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# The Review

## Hamtramck

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50¢

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— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

## Renovate it ... but will they come?

By Ian Perrotta

Something strange happened at last Tuesday (July 13) night's city council meeting – everyone agreed on something.

At least, that seemed to be the sentiment after an informational presentation was given by baseball author and historian Gary Gillette concerning the grandstands at Veterans Park.

What everyone appeared to agree upon was the fact that there should be something done to restore the grandstands to working order and preserve a piece of Hamtramck's history that has long been forgotten.

During Gillette's convincing address to the council, he highlighted many important reasons for rehabilitating the grandstands – the most significant being the fact that it is one of only five remaining Negro League home ball parks in the United States. Moreover, because of the fact that only one other park is in functional condition and the other three will probably be torn down, it will likely be one of only two remaining parks in the near future.

Gillette says that as one of only two Negro League ball parks still standing, the stadium would undoubtedly bring a number of baseball enthusiasts into the city, something that would generate additional revenue for the city. He also said that preserving the stadium would generate national media interest, propelling Hamtramck into the national spotlight.

"I guarantee that if you preserve this stadium it will be a national story," he said.

In addition to the extra business brought into town through baseball tourism, Gillette said that restoring the stadium would also create other benefits as well. Citing the growing movie industry in the state of Michigan, he said that it would be likely that the city could rent out the site for period pieces, as is the case of historic Rickwood Field in Alabama, which is frequently used as a set in movies.

Furthermore, Gillette added that a restored grandstand could provide a venue for outdoor concerts and other events. This could potentially bring in even more additional revenue to the city, as people who come into the city for a concert would likely stick around for the rest of the night.

At the conclusion of his speech, Gillette was thanked



by Councilmembers Cathie Gordon, Catrina Stackpoole and Kazi Miah. Gordon applauded him for his effort and said she had fond memories of the grandstands as a child.

"If we could make this happen I would be a very happy lady," she said.

Mayor Karen Majewski agreed with Gordon, saying that she thought preserving the grandstands made sense given the intersection between the city's decision to move forward on a historical museum and an overall growing trend in cultural tourism. She said that she would do everything she could to see the project through, and that with the possibility of the available funds through tax

credits and other programs which were mentioned by Gillette in his speech, preserving the stadium could be a fairly feasible task.

"I think this is a fantastic and incredible opportunity for us in a lot of perspectives," she said. "I honestly don't think we'll have a lot of problems getting this through."

A week later, things were beginning to move forward. Majewski formed a special committee to work on the project, which met for the first time on Thursday (July 22). The committee discussed the process of registering for historical designation as well as how to prove the site is in fact as his-

Continued on page 2

## Hamtramck strikes back at Detroit

By Charles Sercombe

You might say it's a David versus Goliath showdown.

In this case David is the City of Hamtramck and Goliath is Detroit. Hamtramck city officials are withholding monthly payments to Detroit for water and sewer service.

It's a pretty amazing sum of money at stake: Approximately \$230,000 a month.

City Manager Bill Cooper said he came up with the idea in retaliation to Detroit holding back \$3 million in tax revenue from the GM Pole-town plant that he said is owed to Hamtramck.

"In 10 months we'll have our money back," Cooper said with a laugh.

The dispute, though, is no laughing matter. Cooper said without the tax payments Hamtramck will be broke by next January and could face being placed under receivership by the state.

Continued on page 2

## Teens charged with robbing prostitute

By Charles Sercombe

Police say three teens hired a prostitute in Hamtramck and after being sexually pleased, they allegedly pulled out a gun and robbed her.

Detective Michael Szymanski said the incident took place at around 2:30 a.m. on July 15 in the Carpenter-Cornant area.

Ibrahim Zabed, 18, of Hamtramck, Abdul Samad, 17, of Detroit and Habibur Miah, also 17 of Detroit are being charged with armed robbery and using a firearm in the commission of a felony.

Szymanski said the teens drove around while being serviced and when they were done, they dragged the prostitute, a 31-year-old Detroit woman, out of their car. Police declined to identify the

Continued on page 2



## Quick Hits

**Need information about how to deal with foreclosure, health care options, senior services and a host of other services?**

If so, be sure to stop by People's Community Services tomorrow (July 24) starting at noon. PCS will host several speakers in what's being billed as a Town Hall meeting. The Bangladeshi community in particular is being invited.

There will be Bengali translators on hand as well.

PCS is located on the city's southend, at Jos. Campau and Danforth. For more information, call Kristina Rice at (734) 255-3620.

## This week in history

• Famed local educator E.M. Conklin was named school superintendent in 1955.

• As rioters burned down parts of Detroit in 1967, all was quiet in Hamtramck.

• At one time, the corner of Jos. Campau and Holbrook was an empty, weedy lot. But in 1987 groundbreaking began for the Hamtramck Town Plaza that now sits there.

Source: Hamtramck Historical Commission

## Hamtown's movers and shakers...

By Alan Madeleine

Who they are:

Kathleen Bittner and Rachel Renee Srodek ...

Well, if anyone in this town qualifies as a mover and/or a shaker these days, it has to be these two hometown gals, who have jumped into the void left by the budget-related elimination of Eve Doster's position as the city's Events Coordinator and taken it upon themselves to try to preserve the annual Hamtramck Labor Day Festival. We caught up with the ebullient pair in the back room of Srodek's Market, where Rachel was also running the shop.

**You two seemed to blow onto the local festival organizing scene like a whirlwind. So, I suppose the logical first question is, how did you first get into this "mess"? Were you friends from before this? How long have you known one another? Have you ever attempted anything of this scope before?**

Kathleen: Well, when we heard it (the festival) wasn't happening, I said, "Rachel..."

