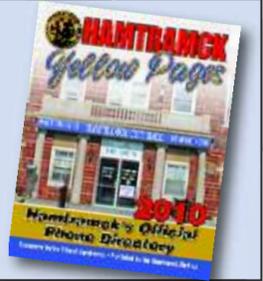


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— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

The new year already promises to be a page-turner

There's a (moon out tonight) whoa-oh-oh ooo.
 Let's go strollin'.
 There's a (girl in my heart) whoa-oh-oh ooo.
 Whose heart I've stolen.
 There's a moon out tonight, (Whoa-oh-oh ooo.)
 Let's go strollin' through the park.
 (Ooo-ooo-ooo-ooo.)
 The Capris:
 "There's a Moon Out Tonight"

By Charles Sercombe
 Well star gazers, time to look into the cosmos and divine what's in store for Hamtramck in the coming year.

to its legal limit. Those two moves could have staved off the financial insolvency due to arrive sometime in March. Hang on, because this is going to be a rough ride. Meanwhile, we have a new governor on board but it is still too early to say how the political winds will blow.



merge services — hey, which is also something Hamtramck is looking into. Just how all of that will play out and trickle down to Hamtramck remains to be seen. Snyder says we need to reinvent Michigan. Ah ... that certainly makes for a good campaign slogan but what the heck does that really mean? A bigger question might be, will there be a good enough reason for

with neighboring communities or counties or townships or whatever is close by. You can bet local officials will put up a mighty big fight to keep Hamtramck intact as an independent — and we might add, feisty — community.

The public school district is also facing financial hard times. District Superintendent Tom Niczay has asked for the teachers' union to make contract concessions to balance a projected \$4 million deficit.

If the teachers' union rejects that proposal, and so far, at least, the union leadership has — without input from its members — Niczay warned there will be layoffs by next summer. To stop the financial bleeding, Niczay has scheduled to close down Dickinson West Elementary School, which is housed in the former St. Lad's school building, after this school year.

That will translate into big savings for the district, but what a financial blow to St. **Continued on page 6**

Could outsourcing save the city?

By Charles Sercombe
 Hamtramck city officials say they have no other options left to save the city money.

They are now looking into the cost-savings of outsourcing police, fire and all other city services to Wayne County, Highland Park or Detroit.

City Manager Bill Cooper was also instructed by the council to consider whether the city could take over some of those services for Highland Park.

"We are running out of choices," said Mayoral Pro Tem Katrina Stackpoole about her proposal to have the city manager look into the matter.

She said this is the last option left for the city to consider because a majority of her colleagues on council refuse to raise the property tax rate to the legal limit or apply for an emergency state loan.

Stackpoole also pointed out **Continued on page 2**

Take a memo from Karpinsky

By Charles Sercombe
 OK, all of you Hamtramck Public School teachers who are concerned their union president isn't communicating with you.

Listen up. Bo Karpinsky sent you all a memo last Thursday, saying that the union executive board has rejected the district's deal to cut your pay by \$4,000-\$5,000 and also require you to pay 20 percent of your health insurance.

Recently, several teachers have complained privately to The Review that their union leadership has not informed union members what the district is seeking in contract concessions.

Karpinsky told The Review last week that the reason he has not said anything to his fellow union members is that the district hasn't made any

Continued on page 4

Quick Hits

Next Friday (Feb. 2) is Groundhog Day, and if Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow after climbing out of his burrow, it'll be another grueling six weeks of winter weather. If he doesn't see his shadow, legend has it, there will be an early spring.

On Saturday (Feb. 5), there is absolutely nothing to do with groundhogs in Hamtramck. Instead, the Recreation Department is sponsoring a "Daddy-Daughter Dance." There's an ad for it inside, so all you dads out there, go spend an evening with your daughter.

Quote of the week ...

Who said this, and what is it about? You can find the quote and the story it belongs to somewhere in the pages of this issue.

"They are the last to go after."



The year 2011 already promises to be a page-turner. Obviously, the state of the city's finances will be the top news event of the coming year. So far, a majority of the City Council has elected to do nothing about the city's finances, except for directing the city manager to look at the cost-savings of outsourcing police, fire and all other city services.

A majority of the council has rejected applying for an emergency state loan and raising additional revenue by increasing the city's property tax rate

However, newly elected Gov. Rick Snyder has been quoted saying he wants to go after the salary and benefit packages of public employees — which is something Hamtramck also wants to do. Hey, maybe Snyder will do Hamtramck's dirty work. He has also said cities and public school districts need to

Snyder to allow Hamtramck to remain an independent city? In the state's eyes, it might make more sense to merge little cities like Hamtramck, which are drowning in debt,



From top to bottom: Will Hamtramck cease to continue as an independent city this year? Will the Kowalski Sausage Co. remain in Hamtramck? And what about the future of the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival and the organizers of the event from last year? Those are just some of the big questions for the year to come.

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Could outsourcing save the city?

Continued from front page

that the city's unions have refused to agree to major contract concessions. Stackpoole added that other communities are beginning to dismantle their police and fire departments because they are too expensive. Recently, Port

other councilmembers that it was merely a directive to see what savings would occur.

Councilmember Gordon questioned why the council needed to vote on the issue.

"Why do we need a resolution for Mr. Cooper to do his

be able to survive on.

"They are not going to agree to that," she said, which is why she proposed looking into outsourcing as an alternative.

If Hamtramck goes into payless paydays, the state could



City officials are looking into whether the city can save money by outsourcing police and fire services as well as all other city services.

Huron and Pontiac announced it would hire county sheriffs to take over police services.

The city is facing a \$3.5 million deficit, and City Manager Bill Cooper has warned the city will be broke by mid-March.

The proposal stirred passionate debate at Tuesday's Council meeting. A representative for the firefighters' union said outsourcing will result in a loss of quality service and would also violate the firefighters' contract.

Councilmember Mohammed Hassan was the only member to vote against the proposal, but he did not say why he opposed it. It was pointed out several times by

job?" Gordon said.

Councilmember Shahab Ahmed countered, saying that because the issue is politically-charged, it's best to have the council issue the directive.

Although a majority on the council was open to hear what the savings would be, no one was in favor of merging with Highland Park or Detroit. However, Mayor Karen Majewski noted that as Hamtramck heads into insolvency, "we have to face the reality of the situation."

Stackpoole said that without other savings or revenue streams, such as raising the property tax rate, city unions would have to agree to severe cuts that they would likely not

immediately send in an emergency financial manager, who in turn could recommend filing for bankruptcy.

Filing for bankruptcy was the first thing the city attempted to do several weeks ago, but state officials rejected that because the city was not actually broke yet.

Once the city has filed for bankruptcy, union contracts can be torn up and renegotiated.

It's also likely a state-appointed emergency financial manager would immediately raise the property tax rate to its legal limit — an action that only Councilmembers Stackpoole and Ahmed have backed.



City Hall Insider ...

What is our City Council up to these days? We have the scoop and the highlights — as well as the lowlights — of the latest council meeting.

By Charles Sercombe

The council met on Jan. 25, and all members were in attendance. The meeting went for over an hour-and-a-half.

