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 February 13, 2026 **50¢**

The Review

Hamtramck

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Quick Hits

Basketball star Rudy T. to be honored

By Charles Sercombe
 Basketball legend Rudy Tomjanovich is coming home to Hamtramck. He will be in town next Friday for a special dedication ceremony at the basketball court in the Hamtramck High School Community Center (11350 Charest).

And the public is invited to attend.

The basketball court will be named in Tomjanovich's honor, and the dedication ceremony will take place Friday, Feb. 20, at 6 p.m.

"The special evening will include a commemorative signing and a featured speech given by Rudy Tomjanovich himself, as we recognize his lasting impact on the game of basketball and celebrate his connection to our community," said the district's Athletic Department.

In a press release, the AD also said:

Tomjanovich's talent was evident when he ruled the Hamtramck High School basketball court in the 1960s, where he was already a star player. He was destined to become a pro.

After high school, Tomjanovich played for the University of Michigan, where he was a three-time All-Big Ten selection and an All-American.

Tomjanovich was selected in the first round of the 1970 NBA Draft by the San Diego Rockets (later the Houston Rockets). He played his entire 11-year NBA career with the franchise, earning five NBA All-Star selections.

He was known for his deadly accurate shot.

After retiring as a player, Tomjanovich transitioned into coaching and front-office roles. As head coach of the Hous-

Continued on page 2

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

School district applies for \$15.5 million state loan to pay bills

By Charles Sercombe

The Hamtramck Public School District has run into a financial crunch.

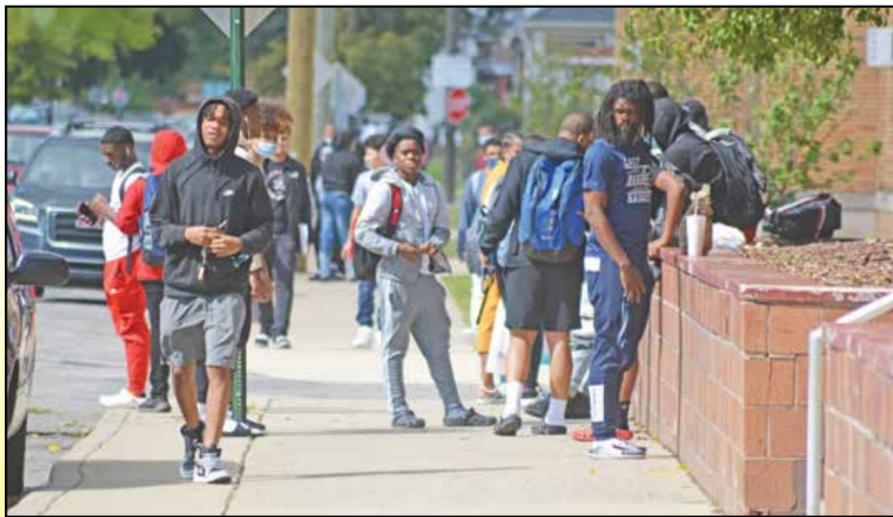
At last week's monthly Board of Education meeting, Interim Superintendent James Larson-Shidler said the district may need to apply for a \$15.5 million loan to be able to keep up with payroll and to pay other bills.

The district has not received monthly financial payments from the state for the past three months, and it's now to the point where it's not possible to make payments on anything this month.

The root of the problem is that the district missed its Nov. 1 state deadline to submit the district's yearly audit report.

As of last week, the audit was not completed, Larson-Shidler said, but he expects it to be submitted to the state by no later than March.

"I thought we'd be done by February," he continued. "It does not look



The Hamtramck Public School District is seeking a \$15.5 million state loan just in case there is a cash-flow problem that will lead to payless paydays for district employees. File photo

like that. In order to be cautious and have cash flow, I would like to get a state aid note so we can operate, and then we could get the audit done."

As for the delay, Larson blamed it on staffing changes, retirements and an unexpected key resignation.

"There's some internal controls that we're working through," Larson

said, in a lengthy explanation.

"I mean, you know, these are excuses, but I mean whenever you get new people in, you know you have to get into the processes and you have to have those internal controls where everybody's doing their job and all the information comes into accounting and then they can do the books.

"So it takes everybody in the district to be doing their job in order for this information to be coming through," he added.

Asked what "corrective action" will be taken, Larson-Shidler, who is also the district's Finance Director, said:

"That's training, yeah, definitely training."

The district won't have

Continued on page 5

Calendar is filling up for year with city activities



There are plenty of events happening in the city this year, including the annual Health Hike. File photo

By Alan Madlane

Hamtramck has an action-packed 2026 scheduled.

The city recently released its calendar of important dates, and there is something for everyone to enjoy.

For starters, there's the double whammy, within a three-week period of mid-February to early March, of Paczki Day and the Hamtramck Blowout.

Paczki Day, corresponding to (and Hamtramck's

own spin on) Fat Tuesday, is, in a way, a multi-day celebration that actually begins three days earlier, with the Paczki Run.

