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Volume 18 No. 42

October 16, 2026

50¢

The

Review

Hamtramck

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Quick Hits

Time to get physical in Hamtramck

By Charles Sercombe

Getting physically fit is now easier in Hamtramck.

The Hamtramck Parks Conservancy is holding a ribbon-cutting ceremony next Wednesday, Oct. 21, to unveil the latest addition to Playfair Park (3201 Roosevelt).

That’s where a fitness court has been created, and it offers “free access to high-quality workouts.”

According to a press release issued by the Conservancy, the court caters to those who are 14 years old and older, and is a place where “workouts are adaptable for all fitness levels, allowing participants to move at their own pace.”

Thomas Habitz, executive director of the Hamtramck Parks Conservancy, adds: “We are enthusiastic about welcoming the National Fitness Campaign and Priority Health as partners in our work to advance the parks system in Hamtramck as one centered in positive activity and good health.”

Of course, this being the hi-tech age where you can download all sorts of apps, there’s one for this workout station.

The download, Fitness Court® App, “acts as a coach-in-your-pocket, and enhances the outdoor gym into a digitally supported wellness experience,” according to the folks with the Conservancy.

The public is invited to the ribbon cutting, which will take place Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

Playfair Park is located just east of Keyworth Stadium, at the back of the parking lot for the stadium.

— HAMTRAMCK’S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

SMART bus now offering expanded service in Hamtramck

By Charles Sercombe

Last November, Hamtramck asked for more bus service here in town, and the folks who run the SMART (Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation) bus service listened and then delivered.

As a result, there’s a new route called Line 500, and it goes from the SMART transit station in downtown Detroit to the Detroit Medical Center, Midtown (Wayne State University), then New Center, Hamtramck, Mound Road, and finally on to the Bel Air Center on 8 Mile.

In Hamtramck, you can catch a ride on Holbrook in front of the Hamtramck Senior Plaza, on Jos. Campau near Pope Park, and at the Imperial Market on Caniff where it turns into Mound.

To find out the times of bus arrivals, check out Google Maps, Apple Maps, or the Transit mobile app. Those sites will tell you the estimated arrival times for every stop along the route, as well as updates in real-time according to traffic conditions and bus locations.

News of the new route excited Hamtramck Mayor Adam Alharbi.

“Route 500 is live!” Alharbi said in a Face-

Hamtramckans can get around to more of the metro area thanks to an expanded service offered by SMART bus.

book posting, after a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Sept. 8 at Pope Park.

The mayor said, “This is a big win for our residents, who rely on public transit to get to jobs, to healthcare at the DMC, to Wayne State and downtown Detroit, while making it even easier for visitors across the area to experience our local businesses.

“Proud to see regional collaboration deliver real results for our community. Looking forward to seeing everyone on board.”

The line runs hourly on Monday-Saturday from 6

a.m. to 11 p.m., and on Sundays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Future plans for the route include expanding it further north along Mound Rd., to Hall Rd. in Sterling Heights.

Wayne County Executive Warren Evans said this new route is part of an ongoing 10-year effort to consolidate services for the county.

“If we’re going to be a region, be a county, then connect it,” he said at the ribbon cutting ceremony at Pope Park.

“Don’t have pieces of the county that don’t have transportation,

other pieces that do. It’s just doesn’t really make sense.”

Evans added that this route also means “people have more opportunities, whether it’s school or people with disabilities. This is just tremendous.”

State Sen. Stephanie Chang, whose district includes Hamtramck, posted the news on her Facebook page, and the overall feedback was a big thumbs up.

Sharon Rose put it succinctly, saying “It’s about time!”

Local authors celebrate their second book, ‘Moon Mist’

By Alan Madlane

Hamtramck’s young children’s book authors are at it again.

A little while back, we did an interview with Mst Begum and Shumovita Dey, two young women who had written their own children’s book, called “Sun-kissed.”

That book proved popular enough that they were inspired to write another, new one, this time called “Moon Mist.” We caught up with the pair by email, to once again talk about their work.

The Review: So, you have published your second book, called “Moon Mist,” about a younger Muslim boy who had been sitting in front of his screens too much, now learning the joys of getting outdoors to play more instead. Did any-

Author Mst Begum autographs copies of her newest book, which she co-wrote with Shumovita Dey, called “Moon Mist.”

thing specifically trigger the idea to write a book on this subject?

Begum/Dey: With our books, we strive to challenge stigmas that exist both in society and in South Asian culture. We created “Moon Mist” because we noticed that the topics of mental health and seeking

therapy are often looked down on, especially in South Asian culture, and we wanted to raise awareness about this.