First up were members of the public, several of whom voiced concern over a proposal being entertained later in the meeting to have the city manager explore outsourcing options for police, fire and all other city services.

Andrea Karpinski, a city employee, said she is concerned that emergency services, such as ambulance service, will be jeopardized.

A representative from the Fire Department also warned that relying on inexperienced firefighters, such as those in Highland Park, will jeopardize the safety of the city.

He also said that outsourcing would violate the firefighters' contract and will lead to costly legal action.

Steve Shaya, who works for a contractor for the city, said the idea of outsourcing is "absurd."

"I don't know what happened here," Shaya said.

(Irony Alert! Shaya works for a contractor who has taken over work previously done by city workers — well, maybe not done so well — in the past. In other words, he works for someone providing outsourced work.)

Shaya also warned that

there are dangerous individuals out on the streets, and the city can't afford to lose its police protection.

Robert Zwolak said that before the city thinks about outsourcing, city councilmembers and the mayor need to forge relationships with officials from Detroit and Highland Park. He called for a "summit" with neighboring officials.

Bill Meyer noted that public employees are coming under attack nationwide.

"They are the last to go after," he said.

However, he stressed that the proposal is just to explore the option of outsourcing, not necessarily to actually outsource anything.

Phil Salatrik spoke on a different issue. He said that since Hamtramck is withholding its water and sewer service payments to Detroit in retaliation to Detroit withholding tax money owed to Hamtramck from the GM Poletown plant, the city ought to just tap into that fund.

He said the city should take the money out of escrow because Detroit has already announced it will raise its rates because it considers Hamtramck's non-payment as a "bad debt."

A bad debt, in Salatrik's thinking, means Detroit has given up on ever collecting it, so the city should use it.

The issue of medical marijuana once again wafted into the Council Chambers. And once again, the issue of where to allow marijuana to be commercially grown and how to license the business got hazier.

The upshot: The issue was — once again — postponed for more research. But this time, a council sub-committee was formed, consisting of Mayor Pro Tem Catrina Stackpoole, Councilmember Tom Jankowski and City Attorney James Allen.

The committee will work on drafting another ordinance, one Stackpoole noted that will be to the liking of the council. Or maybe not.

In the vote to approve the minutes of a previous council meeting and allow the transfer of a bar license from the former Locker Room bar to Priscilla L. Blow and to allow a dance permit for a bar at 10001 Jos. Campau, all but Councilmember Mohammed Hassan voted in approval.

Hassan gave no explanation for his vote against the three items. However, Hassan has said in a prior meeting that there are too many bars in the city.

On the issue of adopting an ordinance that would charge individuals and property owners for the cost of the

Continued on page 7

This week at the library...

Change in the Library Card Fees - Effective February 1, Library card fees will change: Hamtramck residents, no charge; non-residents - \$30/year or \$3/month. All Patrons must present their library cards to access Library Services (such as the Internet, etc.)

ESL Class for Beginners - Saturday, January 29 at 10:30 a.m. Christine Templin is the instructor for the ESL class for beginners. Everyone is invited. Free to the public.

Storytime for Children - Saturday, January 29 at noon. All children are invited to storytime featuring, "Wild About Books" by Judy Sierra. Afterwards, we will show you how to be an author too.

Computer Classes for Advanced Users - Monday, January 31 at 11 a.m. Adults with basic computer skills can enhance their computer literacy each Monday at the library. Number of participants is limited to available computers.

Computer Classes for Beginners - Wednesday, February 2 at 11 a.m. Basic instructions on computer use for beginners will be held on Tuesdays. Number of participants is limited to available computers.

Reading and Conversation for ESL Students - Tuesday, February 1 at 5:30 p.m. Jide Aje is the instructor for the reading and conversation ESL classes.

Math Club Meeting - Tuesday, February 1 at 4 p.m. Mr. Nuo is the instructor for the math club and math tutoring.

Movie Wednesday - Wednesday, February 2 at 3:30 p.m. Every Wednesday is movie day at the library. Come and enjoy our feature presentation, which includes free popcorn and snacks.

Winter Teen Club - Thursday, February 3 at 5 p.m. Members of the Teen Club will be making their own photo memory boxes to save all the good memories from 2010. Everyone is invited to join.

Jeopardy at the Library - Thursday, February 3 at 4 p.m. Sign up and participate in Jeopardy games held on Thursdays at the library. Compete against friends, win prizes and have fun developing your knowledge skills.

Meeting of the Library Board - Thursday, February 10 at 6 p.m. Regular meeting of the Library Board will be held in the auditorium. Open to the public.

For more information about events at the library call (313) 365-7050, or visit our website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us> where you can also access our online catalog.

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Second Front Page

Good taste is bountiful at Bonoful

By Ian Perrotta

There's a new restaurant in Hamtramck, and its name couldn't be more appropriate. Bonoful – which means a bouquet of flowers in Bengali – is an artfully arranged eatery bursting with flavor.

After a year-and-a-half of planning and remodeling, the establishment opened its doors at the beginning of the month. Featuring a wide variety of Chinese-Indian specialties, Bonoful Sweets & Cafe offers patrons the opportunity to either enjoy an old favorite or try something completely new off its all-Halal menu.

The restaurant is owned and operated by MAN Enterprises, LLC, which is an acronym of the first initials of the three people who comprise the company – Mohammed Malik, Abu Bokkor and Nazmul Islam. The three men, who are all from the Sylhet region of Bangladesh but did not meet until doing business at Islam's money transferring operation in Hamtramck, forged a friendship over their entrepreneurial bonds and common roots, and, eventually, a partnership.

Day-to-day operations are divided among the three, with Islam (who is also a Farmer's Insurance agent) managing the business aspects while Malik and Bokkor – who each have over a decade of experience as head chefs from respectable restaurants in Troy – keep things cooking in the

kitchen. Rounding out the help is a friendly staff that provides excellent table service.

On the menu there is an assortment of entrees that can

also a number of sweets cooked on-site available for purchase.

Almost as impressive as the 100-item strong menu is the exquisitely designed inte-

enough of a good thing, if you want to tinker with the menu's ingredients, just speak up.

"We don't do anything pre-cooked – if you order some-



At Bonoful Café & Sweets, the food is fresh and the staff is friendly. If it looks this good in print, imagine how great it tastes in real life.

suit any palette. In addition to the Indo-Chinese and Sahi Dastar Khwan Specialties, which are Chinese- and Indian-style dishes, there is a wide variety of vegetarian, seafood, Shane-E-Tandoor and even American-style entrees. A breakfast and dessert menu complements the Biryani and bread selections, and there is also a lunch buffet available from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for just \$6.99. If the great food isn't filling enough, there are

rior. The kitchen was built from scratch, and the dining room is one of the nicest in the area. Modeled with Middle Eastern design features, it boasts four private booths, a dozen tables and a private dining room that can accommodate up to 15 guests. An added bonus is the inclusion of plug receptacles in the private booths, which, along with free wi-fi, makes Bonoful a perfect place for a business lunch.

And if all that wasn't

thing, it's fresh," says Islam. "If somebody wants to try something different, this is the place."

