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— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —



Wayne County judge clears the way for Mahmood

By Sarah Leach

Following a bitter, months-long legal feud that dragged through state courts and paralyzed local governance, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Kathleen M. McCarthy issued a decisive opinion last Friday granting summary disposition in favor of Mayor-elect Muhith Mahmood, ending a high-stakes challenge brought by opponent Adam Alharbi.

The ruling formally closes a contentious saga surrounding the November 2025 Hamtramck mayoral race, and clears the path for the Wayne County Board of Canvassers to officially certify the ballot results.



A Wayne County Circuit Court judge ruled that mayor-elect Muhith Mahmood is, indeed, a resident of the city. That ruling means Mahmood can serve in the role as mayor.

A bitter contest and 37 uncounted ballots

The dispute traces back to the initial tallies of the November 2025 election, where Alharbi was initially declared the victor by a razor-thin margin. However, the contest was immediately thrown into turmoil when the Hamtramck city clerk revealed that 37 uncounted absentee ballots remained in limbo.

Mahmood initiated separate appellate proceedings to force the recount of those missing votes. After nearly a year of judicial delays, the ballots were finally processed Oct. 16, reversing the original outcome and putting Mahmood ahead.

Anticipating Mahmood's election contest, Alharbi had filed a preemptive suit shortly after the 2025 election, alleging that Mahmood was ineligible to hold office. Alharbi claimed Mahmood had fraudulently executed his affidavit of candidacy by claiming residency in Hamtramck when, according to Alharbi, he actually lived with his family in Troy, Michigan.

In her 14-page opinion, McCarthy systematically dismantled the suit on both procedural and substantive grounds.

First, the court ruled that Alharbi failed to follow proper protocol for an action in quo warranto – a legal proceeding used to challenge a person's right to hold public office. Under Michigan Court Rule 3.306, such actions involving public corporations like the city of Hamtramck must be initiated by the attorney general, or pursued privately only after the attorney general formally refuses to act.

"At the time this action was filed, Mahmood was neither an elected official nor the mayor-elect. … Alharbi's action in quo warranto warrants dismissal on that procedural basis alone," McCarthy wrote, adding that Alharbi had

Continued on page 2

Mahmood on becoming mayor: 'Let's work together'

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck's new mayor, Muhith Mahmood, is calling for a healing of the city after a legal wrangling over whether he is truly a resident here.

Last Friday, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Kathleen M. McCarthy ruled in favor of Muhith Mahmood, calling evidence produced in court to prove he's a non-resident "scant, at best."

The residency challenge was made by Adam Alharbi, who is now no longer mayor of the city.

Mahmood told The Review that he hopes the community can move forward to "make the city livable for all of us. … Justice has been served, and we need to drive in a good direction. Let's work together."



Mayor-elect Muhith Mahmood says it's time for the city to move on after the numerous court battles he has faced to serve as mayor.

Wayne County Circuit Court Judge McCarthy also called for a community healing.

"For the sake of its residents, the fighting needs to stop so that Hamtramck can heal and move forward," McCarthy said, in her ruling on the residency issue

Mahmood now becomes the first Bangladeshi-American to hold the office of mayor.

News of the court's ruling on Friday traveled fast in social media. However, the reaction, so far, is mostly one of frustration over the city's ongoing political turmoil.

"So much money and time wasted on these clowns," said Carol Raczkowski.

On Wednesday, the Wayne County Board of Canvassers certified Mahmood's win, and rejected Alharbi's request

Continued on page 2

Election day: over 7,000 voters in Hamtramck

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck joined voters statewide in their overwhelming support of Ann Arbor Democrat Abdul El-Sayed in his bid to be Michigan's U.S. Senator.

Hamtramck also remained loyal to the city's longstanding Democratic roots by supporting all of the Democratic candidates up and down the ballot.

Locally, the three candidates seeking election to the Hamtramck School Board all won easily, since they ran to fill exactly three vacant seats.

And Hamtramck 31st District Court Judge Alexis Krot also won another six-year term since she, too, ran unopposed.

There was the presence of federal election monitors, but there were no reports of the monitors interfering as some had warned could happen.

Nationwide, it was a good day for the Democratic Party, as many candidates swept into office in what was described as a blue tidal wave; there were a number of dramatic victories in both houses of Congress, as well as in various gubernatorial races for the Democrats, as some had predicted.

Tuesday's election was also unique in another way – weather-wise. The day was sunny and unseasonably warm, with temperatures in the mid-70s.

