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Volume 2 No. 40
October 1, 2010

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— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

HHS soccer team on the road to regain its title

By Ian Perrotta

The Hamtramck High Boys Soccer Team is back, and they're looking to score.

After a heartbreaking defeat last year in the District Finals, the team has come out strong in the first half of the season. The Cosmos are already off to an impressive 5-0 record and have yet to be seriously contested. Of the games they have played so far, they have outscored their opponents by a wide margin in each.

On Monday (Sept. 27) the team played a home game against Star International Academy, winning it by a score of 8-0. Amazingly, all eight of the team's points came in the first half, during which the Hamtramck offense overwhelmed the Star's defense and scored at ease. Even after rotating out his starting line, Head Coach Dennis Celic was forced to graciously hold back his team from continuing to dominate the game.

But the damage had already been done. Demoralized by the skillful, fluid play

of the Cosmos, the Star team forfeited the rest of the game. Unfortunately, this denied Celic the opportunity to give his younger players more game-time experience, but it did serve as a lesson on how a lack of fundamentals can quickly lead to chaos on the field. Most importantly, it moved the team one step closer in giving them another shot at the District Finals.

"They're playing very good this year," says Celic. "I think they'll do well."



Quick Hits

As the saying goes, "Be true to your school."

For students and grads of Hamtramck High School that slogan rings so true. The school has a long history of graduating excellent scholars, business folks and athletes. Today (Oct. 1) that old high school spirit will be in the air.

The annual Homecoming Parade will motor down Jos. Campau at 5:45 p.m. to Keyworth Stadiums where the Cosmos football team will capture that elusive first win of the season. Go Cosmos!

This week in history

The Col. Hamtramck Homes can celebrate a 60th anniversary of sorts. Back in 1940, plans were drafted for the construction of the public housing project.

False report! In 1968, the talk of town was the imminent closing of the city's top job provider, the Dodge Main plant. Well, let's put it another way: that "rumor" was sort of true. It was just 12 years premature because in 1980 Chrysler abruptly announced it was closing the plant.

Well-loved and longtime Library Director Bea Adamski died on this day (Oct. 1) in 1977. Bea, we are forever indebted to your selfless stewardship of our library.

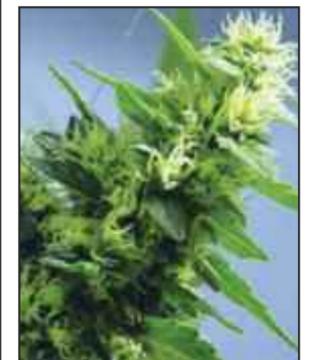
Source: Hamtramck Historical Commission

It's no easy roll for pot law

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck's coming to grips with regulating the medical marijuana trade is turning into a long, strange trip.

City Councilmembers have spent hours upon hours trying to come up with an ordinance regulating where commercial growers of the plant can lo-



cate their business. A vote on a proposed zoning law has been stalled for the past several weeks.

In the meantime, there is nothing stopping anyone from opening a marijuana dispensary anywhere in town.

There are several dispensaries already operating in the tri-county area.

If Hamtramck officials seem like they are operating in a haze, they are not alone. Many communities are trying to figure out this new state law. Complicating matters are the recent raids conducted by Oakland County Sheriffs on several businesses. Oakland County authorities say pot was being sold to people without a legitimate medical claim.

And then there are some officials who are dead set against the law. Hamtramck Police Chief Mark Kalinowski is against the law, but he concedes it's his job to enforce laws even if he is not in favor of them.

Councilmember Mohammad Hassan is against the pot law, too, but voting against regulating the pot business will not prevent

Continued on page 2

Blight busters: who you gonna call?

By Charles Sercombe

When it comes to blight, Hamtramck has no shortage.

And now, thanks to a yearly federal grant, the city will have some extra change to fight overgrown lots, trash and abandoned and burned houses.

City Council decided to rework the proposed Community Development Block Grant to budget \$50,000 toward blight and code enforcement. The grant will allow the city to hire two part-time code inspectors.

The total grant is \$349,000, some of which

goes toward paying back past loans for development.

Just where and how the city will spend money on blight has not been drawn up yet. Community & Economic Development Director Jason Friedmann said he will have a plan ready by the end of October.

The original budget proposal had far less allocated for blight and instead focused more on business start-ups and expansion.

There is still money set aside for businesses, plus money for housing rehabilitation and façade improve-

Continued on page 2



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Request for Proposals Roofing Services September 30, 2010

The City of Hamtramck, in partnership with Hamtramck Artist Collective (HATCH), is seeking Requests for Proposals (RFPs) from qualified contractors to perform roofing work at 3456 Evaline, Hamtramck, MI. The project scope includes removing the existing roof system(s) down to the original roof deck; provide and install 2.5" of rigid polyiso insulation with a minimum LTTR-Value of 15 and a minimum compressive strength of 20 psi; and install a reinforced a 40 mil PVC or TPO single ply roofing system.

To download a complete Bid Package visit www.hamtramckcity.com or email Susie Stec at sstec@hamtramckcity.com. Please indicate "HATCH Bid Package" in the subject line. Interested firms/individuals shall respond by 4:00 P.M. EST on Friday, October 15, 2010. For information relative to the RFP, or to schedule visits to the proposed sites of the work, interested parties may call Scott Collins at 248-514-9630 or email scollins313@gmail.com.

It's no easy roll for pot law

Continued from front page

anyone from operating a pot clinic.

According to advocates of medical marijuana, the state law was purposely left vague and open-ended in order to prevent an excess of regulation.

In Hamtramck, the main focus has been keeping commercial operations out of residential areas. City Manager Bill Cooper said it's not uncommon to prevent commercial operations locating in neighborhoods.

In the case of marijuana, he said the prime concerns are odors from the plants and the possibility of criminal activity.

City Councilmember Cathie Gordon, a former nurse, is in

favor of the law, saying marijuana has proven medical effects. But she said the priority should be what's in the best interest of the patients.

"The patients have to come first. Secondly is the commercial side," Gordon said.

She would like to follow the model set up by Oakland, California, which allows only non-profit organizations to grow and sell marijuana.

Gordon said the continuing tweaking of Hamtramck's law is stalled because some councilmembers miss work sessions on the subject. When the proposal is brought to the table at regular council meetings, the discussion gets bogged down by those

who missed work sessions.

Besides that, there are the endless legal questions that keeping popping up.

"It's a challenge for us to interpret the state law and make sure we don't pass something in conflict with the state law," said Catrina Stackpoole.

