Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition
11633 Joseph Campau, Hamtramck, MI 48212
November 2026

OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS

Community Outreach Events

- **Prescription Take Back**
  October 24th was National Prescription Take Back Day and our team highlighted this in a few different ways. Our team went to spread the message by delivering informational flyers to the local pharmacies. Our team went to a total of 15 local pharmacies here in Hamtramck. These flyers included information on how to safely dispose of medications at the Police Department within Hamtramck City Hall. In addition, HDFCC hosted a Prescription Take Back at the Senior Plaza in Hamtramck to bring prescription take back efforts directly to a community who may not have as much access to the permanent drop box at Hamtramck City Hall. This special event was for seniors and combined with Narcan Training and a training learning to recognize and respond to Medicare fraud.

  As a reminder there is a permanent drop box for unused or expired medications in the lobby of the Police Department within Hamtramck City Hall located at 3401 Evaline St, Hamtramck. The lobby of the Police Department is located to the left as you enter the main entrance. You can dispose of your medications at this drop box location 24/7 with no questions asked!
  HDFCC will be working to further promote the Prescription Drop Box by distributing reminders to pharmacies to pass along to their patrons.



    - ***How to use Hamtramck's prescription take back box:***

      https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3NGKuGHdZQ

- **Trunk or Treat**







As in years past, the HDFCC had the exciting opportunity to participate in the Community Trunk or Treat hosted by the Recreation Department, Fire Department, and Police Department. It was held Oct 30 from 5-6:30 in Zussman Park and we could not have asked for better weather and a better turn out! It's always so exciting to see the youth dressed up and it's such a fun way to connect with the community. Thanks to our HDFCC staff and volunteers who helped to engage attendees in giving out over 1000 pieces of candy! We also want to thank everyone in the community who donated candy and supplies. Your generosity and support helped make this event such a success, and we couldn't have done it without all your help.

- **Halloween Pancake Breakfast**

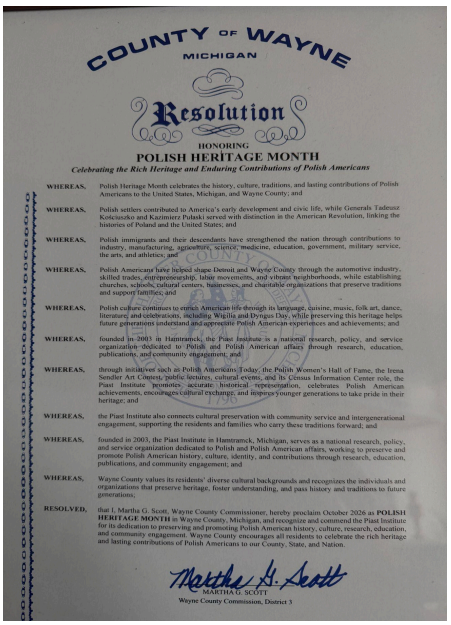








We hosted our annual appreciation pancake breakfast for local public safety professionals and city workers on Thursday October 29th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. We had a great turnout, which started as a line before the doors even opened! This pancake breakfast was very special to us because Wayne County Commissioner Martha G. Scott proclaimed October 2026 as Polish Heritage Month and recognized and commended the Piast Institute for its dedication to preserving and promoting Polish American history, culture, research, education, and community engagement. Thank you to everyone who attended and shared in their appreciation of community service!



COUNTY OF WAYNE
MICHIGAN

Resolution

HONORING
POLISH HERITAGE MONTH
Celebrating the Rich Heritage and Enduring Contributions of Polish Americans

WHEREAS, Polish Heritage Month celebrates the history, culture, traditions, and lasting contributions of Polish Americans to the United States, Michigan, and Wayne County; and

WHEREAS, Polish settlers contributed to America's early development and civic life, while Generals Tadeusz Kościuszko and Kazimierz Pułaski served with distinction in the American Revolution, linking the histories of Poland and the United States; and