Additionally, as screens have become a big part of children’s lives, we wanted to highlight the importance of being mindful of how you spend your time.

The Review: It’s a very short book at only 26 pages long. What is the age range the book is appropriate for?

Begum/Dey: The age range for this book is 7-10 years old. However, we believe the message serves as a good reminder for any youth to maintain a healthy lifestyle balance, by taking care of their mental and physical health.

The Review: We see that the book just became available July 27 on Amazon. You were able to get a few impressive endorsements for the back cover, from Dr. Elizabeth Levesque at the University of Michigan Foundational Course Initiative, and Tracy J. Wilson, the current executive director of the HUDA (Health

Continued on page 2

Will Hamtramck end up with a new mayor today?

By Charles Sercombe

By the time you read this, Hamtramck may have a new mayor.

After eight months of legal battles, the Wayne County Board of Canvasers is meeting this Friday, Oct. 16, to tabulate 37 uncounted ballots from last year’s November election.

The county will meet at noon in the Ralph Vigliotti Building, 1900 E. Jefferson in Detroit. The meeting is open to the public.

(The Review goes to press a day before the ballot count. On Friday, look for breaking news on our website – hamtramckreview.com – to find out the results.)

But even if the new election result ends in the city having a new mayor, the official certification won’t happen until after the upcoming Nov. 3 election ballots are certified, along with the ballot tabulation from this Friday.

That certification is most likely to happen a day or two after November’s election.

Even then, the saga may not be over.

That’s because Mayor Adam Alharbi, who won the election by a slim 11-point margin, says he is seeking further legal action to prevent former councilmember Muhith Mahmood from being officially sworn in as the city’s mayor.

Alharbi is claiming that Mahmood should be disqualified because he is not a resident of the city.

So far, Alharbi has struck out with his claim in the courts.

Alharbi says he is in this legal fight “because I love Hamtramck. I believe in clean government, and I want our city to prosper just like our surrounding cities and towns,” Alharbi said in a Facebook post.

Mahmood has said that he is, indeed, a resident, but admitted he frequently visits his wife and children who live in Troy. Mahmood says that is he not separated or divorced from his wife.

If it turns out that Alharbi remains the victor in the mayoral election, no further legal action is expected.

In the meantime, a bare majority of city councilmembers agreed to have the city pay for Alharbi’s personal legal bills to prevent the 37 uncounted

Continued on page 5



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**Oct 19 – Feast of St. Luke
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Local authors celebrate their second book, ‘Moon Mist’

Continued from front page

Unit on Davison Avenue) Clinic, the largest completely free health clinic in Michigan. How did these endorsements come together?

Begum/Dey: These endorsements came after we reached out to both individuals, who believed in our book and its message.

Shuvomita is also a student at the University of Michigan, which helped make that connection. We're grateful for their support.

The Review: Was the book fully written first and then illustrated afterward, or did the process go a different way?

Begum/Dey: For this book, and for our previous book, "Sun-kissed," we start by writing the book first. Afterwards, the illustrations are created, based on the text.

What's special about children's books is that words should not paint the message, but rather the images should do most of the storytelling. Additionally, we wanted the book to be easy to understand for new learners and for bilingual children learning English.

The Review: How much would you estimate that it cost, all things included, to get this book off the ground and published? Did your previous book make a profit, or at least break even, to afford you the ability to do

another?

Begum/Dey: As young authors who write and illustrate books to show Muslim and South Asian representation, we don't focus on profits, but rather on the impact we can make within the diverse community of Hamtramck – and beyond.

The Review: Are you already planning a third collaboration on another book?

Begum/Dey: We definitely are open to writing more books, as we have seen the impact they have on youth... Showing representation of Muslim youth and South Asian families in children's books continues to be our mission, and we hope the community loves our newest book, "Moon Mist"!

The Review: Do you ever have disagreements, for example let's say one of your illustrations, Mst Begum, isn't exactly what Shuvomita pictured in her mind for that moment; if so, how do you resolve such an issue between yourselves, assuming it has ever come up?

Begum/Dey: We both give each other feedback, and also ask other friends, colleagues, and family for input. We make sure to listen to each other's ideas and work together to decide what works best for the book.

The Review: In the end, are you pleased with the book, or would either of you change anything in retrospect?

Begum/Dey: We are both very pleased with this book, and hope community members enjoy it just as much as we do!



**Hamtramck
Hullabaloo**

Hamtramck Historical Museum
9525 Jos. Campau Hamtramck, MI 48212

**Saturday
October 17, 2026
6 pm - 10 pm**

Dust off those go-go boots, send the Nehru jacket to the dry cleaners...because what the world needs now is love, sweet love. Join us for an evening of music, food, and entertainment. Get ready for dancing, drinking, games, a fashion show and a silent auction.

