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**Take Back the Night**



**Quick Hits**

Fed up with the recent spate of violence that occurred in town recently?

By now we have all read about the two women who are still missing after being violently kidnapped from their house on Andrus, and in a separate incident, three women who were carjacked and sexually assaulted.

We are all mad as hell, and we're not going to take this.

A new group has formed in town in response to the spate of violence, and it's called "Take Back the Night Hamtramck."

The group is holding a rally and march tonight (Friday, March 16), starting at Jos. Campau and Holbrook at 7 p.m.

Supporters are asked to bring flashlights and your own handmade sign. Mayor Karen Majewski will give a short talk, and then supporters will march down Jos. Campau to Andrus St., and then back.

From what we have heard, there is going to be a large outpouring of folks.

**Quote of the week ...**

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

**"We're going to work our butts off every single day!"**

**HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD**

**City council splits on vote to fire and hire new city manager**

**By Charles Sercombe**

Within one week, Hamtramck lost one city manager and gained another.

To say the least, it's been a whirlwind seven days that has plunged the city into a heated debate, rife with accusations of political gamesmanship.

Let's start at the beginning. Last Wednesday (March 7), the city council held a special meeting and fired City Manager Bill Cooper, but it was 3-3 vote and required Mayor Karen Majewski to cast the tie-breaking vote.

Those voting in favor of letting Cooper go were Councilmembers Tom Jankowski, Mohammed Hassan and Abdul Algazali.

Although Cooper's firing was sudden, it was not surprising. As the city's financial crisis grew in the last few months, so had criticism of how Cooper was handling it.

His firing was precipitated by a memo he sent to city employees saying that, come the end of April, there would be payless paydays for the next three months.

The city is also facing close to a \$2 million budget deficit by the end of June, and a \$3.4 million deficit by 2013.

Cooper did not return calls for comment about his firing.

His firing also came the day after he had fired City Attorney James Allen (who was given a 30-day notice of termination).

Leading the charge against Cooper has been Councilmember Jankowski, who for the past few months has needed Cooper for failing to provide various pieces of financial information.

"Our administration, we hired, did not do the job," Jankowski said.

He later went on to add:

"We need leadership in the administration that will perform more professionally."

However, Councilmember Cathie Gordon warned that the council was firing Cooper without "cause," and that Cooper will have grounds to sue the city for breach of contract.

She warned that if Cooper is successful in winning his lawsuit, the city will be required to pay him \$200,000.

"How fiscally responsible is that?" she said.

Although Mayor Majewski cast the tie-breaking vote to fire Cooper, she did not initially offer an explanation on why she supported that action.

Now, flash forward to last Friday, and another special council meeting was held, this time to consider the hiring of Eric Tungate as the city's new city manager. How-

**Saturday March 17th**

**happy St. Patrick's day!**



**Continued on page 2**

**In these needy times, soup kitchen's return is a blessing**



**By Alan Madeleine**

Well, it's not all bad news for the poor and needy.

In spite of what may seem, here and around the country, something like a war on those below the poverty line, there are always a few folks with kindness in their hearts – and still enough money in their wallets, or food in their

**Continued on page 7**

**St. Lad's soup kitchen has relocated to Our Lady Queen of Apostles Parish. It still operates every Thursday.**

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# City council splits on vote to fire and hire new city manager

Continued from front page

ever, things didn't go according to plan because Councilmembers Gordon, Robert Zwolak and Anam Miah – who all voted against Cooper's firing – were a no-show.

Zwolak at least informed his colleagues he would not be attending, and urged the council to instead turn to the Michigan Municipal League, which has a list of retired city managers who are willing to step in on a temporary basis.

(Mayor Majewski, who is president of the MML, rejected this, saying the city doesn't have enough time to do background checks and interviews for potential candidates. Tungate, she said, was someone who could begin the next day if hired.)

Their absence prevented any official action from taking

place because there was no quorum. But Mayor Majewski opened the floor to discussion for those who were there, which included Tungate, police officers, firefighters and residents.

You can read some of the highlights of what was discussed on page 3.

It was at this meeting that Majewski gave her reason for firing Cooper.

She said she had "stood in his (Cooper's) defense in the past, but over the course of the last nine months, I just saw inertia. I didn't see the action that was needed to be happening."

"I gave him (Cooper) the benefit of the doubt longer than you guys did," she added.

Tungate is the city's former

Director of Community & Economic Development. He worked for the city from 2005 to 2007, and then went on to take a succession of jobs with Detroit, the state and Wayne County.

He has been laid off from his last job with Wayne County since January.

At last Tuesday's regular council meeting, Tungate's employment was once again brought up, and this time the full council was present.

But before his employment was considered, Councilmember Zwolak introduced a resolution to have the city's Treasurer, Mike Wilk, take the job as Acting City Manager.

A lengthy discussion ensued, but ultimately, there was a tie vote, which required the mayor to step in. Majewski voted against Wilk's hiring.

That led to an even longer discussion on Tungate taking the job.

Long story made short: Tungate was approved by yet again the same split on council with the mayor breaking the tie in favor of Tungate. His pay rate was set at \$7,500 a month.

On the very next day, Tungate was in city hall at 7:30 a.m. talking with department heads.

Councilmember Gordon said that Cooper's firing and Tungate's hiring were "reckless."

Councilmember Zwolak said the actions leave him "not optimistic for the spirit of Hamtramck."

## City's financial woes started two years ago, city manager said

By Charles Sercombe

So, just how did Hamtramck get into a financial crisis?

Let's go back to a press release former City Manager Bill Cooper released a couple of weeks ago that recapped the financial setbacks the city has experienced in the last two years:

The closing of American Axle's plant resulted in a loss of \$600,000 a year in property and income taxes.

Property taxes overall from the city had decreased

by \$200,000.

Speaking of property taxes, the city faces a further loss of \$200,000 to \$400,000 if property owners are successful in their pending tax appeals.

And on top of that, house values continue to drop, which could mean an additional loss of \$350,000 in the year to come.

Expected revenue from the GM Poletown plant came in \$1 million short. Instead of receiving \$1.7 million this year, the city is only

Continued on page 4



By Alan Madeleine

Taken from Hamtramck Police reports from between Wednesday, March 7, and Tuesday, March 13.

