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# The Review Hamtramck

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Volume 3 No. 11  
March 25, 2011  
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## — HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

# Yemeni community rallies to support its homeland

By Charles Sercombe

Libya may be getting all the media attention lately because of U.S. attacks on the government, but there is another Arab country also undergoing a revolt.

And the Yemeni community in Hamtramck and the metro area want the world to know that people in their homeland are fighting for freedom. On Saturday, about 200 Yemeni-Americans, mostly men and boys, gathered at Veterans Memorial Park to protest the Yemeni government and demand the ouster of that country's leader, President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

"We need change in Yemen," said Mansour Algahain of Oliver St., "If we don't get it, we will keep going every week."

So far, the Yemeni government has been brutal in cracking down on protestors. In one incident alone, Yemeni police opened fire and killed 31 people, according to press reports.

At Saturday's rally, a number of those attending waived Yemeni national flags as well as American flags. They also held signs with photos of those beaten and killed during protests.

Others held signs with writing in Arabic and English. Some said:

"How many peaceful protestors need to die?"

"Hey Ali, Yemenis say, how many people have you killed today."

"The people united will never be defeated"

"Stop the bloodshed"

Speaker after speaker grabbed the microphone to talk to the crowd. Most of the speeches were conducted in Arabic, but one speaker said in English: "We Yemenis cannot stand idly by." He went on to also say: "We demand nothing more than their basic rights."

Unlike the case with Libya, the American government has not moved to help the protestors. That's because, according to analysts quoted in media reports, the Yemeni government has allowed the U.S. to bombard suspected Al Qaeda camps located inside the country.

The terrorist network has infiltrated parts of Yemen. American officials also fear that if the Yemeni government falls, the country could ignite into civil war or become a home to terrorists.



The metro-area Yemeni community held a rally Saturday at Veterans Memorial Park to protest the government of Yemen.



## Back in the money, for a moment

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck's financial picture just improved a whole lot.

City officials signed off on an agreement with Detroit to resolve a dispute over how much tax revenue should be shared from the GM Poletown plant. The dispute arose two years ago. Detroit officials abruptly stopped making payments to Hamtramck, which severely threatened the financial solvency of the city.

Detroit is now agreeing to hand over \$3.2 million and will agree to continue the revenue sharing plan that was worked out in 1986. That means Hamtramck will receive \$1.4 million a year and possibly more, said Finance Director Nevrus Nazarko.

Hamtramck, in return, will have to hand over the \$3.2 million it has been holding in escrow in lieu of paying water and sewerage service fees owed to Detroit until the dispute was settled.

Continued on page 3

## Census campaign paid off

By Charles Sercombe

While other neighboring communities hemorrhaged people in the last 10 years, Hamtramck's population remained fairly stable.



Local Census officials are crediting the help of students and young adults for the getting families to participate in the nation's population count.

According to the Census Bureau, Hamtramck's 2010 population head count revealed a loss of a little over

Continued on page 5

## Quick Hits

It's show time! ... This coming Tuesday, March 29, head over to the Hamtramck High School Community Center at 5 p.m. for a "Fine Arts Festival."

The event will include an art show of works from around the public school district as well as showcase the musical talents of students.

The show also features the combined high school and middle school Concert Band, the HHS Step Team, the HHS Chorus, a vocal ensemble from Dickinson East, as well as a few high school percussion ensembles.



## 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.

"I pulled teeth."

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## Obituaries

### FURMAGA

Julia Furmaga (nee Starzyk), 92, died March 19, 2011.

Mrs. Furmaga was a former resident. She was preceded in death by her husband, Sigmund.

She is survived by her daughter, Laura (Lawrence) Bugeja; son, Lawrence Sr.; six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

Funeral arrangements were made by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, and funeral services will be on March 26, 10

a.m. at St. Ladislaus Church. Burial will be at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

### KAMYK

Michael E. Kamyk, 54, died March 20, 2011.

Mr. Kamyk was preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Sophie Kamyk.

He is survived by his aunts, Wanda Wiacek and Virginia Dembinski; and cousins, Jon and Mary and many more.

Funeral arrangements were made by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, and funeral serv-

ices will be on March 25 at St. Ladislaus Church at 9:30 a.m. Burial will be at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

### KOLEC

Mary Kolec, 93, died March 23, 2011.

Mrs. Kolec was a former Hamtramck resident.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Stanley; sisters, Stella and Lottie; brothers, Henry, Edmund, John and Stanley.

Mrs. Kolec is survived by her son, Robert S. (Eugenia) Kolec; sister, Helen; sisters-in-law, Dorothy and Stella; and grandchildren Robert, Sherry and Kimberly.

Funeral arrangements were made by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, and funeral services will be on March 26 at St. Ladislaus Church. Burial will be at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

### PALUS

Michal Palus, 96, died March 19, 2011.

Mr. Palus was a Hamtramck resident, and he was preceded in death by his wife, Janina.

He is survived by his daughter, Barbara (Tom) Palus; sons, Henry (Dianne) Palus; and granddaughter, Carman.

Funeral arrangements were made by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, and funeral services will be on March 25 at the funeral home at noon.