\$45 Individual
\$85 Couple
\$100 VIP per person

www.hamtramckhistory.com
for more information and to purchase tickets

Proceeds benefit the Hamtramck Historical Museum
*Friends of Historical Hamtramck is a 501c3 organization that operates the Hamtramck Historical Museum

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2. Sarah Garrett Park – 11361 Dequindre St.

3. Veterans Park – 8640 Joseph Campau Ave.

or

4. Pope Park – 10037 Joseph Campau Ave.

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Rock In Detroit's band of August play another banger of a show!

Thurs, Oct 29: **Milele Museum: Culture & Tech** 6pm
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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

City takes the right step in limiting JC parking

Parking on Jos. Cam-pau has long been an issue of debate here in town.

For decades, parking was not free along the city's main business cor-ridor; meters were the norm. But when the city installed new, hi-tech meters, people were outraged – and deman-ded they be removed.

A number of folks had a hard time understand-ing the directions for how to use them, while others received tickets

despite having paid, among other issues.

City officials eventual-ly agreed, and got rid of the meters.

Flash forward to today: merchants on Jos. Cam-pau, especially between Caniff and Holbrook, are complaining about people hogging parking spaces for hours, if not all day long.

Those all-day parkers take up needed space for potential customers, merchants say.

So now the plan is to

limit parking to no more than four hours in one space.

While we're not sure how much there will ac-tually be in the way of enforcement, it's a nee-ded first step in mana-ging parking in our busi-ness district.

Now, if only something could be done to attract businesses to the many vacant storefronts along the strip.

That's an issue that badly needs a creative solution.

Between the lines... Remembering journalist Walter Wasacz

By Charles Sercombe

It's been a few years since I last wrote in this column – a column that has attempted to pull the curtain back on how this newspaper works and how it has interacted with the community.

Recently, the community had the unpleasant task of dealing with the death of a dear, old friend and former collaborator, Walter Wasacz.

Those words seem so inadequate in describing my friendship and working relationship with Walter, a longtime journalist.

As reported previously, Walter, 71, died Saturday (Oct. 3) of a possible heart attack in Cleveland, where he was living with his part-ner, Robin Hanson.

It's been years since we last worked together at the old Citizen newspaper, which had been Hamtra-mck's weekly newspaper for 75 years until it went out of business, now near-ly 20 years ago.

Walter had left that pa-per a few years before it shut down, but he later wrote for The Review when it kicked off after the Ci-tizen's long run ended.

Words can't describe the grief and loss felt by so many at the news of Wal-ter's passing.

His writing was extensi-ve and expansive, and fu-sed many topics, all with his unique vision of what could be. Always challen-ging his readers to dream along with him – but also, to do more than dream: to take action.

In all his world travels, Hamtramck was never far

from his thoughts. He had an amazing ability to make the world at-large seem within reach here in this little town in the Midwest, tucked inside gritty Detroit.

He once wrote:

“All roads lead to and from Hamtramck. You can get here from anywhere. Once this place becomes part of your experience it seems to linger, in one form or other, forever.”

To paraphrase an old saying, you can take the boy out of Hamtramck, but you can't take Hamtramck out of the boy.

His writing career span-ned decades, with music and social observation always intertwined. He started out writing about local sports for The Ci-tizen, and quickly moved on to writing about the underground rock—n-roll scene here in town for England's Trouser Press magazine.

Always restless and on the move, Walter was inst-rumental in expanding the scope of techno music, and emphasizing the pivo-tal role Detroit played in shaping this cultural miles-tone.

He also had the keen vision to see the direct connection that Detroit has with today's Berlin. Both cities experienced an amazing rebirth, and both cities shared a unique vi-sion that urban centers can be humane and crea-tive.

He envisioned Hamtra-mck as an incubator for progressive urbanism – an ability to show a way to improve life from small things like making this very

Odds & Ends

Remembering Walter Wasacz ...

Our proofrea-der, Alan Madlane, had numerous conversations and interactions with Walter over the years, and had this to say on his passing:

“Walter was absolutely a one-of-a-kind person, the type Hamtramck seems to produce with such ease compared to your average soulless su-burb.

“What always came through, in every chat whether brief or more lei-surely, was his utter hu-manity – it shone through him like a sun, and you basked in it for a time af-ter he left your presence.

“His enthusiasm for life and the parts of it he focused on most were infectious and inherently human. He was always missed when he was off on his longer jaunts or junkets, and the mo-re-so when he moved to Cleveland, but especially now that he has made the ultimate transition.

“Godspeed, Walter – you were, and are, an un-forgettable original.”

