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— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

## 'Winter Glow' kicks off the holiday season with plenty of cheer

By Charles Sercombe

The winter and holiday season got a warm reception last Saturday – even if temps outside were unseasonably chilly.

The 16th annual "Winter Glow" took over the Hamtramck High School Community Center Saturday – featuring a petting zoo, horse-drawn carriage rides, ice carvings, games, crafts and, of course, a visit by Santa.

Santa must have been on a budget this year because outside there were only two rein-

deer on display.

For inner-city kids, it was a rare opportunity to get in touch with a taste of the country. Kids could pet ducks, sheep and chickens in a closed pen and get up close to the huge horses used to pull three carriages.

For others, the sound of "clip-clop" through the neighborhood was like a live soundtrack of Christmas.

The event was sponsored by the Hamtramck Recreation Commission and was free to the public.



### Quick Hits

**Today (Friday, Dec. 10), our buddy John "Hippo" Hypnarowicz is holding his annual Christmas party for Special Ed kids. Sadly, this is John's last year to hold the party because he is now retired. You see, John drove a bus for the public school district for over 30 years, and during that time he also drove Special Ed students around town.**

As you can imagine, he struck up many friendships with the kids. So, here's to John for spreading the Christmas message of good will to all. Thanks, John, for your many years of selfless service.

### This week in history

- Horace Dodge died in 1920. He and his brother John were responsible for building the Dodge Main plant, which was Hamtramck's number one employer for decades.

- Hamtramck's Rotary Club – once a mighty lion in the national organization – was formed in 1923.

- The former site of Hamtramck High School was dedicated in 1918. The school used to be located on Hewitt St. The school was almost a block long.

Source: Hamtramck Historical Commission



### For now, the city looks to loans

By Charles Sercombe

Bankruptcy or accept a state loan?

Lay off a dozen cops and firefighters?

Those were the choices the City Council analyzed, debated and wrung their hands over.

And over. For over six hours. On a Saturday.

But honestly, by the second hour of the day-long ordeal, it was clear that City Manager Bill Cooper was leaning toward accepting a state loan.

Not that the city actually had a choice.

Yeah, that's right, no choice at all. More like: take the loan or wait to go broke.

If the city decided to go without a loan, layoffs of cops and firemen would have been necessary – a possibility that had many residents on edge throughout last week.

By the end of Saturday, though, no cop or firefighter lost his or her job.

Let's back up for a minute for those of you who are un-

Continued on page 2

### New traffic law likely to have no effect

By Charles Sercombe

Just as the city is scrambling to find more sources of money, a new state law is threatening to shut down a major revenue stream.

Recently, state legislators passed a law that forbids punishing police officers for not issuing enough traffic tickets. Many police departments have what's commonly called a quota system where officers have to write a certain number of tickets per shift.

In an effort to save jobs in Hamtramck's Police Department, officers have promised to issue at least \$60,000 a month in traffic tickets. Officers are allowed to work overtime to enforce traffic laws. The department brings in about \$1 million a year from the program.

Sources in the department say officers working traffic patrol are expected to write at least two tickets per hour.

There is already a law on the books that technically could shut down traffic enforcement. The law, Act 85,

Continued on page 6

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# For now, the city looks to loans

Continued from front page

aware of what's going on here. You see, several weeks ago, it became increasingly clear the city was going to be broke by the end of this coming January.

Broke as in no money to pay city employees or any bills. Broke as in \$3.3 million in debt.

So ... the city asked the state if it could file for bank-

ruptcy to meet minimum staffing levels. Essentially, it would cost the city more money to meet that staffing requirement than it would have saved.

So, with no major contract concessions, Cooper asked state officials for permission to file for bankruptcy since cities cannot independently take that course of action on

one side of the room and uniformed firefighters scattered throughout. Also in attendance are city hall employees, appointees and concerned residents.

It's hot in the room and tensions sometimes swelled into sharp exchanges.

After three hours of going back and forth, the council took a break, came back for

binding labor arbitration to try his luck there to get contract concessions.

During this time, the city will also be fighting Detroit in a lawsuit. Hamtramck is suing Detroit for withholding tax money from the GM Pole-town plant. Hamtramck has had an agreement with Detroit to share tax money from the plant, but now Detroit says it has overpaid Hamtramck several million dollars during the past several years.

Hamtramck has asked for proof of this allegation but Detroit has refused to provide any documentation. In the meantime, Detroit is holding onto \$3 million that normally would have gone to Hamtramck.

The next few months could also offer a change of opinion on whether the city can file for bankruptcy. Gov-Elect Rick Snyder has yet to weigh in on whether Hamtramck can file for bankruptcy.

*(Editor's note: Snyder has also refused to say what he plans to do about a number of issues.)*

The year 2011 is looking like a pivotal one for Hamtramck – a city that has toughed out many challenging times in the past.



The City Council held a rare Saturday morning work session to discuss whether to lay off police officers and firefighters or accept a state loan to float for another year. So what happened? Hint: no police officer or firefighter lost their job.

ruptcy. That way, City Manager Bill Cooper said, the city could toss out union employee contracts and be able to purchase a less expensive health insurance plan.

Cooper said he has asked city employees for major contract concessions. So far, only City Hall employees have taken the brunt of cuts. The firefighters recently agreed to a wage freeze.

The cops, nothing. Cooper said despite the concessions he did manage to get, he needed to go deeper. The only other alternative – which isn't an alternative at all – was to lay off cops and firemen.

But laying off public safety officers wasn't ever a real possibility because union contracts require minimum staffing requirements. If a dozen firefighters and officers were laid off, the city would have had to pay for

their own. But the state said no. In fact, Gov. Jennifer Granholm said the state's hands are tied until the city is absolutely broke.

Of course since this involves lawyers, others disagree.

As an alternative, the state offered the city four options to accept a loan. The loan – of about \$2 to \$3 million – would realistically only give the city another year before it runs out of money.

Cooper initially rejected the loan offer, however, saying it would only delay solving the city's core financial problem. And on top of it, he had stressed, the city would be burdened with having to pay back a loan it can't afford in the first place.

Despite that rationalization, the state stood firm and repeated it would not budge on the bankruptcy issue.

Now, speed up to last Saturday, and the City Council is holding a work session. Instead of holding the session in the council chambers, the meeting is held in a cramped conference room on the third floor of City Hall.

The room is packed, with a phalanx of uniformed – and armed – police officers along

about another two hours and then took another break to go into a special council meeting.

In that meeting it was decided, still after much more debate, to direct City Manager Cooper to look into state loan options.

But there was also a decision to cut about \$1 million from the city budget, which involved eliminating miscellaneous costs such as supplies and money held back to pay for unexpected retirements.

City code inspectors are also slated to be laid off, although their jobs might be saved if federal grant money for development projects can be tapped to cover their salaries.

Oh yeah, the city manager's secretary was cut from full time to part time without any benefits.