Rachel: It's a tradition. We couldn't let it not happen!

Kathleen: And no, we've never attempted anything of this scope before. Actually, I know Rachel because my

Continued on page 7



Rachel Srodek (left) and Kathleen Bittner are organizing this year's Hamtramck Labor Day Festival.

Economic Recovery & Special Projects Coordinator for U.S. Congressman Gary Peters

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# Teens charged with robbing prostitute

**Continued from front page**  
woman. The woman noticed that the car's license plate was dangling and tore it off before the teens drove away. The woman approached police officers who were nearby responding to an unrelated incident.

in when he realized his license plate was missing. The other two suspects were later arrested after detectives interviewed Zabed. Zabed is free on bond. Samad and Miah are being held in jail until they can post 10 percent of their \$100,000 bond. The three suspects have a preliminary examination on July 22 in Hamtramck 31st District Court.

# Hamtramck strikes back at Detroit

**Continued from front page**

The city has already been forced to lay off employees, require the remaining employees to take pay cuts and not fill several vacant positions in the police and fire departments.

Hamtramck's action begs the question of whether anyone in Detroit will actually notice the withholding of payments. Cooper said at one time the city was 18

months behind in payments and it took several months before Detroit began to inquire.

He said Detroit can't turn off water and sewer service because it's against the law.

A representative from the office of Detroit Mayor David Bing did not return a call to The Review for comment.

Cooper and city councilmembers have already ap-

proached the Detroit City Council and discussed the issue with Bing's administration. Bing's administration is waiting for an audit to be completed to see if Hamtramck was overpaid in recent years.

In the past, Hamtramck has received about \$2 million a year in tax revenue from the Poletown plant. Unfortunately for Hamtramck, the City of

Detroit first collects the money and then pays Hamtramck.

A small portion of the plant straddles Hamtramck.

As for the whopping monthly amount of money owed to Detroit, Cooper said that's why suburbs have demanded an accounting for how much Detroit charges for water and sewer service.

# Renovate it ... but will they come?

**Continued from front page**

torical as it is believed to be.

One way to determine the true history of the stadium is to find a photograph of the site from before 1941. This picture – the "smoking gun" – would authenticate once-and-for-all whether or not the current grandstands are the original grandstands. But another way that may help determine the history is to look back at the construction records and permits of the stadium, a task that City Manager Bill Cooper has given to Department of Public Works Director Marty Ladd.



Baseball historian Gary Gillette (right) discusses the details of an old Sanborn Map with City Councilmember Cathie Gordon (center) and Rebecca Binno Savage (left).

"Since it appears that somewhere in here the County Road Commission had something to do with this, they should have some documentation. If they were building something they're going to have some architectural engineering drawings," he said. "Now, whether or not they can find it is another issue."

After the site's history can be determined, the next step is to apply for a historical designation. Hamtramck resident Rebecca Binno Savage, who was formerly the Chairwoman of the Downtown Development Authority and has been involved in numerous proposals for historical designation, said that there were two key compo-

nents needed to make the application. The first is a statement of historical significance, which Gillette agreed to help write, and the second is a physical description of the current site, complete with black-and-white pictures that meet certain specifications.

During the meeting, a few interesting discoveries were made while looking at an old Sanborn Map (which was originally created for the purpose of to assessing fire insurance risk) of Veterans Park. Gillette found that the map included the dimensions of the original outfield fence, which could potentially prove the site's history. By using the dimensions of the field as described in old news articles, there is a possibility that the current dimensions of the field can be matched, establishing a link between the past and present. Gillette says he believes pieces of the fence could be found with a little digging.

The other discovery made while looking at the Sanborn Map was that one of the old buildings next to the grandstands may in fact be part of the original stadium – maybe even a players' clubhouse. Were that the case, it would only add to the site's already significant history. But regardless of that detail, it remains clear that the rest of the site is more likely than not original.

All that's left is to prove it. Ian Perrotta can be reached at [ian@thehamtramckreview.com](mailto:ian@thehamtramckreview.com)

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# This week at the library...

**Computer Class for ESL Beginners** - Friday, July 23 at 10 a.m. ESL students will start with one hour hands-on experience on computers followed by 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. instruction with Christine Templin.

**ESL Class for Beginners** - Monday, July 26 at 10 a.m. Christine Templin is the instructor for the ESL class for beginners. Free to the public.

**ESL Summer Reading for Adults** - Tuesday, July 27 at 3 p.m. Reading program for adults sponsored by the ALA, prepared and conducted by staff members to accommodate various levels of reading skills. Free to the public.

**Math Club Meeting** - Tuesday, July 27 at 4 p.m. Mr. Nuo is the new instructor for the math club and math tutoring.

**Mad Science Show** - Wednesday, July 21 at 1 p.m. The Summer Reading Program will start with an entertaining science projects followed by arts and crafts, paper frame making workshop and reading journal entrees.

**Movie Wednesday** - Wednesday, July 28 at 3:30 p.m. Every Wednesday is movie day at the library. Come and enjoy our feature presentation, including popcorn and snacks.

**Jeopardy at the Library** - Thursday July 29 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.

**Canoeing with Doc Fletcher** - Tuesday, July 27 at 6 p.m. Doc Fletcher presents a program on canoeing and Kayaking adventures through Michigan and Wisconsin.

**Star Lab** - Wednesday, July 28 at 1 p.m. The Summer Reading Program will start with an entertaining presentation about the stars followed by arts and crafts, making fish out of clay workshop and reading journal entrees.