Although, technically, there is nothing preventing anyone from opening a pot growing warehouse, the city has one card it can play to hold up an operation. Since commercial growers are basically a business, the city can hold off from issuing a permit to occupy a building.

That's what Jason Friedmann, the city's Director of Community & Economic De-

velopment, is currently doing to one would-be operator. Friedmann said the applicant wants to open a business on Jos. Campau.

Since the city is in the middle of drafting a zoning law, Friedmann said he is withholding the occupancy permit in order to avoid a possible zoning conflict.

He added that there are several other interested people waiting to open shop once Hamtramck finalizes the zoning law. If pot clinics are allowed to operate on Jos. Campau, expect to see a whole new look – and odor? – to the city's main business district.

Blight busters: who you gonna call?

Continued from front page

ment.

It is estimated that there are 400 empty houses in town, due mostly to foreclosures. While city officials go after banks that still own the houses to maintain their properties, that has produced little effect. Instead, the task of cleaning lots and boarding up houses has been left largely to the city.

With Hamtramck facing a \$3.3 million budget deficit, the city cut back on maintaining lots and houses. Now with this new budget, the city can get back into the game.

There's no shortage of things to do. More and more, you can see abandoned

houses, some boarded up, and some broken into, dotting Hamtramck's neighborhoods – especially on the southend which has long been the main eyesore.

During the housing market bubble, Hamtramck house values skyrocketed, and it was rare to see a boarded

up, unoccupied house.

Ironically, when the housing market went bust, a long-standing housing discrimination lawsuit filed against the city resulted – finally – in the building of new houses. Many of those new houses were built in the southend.

To say the least, it's a jarring sight to see brand new houses sit side-by-side with overgrown, weedy lots and ramshackle empty houses. It's hoped this new budget will begin to tackle this problem and keep the good houses from going bad.

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The auction of tax foreclosed properties will be conducted ONLINE. The auction begins on **October 22** and concludes on **October 28**. To participate, **all bidders must register no later than October 15**. For more information about how to register and participate in the October auction, please visit:

www.bid4assets.com/wayne

Potential bidders *without access to a computer* should contact Bid4Assets at 1-877-4-Assets for more information about how to register and bid. Special procedures are in place to accommodate these bidders and will require completion of an Offline Bid Form.

All bidders must register with Bid4Assets by submitting a \$1,000.00 deposit and \$25.00 processing fee, a total of \$1,025.00, in the form of a Cashier's Check or bank wire in U.S. funds, to Bid4Assets, Inc. no later than October 15, 2010.

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*The Wayne County Treasurer, as the foreclosing governmental unit, under Public Act 123 of 1999, reserves the right to remove any property from the sale and to reject any and all bids. The Term and Conditions of Sale and a list of the properties offered are available online at the Wayne County Treasurer's website: www.treasurer.waynecounty.com

This week at the library...

ESL Class for Beginners - Saturday, Oct. 2 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, Oct. 2 at noon. All children are invited to children's storytime at the library. This week we will read about the adventures of Archie and his friends from the book "Archie and the Pirates" by Marc Rosenthal.

Computer Classes for Beginners - Tuesday, Oct. 5 at 11:30 a.m. Basic instructions on computer use for beginners will be held on Tuesdays. Class is limited to first come, first serve.

Reading and Conversation for ESL Students - Tuesday, Oct. 5 at 3 p.m. Jide Aje is the instructor for the reading and conversation ESL classes.

Math Club Meeting - Tuesday, Oct. 5 at 4 p.m. Mr. Nuo is the instructor for the math club and math tutoring.

Movie Wednesday - Wednesday, Oct. 6 at 3:30 p.m. Every Wednesday is movie day at the library. Come and enjoy our feature presentation, which includes popcorn and snacks.

Computer Classes for Intermediate Users - Thursday, Oct. 7 at 11:30 a.m. Adults with basic computer skills can enhance their computer literacy each Thursday at the library. The number of participants is limited to available comput-

ers.

Jeopardy at the Library - Thursday Oct. 7 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 - Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 6 p.m. Regular meeting of the Library Board will be held in the auditorium. Open to the public.

Friends of the Library Meeting - Thursday, Oct. 21 at 6 p.m. FHPL President Kathy Kristy and Treasurer George Gorday invite all members and volunteers to participate in the regular monthly meeting and election meeting of the FHPL.

92nd Anniversary Library Dinner - Thursday, Nov. 11 at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to the Annual Library Dinner at the PNA Banquet Hall on Conant & Belmont. During the program, new members will be inducted into the Library Hall of Honor. Tickets are available at the Library. The event is organized by the Friends of Hamtramck Public Library.

Mobile Flu Shot Clinic - Registration is being held for the flu shots at the library. All registered individuals will be notified by the American HealthCare Service when to come to the library for their seasonal flu shot. (Flu vaccine approved by the C.D.C.)

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

An all too common roadblock to fighting crime

By Charles Sercombe

Remember last week that story about the day the city won back funding for its auto theft police unit while at the same time a carjacker was caught here in town?

Well, the carjacking story has taken a strange – but apparently all too common – turn.

First up, though, the city indeed will still have an auto theft investigator team in the Police Department. From year to year, Hamtramck records 300 to 400 vehicle thefts. In addition to thefts, we also have a total of about 1,000 cases involving crime to vehicles.

That's quite a caseload for the Police Department's two investigators, but they manage to do a pretty good job. So good, both investigators, Greg Collins and Glenn Kay, were named Investigators of the Year by their colleagues.

Now for the not so good part. On the day the city won back funding for the investigators, – last Tuesday – a 27-year-old Detroit man armed with a handgun stuck that gun to the head of a 19-year-old man sitting in his 1997 Chevy Malibu.

The gunman demanded the car, got in and drove off. But there were witnesses who saw what happened.

One of the witnesses tailed the car while police were being called. It took officers just a few minutes to apprehend the suspect after a brief car and foot chase.

Police have not released the identification of the suspect but said he has a history of stealing cars.

And now here's where things took a turn.

The victim of the carjacking does not want to press charges because he was satisfied enough to get his car back.

Shocked? Disappointed? Refusing to press charges after a car is returned is a common reaction among vic-

tims, said Collins. His hands are tied in seeking felony carjacking charges because the victim refuses to press charges.

Consequently, the suspect has been released from jail, but there is a chance the suspect could face felony charges of fleeing and eluding police. And since he has a criminal history, there could be a charge of being a habitual offender.

But if those charges fizzle out, the Detroit area will have one more potential carjacker on the loose looking for his next victim.