The Paczki Run is the yearly 5 kilometer (about 3 miles) walk/run and community bash that always goes off the Saturday morning before Paczki Day. It's a popular event, and hey – gotta work off some winter weight so it can come right back on three days later, courtesy

Continued on page 5

Roll out the paczki celebrations

By Charles Sercombe

Ah...Can you hear it? Listen closely, and you can hear the siren call of paczki – yes, multiple paczki.

And every year, Hamtramck – and those who like to party in the Mardi Gras tradition, or who may have a questionable love of a certain pastry (just kidding, you crazy paczki lovers) – will descend on this town.

And the number one paczki gathering spot is New Palace Bakery (9833 Jos. Campau), where folks will line up in the cold and wait for an hour or more to order their dozen(s) of paczki.



Paczki Day is right around the corner.

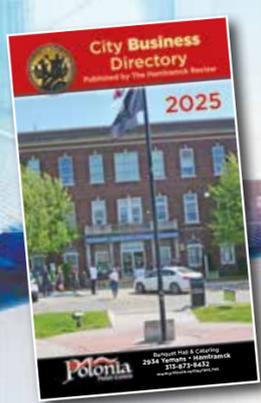
Note to the newbies: you can get paczki a day or week earlier, or you can call in your order ahead of time and avoid the wait.

After that, many stay in town and hit our bars and restaurants for live bands all through the day and early evening. If you do go to New Palace first, you can join the festivities around the corner from the bakery at Whiskey in the Jar, where the debauchery rolls on all day long.

Which reminds us of the "old days" when Cathy Gordon owned New Dodge bar on Jos. Campau in the southend. On Paczki Day, the true and ribald spirit of Mardi Gras was uninhibited, with Gordon walking on top of the bar pouring drinks down the thirsty throats of customers.

Pretty wild, which is one reason why Hamtramck was known, at one time, as: The Wild West of the Midwest.

Continued on page 2



2026 Hamtramck Business Directory

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Sunday School 10 a.m.
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**Sunday, February 15,
Holy Mass 9:00 am
Quinquagesima Sunday
in Pre-Lent Season**

Feb 17 – For people on our Prayer List Holy Mass
7 pm

Feb 18 – Ash Wednesday Blessing and
Distribution of Ashes 10 am and 7 pm

Feb 21 – Holy Mass 10 am

Feb 14 – Drive-thru Take-out only Polish Dinner
3:30-5:30 pm Menu: Pork Chop, Kielbasa, Pierogi/
sour cream, Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes/gravy,
& Paczek Dessert. \$15 Adult/\$8 Child 12 & under

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Roll out the paczki celebrations Cont. from front page

For those who are paczki gluttons, there is a paczki eating contest, held at noon at PLAV Post 10 (11824 Jos. Campau). As usual, be forewarned: watching and participating in the contest is not – repeat not – for the faint of heart.

To us, it's the longest 15 minutes of the year. As for the winner, they get their name etched into a silver-colored trophy, alongside all the other past "winners."

Weather-wise, since this year Paczki Day comes a little earlier than usual, February is an unpredictable month. But, from what we see being forecast, it looks like there will be a warming up, and by that, we mean a high into the mid-30s, and possibly even warmer.



Paczki Day celebrations wouldn't be complete without polka bands.

Which is way better than the bitter cold we've been experiencing lately.

Of course, no matter how bitter cold it gets, a local remedy is to take a shot, or two or three, of Hamtramck's official brandy: jezynowka, which is also known as "jezy."

Again, not for the faint of heart.

For those who are health inclined, the festive week kicks off with the annual Paczki 5k Run this Saturday (Feb. 14).

The cost to run our public streets is \$65. The run starts at 10 a.m., but there will be plenty of beer drinking and paczki eating beforehand in the shopping center at Jos. Campau and Holbrook.

For more information go online to: rungsi.com

Hamtramck, as just about everyone in the universe knows, is a mul-

ti-cultural community with a sizeable Muslim population.

Talk about coinci-

Quick Hits

Cont. from front page

ton Rockets, he led the team to back-to-back NBA Championships in 1994 and 1995. He is widely remembered for his iconic quote during that championship run: "Don't ever underestimate the heart of a champion."

In addition to his NBA success, Tomjanovich served as head coach of the United States men's national basketball team, leading Team USA to a gold medal at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. He was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2020.

dences: The Muslim's world's most holy day is Ramadan, and guess what?

The first day of the month-long observance falls on Paczki Day.

Talk about a strange mix of cultures.

But this is the charm of Hamtramck. For every zig in this town, there's an opposite zag.

Enjoy the day, folks, and all kidding aside, be safe – and, if you do imbibe, bring along a designated driver, or at least call a ride-share, taxi or friend for a ride home.

Beyond basketball, Rudy Tomjanovich is respected for his leadership, perseverance, and commitment to giving back. His legacy continues to inspire athletes, students, and fans.

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SAVE THE DATE

City of Hamtramck

2026 Property Auction Begins On:

03

10

26

Auction End Date: 04/01/26

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



This week at the Library . . .

