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Quick Hits

This coming Tuesday is Pearl Harbor Day, you know the day back in 1941 when America came under attack by Japan.

That attack led America into World War II, and the day was famously characterized by President Roosevelt as one date "which will live in infamy."

America has come a long way since then, but there is one constant: We are forever indebted to our service men and women who give us the ultimate sacrifice in defending our freedoms.



This week in history

- NBA basketball great and Hamtramck High School graduate Rudy Tomjanovich was honored by the city in 1975.

- The HHS Community Center, located on Charest, was officially dedicated in 1980.

- As World War II raged on, Hamtramck started up a rag collection in 1943.

Source: Hamtramck Historical Commission

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Goodfellows' food drive faces tough challenge in tough times

By Charles Sercombe

Every year the Hamtramck Goodfellows manage to scrape up enough money to feed a few thousand needy families.

Some years, the Goodfellows have to dip into their savings to make sure everyone gets a food certificate that can be redeemed for all the grocery items needed to make a nice, home-cooked holiday meal.

It's no secret that in the past few years it's been a struggle to come up with the approximate \$7,000 needed to get by. Given the economic free-fall the Detroit area is experiencing, this year is going to be gut-wrenching.

There's no use sugarcoating what's going on these days. With unemployment extensions cut off (at least, at the time we went to press, that was the latest update on what congress was doing), we are looking at some serious hard times in the coming weeks.

And when we say hard times, we mean like the 1930s and the Great Depression. Makes you pretty ticked off thinking about it.

But this is the holiday season, and here are some things we know about Hamtramckans: We are survivors. We care about our neighbors. We give. We help. We donate.

No questions asked, Hamtramck is there for you. The

best buddy you can have.

That's why this issue of The Review is extra special. This week's paper is dedicated to the Goodfellows fundraising effort.

You may have even bought the issue you are reading now from a Goodfellows volunteer selling The Review out on the street.

If you didn't, you can still contribute to their effort. It's as easy as making out a check, or visiting the Treasurer's Office in City Hall.

To donate by check, make it out to: "Hamtramck Goodfellows" and mail it to the City of Hamtramck, Treasury Office, 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, MI 48212."

Want to help out, or need more information? If so, give

the group's Chairman, Mike 9600 or Co-Chair Chris Corn- Wilk, a call at (313) 365- well at (313) 330-9700.



Hamtramck School Board President Titus Walters and School Boardmember Yvonne Myrick (above) will be among the rest of the Hamtramck Goodfellows selling a special issue of The Review this Friday. The group needs to come up with \$7,000 to provide a holiday meal for thousands of needy residents.



Winter Glow will shine a light on the holiday season

By Ian Perrotta

It's that time of year again.

Tomorrow (Dec. 4) marks the return of the annual Winter Glow, a fun-filled event for the whole family put on by the Hamtramck Recreation Department. Like last year, the festivities will be held at the Community Center on Charest (next to the high school).

This year's celebration begins at 10 a.m., when you'll get the chance to have breakfast with Santa. This hearty pancake meal with all the fixings is just \$1 for kids and \$3 for adults, but tickets must be purchased at the Community Center before tomorrow.

At 11 a.m., the Winter Glow officially begins. Entry is free – as is everything to do inside

and out – and there will be plenty to keep you occupied. In addition to several craft-making stations, there will also be an inflatable moon bounce, a slide and an obstacle course. And if you're a little hungry or thirsty there will cookies and hot chocolate, too.

Outside, you'll have the rare opportunity to take a horse-drawn carriage ride throughout the city. But don't worry if you're scared of horses – you can always ride the old-fashioned carousel that will make its debut at this year's event.

Now in its 16th year, the Winter Glow has grown from a small event at City Hall to what it has become today. Recreation Coordinator Teresa Yorke explained that it is partly for

that reason that the event will be held even in light of the tough economic times facing the city.

"It's a way for the community to come together and just have a good time," says Yorke. "And I think that this year it will probably



State still won't budge on bankruptcy

Charles Sercombe

No means no when it comes to the state Treasury officials' answer to Hamtramck's ongoing request to file for bankruptcy.

City and state officials met on Monday (Nov. 29) to discuss Hamtramck's request to take the unusual move. City Manager Bill Cooper described the meeting as tense at first but "cordial."

A couple of weeks ago, Hamtramck made national news for asking to file for bankruptcy. Cooper has said that it's necessary to file for bankruptcy to avoid payless paydays by the end of January.

Unfortunately for Cooper and city officials, it takes approval by the state to allow Hamtramck go into bankruptcy.

Going into bankruptcy, Cooper said, would allow him to tear up labor contracts, seek less expensive health insurance plans and skirt minimum staffing requirements in the police and fire departments.

Continued on page 2

Early birds take on budget cuts

"A little man walked up and down,

He found an eating place in town,

He read the menu through and through,

To see what fifteen cents could do.

"One meatball, one meatball,

He could afford but one meatball."

"One Meatball"

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck is much like that "little man" with just 15 cents.

The city is so broke, or about to be so broke, that City Councilmembers are going to do a rare thing: get up early this Saturday morning and hold a work session at 9 a.m. to figure out how to cut the budget by 20 percent, department by department.

Councilmembers are so convinced this is do-able after just one meeting, they will hold a regular meeting an hour after the work session (at 10 a.m.) to put the cuts into action.

Let's go over this one more

Continued on page 2

Daily Lunch & Dinner Specials

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Wed., December 15, 2010
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Vinewood, Detroit MI 48216

1993	CADILLA	1G6K55280PU802651
1996	FORD	1ZVL20AXT5124015
1996	DODGE	2B7HB21X8TK114934
1997	DODGE	2B4GP2439VR119699
1994	DODGE	2B4GH2536RR816393
1995	HONDA	1HGCD563XSA107992
1998	DODGE	1B4GP44G8WB515895
1996	BUICK	1G4AG55M0T6421674
1993	CHEVY	1GBE625K8PF308682
2000	MAZDA	1YVGF22CXYS168463
2001	FORD	1FAFP53U71A173775
1993	GMC	2GT6C19K0P1551048
2001	TOYOTA	2T1BR12E61C488858
1987	CHEVY	1GKGV26K5HF524908
2002	DODGE	4B3AG42G0E2129329
Unknown	HOMEADE	Trailer
1997	FORD	1FTCR14X0VTA63170
1995	LINCOLN	1LNLM91V5SY766953
	FORD	1FTH24Y0PHB11708
2002	FORD	1FAFP53U22G102711
1996	CHEVY	1G1LD55M8TY155100
1991	CHEVY	1G8DM1929MB103638
1993	FORD	KNJPT05H7P6142449
1999	HONDA	1HGEJ6120XL014027
1998	BUICK	1G4HP52K8WH404809
1992	TOYOTA	4T1SK12E1NU092605
1991	PLYMOUTH	3P3XA463XMT610114
1998	CHEVY	1G1N5E2M9W6236682
1994	OLDS	1G3AG55M9R6349628
1994	TOYOTA	1NXAE04B3R2191688
1991	DODGE	1B7GE06Y1MS204555
2001	BUICK	2G4WS52J711113016
1996	BUICK	2G4WB52M8T1416853
1999	FORD	2FMDA5248XB09175
2003	MOPEL	RK5C5CA0G33Y51717
2003	FORD	2FAHP71W53X175561
1994	ACURA	JH4DB7654RS000039
1993	SATURN	1G8ZH1577PZ180007
1990	FORD	2FAPP36X0L199740
1998	FORD	2FAFP73W7WX165882
1995	GMC	1GTD0M19W2SB518377
1999	FORD	1FAFP53S7XG248897
1998	FORD	1FAFP13P3WW184334
1997	FORD	3FALP15P15P6VR119401
1993	MERCURY	2MELM75W4PX641038

Early birds take on budget cuts

Continued from front page

time:

Get up early Saturday. Come up with ways to cut the budget by 20 percent across the board.