In all, over 7,000 Hamtramck voters participated in the election, out of over 15,000 registered.

Of that 7,000-plus, a whopping 4,241 voters either voted by absentee ballot or early in-person.

We'll do a deeper dive breakdown of the election next week.



Quick Hits

County offers a helping hand on taxes

By Charles Sercombe

For those struggling to pay their property taxes, Wayne County has a yellow bag for you.

It's no ordinary bag.

The Treasurer's Office is distributing yellow bags that provide important information regarding the foreclosure process, upcoming deadlines, payment options, and available resources that can help taxpayers resolve their delinquent tax obligations before losing their homes.

Yellow Bags include show-cause hearing notifications that are required by law for properties subject to foreclosure, and include important information and resources to help property owners. They are distributed countywide to properties that have reached forfeiture status, based on this three-year property tax collection process:

• Year 1 – Delinquent: Property taxes become delinquent on March 1 following the year they were billed. At this point, the unpaid taxes are transferred to the Wayne County Treasurer's Office for collection.

• Year 2 – Forfeited: If the taxes remain unpaid, the property enters forfeiture on March 1 of the following year. Additional interest and fees are applied, but the property owner still has an opportunity to resolve the balance and avoid foreclosure. (Properties in Year 2 of the process are receiving yellow bags this month.)

• Year 3 – Foreclosure: If the taxes remain unpaid, the property becomes subject to foreclosure, with March 31 generally being the final deadline to redeem the property.

As an example, unpaid 2024 property taxes became delinquent on March 1, 2025 and then entered forfeiture status on March 1, 2026, at which point they may be subject to foreclosure on March 31, 2027. Yellow Bags will be delivered to all properties with any

Continued on page 5



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Sunday, November 8, Mass 9:00 am

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$16 adult/$8 child 12 and under

Nov 14 - Take out only Soup Kitchen 2:00 - 4:00pm Everyone welcome! (Please come in person to pick up your meal)

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Wayne County judge clears the way for Mahmood

Continued from front page

improperly bypassed the state's top law enforcement office.

Despite the procedural defects, the court chose to hold a comprehensive evidentiary hearing Oct. 22 to bring long-sought finality to the voters of Hamtramck.

Witnesses called by Alharbi included neighbors from Troy, Michigan State Police detectives and a private investigator formerly employed by the Hamtramck Police Department. However, McCarthy noted that the evidence presented was "scant, at best" and relied heavily on subjective assumptions — such as water usage metrics, home furnishings and cell tower "sleep hours."

During the hearing, Mahmood testified that while his wife and children reside in Troy, he moved to Hamtramck in 2019 upon his election to the city council, maintaining a residence there where he sleeps four to five nights a week around his work schedule at MGM Grand Detroit. Neighboring residents in Hamtramck corroborated Mahmood's testimony, providing detailed descriptions of his home and frequent presence in the community.

"If Mahmood were eating all of his meals out and sleeping on a couch in Hamtramck 4 days a week, with two sets of clothes, he would nevertheless meet the residency requirements to hold office," McCarthy noted, ruling that Mahmood had clearly met the legal standard for residency.

'Peace is difficult to obtain with clenched fists'

The court's opinion closed with a stern rebuke of the political acrimony that has gripped the 2.2-square-mile municipality over the past 18 months.

Reflecting on the intensity of the litigation over an office that pays just $6,500 per year, McCarthy invoked a quote attributed to former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi: "Peace is difficult to obtain with clenched fists."

"Given the out-sized allegations of corruption and misconduct surrounding the election, and extensive investigations and litigation related to it, one would never guess that the mayoral position pays $6,500 per year, and the City of Hamtramck is 2.2 miles in length," wrote McCarthy. "For the sake of its residents, the fighting needs to stop so that Hamtramck can heal and move forward."

Mahmood became Hamtramck's new mayor on Wednesday after the Wayne County Board of Canvassers certified the newly-counted 37 ballots.

He will be sworn into office this Sunday, at noon, in the Hamtramck High School Community Center.

(Sara Leach is the Editor-in-Chief of The Review.)

Mahmood on becoming mayor: 'Let's work together'

Continued from front page

for a total ballot recount.

This entire saga – as many by now are familiar with – started with the discovery of 37 uncounted ballots from last year's November election.

Long story made short: the ballots were finally included in the election tally, and it turns out Mahmood won the election after all, which means that Alharbi is now no longer the mayor.

Mahmood beat Alharbi by 12 votes.