February 13, 2026

Phil Hale Jazz Concert: This popular jazz group will play a concert at the library on Friday, February 20, 2026. Everyone is invited, free to the Public.

John Glenn: This astronaut born on February 20, 1943 became the first American launched into orbit. Traveling aboard the "Friendship 7" spacecraft, Glenn reached an altitude of 162 miles and completed three orbits in a flight lasting just under five hours. Glenn was the third American in space, preceded by Alan Shepard and Virgil Grissom who had each completed short suborbital flights. All of them had been preceded by Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin who was the first human in space, completing one orbit on April 12, 1961, a feat that intensified the already ongoing Space Race between the Russians and Americans. Glenn's successful flight showed the Americans had caught up and was followed in September 1962 by President John F. Kennedy's open call to land an American on the moon before the decade's end.

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

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

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

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

LOTE4Kids: This collection of over 2000 digital books in 50+ languages can be accessed by you anytime from your computer or other smart devices. All this is free with the use of your library card. They even have stories in ASL. Find a link to this awesome resource for kids on our website www.hamtramck.lib.mi.us under the eResources tab.

OverDrive: What more can your library card get you? How about OverDrive's enormous collection of digital materials. Whether searching overdrive.com or using their Libby App, you will have quite the selection of ebooks, online periodicals and audio books to pick from. Plus, Kanopy,

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

New Palace Bakery is your Paczki Headquarters

FLAVORS AVAILABLE ALWAYS

This year we are offering 7 box options.

Box #1: 1 dozen
Traditional Paczki
\$35.95

4 Raspberry
4 Strawberry
4 Blueberry

Box #2: 1 dozen
Traditional Paczki
\$35.95

4 Custard
4 Lemon
4 Apple

Box #3: 1 dozen
Specialty Paczki
\$45.95

2 CinnaCream
(Cream cheese glaze filling topped with cinnamon sugar glaze, powdered sugar and cinnamon)
2 Cookzki
(Cookie Batter Butter Cream)
2 Peanut Butter & Jelly
2 Strawberry Cheesecake
2 Butter Cream
2 Triple Chocolate

Box #4: 1/2 dozen
Paczki \$19.95

6 Raspberry

Box #5: 1/2 dozen
Paczki \$19.95

6 Strawberry

Box #6: 1/2 dozen
Paczki \$19.95

6 Custard

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

6 Prune

NEW FLAVOR FOR 2026!



Don't forget our
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Every Wednesday and
Friday During Lent



• CinnaCream

SPECIAL HOURS:

Friday, February 13 • 8am-5pm
Saturday, February 14 • 8am-4pm
Sunday, February 15 • 10am-4pm
Monday, February 16 • 8am-6pm
Tuesday, February 17 • PACZKI DAY
Open 3am until we're out!

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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Adults could learn a lesson from our students

Listen to our students. There are some adults in this community who think Hamtramck is immune from ICE agents coming here and terrorizing our immigrant communities.

At best, how naïve. Hamtramck has a long history of being a town that welcomes folks from foreign soils, who come here and plant roots and start new lives.

It's called the American dream.

But there are some folks in positions of power who don't share that dream.

Last week, Hamtramck High School students wanted to hold a public protest against ICE – which has been going after students in other cities.

But the adults in the district put a stop to that, over legitimate concerns about the safety of the

students.

Fair enough.

But it seems not enough people are acknowledging the fear our students – many of whom are immigrants or first generation Americans – are experiencing.

Let's listen to what two students told us last week:

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

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

How many adults in Hamtramck public office have had the presence of mind to air the same

concern?

None.

Here's what another student said:

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

Our students are showing a lot more courage and insight than many of the adults in charge.

A message to adults: Let's listen to the fears of our kids. Let's start organizing and preparing for the worst.

First and foremost: Know your rights. Get educated, and then pass the word. Oh, and get a whistle if you don't have one to use when ICE agents try to round up your neighbors.

Odds & Ends

New city manager ...

Well, this came suddenly and unexpectedly – sort of.

At Tuesday's city council meeting, the council was once again up to its same old tricks, and inserted an item onto the agenda at the beginning of the meeting.

And that item was whether to hire Adel Al-Adlani as Hamtramck's new city manager.

You would think that would warrant being placed on the council agenda well before the meeting, instead of slipping it in at the last minute.

This is a practice that has to stop. Late add-ons to the council agenda are meant only to deal with issues that are urgent and time sensitive.

So anyway, against that backdrop we welcome Adel Al-Adlani, who is in the administration of the City of Dearborn's Economic Department.

Al-Adlani has a doctorate degree in Public Administration from Western Michigan University, but has no experience in the role of city manager – something that is required by the city



Adel Al-Adlani

charter.

His hiring was pushed through by Mayor Adam Alharbi. Councilmember Nayeem Choudhury was the only vote in opposition in hiring Al-Adlani, saying the council was being rushed into the matter without enough background information.

As of now, it's unclear what role – if any – Interim City Manager Alex Lagrou will play in the new administration.