In one hour.

And then vote on those cuts to make it official.

All in one morning.

Well, this council has proven one thing so far: It knows how to drag out a subject and talk it to death. At least the council has something going for it. City department heads have already drafted their budgets to reflect a 20 percent cut.

For the police and fire departments, that would mean drastic layoffs of about 11 firefighters and 11 cops.

That proposed cut, though, would likely bring on a court injunction by the unions representing firefighters and police officers because of minimum staffing requirements spelled out in their contracts.

Hey, at least some lawyers will get some extra pay out of the dispute if the council dares to make those cuts.

The city's financial outlook isn't good. Heck, we've been

writing about it for weeks, and the subject is all over this issue.

Long story, short: The city will have a \$3.3 million deficit come the end of January, and it won't have enough cash on hand to meet employee payroll.

You can read about it elsewhere in this issue.

For now, enjoy the rest of "One Meatball" – an appropriate tune for the down and out (popularized by folksingers Josh White and later, Dave Van Ronk.)

"A little man walked up and down,

He found an eating place in town,

He read the menu through and through,

To see what fifteen cents could do.

One meatball, one meatball,
He could afford but one meatball.

He told the waiter near at hand,

The simple dinner he had planned.

The guests were startled, one and all,

To hear that waiter loudly call, "What,

"One meatball, one meatball?"

Hey, this here gent wants one meatball."

The little man felt ill at ease,

Said, "Some bread, sir, if you please."

The waiter hollered down the hall,

"You gets no bread with one meatball.

"One meatball, one meatball,

Well, you gets no bread with one meatball."

The little man felt very bad,

One meatball was all he had,

And in his dreams he hears that call,

"You gets no bread with one meatball.

"One meatball, one meatball,

Well, you gets no bread with one meatball."

State still won't budge on bankruptcy

Continued from front page

The unions representing police, fire and city employees have refused significant contract concessions, despite a looming \$3.3 million deficit and payless paydays by the end of January.

Hamtramck's request appears to be a first for the state. Cities usually wait until they are dead broke before seeking protection in bankruptcy.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm's administration instead offered the city four loan options to tide the city over for the next several months.

Cooper rejected that offer, saying it will only delay dealing with Hamtramck's labor costs, and he also pointed that a loan will only add to the city's financial deficit.

State officials remained unfazed.

"We agreed to disagree," Cooper said.

But that's not the end of

the story.

Gov. Granholm will be leaving office in a few weeks, after being termed out. That means Gov.-Elect Rick Snyder might have a whole different view of Hamtramck's financial woes.

Cooper said Snyder's Treasurer appointee, Andy Dillon, attended Monday's meeting. Cooper said Dillon was "non-committal to what the new administration might do."

"The new administration did not slam the door in our face," Cooper said.

Guessing just how Snyder will react has been like reading tea leaves. He has not spoken directly on the matter, but judging by the people he is appointing to his cabinet, it appears there will be severe financial cuts to communities.

Snyder has also said that public employees – which presumably include Ham-

tramck's – must make financial sacrifices.

There is also talk that Snyder might force communities to merge services, and even possibly merge totally with other communities.

For Hamtramck, that option would be devastating. Both Detroit and Highland Park, our immediate neighbors, are arguably in worse shape.

Hamtramck's financial picture took a nosedive several months ago when a dispute arose with Detroit. Detroit is claiming it has overpaid Hamtramck several million dollars in a tax revenue sharing plan it has with the city regarding GM's Poletown plant.

The plant straddles Detroit and Hamtramck.

The dispute is now in court. But in the meantime, Hamtramck says Detroit is unfairly withholding \$3 million.

Hamtramck NAACP elects new officers

By Ian Perrotta

The state and local political races weren't the only elections held last month. Two weeks ago (Nov. 20), the Hamtramck branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) held officer elections at People's Community Services (PCS).

There were six positions up for election, and the Election Committee – comprised of Enid Cyrus, Bob Zwolak and Arif Huskic – proudly announced the winners in a weekend press release.

Juanita Sephers, a lifetime member of the NAACP, was

elected President, while Bill Meyer, the Executive Director of OneHamtramck, was elected Vice President. Darla Swint was elected as Secretary and Bob Zwolak as Assistant Secretary. Though he declined the nomination, Kazi Miah was elected Treasurer, and Tissua Franklin was elected as Assistant Treasurer.

There was also an election for executive committee members, and those elected include Kamal Rahman, Twyla Meyer, Mike Nelson, Gabriel Alaziz, Arif Huskic, Enid Cyrus and Akm Rahman.

With the change of leaders,

there is already a renewed sense of commitment in the organization. Swint and Zwolak have pledged to bring the membership records up-to-date and to keep members more regularly informed of activities.

Additionally, the remaining available executive committee spots are expected to be filled at the next regular meeting, which will be held on Saturday, Dec. 11 at noon at PCS, located at 8625 Jos. Campau. All members are invited to come and express their opinions as well as to take part in a holiday potluck dinner.

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. 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
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...

ESL Class for Beginners - Saturday, December 4 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 4 at noon. All children are invited to the High School Community Center for arts and craft, conducted by the library during the celebration of Winter Glow.

Computer Classes for Beginners - Tuesday, December 7 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 7 at 5:30 p.m. Jide Aje is the instructor for the reading and conversation ESL classes.

Math Club Meeting - Tuesday, December 7 at 4 p.m. Mr. Nuo is the instructor for the math club and math tutoring.

Movie Wednesday - Wednesday, December 8 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 9 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 mak-

ing their own "ginger bread buddy" for the upcoming holiday celebrations (registration required). Everyone is invited to join.

Jeopardy at the Library - Thursday, December 9 at 4:00 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.

Santa Arrives at the Library - Saturday, December 11 at noon. All children are invited for the lighting of the Library Christmas Tree and arrival of Santa at the library with presents for all.

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 Jedralszyk. 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.

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 hamtramck-cbc@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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Second Front Page

Recycling gets another chance, but will depend on donations

By Charles Sercombe

All right, Hamtramck fans of recycling.

We've got another chance to make this thing work, financially-speaking. Although the city can no longer afford to keep the program going, the Hamtramck Recycling Commission isn't giving up so easily.

The commission is hoping the public will step up and support recycling. You will have an opportunity to show your support on the next drop-off day, next Saturday (Dec. 11). This time around the commission is asking for donations.

"The Recycling Commission is asking residents and businesses to contribute what they can to keep the recycling program going," said recent commission appointee Bill Wiitala.



Hamtramck's recycling program is back on, starting next Saturday (Dec. 11) and every second Saturday of the month. The city's recycling commission, however, is asking for donations to keep the program up and running.

The drop-off center is in the city parking lot on Caniff at McDougall and operates the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At least that will be the plan if enough financial support comes through. There will definitely be another recycling day in January.

To donate by check, make it out to "City of Hamtramck" and write "recycling" in the memo line. You can then mail it to: Recycling, City Hall, 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, MI 48212.

