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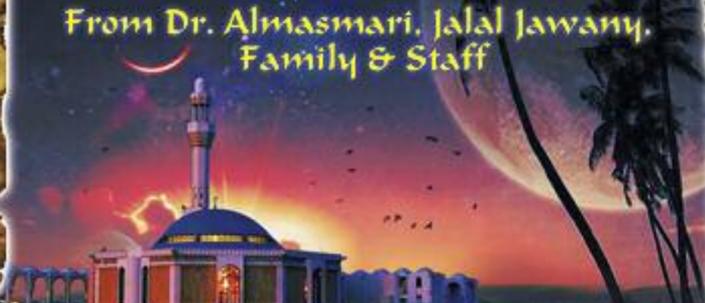


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بِفَتْوَى عَبْدِ الْقَادِرِ السَّنُوسِيِّ  
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# The Review

Volume 4 No. 33  
August 17, 2012  
50¢

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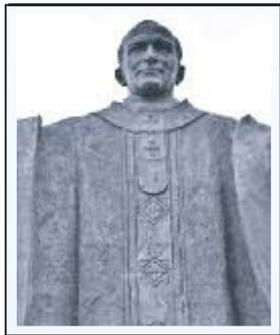
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## Quick Hits

**By Alan Madeleine**  
Think you know Hamtramck? Well, there's a whole lot of history here, and some of it might come as a surprise even to lifelong residents, says local Historian Greg Kowalski. Kowalski, chairman of the Hamtramck Historical Commission, is gearing up once again to give a walking tour of our fair town. It's being done in conjunction with the Detroit Historical Society, and Kowalski says it's about the "fourth or fifth" year it's being run. Or rather, walked. The Detroit Historical Society sets it up with Kowalski, and takes whatever payment they deem appropriate. This year, it's \$20 for Society members, \$30 for their guests. The tour is one-time-only, next Saturday, August 25, and begins at 10 a.m. at St. Florian Church. Barring the presence of an unforeseen event, such as a funeral, at the church, Kowalski likes to begin with a small tour of that building itself.

**Continued on page 5**

**— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —**

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## Recycling in Hamtramck, doing their part to save the planet

**By Charles Sercombe**  
What's the most common thing that gets dropped off at Hamtramck's recycling center every second Saturday of the month? It's the scourge of environmentalists who rue the day it was invented: The plastic water bottle. (Factoid: Some 2.5 million plastic water bottles are thrown out – not recycled – each year.) "We probably get 5,000 of them," said Bill Wiitala of Hamtramck's Recycling Commission. On any given monthly recycling day...

**Continued on page 7**



## Senior remembers the days when the Negro League played here



**Ben Jaros was a teenager when the Detroit Stars played their home games in Hamtramck.**

**By Ian Perrotta**  
Hamtramck Stadium may be a historic site now, but for local resident Ben Jaros it's still a vivid memory. Back in the 1930s – when the Detroit Stars played in Hamtramck – Jaros was a teenager living on Trowbridge. He turns 95 years old in September, and his memory is razor sharp. "If you had a nickel in your pocket you felt rich," he remembers of those Depression-era days. "I didn't have two pennies." Fortunately for Jaros, he only needed Hamtramck local Andy Love to see the games. Love played for the Stars and lived on Dequindre near Caniff, and Jaros would often see Love walking down Campau toward the ballpark. "I'd follow him to the stadium and he would let me hold his bat and glove," says Jaros. "When we got to the gate, Andy would say 'He's with me!' and I'd sneak right in." During those games, Jaros would watch Love play practically every position on the field. Being a Hamtramck...

**Continued on page 3**

## Contractor bills don't add up, says study

**By Charles Sercombe**  
There appears to be a scandal brewing in city hall. Or maybe not, depending on how some payments to contractors can be explained. At Tuesday's city council meeting, a heated discussion was held on an audit review of work invoices submitted by contractors, which revealed that \$56,835 can't be properly documented. A financial auditing company, Stout Risius Ross, Inc., submitted its report to the council at Tuesday's meeting. The company said it looked at 60 invoices from four contractors employed by the city. The 60 invoices are just a thumbnail look at thousands of pages of invoices submitted to the city throughout the year. The study was prompted by former Acting City Manager Erik Tungate. Out of \$190,653 paid out to contractors, only \$133,819 could be matched with proper billings and invoices. The biggest unexplained cost, of \$36,602, went to a contractor called Platinum. The auditing company, SRR, said that was due to four things: "Authorization for work not properly documented with Work Order per Contract. Insufficient detail on invoice to determine work done and rate charged. Services billed at amounts inconsistent with contract. Services performed without an executed contract." Another \$10,450 paid to CPI could also not be properly documented.

**Continued on page 2**

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## PUBLIC INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE SELECTION OF THE NEW CITY MANAGER

The City of Hamtramck has hired a consultant, Kathy Angerer, to assist the council in the search for our next city manager. Ms. Angerer will be available at the following locations and times to hear the community's input regarding the selection of the successful candidate. If you wish to offer your ideas on what qualities you would like to see in our next city manager, please drop by and have your voice heard.

### Hamtramck Public Library

Albert J. Zak Memorial  
 2360 Caniff

**Tuesday, August 21, 5:30pm-7pm**

### Hamtramck Senior Plaza

2620 Holbrook

**Wednesday, August 22, 1:00-3:00 pm**

### Hamtramck City Hall

3401 Evaline Street  
 City Council Office-Second Floor

**Tuesday, August 28, 10:30-12:00 noon**

### Colonel Hamtramck Home

Administration Building  
 12025 Dequindre

**Tuesday, August 28, 2:00-3:30 pm**

If you are unable to stop by at any of the above times and would like to share your thoughts with the council and mayor, please drop off or send your comments to:

Mayor Karen Majewski, 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, MI 48212, email kmajewska@comcast.net

## Contractor bills don't add up, says study

Continued from front page

documented for the following reasons:

"Insufficient detail on invoice to determine work done and rate charged.

