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Quick Hits

Agency lends helping hand to ex-offenders

By Alan Madlane

The Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN) has been partnering with a provider called Chance for Life Organization on a program to help certain ex-offenders develop post-prison job skills, and then find opportunities to use them.

The program is called “Leg Up,” and it has been very successful thus far, according to its champions. Now, they are adding some scholarship-driven job training in the areas of construction and IT/AI (information technology and artificial intelligence).

The Leg Up program is offering 40 scholarships of \$3,500 each for participation in four-month training programs in the two fields. The national union Associated Builders and Contractors and IT and AI groups are supporting the effort.

The Leg Up program has some restrictions and co-requirements:

- It is for individuals who are Wayne County residents upon their release from their sentences, after serving a minimum of five years in prison, or a combined 10 consecutive years “under jurisdiction of state or federal prison,” specifically with a criminal conviction involving controlled substances.
- Must be diagnosed with Opioid Use Disorder, and any co-occurring SUD (substance use disorder) and mental health condition.
- Must participate in the following programs and activities with a DWIHN-approved provider: 1) Mental health therapy (group or individual) with a certified licensed therapist; 2) an SUD prevention, outpatient or treatment program; 3) a mentorship program for a minimum of 120 days, or at least 46 hours; 4) job training and coaching; 5) a family reintegration program.

In addition to the \$3,500 scholarships, the program will support participants with personal clothing, transportation, fees for legal documents, security deposits for housing, and more.

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Hamtramck

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— HAMTRAMCK’S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

City clerk files a lawsuit over election suspension; seeks job back

By Charles Sercombe

In an expected move, City Clerk Rana Faraj is hitting back at the city after being placed on paid suspension.

She recently filed a 45-page lawsuit against the mayor, city council and Interim City Manager Alex Lagrou for suspending her, saying it was in retaliation for informing the state Attorney General about alleged election fraud committed by some councilmembers and their supporters.



City Clerk Rana Faraj, who is on paid administrative leave, is suing the mayor, city council and interim city manager. Faraj is accusing them of retaliating against her for bringing attention to suspected election fraud, and other issues. File photo

The election fraud in question involves accusations of ballot harvesting.

Attorney Reno Arabo, of Marko Law, told The Metro Times that “Hamtramck is once again sending a dangerous message that, if you expose misconduct, the city will come after you, not the wrongdoing. This lawsuit is about making clear that retaliating against an election official for enforcing Michigan election law will have serious consequences.”

Faraj was placed on paid suspension after the Nov. 4 election, when 37 absentee ballots were discovered in her office, still in their sealed envelopes, that had not been counted.

Faraj says that, after discovering them, she submitted the ballots to Wayne County election officials.

However, the four-member Wayne County Board of Canvassers deadlocked in a 2-2 vote on whether to allow the ballots to be included in the vote tally. The tie vote me-

ant that, by existing law, the ballots could not be admitted for counting.

The two Republican members of the board said that, since the ballots were left in Faraj’s office unguarded, and multiple people subsequently went in and out of that office, the ballots could have been tampered with.

The two Democratic members argued that not counting the ballots disenfranchises those 37 voters.

Some in the city accused Faraj of mishandling the matter, although Faraj disputes that claim.

The city has started an independent investigation into the matter, said City Attorney Odey Meroueh.

Faraj, who has been city clerk for four years but came here with no prior experience in a city clerk’s office, said that, prior to the election, some councilmembers – and one in particular

who is not named in her lawsuit – have been “trying to find something to hold against her” after she informed the state AG’s office about ballot harvesting.

“This individual has a long, documented history of obstructing the election process, intimidating election workers, and openly ignoring procedures for his own benefit,” Faraj said. “Throughout the 2023 City Council election, he consistently undermined my office’s efforts to carry out a fair election.”

In her lawsuit, Faraj is also accusing the city of violating the Michigan Whistleblowers’ Protection Act.