Condolences ... Hamtramck lost a one-of-a kind. Business owner Tadeusz (Ted) Palac, 86, died on Feb. 9. He owned G-Mart Clothing on Jos. Campau, and also ran a boxing gym upstairs of the business.

We know a number of

folks who took lessons from Ted, and they all praised his knowledge and patience.

We always enjoyed Ted's sense of humor and hospitality. Ted, you will be missed.

Hero ... Hamtramck K9 police officer Jacob Hoxsey deserves a whole lot of praise for his dramatic rescue of a 2-month-old baby who was choking to death.

Hoxsey put his CPR training to practice and was able to resuscitate the child.

He, and other officers, had just received CPR training a few weeks ago.

Hoxsey told TV news station WXYZ that, when he got the call from the department's dispatch, "That's a call that we never want to hear. I will never forget that."

Hoxsey's word of advice to families and the public: "I highly suggest (you) take that CPR class. It could potentially save your child's life."

Well done, officer Hoxsey; well done, indeed.



City Hall Insider ...

What is our City Council up to these days?

We have the highlights of the latest council meeting.

By Charles Sercombe

The city council met on Jan. 13, and all councilmembers, except for Nayeem Choudhury, were in attendance.

The council was informed about an upcoming auction of properties that were forfeited for taxes. The auction begins March 10 at 8 a.m., and it will end on April 1, at 10 a.m.

A list of the properties will be posted on the city's website in mid- to late-February.

For information about bidding, or applying to be part of the auction, go online to: hamtramckcity.gov/community/property-for-sale.

To get updates about the auction, go online and email: mmiszczak@hamtramckcity.gov.

The Community & Economic Development Department announced that it has a calendar of events happening in the city for the next 12 months. To view the calendar, go online to: hamtramckcity.gov/community/festivals-events.

During public comment, a woman emailed that it is "absurd to focus on street naming rather than on the things that matter to our residents: crime is getting worse, do something. ..."

(On the council's agenda for this meeting was a proposal by Councilmember Abu Musa to give Caniff the honorific name of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.)

Another email also opposed the street renaming. A number of people also spoke out against the proposal during public comment.

One person said that Hasina gave "no positive contributions to our Hamtramck community. Naming a street after her would honor someone internationally condemned for mass repression and would deeply hurt and divide many in our Bangladesh diaspora who suffered under her regime or lost loved ones."

(Editor's note: Hasina was found guilty of crimes against humanity for the violent suppression of stu-

dent protests that led to her loss of power in 2024. After she fled to India, she was sentenced to death for her alleged crimes.)

Bill Meyer urged the council to "not fight each other over politics in Bangladesh."

Meyer also spoke in favor of a proposal to require residency verification and address ballot harvesting.

He said that these are "two critical issues that most people in this city are concerned about. ... This is where we get our image from – these two issues. So let's solve it as soon as possible."

A resident also spoke out against the street renaming proposal, saying: "The chaos of Hamtramck, it's like a national topic in this country nowadays. We are all sick and tired of this chaos after chaos after chaos."

Hasina, he said "killed our children."

Changing subjects, Naji Chowdhury, who has a podcast called "Made in Banglatown," spoke on a

Continued on page 4

Paczki Day unites our community in many ways

By Aida Mandic

Special to The Review

Paczki Day is a wonderful memory from my childhood. My family would watch the movies "The Goonies" and "Jumanji" and snack on paczkis for hours.

After indulging in the delicious sweets, I would go outside and walk off all the calories. I knew exactly where my friends lived, so I would swing by their houses unannounced. My parents knew their parents. We were like family. I could literally walk inside of their houses, open the refrigerator door, and eat whatever I wanted. No one would be upset with me. No one would be shocked. We were super close.

Paczki Day is about more than food. It brings together people from multiple religions and nationalities. It's not restricted to Polish people or to Catholic people. The residents of Hamtramck are curious to try this tasty treat.

It inspires creativity, beauty, love, tolerance, and camaraderie. The eating of delicious food builds trust

and friendship between people who have never heard of a particular country or experienced the cultural and religious background of their neighbor. It's a fascinating phenomenon that can be found right here in Hamtramck.

I remember buying a ton of paczkis and distributing them among my family and friends. Whatever was left over, I would give to my neighbors. People had a giant smile on their faces. They were so happy and grateful that I thought of them and wished them well. It was a great feeling. I would even walk down the street with three or four paczkis in a container and give them away to random people while walking down the street.

Hamtramck is a friendly place, so everyone would say "Thank you so much!" and start a conversation with me. I think that is a powerful, good, and beautiful culture. It puts people in an energetic mood. Paczkis build an atmosphere and they represent cultural heritage. They are a way to show respect and appreciation.

Paczkis build memories and make a lasting effect on everyone. That is their legacy. They are a gift within themselves and that is their strength.

I have vivid memories of eating paczkis as a little girl with my friends. I would buy 20 paczkis and split them among my friends.

Bengalis ate them. Yemenis loved them. Poles devoured them. Bosnians would call me on the phone, asking which flavor they should buy.