## Ch-ch-changes are coming this way

By Charles Sercombe

You may have noticed some new developments in town.

What used to be the John J. Skupny Funeral Home on Conant is now being converted into a restaurant called "Kabob House and Banquet." The new owner of the building also knocked down the parking structure next door to the building.

It's not known when the restaurant will open, although the owner may have a bit of a public relations challenge enticing customers to eat in a former funeral home.

Speaking of restaurants, a Hamtramck landmark, Under the Eagle, closed down for good recently. According to a sign on the door, the restaurant had been in business for 38 years.

The former owner, Terenia, said in the note: "Thank you for your patronage. After 38 years, we've retired. Bog Zaplac."

Under the Eagle, located on Jos. Campau near Jacob St., was one of three Polish restaurants in town. It gained fame when President George Bush (the first) ate lunch there after making a speech in the city.

Under the Eagle was also once home to the Hamtramck Rotary Club.

A prior deal to keep the

restaurant open fell through, but that doesn't mean the restaurant will go unused. Another sign on the building announces that it will continue to serve food, this time as Campau Coney Island.

Hamtramck's one and only ice cream shop on Evaline St., around the corner from Jos. Campau, also recently closed down. The owner of the building is seeking someone to take over operations.

On Caniff, the former Motor Lounge, which was once considered one of the best techno nightclubs in the world, is being gutted. Ac-

cording to Hamtramck's Director of Community & Economic Development, Jason Friedmann, the new owner wants to turn it into a banquet hall and bar.

As for the former Shopper's World, Friedmann said there is a possibility it will be turned into several retail spaces on the ground floor, with lofts on the second floor. He said there is also a possibility of a third floor being added on.

But this development is highly speculative at this point, Friedmann added.

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## Coming Events

**APRIL 3, Sunday, 2 p.m.** – The Holy Cross Parish Mission Committee will host a bowling fundraiser to support the Hamtramck Friendship House. The event will be at Universal Lanes, 2101 E. 12 Mile Rd. in Warren. For more information and tickets, call (586) 558-7321 or stop by Srodek's Campau Quality Sausage at 9601 Jos. Campau. Ask for Maggie Srodek.

**APRIL 9, Saturday, 1-4 p.m.** – People's Community Services (8625 Jos. Campau) will host a Service Fair for the South Asian Community. The Fair will offer access to a number of agencies for help in social and economic issues, such as tutors, financial support, job skills, help with utility bills, job search and much more. There will also be free food, free childcare and entertainment. For more information, call (734) 922-5799.

## This week at the library...

**ESL Class for Beginners** - Saturday, March 26 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, March 26 at noon. All children are invited to library storytime. This week we will be making photo frames for those family pictures and read a book, "The Old House by Pamela Duncan Edwards.

**Computer Classes for Advanced Users** - Monday, March 28 at 11 a.m. Adults with basic computer skills can enhance their computer literacy each Monday at the library. Number of participants is limited to available computers.

**Computer Classes for Beginners** - Tuesday, March 29 at 11 a.m. Basic instructions on computer use for beginners will be held on Tuesdays. Number of participants is limited to available computers.

**Reading and Conversation for ESL Students** - Tuesday, March 29 at 5:30 p.m. Jide Aje is the instructor for the reading and conversation ESL classes.

**Math Club Meeting** - Tuesday, March 29 at 4 p.m. Mr. Nuo is the instructor for the math club and math tutoring.

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

**Jeopardy at the Library** - Thursday, March 31 at 4 p.m. Sign up and participate in Jeopardy games held on Thursdays at the library. Compete against friends, win prizes and have fun developing your knowledge skills.

**Piano Recital** - Friday, April 1 at 7 p.m. Matthew Walczak, a young Polish pianist, will present his music program featuring works of Mozart, Chopin and Debussy.

**Meeting of the Library Board** - Thursday, April 14 at 6 p.m. Regular meeting of the Library Board will be held in the auditorium. Open to the public.

**Friends of the Library Meeting** - Thursday, April 21 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.

**Special Thanks Donations to:** Barbara Gorday, magazines; Beverly Johnson, books; Lisa Grochowski, books; Aneta Martinez, books; Atty. Michael Traison, books; and Angela Jones, dvd's.

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

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# Second Front Page

## Gas leak likely led to a huge house explosion

By Charles Sercombe

Thinking about fixing your gas stove any time soon? Unless you really know what you are doing, you might want to hire out that work.

Hamtramck fire investigators say it's likely that the reason a house on Norwalk St. blew up Saturday afternoon is because of a gas leak.

Fire Chief Steve Paruk said that all evidence points to the renter of the house failing to fully connect, or perhaps overlooking, a gas line from his stove to the main gas line.

The renter told investigators that he had been working on the stove on Saturday, and then after the work he took a nap. Upon waking, Paruk said, the renter lit a cigarette.

That spark ignited natural gas that had accumulated in the house, and blew the structure apart, causing burns to the renter, a man described to be in his 30s by neighbors.

The man survived, but how he did is nothing short of amazing. The house's four walls and roof were blown out and debris was scattered several houses away.