Services billed at amounts inconsistent with contract."

Platinum was hired by the city to do tree trimmings, cleanups of lots, and snowplowing and salting of streets, among other duties. CPI performs street and water line repairs, among other jobs.

The city council has scheduled a special meeting for next Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in city hall to further discuss the matter.

If last Tuesday's meeting is any indication, it's going to be a contentious discussion.

Just the act of agreeing to accept SRR's report at Tuesday's meeting erupted into a debate. Councilmember Cathie Gordon insisted that the council should not officially accept the report because, in doing so, it may open the city up to a defamation lawsuit.

City Attorney James Allen, whose law firm the Allen Brothers was one of the four contractors included in SRR's review, repeatedly said the report was already a public document that anyone can have access to.

Still, Gordon insisted on not accepting the report until the contractors and department heads have a chance to respond to the findings.

"If we don't treat contrac-

tors with respect, no one will want to come here," Gordon said.

Councilmember Robert Zwolak agreed, saying the report implicates employees and management.

"It just doesn't smell right," he said.

Both Platinum and CPI are under the supervision of the city's Director of Public Services, Steve Shaya.

Shaya is also a former employee of Platinum. He quit that job to take the Public Services appointment. At the time of his hiring, there was concern about a possible conflict of interest with Platinum.

Shaya assured city officials that there was nothing to be concerned about.

Asked by The Review for a comment on the audit, he declined to speak until after he finishes his report on the matter. He said that he will be at Tuesday's meeting.

Councilmember Gordon has been a supporter of Shaya, and championed him for the job with the city.

Mayor Karen Majewski said she was "amazed" that there was a discussion on whether to accept the report. She said the council should be more concerned about what's in the report instead of "shooting the messenger."

In the vote to accept the report, only Councilmembers Gordon and Zwolak objected.

At Tuesday's special meeting on the topic, the council may decide what step to take next with the findings.

Asked if it could lead to a criminal investigation, Majewski said: "It's possible."

Acting City Manager Nevrus Nazarko said he is waiting to hear an explanation on the billing. He did question the number of times snow plowing and salting were performed, considering the mild weather last winter.

## Audit report gives glimpse into legal services billing

By Charles Sercombe

In the recent review of work invoices of four city contractors, the city's legal firm, the Allen Brothers, was also looked at.

The firm submitted its monthly billing for May 2011 for the audit.



James Allen

That's a 180 degree turn of events from last April, when The Review requested to see the firm's billing to the city for January and February. The Review made a Freedom of Information Act request to see the bills after Councilmember Cathie Gordon made an issue about how much the city is being charged, and for what.

She demanded that the law firm make the billings available for public review.

But James Allen, who is the City Attorney for Hamtramck, denied the request, saying it is "privileged" information.

Here is what he said, through City Clerk Ed Norris, in explaining his denial to The Review's Freedom of Information Act request:

"These communications are privileged and protected from disclosure to third parties. In addition, the information in these invoices are communicated only to high ranking city officials also contain the mental impressions and work product of members of the city's law firm."

Allen/Norris went on to say: "These communications are also privileged and, by statute and common law, not subject to disclosure to third parties. Opening them up to

public view, especially in matters involving pending and potential litigation (as well as contemplated commercial transactions) would seriously compromise any attorney's ability to competently represent the city's interests and effectively communicate about the work that attorney does, much of which is, by necessity, confidential in nature."

So, just what are these "mental impressions" included in the billings? Well, here's a sampling of the "privileged" information that was included in the audit report:

Email from C. Gordon regarding tax amnesty.

Court appearance for prosecution duty in 31st District Court.

Two (2) emails from Cooper regarding tax amnesty.

Email the Council regarding the same.

Email from Paruk regarding interns.

Email from Cooper regarding the same.

Review the history regarding the same and forward to the client.

Email D. Kaplani regarding interns.

Receipt of a reply from Debbie.

Email from Cooper regarding paranormal research.

Email reply to the same.

Court appearance for prosecution duty.

Email from Cooper regarding Matthew Herch.

Email from Ed regarding the

Lorelli FOIA.

Email from Ed regarding the 2009 fine code ordinance.

Email from Paruk regarding the same.

Email the Chief and Mayor regarding trial exhibits immigration resource.

Email from Ed regarding a petition for ballot question.

Email from Debbie Kaplani to Ashley Bonner regarding risk management.

Receipt and review for the McCoy in-car videos.



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If you have any questions or concerns you may contact the Hamtramck Housing Commission at 313-868-7445.

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## This week at the library...

**ESL Class with Latisha Edge** - Monday, August 20 at 3 p.m. Intermediate ESL class conducted by Latisha Edge, free to the public.

**ESL Conversation Class** - Tuesday, August 21 at 4:30 p.m. Ms. Trisa conducts English Conversation classes each Tuesday night. Free of charge to Hamtramck residents.

**Summer Reading Program for Adults** - Tuesday, August 21 at 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to take part in book reading club. Share your book selections, discuss newly released books and find books of interest to you.

**Summer Reading Program** - Wednesday, August 22 at 1 p.m. Join us for a program prepared in cooperation with the Boy and Girl Scouts of America.

**ESL News for You** - Thursday, August 23 at 3 p.m. ESL reading and discussion class with Ms. Latisha. Free to the public.

**ESL Class with Christine Templin** - Friday, August 24 at 11 a.m. Intermediate ESL class conducted by Christine Templin, free to the public.

**Teen Club Meeting** - Friday, August 24, at 1 p.m. Teens are invited to join us for the summer meeting of the Teen Club. This week we will be making preparations for the Polish Day Parade along with regular teen club activities.