In the meantime, taxpayers are on the hook to cover Alharbi's legal fees in the dispute with Mahmood, thanks to a bare majority of city councilmembers who agreed for the city to pay those bills.

So far, that amount billed to the taxpayers has exceeded $200,000, according to invoices The Review received through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

Mahmood has said he will not ask for the city to pay his legal fees.

Now that the matter has been settled and Alharbi is no longer the mayor, former city councilmember Phillip Kwik wondered, on social media, how much longer the city will be on the hook for Alharbi's legal bills.

"This should mean that we don't have to pay for Alharbi's lawsuit anymore, right? When do I get my rebate check on my taxes?" Kwik wondered.

Coming Events

SATURDAY, Nov. 7, 3:30-5:30 p.m. – Drive thru Polish Dinner at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. Menu: Pork Chop, Pierogi with sour cream. Kielbasa, Bigos, Mashed Potatoes with gravy & Dessert. Adult $16/ Child 12 & under $8.

SATURDAY, Nov. 14, 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.)





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Events

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Saturday, November 14, 2026
10 a.m. – Noon

Corinthian Baptist Church
1725 Caniff Avenue, Hamtramck, MI 48212

AARP Michigan is celebrating family caregivers and giving away pairs of Detroit Lions tickets to the Thanksgiving Day game.

Please RSVP.
Scan the code or visit:
aarpmi.org/nov14caregivers

See the rules and enter today:
aarpmi.org/thxgivingtix

Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Hamtramck: It's time to move on

Hamtramck has a new mayor.

And what a strange, twisting tale it's been.

By now, the news has spread around town about the ongoing legal battle over whether to count 37 uncounted ballots from last year's November election, and whether the winner of that election, Muhith Mahmood, is an actual resident of the city and thus qualified to serve in elective office here.

Mahmood has won in court decisively on all these matters.

Yes, it's outrageous that we had to wait a full year to determine Mahmood's status, but that's how it goes under our legal system. There's often not much we can do to speed up the wheels of justice.

But what we can do now is move on and put this behind us. This election will become a historical footnote – an oddity in Hamtramck's 100-year plus history.

The courts have spoken, so let's stop the legal maneuvering – and we're talking to you, Mr. Alharbi.

This ongoing battle is not doing the city any favors, and we can imagine it's turned off a number of would-be investors from doing business with the city.

Again -- time to move on, Hamtramck.

Other Voices: Guest Editorial

Veterans Day: Honoring our heroes, cherishing our freedom

By C.V. Samuel

Every year on November 11, Americans observe Veterans Day to honor the brave men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

It is a day to recognize their courage, dedication, and sacrifices in protecting our nation and preserving the freedom we enjoy today.

The history of Veterans Day dates back to World War I. The fighting officially ended with an armistice on November 11, 1918, at 11 a.m. – the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

Originally known as Armistice Day, it was renamed Veterans Day in 1954 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to honor all American veterans who served during both wartime and peacetime.

Throughout our nation's history, millions of Americans have answered the call to serve. Many endured separation from their families, dangerous conditions, physical injuries, and emotional hardships. Some never returned home. Their sacrifices remind us that freedom is never free and should never be taken for granted.

While parades, ceremonies, and patriotic gatherings are meaningful ways to observe this day, our gratitude should go beyond November 11.

Veterans deserve our continued respect, proper health care, housing, employment opportunities, and support as they adjust to civilian life.

We must also remember the families who share the burdens and sacrifices of military service.

Veterans Day honors all who have served in the Armed Forces, while Memorial Day, observed in May, specifically remembers those who died while serving our country. Both occasions remind us of the sacrifices made by generations of Americans to protect our freedom.

My gratitude

As an Indian American citizen for more than four decades, I would like to share a personal experience that has made Veterans Day especially meaningful to me.

During the early 1980s, I volunteered every Saturday morning at a soup kitchen in inner-city Detroit. I often took my two young children, Shibu, then 12, and Shoba, 10, with me. The soup kitchen was organized and operated by the Sisters of Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, who faithfully provided warm meals to hundreds of homeless and needy people.

I was deeply touched by the Sisters' faith and dedication. They never knew how many volunteers would come each Saturday, but they placed their work in God's hands through prayer, trusting Him to provide the help they needed. Volunteers always seemed to come forward.

Among those who came for a warm meal were many military veterans. As I got to know them, I learned that some had no permanent homes, while others struggled with physical or mental disabilities and the challenges of finding safe, affordable housing. I often felt these men and women, who had once served our nation, deserved dignity, security, and a place to call home.

