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Solemnity of the Baptism  
of our Lord**

**Jan 12 – Holy Mass 9 am**

**Jan 13 – For all people on our  
Prayer List Holy Mass 7 pm**

**Jan 10 – Take out only Soup  
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Krakowska	Jellied Pigs Feet/Zimne Nogi	Pickle Soup, Czarna and many more... Potato Dumplings/Kopytka Fresh Polish Kielbasa/ Biala Kielbasa
Canadian Bacon/Polędwica	Baked Liver Sausage/Paszтет	
Cottage Ham/Baleron	Head Cheese/Salceson (4 Types)	
Smoked Spare Ribs/Zeberka	Smoked Kielbasa (5 Types)	
Blood Sausage/Kiszka	Crepes/Nalesniki	
Smoked Bacon/Boczek		

**WE SHIP  
NATIONWIDE!**

**This week at the Library . . .**

January 9, 2026

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

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

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

**War on Poverty:** On January 8, 1964, President Lyndon Johnson declared War on Poverty during his State of the Union message before Congress.

**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.

**Donkey:** On January 15, 1870 was the first use of a donkey to symbolize the Democrat Party in America. It appeared in a cartoon in Harper Weekly, criticizing former secretary of war, Edwin Stanton, with he caption, “A Live Jackass Kicking a Dead Lion.”

**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. For more information about the program, please call Sky Covington (248) 383-3385..

**“Resolution”:** In January 17, 1773 this ship sailing under Captain James Cook, became the first vessel to cross the Antarctic Circle.

**Edgar Allen Poe:** On January 19, 1809 poet and writer of mystery and suspense tales, was born in Boston, Massachusetts. His works include “The Fall of the House of Usher, Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque, The murders in the Rue Morgue and his famous poem, The Raven.”

**Ronald Reagan:** On January 20, 1981, he became president of United States at the age of69. He was the oldest president, at the time, to take office. During his inauguration celebrations, he announced that 52 American hostages that had been seized in the U.S. embassy in Tehran, Iran, were bring released afer 444 days in captivity.

**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](mailto:hamtramcklibrary@gmail.com)**

# Year in Review: Our look back at the last six months of 2025

Cont. from front page

• Count 1: Forging a signature on an absentee ballot application

• Count 2: Election law forgery

• Count 3: False statement on an absentee ballot application

Councilmember Muhtasin Sadman, 26, who is in his first term, faced the following charges:

• Count 1: Forging signature on an absentee ballot application

• Count 2: Election law forgery

• Count 3: Unqualified elector attempting to vote

• Count 4: Unqualified elector attempting to vote

• Count 5: False statement in an application for absentee ballot

Several of the charges carry a maximum of five

years in prison.

Charges against Sadman were eventually dropped after two key witnesses failed to appear in court to testify.

Hassan is still facing charges. Future court hearings are pending.

The Hamtramck Bangladesh community was in the spotlight this month with a festival dubbed “Desi Festive Nights” on Jos. Campau.

Besides being a celebration of the Bangladesh community, the main attraction was a line-up of performers also from Bangladesh – including a metal band, if you can imagine.

Vendors offered tons of colorful native clothing, and an eye-popping variety of Bangladesh food favorites.

A lot of credit goes to the Bengali community for rejuvenating Hamtramck in the sleepy 1990s, when a number of enterprising souls brought the Conant business district back to life.

By the 1980s, Conant had become one empty storefront after another – both a mockery, and an ugly reminder, of a Hamtramck that had once been a thriving community.

The Bengali community continues to thrive in the city, with some members since becoming city councilmembers.

Hamtramck’s election scandal continued to widen.

In the latest development, surveillance recordings were made public showing Councilmember Abu Musa as a passenger inside a vehicle, with an unidentified driver who could be seen stuffing bundles of absentee ballots into a drop box across from city hall.



The question of ballot harvesting became a focal point in the August primary election.

The recordings show Musa handing ballots to the driver, who in turn puts them into the drop box.

Reached by phone by The Review, Musa denied it was him who was putting the ballots in the drop box.

“Did you see me drop them off?” Musa said. “I was in the car.”