**Toddler Time at the Library** - Monday August 27 at noon. Join us for story time, arts & crafts, games and other fun activities. This week we will try to create a masterpiece of

art. (Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

**Summer Reading Program** - Wednesday, August 29 at 1 p.m. This is the final week of the Summer Reading program. We will look back at the Olympics and display our skills and talents in Ms. Ania's Olympic competitions.

**Labor Day Parade** - Monday, September 3, Library and participants of the Summer Reading Program will be marching in the Labor Day Parade. Parade participants will assemble at Jos. Campau and Holbrook on the shopping center parking lot. Marchers will meet at noon to prepare parade props and balloons and will start marching at 1 p.m. For more information talk to the children's program coordinator at the library.

**Citizenship Day in Hamtramck** - Saturday, September 15 at 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A team of attorneys from the International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit will provide free legal help to Hamtramck residents who want to apply for U.S. Citizenship. For information and list of documents required, stop by the library or call 313-365-7050.

**Friends of the Library Meeting** - Thursday, September 20 at 6 p.m. FHPL President Kathy Kristy and Treasurer George Gorday invite all members and volunteers to participate in the regular monthly meeting.

**Special Thanks for Donations** - Toby Millman, books, photoshop manual and dvd's; Kathleen Thomas, books.

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

# Second Front Page

## Gas line work tears up streets and shrubs

By Charles Sercombe

Notice more traffic congestion in town lately?

Try going down Caniff west of Jos. Campau. You might be tempted to call it a cluster\*\*\*\*.

And have you seen what's going on at Evaline between Campau and Brombach? It looks like the entire neighborhood is being dug up.

It's all part of a major upgrade being performed by DTE Energy. The company is replacing gas service lines that run along the street, as well as into each house.

The work has caused a massive interruption for dozens of residents. The good news in all this is that whatever gets

dug up will be replaced, including the street and sidewalks.

For some homeowners it might even mean getting new shrubs that had to be torn out.

"They have a right to do that," said Steve Shaya, the Director of Public Services. "But they will replace everything."

Shaya said other areas of the city will undergo the same work.

However, no work will be done on Jos. Campau, which is a good thing considering the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival is just a few weeks away.

**DTE Energy has been digging up streets and sidewalks to install new gas lines, which has resulted in a major headache for residents.**



## Senior remembers the days when the Negro League played here

High School graduate, Love was Jaros' idol and his favorite player. But he wasn't the only one Jaros remembers.

"Turkey Stearns - he could hit a ball a mile," he says. "There was chicken wire over the right field fence, and Turkey hit it over once."

Although those days are now long gone, Jaros still remembers them like yesterday. It's as impressive as it sounds, but he shrugs it off with a casual nonchalance.

"I mean, with a name like Turkey - you can't forget a name like Turkey," he says.



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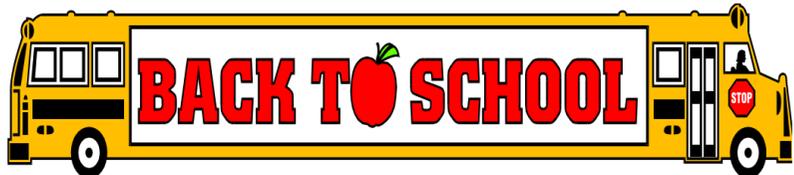
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**By Alan Madeleine**

Crime Log is a compilation of the most interesting and informative items taken from Hamtramck Police Department Intelligence Reports from between the dates of Thursday, Aug. 9 and Wednesday, Aug. 15.

**From Thursday, Aug. 9:**

- A juvenile residing on Danforth reported being bitten by a dog. The exact location of the incident was not given.
- At 6:36 p.m., a woman reported that, while she was walking on Mitchell, near Holbrook, her ex-boyfriend pulled up behind her in his vehicle. His new girlfriend then allegedly got out of the vehicle, attacked the woman, and stole her purse. Both suspects then fled in the car.

**From Friday, Aug. 10:**

- A man living in the 11300 block of Moran reported that someone threw rocks at his residence at about 1:28 a.m., breaking out two of the home's windows.
- Three males, two of them juveniles (and all apparently under the legal drinking age) were arrested for minors in possession of alcohol and tobacco, and for curfew violations, by officers investigating a complaint of shots being fired at 2:10 a.m. (no location stated).
- A man living in the 2300

block of Pulaski reported that someone forced entry into his garage, stealing some unspecified property.

- A woman was arrested, at 10:07 a.m., by officers investigating a child, age three, being left unattended in an unlocked vehicle. Again, the location was not given for the incident.

- A man reported that someone tried to steal his van (not described), from where it was parked on the 12000 block of Conant, at about 3:10 p.m.

**From Saturday, Aug. 11:**

- A woman reported that someone broke into her home, in the 12000 block of Selfridge, sometime between 1 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. today. Her television was taken.

- A woman reported that someone broke into her home, in the 12000 block of Grand Haven, sometime between midnight and 9:15 a.m. today. An evidence technician took fingerprints at the scene.

- A woman reported that someone broke into her home, also in the 12000 block of Selfridge, sometime between last night at 11:30 p.m., and today at 10 a.m. It was not stated what, if anything, was taken.

- At 1:14 p.m., a woman reported being assaulted by two women (known to her) while in the 12000 block of Selfridge.

- At 5:20 p.m., officers trans-

ported a white dog (no further description) to the Westland Humane Society, from the 11500 block of Nagel, where it was reported that the dog had allegedly attempted to bite some children.

- At 7:22 p.m., an officer reported observing a suspected damaged gate opener at a location in the 9600 block of Bufalo. The officer named possible suspects in his report.

**From Sunday, Aug. 12**

(There was no report received from police for this date.)