Faraj is seeking compensatory damages, attorney fees and for the court to “grant such other relief as justice and equity require.”

Faraj is also seeking her job back, and for the defendants to “cease

and desist from all retaliation.”

She said city officials have “attempted the destruction of her career” through defamation, and that their actions against her have resulted in stress, damage to her professional reputation, mental anguish, humiliation, anxiety, economic damages and other damages.

Mayor Amer Ghalib, who is named in the lawsuit, issued this statement to a news outlet in response to the lawsuit:

“When she reported some election issues to the AG office earlier this year, the city did not even give her a verbal warning for doing that.

“We considered that as part of her job and nothing was wrong with it, and no one took any action against her.

“However, she was placed on paid administrative leave after the

Continued on page 2

Photographer’s new book focuses on Hamtramck

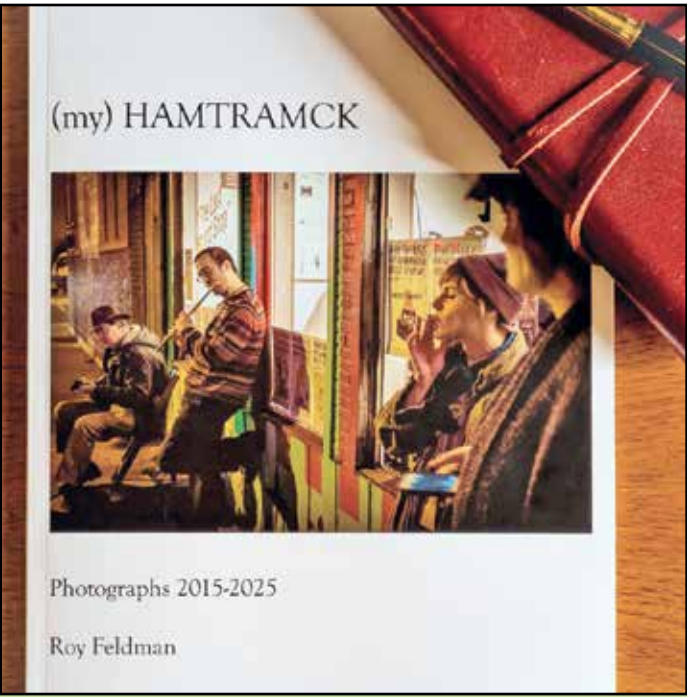
By Alan Madlane

Roy Feldman is a local photographer who has an interesting new book out right now, and it’s all to do with his adopted home: Hamtramck.

Before we go further, though, let’s dig into Feldman’s credentials, which could fill a gallery by themselves.

(The following four paragraphs are reprinted here verbatim from an interview we did with Roy back in 2020.)

(These credentials) include hundreds of assignments as a freelancer for the Detroit Free Press, as well as about



Hamtramck-based photographer, Roy Feldman, recently published a book on his photographs of Hamtramck.

a thousand more for the C&G newspaper chain across the metro area.

Feldman was also the official photog for the Jazz Festival and the Auto Show; official stills photographer for GM, Navistar Defense, the Kresge Foundation and the Midwest division of the U.S. Department of Energy; and a staff photographer at Ford Motor when the job paid a cushy six-figure salary with a company car thrown in; when private jet travel alongside William Clay Ford became the norm.

He’s taught his craft at

Continued on page 3

Mayoral election in question

By Charles Sercombe

Call this the election without end.

The final outcome on who won the mayor’s race is not quite over. The dispute over whether to count 37 absentee ballot still has to be decided in court.

Last Friday, U.S. Federal Court Judge Patricia Perez Fresard heard the first round of arguments about whether the ballots should be counted.

Fresard put the matter on hold until the attorneys involved in the dispute can meet and further discuss the matter, although that left a number of observers wondering “why bother,” since the attorneys appear to be far apart in their positions.