Bonoful Sweets & Café is located at 12085 Conant and is open 7 days a week from 10 a.m. to midnight. It provides delivery, full dine-in service and can cater any occasion of up to 100 people. Bonoful can be reached at (313) 368-8800.

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Whereabouts of councilmember's official residence remains unanswered

By Charles Sercombe

In last week's story on City Councilmember Mohammed Hassan, we incorrectly reported that according to city records he lives at 3423 Neibel.

Not even close.

According to records kept by the City Clerk's Office, Hassan lists his residence at 2434 Neibel. But in our attempt to interview Hassan about a comment he made to a police officer regarding the Shadow Bar, that house appeared to be vacant.

No one answered the door when we knocked, but Hassan did pull up as we were leaving. He appeared to be going into a house across the



The official residence of City Councilmember Mohammed Hassan remains a mystery. So far, he's not talking.

street, at 2425 Neibel. Hassan would not answer any questions about comments he made at a council meeting two weeks ago or on any

other topic.

He never did go into any house on the street and returned to his vehicle and drove off.

Further complicating the matter of just where Hassan lives is the comment he made at the council meeting two weeks ago about owning a house in Warren.

We also recently found Wayne County records showing that the 2434 Neibel house was foreclosed on last March.

Neighbors confirmed that Hassan lives in the house across the street from the 2434 address.

Wayne County will study effects of environment on kids

By Charles Sercombe

There's a good chance that Wayne County will bring back a health clinic to Hamtramck.

That was the word on Wednesday from county officials attending a press conference to announce a countywide health study of children. Wayne County has received an \$18.5 million grant from the Michigan Al-

liance for the National Children's Study.

The study will recruit area women – including those in Hamtramck – who are pregnant to document the effects of the environment on their children from birth to age 21.

Researchers are specifically interested in the environment's role in premature birth, asthma, diabetes,

autism and other disorders.

Four other Michigan counties are also participating. In total, Michigan received a \$75 million grant for the study.

As for the county health clinic, there were no further details given. Wayne County operated a clinic here part-time until over 10 years ago.

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Jeans: As they say, characters are always welcomed, 12002 Jos. Campau; (313) 892-9689.

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Motor City Sports Bar: Great burgers and beer – \$1 domestic beers every Tuesday, draft beer \$1 every day, \$2 well mixed drinks every day, best char-grilled burgers, hands-down – put us to the test, karaoke every Thursday, 9122 Jos. Campau (313) 875-4710.

Painted Lady: Mondays – \$1 beer night w/ Todd. Tuesdays – B-movie Night. Wednesdays – Opium Den; Thursdays – Honky Tonk/Ladies Night, \$2 wells; 2930 Jacob; (313) 874-2991

Paycheck's Lounge: 2932 Caniff, (313) 874-0909 – Live music every weekend, cheap drinks, open all day.

Small's: Sundays - Nurse your weekend hangover with Dave and Melody, \$1 off everything. Acoustic performances on select nights. Mondays - Karaoke with Squid and Jared! Tuesday - Trivia Night! Game starts at 9 p.m. with tons of great prizes and cheap drinks; 10339 Conant, (313) 873-1117. Free WIFI.

7 Brothers Bar: Hamtramck's hippest hangout for actors, 11831 Jos. Campau; (313) 365-6576.

Skipper's Hamtown: Hamtramck's newest neighborhood "almost dive" bar. Skipper's offers a wide selection of bottled beer as well as six non-alcoholic beverages. Stop by for a good drink and a great time!; 9735 Conant at Evaline.

Suzu's Bar: Chat with owner Suzy – one of the best local bar owners; 2942 Evaline; (313) 872-9016; Free WIFI.

Turtle & Inky's Place: Small and cozy 2656 Carpenter.

Whiskey in the Jar: There's likely few Irish folks to be found here, but there is plenty of blarney. Seriously, though, a great dive bar and the fellow drinkers are easy to chat up, 2741 Yemans.

Take a memo from Karpinsky

Continued from front page

offer worth sharing and has put nothing in writing.

School Superintendent Tom Niczay said that is not true, and that he provided Karpinsky a three-page spreadsheet explaining the salary reductions, teacher-by-teacher, he needs to balance the budget.

The district is facing a \$4 million budget deficit and unless savings are made from contract concessions, teachers will face layoffs.

In a way, Karpinsky's memo confirms the concerns of those teachers who say he is not presenting information to the union.

The salary cuts were proposed last October, said Niczay, and were turned down by the union leaders. Niczay also said Karpinsky's claim that the cuts equaled \$4,000 to \$5,000 per teacher is inaccurate.

He said the wage freeze would have averaged to about \$3,100 per teacher. Niczay also stressed that the wage freeze was just for this school year. Specifically, the deal called for teachers to give up

their "step" raises this year and roll back to last year's salaries.

Niczay said the most recent proposal he has made to Karpinsky was indeed for teachers to kick in 20 percent of their health insurance cost.

Karpinsky also said in his memo that contract concessions would not guarantee job security. Niczay said that's true, he can't guarantee anyone's job.

"I'm not going to get boxed into a corner on that, not with the way the economy is," Niczay said.

And lastly, Karpinsky told teachers that the district had "forgotten about the \$531,000 we saved by changing our health care."

Niczay said he hasn't "forgotten" about those savings, but added that the district's costs continue to exceed revenue coming in from state aid. He said the district's deficit also keeps growing because of students leaving the district and health insurance costs going up each year.

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Obituaries

WOZNIAK

Ann Wozniak, 89, died January 18, 2011.

Mrs. Wozniak was a Hamtramck resident and a retired waitress. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ted.

Mrs. Wozniak is survived by her daughters, Elaine A.

(Richard) Gorecki, Patricia (Michael) Dekun and Diane (Jim) Heugh; grandchildren, Michael (Shannon) DeKun, Mark (Stephnie) Gorecki, Anthony DeKun, Brooke (Mike) Malik and Megan Garwood; stepdaughter, Paula (Ken) Manasterski;

great-grandchildren, Michael Jr., Daniel, Jake, Cameron and Zack.

Funeral arrangements were made by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home. Funeral services were held on January 22 at St. Florian Church. Burial was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

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Coming Events

FEBRUARY 15, Tuesday, 7 p.m. – Preserve Our Parks meets every third Tuesday of the month, at the Senior Plaza at 2620 Holbrook. For more information, call Dick Kaleski at (313) 874-2651.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF HAMTRAMCK

Notice is hereby given that the Community & Economic Development Department of the City of Hamtramck will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the 2nd Floor City Council Chambers, City Hall, 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, MI

Pursuant to federal guidelines, the City of Hamtramck is announcing its intent to create a new program activity for 2009 funds, Code Enforcement, and transferring Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding allocated in 2009 for the purpose of Code Enforcement throughout the city.

PROPOSED FUNDS TRANSFER FROM:

Repayment of EPA Loan	\$ 5,284.80
Blight Elimination/Housing Demolition	\$39,700.00
Veterans Park – Community Playground	\$10,000.00

PROPOSED PROGRAM ACTIVITY:

Code Enforcement	\$54,984.80
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The public is invited to attend and comment on the proposal during the public hearing or to make written comments on or before February 8, 2011. Written comments should be made to the attention of the Community & Economic Development Director, 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, MI 48212.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS ARCHITECT SERVICES

Date: January 28, 2011

PURPOSE

The Hamtramck Downtown Development Authority is seeking the basic services of qualified, licensed Architect firms or individuals to provide professional services that include design services for the restoration and renovation of facades and storefronts eligible for the Hamtramck Downtown Development Authority Façade Grant Program.