A Jos. Campau tradition gets resurrected

By Ian Perrotta

This weekend, the shops on Jos. Campau will be taking it to the street – literally. It's the 2nd Annual Sidewalk Sale.

The sale is sponsored by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), which has advertised the event in the Metro Times and Real Detroit in an attempt to attract shoppers from outside of Hamtramck. Beginning yesterday (Thursday Sept. 30), the sale runs through the weekend from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and on Sunday until about 5 p.m. for those businesses that are open.

Historically, putting on sidewalk sales used to be a function the Chamber of Commerce. Back in the heyday of the Chamber the city would host two to three sales a year, oftentimes in the spring and fall and sometimes during the summer. But with the Chamber's dissolution also came the end of the



sales.

However, things began to change last year. Merchants on Campau expressed an interest in bringing back the sales, and the DDA put together an event. While it was

successful, DDA Director Darren Grow says this year's sale is poised to be even better thanks to the increased exposure from advertising and a more coordinated overall effort by the DDA Board, which Grow largely attributes to behind-the-scenes work done by the Polish Art Center's Joan Bittner.

"The sidewalk sale is a great way to show what the city has to offer," says Grow. "The hope is to get a lot of people into Hamtramck who wouldn't otherwise come here."

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Street Life

Space is the 'Place'

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

By Walter Wasacz

Place is the new desired space. "Psycho geography" is replacing the old mantra of "location, location, location" when it comes to real estate, or more to the point "unreal estate."

Before you conclude I'm just babbling or talking gibberish, consider what's been happening of late in Hamtramck and neighborhoods just north of the city.

Art spaces and organizations in the city like Hatch, the Hamtramck Historical Commission, Pops Packing, Public Pool and 2739 Edwin are helping to transform the cultural landscape by making something – building legacies on the wings of creative thought turned into action – out of nothing.

Well, not exactly nothing.

What stood before were commercial properties: warehouses, hospital extensions converted into police stations, social halls, bars converted

into health clinics. The buzz words of the moment are recycle and reuse – and that's exactly what's happening in the case of various properties transformed or transforming into something other than what their original builders intended.

The rehab and reconditioning buzz is likely to continue – bet on it – as sprawl into far-reaching suburban properties becomes unsustainable. People with energy and ideas want to be among other people with energy and ideas. And that won't happen in isolation on subdivided land 30 miles from the core of the city.

Hamtramck, centrally fixed close to the center of 140-square mile Detroit (not counting the suburbs that make up the entire region, the city proper is a sprawling metropolis that urbanists now like to say can contain Manhattan, Boston and San Francisco within its borders) is in an ideal position to prosper as more innovative re-developers set up stake here.

Before some of you readers panic and fear the worst (i.e.



the cries heard in the 1990s that Hamtramck was becoming the "next Royal Oak.") take a look at what Mitch Cope and Gina Reichert – a married couple who began an outside-the-box consulting business, art gallery and boutique called Design 99 on Jos. Campau a few years ago then moved it to Caniff before consolidating it into other projects in their NoHam neighborhood – are doing at their Power House and related projects.

The neighborhood, north of Carpenter, west of Conant, south of Davison, is where the famed \$100 house is located. It was purchased by friends of the couple – Cope is a fine artist, Reichert an architect – who are moving from Chicago to rehab the property as a live and work space. Various creative public projects are planned for the location in the future.

Another house in the neighborhood was purchased by a Detroit architect for slightly more – \$1,100. Make that \$3,300 including taxes and closing fees. His plan is to make it a "floating house," by keeping it at the same height as it was when it was built in 1922, but replacing the foundation with more solid material than the original cinder block.

On another block in what we'll dub the Power House neighborhood – named for a house Cope and Reichert are renovating totally off the traditional grid using solar and other sources for all power – a group of Dutch artists and researchers set up a series of talks in a large hole inside an abandoned house.

Kresge Grant Award winner Steve Hughes, who lives in Hamtramck and is co-founder of the Public Pool art space on Caniff, gave a talk last week in total darkness before a standing room-only crowd. The peculiar event shot around the world via Twitter and a German blog a few days later. It was awesome and strange, rolling cultural energies forward in ways few people could have imagined just a few years ago.

Next week, I'll preview an art crawl that will include some of the spaces talked about above in and around Hamtramck. Extraordinary things are happening on the street. Bottom line: it's real life, expressed in real time.



TOAST of the TOWN

When it comes to good food and great times, Hamtramck has plenty to offer. In this recurring column, we'll take a look at the bars, restaurants and other events that can be found throughout the city.

By Charles Sercombe

Rock and roll. Many years ago there were those who predicted it would come and go. Well, the naysayers have long ago been disproved and the beat goes on. Following in the footsteps of rockers of yore, is University of Detroit Jesuit senior, Jake Kmiecik, the son of Marty Kmiecik and grandson of Roy Kmiecik – two longtime Hamtramck fixtures.

The family owns Roy's Electric. Jake is a drummer in the band "The Vonnegut's." And if wondered if the name is in reference to legendary author Kurt Vonnegut, you indeed guessed it right.

Anyway, The Vonnegut's won the recent Hamtramck Labor Day Festival Battle of the Bands. You can catch their act tonight (Friday, Oct. 1) at the venerable Paycheck's Lounge – the starting off point for many well-known Detroit bands.

Our pal Joy Gargano in City Hall had only good things to say about them: "They are still teenagers ... but really good and amazingly confident."

Nolan LaFramboise is not a name of a guy who you would think owns a bar in a blue-col-

lar town. But then, Nolan isn't a typical sort of guy. He's more commonly known by his nickname, Skipper. He's been a part of the Detroit art and music scene for years and recently returned from San Francisco to reconnect.

About a year ago he decided to take another stab at owning a bar and bought the former Chill and Mingle on Conant – a pretty gutsy move considering the sour state of the economy. He's renamed the bar – surprise! – Skipper's. It's fast become a hotspot for musicians and hang-about.

His Tuesday Open-Mic/Stage has been attracting a following of late. Here's what Nolan – er, Skipper – recently e-mailed us about the goings-on:

"Git your ole self down hereabouts and par-tiss-itate. Lots of good music and lots of good, clean fun. Just what we need at our age, huh? If it ain't the best darn Open-Mic in the Detroit area it's only because you ain't here. Rachael Taylor is, hands down, the best host around. She oughtta be the owner and maitre' d. Come to think of it – she almost is. We have some seriously excellent players here – check out Metro Times, September 22 issue, about Jaye Thomas and his band the Rogue Satellites.

