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Quick Hits

February is a time to celebrate Black history

By Alan Madlane

February's celebration of Black History Month goes back a long way.

That has been so, in the U.S., since President Ford officially recognized it in 1976 as part of the Bicentennial.

It had been proposed by Kent State University faculty and students seven years before that, implemented there a year later in 1970 (which would have been just before the May student shootings by the Ohio National Guard), and quickly gained popularity around the country, especially in the academic arena, in the next half-decade.

But it actually had its roots precisely 100 years ago, when, in 1926, Black historian Carter G. Woodson proposed the week of Abraham Lincoln's (Feb. 12) and Frederick Douglass' (Feb. 14) birthdays as "Negro History Week."

The week had already been celebrated in Black communities since the late 1800s.

Here in town, there has typically been a proclamation read during a council meeting every year in support of the month and its importance.

At the Hamtramck Public Library, a special collection of books celebrating the month is available, and Sky Covington will host a Black History program every Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m., ending with a concert on Feb. 26.

Also, Phil Hale, a musician, will be playing a concert on Friday, Feb. 20.

Check out the library schedule each week in The Review for more details about their other events.

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

City adopts new street sign rule: Only those who contributed to the community

By Charles Sercombe

The city council has a new rule about granting honorific street names: Only people who have a direct connection to the city will be considered.

It was at the insistence of Mayor Adam Alharbi, an immigrant from Yemen, to put a stop to giving honorific names to foreign leaders.

Prior to that new rule, Councilmembers Mohammed Hassan and Abu Musa sought to give honorific street names to two Bangladeshi political figures, including former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was forced to flee from Bangladesh to India over her persecution of political rivals.

She was later sentenced to death in absentia.

Alharbi's new rule also included undoing those two honorific street names.

On social media, Alharbi explained the reason for narrowing who can be



For now on only people who have made direct contributions to the city will be considered for receiving an honorific name to a street. Above: Greg Kowalski is a prime example of those who have contributed to the city.

honored: "With all due respect to everyone, including our vibrant Bengali community and all who call this city home, today's decision to not allow foreign leaders on our streets was made to ensure fairness for all.

"My priority is to stay focused on the issues that matter most to our residents and the daily life of our neighborhoods.

Hamtramck is our home, and our streets should belong to the people who live here."

Prior to this rule, there were a number of Bangladeshi-Americans who had spoken out against the honorific naming by the Bangladeshi councilmembers.

Aimon Islam said he is against honoring foreign political figures.

"There shouldn't be any resources used to honor a foreign political figure. It will open up a can of worms for others to propose renaming of streets as well which could create potential rifts amongst the community as well if those names are not approved," Islam said.

Runa Chowdhury said, "This really has to be the

Continued on page 2

This year's charity basketball game features mayors from three cities



The annual charity basketball game will be held today, Friday (Feb. 6), in Dearborn, featuring Hamtramck's mayor and other officials representing four cities.

By Alan Madlane

Omar Thabet works for the City of Hamtramck as its Administrative Officer, but his work for the community doesn't stop there.

For the past several years, he has also been heavily involved in helping put together the annual charity basketball game, this year once again being played in the U of M Dearborn, at that city's Fieldhouse.

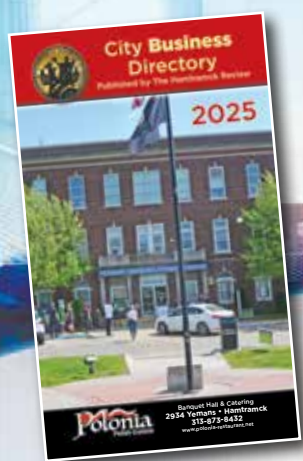
We wanted to know a bit more about the event, so we checked in on Omar

with a handful of questions.

The Review: So, let's start at the top – you've done these charity basketball games before; just give us the back story on how you first got the idea for them, who you partnered with to make it all happen, how many years this makes now, etc.

Omar Thabet: This idea came from wanting to give back to the countries in need (for example:

Continued on page 5



2026 Hamtramck Business Directory

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Coming Soon

Student protest put on ice

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck High School students had planned to join in on what hundreds of other students have done across the country, and protest against ICE agents' aggressive arrests of immigrants nationwide.

The protest was planned for this Friday (Feb. 6) during school hours, but the district administration put a stop to it, citing safety concerns.

Schools Interim Superintendent James Larson-Shidler posted a letter to the community, saying the students had not received permission to hold the protest during school hours.