The 37 ballots in question were discovered by City Clerk Rana Faraj a day or two after the election was over. She said she turned them over to Wayne County election officials, but the county board of canvassers deadlocked in a 2-2 vote on whether to go ahead and tabulate them.

That deadlock means the ballots cannot be counted – however, because of the ongoing lawsuit, the ballots remain in limbo at the moment.

City Councilmember Muhith Mahmood, who decided not run for another term on council but instead seek the city’s top elected office, filed a lawsuit to have the 37 ballots counted.

Mahmood already struck out in a recount of the Nov. 4 ballots. Instead of finding victory, he still lost the race but now by an even slightly wider margin, 11 votes – up from only six before the recount.

Mayor-elect Adam Alharbi is arguing against counting the 37 ballots, saying they were discovered after the election in the clerk’s office, and therefore could have been tampered with.

Alharbi has also filed a lawsuit challenging Mahmood’s qualification to hold elected office in Hamtramck, saying that he is a non-resident who actually lives in Troy.

Mahmood has admitted that his wife and family live in Troy but says that he lives in Hamtramck. He has said that he is not divorced or separated from his wife.

An internal city investigation into his residency,

Continued on page 2



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City clerk files a lawsuit over election suspension; seeks job back

Continued from front page

most recent city election of last November, due to multiple issues that took place in the clerk office the election day, including finding 37 open ballots that were not tabulated or followed chain of custody and stayed in the office for 24-48 hours before reporting them to Wayne County, allowing unauthorized people to stay in the clerk office the day of election including the former city clerk and the former city attorney, and finding a punching bag in the clerk office with a picture of one of the mayoral candidates on it.

“The plan was to give her a warning and ask her to come back to work, but her attorney sent a request letter asking for \$500,000 by the end of that day, or they will file a lawsuit.

“The city decided not to be exploited or blackmailed by anyone, especially those who committed huge mistakes that affected election outcomes and placed the city at risk of liability.

“The city will defend its resources and the taxpayers’ money and will not allow anyone to abuse their power or illegally

absorb its resources. We think our legal position is strong in this case.”

The Marko law firm is also representing former City Manager Max Garbarino, who was also fired after he OK’d an internal investigation into alleged wrongdoings by former Police Chief Jamiel Althari.

Hamtramck police of-

ficer Dave Adamczyk was also fired for his part in that investigation. Both Garbarino and Adamczyk are saying the mayor and city council violated the state’s Michigan Whistleblowers’ Protection Act.

Adamczyk was originally part of Garbarino’s lawsuit, but has since hired a new attorney and filed a separate lawsuit.

Mayoral election in question

Continued from front page

as well as that of Councilmember Abu Musa, found that neither live in Hamtramck. The investigation said Mahmood lives in Troy, and Musa lives in Warren with his wife and family.

Both deny the allegation of not being residents.

At the same time, there is an ongoing investigation by the Michigan State Police into their residency.

Judge Fresard has also agreed to hear Mahmood’s residency issue.

Just when the matter of the election results will

finally get resolved is unknown. The new terms for the mayor and those elected to city council are set to begin on Jan. 1.

The 37 ballots in question could change the outcome of the election, and some say it could result in Mahmood being declared the winner since the ballots came from a precinct where voters are predominantly Bangladeshi.

Mahmood is a Bangladeshi-American, and Alharbi is a Yemeni-American.



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This week at the Library . . .

December 12, 2025

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

Dewey: On December 10, 1851, American librarian Melvin Dewey was born in Adams Center, New York. He invented the Dewey decimal book classification system, advocated spelling reform, and urged use of metric system.

Marconi: On December 11, 1901 the first transatlantic radio signal was transmitted by Gunlielmo Marconi from Cornwall, England to St. John’s Newfoundland.

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

Gustave Flaubert: This French author was born on December 12, 1821 in Rouen, France. He was best known for the novel “Madame Bovary”, a tale of a woman’s revolt against middle class society.