**Master Plan Meeting** - Wednesday, July 28 at 6:30 p.m. Presentation of the city's proposed Master Plan.

**Magic Show** - Wednesday, August 4 at 1 p.m. The Summer Reading Program will start with a fun magic show followed by arts and crafts, making of sea life creatures out of recycled materials and reading of journal entrees.

**Meeting of the Library Board** - Thursday, August 12 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, August 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 and election meeting of the FHPL.

**Hamtramck Emergency Task Force - Registration for training to become part of the Hamtramck Emergency Task Force** continues at the library. Training classes will be conducted by Ms. Margalski. For more information please call the library at (313) 365-7050.

**Author, Miroslawa Wojszwillo** - Saturday, September 25 at 2 p.m. The author presents her new book, "Po Sladach Historii," which is about her experiences in Eastern Europe, Lithuania, Soviet Union and USA. Everyone is invited.

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

## Youth theater spreads the word on preventing domestic violence

By Omar Thabet  
Special to The Review

There's an interesting and exciting new program to stop family domestic abuse.

It's aimed at the Bangladeshi-American community and uses a youth theater group to promote peer education. Youths between 15 and 19 will be meeting in the coming week to talk about domestic violence and perform in skits with a goal to create happier families, according to a press release by New Visions, which is part of the University of Michigan School of Social Work.

Eun Joo Lee, MSW, Coordinator of New Visions says, "Youth Theater Program is not just about learning what domestic violence is and how we can pre-

vent it. It's about giving youth the knowledge and skills to become social change agents. The youth will participate in six sessions (4 hours in length) and engage in various learning exercises, including role-plays, discussions, and creative activities. It will be intense six days but a lot of fun."

The venue for this program will be at the Masjid Al-Falah auditorium. The program began on July 22 and will run until Aug. 8. Here are the dates and times when the program will take place:

July 25 (Sunday) - 2 to 6 p.m.  
July 29 (Thursday) - 1 to 5 p.m.  
Aug. 1 (Sunday) - 2 to 6 p.m.  
Aug. 5 (Thursday) - 1 to 5 p.m.  
Aug. 8 (Sunday) - 2 to 6 p.m.

## Review gets a new do-over online

We've got some news to share with Review readers.

First, our email address has been changed - however our former Yahoo email account will still be operating for the next year until everyone gets used to the new one.

From now on, you can reach us at news@hamtramckreview.com.

Also, our website, hamtramckreview.com, has been given a fresh do-over thanks to our

behind-the-scenes tech wizard Terry Murphy. You'll find more stories to click on and two new video projects, both put together by Terry Parris, Jr., a local journalist and contributor to The Review.

Parris trained his lens on the recent Bangladeshi festival held on Conant and the other video is a look at Mayor Karen Majewski's recent State of the City Address.

## Suspects attempt to run over police officer

By Charles Sercombe

A Hamtramck Police officer's check on three suspicious looking men resulted in a life-threatening moment.

Last Friday (July 18), an officer was patrolling near the city parking lot behind the former Shoppers World building in an attempt to check out three men sitting in a car.

By the time the officer could pull into the lot, the three men left the car and walked away. While the officer checked out who owned the car, which turned out to be stolen, the suspects returned and attempted to drive away.

The officer, who the Police

Department declined to identify pending an internal investigation into the matter, approached the car and the driver apparently panicked and struck the patrol car in an attempt to strike the officer. The officer fired her gun because she thought her life was at risk, said the Police Department.

Other officers soon arrived on the scene and a chase ensued. The chase was soon terminated because of the high risk of causing injuries to innocent bystanders.

The officer was not injured, and the suspects are still at large.

## Review will host a fundraiser for Labor Day Festival

By Charles Sercombe

This year's Hamtramck Labor Day Festival needs all the help it can get.

The city was so broke this year it had to lay off the special events coordinator. That left two options for the city: cancel the festival or seek out volunteers to organize it.

Well, two residents have stepped forward, Kathleen Bitner and Rachel Srodek, to take the reins. Without financial support from the city, the pair has had to drum up donations.

So far, they said, the response has been over the top. Individuals are donating their

services and goods, and even the Hamtramck School Board kicked in \$2,000 to sponsor a 3K run that will help bring in more donations.

We here at The Review are also pitching in. The Review is holding a fundraiser on Aug. 7. You can't beat this deal: If you purchase a ticket in advance, it costs a measly \$15. And for that you get drinks and food.

The party is here at our office, 3020 Caniff, in our spiffy new courtyard. The theme for the evening is Polynesian, so be sure to wear your Hawaiian shirt.

Tickets are available at our office and at the Polish Art Center. Tickets are available the day of for \$20.



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

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

**Carbon Lounge:** 11474 Joseph Campau.

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

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

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

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

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erages. Stop by for a good drink and a great time, drink specials: Monday: \$1 Cans, \$2 Jameson shots; Tuesday: \$1.50 all Bud and Miller bottles; Wednesday: 50 cents off Motor City, Bell's, and Founders; Thursday: 50 cents off wine by the glass. Merlot, Cabernet, Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio; Open to 2

a.m. Monday-Saturday; 9735 Conant at Evaline.

**Suzy's Bar:** Chat with owner Suzy – one of the best local bar owners; 2942 Evaline; (313) 872-9016; Free WIFI.

**Turtle & Inky's Place:** Small and cozy 2656 Carpenter; (313) 365-9863.

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# Review: Opinion Page

## Our choice for State Representative

On Aug. 3, voters will be heading to the polls to fill several county and state offices.