**From Monday, Aug. 13:**

- A man was arrested for felonious assault at 5:57 p.m. No location or circumstances given.

- Two men reported being carjacked by two black males, one carrying a long gun, while in front of a location in the 3900 block of Belmont at about 3:37 a.m. The men also stole the victims' wallets, watch and iPhone. The stolen car was a 2000 Monte Carlo, license plate BEH 1256 (car and suspects were found on Weds.; see related item).

- A woman reported that someone wrote two checks against her checking account in 2008, and she was just notified of it on July 10 of this year.

- A woman reported that someone stole her car's catalytic converter at about 5:15 p.m., while it was parked by a location in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau.

**From Tuesday, Aug. 14:**

- At 11 p.m. the previous day, a woman living in the 2300 block of Andrus reported finding her bathroom window open, with the screen missing. Nothing else has been identified as being missing from inside the home as of this time.

- Officers were contacted by Child Protective Services, who reported that, between Aug. 6 and Aug. 12, a male had assaulted a four-year-old female at an unknown location in Hamtramck.

- A woman reported having an unspecified sum of money taken from her purse while she was at a fast-food restaurant in the 9100 block of Jos. Campau, between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. on this date.

- A man living in the 3100 block of Trowbridge reported that someone entered his home through an unlocked window, and then stole unspecified property from inside.

**From Wednesday, Aug. 15:**

- At 10:30 p.m. last night, a man was arrested when officers discovered him inside the garage of an abandoned home. Officers also found an elaborate marijuana growing set-up inside the garage.

- At 12:51 a.m., a woman was transported back to Detroit Receiving Hospital after officers found her in an alley with an IV still in her arm, and subsequently determined she had just escaped from DRH earlier.

- A man was arrested on a domestic violence charge after his wife reported that he assaulted her during an argument at their home in the 11500 block of Fleming.
- A 7 a.m., a man reported

**Continued on page 10**

# Quick Hits

**Continued from front page**

"I usually like to spend about the first 15 to 20 minutes there," Kowalski said, "and then we come on down Florian St. to Jos. Campau, back up to Evaline, then over to City Hall.

"We continue back over on Yemans to Jos. Campau again, and finally back across on Florian to where we started."

Kowalski said there's literally a stop every 100 feet or so, where he can point out or discuss various history hot spots.

Asked to cite a couple of examples, he rattles off more than a couple.

"Right away, at Florian and Latham, I point out some of the architectural styles," Kowalski went on. "One of the principle styles is the 'national' style, which are houses with upper and lower floors and flat fronts. That's probably, in fact, the single most prevalent look.

"There are Craftsman style houses in that area, which were actually made from kits sold by Sears & Roebuck. These were often built next to railroad tracks," he said.

"In fact, Hamtramck has many different types of house architecture represented. There's Federalist, Tudor, you name it.

He goes on to reveal more of the city's hidden secrets, such as where there were prohibition-era stills in operation. That, of course, naturally veers into a mention of

one of the things the town has long been known for – its plentiful number of corner bars.

Next up is the shopping district, which, Kowalski says, was once extremely popular.

"It was second only to downtown Detroit in all of southeast Michigan," he notes. He also points out the numerous lofts which have popped up along that strip lately.

Look down Evaline, he says, and you can still see the remains of an old barn visible. And boy, did a lot of those barns have a, er, dirty little secret.

"For a number of people, the family's toilet was located out in the barn," Kowalski laughs.

Go on the tour, and you'll take in Zussman Park and St. Francis Hospital, the latter a historic designatee. Here, Kowalski says, he likes to work in a little pep talk about the city's good side – its strengths, its diversity – and spin Hamtramck in a more positive light than it often, he admits, ends up in.

He points out the old Communist Party headquarters, and tells you (we won't spoil it) which popular eatery along the tour was considered the "communist restaurant."

Like your meat "red," you say? Hmmmm...

Most times he'll wrap things up on Jos. Campau (next to Jet's Pizza) at Pope

**Continued on page 9**

## Legal Notice Regarding Zoning

Meenakshi Sharma owner of Campau Pharmacy located at 12169 Jos. Campau has made an appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a variance. Variance request for the following section of Zoning Ordinance 497 of the City of Hamtramck is as follows:

**VI – 2.06. Structure and Site Requirements**

F. All new buildings and additions or structural alterations to the footprint of existing buildings shall be found to be architecturally compatible with adjacent buildings. Any existing building which façade shall be altered after the effective date of this Ordinance or any subsequent amendment shall conform to the guidelines listed in this subsection, except that no zoning permit shall be issued until the plan commission has approved of the proposed changes to the façade and is assured of its compliance with this Ordinance. This subsection shall not apply to regular maintenance of front facades. In making such a determination, the following shall be considered:

10. Outdoor security fencing shall not be permitted. Roll-up security fencing, if installed, shall be located within the building. No permanent or non-retractable security fencing shall be permitted within the building.

A public hearing will be held in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, MI 48212, on Wednesday, September 5, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. thus affording the opportunity of your input being recorded on this appeal for a modification of zoning on the premises described above. Any variation or modification granted by the Board would have no bearing on private restrictions. You may appear, authorize others to represent you, or you may express your views in writing. Communications must be received before the date of the hearing.

Zoning Board of Appeals

## Legal Notice Regarding Zoning

To the Property Owner or Party-in-Interest:

Abdul Motlib, President of Al-Islah Islamic Center, located at 11301 - 11303 Joseph Campau, has made an appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals for variances.

Variance requests for the following section of Zoning Ordinance 497 of the City of Hamtramck is as follows:

**Section 2. Central Business District (CBD)**

VI – 2.02. Permitted Uses. In the CBD, all business establishments shall be retail or service establishments that deal directly with customers. All goods produced on premises shall be sold at retail on the premise.