"The organizers agreed that the safety of the students and the school community is their highest priority," Larson-Shidler said.

He added that an alternative plan is being discussed.

"We are proud of our students for their willingness to engage in open dialogue and for their commitment to working within established district protocols," Larson-Shidler said.

One of the student organizers, Laith Mohamed, a sophomore, told The Review that students have been affected by the news scenes of ICE agents in action.

"The most disturbing thing that some of my classmates and I have seen in the media about ICE is how violent they are. Currently, they're ripping apart families, and killing U.S. citizens," Mohamed said.

Mohamed continued: "It sounds crazy but we're living in a country where being of a different ethnicity means that you are subject to questioning. Which is morally wrong."

He said students have agreed to work out an alternative plan.

"At whichever event we, as a student body (and administrators) decide on doing it, we intend on teaching students their rights, when to use them, and when they're in violation by ICE agents," Mohamed said.

In the meantime, the self-described "rising advocate for human rights,"

Continued on page 4

It's Time to Pray, Please Join Us

We are a Multicultural Parish Family
Sunday English Mass 9 a.m.
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Everyone is Welcome to Worship with Us

**Sunday, February 8,
Holy Mass 9:00 am
Sexagesima Sunday in
Pre-Lent Season**

Feb 7 – Take-out only Soup Kitchen 2-4 pm
Everyone Welcome!

Feb 14 – Drive-thru Take-out only
Polish Dinner 3:30-5:30 pm
Menu: Pork Chop, Kielbasa, Pierogi/sour
cream, Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes/gravy,
& Paczek Dessert
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City adopts new street sign rule: Only those who contributed to the community

Continued from front page

most ridiculous thing to do. As a Bengali, this is super embarrassing.”

Hamtramck does have a several honorific street names, including one for former mayor Robert Kozaren, who served 18 years in office, and former councilmember Abdul Algazali – the city's first Muslim to be elected to local office.

Most recently, Greg Kowalski, was honored with a street naming. Kowalski's contributions to the city are extensive, and he is credited with being the driving force behind creating the city's Historical Museum.

The only foreign person honored with an honorific street sign was Polish pro-democracy Solidarity leader Lech Walesa. The

sign in his honor was placed on top of Falcon, which is the street directly in front of city hall, back in the late 1980s when the city's population was predominantly Polish.

That sign is long gone. Mark Koroj, an attorney, also called into question the naming of Pope Park on Jos. Campau and Belmont as another example of the city honoring a foreign leader.

The park was named in honor of Pope John Paul II, the first Polish pope. The pope is also the leader of the independent nation Vatican City.

Pope Park was privately owned, and the statue of the pope was privately funded. The park was eventually donated to the city.

One of the controversial honorific street names was renaming Holbrook as Palestine Avenue.

Former councilmember Khalil Refai, a Yemeni-American, was behind that naming back in 2024.

At the time he said it “serves as a symbolic gesture of remembrance and support for the people of Gaza, Palestine and the Palestinian Americans who, many of them, have lost a family member since the occupation

of their land.”

Former mayor Amer Ghalib, a Yemeni-American, was also in favor, telling Michigan Public Radio:

“I know it's not going to change anything, but it's just showing what Hamtramck stands for and what the community here stands for.”

Ghalib also told The Detroit News: “I don't want to see on the news that the Hamtramck City Council disapproved naming of a street Palestine. It will look bad. It will look like we don't support Palestine.”

Ghalib was recently appointed to a job by President Trump as Senior Consultant for Strategic Partnerships and will be working with AmeriCorps.

The United State does not recognize Palestine as a state.

In the past, President Trump has rejected a two-state solution to the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine, and he has called for those living in Gaza to relocate.

Ghalib, a Yemeni immigrant, has advocated for Palestinian rights, but also endorsed Trump for president. Ghalib is now working in his administration.

Councilmembers Refai, Abu Musa and Muhtasin Sadman also endorsed Trump. Hamtramck Board of Education members Abdulmalik Algahaim and Moortadha Obaid, both of who are immigrants from Yemen, also endorsed Trump.

AUCTION

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 . . .

February 6, 2026

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.

20th Amendment: This amendment to the U.S. Constitution was adopted on February 6, 1933. It set the date for the Presidential Inauguration as January 20th instead of the old date of March 4th. It also sets January 3rd as the official opening date of Congress.

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

Charles Dickens: This British novelist was born on February 7, 1812 in Portsmouth, England. He examined social inequalities through his works including “David Copperfield, Oliver Twist and Nicholas Nickleby”. He wrote “A Christmas Carol” in just a few weeks, an enormously popular work even today.