Since Hamtramck's district is heavily Democratic, the candidates who win the Aug. 3 Primary Election are guaranteed to win in November's General Election.

The state Representative position is wide open. Rep. Bert Johnson has decided to forgo an easy re-election and has opted instead to seek the state Senate seat that Martha Scott is

being termed out of.

Six Hamtramck candidates are among 15 candidates seeking the state Rep. office.

From our perspective, the best candidate out of this very crowded field is Hamtramck City Councilmember Shahab Ahmed.

Ahmed is Hamtramck's first Bangladeshi-American to be elected to office. He has served in Hamtramck's City Council for seven years and has represented the city well.

He has also worked with

the U.S. Justice Department on voter rights issues and immigrant assimilation issues.

Ahmed has been in city government through tough times and good times. He brings a wealth of experience and contacts to the job. On Aug. 3, vote for SHAHAB AHMED for state Representative.

*(Next week, our endorsements for state Senator and Wayne County Commissioner.)*

## City officials may have opened a bigger can of worms

You have to hand it to city officials for having the courage to stand up to Detroit.

Last week, the City Council withheld payment to Detroit for water and sewer service. It's a tit for tat situation since Detroit is withholding a \$3 million payment that Hamtramck insists is owed.

The dispute is about a tax revenue sharing plan the two cities have regarding the GM Poletown plant. Detroit says it has

overpaid Hamtramck, while Hamtramck says that is not true.

In the meantime, city officials have been forced to lay off city employees because the non-payment has crippled our budget.

One clever way to fight back while Detroit ponders the situation was to stop monthly payments on water and sewer service. It's no small sum either. Hamtramck pays out \$230,000 a month for the service.

That cost is staggering. It also makes one wonder how Detroit can possibly justify charging a little city like Hamtramck so much money. Other communities have challenged Detroit to make public how water and sewer rates are determined, but Detroit has refused.

It seems to us Hamtramck needs to join this challenge and force Detroit to come clean about how it runs its water department.

## Odds & Ends

**Folk dancing ...** Here's a tidbit we got from Mayor Karen Majewski. She has been at a Hungarian dance camp recently in the west side of the state. The Csipke Hungarian Dance Ensemble will put on a traditional village music and dance this Friday (July 23) at Sauk Valley Resort in Brooklyn, MI.

Admission is \$15 and includes a midnight snack of traditional Hungarian food. For tickets or more information, call (734) 323-6823.

**Café life ...** The good folks over at Café 1923 are hosting an art exhibit featuring artist Emily Whitehead. Check it out. The Café is located at 2267 Holbrook. Also in the world of art exhibits, there will be another opening night over at Hamtramck's Public Pool gallery.

On Saturday, from 7 to 11 p.m., stop by and enjoy some



beer and the works of a group of Chicago artists. It's an interactive piece called, "The Quantum Field." Public Pool is located on Caniff, just east of Gallagher.

**Splash splash ...** During this intense heat wave we couldn't help but notice that Detroit has its own version of a "splash pad" (above photo). We took this photo recently on Carpenter St. All kidding aside, folks, opening a fire hy-

drant is illegal and seriously undercuts the ability of firefighters to fight a fire because the water pressure becomes too low.

We here in Hamtramck have an official splash pad in Pulaszki Park. Except the public can't use it during the week until 4:30 p.m. Until then, you just have to suffer in the heat.

The reasoning for this? Go ask Craig Daniels, the director of the Recreation Department, and if you actually do get a hold of him, tell him to turn the thing on since taxpayers shelled out \$115,000 for it, so they ought to be able to use it during the day.

**Grin and bear it ...** You have to hand it to whoever owns the Atlas bar on Yemens and Brombach. As you can see by the photo, at left, the owner at least has a sense of humor about the inconvenience caused by the sidewalk repair being done at the corner.



## Letters • Letters

### Kudos to Royal Kabob for a great meal

I recently had a lady's shindig.

First off it was fabulous. We had plenty of food, mainly salmon, beef and chicken kabobs, which were marinated, prepared and wonderfully grilled at the "Royal Kabob" restaurant by Chef Abu Sinan.

Everyone raved about the quality of meat, how seasoned it was, all the beautiful vegetables and the bread was fresh and the garlic spread was addictive.

The manager, Mr. Abdu, was ever so helpful in arranging time slots to dis-

cuss matters and the entire staff, I bow my head down to you.

Thank You! I highly recommend their catering services or just dine in for fresh food.