Reminder ...

Get your walking/dancing shoes ready, because this Sa-turday, Oct. 17, offers two

lively community events.

First up is a community walk, sponsored by the police department to rai-se awareness of domes-tic violence and breast cancer.

Chief Hussein Farhat has invited the commu-nity to meet at 3 p.m. in Zussman Park, where folks will then walk the planned route together. The walk will last about an hour.

“This event is an oppor-tunity for our community to come together to raise awareness about domes-tic violence, to support survivors, promote breast cancer awareness, and share a message of hope, strength, and soli-darity,” said Chief Farhat.

After the walk, rest up a bit, and then get ready to shimmy at a fundraiser for the Hamtramck Histo-rical Museum, being cal-led the “Hamtramck Hul-labaloo.”

The theme for the eve-ning is the 1960s, and it's a chance to get out your go-go boots and dust off your old tie-dye T-shirt or Nehru jacket for a groovy time, celebrating the music and fashions of that era.

Tickets are \$45 per person, \$85 for couples

– or, for a bit extra, \$100 gets you one VIP ticket, which gets you reserved seating and a swag bag.

All tickets include one complimentary drink and appetizers.

There will be food, drinks, a fashion show and a silent auction.

The event runs from 6 to 10 p.m. For tickets or more information, go on-line to: www.hamtramck-history.com.

You can also purchase tickets at the door.

Congratulations! ...

Go out to former city clerk Rana Faraj and former city attorney James Allen, on the arrival of their son, Yusuf Minum Allen, born Sept. 18.

We wish the family health and happiness for years to come!

New exhibit ...

The folks at the Hamtramck art collective/gallery Hatch are featuring a new exhibit.

Here's what Hatch has to say about it:

“Come help Hatch welcome nine artists who have recently relocated to the Detroit area from around the U.S.

“Some come as stu-

Continued on page 4

Notice of Public Hearing – City of Hamtramck

Planning Commission

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Hamtramck Planning Commission will meet on the 2nd Floor Council Chambers of Hamtramck City Hall (3401 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212) on Wednesday, November 4th, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of holding a public hearing and considering the request pertaining to the following:

The subject of the public hearing is Proposed Zoning Amendments:

- Proposed Amendments to the City of Hamtramck Zoning Ordinances
 - Revisions to § 155.023(D) to adjust Planning Commission membership requirements to allow board members to serve on the City of Hamtramck Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

Written comments may be submitted to the Community & Economic Development Assistant Manager via email at mmiszcza@hamtramckcity.gov. Written comments will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. on November 4th, 2026. The City of Hamtramck will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids, and services for individuals with disabilities at the public hearing upon advance notice by writing or by calling the Clerk's Office at 313-800-5233 x821. Please contact the Clerk's office at least 10 days in advance.

Notice of Public Hearing – City of Hamtramck

City Council

The City of Hamtramck City Council will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, November 10th, 2026, at 7:00pm. The meeting will be held at Hamtramck City Hall, 3401 Evaline St, Hamtramck, Michigan 48212. The public is invited to attend and comment at the public hearing or to make written comments before the date of the hearing. Written comments should be made to the attention of Sami Elhady at selhady@hamtramckcity.gov before 12:00 p.m. on November 10th, 2026.

The subject of the public hearing is Proposed Zoning Amendments:

- Proposed Amendments to the City of Hamtramck Zoning Ordinances
 - Revisions to § 155.023(D) to adjust Planning Commission membership requirements to allow board members to serve on the City of Hamtramck Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

This second reading and public hearing is contingent upon the City's Planning Commission approval of the public hearing scheduled for November 24th, 2026, and City Council's approval of the 1st reading on November 10th, 2026.

Please note: This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.71 a (2) (3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The City of Hamtramck will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the Meeting to Individuals with disabilities at the Meeting or Public Hearing upon 10 day notice to the City Clerk's Office. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Hamtramck City Clerk by writing or calling the Clerk's Office at 313-800-5233 x 821.

The Hamtramck Review

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Odds & Ends

Continued from page 3

dents, some come for new jobs, some come to get a fresh start. Whatever their reason, Hatch is excited to help announce their art to the community.

“Featuring sculptures, paintings, zines, ceramics, fiber work and more, these artists bring their regional influences from (across the country) to make an impact here in our beloved city.

The show runs from Oct. 17 to Nov. 22. There will be an artist talk on Sunday, Oct. 25 at 2p.m.

Meet your local merchants ... Hamtramck's Downtown Development Authority is hosting another get-together for all business owners (as well as those thinking of opening a business here) on Thursday, Nov. 5, from 7-9 p.m., at 11667 Jos. Campau.