The house in question is one of those smaller houses away tucked behind a larger house on one lot.

Those who lived in the house in front, facing the

street, were not injured.

Chester Rutkowski, 54, was in his apartment facing the house that exploded, watching television. He said shortly before 1:30 p.m., he heard a "thud."

"It was some kind of explosion but it wasn't that loud," he said.

When he looked out, the house behind his apartment was ripped apart. Strangely, there was no fire, just smoke and charred beams.

The man in the house was helped out by another neighbor. It's not clear how badly injured the man is, but he was able to walk on his own, and he even told firefighters that he did not need to go to the hospital.

He was taken to Detroit Receiving Hospital anyway.

Fire Chief Paruk said it won't be until this week that the debris from the house will be cleared. With housing values now in question, Paruk said the best he could estimate is that the property damages totaled about \$25,000.

Paruk stressed that it doesn't take that much gas to build up in a house to cause an explosion. He said that if you smell gas in your house or flat, immediately open windows and doors to ventilate it.

Next, call DTE or the Fire



Hamtramck firefighters say a gas leak, possibly from an unconnected line to a stove, led to a house explosion on Saturday. The tenant of the house was injured, but it was not immediately known to what extent.

Department.

Whatever you do, do not turn on the lights, if it's dark, because that can cause an

explosion to occur. And for sure, forget about lighting up a cigarette.

## Back in the money, for a moment

Continued from front page

Detroit had also contended that it overpaid Hamtramck by \$7 million in recent years. That allegation has been withdrawn.

Mayor Karen Majewski said the payment and agreement are only a temporary fix to the

city's daunting financial problems.

"It solves the immediate problem," she said, "but not the long term."

Just how pressing is the city's financial picture? It's so precarious that at Tuesday's council meeting, the council had to transfer \$600,000 from the city's street repair fund to cover payroll next week.

That loan will be repaid by the settlement amount Detroit owes the city.

But down the road, the city faces a \$600,000 cut in state revenue, as well as increased costs for employee health insurance and pensions.

The city has also applied for a \$2.5 million emergency loan from the state to stabilize finances, but City Manager Bill Cooper warned the council on Tuesday that even with that aid, the city will go broke within 10 to 12 months.

The financial challenges facing the city keep piling on.

Gov. Snyder is now requiring cities to meet new financial guidelines that could result in the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars for Hamtramck.

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# 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 22, and all but Councilmember Kazi Miah were in attendance. The meeting ran over two-and-a-half hours, which also included a closed session.

In the public comment portion, Robert Zwolak spoke on several topics, including a question of why the public will not be getting a draft of the city's master plan while others are slated to receive it for review.

(It was unclear what the basis

was for Zwolak's assumption that the public would not be given access to copies of the draft. It was later pointed out that copies will, in fact, be made available to the public.)

Regarding a proposal to purchase the front page of The Review's annual city telephone directory for \$5,500, Zwolak questioned whether two of the councilmembers up for re-election will vote in favor of it in order to win the newspaper's approval. Because, Bob said, if these two

councilmembers were to trade their vote for an endorsement, that would be unethical.

(Get your decoder rings out, folks, it's time to decipher Bob's barb: Although Bob didn't say who those councilmembers are, he was likely referring to Councilmembers Catrina Stackpoole and Shahab Ahmed. The other councilmember up for re-election is Cathie Gordon. At this point, none of the councilmembers have indicated they are indeed seeking re-election. Now back to the regularly scheduled program.)

John Ulaj, the Publisher of The Review, said the directory is a tool for the city to promote the historical museum. (The front cover of the telephone directory will feature the museum.)

He also said it's a resource for the community to find out about businesses located here.

"I take pleasure to update this book every year," Ulaj said.

Timothy Hanks also spoke about the proposal. He said he doubts the book is accurate because last year's directory listed his house phone number with the number of the former place of employment of his wife. He said he talked with a Review employee who said mistakes are "not unheard of."

(Editor's note: The phone numbers are supplied by a company named Bresser's, and yes, there are some inaccurate numbers. However, the vast majority of the numbers are accurate.)

Hanks said that with state financial cuts coming, the city can't afford the ad.

A woman also advised against purchasing the ad. She called the expense "frivolous."

"It's not the city's job to fund an independent business," she said.

Since we're on this subject, let's jump ahead into the meeting when the council discussed whether to OK the purchase of the front cover.

Councilmember Catrina Stackpoole, who proposed the resolution to authorize the purchase, said the directory is a way to "premiere" the city's historical museum. She said it's a way to let the public know "it's here."

Councilmember Tom Jankowski said that while he's also excited about the museum, there is no use publicizing it now because it's not ready to be open to the public.

The Historical Commission's Chairman, Greg Kowalski, said that actually, the museum will be opening in June. He said the directory is a marketing tool to attract visitors to the city, who in turn come here and spend money with local businesses.

Councilmember Cathie Gordon

said her issue is that the city can't afford the purchase, but suggested finding alternative funding sources within the city, such as tapping into the Historical Commission's budget.

Kowalski advised against using Commission money because it's needed to get the museum up and running.