Or you can make a donation when you recycle at the city site.

You don't have to donate too much, although too much is always welcomed. This is a matter of getting a few bucks here and there from everyone who uses the service.

Couple's housing vision begins to attract wider attention

By Kelli B. Kavanaugh

Mitch Cope and Gina Reichert are far from strangers to Review readers. We've covered the artist/architect couple's Design 99 storefront (R.I.P), the infamous \$100-now-Power House and, most recently, the news that Juxtapoz Magazine purchased

four homes in their just-north-of-Hamtramck neighborhood that served as installation space for six out-of-town artists.

This latest project serves as a fitting introduction to their expanded vision, Power House Productions, a non-profit organization Cope and



Mitch Cope and Gina Reichert are attracting more and more national attention for their housing redevelopment plans, which includes neighborhoods just outside the Hamtramck border with Detroit.

Reichert have formed to develop and implement stabilization strategies in their neighborhood through the use of art and cultural resources. They've been organizing block clubs with their neighbors where they're tackling everyday concerns like garbage pickup and snow removal - not ruminating on notions of gentrification and art theory.

They are knee deep in the notion and practice that art can fuel community development - and not necessarily

just the community that typically "consumes" art.

Powering Up

Cope and Reichert have been informally building relationships with their neighbors, a majority of whom are Bangladeshi, since they moved to the area five years ago. But Power House Productions takes these efforts to a next level - at least within their targeted area bounded by the Davison Freeway, Klinger, Halleck and Co-

Continued on page 7

Historic St. Albertus Church 4231 St. Aubin Detroit

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT QUEEN OF APOSTLES ON CONANT (IN THE ACTIVITY HALL) SUNDAY, DEC. 5, 2-5PM, \$25 - INCLUDES BEVERAGES. POLISH FOOD FROM UNDER THE EAGLE.

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All donations for St. Albertus Site should be sent to P.O. S.H.A. 4231 St. Aubin, Detroit, MI 48207. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT Polish American Historic Site Association, Inc. Support your Polish Heritage in the Oldest Polish Church in Detroit.

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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/ Tait-Nucleus, \$3 mix your own Bloody Mary. No Cover. Mondays – Mademoiselle 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.

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

Ice Nightclub: Michigan's largest gay bar and the only bar with a 4 a.m. dance permit. Open Friday & Saturday, 10 p.m. 18+ welcome. Cover \$5 & \$10. DJ Lt. Dre Fridays. DJ Chico Saturdays, \$2 well drinks and domestic beer until 11 p.m. 11425 Jos. Campau, (313) 365-1446 www.icedetroit.net

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

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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.

Race is on to bring low-cost health center to Hamtramck

By Ian Perrotta

Talk about an intersection of ideas.

For the past couple of months, member organizations of the Hamtramck Union of Social Services (HUSS) have been working to try and bring some sort of free clinic/health center to the city. And incidentally, Wayne County was trying to do the same thing.

At last Wednesday's HUSS meeting – after the Chief of Health Operations for the Health and Human Services Department, Dr. Mouhanad Hammami, announced the county's intentions – the two groups agreed to pursue the matter as a joint effort.

The achievement was a somewhat serendipitous moment for HUSS, which had just started to re-examine the possibility of bringing a health center to Hamtramck. It was only after contacting Health and Human Services to bring in a speaker to discuss that possibility that the two organizations realized they were working on the same project.

According to Dr. Hammami, the county had been considering three other locations in addition to Hamtramck – Romulus, Highland Park and Brownstown. But while Romulus was "perfect in the county's eyes" due to the presence of other county departments in the area, after evaluating the medical needs of each respective community Hamtramck was the obvious choice. The city was found to be medically (and dentally) underserved, with a doctor-to-patient ratio of one doctor per 5,000 resi-

dents.

As a result, the county is now taking the first step toward bringing the idea to a reality: establishing a non-profit board of directors to be at the helm of the project. Because Wayne County can only fund the project and cannot govern it, its primary role would be to support the health center and plug in existing services through programs like Headstart and Medicaid.

"Ideally, we would like to be a one-stop shop where people can get primary care, WIC, English translation – anything they need," says Hammami. "But we really have no interest in this beyond setting it up."

Unfortunately, while the



scope of the project is enormous, the window of time to complete it is not. The deadline to apply for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant that would pay for a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) is on Dec. 15. By then, a board of directors – as well as a potential location – must be in place.

For the board of directors, Dr. Hammami says the county is looking for people who both live in the area and will reflect the clientele of the center. If Hamtramck is granted a federally-subsidized health center, it will be either free to those who qualify or accessible at a sliding fee scale for those with insurance.

As for potential buildings, the only requirement right now is that it needs to be big enough to house all its serv-

ices under one roof – about 5,000 to 6,000-square-feet or bigger. Dr. Hammami also explained that, if necessary, it may be possible to apply for the grant using the temporary address of a building that could serve as a location and move it later.

After Dr. Hammami gave his presentation to HUSS, the organization's members enthusiastically and unanimously agreed with the effort, calling for a resolution to provide a letter of support for the grant. Catrina Stackpoole, who was at the meeting representing both Recycled Treasures and the City Council, said that it was a monumental moment for the city.

"HUSS members have been down in the trenches for the last 30 years doing this kind of work, and it's time that they are recognized and helped out," she said. "I think this is an important project, and if it's possible to bring in Wayne County to increase funding and improve services to residents, then it's a good thing."

Should the grant for the center be approved, it would only be for operational expenses for the first two years and would not cover building or renovation expenses. After the first two years, the expectation would be that the center would then be self-sustaining. But regardless of the outcome, there will definitely be more interaction between the city and county as a result of the effort.

"I think all things happen for a reason," says Dr. Hammami, "and I'm sure something good is going to come out of this."

If you know of someone who could potentially serve on the health center's board of directors contact Dr. Mouhanad Hammami by phone at (313) 224-0810 or by e-mail at mhammami@co.wayne.mi.us.

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Review: Opinion Page

Fate of Hamtramck rests in the hands of the city

At the risk of being guilty of beating a dead horse, we want to make one more plea for city officials and city employees to save our city.

Hamtramck will run out of money by the end of January and won't be able to pay salaries or pay its bills. On top of that, the city will be \$3.3 million in the hole.

The city is asking the state to allow it to file bankruptcy in order to tear up labor contracts and switch to a less expensive health insurance plan for employees. The state has told the city no way and instead suggested the city take a loan.

With a new governor coming to power, it's anyone's guess what position the state will take with Hamtramck. It could be that Gov.-Elect Rick Snyder won't have much sympathy for financially distressed cities. Hamtramck isn't alone in facing a cash shortage and budget deficit.

There are dozens and dozens of Michigan cities in deep trouble – most notably Detroit.

It's possible that Snyder will simply force distressed cities to merge or at least merge services. For Ham-

tramck, that would be devastating. Can you imagine what life in the city would be like if we were forced to merge with Detroit and/or Highland Park?

It won't be pretty. But there is something city officials, residents and labor unions can do to save our city. City Councilmembers can raise our property tax millage rate by 2.3 mills without first getting voter approval.

So far, this council has refused to take that step.

Not only that, the council needs to at least ask voters to approve a millage increase beyond that 2.3 mills. We need an extra millage to plug our budget deficit.

Next up, our city employee union members need to look at reality. No one is bluffing about the city's finances. Getting a state loan to tide us over for another year will only put off the financial problems facing us today.