**From Wednesday, March 7:**

- A vehicle that had been reported stolen in St. Clair Shores was recovered on Yemans, east of Jos. Campau, with the ignition punched out and damage to the driver's side door.

- A man reported that his 2002 Dodge (model/color not stated) was stolen from the area of Doremus and Bufalo.

- A man came into the station to report that someone had fraudulently used his identity to obtain utility services.

- A woman reported that she had accidentally left her ATM card inside the machine at Huntington Bank at 9301 Jos. Campau on March 3, and someone had then used it to withdraw \$500 from her account.

- A woman in the 3000 block of Trowbridge reported that someone had broken out a window on her garage and then gained entry into the garage, but didn't appear to have taken anything.

**From Thursday, March 8:**

- There was one (or more) windows broken out of (one or more) residence(s) in the 12000 block of St. Aubin, as well as an unlawful entry into an abandoned dwelling on the same block. It is unclear from the report exactly how many total homes were affected.

- A woman was arrested for felony assault, possession of narcotics paraphernalia and obstruction following a dispute in which she threatened a man with a knife at a home in the 5000 block of Yemans.

- A man reported being assaulted by a black male known to him only by a nickname (*Trust us, it's a good one.* – Ed.)

- Officers responded to a report of a deceased woman at a home on Jacob (no further address given).

- A woman living in the

3000 block of Lehman reported that someone broke a window on her vehicle while it had been parked near her home.

- A woman living in the 3800 block of Belmont reported that someone had broken into her home and stolen a computer, apparently during the previous night.

**From Friday, March 9:**

- A juvenile male reported that he was assaulted by other juveniles while in Veterans Park. The suspects had all fled by the time police arrived.

- Officers took a report of a broken front window at a cellular phone store in the 12000 block of Jos. Campau.

- Officers recovered a vehicle that had been reported stolen near Conan and Caniff. The vehicle was turned over to the owner.

**From Saturday, March 10:**

- Officers investigated a door, that was noted as being open, at a vacant home in the 3900 block of Belmont. They secured the door as best they could.

- A resident of a home in the 3800 block of Trowbridge reported that someone appeared to have pried at the rear door to her home.

- While investigating a suspicious fire at a home in the 3200 block of Yemans, officers found several firearms and some ammunition. No further information was given.

- A man came into the station, to report a case of fraudulent identity theft against him, in which someone opened a Dish Network account in his name, and also filed 2010 and 2011 taxes.

**From Sunday, March 11:**

- Officers responded to a large fight around 12:30 a.m. near Conant and Belmont, and confiscated a pellet gun.

- A woman in the 3400 block of Caniff reported being assaulted by her boyfriend.

- Two men were arrested for possessing some pills, suspected marijuana and open intoxicants at an address in the 2600 block of Commor by officers investi-

gating a disturbance. One of the two men was also later charged with malicious destruction of police property for tearing a security camera in his cell off the wall. (*"I said, 'No pictures!!'"* – Ed.)

- A man was arrested following a disturbance at a restaurant in the 11400 block of Jos. Campau, in which he assaulted employees who had awakened him after he had fallen asleep in one of the restaurant's booths. (*He probably just had eaten too much turkey, or... something.* –Ed.)

- Officers took a domestic violence report at a place in the 12000 block of Dequindre.

- A juvenile (gender not stated) was arrested for domestic violence at a home in the 2200 block of Edwin. (S)He was transported to the Wayne Juvenile Facility.

- A teal-blue colored mirror was entered into evidence after being recovered from the site of a hit-and-run accident in the 3300 block of Edwin.

**From Monday, March 12:**

- A man and two women were arrested for fighting at a bar in the 11600 block of Jos. Campau. The man was wanted on a prior arrest warrant, and the women were cited fighting and open intoxicants.

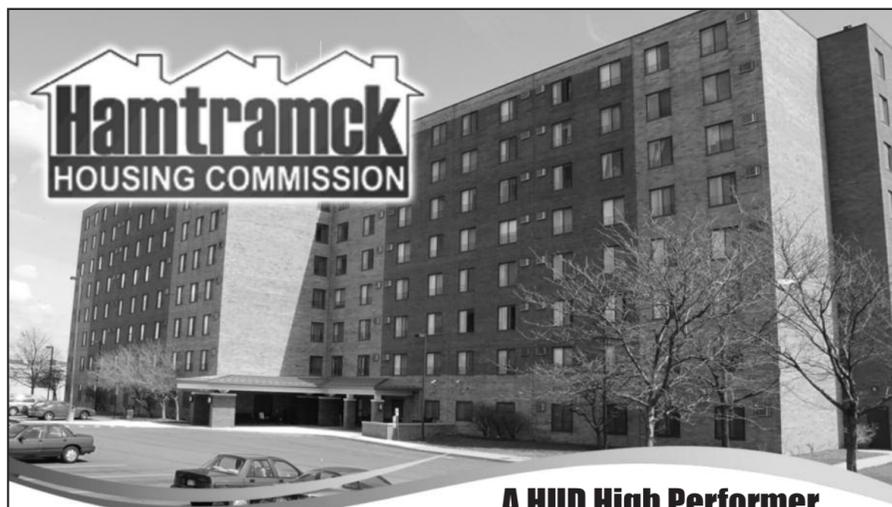
- A juvenile male was arrested after he attempted to cash three stolen money orders at various party stores around town. He was turned over to the care of his mother.

- A woman reported that some of the occupants of a white vehicle threw eggs at her home on Fleming.

- A man and a woman said that someone, known to them, deliberately struck the man's vehicle with another car on Caniff near Nagel. The suspect had been harassing the woman because she had refused to date him.

- A resident at a home in the 12000 block of McDougall reported that someone had taken her entire

Continued on page 4



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## This week at the library...

**Youth Art Month** - Submissions due Saturday, March 31. The month of March is observed to emphasize the value of art participation by children. Our contest is open to all children between ages of 4 to 18. Participants are asked to submit an original entry incorporating the theme "Springtime in Michigan." Award ceremony will be held on Thursday, April 12 at 5 p.m.

**ESL Class with Christine Templing** - Saturday, March 17 at noon. Intermediate ESL class conducted by Christine Templin, free to the public.

**Story Time for Children** - Saturday, March 17, at noon. Join your friends at the library for a reading of the book, "The Night Before St. Patrick's Day" by Natasha Wing.