The professional services may include, but not be limited to, the development of preliminary design and concepts and architectural drawings for the restoration and renovation of facades and storefronts in the Hamtramck Downtown district.

ITEMS TO INCLUDE WITH PROPOSAL

Interested firms must submit a letter of interest and a proposal with the following items:

- Name, office address, phone number and email address and profile of principals, staff and facilities.
- Evidence of registration or license to perform the required services in the State of Michigan.
- Certified statement that firm is not debarred, suspended or otherwise prohibited from professional practice by any Federal, State, or local agency.
- Evidence of firm experience in performing similar projects. Projects completed within the last three years are preferred. List projects by name, amount, date of completion, time frame, and description of work and methods. In particular include projects involving historic restoration. Please provide a color photograph of the projects before construction began and after the job was completed.
- Availability of firm in terms of a starting date.
- References from similar projects, which have been completed.

RESPONSE DUE DATE AND HOUR:

Interested firms/individuals shall respond to the RFQ BY 4:00 P.M. EST ON Monday, February 14, 2011.

Hard Copy Submittals shall be submitted with 6 copies and placed in a sealed envelope clearly labeled as shown below and be delivered to:

HAMTRAMCK DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
ATTN: MR. DARREN GROW
FAÇADE CONTRACTING SERVICES RFQ:
3401 EVALINE, 3RD FLOOR, HAMTRAMCK, MI 48212

Digital Submittals shall be emailed in Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat PDF format to:
HAMTRAMCKDDA@GMAIL.COM DGROW@HAMTRAMCKCITY.COM
AND **JFRIEDMANN@HAMTRAMCKCITY.COM**

For information relative to the RFQ, or to schedule visits to the proposed sites of the work, interested parties may contact Darren Grow, by e-mail at hamtramckdda@gmail.com. Please indicate "Façade Grant Site Visit" in the subject line. All site visits must take place between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Sometimes a walk through town leads to self-discovery

By Steve Pantan
Special to The Review

There is a misconception that people don't walk in Detroit.

What creates the paths that run across almost every empty lot in the city if not human feet? The reality is that you can go all over the city and see people walking in more density than almost any other area in metro Detroit. It's a city with low car ownership and poor public transport; what else can you do?

The most "walkable" areas in Detroit are often taken to be those lying in a ring around the center of the city: the historic districts of Woodbridge, Corktown, the Eastern Market, Southwest Detroit, Midtown, the Cass Corridor, the Riverfront, Lafayette Park, and the enclave city of Hamtramck. Since these areas are virtually contiguous they allow for walks that can easily fill up a day.

My favorite walk is one that with various permutations I have been expanding and evolving for over 10 years. In its current form, it starts in Hamtramck and heads south to Milwaukee Junction behind Russell Industrial Center, then heads southwest alongside the train tracks before heading south on either Third, or Rosa Parks Boulevard. Eventually it works its way through Woodbridge and Corktown down to the river. Sometimes I take Bagley to Southwest Detroit, if I need to go there, a much pleasanter route since the construction of the new footbridge over I-75.

Eventually I either cut through downtown, or follow the river to Lafayette Park, then head up to Eastern Mar-

ket. From here I cut across to Brush Park then head north to pick up the train tracks again and head back to Hamtramck. It's basically a grand tour of those areas mentioned ringing the center city.

troit's deep emotional charge seems to produce in people.

Sometimes an unexpected remark or event has led me to study things more deeply. For example, a chance comment on an Albert Kahn bank



Hamtramck art gallery owner Steve Pantan is one very serious walker. He has walked from Hamtramck to southwest Detroit as well as to other far flung points in the metro area.

It would be pointless to try here to describe the history and range of experience that a circuit like this traverses; it could easily fill a book.

I find it's rarely hard to find a good excuse to go on a walk; there's almost always some place to visit along the way. In fact, I like the enforced change that comes to the route when it has to include, say, dropping by someone's home on the Southwest side. To me it's a given that a by-product of a planned walk will be some unexpected insight into the city, and there's a beauty in that.

Detroit's shops, restaurants and residences at first appear isolated, but in reality they are easily joined by walking. It's not too much of a stretch to see it as a scaled down version of the landmarks and watering holes of indigenous Australian songlines; and there's a parallel here too in the non-rational association to place that De-

building near the boulevard caused me to photo some 120, or so, former bank buildings around the city. It became an extended meditation on permanence, transience and the flight of capital. Or the sudden attempt to fence off a green space became a multi-year reflection on fear, control and nature. In her Metro Times review of 2739 Edwin's Walking Distance show, in which eight Detroit artists took on that concept, writer Rebecca Mazzei perceptively identified that what linked all of the art was awareness – and that, if nothing else, is a great reason to get out and walk.

This is an edited version of an article that first appeared in modelmedia.com and is reprinted with their permission. Steve Pantan owns the Hamtramck-based gallery, 2739 Edwin, and he has a new show opening in March.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS CONTRACTOR SERVICES

Date: January 28, 2011

PURPOSE

The Hamtramck Downtown Development Authority is seeking the basic services of qualified, contract firms or individual contractors to provide professional services that include construction/contracting for the restoration and renovation of facades and storefronts eligible for the Hamtramck Downtown Development Authority Façade Grant Program.

The professional services may include, but not be limited to, construction and contracting work for the restoration and renovation of facades and storefronts in the Hamtramck Downtown district. Funding for many of the projects will be provided by the federal Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant. Consequently all service providers must have experience with historic renovations and must be familiar with and prepared to work within the guidelines of the Davis Bacon oversight provisions, including but not limited to, prevailing wage.

ITEMS TO INCLUDE WITH PROPOSAL

Interested firms must submit a letter of interest and a proposal with the following items:

- Name, office address, phone number and email address and profile of principals, staff and facilities.
- Evidence of registration or license to perform the required services in the State of Michigan.
- Certified statement that firm is not debarred, suspended or otherwise prohibited from professional practice by any Federal, State, or local agency.
- Evidence of firm experience in performing similar projects. Projects completed within the last three years are preferred. List projects by name, amount, date of completion, time frame, and description of work and methods. In particular include projects involving historic restoration, federal funding and Davis Bacon/prevaling wage requirements. Please provide a color photograph of the projects before construction began and after the job was completed.
- Availability of firm in terms of a starting date.
- References from similar projects, which have been completed.

RESPONSE DUE DATE AND HOUR:

Interested firms/individuals shall respond to the RFQ BY 4:00 P.M. EST ON Monday, February 14, 2011.

Hard Copy Submittals shall be submitted with 6 copies and placed in a sealed envelope clearly labeled as shown below and be delivered to:

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Review: Opinion Page

Without any other option to consider, outsourcing is worth a look

At Tuesday's City Council meeting, the council directed the city manager to look into the feasibility of outsourcing all city services.