**Momena V. Settipani  
Hamtramck**

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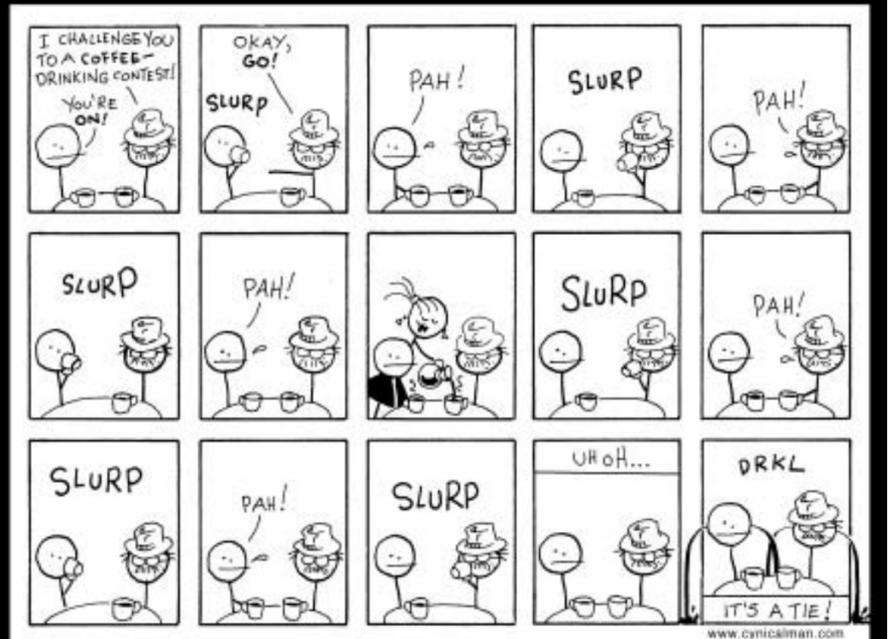
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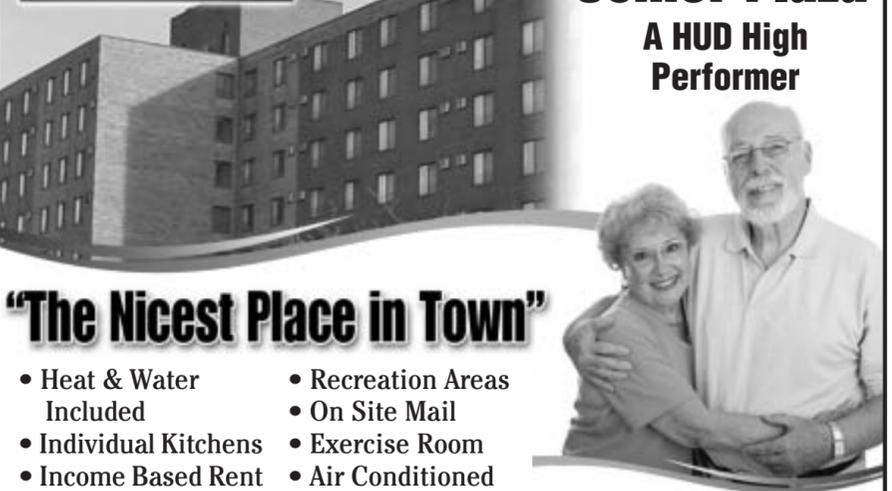
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## Gardener's Corner ...

By Kathleen Wojcinski

Yard art can be represented so many ways, from funky wind chimes and colorful spinners and banners to painted birdhouses.

For a personal touch, you can decorate planters and birdhouses with strong glue and glass beads, shells, etc. Yard art can be conventional, like a mosaic bird-

bath and a weathervane or unconventional, like found objects.

Antique metal bed head rails, wheelbarrows, bathtubs, even an old wringer washing machine have been spotted overflowing with flowers. Planters can be made of anything, even old boots.

Line with plastic and ei-

ther the fill bottom with gravel or old broken clay pottery for drainage, or drill holes. Mix peat with potting soil and plants. Stepping stone kits can be a fun project for all ages. "Michael's Crafts" stores have a large selection to choose from. Use your imagination and have fun.



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF HAMTRAMCK

Notice is hereby given that the Plan Commission will hold a Public Hearing on:

**Wednesday, August 11, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.**

**in Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 3401 Evaline.**

The purpose of the hearing is to read and discuss the details of a proposed Medical Marijuana Ordinance for the City of Hamtramck and to receive any public comment on such a proposed ordinance.

A copy of the proposed Medical Marijuana Ordinance is available in the Clerk's office for review.

The public is invited to attend and comment on the proposal during the Public Hearing or to make written comments on or before 4:00 p.m., August 11, 2010. Written comments should be made to the attention of the Community & Economic Development Director, 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, MI 48212.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF HAMTRAMCK

Notice is hereby given that the City Council will hold a Public Hearing on

**Tuesday, August 10, 2010  
7:00 p.m.**

**in City Council Chambers,  
2nd Floor, City Hall, 3401 Evaline**

Pursuant to Federal guidelines, the City of Hamtramck is announcing its objectives and possible uses for development projects using Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

The City's allocation for 2010 is approximately  
\$394,000.01

### POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Repayment of Jos. Campau Section 108 Loan	\$ 83,571.49
Repayment of Grand Haven/Dyar Section 108 Loan	\$ 90,184.29
Countywide Housing Rehabilitation	\$ 32,000.00
Code Enforcement	\$ 17,372.06
Administration	\$ 39,271.15
Downtown Façade Improvement	\$ 71,660.14
Business Start-Up Grant	\$ 51,185.81
Business Start-Up Workshops/Training	\$ 8,755.07

The public is invited to attend and comment on the proposal during the Public Hearing or to make written comments on or before August 10, 2010. Written comments should be made to the attention of the Community & Economic Development Director, 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, MI 48212.

## Street Life

### In Hamtramck, there is no shortage of activities

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

By Walter Wasacz

If this column has a mission other than to regale you with tales of Hamtramck life from ground level it's to make vital connections with doers and makers in our midst. There are plenty of them, doing pretty remarkable things, getting noticed by media near and far.

Last week, we re-printed a feature on Popp's Packing, an innovative art space, that I wrote for Model D. I was happy to see that piece flying around the web on Facebook and Twitter, and seeing people reading it in the print edition (in one case spread out on the pool table at Skipper's, a charming pub on Conant).

The best thing about Hamtramck energy is that it has an extraordinarily long and sustainable battery life. Projects seem to be starting and evolving everywhere, like at another unique art space, 2739 Edwin, which opened a show of called "Swim Lane" last Saturday. More to come about this lovely spot, which already has hosted local and global free and improv jazz players (legendary horn experimentalists Peter Brötzmann and Joe McPhee, to name two).