Cooper told The Review the cut to his secretary will save no more than \$30,000 and questioned the wisdom of that move.

He also said that despite having to figure out how to repay the state loan, the extra year will give him time to negotiate with city employees for contract concessions and if necessary, go into

### Hamtramck Police Vehicle Auction Wed., December 15, 2010 at 11:00 am at Boulevard & Trumbull Towing, 2411 Vinewood, Detroit MI 48216

1993 CADILLA	1G6KS52B0P0802651
1996 FORD	1ZVLT20A0T5124015
1996 DODGE	2B7HB21X8TK114934
1997 DODGE	2B4GH2439VR119699
1994 DODGE	2B4GH2536RR816393
1995 HONDA	1HGCD563XSA107992
1998 DODGE	1B4GP44G8WB515895
1996 BUICK	1G4AG55M0T6421674
1993 CHEVY	1GBEG25K8PF308682
2000 MAZDA	1YVGF22CX5168463
2001 FORD	1FAFP53U7A173775
1993 GMC	2GTG19K0P1551048
2001 TOYOTA	2T1BR12E61C488858
1987 CHEVY	1GKGV26K5HF524908
2002 DODGE	4B3AG42G0E2129329
Unknown HOMEADE	Trailer
1997 FORD	1FTCR14X0VTA63170
1995 LINCOLN	1LNLM91V5SY769953
FORD	1FTHE24Y0PHB11708
2002 FORD	1FAFP53U22G102711
1996 CHEVY	1G1LD55M8TY155100
1991 CHEVY	1GBDM1929MB103638
1993 FORD	KNJPT05H7P6142449
1999 HONDA	1HGEJ6120X014027
1998 BUICK	1G4HP52K9WH04809
1992 TOYOTA	4T1SK12E1NU092605
1991 PLYMOUTH	3P3XA463XMT610114
1998 CHEVY	1G1NE52M9G6236682
1994 OLDS	1G3AG55M9G6349628
1994 TOYOTA	1NXAE04B3R2191688
1991 DODGE	1B7GE06Y1MS204555
2001 BUICK	2G4WSS2J71113016
1996 BUICK	2G4WB52M8T1416853
1999 FORD	2FMDA5248XB09175
2003 MOPEL	RK5CA0G3Y571717
2003 FORD	2FAHP71W53X175561
1994 ACURA	JH4DB7654RS000039
1993 SATURN	1G82H1577PZ180007
1990 FORD	2FAPP36X0L8199740
1998 FORD	2FAFP73W7WX165877
1995 GMC	1GTD19W2S8518377
1999 FORD	1FAFP537XG248897
1998 FORD	1FAFP13P3WW184334
1997 FORD	3FALP15P15P6VR119401
1993 MERCURY	2MELM75W4PK641038

As required by AFSCME contract, the City of Hamtramck is in the process of creating a List of Eligibility for accounting positions. Experience related to accounting procedures and general ledger maintenance preferred. Complete job description available online at [www.hamtramck.us](http://www.hamtramck.us). Applications are available at City Hall or on the City's website. Send completed applications via mail to HR Dept.,  
**3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, MI, 48212,**  
email: [jneel@hamtramckcity.com](mailto:jneel@hamtramckcity.com)  
or fax: (313) 872-0399.  
Respond by 12/17/10 - 4:00 p.m. Qualified applicants will be notified of testing date and location. The City of Hamtramck is an EEOC employer.

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## This week at the library...

- Santa Arrives at the Library** - Saturday, December 11 at noon. All the children are invited for lighting of the Library Christmas Tree, and the arrival of Santa at the library with presents for all.
- ESL Class for Beginners** - Saturday, December 11 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, December 18 at noon. All children are invited to storytime featuring "Dewey's Christmas at the Library" by Vicki Myron. Afterwards, we will make photo frames from gingerbread.
- Computer Classes for Beginners** - Tuesday, December 14 at 11:30 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, December 14 at 5:30 p.m. Jide Aje is the instructor for the reading and conversation ESL classes.
- Math Club Meeting** - Tuesday, December 14 at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Nuo is the instructor for the math club and math tutoring.
- Movie Wednesday** - Wednesday, December 15 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, December 16 at 11:30 a.m. Adults with basic computer skills can enhance their computer literacy each Thursday at the library.

- Number of participants is limited to available computers.
- Winter Teen Club** - Thursday, December 16 at 5 p.m. Members of the Teen Club will be making their own "ginger bread buddy" for the upcoming holiday celebrations (registration required). Everyone is invited to join.
- Jeopardy at the Library** - Thursday, December 16 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, December 16 at 6 p.m. Regular meeting of the Library Board will be held in the auditorium. Open to the public.
- Holiday Concert "History of Black Madonna"** - Friday, December 17 at 6 p.m. Holiday concert with musical history of Black Madonna will be presented by local musician and historian, Kazimierz Jedralczyk. Everyone is invited. Refreshments will be served.
- Friends of the Library Meeting** - Thursday, Dec. 23 at 6:30 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.
- Income Tax Training Classes** - Mondays and Wednesdays at 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency will conduct tax training classes on Mondays and Wednesdays, starting Nov. 29.

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

## Cosmos basketball season starts off with a big win

By Ian Perrotta

The Hamtramck High boys' basketball team is undefeated – so far. They won their first game of the season on Tuesday (Dec. 7) night.

It was a resounding victory for the Cosmos, who beat crosstown rival Frontier Academy by a score of 76-46 in front of a packed crowd. Though the score seems like a blowout, Hamtramck's Head Coach Mark Nezych said that while he was pleased to win the game, there was still room to improve.

"Overall we did some good things," he said, "but we did more bad things than I would have liked to see. First games are always sloppy and [Tuesday] night was nothing new."

However, Nezych did credit his team on two big improvements from last year. The first involves rebounding, which he says the Cosmos did a phenomenal job of doing against the Knights. Incredibly, the team ended the game with an outstanding total of 50 rebounds.

"I was happy to see at least three white shirts hitting the boards almost every possession on both ends of

the floor," said Nezych.

The second, and most important according to Nezych, was that the Cosmos played like a team. Nezych commended the camaraderie of

were led in scoring by senior Anthony Nrecaj, who had 19 points, 11 rebounds and four assists. Junior Nadis Ahmic added 14 points – including going four-for-four from the

you'd rather see them in a more appropriate arena, the Cosmos will be playing a game at the Palace of Auburn Hills on Wednesday, Dec. 29 at 4 p.m. before the Pistons



Hamtramck players Anthony Nrecaj (33) and Nadis Ahmic (1) scramble for a loose ball in the team's 76-46 victory over crosstown rival Frontier Academy.

this year's players, saying that even those on the bench were able to get involved in the game by cheering their teammates on when they did something good.

In the end, the Cosmos

free throw line – eight rebounds and four assists, and senior Corey Bolls scored 10 points.