On the surface, that sounds like a radical move. But maybe it is a wise thing to look into. Perhaps we do need to take this exercise just to settle the matter.

Of course, the look into outsourcing can also be considered a tactic by the city to get city employees to agree to contract concessions. The truth, though, as Councilmember Catrina Stackpole pointed out, is there are no more options left for the city.

Hamtramck is going to be

unable to pay its employees or its bills by March. It's going to be broke.

City employees have refused to make major concessions. A majority of councilmembers have blocked applying for a state loan and refused to raise property taxes to the legal limit.

Something has to give.

Do we like the idea of outsourcing our police and fire services? Hell no. But none of the unions are willing to give up anything. Folks, sooner or later the city will run out of money. Sooner or later the state will appoint an emergency financial manager who will then have

no other option than to recommend the city file for bankruptcy.

When that happens, Hamtramck will have to be reinvented. Hopefully, the option of simply merging the city with Detroit will never happen.

But with a new governor who has been calling for mergers, there is no guarantee what Hamtramck's future will be.

There is now word in some pockets of the community that an emergency financial manager should be brought in. We have only one thing to say about that: be careful for what you wish for.

The new year already promises to be a page-turner

Continued from front page

Lad's Parish. Hmmmm, with the Detroit Archdioceses planning to close down more parishes, will St. Lad's be on the chopping block?

And if St. Lad's were to be sold, would a mosque take it over?

Anyway, back to the school district. The closing of Dickinson West will save the district over \$300,000 a year in rent by transferring those students into existing school buildings. The other schools will be able to handle the influx of students because of the district's ongoing loss of students. This year, the student population count went down by over 100 students.

That meant a loss of \$1 million in state aid revenue. If the district continues to lose kids to other schools, drastic cuts will be needed.

Development-wise there are some bright spots as well as troubling signs. Kowalski Sausage Co. recently made news that it might move out of the city to a vacant former Sam's Club in Madison Heights.

Local officials are working with the county and state to offer an incentive deal to have the company build a

new plant here in town.

Which way will the company go? Local officials say that from what they have heard, there is reason to be optimistic that Kowalski will keep its roots here.

A bigger question on the minds of many, although it may seem trivial, is whether the iconic Kowalski neon sign will continue to shine if a new plant is built.

Also on the building horizon is the rehab of existing housing structures and the construction of new houses this year. The development is part of an ongoing settlement agreement over an ages-old housing discrimination lawsuit.

While the roots of the housing development is a stain on past behavior of city officials, the new housing is certainly a welcomed thing. But it's Hamtramck's hard luck that the new housing is occurring during one of the worst housing market crashes ever.

Good luck trying to sell those houses.

We've got a remedy for that buzz kill.

Marijuana. As in medical marijuana.

Talk of whether medical

marijuana growers can light up their operations will continue to dominate the City Council. The council has been unable to budge from an initial zoning proposal on where to allow growers to set up shop.

Some councilmembers are opposed to allowing growing facilities to operate along Jos. Campau - the city's main business district - while others say why not? Considering the number of empty storefronts on Campau, you'd think any development would be welcome.

Heck, some say, let's make Hamtramck "Little Amsterdam" or perhaps "Hamsterdam?"

One thing's for sure, the city won't allow major growing facilities to open in residential areas where odors from the plants could overwhelm neighbors. Yeah, nothing like going to work reeking of pot.

Unless "perfume de pot" has become the new patchouli.

No matter what the city eventually decides, the issue is really in the hands of state lawmakers who are just as baffled on what to do with the

Continued on page 7

Letters • Letters

'No spin' column puts things into perspective

Regarding the column by Publisher John Ulaj ("No Spin Zone Article") in last week's issue, I commend you on three levels.

First of all, for filtering out all the noise and laying out the situation clearly and offering a common sense solution. Secondly, for standing up and presenting

it publicly. Lastly, for abandoning your usual rhetoric and getting in touch with the conservative values that we all share but don't always recognize.

I often cringe at your statements about how Hamtramck is a Democratic town. Is it not funny how one can vote Demo-

cratic and yet expose conservative values. Perhaps without the usual "SPIN" we could all be clearer about what is really important in life.

Thank you for leading the charge

Edward A. Etchen
Hamtramck

Baseball legend deserves local recognition

I think it would be a really nice tribute to Hamtramck's own Art "Pinky" Deras, the greatest Little League baseball player there ever was, to have a street or part of a street sub-named Art Pinky Deras Way.

Artie and his teammates brought lots of joy to lots of Hamtramck folks in 1959 and 1961. The fact that Little League International considers Pinky to be the best of some 30,000,000

kids that have played is remarkable and sub-naming a

street after him would be a fitting tribute.

We wouldn't have to change the official street name, rather just place a sign under the existing sign for that stretch of street. This is done in many cities across the country. It would come as no cost to the city, as the funds to purchase the signage would be raised privately.

Brian G. Kruger
President and CEO
Stunt3 Multimedia



Art "Pinky" Deras

The Amazing CYNICALMAN™ by Matt Fezell

© 2011, Matt Fezell. Writer: Jim Mackey

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City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 2

city to respond to emergency situations that prove to be the fault of an individual, the council voted unanimously to adopt the law.

However, a public hearing on the law will first be held, on Feb. 8, before the final adoption takes place.

It was also brought up in the discussion that there are seven to eight runs per week by the Fire department to the Senior Plaza apartments because of false fire alarms.

City Attorney James Allen assured the council there will not be charges for every response.

The director of Community Development, Jason Friedmann, got what few people are experiencing lately: a pay raise. Friedmann got his 5 percent pay cut reinstated and a 5 percent pay raise on top of that. (His new salary is now \$77,100.)

It was stressed by several councilmembers that the pay increase comes from existing grants that Friedmann is managing, and not the city's general fund.

There was resistance, though, to the pay raise. Councilmember Cathie Gordon started out saying she "hates to be the bad guy," and pointed out that even though the raise is covered by grants, this is not the time to give raises when city employees are being asked to accept cuts.

She stressed that this was about "perception." She also pleaded for Friedmann to wait out the city's financial crisis.

"Please don't ask us for money," Gordon said. "Just hang in there."

Mayoral Pro Tem Stackpoole said now is not the time to lose Friedmann to another city. She said he is managing \$20 million worth of grants and projects, and it would be hard to find a replacement.

Mayor Karen Majewski pointed out that the grants Friedmann is overseeing have a built-in amount of money set aside to be paid to the administrator of the grant.

In the vote to OK the raise, only Councilmembers Gordon and Hassan voted against it.

The council also OK'd expanding the number of members who sit on the Recycling Commission from five to six, which allowed the appointment of Jason Eddleston to the commission.

Eddleston's family owns the Sterling Oil company in Hamtramck.

A lengthy discussion was held on whether to direct the city manager to look into the cost-savings of outsourcing police, fire and all other city services with Wayne County, Highland Park or Detroit.

You can read a more detailed account in a story on

the front page. Long story made short, all but Councilmember Hassan voted for it. Hassan did not say why he was opposed.

The public once again had another chance to address the council. Carol Marsh urged the council to apply for a state loan. She said city officials won't find money growing on a tree, nor will the tooth fairy drop some off and neither will Publisher's Clearing House come knocking on City Hall's front doors.