**Teen Club Meeting** - Monday, March 19, at 3:30 p.m. Teens and Tweens are invited to join us for an arts and crafts workshop celebrating spring.

**Make-n-Take Crafts Day** - Tuesday, March 20 at 3:30 p.m. Celebrate with us the first day of spring with make-n-take crafts workshop.

**Computer Classes for Beginners** - Tuesday, March 20 at noon and 1 p.m. Basic instructions on computer use for beginners will be held on Thursdays. Number of participants is limited to available computers.

**Computer Classes for Advanced Users** - Tuesday, March 20 at 2 p.m. Adults with basic computer skills can enhance their computer literacy each Tuesday at the library. Number of participants is limited to available computers.

**Math Club Meeting** - Tuesday, March 20 at 3:30 p.m. Mr. Nuo is the instructor for the math club, math tutoring and Math Kangaroo competition.

**ESL Conversation Class** - Tuesday, March 20 at

4:30 p.m. Ms. Trisa will conduct the English Conversation classes each Tuesday night. Free of charge to Hamtramck residents.

**ESL Class with Ms. Templin** - Wednesday, March 21 at noon. Christine Templin is the instructor for the ESL class for beginners. Everyone is invited. Free to the public.

**Computer Classes for Beginners** - Thursday, March 22 at noon, 1:00 p.m. and 2 p.m. Basic instructions on computer use for beginners will be held on Thursdays. Number of participants is limited to available computers.

**Family Game Night** - Thursday, March 22 at 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to participate in games and contests during the family night. Game for this week is Candy Land.

**ESL News for You** - Friday, March 23 at 3:30 p.m. ESL reading and discussion class with Latisha Edge. Free to the public.

**Toddler Time at the Library** - Monday March 26 at noon. Join us for story time, arts & crafts, games and other fun activities. The book for this week is "Llama Llama Misses Mama" by Anna Dewdney. (Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

**Meeting of the Library Board** - Thursday, April 12 at 6 p.m. Regular meeting of the Library Board will be held in the auditorium. Open to the public.

**Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition** - Thursday, April 12 at 6 p.m. The meeting is organized by the Piast Institute.

**Friends of the Library Meeting** - Thursday, April 19 at 6 p.m. FHPL President Kathy Kristy and Treasurer George Gorday invite all members and volunteers to participate in the regular monthly meeting.

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.

# Second Front Page

## City officials hold a discussion on replacing the city manager

By Charles Sercombe

Last Friday, the city council held a special meeting to consider hiring Hamtramck's former Director of Community & Economic Development, Eric Tungate, as Acting City Manager.

However, there were not enough councilmembers present to conduct business. Councilmembers Cathie Gordon, Anam Miah and Robert Zwolak were absent. Councilmember Abdul Algazali arrived 30 minutes late, saying he thought the meeting was at 7 p.m. instead of 6:30 p.m.

Although no official business could be conducted, Mayor Karen Majewski opened up the floor to those attending the meeting, which consisted of police officers, firefighters and several members of the public. Councilmembers Mohammed Hassan and Tom Jankowski were also present.

Here are some of the highlights of the meeting:

Firefighter Bill Diamond asked who brought Tungate forth as a candidate for city manager. Councilmember Jankowski said he did, and Mayor Majewski said she is in "full support."

Tungate was also in attendance, and he talked a little about his background.

He said he "grew up here" in



**Eric Tungate, the city's former Director of Community & Economic Development, was hired Tuesday as the city's new Acting City Manager.**

Hamtramck, although not literally. Tungate's first experience in government was in Hamtramck, and he subsequently went to work for Detroit and Wayne County. He was laid off from his last position with the county.

He was with Hamtramck from 2005-2007. "It got me started in a good path," he said.

Looking at a board that Cooper had drawn up to illustrate the city's declining revenues, Tungate said: "I'm looking at it in fright."

If hired, Tungate said he can guarantee one thing: "We're going to work our butts off every single day."

He's 36 years old, and said he "loves public service. My

attitude is contagious."

Tungate said he "may not solve every problem in the first 30 days, but we're going to give it a shot."

He also said he's not going into this job as a "money grab. This is an opportunity to turn a city around."

Considering that there are a number of cities throughout the state that are in financial trouble, Hamtramck, he said, can become "an example of what to do."

Bill Meyer, a resident who has been active in a number of local organizations and social causes, asked Tungate what solution he has for Hamtramck's financial crisis. Tungate said it would be "unethical" for him to say.

That comment caused some confusion.

Tungate said he would be in contact with state officials, and in fact has already had discussions.

"Where there is a will, there is a way," he said.

Tungate said he would create short-term, mid-term and long-term plans, or as he called it, "an action plan."

Mayor Majewski elaborated on that point, saying the plan would be a "multi-pronged approach." She said officials need to "recreate the fabric of the community," which in-

cludes public safety, code enforcement and other elements.

Tungate elaborated on the mayor's comment, saying city leaders need to "bring those pieces together" and it will require "out of the box thinking."

Roberta Olko questioned whether Tungate will bolt from Hamtramck if he is offered a job with Detroit. Tungate said he's not going back to Detroit, and that "I'm absolutely confident we can do this. We need to engage people."

Tungate said he lives in downtown Detroit. He said "little things" also need to get done: cut trees when needed, repair cracked sidewalks and bring in economic development. As for those empty building, Tungate said they need to be "repurposed."

Olko asked Tungate if he would get rid of "cloudy issues," such as some questionable contracts and things that are not "transparent to the city."

Tungate said officials will have to "cut our way to prosperity."

"We can do this. Where there's a will, there's a way."

Councilmember Jankowski conceded that Tungate is not qualified to hold the job, according to the requirements set by the city charter. But, he

Continued on page 4

## Board of Education Vacancy

There is a vacancy on the Board of Education. Interested candidates are to submit a notice of their interest, in writing, to the Board President by March 29, 2012. Letters can be sent to the Hamtramck Board of Education 3201 Roosevelt Hamtramck Mi 48212 or via email to [jmcbryar@hamtramck.k12.mi.us](mailto:jmcbryar@hamtramck.k12.mi.us). The Board will interview all interested candidates to ascertain their qualifications.