Hamtramck's next home game is tonight (Dec. 10) at 7 p.m. against Oxford. But if

vs. Celtics game. Tickets to see the Cosmos as well as the Pistons are just \$50 and can be purchased at the high school through Mark Nezych or Toni Coral. The ticket also includes a free T-shirt.

## Recycling program will start back up this Saturday, with a little help from it's friends

By Charles Sercombe

Here's a reminder that this Saturday (Dec. 11) is a chance to keep Hamtramck's recycling program up and running.

A few weeks ago, the city announced it was shutting down the program because of a budget deficit.

But the Hamtramck Recycling Commission is determined to keep it going. The commission is counting on donations from those who use the service. It actually won't take much, commission members say. If everyone pitches in a few bucks or so,

the city should be able to keep it going on the second Saturday of each month.

So, stop by the city parking lot on Caniff at McDougall this Saturday and drop off your recyclable items anytime between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

And just in case you forgot what can be recycled, here's a brief rundown:

**Acceptable:**

- Cardboard and paper bags (no wax-coated cardboard)
- Paperboard (no wax-coated paperboard)
- Magazine and catalogs (any size)

Junk mail (envelopes, flyers, brochures, postcards, etc.)

Office paper (all types and sizes)

Phone books (all types and sizes)

Newspaper (remove bag strings and rubber bands)

Pots and pans (kitchen cookware)

Steel and tin cans (empty cans only)

Clear glass (empty, clear glass only)

Aluminum cans (empty cans only)

Plastic jugs and bottles (#1 and #2)

Household plastic (#3-#7, empty containers only)

Plastic bags (most retail and grocery bags)

**Here's what is not acceptable:**

- Paper milk or juice cartons
- Styrofoam containers and packing
- Garbage
- Propane tanks
- Paint cans
- Colored glass
- Medical waste
- Flammable liquids
- Household cleaners
- Chemicals (dry or liquid)
- Wood items

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<b>Saturday, December 11</b> - Communal Confessions .....	11:00 am
Healing Mass .....	4:00 pm
<b>Friday, December 24</b> - Christmas Vigil - Family Mass .....	4:00 pm
Solemn Midnight Mass .....	12:00 am
*Celebrated in English and Polish (Preceded by the singing of Christmas Carols at 11:30 pm)	
<b>Saturday, December 25</b> - Christmas Day	
Mass in Polish .....	10:00 am
Mass in English .....	12:00 Noon
<b>Sunday, December 26</b> .....	8:30, 10:00, 12:00
<b>Friday December 31</b> - New Years Eve .....	4:00 pm
<b>Saturday, January 1, 2011</b> - Blessed Virgin Mary ...	10:00 am Polish .. 4:00 pm English
<b>Sunday, January 2, 2011</b> - Epiphany of the Lord .....	8:30 am, 10:00 am Polish
Chalk and Incense available .....	12:00 Noon

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# Bar Hopping

**Atlas Bar:** One of the last neighborhood bars, come shoot pool. \$1 domestic beer specials until 7 p.m. and \$1 Black Label & Schlitz until 8 p.m., 2363 Yemans.

**Belmont Bar:** Sundays – Sunday Bloody (Mary) Sunday and movie night w/ TaitNucleus, \$3 mix your own Bloody Mary. No Cover. Mondays – Made-moiselle Monday featuring martini & manicure specials all night, w/ DJ Mike Alonso. No Cover. Tuesdays – Punk Fitness followed by DJ Spinny; \$1 PBR all night; No Cover to drink; Wednesdays – Rock and Roll Karaoke with The Millionaire. Over 80,000 songs to choose from! No cover; 10215 Jos. Campau (313) 871-1966 Free WIFI.

**Capo Lounge:** No Cover Charge. Tuesdays – Karaoke, Thursdays are Thirsty Thursdays Ladies Night live DJ; Dress to Impress. Fridays and Saturdays – Live DJs. Sunday is SEXY SUNDAY live DJ 11625 Jos. Campau (313) 365-CAPO (2276).

**Carbon Lounge:** 11474 Joseph Campau.

**Celina's Sports Bar:** Lots of TV's, sports and hot women, 11667 Jos. Campau; (313) 365-4194.

**Head Coach:** A Hamtramck tradition; 12001 Conant; (313) 366-6317.

**Hippo's:** Friendly service and plenty of smiles; Beer \$2.25, Jagar Bombs \$3.00, Jello Shots always; Open Wednesday - Saturday 3 p.m. till close; 11641 Conant; (313) 893-5633.

**Jean's:** 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.

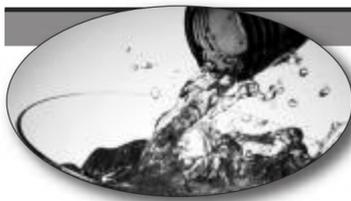
**7 Brothers Bar:** Hamtramck's hippest hangout for actors, 11831 Jos. Campau; (313) 365-6576.

**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.

**Suzy'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.



## 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 Charles Sercombe

Here are some random notes from around town ...

First of all, a great big thanks goes out to Suzy Briskey, the owner of Suzy's Bar on Evaline. We recently wrote about her place, and Suzy, being the gracious and generous person that she is, sent us a bag of goodies, but with a twist.

We didn't know Suzy was such a punster. We'll back up for a second. The writer of the story was this writer, Charles Sercombe. Most folks in town know me by my nickname, "Chip."

Well, in her card of thanks, Suzy goes on to say: "Of all the chips in the world, you're my favorite."

Inside the bag of food items were – you guessed it – several different types of potato chips and even a can of "Chip's Ahoy." Get it, "of all the chips in the world?"

Thanks again, Suze. The office has been gorging (and getting fat) on all the treats.

And speaking of stuffing yourself, Maria's Comida Mex-Asian Fusion on Jos.

Campau recently hosted a taco eating contest for the University of Detroit lacrosse team.

This was no "Animal House" affair. The guys were well-behaved and had plenty of good humor.

They mawed down 568 tacos in all, with the winner eating a grand total of 25 in one hour. Oh man, that hurts just thinking about it.

Maria's, by the way, has a line of salsa now available in select stores that you need to discover. Very tasty.

'Tis the season for parties. Besides all the holiday festivities happening in the upcoming weeks, be sure to stop by Whiskey in the Jar on Dec. 16. That's when bartender "Augie" will be celebrating his birthday. To top things off – with tongue firmly planted in cheek – there will be a live Hall and Oats cover tribute, or something like that.

Toast will stop by, but please line up those whiskey shots if we gotta endure a Hall and Oats night – even if it's just for laughs. Oh, yeah, it's also a fundraiser for "Cancer Rockstar" – which is a legit organization doing really great things.

Augie, as they say around here, Sto Lat!