She said without the loan, police officers and firefighters won't show up for work.

She also volunteered to do some filing for the city, or anything, just to help out.

To Councilmember Hassan, she said that in light of a comment he made to a police officer that officers should just let the patrons at Shadow Bar to "die" instead of trying to break up fights, she said, "Please, think before you speak. We have to attract people."

And speaking of Hassan, several residents praised him for the good work he does in his neighborhood.

Well, that's it for this week. Since everyone is talking about how broke they are, or how they are about to become broke, it's only appropriate to crank up our office Victrola and slap down a copy of Ray Charles' version of "Busted."

Feel free to sing along.

My bills are all due and the baby needs shoes and I'm busted

Cotton is down to a quarter a pound, but I'm busted I got a cow that went dry and a hen that won't lay

A big stack of bills that gets bigger each day

The county's gonna haul my belongings away cause I'm busted.

I went to my brother to ask for a loan cause I was busted

I hate to beg like a dog without his bone, but I'm busted

My brother said there ain't a thing I can do,

My wife and my kids are all down with the flu,

And I was just thinking about calling on you 'cause I'm busted.

Well, I am no thief, but a man can go wrong when he's busted

The food that we canned last summer is gone and I'm busted

The fields are all bare and the cotton won't grow, Me and my family got to pack up and go,

But I'll make a living, just where I don't know cause I'm busted.

I'm broke, no bread, I mean like nothing,

The new year already promises to be a page-turner

Continued from page 6

voter-approved law.

Some say the whole thing could end up in the courts, while others say even if state law permits the plant's use for medical conditions, federal law still outlaws the weed.

It underscores a long-simmering debate over states' rights versus the role of the federal government. Will marijuana be the next catalyst for a national Civil War?

Will everyone be too stoned to fight it?

Talking about having a party, what will become of the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival? For the past two years the festival has experienced a resurgence. Last year was, hands-down, a smashing success, bringing in a profit of \$30,000.

But ... will the two lead or-

ganizers of the festival, Kathleen Bittner and Rachel Srodek-Karpinski, come back again? Word is a cer-

tain councilperson made quiet a scene a few weeks ago at a local bar, demand-

ing that Bittner hand over financial information. That turned out to be a real turn-off for Bittner. Well, maybe time will be a healer.

Framed

From our photo files... What happens if the ambulance you are riding in all of a sudden needs an ambulance? At the very least, you've got a story to tell your friends.



Real Estate Corner



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3454 Caniff - Hamtramck - 6 bedroom, 2-family home in need of repair. Full basement, garage, \$24,900 - NEW PRICE!

13404 Yvonne - Warren - 3 Bedroom, 1-½ Bath, Full Brick Ranch. Finished Basement, 2 Car Attached Garage \$79,900 - PRICE REDUCED!

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Shelby Township:

46634 Schimmel - \$139,900

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Street Life

There is walking and then there is *walking*

(Editor-at-Large Walter Wasacz writes a weekly column on life in Hamtramck.)

By Walter Wasacz

In another part of today's Review is an extraordinary story on walking for distance and pleasure. The author, Steve Panton, is a Hamtramck resident and operates the 2739 Edwin art space.

Sometime last year, I mentioned to Steve that I had developed a modest set of what I call "the Hamtramck rules" for walking to destinations within the city. If I need something from Polish Market, Bozek's or Al-Haramain, I walk there. When I fill a prescription for my mom, I walk to Hamtramck Drugs at Jos. Campau and Trowbridge, then often pop over to Detroit Threads on the next block and see my old friend Mikel Smith.

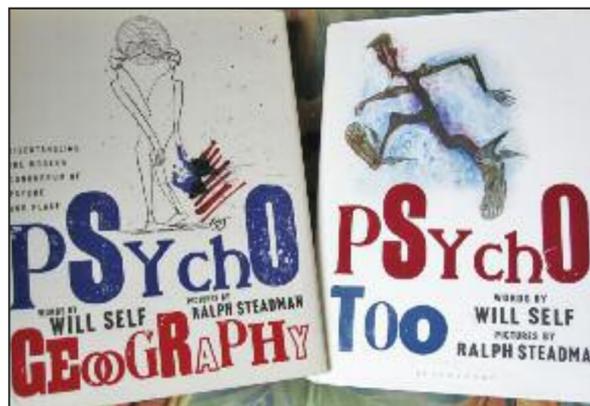
I will walk up Conant close to a mile to dine at Aladdin

or around the block to Skipper's Bar at Conant and Evaline – where I walked last night to meet with nov-

walked from Hamtramck to Southwest Detroit for dinner at one of his favorite Mexican restaurants. Well, wow.

would tell about walking from Hamtramck to Belle Isle in his youth for picnics and other events. He walked south on Conant until it merged into Mt. Elliott, then veered left on E. Grand Blvd and followed it all the way down to the island. Kozaren never drove and could be seen walking daily around the city.)

The closest thing to Panton's passion for walking that I'm familiar with is British author Will Self's seemingly impossible walk from England to New York, and in his marathon hikes around Great Britain. He writes about these in his books *Psycho Geography* and *Psycho Too* (illustrated



British author Will Self chronicled his walk from London to New York in his book, "Psycho Geography." Local gallery owner Steve Panton also has tales to tell about his walks in the metro area.

elist Michael Zadoorian about research he's doing for a new book.

But Panton takes it to an entirely different level. He really grabbed my attention when he said he often

He also frequently bikes from here to Belle Isle, where he laps the island before heading back home.

(Incidentally, that image reminds me of stories former Mayor Robert Kozaren

by Ralph Steadman, who some might recall supplied graphics for many Hunter S. Thompson books and articles).

The first walk was aided by plane travel across the Atlantic, bookended by a walk from central London to Heathrow Airport and another from JFK to Manhattan. Those are long stretches of ground to cover over often inhospitable terrain for walkers (mostly rail lines and expressways).

Self's template for urban exploration comes from the Situationists, a Paris-based critical theory and revolutionary art movement of the 1950s and 1960s that came up with a practice of



wandering streets and alleys looking for memories and other invisible artifacts.

Try it some time. It's fun. There is some incredible history around here to snatch up, even unconsciously, as you move through this old city's streets.

The point is, however you do it, walking can inspire. And Hamtramck is the perfect place to put this inspiration into practice. Read Panton's piece and marvel at its simple beauty. I do, over and over again.



TOAST of the TOWN

When it comes to good food and great times, Hamtramck has plenty to offer. In this column, we'll talk about what's happening at our bars, restaurants and other events that can be found throughout the city.

By Ian Perrotta

There are plenty of places to get a good drink in Hamtramck, and if you're anything like this Toaster, you've definitely been to Celina's Sports Bar.

Located at Jos. Campau and Pulaski, Celina's turned into a sports bar after the building's former business, The Attic, closed its doors in 2007. Though it had somewhat of a reputation for being a rough place when it initially opened, the bar has since transferred ownership, and, in the process, transformed it-

self completely.