I contacted the Veterans Administration and several organizations that assist veterans with housing. Through their cooperation, I was able to help many find suitable homes. What began as a small act of volunteer service gradually became a lasting commitment.

Even today, these agencies contact me when a veteran needs help finding housing. I consider it a privilege to continue helping whenever I can. Today, a few veterans are also living in my own rental properties.

Looking back, I feel truly blessed to have made a small difference in the lives of those who once served our country. To me, this has never been just volunteer work. It is my personal way of expressing gratitude and fulfilling my responsibility as an American citizen.

A nation's gratitude should never be forgotten

Continued on page 5

Odds & Ends

Veterans Day ... Once again, the good folks at PLAV Post 6 will host a ceremony in honor of Veterans Day, next Wednesday, Nov. 11.

Post Commander Mark Widzinski sent out an email about the event:

"On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, we will have two activities at the post: At 11 a.m. we will have a champagne salute to all veterans, followed by a barbecue lunch. Members and one guest are invited.

"Also, we are hosting an Open House on Veterans Day from 2-5 p.m. ... We will meet our neighbors and talk to them about who we are, what we do. We will serve desserts, coffee and soft drinks."

The Post is located at Evaline and McDougall.

Inauguration ... Finally, last year's November mayoral election has been settled.

It's been a year-long struggle to figure out the true outcome of the election.

Mayor-elect Muhith Mahmood is the city's new mayor, and he will be sworn into office this Sunday, Nov. 8, at noon.

The event will be held at the Hamtramck High School Community Center, 11350 Charest. The public is invited.

Mahmood's election was certified by the Wayne County Board of Canvassers this past Wednesday.

Reminder ... It's time to clean up this town.

And by that, we mean that volunteers are being called out to join in on the city's Fall Cleanup this Saturday, Nov. 7, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There are four meet-up locations for volunteers to choose from:

- Hamtramck City Hall, 3401 Evaline
- Sarah Garrett Park, on the I-75 southbound service drive, near Caniff
- Veterans Park, 8690 Jos. Campau
- Pope Park, at Belmont and Jos. Campau

Cleaning supplies will be provided.

The Hamtramck Beautification Commission is hosting the event, and is encouraging folks to wear costumes just to make the day fun.

Can't make it on Nov. 7?

You can still pitch in by cleaning up your yard, your portion of your alley, and the street in front of your residence.

As most folks know, litter in Hamtramck is a constant problem. Seems like some people just can't help being slobs, and throwing their trash on the streets or in the vacant lots.

Caring for others ... For those who are caring for a loved one, or are about to be, there is support available.

And you can find out a whole lot about those available resources at Corinthian Baptist Church (1725 Caniff) on Saturday, Nov. 14 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Representatives with AARP will be on hand to go over everything.

You can register online at: aarpmi.org/nov14caregivers, or just show up.

Coffee time ... Enjoy a nice cup of java, and meet Hamtramck Police Chief Hussein Farhat, in what's being called "Coffee with the Chief."

It will be on Thursday, Nov. 12 from 11 a.m. to noon at Hakaya Café.

The café is located at 8902 Jos. Campau.

City has a new micro-cinema... This city somehow keeps offering up new surprises.

One of the latest ones is that Hamtramck now has its own cinema – or rather, microcinema.

Located at 9536 Jos. Campau, the small storefront now houses a nearly 50-seat small-screen cinema, where older films play in repertory.

The brainchild of Torya Blanchard, of "Good Girls Go To Paris" crepes, it originally planned to show films Tuesdays through Sundays, but for this week, at least, it'll be Thursday through Sunday.

The schedule:

- Thursday, Nov. 5, 7 p.m.: Quadrophenia (1979) – The film version of the Who's 1973 double-album of Pete Townshend's memories of the mods versus the Teddy boys/rockers. See Sting sport around on a Vespa in glorious black and white.
- Friday, Nov. 6, 7 p.m.: MASCULIN/FEMININ (1966) – Jean-Luc Godard's French New Wave number, featuring not-exactly-American-household-names Jean-Pierre Leaud and Chantal Goya. More black and white, plus cigarette smoke (bet on it). Swoon-worthy style for days.
- Saturday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m.: Smithereens (1982) – Punk-rock-adjacent director Susan Seidelman's first gritty feature, about a young punk seeker (Susan Berman) trying to chase that first crazy wave from NYC to LA, meeting up with the likes of Richard Hell along the way. I mean, come on, the soundtrack alone. The first American indie film to compete for the Palme d'Or, according to Wikipedia.
- Sunday, Nov. 8, 6 p.m.: Christiane F. (1981) – Bleak but great film about a young teen girl in Berlin, descending into addiction and worse with her boyfriend. Noted for its extensive live footage of Bowie in concert. A time capsule of that Bowie "Low trilogy" era.