■■■  
Jos. Campau property

owners and businesses are invited to stop by the Belmont this Saturday evening (Dec. 11) for a holiday party. It's part of the Hamtramck Downtown Development Authority celebration. Belmont owner Darren Grow's day job is being the DDA manager.

The Christmas spirit – or spirits – can be felt at Skipper's bar on Conant. Our buddy Skipper has a Toys for Tots drive going. To sweeten the deal, if you buy one drink at the regular price, you get the next free. All night long.

And with PBRs at one buck each until 9 p.m., you could really get into the holiday spirit mighty fast. To help absorb some of that alcohol, there is also an appetizer bar.

Having said all that, we want to remind our readers to drink responsibly and remember, the state's drunk driving law is about as draconian as it gets. Fortunately, for those who live in Hamtramck, forget the car and walk to the 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](mailto:news@thehamtramckreview.com) or call us at (313) 874-2100.**

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# Review: Opinion Page

## A state loan will buy the city a year to get it right

After all the huff and puff last week about the possible layoff of police officers and firefighters, and hours of special meetings, there won't be a single cop or fireman without a job.

A plan to file for bankruptcy was also scrapped, not because it's not still the desired plan of action but because Gov. Jennifer Granholm and her administration said no.

Instead, the city is going to take up the state's offer for a loan of \$2-\$3 million, which will allow the city to ride out another year before running out of cash.

You can read more about the details of what the city is going to do in our front page story. Our concern is not about the wisdom of a loan, but why the City Council took hours to talk the issue to death when the

only alternative the state was going to allow was asking for a loan.

This council has an awful habit of over-analyzing issues and worse yet, allowing councilmembers to grandstand on issues and pontificate in endless, and pointless, detail.

Enough already. If the council finds itself adrift in an issue, do this: ask the city manager for his opinion and then follow it. The city manager, after all, is the guy in charge and the person with expertise.

Stop wasting the public's time and more important, stop scaring public employees with talk of massive layoffs if that is not truly an option being considered.

But having said that, our public employees – most notably firefighters and police officers – are going to

have to rethink their position on not allowing the city to switch over to a less expensive health insurance plan. That cost is killing the city.

The loan indeed will only buy a certain amount of time. This issue over health insurance costs won't go away.

And also not going away is the ability of Hamtramck to continue maintaining its own independent police and fire departments. There is serious talk that Gov-Elect Rick Snyder is going to make drastic cuts in the state revenue that is distributed to cities.

Hamtramck bought itself a year to think this through. Maybe by then economic reality will sink in with our police and firefighters.

## Other Voices: Guest Editorial

### Sen. Scott has a final message to her colleagues

(State Sen. Martha Scott, whose district included Hamtramck, will soon be termed out of office. She recently e-mailed her constituents with some thoughts on her tenure. This one, centers on her ongoing battle to bring about fair auto insurance pricing.)

#### By State Sen. Martha Scott

This week marked my final day of session as a Michigan State Senator. Unfortunately, it did not mark the final day of too many Michigan citizens struggling to pay unfair auto insurance rates.

As most people who know me know, I have waged my battle for insurance reform in Michigan throughout my career as an elected official. Since March of 2004, I have made a statement on the need for insurance reform at every opportunity from the floor of the Senate. Thursday, I made my 572nd such statement.

What I want is not compli-

cated. I want fair and affordable property insurance for every Michigan resident. I want auto insurance to be based on the value of your car and your driving record.

Like I said, it's not complicated.

The current legislature could have left our service to our constituents knowing that we solved this problem and we created fair and affordable auto insurance.

We could have left the legislature knowing that more affordable rates would free up money for people to spend on other things which would help our state's economy.

We could have left knowing that drivers could afford to buy their mandatory auto insurance, and that people would no longer have to break the law and drive without insurance because it is simply too expensive.

It's not as if we did not know about this problem. I have reminded my fellow Sen-

ators of it 572 times over the past six years.

I have told them that, "No one is saying that they do not want to pay for auto insurance. They just want to pay a fair price for their policy."

I have read them letters and e-mails sent to me by Michigan citizens from across the state describing their plight.

Thousands of Michigan citizens have stood with me on the Capitol steps and loudly encouraged elected officials to "Move my bills."

But nothing happened, and our constituents are still faced with unfair and unaffordable auto insurance bills.

So my work will continue. I will be back as a constituent, sending e-mails and letters, and making phone calls to my legislators encouraging them to introduce bills to create meaningful insurance reform, and then encouraging them to "Move those bills."

## Odds & Ends

**Winterize ...** It's flu season once again, and it's time to get your annual flu shot. The Wayne County Department of Public Health will be in town this Friday (Dec. 10 – sorry, we got late notice) at People's Community Services Center, located at 8625 Jos. Campau.

Flu shots will be offered from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and cost \$15. It's free if you have a Medicaid card.

**Congrats ...** Let's give a shout out to Dickinson East Elementary School. The school once again made Hamtramck proud. Recently, the Urban League of Detroit & Southeastern Michigan held its annual Guild Gala.

Long story made short, Dickinson East students Majdi Chowdhury, Tanzim Chowdhury, Shaida Nishat, Naila Saric and Asia Timberlake were given the organization's "Do the Right Thing" award.

They were among 250 students competing for the award. Principal Nayal Mak-tari said Hamtramck was the only public school district to have more than one student honored.

To that, we say, wow! The students were selected based on their high academic achievements as well as service to the community. Keep your eye on these kids because they are heading toward something big in their lives.

The Amazing **CYNICALMAN** by Matt Fezell

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## Street Life

### Even in death, his shadow casts far and wide

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

#### By Walter Wasacz

Jim Shaw was a generous friend. He gave himself – his passion for music, art, travel – to all who found their way into his life.

Shaw brightened every room he stepped into, and possessed the rare gift of making those he touched better: better musicians, better artists, better people.

He was an extraordinarily selfless man who always put others first. He was not likely to be seen out front; Shaw found comfort working behind the curtain, where spotlights weren't necessary: where the authentic, the real magic gets done.

Shaw died Friday, Dec. 3. He was 54 and had fiercely, bravely, elegantly fought a nasty cancer first of the colon and then of the liver for nearly two years. To the end, he was with family and friends in his Hamtramck home, where he

wanted to be.

He was a member of the Hamtramck Plan Commission and was a quiet ambassador for the community since moving here decades ago. Traveling musicians from New Orleans, Memphis, Nashville and Asheville, North Carolina were always welcome at his home. You never knew who you might find there, or when an impromptu jam session might break out. The neighbors didn't complain of the noise. He was respectful of others in the neighborhood.

Jim was a humble giant on the Detroit music scene for a solid 30 years – maybe longer. I learned from his wife, Sandra Kramer, that his deep excursions into sound began in the early 1970s, when he saw Sun Ra in Ann Arbor. That "Space is the Place" era – when interplanetary jazz and acid garage rock blues were setting all us kids free in Detroit – left an imprint on the teenage Shaw that he never lost.