These days the bar is owned by John Juncaj, a former Hamtramck resident of Albanian descent who lived just down the street on Whalen for 25 years before

– all attractive, college-aged females – then actively working to bring in new customers, the business has grown noticeably. Each night of the week has a different theme, and each brings in its



Celina's Sports Bar owner John Juncaj, far right, shakes hands with the winner of a Red Wings ticket raffle that raised money for Hamtramck's Friendship House. Juncaj has challenged other area businesses to raise money for the city's non-profits.

Edna Kay Hart, age 66, a resident of Lenox Township, Michigan died on January 26, 2011 in her home. She was born on February 27, 1944 in Detroit, MI to the late Edward and Luella (nee Varty) Kraner. On November 5, 1983 in East Detroit, MI she was united in marriage to Gerald B. Hart. Together they celebrated their 27th wedding anniversary.

After raising her family, Mrs. Hart worked as a branch manger at Detroit Bank and Trust from 1974 - 1982. In 1985 she became a real estate agent, still active in the industry today. She served on the board of MCAR (Metropolitan Consolidated Association of Realtors) and attended Renaissance Unity Church in Warren, MI. Early ambitions guided her to pursue several degrees in music from Wayne State University, with the hopes of teaching one day. Although never becoming a music instructor, she enjoyed playing her own piano and organ for friends and family. Edna could often be found watching birds, gardening, and dining out with friends. She also taught swimming lessons to seniors at Mount Clemens High School.

She is survived by her husband Gerald, daughter Wendy (Ron Cetrone) Couture of St. Clair Shores, MI, son John Couture of Pontiac, MI, two sisters; Joyce Fullford of Gladwin, MI, Janit (Emery) Sanstrum of South Carolina, and six grandchildren; Mason, Dana, Chelsea, Justin, Zac, and Troy. She was predeceased by her two sisters Betty (Ben) St. Martin and Sharon Kraner.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, January 29, 2011 at 5:00p.m. in the Harold W. Vick Funeral Home, 140 South Main Street, Mt. Clemens. Visitation will be held in the funeral home on Friday, January 28, 2011 from 2:00p.m. until 8:00p.m. and on Saturday from 12 Noon until 8:00p.m. Burial will be in Highland Cemetery, Gladwin, MI on Monday, January 31, 2011 at 11:00a.m. Memorial donations in memory of Edna may be sent to the "wishes of the family." Share memories with the family at www.vickfuneralhome.com.



Daddy Daughter Date Night

"Princess Party"

At the Hamtramck High School Community Center

Saturday February 5, 2011

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

- Refreshments
- Crafts
- Souvenir Picture
- Goody Bags
- Music and Dancing



Please purchase your tickets at the Hamtramck High School Community Center Located at 11350 Charest



\$2.00 per couple resident

\$4.00 per couple non-resident

\$1.00 per extra young lady

Tickets are limited so get yours now!

Girls 12 and under with male adult.

Dress to Impress!

Other male relatives may substitute if a father cannot attend, must be over 18.

Hamtramck Recreation Department, Your Millage Dollars at Work!

moving with his family to Sterling Heights. A card-carrying union plumber (Local 98) with six licenses and 15 years of experience, Juncaj got into the bar business after the economy tanked and the industrial and commercial jobs that employed him ceased needing his skills.

As the work dried up, Juncaj's thirst for financial independence only got greater. He had a feeling that he could run a successful bar, and after looking at potential sites all over the metro Detroit area, in May of 2010 he took over Celina's. He says it was a natural choice because he knew plenty of people in Hamtramck and he liked the location. However, before he assumed ownership he staked the place out for six months to get a feel for things, and when he knew who the regulars were and who the troublemakers were, he welcomed the former and kicked out the latter.

So far, Celina's has done better than Juncaj expected. He added a state-of-the-art camera system to keep a watchful eye throughout the business, and, after hiring a staff of seven new bartenders

own set of customers.

Mondays are for beer pong, Tuesday is Lingerie Night (Juncaj is quick to point out that this type of event is common and that his bartenders reveal nothing more than a sensible swimsuit would), and Wednesday nights are college nights, which means drink specials for anyone with a college ID. Thursday is Ladies Night, with drink specials for females, and on Friday and Saturday Celina's reverts to a dance club/sports bar, complete with its own deejay. Finishing out the week is Recovery Sunday.

"There's something for every night of the week," says Juncaj. "We have fun around here."

In addition to giving patrons the opportunity to enjoy themselves, Juncaj has also taken it upon himself to help out the city. Recently, he partnered with the local non-profit Friendship House and sponsored a Red Wings ticket raffle to raise money for the organization. Though it fell a little short of reaching the goal of raising \$300, Juncaj stepped in and covered the difference out of his own

Continued on page 10

Rental Properties and Real Estate

APARTMENTS & FLATS FOR RENT

Beautiful spacious, updated 2 Br. upper flat \$575/month + 1 month security deposit, laundry access, fridge-stove, separate utilities, 313-850-5379. 1/28

Hamtramck, upper + lower, stove-fridge and water included, ask for John, 586-943-8814. 2/4

22065 Hayes, East Pointe, 1 Br., large living room, dining room, ceramic tiled bathroom + kitchen, back patio, newly painted, clean, nice neighborhood, \$500 / month, includes water and heat, 586-806-4888. 2/18

2 Br. upper, kitchen, living room, clean, fridge and stove, pets welcome, 313-378-6229. 2/18

2 Br. upper on Caniff, \$450/month, includes water and basic cable, no pets, 586-531-9722, 313-418-8791. 2/18

1 Br. upper, studio-style, large front room, dining room, kitchen, ideal for couple or single person, \$430/month, 586-530-6872. 2/4

11413 Jos. Campau. Living room, sleeping room, kitchen, bathroom, no animals (pets), ideal for student or single person, downtown Hamtramck, great for artist, free heat and water, 313-402-4488. 1/28

2 Br., appliances, freshly painted, new carpet, 313-220-8961. 2/11

Nice flat, 3 Br. lower, pets OK, close to school and library, ready to move in, \$600/ month + \$600 sec deposit, 313-875-2459, 248-854-0091. 1/28

APARTMENTS & FLATS FOR RENT

Upper 2 Br. w/appliances, nice area, \$350/month + deposit, 313-882-2188. 2/11

Upper 2-1/2 Br., new carpet, remodeled, \$450/month + security, 586-747-3400. 1/28

Casmere St., 2 Br., living, dining, gas and electricity separate, washer - dryer, 586-873-8510. 1/28

Hamtramck, 1 + 2 Br. apartments, from \$375 and up, no pets, 248-321-8661. 1/28

Hamtramck studio apartments, good location, immediate occupancy, 248-229-4295, 248-229-4297. 1/28

Upper, 2 Br., remodeled, kitchen, new windows, stove-fridge, \$550/month, includes water, 313-530-1695. 1/28

3259 Lehman, 2 Br. upper, no pets, stove-fridge, washer-dryer, Section 8 OK, \$380/ month, 586-354-5343. 1/28

Danforth St., 2 Br. flat, \$450/month + security deposit, nice and clean, Section 8 OK, 313-712-6021. 1/28

3 Br., on Caniff near Jos. Campau, all utilities included, \$800/month. Single rooms also available in same building, \$350/month, 313-332-4954. 1/28