It's a chance to connect with fellow merchants, share some ideas, and generally get to know each other.

You'll also learn about resources and support

that you can tap into.

You don't need to reserve a spot, just show up.

Achoo! ... Been sneezing and suffering from itchy eyes lately?

If so, you can blame it on ragweed allergies. This year is particularly bad, to the point where folks who never normally notice fall allergies are blowing their noses right along with longtime sufferers.

So, why are ragweed and other allergens worse this year?

Blame it on the warmer weather that most of us have been enjoying.

“The warmer and rainier weather over the Southeast and the Rockies will aid in keeping the weed pollen continuing, and also keep enough moisture for the weeds to grow as well,” said Alan Reppert, senior meteorologist at AccuWeather.

The key culprit in all this is a super-charged El Nino, which Reppert says “is the big reason we are expecting that perfect storm for ragweed to be

both high and to last for a longer time.”

Hang in there. There is relief ahead, but we'll have to wait awhile.

As in, until the first “killing” frost hits town.

Speaking of El Nino ... The influential weather system is expected to cause a major shift in snowfall patterns across the United States this winter, according to a new forecast map.

Warmer-than-average conditions across the Northeast and Great Lakes are expected to delay winter's arrival and also



By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Oct.1-8.

Thursday, Oct. 1

- At about 4 a.m., a suspicious person was reported in the 11600 block of St. Aubin.

- A person in the 12100 block of Conant reported receiving harassing calls.

- A disorderly person was reported in the 2200 block of Caniff.

- An assault was reported in the 2200 block of Holbrook.

- A complaint was made about a juvenile in the area of Yemans and Dequindre.

Friday, Oct. 2

- At 2:30 a.m., an unwanted guest was reported at a residence in the 12000 block of Dyar.

- At about 5 a.m., officers responding to a call in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau about a break-in located a suspected vehicle connected with the matter, and a pursuit was initiated.

- A break-in was reported in the 12100 block of Conant.

- A hit-and-run accident was reported at Commor and Gallagher.

- An assault was reported in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau.

Saturday, Oct. 3

- A domestic dispute was reported in the 9800 block of Conant, and another in the 12100 block of Conant.

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

Sunday, Oct. 4

- At about 2:30 a.m., a complaint was made about noise in the 2600 block of Carpenter.

- A break-in was reported in the 3800 block of Prescott.

- At almost 1 p.m., a person was arrested after a traffic stop in the area of Jos. Campau and Casmere for driving drunk, and for possessing an open intoxicant.

- In the area of Conant and Doremus, vehicles doing burnouts were reported.

- A complaint was made about vehicles parked on a sidewalk near Commor and Lumpkin. Vehicles parked on a sidewalk were also reported in the 2400 block of Grayling.

- Females were reported arguing in the 9700 block of Dequindre.

- A moped was reported

reduce snowfall, according to AccuWeather.

El Nino winters typically feature milder weather in northern parts of the U.S., and wetter conditions across southern areas, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

As for the hot air coming out of the city council chambers, expect that to continue to blow continuously for years.

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

stolen in the 3000 block of Roosevelt.

- Two males were reported climbing up buildings.

Monday, Oct. 5

- At a little after midnight, fireworks were reported in the 11400 block of Jos. Campau.

- At 2 a.m., a robbery was reported on Carpenter.

- A theft of a vehicle was reported.

- A vehicle was reported stolen on Comstock.

- A fight was reported at Caniff and Gallagher.

- Illegal dumping was reported in the 5100 block of Belmont.

- A complaint was made about a juvenile in the 11800 block of Dequindre.

- Disturbances were reported in the 3800 block of Yemans, and in the 2300 block of Commor.

Tuesday, Oct. 6

- A person in the 2300 block of Botsford reported they were receiving harassing calls. A person in the 3200 block of Belmont also reported receiving harassing calls.

- A hit-and-run accident was reported in the 3200 block of Trowbridge.

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

Wednesday, Oct. 7

- At almost 11:30 p.m., a complaint was made about noise in the 2600 block of Carpenter.

- A male suspect was arrested in the 12000 block of Grand Haven for domestic violence.

- An assault was reported in the area of Jos. Campau and Botsford.

- An incident of fraud was reported in the 11600 block of Charest.

- A complaint was made about a juvenile in the area of Gallagher and Norwalk.

- A business in the 9300 block of Jos. Campau reported customer trouble.

Thursday, Oct. 8

- Following a traffic stop in the area of Holbrook and Jos. Campau, a driver was arrested for reckless driving.

- Officers observed a suspect in a break-in wearing a ski mask and driving a vehicle. The suspect sped off.