Entire neighborhoods and streets would sit outside of their house on the steps and eat in bliss. It was such a fun, cool, and interesting experience. I remember looking forward to the experience every year.

I loved to see friends that I had not seen in a while. We would bond through something so small yet so precious. I love the fact that I got to grow up surrounded by that kind of energy. It is a wonderful and constructive way to meet people!

Aida Mandic is a Detroit-area author and writer.

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

Deadline for classifieds for next week is Thursday at Noon
Call
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YOUR AD HERE
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CAR RESCUE LLC AUCTION

Car Rescue LLC will be holding a car auction on February 20, 2026 at 11 AM

10230 Livernois Ave., Detroit, MI 48204.

The following vehicles would be available for auction:

2021 Dodge Charger vin: 2C3CDXGJ2MH535751

2015 Chrysler 200 vin: 1C3CCCBB4FN566229

2008 Town & Country vin: 2A8HR5P68R711225

2016 Chevy Cruse vin: 1G1PC5SH2G7174359

2016 Buick Encore vin: KLHCJBSB7GB614380

Obituaries

BAYSDELL



Lisa Marie Baysdell, 59, died February 3, 2026.

Lisa was the loving mother of Amy Chrzanowski, Melissa Chrzanowski, and Kenneth (Ekaterina) Baysdell. Grandmother of De-Angelo Houston, Dominick Baysdell, and Lukas Baysdell. Lisa is also survived by her siblings Shirley, Darrell, Marie Studer, and Angela (Dave) Penland and numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her mother Donna and Bob Hillger who raised her.

Services were February 12, 2026, at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck MI 48212. The family asks that donations be sent to the funeral home in Lisa's name to assist the family with her final arrangements.

GIBSON



Hazel Gibson, 96, died February 2, 2026.

Hazel was the wife of the late Othar, and dear mother of Anthony, Kenneth, Keith, Gerald, Christopher, Mark, Melissa Taylor, Samuel, Kenya, Torri, and the late Diwhite, Hazel Renae, Glenn, and Ronald.

Visitation is Saturday,

February 14, 2026, from 2 - 7 p.m., Family hour at 1 p.m., Services at 1:30 p.m. at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck MI 48212. Interment is Monday, February 16, 2026, at 12 noon at Detroit Memorial Park East, Warren, MI.

NIUZBYTOWSKI



Francis (Frank) Niezabytowski, 61, died February 4, 2026, in Rochester, Michigan.

Frank was a loving husband, devoted father, and cherished son to the late Thadeus and Jean Niezabytowski. Frank is survived by his wife, Halina; his son, Eric; his daughter, Nicole; amongst other beloved family members.

Frank had a range of interests including cars, taking his boat out to Lake Saint Clair, cooking, and above all spending time with his family. He found so much joy in life's simplest pleasures and shared that happiness with all those around him.

Frank built a life rooted in hard work, integrity, and devotion to his family. He worked as an electrical engineer, amongst many other things, for years and was deeply respected for his intelligence and dedication.

He will be remembered

for his kindness, sense of humor, strong faith, and unwavering love for his family. Frank was more than a husband or father; he was a best friend to all of us. He will be so missed.

Funeral Mass is Thursday, February 19, 2026, lying in state at 9:30 a.m. until time of mass at 10 a.m. at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, 3851 Prescott, Hamtramck MI 48212. Interment is Friday, February 20, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Guardian Angel Cemetery, Rochester MI.

PALAC



Tadeusz (Ted) Palac, 86, of Hamtramck, Michigan, died February 9, 2026.

Ted passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family, leaving behind a legacy of strength, integrity, and unwavering dedication.

A devoted husband to Jadwiga for 55 years, whom he loved with deep and passionate affection. He was a loving, caring and proud father to Susanna, David (Daniel), and Arthur (Gabriela), teaching them the value of resilience and self-reliance through his example. He is also survived by his cherished grandsons, Anthony, Marcos, and Lorenzo, who were a constant source of pride and joy.

Ted was born in Chelmiec, Poland on July 15, 1939, to Jan and Zofia Palac. He came of age during World War II under both German and Russian occupation and later lived under a communist regime. These early experiences shaped a profound resilience, discipline, and inner strength that remained with him throughout his life.

Boxing became the defining passion of his life. He rose to compete as a member of the Polish National Boxing Team, proudly representing his country on the international stage. While traveling to Sweden for a boxing tournament, he made the life-altering decision not to return to Poland. In 1968, he immigrated to the United States with only ten dollars in his pocket, guided by determination, courage, and an unwavering belief in the promise of a better life.

Beyond his own journey, he was a quiet yet steadfast pillar of the Polish community. From the late 1970s through the early 1990s, he helped numerous individuals and families leave Poland and be-

gin new lives in America. He never sought recognition for these efforts. He led with humility, served with integrity, and consistently stood ready to help those in need.

To many, he was a father figure. To the Polish community, he was a silent and dependable cornerstone. To countless others, he was known foremost as a boxing coach—one who taught far more than technique. Through boxing, he instilled discipline, respect, perseverance, and personal accountability. He possessed a rare balance of humor and seriousness, an old-school toughness shaped by experience, and a commanding presence that left a lasting impression on all he taught.