State of War: On December 13, 1981 the Communist government installed in Poland by the Soviet Union imposed martial law on the Polish people and took steps to stifle the growing power of the pro-democratic

trade union “Solidarity”. This event eventually gave rise to abolition of the Communist government and rise of Free Poland.

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

Preservation of Jazz: Continuing into the autumn and winter season, the Jazz Masterclass program will take place on Thursday evenings from 5 to 7 pm. Participants will cultivate a deeper understanding of this elegant artform through guided discussions, curated listening experiences, documentary screenings, and more. Heading this class will be Sky Covington, founder of The Preservation of Jazz. The sessions start on October 16th. Class size is limited to 20 individuals. Register on Eventbrite.com to secure your place. For more information about the program, please call Sky Covington (248) 383-3385..

Mariner II: On December 14, 1962 this space probe sent back information from the planet Venus.

Nostradamus: This French physician was born on December 14, 1503 in St. Remy, Provence, France as Michel de Nostredame.

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

Library is located at 2360 Caniff Avenue, Phone (313) 733-6822
Or visit its website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us> for on line catalog
Attachments for printing, faxing or scanning send to hamtramcklibrary@gmail.com

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Thursday, December 25.....Christmas Day

Mass in Polish and English..... 9:30am

Friday, December 26

Poland 2nd Day of Christmas, St. Stephen's Day

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

Wednesday, December 31New Year's Eve

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 3:30pm

Holy Mass in English and Polish 4:30pm

Thursday, January 1 New Year's Day

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.....9:30am (English and Polish)

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Friday, Dec. 26th

Saturday, Dec. 27th

Sunday, Dec. 28th

Thursday, Jan. 1

Christmas Eve – Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord

9:00 am Holy Mass

Christmas Day - Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord

11:45 Group Carol Singing

12 Midnight Shepherds’ Mass (Pasterka)

9:00 am Holy Mass

Feast of St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr (Msza Św. w j. polskim)

7:00 pm Holy Mass

Solemnity of Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist

10:00 am Holy Mass (Blessing of Wine)

Solemnity of Humble Shepherds

9:00 am Holy Mass

Solemnity of Circumcision of Our Lord

10:00 am Holy Mass



Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Does anyone outside the city care about our elections?

We wouldn't blame folks for having Hamtramck election fatigue. It seems like this mayoral election is never going to end, and the more that's revealed about how the election was conducted, the more serious alarms are raised.

Mind you, we are not making any accusations. But there is now doubt, among some in the community, surrounding the integrity of our elections because of accusations of bal-

lot harvesting, or the residency statuses of candidates, or else how ballots are handled and counted.

Egad.

As more than one person has noted, Hamtramck elections have become a joke.

Unfortunately, the joke is on us. It's a bad omen when we increasingly hear from people fed up with the whole thing, saying that their vote doesn't matter in this city.

All of this screams out for some agency

outside of the city to take charge and do something to right these terrible wrongs.

But, sadly, it appears that no one cares about little ol' Hamtramck.

So that's our challenge to county and state election officials: come here, and do your job of overseeing our elections. And, step up investigations of wrongdoing.

And most importantly, prosecute those who break election laws.

Is that really too much to ask?

Photographer's new book focuses on Hamtramck

Continued from front page

the College for Creative Studies; had photos in Elizabeth Avedon's limited edition book "Fossils of Light + Time"; and is a member of both the National Press Photographers and the White House Press Photographers.

Impressive, eh?

So now, back to Feldman's book: titled "(my) Hamtramck: Photographs 2015-2025," it's roughly 75 pages of full-leaf photographs – no titles, no words, just color and black-and-white moments in time from across the past decade.

It especially chronicles the youth and arts movements here, a scene that Feldman was made privy to, and which was flourishing in the half-decade right before the Covid-19 pandemic hit.