"Past performers have included Chris St. Onge, Benny Allemon, Yes Maam, Trisha Raglund, Tony Berci, The P.J.'s, Carl Henry Band, 7th

Vail, Charlie Taylor and more. Cocktails, coffee, tea and non-alcoholic drinks available, all at reasonable prices.

"Check out the trailer for the 'The Amazing Cynicalman - The Movie', shot in part at Skipper's, at our website, WWW.SKIPPERSHAMTOWN.COM. Coming this Saturday, October 2, at Skipper's - the cast party for 'The Amazing Cynicalman - The Movie'. On Saturday, October 9, we'll host a fundraiser for WWW.HATCHART.ORG. Hatch art.org recently received the former Hamtramck Police Department to be converted to a community art center. They have a long, hard road ahead of them to achieve their goals. You can assist their efforts by attending and/or contributing to their work. Check out their website. ..."

Well said, Skip. Now let's move on to our Hamtramck firefighters, who, let's say, got a little hot under the collar about their fallout with the organizers of the recent Hamtramck Labor Day Festival.

We're not going to rake over those coals but it should be noted the firefighters' beer and chili booth were noticeably absent – and missed – during the festival.

In the spirit of can't we all get along, the firefighters are holding an Oktoberfest this Saturday (Oct. 2) at the racous and fun-loving New

Continued on page 10

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Review: Opinion Page

When it comes to city promotions, it's a good thing

City promotion. It's a concept that most would agree is needed to attract visitors here so they will hopefully spend some money with our merchants. Hamtramck has been pretty good at promoting itself with its Paczki Day party and the Labor Day Festival. Besides those two major events, we have the St. Florian Strawberry Festival, what appears to become an annual Bangladesh Festival and the occasional Jos. Campau sidewalk sale. Should the city have more and what role should it play? Mayor Karen Majewski thinks the more festivals – be they private or city-sponsored – the merrier. We agree, which is why it's curious that when two volunteers stepped forward to take over the Labor Day Festival and quickly turn around and propose an Oktoberfest-like event, the slings and arrows came out. Such was the nonsense at Tuesday's City Council meet-

ing where some councilmembers were highly critical of festival organizers Kathleen Bittner and Rachel Karpinski Srodek. The two saved this year's Labor Day festival and not only save it but expanded it. It was during that festival weekend the two thought why not do a city "Harvest Festival"? The event was OK'd Tuesday night but it was painful to hear the things being said. Those who run for office always promise to work together and promote the community and then when elected they look for all sorts of ways to block the effort. It's a no brainer. Many cities hold an Oktoberfest of some sort, and Hamtramck is long overdue to host one as well. The event will be under a tent that will be located in the city parking lot between Polonia Restaurant and Polish Village Café – the perfect setting for a Hamtramck-style fall festival. Yes, it's true the organiz-

ers put the cart before the horse – so to speak – by not first getting Council's OK to stage the event. But they did get the green light from the city manager. Getting the council to sign on was thought to be easy. You can read more about the blow-by-blow account of how this went down at the council meeting in our new column, "City Hall Insider." The point is, the city stands to further attract more visitors and get the word out that this is a fun city. The small price the city pays for hosting such an event pays off in the long run. The endless nitpicking that goes on is part of a mindset among some in this community that is frustrating and turns off would-be volunteers. Wouldn't it be refreshing if we had people on board who think of ways to improve the city instead of people who think of a thousand reasons why you shouldn't or can't?

Peoples State Bank working out financial trouble

By Charles Sercombe

Peoples State Bank officials are downplaying media reports that it is being forced by federal regulators to merge with another bank. But bank officials do concede there is financial trouble, and they are looking for investors to infuse cash into the bank. Federal regulators say the bank is underfunded. In an exclusive interview with The Review, Bank President and CFO Hank Thiemann said federal regulators have not placed a deadline on the bank to attract investors. "It takes awhile," Thiemann said, adding that a merger is less likely because so few banks are merging at this time. The bank got into financial trouble when a number of commercial loans faltered, Thiemann said. Contrary to a Free Press story, Thiemann said the main culprit



was not bad home loans. As for bank customers, he said there accounts and holdings are safe and are federal insured up to \$250,000 – just like any other bank. Peoples State Bank has been in business for 101 years. The bank started in Hamtramck and has a long history of serving Detroit's

immigrant population. Thiemann said Peoples acquired Madison Bank in the mid-1990s and now has 10 offices. An office in Southfield was recently closed, but Thiemann said that had nothing to do with the recent financial troubles. There are no plans to close the Hamtramck office.

Odds & Ends

Moving up ... Hamtramck will get more statewide attention now that Mayor Karen Majewski was elected as Vice President of the Michigan Municipal League. It's actually quite an honor, especially if you consider that Majewski has been on the MML Board for just two years. In the year or two to come she will likely be elected president – we've heard from those in the know – which will put her in the limelight even more. Could this be a stepping stone to higher office? Well, if it is, it's Michigan's gain and Hamtramck's loss.

School news ... The public schools' Brad Alan Neff sure likes to correspond. But that's to be expected since he's the district media specialist. Here's Brad's latest e-mail update we received about the open house held at Holbrook Elementary School: "At Holbrook Elementary School, about half of the parents recently attended an open house so that they could meet the teachers and meet Russell Robinson, the new principal at Holbrook. "Mr. Robinson is not new to Hamtramck though. He has worked in Hamtramck as an

educator for years. He's a hard-working principal who wants to turn Holbrook Elementary School into one of the very best schools in our city. To do this, he knows that he must work to get most Holbrook parents involved in the school. Without parental participation, there's only so much a school – any school – can achieve; hence, parents really need to visit the school as much as they possibly can visit the school. "At the event, many of the parents got a look at the school's state-of-the-art computer lab, and more. "The whole school is wireless. I've heard that any laptop can be connected with the Internet for research and writing. I've heard that all of the new NEO 2 computers are wireless. "I've also heard that the school will be getting new notebook computers, all of which will be wireless. "I spoke with Wade Solomon, one of many district technology wizards, recently about this. He shared that Holbrook, Dickinson West, Dickinson East, and Kosciuszko Middle School are all now wireless, to varying degrees. In the long run, Wade believes that children in

the Hamtramck Public Schools will experience great success, especially with writing, because they have more hands-on experience with current technology. "They will have more time, more access, to the school computers than children who attend the Detroit Public Schools, or many of the other area schools. I believe it, and I believe that the Holbrook Elementary staff is working harder than ever before to help the students realize such success."