Tadeusz was defined by his relentless work ethic and proud independence. He believed in doing things himself, approaching life with a "fix-it-myself" attitude that brought, maintained, and secured comfort for his family. Whether in his career or in his personal projects, he was known as a man of his word, taking immense pride in a job well done. His hands were never idle, and he always made his home his sanctuary.

From surviving war and oppression, to representing his homeland, to building a life from nothing in America, he leaves behind a legacy of strength, integrity, and service. His influence will be felt for generations—by his family, his community, and all those whose lives he shaped through boxing and beyond. He fought a good fight, he kept faith, and he left this world knowing he had provided everything his family needed. He will be deeply missed.

BYŁO DOBRZE!

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Palac Family to assist in funeral expenses. Please make check payable to Jadwiga Palac c/o Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck MI 48212.

Visitation is Friday, February 13, 2026, from 3 - 8 p.m. with Rosary at 5:30 p.m. at Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck MI 48212. Lying in state at 10:30 a.m. until time of funeral Mass at 11 a.m., Saturday, February 14, 2026, at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, 3851 Prescott, Hamtramck MI 48212. Interment, Resurrection Cemetery, Clinton Township MI.

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February 13, 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?

Information of the Enterprise Zone info session
Presentations by Piast Institute and Passenger Recovery
Black history month programs,
Greg Kowalski street naming ceremony in Museum,
Street Naming Controversy at Jan. 13 Council Meeting
Inauguration Ceremonies for 2026 held in the Library
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)

Coming Events

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

Calendar is filling up for year with city activities

Cont. from front page

of some of those lovable little lard bombs we all know and consume.

Better yet, this year the run lands on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. Paczki Day is three days later, Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Early March brings the city-wide chaos that is the Hamtramck Blowout – roughly two dozen of Hamtramck's remaining hipster bars program a wild and woolly weekend's worth of music in a variety of genres.

Look for their schedule to begin to take shape any time now. The Blowout normally detonates the first weekend of March, which this year puts it at March 5-7.

The Hamtramck Parks Conservancy will hold their springtime event "Earth Week" on April 22-26.

That event sort of goes along with the City Hall-sponsored "Spring Cleanup," Saturday, May 2. Here, the city solicits your help in sprucing itself back up, whether you become part of a more-formal roving cleanup crew for a day, or just polish up your own property.

Hey – you can use those skills you learned during Earth Week!

There will be another 5K walk/run on Saturday, May 16 – this time, it's the annual Hamtramck Health Hike. And, well, the weather should be nicer for this one than the one on Valentine's Day.

Shorts, T-shirts and sneakers are the rule of the day

Also happening in May is the annual St. Florian's Strawberry Festival, always held on the first Saturday and Sunday of May, which this year is May 2-3.

Really a celebration of all things Polish, this event features sweets, beer and a lot of polka. It's a good time in a big ol' basement, and very popular.

Likewise unscheduled beyond "sometime in the month of June," the Eid Festival will indeed happen again, which is held at Keyworth Stadium. Rides and lots of food will highlight the celebration.

The popular Saturday once-a-month Hamtramck Night Bazaars will be back in Pope Park, too.

The tiny downtown park, with its statue of Pope John Paul II beaming down, comes alive once a month on Saturday evenings (typically 4-9 p.m.) from June through October, with vendor tents hawking everything from food to music to clothing to candles.

This year, it follows a staggered schedule of first or second Saturdays, depending on the month. The dates are June 6, July 11, Aug. 1, Sept. 12, and, finally, Oct. 3.

June 19 is Juneteenth, which is usually celebrated on the nearest June Saturday.

In Hamtramck, it's celebrated at Historic Hamtramck Stadium, and the centerpiece of that celebration is a community baseball game.

The first weekend of September may be a sad one, as an unofficial summer sendoff due to the looming of the school year, but around here it

brings the world famous – well, we like to think so – Labor Day Festival.

The festival is held on Jos. Campau from Caniff to Commor, and is packed from morning until night, featuring vendors, bands, booze, food, a canoe race, parade, and wrestlers. We love it so.

Mark out Sept. 5-7 this year for all the fun you can handle. And then some.

Lastly, on Saturday, October 3, is the Neighborhood Arts Festival.

Similar to the Blowout in that it's a "traveling experience," this time, festivalgoers scour the city seeking music, or poetry, or art, being made sometimes right in front of them, on porches, in yards, in art studios. It's DIY to the max, and offers some of the calendar's oddest experiences every year, without fail.

So, there you have it: Hamtramck – 2.1 square miles of a little something for everyone.

The Hamtramck High School Athletic Department is proud to announce a special Hall of Fame celebration honoring basketball legend Rudy Tomjanovich on Friday, February 20th at 6:00 pm at the Hamtramck Community Center (11350 Charest St, Hamtramck, MI 48212).



THE RUDY TOMJANOVICH



HALL OF FAME
FEBRUARY 20
6:30PM

Hamtramck Community Center
11350 Charest St.