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.

Sinclair Lewis: This American social critic and novelist was born on February 7, 1885 in Sauk Center, Minnesota. He received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1930. His works include “Main Street, Babbit, and It Can't Happen Here”.

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..

Medicare: A team from Priority Health will conduct a meeting answering questions about Medicare options. The next presentation will take place on Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 2:15 pm.

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

Boy Scouts of America: This organization was founded on February 8, 1910 by William Boyce in Washington D.C. after the British Boy Scouts.

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 App, 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.

Library is located at 2360 Caniff Avenue, Phone (313) 733-6822
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Attachments for printing, faxing or scanning send to
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2 Peanut Butter & Jelly
2 Strawberry Cheesecake
2 Butter Cream
2 Triple Chocolate

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Paczki \$19.95

6 Raspberry

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Box #6: 1/2 dozen
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6 Custard

Box #7: 1/2 dozen
Paczki \$19.95

6 Prune

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Saturday, February 14 • 8am-4pm
Sunday, February 15 • 10am-4pm
Monday, February 16 • 8am-6pm
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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Mayor calls for a change in city seal/logo design

Mayor Adam Alharbi has been moving fast to establish his identity, and how he views the office of mayor, and the city.

He wasted no time in announcing a wish to update the city's seal/logo that, currently, reflects the Hamtramck of a certain time. The decades-old logo depicts the role of factories and manufacturing that helped define this city in the first half of the 20th century.

He's not the first to suggest it's time to come up with a new logo design that reflects the Hamtramck of today.

But he has been faulted for springing this on residents without any prior public call for logo designs. The reaction to the logos he did present was a resounding "no."

We'll cut the mayor some slack on how he went about unveiling this logo campaign, but let it be a lesson that the public should be made aware of issues like this potential redesign instead of having it sprung on them.

There was much criticism that the proposed logo designs looked AI generated, and we agree. They certainly don't reflect anything special unique about contemporary Hamtramck, and have left many with the feeling that the designs were impersonal.

The mayor wisely read the room, so to speak, and has brought in the city's Arts & Culture Commission to take over the project. But we are still open-minded to the idea of adopting a new logo design, but we also have to admit we're still in favor of leaving the logo just as it is, in a nod to our historical past.

We have new folks in office now, and we owe it to them to hear them out and be open-minded to making changes.

But we are still open-minded to the idea of adopting a new logo design, but we also have to admit we're still in favor of leaving the logo just as it is, in a nod to our historical past.

We have new folks in office now, and we owe it to them to hear them out and be open-minded to making changes.

lines, the more line corrosion will seep in, which can carry lead with it. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can see decreases in IQ and attention spans.

Lead exposure can lead

Continued on page 4

Odds & Ends

Welcome aboard ... Hamtramck has a new police chief – or, at least, an acting police chief – and that is Hussein Farha.

We will have more on this later, but Farha was the police chief in Dearborn Heights until he and then-mayor Bill Bazzi had a falling out.

Bazzi has since taken a new job as Trump's ambassador to Tunisia.

Chief Farha has built up an impressive resume from his 30-plus years in policing, with various roles at the local, state, federal and international levels.

Welcome, Hussein. We wish you luck.

Reminder ... For those who lost their home or commercial building because of a tax foreclosure in Wayne County, there is relief coming your way.

That's the result of a recent court ruling – one that now provides a path for former owners to receive compensation from the sale of tax foreclosed properties.

Specifically, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that former property owners and interest holders may be entitled to receive any money left over after their foreclosed property was sold at auction.

Since then, the Wayne County Treasurer's Office has begun issuing payments to former owners and interest holders – whose claims have been approved by the Wayne County Circuit Court.

So far, more than \$3.8 million has already been returned to eligible claimants in Wayne County.

The Treasurer's Office is making sure people know they might be eligible to receive the remaining proceeds. The office carried out an extensive informational campaign designed to reach former property owners and interest holders who may be qualified to file a claim.

"This is money that belongs to the people," said Wayne County Treasurer Eric R. Sabree, in a press release. "When someone is legally entitled to proceeds from the sale of tax foreclosed property, we believe it's our responsibility to inform people that those dollars are available and can be returned to them."

The Treasurer's Office stresses that its top priority is preventing foreclosure in the first place.

Through payment plans, tax assistance programs, and community partnerships, the office works year-round to help residents stay in their homes.