He had a knack for spotting



talent. When no one thought anything was going on in the 1980s and early 1990s, Jim and his brother Steve Shaw begged to differ. That period of basement and garage incubation begat the Gories, Detroit Cobras, White Stripes, countless others – and brought worldwide attention to the Detroit sound. But these guys were living and breathing it long before, and after, British journalists declared we were the "next Seattle."

Jim Shaw cared only about the music. The glamor and glory, not at all. He had remarkable taste. He knew what was good; and he called it out if it sucked. He listened with devotion. Back when we talked of such things, he could tell you whether the A side or B side of December's

Continued on page 8



## 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

Hamtramck's financial crisis was so dire the City Council called for a rare work session on Saturday morning (Dec. 4) and followed it up with a special meeting later in the afternoon. Mayor Karen Majewski was out of town and Councilmember Shahab Ahmed was absent.

The meeting was held in the third floor conference room, and it was standing room only. Tension ran high as the council discussed possible layoffs. Several police officers in full uniform lined up in the back of the room while several uniformed firefighters stood in the hallway.

The cramped quarters prompted one wit to say out loud: "They couldn't find a smaller room?"

So, what was with holding a meeting in a small room that everyone knew would attract a lot of city employees as opposed to holding the meeting in the council's chambers?

Mayoral Pro Tem Catrina Stackpoole said the meeting was changed from the council chambers, as originally posted, to the conference room in order for councilmembers to talk face-to-face.

She said meeting in the council chambers doesn't lead to productive discussions.

Well, that may be, but from

the hour or more of what we heard, much of the discussion went around in circles. It became pretty clear within 30 minutes that City Manager Bill Cooper was no longer interested in pursuing bankruptcy and instead wanted to take up the state's offer of a loan.

It's not like the city had much choice. The state is adamant in not allowing the city to file for bankruptcy. In fact, Gov. Granholm said state law would not permit Hamtramck to file for bankruptcy at this point.

Cooper said accepting a loan for \$2 or \$3 million will allow the city to coast for another fiscal year. He said that during that time the police officers' contract will have expired. Cooper said the extra time will allow him to negotiate with the union, but if the union still refuses to make concessions, the city will file for a labor arbitration ruling.

Cooper said he thinks labor arbitrators are more inclined to side with struggling cities.

Also in the year to come, Cooper said the city should have a better understanding where its lawsuit with Detroit is heading. Hamtramck sued Detroit for withholding \$3 million in tax revenues from GM's Poletown plant.

There was also talk that American Axle & Manufacturing may start up production again. The closing of the

plant costs Hamtramck over \$1 million in tax revenues.

(Editor's note: For whatever it's worth, according to one American Axle source we overheard talking at Maine Street Restaurant last week, there are no immediate plans to open the plant.)

The issue of borrowing money from the state brought up memories of former Emergency Financial Manager Lou Schimmel. City Attorney James Allen noted that the only reason Hamtramck pulled out of a budget deficit when Schimmel took over was because he sold two municipal bond issues. The city is still paying off those bonds to the tune of \$500,000 a year. One of the bond issues will expire in two years and the other one will end in 10 years.

Mayoral Pro Tem Stackpoole said she prefers receiving a loan because "you won't know what direction the EFM will take."

Amid more talk on the pros and cons of filing for bankruptcy or accepting a state loan, Councilmember Cathie Gordon blurted out: "I totally agree, we need to make a decision."

Yes, a decision. But getting to a decision took another five hours. The upshot in this very drawn out discussion was that the council directed City Manager Cooper to look into which of the four state loan offers to accept.

## New traffic law likely to have no effect

Continued from front page

requires cities to conduct traffic studies to determine what the speed limit should be for every street.

Hamtramck has not conducted such a study, which city officials say the city can't afford to do.

The only thing holding back the new law regarding the quota system is a signature from Gov. Jennifer Granholm. Well, there is actually one other thing holding back the law from going into effect: communities that choose to

ignore the new law.

Just like they ignored the law requiring a traffic study.

It's no secret that many communities are struggling financially. One of the easiest ways for cities to raise money is to go after drivers. And one of the easiest of easy ways to raise money is to create speed traps.

Hamtramck has several speed traps – most notably the I-75 service drive where at one point the street dips down steeply. Waiting right at

the rise of the dip is a traffic enforcement officer.

Hamtramck is also hurting bad when it comes to finances. The city is facing a \$3.3 million budget deficit by the end of January. You can read all about Hamtramck's financial troubles elsewhere in this paper.

As far as Hamtramck giving up an aggressive traffic enforcement ... we've got some swamp land on the city's east side to sell you.

## Metro news ...

It's said that whatever happens to Detroit, so goes Hamtramck. If you were to rely solely on the local mainstream media, you'd think Detroit is no more than a crime-infested wasteland. Well, we're here to say that isn't so. Our friends over at modelmedia.com and metro-mode.com have been reporting on fascinating development projects for the past few years.

With their permission, here is a round-up of their reports from the past week:

When it comes to public transportation on Woodward north of Eight Mile, the communities are coming together to make sure everyone is on board.

The Woodward Avenue Action Association has formed a task force of officials from Berkley, Birmingham, Ferndale, Huntington Woods, and

Royal Oak, to work together on transit vision. At this point, their goal is to get the communities around the table to discuss what they and the others would like to see, says Heather Carmona, WA3's executive director.

The task force, she explains, is the WA3's response to the community members who were concerned about the lack of consensus about what transit should be north of Eight Mile Road. With the latest news about the Woodward Light Rail receiving funding, there had never really been much discussion about what was needed or wanted north of Detroit, in Oakland County, specifically in the communities along Woodward.

"Our goal was, how can we bring these elected officials to the table?" Carmona poses. "What shape should

transit take on Woodward in south Oakland County?"

Melanie Piana, a Ferndale city councilmember and the associate director of Michigan Suburbs Alliance, which is also represented on the task force, says that among her goals after she joined the council in January was building relationships with the other Woodward communities. "I think it's a good thing any time our cities can collaborate on achieving something together," she says. "Since we all share the same corridor, it makes sense for us to strengthen our relationships and share ideas for goals and visions, and how we would like to see our communities grow."

The members are looking at what the communities share along Woodward, what the cities are planning, and

Continued on page 9

## 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 Community Center on Joseph Campau and Danforth, for all residents and businesses

south of Holbrook.

**The Central Neighborhood Watch** (the area bounded by Caniff, Conant, Holbrook and Jos. Campau) will meet the first Wednesday of each month, 7 p.m., at the HATCH building, 3456 Evaline. For more information, go online to hamtramckCBC@gmail.com. Facebook: Hamtramck Central Block Club group page.

**The Hamtramck Housing Commission Neighborhood Watch** is now called the W75 and it meets the second Wednesday of every month at 12025 Dequindre (housing commission activities center) at 1:30 pm.

