those hard-"artying" folks over at Hatch have put together a retrospective show they're calling "Twenty," in celebration of their 20 years of existence.

The show brings together the works of 20 artists who "have been important to Hatch over the years."

Those artists, listed alphabetically, are: Jide Aje, Suzanne Baumann, Peter Daniel Bernal, Sean Bieri, Boisali Biswas, Matt Feazell, Melissa Hones, Tisch Mikhail Lewis, Luke MacGilvray, Laura Macintyre, Andy Malone, Robert Piatek, Chris Schneider, Coral Sifre, Dawn Smith, Gilda Snowden, Krystl Spence, Jack Summers, Renee Willoughby, and Carl Wilson.

While the opening night reception has already come and gone, the art, well, remains. At least, until Feb. 8. The gallery is open Thursday and Friday evenings, 6-9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday afternoons, noon-5 p.m. for your viewing pleasure.

They are located in the old Hamtramck police station at 3456 Evaline St.

Check them out online at hatchart.org.

City welcomes a new mayor and new era

By Charles Sercombe

Newly-elected Mayor Adam Alharbi kick-started his term in office with a call for unity in the community.

"Hamtramck is a city unlike any other. Within these two square miles, we represent the entire world," said Alharbi, on the evening of his inauguration. "But diversity is only strength if it is built on a foundation of unity. Today we turn the page.

"My goal is to lead a city where every person, regardless of the language you speak, the faith you practice, or how long you have lived here, feels not just welcome, but truly respected. We are one Hamtramck and it's time we start acting like one community."

At the inauguration, held on a recent Sunday at the Hamtramck Public Library, about 200 or more people – mostly males – packed inside to welcome the new mayor, as well as to witness the inauguration of councilmembers Abu Musa, Nayeem Choudhury and Yousef Saed.

Musa was re-elected to office, and Choudhury is returning to office after failing to get re-elected two years ago.

Saed is a political newcomer, and one of the few African-Americans ever to serve on council.



Hamtramck's new mayor, Adam Alharbi, stressed the need for unity at his inaugural ceremony.

Alharbi received a rock star welcome, with a standing ovation and whistling. At one point in his speech, a person in the audience yelled out "We're behind you!"

Alharbi said he will focus on rebuilding the city's water and sewer lines, as well as the alleys – projects that have stayed ongoing, thanks to multiple state and federal grants.

He also stressed that he will "beautify our neighborhoods, and polish the jewel of our region, Jos. Campau."

Other talking points included:

- "Standing by our legendary businesses, while welcoming investors who believe in our future."

- Address "high water bills."
- Do something about residents who are "targeted" for code violations in order "to make your life

easier, not harder."

- Begin a new era of "transparency."

- "We will meet you where you are, partnering with our community leaders, influencers who speak our many languages."

- Striking down "barriers or lack of communication from city hall."

- "We must protect the integrity of our elections. ... I am committed to earning back the trust."

- "You deserve leaders who know Hamtramck because they call it home."

Also receiving a warm welcome was outgoing Mayor Amer Ghalib, who also spoke. He was introduced by Omar Thabet, Hamtramck's City Administrator, who called him: "The greatest mayor of the City of Hamtramck."

Ghalib, who did not seek re-election in the hopes of

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Please join us to celebrate Mr. Greg Kowalski's enduring impact on the cultural and civic life of the City.



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January 16, 2026

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?
Street Naming Controversy at Jan. 13 Council Meeting
Inauguration Ceremonies for 2026 held in the Library
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 and more

BECOME A LOCAL REPORTER: If you know how to take photos or make film clips on your phone, you can download them to Hamtramck TV along with a news story, to be aired the same day. Send in event announcements, comments to city officials, facts you want to share with the community, etc.