It was pointed out to Musa that it appears he is handing ballots to the driver, which prompted Musa to end the conversation, saying: “I’ll talk to you later with more details.” He then hung up.

Musa, the only incumbent seeking re-election

to council, was the top vote-getter in the recent primary election, with former councilmember Nayeem Choudhury trailing not far behind.

Both received the majority of their votes via absentee ballots, with Musa getting 843 absentee votes out of his total of 1,129.

The matter was turned over to state investigators, but so far there have been



Councilmember Khalil Refai resigned from his position of mayor pro tem.

no legal repercussions.

The City of Hamtramck began warning residents that undercover police officers will be aggressively ticketing anyone seen littering in Veterans Park.

Littering is a civil infraction. Fines can be levied on adults or juveniles, and can run as much as \$500 by ordinance.

To educate the public, the City of Hamtramck produced a short video they posted onto their Facebook page.

In this 90-second video, city employee Omar Thabet begins by noting, “As we all know, littering has been an issue all across our city.

“And now, specifically at our parks, police officers will be going around and ticketing residents... (whether) you’re an adult or a juvenile, with tickets up to \$500. So, make sure we keep our city clean.”

This is followed up by a

paid administrative leave for about a month, along with Altaheri and Adamczyk.

All were under an internal investigation, by a legal firm hired by the city council, after allegations of wrongdoing. The results of this investigation, which has so far cost the city over \$300,000 – and could possibly end up costing \$500,000 or more – found serious issues of

wrongdoing with both the police chief and police investigator Adamczyk.

As for Garbarino, he was criticized for recommending the chief hire investigator Adamczyk, and for not acting soon enough to take disciplinary action against Chief Altaheri.

## SEPTEMBER

In a surprise move, City Councilmember Khalil Refai said he was resigning as the second-in-command to the mayor.

On Facebook, Refai – who is finishing his first term, and did not seek re-election this year – announced he is stepping down as Mayor Pro Tem, which is the councilmember who chairs council meetings when the mayor is absent, and who would be the replacement in case a mayor leaves office.

In his post, Refai criticized fellow councilmembers for firing City Manager Max Garbarino. Refai abstained in that vote.

“I was elected by the citizens of Hamtramck; they put their confidence in me to make the right decisions within council, decisions that protected our city and its residents, not ones that would put it at financial risk. And I take this responsibility seriously,” Refai said.

As usual, Hamtramck celebrated the end of summer with its yearly Hamtramck Labor Day Festival.

This year, festival organizers proved that if they build it bigger, the crowd will get, well, bigger too.

And wetter.

We’re talking especially about the Canoe Race.

Despite the expanded area, the folks who showed up for this gawkfest still formed a shoulder-to-shoulder, water-balloon-throwing mob just this side of being criminally out of control.

The setting for this year’s festival could not have been more picture-perfect: Sunny skies and mild weather.

Continued on page 3



# Year in Review: Our look back at the last six months of 2025

Continued from page 2

As usual, the live bands and performers attracted thousands of fans – and, frankly, once again we can say that no one beats Hamtramck when it comes to musical offerings.

Hear that, Arts, Beats and Eats?

Hamtramck’s pride flag dispute has been settled – at least, legally.

Federal Court Judge David M. Lawson dismissed a lawsuit, filed by two former members of the Hamtramck Human Relations Commission, who were seeking to overturn the city’s ban on displaying a pride flag on public property.

In his 12-page opinion, the judge basically ruled that the city has the right to control what flags are displayed.

City Attorney Odey Meroueh said the ruling “confirms that Hamtramck has the right to decide what it communicates on its own property.”

Former commissioner Catrina Stackpoole said that, while the lawsuit is over, the debate will continue.

“Disappointed and sad that the court refused to see the underlying motive was religion,” Stackpoole said. “The case may be over in the courts, but (it is) not over in the court of public opinion.”

Improvements to Veterans Park continued.

In the latest development, Dan St. – the road leading to Hamtramck’s historic baseball stadium – was repaved.

But that’s not all. The stadium’s parking lot (long a potholed hazard) and the road leading to the larger parking lot east of the stadium, as well as that parking lot, were all also repaved.