More information about the remaining proceeds claims process – as well as property tax assistance programs to assist owners with avoiding foreclosure in the first place – is available at WayneCountyMI.gov/Treasurer.

Condolences ... We didn't know Ishmael Ahmed personally, but the imprint he left on the Detroit area is immense.

Ahmed recently passed away. Many will know him from his weekend show "This Island Earth" on WDET-FM, where he scanned the globe to find the best in world music every week.

Also, he helped kickstart Dearborn's ACCESS community service organization, where he was Executive Director, and he helped birth the wildly popular and influential Detroit Concert of Colors.

A number of Hamtramck-based musicians have played at that festival over the years.

According to social media, he also helped co-launch the Arab American National Museum, and served on its advisory board for many years.

Ishmael went on to serve as Director at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services under Gov. Granholm, becoming the first and only Arab-American to hold one of the state's most significant cabinet roles.

He served with the University of Michigan-Dearborn as an Associate Provost, and he was appointed to the National Council on the Arts by President Biden.

A spokesperson with the Concert of Colors posted this message:

"Friends, we have lost our shining light. Ishmael Ahmed, beloved co-founder of the Concert of Colors, leaves behind an extraordinary legacy of music, dance, and cultural connection that brought communities together and celebrated the richness of our shared humanity.

"In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you honor Ishmael's life with a donation to the Concert of Colors."

Here is the link to the Concert of Colors website: <https://givebutter.com/concertofcolors>

Ishmael will be missed by many, but his influence and actions will long serve us. In this toxic world, we need more people like Ishmael to guide us to the path of love and growth.

Where is the outrage?

... We occasionally bring up the fact that, a few years ago, there was outrage by many in this community over former President Joe Biden's administration supporting Israel financially.

First off, it was also the congress that allotted the financial support.

The outrage was over the administration's continued support despite Israel's bombardment of Gaza and the death of thousands of Palestinians.

Many have called Israel's actions an act of genocide.

That support prompted a few thousand locals, and others, to march through our city streets in protest.

Joining in the outrage were local elected officials, including former mayor Amer Ghalib.

Flash forward to today, and President Trump's administration has pushed through more than \$6 billion in new arms sales to Israel by bypassing long-standing congressional oversight.

So we ask: Where is the outrage? Why does Trump get a pass?

Former mayor Ghalib hasn't said a word since Trump took office a year ago. Of course, it's no wonder: Ghalib is now working for the Trump administration.

Guess the Palestinians are once again left wanting.

Chill out ... OK, for the past few days, living with winter temperatures in the mid-20s has seemed like a heat wave.

That's because, prior to this slight warm up, if you can call it that, we were all suffering through bitter cold temps in the single digits.

Bad news, folks.

The weather forecast for this month will put a chill down your spine. According to the National Weather Service (and other folks in the know), there's another polar vortex – remember that phrase from a couple

Continued on page 5

UM-Dearborn's iLabs' eCities research recognizes the City of Hamtramck for supporting business in their community

(DEARBORN), February 4, 2026 – The City of Hamtramck has been named a 2025 eCities Honored Community for its successes and efforts in contributing to Michigan's growth. The designation was given as part of the annual eCities study, conducted by iLabs, the University of Michigan-Dearborn's Center for Innovation. The three other Honored Communities are the cities of Royal Oak, Sterling Heights, and Wixom.

"The City is delighted to be designated as an Honored Community by the University of Michigan Dearborn's eCities study. The City of Hamtramck strives toward entrepreneurial success by supporting emerging and existing small businesses through programming and community events, such our Amanah Financing and the Hamtramck Night Bazaar. In 2026, our team will continue to assist entrepreneurs with more opportunities to kickstart their success. - Isabel Allaway (Community and Economic Development Manager & DDA Director)

The eCities study analyzed publicly available data from 277 communities from 54 counties in Michigan. Researchers focused on the five-year changes in property values, community assets, and tax rates, which can demonstrate the growth, investments, and cost of doing business within the community. For example, over the five-year period of 2020-2024, these communities increased their capital assets by an average of 5.14 percent per year by investments such as park and trail improvements, bridge reconstruction, and road projects. Further, these places are home to 86 percent of Michigan's real commercial property and have 63 percent of the state's total property value. Communities that have seen the strongest growth in business development over the past five years, while controlling the costs of doing business in town, are designated as five- and four-star communities.

Although accounting for less than 20 percent of the State's cities and townships, the 277 communities analyzed are home to 71 percent of Michigan's population and 86 percent of the state's commercial property. "Each year, we are proud to recognize cities and townships throughout Michigan that support business growth and entrepreneurship in their communities," said Kari Kowalski, Assistant Director of iLabs.