Tickets are $8.50 with no sissy discounts, and I'm betting that, if you're old you-know-whats like us, you'll want to bring a seat cushion for your bony old bum.

Check out www.naturalvillaincinema.com.



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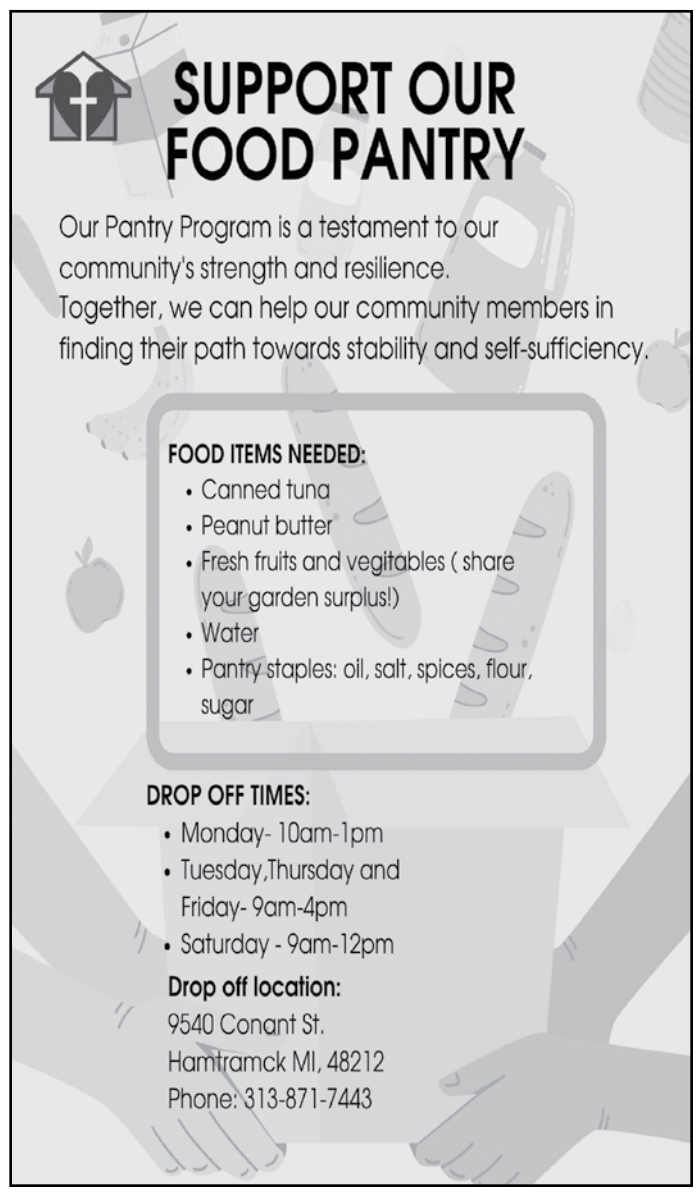
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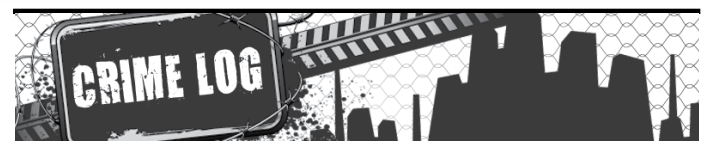
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By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Oct. 21-27.

Wednesday, Oct. 21

- At midnight, a complaint was made about noise in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
- Family trouble was reported in the 3500 block of Caniff.

Thursday, Oct. 22

- Counterfeit currency was reported.
- Officers responded to a call about a vehicle blocking traffic at Gallagher and Norwalk.
- A business in the 12100 block of Jos. Campau reported trouble with a customer.
- An illegal dumping was reported in the 11600 block of St. Aubin.
- A hit-and-run accident was reported at Jos. Campau and Evaline.
- A domestic assault was reported in the 2600 block of Holmes.

Friday, Oct. 23

- A car theft was reported on Holbrook.
- A business in the 8600 block of Jos. Campau reported trouble with a customer.
- Family trouble was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.

Saturday, Oct. 24

- A person in the 3200 block of Holbrook reported being harassed.
- An assault was reported in the 5000 block of Trowbridge.
- A break-in was reported in the 5100 block of Belmont.
- A business in the 8800 block of Jos. Campau reported trouble with a customer.