The project cost was over \$2 million. Those repair funds came from various grants and state monies.

The roads and parking lots have long been in urgent need of repaving.

The upgrades were done under the supervision of the Hamtramck Parks Conservancy.

Here’s what the conservancy had to say about the project:

“Please rest assured that we are committed to completing this project to the highest standard, and with minimal disruption to your daily routines.”

Back in January, City Councilmember Abu Musa was stripped of his rank of being second in charge of the council.

That’s when three fellow councilmembers voted to remove him as Mayor Pro Tem, which is the person tasked with being in charge when the mayor is not available, or resigns.

It was a contentious meeting, with Musa accusing fellow Councilmember Mohammed Hassan, who orchestrated his removal, of being corrupt.

“He rigged the election,” Musa said at the time.

Hassan insisted he meant nothing personal against Musa. Hassan justified his motion because Musa is getting paid by taxpayers but sleeps during meetings.

Flash forward to now, and the council did an about-face and re-appointed Musa, after Councilmember Khalil Refai resigned from the position.

Over the better part of the past year, the once-united council started to fracture, and some councilmembers began to turn on each other.

Why?

It’s never been entirely clear, other than suggesting a possible behind-the-scenes power struggle.

## OCTOBER

Hamtramck might be the only city in the whole U.S.A. that ever celebrated the repaving of an alley with a party.

Or, as the old saying goes: “Only in Hamtramck.”

But, to be fair – and not



**A celebration was held to welcome the newly-paved Goodson alley next to Veterans Park.**

make it seem silly – this was no ordinary alley.

The alley in question runs along Goodson next to Veterans Park, and serves as a thoroughway for neighborhood residents to get into the park. For years, it was potholed and dicey for pedestrians to walk on without, perhaps, spraining an ankle.

The host of the celebration was the Hamtramck Parks Conservancy, who described it as a way to “bring this alley back to life.”

The two-hour party featured chess games from members of Bumbo’s Chess Club (Hamtramck’s

Bumbo’s bar) and the Wise Guy’s Chess Club (from Highland Park).

Also to be enjoyed were lessons on Frisbee throwing and a jump rope station.

The upcoming Nov. 4 city election became much more interesting.

Two city council candidates who didn’t make the final cut in the August Primary Election, Joe Strzalka and Diane Elizabeth Frkan, ran write-in campaigns to give it one more shot.

Also, former city council candidate Lynn Blasey, who failed to win a seat on council two times in other years, threw her hat back into the political ring to seek the top job as mayor, also as a write-in candidate.

Strzalka, who is a former councilmember and now retired from the U.S. State Department, said he was getting feedback from some voters that they were going to write his name in anyway.

“There are many people who feel there were irregularities in the primary, and they have no legitimate candidate to vote for,” Strzalka said. “This way, people can still vote in the general election without voting for a person believed to have committed election fraud.”

As it turned out, none of them came close to being elected, which is the typical outcome for write-in candidates.



**A celebration was held to welcome the newly-paved Goodson alley next to Veterans Park.**

A mysterious foul odor wafted through Dickinson East Elementary School that raised both health concerns and questions about the school district’s response.

A teacher at the school, who asked not to be named for fear of reprisal, brought media attention last week over a sewer stench that caused a number of teachers and students to complain.

According to a Channel 2 Fox News report, district Interim Superintendent James Larson-Shidler said that the odor came from

a malfunctioning sump pump in the school’s boiler room, but that it was only temporary.

Larson-Shidler told the news station that the problem had been taken care of, and that repair crews acted on the matter promptly.

The teacher told The Review that, while the odor had largely been abated, it still lingered.

“The smell is not as bad,” the teacher said. “It’s to the point where we can actually work in the office.”

The teacher said this issue highlighted more than just a problem with the building, it also illustrated a “lack of transparency” from the administration.

Former Hamtramck Police Chief Jamiel Altaheri officially parted ways with the city.

At a city council meeting, a separation agreement was reached with Altaheri that gave him five months’ worth of salary and allowed him to say he was resigning.

That payout amounted to about \$50,000.

The former chief, in turn, agreed to drop his lawsuit against the city.