A major portion of our financial woes are the high costs of health insurance for employees and minimum staffing requirements in the police and fire departments. We're not pointing fingers

here and don't mean to bash city employees.

Heck, if we were king of the universe, police and firefighters would be each paid a huge salary and be allowed to retire comfortably at an early age.

But we don't have that power. The unions are the only ones who have the ability to save their own jobs.

If they do indeed want to keep their jobs, there must be contract concessions. Just about every worker in America has been hit with pay and benefit cuts. The American economy – and particularly the Michigan economy – is in the dumps.

It's not been this bad since the Great Depression in the 1930s. Economists say it will be several years if not longer before we see a turnaround.

In the meantime, our community must be willing to make sacrifices. If we don't make our own decisions, there are those in the state who won't hesitate to step in.

Simply put, it's up to residents, city officials and city employees to save our city.

Odds & Ends

Travelling ... Mayor Karen Majewski has been on the road lately. A few weeks ago she travelled with other city officials who are members of Michigan Automotive Coalition to Washington D.C.

The group won funding to help redevelop former GM plant sites. Unfortunately for Hamtramck, we have no for-

mer GM plants. MAC, however, is seeking government funding for communities like Hamtramck where auto manufacturing occurred.

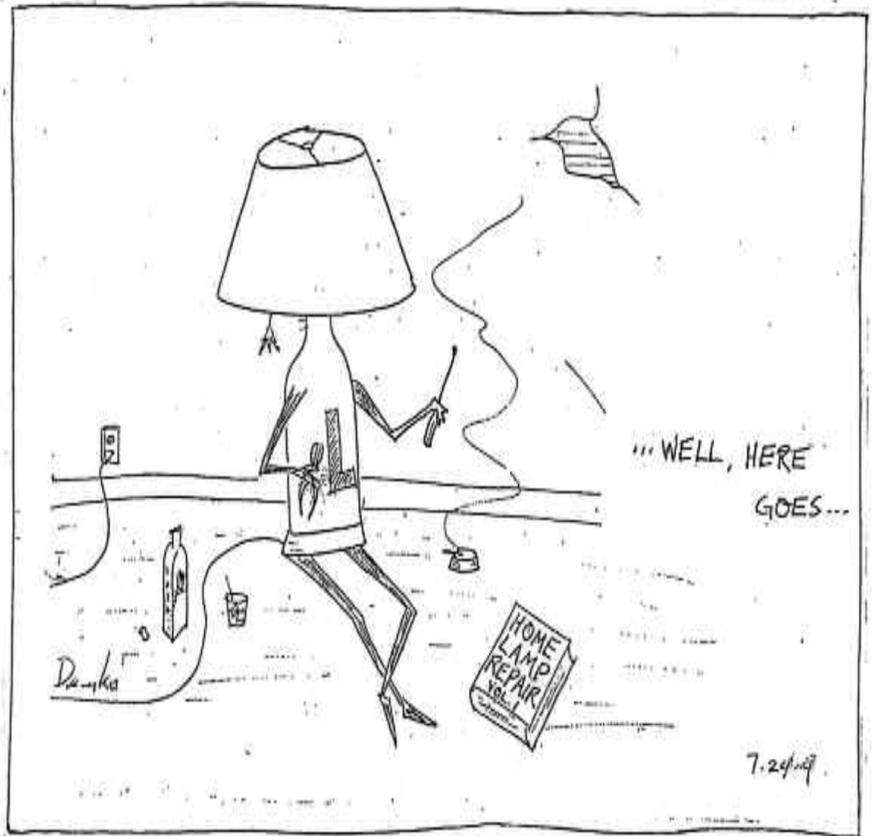
This week, Mayor Majewski was in Denver for the National League of Cities convention. Majewski went there as a representative of the Michigan Municipal League.

She was recently named vice president of the MML.

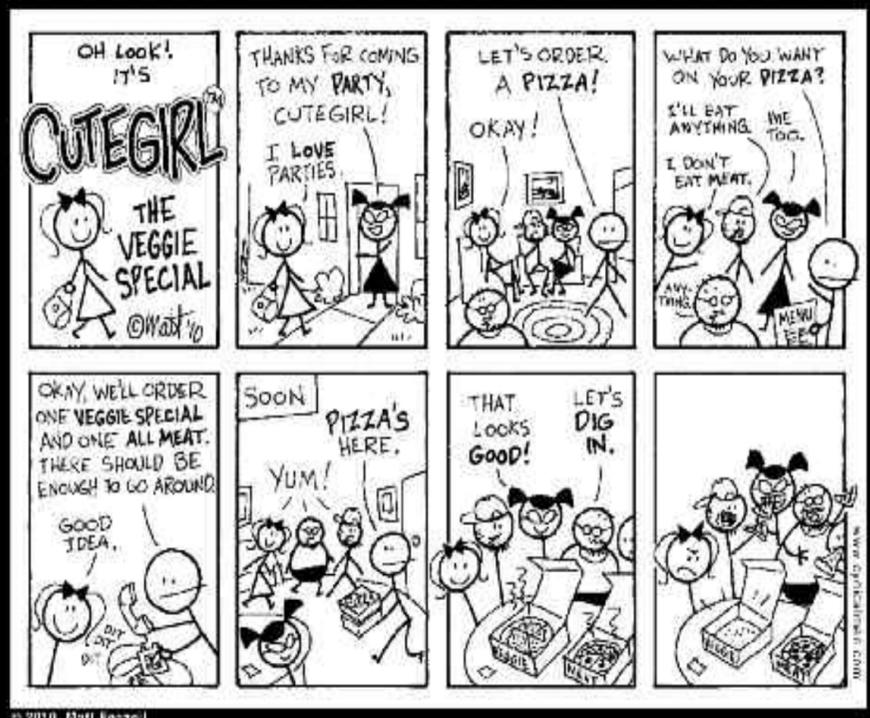
Also attending the conference in Denver was Hamtramck High School student Simone Alhagri who won a MML essay contest to attend as a Youth Delegate. Way to go Simone.

LAMPMAN

John Demko



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Hamtramck not alone in haze of medical marijuana law

By Charles Sercombe

The battle over the legal status of medical marijuana continues to daze and confuse communities in the state.

Hamtramck's City Council tried to bring some clarity to the voter-approved state law, but retreated after a series of discussions broke down. Hamtramck wanted to control where marijuana growing facilities could operate, but too many thorny problems got in the way.

Ultimately, Hamtramck took the route an increasing number of other communities have taken since the law was passed in 2008: put a moratorium

on the law. In other words, the medical use of marijuana is on hold until state legislators sort things out.

But Hamtramck City Attorney James Allen pointed out that just because you have a moratorium or a ban doesn't mean it makes marijuana illegal. The state law, he told

City Councilmembers several weeks ago, overrides city law. In other words, it's ultimately legal to grow and smoke medically approved marijuana – no matter what the city says.

Meanwhile, there are other cities, like Ann Arbor, where city officials embraced the law and have allowed 23 dispensaries to operate.

On the other end of the

Hills for banning medical marijuana.

The law was passed in 2008 by over 60 percent of the voters and won in each of Michigan's 83 counties. Proponents and even conservative newspaper commentators say it's too late to reverse the law.

Perhaps an issue that overshadows the debate of whether medical marijuana is legal is the potential for tax revenues that can be generated through the legal sale of the plant.