Petitioner requests to operate a "religious, cultural, or fraternal organization," a use that is not permitted in the CBD.

A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, September 5, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, MI 48212 thus affording the opportunity of your input being recorded on this appeal for a modification of zoning on the premises described above. Any variation or modification granted by the Board would have no bearing on private restrictions. You may appear, authorize others to represent you, or you may express your views in writing. Communications must be received before the date of the hearing.  
Zoning Board of Appeals

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# Review: Opinion Page

## City council needs to stop its micro-managing

It's baffling what the city council is doing about the city's financial well-being.

Just when you think they are on the road to recovery, some members take a sudden loopy turn.

Case in point: At Tuesday's council meeting, a majority of the council decided to postpone applying for a \$3 million emergency state loan. The city has to formally apply by no later than mid-September, said Acting City Manager Nevrus Nazarko, in order to receive the loan by Oct. 1.

There is no guarantee the city will get the loan, however.

A majority of the council supported the delay because they first want to see

an updated budget and a budget deficit elimination plan in the next two weeks.

That's a tall order to put together, considering that the last deficit elimination plan was rejected.

Without the loan, there will be payless paydays for employees, and that will likely trigger a state intervention.

We can't understand why this council is gambling so recklessly with the city's future. There was even a call to go ahead and let the city run out of money because some councilmembers were frustrated that the firefighters' union is not accepting contract concessions.

This is crazy talk. If city officials don't like

the last plan to reduce the city's budget deficit, just wait until the state steps in.

Local officials won't have any say in what the state does.

What's even more disturbing is that they have butted heads with the last Acting City Manager and the city manager before that person, and now apparently with their current one.

The council should step aside and allow the city manager to do his job. This micro-managing is turning into chaos.

If the state does step in at some point, it will be because our city officials purposely drove the city into insolvency.

## Letters • Letters

### Hamtramck Stadium was indeed home to Negro League Baseball

Tony Sudney's letter, as printed in the August 10 issue of The Review, contains numerous inaccurate assertions about historic Hamtramck Stadium. Foremost among them is that no Negro League teams played there.

Hamtramck Stadium was built on the grounds of the Hamtramck Yard of the Detroit Lumber Company in 1930 for the Negro National League Detroit Stars.

The Stadium's grand opening on May 11 was a major event, with Hamtramck Mayor Rudy Tenerowicz attending along with John Roesink, the owner of the Detroit Stars who had built the new facility. Ty Cobb, retired Detroit Tigers superstar and future Hall of Famer, threw out the first pitch at the request of his good friend Roesink.

Articles in various newspapers of the day described the opening of Hamtramck Stadium, which drew a crowd of about 9,000 fans. The most extensive coverage appeared in the May 11 and May 12 editions of Detroit News, which included rare photographs of the new ballpark.

In 1973 librarian Thomas Lewandowski recorded an interview with "coach and lifetime [Hamtramck] resident" John Wiencek. A tape of that interview is available at the Hamtramck Public Library; it confirms parts of the 1930s Negro League history there.

Other longtime residents of Hamtramck have also spoken of their memories of watching

Negro League games at Hamtramck Stadium in the 1930s.

Both the Michigan State Historic Preservation Review Board in Lansing and the National Park Service in Washington reviewed our submission for Hamtramck Stadium, which included extensive documentation for the historic period of Negro League play there from 1930-1937.

Our documentation cited many contemporaneous sources, including the Hamtramck Citizen, the Plain Dealer, the Detroit News, the Detroit Free Press, and multiple African-American newspapers from other cities. (There was no African-American newspaper in Detroit from 1930-1936, and no copies of the first year in 1937 of the Michigan Chronicle are known to exist.) Multiple secondary sources were also consulted for the submission, including a Wayne State University press book about the Detroit Stars.

Hamtramck Stadium served as the home field for the Detroit Stars of the Negro National League in 1930-1931, for the Detroit Wolves of the short-lived Negro East-West League in 1932, for a different Detroit Stars team in the second Negro National League in 1933, and for yet another team named the Detroit Stars in the first year of the Negro American League in 1937. In the 1930s, it hosted both black and white

semi-pro baseball.

Throughout baseball history, both black and white baseball clubs have reused the names of previous local teams—much like auto companies recycle the nameplates of popular older car models. Thus, the 1940s semi-pro Detroit Wolves playing at Dequindre Park that Mr. Sudney references could well have been named after the 1932 Detroit Wolves club, although the two teams had no other relationship to each other.

Other sporting events were staged at Hamtramck Stadium in the mid-to-late 1930s, including college football, midget car racing, and boxing. All of these were advertised or covered in local newspapers. On November 29, 1934, an estimated 10,000 people watched Wilberforce University defeat West Virginia State (both HBCUs—Historically Black Colleges and Universities) in what was billed as a "Turkey Day Classic."

Mr. Sudney's memories of the history of the Stadium after 1940 are closer to the facts, although he errs again when he speculates that the grandstand was probably built during "the very early years of WWII." In fact, Hamtramck Stadium's 1930 grandstand was renovated by the Wayne County Road Commission in 1941 well before Pearl Harbor, using WPA money from the federal government.

Continued on page 8

## Odds & Ends

**Sale of the century ...** Well, at least you'd think so, with the upcoming Wayne County auction of 22,500 properties this fall.

That's a record number of properties to be put up for auction due to tax foreclosures.

On the positive side, this is a chance to pick up a house pretty cheap. All you have to do is pay the taxes owed.

The auction is held in September, and those properties that do not sell will go up for bid again in October. In the October bid, all you have to do is put down \$500 to start the bid. If you win, all taxes and other monies owed are wiped clean.