Featured are photographs, mainly of young folks and artists hanging out. Occasionally they are

shown at work as well. Others show buildings, landscapes and the like. Residents will probably recognize an outdoor space here or there.

In the book's introduction, in fact, Feldman bemoans the effect the pandemic had on these young folks, now deprived of much of their socializing, and the relative collapse of the arts community he had come to know so well.

He moved here shortly after fully "discovering" the city – around 2019, he says.

"The whole place had a kind of magic patina, like you would find in the basement of Hogwarts," he muses in his book's introduction, as if bewitched by the place.

And, truth to tell, who among us hasn't been at some time or another?

For Feldman, the only logical thing to do was point

his camera and shoot. More than anything else, the photos come off as intimate, reflecting the level of trust he was afforded within this art scene.

"It was not just the art, music, and literature that drew me in – it was the community behind it," he writes.

"The young creatives welcomed me, invited me into their homes..."

He comes off as the pensive elder statesman at the end, bemoaning a lost Eden – even as he sees an opening for a regeneration:

"Today, much of that energy has dispersed. The isolation of Covid unraveled what had depended so heavily on in-person connection."

He rallies: "But I hold out hope that a few from the many creatives I met will rekindle the spark – and that the spirit of that time can be rediscovered."

If they need a starting point on their new journey, they could do worse than to start from Roy Feldman's book.

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Odds & Ends

Condolences ... A former Hamtramck resident, Nicholas "Casper" Veselenak, recently passed away at the age of 72.

We know a number of folks who knew him. Nick was known for taking care of dozens of feral cats in his neighborhood.

Our condolences go out to his family.

Funeral services were held on Dec. 9. He is survived by his brothers John Veselenak, Paul Veselenak, Matt Caramagno, and many nieces and nephews.

Crime update ... Recently, the Hamtramck Police Department reported an incident where a woman and a man were stabbed in the head while they were sleeping.

Imagine that horror scene. The good news: they did not suffer life-threatening injuries.

Both victims survived, and Demetree Jordan has been charged in the stabbing. He faces felony charges of assault with intent to murder, home invasion and domestic violence.

Bond was set at \$500,000.

Since there is a domestic assault charge included, a good assumption is that the suspect knew one or both victims.

HPS School Board ... For those curious, the board's monthly meeting for Dec. 10 was canceled – no doubt because of the snow.

The district's schools also had the day off because of "inclement weather."

The board will now meet next Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 6 p.m.

And, speaking of the board, we are told a new policy is in place where boardmembers only receive pay for each meeting they attend. Attendance has been an issue for certain boardmembers.

There is a catch, though: the attendance requirement doesn't say how long the boardmembers have to stay at the meeting, or whether they can stroll in late or leave before the meeting is over.

And we are talking about one certain board member who seems to regard the job as a pesky duty.

This is the same board-

member who insisted, shortly after taking office, that the board's stipend needs to be increased – which it was.

City council ... The Hamtramck School Board wasn't the only elected body that canceled this week's meeting. The Hamtramck City Council also canceled its Tuesday meeting for some reason.

That cancelation was decided over a week ago.

The council will instead meet this coming Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m. This will be the last meeting for the year—and, for some councilmembers, the last meeting of their terms.

Councilmember Khalil Refai, who has been absent for the past few meetings, decided not to seek re-election and won't be coming back.

Councilmember Muhith Mahmood decided to run for mayor instead of for another council term. At this point, it appears that he lost his bid for the city's top job.

But it's not over quite yet: he has appealed the election results in court, and there could be a decision about his lawsuit in the coming days – or maybe not.

Friendship House ... Detroit Friendship House (DFH, to those "in the know") was the beneficiary of a generous "Giving Tuesday" this past Dec. 2.

The informal day of giving, which immediately follows the parade of such other seasonal, more commercial notions as "Black Friday," "Small Business Saturday," and "Cyber Monday," is a chance for folks to direct their spending to do-good organizations across the state, country and world.