This Friday, jazz pianist Bill Meyer, a Kresge Arts Grant winner who lives in Hamtramck, presents The Home Suite: Coming to Hamtramck at the Detroit Institute of Arts. The performance is a combination of written and improvised music from around the world, filtered through an American lens, developed in a community built by immigrants.

That's us.

The ensemble includes Ramsey Hussein (electric bass, acoustic bass), Javier Barrios (percussion, tabla, doumbek, drums), Dave Reinstein (soprano and tenor sax, flute, wood flute, percussion), Cecilia Sharpe (cello, percussion) and Alan Ayoub (acoustic guitar, mandolin, electric guitar, electric sitar). Home Suite also features video interviews of Hamtramck residents from Bangladesh, Bosnia, Poland, Nigeria, England and Yemen.

Good stuff, well worth the price of museum admission (\$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, \$4 for youth 6-17 years old. Children 5 and under get in free). There are two shows, July 23 at 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., as part of the DIA's Friday Night Live! series. The DIA is at 5200 Woodward Avenue, in Midtown Detroit's Cultural Center.

And there is another performance next Friday, 7 p.m., July 30 at the Gates of Columbus, 9632 Conant Avenue, Hamtramck. Tickets for that show are \$10 at the door only, but free to all Hamtramck residents with proof of ID.

Also this weekend, at Public Pool, Chicago artists Sarah Wagner, Christy Matson and Jon Brumit have teamed to create the large-scale, interactive installation "The Quantum Field," a piece inspired by, and adapted from, the early LucasArts 1989 fantasy adventure game Loom.

In the game, the only people surviving the apocalypse are weavers, blacksmiths and carpenters.

This installation consists of a large-scale print and two sheep, made from conductive-fabric, created by Christy Matson and patterned and



sewn by Sarah Wagner, in addition to custom electronics and lighting by Brumit (who wired a Hamtramck house on St. Aubin for pirate radio broadcasts that were a part of the "Shrinking Cities" exhibition in 2007 at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit). Through the objects, light and sound, the immersive environment is constructed as a narrative that mirrors the early graphics of a 1980s' video game to imagine a post-apocalyptic world. Cool, heady content.

"The Quantum Field" was initially installed as the entryway to the 2010 NEXT Chicago Art Fair. It is the first of two large-scale installations by the artists, both of which will be shown in 2011 Patricia Sweetow Gallery in San Francisco. All three artists have exhibited at venues worldwide, including the Whitney Biennial, the Fuller Museum (Boston), In-F (Tokyo), Homie (Berlin) and the San Francisco Museum of Folk Art.

Brumit and Wagner are also founders of DFLUX (dflux.org) a residency program designed to engage the community with creative actions and workshops. It's located in the (now famous) "\$100 house" in the NoHam/Bangladesh Avenue neighborhood directly north of Hamtramck. Brumit and Wagner will be leaving Chicago and moving to the house early next year.

Saturday's opening reception is 7 to 11 p.m. Refreshments courtesy of Midtown Detroit's Traffic Jam & Snug Restaurant. Public Pool is at 3309 Caniff.

## Last chance for public to comment on city's new Master Plan

By Ian Perrotta

If enough people throw in their two cents, the city will see a lot of change.

On Wednesday (July 28), at 6:30 p.m., the final meeting of the city's Master Plan revision process will be held at the Hamtramck Public Library. It will be the last chance for residents to give their input on

everything from streets and parks/open spaces to commercial and economic development.

At the meeting, the team in charge of the revision process will provide a summary of their preliminary recommendations for the Master Plan. The team, which includes Interface Studio, Sam Schwartz Engineer-

ing, and Anderson Economic Group, has been working on the project since last September.

The summary - called a draft Master Plan - will present a range of ideas that can be implemented in the short term (while recognizing the city's current financial state),

**Continued on page 7**

*Hamtramck Housing Commission*

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# Hamtown's movers and shakers...

Continued from front page

brother is Rachel's husband's best friend. In any case, we figured, if the festival can be done for 30 years, and it's getting more and more well known, then we should try to make sure it continues. She's a no-B.S. person, easy to work with.

**In recent years, the duty of organizing the Labor Day Festival fell to Eve Doster as the city's Events Coordinator. Did you ever get to meet her? Did she offer any advice, or otherwise give you any ideas as to how to go about setting this year's festival up, or have you simply proceeded more or less from scratch?**

Kathleen: We knew her very well. She's been totally supportive.

Rachel: Yes, Eve's been really helpful with anything we've needed. Also, Darren (Grow, head of the Hamtramck DDA) and George Kristy, who ran it for several years, have made themselves very available to us.

**Perhaps you had some connections to the entertainment world that helped you to start setting up the music lineup, for example? If so, how did you come by these connections? Or if not, then how did you wriggle your way into the world of band bookings, managers and so forth?**

Kathleen: No! We had no connections whatsoever! Once we decided on the theme of "Homegrown Hamtramck," we went online to see who the famous Hamtramckans were...

Rachel: On the City's website...

Kathleen: ... there was Rudy (Tomjanovich, former NBA player and coach), but who really made sense was Mitch Ryder. So we dug around and found out who his booking agent was. And he agreed to come and play.

Rachel: We called some other better known acts too, and they all talked to us, but they wanted more money than we could afford to pay.

**So, is the music lineup set now?**

Rachel: Yes, it is.