To be a part of the September auction, you must register with the county by Sept. 7. Go online to [www.treasurer.waynecounty.com](http://www.treasurer.waynecounty.com) for more information.

**Hot rods ...** Be sure to reserve Aug. 25 for the annual Hamtramck Hustle. It is one of the coolest hot rod/rat rod shows in the Detroit area takes place, in Veterans Memorial Park.

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erally go from one classic car show to another via a trailer.

Instead, these are custom-tailored cars that greasers used to do way back when. Except these car owners are

meal from Maria's Comida restaurant.

The Pronko family is closing down its Jos. Campau eatery side of their business to concentrate on expanding their



The Pronko family will be serving their last meals at Maria's Comida this Saturday. Stop by and say good-bye.

a new generation of cool cats.

salsa business.

We're going to miss the hospitality of the family, and it's certainly been an enjoyable four-year run. We wish them the best of luck.

**So long ...** You have just today and tomorrow (Saturday, Aug. 18) to get a last

### Coming events

**Every Wednesday, 5-8 p.m.** — The Hamtramck Farmer's Market is open at Pope Park, located at Jos. Campau and Belmont. The market offers a wide variety of locally grown food.

**Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition** meets every second Thursday of the month (next meeting: Sept. 13), 11 a.m. at The Piast Institute, 11633 Jos. Campau.



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# Recycling in Hamtramck, doing their part to save the planet

Cont. from front page

clinging day in Hamtramck, about 120 people take advantage of the free service.

"This is a real community gathering," said volunteer

Nancy Erickson, regarding the folks who stop by. Some of them stick around and chat with the volunteers, while away a little of their Saturdays.

A number of recyclers are not only conscientious about the well-being of the planet, they also make it easier for the volunteers manning the center by separating their items.

Hamtramck's recycling program is being funded by Sterling Oil, which is located here in town. The company also

sponsors a recycled paper program at Hamtramck High School.

Interested in recycling? The monthly recycling program is located at the city parking lot on Caniff at McDougall. It runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

As the old 1960s ad campaign went: Give a hoot, don't pollute.

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He has a big dark feathery tail. Turquoise collar. with a 617 area code. We moved from Massachusetts and haven't gotten a new tag.

He took off ten days ago from Caniff and Ellery Street. He is a house pet who goes outside. He isn't too friendly with strangers.

**I'm worried that he is locked in somewhere. He might be in a garage or shed. Please check.**

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That's Joan Barrios, right, volunteering at Hamtramck's recycling center.

## Here's what you can and can't recycle

Recycling day in Hamtramck is the second Saturday of the month.

A huge dumpster is set up in the city parking lot on Caniff and McDougall. Recycling hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Here are the items that can be recycled:

- Cardboard and paper bags (no wax-coated cardboard)
- Paperboard (no wax-coated paperboard)
- Magazine and catalogs (any size)
- Junk mail (envelopes, flyers, brochures, postcards, etc.)
- Office paper (all types and sizes)
- Phone books (all types and sizes)
- Newspaper (remove bag strings and rubber bands)
- Pots and pans (kitchen cookware)

- Steel and tin cans (empty cans only)
- Clear glass (empty, clear glass only)
- Aluminum cans (empty cans only)
- Plastic jugs and bottles (#1 and #2)
- Household plastic (#3-#7, empty containers only)
- Plastic bags (most retail and grocery bags)

### Here are the items that are not acceptable:

- Paper milk or juice cartons
- Garbage
- Propane tanks
- Paint cans
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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 Aug. 14, and all councilmembers were in attendance.

However, Councilmembers Abdul Al-gazali and Mohammed Hassan left the meeting before it ended. They also missed a closed session held after the meeting. The meeting ran for three hours.

Acting City Manager Nevrus Nazarko introduced his new assistant, X. X is a former Allen Park councilmember and the former city manager for Woodhaven.

From the public, Bill Meyer said he was here for a "reality check." He said the council should not further tax residents, go "easy" on businesses and was concerned about a proposal to require taxi cab operators to upgrade their vehicles.

He said that instead of raising taxes, the council should "think of creative ways" to raise revenue. He also noted that major companies that have left the city won't be coming back.

Claudia R of Commor St. complained of recent power outages.

"I feel as though DTE and the city have no rapport," she said.

She said the city should be "over-checking" DTE.

Acting City Manager Nazarko asked for permission to seek bids for com-

puter upgrades. A long discussion followed over the cost of the upgrade and why Nazarko waited for now to make the upgrades.

Nazarko said the city was not in the financial position earlier to make upgrades. The council eventually authorized the request.

A lengthy discussion was also held on whether to postpone the posting of the city's request for people to apply for the city manager's position. Councilmember Robert Zwolak said the council should hold off until a "consensus" is made about the qualifications of the job.

Mayor Karen Majewski said she didn't see the point of holding off. In the vote to postpone the search, all councilmembers, except Councilmember Anam Miah, agreed to hold off. The mayor didn't get to vote on the matter, but said she "vehemently" opposed waiting to post the job.

Another lengthy discussion was held on whether to officially apply for an emergency state loan worth \$3 million.

Councilmembers were hesitant to even make a motion to apply for the loan. Finally, Councilmember Zwolak motioned for the loan, but only for discussion.

Zwolak said he is not

"comfortable" in applying for the loan without first having an up-to-date budget and a deficit elimination plan in place.

"We can't spend money we don't have," he said.

Councilmember Gordon agreed, saying: "We need to get a financial picture of the city," she said.

Act City Manager Nazarko noted that the previous acting city manager had already submitted a deficit elimination plan, and that the council had recently been given an updated budget estimate.

He said that the city must have its application in by mid-September in order to get money from the state by Oct. 1. He said that without the loan, the city will run out of money.

In the vote to postpone applying for the loan, only Councilmembers Tom Jankowski and Miah objected.