Or even keep it closer to home – like to DFH, for example.

DFH Executive Director Khurshida Hossein thanked one and all in a notice the next day, noting that \$4,625 was gifted to the cause on just that day alone, an impressive sum.

"We're thankful to all the donors who contributed," Hossein said in the message.

"At DFH," she continued, "we pride ourselves on the role we have providing important resources

to help pantry guests navigate the barriers they face.

"As a community hub, we provide safety, stability, and strength."

This follows close on the heels of a Thanksgiving which saw the organization net some \$9,500 from Life for Relief and Development, along with about \$1,120 from the public, which provided some 240 families with full turkey-and-the-trimmings dinners.

Nevertheless, the need never stops, and, one could argue, given all the uncertainty the federal government has created this year around the SNAP/EBT/WIC food stamps program, that need may be greater than ever before.

"If you haven't had a chance to give, that's okay!" Hossein encouraged. "We still have lots planned for our Season of Giving."

"Follow us on social media for updates on our Santa's Toy Shop and our Christmas distribution. And I'm sure you'll be hearing from me soon."

Their stated annual goal for 2025 was to raise a total of \$45,000.

Interested in helping? Contact them through their website: detroitfriendshiphouse.org, or at (313) 871-7443.

In need of food or similar help? They are in-house at 9540 Conant on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-4 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-noon.

(Check with them on how the holidays may affect these times, especially with both Christmas Day and New Years Day falling on Thursdays this year.)

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CRIME LOG

By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Dec. 2-8.

Tuesday, Dec. 2

- A hit-and-run accident was reported at Jos. Campau and Alice.
 - Officers located a stolen vehicle being driven in the area of Jos. Campau, and a chase ensued. The driver of the stolen vehicle crashed into a tree, and the suspect was arrested after a foot chase.
 - A domestic assault was reported in the 5200 block of Belmont.
- Wednesday, Dec. 3**
- A person in the 3900 block of Edwin reported receiving harassing calls.
 - A reckless driver doing “donuts” in a parking lot at Jos. Campau and Holbrook was arrested. The suspect's car was impounded.
- Thursday, Dec. 4**
- Following a traffic stop, a male was arrested for carrying a concealed weapon, for having open intoxicants, and for driving on a suspended license. A passenger was also arrested for carrying a concealed weapon, and for having open intoxicants.
 - A male was arrested in the 2200 block of Faber for domestic assault.
- Friday, Dec. 5**
- A complaint was made about an animal in the 1900 block of Norwalk.
 - Abandoned vehicles were reported in the 1900

- block of Trowbridge and in the area of Evaline and Brombach.
- An armed robbery was reported in the 3100 block of Hanley. Two male suspects were later arrested after officers spotted their getaway vehicle and apprehended them. A handgun was recovered from the suspects' vehicle.
 - A domestic assault was reported in the 12100 block of Dequindre.
 - Officers, responding to a call about a domestic assault in the 3800 block of Evaline, arrested a female suspect for assault.
- Saturday, Dec. 6**
- Following a traffic stop, a male suspect was arrested for possessing stolen property.
 - A break-in was reported in the 2300 block of Geimer.
 - A fight was reported in the 11800 block of Dequindre.
- Sunday, Dec. 7**
- A domestic assault was reported in the 3100 block of Holbrook.
 - A vehicle theft was reported in the 11500 block of St. Aubin.
- Monday, Dec. 8**
- Family trouble was reported in the 3300 block of Norwalk.
 - A fight was reported in the 3100 block of Caniff.
 - A vehicle was reported stolen in the 2300 block of Danforth.

Obituaries

FIGAS



Ronald Figas, 82, died December 8, 2025.

Ronald was the husband of the late Rosemarie, and loving father of Martin, Wendy, Holly (John) Ruzycki, and the late Andrew. Grandfather of Telyn and Emersyn. Ron is also survived by his sister Dorothy (late Robert) Kosciolk.