Hamtramck Public TV is broadcasting from Hamtramck Public Library
On Comcast Channel 19 and streaming on YouTube Live (24/7) Google "Hamtramck Public TV", and click on link "Hamtramck Public TV"
Or go to YouTube; Hamtramck Public TV; Hamtramck Public Library; Videos, or Live

To place community announcement call the Library at 313-733-6822
Or email: HamtramckTV@gmail.com
Announcements submitted by 10 am
Will go on air the same day (evening)
To upload video files go to bit.ly/hamtramcktv



By Charles Sercombe
This week's Crime Log covers Jan. 6-12.

Tuesday, Jan. 6
• A trespassing complaint was made in the 2000 block of Caniff.
• A hit-and-run accident was reported on Caniff.
• A suspicious incident was reported on Jos. Campau.
• A male driver was arrested for reckless driving, no license and for possessing a facsimile handgun. A passenger in the suspect's car was also arrested for possessing a facsimile handgun.
• Officers, investigating a call about two juvenile males looking into autos, arrested one suspect for possessing a facsimile gun.

Wednesday, Jan. 7
• A hit-and-run accident was reported on Evaline.
• An attempted robbery was reported on Belmont.
• Family trouble was reported on Belmont.
• Officers recovered a stolen license plate out of New York, and then arrested a male suspect for possessing stolen property, and for driving an unregistered vehicle.

Thursday, Jan. 8
• Suspicious incidents were reported on Edwin and Dequindre.
• A complaint was made about an animal in the 3400 block of Caniff.
• A reckless driver was reported at Jos. Campau and Carpenter.

Friday, Jan. 9
• A theft was reported in the 2200 block of Poland.
• A business in the 3400 block of Holbrook reported trouble with a customer.
• A complaint was made about a juvenile in the 9800 block of Conant.

Saturday, Jan. 10
• A reckless driver was reported in the area of Carpenter and Nagel.
• Officers, responding to a call about a domestic assault, arrested a fema-

le suspect.
• Reckless drivers were reported in the area of Conant and Belmont.
• A theft from a vehicle was reported in the 3800 block of Yemans. A theft from a vehicle was also reported in the 9800 block of Conant.
• Officers, responding to a call about a fight in the 9800 block of Conant, arrested a male suspect for disorderly conduct, and another male suspect for obstruction.
• A business in the 10300 block of Jos. Campau reported trouble with a customer.
• At 3 a.m., suspicious males were seen looking into vehicles in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
• A vehicle was stolen in the 2300 block of Goodson. Vehicle thefts were also reported in the 9700 block of Conant, and in the 5000 block of Evaline.
• Officers, investigating a suspicious incident in the 9400 block of Jos. Campau, arrested a juvenile for assault.
• A business in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau reported an incident of fraud.

Sunday, Jan. 11
• A suspicious incident was reported on Dequindre.
• Identity fraud was reported in the 2200 block of Edwin.
• Retail fraud was reported in the 11800 block of Dequindre.

Monday, Jan. 12
• At about 3 a.m., officers attempted to pull over a car that had been reported stolen, but the driver sped off. The vehicle was later recovered.
• An attempted theft from a vehicle was reported in the 11500 block of Lumpkin.
• A fight was reported on Jos. Campau.
• A business on Jos. Campau reported a shoplifter.
• A person in the 1900 block of Norwalk reported receiving harassing phone calls.

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Never miss an issue!
www.TheHamtramckReview.com

Get Attention!
Place an Ad in The Review Business Directory
Call Dave
(313) 874-2100

RECYCLE IN HAMTRAMCK

24 Hour Drop off
3900 Christopher St., Hamtramck MI, 48212

The recycling bins are located just before the entrance to Priority Waste. It's bright yellow, you can't miss it.

MATERIALS ACCEPTED
#1-#7 rigid Plastic
Paper
Cardboard

REDUCE → REUSE → RECYCLE

First: **Reduce** the amount of plastic, paper, or cardboard you are using/buying.
Next: **Reuse** the materials you already have, over, and over again.
Finally: **Recycle** when you cannot use those materials anymore.



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 Dec. 16, and all councilmembers were in attendance.

The city's auditor company, UHY, gave an overview of the city's financial situation.