Long story made short: The council voted 3-2 to postpone the purchase in order to seek a way to fund it by not solely tapping into the city's general fund. Councilmembers Stackpoole and Ahmed voted against putting off the vote.

In a review of a budget amendment, Councilmember Tom Jankowski questioned where the city administration found an extra \$300,000 to fund police overtime for the rest of the fiscal year. Finance Director Nevruz Nazarko said the budget was incorrectly drawn up and didn't include the extra funding, which is coming from the police traffic enforcement program and the drug forfeiture fund.

Regardless of where the money is coming from, Nazarko reminded the council that the overtime is mostly mandated by maintaining minimum staffing requirements.

Councilmember Gordon sharply questioned how the administration could have overlooked this matter in the budget, and also characterized the Police Department's drug forfeiture fund as a "slush fund."

Everyone but Councilmember Gordon approved the amendment in the budget.

A lengthy discussion was held on how the council goes about conducting a performance review of the city manager. In a side note, Mayor Karen Majewski said she previously attempted to get the council to fill out a performance review form but only two councilmembers complied.

"I pulled teeth," she said to get the council to comply.

Councilmember Jankowski said the way the review is conducted and the criteria used needs to be changed.

Another long story made short: Councilmembers Mohammed Hassan and Jankowski agreed to come up with a new review process.

Thanks to a federal energy grant, \$115,000 is now available for Hamtramck to tap into to hire a company to install a new heating and cooling system in the fire station and library. And speaking of good things, the city's historical museum will have a new furnace installed thanks to a "Cities of Promise" grant worth \$49,700.

City Manager Bill Cooper said this is the first part of three phases. Later phases include installing new energy efficient windows in City Hall and the library.

Community & Economic Development Director Jason Friedmann gave an overview of a draft of the city's new master plan,

which covers topics like future land development, parks and recreation, business attraction, marketing and a number of other topics.

Friedmann said most cities update their master plan every five to 10 years. Hamtramck's last master plan was adopted in the 1970s. Friedmann also pointed out that a number of grants require a city to have a master plan.

The proposed master plan will be reviewed by a number of city and county officials, who will have the chance to submit changes.

Councilmember Gordon said she was impressed with the plan, saying it gave her "goose bumps" just reading it.

Just how tight are the city's finances? Well, the council had to OK a \$600,000 loan from the city's street repair fund to cover next week's city employee pay-

Continued on page 5

**Historic St. Albertus Church** 4231 St. Aubin Detroit

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# Review: Opinion Page

## Hamtramck has no shortage of leadership skills when it counts

Hamtramck once again proved this week that when we work together, great things can happen.

Case in point: On Tuesday, the City Council put their signature on an agreement worked out with Detroit officials over a stubborn dispute regarding how much tax revenue Detroit is supposed to share with Hamtramck from the GM Poletown plant.

Detroit had insisted it overpaid Hamtramck \$7 million over the last several years.

Hamtramck officials dug in their heels, collected the needed information and thoroughly proved that was not the case. In no particular order, those who deserve credit in making this happen within the last year are: City Manager Bill Cooper, Financial Director Nevrus Nazarko, Mayor Karen Majewski, City Attorneys Jim and John Allen and the City Council.

A big thanks also goes out to the state officials who interceded on both cities' behalf to provide a neutral meeting ground and level-headed guidance. And certainly the administration of Mayor Dave Bing and the Detroit City Council also helped bring this dispute to a civil and fair conclusion.

Had this gone through court, Hamtramck would have had to wait years for a settlement.

And in another example of local leadership, we owe the Piast Institute and the Hamtramck Census Complete Count Committee for getting the word out about last year's census effort.

Hamtramck received some pretty good news about the official population count: we lost a little over 500 people instead of the almost 3,000 that the Census Bureau had estimated in 2009.

While yes, we lost people,

it is a minor blip on the screen. It is agreed by many in the community that at 22,423, we are still undercounted. But if it weren't for the efforts of the Hamtramck Census Count Committee, organized by Virginia Skrzyniarz, of the Piast Institute, Hamtramck would have likely seen a far steeper drop in population. The committee spent hours pounding the city's streets and meeting with organizations to spread the word for everyone to fill out a census form.

What was at stake was no small matter. For every person counted, that translated into future federal funding and the ability for the city to get grants.

Hamtramck has consistently proven that we have a lot of talented people here who know how to organize and achieve solid results.

## City Hall Insider... Continued from page 4

roll.

City Manager Cooper said the loan will be paid right back with money coming from Detroit. That money is coming from an agreement worked out regarding tax money collected from GM's Poletown plant. Later on in the meeting the council officially OK'd the agreement, which will allow Detroit to release \$3 million to Hamtramck.

Despite the good news, City Manager Cooper said the city will likely be broke in 10 to 12 months. Councilmember Gordon took issue over the city administration waiting so long to arrange for the loan. It was explained to her that the issue was fluid and that it was clear only recently that the city had no other way to meet payroll.

Mayor Karen Majewski pointed out that this issue came up because of certain councilmembers who dragged their feet in applying for an emergency state loan to avoid payless paydays.