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**March 19** - Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mass 10 a.m.  
**March 21** - The Way of the Cross - English/Polish 7 p.m.  
**March 22** - Mass for people from Prayer List 7 p.m.  
**March 26** - Solemnity of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mass 10 a.m.  
**March 28** - Bitter Lamentations, 7 p.m.

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# City officials hold a discussion on replacing the city manager

Continued from page 3

said, Tungate can fill the role for a little while to "set the course."

Jankowski asked Tungate to talk about how he would "set the ship straight."

Tungate: "While I am here, I'm going to bust my butt every day." The first thing he has to do, he said, is deal with the "payroll disaster."

Tungate also stressed again that he has a lot of connections statewide to tap into.

Jankowski related that he had a buddy who was seeking a military contract, and that he contacted Tungate for assistance. The very next day, Jankowski said, his buddy was on the phone with a colonel.

Mayor Majewski noted that

although Tungate left the city to "spread his wings and fly," he always kept in contact and was concerned about Hamtramck. She said that has impressed her.

Bill Meyer said the job should be bid out, and that filling the role needs to go through the democratic process. Meyer also said he's troubled with the political alliances that form in the government, with certain councilmembers voting together.

He said the city needs to go to the Michigan Municipal League for help in filling the role.

Mayor Majewski, who is president of the MML, said

there is no time to do a search.

"We have someone to literally step in tomorrow," she said in reference to Tungate.

Susan Dunn said she was concerned about rushing Tungate in.

"We've seen people slip in through the backdoor," she said. "We just want the city back on track."

She also added that there is "not a lot of public trust."

Dunn also described former City Manager Bill Cooper as a "thug."

As for the firing of Cooper, Councilmember Jankowski, who had been a constant critic of Cooper's, he said it wasn't a "kneejerk" decision.

Jankowski said that on Paczki Day, Tungate told him he wanted to be city manager of Hamtramck. He said he told Tungate that he was not qualified. He said that there has been a lack of leadership in the city, and that has "skewed the whole culture."

Susan Dunn wasn't buying it. "I'm sorry TJ but you've been steering the ship for the last three years."

Jankowski said no one can micro-manage the city manager, but the council can "set policy." However, he said, the city had a "rogue manager who defied that."

"I just want someone taking care to this place," Jankowski said.

Dunn said "it's like the butler took over the mansion."

Robert Olko lashed out at City Attorney James Allen, who was fired by Cooper the day before Cooper was fired by the

council. Allen's departure, she said, "can't be soon enough."

Mayor Majewski talked a bit on her reason for firing Cooper, although she prefaced her comments by saying it's "not wise to say out loud" her reasons. (It's believed that Cooper will end up suing the city for not having a legitimate reason for letting him go.)

Majewski said that she had "stood in his (Cooper's) defense in the past, but over the course of the last nine months, I just saw inertia. I didn't see the action that was needed to be happening."

"I gave him (Cooper) the benefit of the doubt longer than you guys did," she added.

Tungate talked briefly on Hamtramck's rough and tumble politics. He said that as far as anyone thinking the city is too political, "Folks, this is nothing. You're normal."

Councilmember Hassan said it seemed to him that every time he came to city hall, Cooper was outside smoking, or somewhere eating. He also criticized Cooper for giving the police officers' unions what they wanted in a previous contract agreement.

Hillary Cherry, who runs a blog on the city called hamtramckstar.com, insisted that according to the city charter, Tungate cannot be hired. City Attorney James Allen said that's not correct, and that Cherry needs to read the entire paragraph she referred to in the charter.

Mayor Majewski said that the charter allows for "equivalent" experience for someone to fill the city manager's job.

She also said that state officials are preparing to do an informal review of the city's finances. She said someone from the state will be at Tuesday's council meeting to make a presentation.

Jankowski said the city will have to get a loan to continue operations. He said it's a matter of how much.

Tungate said a loan is a "short-term fix," and that the city needs to make "structural" change. He noted that the city went from a yearly revenue of \$18 million to \$10 million in the last two years.

Councilmember Algazali said he wants to pay whoever comes in as city manager \$60,000 a year (the present salary is over \$100,000).

As for asking the public to support a public safety tax, Algazali said police officers and firefighters will have to first agree to contract concessions.

## City's financial woes started two years ago, city manager said

Cont. from page 2  
going to get \$700,000.

Health insurance for employees has always been a major expense, and costs continue to rise. The city was hit with a 30-percent increase in health costs, which translates to an additional \$700,000 the city has to come up with.

When Gov. Snyder took office, he slashed state revenue sharing to all communities by one third. For Hamtramck, that was a loss of \$600,000, and Cooper said more cuts from the state will include an additional loss of \$200,000.



Continued from page 2

garage door. No other property appeared to be missing.

**From Tuesday, March 13:**

- A man reported that he was assaulted by two other men while at a restaurant in the 8700 block of Jos. Campau. The suspects fled.

- A person reported that their (Yes! You guessed it! - Ed.) catalytic converter was stolen from off their 2009 Honda Element while it was parked in front of an address in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau.

- A woman living in the 3000 block of Holbrook reported that someone damaged her vehicle (no description given) while it was parked near her home.

- A man reported that someone used his credit card fraudulently to make a purchase at Best Buy.

- A man was arrested at Jos. Campau near Holmes for assaulting his girlfriend and for an outstanding Hamtramck warrant.

# PLA.V. POST 10

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# School Bell

We received an e-mail this week from Christine Nowakowski and Virginia Finn-Chartow at Dickinson East Elementary School, who wanted to correct some information discussed in last week's column.

Here's what they had to say: "Your recent School Bell article of Friday, March 9, 2012 contained some misleading information that we believe should be clarified.

"The National Elementary Honor Society has only existed since 2008. At that time, the National Association of Secondary School Principals established the elementary level honor society to recognize outstanding academic achievement as well as service and leadership within the school and community.

"In 2008, Dickinson East Elementary School, a Ham-



New members of the National Education Honor Society pose with an unidentified teacher at Holbrook East Elementary School.

tramck Public School, became a charter member of the NEHS. We are the only school in Wayne County to hold this honor.

"We currently have 28 members from our fifth and

sixth grades. These students represent the very best in Hamtramck young people. Not only do these students maintain a 3.5 or higher grade point average, they also give their time and talent to benefit the school and our community.