The highlights included:

- The net position of the city was \$46.8 million on June 30, 2025, which was an increase of \$25.6 million from the prior year. The most significant cause of this change was receiving multiple grant fundings for water and sewer infrastructure improvements, which totaled \$22.4 million.

- The city's General Fund balance on June 30, 2025 was \$10.1 million, an increase of \$1.25 million from the prior year. The total General Fund balance was comprised of \$9.9 million in unassigned fund balances and \$0.2 million in nonspendable fund balance. The city's unassigned fund balance represented 37% of total expenditures in the General Fund.

- The city spent \$23 million on capital assets during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2025, with \$17.7 million of that amount spent on capitalized water and sewer inf-

rastructure projects.

- Property tax revenue increased across all funds by 6.5 percent from the prior year as a result of increased property value. For the General Fund, this amounted to an increase of only \$30 thousand, due to the net decrease in property tax revenues caused by the combination of a \$1.1 million increase in CIPP collections and a decrease of \$1.4 million from the loss of the Wayne County Jail PILOT.

- Income tax revenue increased approximately \$998,000, or 21.1 percent from the prior year, as a result of operational improvements that increased the rate of collection.
- State-shared revenue increased approximately \$1.9 million, or 37 percent, from the prior year as a result of new statutory revenue sharing distributions based on taxable values, weighted population, and yield equalization.

During public comment, several people spoke in favor of a resolution to be considered by the city council that would give a portion of Jos. Campau the honorary name of Greg Kowalski.

Kowalski was a leading figure behind the creation and operation of the Hamtramck Historical Museum.

In one email that was read out loud, a person said Kowalski "always found a way to make Hamtramck attractive to the surrounding public."

The council later granted the honorific name, but changed the street location from the portion of Jos. Campau in front of the museum to the street that Kowalski lives on, which is Wyandotte.

In another email, a person urged the council to remove Councilmember Muhith Mahmood from office, accusing him of not being a resident of the city.

"Councilmember Mahmood's residency is already public knowledge," the person said.

(A prior city internal investigation revealed evidence that both Mahmood and Councilmember Abu Musa are not actual residents of the city. According to the report, Mahmood lives in Troy with his family, and Musa lives in Warren with his family. Both deny the allegations.)

Several Hamtramck High School students and

others spoke in favor of a proposal to refurbish the city tennis courts in Veterans Park. The project would also recreate the original six tennis courts.

The project was OK'd by council later in the meeting. The repairs are being paid by the Hamtramck Parks Conservancy, and the cost will be \$113,343.

Lynn Blasey criticized the council for continuing to add items to the agenda after it had already been made public.

"It is not in good faith of the public that agenda items would not be shared with the public in accordance to the (state) Open Meetings Act before the city council meetings happen," Blasey said. "This is an ongoing trend with the city council. I hope that changes in the new year."

Bill Meyer said he's noticed a number of billboards advertising attorneys who offer their services to people who want to file lawsuits.

He said it's all about making money – "suing people and making money for the lawyers. It's a disgrace."

Meyer also credited outgoing Mayor Amer Ghalib, who did not seek re-election, for never "banging the gavel once. You never insulted anyone, nor did you ignore or deny anyone's concerns or interests."

He also praised Ghalib for never being an "opportunist."

Meyer continued in his praise of Ghalib: "You brought sanity and fairness to the council chambers, and, probably most important, you never sued anyone in the city to make money. So, farewell to the greatest leader I've seen in my lifetime here."

Mayor-elect Adam Alharbi urged the council to reject 37 uncounted absentee ballots, which were not counted because they were found in the city clerk's office after the election was over.

"They're compromised," he said. "They were open ballots, and they lost the chain of custody."

Former state Rep. Abraham Aiyash said he had just become aware that state Republican legislators cut out \$645 million worth of grants from the state budget that was promised to various communities – including Hamtramck.

Among several projects earmarked for Hamtramck, \$800,000 was granted to the city to pay for a new fire truck.

Mayor Ghalib said he had talked with some Republicans, who told him that was untrue.