Altaheri had served in Hamtramck for about a year before he had a falling out with the city manager.

The chief’s downfall came after an internal investigation alleged several wrongdoings – including some that have reportedly caught the attention of the FBI, although it cannot be confirmed yet whether he is under investigation.

Mayor Amer Ghalib’s past actions, as well as some old comments on social media, may have undermined his chance to be confirmed as the next ambassador to Kuwait.

After a brutal hearing with the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, it appears Ghalib lacks the majority support to get his nomination out of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee and on to final Senate approval.

Ranking committee member Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, a Democrat from New Hampshire, introduced all four ambassador nominees, including Ghalib.

But Shaheen singled out Ghalib in her introductions, saying:

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

During the next 40 minutes, Ghalib, who was nomi-

nated by President Trump seven months ago, faced a barrage of questions from both Democratic and Republican senators about his past comments.

At one point in the confirmation hearing, Sen.



**Former Police Chief Jamiel Altaheri and the city agreed to a separation which allowed Altaheri to resign.**

Chris Murphy (D-Connecticut) summed up Ghalib’s chances of being confirmed by saying: “You dug your hole deeper today.”

Ghalib told The Review: “Whether they confirm me or not, it would be an honor for me either way. I’m happy to answer the call and serve our community and our country from anywhere the president or the community asked me to. This is just the beginning of my journey.”

## NOVEMBER

Hamtramck’s election was over, but, this being Hamtramck, there was intrigue.

For the moment at least, Adam Alharbi was the winner of the mayoral election.

However, there was still a chance the results could be overturned because 150 absentee ballots could not be counted due to missing or non-matching signatures, and one precinct had to be totally recounted by Wayne County because of faulty tabulation.

As it turned out, after the county counted the ballots in question, Alharbi won the election by a slim six-vote margin. As the days and weeks went by, however, it would become clear that the election was still far from being over.

In the city council race, Abu Musa won another term, with former councilmember Nayeem Choudhury coming in second and a newcomer, Yousef Saed, filling out the third seat on council.

The council remained all-male and all-Muslim, however.

Mayoral candidate Muhith Mahmood subsequently called for a recount that actually ended up benefiting Alharbi. The recount showed that Alharbi won by 11 votes.

Hang on, though; it still wasn’t over. Mahmood

went to court to have an additional 37 absentee ballots counted. Those ballots were found, after the election, in the city clerk’s office.

The Wayne County Board of Canvassers deadlocked

on a vote, 2-2, to have the ballots counted, which meant that, by law, those ballots could not be tabulated.

Mahmood argued unsuccessfully in Wayne County Circuit Court to include the ballots. A judge ruled that, since they were left unsecured, they could have been tampered with.

Since then, Mahmood has asked the state supreme court to consider his appeal. That matter is still pending.

This year’s election once again underscored how voters have turned to using absentee ballots (AV) instead of voting in person.

Out of the 4,509 ballots cast in the mayoral election, only 1,575 were from voters actually voting in person. The rest were cast via absentee ballots.

In the city council election, 3,023 AV ballots were cast out of a total of 4,624 ballots.

That trend has been increasing in recent years, but it has also resulted in accusations of ballot harvesting by some candidates and their supporters.

For those who use the SMART (Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation) bus service, it was announced that route changes were coming in January.

The public got a preview of the new routes at a hearing in the Hamtramck Public Library.

The proposed Hamtramck route would travel from downtown Detroit to Holbrook and then to Buffalo; , at that point, would swing north toward Caniff, and then eastward.

Some questioned why SMART was not taking a left on Jos. Campau from Holbrook.

The short answer was that it was either deemed

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## The Hamtramck Review

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## Nominations Encouraged for Michigan Lottery’s Excellence in Education Awards to Honor Outstanding Educators

Parents, students, school staff members, and others are encouraged to nominate outstanding public-school educators for the Michigan Lottery’s 2025-26 Excellence In Education awards.

All public-school employees may be nominated for the Excellence In Education awards, which recognize educators who go “above and beyond” to make a difference in the lives of children. To nominate a public-school educator, go to <https://www.michiganlottery.com/excellence-in-education>.