"These students give up their recess time to tutor younger children in reading or math. They work after school in our school store, the Dolphin Depot. They participate in child care for our monthly parent organization meetings. These students have worked each year at the Hamtramck city-wide clean-up and participated in Hamtramck's Health Walk.

"This is far from a complete list of our Hamtramck Public Schools NEHS students' accomplishments.

"You may also wish to note that all of the Hamtramck Public Schools, Dickinson East, Dickinson West, Holbrook, Kosciuszko, and Hamtramck High School, have active chapters of the National Honor Society. We are one of very few districts in the State of Michigan who can boast of this."

Thanks for the information, Dickinson East. And here are the students who members of the NEHS:

Nadia Ahmed, Raisa Ahmed, Ihsan Akhtar, Jaybab Akhtar, Zubaeer Akhtar, Samer Alfahad, Sarah Alge-haim, Hyatt Almarsoumi, Musammat Begum, Natalie Bloczynski, Maximilian Chabowski, Alan Durakovic, Amer Gunic, Syed Haque, Arman Hossain, Logan Hughes, Omar Islam, Nabeel Khan, Nusrat Laskar, Ema Melkic, Kenlee Morris, Shaيدا Nishat, Aladin Saric, Naila Saric, Mark Shalaj and Tuh-fatul Tasnim.

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# Review: Opinion Page

## A wild and reckless ride in city hall

What is going on, Hamtramck?

Last week on Wednesday, a bare majority of city officials abruptly fired City Manager Bill Cooper for what we think are the flimsiest of reasons.

And then at this past Tuesday's regular council meeting, those same councilmembers hired Eric Tungate as Acting City Manager.

In both votes, Mayor Karen Majewski had to cast the tie-breaking vote.

We've seen some reckless decisions in the past, but these two certainly stand out as some of the worst.

Yes, it can be argued that it was time for Cooper to go, that he had run out of ideas on how to avoid a financial meltdown. But, he had five months to go in his contract, and his contract is pretty ironclad when it comes to defining what grounds he can be fired.

Instead, we heard vague reasons, such as he failed to deliver financial information that had been requested, or he walked out of a meeting in anger and used the "F sound" – as Councilmember Mohammed Hassan described it – or that he failed to manage the city's financial crisis.

Cooper is likely to challenge his firing and demand that the city uphold the terms of his contract, which could result in the city paying out something like \$200,000.

Councilmembers Hassan, Tom Jankowski and Abdul Algazali, who all voted for his firing, better hope they have a good argument to counter Cooper's likely lawsuit because they will have some serious explaining to do to the community if Cooper prevails.

The next stunt these three pulled off was hiring Tungate, again with Mayor Majewski casting the tie-breaking vote.

We have absolutely nothing against Mr. Tungate, and we appreciate the work he did as the city's former Director of Community & Economic Development.

The thing is, he has absolutely no experience in being a city manager. Yes, he's served in local, county and state government positions, but they have all been economic development related.

We need an experienced city manager.

And the place where we could have hired one is from a list the Michigan Municipal League has of retired city managers who are available for hire on a temporary basis.

Mayor Majewski, who is president of the MML, of all things, said there was no time to go to that list and do background checks and interviews of potential candidates.

It would have been nice if she and the others who voted to fire Cooper thought of that first before letting Cooper go.

Instead, we now have someone in place as city manager with absolutely no experience. How is this better than having Cooper remain on board?

Hamtramck is about to go into payless paydays, and the short-term solution to avoiding that has been evident for quite some time: Get some type of a loan or revenue advance from the state.

It's the long-term solution to the city's financial problem that needs to be fixed, and bringing in someone with no experience is not the

way to go.

We deeply respect the mayor, and we have been longtime supporters of her, but this decision casts a cloud over her credibility.

Further mucking up the situation is the strange hold on the city that City Attorney James Allen apparently has.

Check this out.

About five years ago he was suddenly fired by then City Manager Don Crawford. Right after that, the council at that time turned around and fired Crawford and brought Allen back.

Flash forward to two weeks ago, and it's Cooper's turn to fire Allen. The day after, a special meeting was scheduled and, lo and behold, Cooper was fired.

It's presumed that Allen will be re-instated as city attorney – on that you can bet. And here's a prediction: Allen will come up with some fancy legal wording that makes his termination null and void, and will also not require the city council to approve his return.

We don't know about you, but to us, this doesn't pass the smell test. Let it be known that we have nothing against Allen, it's just that he seems suspiciously bullet-proof when it comes to being fired. It makes us wonder: Who's pulling the strings in city hall?

Add this all up and it seems like Hamtramck's city government is in a freefall.

Instead of leadership and accountability, we are getting the run-around.

To us, the shenanigans we've witnessed in the last week is a guaranteed way to insure the state will come in here and take control once again through an emergency financial manager.

This is a very disturbing time in Hamtramck.



## City Hall Insider ...

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

By Charles Sercombe

The city council met on March 13, and all councilmembers were in attendance. The meeting ran for about two hours.

The meeting was pretty much dominated by the issue of filling the city manager's position. The council, in a split vote that required Mayor Karen Majewski to break it, previously voted to fire City Manager Bill Cooper.

To say the least, it was an intense meeting.

The meeting had a strange start, which set the mood for the night. There was an initial disagreement during a voice vote on whether to amend the agenda to allow for the consideration of appointing Eric Tungate to the position of city manager.

There were some "no" votes said out loud when the mayor asked if there was anyone opposed, but in a roll call vote to clarify if the motion went up or down, all of a sudden everyone voted yes.

(Editor's note: Did someone think it was Opposite Day?)

A representative from Plante & Moran, the city's financial auditor, made a short report on the financial record keeping of the police department's drug forfeiture fund.

Long story, short: The, uh, record keeping – or lack thereof – is/was a mess.

"We did have our challenges," said Michelle McHale.

Here are some examples of those challenges:

The evidence room contained 10 to 20 years worth of evidence.

The auditor couldn't track all the records of confiscated cars that were sold.

Records were incomplete on cash that was confiscated in drug arrests, and in other illegal activities. In the words of the auditors, the cash records could not be "reconciled."

Asked if there should be a "further" investigation (Editor's note: Criminal), McHale said that's not necessary.

"It would not be a good use of the city's dollars. It would not bear much fruit," she said.

Acting Police Chief Max Garbarino said a number of procedures have since been taken to tighten up record-keeping and also make sure everything is on the up and up through annual – and spot – audits.