The closing of Jos. Campau for the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival was approved without comment.

That's it for this week. Come back next week for part two when Councilmember Hassan suggests laying off the entire Fire Department, and Bill Meyer accuses the mayor of being rude and having contempt for fellow councilmembers.

## Hamtramck Stadium was indeed home to Negro League Baseball

Continued from page 6

Both before and after the 1941 renovation, Hamtramck Stadium was used as a home field by the Hamtramck High School baseball team. It was also used as a home field by St. Florian and St. Ladislaus baseball teams after its renovation, also possibly before. The Stadium was also used for decades after its 1941 renovation by American Legion baseball teams and by many other amateur and semi-pro ballclubs.

Hamtramck Stadium was also the home field for the

Cosmos football team from 1930-1935, after which the high school football team moved to nearby Keyworth Stadium when it opened in 1936.

The Mayor's Committee to Save Hamtramck Stadium welcomes any photographs, newspaper clippings, diary entries, or other memories of events at the Stadium during any part of its history. Please e-mail Gary Gillette at GGillette@247Baseball.com, or send regular mail to the Hamtramck Review, care of

Ian Perrotta.

**Gary Gillette**

• Baseball author and historian

• Editor of the ESPN Baseball Encyclopedia

• Co-Author of Big League Ballparks

• Co-chair, Ballparks Committee of the Society for American Baseball Research

• Chair, Detroit Chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research

• Member of the Mayor's Committee to Save Hamtramck Stadium



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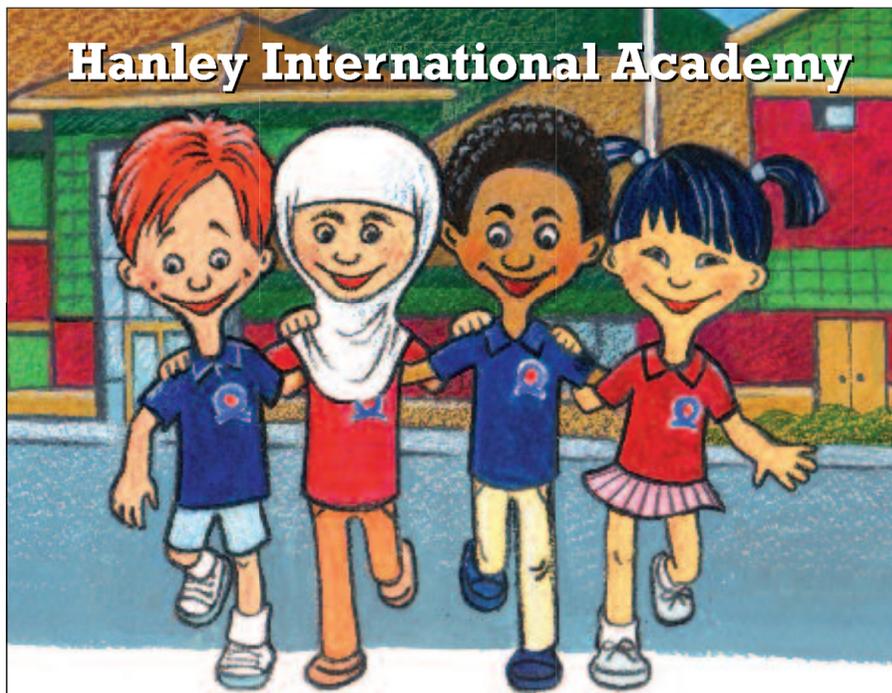
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**w/ (Black Sabbath Tribute Band)**



**Door Prizes!**

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Hamtramck, 2 br., clean, appliances, full basement, washer + dryer, nice area, no pets, 11366 Gallagher \$480/mo. \$480 dep., 586-604-0029. 8/31

2 br. upper, 2264 Edwin, best location in Hamtramck, big back porch, new paint + carpet, no pets, 1 mo. security deposit, employed preferred, 313-729-7760. 8/24

Hamtramck, 2758 Evaline, corner of Jos. Campau. Looking for a really nice furnished apt. in a well-maintained, quite and clean building that has all the bells and whistles? Rent includes all appliances and all utilities, check out Apt. 9, a 1 br. furnished @ \$695, sorry no pets, call 248-931-9731 for appt. Ask for Jack. 8/31

11325 Lumpkin, 2 br., living and dining rm., close to Kosciuszko School, 313-575-3698. 8/17

Hamtramck, 3 br., hardwood floors, \$500 + security deposit, 313-580-5671. 8/31

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Hamtramck, 1 + 2 br., clean, remodeled, no pets, good area, 586-634-2542. 8/17

Hamtramck 2 br. upper, 2745 Poland, living + dining rm., very good cond., no pets, ask for Doda or David, 586-722-8963, 586-978-2363. 8/17

Hamtramck, 2 br. lower, adults, no pets, \$500/mo. + security, 313-421-7564. 9/7

## APARTMENTS & FLATS FOR RENT

Hamtramck, certified 3 br., non-smoking, drug free unit. Adults preferred, gay friendly, \$625/mo. (usd). First, last and security dep. required. Shown by appt. only. For more details call Kathleen @313-873-5362 bet. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Mon. - Fri. 8/17

Hamtramck, 2 br., \$420/mo. + 1 br., \$350/mo., appliances included, washer/dryer, 586-873-8510. 8/17

## HOUSE FOR RENT

Hamtramck, 2305 Poland, 2br., dining, kitchen. Also 9512 Charest, 2 br., appliances included in both, Sect. 8 ok, 313-712-8347. 8/31

3 br., 5111 Fredro, in Detroit, \$525/mo., + utilities, 313-790-5946. 8/24

Hamtramck, 2 br., Moran St., \$500/mo. + deposit and utilities. No pets. 248-573-9018. 8/17

2 br., living, dining, basement, border of Hamtramck, 586-360-1029. 8/17

Hamtramck, 2 br. house for rent, \$550 per month + security deposit, 248-805-1090. 8/31

Single-family, 2 Br. Call Palo (248) 659-2278. 8/31

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Warren, bet. 9 & 10 Mile on Dequindre, 3 br., living rm., kitchen, fully remodeled, \$34,000, 313-610-8371. 8/24

Hamtramck border, 4 br., living + dining rm., new everything, \$18,900, land contract available, 313-610-8371. 8/24

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3 BR, 1 Bath Brick Ranch home just outside of Hamtramck. Hardwood floors, full-sized basement. Clean title with no back water or tax bills. Driveway with room for two car garage, fenced in back yard. 5501 Charles for a drive-by, 412-848-1280 to see it. Asking \$8,000.