Aiyash countered that the Republican majority leader, Matt Hall, cannot be trusted.

"If Matt Hall tells you he can bring back that money for Hamtramck, I will tell you he is a liar," Aiyash said.

He continued, saying Hall "is not a person you should trust, or anyone in

this city should trust. He's one of the worst people I had the displeasure of serving with."

Aiyash also corrected Mayor Ghalib, who said that he voted against funding projects for Hamtramck.

Aiyash said he, in fact, voted in favor of the funding.

In new business, the council agreed to OK emergency funding for sewer and water line repairs.

The council also OK'd the purchase of two emergency radios for the fire department. The cost was a bit over \$15,000.

In another contract matter, the council agreed to award a contract for an improvement project for the alley that runs on the west side of Jos. Campau from Caniff to Holbrook.

The \$1 million project is being paid for by the state.

A note to the council said the improvement

will turn the alley "into a pedestrian and cyclist-friendly route in our downtown. Once completed, this project will bring numerous benefits to Hamtramck and the businesses on Joseph Campau."

In a matter that Councilmember Mohammed Hassan added onto the agenda at the start of the council meeting, a discussion was held on whether to discontinue allowing city employees to roll over one week's worth of unused vacation time.

Hassan argued that some employees have "misused" this, although he did not provide specific details.

The council eventually agreed to stop that practice, and adopt a former policy that city employees now have to "use it or lose it" when it comes to vacation time.

In another matter that Hassan had added to

Continued on page 6

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www.bridgeeast.gee-edu.com

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Bridge Impact (Online Only)

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Open to all Michigan Students

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OPEN ENROLLMENT for the 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

Open Enrollment dates:

2/23/26 – 3/9/26

Applications are available at

on the academy websites

Bridge East and Bridge West will be accepting applications

Monday thru Friday: 8:00 am–3:00 pm

Two Evenings: 2/25/26 and 3/4/26 3:00 pm – 6 :00 pm

Saturday: 2/28/26 9 am - noon

Should we receive more applications

than we have room for, a random

selection drawing will be held in the

presence of a third-party official on

03/13/26 at 2:00 pm at Bridge

Academy East and Bridge West in the school gym.

Bridge Academy is a tuition free public school academy and does not discriminate on the basis of intellectual or athletic ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, handicapped status, religion, creed, race, sex, color, or national origin. For questions, please call the school at the above number.

Bridge Academies welcome visits from interested applicants. Maximum enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year-1750 Students

Frontier International Academy (K-6)

28111 Imperial Drive, Warren, MI 48093

586-354-2044

<https://fronterwarren.geeacademies.net>

Frontier International Academy (K-5 and 9-12)

13200 Conant St., Detroit, MI 48201

(313) 462-6300

<https://frontierdetroit.geeacademies.net>

A Michigan Public Charter School open

to all Michigan students for a free public

education is holding **OPEN ENROLLMENT for the**

2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

Open Enrollment dates: 2/23/26 – 3/9/26

Enrollment applications are available on the academy websites

The academy is open to accept enrollment applications

Monday thru Friday: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm both campuses.

Warren Campus-Two Evenings: 2/26/26; 3/5/2026 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Saturday 3/7/26 10 am – 11:00 am

Detroit Campus-Two Evenings: 3/5/26 and 3/6/26

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Saturday: 3/7/26 9:00 am– 11:00 am

Should we receive more applications than we

have room for, a random selection drawing

will be held in the presence of a third-party official

*on 3/10/2026 at 12 noon at the **Detroit Campus** and*

*3/12/26 at 12 noon at the **Warren Campus.***

Frontier International Academy is a tuition free public school academy

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or national origin. For questions, please call the

school at the above number. Frontier International

Academy welcomes visits from interested applicants.

Maximum Enrollment for the 2026-2027 School Year

Frontier Warren-800 students. Frontier Detroit 1200 Students

EXHIBIT A

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF HAMTRAMCK

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Hamtramck (the "City") intends to issue bonds, in one or more series, in an amount of not to exceed \$5,650,000 (the "Bonds").