**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.**

**For more information about Hamtramck's network of block clubs, go online to: www.hamtramckblockclubs.com**



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# Hamtramck WSU grad is awarded rare offer

By Catherine Gasior  
Special to The Review

Graduating with a masters degree is an accomplishment all by itself.

However, for Hamtramck resident Katherine Bryant, her graduation will be capped off with an extraordinary honor. Bryant was one of four students chosen by the faculty and staff of Wayne State University to be an honorary speaker at the Fall 2010 Commencement.

Bryant will be graduating with a Masters in Library and Information Science. Her exceptional course work, in and outside of the classroom, was cited for the reason she was chosen to be a commencement speaker.

"I have always chosen to speak up and take a stand," Bryant said. "I have tried to act as an organizer and leader, while maintaining positive relationships with my professors and fellow

students." Her studies have focused on urban librarianship — specifically on providing access to information in disad-



Katherine Bryant

vantaged communities — community buildings and intellectual freedom.

Bryant has also been involved in Hamtramck-based programs. Alongside Dr. Kafi Kumasi, WSU assistant pro-

fessor, Bryant was able to assist with a book club at Hamtramck High School's HOPE Program.

"We selected short stories, poems, videos and songs to present to the students and foster discussions on identity and race," she said.

Along with the book club, Bryant was also involved in SEED Wayne, a WSU program that introduces healthy food to Detroiters by creating urban community gardens.

She is also a founding member and officer of WSU's student chapter of the Progressive Librarians Guild.

Through her studies Bryant has a recognized some issues Hamtramck could improve on. She believes that Hamtramck could benefit from a "central community hub" in order for people of all ethnicities, ages and interests to come to-

gether and learn from one another.

"The Hamtramck Public Library is a fantastic institution that is serving this need already, but the work will never be complete," she added. "It is up to the community leaders and members to promote and protect libraries as a free and open space for the community to learn, explore, share, and enjoy."

Upon graduation, Bryant is looking forward to a career at a public library, preferably in an urban environment, such as Detroit or Hamtramck.

The WSU Commencement Ceremony will be held on Dec. 11 at 10 a.m. at Wayne State's Matthaei Athletics Complex.

(Catherine Gasior is a Hamtramck-based freelance writer. You can reach her at news@thehamtramckreview.com.)

# It's David versus Goliath in party store debate

By Charles Sercombe

You'd think opening a market/party store in Hamtramck would be a snap.

No fuss, no muss.

Ah, but the obvious is not always a slam dunk in Hamtramck.

Especially if the party store you want to open has a notorious past and happens to be located across the street from a major tax-paying company.

This is almost a David and Goliath standoff, except there's not much legally anyone can do to stop the store from opening.

Mary Alawfi is a security guard for the school district's Recreation Department, working only seasonally when needed, which is the spring and summer and a little in the winter.

She wants to open a market

Attorney Steven Grobbel argued before the council that when the market was open five years ago, it attracted the wrong kind of people. Customers would buy beer or liquor and hang out, harassing the company's employees and sometimes causing damage to the company's property.

Drivers for the company were also harassed and felt threatened by the market's customers.

"It became a magnet for trouble," Grobbel said

Despite the budget problems facing the city and loss of tax revenue, there was considerable debate on whether to allow the store to open.

Councilmember Catrina Stackpole questioned the "need" for the store since there was a supermarket just



that sells produce and other food items as well as beer and wine in a storefront located on Lumpkin in the city's southend.

Right across the street from Metropolitan Baking Co.

The baking company has been here for 70 years and employs 75 workers.

The storefront used to be a party store until about five or six years ago when it closed down, and it has remained vacant since then. Recently, Alawfi inquired about re-opening the store but found out that since the space has been vacant for five years, to reopen it as a market would require a zoning change.

You see, it's technically located in a residential area and after being vacant for so long it is zoned now solely for residential purposes. But city law allows for special permission to reclassify the zoning designation.

Alawfi got that go-ahead from the city Plan Commission and just need the City Council to sign off on it.

That's where things took an unexpected turn.

At a recent council meeting, the baking company's president and his lawyer showed up to protest the opening of the market.

three blocks away as well as some independent markets nearby.

Councilmember Tom Jankowski had the most stinging comments, saying the market had been a nuisance in the past and that the city cannot rely on the Police Department to do anything about trouble that might come up.

But that's not to say there wasn't any support for the market. Councilmember Kazi Miah noted that small businesses drive the American economy, and besides, he stressed, who was the council to decide what businesses should operate and what ones should be denied?

In other word, let the people decide what to support.

In the end, the council voted — except Jankowski — to allow the market to open.

But that's still not the end of the story. Alawfi says she has to first make some repairs to the building to bring it up to code, and she still has to win state approval to get a license to sell beer and wine.

She says that she understands Metropolitan's concerns, but doesn't want to fight her neighbor.

"There's no need for a fight," she said. "I'll stay on my side of the street."

# Real Estate Corner



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Shelby Township:

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Sterling Heights

38122 Jamestown - \$39,900 NEW PRICE!

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\*1120 Kirkwood - \$179,900 NEW!

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2673 Holmes - (4) units

3210-12 Lehman

9472 McDougall

3110-12 Roosevelt (4) units

11708-10 Sobieski

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12043 Moran  
**\$35,000**



Multi-Family Homes:  
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5057 Carpenter - \$39,900 three units  
2633 Casmere - \$89,900  
11613 Charest - \$99,900 SOLD!  
3451 Constock - \$37,500 NEW PRICE!  
2290 Geimer - \$49,900 NEW!  
11429 Klinger - \$49,900  
12080 Klinger - \$24,900 NEW PRICE!  
12043 Moran - \$35,000 NEW PRICE!  
11372 Nagel - \$32,900 NEW PRICE!  
\*3251-53 Yemans - \$49,900 NEW!  
Single Family Homes  
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5546 Casmere - \$14,900 - NEW!  
12630 Charest - \$29,900  
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# Obituaries

## BRZEZINSKI

Joseph Anthony Brzezinski, 61, died December 8, 2010. Mr. Brzezinski was a former Hamtramck resident and was a probation officer for the Hamtramck 31st District Court.

He is survived by his wife, Marie Beth Konicov; many nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews, his dog, "Ball"; sister, Connie (Richard) Santarossa; and brother-in-law, Ron Konicov.

Funeral arrangements were made by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, and funeral services will be December 11 at the funeral home at 11 a.m. with Fr. Andrew Wesley officiating. Cremation will be at Meadowcrest Cemetery.

Donations in Mr. Brzezinski's memory may be made to the Michigan Bassett Rescue League or the Salvation Army.

## BUGAI

Marvin Bugai, 68, died December 2, 2010.

Mr. Bugai was a Hamtramck resident and retired from the Chrysler Corporation.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, David and John.