The Michigan Lottery established the Excellence in Education awards in 2014 to recognize outstanding public-school educators across the state during the school year.

One outstanding educator will be selected each week and will receive a \$2,000 cash prize. At the end of the school year, one of these weekly award winners will be selected to receive the Lottery’s Educator of the Year award and will receive a \$10,000 cash prize.

The winner of the 2025 Educator of the Year award was Kelly Herberholz, a science teacher and administrative intern with Dakota High School in Macomb.

Hundreds of educators were nominated during the 2024-25 school year, which was the 11th year of the Excellence in Education awards program. Thirty-four of these nominees, including Herberholz, were selected to win a weekly award.

Previous winners of the Educator of the Year award:

- 2024 – Samantha

TwoCrow, the director of the Indigenous Education Program for Suttons Bay Public Schools in Suttons Bay.

- 2023 – Kathryn Kluzak, a kindergarten teacher with Robert L. Green Elementary in East Lansing.
- 2022 – Spencer Vanderheide, a high school teacher with Kenowa Hills High School in Grand Rapids.
- 2021 – Janice Smith, a school social worker at Fisher Magnet Lower Academy in Detroit.
- 2020 – Megan Sidge, an Autism Spectrum Disorder teacher at Hickory Woods Elementary in Walpole Lake.
- 2019 – Stewart Kieliszewski, an Earth science, biology, mechatronics, and media teacher for eighth through 12 graders at the Uby Community Schools.
- 2018 – Kerri Moccio, a first-grade literacy intervention specialist at Bedford Elementary School in Dearborn Heights.
- 2017 – Linda Holzwarth, a social studies teacher at Portage West Middle School in Portage.
- 2016 – Daniel Carr, a Spanish and sports marketing teacher at Waverly High School in Lansing.
- 2015 – Michael Craig, a special education teacher at the Charles Drew Transition Center in Detroit.

Excellence In Education award nominees should demonstrate the following qualities:

- Excellence – Their work consistently helps students and/or their schools or school districts advance to higher levels of

## Obituaries

### KAPUSNIAK



Michael Kapusniak, 77, died December 27, 2025. Mike was the son of the late Michael and Mary and brother of the late Harvey and Jerry.

Mike is survived by his dear friend Monica Skiba and is also survived by many nephews and his cousin Jean (Richard).

Mike was involved in the International Order of the Alhambra and the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree.

A Memorial Mass will be held Saturday, January 24, 2026, at 11 a.m. at St John Paul II Parish, Transfiguration Catholic Church, 5830 Simon, Detroit MI 48212. Arrangements were entrusted to Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home.

### SCHEMANSKY

Barbara Ann Schemansky, 82, died October 14, 2025.

It is with heavy hearts that the family announces the passing of beloved Barbara Schemansky (nee Suwalkowski) on October 14, 2025. Wife of the late John, and survived by her children Kelly Prisco, Gail (Mike) Palazzolo, and Joseph Schemansky. She is also survived by five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Barbara retired from the City of Hamtramck as a meter maid and a crossing guard. Though she may be gone from our sight, her memory and love will remain forever in our hearts. “Enjoy eternity with Papa now”.

Inurnment is Saturday, January 10, 2026, at 10 a.m., at Resurrection Cemetery, 18201 Clinton River Road, Clinton Township MI 48038. Arrangements were made by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home.

SUPPORT LOCAL  
BUSINESS

## Coming Events

**SATURDAY, Jan. 10, 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.)

academic achievement.

- Dedication – They consistently go above and beyond expectations to help students succeed.
- Inspiration – Their work inspires others around them to exceed expectations either academically or professionally.
- Leadership – They demonstrate clear leadership

skills in their positions with their school or school districts.

- Effectiveness – The nominee’s work has clear and positive results on the educational advancement of students within the school or school district.

Scan the QR code to nominate an outstanding educator in your life today!



January 9, 2026

Hamtramck Public TV-19

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

What’s on this coming week?