Visitation was Thursday, December 11, 2025, from 2 – 8 p.m. at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, Hamtramck MI. Funeral Mass is Friday, December 12, 2025, In State at 9:30 a.m., until time of the funeral Mass at 10 a.m., at St. Florian Catholic Church, 2626 Florian, Hamtramck MI, 48212. Interment Mount Olivet Cemetery, Detroit MI.

parade in a red Cadillac convertible dressed as Santa.

He always had a joke to tell. Many times, his jokes were rather off-color. It wasn't unusual to hear, “Hey, Uncle Chet, tell us a joke!” Chester was a diamond in the rough who was still in the rough. He was greatly loved by his family and friends. He will be missed by many.

At Chet's request, in lieu of flowers, please donate to a charity of your choice in his name.

Visitation was Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, Hamtramck MI. The Funeral Mass was Wednesday December 10, 2025, at St. Hyacinth Catholic Church, Detroit MI. Inurnment is at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Detroit, MI

ZACHARIAS



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

Margaret was the loving wife of Frank and mother to the late Janice (Ken) Clark; also to Amy, Marty (Erin), and Julie. Grandmother to Kristopher, Cassidy, Jake, Ryan, Connor and Shane Zacharias, and Carolyn and Rachel Pasquelli. Margaret was predeceased by her brothers Ralph and George. Marge is survived by her Godson Brian Patalon, bonus daughter Becky Ruzycki, and many nieces and nephews.

Marge was a longtime resident of Hamtramck and actively involved in numerous St. Ladislaus and PRCUA groups and activities. To celebrate Marge's memory the family is inviting all attendees to wear their favorite Christmas attire when visiting. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the family.

Memorial Visitation is Friday, December 12, 2025, from 2 - 7 p.m., Rosary is at 5 p.m. at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck MI 48212. Memorial Mass is Saturday, December 13, 2025, 10 a.m. at St. Florian Catholic Church, 2626 Florian, Hamtramck MI 48212. Inurnment is Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 11 a.m., Great Lakes National Cemetery, 4200 Belford Rd., Holly MI, 48442.

December 12, 2025

Hamtramck Public TV-19

Broadcasting on Comcast Channel 19 in Hamtramck area and YouTube Live world wide (Hamtramck Library Channel)

What's on this coming week?

Holiday music on Fridays in December at the library

Interview with Mayor about past 4 years and the future

Detroit Hamtramck Coalition Press Conference

Veteran's Day Ceremonies at Hamtramck VFW Post 6

Congressman Thanedar addresses City Council

Senate Hearings with Mayor Amer Ghalib 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)

Quick Hits

Cont. from front page

sing, and 60-day temporary housing if needed.

“These new additions to an already life-changing initiative will significantly improve futures for returning citizens,” said James E. White, DWIHN president and CEO.

“We are determined to significantly reduce the likelihood of recidivism for these individuals,” he added.

Thomas Adams, presi-

dent and CEO of Chance for Life, chimed in:

“We are excited to include impactful educational and vocational opportunities like these. Thanks to DWIHN, we can make a profound investment in the lives of men and women who desire a second chance.”

To determine your eligibility or for more information, call the DWIHN at (313) 833-2500 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., or Chance for Life at (313) 784-9209, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Trump administration threatens to cutoff food aid to Michigan

By Charles Sercombe Hamtramck residents who collect SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits may soon be cut off. President Trump's administration is demanding information on those collecting food aid in all states. Michigan's governor, Gretchen Whitmer, who is a Democrat, is refusing to turn over the personal information, including the immigration statuses, of those who receive food aid. Trump is threatening to withhold SNAP funding to Democratic-controlled states who don't comply with the request. SNAP payments average