- A suspicious male suspect was arrested at Caniff and Jos. Campau.

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Notice of Public Hearing – City of Hamtramck

Planning Commission

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Hamtramck Planning Commission will meet on the 2nd Floor Council Chambers of Hamtramck City Hall (3401 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212) on Wednesday, November 4th, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of holding a public hearing and considering the request pertaining to the following properties:

- 3210 Carpenter, Hamtramck, MI 48212, parcel number 41 007 09 0025 302
- 3240 Carpenter, Hamtramck, MI 48212, parcel number 41 007 09 0028 300

Applicant CB Asphalt Paving is requesting special land use approval of the vacant parcels to construct two parking lots, subject to subject to \$155.185 and \$155.187 of the Hamtramck Code of Ordinances. Current use is Multi-Use per \$155.065.

Written comments may be submitted to the Assistant Community & Economic Development Manager via email at mmiszczak@hamtramck. Written comments will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. on November 4th, 2026. The City of Hamtramck will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids, and services for individuals with disabilities at the public hearing upon advance notice by writing or by calling the Clerk's Office at 313-800-5233 x821. Please contact the Clerk's office at least 10 days in advance.

—ADVERTORIAL—

RX Kids is putting resources directly into Wayne County families

By Warren C. Evans
Wayne County Executive

For families preparing to welcome a new child, pregnancy and the first months of a baby's life should be a time of hope and excitement. But for many families, it is also a period of financial uncertainty. Household income can fall around the time of childbirth while expenses for food, housing, utilities, transportation and other necessities continue to rise.

That is the challenge the Rx Kids program is designed to address, and in Wayne County, the early results show that families are receiving meaningful assistance when they need it most.

Rx Kids provides unconditional cash support to pregnant mothers and families with newborns in participating communities. Depending on the program model, families can receive a \$1,500 lump-sum payment during pregnancy, followed by monthly payments of \$500 during the early months of a child's life. The program aims to reduce some of the financial pressures associated with pregnancy and early childhood while supporting healthier outcomes for mothers and children.

The need is particularly significant in Wayne County. Research shows that Michigan recorded an infant mortality rate of 6.4 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022, compared with 10 deaths per 1,000 live births in Wayne County. Inequitable access to social determinants of health and poverty-related pressures have been found to contribute to these disparities.

The question, then, is whether putting resources directly into the hands of families can make a practical difference.

So far, Wayne County's experience provides encouraging evidence of reach.

Since the program launched in November 2025, 2,479 families in six Wayne County communities—Dearborn, Hamtramck, Highland Park, Inkster, Melvindale and River Rouge—have received approximately \$8.2 million in financial support.

The community-by-community numbers illustrate just how impactful the program has been. Dearborn accounts for 1,498 enrolled families and \$4.8 million in cash prescribed. Hamtramck has enrolled 475 families, with \$1.85 million provided. Inkster has en-

rolled 213 families and received \$677,000 in prescribed cash. Melvindale has enrolled 196 families, with \$650,500 provided. Highland Park has enrolled 45 families and received \$141,500, while River Rouge has enrolled 52 families and received \$152,000.

These payments are intended to give families flexibility to address the needs that matter most to them. Food, housing and utilities among essential expenses families have used cash support from the program to address. Families also report reductions in food insecurity and financial hardship, along with improvements in health and school performance.

That does not mean cash assistance is a substitute for quality health care, affordable housing, nutritious food, childcare or other essential services. However, it is one tool that can complement those resources by giving families greater ability to respond to immediate needs.

The significance of Rx Kids is ultimately found in that flexibility. Instead of assuming that every family needs the same form of assistance, the program gives parents resources and allows them

to determine where those dollars can make the greatest difference.

With more than 2,400 Wayne County families already enrolled and millions of dollars reaching households across six communities, Rx Kids is providing a concrete example of an approach that puts families at the center of efforts to improve maternal and child well-being.

Will Hamtramck end up with a new mayor today?

Continued from front page

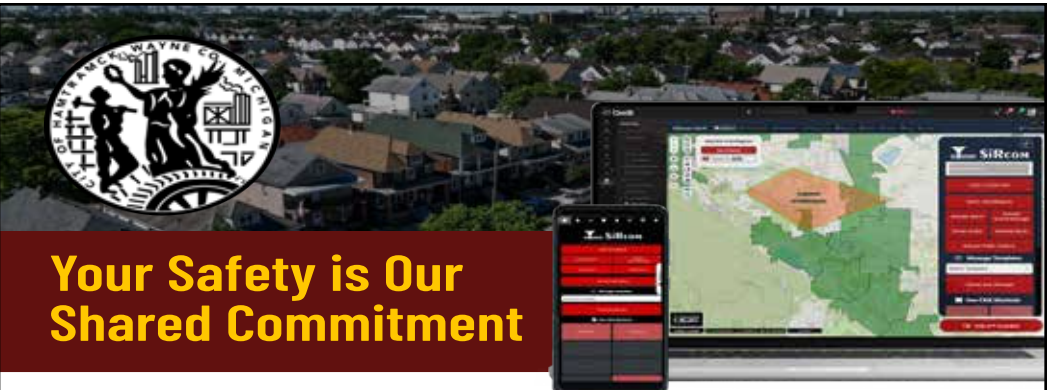
ted ballots from being tabulated.