Sunday, Oct. 25

- At 11:30 p.m., a complaint was made about noise in the 2900 block of Jacob.
- A theft from an auto was made in the 12000 block of Jos. Campau.
- A business on Jos. Campau reported an incident of fraud.
- A vehicle stolen out of Sterling Heights was recovered.
- A suspect on Grand Haven was arrested for domestic assault.

Monday, Oct. 26

- At midnight, reckless drivers were reported in the area of Mackay and Neibel.
- A disorderly person was reported on Evaline.
- A fight was reported in the 3100 block of Caniff.
- Family trouble was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
- Officers attempted to pull over the driver of a stolen car, but the driver sped off.

Tuesday, Oct. 27

- A suspicious situation was reported in the 12000 block of Oklahoma.
- A juvenile suspect was arrested for fleeing officers on his minibike.

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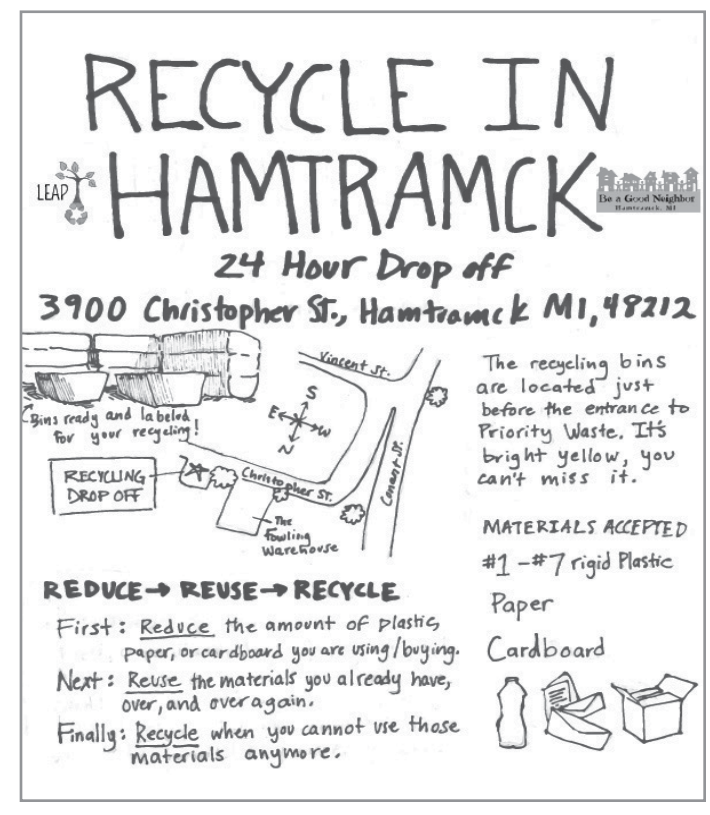
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Important Information
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MDHHS FORGOTTEN HARVEST

Former mayor's parting words: 'Hamtramck, don't give up'

By Charles Sercombe

Former mayor Adam Alharbi has some parting words as Hamtramck ushers in a new mayor.

Also, he's still insisting the city's new mayor, Muhith Mahmood, does not actually live in Hamtramck, despite a Wayne County Circuit Court judge saying that evidence produced to prove Mahmood is not a resident was "scant, at best."

Alharbi attempted to block Mahmood from being seated as mayor by claiming he does not live here, and was thus ineligible to hold any elective office in Hamtramck.

"Unfortunately, the decision wasn't in our favor and it's in my opponent's favor," Alharbi said in a social media post. "I really don't have to have that position. It's just the fact I live in the city. I don't live in Troy or Dearborn, or some other city and came here to run for prestige. This is my city. My town."

Alharbi and Mahmood have been fighting over which of them is the rightful mayor for a year since last November's election.

Mahmood's first roadblock to winning was convincing a judge that 37 uncounted ballots from last year's November election get counted.

The legitimacy of those ballots was contested by Alharbi because they were discovered a day after the election, and he argued that they had lost their "chain of custody."

Mahmood prevailed, but it took several more months. As it turned out, he won the election by a slim 12-vote margin.

Alharbi continued in his quixotic attempt to prevent Mahmood from being mayor by going to court over the latter's residency. Alharbi relied on Troy neighbors and a prior city investigation into his residency to prove his case.

The courts rejected that attempt as well.

Mahmood's election victory was certified by the Wayne County Board of Canvassers on Wednesday.