Councilmember Gordon "applauded" Councilmember Miah for submitting a letter asking to be excused from attending this meeting and the next meeting. She said that there are certain councilmembers who disregard the City Charter's requirement for

councilmembers to ask to be excused from meetings.

(Still have that decoder ring out? The back talk among some in the city is that Councilmember Ahmed has failed to have some of his absences excused, although it can be argued that only Councilmember Miah has officially gone on record seeking an excuse.)

City Manager Bill Cooper gave a lengthy report on the city's financial picture and the new budget requirements set forth by Gov. Snyder.

Let's quote the man himself (that would be Cooper) on what's to come:

On top of everything that is going on in the City, I have been keeping an eye on proposals being made by Governor Snyder, especially in light of the fact that many of the changes he has talked about will have a direct effect on every community within the State.

My interest started with the Governor's budget, in particular his comments regarding proposed changes to revenue sharing. Yesterday, as many know, the Governor gave a speech regarding Community Development and Local Government Reforms. The speech focused on changes

he felt were important to addressing the many issues facing local governments. In that speech, accompanied by a document he sent to the State Legislature, the Governor talked about important steps that the Legislature needed to take.

Revenue Sharing:

- Constitutional revenue sharing would be untouched

- Statutory revenue sharing would be replaced by the Economic Vitality Incentive. Municipalities must meet certain requirements and implement reforms. The reforms he outlined are:

- By October 1, 2011, local governments must produce a citizens guide to their finances and a performance "dashboard" that is readily available to the public.

- By January 1, 2012, municipalities must develop plans to consolidate services that will result in taxpayer savings

- Municipalities must begin to address employee compensation in order to continue to qualify for the Economic Vitality Incentive Program. For any new, modified or extended contract, all employee compensation will be subject to the following:

- All new hires go on a defined

Continued on page 6

## Odds & Ends

**Giving back ...** We received an email from the good folks at Henry Ford Medical clinic last week about an outing they had. We'll let Janice Emery, a Nurse Supervisor with Henry Ford, describe what took place:

"We attended the Community Resource Forman held at The Chosen Generations Community center at 2328 E. 7 Mile Rd., and performed health screenings on 50 peo-

ple. We checked their weights and did their BMI's. We also checked their blood pressure and their blood sugar levels, as well as gave the participants needed health information based of their personal results.

"Some of the advice included maintaining a healthy diet, increasing their daily exercise and decreasing their salt intake. Also discussed was the fact that most of our

daily intake of salt comes from processed foods therefore the importance of eating fresh foods opposed to consuming processed foods was also stressed to the participants."

**Reminder ...** Get out this weekend and clean up the yard, because this Monday, March 28, the city's yard waste collection season begins. The programs continues through November on every Monday.

## Census campaign paid off

Continued from front page

500 people since the last Census count in 2000.

Compared to Detroit, which lost 25 percent of its residents, and Highland Park, which reported a drop of 29 percent (from 16,746 to 11,776), Hamtramck weathered a very rocky 10-year period.

Hamtramck's official population is now numbered at 22,423. In 2000, the number of residents was 22,976. That's a loss of 2.4 percent. That outcome came as a surprise to some considering the Census Bureau estimated in 2009 a loss of almost 3,000 people, based on a sample taken.

To further put things into perspective, the 2000 count was considered a major victory in finally getting a number that reflected reality. At that time, city officials launched an aggressive campaign to make sure the city received an accurate count. It paid off, because compared to the 1990 count, there was an increase of over 4,000 people.

That effort was carried over to the 2010 Census campaign. At the forefront to make sure residents filled out the Census form was the Hamtramck Census Count Committee, headed up by Virginia Skrzyniarz of the Hamtramck-based Piast Institute.

Skrzyniarz said a key factor in making sure residents participated in the Census was recruiting high school students and young adults to help spread the word and to make sure families who did not speak English as a first language filled out the Census form.

Skrzyniarz said the committee reached out to many community groups to whip up interest in the Census.

"The committee worked really hard to get the word out," Skrzyniarz said.

The loss of 500 residents is curious. Just what contributed to that decline? Census analysts will no doubt study this result with great interest. But the drop in residents does coincide with the fact that during

the last several years approximately 400 housing units became vacant due to the economic crash and rash of house foreclosures.

Detroit's dramatic loss of residents – of over 200,000 – is far more perplexing and shocking to many. Detroit Mayor Dave Bing held a press conference on Wednesday to announce a formal challenge to the count.