That bill is expected to reach \$200,000. The city has already paid \$134,000, according to invoices that The Review received through a Freedom of Information Act request.

However, because of a legal challenge by Councilmember Mohamed Alsomiri over paying the legal fees, the money is being held in an escrow account.

Alharbi insists the city should pay his legal fees because he was officially the mayor when Mahmood began his legal challenge to have the 37 ballots counted.

But Mahmood's legal action to have the ballots counted began before Alharbi was sworn in as mayor. Alharbi hired his own personal attorney to prevent the ballots from being counted before he officially became the mayor.



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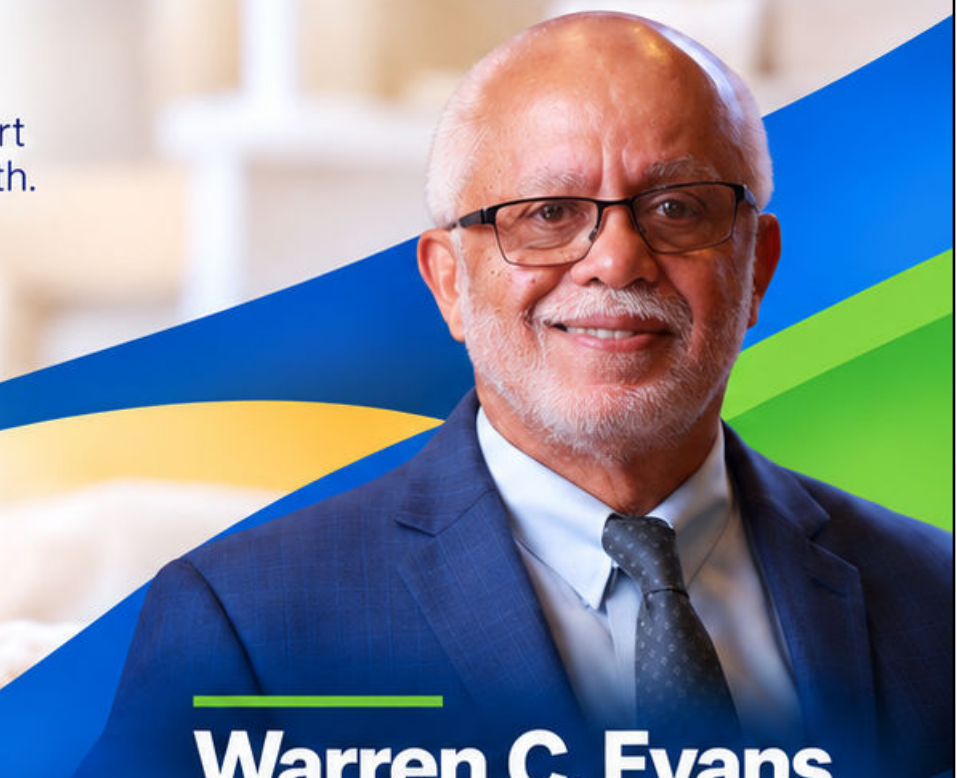
2,479
Families Enrolled

\$8.2
Million
In Direct Support

Having a baby comes with enough to think about. With Rx Kids in Wayne County, financial stress doesn't have to be one of them.

Since County Executive Warren C. Evans announced the launch of Rx Kids in Wayne County in November 2025, the program has helped give growing families additional support during pregnancy and those important first months after birth.

It's about giving Wayne County families a stronger start.