Alharbi, however, was not done with the matter. Through his attorney, he attempted to get the county to recount the ballots from the entire election.

The county denied his request.

In his social media post, Alharbi said that more could have been accomplished if the legal matters weren't taking up his time.

"Imagine if we didn't have all these legal issues," Alharbi said. "We could have accomplished way more. It's more like I'm giving in to someone who doesn't live in the city."

Mahmood's residency victory also raised concerns among some residents over similar allegations about some councilmembers who are also alleged to not live in the city, or who committed ballot harvesting to win their seats.

Alharbi vowed that this is "the beginning of the end of voter fraud. In the future, we must make sure only residents run for office. So Hamtramck, don't give up. The election was meant to be this way so we can correct it."

He did not specify what steps could be taken to root out any future election fraud.

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Veterans Day: Honoring our heroes, cherishing our freedom

Continued from page 3

Veterans Day is more than a holiday or a patriotic ceremony. It is a reminder that those who once stood to protect our nation deserve our support, compassion, and respect today. We may not all wear a military uniform, but each of us can honor our veterans through simple acts of kindness, service, and gratitude.

Let us never forget their courage, their sacrifices, or the families who stood beside them. They once stood for our nation; now it is our turn to stand for them and be kind.

To every veteran, thank you for your service, your sacrifice, and your love of country. May God bless our veterans, their families, and the United States of America!

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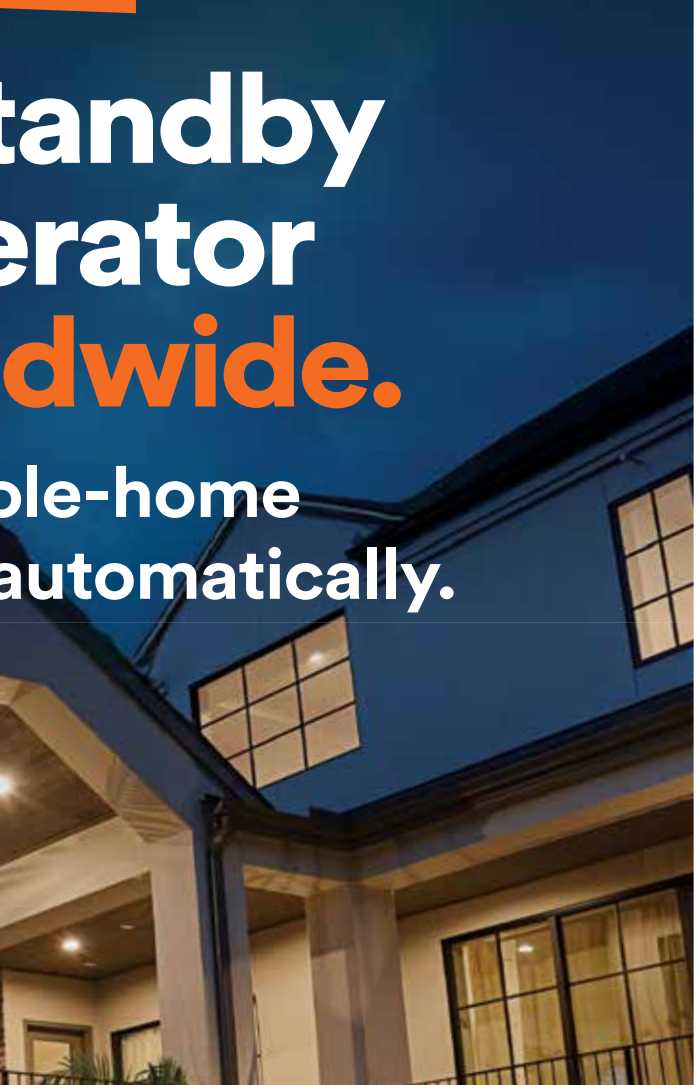
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The Yellow Bag initiative is part of the Treasurer's ongoing, year-round commitment to taxpayer outreach, education, accessibility, and foreclosure prevention. In addition to the Treasurer's Office team's participation at local events across Wayne County's 43 communities during the year, other initiatives and assistance activities from the Treasurer's office also include:

- 10th Annual Veterans Resource Fair, Thursday Nov.19, 2026
- "Ask The Treasurer" virtual events
- Wayne County Treasurer's mobile unit

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Obituaries

BIESTEK

Gregory Biestek, 71, died October 23, 2026.