Beautiful 3 Br. lower, hardwood floors, washer-dryer in basement, \$550/month, 586-484-7466. 1/28

1 Br. upper, stove - refrigerator, water + heat included, \$400/month + \$400 security, 586-939-7118. 1/28

APARTMENTS & FLATS FOR RENT

Hamtramck, 2242 Hewitt, lower unit, 2 bedroom, \$650/month + deposit, all utilities included, 586-588-1227. 1/28

Beautifully remodeled 3 Br. upper, \$550/month + 1 Br. , \$395/month, utilities not included, Section 8 OK, credit check, 313-590-1000. 2/11

Detroit-Hamtramck area, 2 Br. lower, garage, appliances, air, large fenced yard, utilities included, Section 8 OK, \$650/month, 248-894-0131. 1/28

Hamtramck, 2 Br., 5-room flat, lower, seniors or working couple preferred, no pets, \$500/month + deposit, 586-294-7111. 2/4

Hamtramck, Belmont St., 1 Br. upper, 1 living room, kitchen, bath, very nice, call after 11 a.m., 313-368-9326. 2/4

Hamtramck, 2 Br. upper, very clean, \$475/month + security + references, 248-214-9573. 2/4

2300 Whalen St., 2 Br. upper, living room, dining, kitchen, next to Middle School, clean, Section 8 welcome, 586-806-5312, 586-354-6270. 2/4

ROOM FOR RENT

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Hamtramck 12020 St. Aubin, 4 Br., single-family house, full basement, huge attic, \$655/month, water included, 313-516-1053. 1/28

Detroit, 12601 Gallagher, 3 Br., no pets, Section 8 OK, 313-892-8963, 313-703-8928. 2/4

Hamtramck, 2 Br. or 3 br., 11325 Lumpkin, 3870 Sobieski, appliances, 313-575-3698. 2/4

3 + 5 Br. single family house with option to buy, no pets, 313-369-1654. 1/28

HOUSE FOR RENT

Hamtramck, single-family, 2 Br., garage, full basement, very clean, security + references, \$550/month, 248-214-9573. 2/4

HOUSE FOR SALE

12611 Gallagher, 2 Br., living room, dining, kitchen, full basement, for more info call Shek 586-806-4488. 1/21

McNichols and Conant area, 2 Br., 1 bath, central air, high efficiency furnace, new windows, new kitchen, \$25,000 or best, 313-595-0268. 2/4

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Funk star's visit kicks off campaign for artists' rights

By Ian Perrotta

On a recent Saturday night, Kelly's Bar was taken over by George – George Clinton, that is.

Well, he didn't really take it over, but even without his trade-

mark dreadlocks his presence was obvious among the usual suspects that make up the Saturday night blues crowd.

Clinton was at the bar attending the monthly meeting of the

Detroit Blues Society, which was holding its awards ceremony for lifetime achievement in the industry. He was there to bring awareness to the important issue of recording artists' royalty rights.

Over the last several decades, Clinton – who rose to fame with the Parliament-Funkadelic music collective in the 70s – has recorded countless songs and albums through a number of projects with various other artists. However, because the recording companies have retained the copyrights to the music, Clinton is now broke and faces homelessness.

It's an issue that faces thousands of musical artists and their families, and one that is especially inherent in Detroit, where many recording artists were signed to unfair contracts that excluded them from money that was rightfully theirs.

In his pursuit to recapture his copyrights, Clinton has retained legal counsel and brought forth civil claims. But during the course of arbitration his attorney met with record company producers – without notifying Clinton – and after advising him not to attend that meeting, subsequently removed himself from the case two days before court.

Additionally, the attorney has placed liens on Clinton's accounts, properties and all future settlements. Now being sued for his own music, he has turned into an advocate for music rights. He is currently working in conjunction with Congressman John Conyers and local resident Beverly Tran to bring the issue to the forefront of the national agenda, particularly through House Resolution 848, which is designed to provide parity in radio performance rights.

Though Clinton did not speak at Saturday's meeting, he did perform an impromptu song. Being a spokesman is still something he's getting used to, and his presence signaled the beginning of a new era of recording in which artists are not only appreciated for the work they do, but adequately compensated as well.

And while copyright issues will become more important in the coming future, Tran says that the past matters just as much.

"The immediacy of the matter demands attention as individuals are rewriting the history of the world through the methodical annihilation of national treasures which have left legendary black musical artists and their families destitute by claiming royalties without authorization or notification," says Tran. "The removal of original names of legendary Detroit musical artists and their heirs from the record through the presentation of false documents is corrupting the recorded history of the civil rights movement.



Renowned recording artist George Clinton (third from the left) poses for a picture with Kelly's Bar owner Brad Ruff (far left), Hamtramck resident and community advocate Beverly Tran (second from left) and his manager.

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Models in photos are for illustrative purposes only.

Toast of the Town

Continued from page 8

pocket. His generosity has also been apparent in the past, as when he and the former owner of Celina's donated over \$600 to the cause at The Review's Labor Day Festival Fundraiser.

"You have to give back," he says when asked why he decided to use his business to help others. "We're all in this together – if something's not right in one place, it affects another."

Juncaj's hope is that other bars and businesses in the area will join him in raising money for the city's non-profits. In fact, through this article, he wants to formally issue a challenge for them to do so. The rules are simple: from now until the day after Paczki Day – which is March 8 this year – raise as much money as possible to donate to local organizations. The cash can be distributed however the fundraisers see fit, and progress will be tracked each week with a graph in The Review. At the end of the competition, the winning business will receive a trophy that can be displayed until next year, when the contest starts again.

It's a great idea, and something that could do a lot of good for the community at large. When it comes down to it, creating a sense of community is what Juncaj's version of Celina's is all about. It's something that is apparent in the way that his customers interact with each other, as well as in the way that his bartenders seem to know everybody by name. It's

the type of place that you come as a stranger and leave as a regular, which fits right in with the way Juncaj runs the business.

"I just want everyone to be safe and have a good time," he says. "Celina's is a friendly place, and everyone is welcome."

Celina's Sports Bar is located at 11667 Jos. Campau and is open from noon to close seven nights a week. On Super Bowl Sunday the bar will have two bartenders, a shot girl and will serve complimentary chicken and ribs all

day long. It will also raffle off a 32-inch plasma screen TV, and a crew of Miller Lite girls will arrive during halftime at 9 p.m.

Do you know of a cool bar, a great restaurant or just a nice place to hang out? If you have tips on special events or just want to shine some light on your favorite spot send a message to news@thehamtramckreview.com or call us at (313) 874-2100.

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Gardener's Corner ...

By Kathleen Wojcinski
You know those inevitable orange bags delivered to your doorstep? Now you have new phone books, but what to do with the last five years of old phone books stacked in a forgotten corner? Recycle! Check with your local community to find out when they have recycling bins available, if you don't have pick-ups. (Hamtramck's recycling day is the second Saturday of the month. You can drop off items at dumpsters located at the city parking lot on Caniff at McDougall.) Put them in an unused spot in your yard where the snow and rain and worms will do their best to compost them by spring. Take the covers off first. I read once about a person who drilled dowels of wood or a metal pipe through hundreds of phone books and stacked them into furniture. Wow!

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