WHEREAS, Polish immigrants and their descendants have strengthened the nation through contributions to industry, manufacturing, agriculture, science, medicine, education, government, military service, the arts, and athletics; and

WHEREAS, Polish Americans have helped shape Detroit and Wayne County through the automotive industry, skilled trades, entrepreneurship, labor movements, and vibrant neighborhoods, while establishing churches, schools, cultural centers, businesses, and charitable organizations that preserve traditions and support families; and

WHEREAS, Polish culture continues to enrich American life through its language, cuisine, music, folk art, dance, literature, and celebrations, including Wigilia and Dyngus Day, while preserving this heritage helps future generations understand and appreciate Polish American experiences and achievements; and

WHEREAS, founded in 2003 in Hamtramck, the Piast Institute is a national research, policy, and service organization dedicated to Polish and Polish American affairs through research, education, publications, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, through initiatives such as Polish Americans Today, the Polish Women's Hall of Fame, the Irena Sendler Art Contest, public lectures, cultural events, and its Census Information Center role, the Piast Institute promotes accurate historical representation, celebrates Polish American achievements, encourages cultural exchange, and inspires younger generations to take pride in their heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Piast Institute also connects cultural preservation with community service and intergenerational engagement, supporting the residents and families who carry these traditions forward; and

WHEREAS, founded in 2003, the Piast Institute in Hamtramck, Michigan, serves as a national research, policy, and service organization dedicated to Polish and Polish American affairs, working to preserve and promote Polish American history, culture, identity, and contributions through research, education, publications, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, Wayne County values its residents' diverse cultural backgrounds and recognizes the individuals and organizations that preserve heritage, foster understanding, and pass history and traditions to future generations;

RESOLVED, that I, Martha G. Scott, Wayne County Commissioner, hereby proclaim October 2026 as **POLISH HERITAGE MONTH** in Wayne County, Michigan, and recognize and commend the Piast Institute for its dedication to preserving and promoting Polish American history, culture, research, education, and community engagement. Wayne County encourages all residents to celebrate the rich heritage and lasting contributions of Polish Americans to our County, State, and Nation.

Martha G. Scott
MARTHA G. SCOTT
Wayne County Commission, District 3

Hamtramck Public Schools Partnerships

- **Red Ribbon Week**
  The HDFCC helped our Hamtramck Public Schools to celebrate Red Ribbon Week, a national awareness campaign to encourage drug-free lifestyles and bullying prevention. Red Ribbon Week was held October 23rd to October 31st. We prepared staff members of 4th through 8th grade classrooms within Hamtramck Public Schools for the week by providing resources, information, flyers, crafts, and ideas for activities that could be completed with students in the classroom.



  Narcan Planning: HDFCC is working with the HPS district nurse to help coordinate Narcan efforts within the district. HDFCC has provided Narcan for school buildings throughout the district within the past several years. However, it is now time to verify expiration dates of the provided Narce. We are currently working to coordinate with the district nurse to check on all Narcan provided and replace any that have expired. Along with this effort, we will be working with the nurse to coordinate training for staff throughout the district to feel more prepared and confident to use Narcan, in case it is ever needed for an opioid-related breathing emergency. HDFCC has also been able to connect with health teachers at Hamtramck High School to discuss Narcan training for students, too. We are excited about these recent developments and look forward to seeing how these plans progress

- **MiPHY Planning:** HDFCC has worked with HPS for over a decade to facilitate the Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth survey being administered to students. This survey is provided by the Michigan Department of Education, and is only available to be taken every other year. The survey was open to be taken during the 25-26 school year, however, with changes in MDE requirements and restrictions around surveys announced that year, it left the district weary of continuing the practice. Those changes/restrictions have

since been rescinded and HDFCC has received approval from the Superintendent to facilitate a MiPHY-adjacent survey. This is exciting news and we are making progress on the process of survey development, parent notices, translation, and scheduling.