\$190 per person per month, or a little over \$6 a day. It is being reported that 29 states have complied with Trump's demands while 21 have refused. Twenty-two states have sued to block the order. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins says the information is needed to root out fraud. Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel has joined a multi-state lawsuit to prevent the state from having to turn over private personal data on those collecting benefits. In a statement, Nessel said the administration is "effectively forcing states to choose between protecting their residents' privacy and providing critical nutrition assistance to those in need." "The law is clear on who can receive SNAP benefits, yet the Trump Administration is trying to strip rightful recipients of the support they need to feed their families," Nessel told media outlets. "It is my hope that the court puts an end to this unlawful guidance and stops the White House's ongoing chaos and confusion over Americans' ability to put food on the table." Nationally, approximately 42 million Americans receive SNAP benefits. In Michigan, 1.4 million residents rely on SNAP. Out of Hamtramck's population of 28,000, about 38 percent of the city's households are at the poverty income level. It's not immediately known how many Hamtramck residents rely on SNAP, or to what extent. This isn't the only action the Trump administration has taken that could affect a number of Hamtramck residents, especially those from Yemen. Hamtramck has a significant Yemeni population; both the city's mayor and mayor-elect are immigrants from Yemen. His administration, through the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office, is now preventing immigrants from Yemen (and 18 other countries) from having their immigration applications processed. The administration says it has suspended all immigration processes, including asylum and green card and citizenship applications, in order to "undergo a thorough re-review process, including a potential interview and, if necessary, a re-interview, to fully assess all national security and public safety threats." The administration has also imposed a travel ban on persons from Yemen, along with the 18 other countries. Hamtramck Mayor Amer Ghalib endorsed Trump, a Republican, for president in the 2024 election, and influenced a number of other Arab and Muslim residents in the metro area

Continued on page 6

Notice of Public Hearing – City of Hamtramck

Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commission

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Hamtramck Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commission will meet in the 2nd Floor Council Chambers of Hamtramck City Hall (3401 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212) on the dates below, with the purpose of holding two separate public hearings and considering requests pertaining to the following property: **11515 Joseph Campau, Hamtramck, MI 48212, parcel number 41-007-15-0045-300**

- Tuesday, December 30th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. - Zoning Board of Appeals Special Meeting

****Residents please note:** due to scheduling and public notice requirements, the regular 12/16 ZBA meeting is **cancelled**, and this public hearing previously tabled by the ZBA will instead take place on 12/30.*

Applicant Mousa Kaied is requesting a use variance of the property to operate an auto repair shop, subject to subject to \$155.185 and \$155.187 of the Hamtramck Code of Ordinances. Current zone is Central Business District (CBD) per \$155.066.

- Wednesday, January 7th, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. - Planning Commission Meeting

As an alternative to an auto repair shop, Applicant Mousa Kaied is requesting a special land use of the property to operate an open-air business (car dealership), subject to \$155.094 of the Hamtramck Code of Ordinances. Current zone is Central Business District per \$155.066. Per City Ordinance, such open-air business uses are permitted in the CBD only with special land use approval from the Planning Commission.

Written comments may be submitted to the Assistant Community & Economic Development Manager via email at mmiszczak@hamtramckcity.gov. Written comments will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. on December 30, 2025 for the Zoning Board of Appeals, and until 12:00 p.m. on January 7, 2025 for the Planning Commission. **Given the holiday season, if you are unable to attend either meeting, please give attention to the public comment submission deadlines.** 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.

Get ahead of lead.

Follow these tips to reduce the risk of lead in your drinking water.



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.

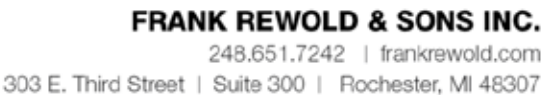
Keep water moving with everyday activities, like doing laundry, dishes, showering and flushing toilets.

Get a lead inspection and replace needed plumbing.

Find more ways to improve your drinking water at

Michigan.gov/GetAheadofLead





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.

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