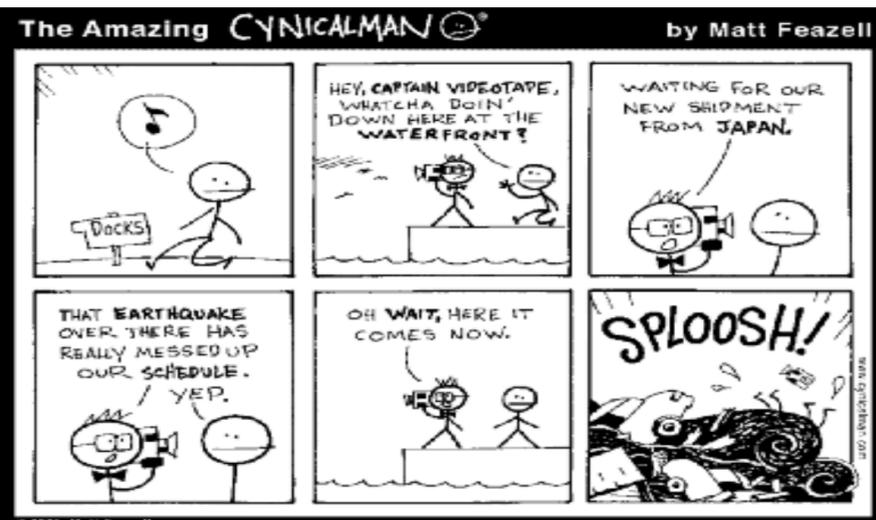
Where did the people go? It's no secret that the massive loss of jobs in the state over the last 10 years – some one million of them – forced people to leave the state.

In fact, Michigan was the only state to report a loss in population.

In Detroit, one only had to drive around the neighborhoods to see the increasing number of empty houses.

What does this mean to the state? For sure, it will result in a loss of political clout in Congress.

Tax-wise, it also means a permanent loss in money to pay for services.



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Hamtramck Housing Commission

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## City Hall Insider... Continued from page 5

contribution plan or a hybrid retirement plan that caps annual employer contributions at 10% of base salary.

- Where applicable a 1.5 multiplier should be used to determine employee pensions. A 2.0 multiplier should be used for employees who are not eligible for social security. (Our police and fire departments currently have a 2.5 multiplier)

- Implement controls to avoid pension spiking such as using a 3-year salary average that does not include more than a total of 240 hours of paid leave and overtime to determine benefit levels. (As of right now our pension calculations include all paid leave and all overtime, with no limits.)

- If health care is offered, all new hires must be on an 80/20 employer to employee health care premium split. (As of now the City covers the cost of health insurance for the police and fire department employees. AFSCME and Non-Union employees pay at least 15% of the cost of insurance for employee spouses and family coverage.)

NOTE: Municipalities will receive 1/3 of their funding for each category of best practices they meet.

- Local Units must meet every criteria described in each category by the defined timeline to fully benefit from the program. If you do not meet every criteria you will see reduced funding.

- A special portion of this incentive may be reserved for those communities that combine government operations completely.

NOTE: To be clear, the Governor's initial proposal will lower Statutory Revenue 33%, or more directly, we will lose about \$600,000 per year.

Simple Math (Round Numbers):

Current Statutory	\$1,800,000
33% Reduction	\$ 600,000
Remainder	\$1,200,000
Each Portion	\$ 400,000

Enabling Consolidation of Jurisdictions:

The Governor is asking for leg-

islation to make it easier for jurisdictions to consolidate services. He wants consolidation to be voluntary, not mandatory.

Ensure collective bargaining at the appropriate time:

This ties to the above as the Governor is calling for legislation that would simply consolidation by requiring negotiations with any union affected by a consolidation, not block consolidation by essentially forcing the consolidating communities to concede to the union contract with the higher pay and benefits.

Amend the Public Employment Relations Act (aka PERA):

Again, make changes to allow for consolidation

Reform Binding Arbitration:

In other words, amend PA 312, it is outdated

- Allow an arbitrator to include a community's ability to pay as a factor

- Use internal salary and benefit comparison, not just external comparisons

- Both sides should be required to submit a last/best offer before entering into binding arbitration

- The process of binding arbitration should last no more than 90 days

Prohibit Minimum Staffing Requirement:

This addresses requirements as set forth in city charters, the Governor wants this prohibited by law. Requirements that are part of union contracts are not affected.

Implement Local Pension Board Best Practices:

Reforms on how local pension boards operate and report their activities. This does not affect us as our pensions are through MERS.

Unfunded Mandates:

Change PA 101 to include:

- Establish and require a fiscal note process to be developed by the House and Senate fiscal agencies for legislation that affects local governments

- State that in the event legislation is enacted which imposes new, costly requirements on local government without complying with a fiscal note process, such legislation will have no force or effect until compliance is achieved.

PA 101 of 1979 is the original act adopted to implement the Headlee Amendment. This act requires the State to fund these mandates, but it has been largely ignored.

All of the things that the Governor has requested will require changes to various Public Acts, in other words, many laws will have to change in order to accomplish all of the things that the Governor has proposed.

The Governor was recently successful in changing PA 72, making sweeping changes to the powers of an Emergency Manager, for both cities and school districts. If this trend continues, and we have to anticipate it will until proven otherwise, we will have a lot of work to do over the next few months. This work will be critical to assuring that we minimize the reduction in revenue sharing. This is on top of everything else we knew that we would have to do to continue to monitor and control our ongoing financial crisis.

OK, that's it for the City Manager's report, and it wraps up this meeting for now. Remember kids, if you're going to miss class, you better have a good excuse because the hall monitor is on the hunt.

## Something fishy is going on at Post 10

By Ian Perrotta

It's Lent, so this Friday post-up at Post 10 post-haste.