Mr. Bugai is survived by his brother, Frank.

Funeral arrangements were made by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, and funeral services were held December 6 and St. Ladislaus Church. Burial was at St. Michael's Cemetery in Wilmot, Michigan.

## KANIA

Mitchell Edward Kania, 90, died November 28, 2010.

Mr. Kania was a Hamtramck resident and retired from Pepperidge Farm Distribution. He

also served in the Army Air Corp during World War II.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary (nee) Maciejka; and parents, John and Rose.

Mr. Kania is survived by his daughter-in-law, Julianne Kania; sons, Donald Iwaniec, of Cape Coral, Florida, and Mitchell Thomas Kania, of Hamtramck.

Funeral arrangements were made by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home. Private funeral services were held. Cremation was at Meadowcrest Cemetery.



# Street Life

Continued from page 5

Children was better; or spot the production flaws (or clarify the misunderstanding) in Bowie's treatment of the Stooges' Raw Power.

We crossed paths, without knowing it in the late '70s, when we were drawn to the local scene at Bookie's 870. It was here that east side, west side, Hamtramck and suburban punks came together. There seemed to be a lot of westsiders, I recall, and Jim was one of them, though we didn't actually meet until he co-founded a pioneering vintage clothing and accessories business called Cinderella's Attic a few years later.

He and I talked recently about the same shows we attended, though independently: Captain Beefheart, the Jam, Talking Heads, Lou Reed - when Ian Dury and the Blockheads opened and were mercilessly abused by Reed fans - the Clash, PIL, the Dead Boys. Venues we haunted: the Motor City Roller Rink, Punch & Judy, the Second Chance. He was only slightly envious when I admitted I saw Aerosmith and Kiss in their first ever Detroit ap-

pearances.

Jim will be missed by my mom, whose neighborhood beauty shop underwent an extraordinary conversion via his

it's done.

Jim Shaw is survived by his wife, Sandra Kramer Shaw his mother, Patricia Shaw; brothers Pat, Steve, Jerry and Matt;



Jim Shaw died last Friday. His death leaves a big void in the metro area's music community, and really also in the community at large. He's seen here with his wife, Sandy Kramer (far right) hugging their dear friend Helen Wasacz.

skillful hands in 2002 and became Kramer's Barberella, a gorgeous business in the front of our house. His laughter, which filled the salon and warmed any room he entered, will be missed.

He will be missed by all whose lives he touched with his heart, his passion, his empathy. Detroit is a better place for his having lived in it, for shaping its music, for keeping it real. Thank you, brother Shaw, for showing us the way

sisters Lisa and Katie; and seven nieces and nephews.

A funeral service that included a New Orleans-style marching band was held Monday at Elmwood Cemetery in Detroit. A reception featuring local bands and DJs spinning rare 45s was held at the Magic Stick that night. Additional memorial events may be held in the future.

(A portion of this remembrance was published earlier in the Metro Times).

# Tomo Ulaj

August 24, 1963 - December 5, 2010



Tom Pali Ulaj, 47, Beloved Husband of Vera (nee: Nikprelevic). Dear Father of Lauren, Tatiana and Deanna.

Cherished son of Palo and Dragica. Loving Brother of Marko, Kathy (Tim) McIntyre, Vera (Bryan) Crosby, Linda (Mark) Hyman, Violeta (Darrick) Sams and Kristina (Robert) Rugiero. Also remembered by many nieces and nephews.

Funeral arrangements were made by Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons, Inc., and funeral services were held on December 9, at St. Paul Albanian Catholic Church. Burial was at Guardian Angel Cemetery. Share memories with the family at their "On-Line Guest Book" at WujekCalcaterra.com.

# Gardener's Corner...

By Kathleen Wojcinski

Animals need attention now and through the winter.

Fresh water is a must. Keep adding water every day to bowls, birdbaths, etc. The new water will sit atop the ice and will loosen it.

Garden centers and catalogues have great gift ideas. If you have outdoor electric-

ity, you could get a coil heater for your birdbath. They also make solar-powered versions. Cats, squirrels, birds and other wild rascals will love you.

Dollar stores sell suet cages. You fill them with store-bought suet cakes, or make your own. Mix old bread pieces, raisins, seeds,

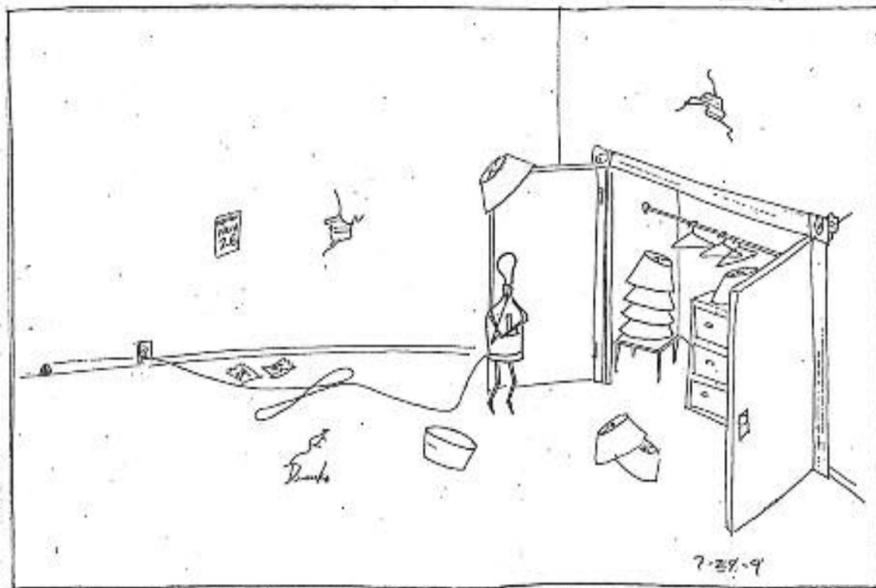
peanuts, cranberries, apple and other fruit bits and peels. To bind it, mix with skimmed fat from soups, stews, bacon and other meats.

Mix into a ball. Let cool, then flatten it out, tucking it into the cage. Hang on a bush or tree and watch the acrobatics.