Did Hamtramck lose an opportunity to cash in on allowing marijuana growing facilities to set up shop? At least at this point the city is los-

ing out. State legislators are expected to take up the law and clarify parts of the law that some find vague and open-ended within the first several weeks of the new term this January.

Hamtramck – and many other cities – will be waiting.



spectrum are cities like Livonia where medical marijuana use is banned because the state law is in conflict with federal law.

And now the ACLU of Michigan is stepping into the legal haze. The ACLU is suing Livonia as well as Birmingham and Bloomfield

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Detroit mayor's security needs runs into big bucks

By Charles Sercombe

You have read by now that Hamtramck and Detroit have a bit of a spat going on.

It boils down to this: The two cities have a deal – or had a deal, depending on who's telling the story – to share tax revenues coming from GM's Poletown plant. The plant straddles both Hamtramck and Detroit.

Hamtramck had been collecting about \$3 million a year. Well, that was the deal until several months ago when Detroit suddenly claimed that it has overpaid Hamtramck several million dollars over the last few years.

Hamtramck says that's not so.

Unfortunately for Hamtramck, Detroit collects the tax revenue and then does it out to Hamtramck. Detroit is

now withholding \$3 million – an amount that was anticipated – heck relied on – by Hamtramck.

The dispute has jettisoned Hamtramck into a financial tailspin – to the point it's asking – begging? – the state's permission to declare bankruptcy.

Well, that drama is getting plenty of ink here and in the national press.

But here's some food for thought. We recently ran across a story on Mlive.com about how Detroit Mayor Dave Bing spends \$1.35 million a year – yes, a year – on "security."

That's for cops, overtime and special administrators to make sure no harm comes to the mayor and his wife.

Now, before you get your britches in a bunch, keep in mind Bing isn't a greedy guy.

He has not accepted his mayoral salary of \$176,276 a year. Until recently, he even paid for his own apartment instead of moving into the mayor's mansion.

Bing recently has said he will be moving into the Manoogian Mansion.

But still, despite his refusal to take a salary, you have to choke over the cost of security. If Hamtramck could get \$1 million of that and let Bing fend off the criminals with the \$350,000 that would be left over, heck, that would be sweet.

And really, think about it. Over \$1 million a year is needed to keep the mayor and his wife safe? What does that say about Detroit?

Just for the record, Hamtramck's mayor and city manager get zero dollars for personal security.



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

Last week we promised part two of City Hall Insider because we ran out of space and time. This report is from the Nov. 23 council meeting, which ran for over two hours.

A large chunk of the meeting was a discussion on budget cuts. Earlier in the month all department heads were asked to draw up a new budget that reflects a 20 percent cut in spending. In the police and fire departments, both chiefs said the only substantial savings would come from layoffs. The fire chief said he would have to lay off 11 firefighters. Outside of that, the chief could identify only \$30,000 in miscellaneous cuts, which would include gasoline for the trucks.

That prompted Councilmember Tom Jankowski to sarcastically remark, "I'm not surprised at the caliber of these reports."

Jankowski said he doubted the departments are run so efficiently that the only place to cut is employees.

Councilmember Cathie Gordon admonished the depart-

ment heads for suggesting the only cuts were their employees and not offering any personal sacrifices. She said the fire chief was willing to "throw 12 firefighters to the wolves," yet didn't offer to give up his use of a city-owned vehicle.

The council decided to reject the 20 percent cuts in the police and fire departments. For now. And make that "now" as in a week ago.

The discussion on budget cuts wasn't entirely over. The council agreed to hold a work session this Saturday (Dec. 4) at 9 a.m. to be followed by a regular council meeting in case a vote was needed to take action on budget cut proposals.

However, there was speculation among some on council on who would actually show up on Saturday.

(Editor's note: Friday is definitely not going to be a bar night for some.)

A new non-profit in town, "Making it to the Finish Line," requested permission for a club license with a dance permit that would allow the or-

ganization to remain open all night long at the former UAW building on Holbrook and Lumpkin.

The request appeared to cause confusion among some councilmembers who were hesitant to allow the agency to serve alcohol all night long. A representative of the agency later explained that an agent with the state Liquor Control Commission recommended this request since the agency was going to host sleep-overs for kids.

(Editor's note: Huh?)

The agency mentors kids, and is seeking a club license so it can hold fundraisers.

The representative for the agency was invited to meet with the city manager to straighten out the matter.

After regular business was taken care of, the public was invited to comment. Firefighter Mark Swider, the former president of the firefighters' union, took issue with the council's attempt to balance the budget.

"I don't understand where all of your heads have been this last year," he said.

Obituaries

LEPO

Walter J. Lepo, 83, died November 25, 2010.

Mr. Lepo served in the Army and was retired from the Barton-Malow Construction Co. He also was a member of the St. Florian's Dad's Club and the Hamtramck Police Reserves.

Mr. Lepo is survived by his wife, Lorraine; daughters, Robin (Kent) Harris and Melissa Reyes; brother, George; sister-in-law, Jennie; and granddaughters, Cameron and Candyce.

Funeral arrangements were

made by Krot Funeral Home, and funeral services were held on November 30 at St. Florian Church. Cremation was at Meadowcrest Memorial Cemetery.

WOOLSEY

Paul Douglas Woolsey, 68, died November 30, 2010.

Mr. Woolsey was a Hamtramck resident and retired from Wayne County. Her served in the Navy and was a member of PLAV Post 6.

Mr. Woolsey is survived by his wife, Lorraine; daughter, Erica (Scott); son, Kenneth

(Cara); sisters, Jacquitte (Jim) Rogers, Lisa (Mike) Weingart, Annette (Rex) Keister and Suezanne Woolsey; brothers, Victor (Johnnie), Ron (Zina), Robert (Barbara), Mark, David and Jerry (Sue).

Funeral arrangements were made by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, and funeral services will be held on December 4 at the funeral home at 11 a.m.



TOAST of the TOWN

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

By Ian Perrotta

In Hamtramck, a weekday is as good a day as any to have a drink. And that the drink is for a good cause, well, that's even better.

Thus the scene was set for Wednesday (Dec. 1) night at Skipper's Hamtown. The upstart business, which was opened just under a year ago by the venerable bartender Nolan "Skipper" LaFramboise II, hosted yet another event for the good of the community.

This time around, Skipper's opened its doors (once again) to the city's local artist collective, Hatch. The purpose of the event was to bring people in to get out the vote.

Wait, vote? That's right – vote. It seems that our friends at HATCH are in the midst of a competition to bring in \$50,000 worth of funding to fix up the building that will eventually become its home.

The competition is called

the Pepsi Refresh Project and it runs from now until Dec. 31. An online contest that gives grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$250,000 based on the number of votes an idea receives, the Refresh Project has the potential to actualize the dreams Hatch

Detroit. It would use the grant money to complete the renovation of Hamtramck's former police station, which it purchased in 2008. Once completed, the space will offer an art gallery, 12 artist studios, a gift shop, a classroom and a community work space that



The non-profit organization Hatch is currently involved in a competition to raise money to renovate the former police station it purchased in 2008. This picture is an artistic rendering of what it may someday be.

has had of opening up its own exhibition and studio space.

Hatch is a grassroots non-profit that organizes and promotes the arts in and around

will feature a darkroom, a kiln, a printing press and more.

"This grant would help us

Continued on page 10



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Coming Events

DECEMBER 17, Friday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. – State Se. 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.

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.