In addition to super-cheap drink specials and an inviting atmosphere, the venerable Jos. Campau establishment is also turning out some fantastic deals on some even better food.

They're frying up Yellow Lake Perch, Cod, Shrimp and Pickerel, and it can all be had for under 10 bucks in a combo dinner that includes fries or macaroni and cheese, coleslaw and a dinner roll.

The fish fry goes from 3 to 8 p.m., but the fun doesn't



stop there. Every Friday (and Saturday) Karaoke with Chuck 'E' begins at 9 p.m. and runs until 1:45 a.m.

Also, be sure to check out Post 10 for all your hall rental and catering needs as well – the folks there are great people and offer their services at a reasonable price.

**For more information about Post 10 call (313) 893-1355 or stop by at 11824 Jos. Campau.**

## Real Estate Corner



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**5099 Fredro, Detroit - 4 Bedroom** Income Bungalow, Living Room, Dining Room, Full Basement \$32,900

**49254 Shady Glen, Chesterfield Twp. - "Bank Owned"** Detached Condo 3 Bedrooms, 1½ baths, 2 car garage, \$89,900 - **PRICE REDUCED!**

**2682 Evaline, Hamtramck - Basement** \$18,000 **PRICE REDUCED!**

**2362-64 Burger-Hamtramck - 3 Unit Multi-Level; 6 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, Basement, Garage, Separate Utilities** \$39,900

**11662 Nagel- Hamtramck - Completely** renovated with custom designer touches throughout. 3 BR, built-in appliances, basement, garage. Must see to appreciate. \$56,000 - **PRICE REDUCED!**

**3454 Caniff - Hamtramck - 2 BR** room, 2-family home, need of repair, basement, garage, \$24,900 - **NEW PRICE!**

**13404 Yvonne - Warren - 3 Bed** room, 1-½ Bath, Full Basement, Finished Basement, 2 Car Attached Garage \$79,900 - **PRICE REDUCED!**

**2274-76 Florian, Hamtramck - Investment** Property! Clean, well-maintained 5 unit home. One block from St. Florian Church. \$55,000

**3826 Carpenter, Detroit - 3 Bed-** rooms, Living Room, Dining Room, Full Basement, 2 Car Block Garage. \$29,000

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### FRONTIER INT'L ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2619 Florian Street, Hamtramck, MI, is holding a Public Hearing at the school on **Saturday, April 16, at 9:45 a.m.,**

to present their Proposed 2011-2012 School Budget to the public. The proposed budget can be inspected in the school offices prior to the meeting during regular school hours. The public is invited to attend.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### BRIDGE ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

9600 Buffalo Street, Hamtramck, MI, is holding a Public Hearing at the school on **Wednesday, April 20, at 4:45 p.m.,**

to present their Proposed 2011-2012 School Budget to the public. The proposed budget can be inspected in the school offices prior to the meeting during regular school hours. The public is invited to attend.



## Leanne Zaliwski-Conger

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3971 Edwin - \$24,999

5128 Evaline - \$25,000

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\*3895 Havens - \$69,900

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**Rochester Hills:**

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**Roseville:**

20140 14 Mile Rd. - \$40,000 **NEW PRICE!**

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Holbrook, 2 Br. upper, separate washer-dryer, can be furnished with basic cable, nice area by Jos. Campau, \$450 + \$450 deposit, utilities not included, 313-873-0802. 3/25

Hamtramck, Conant-Yemans area, 2 Br. upper, living room, dining room, \$400/month + security, must have good credit, no pets, 586-945-0317. 4/8

Hamtramck, 2 Br. upper, close to shopping and Jos. Campau, appliances included, no pets, for appointment call 810-210-4994. 4/8

Hamtramck, upper 3 Br., \$575/month + security deposit, references required, 313-801-4001. 3/25

Clean flats for rent, 11449 Fleming St., \$425/month, 11427 Fleming, \$475/month + security, call Kim 313-682-2928. 4/8

Belmont St., 2 Br., between Conant and Gallagher, stove-fridge, clean, call for appointment 586-604-0553. 4/8

Studio, no pets, Hamtramck, 313-632-5566. 5/27

## APARTMENTS & FLATS FOR RENT

Upper 2 Br., new carpet, safe neighborhood, large backyard, appliances and water included, \$525 + security, 313-301-0594. 4/8

Upper, small studio apartment, furnished with all utilities, one person occupancy, no pets, 313-319-6798. 3/25

Hamtramck-Detroit, 2-3 Br., newly remodeled, super clean, nice area, no pets, 586-634-2502. 3/25

Hamtramck, 2 Br. upper, very clean, \$474/month + security deposit + references, 248-214-9573. 4/1

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9721 Dequindre, upper, 1 br., large living room, kitchen, bathroom, lots of closet space, separate entrance, utilities not included, \$350/month, very clean, 313-729-7760. 4/1

Hamtramck studio apartments, good location, immediate occupancy, 248-229-4295, 248-229-4297. 4/8

## APARTMENTS & FLATS FOR RENT

3275 Hanley 2 Br., kitchen, dining and food pantry, stove-fridge. Also, 3281 Hanley, 2 Br., two dining rooms, kitchen, bathroom, stove-fridge, 313-575-7411. 4/1