"We cleaned up the system," Garbarino said.

He conceded, though, that there are more steps that need to be taken.

(Editor's note: Garbarino has been Acting Chief for only several weeks.)

Garbarino also advised

against further investigation, and, instead, the city should move forward.

("Draw the line in the sand," he said.)

He also noted that it will take another year or so to fully inventory and clean up the system in the drug forfeiture fund.

In a related matter, Councilmember Robert Zwolak withdrew a pending resolution for a further investigation into the matter.

Keeping in the financial theme of things, a representative from the state Treasury Department, Edward Koryzno, discussed the city's options on staving off payless paydays, which had been warned about by former City Manager Bill Cooper.

The options, he said, are:

Borrow money from the state based on upcoming property taxes that will be collected in the summer (officially it's called a tax anticipation note).

Or, get an advance loan from the state based on state revenue sharing money due to the city.

But before any action can be taken, Koryzno said, the city first has to clear up a deficit in its federal development fund (called a Community Development Block Grant).

Continued on page 7

## Odds & Ends

**Wasted ...** You know spring is here when the city's weekly yard waste collection starts back up. And that program begins on March 26, which is a Monday, and continues throughout the season on every Monday.

So, get your yard waste bags stocked up.

**Resigning ...** We didn't have time to write up a story about this, but it's too important not to mention. Longtime School Boardmember Joan Borushko announced this week her resignation from the board.

She's been missing a number of meetings recently due to bad health. She's been a boardmember for over 25

years.

There will be a special presentation at the April board meeting to honor Joan and her many years of dedicated service to the community.

From everyone at The Review, we wish Joan better health, and a big thanks for your contributions to the community. You will be missed.

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# In these needy times, soup kitchen's return is a blessing

Continued from front page



Volunteers play a large role in providing free food at the new soup kitchen at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Parish.



pantries – who try to help by making a real, grassroots difference.

Such a group of folks are those who have just reopened the old St. Lad's Soup Kitchen, after a three-month hiatus. Now located inside the Queen of Apostles's Activity Center, and renamed the "Genesis Soup Kitchen," it is open on Thursday afternoons from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

The church threw their doors open, with little fanfare, on March 8, to some 35 of the area's less-fortunate on that first day. And while that's less than the 80 to 100 or so that Program Coordinator George Vucinaj says were a typical day's worth of patrons at St. Lad's, the thought is that the program will almost certainly see an increase in those numbers, and quickly, once the word hits the streets.

Vucinaj, 34, also acts as one of the cooks for the enterprise.

The soup kitchen is actually a combined effort of five separate parishes: St. Ladislaus, Queen of Apostles, Transfiguration Church, Our Lady Help of Christians, and St. Louis the King.

Some of these are located in Detroit, north of Hamtramck, but they are all close enough – both geographically and in purpose – to be able, in this instance, to meld into one for the common good.

Meals change every week, said Vucinaj.

"Generally, it's a meat dish, salad, soup, pie, a vegetable. We give them milk. Also, things to take home with them – bread, so on," he elaborated.

They don't get any government money for this, nor do they apply for it.

Instead, local parishioners donate much of the food, or else the money to buy it from such local stores as Sam's Market (who gives a discount), Polish Market and Fresh Valley. After that, Vucinaj and others will cook it up and dole it out.

Those who show up for the meals run the gamut, from mothers with kids in tow to single men, and including some people who may have mental issues or substance abuse problems.

As we all know, there's no shortage of people going without out there to help.

**Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church is located at 3851 Prescott at Conant. The Genesis Soup Kitchen is open to all who need it, while the food lasts, on Thursday afternoons from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. You should enter from the north side, off of Harold St. Call (313) 891-1520 for more information.**

## City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 6

Finance Director Nevruz Nazarko interjected at this point, and said he has already cleared up a deficit in the fund from a year ago.

Koryzno said that could very well be the case, but he was unaware of it.

*(Editor's note: Treasury Department, left hand meet the right hand.)*

And now, it's the public's time to speak to the council. First up was Bill Meyer, who started off with the topics of the city manager and city finances issues.

"It's like déjà vu all over again," he said.

*(R.I.P. Yogi Berra.)* And then he took a turn to say the collapse of the banking system is an attack on the working class.

And he said that the councilmembers who did not attend the special council meeting held on the Friday before "smacks of the solidarity slate."

"Why was Cooper fired? And why was Crawford?" he asked, referring to the two former city managers of the city.

He warned the council that "we're all going to go down if we don't work together."

Joan Bittner, who serves on the Downtown Develop-

ment Authority, said she supports Eric Tungate for city manager.

"In my opinion he'd be a great asset to the city," she said.

Roberta Olko talked about a proposal on the agenda by Councilmember Zwolak to sell the city's parks. Olko questioned who would buy them.

"Nobody's got any money," Olko said.

She added that the suggestions being made to raise money for the city is "taking us nowhere."

Olko asked for transparency in the firing of former City Manager Cooper and City Attorney James Allen.

*(Editor's Note: Cooper fired Allen a day before Cooper was fired.)*

"Let's start fresh," Olko said.

Olko also claimed that Cooper attempted to take information from his city-issued computer.

Susan Dunn said she supports appointing city Treasurer Mike Wilk to the position of city manager. She said he has been a dedicated public servant to the community, and that he is

Continued on page 8

## RAYMOND J. WOJTOWICZ WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER



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*Raymond J. Wojtowicz*



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## gardener's corner ...

By Kathleen Wojcinski

It's time to start thinking about Spring!

Believe it or not, it's only a week ahead. More good news... the FDA upgraded our planting zone from zone 5 to zones 6a and 6b. This means we can grow plants that would ordinarily only survive in southern Ohio, Kentucky, or northern Tennessee.

I'm sure the delicate Ole-

anders will not make it this far north, but rhododendrons will survive our winters, as well as azalea, and other colorful shrubs.

If you look at the garden catalogs this season, you should see a difference in the map. If not, then that company has not been notified. Let's hope it's not just a fleeting trend. We could get used to winters like this!

Start your tomato, pepper

and other plants indoors now, if using seeds. It takes at least two months to get the seedlings strong enough, growing tall enough for a second set of leaves. When they get that big, you can place them in larger pots, so the roots can get stronger.