Warren C. Evans

WAYNE COUNTY EXECUTIVE



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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Hamtramck Public Schools

Project:

Hamtramck Community Center

Description:

Entry Door Replacement

Architect:

Ehresman Architects
801 West Bid Beaver Road, Suite 250, Troy, MI 48084

Construction Manager:

Frank Rewold and Sons Inc.
303 E. Third St., Suite 300, Rochester, MI 48307

Estimator:

Mike Gagnon
(248) 618-0220
mgagnon@frankrewold.com
Questions addressed ONLY to Mike Gagnon

Bid Documents:

Bid documents including bid forms may be obtained from Frank Rewold and Sons Portal at:
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/ys7c3a6u6v19ivjn13b69/APCwkUwqx2CMHdVUmpffK-s?rlkey=sek8pko3s6rb1w8yuijzx9wy51&st=ff48hl4u&dl=0>
Bid documents will be available on or after October 6, 2026

Non-Mandatory Prebid Walk-Through:

10:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 13, 2026. Meet at the front entrance to the Hamtramck Community Center located at 11350 Charest St, Hamtramck, MI. Note parking is limited so please plan to arrive early.

Bid Due Date:

2:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 20, 2026
Bids will only be accepted on forms provided. Proposal forms must be in a sealed envelope, mailed or delivered in person prior by 2:00 p.m. EST on the due date to:

Attn: Bruce Coltman, Hamtramck Public Schools
C/O Frank Rewold and Sons Inc.
303 E. Third St., Suite 300, Rochester, MI 48307

2:00 p.m. Public Bid Opening:

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Prevailing Wage Rates:

Not applicable.

Bid Bond:

5% bid security required. Bid bonds are required, however, certified or cashier checks are acceptable for bids under \$50,000.

Nonexempt:

This project is not tax exempt for state sales tax and/or use tax. All materials and supplies incorporated and used in construction and becoming a permanent part of this project will not be exempt from state sales tax and/or tax

Disclosure Statements:

Each bid proposal must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between owner or any employee of bidder and any member of board of education or superintendent of Hamtramck Public Schools. Each bid proposal must also include a signed Iran Economic Sanctions Affidavit. The board of education will not accept a bid proposal that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement or the Iran Economic Sanctions.

FROM THE OFFICE OF

WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER ERIC R. SABREE



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LakeshoreLegalAid.org
probono@lakeshorelegalaid.org



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Between the lines... Remembering journalist Walter Wasacz

Continued from page 3

In short, it was about harmony, sweet and simple.

Walter's earthly travels may be over, but his influence will never vanish, and his humanity never

cease to inspire.

Walter, old buddy, I'll miss you deeply. Hamtramck and your many friends across the globe are all still in mourning.

City Life Pondering a slower future for us all

For several years Walter Wasacz wrote the column "City Life" for The Review. He explored the many ways that Hamtramck could make this walkable city much safer. Mr. Wasacz recently died of an apparent heart attack. Here's a column Walter did in 2019.

By Walter Wasacz



Walter Wasacz

In looking at the year behind I also reviewed columns where I began thinking about ways to make the year ahead safer for all us.

I put together a few of those thoughts below as we head into the new year:

It will take a collaborative effort between city, school and community leadership and residents to solve what I believe to be Hamtramck's most critical public safety issue: how drivers of motor vehicles share the road with all non-motorized traffic – including cyclists, skaters, people using scooters, walkers and runners.

The plain fact is motorists are currently not sharing roads on which all of us have a right to travel. That must change to create a healthy balance and safety for pedestrians as well as motorists.

By almost every law ever written pedestrians are given the right of way when crossing from curb to curb. All of us must have the fundamental right to public safety.

Yet as I walk the streets daily my experience is the opposite: motorists behave as if they have the right to block my way through a crosswalk, or turn into my path as I cross at a green signal.

This is not a case of one or two bad drivers, or even a handful: it's a collective, community-wide crisis. Signs are being leveled – one at the corner of Holbrook and Gallagher directing people to the Hamtramck Public Schools Administration offices is the latest to fall – by speeding motorists.

Slowing traffic down in a city of only 2-square miles should not be hard. It shouldn't be,

that is, if the entire community wants it to happen. It begins with city and school officials and becomes the responsibility of all that use these streets and sidewalks.

Do we want safe streets for our children who walk to school, for adults who walk for shopping or strolling, for bicycles and scooters that have every lawful right to share the road with motor vehicles?

I would also ask everyone to ponder those questions as well as what Hamtramck is to each of us, what it is becoming and what it can be. This has historically been a place of new beginnings for immigrant communities, a place of transition from one generation to the next.

It is also working on its next generation of artists, musicians, researchers and scholars who find a lot of what they are looking for here: in every crease and corner of the city, in the messy intangibles that give rise to creative projects and vibrant social life.

People come and go, but the public environment built over 100 years ago remains, and is in demand by all types of investors who see their future here.

Not seeing it yet? You will. That future is coming, no doubt in my mind.

The question is: how do we all, as a community, help shape that future now? One way is by becoming a slower, safer city, a critical foundation piece that can set the tone of city life for decades to come.

To everyone reading: have a happy, safe 2019 on the streets and in the crosswalks.

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