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Hamtramck, 11680 Nagel single-family house, \$650/month and 11638 Nagel, upper flat, \$450/month, 313-438-3438. 3/25

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## HOUSE FOR RENT

3 + 5 Br. single family house, with option to buy, nopets, 313-369-1654. 3/25

3 Br., living room, dining room, remodeled kitchen and bathroom, \$580/month + security deposit plus water, 586-246-2438. 3/25

## HOUSE FOR RENT

8325 E. 10 Mile Rd., Center Line, east of Van Dyke 3 Br., basement, large living room, formal kitchen and dining room, large fenced yard, appliances, water included, nice and clean area, good neighborhood, can park 8 cars in garage and driveway, \$800/month + security, 586-806-4888, 586-354-8673. 4/15

Hamtramck-Detroit area, 4 Br., living room, dining room, appliances, basement, fenced yard, Section 8 OK, 248-894-0131. 3/25

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# Classifieds

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The Hamtramck Recreation Department has openings for seasonal outdoor maintenance workers and seasonal security guards. Both positions run mid-April through mid-September. For both positions, the candidate must be over 21 and have experi-

## HELP WANTED

ence in the related field. This position is employed by the Hamtramck Public School District, so you must be able to pass a criminal background check. Please apply in person at the Hamtramck Recreation Department at 1130 Charest. No phone calls please. Application deadline is March 30, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. 3/25

# Deadline for classifieds for next week is Thursday at Noon

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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 metromode.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:

If Blake Kownacki has it his way, Detroit will be home to what he says will be North America's first urban vineyard and growing operation.

While Michigan has quietly increased its wine-making profile in recent years, vineyards are typically located in rural areas. Along with John Burtka, who owns the Cherry Creek and Sleeping Bear wineries upstate, Kownacki is

launching Detroit City Cellars, with the goal of creating a vineyard and tasting room on Belle Isle.

"We want to plant the vineyard on Belle Isle because, in our professional opinion, it's the most ideal microclimate that exists," Kownacki says. He and Burtka are currently in talks with city politicians to plant 10 acres of grapes on the southeastern point of Belle Isle, near Lighthouse Pointe. The 10 acres would be 100 percent open to the public and accessible

by a current walking trail. He also dreams of turning the Belle Isle Casino building into a year-round tasting room that's open to the public.

There's talk that the grapes are an invasive species, something the nonprofit Friends of Belle Isle has worked hard to eradicate on the island. But Kownacki, who has worked extensively as a winemaker in California and Australia, says it's not a concern: grapes are poor germinators, and the Euro-

pean strains of grapes can only be grown by physically attaching cut grapevines to native rootstock.

"All the experience in the field says that's a non-issue," Kownacki says. "Napa does not have wild grapes growing anywhere."

He's hoping to work with the Friends of Belle Isle to plant the vineyard. "We don't want to build anything on the island. What we want to do is help bring the island back to its natural urban splendor," Kownacki says.

Detroit City Cellars is currently working with Randal Charlton of Tech Town to secure investors for the project, and they've also reached out to the Greening of Detroit to create a grape-growing cooperative of urban planters who will supplement the vineyard's annual harvest.

"I think Michigan is the sleeping giant of the wine industry," Kownacki says. "The potential is through the roof."

**Writer: Ashley C. Woods**

# Dickinson East gets a 'Super' treat with guest reader

By Ian Perrotta

What's more nerve-racking than playing a football game in front of 111 million people on live television? According to Super Bowl XLV champion Frank Zombo, the answer is reading a book to a class full of third-graders.

Zombo, a linebacker for the Green Bay Packers, was at Dickinson East Elementary School on Tuesday (March 22) to help celebrate Reading Month. He was invited by third grade teacher Rebecca Ruzycki, who went to Zombo's alma mater at Central Michigan University and knew his future father-in-law through the Moose Club.

At six-foot four-inches tall and weighing 254 pounds of pure muscle – just ask the teachers who were reduced to giggling schoolgirls after he flexed – Zombo towered over the tiny 8- and 9-year-olds as he showed them his game jersey and fielded questions about everything from reading to life as a professional athlete.

Before he began reading out loud his story, Zombo also gave some advice to the class on how to be successful in life, telling them to "pay attention to [their] teacher," and that

"character and grades are the main thing." He also told them to never give up on their dreams, as he himself went from an undrafted free agent to winning the Super Bowl all in his rookie year.

The main event of the day was when Zombo read to the children, and he did not disappoint. After choosing "The Legend of Mackinac Island" out of a stack of books, he regaled the kids with a tale based on the Native American legend of how Mackinac Island was formed – and he even added sound effects.

To show their appreciation, Ruzycki's third-graders made Green Bay Packer pennants and put together a gift-bag from The Dolphin Store (an in-school supply store) that included a water bottle, stickers, pencils, a bookmark, a reading light and a highlighter that smells like buttered popcorn. Zombo thanked the class and then left, but not before delighting them with a small confession.

"I was definitely more nervous reading today than I was for the Super Bowl," he said. "Football I've been doing my whole life, but this is something different."



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