This historic evening will celebrate the extraordinary life, career, and legacy of one of Hamtramck's most accomplished athletes. The event will feature a commemorative signing and a special address from Rudy Tomjanovich, as the community comes together to recognize his impact on the game of basketball and his deep roots in Hamtramck.

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

School district applies for \$15.5 million state loan to pay bills

Continued from front page

to dip into the state loan if the audit is completed and approved by the state within the next few weeks. Once the state approves the audit, money will flow to the district, including reimbursing the missed payments from the past three months.

This is not the first time the district has gotten into a similar financial jam.

Larson-Shidler said the district ran into the same problem, submitting the district audit late, the prior year.

At that time, the district didn't need a loan. That's because the district was still cash-rich from a prior federal covid grant to make needed building improvements.

"Last year, you had construction funds, so we had a large fund balance," Larson-Shidler said.

Board Vice-President Mortadha Obaid took issue with the board not being informed earlier about the financial development. Shidler agreed to keep the board informed.

At press time Thursday, a special meeting was called for the school board at 4 p.m. The Review went to press before that meeting, but prior to that meeting sources told The Review that the loan request ran into trouble, and the district may have to come up with another plan to prevent payless paydays.

Prior to coming to Hamtramck's district, Larson-Shidler came from



James Larson-Shidler

the Birmingham Public School District, where he was Assistant Superintendent of Finance. He left that district when a controversy erupted over facing a sudden \$14-million deficit.

There was plenty of finger-pointing over whose fault it was for the unexpected deficit, and Larson-Shidler ended up taking an unexplained leave of absence, and then eventually resigned, according to media reports.

Larson-Shidler is interim superintendent because the district's appointed superintendent, Jaleelah Ahmed, was placed in a paid suspension, which she has been on for the past two years.

The school board has never fully explained why Ahmed is suspended. In the meanwhile, she has been collecting her salary of \$224,000 a year. This is the final year of her contract with the district.

Notice of Public Hearing

City of Hamtramck – City Auction

The City of Hamtramck is conducting a public silent auction to sell 3 residential and 1 multi-use commercial zoned properties for the 2026 Hamtramck City Auction. Applicants are invited to submit bids from March 10th to April 1st. Bids will be open publicly on April 1st at 10:00 a.m. in the City Council Chambers of Hamtramck City Hall. Late bids will NOT be accepted.

Residentially-Zoned Properties: 11804 Dyar, 11798 Dyar, 5184 Yemans
Multi-Use Commercially-Zoned Property: 2352 Carpenter

Application can be downloaded online at <https://hamtramck.us/community/property-for-sale/> or picked up in person at City Hall in the Clerk's Office or Community and Economic Development Office beginning February 17, 2026.

All inquiries about the City Auction should be made to the attention of Isabel Allaway, CED and DDA Manager at iallaway@hamtramckcity.gov before 10:00 a.m. on April 1st, 2026.

NOTICE

CITY OF HAMTRAMCK BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of Hamtramck Board of Review will meet in the Hamtramck City Hall located at 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, Michigan 48212.

Meetings by appointment only on the following days:

Tuesday March 3, 2026, at 1:00 pm for the organizational meeting (no appeals will be heard).

**By appointment to hear appeals,
Monday March 9, 2026 12:00pm to 7:30pm
Location: 2nd Floor Council Chambers**

**Wednesday March 11, 2026 12:00pm to 7:30pm
Location: 2nd Floor Council Chambers**

The purpose is to review the assessment rolls of Hamtramck. Matters pertaining to the assessment of property may be brought before the Board of Review. Appointments will be taken until 4:00 pm on Wednesday, March 11, 2026. Appeals will also be accepted by letter.

****All letter appeals must be received by 4:00pm on Wednesday, March 11, 2026.**

	TENTATIVE RATIO	TENTATIVE FACTOR
201 – COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
301 – INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
401 – RESIDENTIAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00

**KONRAD MAZIARZ
ASSESSOR,
CITY OF HAMTRAMCK**



City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 4

proposal to create a new city hall position called the Director of Communications and Community Engagement.

Chowdhury spoke in favor of creating the position because the city “does not have a true media or communications infrastructure. Information is scattered, outdated and often unclear. That creates confusion, rumors and unnecessary tension between residents and city hall.”

He continued: “A modern city needs centralized digital communication, verified social platforms, a clear and updated website, multilingual messaging, and systems that allow residents to get answers without chasing departments or relying on Facebook groups. ...”

Chowdhury also said he would like to apply for the position.

Later in the meeting, the proposal was set aside for future consideration. Interim City Manager Alex Lagrou said he needs to review the city's budget “to make sure it makes sense fiscally.”

Mayor Adam Alharbi said he is in favor of establishing the position.

“We have a lack of communication with the public, with the residents of Hamtramck,” he said.

Moving on to new business, the council approved an updated guideline for

property tax exemptions, formerly called the poverty exemption. The guidelines are now called Homeowner Economic Assistance & Relief for Taxpayers (H.E.A.R.T.)