Inauguration Ceremonies for 2026 held in the Library  
Final City Council meeting of the year 2025,  
Holiday music on Fridays in December at the library  
Interview with Mayor about past 4 years and the future  
Detroit Hamtramck Coalition Press Conference  
Veteran’s Day Ceremonies at Hamtramck VFW Post 6 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](http://bit.ly/hamtramcktv))

## Year in Review: Our look back at the last six months of 2025

Continued from page 3

an unsafe turn, or that, at certain times of the day, it is posted as illegal to make that turn.

■ Hamtramck veterans and friends at the PLAV Post 6 once again raised a toast on Veterans Day.

And, once again, it was noted that Hamtramck’s once-populous veterans community is now a shadow of its former self. The number of veterans here has dwindled down to a couple dozen – maybe even less.

Veterans Day in Hamtramck was once a citywide observation, but as the years went on and the demographics changed, the significance of the day is now barely noticed.

Local elected officials who once clamored to share a microphone to honor vets no longer show up at any veteran holiday event.

At Post 6, vets gathered in front of a mural depicting the history of the U.S. military, where Post 6 Commander Mark Widzinski, himself a Vietnam War veteran, talked about the significance of the day and the contributions veterans have made to this country.

“The freedoms that we all enjoy did not happen by chance. There is a whole litany of freedoms that our military veterans have guaranteed for us,” Widzinski said.

### DECEMBER

Hamtramck’s Passenger Recovery outgrew its location on Caniff and opened a new community center at 3901 Christopher St. – near the Fowling Warehouse.

We caught up with Christopher Tait, one of the directors, to get an update.

Tait: “Passenger was born out of my own experience as a touring musician struggling to find support for recovery from substance use while on the road. ...

“Today, Passenger is dedicated to enriching the recovery journey through music and the arts, while offering a supportive space for both our community and those just passing through.”

■ The Trump administration, through the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office, halted immigration from Yemen (and 18 other countries).

The administration 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 from Yemen, along with those 18 other countries.

Former Hamtramck Mayor Amer Ghalib, an immigrant from Yemen,

endorsed Trump, a Republican, for president in the 2024 election. Ghalib influenced a number of other Arab and Muslim residents in the metro area to abandon the Democratic Party and get behind Trump.

He has repeatedly sidestepped commenting on the travel and immigration ban.

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

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

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.

■ State Republican legislators had a Scrooge-like Christmas message for Hamtramck and other communities.

The Republican-majority members in the state Appropriation Committee killed off funding, totaling more than \$600 million, for various city and county projects throughout the state.

Hamtramck was on that list of communities that faced a huge, unexpected financial hit from the decision.

If the cuts remain, it will mean the city will lose about \$5 million in funding for three projects:

- \$2 million for a new DPW building
- \$2 million for the parking lots/road in Veterans Park for the Historical stadium project
- \$800,000 for a new fire truck

Worse yet, as of now, it appears Hamtramck will be on the hook to pay for the projects that are already underway.

■ Well, that’s it for our trip through the year 2025.

And, with a new mayor, a revamped city council and new financial challenges, it looks like 2026 is shaping up to be another news-packed year.





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YOU ARE INVITED TO  
THE HONORARY UNVEILING OF

*Greg Kowalski Street*

by the City of Hamtramck

Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026 | 2:00 p.m.  
@ the Hamtramck Historical Museum  
9525 Jos. Campau

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



**AUCTION**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**City of Hamtramck**  
**2026 Property Auction Begins On:**

03

10

26

**Auction End Date: 04/01/26**

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



From the Office of Wayne County Treasurer  
Eric R. Sabree



PROBATE  
ASSISTANCE

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

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

United Community Housing Coalition: 313-405-7726

Legal Aid & Defender: 313-967-5800

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




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313-224-5990



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PRAYER BREAKFAST

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AND THE DREAM**



MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2026 • 9:00 AM  
HAMTRAMCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY CENTER  
11350 CHAREST STREET, HAMTRAMCK, MICHIGAN  
**HAMTRAMCK'S GOT TALENT  
K-12 STUDENT SHOWCASE**  
Tickets – \$20.00 Children – \$10.00 (6 and older)  
Table – \$150.00 8 seats  
Tickets available at Eventbrite or by calling  
Madelyn Porter at (313) 573-0782 or Vanessa Gray at  
(313) 772-5097  
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