Done deal ... As we were about to go to press on Thursday, the city signed on the dotted line to purchase the former PLAV Post 1 building on Holbrook. The building will be turned into the city's first ever Historical Museum. We'll have more on the plans for the museum next week. Unfortunately, we weren't able to stick around after the piles of papers were signed by Mayor Karen Majewski and City Manager Bill Cooper. That's when the champagne bottles were uncorked and a well-deserved celebration took place among the Historical Commission members. Cheers.



The Hamtramck Review Published every Friday
3020 Caniff, Hamtramck, MI 48212
Phone: 313-874-2100 Fax: 313-874-2101
www.hamtramckreview.com • email news@thehamtramckreview.com
Editor/Publisher: John Ulaj • Editor: Charles Sercombe • Copy Editor: Ian Perrotta
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Block Club Corner ...

First Thursdays, 4 Cs Neighborhood Watch (if you live or have a business between Carpenter, Conant, Caniff, and Campau), 7 p.m. Hamtramck Recreation Center, 1135 Charest, lower level

Second Mondays, Eastside Block Club (if you live or have a business East of Conant) 7 p.m. Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church, Activity Center, entrance on Harold Street

Second Wednesdays, 3 C7 Neighborhood Watch (if you live or have a business between Carpenter, Campau, Caniff, and I-75) People's community Services Senior Center on Caniff, across from the Public Library

Third Wednesdays, Midtown Neighborhood Watch (if you live or have a business between Caniff, Campau, Holbrook and I-75) 6:30 p.m. in the Convent of St. Florian's Church, on Florian Street

Fourth Thursdays, Southend Neighborhood Watch 6:30 p.m. in the People's Com-

munity Center on Joseph Campau and Danforth, for all residents and businesses south of Holbrook.

The Central Neighborhood Watch (Caniff, Conant, Holbrook, Campau) will meet the first Wednesday of each month, starting Oct. 6, at Skipper's Bar, located at 9735 Conant at Evaline. Also there will be a neighborhood cleanup project on Sunday, Oct. 10. For more information, go online to hamtramckCBC@gmail.com. Facebook: Hamtramck Central Block Club group page.

The Hamtramck Housing Commission Neighborhood Watch is not meeting at this time. If you would like to help start these groups, call the Weed and Seed office at (313) 281-8150.

Neighborhood Watch meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend. If additional information is needed contact the Weed and Seed office at (313) 281-8150.



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 City Council ended the month of September with a meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 28. All councilmembers were present, and the two-and-a-half hour meeting was chaired by Mayor Karen Majewski.

Although fall has just arrived, the council had snow removal on its mind. A proposed contract to hire Platinum Landscape for snow removal was discussed and dissected for quite some time. The upshot, Councilmember Cathie Gordon proposed extending the contract from one year to two years.

Interestingly, Gordon later objected to the notion of awarding the legal services contract for three years. (Hmmm ... this apparent contradiction couldn't possibly be about a certain someone from Platinum occasionally socializing at Gordon's bar, could it? Well, let's put it this way, several City Hall insiders wondered about that connection.)

Anyway, councilmembers mulled over whether the city can legally extend a contract since the city's bid request asked for a one-year contract. City Attorney James Allen said it's not unusual for cities to modify contracts after a bid is awarded, and there could be some "wiggle room" to extend the contract at this point.

Councilmember Kazi Miah objected, saying all of the companies that submitted a bid should have an opportunity to bid on a two-year contract.

Food for thought: Councilmember Tom Jankowski said it might be wise to seek bids

for services based on two years instead of yearly. He said that would be an efficient way to plan the city's budget.

Upon Gordon's suggestion, a majority of the council agreed to postpone awarding the snow removal contract until the next meeting in order to clear up the legal questions raised.

Councilmembers Shahab Ahmed and Miah objected to holding up the contract, but they didn't have a chance to explain their position.

Just for your information, the snow season goes for 10 months, from Sept. 29 until the end of May, said Department of Public Works Director Martin Ladd.

"If it snows in June, we're in trouble," he said.

Given the sweltering, record-breaking temperature summer we just went through, a little cooling off might be welcomed.

And since we're talking about bids and contracts, Platinum would be charging the city various amounts of money depending on the street for each snow job ... ah ... maybe that's a poor word choice. Let's say snow removal. Stay tuned folks, for the ongoing saga, "No Two Flakes are Alike."

Now that we shook off all this talk of snow and winter, at least for the moment, let's talk about drugs, as in bad, bad drugs and just saying no. The council unanimously agreed it is against illicit drugs –and supports the "Red Ribbon Campaign Week Encouraging Citizens to Participate in Drug

Prevention Education Activi-

ties," which is a national campaign that takes place Oct. 23-31.

Now there's a mouthful of wording to swallow.

At least the council could agree on one thing: this year's Hamtramck Labor Day Festival was great and the two organizers who put it all together did a wonderful job. Kathleen Bittner and Rachel Karpinski Srodek, take a bow.

OK, now that the council got all that praise-ness out of the way, let's see how they really feel. Some of the members went on to grill, lecture, nitpick and so on about the pair's proposal to hold another festival right away on Oct. 16-17. This time around, they are proposing to hold a first-ever "Hamtramck Harvest" – or in other words an Oktoberfest.

While the concept was welcomed, some of the councilmembers had issues about the city's role and the festival already being promoted without first getting city approval to use a city parking lot and have the DDA pull a liquor license. Details, details.

Councilmember Cathie Gordon led the charge, saying Bittner and Srodek overstepped their authority by placing an advertisement in Real Detroit magazine promoting the event. She also said she "detests" hearing about the event from The Review. (Ah ... we'll take that to mean she "detests" not being told beforehand about the event and not that she "detests" The Review. But, you never know.)

While that may look improper – the placing of the ad

part – there was an explanation. Bittner said the magazine offered to be a sponsor and put the ad in for free. And the magazine suggested getting the ad in its autumn issue, so it made sense to run it and if the event was turned down, oh well.

Gordon also said it's not wise for the city to be in the festival business, especially since there is a \$3.3 million deficit looming ahead and the possibility that the city will go bankrupt. Gordon laid into City Manager Bill Cooper for letting this event "get past you."

Cooper, whose face increasingly turned red as the meeting wore on, at one point snapped at Gordon, saying: "maybe you should do my job." (Bill – dude! – watch that blood pressure.)

Councilmember Kazi Miah spoke out against the festival, and eventually was the only one to vote against it. His point was that the festival was not reflective of the community and that Bittner and Srodek failed to invite others in the community to help plan and organize it.