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Beautiful 3 Br., lower, hardwood floor, washer-dryer in basement, deposit + references required, \$550/month, 586-484-7466. 12/17

Hamtramck-Detroit, 2-3 Br., super clean, nice area, no pets, 586-634-2502. 12/10

Hamtramck, Belmont St., 2 Br. lower, Wallside windows, \$500/month, clean, 313-492-8301. 12/31

Hamtramck, 3257 Lehman, upper + lower, 2 Br. each, separate entrance, stove-fridge, washer-dryer, no pets, \$400/month + \$600 security deposit, 586-354-5343. 12/17

Hamtramck, 11435 Fleming, clean upper, stove-fridge, washer-dryer, heat + water included, \$550/month + one month security deposit, Kim, 313-682-2928. 12/31

Hamtramck, 3101-03 Jacob St., lower 2 Br., large living room, dining, kitchen, newly remodeled, laundry facility included, stove-fridge, excellent condition, 586-497-8810. 12/31

Hamtramck, 1 Br., utilities included, no pets, 313-632-5566. 12/24

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Hamtramck, 9460 Charest, upper 2 Br., living room, kitchen, very clean, 586-321-2828. 12/10

Hamtramck, 1 Br., utilities included, no pets, 313-632-5566. 12/24

Hamtramck, upper 2 Br., completely remodeled, \$525/month + security deposit, references required, 313-801-4001. 12/10

Hamtramck, 2 apt. lower with 2 Br. each, one apt. upper 2 Br., stove-fridge + water included, ask for Benny, 586-943-8814. 12/10

Hamtramck, 9512 Charest, 2 Br. upper and lower, Section 8 OK, appliances included, 313-712-8347. 12/10

3 Br. + 2 Br. studios for rent, excellent condition, central air, washer-dryer, dishwasher, 313-420-7451. 12/10

1 Br. upper, stove - refrigerator, water + heat included, \$400/month + \$400 security, 586-939-7118. 12/24

Hamtramck, 11638 Nagel, 2 Br. upper, clean, \$475/month, 313-438-3438. 12/10

## APARTMENTS & FLATS FOR RENT

Hamtramck, Roosevelt St., 2 Br. upper, cozy flat, \$400/month + \$425 security, water included, heat and electric separate, near shopping and schools, don't have to cut grass or shovel snow, 248-543-4884. 12/17

Hamtramck, 2 Br. lower flat, water-heat included, adults preferred, no pets, references required, \$575/month + \$575 deposit, 313-874-1442, leave message. 12/10

Upper 3 Br. nice + clean, remodeled, new carpet, kitchen, new paint, close to schools, no pets, \$500/month + \$500 security, 248-854-4023. 12/10

3 Br upper, water included, \$450/month, 3356 E. Palmer, Detroit. Also, 1 Br. upper, heat and water included, \$375/month, 13515 Syracuse St., Detroit, 586-634-5593. 12/10

Beautifully remodeled 3 Br. upper (\$595/month) and 1 Br. lower (\$400/month) + security deposit, utilities not included, Section 8 OK, credit check, 313-590-1000. 12/10

Hamtramck, 9478 McDougall, 2 Br. upper, good condition, no pets, ask for Doda or David, 586-722-8963, 586-978-2363. 12/10

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3273 Hanley St., 2 Br., 3 dining rooms, food pantry, new carpet. ALSO, 3279 Hanley St., 3 Br., 2 dining rooms, kitchen, basement, stove-fridge, 313-575-7411. 12/10

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**Deadline for classifieds for next week is Thursday at Noon**

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## Metro news ...

Continued from page 6

how to better connect them. They're trying to stay away from discussing type of transportation and where the stops would be, taking more of a macro view.

They do agree, though, that whatever transit option is put in place won't just end at Eight Mile. "I think it is a natural progression of the hard work our Detroit counterparts

have been doing over the last couple of years, and now we can do our hard work to make sure we can connect together," Piana says.

The task force hopes to have a resolution for all the communities to support before the holidays, and then work on a list of goals and objectives.

Writer: Kristin Lukowski

# Coming Events • Coming Events • Coming Events

**DECEMBER 11, Sat. 2 - 4 p.m.** – Monthly Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross Parish, Pulaski at Fleming. All are welcome.

**DECEMBER 17, Friday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.** – State Sen. Martha Scott will host a free senior citizen Holiday luncheon at Soul Harvest Ministries (16300 Woodward in Highland Park).

Space is limited so make a reservation as soon as possible by calling, (800) 726-8878.

**DECEMBER 21, 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.

# New business looks to become the 'Sultan' of Conant

By Ian Perrotta

If taste is king, then the Sultan Al-Kabob rules Hamtramck.

The restaurant, located at 9335 Conant Ave., is one of the latest culinary additions to the city. And appropriately enough, this Yemeni-owned

business on "Bangladeshi Avenue" serves some of the best Middle Eastern food around.

After opening last Monday (Nov. 29), the casual dining establishment has been steadily winning over customers. With an assortment

of appetizers, soups, salads and dinners all available at a moderate price – including vegetarian entrées and the deliciously bountiful "Sultan Tray" combos – it's easy to see why they keep coming back.

Inside the completely refin-

ished business you'll find a clean, welcoming environment and a friendly staff. As the sight of a former diner, the Sultan Al-Kabob retains a quaint café charm in the front of the building while maintaining its own distinct flavor by adding a fresh fruit juice bar to the old counter-top eating area.

A big change this time around is that the owners have expanded into the next building over to create a dining area big enough to accommodate even the largest of parties. As an added bonus, they have painted several murals depicting some of Yemen's greatest places to visit – a little food for thought while you're eating.

"I think we're one of the best restaurants in Hamtramck," says manager Wadie Ali, who has worked at other area businesses. "For

the quality and the price, we can't be beat."

The Sultan Al-Kabob is located at 9335 Conant (right now the sign says Sultan

Café) and is open all week. They offer delivery and can cater to all occasions and can be reached at (313) 875-9999, or sultan-cafe11@yahoo.com.



There's plenty of great food to choose from at the Sultan Al-Kabob, so bring a few friends and try it all.

# At this store, it's good to 'hoard'

By Kelli B. Kavanaugh  
Special to The Review

A vintage and antique shop, Hoard House, has opened at 10022 Jos. Campau in Hamtramck.

Co-owner Andy Dow says he and partners Stacey Trarop and Melanie Grinnell decided to fill a vacant storefront in Hamtramck for a pretty obvious reason: "I'm a bit of a hoarder with a household of stuff," he says.

Collectibles foraged from the trio's homes along with consigned goods from other people fill the shelves and racks; most items are more than 50 years old with some kitschy exceptions a bit less long in the teeth. Movie posters, home goods, clothing, sunglasses and more can be found on the premises.

Two more inspirations were Hamtramck's inexpensive

rent and a neighbor, Detroit Threads, a shop that also sells vintage goods just

storefronts here in Hamtramck and (we'd like to) have some other things be-



At the Hoard House, you can buy back all the stuff your mom threw out 20 years ago because she thought it was too kitschy.

down the street. "We thought it might promote Hamtramck," he says. "If there were a couple of places here, people might actually come here to shop."

Dow is well-versed in Hamtramck's viability as owner of Painted Lady Lounge and a member of the Hamtramck Downtown Development Authority.

"There are a lot of empty

sides your dollar stores, jewelry shops, pawn shops – there are a lot of people in the right age group for this stuff living around here."

Hoard House is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday noon to 6 p.m. Call (313) 721-9956.

(This article first appeared in Modelmedia.com and is reprinted with permission.)

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