Don't attempt beans or other fast growers because they will die before May gets here. It is still Michigan, you never know.



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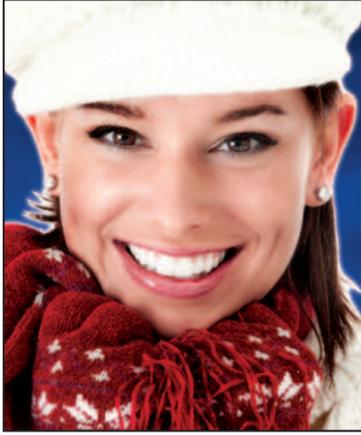
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## City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 7

willing to take the job for free. (Editor's note: According to Councilmember Cathie Gordon, Wilk was willing to take

the job for \$25,000 a year.) Next up was Hillary Cherry, who runs a website that's all about Hamtramck called hamtramckstar.com, who

said that hiring Eric Tungate as city manager would violate the city charter because he is not qualified.

Jerry Dettloff, a former Director of Economic Development for the city, urged the council to hire Tungate as city manager.

"He has the best interest of the city," Dettloff said. He further added: "He (Tungate) has the qualifications to do the right job at the right time."

And, also, it's time to think "out of the box," Dettloff said. Councilmember Zwolak

ripped a page out of history, and attempted to speak as a member of the public, even though he is a councilmember,

"I want an opportunity to speak before I'm cut off," he said.

He was then promptly cut off by Mayor Majewski, who chairs the meeting.

"You have a seat right there," she said, referring to his seat on council. "And no one is going to cut you off."

(Editor's note: Well, we're going to cut off here, whether anyone likes it or not, and pick up where we left off next

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source: the350project.net

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— Obituary —

## DRIVER

Elizabeth T. Driver, 90, died on February 29, 2012. Mrs. Driver was born in Scotland April 5, 1921. She was retired from the automobile industry where she worked as a tool crib manager. Mrs. Driver was the mother of Betty A. Evans, devoted daughter Judy R. Lewkowicz, and daughter-in-law Melody Driver. Elizabeth was predeceased by her son Robert L. Driver; granddaughter Cheryl A. Cassidy; grandson Jammie Evans. She is survived by her brother James McCusker and sister Mary Russel. Mrs. Driver had many grandchildren and great grandchildren; Ronald J. Cassidy, Allen E. Cassidy, Jody & Donna Evans, Shawn & Becky, Lisa, Erick, Jason, Kristopher, Haily, Nichole, Cassie, Dalton, Tyler, Jamie Elizabeth; also many nieces and nephews. She was a very loving and caring mother and grandmother and will be sadly missed by all of us. A memorial will be held at a future date. Cremation was at Meadowcrest Cemetery. Arrangements were handled by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home.

## Fundraiser for The Friendship House



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Clean 2 Br. Lower, \$500/month + security, references required, 586-713-8484. 4/5

Remodeled 3 br., in Hamtramck on Fleming St. by Kosciuszko School. Hardwood floors, stove + fridge, \$550/mo., + security dep., tenant pays utilities. 586-531-9722. 3/23

Upper 2 br., living room, kitchen, good condition, nice & clean, good location close to school, 3398 Doremus. \$500/mo., prefer mature individuals, Sect. 8 welcome. 586-354-6270. 3/23

2 br. lower, \$575/mo., \$575 deposit, heat included only. Adults only preferred, no pets, no smokers, proof of income. References, leave message 313-874-1442. 3/16

Cozy 1 br. flat, living room, kitchen, bath, all furnished and very clean, ideal for professional person only, St. Florian area, 313-874-0184. 3/16

## ROOM FOR RENT

Furnished, separate entrance, no pets, 313-369-1654. 3/23

## HOUSE FOR RENT

4 br., 2 floors, all appliances, portable dishwasher included, new patio, owner occupied, updated and very clean. Carpet, basement, no pets, 1 1/2 mos. security deposit, credit check, references, professional. On Dequindre, call Glenn 313-300-7040. 4/6

Hamtramck, 2 Br., living, dining, kitchen, clean, good neighborhood, no pets, 810-797-4630. 3/16

2 Br., updated kitchen, fenced in yard, Section 8 preferred, rent negotiable, 248-877-0207. 4/13

House for rent, with option to buy, 3 + 5 Br. Single house, no pets, 313-369-1654. 3/23

## APARTMENT BUILDING FOR SALE

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## RESIDENTIAL LOT FOR SALE

9407 Mitchell. Call Johnny 248-866-1110.

## HOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT TO OWN

6192 Selkirk, single family home, by Miller mosque, 4 br., 2 bath, big yard, just remodeled, asking \$45,000. Call Tom 586-873-6783. 3/16

3874 Caely, 2 Br. In nice shape, spacious living room and kitchen, remodeled bathroom, garage. Asking \$15,000 or bets offer, 313-989-3609. 3/16

## HOUSE FOR SALE BY OWNER

2677 Edwin, Hamtramck, 4 br., colonial, living and dining rm., kitchen, move-in-ready, asking \$52,000, 313-587-0914. 3/16

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# Classifieds

## HELP WANTED

Handyman wanted for siding, tile, drywall, locks, doors. Call Palo 248-659-2278.

Transporting persons to doctor appointments and dialysis, must have chauffeur's license and be able to pass drug test, call Dale at 313-466-9884. 3/23

## LOST ITEMS

**Lost Passport** - Hamtramck, Holbrook & Conant Area, Fri., March 9, 2012. Lost Yemeni passport number 02268539, green card issued on 08/01/2006, name t Nasr Musleh Sham-makh. Please call 313-247-0277. 3/16

# Coming events

**SATURDAY, March 24, 4 p.m.** - The Daughters of Isabella Mystical Rose Circle 736 will hold a Coporate Communion Mass at St. Florian Church. There is an elevator on the Poland St. entrance. Lunch will follow after Mass at Maine Street restaurant. Call Mary at (313) 873-0271.

**WEDNESDAY, March 28, at noon** - The Daughters of Isabella Mystical Rose Circle 736 will hold a Spring Card & Bunco Social, featuring door and table prizes, share the wealth, raffle and a lunch - all for \$7 - at Queen of Apostles' Activity Center, entrance on Harold St., fenced parking.

**Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition** meets every second Thursday of the month (next: April 12), 11 a.m. at The Piast Institute, 11633 Jos. Campau.

## FIREFIGHTER

The City of Hamtramck is Accepting Applications for:

**Probationary Firefighter/EMT**

Applications will be accepted until June 19, 2012. Go to [www.hamtramck.us](http://www.hamtramck.us) and click on "Probationary Firefighter Posting" (main page under "Public Interest") for further information.  
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# Help Wanted — Manager —

The Polish National Alliance Council 122 Banquet Facility is looking for a manager to oversee the day-to-day operations of its facilities in Hamtramck. Duties include, but are not limited to, completing hall rental contracts, maintaining rental calendar, scheduling staff for club & banquet rooms, maintaining financial accounts for club & banquet facility, maintaining all inventory, supplies & equipment, planning & implementing special events for the club. Polish language ability a plus. Submit cover letter and resume to: PNA Council 122 Manager Position, C/O 59009 Schoenherr, Washington, MI 48094-2444. We will call you to set up an appointment for a meeting. No phone calls please.

## CITY OF HAMTRAMCK NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REVIEW FOR 2012

I hereby give notice that the Board of Review for the City of Hamtramck will meet in the Hamtramck City Hall at 3401 Evaline in said City on Monday, March 19, 2012 and Thursday, March 22, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and also on Wednesday, March 21, 2012 from 1 p.m. To 9 p.m. for the purpose of examining, reviewing and correcting The 2012 Assessment Roll and hearing complaints of all persons Interested herein considering themselves aggrieved.

### Tentative Equalization Ratios

	Ratio	Factor
Commercial	50%	1.0000
Industrial	50%	1.0000
Residential	50%	1.0000

Anthony F. Fuoco  
Assessor for the City of Hamtramck  
(313) 870-0325

APPEAL HEARINGS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!!

# For this translation service, the world is at their desk

By Alan Madeleine

One hears a lot of different tongues wagging on an average promenade down Jos. Campau in this town.

Thankfully, there's a business here, well-equipped to sort it all out for us.

That business is an interpretation and translation service called Bromberg and Associates, located in the heart of Hamtramck at 3141 Caniff. We spoke with Jinny Bromberg, owner of the company and, herself, originally a Muscovite – that is, a native of Moscow in Russia.

Bromberg & Associates has actually been in business for 13 years, according to Bromberg. Begun, in fact, as a home-based business, they've now been in Hamtramck for the past 10 years or so, since 2002, and always somewhere on Caniff.

Since this past July, they've been in their new space at 3141 Caniff.

"It's a better building," said Bromberg, reached by phone at her office. "It's bigger – we're growing. It's also got a better layout for our needs."

Bromberg felt that Hamtramck offered the "most diverse" multi-culti environment,

which "stood for what we believe." She and her crew of, now, seven (all of them project managers or schedulers, she says – the actual interpreters and translators normally work from home) are happy to be here.



Jinny Bromberg, owner of Bromberg & Associates, poses near some of the business' reference materials.

sides being a Certified Interpreter in Russian, she can, she says, "get by in Georgian and, to some extent, with Ukrainian." However, should you need, for example, a birth certificate, she can translate one of those for you in 20 dif-

Some of their work comes from out of town, too.

In fact, they offer not only walk-in service, but also telephonic and video-remote components as well. Clients find them mostly from, for example, Google search. Their in-house team, Bromberg said matter-of-factly, keeps them smartly competitive in the tricky world of maximizing their online exposure.

"Today, we had an inquiry about translating brochures from 'American English' into 'British English,'" she said, noting the job's diversity of requests.

Some of the requests are so obscure that finding an interpreter or translator can really pose a challenge, but it's one they can almost always seem to meet, says Bromberg.

As to what may be going on for them in the upcoming months, she mentioned that they offer assessments for those seeking to pass state certification exams in, for example, the legal, health or military arenas.

These tests are difficult,

she noted, and some are offered to people as few as two tries a lifetime. People are therefore already fairly skilled in their chosen language(s) coming in, and may perhaps just need to know the exact nature of the questions to expect on the exams.

The State of Michigan, she said, currently gives official certification as an Interpreter in only five languages: Arabic, Spanish, Russian, Mandarin and Vietnamese.

Thinking that it all sounds like work you might enjoy, in a growing field? You might be right. Bromberg suggests that you assess more than just the language itself when considering a language, or related group of languages, to study.

"Do you have an interest in, or aptitude for, engineering, or are you in that world? Then Mandarin Chinese would be an appropriate adjunct language" to study, she says. In any case, keeping abreast of world events is certainly always a good idea.

And isn't it good to have a business in town that truly reflects, and indeed celebrates, Hamtramck's ongoing multicultural reality?

We think so.  
**Bromberg and Associates are located at 3141 Caniff St., on the north side of the street at Charest, east of Jos. Campau by a few blocks. Their phone number is (313) 871-0080, and their website is www.brombergtranslations.com.**

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**Saturday, March 24, 2012 through Saturday, April 7, 2012**

Interested parents/guardians may request and submit applications for enrollment during this time period by contacting the school via phone **(313) 873-9900**

visiting the website at www.academyofinternationalstudies.com or visiting the school office during the day Parent information meeting schedule:

**Saturday, March 24 from 11 am – 1 pm**  
**Tuesday, March 27 from 6 pm – 7 pm**  
**Monday, April 2 from 7 pm – 8 pm**  
**Wednesday, April 4 from 6 pm – 7 pm**

If the number of applications per grade exceeds the number of spaces available, a random selection drawing (open to the public) will be held at the school on Monday, April 9, 2012 at 5:00 pm.

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Thin Crust	\$7.00	\$9.00	\$11.00
<b>SQUARE DEEP DISH</b>	\$7.00	\$9.00	\$11.00
Round	\$6.00	\$8.00	\$10.00
Thin Crust	\$7.00	\$9.00	\$11.00
<b>PHILLY STEAK PIZZA:</b> Philly Steak, Green Peppers, Onions			
Round	\$9.00	\$11.00	\$13.00
Thin Crust	\$9.00	\$11.00	\$13.00
<b>NAGA PIZZA:</b> Chicken, Red Onions, Cilantro, Made with Naga Sauce			
Round	\$7.00	\$9.00	\$11.00
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Square Deep Dish	\$7.00	\$9.00	\$11.00

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