Miah also said the event is too financially risky for the city.

Mayor Karen Majewski and Mayoral Pro Tem Catrina Stackpoole were the only two to give a full thumbs up.

"This is a really cool idea," Majewski said. "You can never have enough festivals."

(Editor's note: It should be noted that Gov. Jennifer Granholm has gone on record designating Hamtramck as one of several "cool" cities in the state. So, perhaps it's no coincidence that Majewski said the festival is a "cool idea.")

Councilmember Stackpoole praised the event, saying it "lifts up the business community," and that considering the hard economic times, residents and visitors are looking

for fun things to do "that don't cost an arm and a leg."

"It sounds like a lot of fun," Stackpoole said, adding: "You might get my husband in lederhosen."

As mentioned before, when it came down to a vote, all councilmembers – except for Miah – approved allowing the festival to be held. The event will be in the city parking lot between Polonia Restaurant and the Polish Village Café. There will be food, beer, activities for kids and bands. Admission is \$5. (Just for comparison, the City of Pleasant Ridge is holding an Oktoberfest on Oct. 16. Admission is \$30 and it's limited to Pleasant Ridge residents and their guests.)

Let's talk legal, as in whether the council should approve a new contract with its law firm, the Allen Brothers, PLLC, to continue acting as the city attorney. James Allen has been the city attorney for the past few years.

Councilmember Stackpoole spoke in favor of keeping Allen on, saying it's critical since the city just filed a lawsuit against Detroit for withholding \$3 million in shared tax money from GM's Poletown plant.

Councilmember Gordon said she was not comfortable with entering into a three-year contract. City Manager Cooper pointed out that length of time was in the city's bid requirement.

Whew! With some small talk out of the way, the vote turned into a whole other issue – a legal one at that. The only vote against the contract was from Councilmember Miah, although his opposition wasn't entirely clear.

But the twist came from Councilmember Gordon who abstained from the vote. Normally, according to commonly

accepted rules of procedure, there is a narrow reason to allow someone to abstain from a vote.

Councilmember Stackpoole said there has to be a direct financial conflict of interest. Gordon disagreed, despite being reminded that she and the council just went through a training program that covered the issue of abstaining in a vote.

Gordon disagreed, and would only elaborate that she had "personal issues" for abstaining.

"You're not going to make me vote on this," Gordon said.

Is this the end of this issue? Talk is there will be some research into whether there are –surprise! – legal ramifications to Gordon's refusal to vote. And guess who will most likely do the research? The Allen Brothers law firm. Stay tuned to the ongoing saga, "Bark of the Legal Beagle."

You can say one thing about Councilmember Gordon: she stays busy. Gordon offered up an ordinance that essentially treats resale shops the same way as pawnshops: namely that resale shops would be required to register the name of people who sell stuff to their shop and hold onto the items for a certain length of time and each day before noon report to the city what was purchased and from whom in the last 24 hours.

Needless to say, a lot of talk ensued. Councilmember Stackpoole said she was concerned that the few resale shops that are in the city would leave town because of the paperwork required.

Gordon said the type of items that have to be reported are major ones, like electronics and jewelry. Before the

Continued on page 7

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A wedding vow well worth toasting

By Charles Sercombe

Here's a first for Hamtramck 31st District Court Judge Paul Paruk.

While he's performed plenty of weddings, he has not presided over a renewal of wedding vows.

Or perform a renewal of vows in a bar.

Well, Judge Paruk got that unique chance recently at the Head Coach

Bar where Bob and Nancy Emerson celebrated their 30 wedding anniversary.

As you can imagine the bar had plenty of food and drinks to go around and Judge Paruk, being the good natured guy he is, cracked a few jokes.

Congrats Ed and Nancy and may you have many happy years ahead of you.



City Hall Insider ... Cont. from page 6

meeting, Gordon told The Review that there have been complaints that some resale shops are buying stolen goods. Upshot, the council agreed to postpone further discussion until the Oct. 12 meeting. Stay tuned for the ongoing saga, "Who Stole the kishka?"

And now for something completely different (sorry Monty Python). City Manager Cooper gave the council the old "good news/bad news" talk. And as always, the bad news came first just so everyone can walk away remembering only the good part.

Bad: the city reluctantly agreed to a reduction of personal property tax charged to American Axle & Manufacturing, which disputed the city's prior tax assessment since the company shipped its jobs out of Hamtramck and Detroit to Mexico where workers are paid about \$25 a day.

The city agreed to refund this "American" company \$57,000 for 2009 and will take a hit of over \$130,000 in 2010.

"While not good news, it

could have been worse," Cooper said, thus completing the entire "good news/bad news" cliché.

But there was actually good news too: thanks to a convoluted effort to first eliminate the Police Department's auto theft unit and then turn around and try to save it, the city saved the state funding it has been receiving for the past 24 years. And it gets better: Cooper said he found out that the city can claim proceeds from items seized or forfeited from chop shops and theft rings. He said this new revenue source will offset the \$80,000 cost to the city to fund the auto theft unit. A state grant pays for 50 percent of the unit's two salaries as well as their health insurance and transportation.

And some more good news: the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival netted a profit of \$16,000 for the city.

(Charles Sercombe can be contacted via e-mail at cs@thehamtramckreview.com or by calling 313-874-2100.)

JC fire is another black eye for business district

By Charles Sercombe

As if the number of empty storefronts on Jos. Campau weren't bad enough, now this has happened.

Last Saturday at about 8:30 p.m., the OS Clothing store erupted in fire. The cause of the fire is not known, but Fire Marshal Paul Wilk says it appears "suspicious."

Wilk said he could not go into more details because his investigation is ongoing.

There were no injuries in the fire.

The store was completely

gutted and charred but the structure and foundation were solid, Wilk said. The owner of the store also owns three others stores on Jos. Campau.

The stores on either side of the burned building suffered heavy smoke damage.

The Jos. Campau shopping district has taken a number of hits in recent years as the local, state and national economy took a downturn. However, the city is planning an aggressive campaign to recruit and help retain businesses.



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2348 Zinow - Hamtramck - 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, completely remodeled. \$39,900

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7240 Dale - Centerline - Full brick ranch w/ 3 bedrooms, first floor laundry, side driveway, 2 1/2 car garage. \$64,900

11662 Nagel - Hamtramck - Completely renovated with custom designer touches throughout. 3 BR, built-in appliances, basement, garage. Must see to appreciate. \$125,000

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Obituaries

CICHOCKI

Elizabeth Cichocki, 56, died September 19, 2010.