Loving husband of Monica and father of Stanislaw. Greg is also survived by his sister-in-law Christine Zarichney, and brothers-in-law; Michael and Andrew Kupraszewicz and his niece Rose Hott. Visitation, Friday, November 13, 2026, from 3 - 8 p.m., Services at 7 p.m. at Bagnasco & Calcaterra Funeral Home, 25800 Harper, St. Clair Shores MI 48081. Arrangements by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home.

GARZA



Michael "Bimby" Garza, 73, died October 25, 2026.

Some people spend their lives making a living. Others spend their lives making a difference in the lives of everyone they meet. Michael Edward "Bimby" Garza was undoubtedly one of the latter.

Michael, affectionately known to so many as "Bimby," passed away on October 25, 2026, at the age of 73, leaving behind a lifetime of laughter, love, and countless memories that will forever be treasured by those fortunate enough to have known him.

Born on April 18, 1953, to Henry and Henrietta Garza, Mike was a man with an extraordinary heart and an infectious smile. He possessed that rare and beautiful quality of making everyone feel like somebody. To Mike, there were no strangers — only friends he hadn't met yet. Whether you knew him for five minutes or fifty years, chances are he made you laugh, offered a helping hand, or left you feeling a little happier than you were before.

He was the kind of man who never needed to be asked twice to help someone. In fact, most of the time, he didn't need to be asked at all. His generosity was effortless, his kindness genuine, and his ability to give of himself seemingly endless. He gave not because he expected anything in return, but simply because that was who he was.

Mike had a lifelong love of sports, especially golfing with friends, and found great joy in landscaping. He had a special talent for making things beautiful, whether it was a perfectly manicured yard or simply brightening someone's day. He loved being outdoors, staying busy, and finding happiness in the little things.

But of all the things that brought him joy, nothing compared to his family, especially his beloved grandson, Maddox.

Becoming a grandfather gave Mike one of the greatest joys of his life. From the time Maddox was just a baby, he was his grandpa's pride and joy. One particularly cherished memory is of Mike proudly pushing six-month-old Maddox in his stroller up and down the neighborhood streets, as though he were showing off the greatest treasure in the world. And to him, he was.

Mike had a special gift with children. He could entertain them, make them giggle, and somehow become a kid himself in the process. His playful spirit, goofy sense of humor, and endless patience made him unforgettable to the little ones who knew him. He was living proof that growing older never meant having to grow up.

Above all else, Mike was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. His family was his world, and he loved them with a depth that words can scarcely describe. He was the person you could always count on, the one who showed up, the one who would do anything to make life easier for the people he loved.

He leaves behind his loving wife, Karen Garza; his children, Chelsea (Jeremy) Laskowski and Michael Garza; and his treasured grandson, Maddox Laskowski. He is also survived by his siblings Jeanette, Anita, Irene, Frank, John, Mary Ann, and Josephine.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Henrietta Garza, and his siblings Betty, Louise, Fred, James, and Henry.

Though his passing leaves an unimaginable emptiness in the hearts of those who loved him, his legacy is one that death can never take away. It lives in every act of kindness inspired by his example, every yard made beautiful with loving hands, every child who remembers his laughter, and every person who was lucky enough to call him a friend.

If you knew Mike, you knew what it felt like to be welcomed, to be included, and to be loved. And if you ever needed a reason to smile, chances are he gave you one.

The world feels a little quieter without his laughter, a little less bright without his smile, and a little less kind without his enormous heart.

But what a beautiful thing it is to have been loved by someone who made ordinary moments extraordinary simply by being there.

Mike spent 73 years giving pieces of his heart to everyone around him. And while we would give anything for just one more laugh, one more hug, or one more afternoon together, we find comfort in knowing that he left this world having given it the very best of himself.

He may have never known how to say no to someone in need, but those who loved him will never stop saying how lucky they were to have known him.

Rest peacefully, Mike. You were so deeply loved, and you will be missed beyond measure.

Memorial Service is Friday, November 13, 2026, prayers 11 a.m. Family will receive guests at 10 a.m., Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck MI 48212. Private inurnment at Resurrection Cemetery, Clinton Township, MI.

JURZAK



Gregory M Jurzak, 76, died October 28, 2026.

Loving husband of Urszula and dear father of Kristyn (Colin), Robert (Elyse), and the late Ludwik. He is also survived by his grandchildren Dorothea, August, Aria, and his daughter in law Nicole Collins.

A Memorial Mass was held Thursday, November 5, 2026, at Our Lady of Czestochowa Catholic Church, Sterling Heights MI. Inurnment at Resurrection Cemetery, Clinton Township MI. Arrangements entrusted to Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home.



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