Couple's housing vision begins to attract wider attention Cont. from page 3

nant. "Casual relationships are now becoming more formalized," says Reichert.

Part of the motivation comes from a standard lemons-out-of-lemonade situation. The last half-decade has not been kind to the area. "In some ways, the housing stock is worse," says Cope, who estimates that 10 percent of the homes in their target area are vacant. "There are many more fire-damaged houses, more vacancies."

One upside to this is a release of properties from the hands of what might be termed slumlords. "A bunch of crappy landlords walked away from properties that were problem houses in the neighborhood," says Reichert. "This is a positive thing about foreclosures – not every occupancy is a good thing, community-building is more important."

Another positive to be mined from the downturn in the real estate market was the added urgency it lent to

these efforts. Just prior to many "problem houses" being vacated, crime spiked, particularly scrapping. "A lot of neighbors started talking more, looking out for one another," says Reichert. "It seemed like when a lot of negatives started, people kept talking about forming block clubs, doing something."

Cope and Reichert, who keep stringent tabs on available real estate in the area, have used their savvy to acquire properties for not just out-of-town artists, but neighbors. "A couple, including an Imam, hadn't pre-registered or didn't have Internet access or really understand the online auction," says Reichert. "So we bid on their behalf and the deed went into their name."

While it is not uncommon for two or more generations to live in one household in the neighborhood, it is also typical for people to "move on up" – to the suburbs – when they can afford to. Cope and Re-

ichert would love to slowly change that mindset. One neighbor, appreciative of Power House's activity, is thinking about staying put. Selling a home in this real estate market "is not an easy thing to do," says Reichert. "So (it's wonderful for them) to feel like at least they have an option to stay, that it's not so desperate having to stay that maybe (this neighborhood) is going to go somewhere."

Planning vs. Making Moves; Activation vs. Occupancy

To Cope and Reichert, acquiring derelict properties is the primary priority in terms of stabilizing the neighborhood. "We don't have a top-down plan, we make moves based on availability," says Reichert, who says the team is "constantly" monitoring real estate in the area with help from the Detroit Vacant Property Campaign. "We get information, they verify the information and offer some guidance

on what to do next," she says.

Once acquired, a use and potential owner can be determined. "Our goal is to get them on a different path than vacancy, a potential fire, demolition," says Reichert. "To get them on some kind of productive path, that means a lot of things, not only living."

This last point is important: Power House is looking at stabilization not in terms of strict home occupancy. "The goal isn't that every house has to be occupied, a residential family occupation – there is a lot of room for other kinds of occupancy, activation means (other things)," says Reichert. "The neighborhood benefits by diversity in the use of housing stock."

Said diversity of use can certainly be found in the four homes purchased by Juxtapoz, all located on one block of Moran just south of the Davison. The outsider art magazine held an auction to fund the project, and brought in a stable of artists to hunker

down for a couple weeks in Detroit and make use of the homes as their canvases.

One house had already been tackled by a team of University of Michigan architecture fellows, who installed a Q-Bert-esque staircase among other artistic elements. For this reason, it was assigned to artist Saelee Oh. "It was more in line with her aesthetic, clean and design-y," says Reichert. "She started using the spaces and applied another layer to it."

Cope and Reichert envision this home as possibly retaining some public purpose going forward. "(We could) use it as a design lab, a house installation space," says Reichert. "It could be open once a month."

A couple of doors down, SWOON and Ben Wolf created an Escher-like effect with dormers and other architectural elements sprouting out of a severely marred property. "It's so far fire damaged that we thought about deconstructing it for materials," says Cope. "(But) half of the house was still OK to make it into a project."

While that one isn't likely to be occupied anytime soon, the one across the street has a potentially bright future. RETNA and Richard Colman teamed up with primarily paint as their medium to create a geometric world on its walls that is graphically arresting. "(It could) become either an event and location shoot spot or it could very easily go in the direction of live space," says Reichert. "We are bouncing an idea off the wall of making it a recording studio."

The fourth home evolved into a tactile collage in the hands of Monica Canilao, who dubbed it the "Treasure Nest." "They're actually talking about buying it as a touch down space for Detroit," says Reichert, who says that the artist and her collaborators were particularly engaged in the local art and music scenes during their time in the city.

"Our strategy has always been to attract other creative types, creative thinkers," says Reichert. "All it really takes is one new occupant in terms of a new thinking to change the attitude of a block."

Can Detroit embrace such a different way of thinking about

structures? Only time will tell. "The city's been more open minded than I expected," says Reichert. "It's funny timing, with the fact that they are rethinking things (with the Detroit Works Project), so they are way more open-minded to ideas and accessible than they were a few years ago."

A Kinder, Gentler Way of Looking at Real Estate

While real estate in the Power House area can politely be called cheap, the \$100 House was a "fluke." Though Cope and Reichert have scored a fire-damaged house for \$250 and five others that no one else was bidding on at a tax foreclosure auction for \$500 a piece, properties typically cost a bit more than that – but they still hear from people that balk at prices in the four-digit range.

In one instance, a house was going for \$2,000 plus \$4,000 in back taxes and the would-be buyer thought that was too pricey. "Too much? Listen to what you are saying," says Reichert. "There are so many places in the country where you can't buy an empty lot for \$6,000 – it's still an incredible deal."

If a prospect is looking at a home as an investment, Reichert advises them to look elsewhere. "It's about the quality of space, being part of a community," she says. "If you are putting resale value at the top of your list that doesn't make sense here, that's not the economy at work." Cope and Reichert have plenty on their plate. There is maintenance of the properties they are monitoring and organizing efforts with other block club participants. They are planning a skate park for the northern end of the area and have established a working relationship with Fonds BKVB, a Dutch group that runs residency programs around the world and is interested in starting one in Detroit. Plus there's parenthood and their own art, all of which is integrated into Power House Productions. "It's a personal investment and it's part of our art," says Reichert.

(Kelli B. Kavanaugh is Model D Development News editor. This story first appeared in modeldmedia.com and is reprinted with permission.)

Real Estate Corner



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11915 Fleming, Hamtramck - 2 story single family home, 2 BR, 2 Bath, 2 car garage. \$26,900 - Price Reduced!

29409 Maurice, Chesterfield Twp. Townhouse Condo Near 23 mile & I-94 2 BR, 1st floor laundry, All Appliances \$79,900

24301 Kelly Rd., Eastpointe - 2 BR condo, w/appliances & furniture. \$19,000 Cash Only - New Price!

2351 Danforth, Hamtramck - 4 Bedroom 2-Family w/ 2-Car Garage. \$18,000

2060 Norwalk, Hamtramck - "Portage Garage" - 3 bay auto repair facility including the 2 family home at 2054 Norwalk. \$59,000 - New Price!

7516 Jackson Ave., Warren - 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 2 car garage w/ driveway \$19,900 "Short-Sale"

3374 Comstock - Hamtramck - 2 family home w/ 4 bedrooms, basement, garage. Needs minor repairs. \$26,000

2682 Evaline, Hamtramck - 2 BR, Basement, Needs Work \$19,900 New Price!

2224 Belmont- Hamtramck - Single family home w/ 2 bedrooms, living room, dining room, ¼ basement, garage \$29,900

11508 St. Aubin - Hamtramck - Attention Investors! 2 well-maintained single-family homes on one lot. Great income potential! Short-Sale \$35,000

49254 Shady Glen, Chesterfield Twp. "Bank Owned" Detached Condo 3 Bedrooms, 1½ baths, 2 car garage, \$109,900 - New Price!