Mrs. Cichocki is a former Hamtramck resident.

She is survived by her husband, Lech; daughter, Caroline; sons, Christopher and Jimmy; sisters, Teresa and Krystyna; brother,

Mark; and grandchildren, Tiffany and Alicia.

Funeral arrangements were made by Krot Funeral Home, and funeral services were held on September 25 at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church. Burial was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

CITY OF HAMTRAMCK, MICHIGAN ORDINANCE 2010-9

Ordinance 2010-9 amends The City of Hamtramck Sarah Garrett Homes Project Tax Exemption Ordinance Number 2010 - 1, as amended by Ordinance 2010-7, by updating a legal description and identification number of a specific parcel of the project.

A complete copy of the ordinances is available in the Hamtramck City Clerk's office.

Enacted: September 28, 2010
Published: October 1, 2010
T. Edwin Norris, City Clerk

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Large beautiful full brick home w/full basement
*2336 Yemans - \$39,900 SOLD!

New Construction:

11489 D yar - \$149,900 - NEW PRICE! All-ready built. Also "To Be Built" homes, pick your style, carpet & paint colors & upgrades. Hurry! Four different style options avail. Three, Four, and five bedroom homes avail. \$24,000 Grant for down payment. *Attention Garret vs. City of Hamtramck Lawsuit Plaintiffs - Ask about additional \$35K toward down payment (if eligible). Also, "NEZ Zoning" - huge discount on property taxes, ask for more information.

Commercial:

21433 Mound - \$550,000 Warren Collision Shop
21471 Mound - \$300,000 Warren Mechanic Shop
15116 Telegraph - \$219,900 NEW PRICE!
Commercial retail building in Redford with large showroom, warehouses and several offices.
Eastpointe:
*24862 Rosalind \$21,900
Rochester Hills:
2759 Hickory Lawn - \$159,900
Royal Oak:
*5029 Thorncroft - \$159,800 NEW PRICE!
Shelby Township:
*49135 Conway Ct. - \$74,900 Condo
Utica
*45420 Brownell - 2 bedrooms \$500/mo.
Warren:
4340 Frazho - \$39,800 - Bank Owned PENDING!

24862 Rosalind, Eastpointe- \$21,900



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5129 Belmont - \$34,900 NEW PRICE!
5057 Carpenter - \$39,900 three units
2633 Casmere - \$89,900
*11613 Charest - \$99,900
3451 Comstock - \$39,900 NEW PRICE!
2290 Geiner - \$49,900
*11429 Klinger - \$49,900
12080 Klinger - \$29,900 NEW PRICE!
12043 Moran - \$35,000 NEW PRICE!
11358 Nagel - \$40,000 NEW PRICE!
11372 Nagel - \$32,900 NEW PRICE!
1939 Trowbridge - \$79,900
2250 Wyandotte - \$39,900 SOLD!
2256 Wyandotte - \$29,900 PENDING!



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Rentals and Real Estate

Classifieds

APARTMENTS & FLATS FOR RENT

Hamtramck, 1975 Trowbridge, 2 Br. upper, stove-refrigerator, new carpet, new windows, water included, renter pays own gas and electric, \$500/month + one month security, move-in ready, 248-506-8821. 10/22

11435 Fleming, 3 Br. upper, stove-fridge, washer-dryer, \$600/month + \$600 security, includes heat and water, Rob 313-355-8673, no dogs, cats OK. 10/22

Furnished, lower 1 Br., all utilities included, seniors or adult couple preferred, no pets, 313-319-6798. 10/8

Upper 2 Br., nice and clean, no pets, security deposit, 313-739-5721. 10/8

Hamtramck, 12080 Mitchell, 2 Br. upper, stove-fridge, nice location, \$300/month, 313-368-1097, 313-485-1097. 10/1

Beautiful apartment, Edwin + Gallagher, 2 Br., all vinyl windows, sharp looking wood floors, private parking, 2 toilets, full basement, newer: fridge, stove, furnace, blinds, etc., \$500/month, 248-210-6188. 10/22

5008 Trowbridge, 3 Br lower, 1 bathroom, call for more info, 586-0033. 10/8

Hamtramck, 1 Br., includes everything, no pets, 313-632-5566. 10/15

APARTMENTS & FLATS FOR RENT

Hamtramck, 2743 Poland, 2 Br. lower, living, dining, no pets, ask for Doda or David, 586-722-8963, or 586-978-2363. 10/22

Hamtramck, 2 Br. upper, carpet, super clean, appliances, full basement, washer-dryer, nice + clean attic, all passed inspection, \$500/month + \$500 deposit. For more info, call 586-604-0029, prefer adults only. 10/8

Hamtramck, Caniff, 3 Br. lower, water + basic cable included, stove-refrigerator, \$500/month, 586-531-9722, 313-418-8791. 10/1

Hamtramck, Lehman-Gallagher, clean, 5 room lower, carpeted, utilities separate, \$495/month + security, senior discount, 248-892-7257. 10/1

Hamtramck, 2082 Trowbridge, 2 Br. lower, kitchen, living room, dining room, stove-fridge, very clean house, 313-873-0989. 10/1

Hamtramck, Danforth St., 2 Br., nice + clean, \$400/month + security deposit, 313-712-6021. 10/8

3 Br. upper and lower, nice, clean, good area, close to shopping plaza and school, references required + deposit, 248-854-4023. 10/1

APARTMENTS & FLATS FOR RENT

Hamtramck, 2 Br., front room, dining, room, kitchen and bath, upper flat with appliances plus laundry facility on Trowbridge St. near Jos. Campau, \$500/month + deposit, utilities separate, no pets, 810-210-4994. 10/15

Hamtramck, 2 Br. lower, Wall-side windows, \$500/month, 313-492-8302. 10/1

Hamtramck, Belmont, between Conant-Gallagher, 2 Br. lower, stove, refrigerator, 586-604-0553. 10/15

Hamtramck, 3056-58 Jacob, 2 Br. lower, washer-dryer, nice + clean, 586-497-8817. 10/1

Hamtramck, 11638 Nagel, 2 Br. upper, \$474/month, 313-438-3438. 10/1

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Upper and lower flat, 2 Br., living room and kitchen on Norwalk, between Conant and Gallagher, close to Dickinson East School, 313-972-5395. 10/1