The Hamtramck Review

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2/13

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

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Deadline for classifieds for next week is Thursday at Noon
Call (313) 874-2100 to place your ad

Coming Events

SATURDAY, Feb. 7, 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.) Note that Soup Kitchen is a week earlier this month only.

SATURDAY, Feb. 14, 3:30-5:30 p.m. – Drive-thru Take-out Polish at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. \$15 Adult/\$8 Child 12 & under. Menu: Pork Chop, Kielbasa, Pierogi/sour cream, Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes/grav, Paczek for Dessert. Cars will be staged in parking lot for delivery in front of church.

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?

Presentations by Piast Institute and Passenger Recovery
Black history month programs,
Greg Kowalski street naming ceremony in Museum, Street Naming Controversy at Jan. 13 Council Meeting Inauguration Ceremonies for 2026 held in the Library Final City Council meeting of the year 2025, 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. 27-Feb. 2.

Tuesday, Jan. 27

- Officers responded to a call about suspicious incidents on Holbrook and on Jos. Campau.
- A vehicle was reported stolen on Klinger.
- Three suspects were arrested for possessing stolen items and drugs.
- A trespassing complaint was made in the 12100 block of Conant.
- A business in the 9100 block of Jos. Campau reported trouble with a customer.

Wednesday, Jan. 28

- Officers, responding to a call about a fight in the 11300 block of Fleming, did not find evidence of a fight upon arriving at the scene.
- A hit-and-run accident was reported on Jos. Campau.
- A theft from a vehicle was reported in the 12100 block of Moran.

Thursday, Jan. 29

- A hit-and-run accident was reported on Conant.
- A disorderly person was reported on Caniff.
- Family trouble was reported in the 5200 block of Belmont.
- Hit-and-run accidents were reported in the areas of Lumpkin and Caniff and in the 3200 block of Yemans.

Friday, Jan. 30

- Officers, responding to a call about a domestic assault in the 3800 block of Norwalk, arrested a sus-

pect. At 4 a.m., officers arrested another suspect involved in a domestic assault in the 3800 block of Holbrook.

• A complaint was made about a juvenile in the 9800 block of Conant.

Saturday, Jan. 31

- A theft was reported in the 3800 block of Evaline.
- A suspicious person was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
- Officers, responding to a call about a suspicious person in the area of Edwin and Brombach, arrested a male for disorderly conduct.
- A sexual assault was reported in the 1900 block of Edwin.
- An assault was reported in the 2600 block of Holbrook.

Sunday, Feb. 1

- At 2 a.m., family trouble was reported in the 2300 block of Holmes.
- A business on Jos. Campau reported trouble with a customer.
- A person was reported missing in the 2600 block of Whalen.

Monday, Feb. 2

- A domestic assault was reported in the 2300 block of Andrus.
- A hit-and-run accident was reported in the 11400 block of Dyar.
- An unwanted person was reported at a residence in the 2600 block of Holbrook.
- An assault was reported in the 12100 block of Conant.

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City issues warning about high lead level in water supply

Continued from page 3

to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of pregnant persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects.

Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney or nervous system problems.

For several years, the city has aggressively replaced lead water lines throughout the neighborhoods.

City officials are now doing the following to tackle the problem:

- determining a corrosion control treatment strategy
 - conducting additional lead and/or water quality monitoring
 - increasing lead monitoring
 - removing and replacing the lead service lines
- Residents can have their service line inspected or have your household tested by contacting the city at (313) 800-5233, extension 817, or by visiting Michigan.gov/EGLELab for a list of certified labs.
- For those with children, **Continued on page 6**

Student protest put on ice

Continued from front page

urged the community “to speak up for what is morally right.”

Fellow student Nabih Chowdhury said that despite Hamtramck being vulnerable for being targeted by ICE agents, it's important to stand up for the legal rights of immigrants.

“Being a predominately immigrant community, stepping up is significant because it shows how youth show up in spite of their fear,” Chowdhury said.

“We hoped this would spark dialogue about immigration justice among

students and combat the hopelessness people feel as they see ICE take away their loved ones.

“Some may argue that having an anti-ICE demonstration is counterintuitive for our vulnerable group, but it is empowering us with action as a group most directly affected by this issue.”

Hamtramck High School students have held rallies and protests in the past few years against gun violence at schools, and oil drilling in Alaska, and have marched against Israel aggression in Palestine.