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

11662 Nagel- Hamtramck - Completely renovated with custom designer touches throughout. 3 BR, built-in appliances, basement, garage. Must see to appreciate. \$79,900 - New Price!

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

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5128 Evaline - \$25,000
12108 Gallagher - \$49,900 - SOLD!
12080 Lumpkin - \$29,900 NEW PRICE!
12141 Moran - \$39,900 - Short Sale
Commercial:
21433 Mound - \$550,000 Warren Collision Shop
21471 Mound - \$300,000 Warren Mechanic Shop
New Construction:
11489 Dyar - \$129,900 - NEW PRICE! Already built brick 4 bedroom with fireplace, granite counters, C/A, etc. 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. Ask Keisha (313) 255-9500 about \$25,000 Grant toward down payment. "NEZ Zoning" - Huge discount on property taxes, ask for more information.

Attention Garret vs. City of Hamtramck Lawsuit Plaintiffs - Ask Juanita (248) 346-6311 about eligibility for additional \$35K toward the purchase of one of these homes.
Rochester Hills:
2759 Hickory Lawn - \$129,900 NEW PRICE!
Roseville:
20140 14 Mile Rd. - \$45,000 NEW!
Royal Oak:
5029 Thorncroft - \$139,800 SOLD!
Shelby Township:
49135 Conway Ct. - \$74,900 Condo SOLD!
Sterling Heights
38122 Jamestown - \$39,900 NEW PRICE!
SHORT SALE, 3 BR Condo
Warren:
12885 E. Twelve Mile Rd. - \$42,500 NEW PRICE! Bank owned

12043 Moran
\$35,000



Multi-Family homes:
3150 Belmont - \$42,500 SOLD!
5057 Carpenter - \$39,900 three units
2633 Casmere - \$89,900
11613 Charest - \$99,900 SOLD!
3451 Comstock - \$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!
Single Family Homes
2358 Botsford - \$29,900 NEW PRICE!
5546 Casmere - \$14,900 - NEW!
12630 Charest - \$29,900

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Street Life

If you need to get around town, follow the 'Hamtramck Rules'

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

By Walter Wasacz

This morning (Thursday), on probably the coldest morning of the late fall, I decided to go for a brisk walk. I had an 8:30 meeting at Cafe 1923, which is about 14 blocks from my house. This is not unusual for me, nor should be for anyone who lives in the city. I call it the "Hamtramck Rules." Meaning, if my destination is in town I walk or ride my bike.

Walking in Hamtramck neighborhoods year round



is not difficult. I've done it in deep snow and during the heat of mid-July. It's good physical exercise and a productive use of time. It's also a perfect social exercise - better than running or cycling in this regard -

because you can meet other people out walking, shopping, doing work outside their houses or businesses, studying, reading, buying and trading stock online at the coffeehouse. I experienced all of the

above today in my roughly one mile of walking. I ran into Richard, with whom I talked about non-motorized trails that inevitably will connect Hamtramck to other neighborhoods in Detroit (yes, inevitable is right: in terms of value, economic and social, nothing makes more sense than to build connective urban tissue using trails leading to concentrations of density); I talked about personal finance with online trader George, who had some tips on stocks that might be worth exploring and investing in; with Faina, I talked about an idea for a local festival of the arts that would feature innovative

performance elements while rethinking and practicing the kind of urbanism I'm writing about here.

Later, I plan on a shorter sprint up to Caniff for some food shopping at Bozek's, possibly Al-Haramain, maybe get a carryout dinner at Royal Kabob. To my mind, the corner of Gallagher and Caniff has become an ideal destination for produce, dairy, baked goods and prepared foods.

All of Hamtramck, if you can put your heads around it, is readymade for human-scale traffic that makes the car largely locally unnecessary. Not that there is anything wrong with a car when it's needed. But it isn't really needed in the kind of village we're so fortunate to live in.

My cousin from Poland, via Coventry, England and now studying in an exchange program at the University of Windsor, has



walked this city with ease, instinctively finding stores that carry what she's looking for, sidewalks that lead to new adventures, buses that can take her downtown, where she can grab another bus to go across the river to Windsor.

I have a friend who takes walking to the level of art form, discovering a route that can lead him from Hamtramck to Mexicantown on Detroit's Southwest side on foot; or cycling to Belle Isle or downtown from here for exercise and fun.

One of my neighbors walks her dog from central Hamtramck to the Power House neighborhood just north of the city, along the Bangladesh Avenue corridor (Conant) south of Davison. It's not that far at all, when you consider the distance for only a few moments.

It takes commitment and desire. That's it. It's affordable and the rewards to psychological and physical health are endless. Try the "Hamtramck Rules." There's a great chance you might like it.



Hamtramck Recreation Department

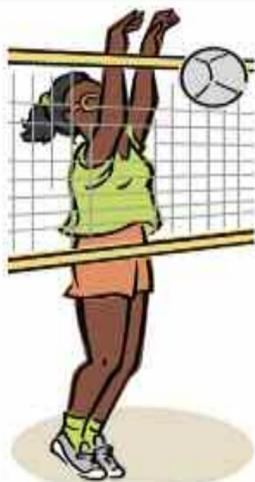
Volleyball

This is a brand new program for girls wanting to learn and play the sport of Volleyball.

Program runs December 7-April

Practice Days: Tuesday/Thursday
Game Days: TBA
Grades: 4-6
Practice time: 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Where: Early Childhood Elementary
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Cost: Resident-\$10
Non-Resident -\$20



Registration begins November 1 and will continue until team is full.

We have great coaches who are ready to teach you the basics and help you reach your potential as a player.

Please register at the Hamtramck Recreation Center located at 11350 Charest or call 313-893-5520 ext 3 for more information.

Your Millage Dollars At Work!

Gardener's Corner ...

By Kathleen Wojcinski

Watching leaves falling, bare branches and dried up plants signals the end of one season.

But not to fret.

When life gives you lemons ... bring it inside for the holiday table! Use

attractive, rustic baskets to fill up with nuts, pine cones, apples, pears or some pine boughs. Add a few colorful leaves. A couple of twisted, interesting branches standing in a tall vase adds drama.

Dip a few in glitter, or

spray paint leaves etc. gold to distribute around for extra bling. Place fresh cranberries in a glass vase to add a splash of color. Use your imagination to make your holiday table memorable.





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Rentals and Real Estate

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Hamtramck studio apartments, good location, immediate occupancy, 248-229-4295, 248-229-4297 12/31

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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

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

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Hamtramck, 3 Br. lower, nice area, \$500/month + security, 313-268-7420. 12/24

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 12/10

Hamtramck, 3465 Comstock, 3 Br., \$475/month + security deposit, 586-747-3400. 12/3

Hamtramck, Comstock St., 2 Br. upper, kitchen, dining, bathroom, 313-378-6229. 12/3

Beautiful 3 Br. lower, hardwood floor, washer-dryer in basement, deposit + references required, \$550/month, 586-484-7466. 12/13

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

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

APARTMENTS & FLATS FOR RENT

1 Br. upper, stove-refrigerator, water included, \$300/month + \$300 security, 586-939-7118. 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

Fleming St., clean, upper flat, stove-fridge, water and heat included, adults only preferred, \$550/month + \$550 security, 313-355-8673. 12/3

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. 12/3

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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Single-family house in Hamtramck, Neibel St., 2 Br., living room, dining room, kitchen, no pets, 810-797-4630. 12/3

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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: Detroit Dog owners have a new spot to buy dog supplies with the opening of Woofbridge Feed & Supply on December 1 inside Canine to Five on Cass Ave. Co-habitation with an existing related

business "is a good way to get yourself out there so that dog owners know where to find you," says owner Michelle Potas, a Woodbridge resident. "And it's a good way to feel it out and see how it's going...maybe we'll be able to open a bigger store, which is my plan." Woofbridge will stock a range of premium brands of

dog food at a variety of price points including Wellness, Chicken Soup for the Dog, Diamond, Sportmix and Zukes. "These are all really healthy and good for your dogs," says Potas. "The basic rule is the less ingredients, the better the dog food - kind of the same way we feed ourselves, you don't want all those additives."