**Okay. Do you foresee keeping the general plan for the festival similar to other past festivals, or have you consciously tried to, if not distance it, then at least make it different, from, what's come before? If yes - in what ways? What will we see that will be new? Or if the answer is that you decided NOT to change anything, then why not? Tradition, simplicity, or...?**

Kathleen: A lot will stay traditional, for example it will be in the same location, we have the same company providing the rides that has been doing it for years. One change we focused on was to try and make the look of it more inviting.

Rachel: We're trying to add more greenery, more seating. And we definitely wanted a dance area in front of both stages.

Kathleen: We went around to other festivals and hand-

selected some vendors to be part of it. So the booths will be, in some cases, more high-end merchandise.

Rachel: Except for the glow necklace one. (Laughs)

Kathleen: Oh, right!

Rachel: But in general...

**It certainly isn't cheap to put on a festival. How is it getting financed? Surely you're not paying out of pocket? Do you have sponsors?**

Kathleen: So far we've only spent \$60 out of pocket. We definitely do have sponsors. American Axle is a major one. Franklin Electric. I hope I don't forget anyone! Dan Zwolak has helped with creative marketing.

Rachel: He runs a company called Seeds Marketing (out of Madison Heights; see Facebook - Ed.)

Kathleen: He's also our webmaster, although the website - Hamtownfest.com - won't really be up for another week or so.

been gaining in popularity though - Mike Szymanski heard about it all the way up north.

Rachel: There'll be some fun events leading up to it too - there's a Road Rally on Sunday, Aug. 8, from 3-6 p.m.

Kathleen: It'll start in the Queen of Apostles parking lot. Fifteen dollars per person, or \$50 per car load. Also, another fundraiser is a fun run. There will be a 5K...

Rachel: ... and a "Golabki" 1K.

Kathleen: We like the idea of "everyone just donate a dollar for every person in the city"!

Rachel: Well, it'd be nice to get both locals and some outsider people involved!

**Last question: Will you do it all over again next year?**

Kathleen: If it's a success, if it can make money, or at least not lose money.

Rachel: We've got to try to keep it going.

Kathleen: But never again with only 10 weeks to put it together!

Rachel: Right!

## Last chance for public to comment on city's new Master Plan

Continued from page 6

as well as an optimistic vision for the future to help guide change and prioritize efforts to improve Hamtramck over the next 20 years.

After the presentation, the floor will be opened up for questions and discussions, followed by more structured activities designed to collect public input on targeted issues. As the most important part of the meeting, it will help the revision team prioritize the ideas that the community supports, as well as give them a sense of

how the plan needs to be refined before it is finalized during the following month.

"Because this is the first and only time we'll be present to share these ideas with the public, it's critical that we use this opportunity to get input from community members on specific ideas," says Leah Murphy of Interface Studio. "In order to do that, it is of great importance that the meeting has attendance representative of the city's diversity."

# Real Estate Corner

## City of Hamtramck Notice of PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

Please take notice that the public testing of the equipment and the program to be used for tallying the results of the Michigan State Primary Election of Tuesday, August 3, 2010 will be held on Thursday, July 29, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. The test will take place at the Office of the City Clerk in Hamtramck City Hall located at 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, MI 48212. All interested parties are invited to observe.

City Clerk July, 2010

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11831 Conant - \$52,800 bank owned SOLD!  
15116 Telegraph - \$249,900 Commercial retail building in Redford with large warehouses and several offices.

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2759 Hickory Lawn - \$159,900  
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**Royal Oak:**  
\*5029 Thorncroft - \$164,800

**Shelby Township:**  
54840 Franklin - \$247,500 SOLD!

**Sterling Heights:**  
\*38122 Jamestown - \$39,900 short sale/3 BR condo.

**Warren:**  
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## Once a law enforcer, this candidate now wants to become a lawmaker

By Ian Perrotta

What do you get when you cross a retired Detroit police officer and former elementary school teacher with a current State Representative? State Senate candidate Bettie C. Scott.

This week, Rep. Scott was in town to meet and greet her potential constituents and spread the word of her candidacy. And though she served two successful terms as State Representative, this time around she's got her sights set a little higher – State Senator.

Rep. Scott – who is not related to current State Senator Martha Scott – has been socially and politically active for much of her life. In addition to serving as a precinct dele-

gate and helping to create Detroit's Adopt-A-Cop program for at-risk youth, she also founded the Calumet Townhouses Community Board and served as the president of the 3 Mile Block Club.

"Whenever I go into a community I become politically active," says Rep. Scott. "If you're not politically active you don't know what your community needs and what some of the crucial issues are."

The crucial issues of Hamtramck's past and present are something that Rep. Scott is definitely familiar with. During the call to prayer debate a few years back, she assisted the city's Muslim residents with the issue by

holding crime prevention seminars and diversity training. And she says that Hamtramck's current financial dispute with Detroit is something that concerns her.

Before throwing her hat in the political ring, Rep. Scott served as a Detroit police officer for 17 years, ultimately becoming eligible for the rank of lieutenant before retiring as a sergeant. She also graduated from Wayne State University with a combined degree in education and sociology and worked as a teacher for six years – first as a substitute and then full time.