Hamtramck, 3 Br. upper, \$474/month, hardwood floors, 313-444-5638. 10/8

Hamtramck, 2 Br. lower, stove-fridge, move-in ready, 586-943-8814. 10/1

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13711 Syracuse St., Detroit, 3 Br., new paint, \$575/month. Also, 3 Br. upper flat for rent, 3356 E. Palmer, Detroit, \$474/month, 586-634-5593. 10/1

Hamtramck, 2 Br., Lumpkin St., freshly painted, call before 8 p.m., 734-654-8681. 10/22

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Hamtramck, 2677 Casmere, single-family, 2 Br., \$10,000, 313-368-8704. 10/1

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2101 Trowbridge, October 7, 8 and 9, 10-4 p.m., clothes, knick-knacks, jewelry, dishes and miscellaneous. 10/1

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11333 Fleming, Oct. 1,2 and 3, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. A lot to pick from. 10/1

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— Coming Events —

OCTOBER 10, Sunday, 1 p.m. – The St. Theresa Guild of St. Florian Parish hosts their annual Autumn Fest Card & Bunco Party. Admission is \$7 and includes a lunch and a chance to win raffles and table and door prizes, located in the Parish Hall, 2626 Poland St.

The Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition meets the second Thursday of every month from 11 a.m.-noon at the Piast Institute, 11633 Jos. Campau. To allow for summer planning sessions, the next meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 9. Meetings are open to the public.

SECOND MONDAY of each month, through Dec. 13, 12:30-2:30 p.m. – A Wayne County program, food program for low-income families, at People's Community Services, 8625 Jos. Campau. To qualify you must be a Hamtramck resident and had picture ID and proof of income. Volunteers are needed to unload supplies, etc. To volunteer, show up at 10:30 a.m.

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TOAST of the TOWN

Continued from page 4

Dodge Lounge. It starts at noon and runs until, well, last call is called. Featured during the day will be their rib-ticklin' chili, guest bartenders, DJ Chuck E. and the band, The Flying Crowbars.

Come on out and support your local firefighters.

Do you like the idea of paying no cover and enjoying complimentary food and beverages? Sounds like a night out to us, too. Well, that's the deal tonight (Oct. 1) at the Belmont Bar where owner Darren Grow will be celebrating his birthday.

Darren also happens to be Hamtramck's Director of the Downtown Development Authority. His bar is located on Jos. Campau - and you guessed it - and Belmont. Cool guy and super cool bar.

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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What's all the fuss about HUSS?

By Ian Perrotta

Like a fine wine, Hamtramck United Social Services (HUSS) just gets better with age.

After almost four decades of coordinating the efforts of the city's numerous social service organizations, HUSS continues to play a pivotal role in helping the residents of Hamtramck with many of their needs. The organization recently reconvened after a summer break.

For the uninitiated, HUSS is a non-profit that was founded in 1971 which brings together members of various Hamtramck organizations in order to help each entity work together to maximize each others' and their own level of service. To do so, HUSS conducts monthly meetings that give each organization a chance to discuss what it is currently doing.

The monthly meetings are the heart and soul of HUSS, and they fulfill the organizations three main purposes. First, they allow the organizations to coordinate the direction of their efforts, something that helps reduce duplication, which can cause services to be watered down and less effective.

Second, during the meeting's roundtable session - where HUSS members share the latest news of their organization - members of HUSS have the opportunity to share, update and analyze information that is relative to human services needs in Hamtramck.

Finally, those discussions allow for the planning, development and implementation (either directly or indirectly) of programs in response to those needs. Past programs and projects include a mental health center for the city, a health fair for the community and a \$500 college scholarship for students. The scholarship is still being offered by HUSS, and on the organization's radar is a project to bring in a federally qualified health clinic to Hamtramck.

Another feature of the monthly meetings is a presentation given by various organizations throughout the

area. These presentations offer HUSS members a chance to learn about organizations, events and opportunities they may otherwise be unaware of.

At the most recent HUSS meeting, representatives from the Wayne County Infant Mortality Speaker's Bureau presented an overview of the scope of infant mortality in Wayne County and Detroit, which informed HUSS's members on just how bad the problem is. But more importantly, by educating them to the problem it empowered them to help solve it.

As is the case in many other organizations (and as mandated by federal non-profit law), HUSS has a board of directors as well as elected officers. In HUSS, there are four elected positions - President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. For the 2010-2011 HUSS session, those positions are held by Theresa Sondys, Aswan Almakhtary, Katy Kibbey and Aza Camo, respectively. Kibbey, who represents Wayne Metro, plays a particularly important role in the organization as she is the primary contact person for all agencies and helps relay messages between them. Eligibility for these positions is based on membership of the organization, which for a nominal fee

of \$15 per year can be obtained by both individuals and organizations.

Executive Director Tom "Good Egg" Cervanek has been a member since 1975. He



Though the organizations and representatives that make up HUSS sometimes change, the mission remains the same for the many groups involved.

Currently, the entities involved with HUSS include (but are not limited to) the Center for Youth and Families, Hamtramck Adult Education, The Friendship House, Wayne Metro, Friendship House, Recycled Treasures, the City of Hamtramck, the Arab American and Chaldean Council (ACC), the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), Weed and Seed, ACTS 29, the Department of Human Services and the Piast Institute.

Also included in HUSS's membership is People's Community Services, who's Exec-

says that he's proud of the fact that the organization has been able to function all this time despite not having a budget and relying solely on volunteers, and that the work of HUSS has made Hamtramck "state-of-the-art in human services since it began."

"It really makes a difference in the community," says Cervanek. "And it just happened naturally. There is a great synergy in HUSS - the whole is greater than the sum of its parts."

For more information about HUSS check out its next meeting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 27 at the Department of Human Services building (on Jos. Campau near Carpenter) in the Main Conference Room.

Gardener's Corner ...

By Kathleen Wojcinski

This is the time to split perennials: you know, the plants that come back every year.

Let them grow three years before splitting them. Using a sharp spade, chop sharply down. Repeat until the clump of plant is free to the roots. Replant wherever you need to, or give away to a friend.

Keep the roots moist or

pot up in soil temporarily while moving around. This is also a good time to plant bushes, shrubs and trees. If you're not sure where to plant, dig a hole deep enough for the pot or root ball the tree came with.

Water deeply and fill the hole back up. Cover the area with mulch and, if small enough, a burlap wrap will add winter protection.

In the spring, dig up, re-

move plant for pot and plant in its permanent home.

For lawns, patch repair and seed now and fertilize. Plant next year's tulips, daffodils and other bulbs now.

Save on mulch by saving raked up leaves, which work great. Ask your neighbors if you can take and save their leaves. It's a great way to save money and the earth and make new friends.



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