Odds & Ends

Continued from page 3

of years ago? – that will be drawing down a cold air mass from Siberia.

Ah-ha! We knew those Russians were up to no good!

Anyway, it looks like we're doomed to a few more weeks of this nonsense.

The good news?

The first day of spring is March 20 – just six weeks from now.

City Hall intrigue ... Keep your eye on who might be considered to be appointed as the next city manager.

There could be a proposal at next week's city council meeting – or, maybe not. The worst part is, there is the right and legal way to go about this – not to mention the city charter way – and then there's the way that will only generate more lawsuits against the city.

Not the way to start off the new year.

Local paper? ... At this week's monthly Hamtramck Board of Education meeting, a spokesperson representing the district's teachers' union questioned why the district is spending \$7,000 a month to advertise in the "local paper."

Let us set the record straight.

This so-called "local paper" the union referenced is not The Review, which actually has an office here in Hamtramck and pays

local taxes.

Instead, the district is spending thousands of dollars a month with the Yemeni-American newspaper, which is based in Dearborn. The Yemeni-American paper, to our knowledge, does not distribute a printed version of their once-per-month publication in Hamtramck, and is available only online.

The Review, by contrast, distributes papers each and every week. Yes, we are published weekly, not monthly. We also have a website.

Why the Board of Education and Interim Superintendent James Larson-Shidler decided to support a Dearborn publication instead of a local paper is a mystery to us – or is it?

The Review is the city's paper of record, meaning we are the publication that carries legal notices as required by law. Becoming the paper of record in any community is no small task. We spent a year when we were first established 17 years ago working to earn that designation.

And that meant investing our hearts and finances.

Obviously, we are here for the longhaul.

Toni Coral, the president of the Hamtramck Federation of Teachers, conceded that the union should have been more specific.

The union posted a clarification on social media.

tramck Interim City Manager Alex Lagrou, Halal Food Junkie, Big Hamzzz Reviews, Cheat Day with Beast Mode, Mo Baithani and others.

The Review: How do you hope this one will stack up against the previous ones, success-wise – obviously, as good or better, but: do you want to put a number on it that you're hoping to hit?

Thabet: This year we have four cities (involved), so we hope the turnout is even larger than before. Last year, we raised a little over \$33,000, so this year the goal is to raise just as much as that, if not more!

The Review: Anything else you'd like our readers to know about this charity basketball game?

Thabet: We will have free bounce houses and face painting for the kids.

There will be a half-court shot raffle challenge where you can put money into a raffle. If you get selected and the shooter makes the shot, they win two courtside tickets to a Detroit Pistons game. Plenty of local business gift cards will be given away as well.

The Review: Thanks for your time, Omar, and best of luck raising some serious cash for your cause.

This year's charity basketball game features mayors from three cities

Continued from front page

Palestine, Yemen, Sudan and Lebanon), especially during the month of Ramadan.

We wanted to find a way to raise money for those countries by also doing something we love, and we wanted to bring the community here together. That's when the idea of a charity basketball game came to light.

This is our fifth year doing this event. We teamed up with CRSD (Concerned Residents of South Dearborn) to make these events happen.

The Review: Is it run as a non-profit?

Thabet: No, it is not.

The Review: About this upcoming game: when is it, where is it and how much will it cost to get in?

Thabet: The game will be played on Friday, February 6, from 6-10 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 pm.

The game will be played at U of M-Dearborn Fieldhouse (4901 Evergreen Road, Dearborn, MI 48124).

It's \$10 for adults, and \$5 for kids 12 and under.

The Review: It's for charity – which charity or charities benefit, and how and why were they chosen?

Thabet: The four charities that will benefit are: the United Humanitarian Foundation (Yemen), The Amity Foundation (Lebanon), HEAL Palestine (Palestine) and the Sudanese American Physician Association (Sudan).

These charity organizations were chosen because of the years of charitable service they have performed in the specific countries that we are donating to.

The Review: Will there be refreshments included, or for purchase, or can people bring in their

own?

Thabet: Food and tea will be free! We will be asking for donations, but the food and tea we will serve will be free.

The school itself has its own concession stand (as well), and they will be selling food and drinks for purchase. People cannot bring in their own food.

The Review: Why did you choose the venue you did? Any thought of the game ever being played in Hamtramck, for example maybe in Hamtramck High's gym?