NEW BUSINESS

Senior Holiday Giveaway

- To help our older adult population celebrate the upcoming holidays, HDFCC plans to deliver 330 gift bags to all residents of the Hamtramck Senior Plaza, St Joseph's Nursing Home, and other local Senior Groups. Please reach out if you have supplies or informational materials that you would like to donate to this cause. In previous years, organizations have donated hygiene products, snacks or goodies, calendars, activity books, greeting cards, informational material, festive gear, and monetary donations to support the project. Any individuals, groups, or organizations who donate will be included on the holiday message insert. Call Nick at 313-733-4535 or email Szydlo@PiastInstitute.org if you have questions about this initiative. All products should be provided to our office by the end of the day Monday December 7th.

  Ways to donate:

  Venmo:
  https://www.venmo.com/u/piastinstitute

  PayPal:
  https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=RFSQKWGY8N9Z8

  Amazon Wishlist:
  You can also purchase items through our Amazon Wishlist and have them delivered directly to our office.
  https://a.co/0cLTj1Ej

  Checks and in-person donations:
  Piast Institute
  11633 Joseph Campau
  Hamtramck, MI 48212

Great American SmokeOut

- The Great American SmokeOut is an annual initiative held on the third Thursday of November by The American Cancer Society (November 19th). This day is used to encourage communities in initiating conversations about the risks of smoking, helping loved ones make their plan to quit, and encouraging those who are interested in quitting to unite with others who are making their plans and quitting on the same day. To review a short video on tobacco and vaping made by HDFCC for the Great American SmokeOut, click

here. For more information on the SmokeOut initiative, click here:

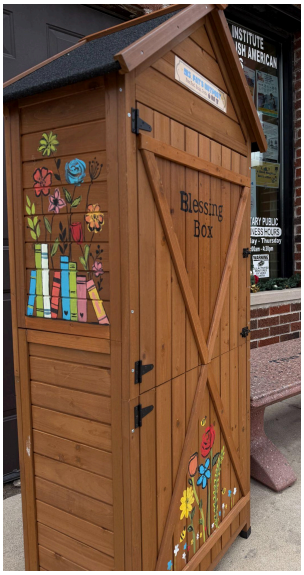


There are both local and national resources one can use to help make their plan to quit smoking or assist someone else in their journey. HDFCC encourages the community to support health and the Great American SmokeOut by utilizing and sharing those resources, found below:

- Henry Ford Health System Youth Addiction Assessment Appointment:
  - https://www.henryford.com/services/behavioral-health/addiction/request-appointment
  - 248-661-6100 for addiction assessment appointment
    - Specialized treatment for youth addiction
- Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN) 24/7 Access Helpline
  - 1-800-241-4949
- Wayne County Healthy Communities, Hamtramck location
  - https://www.waynecountyhealthy.com
  - 313-871-1926
    - Screenings for substance-use disorders
    - Substance use counseling
    - Multiple languages available
    - Sliding scale fees
- Michigan Tobacco Quitline:
  - http://map.naquitline.org/profile/usa/mi/
  - 1-800-784-8669
    - Phone counseling available in Arabic
    - Access to free cessation medication
- Truth Initiative - This is Quitting:
  - Text DITCHVAPE to 88709
  - https://truthinitiative.org/thisisquitting
- SmokeFree.gov:
  - https://teen.smokefree.gov/quit-vaping
- American Cancer Society:
  - https://www.cancer.org/healthy/stay-away-from-tobacco/great-american-smokeout.html
  - 1-800-227-2345

- Live chat available

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Month



November is Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Month. As a result of changes in funding to social services, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) food benefits have decreased for many. Due to growing need, The Piast Institute and HDFCC received a donation to increase the size of the Little Library located outside its office building. Its name has also changed to the "Blessing Box" and offerings have expanded beyond books to non-perishable food items and other supplies. **If you would like to donate food during this time**, please bring non-perishable food items to our office and we will make sure it is placed in the Blessing Box as space is available.

Please also refer to HDFCC's Addiction Services and Community Resources Quick Guide if you or someone you know is seeking local help with addiction, mental health, food, or housing >>> Resource Guide