The income level is determined by a person's yearly income and the worth of their assets.

In a note to council, the asset test is based on:

- All household members shall not have ownership interest in any real estate other than the principal residence for which the poverty exemption is requested.

- The asset guideline (test) shall exclude the value of the principal residence subject to the poverty exemption request and exclude the value of one automobile. If multiple automobiles are owned, then the least valuable automobile will be excluded from the asset guideline.

- The applicant shall not have total assets (excluding the value of the principal residence subject to the exemption request and excluding the value of one automobile) more than \$12,000.

Interim City Manager Lagrou said that a number of residents are confused over how property values are determined – especially after they purchase a house and their property taxes skyrocket.

“What's going on is a misunderstanding of how the

system works,” he said. “It stinks because people are frustrated. We're trying to explain to them, but there's a disconnect.”

The council postponed making a decision on the matter.

The council then approved a request to update the city seal/logo in order to better represent the current city.

It will be part of a city effort to rebrand its promotion of the city.

In a note to council, it was said:

“This resolution proposes authorizing the City Manager and Public Information Officer (PIO) to utilize a non-final city icon exclusively for digital and electronic communications. The intent is to allow for testing and evaluation of the branding concept while remaining fiscally responsible and avoiding unnecessary printing or replacement of physical materials during a design transition.”

Mayor Alharbi said the current city logo is “outdated” because it features images of a factory (Hamtramck was once an industrial and manufacturing hub).

In another matter championed by Mayor Alharbi, the council approved a new residency guideline for those seeking elected office in the city.

Under the new rule, candidates would have to live in the city for at least one year before seeking office, and also provide utility bills for each month of that year.

Councilmember Mohamed Hassan questioned whether this stricter requirement conflicts with state law.

City Attorney Odey Meroueh said it doesn't conflict with state law and simply adds requirements.

The new guidelines include:

- “Candidates would be required to submit a sworn residency affidavit affirming at least twelve (12) consecutive months of residency prior to filing, disclose any secondary residential interests, and provide supporting documentation demonstrating a clear residential nexus to the City. Additional provisions include household disclosures, public inspection of candidate filings, and a defined public challenge period.”

Councilmember Hassan questioned how this would impact those who rent instead of own a home.

Mayor Alharbi said they would likely have utility bills to provide proof of residency.

He said this is needed because it's “not a secret we've had candidates running in Hamtramck who live in Troy and other places.”

In another tightening of candidate eligibility requirements, the council adopted a new requirement to:

- Candidate “Clean Election” affidavit:

All candidates filing for municipal office would be required to sign a Statement of Electoral Ethics affirming that they will not engage in, encourage, or finance illegal ballot

harvesting, unauthorized handling of absentee ballots, voter intimidation, or the use of gifts or other valuable consideration to influence voting behavior.

- Mandatory candidate training:

The City Clerk would conduct a required Election Law and Ethics Seminar for certified candidates and their campaign managers, covering absentee ballot restrictions, felony penalties for violations, and proper use of ballot drop boxes.

- Public voter protection campaign:

The City Clerk would launch a multilingual public awareness campaign to educate residents on their voting rights, illegal ballot handling practices, and methods for reporting suspected violations to appropriate authorities.

- Enhanced monitoring measures:

The resolution directs continued 24/7 video surveillance of absentee ballot drop boxes and requires prompt reporting of suspected irregular activity, including “batch dumping,” to the State Bureau of Elections.

A lengthy discussion was held on whether to OK a proposal to give Caniff the honorific name of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Councilmember Musa, who proposed the resolution, said Hasina improved the economic lives of many “from the lower level to the middle class of the country.”

“She made improvements all over the country,” he added.

Mayor Alharbi spoke against granting honorific street names to people with no connections to the city.

“We're elected to work on things that matter to the residents,” he said. “Like high water bills, the property taxes, the streets, the infrastructure; and this would only create division among our communities, instead of trying to focus on uniting Hamtramck.”

Alharbi continued: “It's going to be open to every-

body to now start to try to have foreign politician names here all through Hamtramck. I'm against naming anybody who's foreign. It needs to be someone that has contributed to the city – not somebody that most of Hamtramck doesn't know about. This is America, we're here as residents now in a city in Michigan.”

Alharbi also said that giving honorific names to foreign people could lead to vandalism of the street signs and fighting.

The council split its vote, with Councilmembers Musa and Mohammed Alsomiri voting in support, and Councilmembers Hassan and Yousef Saed opposed.

Councilmember Muhtasin Sadman abstained in the vote and Councilmember Nayeem Choudhury was absent.

This forced Mayor Alharbi to break the tie, and he voted in favor despite just saying he opposed the resolution.

In a related matter, at the behest of Mayor Alharbi, a resolution was OK'd to ban giving honorific street names to people with no connection to the city, and also to retract all recent honorific street names given to people with no connection to the city.

The new requirement also calls for all proposed honorific street names to be supported by at least 100 residents signing a petition or the like.

What is our City Council up to these days? We have the highlights of the latest council meeting.

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

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Probate Court by calling:
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