Michigan-made treats from Happy Howies and Wrigley's and accessories like leashes, collars, apparel, hygiene products, brushes, toys and training aids will be available, and special orders and delivery are options. Woofbridge Feed & Supply and Canine to Five are located at 3443 Cass Avenue just south of Martin Luther

King, Jr. Blvd. Woofbridge will be open Tuesday to Thursday from noon to 7:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Contact Potas at (313) 887-9684 or michelle@woofbridge.com. Woofbridge's Facebook page is here.

Writer: Kelli B. Kavanaugh

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HCAAT
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Hamtramck Cat Assistance Team (HCAAT) is a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to help Hamtramck's cats — stray, homeless, feral or just forgotten — to live healthier and safer lives. We provide food, water, shelter, medicine, veterinary care, TLC and, when necessary, rescue. FOR MORE INFO: HAMCAT.ORG

Dinner includes spaghetti with sauce, roll, salad, dessert and a non-alcoholic beverage. Cash bar available.
 PLUS: Door prizes, raffles and an exclusive HCAAT presentation.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 5-10PM
 at Gates of Columbus, 9632 Conant, Hamtramck

\$10, \$5 for seniors 60+, \$3 for kids. Tickets on sale at the door



TOAST
of the **TOWN**

Continued from page 6

open our doors quickly," said Chris Schneider, founder and president of Hatch. "We have completed many major repairs. This money would enable us to finish off the details."

If you'd like to do your part to help out HATCH, log on to www.refresheverything.com and type in "Hatch". Once there, you'll be able to vote for the project once a day until the end of the month.

While Toast was at Skipper's Hamtown, it was a perfect opportunity to chat with Skipper. If you haven't met him before, you're probably a shut-in or you just turned 21. You see, Skipper has been kicking around the Detroit bar scene for decades.

Back in the late 60s, before he was a bartender, Skipper went to school to be a teacher and got a bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University. But since then, the closest thing he's come to being in a classroom is serving a bar full of students. After graduating from CMU, he went right into the bar and restaurant industry with a job at Joey's Stables in Del Ray. He never looked back.

"It was a great job, so I just stayed in the business," says Skipper as he rubs lipstick off the rim of a wine glass.

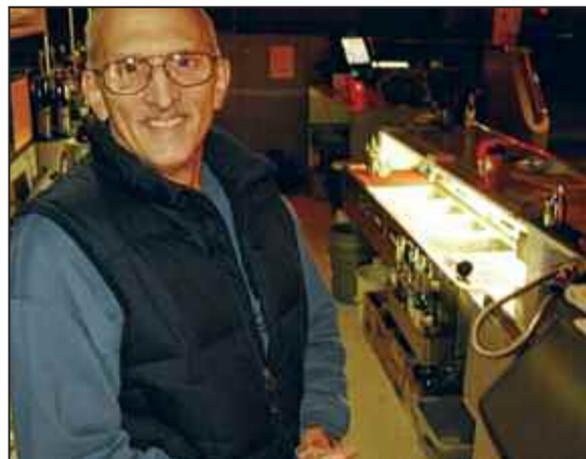
As we talk he breaks away to take care of another customer. When the man compliments him on his jukebox, it sends Skipper into a five minute riff about the area and the way that it used to be flush with some of the greatest blues and jazz musicians of the time.

In the early 80s, sometime after his stint at Joey's Stables, Skipper became the general manager of the Soup Kitchen Saloon, a jazz bar that helped revitalize the area formerly known as the Warehouse and Rivertown districts. Back in those days, all the big blues names — in-

cluding the likes of Willie Dixon, Luther Allison and Koko Taylor — would pass through.

"If you talk to anyone about blues and jazz bars they'll tell

ally finances and opportunity met in the middle, and in November of 2009 he purchased the old Chill and Mingle bar at Conant and Evaline.



Nolan "Skipper" LaFramboise II is the owner of Skipper's Hamtown, a bar at Conant and Evaline. He's got plenty of stories to tell, so stop by, settle in, have a drink and listen.

you the Soup Kitchen Saloon was the place," says Skipper.

When his time at the Soup Kitchen Saloon had run its course, it gave Skipper the opportunity to open up his own place, which he did in 1982 with Skipper's Stray Dog, a lively joint in downtown Detroit located in the old Michigan Theater building on Bagley Street.

By then he had already worked at dozens of places in the area. Skipper explained that he always kept two or three jobs, and when he's asked to name a few off the top of his head it's almost comical. Just a sampling of his jobs reveals tenures at Major's Restaurant, Vinnie's Place, Grosse Isle Country (and its Racquet) Club, Wendy's, Chi Chi's, Pan-tele's, Francesca's, Henry's Place — the list just keeps going.

"I loved it," says Skipper about his days owning the Stray Dog. In the bar's glory days he had a regular crowd and business was booming. Even weaker nights like Sunday brought people in, but after a bout of negative publicity centering on crime in downtown Detroit dried up his business in the early 90s, after fully recovering he closed up shop in 1996.

Two years later he packed up and moved to San Francisco, where he continued to tend bar, wait tables and cater events — "You know, the bar and restaurant business," as he puts it. Though he enjoyed his time there, he was forced to return to Michigan in 2000 after his house burned down. At that time the tech bubble had not yet burst, so he couldn't find another place that was affordable enough to live.

"There were lines to get a place back then," he said. "People were cutting rooms in half with a curtain and subletting them — it was crazy. And you couldn't go to the bad part of town and find a room in a fleabag motel."

Upon his return to Michigan, Skipper once again focused on a lifelong dream: owning a bar in Hamtramck. He says that even back in the Stray Dog days he wanted to have a bar in Hamtramck, which he says had an incredible bar scene in the 90s. And according to Skipper, he's tried to buy practically every bar in the city. Eventu-

and the habits of Hamtramck's bar patrons. Maybe it's the location, or just a general unawareness, but he feels he hasn't quite been accepted just yet. It's something that may take a while, but in the meantime he's got a few tricks up his sleeve. One of them, which stems from his visits to other area bars and restaurants, is an "Owner's Group Therapy" which, as it sounds, would be an opportunity for business owners to vent their frustrations once a week in the company of those who would understand.

As for the economy, Skipper says that it's just something that will have to be weathered. Business is down across the bar and restaurant industry on the whole — and in most other sectors, too — but he says that everyone has just got to stick together as a community and this too shall pass. In the end he's optimistic about the future, which he sums up in true Skipper fashion:

"Once the economy gets better, I'll sail through," he says.

Skipper's Hamtown celebrates its one-year anniversary on Saturday, Jan. 15. Stop by for a good drink and a great time.

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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