For her campaign for State Senator, Rep. Scott says she has three main issues. Her

**Continued on page 10**

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## APARTMENTS & FLATS FOR RENT

3 Br. lower, near White School, 13146 Moenart, Detroit, \$500/month, 313-574-1912, 313-872-5948. 7/30

Hamtramck lower 2 Br., Wall-side windows, clean, \$500/month, 313-492-8302. 7/30

Beautiful flats in Hamtramck, 1 + 2 bedrooms, by appointment only, 586-747-0808. 8/13

Hamtramck, 11370 Gallagher, 2 Br. lower, clean carpet, large kitchen, appliances, full basement, washer-dryer, nice area, available now, \$480/month + \$480 security, 586-604-0029. 8/13

Hamtramck, 2 Br. lower, \$500/month + security, references required, 313-801-4001. 7/30

Hamtramck, Lehman St., 2 Br. upper and lower, good area, ready to move in, washer-dryer, \$400/month + deposit, no pets, seniors or adults only preferred, 586-354-5343. 8/6

Hamtramck, 1169 Lumpkin, 2 Br. (could turn into 3 Br.), upper, \$500/month + \$500 security, 248-250-2946, ask for John, call after 6:30 p.m. during week, anytime on weekend. 7/30

Hamtramck, 3224 Evaline, 2 Br. lower, no pets, open house on Saturdays, 12-2 p.m., 586-264-0493. 7/30

## APARTMENTS & FLATS FOR RENT

Hamtramck, 3850 Casmere, 2 Br. upper, remodeled, central heat, utilities separate, washer-dryer, furniture can be supplied, \$450/month, 586-873-8510. 7/30

Hamtramck, 3 Br. upper, totally remodeled, 586-739-5860, please leave message. 7/23

Hamtramck, 2 Br. upper & lower flat, heat and water included, newly painted + carpet, 734-671-2902. 8/6

Hamtramck, Danforth St., 2 Br., \$400/month + security, nice, clean, good area, 313-712-6021. 8/6

Move-in ready, furnished, 2 Br. upper, all utilities included, \$600/month + security deposit, seniors or adult couple preferred, no pets, 313-350-3207. 7/23

Hamtramck, Jos. Commor, 2 Br. lower, remodeled, no appliances, utilities separate, \$425/month + security + references, adults only preferred, call after 6 p.m. 248-557-8345. 7/23

Hamtramck, Belmont, between Gallagher and Conant, 2 Br. upper and lower, stove-fridge, 586-604-0553. 8/6

Hamtramck, 2 Br., living room, kitchen, clean and great location, 313-550-9205. 7/30

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Hamtramck studio apartments, good location, immediate occupancy, 248-229-4295, 248-229-4297. 7/30

1 Br. lower, Sobieski-Casmere, appliances included, \$350/month + deposit, 313-477-2454. 7/30

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Separate entrance, no pets, 313-369-1654. 7/30

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Hamtramck, 11333 Lumpkin, brick, 3 Br., full basement, price reduced, 313-839-4580, 586-754-6272. 7/23

3-5 Br., single-family house, rent with option to buy, no pets, 313-369-1654.

Hamtramck, 2 Br., \$400/month, 313-610-8371. 7/30

2 Br., appliances, clean, senior citizens or couple preferred, \$550/month + security, 313-580-3771, 313-871-0189. 7/23

Hazel Park, 3 Br. brick, living room, kitchen, \$700/month + \$700 security, Section 8 or working folks, 586-945-0317. 8/6

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1000 s.f. Apt., 2 BR, completely remodeled, brand new appliances, oak flooring throughout, laundry facilities part of complex. \$575/mo + dep. References, qualifications include good credit, previous landlord.  
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Looking for roofing workers, 313-443-2868, 248-302-9608. 7/30

Legends Grill seeking experienced waitresses at busy location, days only, apply within, 11123 E. Jefferson, Detroit, 313-331-4000. 7/30

Advertisers should check their ad following first publication. The newspaper shall not be liable for failure to publish an ad, for a typographic error or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first day's insertion. Adjustments for errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. We reserve the right to classify, revise or reject any classified advertisement.

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## ESTATE SALE

City's largest garage and estate sale, 13101 Bloom, Detroit, July 30, 9-6 p.m. and possibly July 31, appliances, kitchen cabinets (new and used), bedroom sets, electrical, tools, washers, dryers, anything you need and could ask for, 313-310-3540. 7/30

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## Coming Events • Coming Events • Coming Events • Coming Events

**JULY 24, Saturday**—The Hamtramck Central Block Club is sponsoring a graffiti cleanup. For more information, email hamtramckcbc@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page (Hamtramck Central Block Club). The club will have a meeting before the cleanup at 11 a.m.

**JULY 28, Wed., 6:30 p.m.** – The final presentation of the city's Master Plan will be made at the public library.

**JULY 31, Sat., noon-7 p.m.** – Join the fun at Art in the Park at Zussman Park, featuring events for the entire family.

**MONDAYS and THURSDAYS, Through July 29, from 3-5 p.m.**  
– Workshops will focus on skills development and ACTION in the community. Everyone is welcome, and young people between the ages of 14 and 26 are strongly encouraged to register. Please call Cheri or Whitney at (313) 875-1750, People's Community Services (8625 Jos. Campau Avenue). TO REGISTER: Please contact Cheri or Whitney at (313) 875-1750, or cmpace@umich.edu.

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

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

# Once a law enforcer, this candidate now wants to become a lawmaker

Continued from page 8

first objective is to strengthen the public's trust in the police and to foster a better relationship between the two groups. Second, she would like to work with DTE to make it more consumer friendly. Finally, she wants to see the Driver's Responsibility Act get repealed, as she believes the law is unfair and is counter-productive.

"Being a police officer, I believe in getting you and arresting you if you commit a crime," she says, "but I don't think you should have to do double time for a law we put

on the books." Beyond those three objectives, however, Rep. Scott says her ultimate goal is to improve the lives of her constituents. She says that unlike the other candidates in the race, she has never had a position or job handed to her, and that any job she has gotten was because she was qualified, educated, and worked for it. Ultimately, she says she'll do whatever it takes to make things better. "I will go across the aisle for the greater good of the people," she said.

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