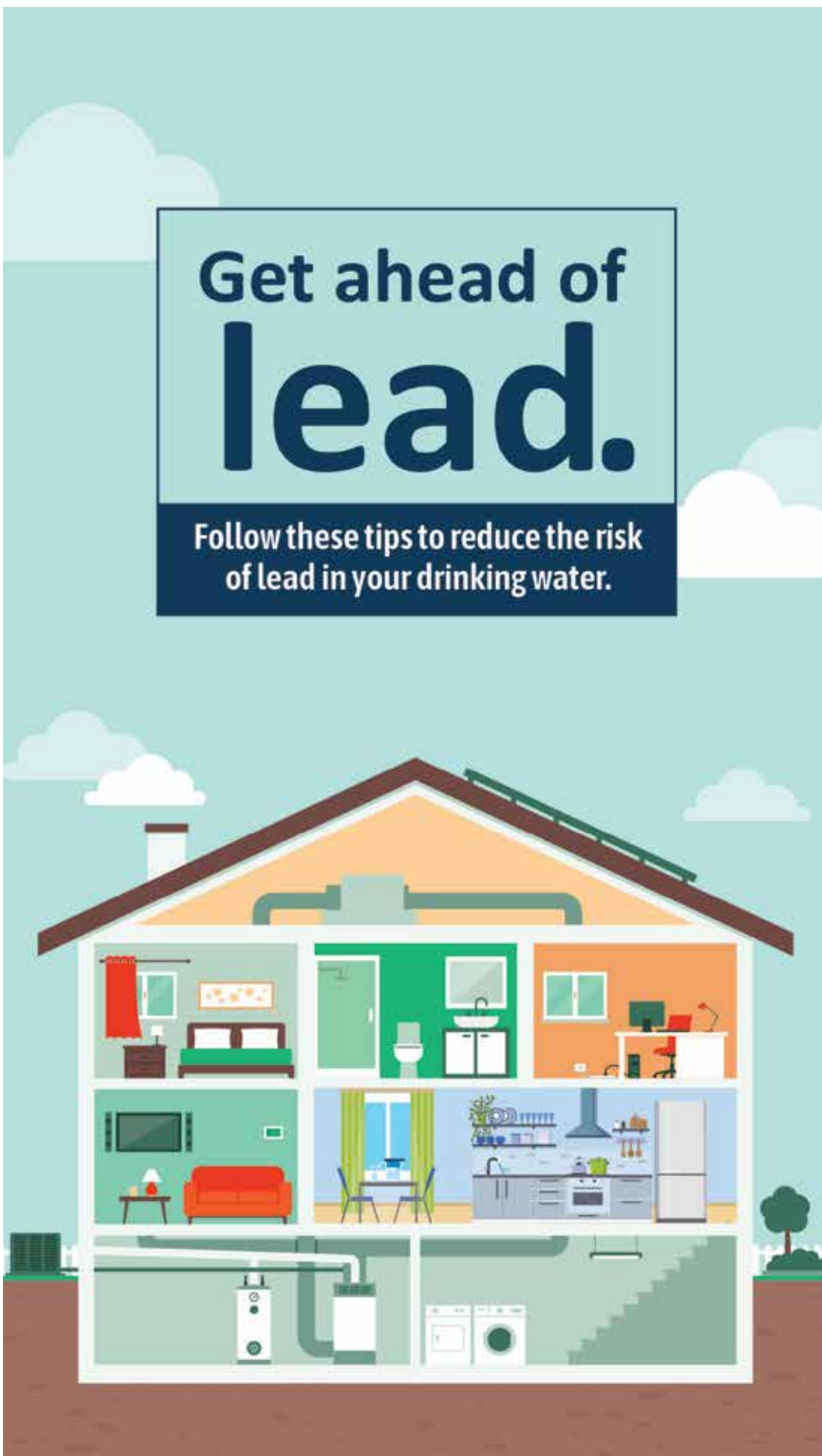
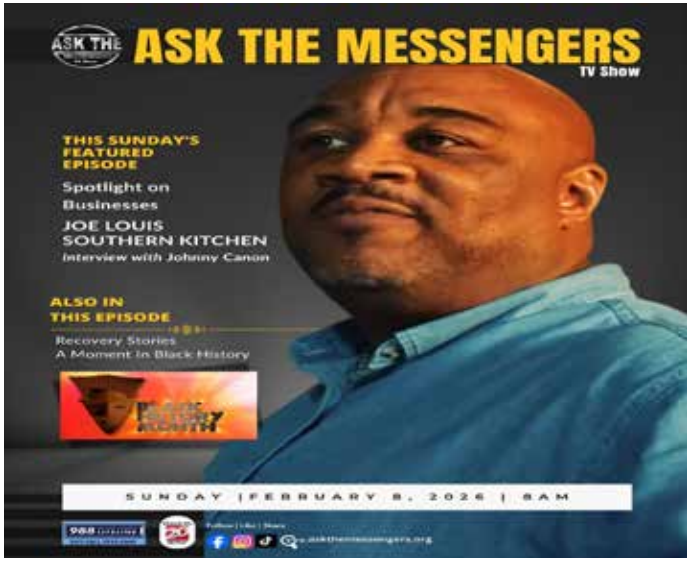
Thabet: We had a game in Hamtramck High School's gym, two years ago. Parking was an issue with a lot of eventgoers.