The Bonds shall be issued to pay the cost to make improvements to the City's Water Supply System, including, but not limited to, removal, replacement, and installation of water service lines in portions of the City to comply with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's Lead and Copper Rules, acquisition and construction of any related appurtenances and facilities, as well as all work necessary and incidental to these improvements, including without limitation the restoration of property, streets, rights-of-way, and easements affected by the improvements and to pay the costs of issuing the Bonds and capitalized interest, if any.

The Bonds of this issue shall mature within the maximum terms permitted by law with interest on the unpaid balance at a rate not to exceed the maximum rate permitted by law payable over not more than forty (40) years from the date of issuance of the Bonds. The Bonds shall be issued pursuant to Act 94, Public Acts of Michigan, 1933, as amended ("Act 94").

SOURCE OF PAYMENT

The principal of and interest on the Bonds shall be payable from the net revenues derived from the operation of the Water Supply System. In addition, the Bonds may be secured by a pledge of the distributable state aid received by the City from the State of Michigan and/or the full faith and credit of the City as limited by applicable constitutional, statutory, and charter limitations on the taxing power of the City.

RIGHT OF REFERENDUM

The Bonds will be issued without a vote of the electors approving such Bonds, unless, within 45 days from the date of publication of this Notice of Intent, a petition, signed by not less than 10% of the registered electors residing within the limits of the City shall have been filed with the acting City Clerk or other recording officer of the City requesting a referendum upon the question of the issuance of the Bonds. If such a petition is filed, the Bonds shall not be issued until approved by the vote of a majority of the electors residing within the City qualified to vote and voting thereon at a general or special election.

This Notice is published pursuant to the requirements of Section 33 of Act 94.

City welcomes a new mayor and new era *Cont. from page 3*

Members of the public welcomed newly-elected mayor, Adam Alharbi, at his inauguration at the Hamtramck Public Library.

getting a job with President Trump's administration, seemed glad to pass the torch to Alharbi, who Ghalib had endorsed.

"I feel so much relief that the responsibility is taken to another person now," he said.

Ghalib assured Alharbi, in an apparent jab at the media scrutiny that he experienced, that "We are not going to sit there and count and hunt for your mistakes, like some people did, but we will be on your side and behind you." The former mayor also conceded that it is unlikely he will become the ambassador to Kuwait – a job that requires confirmation by the U.S. Senate. Ghalib's hearing ran into a roadblock over past social media statements that some senators considered antisemitic.

"But I'll take another important role in the (Trump) administration that will enable me to stay in touch with the community, and so I will continue to serve this community forever,"

he said.

(As of press time on Thursday, there has been no announcement of Ghalib's role in the Trump administration.)

One of the accomplishments that Ghalib has boasted about in his four years as mayor was seeing the city budget grow a surplus instead of yearly deficits.

"City hall is stable," he said. "Don't listen to the noise in the news. ... We are far, far away from falling into an emergency management. This is the best situation in decades."

City Councilmember Mohammed Hassan also spoke, and emphasized that "I'm a man of action – not corruption. ... Today I want to tell the media we are not corrupted."

It was a curious comment, to say the least, considering that he faces felony election fraud charges, and that there are ongoing election investigations into others.

From the Office of Wayne County Treasurer Eric R. Sabree



PROBATE ASSISTANCE

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

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

United Community Housing Coalition: 313-405-7726

Legal Aid & Defender: 313-967-5800

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

We are here to help!

**www.Treasurer.WayneCounty.com
313-224-5990**



City Hall Insider ...



Continued from page 5

the agenda, the council agreed to appoint him as president of a police oversight committee.

(Hassan is facing felony election fraud charges.)

The council then discussed whether to adopt a motion to accept the election results from the county, and disregard 37 uncounted ballots if

they are allowed to be counted by a court.

(If the ballots are allowed to be counted, it could change the result of the mayoral election. Councilmember Mahmood is fighting to have the ballots counted. He lost his mayoral bid by 11 votes.)



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