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Harrison Twp., 2 br., 2 bath, 9 yr. old end unit, wood flr., 25959 Waterway Dr., near local schools, in pastoral setting. 1,038 sq. ft., with pond site fee. Ready to sell, 276 unit sub with clubhouse, pool, gym. Google 25959 for more + photo, best offer. Call for appt., 586-777-9116. 8/17

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## COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT

Hamtramck, 2917 Commor at Jos. Campau, 50' by 50' roughly, has a car hoist or is suitable for storage. \$550/mo., available immediately, 248-835-9243. 9/7

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Hamtramck Coney Island, 9741 Jos. Campau, corner of Evaline. Seeking exp. waitperson with established work history. Come in and ask for Fred. 8/31

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**Help Wanted: Housekeeper wanted**  
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## Quick Hits

Continued from page 5

Park, the fencing for which, Kowalski notes, came from the Dodge Main plant originally. Here, he likes to give a last bit of the history of the town, and how Hamtramck has developed and changed over the decades.

"I generally end it there," Kowalski says, "because often, people like to go off shopping on their own from that point. They can always find their way back to where we started at St. Florian, because you can see that tall steeple from just about anywhere in town."

And while it may be true that, by sticking to the more-central, arguably "safer" part of town, away from the fringes near the Detroit and Highland Park borders, one

doesn't necessarily get "the whole story," the tour is still packed with information and tidbits that Greg Kowalski, who had authored a handful of books on Hamtramck, has gleaned from his long-standing interest in his, and our, favorite little 2.1 square mile city.

Heck, maybe someday you'll end up doing a bit of educating, for some other folks, on the joys of old Hamtown yourself.

**Call the Detroit Historical Society at (313) 833-1805 to register, or for more information. The tour isn't really promoted, other than by word of mouth, so if you go and you enjoy it, let others know for next time!**

## Obituaries

### SZAFARCZYK

Edward J. Szafarczyk, 90, died on August 11, 2012. Mr. Szafarczyk was retired from Excello Corporation.

Mr. Szafarczyk is survived by his wife, Mildred; sons, James (Patricia), John Scott (Heidi Cousino) and Tom (Joan) Scott; sister, Charlotte Strojek; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and many

nieces and nephews. Funeral services were at St. Florian Church with cremation at Meadowcrest Cemetery. Arrangements were handled by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home.

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## Hamtramck Housing Commission

The Hamtramck Housing Commission announces that on August 24, 2012 the HHC will make available for public review a draft copy of components of its Five-Year and Annual Agency Plan per the guidelines of 24 CFR 903, a requirement of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998.

These documents are available Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the HHC administration office located at 12025 Dequindre Ave., Hamtramck, MI 48212.

The HHC has scheduled a public hearing to be held at 3:30 p.m. on October 12, 2012 in the Social Room located at 12025 Dequindre Ave. Hamtramck, MI 48212. At this time, the HHC shall receive and consider any and all comments prior to finalization of our agency plan for submission to HUD on or before October 17, 2012.

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Continued from page 8

that someone took his 2001 Pontiac Grand Prix, license plate number CJD 8607, from in front of a location in the 9700 block of Dequindre sometime between yesterday at 11 p.m. and today at 6:45 a.m. A check of the information network showed the car already recovered by Detroit Police at about 4:30 this morning.

• At 11:11 a.m., a man reported his 1998 Plymouth Neon, license plate 6JWR67, stolen from in front of a location in the 2400 block of Goodson sometime between yesterday at 10 p.m. and today at 5 a.m.

• A man was arrested at 6:30 p.m. on a charge of domestic violence (no address or details given).

During this time period, police also made the following arrests: During traffic stops, two for drunk driving (one also including possession of narcotics paraphernalia and an outstanding city warrant); two for driving on suspended licenses; two more for outstanding city warrants; and three for presenting fraudulent car insurance.

They also arrested six other persons on outstanding city warrants, including two at Dickerson prison, and two for felony warrants (one of them, multiple).

Officers also investigated four car crashes; one suspicious incident involving juveniles, and two open doors to homes (one in the 11300 block of Mitchell, the other in the 12100 block of Fleming).

They were notified of the recovery of the 2000 Chevy Monte Carlo involved in the Aug. 13 carjacking on Belmont St., which had been recovered by Michigan State Police in Pontiac, resulting in the arrests of two suspects; were also notified of the recovery of another unspecified stolen vehicle by Dearborn police, resulting in one arrest; and then investigated a suspected fatal drug overdose on Aug. 15.

Lastly, they took the following reports from citizens: A threat against a juvenile female and her mother by a neighbor known to them; the receiving of threatening text messages by a woman, reportedly from her ex-boyfriend; someone opening a

DTE account in someone else's name; the receipt of a counterfeit \$20 bill from an unspecified source; and damage done to two parked vehicles in separate incidents, one by a juvenile who was seen doing it (locations, vehicle descriptions, etc. not provided).

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