Especially now that it's a four-city tournament (Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Warren and Hamtramck), we want to make sure the venue we choose can accommodate our attendees.

The Review: You usually have a few "celebrity" players sprinkled in; who's committed to playing this year?

Thabet: (Hamtramck) Mayor Adam Alharbi, (Dearborn) Mayor Abdullah Hammoud, (Dearborn Heights) Mayor Mo Baydoun, Former Majority Floor Leader Abraham Aiyash.

Also, state Representative Alabas Farhat, Ham-



-  Use a lead-reducing water filter if you have (or are uncertain if you have) lead or galvanized plumbing.
-  Replace faucets older than 2014.
-  Clean aerators every six months.
-  Keep water moving with everyday activities, like doing laundry, dishes, showering and flushing toilets.
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Obituaries

MELKUS



Marty Melkus, 66, died January 23, 2026.

Born on November 12, 1959, our brother MOJO was relieved of his earthly suffering on the afternoon of January 23, 2026. He died peacefully while resting at home, recovering from a fall earlier in the month. He is preceded in death by his parents, Albin and Lucille and his lifelong friend Bill Rush. He is survived by his siblings Janet Heinrich, Brian, Laurie Rosplochowski, and Kathleen.

Martin never married and his family consisted of his bandmates from The Krash Ratz; David Hamilton, Kevin Tussley, and Elliot Chambers, and several close friends. Those were his glory days. He was the base player and loved to “bang that thang.”

As a boy, he once received a Christmas gift of a big yellow dump truck. He spent the night twangin’ on the big red rubber band from the packaging. That was the birth of MOJO. The box-man sets the tone for the song (ex. intro to Food Stamps). He was a big KISS fan and

idolized Gene Simmons. He chose Kiss lyrics as his motto: “First I drink, then I smoke”, and that is exactly how he lived. He was fiercely independent to the point of defiance. He worked hard and he played hard. We are thankful now that he will no longer suffer from the addiction disease that is hereditary in the family. Now he can truly “Chill 4 Real”. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

A memorial Mass will be held at a future date. Arrangements entrusted to Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home.

City issues warning about high lead level in water supply Continued from page 4

you can get your child tested to determine lead levels in their blood.

A family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead, and provide information about the health effects of lead. State, city, or county departments of health can also provide information about how you can have your child’s blood tested for lead.

In the meantime, take the following precautions:

- Learn what your service line material is. Contact the city at (313) 800-5233, or call a licensed plumber to determine if the service line is made

from lead or not. Homes with lead service lines have an increased risk of having high lead levels in drinking water.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends that Michigan households use a certified lead-reducing drinking water filter if your home has, or if you are uncertain if it has, a source of lead, such as one of the following:

Lead or galvanized plumbing.

A lead service line carrying water from the street to their residence.

Copper plumbing with lead solder before 1988 (EGLE recommendation).

Old faucets and fittings that were sold before 2014.

Use the filter until you are able to remove sources of household lead plumbing, such as:

Pre-2014 faucets.

Plumbing.

Look for filters that are tested and certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction and NSF/ANSI Standard 42 for particulate reduction (Class I).

For filters to work properly, follow the manufacturer’s instructions.

Run your water to flush out lead-containing water.

If you do not have a lead service line, run the water for 30 seconds to two minutes, or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature.

If you do have a lead service line, run the water for at least five minutes to flush water from your home or building’s plumbing and the lead service line.

Use cold water from the tap for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula as lead dissolves more easily into hot water and hot water should not be run through filters.

Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Filter cold water, then boil the filtered water as necessary.

Clean your faucet aerator to remove trapped debris.

Learn about construction in your neighborhood. Contact us at (313) 822-5233 to find out about any construction or maintenance work that could disturb your service line. Construction may cause more lead to be released from a lead service line if present.

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:
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